

Riding in to save wild horses

A charity trying to rein in a band of wild horses that are putting homes and motorists at risk has been granted \$3000 by the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board.

Megan Denize from the Helping Paws Charitable Trust told the board at its meeting on Wednesday 30 August that the horses near State Highway 12 west of Kaikohe are breaking into private properties and running on the road in their search for food.

Other organisations have tried to help without success. However, Megan says Helping Paws has brought seven horses in for rehabilitation but needs financial help to continue.

"These are not domesticated horses," she says. "They have never been touched or worn a halter, so removing them, rehabilitating them and eventually rehoming them is a process that only people who are very experienced can deal with for the safety of the community, rescuers and the horses themselves."

There are thought to be up to 17 wild horses between Kaikohe and Tāheke, having evolved from a group abandoned by their owner about 20 years ago. Megan says it can take 10 hours on horseback to round up two to five horses at a time.

"This is a significant effort which we are committed to. The funding will enable us to feed the horses during their rehabilitation," Megan says.



An animal charity is capturing and rehabilitating a wild horse population, thought to number up to 17 horses, between Kaikohe and Tāheke.

Funding boost for Te Hiku groups



Community board funding will support a mountain bike trail project led by Oruaiti School students.

Four community groups are celebrating after receiving a share of more than \$40,000 in funding from Te Hiku Community Board.

Pōtahi Marae was the biggest winner, with hapū receiving \$30,000 to install a playground that will be open to the whole community. The playground is expected to become a central hub, being situated close to Whakawhiti Ora Pai Health Clinic, the Aupōuri Rugby Football and Sports Club, and the marae itself.

A grant of \$8530 to Ahipara Aroha was also approved to install a comprehensive CCTV network in Ahipara, which will be integrated with the network in Kaitiāia.

In a move that supports outdoor recreation and tourism, the board allocated \$2830 to Oruaiti School for signage along a mountain biking trail. The Oruaiti Mountain Bike Trail is a project led by the school's Year 5 and 6 enviro-classroom. The signs will provide track descriptions and safety messages for the public.

Lastly, Dementia Northland received \$1250 from the board for a whānau and carer workshop that provides essential resources to support the families and caregivers of those affected by dementia.

Popular park gets \$15k funding



The increasing popularity of Roland's Wood in Kerikeri has revealed the limitations of its car parking area.

A park popular with nature lovers and dog walkers can extend its carparking facilities after a \$15,000 boost from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board, granted during its Thursday 31 August meeting. The Friends of Roland's Wood, a group that maintains the park, is fundraising for remaining upgrade costs.

The four car parks currently available will be increased by up to 10 spaces. The upgrade will add some perimeter fencing, although the existing park entrance will remain the same.

The park was made possible by Kerikeri resident, Roland Sansom, who started planting his dream of a public woodland around 1987. Roland's land was bequeathed to the council when he passed away.

A group of volunteers formed the Friends of Roland's Wood Charitable Trust to maintain the land – clearing weeds and revegetating it with natives.

The need to remove trees away from powerlines prompted the group to extend the carparking area at the same time. The group noted that its arborist had advised that no trees earmarked for removal were significant specimens.

Summer travel fund countdown



Rural junior sports teams can apply for financial support for travel around the district.

Applications for the Summer Rural Travel Fund close on Friday 22 September, with community boards considering applications in October.

The fund subsidises travel for rural teams with players aged between 5 and 18, making it easier to compete in organised sporting events by reducing cost as a barrier. The fund covers travel to and from regular sporting events, including competitions and practices within the district. Visit our website for more information.