

## Kaikohe Memorial Park upgrade

An upgrade to Memorial Park in Kaikohe will transform it into a space where whānau can meet, play and relax based around a wheelchair accessible playground and picnic area.

New playground equipment will include a wheelchair accessible merry-go-round, in-ground trampolines, slides, sand play area, swings and an eagles' lair rope climbing tower. New park entrances, upgraded footpaths, a learn-to-ride and balance track for tamariki, fully accessible amenity block and a wide loop track linking all areas are also part of the revamp.

Construction on the \$750,000 project is due to begin soon. While the aim will be to minimise disruption to Memorial Park users, parts of the park will be closed to the community during the build.



A concept design of the playground area by Playground Centre, part of a revamp of Memorial Park by landscape architects ĀKAU.

### Upgrade for Waipapa Landing



Improving the boat ramp parking at Waipapa Landing is part of a wider upgrade to Bay of Islands boating facilities.

Work began at the end of August to improve car and trailer parking at Waipapa Landing Boat Ramp near Kerikeri and to better control stormwater flows into Kerikeri Inlet.

The first stage of the \$495,000 project will see drainage at the existing gravel parking area upgraded by installing concrete kerbing and stormwater catchpits. This will help to prevent silt, debris and contaminants washing directly into Kerikeri Inlet. The parking area will then be sealed with asphalt.

The 10-week project, which is jointly funded by the council and the government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund, will be completed once line markings are added to the newly-sealed parking area.

This will provide dedicated areas for vehicles and boat trailers, plus a disability park next to the public toilets. It is anticipated that parking capacity at the boat ramp will be improved once parking areas have been clearly defined.

Access to the boat ramp will not be affected during the initial drainage work. However, parking and access may be impacted immediately before and during asphalt work. Contractors will aim to maintain full access to the ramp and parking area during weekends. Final line markings for vehicle and trailer parking should be completed early in November.

### Support for flooded farmers

The Mayoral Relief Fund has been allocated \$20,000 by the Ministry for Primary Industries to support rural businesses affected by the August heavy rain and flooding event.

The first \$10,000 will provide partial payment for the costs of flood recovery measures. Costs must relate to the

flooding event 16 to 19 August for primary sector businesses within FNDC boundaries. Application forms can be downloaded from the Rural Support Trust website.

The second \$10,000 will support services provided by the Rural Support Trust to impacted communities. This includes wellbeing support initiatives and events, access to recovery facilitators, and specialist technical advice.

You can find out when the Northland Rural Support Trust will visit your community via its Facebook page.



Flood-hit farmers are being supported by the Mayoral Relief Fund.





Around 150 Paihia residents attended a public meeting in September to share ideas on how funding earmarked for a canned waterfront project should now be spent.

### \$4 million fund inspires creative community ideas

A heated swimming pool, beach erosion protection, and more transport options are some of the projects Paihia residents say \$4.1 million in unallocated funding could be spent on to improve the beachfront community.

A wish-list of more than 20 projects was created during a September meeting with residents, mana whenua, and businesses and community leaders to discuss how to spend funding previously earmarked for a \$13.84 million breakwater and beach restoration project. The council cancelled the project due to rapidly escalating construction costs.

That decision saw \$8 million in COVID-19 government funding withdrawn, leaving a \$5.8 million in the council's Long Term Plan to be reassigned. Of that, \$1.7 million is already committed to a community partnership project to beautify Paihia waterfront. The remaining \$4.1 million remains to be reallocated.

Suggestions included stormwater mitigation, beach erosion protection, creation of intertidal steps, and installation of history boards ahead of the 200-year Paihia anniversary. Others looked beyond Paihia and asked for improved public transport, new footpaths, and walking and cycling tracks linking Haruru to Waimate North. Recreational facilities were also popular with suggestions that an indoor sports hub and a heated swimming pool be constructed.

The council will consider all the suggestions when it develops the Annual Plan 2023-24.

### Aerial survey of Aupōuri aquifer begins next week



An airborne survey of Aupōuri aquifer will help to preserve the water resource.

An aerial survey of Te Hiku began in October, part of a study of the Aupōuri aquifer that aims to increase understanding of the precious water source and help ensure it is used sustainably.

Aerial electromagnetic (AEM) surveying will be conducted from Ahipara to Cape Rēinga and is a key part of the community initiated Te Hiku Water Study. The survey will take up to two months to complete depending upon weather conditions.

AEM involves flying in parallel lines about 100m above the land with a loop system suspended beneath a helicopter. Transmitters on the loop send electromagnetic signals underground,

and sensors measure the behaviour of the returning signals. Similar to radar, the method allows scientists to 'see' what's under the ground by looking at and interpreting the way the signals return. The survey will not gather images or information on anything above the ground.

AEM is a safe and effective measurement tool used around the world and was most recently deployed in New Zealand at Hawke's Bay in 2020.

The Te Hiku Water Study project team represents iwi, the community, landowners and councils. The project is using a combination of aerial surveying and drilling of groundwater bores to build a better picture of the Aupōuri aquifer. The goal is to help identify the best ways of balancing environmental protection with increased water demand for drinking and agriculture, as well as coping with drought events.

### Former Pak'n Save site donated for Kaitiāia regeneration

Ownership of the former Pak'nSave site in central Kaitiāia has been transferred to Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL) and will now play a pivotal role in the regeneration of the town.

Foodstuffs North Island transferred the site to FNHL for \$1 and committed to donate \$300,000 to support any project on the site that will benefit the local community. Chris Quin, CEO of Foodstuffs North Island, says Foodstuffs hasn't specified how the \$300,000 should be used.

The agreement was completed on 14 September 2022 after a series of community meetings outlining FNHL's plan for the revitalisation of the town centre, which includes developing the site as part of a significant urban redevelopment. FNHL now has full ownership of the land with no caveats or covenants attached.

It has contracted a local company to complete demolition of the building, which is expected to start soon. In the meantime, FNHL will continue developing plans for the site and will consult with the community and provide further updates in due course.



Works around the carpark will be carried out in conjunction with the Te Hiku Working Group as part of the Te Hiku Revitalisation Project.