

Artworks light up Unahi upgrades

A stunning Hoe artwork symbolising a paddle lit up a blessing held last month to mark the completion of the Unahi Wharf Carpark Upgrade Project.

The upgrade is the second stage of a revamp of wharf facilities. The first stage rebuilt the wharf and was completed in June 2022. Some original timber discovered during the wharf demolition was estimated to be 100 years old and this was repurposed into elements of the carpark upgrade.

As well as rustic metal artworks by Darrin Pivac representing a Hoe (paddle) and Punga (anchor), the carpark upgrade included installation of a new toilet, drainage, pavement, sealed carpark area, and a seal extension of Unahi Road leading into the carpark.

Timber repurposed from the original wharf has been crafted into a 'Welcome to Unahi' sign, and three new bench seats. Wooden panels next to the Hoe artwork outline the history of the area and two concrete picnic tables have also been added.

Unahi, north of Awanui, is the traditional gateway to the Rangaunu Harbour for Māori and was used for the preparation of freshly caught fish. The name Unahi translates as 'to scale fish'.



The stunning Hoe and Punga artworks at the Unahi Wharf Carpark were crafted by artist Darrin Pivac (above right).

The triangular shape of the metal Hoe represents the three water currents that enter the Rangaunu waters – from the Awanui, Waimanoni and Waipapakauri.

The rusty brown surface of the art piece is a call to stop the pollution and damage to these waters. The green light within the Hoe is a nod to the navigation

light used to communicate with approaching vessels.

The Punga artwork, which sits inside the Hoe structure, is made of stone and represents the mooring waka of the many hapū that settled within the shores of Rangaunu Harbour. Read the full story on our website.

FNHL to boost Kaitāia housing

The council's commercial and asset management arm, Far North Holdings Ltd (FNHL), plans to build much-needed housing for the over 50s in partnership with Kaitāia's Switzer home.



The development will provide much-needed houses for the over 50s.

The Western Village development will provide 28 one-bedroom units in Kaitāia. Eight will be fully accessible and eight partially accessible with the balance being of a standard home design. The homes will support independent living and encourage health, well-being, and a sense of community among tenants.

The project is a collaboration between Claud Switzer Memorial Trust (CSMT) and FNHL and is now awaiting resource consent and Ministry of Housing & Urban Development approvals.

CSMT manager Tina Mills says that after attending an FNHL presentation on the future planning of Kaitāia Community Projects, Switzer saw an opportunity to become a registered Community Housing Provider (CHP). "We are now one of only two organisations in Northland to have been successfully approved as registered Community Housing Providers."

FNHL plans to partner with others in Te Tai Tokerau to achieve CHP status. The project is expected to be completed by August 2025.

FNHL manages property, maritime and transport assets on behalf of Far North ratepayers and is focused on boosting investment and employment for the benefit of Northland communities.

Youth sailing funded by board

The R Tucker Thompson Youth Sailing Trust is on the crest of a wave after being granted \$4000 for its youth development programme during the Te Hiku Community Board's April meeting.

The programme empowers youth by teaching them about life through the sea. It focuses on rangatahi from Te Tai Tokerau and the board's contribution will help youth from Te Hiku Ward to take part.



Taitamariki learn valuable skills on the R Tucker Thompson tall ship.

Taitamariki aged 14 to 18 are taken on a seven-day voyage on the iconic tall ship. The hands-on programme enables students to gain self-confidence as well as teamwork and leadership skills.

The board also granted Momentum Trust \$2270 to help fund life and financial skills programmes to be run at the Kaitāia Probation Centre.

Te Wānanga o Te Rangi Āniwaniwa was granted \$14,375 towards the costs of repainting the internal walls of its 25-metre heated swimming pool.

The facility is important to the local community and helps ensure swimming skills are developed to help reduce drowning statistics.

Upgraded track sections reopen

Sections of the walking track from Ōpua to Paihia have reopened after repair and upgrade works.

Two stages of remedial works have been completed but excluded a 325-metre section damaged by slips following Cyclone Gabrielle last year near Richardson Street. A detour for that section remains in place.



A step in the right direction for users of the Ōpua to Paihia track

The first stage of works recently completed focused on the south section from the Paihia Top 10 Holiday Park to Harrison Scenic Reserve (towards Ōpua) and included an upgrade to the track surface, new steps, boardwalk repairs and erosion control measures.

Stage 2, on the section north of the Paihia Top 10 Holiday Park on Smith Camp Road (towards Te Haumi Beach), began in March with upgrades to the track surface, new steps and safety improvements.

A realignment of the track between the Paihia Top 10 campground (to the north) and the start of the boardwalk (to the south) will improve its longevity and safety for track users and will not have an effect on existing access.