

# Ngā pārongo hou

## Latest council news

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## New 'mana wāhine' council sworn in

Crowds gathered at Kaikohe Memorial Hall on Wednesday 29 October to witness the pōwhiri of the inaugural meeting of the newly elected 'mana wāhine' council. The event made history with a record eight women being elected to the Far North District Council.

The pōwhiri welcomed all those who had been successful in the local election, with the mayor, Moko Tepania, and each ward councillor formally sworn into office at the morning ceremony. Kahika Tepania said he was humbled to be elected for a second term and to be leading a mana wāhine council where women now make up 73 per cent of those at the council table.

One significant mana wāhine is Chicky Rudkin, who was formally appointed as Kahika Tepania's Deputy Mayor. Councillor Rudkin was elected as a Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward Councillor at this year's election and Kahika bestowed her with the title 'Kohepu'. The Māori kupu (word) kohepu refers to the flower of the kohekohe plant. This is in recognition of Cr Rudkin's



Kahika Tepania is flanked by the nine councillors being sworn in - eight of whom are women.

deep roots in Kaikohe. She was born and raised in Kaikohe-Hokianga, previously chaired the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board and was the Tumuaki Principal of Kaikohe East School.

For the full story go to [fndc.govt.nz](https://fndc.govt.nz)

### Community boards elect chairs



New Kaikohe-Hokianga board chair Jessie McVeagh with Chicky Rudkin.

The three community boards have officially begun their new term, holding inaugural meetings on Friday 31 October to elect their chair and deputy chair.

The Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board led proceedings, re-electing Belinda Ward as chairperson for a third consecutive term.

Jessie McVeagh was elected chairperson of the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board, and Bill Subritzky elected chair of the Te Hiku Community Board. Both are previous board members.

Far North Mayor (Kahika) Moko Tepania congratulated the new chairs and members, acknowledging the vital role of the community boards.

"We have a large district with almost 75,000 Far Northerners spread over 215 settlements. Community boards are an important bridge to connect us to our local communities," he said. "Our community board chairs are like local mayors - congratulations to them, and our community board members for their inaugurations. We look forward to working closely together to serve the people of the Far North."

### Recognising volunteer legends



Awards will recognise and celebrate Far North community volunteers.

Nominations are now open to honour local champions whose lifetime volunteer contributions make a positive difference in the Far North.

Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Tohu Tutuki - Far North District Council Lifetime Achievement Awards have five categories that recognise both individuals and organisations for their work. These are contributions to: positive outcomes for Māori; culture and history; economic development; and proud, vibrant, communities.

Those nominating a person or organisation should be able to describe the role, why the nominee deserves an award, and the long-term impacts of their work. Nominees will be judged by a panel of councillors.

Recipients will be celebrated during a ceremony led by the mayor, receive a gift, a certificate and have their names added to the Far North District Council Citizens Awards Honours Board, which hangs in the foyer of the council's Kaikohe headquarters.

Nomination forms are available online or at FNDC service centres and should be submitted no later than **Monday 21 November at 5pm**.

### A cleaner, smarter future



The Solid Waste Strategy guides how the Far North manages waste.

Doing the right thing with your rubbish and recycling is about to get simpler across the Far North. The council is shifting the focus from throwing things away to keeping materials in use for longer, reducing what goes to landfill and protecting our environment for future generations.

At the September 2025 meeting, the council officially adopted the Solid Waste Strategy 2025-2050 and Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025-2031. Together, these two documents provide both the long-term vision and the six-year action plan needed to create a cleaner, smarter waste system for our district.

Directed by the Solid Waste Strategy, the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2025-2031 will lead to positive, practical changes that make it simpler for people to do the right thing with their waste. This includes expanding resource recovery centres and implementing a pilot contestable Waste grant for community and business projects that help reduce waste.

By 2050, the vision is for a Far North where waste is minimal and resources are continually reused.



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