

Memorial Park upgrade celebrated

A large crowd including Kahika Moko Tepania, councillors, council staff, iwi, hapū, school children, families and community groups gathered on Friday 23 June for the blessing of a major upgrade to Memorial Park in Kaikohe.

The dawn ceremony unveiled a series of pou at the Station Road entrance to the park and was followed by karakia and speeches. The gathering then enjoyed light refreshments in a new barbeque area within the park.

The pou are based on the story of Rahiri and his two sons Uenuku and Kaharau. A female pou represents Tai Tama Wahine and the male pou is Tai Tama Tāne.

The pare is a wheke (octopus) based on the narrative of Te Pū o te Wheke. It is believed that Kaikohekohe (the original name of Kaikohe) is like a wheke using its tentacles to pull in people from all over our takiwā (district).

The aim of the \$750,000 project was to transform the park into a space where whānau can meet, play, and relax based around an improved, wheelchair-accessible playground and picnic area.

New playground equipment includes a wheelchair-accessible merry-go-round, in-ground trampolines, slides, a sand play area, swings, and an eagles' lair rope climbing tower.

The project also built new park entrances, upgraded footpaths, and added a learn-to-ride and balance track for tamariki. A fully accessible amenity block, a wide loop track linking all areas, seating, picnic tables and barbeques have also been added.

Shade sails for 18 playgrounds



Community boards have selected colour schemes for shade sails.

Shade sails appearing over Far North playgrounds are part of a three-year council project to install sun protection over 18 play areas throughout the district.

There are three stages to the project with six playgrounds included in each stage. The first stage includes Te Tii Beach Paihia (pictured), Nisbet Park Moerewa, Taupō Bay, Memorial Park Kaikohe, Waiotara Reserve Karikari and Coopers Beach.

These playgrounds were prioritised following feedback from the community and because they are high use areas.

Stage two shade sails are planned for Matthews Avenue Park in Kaitiāia, Tauranga Bay in Te Hiku, Tōtara North, Cable Bay, Pukenui and Church Street in Kawakawa.



Local whānau, iwi, councillors and council staff were among those gathered to celebrate completion of upgrades to Kaikohe's Memorial Park.

Stages one and two are due to be completed by November this year before the summer sun starts to heat up. Playground sites for the next stage are yet to be determined but will be based on need and ongoing park upgrades.

Each community board – Bay of Islands-Whangaroa, Te Hiku and Kaikohe-Hokianga – has selected different colours for shade sails in their area. The budget allocated for each year of the project is \$360,000.

Kaitiāia Market spot continues



Kaitiāia's Saturday market promotes local businesses and attracts visitor spending to the area.

Kaitiāia's Saturday market will continue to be held at Melba Avenue carpark (the old Warehouse carpark) after the council approved the market's Licence to Occupy for another 12-month term.

The Saturday market has been held at the Melba Avenue carpark since early 2000 under a Licence to Occupy Agreement. The popular market provides considerable value to the town.

Te Hiku Community Board reviewed the licence when it was due for renewal and recommended the council renew the agreement. Its recommendation said the market pulls the community together, promotes local businesses and attracts visitor spending to the area.

The council approved a new Licence to Occupy for Melba Avenue carpark at its 1 June meeting.

Visit the market Facebook page for more information.

Council appoints Interim CEO



Far North District Council has appointed an Interim Chief Executive to oversee council operations while the organisation works through the recruitment process for a permanent CEO.

Bay of Islands resident, Guy Holroyd, has extensive experience in international finance, working in London for almost two decades before returning to New Zealand in 2008. He was previously CEO of Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust, a role he was appointed to in 2021.

Mr Holroyd took up his position as Interim Chief Executive on Monday 26 June following a pōwhiri at the council's Kaikohe Chambers.