

# Ngā pārongo hou

## Latest council news

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## Far North roads battered by rain events

Several heavy rain events back-to-back in May are having an ongoing impact on the Far North roading network.

Torrential rains experienced across the district on Tuesday 9 May resulted in 32 roads being closed over the course of the day, mainly due to surface flooding. The weather system cleared the next day and flooding reduced quickly in most areas. However, already water-logged soils resulted in greater instability that led to many more floods, washouts, slips and fallen trees.

The district was already reeling from a weather front that drenched the region on Wednesday 3 May. This resulted in 200mm of rain fall in Kaikohe in just 24 hours! Over the course of that event, four roads were closed with 15 others impacted by surface flooding, slips and wash outs.

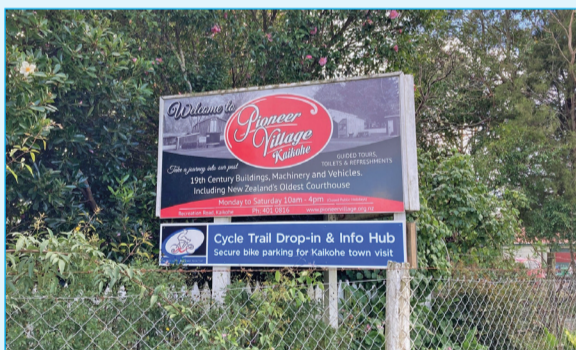
Northland Transportation Alliance contractors are working hard to repair damage caused by the extremely wet weather we've experienced. They've received almost record numbers of repair requests from the public but warn their priority must be on repairing and reopening key road links first.

Unfortunately, gravel roads cannot be graded while it is raining as this would turn road surfaces to slush making them extremely unsafe. The advice to motorists is to drive carefully and always consider the conditions.



This serious drop out on Giles Road, Hōreke, is just one example of the damage recent weather has caused.

### New cycle 'hub' at Pioneer Village



Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail Trust has a new HQ.

A new buzz of cycling activity is expected at the Pioneer Village in Kaikohe now that the trust managing Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail has moved its headquarters there.

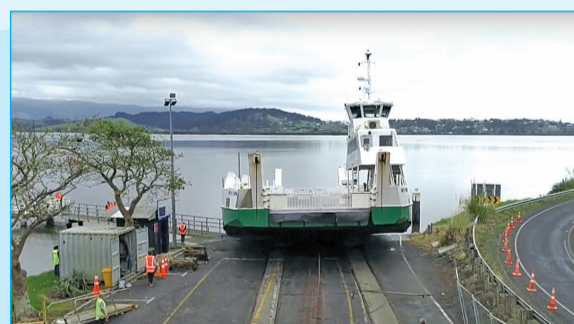
The 87km cycle trail runs from Ōpua in the Bay of Islands on the east coast to the Hokianga Harbour on the west coast. Cyclists buzzing into Kaikohe, a main access point for a section of the trail, can now take advantage of a 'hub' atmosphere at the village which also provides a café, secure bike stands, WiFi access and toilets.

Operating from a cabin at the village, the new location allows trust staff to interact more easily with trail users to help better understand their needs and to continue supporting them with information on the trail, local amenities and attractions.

The trust's General Manager, Tracy Dalton, says having a one-stop-shop for trail services enables visitors to get the most out of their experience of the Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail.

"We are thrilled that the team at Pioneer Village have allowed us to have a base on-site and support our vision of creating a cycling visitor hub in Kaikohe." 'Hub' visitors will also be encouraged to check out the Pioneer Village attractions which include a museum and guided tours recounting the stories of first contact between Māori and Europeans in the area.

### Hokianga ferry hits the road



Watch a video of *Kohu Ra Tuarua* being taken out of the water at Narrows Wharf in Kohukohu on the FNDC YouTube channel.

The 145-tonne *Kohu Ra Tuarua* vehicle ferry, which usually operates between Rāwene and Kohukohu, has been pulled into dry dock at the Narrows Wharf in Kohukohu for maintenance. You can watch a quick video, including drone footage, of the ferry being removed from the water and towed into place on our FNDC YouTube channel and Facebook page.

The scheduled and necessary ferry maintenance is expected to take until early June, which is longer than the two-week timeframe required in the past. This is because the ferry is now around 25 years old and more significant maintenance is required for a vessel the age of the *Kohu Ra Tuarua*.

Meanwhile a passenger-only service is operating across the Hokianga Harbour while the vehicle ferry is out of service. The drop off and pick up point for Kohukohu passengers is at the Kohukohu township wharf during the maintenance period.

### Karere Kahika

A message from Kahika Moko Tepania

A public meeting was held this month in Kerikeri to discuss Kāinga Ora and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development plans to build much-needed housing in the town. Several housing issues were highlighted for those attending, which included FNDC councillors, our CEO and myself.

In response to issues raised by community members during the packed Turner Centre meeting, I look at the causes of our current housing crisis, the challenges faced by the council and what we are doing to find solutions.

You can read the full column on the FNDC website under the latest news tab.