

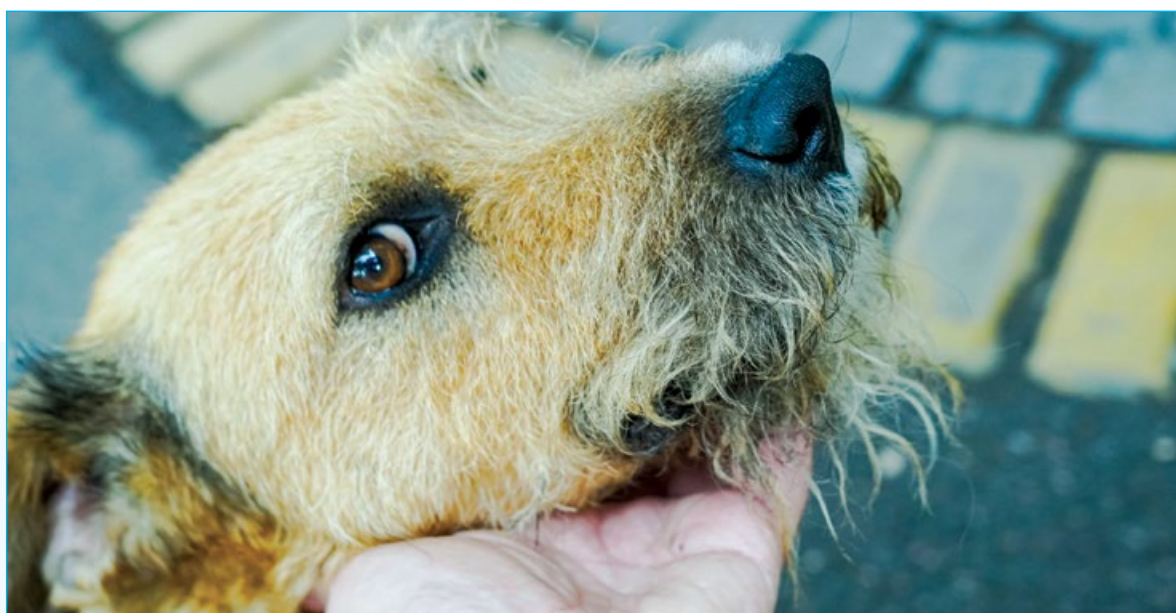
Sessions on safe dog practises to start

Hundreds of school children in the Far North will benefit from a programme that teaches them how to be safe around dogs and to care for them properly.

The sessions launch later this month in schools around the district and will be run by the council's Animal Management Team. Kids ranging from 5 to 13 years old will be given information about how to stay safe around dogs, including the key message of "if a dog is on its own, leave it alone".

The sessions will focus on promoting safety to reduce dog aggression and encourage responsible interactions with dogs. Reducing the risk of dogs biting or attacking a person is an important driver of the course, which will teach children how to adapt their behaviour to de-escalate situations. For example, understanding when a dog may feel anxious or need space will be a key skill taught. Children will understand the correct way to interact with their own dog and what precautions to take before handling other people's dogs.

Parents are encouraged to attend the sessions alongside their children to foster a deeper, community-wide understanding of safe dog practises.



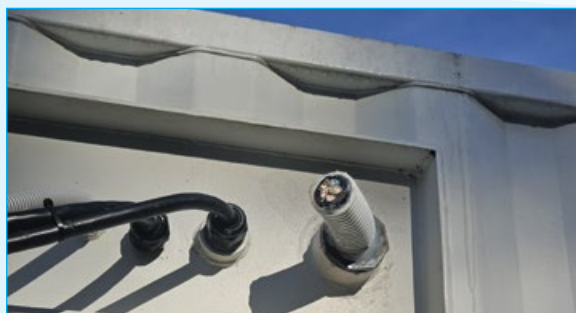
Children attending the course will be given follow-up sessions, presented with certificates and have the opportunity to give feedback.

Schools signed up for the programme include – Kaikohe Intermediate, Kaikohe West School, Oruaiti School, Mangōnui School, Peria School, Kāingaroa School, Taipā Area School, and Te Kura o Ōmanaia.

If your school is interested in being included in the programme, please contact us on 0800 920 029.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Thefts put communities at risk



Suspicious behaviour at water treatment plants should be reported.

Break-ins at the Kaitāia Water Treatment Plant are hitting ratepayers in the pocket and putting the community at serious risk.

The first incident in June involved the theft of tools and damage to security chains and locks. Two weeks later in July, a second break-in cut cabling and leads to specialist equipment, damaged security equipment and a chlorine storage area.

Compromising the storage of chlorine is particularly worrying as even low levels of exposure to the gas can cause adverse reactions that include vomiting and chest pain. The actions of the culprits presented very serious health and safety risks to the public.

The two burglaries, which have been reported to NZ Police, caused damage in excess of \$12,000. The cost of repairs and the replacement of stolen items is ultimately borne by ratepayers.

As a result of the break-ins, security has been upgraded and signs warning of the dangers associated with chlorine storage have been improved.

Speed cams on Kaitāia-Awaroa Rd



New cameras will work together to measure drivers' average speed.

Work to install four average speed cameras, signage, guardrails, and improve drainage on Kaitāia-Awaroa Road began on Monday 28 July. The aim is to encourage all drivers to observe speed limits and reduce the number of serious road crashes occurring on the road.

Stop-go traffic management will be in place and NZTA Waka Kotahi advises motorists to allow extra travel time while work is underway. Installation of the cameras is expected to be completed by mid-September.

Kaitāia-Awaroa Road is a crash high-risk area. A speed survey conducted by NZTA on the road in May 2024 found that 75 per cent of drivers were speeding. Despite an 80km/h speed limit along one section and a 60km/h limit along another section of the road, the average speed of drivers was 89km/h.

Average speed cameras work together to measure the average speed of drivers travelling through the monitored stretch of Kaitāia-Awaroa Road.

Sept deadline for event funding



Boards will meet in September to make event funding decisions.

Are you seeking community board funding for a Christmas or community event later this year? If the answer is yes, then time is running out to get your application in due to the local elections in October.

The last meetings where funding applications will be considered this year for all three Far North community boards will be held in September.

If you are seeking community board funding for events planned between September and February, it is recommended to lodge your application before the dates below.

- Te Hiku CB - applications due Tuesday 5 August
- BOI-Whangaroa CB - due Thursday 7 August
- Kaikohe-Hokianga CB - due Friday 8 August.



To see what our Council cadets have been up to, scan this QR code to watch our video.

