

Funding at the art of the matter

Arts and culture came out 'tops' when the Bay of Islands -Whangaroa Community Board granted more than \$20,000 in funding at its February meeting.

Kapa haka classes, run by Ngāti Rēhia, are back at the Turner Centre thanks to a \$5000 grant for a new 10-week series of classes.

Ōpononi Area School was granted \$7500 to go towards hosting the 50th anniversary of Te Tai Tokerau Secondary School Kapa Haka Festival, while Whangaroa County Museum and Archives was awarded \$1518 to produce a scenic map highlighting historical places of interest.

ArtsXL Charitable Trust received a \$610 grant for its 100 x 100mm art show at the Turner Centre, and Te Whare Pora o Whangaroa was granted \$1460 towards a concert by NZ musicians Heti & Hope.

Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust received \$8000 for its helpline which supports Far North rangatahi.

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Te Hiku Community Board funding

\$17,250 Te Hapua Sports and Recreation Club

\$6500 Kaitāia Primary School

\$6000 Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust

\$1948 Kaitāia and Districts A&P Association

\$1500 Kaitāia MetalFest 2025

\$7300 Ōpononi Area School

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board funding

\$5000 Te Roopa Kaumātua o Te Whare o Ngāpuhi

\$3000 Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust

\$1570 South Hokianga Community Hall

\$1150 Ōhaeawai Taiamai Residents Association

Far North District Council's three community boards granted more than \$70,000 to a number of local organisations in February.

Te Puāwaitanga opens in April



The sports hub includes two sand-based and three soil-based fields.

The much-anticipated Te Puāwaitanga-Bay of Islands Sports Hub in Waipapa is set to officially open its five high-quality sports fields in April.

The development includes two sand-based turfs and three soil-based playing fields to accommodate various sporting codes. The sports hub, opposite the Waipapa retail area on State Highway 10, provides sealed parking for 144 vehicles, eight disabled parking bays, three bus bays, a toilet and changing block, and connecting footpaths.

Far North District Council bought the 30-hectare site in 2020 for \$4.8 million and established a working group, including iwi, sporting representatives, councillors, and council staff, to guide its development.

While delays have occurred due to complex ground preparation, the council is fully committed to ensuring the April 2025 opening date is met.

LED solar lighting up key sites



Three sites in Kaikohe and Hokianga will benefit from solar lighting.

Plans to install solar lighting at three locations in the Far North were approved by the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board at its February meeting.

The first site will be at Marino Court in Kaikohe next to the EV charging station which is an area that is busy with both traffic and pedestrians. The installation is expected to take place in the 2024/25 financial year.

The second location will be at the Ōmāpere Freese Park playground. Work to install this will take place in the 2025/26 financial year.

The third site is on the Ōpononi walkway at the Fairlie Crescent end and is earmarked for the 2026/27 financial year.

The lights will be LED solar which is significantly cheaper than mains lighting. The specific locations of the lights will be determined onsite by the contractor and project manager, with input from nearby residents where necessary.

The buzz at Procter Library



Book worms risked a sting in their tale from a hive of new residents.

Procter Library in Kerikeri was left in a sticky situation when an unwelcome swarm of bees was discovered embedded in the soffit area of the library's roof.

The place was a hive of activity when the bees' residence was discovered. But they hadn't booked their place and following a catalogue of complaints, library staff knew they were overdue for removal.

Accurate Roofing was buzzed in and, assisted by a local beekeeper, removed the hive and all its residents last month.

The team made their way onto the roof via a boom lift, pulling the roofing iron back to reveal a large hive. Redlight and smoke were used to calm the bees, followed by a vacuum for safe collection of the colony.

The colony's removal, which took place after-hours, meant that patrons could once again browse and borrow books in the library without getting a bee in their bonnet.

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