

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Building up our community spirit

Community members who share their skills, donate materials and volunteer their time, created magic recently during school holiday programmes at the Procter Library Makerspace.

From building bird feeders to learning about gardening, recycling and repurposing, a diverse range of activities were made possible due to residents 'paying it forward' to enhance the lives of our local tamariki and their whānau.

The bird feeder workshop run by Kevin from the Kerikeri Men's Shed drew a good crowd of enthusiastic 'future builders'. Kevin and fellow men's shedder Peter prepared, cut and drilled enough components for 60 bird feeders. Tamariki, parents and library staff learned how to use the tools and add their unique touch to the feeders they created.

Carol, from hardware retailer Bunnings, organised bird seed and wire and also donated supplies for future workshops. 'Supercrafter' Becs supplied linseed oil to enhance wood creations, while gardening expert, Sandy, organised soil for garden activities. Local sustainability champion, Kate, donated piles of recycled fabrics for textile projects.

Procter Library staff want to thank all those who donate their time, resources and skills to create activities in the Makerspace. Please contact our friendly library staff if you have specialist skills or knowledge to share with your community.



Some of the 'future builders' who took part in the workshop to create bird feeders.

Sign up to the rules



The council has sign regulations to prevent scenes like this.

Community complaints have prompted a reminder to property owners to check regulations before erecting roadside signs in breach of District Plan and bylaw rules.

Many landowners seem unaware of the rules or that an advertising sign application form must be completed before signs are erected on council land. The District Plan rules apply to permanent and some temporary signage on non-council-owned land, while the council's Road Use Bylaw manages signage located on council-owned land. Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency manages signs along state highways.

The council has been directing people to remove signs. Examples include a business advert erected on council land without approval and multiple signs on private land, all breaching District Plan rules.

Concerns over rates hikes



Land values have increased resulting in a rates rise for many.

People concerned about paying their next rates instalment are urged to review alternative payment options, such as rates rebates or remissions, on the council's website.

The call comes after numerous property owners contacted elected members and the council's rates team expressing surprise and anger at increased rates revealed by invoices sent out in July. Many say their first rates bill for the new financial year is significantly more than the 6.78 per cent total rates increase promoted by the council recently.

Kōwhai Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford says that when fielding calls from property owners concerned about the increases, she explains that rising Far North land values are responsible for the lion's share of increases.

The council uses land value to calculate the general rates portion levied against individual properties. All properties must be valued every three years, according to The Rating Valuations Act 1988, to help set the local council rates. The council appointed Quotable Value (QV) to undertake these property revaluations and its assessments reflect a property's likely selling price on 1 October 2022.

Rates increases have resulted in a high volume of queries to council staff, highlighting confusion about the impact of property revaluations. Increased property values do not change the total rates collected by council, only the proportion paid by individual ratepayers.

Ratepayers can find information about payment options on the FNDC rates webpage.

Decision-making goes live

Council, community board and committee meetings conducted in Chambers at the council's Kaikohe headquarters are now being livestreamed to both Facebook Live and YouTube.

Livestreaming gives greater public access to council decision-making and debate, which enhances transparency and openness and allows greater community engagement.



For more information go to fndc.govt.nz

Tell us what you think

Resident Opinion Survey

Far North District Council is conducting a survey to gather feedback on our services, facilities, and activities. This survey is being conducted by an independent research provider, Key Research. Your responses will remain anonymous. This link will take you to the survey fndc.govt.nz/residentsurvey Ngā mihi.

