

May maintenance for Hokianga ferry service

A passenger-only service will operate on the Hokianga Harbour from Monday 1 May for about a month while the council's vehicle ferry undergoes maintenance.

Ferry services for vehicles between Rāwene and Kohukohu will be suspended while the *Kohu Ra Tuarua* undergoes its out of water survey and maintenance as required by Maritime New Zealand (MNZ). A replacement ferry service for passengers only will run to the normal ferry timetable during this time.

Calvin Thomas, General Manager at Northland Transportation Alliance says the ferry maintenance has been timed to fall outside the peak tourist season to cause as little disruption to motorists and local businesses as possible.

"The ferry trip takes just 15 minutes, compared to the 90-minute road journey to Kohukohu, so we are very aware of how important this service is to the Hokianga community, especially hospital staff at Hauora Hokianga in Rāwene, as well as to those visiting our district.

"We trust that residents and visitors will understand the council must ensure the vessel is maintained to the highest maritime safety standards, but we do regret any inconvenience that may be caused. Pulling our vehicle ferry out of the water periodically is unavoidable to fulfil the statutory obligations set by MNZ."



A passenger-only ferry between Rāwene and Kohukohu will replace the *Kohu Ra Tuarua* from 1 May while it undergoes maintenance.

While a replacement service will run for the 30 days the vehicle ferry is in dry dock, it will not have the vehicle transporting capability of the 145 tonne *Kohu Ra Tuarua* and will transport foot passengers only.

Another difference to the service is the Kohukohu drop off and loading location. The replacement ferry will operate between Rāwene and the wharf in Kohukohu town – not the ferry landing at Narrows Wharf which is located about 4km south of Kohukohu town. Signs informing users of the change will be erected at key intersections leading up to and during the passenger-only service.

Hospital staff at Hauora Hokianga in Rāwene and other regular vehicle ferry users are being advised to plan alternative commuting arrangements in advance. Previous water survey and maintenance work has been completed in around a two-week timeframe, but because the ferry is now around 25 years old, more significant maintenance is required. This includes refurbishment and repairs of the two main hydraulic ramps, as well as major painting works on the hull, bulwarks, deck and all tanks on board. This work is planned to be completed within five weeks. The dates for the scheduled maintenance are weather-dependent.

Te Hiku Sports Hub by next summer



The roof over the aquatic wing at the new facility is completed.

Construction is progressing well on Te Hiku Sports Hub in Kaitiāia and the new facility is on track to open in time for summer later this year.

Te Hiku Sports Hub Aquatic and Sports Facility will provide sports clubrooms, a gym, and revamped grounds for year-round multi-use sports fields when fully completed.

The full PVC roof over the aquatic wing is now installed. With this key milestone achieved, installation of the internal liners and insulation between the two layers can now begin as the 'closing in' phase approaches. This is when walls and joinery between the steel portal frames are installed, and the facility is made weather tight.

The aquatic wing will include a kids' splash area, hydrotherapy pool, learn to swim pool and eight-lane swimming pool.

Installation of wall linings and insulation is underway on the sports wing with all pre-wiring, plumbing, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning completed.

A fitness track around the perimeter of the facility that links to Te Ahu is proving to be very popular with residents. This area also includes outdoor exercise equipment, lighting, and cricket nets. Existing netball courts on the site are also being upgraded as part of the project.

The council is a significant stakeholder in the community-led project, which promises to be transformational for Kaitiāia when completed.

You can follow updates and read more about the project on the Te Hiku Sports Hub Facebook page.

Waitaki raises \$10k for cyclone fund



Waitaki District Council is helping FNDC with its cyclone recovery.

An amazing effort by Waitaki District Council staff and councillors, performers, volunteers and residents of two Ōamaru rest homes has raised almost \$10,000 for the Far North's recovery from Cyclone Gabrielle.

The fundraising effort was initiated by Waitaki District Council, which joined the Adopt a Community programme and opted to be paired with Far North District Council. The aim of the nationwide Adopt a

Community initiative is to encourage community to community support by connecting councils impacted by the cyclone to those unaffected by the event.

In Ōamaru, this resulted in a Variety Show at the opera house on Sunday 2 April where local performers, contemporary and classical singers, and dancers took to the stage for a night of family entertainment. Over 320 tickets were sold with money raised going to the Cyclone Gabrielle Mayoral Relief Fund established by Far North Kahika Moko Tepania.

A video message from Mayor Tepania was played on the night thanking everyone involved in the Adopt a Community scheme. Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher also acknowledged local volunteers, saying the event was "an absolutely fantastic result".

The Far North was also adopted by Clutha, Tasman, and Waipā district councils, all of which have undertaken fundraising to help the Far North.

Cruz'n the Bayz 2023

Northland's first classic car and motorbike event to be held in multiple locations over three days runs from Friday 28 to Sunday 30 April. The classic, hot rod, muscle car and motorbike event will be touring around Waitangi, Ōpua, Kawakawa, Moerewa, Kaikohe, Paihia, Russell, Whangaroa, Kāeo and Kerikeri. Stops on the tour will allow the public to view vehicles and enjoy local food and music.

Kerikeri Road will be closed 11am to 4pm on Saturday 29 April from Hobson Ave roundabout to the Fairway Drive intersection. Vehicle access to Fairway Drive and Bay of Islands Golf Course will be available via stop/go traffic management.