

# Ngā pārongo hou

## Latest council news

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## Northland town scores All Blacks bench

Rugby star Rieko Ioane thrilled fans in Kaikohe when he touched down to unveil a specially designed bench from the All Blacks.

A great turnout at Memorial Park on Sunday 23 July welcomed the Blues centre, who said the community was part of the "extended All Blacks bench" and the gift to the town was to thank rugby supporters ahead of this year's world cup.

It is one of 26 benches presented by the All Blacks to communities around the country, featuring the exclusive All Blacks tohu and a message from the team: Me eke mai – our bench is your bench. Thanks for all your support.

Far North District Council Kahika Moko Tepania, with local iwi, welcomed the star player to the unveiling ceremony and told the crowd how special it was that Kaikohe was selected to receive the All Blacks bench.

Ioane, whose grandparents live in Kaikohe, explained how on the rugby field, the bench was the backbone of the team, and off the field, it was a place for people to come together and connect.

"The stronger our bench is, the stronger our team is. We're extending our bench to say thank you for all your support," Ioane told the gathering.

He said that support holds even greater importance this year as the team heads to France in September for the world cup.



Rieko Ioane meets future All Blacks from Taheke United JMB Rugby. The All Blacks bench complements the recent upgrade to Memorial Park.

Chicky Rudkin and Tanya Filia from the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board were also in attendance while junior rugby players, and families just out enjoying the sunshine, were delighted to rub shoulders

with the star, who spent time sitting on the bench with fans to sign cards, shirts, rugby balls, and boots. Memorial Park was chosen as the ideal location for the bench as it fitted in well with the park's recent upgrade.

## \$80k event funding up for grabs



Matariki Pēwhairangi Festival in Paihia in 2023 received assistance from the Events Investment Fund.

Events that attract visitors and enrich the Far North could be eligible for a slice of \$80,000 in funding from the Events Investment Fund.

Event organisers have until Friday 18 August to apply for funding to cover venue or equipment hire, catering, or other costs associated with running an event.

A comprehensive business plan, completed application form and financial accounts supporting the application are a minimum requirement for an event to be considered eligible for funding.

The council's Funding webpage has information on how to apply, the application requirements, and what to expect after you apply. It includes an online guide that takes you through the application process step by step.

Decisions on successful applications should be made by the end of September 2023.

## Helping rangatahi into work



Coopers Services Ltd employed 15 local young people through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs.

The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs in the Far North has received around \$350,000 in funding to help young people find full-time work.

The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is partnered with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to lead the Rural Community Resilience Programme that supports youth aged 16-24 who are not in education, employment, or training, are disadvantaged or living with disabilities.

With the MSD funding confirmed for the new financial year, the aim is to support 55 young people across the Far North into full-time jobs. The target comes after great success during the previous two years, with 72 young people securing employment and nine organisations assisted by the MTFJ.

Far North organisations benefiting from MTFJ funding include Coopers Services Ltd, Kaikohe Berries Ltd, Seeka, Sybton Horticulture, Te Kokira Ata Ltd, Trades

and Fades, Mahi Pai, Ope Mahi Ltd, and Clearwood Productions 2019 Ltd.

For more information about the MTFJ Rural Community Resilience Programme, call 0800 920 029 or contact [Janie.little@fndc.govt.nz](mailto:Janie.little@fndc.govt.nz)

## Kahika Tepania's global award



Appearing on TVNZ Breakfast, Kahika Tepania said he first thought the email informing him of his award nomination was spam.

Far North Kahika Moko Tepania has been recognised as one of the world's most promising young leaders after winning a One Young World Politician of the Year Award.

The Mayor was one of five young global leaders to win the award, which recognises outstanding politicians aged 18-35.

Kahika Tepania said he is humbled by recognition from One Young World, a global organisation that promotes youth in politics. He hopes his win will encourage and inspire other young leaders in Northland. He will travel to Belfast in October to accept the award.