

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

Whiringa-ā-nuku October 2022 | Putanga Issue 6

\$4m fund inspires creative community ideas

A heated swimming pool, beach erosion protection, and an alternative fuel plant are some of the projects Paihia residents say \$4.1 million in unallocated funding could be spent on to improve the beachfront community.

A wish-list of more than 20 projects were created during a public meeting held last month to discuss how the council could spend funding previously earmarked for a \$13.84 million Paihia breakwater and beach restoration project. The council cancelled the project in June after rapidly escalating construction costs had made it unaffordable. That decision meant that \$8 million in COVID-19 Response and Recovery funding was withdrawn by the government, leaving a \$5.8 million capital contribution in the council's Long Term Plan to be reassigned. Of that, \$1.7 million has been committed to a project to beautify Paihia waterfront in collaboration with the community. The remaining \$4.1 million in council funding is still to be reallocated.



The council will consider all Paihia funding reallocation suggestions when it develops the Annual Plan 2023-24.

Aerial survey of Aupōuri aquifer begins



Aerial electromagnetic (AEM) involves flying in parallel lines about 100m above the land with a loop system suspended beneath a helicopter.

An aerial survey of Te Hiku will begin this month, part of a Aupōuri aquifer study that aims to increase understanding of the precious water source and help ensure it is used sustainably. Aerial electromagnetic (AEM) surveying will be conducted from Ahipara to Cape Rēinga and is a key part of the community-initiated Te Hiku Water Study. The survey will take up to two months to complete. Te Hiku Water Study project team represents iwi, the community, landowners and councils. The project is using a combination of helicopter surveys and drilling of groundwater bores to build a better picture of the Aupōuri aquifer. The goal is to help identify the best ways of balancing environmental protection with increased water demand for drinking and agriculture, as well as coping with drought events. The survey will not gather images or information on anything

above the ground. Helicopter flights will be subject to suitable weather conditions. Go to the Aqua Intel website www.aquaintel.co.nz/northland to find out where flights will be conducted each day.

Kaikohe skate ramp upgrade



The upgraded Kaikohe skate ramp has re-opened.

Kaikohe skateboarders can again use the Memorial Park skate ramp after upgrades were completed last month. The skate ramp was closed for repairs in August due to movement of the curved metal ramp plates that had resulted in screw heads popping out of the ramp surface. The council closed and fenced off the ramp after reports that some users had been injured by screw heads. Work to repair the ramp included removing the plates, replacing the ply sheets beneath, and resurfacing the ramp with skatelite. This is a durable solid paper composite material used as a riding surface for extreme sports and favoured by skateboarders and BMX riders.

Waitangi Day 2023 funding opportunity announced



Applications for the Waitangi Day 2023 fund are now open and will close on Wednesday 26 October 2022.

Tangata whenua, community groups and local councils around Aotearoa are being encouraged to apply for a slice of a \$300,000 fund for Waitangi Day 2023 events that promote nation and community building. Mangatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Commemorating Waitangi Day Fund is calling for organisers of events that commemorate the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi to apply for grants of between \$5,000 to \$10,000. Many established events are already supported by the fund, but new initiatives are seen as vital to ensure all New Zealanders participate in celebrations that deepen and broaden our shared understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

For more information and to apply, visit the Ministry for Culture & Heritage website. Applications for the fund close on Wednesday 26 October 2022.



Kerikeri Street Party is back for 2022

The popular Kerikeri Street Party will take place on 19 November from 5-9.30pm following Kerikeri Half Marathon. The event has again been made possible thanks to support of local business sponsors, as well as the Northland Inc Regional Event Fund, and \$10,000 contributed by Far North District Council Events Investment Fund.