

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Summer reading quest a huge hit

This year's summer reading programme was such a hit with local and visiting tamariki that it required hundreds of reprints to meet demand and was extended by a month.

The programme was called Ngā Kaitiaki o te Ao – Defenders of the World. It tells the story of the 'four hidden kingdoms' of Te Hiku o te Ika: forest, earth, water, and sky.

In the first four days after its January launch, 250 sets of journals and passports were handed out, requiring a reprint of 200 more sets.

The programme, which ran across all six of our Far North Libraries, saw 400 tamariki and their whānau taking part. Around 3000 people participating in other library programmes were also invited to take up the challenge and complete the quests.

The programme was extended into February to allow more tamariki to participate in the summer fun. Ngā Kaitiaki o te Ao - Defenders of the World, was designed to foster a connection to the beauty of te taiao (the environment), emphasise the importance of kaitiakitanga (guardianship), encourage reading, and create opportunities to get around the district.



The reading programme encouraged tamariki to complete quests fostering their connection to the environment, reading, and guardianship.

The programme asked tamariki to complete six adventures to collect three taonga (crystals) per kingdom. Taonga were earned by completing daily quests like visiting an i-site or local attraction, attending library programmes, reading for 30 minutes a day, going on a litter hike, creating a worm farm, growing a plant or many other adventures.

**PŌTI
VOTE
2025**
NGA PŌTITANGA Ā-ROHE
LOCAL ELECTIONS

Make
your voice
count

Check your enrolment
details before 11 July
at vote.nz to get your
voting papers
in time.

Call for rethink on insulation



Councillor Foy was interviewed by TVNZ Breakfast and Te Karere.

The council is calling on the government to give Far North home builders a financial break by conceding that the very northern parts of the district are hotter than the rest of the country.

Far North District Council asked that a new climate zone be created for the top of the Far North and that H1 Building Code insulation requirements be changed to better reflect the local climate and reduce the cost of new home builds.

Councillor Felicity Foy says rising building costs are making the dream of building a new home unaffordable for many in the Far North. "Building healthy homes that are warm and dry is sensible, but current regulations demand we spend money on materials we do not need. This is not a good use of funds for anyone building a whare in our district."

The call for a new Far North climate zone attracted national interest with stories in print and broadcast media. Councillors Foy and Halkyard-Harawira appeared on TV news shows to explain the proposal.

Starlink boosts mobile library



Satellite technology connects customers even in mobile blackspots.

Our popular mobile library van can now connect to the whole world from anywhere in the district after adding a Starlink portable dish to its service offerings. The Far North Mobile Library complements services provided by our six 'bricks and mortar' branch libraries by taking library services directly to our most remote communities in the Far North.

The new technology means customers can connect to the internet from anywhere in the district – even where there are mobile signal blackspots – and gives them access a full suite of council service centre functions without having to travel to a main centre.

Close to 3000 Far Northerners visited the library van during 2024. By the end of February 2025, the number of visits had already hit 1000.

The mobile library now has 28 regular library stops scheduled, as well as 14 school and early childhood centre visits. To find out where and when the mobile library stops, go to the council website or the Far North Mobile Library Facebook page.

A fresh approach to water



Rereata Makiha was Kiwibank Senior New Zealander of the Year 2022.

Whakapapa o te wai, a series of five short videos, is rolling out on council social media channels from Tuesday 8 April.

In the series, Far Northerner Rereata Makiha shares a Māori perspective of water - where it comes from, how we should protect it, and ancient ideas about the importance of balancing freshwater and saltwater sources.

Matua Rereata (Ngāpuhi/Te Arawa/Rangitāne) is recognised for his work in broadcasting, the environment, and for revitalising te reo Māori, as well as his knowledge and application of the Maramataka (Māori Lunar Calendar).

A new clip will be released each week for five weeks.

Important consultations are open now

Tell us what you think at fndc.govt.nz/haveyoursay

Local Water
Done Well —
preferred options

Kaikohe & Districts
Sportsville
ground lease

Te Pātukurea —
plan for Kerikeri
and Waipapa

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