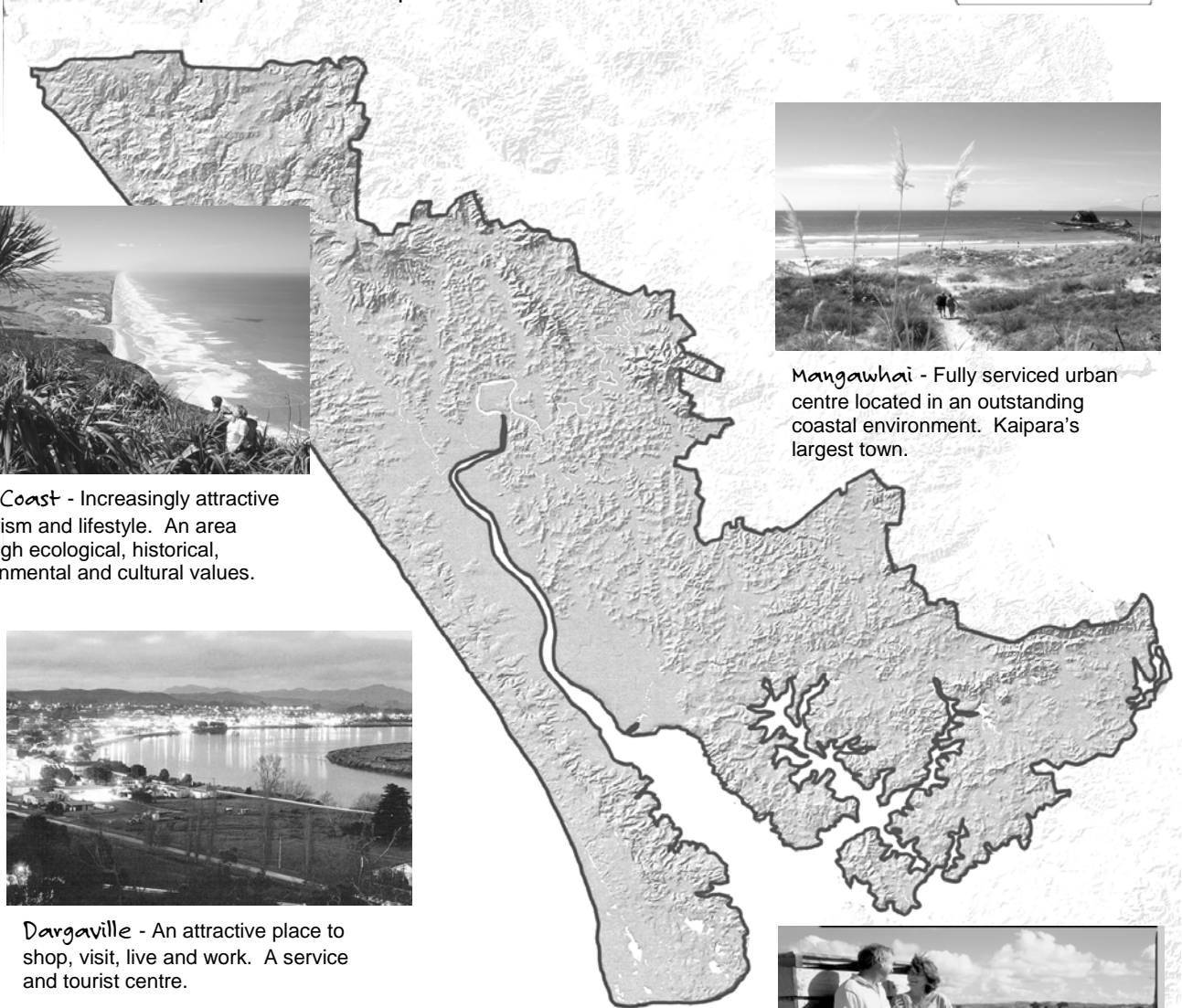


## Mission Statement

We will work with the community to preserve our heritage, enhance our environment, and provide the best possible services and facilities to make Kaipara an excellent place to live.



**West Coast** - Increasingly attractive to tourism and lifestyle. An area with high ecological, historical, environmental and cultural values.



**Dargaville** - An attractive place to shop, visit, live and work. A service and tourist centre.



**Kaipara Harbour** - A taonga preserved for all to enjoy. Retaining a rural atmosphere. Balancing competing demands of commercial and recreational activities.



**Mangawhai** - Fully serviced urban centre located in an outstanding coastal environment. Kaipara's largest town.



**Rural Heartland** - Farming and forestry support the District's economy with an increase in rural lifestyle uses.

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# Kaipara District



Stretching from coast to coast, Kaipara District is located at the entrance to Northland at the top of the North Island. Travelling from east to west, the Kaipara is a district of contrasts and spectacular scenery. Residents and visitors enjoy the magic of the east coast settlement of Mangawhai, the peacefulness of New Zealand's largest harbour – the Kaipara – and the wild beauty of the west coast beaches.

Kaipara's economy has historically been based around pastoral farming and to a lesser extent horticulture and forestry. However, developments in tourism are growing in importance and there is a trend toward small mixed-use farm holdings. The District's rural nature, especially in the heartland, is one of the charms residents are keen to preserve.

Kaipara District Council is the seat of local government for the District. Council's role is to provide local leadership and facilitate the delivery of services and activities that promote community well-being. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Council has a lead role in ensuring that the community's economic, social, cultural and environmental priorities are reflected in government agencies' and other organisations' planning and decision-making and that a co-operative approach is taken to achieving the community's vision for the future. The Mayor and eight Councillors also work to ensure that the voice of the Kaipara community is heard at the national level.

# Reader's Guide

What is the Annual Plan?

This Annual Plan outlines Council's activities for the 2011/12 financial year. Council's role is to provide local leadership and facilitate the delivery of services and activities that promote community well-being. The Plan supports Council's ten year plan, *Kaipara's Future-Working Together* Long Term Plan released in 2009, and identifies any changes or additions to it. It outlines the community's expectations (community outcomes) and describes how Council, in partnership with government agencies and other organisations, will work to achieve these. This Annual Plan provides details of Council's budget.

What does the Annual Plan include?

## **Working with the Community**

In 2003 Council facilitated *Kaipara – Our Future – Together*. This provided the people of Kaipara with an opportunity to have their say about the future which gave Council valuable insight into the priorities of the Kaipara people.

This Council is about safeguarding, protecting and enhancing the well-being of its communities so it is essential Council understand the needs and desires of its people. To do this Council must move amongst the people and work with the communities, which allows this Council to truly comprehend the real culture of our District. For all projects "buy in" is essential, communities that stand up and help themselves, taking responsibility for their future, will inevitably witness the best results. Council endeavours to help where it can, offering assistance in a variety of ways, whether it be funding, facilitation, advice, a site or just a helping hand the true and sustainable success comes when the communities "own" the project and we work together to make it happen.

The priorities voiced by the people, have been represented by the outcomes described later in this section along with possible indicators to help measure progress towards success. These indicators and measures also provide a basis for accountability of the Council and Government agencies to the community.

## **Activities**

Council's work programme is divided into 13 significant activities. In order to provide continuity with *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* Plan, a similar document format has been used.

In addition to details of Council activities, this Plan contains Prospective Financial Statements.

Where does the Annual Plan fit in the planning cycle?

This Annual Plan is year three of Council's third Long Term Plan, *Kaipara's Future - Working Together 2009/19*.

# Elected Members



Neil Tiller Mayor



Andrew Wade



Brian McEwing

Dargaville Ward



Hal Harding



Julie Geange Deputy Mayor



John Blackwell

West Coast Central  
Ward



Wayne Linton



Julia Sutherland



Jonathan Larsen

Otamatea Ward

# Mayor's Introduction



Kaipara: The place we are proud to call home and a haven to all those who choose to live, work and play. Kaipara gives us a lifestyle uncluttered with the problems of large city centres and builds strong communities, communities that work together to make a difference and it is these strong communities which form the backbone of this District.

While we gladly celebrate the scores of advantages to our unique Kaipara living, there is a cost. Kaipara's location and small population means we struggle to obtain the financial freedom of the larger areas and progress in the district is hard earned.

Historically this Council has chosen a relatively conservative approach with the intention of benefiting the ratepayer which in hindsight has become detrimental to the future of our District. No funds have been readily available for larger projects so have been paid for by loans.

In the 2010 Draft Annual Plan Council struck a minimal 1 per cent general rate increase. It was hoped this would give Kaipara ratepayers the breathing space needed to allow them the ability to afford rate payments.

Elections have given Council a fresh new face with clear aspirations. Councillors are enthusiastic and excited about their District and keen to introduce changes that will lead Kaipara into a positive future.

## **Council Aspirations**

At its inaugural meeting held in October 2010, the Councillors took the time to identify their aspirations for the District, things they believed they could achieve during their term on Council that would really make a difference to the District. Not surprisingly there were a number of common themes.

The need for economic development was a big one. Councillors believe that the Council needs to get more people into the Kaipara by promoting the District as a great place to set up a new business. They believe that this Council needs to foster an "enabling" environment for businesses wanting to establish here so as to encourage their development in our communities.

The promotion of tourism was another aspiration which Councillors believe essential to the District and directly linked to the growth of Kaipara's economic development. Councillors felt that enhancing both economic development and tourism requires an element of self promotion. Examples such as going out and working with the communities, identifying their unique characteristics then working with these to capture their potential, alongside promoting some of our reserves as premier tourist destinations will contribute to attracting more tourists and new residents to our District.

Overall there was a belief that this Council needs to encourage growth with simple rules and regulations which are easily understood and protect the environment in a sustainable way.

Also Councillors saw a need for the improved use of technology, making the website more user-friendly. Information is power and the website is now the first place many people go when seeking information. To this end Council has committed itself to a complete upgrade of its current website in this financial year.

# Mayor's Introduction

The Councils of Northland have recognised that if Northland is to move ahead as a whole it is important that all areas have access to high speed Broadband. This Council will continue to work with its neighbours to achieve this.

## **General Rates**

This year Council has adopted a general rate increase of 7.47 per cent which will go towards achieving some new outcomes and includes the following additional projects:

- \$60,000 towards a Council website upgrade. This has become essential with internet now one of the most popular and effective forms of communication.
- \$10,000 towards enabling free access to community libraries
- \$200,000 for implementation of the organisational review undertaken 2010/11
- \$50,000 for a treasury advisor
- \$50,000 to help fight the battle of the increasing fires in the area

## **What The Community Said**

Council was extremely pleased to receive over 400 submissions with many taking the time to comment on all the issues and projects highlighted in the Draft Annual Plan Summary. While submitters expressed concern over a significant general rate increase, there was also recognition that this is an unavoidable move necessary for Kaipara to start repaying loans and moving forward. However, submitters were clear that this is the time when Council needs to stick to the basics, not spending money on unnecessary items such as an outdoor exercise circuit and the Mangawhai Service Centre.

A large number of submitters also commented that while a new multi-sports complex in Dargaville is a nice idea it is not a 'must have' and could be looked at further down the track, which Council will do in consultation with the community as part of next year's Long Term Plan process. The Mangawhai community had a mixed reaction as to the future development of the existing pensioner units in Fagan Place, Mangawhai and as a result this will also form part of next year's Long Term Plan consultation.

Upgrading Council's website proved to be popular; however there was some question around the amount of dollars attached to this. Council will be seeking tenders for the website upgrade and is expecting to have this contract finalised by the end of August 2011. In order for the website upgrade to function successfully part of the \$60,000 will be looked at being apportioned to supplying the resources to ensure it is well maintained and updated regularly.

There was also strong support for free library access and an organisational review.

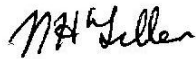
A great response was received from the Baylys community regarding the future of the Council owned section at 24 Sea View Road, Baylys and Council has resolved that this section be sold. The money used to fund the initial purchase will be returned to the Reserves Contribution Fund with the net proceeds of the sale being used for other community purposes at Baylys.

# Mayor's Introduction

## **Conclusion**

Council would like to thank all of you who put the time and effort into commenting on this year's Draft Annual Plan. Your comments and thoughts are a valuable contribution and have been greatly appreciated by myself and Councillors.

I would also like to thank the Councillors, who have worked tirelessly on your behalf and the staff who are committed to providing a high level of service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Tiller'.

Neil Tiller JP

**Mayor**

# Chief Executive's Summary



Council philosophy changing towards growth and long term sustainability.

Welcome to the 2011/12 Annual Plan prepared by the Council elected in October 2010. This Council has five members who are new to local government and along with their more experienced colleagues want to make a difference to the community. Taking on board the desire to be the “best little Council in New Zealand”. Council is demanding a higher level of service across the board.

The Kaipara District Council's long standing philosophy has traditionally been embedded in the desire to know and understand its people, to encourage feedback and involvement and to provide a constant and

affordable rating structure. This has not changed, but rather a shift of focus away from 'rates minimisation' to enabling growth, development and long term sustainability. We are all passionate about Kaipara and this Council intends to make a difference by working with you to deliver better services, expand tourism opportunities, encourage economic development and enhance Kaipara's overall image.

The last two years have thrown some hefty obstacles in our path. A recession combined with drought has meant Kaipara has suffered hardships. Everyone from farmers, businesses to our elderly pensioners have been affected and in response Council shaved costs and kept rate increases so low that service improvements were sacrificed; a quick fix necessary to alleviate the pressure, but not a long term solution.

General rate increase of 7.47%.

The Draft Annual Plan was prepared with a proposed 7.47 per cent general rate increase which would enable Council to start providing some of the essentials required to help Kaipara get to where it needs to be. This year Council saw a marked increase in the number of submissions received and the theme was clear; no unnecessary expenditure on needless items, improve the service levels, look after our infrastructure and keep the rates affordable.

Marked increase in submissions.

The Council wants to ensure the community is well served and has asked for a new computer operating system, a new website and a more effective organisation. In addition, working with our communities to prepare Civil Defence Community Response Plans and providing support for the community as detailed below, all provided for in the 7.47 per cent general rate increase. Also included in this are the key projects discussed on pages 15 and 16.

In addition the Council is considering providing a commercial water rate in Dargaville to assist the establishment and retention of major businesses such as the Silver Fern Farms meatworks who use significant quantities of water, over 200,000m<sup>3</sup> each year. This is to be developed in such a way that incentivises increased production and value to the community. This is likely to be put to the community next year as part of the consultation process around the Long Term Plan.

# Chief Executive's Summary

## Support for the Community

Many of these grants are a small contribution to large projects and Council commends these groups and all the others that are diligently working together to get their own projects up and running. All these projects add tremendous value to the District and Council is pleased to support and assist by helping with arrangement of outside funding and also in the negotiation of Council processes.

Council supports in principle the following organisations:

- Homebuilders Community Service
- Mangawhai Baptist Church
- Northland Fields Days Incorporated
- Support of Sexually Abused Dargaville and Districts Incorporated (SOS)

After considering all the submissions. Council has approved the following grants to groups contributing to the well-being of the Kaipara community:

### ***Funded by General Rates***

- Council allocated \$26,000 to Sport Northland to continue to support the excellent work it does in getting the community up, out, about and moving
- Council allocated \$19,000 to Surf Life Saving in support of the essential services it provides at both Mangawhai and Baylys
- Council allocated \$900 to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Wellsford recognising that it services the eastern area of the Kaipara District
- Council allocated \$3,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau in Dargaville
- Council allocated \$3,700 to Mangawhai Information Centre
- Council allocated \$1,000 to the Peer Support Awards
- Council allocated \$1,500 to Progressive Paparua to assist with the maintenance of the Paparua Lions Bush Walkway
- Council allocated \$1,000 to Dargaville Coast Visitor and Information Centre to assist with promotion of tourism in Kaipara
- Council allocated \$1,500 to SeniorNet Mangawhai Incorporated to assist with the telephone and internet connection
- Council allocated \$1,500 to Circus Kumarani to assist them to maintain their presence in the District
- Council allocated \$6,000 to the Kellys Bay community to assist with the urgent upgrade required of the gabions

### ***Funded by Reserve Contributions***

- Council agreed to contribute \$5,000 to the Mangawhai Track Charitable Trust for the development of walking tracks in the area.

Council has also agreed that a contribution for the maintenance of the Dargaville Christmas lights be made from the Dargaville Development Rate.

# Chief Executive's Summary

## Activities

### Roading

Unsealed network will remain unsealed.

Roading is Kaipara's lifeline and major activity. A vital key to the economic and social well-being of the District. It is our highest priority and so the recipient of most of your ratepayer dollars. Over the last 15 years Council has been committed to improving the roading network and through dogged persistence, careful planning and Government funding has made significant advances. Last year we told you the Government had cut crucial funding thus reducing our roading programme by \$5,000,000, meaning our unsealed network would remain just that, unsealed. Unfortunately this has not changed, so it is business as usual with us continuing our normal grading and pothole patching.

Council to find a way forward as part of 2011/22 Long Term Plan.

Understanding that this is an issue common to many in our District due to Kaipara's large percentage of unsealed roads, Council is looking at ways to move forward and will be investigating this further as part of next year's Long Term Plan process.

### Dust

Dust suppressants still being investigated as a short term fix for dust nuisance.

With a large number of unsealed roads in Kaipara, summer is the season of dust. The dust nuisance around the District continues to be a common theme during Annual Plan consultations.

Council has been looking at alternative remedies for dust nuisance and have been trialling the use of a dust suppressant. The trials are in their infancy and to date have lasted between three and four months. The cost and effectiveness of this exercise is varied and while this is proving relatively successful Council is still looking as to whether better options are available.

### Cames Road

There have been numerous complaints, concerns and petitions received on changing the paper road status of Cames Road. Changing the paper road status requires adherence to rules and regulations. Unsealed and sealed road construction is subject to appropriate design standards and guidelines.

After receiving a large number of submissions for and against the opening of Cames Road to the public, Council is investigating an interim measure in order to resolve the problem as quickly as possible.

### Service Lane - Dargaville

This service lane runs in an L-Shape from Hokianga Road to Normanby Street. The public unsealed service lane is bordered by unsealed private property. There has been a complaint and petition received to seal the service lane to minimise dust and stormwater runoff. Forty two per cent of the unsealed section is on public land and fifty eight per cent

# Chief Executive's Summary

of the unsealed section on private land. This indicates that to make a difference the entire unsealed section needs to be resurfaced. After seeking feedback the community told us they would like to see landowners fund this and Council will be working with the landowners to facilitate the outcomes they are seeking.

## **Works Programme**

### ***Bridge Replacements***

Council has a programme of bridge replacements to ensure that weight restricted bridges are replaced as dictated by condition and age. It is proposed to replace the following bridges at a cost of \$760,000 in 2011/12:

- Omana Road Bridge 158
- Tara Road Culvert RP7345
- Pukehuia Road Bridge 229

### ***Reseals***

This programme provides for 30 kilometres of reseal each year. This is a resurfacing, much like repainting your house, which protects the road and increases its life. The indicative programme is detailed in the Roding Section (Page 37) which will be confirmed just before it is undertaken to ensure those roads needing reseal are resealed.

### ***Slip Programme (Emergency Works)***

This is a major issue for Kaipara because of our terrain and lightly engineered roads. We have over 300 slips identified in our records. Our indicative programme using the contingency as well as our usual funding, giving a total budget of \$360,000 is:

\$360,000 budgeted  
for Emergency  
Works.

- Kirikopuni Valley Road RP7780
- Paparoa-Oakleigh Road RP950, RP1050 and RP1200
- Omana Road RP10900
- Taipuha Station Road RP2173

### ***Seal Extension***

No money for seal  
extensions.

There is no money from Government for seal extension this year or for the foreseeable future. Consequently no seal extension work is programmed. Council will be looking at ways to address this in next years Long Term Plan, but if you and your neighbours wish to see your road sealed and you are prepared to make a financial contribution we are happy to talk to you and see if we can achieve a sealed road.

### **Emergency Management**

The sum of \$50,000 has been put aside to create a full time position to help with the development of Civil Defence Community Response Plans.

# Chief Executive's Summary

## Development Contributions

Full review of the Otamatea Development Contributions.

The Otamatea Roding Development Contribution Policy was developed to address the impacts of growth on the roading network. It was envisaged that any Development Contributions received would attract NZ Transport Agency funding assistance. This funding would then be applied to arterial and collector roads in Mangawhai and Otamatea. The type of work that can be done includes seal extension, intersection sealing, sight improvements, corner easing, sight benching, safety footpaths et cetera.

Council will be completing a full review of the Otamatea Roding Development Contributions as part of the 2012/22 Long Term Plan.

## Wastewater

Community wastewater schemes on hold for Baylys, Tinopai and Pahi.

Community wastewater systems are instrumental in keeping our waterways, harbours and beaches pollution free. Kaipara has systems in place at Te Kopuru, Dargaville, Kaiwaka, Maungaturoto, a portion of Glinks Gully and now Mangawhai.

Council has been investigating schemes for other communities. A new scheme has been looked at for Baylys, Tinopai and Pahi but these come with a large price tag and some of our communities are concerned that at this point in time they are unnecessary. A mixed response from the Baylys community has meant the proposed scheme has been put on hold while Council investigates more viable options.

Tinopai and Pahi have also been put on hold. While receiving preliminary approval for the Ministry of Health subsidy, Council has since been advised that only one of these communities can receive part of the \$6 million in the subsidy pot and Council would need to make a hard and fast financial commitment for the "go ahead" to be given.

Consequently Council has decided to investigate other options.

## Doing Nothing Is Not An Option

Council to look into a Septic Tank Management Bylaw.

The health of our Harbour is an ongoing battle and community wastewater schemes are the ultimate solution to keeping our coastal regions healthy. With this not looking like an affordable option for our small coastal towns in the near Council will be investigating a Septic Tank Management Bylaw to ensure our environment is protected and not subject to polluting discharges.

## Mangawhai Community Wastewater Scheme

Council sought legal advice because of concerns expressed by a ratepayer over the way in which Council struck a one-off targeted rate for the Mangawhai Community Wastewater Scheme. This rate was struck to contribute towards the initial cost of the infrastructure. On receipt of that legal advice Council has accepted that the "one-off" rate

# Chief Executive's Summary

had been incorrectly struck. This was because part of the criteria for striking this rate used a date instead of a location. Only seven properties have been identified as being affected and they will pay a lower rate. Council is using provisions of Section 120 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to remedy this.

## Water

The ongoing development of Government policy, primarily through the Ministry of Health, will continue to influence Council's responsibilities with respect to water supply infrastructure. To meet New Zealand Drinking Water Standards requires upgrades to existing water supplies and management systems. The cost of these upgrades is substantial and cannot be achieved without Government support. We will continue to work with Government to review the costs versus benefits of complying with any new standards on rural communities.

During the 2011/12 year we will be talking to communities about the levels of service and the desirability or not of meeting New Zealand Drinking Water Standards.

Commercial water rate review to be done in the Long Term Plan.

A commercial water rate for high usage businesses will be reviewed in next year's Long Term Plan.

## Refuse

### Hakaru

Between \$150,000 - \$230,000 is currently spent per annum on the removal of leachate from Hakaru. Council is going to the market to obtain prices for removing the refuse from the Hakaru site as this may be cheaper than continuing to manage the leachate. Council believes this may have the potential to not only solve the ongoing leachate problem but over time bring some long term cost savings.

Digging out the leachate could mean big savings.

### Awakino Road Transfer Station

Much discussion has passed regarding the fate of the Awakino Road Transfer Station. We are planning to have a new operation contract in place by 1 July 2011. This is proposed so that the transfer station will no longer be subsidised by the general rate and will be managed in a similar way to Hakaru at no cost to the ratepayer. All costs will be met by the user.

Awakino Road Transfer Station to be managed externally.

## Land Drainage

Council currently co-ordinates 29 drainage districts of various sizes. Each drainage scheme is self funding. Levels of service are determined by each district at the start of a financial year.

For smaller districts, this can mean a project may take several years to complete.

# Chief Executive's Summary

One such project that was completed in the 2010/11 year was the installation of a new concrete box culvert in the Makaka Creek which forms part of the Kopuru Swamp District. Other "big ticket" projects completed include a new floodgate in the Kaihu Valley and replacement of older model wooden floodgates for concrete in Owairangi and Hoanga Drainage Districts.

## Community Spaces

Kaipara is an area of rural landscapes, interwoven with a rich social and cultural history. The place we call home. In this landscape we have a number of areas of public spaces which some have called the "lungs of the community".

Open spaces contribute to the communities' well-being.

Kaipara's public open spaces are many and varied. These natural and formed open space areas are the merging points where social, recreational, environmental, economic and cultural activities happen. It is the point where individuals, groups, families and communities gather. A key element in promoting community well-being. The development of further opportunities to fully utilise open space areas well into the future as the needs of the communities change with time is a challenge the Council wishes to accept.

This activity covers Council owned land and reserves. Council has reviewed its land holdings and, where identified, has started disposing of those not deemed core business. This cannot include reserves.

## Key Projects

The key projects for this year are:

- **Reserves Management Plans**

Reserve Management Plans for Harding Park and Mangawhai Reserve to be completed this year.

The Council started a process of development of reserves management plans for three key reserves; Mangawhai foreshores and reserves, Harding Park and Mangawhai Park. The Mangawhai Reserves and Foreshore Management Plan has been completed. Management Plans for Harding Park and Mangawhai Park have been started and Council will be working in conjunction with these communities to have these completed this year. A key challenge for us all is to have management plans which the community can afford to implement.

- **Taharoa Domain**

Taharoa Domain camp ground activity self-funding.

The Council is now managing and funding the Domain on the basis that the camping ground activity is self-funding (and should deliver surpluses) while the reserve activities are funded on the same basis as the rest of the District's reserves, from the general rate. Any surplus from the camping ground will also be used in the Domain.

# Chief Executive's Summary

- **Public Toilets**

Upgrades and replacement of public toilets have started.

Last year Council completed an audit of the District's public toilet facilities. A number of areas were highlighted as needing upgrading or replacing and Council has now embarked on a programme to complete the works. Maunganui Bluff and Omamari Beach are being completed in 2011/12. Council is working with the community to progress a Welcome Centre and new toilets in Kaiwaka in time for the Rugby World Cup. Public toilets and possibly a facility for the Bayllys Surf Lifesavers are being planned for Chases Gorge, Bayllys. This will replace the long serving facility which is now well past its use by date. Future requirements are also being looked at for the construction of new toilet facilities in the Mangawhai Heads and Tinopai areas.

- **Kauri Cycleway**

Iconic cycleway through the Waipoua Forest.

Council continues to support this exciting opportunity. An iconic cycleway running through the Waipoua Forest and linking up with the Far North District along the old Waoku Coach Road that uses disused rail lines and historic roads. This is a unique initiative and has good potential to significantly increase visitor numbers to the area, to increase business opportunities and up Kaipara's profile.

## Supporting Community Initiatives

Community Development Facilitator assists community groups.

Council continues to actively support the Mangawhai Activity Zone, the Dargaville Skate Park and the Kauri Coast Swimming Pool Trust's regional 50 metre swimming pool in Dargaville. The Community Development Facilitator continues to assist these and other community groups to achieve their outcomes by providing guidance and support in dealing with funders, Government agencies and the like.

## Kauri Coast Community Pool

Pool an asset to Northland.

With the completion of and opening of the Kauri Coast Community Pool in 2009/10 the Kaipara has benefited from this 50 metre regional swimming facility. A number of regional as well as district events have been held since its opening and they along with users of the facility have commented on what a wonderful asset this is to Northland. Council continues to support this facility through an annual grant and will continue to work with the Kauri Coast Community Pool Trust to maximise its operation.

## Economic Development

As the economic recovery gains momentum we aim to be in a good position to capitalise on expansion from Auckland with our case management service for businesses wishing to move to the District.

We will continue to be involved in the Business Excellence Awards while advising and referring promising business prospects in the area. In addition we have been actively engaging with key businesses and community players to increase skills and abilities.

# Chief Executive's Summary

2011 Rugby World Cup - working together to refine service delivery.

We plan to work collaboratively with other districts and the Northland Regional Council to support and successfully host the 2011 Rugby World Cup and to refine service delivery across the region. We aim to support efforts for Northland to effectively engage with Central Government to increase Northland's Gross Domestic Product.

We intend to work to our action orientated business plan based on the agreed Strategic Approach. We propose to continually review performance and try new ideas to continually learn and improve our Economic Development Initiative.

We will also be looking at Council's Economic Development Strategy during 2011/12 and would appreciate any initiatives you have that would contribute to this Strategy.

## Community Development

### **Dargaville Community Cinema Charitable Trust**

Cinema planned for Dargaville.

The Dargaville Community Cinema Charitable Trust is committed to providing a Community Cinema in Dargaville. The Trust has very wide support, is headed by an energetic committee and has demonstrated real success to date.

A cinema has been a community priority for Dargaville and surrounding districts for many years. It would also provide a multipurpose auditorium available for a variety of other community uses.

Council sees that a cinema offers both affordable entertainment and an opportunity to promote visual and creative arts in this District. To this end Council has made a significant commitment to assist within this project.

Council has been approached by the Trust to assist with the cost of converting the old library building in Hokianga Road to a purpose built cinema. Council has agreed to this and rather than guaranteeing the loan as initially requested, has provided \$200,000 as an alternative.

Council believes this will make it affordable for the Trust to provide a high quality facility and programmes to meet the varying needs of the community.

### **Community Halls**

Community Halls done and dusted.

Council is in the final stages of implementing its Halls Policy which sees each hall's ownership transferred to its Committee (now an Incorporated Society) with the Committee fully responsible for the ongoing sustainability of the hall. These halls will no longer receive Council funding as of right but will have to compete with all other similar organisations for the annual grants funding budget. This budget will at least match the amount of money Council was spending on halls.

The biggest benefit of this approach is that each community will be able to decide what is important for it and how the hall should function. It will ensure communities develop in a

# Chief Executive's Summary

way their people want, not in a way that is driven by Council's need to ensure its assets are protected and maintained to a least cost standard.

## **Libraries**

### ***Dargaville Library***

The relocated library has been working well with a noted increase in patronage.

### ***Community Libraries***

A Strategic Review of library services is underway. While we do not yet know what the recommendations will be, previous Annual Plan submissions have indicated a desire for free membership for community libraries district-wide. Subscribers to the Dargaville Library enjoy a free service and Council would like to be able to offer this to subscribers of community libraries should they want it.

Council has set aside \$10,000 in the 2011/12 budget which can be used to activate this service.

## **Elderly Persons Housing**

Council's housing units continue to be well tenanted and operating at no cost to the ratepayers. The high maintenance standards and management of tenants is proposed to continue. Council is also looking at the future of the units in Fagan Place Mangawhai. These units currently require substantial upgrading and are located on prime Mangawhai real estate and as part of next year's Long Term Plan. Council will be consulting with the Mangawhai community as to the future development of this area.

## **Working with Government Agencies**

While not able to provide the social infrastructure larger councils provide for their communities, we have been able to work with government agencies to maximise services into our community proving that we are a highly effective deliverer of Government funded services.

These include:

- ***Council Cadetships***

This programme has been highly successful in helping up to six at risk young people to gain employment skills and then permanent work each year. Some of Council's great customer service staff found their way into the organisation from this programme. We have also involved other employers in the community in the programme. Our 2011 intake has just joined Council and will be with us for the next 12 months. Most of the funding for this is from the Government.

- ***Bright Futures Co-ordinator***

This programme works to ensure that young people are not disengaged from

No membership fees a possibility for community libraries.

Fagan Place units need upgrading.

Council continuing to work with Government Agencies.

# Chief Executive's Summary

education. The target group being young parents. This is fully funded by the Government and is seen by the sponsoring agencies as a great success.

- **Community PRIDE**

This is a Police initiative to Protect, Respect, Include, Develop and Educate all in our community. The key focus of this initiative which has the support of the Northland Intersectoral Forum is to engender community pride in Northland. It started with an Expo in Kaitaia and this has now expanded to include Whangarei, Kaikohe and Dargaville. We hope we can also have these Expos in other Kaipara communities and will be urging the agencies to support us in this. The Expo gives communities the opportunity to come together, find out about the opportunities, services and assistance available and to celebrate being a Northlander.

- **Northland Intersectoral Forum**

The Northland Intersectoral Forum is made up of the leaders of Government agencies and local government Chief Executives of Northland and is endorsed by the Northland Mayoral Forum. Its aim is to promote Northland and to work together to achieve the best possible for Northland with the dollars allocated to it.

Council also continues to contribute to the Northland Intersectoral Forum which has as its major goals the improvements of the social well-being of Northland. It also recognises that this cannot be achieved without improving the financial well-being of Northland. The Chief Executive co-chairs the forum.

## Governance, Policy and Planning

### Organisation Restructure

Organisation review being undertaken.

Council recognised that it was not delivering to its communities and stakeholders in the way it wanted to. As a result of that discovery, a review was undertaken that identified shortcomings in a number of areas. The restructure is designed to deliver better services to the community and Council and to provide information in a timely and relevant way.

### District Plan Review

District Plan Review in final stages.

The Review of the District Plan is nearing its completion. Having finished the hearing of submissions the hearing panel have now completed their deliberations on all submissions and a Decision Version of the District Plan will be ready to be released in July 2011.

### Landscapes Variation No. 1

Under the Resource Management Act, Council is required to 'recognise and provide for the protection of outstanding landscapes' from 'inappropriate subdivision use and development'. The Variation identifies these landscapes in the District and seeks to manage activities which may affect them. This will enable Council to meet its statutory obligations.

# Chief Executive's Summary

Council's decision not to include a landscapes chapter in its notified reviewed District Plan was not supported by the Environmental Defence Society who decided on legal action against this decision. In November 2010 the Environment Court ordered that the Variation, based on work Council had already done, be notified forthwith. The Council notified Variation 1, Landscapes with a submission period between 2 December 2010 and 28 February 2011. The submission and hearings process will follow the usual Resource Management Act process.

## Structure Planning

Structure planning for Kaiwaka making progress.

The NZ Transport Agency has agreed to provide assistance with the development of the Kaiwaka Structure Plan. The structure plan provides the recipe which enables communities to evolve in a way that capitalises on their own distinctive qualities. As a starting point a discussion document has been prepared to kick start talks with the community. This document is a living document, which takes a holistic view, considering the community's needs and wants from roading, traffic to land use and infrastructure in the Kaiwaka Area. It is envisioned that this document will evolve over time and the information in it will feed into a draft structure plan which is expected to be completed in 2013.

## Biodiversity Fund - \$15,000

Biodiversity and Heritage Funds retain their popularity.

Our Biodiversity Fund has been one of our outstanding successes. It has high buy-in from the community. It funds significant projects that are protecting and enhancing Kaipara's biodiversity, and as a consequence Council is continuing to fund this initiative. Community groups or individuals with projects that enhance or protect Kaipara's natural biodiversity can receive up to 50 per cent of the cost of the project. Typical projects could include the fencing of bush or wetlands, riparian planting or weed management to protect native biodiversity. Applications for this fund close mid March each year.

## Heritage Fund - \$15,000

\$5,000 more in the pot for the Heritage Fund.

The Kaipara Heritage Assistance Fund provides a valuable resource to assist communities in protecting and preserving Kaipara's historic, building and archaeological sites. Community groups or individuals with projects of this nature can receive up to 50 per cent of the cost of their project. This fund is targeted mainly at built heritage in the district and we are lucky to have the assistance of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust in assessing applications each year. Historic churches, houses, halls and other buildings have all received funding to assist with restoration or maintenance. Due to the popularity of this fund, Council has allocated an additional \$5,000 increasing the fund to \$15,000. Applications for this fund close at the end of October each year.

# Chief Executive's Summary

## Development Management

Council increases its level of performance processing consents.

Managing building consents and resource consents is a highly prescribed process and the Council has recently increased its level of performance with almost all consents being issued within the statutory timeframes. This is going to be subject to further pressure with there being financial penalties on Council for failure to meet the statutory timeframes.

The current recession has meant that applications for consents are fewer than in the past although there is a steady flow of applications which are predicted to continue for 2011/12.

## Rating Levels

The Council has adopted a 7.47 per cent general rate increase for 2011/12. You will also note that the targeted rate increases are generally higher than the rate of inflation.

Targeted rates apply to such Council assets as water, stormwater and wastewater. Council depreciates these assets and then uses these funds to carry out all necessary upgrading. However, when Council started this depreciation regime about nine years ago most of the assets were very old and consequently the depreciation values are lower than current new cost. This means there is a shortfall in funding which needs to be picked up each year. If Council increased its rate of depreciation it would have more money for the replacement of assets and would not need to raise loans. However, the consequence of this would be a substantial increase in the rates to those who use the service for which the asset was intended. Council is comfortable that the current regime is the most effective and cost efficient for the users of these services.

The rating levels adopted in *Kaipara's Future - Working Together* 2009/19 were:

	General Rate		Targeted Rates*	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
2009/10	4.0%	4.0%	9.7%	9.7%
2010/11	4.0%	1.0%	8.1%	7.9%
2011/12	4.0%	7.47%	8.1%	8.3%
2012/13	4.0%		7.5%	
2013/14	3.0%		7.3%	
2014/15	3.0%		6.1%	
2015/16	3.0%		8.1%	
2016/17	3.0%		6.3%	
2017/18	3.0%		6.5%	
2018/19	3.0%		5.7%	

\*Excludes Mangawhai Community Wastewater Scheme 'one-off' rates

Rates are based on property values:

- General rates are used for general purposes and are levied over the whole rating area.
- Targeted rates are used to provide specific services. They may be levied over any part of the District that is deemed to have received a benefit from the service.

# Chief Executive's Summary

## Rates

### General Rate

General rates have two elements:

- (a) Uniform Annual General Charge of \$353.00 (including GST) and
- (b) the balance assessed on land value.

Effective General Rate Increase for 2011/12 is **7.47%**.

Stormwater Area	Cents per \$ of land value	Present Charge	Percentage Increase	Average Annual Estimates*	
				Increase	New Annual Rate
Baylys	0.0532	\$104.00	3.2%	\$3.00	\$107.00
Dargaville	0.2589	\$254.00	4.9%	\$12.00	\$266.00
Kaiwaka	0.0789	\$87.00	5.3%	\$5.00	\$92.00
Mangawhai	0.0264	\$95.00	5.0%	\$5.00	\$100.00
Te Kopuru	0.1098	\$74.00	5.3%	\$4.00	\$78.00

Wastewater	Present Charge	Percentage Increase	Increase	New Charge
Dargaville	\$328.00	4.1%	\$13.00	\$341.00
Glinks Gully	\$674.00	10.5%	\$71.00	\$745.00
Kaiwaka	\$648.00	2.8%	\$18.00	\$666.00
Mangawhai	\$750.00	3.0%	\$23.00	\$773.00
Maungaturoto	\$758.00	14.7%	\$111.00	\$869.00
Te Kopuru	\$442.00	2.8%	\$12.00	\$454.00
<b>Uniform Targeted Rate</b>				
Mangawhai	\$8,152.00	3.0%	\$245.00	\$8,397.00
Mangawhai Development	\$13,213.00	3.0%	\$396.00	\$13,609.00
Contributions				

Water	Present price per cubic metre	Percentage Increase	Increase	Price
Dargaville	\$1.81	6.8%	\$0.12	\$1.93
Glinks Gully:				
▪ Metered	\$3.63	8.1%	\$0.29	\$3.92
▪ Flat Rate	\$323.00	8.1%	\$26.06	\$349.00
Ruawai	\$4.77	6.0%	\$0.28	\$5.05
Maungaturoto:				
▪ Railway Station Village	\$2.06	14.4%	\$0.30	\$2.36
Maungaturoto other:				
▪ Metered	\$1.36	14.4%	\$0.20	\$1.56
▪ Flat Rate	\$194.00	14.4%	\$27.94	\$222.00

\* Stormwater new annual rates are calculated on an average basis

# Chief Executive's Summary

Thank you for your involvement in this process. It is only by this involvement that Council can make informed decisions about what is best for the community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a long, horizontal flourish.

Jack McKerchar

**Chief Executive**



Community Well-being



# Community Well-being

The Local Government Act 2002 places a particular emphasis on four Community Well-beings and the outcomes the community has identified will deliver the four well-beings. Well-being is seen as being made up of four inter-related dimensions – social, environmental, economic and cultural.



Source: [www.culturalwell-being.govt.nz](http://www.culturalwell-being.govt.nz)

## Community Outcomes

What are these and where did they come from? Community outcomes are about improving the well-being of communities over time and in a way that is sustainable and lasts.

In 2003 Council asked the community what its priorities were and from this process four community outcomes were identified.

## Kaipara Community Outcomes

### **Sustainable Economy**

Kaipara District has a diversified and sustainable economy that supports the well-being of its communities and residents

### **Strong Communities**

Kaipara District is built on strong communities where people have a sense of belonging and work together to shape their collective future

### **Safety and a good quality of life**

Kaipara District is a safe place to live and raise a family, where people enjoy a good quality of life

### **Special character and healthy environment**

Kaipara District is proud of and renowned for its beautiful environment and sound management of natural resources, where residents enjoy a clean, healthy environment

During the September-October 2008 round of *Kaipara's Future -Working Together* public meetings the community was asked if the outcomes identified in 2003 were still valid and the response was "yes".

# Community Well-being

## Council's Contribution to the Community Outcomes by Activity

Outcome Sustainable Economy	Outcome Strong Communities	Outcome Safety and a Good Quality of Life	Outcome Special Character and Healthy Environment
Kaipara District has a diversified and sustainable economy that supports the well-being of its communities and residents	Kaipara District is built on strong communities where people have a sense of belonging and work together to shape their collective future	Kaipara District is a safe place to live and raise a family, where people enjoy a good quality of life	Kaipara District is proud of and renowned for its beautiful environment and sound management of natural resources, where residents enjoy a clean, healthy environment
Roading Wastewater Water Supply Stormwater Land Drainage Refuse Community Spaces Economic Development Development Management Policy and Planning	Roading Water Supply Refuse Community Spaces Economic Development Development Management Community Development Democracy Policy and Planning	Roading Wastewater Water Supply Stormwater Land Drainage Refuse Community Spaces Economic Development Development Management Community Development Policy and Planning	Roading Wastewater Stormwater Refuse Community Spaces Development Management Policy and Planning

### Working with the Community

In addition to its core functions the Council has built a strong reputation for working with community groups to help them achieve their aspirations. The types of groups include the Mangawhai Activity Zone, Northland Field Days, Real Town Maungaturoto, the Dargaville Skate Park, Ruawai Promotion and Development Group and Progressive Paparoa Incorporated amongst others. We support these groups and facilitate their success. This gets real results. We work with groups that have an idea and want to make it happen and are looking for a hand up rather than a hand out. These projects, with their community "buy in" achieve real, sustainable results.

### Projects

Major projects that are being worked on with their promoters for 2011/12 include:

#### **Community Focused Economic Development**

Kaipara District Council believes that successful community economic development initiatives are derived from a locality's inherent strengths which largely revolve around our people and our natural resources.

The District Growth Facilitator has developed a 'case management' service which involves working with companies that may want to move into the District and businesses that have the ability to grow and service

# Community Well-being

new markets through to new start up organisations. Priority is companies that add value to primary produce and create local participation and employment.

Additionally Council will support community groups to develop the food industry in the area. Ongoing support for “Kai in the Kaipara” sees the development of food markets and cookbooks to help towns, producers and consumers alike.

Education and support for business associations is also a priority because successful and responsive towns are dependent on consistent leadership. Also support for business networking and awards through the Kaipara Business Forum and the business excellence awards is an important part of the mix.

## **Produce Market Dargaville**

Council has been actively involved in the planning and establishment of the Produce Market in Dargaville. After five months of research, planning and consultation with stakeholders, working in conjunction with community groups and a private sector company, the working group launched the Market on Thursday 21 October 2010.

Council has been involved in this project because previous attempts to get this type of initiative off the ground have been unsuccessful and we believe the whole community will benefit from the establishment of a vibrant local market in Dargaville. Already some of the retailers who were initially resistant to the market have reported good sales on market day and local growers who were reluctant to take a stand are now being represented at the market.

How does this relate to economic development? One reason is that it reinforces Dargaville as a market town servicing a larger outlying area, it also gives local families an outlet to develop self sustainability out of their own gardens contributing to the community's overall well-being.

Council will continue to support and facilitate the development and continuation of this market. Helping with the likes of health licencing issues such as offering the use of the Town Hall Kitchen to new stall holders as a cost effective option enabling them to comply with current health licencing restrictions.

## **Dargaville Community Cinema Charitable Trust**

The Dargaville Community Cinema Charitable Trust is committed to providing a Community Cinema in Dargaville. Council has agreed to allow the Cinema Trust to convert the old library building in Hokianga Road to a purpose built cinema. Details are still being discussed, but a cinema in Dargaville is looking very positive.

## **Kaipara Harbour Management**

How do we help manage the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere with its high ecological and cultural values? The Kaipara Harbour is a major ecological treasure for Kaipara, New Zealand and the world. It is the home of over 90 per cent of the North Island's schnapper; it is a flounder fishery, a scallop fishery and a shark breeding ground. It also has the potential to provide major economic growth for our community. This is all being jeopardised because it has not been adequately managed, or managed on an

# Community Well-being

integrated basis in the past. The **Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group** was established by Te Uri O Hau to deal with the increasing pressure placed on the Kaipara Harbour and its catchments from various land and water uses and continues to advocate for the health of the harbour and its catchments. Council is continuing to actively support this Te Uri O Hau led initiative because it is the first time there has been integrated consideration of the needs of the Kaipara Harbour and its community. The Kaipara District Council believes the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group is a sound basis on which to establish formal management structures for the Harbour. The Council is actively pursuing the establishment of a Kaipara Harbour based local authority with responsibility for the governance and management of the harbour.

## **A Safe West Coast Beach?**

Yes it can be safe! Be smart and swim safe! To help keep people safe on Ripiro Beach during summer Council continues to work with the **New Zealand Police** and **Surf Life Saving New Zealand**. Council is partnering with other agencies and organisations in an effort to make one of New Zealand's most popular playgrounds safe for everyone by raising awareness and increasing education. When you see the red and yellow flags on Ripiro Beach, you will know that this is the safest place to swim. Exercise caution when driving on the beach and be mindful of the other users. You can join us in helping to save lives and making the beach a safer place for all to play.

## **Kauri Cycle Trail**

Experiencing the Kaipara at a slower pace, other than through the window of a vehicle is one step closer to reality, with work progressing well towards Kaipara's own cycleway. A fascinating, enjoyable and healthy way for our community to experience another side of their own district is to hop on a bicycle and ride. New Zealand is awakening to what the rest of the world has been experiencing and enjoying for some time, a growing trend towards cycling and walking activities. It is for these reasons that cycling has become a major draw card for international visitors who appreciate the outdoors, the environment and in fact everything New Zealand has to offer. New Zealand is known as the outdoor capital of the world. The Government's idea has been to establish a number of cycleways throughout New Zealand and this has been the catalyst for this Council to look at a cycleway in the Kaipara District. The result has been a proposed cycleway in the north western part of the district based around the Kauri forests of Waima, Waipoua and Trounson, incorporating a disused rail corridor and the historic Waoku Coach Road. Council committed \$10,000 through the 2010/11 Annual Plan for further development of the proposed cycleway. Partnering in this project with the Far North District Council, local communities, businesses and iwi is essential to develop the cycleway from its concept through the feasibility and business phase towards a successful outcome. The objective is to create jobs and business opportunities all the while creating a long term district and national asset that enhances our reputation as a premium tourist destination.

## **Delivering Government Funded Services**

Council continues to be involved in the **cadet scheme** which aims to encourage young people throughout Northland with little or no work experience to gain employment skills and local government experience.

# Community Well-being

This scheme continues to be a real success story for this Council and all those involved in it. Council also sponsors a programme for young mothers and pregnant teenagers which is aimed at keeping them involved in education and employment. We also participate in the Northland wide Community PRIDE week led by Northland Police.

## **Outdoor Activity Spaces**

Council continues to support community led projects around the District, with funding allocated for the development of a skate park in Dargaville and the Outdoor Activity Zone in Mangawhai. Both with a strong youth focus these projects while at different stages of development continue to unify and focus their respective communities in support of the projects. They are both seen as major assets and attractions for the youth in their communities and another attraction for visitors to the Kaipara. Both community groups continue to fundraise. The Mangawhai Outdoor Activity Zone is now at the construction zone and the Dargaville Skate Park is at the final site design and feasibility stage.

## **Community Well-being and the Library**

In May 2010 the Library moved to the former information centre on Normanby Street. The Library is a place where you can read, use a computer, do research or just have a quiet time.

Some of the initiatives the Library has underway are:

**Strategic Review** of district-wide services. Recommendations from this will be included in the Long Term Plan for consultation.

**Aotearoa Peoples' Network** which provides free wireless computer access to Library members. This has been an outstanding success with the five computers fully utilised with waiting lists.

**New Zealand Public Library Shared Library System Service** which makes an extensive range of information easily accessible. Within the digital environment of the 21st century the 'National Library' will modernise the delivery of its services to ensure relevant and responsive service to the changing needs of our community and future generations.

The service will be developed over three years with all libraries having moved to the shared system in 2010. In 2011, the bibliographic records, i.e. catalogues, will be merged so customers can see what is available from all the libraries. By 2012, customer records will be merged so that a single library membership card will give access to collections in the libraries across the country.

**The Dargaville Mobile Library Service** is designed to cater for those aged 55+ who are unable to access the Library themselves, and will deliver reading and audio material direct to their doorstep. This project is in conjunction with Bev Hart – Services Co-ordinator of Older Persons.

**The Affordable Art Show** - For the last three years Dargaville Library staff have worked with local Kaipara artists and have provided the venue and the opportunity for them to showcase their talents and exhibit their art in a central location. It happens in November and is planned to be an annual event. Plans for 2011/12 are already underway, so make the beauty of your talent apparent to your community and the

# Community Well-being

world at large. You can contribute by showing your art and/or purchasing that piece that you have fallen in love with and cannot live without.

## **Bringing Art to the Community**

This year Council, in association with artists and art groups throughout the District, trialled a number of exhibitions at Council's Dargaville and Kaiwaka Offices. Providing wall and floor space to artists to display their work and opening the space up for the public to see the works daily during normal office hours. The trial proved to be a total success with both artists and the public appreciating the opportunity, at no cost, to showcase and view artists from many different backgrounds in one space. The exhibitions unearthed and highlighted the incredible talent that so often does not have the opportunity to exhibit in the Kaipara. Building on the success of 2010/11 Council staff will look at other opportunities in 2011/12 to further uplift the profile of Kaipara's artists and making it available for the public to view and appreciate.

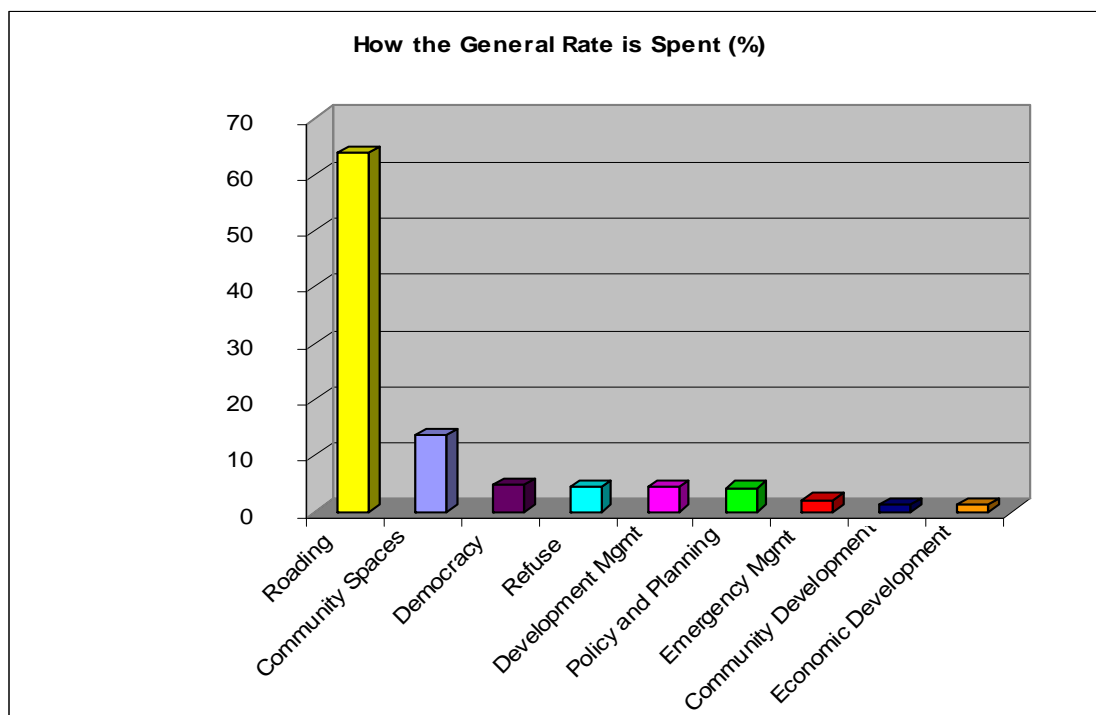
## **Kaipara Arts Awards**

The inaugural Kaipara District Arts Awards was the highlight of a very successful year which saw the Council involved in and at the forefront of raising the profile of arts in the Kaipara. The Council, the driver of the awards, provide space to showcase entries, made the exhibition available to the public, secured sponsorship for the prizes and held the first ever Arts Award Evening in its Council Chambers in Dargaville during November. The idea eventuated from a submission to Council's Annual Plan in which it was suggested that like many other Districts, Kaipara deserved to have its own arts award. "Celebrating Kaipara Abundance" emerged as the theme for our very first arts event and showcased a vast array of artistic talent from across the District brought together in one place for the public to enjoy.

With its success in 2010/11 the Kaipara District Council will again be the main driver of the Kaipara Arts Award for 2011/12 with sponsorship already secured for another year it is hoped to build on the first event's success and secure the Arts Award as an annual fixture of a wider Kaipara District Arts calendar.

# How the General Rate is Spent

Many people in the District are concerned to know how the rates which they pay are spent by Council. The following chart is indicative only, but illustrates how the General Rate is spent.



The above analysis excludes targeted rate activities i.e. water, wastewater, stormwater and land drainage.

