

Greetings from the Mayor

Council staff are crunching the last numbers so that Elected Members can finalise the rates and work programme for the coming financial year – laid out in the Annual Plan 2023/2024. We have asked staff to go through our budgets again, inevitably impacted due to the extreme weather events of February.

Both Cyclone Gabrielle and the Mangawhai rainfall event have done extensive damage across Kaipara that will need to be repaired. Many are not easy fixes. We are a small council with a small rating database and do not have the fat in our budgets to set aside large amounts of money for possible emergency works year to year (we do budget for a small amount). For roading, Waka Kotahi NZTA will cover emergency works completed between Cyclone Gabrielle up until 30 June 2023, and a lesser amount after that date, but that only applies to damage on our roading network. In other areas, we are applying for as much external funding as is available, so that as little of the cost falls to our ratepayers.

We know times are tough and there are many out there feeling the pinch. We are weathering the highest inflation rate in decades and squeezing every dollar to get things done and maintain levels of service where possible. Some projects initially planned for this coming year will now be delayed as we make room for unplanned emergency works as a result of the weather events (that we can't cover with external funding).

Watch Council meetings and keep up with Council news as we work to keep the rates increase down for the next financial year.

The Kaipara community is resilient and is bouncing back from the recent weather challenges. Our delayed summer has brought a rush of visitors to the district. Kaipara has a huge amount to offer and it's been terrific to see tourists and locals out and about at the markets, in the cafes and restaurants, enjoying our west and east coast beaches and hospitality, as well as the stunning rural scenery in between.

Around the Council table we all want great things for our Kaipara community – supporting a vibrant, prosperous district with opportunities for everyone. Collectively, we have a strong and bold vision for the future, with Kaipara THE place to be!

Goodbye for now,



Mayor Craig Jepson
Kaipara District



What's been happening in Kaipara?

Here are some highlights of what's been happening in Kaipara.

Poutō wharf construction

Work on the new wharf at Poutō is trucking along, despite some delays due to Cyclone Gabrielle. This Kaipara Wharves project is part of Kaipara KickStart, led by Kaipara District Council and supported by the government's Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit, with funding from the Provincial Growth Fund.



Photographer: Chris Frost

Mangawhai shared path

Fulton Hogan has been working on the boardwalk for the shared path. You may have spotted the team on a barge by the Molesworth Drive estuary. They are completing this part of the work from the water.



Maunganui Bluff site showcasing crop irrigation

We recently held a field visit for local farmers and growers at our Maunganui Bluff Kaipara Water demonstration site. The site, on a Te Roroa iwi owned farm, is a practical working example of the way in which irrigation can support different types of crops in Kaipara. The project is part of Kaipara KickStart, led by Kaipara District Council and supported by the government's Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit, with funding from the Provincial Growth Fund.



Having trouble paying your rates?

Having trouble making payments? If you're having difficulty meeting the cost of your rates, talk to our friendly revenue team about developing a payment plan. You can contact the team by phone 0800 727 059 or email revenue@kaipara.govt.nz

Get your rates invoice by email, register at:
kaipara.govt.nz/rates-by-email



New toilets in Maungaturoto

New toilets in Maungaturoto opened in March. The toilets are wrapped with an image by local photographer Kathy Strong KS Photography. Partial funding for the toilets was provided by the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) administered by the Ministry of Innovation and Employment (MBIE).



Thank you

Kaipara District Council thanks the Kaipara community for supporting each other through recent weather events.

To all the individuals, schools, marae, companies, sporting organisations, local businesses, emergency services and churches who went above and beyond for our district, we thank you.

Ehara te toa i te toa takitahi, ngā toa takitini kē.
It is not the effort of one, but the collective effort from all.

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