

Future of Far North centre stage

More than 200 people from across the district gathered at Kerikeri's Turner Centre on 12 November to witness the council's inaugural State of the Far North address.

Presented by Far North Mayor Moko Tepania, the address was an opportunity for business, community, political and Te Ao Māori leaders to hear how Far North District Council is responding to challenges posed by recent weather events and economic shifts.

Road to Recovery was the theme of the address, as Kahika Tepania explained on the night. "It's about what we're recovering from, where we are at now, and what's up ahead."

The State of the Far North address was the first of its kind in New Zealand. The fast-paced, information-rich presentation combined video, humour, and a dash of honesty to reconnect with Far North residents and change the narrative about the work of council.

The immense challenges faced by the district in recent years were highlighted. These included severe drought, COVID-19 lockdowns, and at least 10 separate significant weather events between July 2022 and February 2023.

The mayor outlined how those events, and the election of a new council in 2022, changed the way it does business.



Road to Recovery was the theme of the address attended by more than 200 leaders from business, Te Ao Māori and the community.

Achieving the lowest rates increase in the country, new approaches to road repairs, water services, Te Ao Māori and climate adaptation were part of the presentation, which also revealed important updates on long-term projects like the Kaikohe Library and Civic Hub, Procter

Library and Kerikeri Service Centre, Kaitiāia Airport, and Sweetwater (the Kaitiāia Water Project).

You can watch a video of the full event at fndc.govt.nz and YouTube.

Whenua Māori sessions begin

All whenua Māori landowners, whānau, and interested parties are invited to attend a series of community hui on how to preserve and manage whenua Māori. The series began on Saturday 23 November with a hui at Waipuna Marae, Panguru. More sessions are scheduled for 2025.

The hui will be held at marae across the Far North and include an overview of rates relief options, the council's remissions and postponement policies, as well as other resources. One-on-one discussions will also be offered at the end of the presentation when staff will provide tailored advice and answer specific questions. Representatives from Te Kooti Whenua Māori / Māori Land Court will join the council-run sessions to share further resources and support options for Māori landowners.



Whenua Māori information sessions are being held at Far North marae.

The next session will be held at Ōtiria Marae, Moerewa on Monday 16 December.

All hui will begin with a pōwhiri at 10am sharp.

It is anticipated that staff from Te Puni Kōkiri/Ministry for Māori Development will attend sessions planned for 2025.

You can keep up to date with hui events at fndc.govt.nz

Santa's Far North parades

Santa's arrival at a Christmas Parade near you, is imminent.

To ensure Santa's sleigh and his entourage of helpers have easy access to the Far North, we're helping by restricting some traffic access for the **Paihia parade** which starts at 3pm on **Friday 6 December**. Williams Road between street numbers 25 to 37 will close from 3pm to 7pm.

No other road closures are required for the remaining parades, as Santa kicks into high gear to complete his Far North festivities. Those parades are:

Friday 6 December — Moerewa, Simson Park, from 6pm to 8:30pm.

Saturday 7 December — Kaitiāia, A & P Showgrounds from 4pm to 9pm. This event includes live music and a fireworks display.

Saturday 7 December — Kerikeri, Christmas Variety Show and Tree Lighting at Kerikeri Domain from 6pm.

Sunday 8 December — Kawakawa, Hundertwasser Memorial Park from 2pm to 6pm.

Sunday 8 December — Russell parade starts at 3pm from Haratu Museum car park. It then travels along York Street, up Cass Street, along the Strand waterfront, and ends at Long Beach with a community family beach party.

Sunday 8 December — Kāeo Hineraumati Christmas Parade at Whangaroa College from 10am to 2pm.

Kaikohe parade was held on 29 November and was a great success.

Get in touch with us with details of any other Christmas parades that we can help promote.



Santa will be spreading Christmas cheer right across the Far North.

For more information on these stories and more, visit fndc.govt.nz

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