

Stronger Together

From DargavilleNZ.com <info@dcdnb.nz>
via mailchimpapp.net

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To Kirsty Oliver-Robson <kirsty@neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz>



Stronger Together

September 2025



Celebrating Connection, Safety, Growth & Local Stories

"Contrary to popular belief, there most certainly is an 'I' in 'team.' It is the same 'I' that appears three times in 'responsibility.'" – Amber Harding

Kia ora, Zdravo, Talofa, Hello

The year seems to be zooming by and as summer approaches and the year begins to wind down, many of us are turning our thoughts to the holidays - a chance to rest, reconnect, and recharge. It's also the perfect time to look ahead to 2026 and start thinking about what we'd like to achieve, both personally and professionally.

Whether you're running a business, volunteering in the community, or simply setting goals for yourself, planning makes progress possible. Taking time now to reflect, prioritise, and set a few clear targets can make all the difference in reaching your long-term goals.

So as you plan your holidays, make a little space to plan your year too. Dream big, think local, and let's keep working together to make Dargaville and Kaipara places where everyone can thrive.

Here's to a sunny, safe, and successful summer - and to a strong start for 2026!

Have a great one!

Congratulations to Our New Councillors

DCDB extends warm congratulations to the newly sworn-in Kaipara District Councillors and thanks all those who put their names forward in this year's local elections. Serving our district requires dedication, time, and a genuine commitment to community – qualities we are fortunate to have across Kaipara.

We look forward to working with the new Council and continuing to build positive relationships between local government, businesses, and community organisations. Together, we can make real progress on the issues that matter most to Dargaville and the wider Kaipara - from local infrastructure and housing to business growth, community wellbeing, and future planning.

DCDB remains committed to being a constructive partner, representing the voice of our community, and supporting initiatives that help Kaipara thrive.

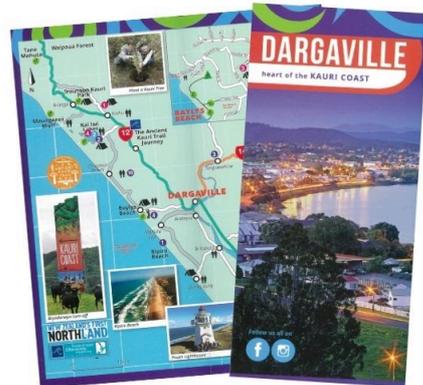
Congratulations once again to all those elected - and best wishes for the term ahead.

Summer Starts Here - Explore Kaipara!

Got friends or family coming to visit over the Holiday Season? Pick up a copy of the Dargaville - Heart of the Kauri Coast brochure. It includes a map of the township and the wider Kauri Coast area - Matakohe to Waipoua.

You will find a copy at several local shops including Match's Fish Shop, Blah Blah Blah, and Good Life, at the Dargaville Library, accommodation providers or at the SEED Co-Working Office in Fosters Arcade.

If you would like a supply for your business, please contact info@dcbd.nz.

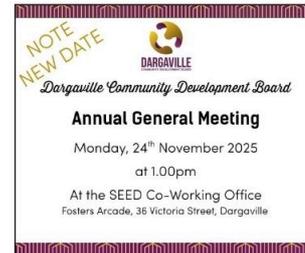




Upcoming Events

DCDB AGM – MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2025

Due to a clash of dates for some of our Board Members, the AGM has been rescheduled to be held on Monday 24th November at 1pm at the SEED Co-Working Office. We look forward to seeing you there.



COMMUNITY NIGHT MARKET & CARBOOT SALE – 28TH NOVEMBER 2025



Greenways Trust have agreed to hold a Community Night Market & Carboot Sale at their yard in Edward Street on Friday 28th November, opening to the public from 4pm to 7pm.

This is an all weather venue for up to indoor 17 stalls, with plenty of room for gazebo stalls and carboot vehicles outdoors.

We are looking at making this a monthly market going forward and would appreciate your feedback on frequency, participants, and the venue.

DARGAVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE – 6TH DECEMBER 2025

Dargaville Rotary is hosting the Christmas Parade this year on Saturday 6th December. Circle the date on your calendar invite the family to visit and bring the whole family to town to watch the Parade.

Bring your family or work mates together and have some fun around designing and creating your float for the Christmas Parade. Entry forms are available at Dargaville Library, Dargaville Community Development Board office, or by emailing rotarydargaville@gmail.com.



CHRISTMAS IN THE GARDEN – 6TH DECEMBER 2025

Christmas in the Gardens is taking place in the Taha Awa Gardens on 6th December from 5.30-7.30pm. This is always a great event and lots of fun. Food and drinks will be available together with free gifts. Entry fee is a koha at the gate.

A great evening for all the family. Take a picnic and enjoy not only the ambience but the entertainment.

NORTHLAND CIRCUS FESTIVAL – 9-11 JANUARY 2026

What an amazing way to start the New Year - this festival is for EVERYONE! Workshops from ground to aerial skills, beginners to advanced level, and fun for all ages and abilities. Marked it in your diary for a family outing, take part in the workshops, or just go along and support the event.

This will be fun day out (or two) for the whole family - an experience the kids will not forget.





Joining Neighbourhood Support

How do I join?

Joining is easy! You can sign up as an individual or as a group. Simply fill in our "I'm Keen to Join" form, or reach out to your local Neighbourhood Support Member Organisation - Dargaville Community Development Board.

Everyone is welcome! :)

Joining a Neighbourhood Group

If there is already a group in your neighbourhood, then your nearest Neighbourhood Support Member Organisation/Coordinator will provide you with the relevant sign-up information. When you join an existing group you can get involved however best suits you.

Can't find a group near you?

You can start one yourself! We are happy to provide resources to help you connect with your neighbours and form a group.

Call our local Coordinator, Sue, at DCDB 027 241 6380 or email at suec@dcdb.nz for more information, resources and support.

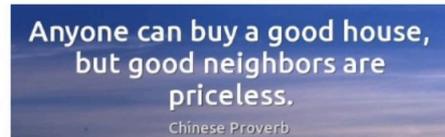


Get to Know Your Neighbours!

Ideas and resources for connecting with your neighbours

- Share excess fruit from your trees, eggs from your chickens or veges from your garden.
- Bake some Hokey Pokey Biscuits and share them with your neighbours.
- Start a Neighbourhood Support group!
- Host street meetups. eg. barbeques, picnics, potluck dinners, or you could do a kai, seed, tool or toy swap!
- Street beautification projects or street cleans.
- Stay connected online (start a private Facebook group or chat), by email, or create a street/neighbourhood Whatsapp chat.

Create the community that you want to be part of by inviting your neighbours to join you. If everyone is waiting to be invited nothing is going to happen.



Reported Crime Stats

As a Neighbourhood Support Co-Ordinator, we receive information relating to Police crime statistics each month. We will share those statistics with you and will share some tips and tricks to keep yourself, your whanau and your property safe.

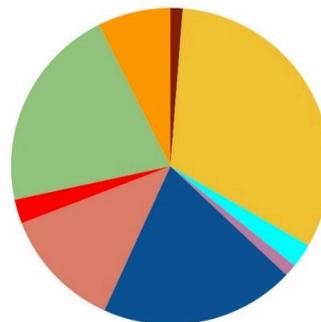
Reported Crime Statistics for October 2025

In October, Friday saw the most reported incidents with a spike over Labour Weekend due to a group of locals.

6am to 12noon was the quietest incident time

14% of crime happened in rural areas

Burglaries are the most reported incidents in October, while Shoplifting and Unlawful MV incidents accounted for more than half the number of Burglaries.



Legend: Arson (Brown), Burgles (Yellow), Dangerous Driving (Cyan), Disorder (Purple), Shoplifts (Blue), Theft ex car (Red), Unlawful MV (Green), Wilful Damage (Orange)

FOR COMMUNITY

Doing Good, Quietly

Every community has them — the quiet achievers. The ones who quietly sponsor the local team, donate prizes for fundraisers, or help out behind the scenes without expecting recognition. They don't do it for applause; they do it because they care.

Here in Dargaville, we're fortunate to have many businesses and individuals who go above and beyond to support our schools, clubs, and community events. Whether it's sponsoring a stock car, backing the Christmas Parade, or providing goods and services when times are tough - these acts of generosity keep our community strong and connected.

Sometimes we don't stop to say thank you. So let's change that.

Starting this month, Stronger Together will include a "Community Thanks" column — a space where local groups, schools, clubs, and residents can acknowledge and appreciate the support they've received from Dargaville businesses and individuals.

Because recognition doesn't just make people feel good - it encourages more good deeds to follow.

If your organisation has been helped by a local business or individual, send a short thank-you note (around 50 words) to suec@dcdb.nz and we'll share it in our next issue. Let's celebrate the people and businesses who make Dargaville such a great place to live, work, and give.

**Good deeds deserve to be shared.
Let's keep Dargaville's community
spirit shining**
Stronger Together Dargaville

Exciting New Projects

There are a couple of new community projects which are being developed at present:

- Dargaville Dog Park - If you are interested in joining the organising committee or would be an end user of the Dog Park, we are currently collecting names and email addresses to progress this initiative.
- Dargaville Rail Carts - We are looking for people and businesses that will support a community organisation being established to run an enterprise similar to the Dargaville Rail Carts which is currently going through voluntary liquidation.

Send us an email to suec@dcdb.nz about either of these projects and we will pass it on to the organisers.

What Makes a Great Community Space?

Community spaces — halls, parks, meeting rooms, and shared facilities — are at the heart of what brings us together. They're where we celebrate milestones, hold meetings, share ideas, and make memories.

As Dargaville and the wider Kaipara continues to grow, it's a good time to ask: **what makes a space truly work for the community?**

Is it accessibility and comfort? Modern facilities and good lighting? Or simply a welcoming atmosphere where everyone feels they belong?

We'd love to hear your thoughts. What local spaces do you enjoy most — and what could make them even better? Your feedback helps guide future projects and ensures that community spaces remain vibrant, inclusive, and well used.

Share your ideas: Send your thoughts to suec@dcdb.nz - together, let's shape the spaces that keep us Stronger Together.



Why Recording Volunteer Hours Matters

Every hour volunteered in our community has real value — not just in time, but in impact. Whether it's your board and committee members, staff who give extra time, or volunteers supporting programmes and events, recording these hours tells an important story about your organisation's contribution to Dargaville and the wider Kaipara.

Keeping a record of volunteer hours helps your organisation to:

- Demonstrate the true scale of community involvement and the value of your work when reporting to funders, councils, or members.
- Many funders ask for volunteer statistics. Recording hours can show the in-kind value of community effort, often turning volunteer time into measurable dollars.
- Understanding where volunteer time is spent helps you identify gaps, plan training, and celebrate milestones.
- When you know how much time people give, it's easier to acknowledge their contribution meaningfully.

Those hours add up — and together, they tell the story of a community that truly is Stronger Together.

FOR COMMUNITY

Building Stronger Community Organisations

The DCDB has received funding to host four workshops in 2026 to help strengthen the skills of committee and board members across our local community organisations and marae.

We're currently finalising dates and venues and will share details once confirmed. The workshops will focus on:

- Governance – understanding roles, responsibilities, and good decision-making.
- Financial Skills – reading and interpreting financial information with confidence.
- Strategic Planning – setting a clear direction for your organisation's future.
- Grant Writing – learning how to prepare strong, successful funding applications.

Every organisation is on a continuous journey of growth and improvement. Investing in the skills of your committee members and staff helps ensure not only the viability of your organisation, but also its sustainability and succession planning for the years ahead.

To get the most value from these workshops, we encourage all committee members to attend. It's important for everyone to understand their responsibilities - financial and otherwise - as accountability rests with the whole committee, not just the treasurer or chairperson.

Interested in attending - let us know and we will make your booking a priority once all the details have been confirmed.

Together, we can strengthen the foundations that keep our community organisations thriving and connected.

Stronger Together Dargaville



*Best Wishes
from the
DCDB Team*



A space to recognise Dargaville's quiet achievers - the people and businesses doing good, quietly!

Dargaville Rotary

Wish to thank **Raine & Horne** and **Mercury Energy** for being major sponsors for the Dargaville Christmas Parade.

There are so many other sponsors individuals, and businesses we would like to thank and we will advertise these in the week following the Christmas Parade.

Dargaville Rotary also acknowledge **Raine & Horne** for other sponsorship that they have provided throughout the year.

Dargaville Community CCTV Project

Thank you to **Mercury Energy** for the new Samsung screen which will be installed at the Dargaville Police Station.

Dargaville Club

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our **Raise the Roof campaign** - through donations, attending our fundraising events, or simply cheering us on. Thanks to your generosity and a grant from the **Lotteries Community Fund**, we're thrilled to announce that we have the funding to replace the front half of the roof. Now we just need some good weather.

Northern Wairoa Genealogy Society

We want to give a shout out to the **KDC Community Grants** and **Mercury Energy** for grant funding received this year. We have been able to upgrade our technology at the Research Rooms to support our ongoing recording of local identities and history and to continue responding to family history research enquiries.

There are so many businesses and organisations doing great work in our town and it's time to focus on the positive, to be grateful and generous with our thanks and appreciation.

FOR BUSINESS



What Would Help You Most? Workshops for Local Business

As we look ahead to 2026, DCDB is planning a series of practical workshops and networking events to support local businesses. We already have a few exciting opportunities in the pipeline — including a Retail Crime Seminar in partnership with New Zealand Police, and a potential AI for Small Business session with NorthChamber.

We will be continuing our popular Business Meet & Mingle evenings with KDC councillors, providing a relaxed space to share updates, ideas, and challenges.

But we'd love to hear from you - what topics or training would make the biggest difference for your business next year?

Would you like sessions on marketing and branding, digital tools, customer service, HR and recruitment, or something else entirely?

We would also like to know how many business owners or managers would be interested in attending a Mix & Mingle type event with a guest speaker.

Email suec@dcd.db.nz with your suggestions or requests.



For a Good Job Well Done

We hear so many stories of tradies not turning up on the right day, doing poor work, leaving an almighty mess, or having to come back to fix their mistakes.

Here is your opportunity to acknowledge tradies, retailers and other businesses that have gone above and beyond what we have come to expect. Those businesses that remember their business is not about plumbing or building, but it is about **Customer Service**.

My recent experiences of a plumber and an electrician has been the difference between chocolate and lemons, so I want to acknowledge **C & C Electrical** for their awesome service. Not only did they turn up on time and on the agreed day, but they swept up when they were finished AND put the furniture back. They also phoned me to let me know that the second visit, while a continuation of the work carried out on the first visit, was outside the scope of the original quote and did I want to proceed? In my eyes you guys provide a great service. This is the type of service that our community deserves to receive.



Great Job!



We want to hear from you!

This is your opportunity to acknowledge a business, retailer, or tradie who has provided great customer service. Email your comments to suec@dcd.db.nz. Please note that only positive comments will be included.

FOR BUSINESS

Where do you park while you're at work?

Some of you are lucky enough to work outside the CBD or have private parking behind your premises — but for many, the closest option is the public car parks in Victoria Street.

Along Victoria Street, from Edward Street to Totara Street, there are just 90 parallel parks serving 74 retailers and businesses. These spaces are provided to make it easy for customers and clients to pop in, shop locally, and support our town centre.

But imagine if every retailer parked outside their own shop all day, that would leave only 16 car parks for customers. Fewer parks mean fewer visitors, fewer sales, and a less vibrant main street.

By leaving those prime spaces free for customers, you're not only helping your business — you're helping every business in town thrive. Let's keep Victoria Street open, welcoming, and easy for shoppers to stop, browse, and buy local.

Keep those prime parks in Victoria Street free for the people who keep our town centre alive — our customers!

A small change in parking can make a big difference for local business

Stronger Together Dargaville



The Dargaville Christmas Parade is just around the corner on 6th December. You can support the Christmas Joy theme by decorating your window and entering the Christmas Window Display Competition.

This year the competition is being run by Sue Taylor again, and Sue is an absolute whizz at gathering together a great selection of prizes, so you can be assured of a great prize pool. There are prizes for judged entries and also for a People's Choice winner.

Entry forms and window displays need to be completed by 28th November for judging on 1st / 2nd December. For an entry form, get in touch with Sue at kauriinfo@xtra.co.nz or phone her on 0274 489 652.

Get into the spirit of Christmas Joy, fill out an entry form and decorate like crazy.

Dargaville Christmas Parade

A big **thank you** to all the businesses and individuals who've already donated to Dargaville Rotary in support of this year's Christmas Parade - your generosity is greatly appreciated.

The funds raised so far have helped make the Parade a zero-cost event for Rotary, but more support is still needed to keep this much-loved tradition a celebration powered by local generosity.

Expect plenty of festive fun, creative floats, great entertainment — and of course, Santa on his sleigh to close the show!

To donate or learn more, contact Brian Burnett on 027 236 7377 or email prue-brian-burnett@xtra.co.nz.

Something to Ponder Over Summer

As the pace slows and the sunshine sets in, it's the perfect time to take a step back and think about your business — not with spreadsheets or meetings, but in those quiet moments by the pool, out on the fishing boat, or sitting on the deck with a cold drink.

Here are a few questions to reflect on as you recharge:

1. **What worked well this year?** Celebrate your wins - big or small - and think about how you can build on them next year.
2. **What could be easier?** Identify the areas that caused stress or took too much time. Simplify, automate, or delegate where you can.
3. **How strong are your customer connections?** Consider who your loyal customers are and how you might thank them. Are there new audiences you'd like to reach in 2026?
4. **Is your team thriving?** Reflect on how your staff or helpers are doing. Do they feel appreciated and supported?
5. **How does your business look from the outside?** Does your shopfront, website, or social media reflect who you are and what you offer today?
6. **Are your goals still the right fit?** Sometimes directions change and that's okay. Make sure your goals still align with your values and community.
7. **What's one thing you'll do differently next year?** One small change can make a big impact. Choose something simple and meaningful to start fresh in 2026.

Taking time to pause, reflect, and refocus can help you return in the new year with renewed purpose — and keep our local business community thriving, connected, and Stronger Together.

Thank You to Our Regional Partners

As 2025 draws to a close, DCDB would like to express our sincere thanks to the many regional partners who have supported our work and shared our vision for a thriving Kaipara.

We are fortunate to collaborate with **Northland Inc, NorthChamber, Volunteering Northland, Creative Northland, Northland Community Foundation, and the Kaipara District Council** - organisations that contribute expertise, encouragement, and practical support to help Dargaville and the wider district grow stronger together.

Through these partnerships, we've been able to connect local businesses, empower community organisations, and deliver initiatives that strengthen our social and economic wellbeing.

To each of our partners — thank you for your collaboration, commitment, and belief in Kaipara's potential. We look forward to continuing to work alongside you in 2026 as we keep building opportunities and connections across our region.

Partnership is where progress begins
Stronger Together Dargaville



A Message from the DCDB Team

As the year winds down, we want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who makes Dargaville such a great place to live, work, and play.

From volunteers to business owners, neighbours to newcomers — your contributions, big and small, keep our community vibrant and strong.

Here's to a summer of connection, kindness, and shared pride in the place we call home.

The next issue of the Stronger Together newsletter will appear in mid February 2026. Until then, take care of each other, smile frequently (especially at strangers), and have a safe and happy Holiday Season.



Explore and Enjoy our Back Yard
Kaipara District has so much to see and do - go exploring!



SEED Co-Working Office

Need to hire a room for your meeting or a hot desk for an hour or two?
The solution is the SEED Co-Working Office.

What We Offer

- Centrally located
- Air conditioning
- Free refreshments
- AV Suite available
- Reasonable rates
- Printing services

What's Available

- Board Rooms
- Meeting Rooms
- Offices
- Hot Desks
- Event space



Feel free to call in and ask for a guided tour



This newsletter is produced by the Dargaville Community Development Board to connect, inform, and inspire our community.

Contact us at info@dcdb.nz, or phone 09 439 0464, or call into Fosters Arcade.

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