

Name: Cr Rākena

Ward: Ngā Tai o Tokerau

Date: 18 Jan – 27 Mar. 24

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic
18/1/24	Extraordinary Council Meeting
21/1/24	<p>Te Taumata Wānanga at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Rangi Āniwaniwa.</p> <p>In January, I had the privilege of attending Te Taumata Wānanga Reo in Kaitiāia, an immersive language learning experience that has profoundly impacted my personal development and engagement with over 200 Māori constituents living in our district.</p> <p>Te Taumata Wānanga Reo is a renowned program dedicated to the revitalisation and preservation of te reo Māori. Held in Kaitiāia, it offers participants a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the language and culture through intensive workshops, interactive sessions, and cultural activities.</p> <p>My time at Te Taumata Wānanga Reo has been transformative on a personal level. Through engaging with experienced language speakers and cultural practitioners, I have deepened my understanding of Te Reo Māori and gained a profound appreciation for its cultural significance. The immersive nature of the program has enabled me to develop fluency and confidence in speaking the language, which has been a long-held aspiration of mine. Moreover, the connections forged with fellow participants and mentors have enriched my cultural identity and sense of belonging within the Māori community.</p> <p>As a leader representing over 200 Māori constituents in our district, my participation in Te Taumata Wānanga Reo holds significant importance. By honing my language skills and cultural knowledge, I am better equipped to communicate effectively with constituents in their native tongue and engage meaningfully with their cultural perspectives and aspirations. This fosters a sense of trust, respect, and connection, enhancing my ability to serve their needs and advocate for their interests with authenticity and empathy.</p> <p>The impact of my experience at Te Taumata Wānanga Reo extends beyond personal growth to broader implications for community engagement and development. By actively participating in initiatives that promote Māori language and culture, I contribute to the ongoing revitalization efforts and support the well-being and identity of Māori constituents in our district. This strengthens community cohesion, resilience, and pride, laying the foundation for a more inclusive and vibrant society.</p> <p>In conclusion, my time at Te Taumata Wānanga Reo has been instrumental in my personal development and engagement with over 200 Māori constituents living in our district. By embracing the language and culture, I not only enrich my own identity but also deepen connections with the community and foster positive social change.</p>
1/2/24	Te Huia – Executive Review Committee Workshop
4 – 6/2/24	<p>Waitangi Day commemorations.</p> <p>As a council representative for our district, I had the honour of attending the 2024 Waitangi Day commemorations, marking 184 years since the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The</p>

	<p>event, spanning three to four days, brought together a diverse array of individuals to celebrate wairua, kotahitanga and whanaungatanga.</p> <p>The atmosphere at Waitangi was imbued with a profound sense of significance and reverence as thousands gathered to pay homage to the historic treaty. As I engaged with the masses, I was struck by the palpable spirit of unity and solidarity that permeated the grounds, transcending cultural divides and fostering a deep sense of belonging.</p> <p>One of the highlights of the commemorations was the pōwhiri that extended to dignitaries from both te ao Pākehā and te ao Māori. Participating in this ceremonial exchange of greetings and speeches underscored the importance of mutual respect and understanding in forging meaningful relationships between cultures.</p> <p>Throughout the event, I found myself inspired by the collective efforts to honour the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uphold its enduring relevance in contemporary society. The camaraderie and shared commitment to upholding the values of participation, protection, partnerships, wairua, kotahitanga, and whanaungatanga served as a powerful reminder of the potential for unity and collaboration in advancing the well-being for all citizens of Aotearoa.</p>
8/2/24	First full Council Hui for 2024.
12/2/24	<p>Te Hui Whakamaumahara ki Māngungu.</p> <p>Attending the Māngungu Day Commemorations, we honoured the significant historical event where approximately 64 Māori chiefs signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi 184 years ago. This gathering marked the largest group signing in the treaty's history. Reflecting on the partnership between the Crown and tangata whenua, the ceremony highlighted the ongoing importance of upholding the treaty's principles. Among those present was Councillor Halkyard-Harawira.</p>
14/2/24	Te Hono monthly hui.
14/2/24	Hui at Te Puna o Kupe Nuku – unfortunately, I was unable to attend this hui.
20/2/24	Te Koukou – Transport Committee Workshop.
20/2/24	Te Koukou – Transport Committee Hui.
21/2/24	Financial Contributions Workshop
22/2/24	Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Hui.
22/2/24	Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Workshop.
22/2/24	Solid Waste Services Hui.
22/2/24	Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation item hui.
23/2/24	Te Whiu Hapū MoU Hui Relationship Roadshow.
26/2/24	Waitangi Day 2024 Feedback session.

26/2/24	LTP Consultation Item Workshop.
27/2/24	West Coast Road hui with North Hokianga community members, EM's and FNDC staff.
28/2/24	Te Maruata Monthly Wānanga – unfortunately I was unable to attend the full hui due to whānau commitments.
7/3/24	Governance to Governance hui Far North Holdings Ltd.
8/3/24	Ngāti Hine MoU Hui Relationships Roadshow.
11/3/24	Hui with staff re Youth Council Committee.
12/3/24	Extraordinary Council Hui.
14/3/24	Ordinary Council Hui.
19/3/24	LGNZ Zone One Hui.
19/3/24	Northland Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshop.
20/3/24	Creative Communities Committee Hui at Council.
23/3/24	<p>Maranga Mai E Te Iwi Senior Regional Kapa Haka Competition.</p> <p>In a landmark moment for the Far North District, Te Rōpū Kapa Haka o Te Kaunihera emerged as the nation's very first kapa haka group (after Te Ūpoko o Te Ika), marking a significant step towards furthers cultural unity and collaboration. Spearheaded by Te Hono staff, the Kahika, and supported by elected members, FNDC staff, and community heroes, this initiative exemplifies a tangible commitment to working alongside tangata whenua, moving beyond rhetoric to action.</p> <p>The establishment of Te Rōpū Kapa Haka o Te Kaunihera emphasizes a fundamental shift from mere lip service to genuine engagement and participation in Māori cultural practices. Rather than merely articulating commitments on paper, this initiative demonstrates a willingness to "walk the talk" by actively immersing oneself in kaupapa Māori, such as kapa haka. By doing so, Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika exemplifies its dedication to building authentic relationships and encouraging cultural understanding.</p> <p>The inaugural performance of Te Rōpū Kapa Haka o Te Kaunihera garnered widespread attention, attracting over 50,000 viewers in just one day. This remarkable digital reach highlights the significance of the initiative and its ability to resonate with audiences far and wide. Through live-streamed performances and social media engagement, the kapa haka group has successfully showcased the vibrancy and richness of Māori culture to a global audience, further amplifying its impact and relevance.</p> <p>In conclusion, Te Rōpū Kapa Haka o Te Kaunihera stands as a testament to the commitment that Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika has in embracing cultural unity and collaboration. Led</p>

by Te Hono staff, the Kahika, and supported by elected members, FNDC staff, and community heroes, this initiative exemplifies a genuine commitment to working alongside tangata whenua and embodying kaupapa Māori principles in tangible ways. Through kapa haka, the group brings people together, encourages cultural understanding, and amplifies the richness of Māori culture to a global audience, marking a significant milestone in the district's journey towards cultural harmony and unity.



25/3/2 4	Youth Council Committee filming.
26/3/2 4	Te Koukou Transport Committee Hui.
26/3/2 4	Te Koukou Transport Committee Committee.
26/3/2 4	Extraordinary Council Hui.

Community Matters

This section should be completed for matters arising within the community, which Council need to be aware of. It could be related to ongoing projects, requests, feedback etc.

Topic	Comment
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