

Member's Report

Name: Jane Hindle

Subdivision: Russell Ōpua Subdivision

Date: 29 April – 29 May 2024

Far North District Council Community Outcomes are as follows:

Outcome 1	Outcome 2	Outcome 3	Outcome 4	Outcome 5
Communities that are healthy, safe, connected and sustainable	Connected and engaged communities prepared for the unexpected	Proud, vibrant communities	Prosperous communities supported by a sustainable economy	A wisely-managed and treasured environment that recognises the special role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki

This month the Russell community acknowledges a tragic accident which took the life of Tim Sticke Grant two weeks ago. He was a real community minded individual who volunteered in many ways to make a difference in this village. Haere atu rā e Tim, haere ki ngā huarahi o ngā Tupuna.

Meetings Attended

Date	Priority	Meeting	Comments
29 Apr to 3 May 24	#3,4,5	Running the Placemaking Pop-up in Kororāreka Russell.	Positive experience.
16 May 24	#1,2,3, 4,5	Community Board meeting	The Turner Centre
16 May 24	#1,3, 4,	Town Hall workshop with Michelle Rockell	The Turner Centre
16 May 24	#3,4,5	Placemaking Meeting to discuss Activation weekend	Scheduled 15-16 June
20 May 24	#3,4,5	Town Hall Committee meeting	See issues
23 May 24	#3,4,5	Placemaking Meeting to progress Activation weekend	Click or tap here to enter text.
28 May 24	#1,2,3,4, 5	Fortnightly catch-up with Community Board co-ordinator	Via Teams
29 Apr to 27 May 24	#1,2,3, 4,5	8 Facebook posts (low volume of posts as I was on holiday for 10 days). Also significantly more interest in the previous month due to LTP content items. Reach 13,421↓ 31.3% Visits 48 ↓ 67.9% Page Followers 1,033 (1,027) New Likes 9↓	Most popular posts were Community Board appreciation award (9.6K) Youth strategy (3.1K) Community Board meeting results (2.6K) Citycare hiring advert (2.6K) Paihia waterfront closure (2.3K)

Placemaking on the Strand

The Placemaking Project in Kororāreka Russell kicked off with Community Consultation held in the form of a Pop-up shop on the corner of Cass Street and York Street. Open for 10 days, this provided an excellent means of hearing what the community thought of the opportunity and put forward their suggestions. Great care was taken to ensure that all ideas were respected and welcomed, with an emphasis on the fact that nothing was planned, and the Community would make any decisions on what would happen. It created a high trust environment and there were benefits on multiple levels.

There was a very clear and consistent message of how much the community loved their village and wanted to protect its special heritage atmosphere (nothing surprising there!). It enabled us to catch a rich dataset of community aspirations, which will feed into future strategic plans once we get through the next 3-year LTP.

My particular thanks go to the members of FNDC staff who attended to man the shop. The community appreciated being able to talk to experts in specific areas, even those trying to navigate the RFS system and failing, and it was so much more constructive than a town hall meeting approach where an adversarial setting inevitably results in unhelpful outcomes. One particular staff member has remarked that this was the best community consultation they have ever been involved with.

We are now working on the second phase, being the Activation Weekend. This is where the myriad of ideas will be prioritised before action takes place. Some ideas will end up in the RFS system, others will go to the LTP to be captured for future priority. *Watch this space!*

General

I would like to thank Council for the flurry of activity that has happened in Russell over the past couple of weeks; quite a few things were ticked off the list. The Queen Street footpath is now complete and has been done to an excellent standard; we have finally had the carparks marked outside the tennis courts (makes a big difference to parking over summer); hedgerows have been trimmed and trees cut back. The boat ramp project is just about to get underway.

Other Community Issues

Issue name	Comment
Parking in Russell over summer #3,4	This is another perennial problem, exacerbated by trailers using the boat ramp. Like summer litter, it's short-term issue and needs some creative thinking for a temporary solution. Goal is to get a community group to look at issue and come up with local solutions.
Russell Town Hall #1,3, 4,	The Town Hall Committee is experiencing some challenges. Since the death of Colleen Bottrell (the doyen of Russell Town Hall) the remaining committee has been muddling along. It's clear that we need to refresh the committee and I am working with the Chair on putting in some basic governance guidelines and getting some new committee members from the community.
Russell Toilets #1,3, 4,	I've fielded numerous complaints about the toilets in Russell over summer. This also came up during the Placemaking Pop-up and the Destination Management Plan workshop. Additional cleaning is provided over peak season (Christmas/New Year) but it does not solve the issue of cruise ship visitors. It is totally unreasonable to expect the local ratepayer to foot the bill

	for these visitors and I have written to Far North Holdings to ask they build in the cost for additional toilet cleaning on the days that Cruise ships are in the Bay. These negotiations are carried out in May so hopefully next year things will be better.
Russell Urupā (Cemetery) #1, 3, 5	Looking good for Phase 2 to commence in July. Seems that the concerns over unmarked graves was misplaced, it appears they were just tree stumps.
Russell Boat ramp carpark #3, 4, 5	This is now finally underway; the ramp will be completed before the Yellow Tail Tournament starting 9 June and the carpark the following week.
Sewage smells in Matauwahi Bay	Received numerous complaints about the stench from the two sewage pump stations in Matauwahi over summer. Have raised this again in a hui with FNDC.
Russell Drainage #1, 2	Submitted in LTP requesting proper maintenance.
Maromaku Toilet #1, 3	Have not heard anything back from Maromaku
Maromaku and Matawai Roding #1, 2, 3	Roddy and I would like an assessment of the overall area with a plan to carry out work in an orderly and systematic fashion that the community can understand. We are now working on a joint request.
Rawhiti Road #1, 2,	New review of key criteria in terms of road prioritisation has elevated this road. However, funds for road sealing have been removed from LTP.

Requests for Service (RFS)

RFS number	Date	Comment
{4001004} 4139204	{11/02/20} 15/12/22	Car parking lines for parking outside Russell Tennis Court. A huge thank you to Elizabeth Stacy for getting these done when other road marking took place during May. It's improved parking significantly.
(4125516) 4139501	(1/9/2022) 16/12/22	Matauwahi Bay Road drainage with stormwater drainage due to tree roots lifting pavement and drain resulting in blockages and damage to footpath. <u>Tree now growing back.</u> MORE SILT REMOVAL. NEEDS TO GO IN LTP.
4150811	17/03/2023	Causeway to Russell Boat Club on Matauwahi Road (paper road section) needs repairs for safety reason. Will need legal, roading and engineers involved. ENGINEERING DESIGN COMPLETED, NOW WHAT?
4174834	11/04/2023	Boat hull on reserve on Te Hue. Encroachment officer chasing complainant to arrange a date for site visit.
4127193, 4111164, 4118337	01/04/2022	Stormwater and drainage issues at Okiato. Ongoing for over a year now with Council stormwater from road flowing down over property. ENGINEERING DESIGN COMPLETED, NOW WHAT?
4175408	15/09/2023	Stormwater and drainage issues from Long Beach Road onto Duffus Estate land, longstanding and not resolved.

4178870	16/10/2023	Drainage problems leading down to Walls Bay Reserve. Flume needs to be replaced and kerbing and road drainage needs to be fixed. Awaiting site visit
4179412	20/10/2023	Subsidence and slip on Towai Road which also includes main fibre and phone connections to the communities. Have had no update on this and it doesn't appear on any reports to the Te Kou Kou Committee or the interactive map. Visited the location 27/3 and it is still dangerous.
4193628	05/03/2024	Drainage on Yorke Street, works have been delayed and are currently scheduled to commence in late April
4179871 4179872 4195221 4195222	Various	Various potholes on Pitt Street which have not been repaired despite numerous RFSs. Customer has met with Council staff and discussed the frustrations over the lack of coordination of Council contractors. It is something I raised in the LTP.

Other issues

There seems to be a general habit of closing RFSs before the work is carried out and completed. The customer is told a date, but the work then doesn't happen. They then have to raise new RFSs to get things done and it is extremely frustrating for all concerned.

Ongoing lack of communication on issues that directly affect the community – it seems that the Community board members are often left in the dark, yet it is us that the community complains to first. A good example of this is the new Community Services contract where it is the most visible contract in the community, and the one people complain most about to us.

In addition, the upgrade to the FNDC website has removed the alerts that I received daily which helped me get information relating to this Ward out on Facebook. There is no where to receive alerts and it probably also affects users receiving information about Resource Consents, Liquor licensing and Public Notices. Thus I am even more in the dark unless I spend time trawling for information.

A mobile license (MOBILE-1) was issued to a food vendor to sell food on the Wharf in Paihia and Russell and the Strand. This is right opposite two restaurants, and round the corner from two others. I received a number of complaints from the restaurant owners. Council should not have issued a Mobile license within 400 metres of other businesses selling similar goods or services, and curiously they do not have jurisdiction over the wharf (FNHL and the Wharf Trust). I would like to know how this happened. Have not heard back, still need to follow up. **Still waiting on this.**