

# Member's Report

Name: Jane Hindle

Subdivision: Russell Ōpua Subdivision

Date: 28 May – 27 June 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

A significant number of my meetings (too many to list) were with members of the community and related to the Placemaking Activation weekend which was held on 15 and 16 June at Russell Town Hall.

## Meetings Attended

Date	Priority	Meeting	Comments
30 May 24	#3,4,5	Placemaking Meeting to progress Activation weekend	Steering Committee meeting
6 June 24	#3,4,5	Placemaking Meeting to progress Activation weekend	Steering Committee meeting
9 June 24	#1,3,4	Meeting with Town Hall Committee Chair to prepare Agenda for June meeting	Putting in place improved governance practices.
11 June 24	#1,2,3,4,5	Fortnightly catch-up with Community Board co-ordinator	Via Teams
11 June 24	#1,2,3,4,5	LGNZ roundtable to discuss how to engage with Sovereign Citizens.	Zoom hu
12 June 24	#3,4,5	Final planning meeting prior to Activation weekend.	Steering Committee meeting
12 June 24	#3,4,5	Kororāreka Russell Wharf Trust meeting. Have been co-opted, along with another member to bring the number of Trustees up to the required level.	Assisting as Secretary and planning for AGM and Trustee replacement in September.
14 June to 16 June 24	#3,4,5	Preparing for and running the Placemaking Pop-up in Kororāreka Russell.	Reasonable turnout and those that attended appreciated it.
17 June 24	#1,3,4	Town Hall Committee meeting. 3 new committee members co-opted until AGM	Committee now has sufficient members to function.

18 June 24	#1,2,3, 4	Resilient Russell meeting	Via zoom.
20 June 24	#1,2,3, 4,5	Community Board meeting	The Turner Centre
21 June 24	5	Confidential pre-hui briefing over local issue	Click or tap here to enter text.
24 June 24	1,3,4,5	Bay of Islands Walkways Trust viewing of progress on the shared Cycleway and pathway from Russell to Okiato	Walked the route through Council land. Great progress with volunteers.
25 June 24	#1,2,3,4, 5	Fortnightly catch-up with Community Board co-ordinator	Via Teams
26 June 24	##1,3, 4	Ōpua Community Hall AGM. Although not a Council owned hall, it is a centre to engage with the Ōpua community.	Click or tap here to enter text.
27 May to 24 June 24	#1,2,3, 4,5	19 Facebook posts over the period. Reach 14,354↑ 7.6%   Visits 955 ↑ 96.9%   Page Followers 1,043 (1,033   New Likes 13↑	Most popular posts were Moerewa Speed camera (6.5K) Orange rain warning (5.8K) Community Board meeting results (4.3K) Power outage (4.2K) Community Board Agenda (2.9K)

## Key projects

### Placemaking on the Strand

We held the Phase 2 of this project, a Community Activation weekend on 15 and 16 July. We had a good selection of the community come through and despite it being a weekend, we managed to get children along too. We refined the ideas from the Pop-up and survey and now have around 18 concepts to proposed to be voted on. We continue to see a very high community wish to see some form of traffic management on The Strand, so we will ask the community to vote on whether they wish to trial some changes to the status quo. Ensuring that everything is totally transparent and that we have the widest level of community engagement possible is very important for the steering committee so we are making sure that we are bringing everyone along on the journey and giving them the opportunity to contribute.

## Other Community Issues

Issue name	Comment
General discontent at the roadside “slash and destroy” vegetation pruning. #3	I have received several complaints about the lack of care at the machine that goes through trimming back the roadside vegetation and the debris left behind. In particular we have one very upset individual from Wellington Street which is a pleasant road, who referred to it as a wrecking ball that destroyed their native trees and punga.
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,	We have now received applications for the Committee from 3 community members who will be co-opted on the Committee until the AGM. This brings the number of committee members up from 3 to 6, within the requirement. We have also put together a Charter with Code of Conduct, Committee member profile and the new members will be taking on some of the functions that had been outsourced previously e.g. bookings etc. Back on track.
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	Good feedback from fisher folk regarding the ramp. Concerns over the car park being smaller than previous parking area so road marking is waiting. Russell Protection Society unhappy about hard kerbing and channelling.
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
(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> <b>MORE SILT REMOVAL. NEEDS TO GO IN LTP.</b>

4150811	17/03/2023	Causeway to Russell Boat Club on Matauwhi Road (paper road section) needs repairs for safety reason. Now sitting with legal.
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. Now sitting with Legal.
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.
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.
4207569 4206412	28/06/2024	Water flowing from Fire Hydrant in Baker Street, with leak under the road causing the road to buckle and collapse. Needs urgent attention to protect road plus this is an emergency services water supply. Apparently Far North Waters are waiting on NTA. This is URGENT.
4209557	25/06/2024	"Wrecker ball" vegetation clearance from NTA destroyed Wellington Street native bush and left a mess everywhere. They will come back and clear it this week.

### **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.**