



**Far North
District Council**



TŪHONOTANGA MINITI ATTACHMENTS MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting

13 February 2025

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7.4 Mayor and Councillor's Reports

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Member Report

Name: Cr Rākena

Ward: Māori Ward

Date: 11 Dec 24 – 13 Feb 25

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Description	Comments
11 Dec 2024	Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting	Committee meeting to oversee Council and iwi collaboration on kaupapa Māori initiatives.	
11 Dec 2024	Signing of Te Aro Manatu MOU with Ngāti Rēhia	Formal signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Ngāti Rēhia.	
12 Dec 2024	End of Year Council Hui at Te Ahu Centre, Kaitiāia	Council hui to reflect on achievements and plan for the coming year.	
13 Dec 2024	Kaitiāia Airport Signing and Return of Lands Back to Mana Whenua	Ceremony marking the return of Ohinu to Mana Whenua.	
16 Dec 2024	Ōtiria Marae, Whenua Māori Hui	Hui to discuss matters related to whenua Māori.	
18 Dec 2024	Creative Communities Committee Meeting	Meeting to allocate funding for community arts and cultural projects.	
19 Dec 2024	Rating Relief Working Group	Discussion on rating relief initiatives for whenua Māori and other properties.	
20 Jan 2025	Ngā Tai o Tokerau Hui, Waitangi Week 2025 Catch-Up	Planning and updates for Waitangi Week 2025 activities.	
21 Jan 2025	Comms & Engagement Portfolio Monthly Catch-Up	Monthly meeting to discuss communication and engagement strategies.	
21 Jan 2025	Strategy re Māori Land Development Issues	Strategic meeting on development issues affecting Māori land.	
28 Jan 2025	Kaikohe District Sportsville Meeting	Meeting to discuss updates and projects for Kaikohe Sportsville.	
28 Jan 2025	Nā Wai i Teka Filming	Filming for the te reo Māori show, delivered in Ngāpuhi dialect.	
31 Jan 2025	Kaikohe Waste Transfer Station Visit with Trent Blakeman	Site visit to review operations and opportunities at the waste transfer station in Kaikohe.	
2 Feb 2025	Iwi Chairs Forum Pōwhiri at Te Whare Rūnanga	Welcoming ceremony for the Iwi Chairs Forum.	



Member Report

Date	Meeting/Event	Description	Comments
3 Feb 2025	Reopening of Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840 Marae	Ceremony for the reopening of the marae significant to Ngāti Kawa, Ngāti Rāhiri & Te Matarahurahu.	
3 Feb 2025	Pōwhiri at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Kaikohe	Welcoming ceremony at the kura kaupapa for new students and kaiako.	
3 Feb 2025	Pōwhiri for the Governor General and the Royal Navy	Formal welcome for the Governor General and Navy delegation.	
4 Feb 2025	Final Day of Iwi Chairs Forum	Closing discussions and resolutions from the forum.	
4 Feb 2025	Pōwhiri for Te Kīngitanga	Welcome ceremony for Te Kīngitanga at Waitangi.	
5 Feb 2025	Pōwhiri for Parliamentarians	Formal welcome for visiting members of parliament.	
6 Feb 2025	Waitangi Dawn Service	Early morning commemoration at Waitangi.	
6 Feb 2025	Waitangi Day Forum Tent Panelist	Participated as a panellist discussing key topics related to Waitangi Day and Hawaiki Hou.	
10 Feb 2025	Annual Plan 2025/26 Summary Workshop	Workshop to review and plan the annual budget and priorities for 2025/26.	
10 Feb 2025	Brief with Mayor, Māngūngū Commemoration 2025	Preparatory discussion with the Mayor regarding the upcoming commemorations in Hokianga.	
11 Feb 2025	Te Huia, Executive Review Committee	Executive-level committee meeting for organisational review.	
11 Feb 2025	Local Water Done Well Workshop	Workshop sessions focusing on water management strategies.	
12 Feb 2025	Māngūngū Commemorations	Event commemorating significant historical moments at Māngūngū.	
13 Feb 2025	First Official Full Council Hui for 2025	The inaugural Council hui for the new year to set priorities and agenda.	

Report on the Outstanding Contribution of Te Hono Staff During Waitangi Week and Māngūngū Commemorations

Te Hono staff played an exceptional role in supporting Councillors and ensuring the smooth execution of Waitangi Week and Māngūngū Commemorations. Their professionalism, cultural expertise, and steadfast commitment to excellence were evident throughout the week as they navigated the complexities of hosting the most significant and historic event in Aotearoa.



Member Report

Te Hono staff were more than cultural advisors or umbrella holders; they embodied the wairua of manaakitanga, ensuring that Councillors were well-supported at every step. They reserved seats for us at key events, provided seamless translation services, and acted as kaiwaiata, lifting the mana of our rōpū through waiata at pōwhiri and other formal proceedings. They ensured we were fed, hydrated, and always at the right place at the right time, often shepherding us to the next kaupapa with precision and grace. In every moment, they acted as bodyguards and cultural navigators, anticipating our needs and ensuring our safety and comfort amidst the bustling activities.

A special acknowledgment must go to Dolly Baker and the behind-the-scenes team, whose meticulous planning made everything run like clockwork. From organising schedules, lanyards, and parking passes to managing the logistics of multiple events, their contributions were invaluable. Their attention to detail alleviated much of the stress that comes with such a significant event, allowing us as Councillors to focus on our roles and fully engage with the kaupapa.

Te Hono staff also demonstrated their ability to seize opportunities to engage with iwi organisations from across Aotearoa. They represented our district with pride, cultivating connections and strengthening relationships that will have lasting benefits for our organisation. This proactive approach showcased their vision for building meaningful partnerships and further solidified the importance of Waitangi Week as not only a commemoration but also an opportunity for collaboration and unity.

Reflecting on the past three years, I have seen my lobbying efforts to make Waitangi Week and Māngūngū Commemorations a core part of our organisational culture come to fruition. It is inspiring to see how far we've come and my vision is that these events become a Business As Usual (BAU) initiative, highlighting our unique position as hosts of the world's most significant treaty commemoration. It is humbling to acknowledge that this kaupapa, which makes us distinctive on the global stage, is held right here on our front doorstep.

The fact that it has taken nearly 35 years for this Council to fully recognise, acknowledge, and participate in this historic event is a reminder of how far we have come and how much further we can go. I trust that in the coming years, we will continue to build on this foundation, investing more resources and energy into ensuring that we host this event with the same manaakitanga and care that our tūpuna displayed when welcoming our treaty partners. By doing so, we not only honour the legacy of our tūpuna but also set a benchmark for future generations to uphold.

Once again, a heartfelt thanks to Te Hono staff, our elected members who attended these events and staff who made themselves available on the 6th of Feb to promote the mahi that we do in this district.

Ka nui ēnei kōrero.