

Member's Report

Name: Jane Hindle

Subdivision: Russell Ōpua Subdivision

Date: 29 Jan 2026 –28 Feb 2026

Far North District Council Community Outcomes are as follows:

| Outcome 1 | Outcome 2 | Outcome 3 | Outcome 4 | Outcome 5 |
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| 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 |

Meetings Attended

| Date | Priority | Meeting | Comments |
|-----------|-----------|---|--|
| 30 Jan 26 | 1,2,3,4,5 | Tour of Ōpua and Kororāreka Russell with Community Board coordinator | First hand view of community projects and issues |
| 11 Feb 26 | 1,2,3 | Site Meeting with Council staff to discuss significant slip behind Ōpua Hall site. Hall Committee attended. | Concerns of further erosion, Geotech report being organised. |
| 12 Feb 26 | 1,2,3,4,5 | Bay of Islands Whangaroa Community Board meeting | Turner Centre, Kerikeri. |
| 13 Feb 26 | 1,2,3,4,5 | Meeting on site with Cr Smoulders to view toilets and other community facilities. | |
| 16 Feb 26 | 3,4 | Cass Street/Strand workshop to discuss the new layout of Cass Street. | Draft designs presented |
| 17 Feb 26 | 3,4,5 | Presentation from Heritage NZ regarding Heritage /Tohu Whenua status for Kororāreka area. | Haratu, Kororāreka Marae, various stakeholders listening. |
| 19 Feb 26 | 3,4,5 | Te Puawaitanga Workshop for EMs | Kaikohe chambers |
| 23 Feb 26 | 1 3 | Russell Sports Club meeting | Drainage issues now fixed |
| 24 Feb 26 | 1 3 | Resilient Russell update on Council matters | Via Zoom |
| 26 Feb 26 | 1,2,3,4,5 | Catch up with Community Services team | Very productive session |
| 26 Feb 26 | 1,2,3,4,5 | State of the Far North presentation | Turner Centre, Kerikeri |

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| 27 Feb 26 | 3,4 | On site meeting to review Cass Street and Strand layout | |
| 27 Feb 26 | 3,4 | Meeting with Community Facilities Manager to discuss cemetery and ongoing Toilet works. | Productive discussions |
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| 27 Jan – 27 Feb | 1,2,3, 4,5 | Views 195.6K ↓ 48% Visits 3.3K ↓ 48% Page Followers 2,985 (2.531) New follows 474 | Highest views Speed limit review Moerewa (40.1K) Redwoods felling (26.3K) Waitangi Traffic Management Plan (19.7K) Kerikeri roadworks (10.4K) Community Facilities catch up (1.1K) |

Other Community Issues

| Issue name | Comment |
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| Community Response plan for Rawhiti #1, 2,5 | Following the recent severe weather event, Rawhiti Marae komiti members have asked to meet with CD representative and myself to discuss how they can update their plan. |
| Ōpua Town Hall land #1, 2, | The land above the Ōpua Town Hall is a paper road, Parry St. An unauthorised building and retaining wall on this road has caused a significant slip during the most recent severe weather event. A number of trees have fallen and are above the town hall land, in danger of coming down the hill. Council staff have attended on site and are organising a Geotech report to understand the long term stability of the hill. The Hall Committee will be applying for Mayoral relief funding to get their site cleared, although there are unknowns pending the clearing of the trees on Parry St above. |
| Moth plant and other pest weeds #3,5 | Community weeding group is getting established under the umbrella of Resilient Russell. Working with NRC but is also looking to establish relationship with FNDC for work on road reserves, particularly with green waste disposal. |
| Implementing the Placemaking resolution #1, 2,4 | Delays in transitioning from the trial layout to the design of a permanent solution meant that a group of locals took matters into their own hands, removing all of the traffic calming elements and signage. This has effectively returned the Strand back to a road, against the community's wishes. Draft designs have been presented for the group to review. |
| Russell Toilets #1, 2,4 | Making progress on this, appreciate the efforts from Community Services team on fixing operational issues and they are now working on aesthetics. A water failure on 9 January means we are working with Council staff to develop an emergency plan in the event of a recurrence. |
| Memorial Street for Janet Planet #3 | Hopefully will eventually be installed during 1 st week of March. |

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| Community petition re placement of Tsunami siren. #2 | In addition to the Tsunami siren spoiling the public amenity, there is significant erosion under the site where tree roots have been eroded by the sea. We are still waiting to hear back from the project manager to understand what is involved with the move. Have escalated to Cr Stratford for follow up. |
| Ongoing delays in Duffus Trust Building Consent #3 | There seems to be a blockage which cannot be resolved by Council or the Trust, holding up proceedings. |
| Rawhiti Road #1, 2 | Keeping this on the list to maintain focus. Cr Harawira visited 9/12/25 to see the two areas which need sealing, around 6kms in total. |
| Maromaku Toilet #1, 3 | No update. |

Requests for Service (RFS)

| RFS number | Date | Comment |
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| 4285091 | 27/1/26 | Slip on Parry Street has damaged the water supply above the Ōpua Hall and caused major damage south-west side of Community Hall, including the side pathway, the back decking, the lawn, and the garden. |
| 4282285 4285243 | 29/12/25 | Tree from road reserve fell on car parked in resident's property damaging car. A second tree looks unstable and needs to be removed. This work is now scheduled and the customer contacted. |
| 4278475 | 2/12/25 | Large pothole on Long Beach car park. Work scheduled before Christmas and RFS closed but work not done. Have asked again. |
| 4277900 | 1/12/25 | Escalation from frustrated community member who after 4 years and multiple requests for drainage to be cleared at the intersection is demanding action. Work scheduled, RFS closed, but not work not actually done. Some work is scheduled, but not certain it will do the trick. |
| 4264290 | 8/8/25 | Proposal to enable Long Beach Coffee Cart to reduce CO ₂ emissions from diesel generator by plugging into adjacent Council Power Supply and paying for usage. Pedestrian management plan for work on 12/12/25 and LTO for subsoil being put in place. This has gone into a black hole with Legal. |
| 4263727 | 5/8/25 | Drainage issues on Russell Sports field, making it too boggy to use for games and helicopter landings. Also possible sewerage leakage. Sports committee very happy with result. |
| 4261097 | 31/12/25 | Escalation from Pt Veronica Community about Septic Tank clean out which was due several months earlier. This has now been completed. |
| 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. |

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| 4150811 | 17/03/2023 | Causeway to Russell Boat Club on Matauwhi Road (paper road section) needs repairs for safety reason. Now sitting with legal. |
| 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. |

Other issues

- Please see the report regarding the summer Pop up in Russell. This has been extremely successful although there are challenges in keeping it staffed on an ongoing basis.
- Continued to provide information to staff member from Outdoor Access Commission, regarding Strand consultation.
- Also liaised with community members regarding a young lady who was collecting trash at an illegal dump site (not FNDC land). Appreciate response from Council's sustainability