

Member's Report

Name: Jane Hindle

Subdivision: Russell Ōpua Subdivision

Date: 28 Feb 2026 –25 Mar 2026

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

Meetings Attended

Date	Priority	Meeting	Comments
6 Mar 26	1, 3,4	Various phone calls and emails re Ōpua slip and fallen trees behind Community Hall	Committee has applied to Mayoral Fund for assistance
9 Mar 26	1, 3,4	Russell Town Hall meeting, specific focus on plans for renewals and renovations, budgeted for FY26-27. Significant project.	Draft plans drawn up and presented by committee member.
10 Mar 26	1,3	Russell Sports Club onsite meeting with committee and Council's Property & Facilities manager to discuss septic field and long-term site management.	Number of issues identified which need to be considered in future.
10 Mar 26	1,2,3,4,5	Monthly article for Russell Lights Ngā Mārama. This month Russell Toilets.	
11 Mar 26	3,5	Attended commemorations for Battle of Kororāreka	Great turnout, given dreadful weather!
12 Mar 26	1,2,3,4,5	Bay of Islands Whangaroa Community Board meeting	Turner Centre, Kerikeri.
13 Mar 26	1,2	Attended Rawhiti with Emergency Response Specialist to meet with locals to discuss lessons learned and updates for Community Response Plan.	
17 Mar 26	1,2,3,4,5	LGNZ Zoom meeting with Minister for Local Government	
19 Mar 26	1,2,3,4,5	LGNZ Zone 1 meeting with NRC and WDC Elected members	Kaikohe chambers

19 Mar 26	3,4,5	Northland Forward Together workshop	Kaikohe chambers
20Mar 26	1,2,3,4,5	Inaugural Community Board Executive Committee hui. Meet rest of committee and discuss role..	Online
22 Mar 26	3	Attended unveiling of memorial seat for Janet Planet.	
24 Mar 26	1,2,3,4,5	Whakawhanaungatanga meeting with Te Kapotai at Waikare marae with Strategic Relationships team	
28 Feb – 24 Mar	1,2,3, 4,5	Views 90.5K ↓ 31.5% Visits 906K ↓ 60% Page Followers 3,019 (2,985) New follows 31 (<i>Severe weather event from January greatly increased interaction in the previous month.</i>)	Northland Corridor update (25.9K) Funding decisions (9.6K) Register for “The Pick” (7.4K) Redwood tree update (6.8K) Cruisin’ the Bays post. (6.7K)

Other Community Issues

Issue name	Comment
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. There seems to issues with removing trees on Council’s paper road.
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. We are waiting for the group to agree the aesthetics so that the final design and Bylaw consultation can be carried out within statutory timeframes.
Russell Toilets #1, 2,4	Hoping to get toilets repainted prior to Easter. Area around is being tidied up by the Community Services team.
Memorial Street for Janet Planet #3	Dedication of seat by family on 22 March finally. Requesting a review of process of how a grieving Mother had to fight for 2 years to get the seat installed.
NZ Post decision to close the Ōpua Post agency #1, 2,5	Have had conversations and emails from concerned residents about the closing of the Ōpua Post agency. A number of residents do not receive postal delivery and have PO Boxes provided free of charge as an alternative. Given Ōpua is a Port of Entry, not having a Post Office is not good for visiting cruising boats from offshore either.
Community Response plan for Rawhiti #1, 2,5	Have met members from Te Rawhiti Marae with Northland Civil Defence Specialist and will continue to work with them as required.

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. Still waiting to meet with Council staff.
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
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.
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.
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.
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