

## COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

**Report to:** Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board  
**Member Name:** Manuela Gmuer-Hornell  
**Subdivision:** Opuia – Russell  
**Date:** 14 April 2022

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### Meetings

Date	Meeting
14/03/2022	Strategic Planning Workshop - TEAMS
21/03/2022	Russell Community Hall Committee Meeting
31/03/2022	Community Board Meeting - TEAMS
04/04/2022	Combined Community Boards Workshop -TEAMS
11/04/2022	Strategic Planning Workshop - TEAMS

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### Issues/Feedback

The peak summer season has come and gone. Unfortunately, there was no extra service to cope with Russell's rubbish. And after reporting several bags of rubbish being left on the Russell Wharf and suggesting some solutions, I get told that this will take a while – it has taken three years to date! The community has come up with many solutions, *time to engage with us (the community)*.

In late November, FNDC placed sandbags on the bank of the Moreton Bay Fig at Long Beach to stop erosion. While this was an excellent interim intention, the plastic bags disintegrated. They are now posing a risk to birds, sea life and beachgoers. I trust swift actions will be to clean up the debris and develop a better long-term solution within the next few weeks. *This problem highlights the urgent need to get communities involved with climate impacts mitigation.* Unfortunately, the deadline was a few years ago. Can we please know how and when FNDC starts planning for climate change impacts? Thank you.

In December, the boardwalk by Smith Motorcamp was closed due to the piles rotting away. As per FNDC, the track will be closed until the end of the 2022/23 financial year. It is simply not feasible for this track to be closed for years. It forms part of Te Araroa Track and is a popular track for local people. I've asked for a better solution and am waiting for FNDC staff to engage with me. It would be nice to receive an update on this soon, *I know the work has been prioritised, but no communication has been received since.*

*A lack of communication* seems to get in the way of positive interaction between ratepayers and FNDC. A personal acknowledgement (after the automatic reply) is seldomly sent out and gets the interaction off on the wrong foot.

*I am still astonished at how poor the communication between FNDC and community board members is.* I am still asking for solutions and information for the same things I started to question 3 years ago. ***Being informed will help for a better relationship between FNDC and Ratepayers. No one thrives on gossip and bad words.***

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## In progress

- Opuia Resource Consent non-notified for development Franklin St/Kellet St – petition tabled at CB Meeting 3/2/2020 – this has now gone to a full (over 100 attendees) community meeting 8/3/2020 – and we have just been told FNHL has sold the land to a private developer. The land is now occupied by hapu and locals. This is a community being pushed out of their town.
- Footpath Kellet Street – Opuia School – been approved but not carried out – after being promised to be finished by September, it is now "scheduled" for January 2021. As per this report, this is now FNHL project – I am opposing this decision.
- Petition Okiato Boundary for paper road RFS-3996575 – tabled at CB meeting 9/12.19 – the cost to be carried by petitioners. Motion passed in November 2020 CB meeting
- Include re-doing the FNHL terms of reference/objective in their comments about what the next annual plan and long term plan should cover. – tabled at CB Meeting 3/2/2020
- Speed Limit Review
- Maintenance in Russell Township to be outsourced to a local community group
- Mark boundaries at the "Walls Bay" Opuia reserve clearly with bollards
- Placemaking Russell The Strand
- Smart Bins and Free Public WiFi is coming to Russell
- Move Flagpole at the Russell Cemetery as per Russell RSA request
- Walking track to the beach at Kaha Place
- Placemaking at The Russell Strand
- Fallen Trees on Reserve at the end of Te Wahapu Road