

Member Report

Name: Arohanui Allen

Ward: Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward

Date: March 2026

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic	Comment
4/3	Mid North Youth Connect	Strong hui turnout highlighted shared commitment to rangatahi wellbeing, collaboration, and better coordination. Focus ahead: confirm 2026 goals, coordinate Youth Week, align youth calendar, and clarify roles and communication.
4/3	Development Contribution Drop in Session	Attended a drop in session to discuss the incoming Development Contribution and how this might affect social housing developers. Pathways to continue to support Social Housing developers identified.
4/3	Ōkaihau Playground catch up with Council staff	Draft process underway for Ōkaihau Domain play area. Process OCA moving forward seek Council approval in principle, develop concept designs, progress costing/funding, then report to Community Board and Council for final approval.
5/3	Council Meeting	
6/3	Community member meeting	Met with community member residing in Kawakawa in my role as Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and Rangatahi Portfolio holder.
10/3	Kerikeri Spark Tank	Kerikeri Spark Tank 2026 showcased student entrepreneurs from schools across Te Hiku o te Ika, pitching innovative business ideas. Run by the Young Enterprise Scheme, I attended the event as a business mentor.
11/3	Kororāreka	I attended the Kororāreka commemorations in Kororāreka, acknowledging the historical

		significance of the area and reflecting on the events that shaped local and national history, alongside iwi, officials and the wider community.
12/3	BWCB	Bay of Islands Whangaroa Community Board meeting
12/3	Te Hiku Media Interview	Spoke with Te Hiku Media re: Kerikeri Spasrk Tank
16/3	Rangatahi Council	Met with representative of iwi to discuss pathways and access for our rangatahi who are not necessarily captured and engaged through our current channels.
17/3	Northland Waters Done Well workshop	A Northland Water Done Well workshop was held on 17 March to brief elected members on the reform programme, governance direction and transition planning for the new water services entity. The session covered legislative requirements, proposed timelines, council roles, and opportunities to embed climate resilience, affordability and iwi partnership early in the design. Members discussed risks, decision points ahead of formal establishment, and the importance of clear communication with communities as the programme progresses.
17/3	KHCB Town Beautification	Discussion on priorities for the remaining Town Beautification fund.
17/3	Youth Education & Leadership Pathway Portfolio	Monthly meeting re: rangatahi engagement and inclusion.
18/3	TUIA Rangatahi Representative	Caught up with Noah McBirney-Warnes and am excited to have his input as we strategically plan for the inclusion of Rangatahi within Council and design our Rangatahi Council
21/3	Clendon House Opening	Attended the Clendon House Opening in Rāwene. I was awe inspired by the story of Jane.
24/3	Joint Climate Adaptation Committee	The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee met to establish governance for the 2025–2028 triennium, appointing Cr Kelly Stratford as Chair and Nyze Manuel as Co-Chair, and confirming council and iwi/hapū membership. The Committee recommended

		embedding climate adaptation and emissions reduction into the establishment of the Northland Water Done Well water entity, and received updates on regional and tangata whenua-led adaptation planning.
24/3	Pukepoto Road	Along with Jo Carr, I met with the residents of Pukepoto Road to discuss raising and widening their bridge in order to make it more resilient to the weather. On average, the bridge floods 30 times annually.
30/3	Connected Walten Davis and Jill Thorpe	Following a social media post highlighting the amazing work of Kawakawa based Walten Davis, Jill Thorpe of Passion8 Art and Collectibles reached out that she had a venue and a kiln. Jill also mentioned that her business has been impacted with the relocation of Waste Management Kaikohe causing a reduction in customer traffic in the area.
31/3	Taupō Bay Community Meeting	Council outlined next steps including collaboration with the local community to identify a solution, investigation of replacement beach access steps, and consideration of cost, design, and environmental impacts. Process and communication improvements were also noted.

Community Matters

Topic	Comment
Local Procurement	Currently Council does not have capacity to deliver SiteWise training, as it had previously done. Connection was then made with Talia Rikihana, Kaiwhakahaere of Whāriki. Whāriki offers capacity building support. Pākihi Māori are being connected with Talia for this support.
Illegal Rubbish dumping/Disposal	An issue has been identified where community members collecting roadside rubbish are required to pay disposal fees, despite the waste coming from others who are either illegally dumping or disposing of rubbish. Discussions with Kaikohe Waste Management staff confirmed this occurs regularly and current policy limits staff discretion. A suggested solution is a "Roadside Rubbish" disposal code to allow fees to be waived where appropriate, supporting community kaitiaki and environmental care.

Housing for the Elderly	Ongoing community kōrero continues to highlight the growing need for secure, affordable and appropriate housing for our kaumātua. Discussions are still underway for FNHL and solutions are being sought.
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Portfolio Update: Rangatahi Portfolio

The Rangatahi Portfolio meeting reviewed funding and partnerships, noting challenges securing youth and workforce funding and the need for strategic alignment and council contribution. Updates were provided on establishing a Rangatahi Council, progressing a cohesive youth strategy, and aligning civic education work with broader youth development. Key priorities include system-enabling, stronger partnerships, youth employment pathways, and support of Youth Week, a Kaikohe hackathon pilot, and workforce initiatives, with agreed follow-up actions assigned

Current Focus Areas

- Providing guidance and support around funding eligibility and resourcing
- Establishing a Youth Strategy working group to progress coordinated planning
- Support local communities and organisations in Youth Week delivery.
- Progressing rangatahi innovation initiatives, including a hackathon programme
- Recognising and engaging employers supporting rangatahi employment pathways
- Receiving updates on rangatahi employment outcomes through Te Koukou

Portfolio Update: Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Referral processes are operating well, with planning underway for employer engagement and celebration events across the three community board areas next month.