



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

I hope this message finds you and your whānau in good health despite the challenging weather we've been experiencing lately.

The recent wet spells and cooler temperatures have made it a tough end to winter and start to spring, especially with the flu bugs making their rounds.

This week, Council made a significant decision regarding the future of the Horowhenua (Māori) Ward. To guide our decision, we sought community feedback on whether to retain or disestablish the ward. We received 513 responses, with 77.2% in support of retaining the ward, and all members of the public who spoke at the Public Forum and Council Meeting were in favour as well. A huge thank you to those who shared their views and who attended the Public Forum and Council Meeting. Council voted to retain the Māori Ward for the 2025 election, which also means that there will be a binding referendum.

We hosted Minister Simeon Brown and MP Tim Costley while they travelled throughout the district this week. We had some very productive discussions about the district's rapid growth, the financial hurdles we're facing, and how we're balancing the need to renew our aging infrastructure while planning for future needs. We also talked about Local Water Done Well and the discussions we are progressing with both Wellington Regional Council and Horizons Regional Council, Ō2NL and opportunities for partnering with the Government. These are challenging economic times, and at

Council we're really focusing on delivering the basics well and managing our costs carefully.

I recently had the opportunity to attend the LGNZ conference in Wellington. It was a great chance to dig into some big issues facing all councils across the country, like the financial and infrastructure pressures we're all experiencing. The key takeaway was that Local Government cannot just keep doing what we've always done. We need to get creative, find common ground, and work together to tackle these challenges head-on as we navigate the road ahead.

You may have seen the flags at the Civic Building were lowered to half-mast this past week to acknowledge the passing of the Māori King, Kīngi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII. He had just celebrated the 18th anniversary of his coronation and was deeply respected for his work to unite Māoridom. I'm sure his legacy will continue to inspire us all.

Lastly, it's time to celebrate the unsung heroes in our community. Nominations for this year's Civic Awards will close on Wednesday 11 September. If you know someone who's been making a difference, whether through leadership, long service, or volunteering, now's the time to give them the recognition they deserve. Let's make sure we're shining a light on those who help make Horowhenua such a special place.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings

18 **Community Funding and Recognition Committee**
Wednesday 18 September 2024,
10am to 12 noon
Council Chambers,
126 Oxford Street, Levin

25 **Council Meeting**
Wednesday 25 September 2024,
1pm
Council Chambers,
126 Oxford Street, Levin

30 **Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Public Forum**
Monday 30 September 2024,
5.30pm to 6pm
Foyer, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom,
92 Main Street, Foxton

Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Meeting
Monday 30 September 2024,
6pm to 8pm
Ngārongo Iwikātea Room, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please refer to horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings for the full meeting schedule, minutes and agendas.



Minister Simeon Brown (middle) and MP Tim Costley (left) met with Mayor Bernie (right) and other Council representatives to discuss growth and cost-cutting strategies.

Council Hosted Minister Simeon Brown and MP Tim Costley

On Tuesday 3 September 2024, Minister Simeon Brown and MP Tim Costley visited Council to discuss a wide range of topics, from local government reform, the growth facing Horowhenua and infrastructure requirements.

A big part of the conversation revolved around Council's 'Back to Basics' approach, which is all about keeping things simple and cost-effective for ratepayers.

Other topics included the way forward with the Ōtaki to North of Levin highway (Ō2NL) and recent proposed tolling announcement.

Age on the GO

FREE EVENT

AN EXPO SHOWCASING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Friday 11 October 2024
10am – 2pm

Horowhenua Events Centre, Victoria Street, Levin

Important Notice

Road Closure - Tyne Street, Levin

As part of our ongoing wastewater upgrade and renewal program, Tyne Street is now closed Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm from SH1, Northern Service Lane and Cambridge Street for approximately 25 days.

This closure is essential to facilitate the installation of new pipework under the railway and



associated manholes.

We are committed to completing the work as quickly and with as little disruption as possible. If there are any opportunities to adjust traffic management as the project progresses, we will keep the community informed with timely updates.

Start date:
Monday 2 September 2024

Expected completion date:
Friday 27 September 2024

Work hours:
Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm

- Impact:**
- All affected businesses in the area will maintain access points either onto SH1 or Cambridge Street.
 - Detours are clearly signposted, directing traffic to cross east/west at Queen Street rail crossing.
 - Pedestrian access will remain uninterrupted under traffic management.

Please note, the works are weather-dependent, and any delays will be communicated as soon as possible. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this essential upgrade.

HOROWHENUA CIVIC AWARDS

Celebrating Community Champions

Horowhenua District Council reminds you that nominations for the 2024 Civic and Youth Excellence Awards are open.

These awards celebrate the dedication and achievements of our outstanding community members. We invite everyone in the community to nominate exceptional individuals who have made a significant impact.

To nominate someone for a Civic Award, visit:
horowhenua.govt.nz/civicawards

To nominate an outstanding rangatahi for a Youth Excellence Award, visit:
horowhenua.govt.nz/youthexcellence

NOMINATIONS CLOSE AT 11:59 ON WEDNESDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2024.

LEVIN TOWN CENTRE TRANSFORMATION

Business Information Session

Levin is on the cusp of an exciting transformation, and we want you to be part of this journey!

Tuesday 24 September 2024, 5pm to 7pm

Horowhenua District Council, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinTownCentre



BEAUTIFY OUR STREETS



Applications are open and will close at 5pm on Tuesday 1 October 2024.

horowhenua.govt.nz/ChorusCabinets

Artist - Sonja Hart

HOW ARE WE REALLY DOING?



Scan the QR code to complete the survey about Parks & Recreational services.

This survey should take less than two minutes to complete and we'd love to hear your thoughts.



Stop the drip.

Check your toilet cistern, taps and pipes for leaks or overflow.

For more water saving tips visit:

horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterSavingTips

Download free app Antenno to report issues, as well as receive alerts and notifications.

www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Antenno



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