

Community Connection

Issue 208 DECEMBER 2024



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Welcome to our last Community Connection for 2024. Here at Council, we often talk about 'moments that matter.'

These are the moments that stand out—professionally, personally, and for our community. They remind us why we do what we do, and this year we've been fortunate to have plenty of them to reflect on and celebrate.

One of the biggest milestones for 2024 was the adoption of our Long Term Plan 2024–2044. This plan lays the groundwork for the next 20 years, ensuring our district continues to grow and thrive. It's a document shaped by your feedback, and it sets the direction for our shared future.

Another highlight was bringing back the Horowhenua District Council Christmas Parade and Festival. What a fantastic day it was! Seeing the streets come alive with joy, laughter, and community spirit reminded us of the power of shared celebrations. A special thank you to Higgins for stepping in to provide traffic management, helping to make the event such a resounding success.

In between these major moments, we've been hard at work on many other fronts. We've taken bold steps by bringing Local Waters services in-house, ensuring we have more direct control over how these essential services are delivered to our community. We also celebrated a significant community achievement in finding new local owners for the Foxton War Memorial Hall, preserving a vital piece of our district's history.

Our Civic Awards were another standout occasion, where we honoured some true Local Heroes who make our district a better place, alongside celebrating the achievements of 16 incredible young people. Their stories inspire us all to strive for more.

In Levin, we've made strong progress toward transforming the town centre, shaping a vision that will breathe new life into the heart of our community. Alongside this, we've passed important bylaws and tackled numerous projects that keep our district running smoothly.

These achievements wouldn't have been possible without the collaboration and dedication of so many. To my fellow Elected Members, Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Members, council officers, and the people of our community—thank you. Your efforts, energy and passion are what drive these successes and create the moments that truly matter.

On a sadder note, this month also marks the closure of the Horowhenua Chronicle after 131 years of serving the community. Its loss will be keenly felt. For generations the Chronicle has given a voice to the residents of Horowhenua, helped people connect with one another, covered local stories rarely seen in national media and kept us on our toes with its incisive reporting of council matters.

I'd like to wish staff members who are losing their jobs, at the Chronicle and the other papers around the country which are closing, all the best for the future.

I remain hopeful that a way can be found to keep some form of newspaper for our community. Meanwhile we'll keep you up to date with council matters through our website and social media channels, and have been considering several options for how we might continue to keep our community connected through an alternative printed publication.

As the year draws to a close, I want to acknowledge the moments that matter most—the ones spent with our whānau and friends. These are the moments that ground us and fill our lives with joy and meaning.

So, as we head into the holiday season, my message to you is simple: however you choose to celebrate, may your summer be filled with happiness, love and hope. Stay safe, enjoy the sunshine (don't forget the sunscreen!), and take the time to connect with those who mean the most to you.

See you in 2025!

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Christmas Parade and Carnival

Horowhenua truly came alive for the Christmas Parade and Carnival. Horowhenua District Council are rapt to have reignited this iconic event for our community, thanks to the generous support of Higgins. What made it even more magical was the incredible connection with our community – from the amazing variety of creative floats to the massive crowds lining the route, all eagerly awaiting a glimpse of the big man in red! Thank you, Horowhenua, for making this celebration unforgettable.



Important Notices

SH57/Tararua Road roundabout

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) and Horowhenua District Council are working in partnership to build a new roundabout at the SH57/Tararua Road intersection.

From 13 January 2025 there will be no access from SH57 to the western section of Tararua Road and a detour will be in place (see map below). The detour will allow traffic to flow steadily through SH57, minimising disruption on the busy state highway.

The works are expected to last about four months.

Tararua Road will be a key connection from the new Ō2NL highway and Tara-Ika to Levin. With vehicle volumes set to increase over the coming years we're working now to make this intersection safer for all those who will use it and support the area's growing population.

In the works

The annual reseal programme

Our annual reseal programme will begin in late January 2025 when the air and ground temperatures are warmer and should be completed by February 2025 (weather dependent).

You can find a full list of sites by visiting www.horowhenua.govt.nz/annualreseals.

If your street is included, our contractor will deliver a letter to you before the resurfacing work starts (for urban towns only), detailing when the work will take place.

Also starting in January 2025

SHANNON:

Bryce Street wastewater rising main and pump station renewal/upgrade: Stop/go and road closures for Bryce Street from Thompson Street west.

Margaret Street Water main renewal/upgrade: Stop/go, and shoulder/lane closures on Margaret Street.

LEVIN:

MacArthur Street wastewater and water main renewal/upgrade: Stop/go, and shoulder/lane closures on MacArthur Street.



Christmas and New Year Opening Hours and Services 2024-2025

Horowhenua District Council

Civic Building – 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Monday 23 December 9am to 5pm

Tuesday 24 December to Sunday 5 January CLOSED

Normal opening hours resume on Monday 6 January onwards

Community Facilities / Libraries

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō - Levin

Monday 23 December 9am to 5.30pm

Tuesday 24 December to Sunday 5 January CLOSED

Normal opening hours resume on Monday 6 January onwards

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom - Foxton

Monday 23 December 9am to 4pm

Tuesday 24 December to Sunday 5 January CLOSED

Normal opening hours resume on Monday 6 January onwards

Shannon Library - Shannon

Monday 23 December 1pm to 5pm

Tuesday 24 December to Sunday 5 January CLOSED

Normal opening hours resume on Monday 6 January onwards

Aquatic Centres

Levin Aquatic Centre

Monday 23 December 6am to 9pm

Tuesday 24 December Closes at 1pm

Wednesday 25 December to Thursday 26 December CLOSED

Friday 27 December to Tuesday 31 December 8am to 6pm

Wednesday 1 January to Thursday 2 January CLOSED

Friday 3 January to Sunday 5 January 8am to 6pm

Normal opening hours resume on Monday 6 January onwards

Foxton Pools

Monday 23 December 6am to 7pm

Tuesday 24 December Closes at 1pm

Wednesday 25 December to Thursday 26 December CLOSED

Friday 27 December to Tuesday 31 December 8am to 6pm

Wednesday 1 January to Thursday 2 January CLOSED

Friday 3 January to Sunday 5 January 2025 8am to 6pm

Normal opening hours resume on Monday 6 January onwards

Shannon Pool

Monday 23 December 1pm to 6pm

Tuesday 24 December to Thursday 26 December CLOSED

Friday 27 December to Tuesday 31 December 1pm to 6pm

Wednesday 1 January to Thursday 2 January CLOSED

Friday 3 January to Sunday 5 January 2025 1pm to 6pm

Normal opening hours resume on Monday 6 January onwards

Jubilee Park Splash Pad – Levin

Open daily 9am to 7pm

Dog Pound

Closed to the public. Please call our contact centre on 06 366 0999.

Cemeteries

For all cemeteries district wide, a Sunday and public holiday fee applies to all interments on Sundays and public holidays with the exception of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day when no interments are permitted.

Recycling and Rubbish Collection

Christmas and New Year Kerbside Recycling and Rubbish Collection

Kerbside collection will continue as normal, with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The collection which would normally happen on **Wednesday 25 December** will be moved to **Saturday 28 December**.

The **Wednesday 1 January** collection will move to **Saturday 4 January**.

Please ensure your bags, wheelie bins, and glass crates are out by 7.30am on your collection day.

Permanent Waste Transfer and Recycling Stations

Opening hours as normal, except for:

Levin

Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Public Holiday hours from 8am to 4.30pm

Foxton

Closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Normal hours on all other days.

Shannon

No change to normal opening hours.

Beach Recycling Stations

Foxton Beach

A recycling station is located on Seabury Avenue and available from mid-December to mid-March.

Waitāre Beach

A recycling station is located in the Waitāre Beach car park and is available year-round.

Waikawa Beach

A recycling station is located near the toilet block by the reserve and is available from mid-December to early January. No recycling after 6.30pm or before 8am.

For more information, visit horowhenua.govt.nz/ChristmasHours

Every drop counts

Summer's here, people are hitting beaches and baches, and water use is going up. And we're a thirsty lot:

 **300** On average, each Horowhenua resident consumes 300 litres of water per day

 **195** Compared to the national average of 195 litres of water per day

Remember if you're on a town supply the water coming out of your taps is beautiful clean drinking water.

It's precious, expensive to produce, and finite. Most years we have to place restrictions on water use – did you know it's a legal requirement for us to do so when the Ōhau River, which supplies Levin and Ōhau, drops below certain levels?

We're already at Level One water conservation at Foxton and Foxton Beach, which means there are restrictions on sprinkling your lawn or hosing down your drive. They apply to us too – we can only water our parks and gardens on certain days.

So please remember, every drop is precious. There's a useful water saving hack below, and you can find more on our website (search for water saving tips).

Turn off that tap and help make sure there's enough drinking water to go round this summer.

Water saving tip: A dishwasher uses less water than washing dishes by hand—as long as you only run it when it's full. A single load saves about 20 litres over handwashing! The teens are going to love this.



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

