

Community Connection

Issue 209 JANUARY 2025



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Welcome to the first edition of Community Connection for 2025. I hope you've all had a fantastic summer, enjoying some well-deserved time with

whānau and friends, making the most of the warmer weather. Whether you spent your time relaxing, heading to the beach, or exploring one of the events across our district, it's great to see people out and about enjoying everything Horowhenua has to offer.

The Horowhenua AP&I Show over Wellington Anniversary weekend was a real highlight for me. Spending time in the Horowhenua NZ stand was an opportunity to promote the district and connect with locals and visitors. It was great to talk about and showcase everything our district has to offer. I enjoyed the luncheon, parade and the opportunity to catch up with Tim Costley MP and Nicola Willis MP. This event wouldn't be what it is without the hard work of the organisers and volunteers – thanks and congratulations to the Horowhenua AP&I Association on another incredibly successful event.

Looking ahead, Waitangi Day on 6 February is just around the corner. Keep an eye on Council's Events or Facebook page for updates on what's happening across our district to acknowledge and celebrate this special day.

With summer now in full swing, it's a good reminder of how important it is to look after our water supplies. Water is one of our most precious resources, and it's up to all of us to do our part to conserve it. Small steps like turning off the tap while brushing your teeth, taking shorter showers, or fixing

leaks can make a big difference. Every drop counts, and by working together, we can help ensure there's enough water to go around, even during the driest months.

This year also brings exciting opportunities for growth. Projects like the Ō2NL Expressway are on the horizon and they will be transformational for our district, creating opportunities for both residents and businesses. I'm optimistic about what lies ahead and confident that we're in a great position to make the most of these opportunities.

Opening soon are several opportunities available through Council's funding programme, which opens on 1 February. These grants support community-led projects that make a positive impact in our district. Two new funds are being introduced: the Youth Empowerment Fund, aimed at creating opportunities for our rangatahi, and the Urupā Fund, which supports marae in maintaining and developing their burial grounds. These additions, along with our existing funds, reflect our commitment to initiatives that strengthen and connect our community. If you have a project or idea in mind, now is a great time to start planning. See page 2 for more details.

I look forward to catching up with many of you throughout the year whether it's at a community event, through your feedback on a project, or just over a cuppa with a councillor. Let's work together to make Horowhenua an even better place to live, work, and play.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings



Council Public Forum

Wednesday 12 February 2025,
10.15am to 10.45am

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Council Meeting

Wednesday 12 February 2025, 11am

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin



Community Funding and Recognition Committee Meeting

Wednesday 19 February 2025, 10am

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin



Risk and Assurance Committee

Wednesday 26 February 2025, 10am

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

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.

WATER CONSERVATION



Save water now, avoid restrictions later

Feels like summer's finally here, but with all the hot weather comes higher water use.

We already have different levels of water conservation in place around our district – you can find out if this applies to you by visiting our website or calling our office on 06 366 0999.

Drinking water is a limited resource, and it's expensive to produce. If we all save a little water now we may be able to avoid further restrictions later. There are handy tips on our website. Thank you Horowhenua – every drop counts!

horowhenua.govt.nz

Keeping Our Beaches Safe This Summer

Summer is here, and Foxton and Waitāreke Beaches are the perfect spots to enjoy sun, sand, and sea. But have you ever wondered who's helping keep you and your loved ones safe in the water?

Did you know? The Surf Life Saving Service at these beaches is partly funded by Council. This vital service is part of our commitment to supporting the safety and wellbeing of our community and visitors.

Lifeguards are on duty throughout the summer, keeping a watchful eye on swimmers, performing rescues, and providing safety advice. Thanks to this Council-supported service, our beaches are safer, ensuring everyone can enjoy their time by the sea with peace of mind.

By contributing to funding this essential service, Council is investing in the safety of our community and enhancing the quality of life for all. So, next time you're at the beach, swim between the flags, follow safety advice, and know that we're working to make your summer as safe and enjoyable as possible. For more safety tips, visit:

watersafetynz.org



CUPPA WITH A COUNCILLOR



Thursday 13 February 2025

- Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

- Shannon Library

Time: 1pm to 2.30pm

Need Help Applying for Community Grants?

Open from 1 February 2025

Whether you're unsure which grant to apply for or need one-on-one support with your application, our team is here to help with Round 2 of the 2024/2025 Horowhenua Grants and Community Funding.

DROP-IN SESSION LOCATIONS

5 **Foxton – Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom**
Wednesday 5 February, 11am to 12.30pm

12 **Shannon – Shannon Library**
Wednesday 12 February, 1pm to 2pm

13 **Levin – Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō**
Thursday 13 February, 9.30am to 11am

26 **Levin – Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō**
Wednesday 26 February, 3pm to 4pm



@events@horowhenua.govt.nz 06 366 0999

Pop Up Eats Horowhenua

Have Your Say Shannon Community

We're seeking your ideas, insights, and vision for Shannon's future.

Your feedback is a crucial step in understanding what matters most to you and will help shape the community plan.

- Fill in the survey
- Complete our poll
- If you have kids, let them get creative with the activity sheet.

Feedback closes at 4pm on Monday 24 February 2025.

This input will guide the development of the community plan, which will be shared with the community later in 2025.

letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz

Draft Local Waters Combined Bylaw

We're proposing to have one combined bylaw covering all our local water services. Currently there are three different bylaws and no stormwater bylaw.

The proposed local waters bylaw aims to protect public health and safety, safeguard the environment, help Horowhenua District plan for future growth and ensure users pay for local water services.

Key changes include:

- New stormwater regulations
- A trade waste registration requirement for businesses
- Combining existing bylaws for easier compliance

We encourage everyone, from businesses to homeowners and rural residents, to share their feedback to help fine-tune these regulations. Submissions close on Friday 14 March 2025.

letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz



Let's Move Together Triathlon

Run - Cycle - Swim

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Take part in one of the biggest whānau sporting activities in Horowhenua this summer!

Sausage Sizzle | Goodie Bags
Lots of Fun | And More!

21 **Shannon**
Friday 21 February 5pm-7pm
Shannon School (\$2)

22 **Levin**
Saturday 22 February 10am-2pm
Levin Aquatics Centre (\$5)

23 **Foxton**
Sunday 23 February 10am-2pm
Foxton Pools (\$5)

Categories for ages 3-5, 6-7, 8-10, 11+
Caregivers encouraged to join in!

06 368 0070
aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz
AquaticsHorowhenua
horowhenua_aquatics

Photography will be taken during the event

Register online at aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz



VOTE
2025
LOCAL ELECTIONS

Election 2025: Every vote helps shape our future

The next local Government elections are on Saturday 11 October 2025. This is an opportunity to have your say on who Horowhenua District Council's decision-makers will be for the next three years.

Before you can vote you need to make sure you are enrolled and your details are up to date. If you are registered to vote in Parliamentary elections, you are automatically enrolled to vote in local elections, however it is important your address and contact details are correct.

To enrol, check or update your details:

vote.nz/enrol