

# Community Connection

Issue 211 FEBRUARY 2025



Bernie Wanden

## Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

I sometimes think it must be exhausting being an engaged ratepayer. We seem to be forever asking you for your views on one thing or another.

At the moment we're consulting on the draft Local Waters Bylaw, reimagining the Levin War Memorial Hall and Village Green, and the Shannon Community Plan. In March we'll be consulting on how and with whom we manage our water services as part of the Government's Local Water Done Well requirements, one of the biggest decisions our Council will ever be called upon to make.

I do not underestimate the time and effort it takes to have your say on any of these issues. Your submission can generally be as long or as short as you want to make it and can sometimes even be in an online poll. But there's still background material to read, thinking to do as you form your position, and the time it takes to make the submission.

We are all busy, and it's asking a lot of you to find the time.

And yet it is so important. Your Council is made up of members you elect, making decisions on your behalf, many of which shape the way you go about your lives. Apart from voting in local body elections, the best way you can influence what your elected members are doing is by getting involved in these consultations. I know there is some scepticism about consultation, but believe me community views are very much taken into account when we come to making decisions.

And so I thank all of you who do make the effort to get involved – you are helping shape your community.

Another important issue is the NZTA proposal where they are asking people to have their say on whether certain roads around the country should revert from 80 km/h to the previous 100 km/h speed limit. Two of them are in our district: State Highway 57 - from State Highway 1 to Heatherlea East Road, and State Highway 1 - from Ōhau to Manakau and Manakau to the Pukehou Bridge.

Council is making a submission and will be advocating to keep the limit at 80 km/h. Why? Because crash data show these roads are safer at the lower speed. While the difference in journey times is minimal, the impact on safety is significant. We also need to consider those who work and reside along these stretches of road as well as those using the connecting side roads. To the south there are Tukorehe Marae and Wehi Wehi Marae where gatherings and tangi take place, and Speldhurst entrance way on Kimberley Road with over 700 residents using the road. In addition, multiple businesses rely on these roads daily to do business, including our produce growers.

The more submissions NZTA receives, the more weight they will give to community feedback. Search for 'Speed reversals and consultation' on the NZTA website to have your say.

On a lighter note, there's more to being an active member of the community than contributing to conversations on important issues. Sometimes it's just about having fun. Just in the last few weeks we've had the eccentric but wonderful Medieval Market and the petrolhead's nirvana, the Shannon Car and Bike Spectacular. I loved Purple Poppy Day, held this week, with its memorial service to commemorate the extraordinary animals who served our nation.

On Saturday I'll be going to the Pasifika Festival at the Levin Showgrounds – always a wonderful day out to experience the sights and sounds of the Pacific. This festival is the first to receive support from the Horowhenua Major Events Fund under the Strategic Growth Event category, marking its potential as a standout event in New Zealand's cultural scene.

And on Sunday I'm off to the unveiling of the latest Walk of Fame plaques, celebrating yet more notable Horowhenua residents and alumni.

It is a busy and varied life being the Mayor! Hope to see you out and about Horowhenua – get involved.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

## Council Meetings

- 5 Council meeting**  
Wednesday 5 March 2025, 11am  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin  
(Live streamed)
- 10 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board public forum**  
Monday 10 March 2025, 5.30 pm to 6 pm  
Foyer, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton
- 10 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board meeting**  
Monday 10 March 2025, 6 pm to 8 pm  
Foyer, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton
- 12 Community Wellbeing Committee meeting**  
Wednesday 12 March 2025, 10am  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 26 Council Public Forum**  
Wednesday 26 March February 2025, 10.15am to 10.45am  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 26 Council meeting**  
Wednesday 26 March 2025, 11am  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin  
(Live streamed)

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

### COMMUNITY AT HEART

## Community Grants and Funding Applications Opens 1 February 2025

[horowhenua.govt.nz/grants](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/grants)

# GRANTS & FUNDING



## Got some old tyres to dispose of? Now you can do it for free!

The Foxton transfer station will accept up to five tyres at a time at no charge.

You can bring along all air-filled and solid tyres for motorised vehicles including cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, aircraft, trailers, and off-road vehicles. Tyres for most agricultural machinery are also included. Bike and pram tyres aren't included at the moment.

Only tyres are accepted, not wheel rims.

All tyres collected will be recycled or repurposed into other useful products.

The service is part of the Tyrewise initiative, which was created to prevent millions of tyres ending up landfill, being illegally stockpiled or dumped each year.

# Reimagining the Levin War Memorial Hall and Village Green

Close your eyes and imagine the Levin War Memorial Hall and Village Green with a craft brewery, restaurant, shops, housing, and a village square.

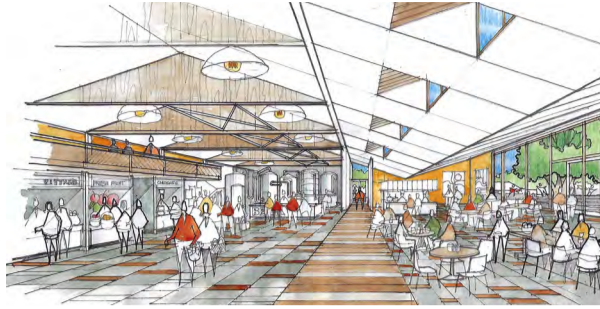
That's the plan currently before Council – but we won't be giving it the green light until we hear from the community.

The Levin War Memorial Hall is considered earthquake-prone and needs expensive remedial work – so we went public and asked for expressions of interest in how to breathe new life into the Memorial Hall and adjacent Village Green area at no extra cost to ratepayers.

Of the proposals submitted, the one Council deemed best met the outcomes sought would see a developer buy the land from Council, strengthen and reimagine the Memorial Hall, create a village square, and reintroduce housing on the Village Green.

The development also proposes a community space in the hall's existing Freyberg Room.

To find out more and have your say visit Let's Kōrero on our website - feedback closes at 5pm on Monday 17 March.



# New roof for Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom



The leaky roof at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is set to be replaced in early March.

We'll do our best to stay open during the work, but there may be some disruption to services. We appreciate your patience while we carry out these essential repairs, which we expect to take six to eight weeks.

And speaking of Foxton community facilities, in April we'll be laying down new lane markings at the pool. The existing ones are peeling off! This will make it easier for you keen swimmers to stay in a straight line. More on this soon.



**Thursday 13 March 2025**

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

**Time:** 10.30am to 12.30pm

- Shannon Library

**Time:** 1pm to 2.30pm

## In the works

**MacArthur Street in Levin** is closed from Cambridge Street to Queenwood Road while we install new sewerage and water mains. Residents still have access from the Queenwood Road end.

**Margaret Street in Shannon** will have reduced speed and shoulder closures while we install new water mains during the coming months.

In both cases the work is crucial to replace outdated pipes, prevent leaks and improve service. Expect some disruption and be sure to follow any changing traffic management. Excavations will be fenced off and covered each day to keep everyone safe. Please drive carefully and obey all temporary speed limits and fenced areas.

Thanks so much for your patience and cooperation while we complete these important projects.

**Don't just dream. Update your details and vote to be heard.**



**Moved house or changed your contact details lately? If you want to have a say in this year's local body election, it is important you update your details to ensure your voting papers go to the right place.**

This is your opportunity to have your say on who Horowhenua District Council's decision-makers will be for the next three years.

Last year Council voted to retain the Horowhenua (Māori) Ward, following community feedback. This means, due to a change in legislation, this year's election will include a binding referendum, giving ratepayers the final say on the Māori Ward's future.

To enrol, check or update your details your details:

[vote.nz/enrol](https://vote.nz/enrol)



**Fun facts about roading...**

**DID YOU KNOW:**

NZTA is responsible for maintaining State Highways, including in our district SH1 and SH57. Council maintains local roads and footpaths

**LAST YEAR WE REPAIRED AND REPLACED:**

**2040** square meters of footpath

**1570** square meters to come

**WE FILLED:**

**112** potholes

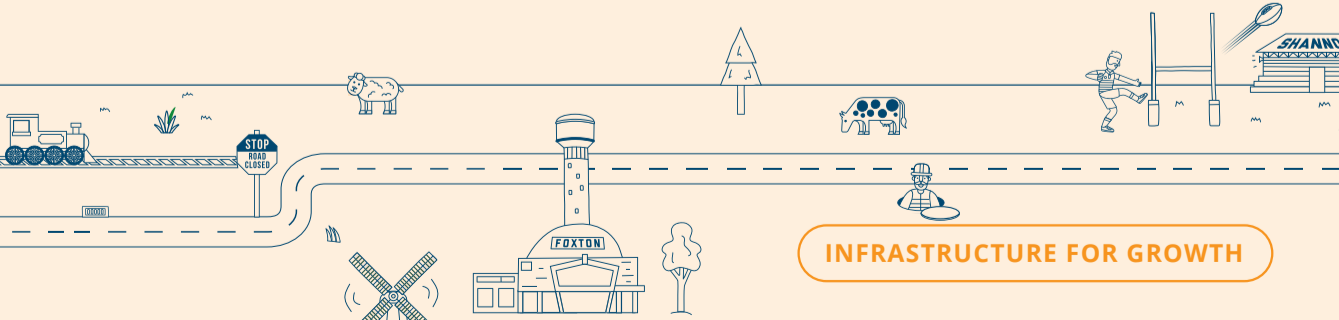
**WE MADE:**

**141** permanent road repairs since July, making your ride a little easier

We installed speed humps outside Tokomaru School, Levin North, Taitoko School, Fairfield School and Levin Intermediate and other areas with vulnerable road users, because keeping tamariki safe is important to everyone

We're about to start this year's reseals, which will cover 24 km of local roads - we do this in summer because rain is the enemy of road works

Got any questions about roading? Send us a message at [comms@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:comms@horowhenua.govt.nz).



**INFRASTRUCTURE FOR GROWTH**



**Make mulch your friend**

Good quality mulch can reduce water lost to evaporation by 70%.

It also keeps the weeds down, stops run-off and adds goodness to the soil.

For more water saving tips visit:

[horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterSavingTips](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterSavingTips)