

Community Connection



Mayor Michael Feyen

Message from the Mayor

Welcome to spring! It has been a very busy month for many services in the Horowhenua given

the saturated ground and persistent rain we've had.

A combined initial meeting of the Economic and Environmental Community Forums was held last month with some good discussion taking place and ideas being put forward. The session was independently facilitated by Jenny Rowan. We have 'community' back in council.

The Sediment Trap pond on Hokio Beach Road near the Arawhata Stream is nearly completed and will help ensure that less sediment and phosphorus get into Lake Horowhenua. Our local market gardeners have also really come on board with other initiatives to reduce sediment run-off. Well done to all those involved in projects such as this.

Other highlights have included the recent Citizenship Ceremony where 33 new citizens were sworn in and the annual sister city student exchange between Foxton and Narita City, Japan. We hosted over 50 visitors in Foxton who were treated to our kiwi hospitality. Thank you to Manawatu College and host families.

Inside this issue:

- Civic Honours and Youth scholarships
- Rates Rebates applications invited
- Levin Landfill initiatives minimise odour
- Upcoming events

Horowhenua District Council to achieve another first-of-its-kind in New Zealand

Horowhenua District Council is to become the first council in New Zealand to use a purpose-made native ecosystem at an operational scale specifically for the irrigation and further treatment of wastewater.

In a redevelopment of the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant's irrigation system, 10 hectares of the current exotic pine forest at the site, locally referred to as 'The Pot', will be replaced with manuka and kanuka trees as part of a five year trial to assess environmental benefits.

Research shows that manuka and kanuka root systems have unique properties that not only filter pollutants, but can assist in reducing leaching of nitrogen and pathogens into the underlying groundwater. The trial will also see other native species including kahikatea, pukatea, rimu, tawa and swamp maire planted for comparison.

Council's Infrastructure Services Group Manager Gallo Saidu says the pine plantation is at full term and ready for harvest, providing an ideal opportunity for this "innovative trial".

Mr Saidu says the \$1.2 million project has been made possible after receiving \$607,173 from the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund.

"Best engineering solutions were used at The Pot when it was designed 30 years ago, including being the first pressurised wastewater spray irrigation system in New Zealand, resulting in a number of awards," Mr Saidu said.

"However, using current and advanced technology, we can upgrade the irrigation system and along with establishing a native

ecosystem this will significantly reduce contaminant leaching and will enhance biodiversity, protect vulnerable soils and improve water quality in the Waiwiri catchment."

The 10 hectares of pine forest will be harvested from next month in preparation to install the revamped irrigation system. Manuka and kanuka planting is to start next year.

During the trial the site will be monitored and environmental improvements assessed, with scope for further areas of pines to be replaced with the similar native ecosystems.

For the project, the Council has been working closely with Lowe Environmental Impact Ltd and The Institute of Environmental Science and Research (ESR), with input into the trial also involving local iwi owners of The Pot, Northcott Research Associates and Lincoln University.



Infrastructure Services Group Manager Gallo Saidu, centre, with Hamish Lowe and Sian Cass of Lowe Environmental Impact Ltd at The Pot.

Help keep Horowhenua beautiful during NZ's largest litter clean-up

Horowhenua residents are encouraged to 'do the right thing' and pick-up litter during national Clean Up Week starting next Monday 11 September.

Via the Keep New Zealand Beautiful website www.knzb.org.nz, people can join an already-registered local event. Otherwise, create one with a group of family, friends, or work colleagues; or a group from a school or other organisation. Rubbish bags and gloves will be provided.

Simply adopt a spot such as a street or other stretch of roadside; a playground, park or other reserve; an area at a stream, river, lake or beach; an area in a town centre or any other public space, and clear it of any litter. The more people who take part next week, the more effective this year's clean-up will be.

On Saturday 16 September Keep Levin Beautiful members will be at the Levin Adventure Park car-park from 9.00am to 3.00pm to collect the filled KNZB-branded bags - black for rubbish and clear for recyclables. Green waste will not be accepted. Keep Levin Beautiful chairperson Victoria Kaye-Simmons said that during last year's event, more than 300 volunteers collected 2550 kilogrammes of rubbish, some of which was illegal dumping of rubbish including tyres, whiteware and electronics.

For more info, or to find the nearest clean-up event and register, visit www.knzb.org.nz. Otherwise, phone Victoria on 027 601 1014.

Rates Rebate applications invited

It is time to apply for a Rates Rebate for the 2017/18 rating year. Rebates of up to \$620 may be available to eligible residential ratepayers.

To be eligible, you must be:

- Named as a ratepayer for that property, and;
- Living at that property on 1 July 2017.

Rebates are based on total household income for the tax year ending 31 March 2017 and the amount of rates for both Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council for the 2017/18 rating year.

To check your possible entitlement, refer to the table.

Please note that these values are an estimate only and do not guarantee entitlement.

To determine your eligibility and entitlement, contact Horowhenua District Council to arrange to meet with a Rates Rebates team member. Home visits can be arranged, if necessary. To make an appointment, phone 06 366 0999, or email your name and phone number to ratesrebates@horowhenua.govt.nz

Application forms are also available online at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/ratesrebates or from Council's customer service centres at the main office building in Levin, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and the Foxton and Shannon community libraries.

Household Income	Level of Rates												
	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$2,400	\$2,600	\$2,800	\$3,000	\$3,200	\$3,500	
\$24,000	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$25,000	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$26,000	\$542.33	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$27,000	\$417.33	\$550.67	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$28,000	\$292.33	\$425.67	\$559.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$29,000	\$167.33	\$300.67	\$434.00	\$567.33	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$30,000	\$42.33	\$175.67	\$309.00	\$442.33	\$575.67	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$31,000	-	\$50.67	\$184.00	\$317.33	\$450.67	\$584.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$32,000	-	-	\$59.00	\$192.33	\$325.67	\$459.00	\$592.33	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$33,000	-	-	-	\$67.33	\$200.67	\$334.00	\$467.33	\$600.67	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$34,000	-	-	-	-	\$75.67	\$209.00	\$342.33	\$475.67	\$609.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$35,000	-	-	-	-	-	\$84.00	\$217.33	\$350.67	\$484.00	\$617.33	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$36,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$92.33	\$225.67	\$359.00	\$492.33	\$620.00	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$37,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$100.67	\$234.00	\$367.33	\$500.67	\$620.00	\$620.00
\$38,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$109.00	\$242.33	\$375.67	\$575.67	\$620.00
\$39,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$117.33	\$250.67	\$450.67	\$620.00
\$40,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$125.67	\$325.67	\$620.00
\$41,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$200.67	\$620.00
\$42,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$75.67

Nominate an outstanding volunteer for a Civic Honour

Nominations for Horowhenua District Council's Civic Honours Awards are now open.

The awards recognise local people and groups that have provided outstanding voluntary service and made a positive impact to the community.

Service categories include Community, Conservation, Cultural, Education, Recreation/Sport, Religion, and Social.

Nominations close on Friday 15 September and the Awards ceremony will be held on Tuesday 28 November at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton.

For more information, including the awards guidelines and criteria, and to download the nomination form, visit the Civic Honours Awards page on Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz. Printed copies are available at Council's customer service centres at its Civic building at 126 Oxford Street, Levin, at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and the Foxton and Shannon community libraries.

Apply for a Horowhenua Youth Excellence Scholarship

Nominations for Youth Excellence Scholarships offered by Horowhenua District Council are now open.

There are up to 12 scholarships available, awarded across four categories; Community Service, Excellence in Academia, Excellence in Art and Culture, and Excellence in Sport. Each scholarship is valued at \$250.

To be eligible, nominees must live in the Horowhenua District and be aged between 12 and 24 years-old.

Nominations close on Friday 15 September. Nomination forms can be filled out by the nominee themselves, provided it is signed by a support person such as a coach, teacher, instructor or team leader.

For more information, including the scholarship guidelines and criteria, and to download the nomination form, visit the Youth Excellence Scholarships page on Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz. Printed copies are available at Council's customer service centres at its Civic building at 126 Oxford Street, Levin, at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and the Foxton and Shannon community libraries.

Levin Landfill initiatives minimising odour

Initiatives to minimise odour from the Levin Landfill off Hokio Beach Road are working.

The landfill is fully lined, with the gas from the leachate collection chamber pumped to a new bio-filter containing bark, compost and lime, in which microorganisms remove at least 95% of the odorous bio-gases.

Previously the leachate drained into a storage pond and then pumped to the nearby wastewater treatment plant. However, the pond had been identified as a potential source of odour, so it was drained and decommissioned.

Council has also installed a new gas flare, pictured, which has a methane destruction efficiency of 99%. This not only minimises odour, but also prevents the adverse greenhouse gases emitting into the atmosphere.

Council's Environmental Engineer Ryan Hughes says the methane and other biogases are drawn into a series of wells and pipes under the rubbish in the landfill,



and then sucked into the flare and burnt-off. "That's the very basic and non-technical description," he said.

The new enclosed flare replaced an old 'candlestick' flare with an exposed flame that kept being extinguished by wind gusts, needing to be manually re-lit by landfill operators throughout the day.

Mr Hughes says the landfill operators, who are on site from 6am to 6pm daily, have noticed a significant reduction in odour.

"This is great to hear, as this is what we have been striving to do for the benefit of nearby residents and the environment," he said.

Horowhenua benefits from Government funding

Significant investment by Central Government into Horowhenua in recent weeks demonstrates high-level endorsement for local projects.

Last month the Ministry for the Environment announced grants of just over \$2 million from its Freshwater Improvement Fund for projects in the District, including:

- \$607,173 towards Council's \$1.2 million redevelopment of the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant irrigation system.
- \$600,000 to allow Council to purchase land by the Tokomaru Wastewater Treatment Plant for land-irrigation of treated wastewater, instead of discharging into a drain leading to the

Tokomaru River and into the Manawatu River. This will support Council's efforts to become the first council in the region, and among the first in New Zealand, to discharge all its territory's treated wastewater over land.

- \$842,750 for Lake Horowhenua Trust to put towards its \$1.685 million Water Quality Improvement Project. This aims to increase the body of cultural and scientific information about the quality and movement of groundwater within the catchment, assess and flush the stormwater system, establish a silt interceptor, shallow groundwater monitoring and implement two cultural monitoring programme activities.

Furthermore, in July the Ministry of Arts, Culture and Heritage announced it would grant \$1.026 million towards Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, completing the fundraising for the construction of the centre, to open this November.

Council's Chief Executive David Clapperton says that, in total, Horowhenua has just gained over \$3 million from third parties.

"The fact that Horowhenua is getting this funding support from Central Government is testament to the positive direction our District is taking and making happen."

District experiences fastest growth in decade

The Infometrics Quarterly Economic update has Horowhenua's economic growth at 4% - the District's fastest growth rate in more than a decade and well above the New Zealand growth rate of 2.8%.

The District is now the 11th fastest growing Local Government Territorial Authority. Horowhenua Economic Development Board Chair Cameron Lewis says the news is fantastic.

"We have turned a corner. The numbers are looking good. However, the most important thing in the report is that it says the growth is broad based across many sectors," he says.

Find the full story on the News pages of Council's website
www.horowhenua.govt.nz/news

	Horowhenua	New Zealand
GDP	↑ 4%	↑ 2.8%
House prices	↑ 22%	↑ 6.7%
Electronic card spend	↑ 9.6%	↑ 3.6%
Unemployment rate	↓ 6.7%	↓ 5%
Residential consents	↑ 30.2%	↑ 4.7%
Non-residential consents	↓ 9.6%	↑ 1.6%



What's happening

For further details and events visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events

19 Tuesday 19 September Public Meeting about Foxton Pools

7:30pm in the hall at Manawatu College, Ladys Mile, Foxton. Hosted by the Foxton Community Board, this public meeting will provide an information update about the future of the Foxton Pools. All welcome.

22 Friday 22 September Alzheimers NZ Memory Walk

10:00am at the Levin Adventure Park, Oxford St, and walk to Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Help Alzheimers Manawatu to raise awareness of dementia and local services available and to reduce the stigma. Register early and receive a free purple t-shirt to wear on the day. Contact Kate Malone on 06 357 9539 or free-phone 0800 004 001 or kate-manawatu@alzheimers.org.nz

27 Wednesday 27 September Pop Up Eats Horowhenua

5:00pm - 9:00pm at the Levin Mall carpark in front of Te Takeretanga o Kura-

hau-pō. This monthly food market offers access to the great food-truck food and live entertainment. This is an iconic foodie event that celebrates Horowhenua's multiculturalism through food. Proudly brought to you by Horowhenua District Council every fourth Wednesday of the month. For updates, visit Council's Facebook page www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC

1 Sunday 1 October Sing Body and Soul Concert

2:00pm at the Masonic Hall, Power St extension off Parker Ave, Levin. Concert presented by the Sing Out Levin Choir and the Ukuladies of Levin. All welcome. Free entry. For just \$5 per person, enjoy afternoon tea including sandwiches, cakes and slices, with proceeds to St John Horowhenua.



St John
Here for Life

Council Meetings

Foxton Community Board meeting

Monday 18 September at 6:00pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Ladys Mile, Foxton. All welcome.

Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee

Wednesday 20 September at 4:00pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Strategy Committee meeting

Wednesday 27 September at 4:00pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen (Mayor) **Wayne Bishop** (Deputy Mayor) **Ross Brannigan**



Ross Campbell **Neville Gimblett** **Barry Judd**



Victoria Kaye-Simmons **Jo Mason** **Christine Mitchell**



Piri-Hira Tukapua **Bernie Wanden**

Foxton Community Board



David Roache (Chair) **Tricia Metcalf** (Deputy Chair) **David Allan**



John Girling **Jenny Lundie**

2017 Community Fun Day

30 Saturday
30 September
10am-2pm **FREE ENTRY!**

Bring your family and friends to Levin Aquatic Centre for our annual community fun day.

There's something for everyone!

aquatics
HOROWHENUA



- Inflatables
- FREE Hydro-slide
- FREE BBQ
- FREE Zumba class (starts 10am)
- Live performances by local talent (starts 11am)
- FREE Instructor lead games and activities
- FREE Face painting
- FREE Bouncy Castles



WOW WORLD OF WEARABLEART

2pm Matinee

\$195 per person

Includes:
Escorted return bus travel,
Premium ticket

8 October 2017
Depart Levin 11am
Return Levin 9pm



Register your interest at Levin iSITE
06 366 0848
visitorinfo@tetakere.org.nz

*Stop at Fishermans Table for dinner (extra cost)