

Community Connection



Mayor Michael Feyen

Message from the Mayor

In recent weeks we have experienced some extreme weather and

flash flooding that hit parts of the District, particularly some properties in the Foxton area. I hope that life has returned to normal for you all.

Council is working hard to remedy the drainage and stormwater issues; but it is no easy fix. I thank all the Council officers and contractors who spend time out in all weather, whatever time of day or night, carrying out repairs and other work, and helping residents in need. We are focussed on finding solutions and positive outcomes for all.

Council recently consulted on the 2017/18 Annual Plan and I thank everyone who took the time and effort to put in submissions and speak at the hearings and deliberations. Your continued input is vital to ensure your needs are part of the overall decisions. It was particularly satisfying to have the Shared Pathways recommendation passed unanimously. I believe it will provide a springboard for other positive outcomes to benefit the local economy and tourism.

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Horowhenua's economy shifting into fourth gear

State highway upgrades north of Wellington is the catalyst expected to drive significant economic growth in Horowhenua, helping attract 8600 more people to the District and generate 3000 new jobs locally by 2036.

Horowhenua Economic Development Board chairperson Cameron Lewis says the District has already shown positive signs of growth. This is in anticipation to better access between Horowhenua and Wellington, including the new, recently-opened Kapiti Expressway.

Infometrics data recently released shows that 2016 saw Horowhenua's highest annual population growth since 2000. The population of 31,900 is up 1.6%, which Mr Lewis says is quite a turnaround compared to the District's previous average annual population growth of just 0.2%.

Overall growth is up 3.8% over the year to March 2017. Mr Lewis said this increase is significant, considering District growth has averaged only 0.1% per annum over the previous 10 years.

Furthermore, that growth is coming from sectors beyond Horowhenua's traditional

agricultural, forestry and farming base. Construction made up the largest contribution to employment growth in Horowhenua between 2015 and 2016, with the sector adding 111 jobs. The next largest contributor was manufacturing (42 jobs) followed by agriculture, forestry and fishing (38 jobs).

Total employment in Horowhenua averaged 10,326 in 2016, up 2.6% from a year earlier, which Mr Lewis said was another welcome trend, overcoming the negative job growth over the previous decade.

"The Economic Development Board's goal is to promote Horowhenua as a more attractive destination for business and investment. With the new Kapiti Expressway and the impending Transmission Gully development, Horowhenua will be less than an hour's driving time from Wellington. With a young, growing and stable local workforce, coupled with an affordable lifestyle, Horowhenua is well-placed to be a business hub to service the lower North Island," Mr Lewis said.

"The Infometrics data highlights what we in Horowhenua are already noticing; that our District is well on its way to pick up speed."



Photo: Mark Coote

Bootcamps prove popular with kids

Around 400 Horowhenua children were put through bootcamps by Horowhenua District Council recently.

Council offered all schools and youth groups the opportunity to have free 'GoActive Kids Fitness Bootcamps', run by Council's Events Support Officer Emma Childs and Aquatics Programmes and Events Supervisor Greg Jackson.

Miss Childs said there was a good response with around 400 pupils in total participating in the bootcamps, held at Ohau School, Fairfield School, Levin North School, St Joseph's Catholic School, Levin Intermediate School, and for the Shannon Youth Group.

Each session began with a 15-minute talk about GoActive Kids TRYathlons, outlining the three disciplines (swimming, cycling and running) that make up a triathlon, and how these relate to and can improve performance in other sports. This was followed by a 40-minute workout, with both individual and team activities.

Mr Jackson said that the bootcamps was a fun way to promote health and fitness to the kids, as well as inspire them to try a GoActive Kids TRYathlon.

"I loved interacting with the kids, having a laugh, while passing on some knowledge, coaching and guidance," he said.



Aquatics team member Greg Jackson challenged to a sprint race by Fairfield School pupils, pictured from left Fletcher Budd, Chris Brodie, River Kerehoma and Saxon Shine.

Information management staff members receive national awards



Ian Tate



Elisabeth Leighfield

Horowhenua District Council's Information Manager Ian Tate has been named local government's Information and Records Management Leader of the Year.

Mr Tate received the award at the Association of Local Government Information Management's annual conference in Wellington late last month.

Mr Tate received the award for his leadership in inspiring his team to new heights, reducing the average LIM report turnaround time by nine and-a-half days down to just half-a-day, and helping improve archiving and documentation processes at the Council.

Group Manager Business Services Group Manager Nicki Brady nominated Mr Tate for the award, recognising the value he has brought to the organisation.

"His ability to identify ideas, add value to customers, back and believe in his team, enabling them to deliver solutions that turn their ideas into reality, is noted regularly," she said.

"Our organisation and community is lucky to have such a dedicated man driving the IM bus. His safe hands on the wheel keep us grounded, but always aware of where we are going, why we are going, and what we can expect when we get there."

In addition to Mr Tate's award, Council's Spatial Analyst and Applications Developer Elisabeth Leighfield received the GIS Professional Development Award. GIS (geographic information system) covers how data is captured, analysed, and presented, to help Council staff in their work to help the communities and public.

ALGIM's CEO Mike Manson said the awards are about promoting the best talent that New Zealand's councils have to offer, and that Mr Tate has exemplified the expertise needed in the management of information and records.

"The amount of data our councils have to deal with is constantly increasing, and utilising technology is making this easier, but we still need excellent leaders in place to ensure this information is handled well. The nomination for Ian made it clear that not only did he have an innovative approach to the technical aspect of the job, he also inspired his team, and that's exactly what a leader should do," Mr Manson said.

ALGIM serves the entirety of the New Zealand Local Government ICT sector, with all 78 councils as members. The Annual ALGIM Awards highlight the best and innovative projects in New Zealand local government to further develop the sector as a global leader in information management.

Council excited to partner with preferred Community Housing Provider

Horowhenua District Council selected a preferred stock transfer partner for its community housing portfolio at a Council meeting on Tuesday 23 May 2017.

Chief Executive David Clapperton says the Council is excited by the prospects of partnering with the preferred provider that will deliver sustainable pensioner housing solutions to the community long-term.

“Council and the preferred provider are currently working through commercial terms including all required due diligence works. This is expected to be concluded over an eight-week period, at which time the preferred provider will be announced publicly,” he said.

“Council wishes to reassure residents and the wider community, that the portfolio will

be retained for pensioner housing delivery, provided with an enhanced level of social wrap-around and pastoral services.”

Mr Clapperton says that Council believes the preferred provider will offer a number of wider benefits to existing residents, community and the wider District in ensuring the long-term sustainable delivery of pensioner and community housing.

The written conditions of any sale and purchase agreement include that all properties will be retained as community housing, ensuring existing tenants can stay in their units. They will also ensure the same or better level of service that Council is currently providing tenants with. Therefore, the existing rights and benefits of tenants will not change. In fact, they should improve.

Mr Clapperton said the level of community housing need in Horowhenua will only grow over time, and the service currently being delivered by Council is not sustainable in the medium-to-long term, without significant operational and capital expenditure being made.

“I also wish to reassure that Council, through its policies and regulations, will continue its leadership role, and advocate for and help facilitate the supply of community housing in Horowhenua District,” he said.

“Council wants to ensure that community housing in Horowhenua remains accessible and affordable, and is also connected to services that enhance social connectedness and wellbeing.”

Have your say on the expressway

The Ōtaki to north-of-Levin expressway will accommodate expected future traffic volumes and support the growth of Horowhenua’s communities and the wider region.

The expressway will form part of the Wellington Northern Corridor and is a Roads of National Significance project.

It is forecast that this will help attract 8600 more people and generate 4900 new homes and 3000 jobs in Horowhenua by 2036.

The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is carrying out two rounds of consultation to determine the location of the expressway, interchanges, cycle and walking pathways. The first round of consultation is now underway.

Have your say at a public session

Event	Location	Date	Time
Family Fun Day	Levin Adventure Park, Levin	Saturday 10 June	9:30am - 4pm
Ōhau Market	Ōhau Public Hall, Muhunoa Road West, Ōhau	Saturday 17 June	9am - 1pm
Drop-in Information Session	Poroutawhao Community Hall, 800 State Highway 1, Poroutawhao	Thursday 22 June	3pm - 7pm
Drop-in Information Session	Levin RSA, 32 Bristol Street, Levin	Friday 23 June	4pm - 8pm

Every Thursday in June, an NZTA officer will be at Horowhenua District Council’s office at 126 Oxford Street, Levin; available to talk with anyone who wishes to drop in for a chat about the project.

NZTA will use public feedback alongside technical information and come back to talk with the community again later this year.

During this second round of consultation, NZTA expects it will have a better idea of where the alignment of the expressway may be.

NZTA will make a recommendation to its Board early next year.

Want to know more? Visit nzta.govt.nz and keyword search for Levin.



Public Notices

Rating Information Database

Horowhenua District Council advises that the Rating Information Database is available to inspect, pursuant to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

For each property the database lists:

- Indicative rateable value
- Location
- Legal description
- Rating codes applicable for 2016/17

The Rating Information Database is available to inspect at Council's main office at 126 Oxford Street during opening hours from Monday to Friday between 8:00am and 5:00pm. It is also available on Council's website on the Rating Database page.

Council staff members are happy to assist with requests for information. Please phone 06 366 0999 or email to rates@horowhenua.govt.nz

What's happening

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

8 Thursday 8 June Sue Nicholson - Answers from the Other Side

7:00pm – 9:30pm at Te Takere, Levin. Sensing Murder series star Sue Nicholson presents her live show, showcasing her gift of being able to create a communication link between the living and those who have passed over to the spirit world. Through this interaction, she is able to deliver messages to loved ones and help them reach a sense of peace, in her compassionate and uplifting style. *Tickets cost \$64.95, available via Eventfinda. For more info, phone 06 368 1953.*

17 Saturday 17 June Ōhau Monthly Market

9:00am - 1.00pm at the Ōhau Hall, Muhunua Road West, Ōhau. More than 40 stalls including arts, crafts, baby knits, baking, giftware, plants, pickles, jams and locally-grown vegetables. To have a stall, they cost \$16 for inside the hall or \$11 for outside. *If you are a musician, craftsperson, fundraising, have a certified food or coffee truck, contact the market manager Sandra Collins on 027 770 7757 or davidsandra@me.com*

18 Sunday 18 June Grandmothers' Secrets

12:30pm in the Chambers at Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. An elegant afternoon tea and fashion parade of Victorian and Edwardian undergarments. This is a Friends of Horowhenua Libraries fundraiser, with proceeds to be shared between library projects and Arohanui Hospice's new Levin premises.

The parade includes 14 pieces from Arohanui Hospice volunteer Gaye Fell's personal collection of Victorian nightwear and undergarments, most made more than 120 years ago by a family member. Other highlights include a special visit by 'Queen Victoria' and raffles (cash-only tickets) including the prize of an overnight stay in Wellington. *Tickets cost \$25 each (no door sales), available from Diane on 06 368 5545.*

28 Wednesday 28 June Pop Up Eats Horowhenua

5:00pm – 9:00pm at the Levin Mall carpark in front of Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Pop Up Eats Horowhenua is a new monthly food market

offering access to the great food-truck food and live entertainment. This will be 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.

30 Friday 30 June In Vogue in the Village

7:00pm at the Mangaore Hall, Mangahou Road, Shannon. Head along for a night of dancing, good food and fine company in Horowhenua. Experience the Mangaore Hall taken back to the roaring 1920's, with guests arriving in Great Gatsby glamour. Receive a cocktail on arrival, and then cocktail bar will be available (cash only). Canapes will be served. Live music by the Andrew London Trio to accompany the dancing. *This is a not-for-profit community event. Tickets cost \$65, available online (no door-sales) at www.eventbrite.com.au. Tickets are strictly limited, so get in quick. For more information and updates, visit www.facebook.com/invogueinthevillage or contact Kristy on 021 191 3231.*

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

21 Wednesday 21 June at 4:00pm in Chambers, 126 Oxford St, Levin.

Foxton Community Board

26 Monday 26 June at 6:00pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Ladys Mile, Foxton.

Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and Strategy Committee

28 Wednesday 28 June. FAR at 5:00pm and Strategy at 7:00pm in Chambers, at Council, 126 Oxford St, Levin.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen (Mayor) **Wayne Bishop** (Deputy Mayor) **Bernie Wanden**



Ross Brannigan **Barry Judd** **Ross Campbell**



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



Neville Gimblett **Piri-Hira Tukapua**

Foxton Community Board



David Roache (Chair) **Tricia Metcalf** (Deputy Chair) **John Girling**



Jenny Lundie **David Allan**