



Michael Feyen

Message from the Mayor

Well, it's only two and-a-half weeks until Christmas Day - a busy time for many.

It's been an eventful year, including changes and some challenges, and also a lot to be proud of and look forward to in the coming year.

We all know that Horowhenua is a fantastic District and our population has a wonderful mix of communities. But no matter what your cultural or religious beliefs may or may not be, Christmas is a time for harmony, respect and understanding for all. Let's all live by this and show the true spirit and values of Christmas.

Do take the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, relax and have fun over the festive season. Head out and explore our District and the variety of lifestyle and recreational opportunities it has to offer.

This is the last Community Connection message from me for the year, so I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

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Tsunami info signs for coastal settlements

Tsunami information signs are to be installed at Horowhenua's coastal settlements in the next month as part of ongoing awareness-raising and education.

Tsunami Information Guide brochures are being made available in the Foxton, Waitarere, Hokio and Waikawa beach communities. The brochures outline what a tsunami is, tsunami types, the signs and warnings, what to consider in a household emergency plan, as well as where to find more information.

Recent GNS Science research shows that tsunamis could potentially be 50 per cent larger than previously estimated on the lower-west coast of the North Island.

Horowhenua Emergency Management Advisor Ross Brannigan said while the likelihood of a tsunami was still low, the

tsunami waves from a regional source could potentially be up to six metres high, rather than the previous maximum of four metres. A local source tsunami could produce even larger waves.

"This makes a big difference on the amount of inundation inland. While the overall risk is still low, it is higher in terms of consequences. This is something we have to accept and prepare for. The recent events in Kaikoura and Hurunui should remind us how susceptible we are," Mr Brannigan said.

For more info, visit www.getthru.govt.nz or pick up a free copy of the Horowhenua Emergency Planning Guide from Council service centres.

Remember, what 'never happens' happens. What would you do? Find out on page two.



Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association member Sharon Fairburn and Horowhenua Emergency Management Advisor Ross Brannigan with one of the tsunami information signs to be installed at Waitarere Beach.

Natural warning signs of a local-source tsunami

For a local-source tsunami which could arrive within minutes, there may not be time for an official warning. Therefore it is important that people in coastal communities recognise the natural warning signs:

- A strong earthquake (one that's hard to stand up in).
- A weak rolling or shaking earthquake of unusually-long duration (ie: one minute or more).
- Out-of-the-ordinary sea behavior, such as sudden sea level rise or fall and/or unusual sounds coming from the sea.

In this case, people in coastal communities should immediately move to a designated safe zone or as far inland as possible, and wait for the official all clear from the local civil defence authority.



Who is the local Civil Defence authority?

Following an earthquake, tsunami warning or any other natural disaster, people in Horowhenua should follow the instructions of local civil defence authority Horowhenua District Council. For instructions, advice and updates, people should:

- Follow Council's Facebook page www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC and website www.horowhenua.govt.nz. People can also follow the regional civil defence emergency management page www.facebook.com/CivilDefenceManawatuWanganui
- Listen to national network radio stations or local radio station Beach FM on 106.3 FM.
- Share the information, instructions and updates with family, neighbours and friends.

Creative Communities Committee nominations invited

The Horowhenua Creative Communities Committee is seeking nominations for new members.

The committee meets at least twice each year to consider and decide on funding applications lodged under the Horowhenua Creative Communities Grant Scheme, funded by Creative New Zealand.

Members include Horowhenua District Councillors, as well as community representatives from performing arts, fine arts, music and cultural arts backgrounds.

Three members of the existing committee have recently retired by rotation, but all are eligible to seek reappointment alongside public nominations. Committee members serve for a period of up to three years and may serve for only two consecutive periods.

Nomination forms are available from Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz and from the Council office in Levin at 126 Oxford Street, Levin. The nomination period remains open until 5:00 Friday 27 January 2017.

'Placemaking' projects opportunity

Horowhenua District Council wants to hear from creative people who are keen to produce a local placemaking project.

And, there's a chance that the Council will pay to help make it happen.

Funding applications for the Horowhenua Vibrant Communities Grant are now open. Up to \$10,000 is available to successful applicants. The total grant can be split up to three ways, and not necessarily equally-divided.

The Vibrant Community Grant's theme changes from year-to-year, with the current theme being placemaking.

Horowhenua District Council Community Development Advisor Joshua Wharton said that applications are also open for creative interpretations, and can be word documents, videos, audio files, sketches or some other medium.

Mr Wharton said they can be activities, programmes, installations or other developments, but must occur in a public space in the Horowhenua District and reflect the identity of the local area.

He said effective placemaking projects attract attention of the public and achieve interaction in a fun, interesting or stimulating way; also contributing to a sense of community.

Horowhenua Vibrant Communities Grant applications are invited from individuals, groups and organisations from within or outside the District. The applications period closes on Monday 30 January.

For further information, criteria and to apply, visit the [Pride and Vibrancy](#) page on Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz



Deeper bores may fix water clarity issues

There may be an end in sight to water clarity issues that some Foxton and Foxton Beach residents experience.

Council's Water and Waste Services Manager Paul Gaydon says deeper bores may possibly be the long-term solution.

Currently, Council sources water for the Foxton and Foxton Beach town supplies from bores approximately 200 metres deep. However, that bore water has a high organic content and a high ammonia content, requiring a higher level of treatment and higher dose of chlorine to disinfect.

Mr Gaydon said of the options identified, he favoured investigating the potential of 400 metre-deep bores to reach "different aquifers with better-quality source water".

"At the moment we're taking water of lower quality and then having to do a higher level of treatment to make it acceptable, whereas we could have top quality water to start with."

Mr Gaydon said there was no "instant miracle solution" to fix water clarity issues that some residents experience at times.

"Over the past eight months we've done a lot of investigation work to truly understand the problem, look at all the options

available, and then identify and implement the right solution to fix the problem once and for all. I think most people would think this is the prudent way to go."

Water clarity issues were also due to manganese, a naturally-occurring groundwater mineral that had built-up on the water mains pipes, and that had been dissolving and subsequently discolouring the water.

In August, the pH-level of the water in the supply was adjusted slightly to decrease its acidity and increase its alkalinity, helping stop the manganese building-up. In addition, the pipes were being flushed on a weekly basis to help remove the manganese.

"But this is treating only the symptoms and not the cause. However, all this work has helped get the pipes into pretty good condition actually; certainly a lot better than they were," Mr Gaydon said.

Further exploratory work and testing would now be carried out to investigate the viability and cost-estimates of 400 metre-deep bores for the water supplies, with findings



Council's Water and Waste Services Manager Paul Gaydon

reported back the Foxton Community Board early next year.

As an interim short-term measure, the Council was also looking at providing treated/filtered water from public water stations at Foxton and Foxton Beach, available for people to go and fill containers with crystal-clear drinking water. The locations of these drinking water stations was currently being considered.

'On-the-spot' with one of the contractors:

Evan Hicks - Operations Manager, Recreational Services

Recreational Services' Horowhenua operations manager Evan Hicks has found his happy place.

This is in Horowhenua - and back with the company with which he has spent half of his career.

Recreational Services has had Horowhenua District Council's Open Spaces Maintenance Contract since July 2015, looking after all reserve land, including parks, playgrounds, sportgrounds, cemeteries, public gardens, berms and even the grounds of Council's water and wastewater treatment plants.

Mr Hicks leads a team of 19 other staff, who he describes as a "very good crew".

"We're just as committed to Council's vision of 'working together to take Horowhenua from good to great', so we always strive for excellence," he said.

"It's all going well too. Nobody's perfect, but wherever we identify weaknesses we'll certainly make improvements to overcome them."

Having grown-up in Auckland, Mr Hicks went straight from high school into a sports turf apprenticeship with

Recreational Services in 1996, going on to work at venues such as North Harbour Stadium, Eden Park, Takapuna Golf Course and the Auckland Domain. Aside from a couple of stints away, he worked for Recreational Services for a total of eight and-a-half years, followed by two years as a Sports Turf Advisor with Auckland Council, before moving to Horowhenua in June 2015.

"The opportunity to work for Recreational Services again, with its new contract here, was too good to pass up."

Mr Hicks is delighted that he and his wife and their three children, with one on the way, are now living in Horowhenua.

"It's fantastic; we love it here. It's also great being able to afford to buy a house, which is something we couldn't do in Auckland," he said.



"We enjoy taking the kids and the dog out to enjoy the scenic reserves around here too - they are magic natural spaces - and I'm proud to play a part in helping present them in the best-possible way for the benefit of the community."

For more about Recreational Services, visit www.rs.kiwi.nz





**SUNDAY
11 DEC
2016**

**Christmas Market
10 – 4 pm**

**Fun & games
10am – 12.30pm**

**Christmas Parade
1 – 2 pm**

Horowhenua

What's happening

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

Now until Saturday 14 January Peace in 10,000 Hands

Open hours at Te Takere, Levin. Peace in 10,000 Hands is Te Takere's largest exhibition to date. It is an evocative and breathtaking photographic experience that brings together humankind from all walks of life (including A-list celebrities).

The global art project is the creation of New Zealand-born artist Stu Robertson, and involves documenting a single white rose, an ancient symbol of peace, held in the hands of 10,000 people from every country and walk of life. The Peace in 10000 Hands exhibition at Te Takere runs until Saturday 14 January. Free admission.

08 Thursday 8 December Thursday Night Street Feast

5:00pm - 9:00pm in the Levin Mall carpark in front of Te Takere. A variety of gourmet dishes available from a selection of high-end food trucks. This monthly pop-up global food village demonstrates the power of food to bring a community together. All welcome.

11 Sunday 11 December Community Christmas Carnival and Levin Christmas Parade

Carnival from 10:00am - 4:00pm at the Levin Mall carpark in front of Te Takere. Parade 1:00pm in Levin town centre. Enjoy a family-friendly day out with live entertainment, gourmet food trucks, and a market providing an opportunity to buy unique Christmas presents. There will be fun and games across the road at the Levin Aquatic Centre. The Levin Christmas Parade will start at 1:00pm. Floats will start on Durham Street, turning left on Oxford Street along to Stanley Street, left onto Salisbury Street and disperse from the intersection joining Salisbury Street and Bath Street. Come and join in the festivities.

17 Saturday 17 December Ohau Monthly Market

9:00am - 1:00pm at the Ohau Hall, Muhunua Road West, Ohau. 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, fundraiser, have a certified food or coffee truck, contact the market manager Nadia Watson on 022 068 7861 or oliveapple@gmail.com

18 Sunday 18 December Shannon Christmas Carnival and Parade

9:00am - 3:00pm at the Shannon Domain. This event will have a country theme, including a petting zoo and shearing demonstration. There will be plenty of free children's activities such as bouncy castles, barrel train rides, face painting and lollies. All children 8 years and under will visit Father Christmas in his cave and will receive a free gift. We have entertainment all day on the stage alongside a Children's Talent Quest that we are re-introducing this year. Come and enjoy a vast range of stalls selling their wares and various food stall holders. We are still seeking more stall holders. For more information, contact Kate on 027 405 5236 or katedrummond@yahoo.com

26 Sunday 26 February Behind the Hedges - A Country Lifestyle Trail

10.00am to 4.00pm. Enjoy a pleasant day out in the countryside, exploring eight lifestyle properties showcasing the best of rural Horowhenua. Following on from sold-out events of 2013 and 2015, Behind the Hedges 2017 is being run by Koputaroa School as a fundraiser. Tickets \$30, Pre-paid picnic lunches are available. Visit www.behindthehedges.org

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

 Wednesday 7 December at 4:00pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Foxton Community Board

The last board meeting was on 21 November. There is no meeting scheduled for December.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen
(Mayor)

Ross Campbell
(Deputy Mayor)

Wayne Bishop



Ross Brannigan

Barry Judd

Bernie Wanden



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