



Mayor Michael Feyen

Message from the Mayor

On behalf of Council I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and

New Year, and that you will be in for a great 2017.

Council has been seeking community feedback on a plan of actions to improve the public reserves at Foxton Beach. Time is running out, with consultation on the Proposed Foxton Beach Reserves Investment Plan ending this Friday. Please take a look and let us know what you think.

There's a bit more time, until mid-March, to make submissions on the Draft Reserve Management Plans for the Waitarere Beach foreshore, and the Beach Reserves, as well as the Ohau River Reserves. In May-June last year the Council called for community input and suggestions on how these reserves might be used, managed and/or developed in the future. We then drafted new management plans and these are available now for the public to view and have their say on.

Visit the Consultation page of Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz

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- How to check your property for water leaks
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Unique opportunity to visit water and wastewater treatment plants

We are offering a unique opportunity for people to visit Levin's water and wastewater treatment plants.

There will be an open day at the plants on Saturday 11 February, but people wanting to go must pre-book a seat on the bus that we have arranged, leaving Levin's town centre at 10am and 1pm.

The open day may appeal to anyone interested in science, engineering and technology, as well as any residents interested in where their water comes from and wastewater goes to, including:

- The journey the water takes before it comes through your taps
- How the water is treated to make it safe to drink

- How wastewater is treated before it is discharged to the environment
- The technology and manpower required

The Levin Water Treatment Plant is located on Gladstone Road and the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant is located near the end of Mako Mako Road.

People wanting to attend the open day will need to travel by bus that will leave from the Bath Street bus stop outside Te Takere. To catch the bus you will need to book your seats by emailing comms@horowhenua.govt.nz with the number of people, whether you want to catch the 10am or 1pm bus, as well as your contact details. Otherwise, call 06 368 0999 or pop into the Council office at 126 Oxford Street, Levin. The return trip will take approximately three hours. Children are welcome to attend but must be accompanied by an adult. Closed footwear must be worn.

Consent numbers continue to rise

Increases in both resource and building consent applications that started early 2016 continued through to the end of the year.

There were 99 resource consents issued for the six months to 31 December, compared to 73 for the same period in the previous year. Of the 99 resource consents, 41 were for new sub-divisions. This was another significant increase, considering there were 32 for the entire previous 12 month period.

Likewise, the increased level of activity in building consents continues. There were 109 new house consents issued in the six months to 31 December, compared with 81 for the same period the previous year.

The value of consents issued in those six months was \$45,734,491, compared to the \$32,447,486 in the previous year. Council building officers also conducted 2074 inspections in the six months to 31 December.

Customer and Regulatory Services Manager Mike Lepper says the level of activity shows no sign of slowing down either, with the resource and building consent figures at their highest level since 2008/09.

“Whilst staff in the building and consents teams are under some pressure, they are working extremely hard and everything possible is being done to ensure the needs of our customers are met,” Mr Lepper said.

Council welcomes news that Foxton and Shannon will receive Ultra-Fast Broadband

Horowhenua District Council welcomes news that Foxton and Shannon is to receive Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB), providing residents and businesses with faster and better-quality internet connection.

The Government yesterday announced that phase two of its UFB Rural Broadband Initiative

programme will extend to an additional 151 towns and 43 suburban fringe areas located around the larger centres covered by the first phase of the programme, including Levin.

Phase two will start in 2017 and be completed between 2018 and 2024.

UFB uses fibre-optic cables and can typically provide download speeds of up to 100 Mbps (megabits per second) and, in some areas, up to 1000 Mbps.

Following Levin’s inclusion in phase one of the programme, Horowhenua District Council has since 2015 been campaigning for Foxton and Shannon and surrounding communities to be included.

District Mayor Michael Feyen says that the Council, through our Digital Enablement

Plan, continues to take significant steps to improve the digital awareness and capability of local communities and the business sector, to address current needs and also those over the foreseeable future.

“Horowhenua is already experiencing strong economic growth. The deployment of improved broadband through

government and private sector initiatives will enable businesses, particularly professional services and small enterprises to flourish. In turn, this will attract more businesses to the District.”

“Building and strengthening capability across the District will widen economic prosperity, social wellbeing and drive education equality.”

Mayor Feyen says that the Council perceives high-speed internet as a key enabler to drive business and community outcomes.

He said that UFB capability in Levin has been a huge contributor to the social integration and interconnectivity across the town.

“For example, Te Takere supports multiple digital literacy initiatives and enables access to the internet for a range of groups including older people, socially-isolated people, youth and jobseekers.



Helen Hayes

On the spot with one of the staff: Helen Hayes, Community Development Advisor

Helen Hayes has been a Council staff member for just over a year, employed as one of two part-time Website Officers in the Communications team, arriving just in time to help with the major redevelopment of Council’s website.

Last October she transferred to the Community Development team, into a full-time role as Community Development Advisor.

Helen and her family moved to Horowhenua after emigrating from South Africa in July 2015.

“I feel hugely fortunate to have been able to move to New Zealand and consider

myself very lucky to have landed-up living in Levin. It’s a very welcoming community and Horowhenua is an exquisitely beautiful part of the country,” she said.

After graduating with her Social Science Degree almost 20 years ago, Helen did the “obligatory antipodean stint in the United Kingdom”, before completing her Post Graduate Diploma in Management at the University of Cape Town.

Helen’s first job was as a marketing coordinator for Felix Unite Tourism Group. She then worked for several years at Rhodes University as a marketer and fundraiser for its journalism school, and later for the community engagement division.

Whilst working at Rhodes University,

Helen completed her Honours Degree in Anthropology and began working as a development consultant and project manager for MXA Consultants and the Angus Gillis Foundation.

When Helen’s son was diagnosed with Autism, she channelled her personal and professional energies into the management of Autism Western Cape, an NGO supporting and advocating for families affected by a diagnosis.

Before relocating to New Zealand, Helen worked in marketing, fundraising and community development within education sector at Rhodes University and Southern Cross Schools.

“I am thrilled to be working within the development sector again and for the opportunity to work alongside the wealth of motivated community organisations we have in our district.”

How to check your property for water leaks

Summer is an ideal time to check for water leaks within your property.

Identifying water leaks is a simple task that can greatly benefit you and the community. For many properties, water leaks may not be obvious but can cause aesthetic damage or even compromise the structural integrity of the property. If your property's water supply is metered, it may also result in high water-use charges. Community benefits include reducing demand on water supplies and treatment processes; overall creating savings and efficiencies.

So, how can you help?

If your property does not have a meter, to check for signs of a water leak:

1. Trace the route from your toby to where the pipe enters the house and check for wet areas or obvious leaks from fittings and connections;
2. If you come across standing or running water and you are not sure if it is a leak, you can get a free test kit with instructions from Council's main office in Levin. This is a simple test that requires a sample of water, the test kit sachet and a few minutes of time. If the water turns pink, then you have a water leak and you may want to contact a plumber.

If your property is metered, there is a simple five minute 'cup of tea/coffee' test that can be carried out at a time most convenient to you:

1. Walk around the house and make sure all taps are turned off and all water using machines (dishwashers, washing machines, etc) are not operating; then make a cup of tea or coffee.
2. Locate the blue water meter lid on the footpath, lift it up and write down the time and reading on the meter inside;
3. Sit down and relax for five minutes while you enjoy a cup of tea or coffee;
4. Re-read your water meter, taking note of the reading and time again. If the numbers have changed then you might have a water leak and you may want to contact a plumber. If you are unsure, Council's water services staff can come and double check it for you.



For more information, visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/services/water

Recreational Services awarded highest certification after audit

Recreational Services' depot in Horowhenua has been awarded the highest certification from Enviro-Mark Solutions, the leading provider of environmental certification in New Zealand.

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, trees and litter bins.

In December the company's Horowhenua depot participated in Enviro-Mark's environmental certification

programme and achieved Diamond certification, which exceeds the requirements of the world's best-known environmental standard. Furthermore, the depot finished with no corrective actions required.

Recreational Services' Horowhenua depot becomes its sixth to attain Diamond certification from Enviro-Mark.

Senior Manager Parks Damon Brown said that this demonstrates that Recreational Services has a "strong environmental performance culture, a robust and comprehensive system and a focus on continuous improvement".

"Enviro-Mark's environmental management system is a five-step programme that has helped Recreational Services to identify and reduce their

environmental impacts, reduce costs, and understand legal obligations."

Mr Brown said the Horowhenua community can be ensured that Recreational Services is in full support of the Council's vision of 'working together to take Horowhenua District from good to great'.



In Horowhenua, some of the initiatives that Operations Manager Evan Hicks and the team at Recreational Services have introduced include:

- Implemented trials on summer season grasses to improve performance on high-wear turf areas and reduce reliance on irrigation.
- Purchased an entire fleet of new trucks that are the lowest-emission type in the country for conventional diesel vehicles.
- Supported over 16 community projects that encourage the use of parks and add value for Horowhenua people and the local environment.

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

Horowhenua District growth underway

Horowhenua District growth - previously stagnant for at least a decade - is showing signs of the anticipated comeback.

Economic Development Board chairperson Cameron Lewis says this is already noticeable, with rising property values and sales, increasing building consent applications, healthy retail activity, unemployment rates dropping, and generally more interest in Horowhenua.

With SH1 upgrades reducing travel times to and from Wellington, Mr Lewis says Horowhenua is an attractive option, offering a strategic business location, affordable housing and great lifestyle opportunities.

"Businesses, particularly in the service and construction industries, are already seeing the opportunity. Because staff can afford home ownership here, they are willing to stay long-term, making the workforce far more stable. The overall payback for business is huge."

He said the growing economy is a winning situation for everyone in the community, including residents and ratepayers, as well as businesses and investors.

"There are not a lot of negatives and a lot to be excited about. I think we are in a great space."



Public Notices

Tararua Road – Temporary Water Supply Shutdown

Council advises all residents on Tararua Road between Gladstone Road and Arapaepae Road, Levin, that the water supply will be shut down for up to eight hours from 8:00am on Thursday 9 February. This shut-down is planned to allow pipe connection works to be done on the Tararua Road water main. As a result of this work, directly-affected residents are

advised to ensure adequate water is stored for use on the above date. Other customers west and towards the south of the Tararua Road – Arapaepae Road junction may experience low pressure during the works. We apologise for any inconvenience this work may cause. Enquiries may be made to Council on 06 366 0999 or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

What's happening

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

6 Monday 6 February Waitangi Day community celebrations

10:00am to 4:00pm at Muaupoko Park (Lake Horowhenua Domain), Levin. Muaupoko Iwi invite everyone to join-in this free whanau fun day and picnic. There will be entertainment, education, local talent, kaumatua tent, health and wellbeing, local music, tamoko, face-painting, kai stalls, candy floss, coffee truck, bouncy castles, and pony rides. Bus transport offered for a gold coin donation. The bus will leave at 9.30am from Hokio Beach, with stops at Te Takeretanga o Kurahaupo, Shannon, Foxton Beach, Foxton, and Waitarere Beach, before heading to Muaupoko Park. The return bus trip will leave at 2pm from Muaupoko Park. *Enquiries to Keri Hori Te Pa on 027 5455 461.*

11 Saturday 11 February Ye Olde Medieval Market

9:00am to 4:00pm at the Levin AP&I Showgrounds, Victoria Street, Levin. "Hear Ye, Hear Ye. On the eleventh day of February in the year of our Lord 2017, madness, mayhem and merriment will take place at Ye Olde Medieval Market. From Grand Melee and Horse Combat to wandering bards and

minstrels, ye olde Medieval Market will once again provide entertainment for young and old. Paper sword battles, shield painting, unicorn rides and candy floss for ye urchins and rascals; trinkets, treasures and feasting aplenty for ye villagers and visiting gentry. Watch out for wicked wenches, men in tights and belly dancers. A cornucopia of crafts and fine wares for sale, with all-day entertainment and a wonderful family atmosphere. Come one, come all and help us celebrate 25 years of ye olde Medieval Market. Whatever the weather it's on." Entry is \$5 per person, with under-15s free. Gate sales only. *For information and updates, visit the Medieval Market's page on Facebook.*

19 Sunday 19 February 'Super Cheap Auto' Spectacular Car Show

10:00am to 1:00pm at the Shannon Domain. Hosted by the Shannon Progressive Association, the annual show provides a fundraising opportunity also for other local groups such as the Shannon Volunteer Fire Brigade, Shannon School, Playcentre, Kohanga Reo, and local churches. Levin Super Cheap Auto has provided a range of prizes. Last year saw over 500 vehicles on

display, attracting several thousand spectators. There will be a range of food trucks and stalls. Entry is \$2 per person. *To display a car, book a stall site or for further information, contact SPA Secretary Janette Campbell on 027 253 3955, 06 362 7872 or at owlcatraz@xtra.co.nz*

26 Sunday 26 February Behind the Hedges 2017

10:00am to 4:00pm. Horowhenua's popular country trail will showcase eight lifestyle properties, of which seven are throughout the greater Levin area and one in Manakau. These include a woodland garden, an eclectic cottage garden, and a 'Marsden Cross' formal garden. Some properties will also feature local entertainment, food and stalls with local products, flowers, plants and raffles. The event is a Koputaroa School fundraiser. Tickets cost \$30 and are available to purchase online at the Behind the Hedges website www.behindthehedges.org. Gourmet picnic lunches, either meat-lovers or vegetarian, can also be pre-ordered for \$20 each.

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

1 Wednesday 1 February at 4:00pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Foxton Community Board

20 Monday 20 February at 6:30pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Lady's Mile, Foxton. All welcome.

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