



Uplift

HOROWHENUA

Cover photography by Oliver Parrant

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Upcoming Community Meetings

Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee

 4pm, Wednesday
21 March 2018


Foxton Community Board

 6pm, Monday
26 March 2018


Strategy

 4pm, Wednesday
4 April 2018

Community Wellbeing Committee

 1pm, Tuesday
10 April 2018

Council

 4pm, Wednesday
18 April 2018

With Regards,

James Richmond
Sam Hutcheson
Helen Hayes
Joshua Wharton
Sophie Parrant
Gloria Forouzandeh

Welcome

The Horowhenua summer was packed with events, activities and opportunities to enjoy all our District has to offer, and autumn promises to be just as much fun.

This issue of Uplift takes you for a spin through some of the cool things that have been happening, and what's coming up ...

Aquatics Horowhenua celebrate a successful series of Let's Move Together events, which tempted families across the District out for an energetic day of free games, activities and movement! And that's not all Aquatics is up to – the team has a whole lot more fun lined up for autumn, as well as an innovative programme to help children in rural schools learn to be safe in the water.

For those who are keen on bikes, skateboards or scooters, the Foxton Beach Pump Track is now open. There's a circuit to suit you whatever your age and ability.

We farewell Jack Allen House and check out the facilities at the new Community Hub, as well as taking a look at what's been happening at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom since it opened in November last year.

Liam McLeavey tells us about his experiences as a representative on the Minister of Education's Youth Advisory Group, and we catch up with the latest from Youth Voice and Youth Space.

Plus, there are strategy and forum updates, info on opportunities to receive training and community grants, upcoming events and help with tackling mental illness.

We hope you enjoy reading it.



Horowhenua families get moving together

The Let's Move Together family fun day events in February saw more than 300 people getting involved in triathlons, fun games, or just enjoying some time out in the sunshine with their families.

The events offered free activities for the whole family, including scooter races, games, bouncy castles, egg and spoon races, a fun run, a children's triathlon, and much more.

Let's Move Together was organised by Aquatics Horowhenua and supported by Sport Manawatu, which supplied free bicycles for triathlon participants who didn't own one, and NZME, which ran a sausage sizzle.

"The local schools, iwi, youth groups and Elected Members all got behind it too. It was a real community event," said Josh Wharton, Aquatics Horowhenua's Programme and Events Supervisor.

In line with the community focus, three events were held – in Shannon, Levin and Foxton. The Shannon event was particularly popular, attracting more than 150 people.

Mr Wharton said he was delighted with Let's Move Together's success.

"We wanted to encourage families to get outdoors and enjoy activities together, and we achieved that.

Everyone was out participating, being active, meeting new people and having fun," he said.

Mr Wharton attributed part of the success of Let's Move Together to its philosophy of offering all activities free, including participation in the triathlon.

"We made this year's events free to enter so they would be more accessible for everyone in the community to attend without added stress. It gave people an opportunity to try things that they might not have been able to otherwise. For example, 50 of the participants in the triathlon events had never competed before, which was great to see," he said.

The popular triathlon event consisted of a swim, a cycle and a run, and was open to children aged between five and thirteen years.

"The triathlon gave children a chance to develop their potential and build confidence, as well as being a great way to have fun, keep fit and make new friends," said Mr Wharton.

All participants enjoyed a goodie bag, spot prizes, a free swim at one of the three local pools, and a sausage to fill their stomach after all the outdoor activity.

"We hope to grow the event again next year, and to see more smiling faces enjoying getting active," Mr Wharton said.

HOLLIE SMITH



TICKETS
\$40 PRESALE
\$50 DOOR SALES

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Te Takeretanga o
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**8PM FRI
18 MAY**

Te Takeretanga o
Kura-hau-pō,
10 Bath Street, Levin



**Horowhenua Culture
& Community Centre**

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Horowhenua 
DISTRICT COUNCIL

A voice for Horowhenua youth on education



At the end of last year, I was humbled to be appointed by the Minister of Education, the Hon. Chris Hipkins, to be part of his Ministerial Youth Advisory Group.



“The purpose of the group is to provide Minister Hipkins and his officials free and frank advice on all things education.”

Out of over 120 applications from talented young people across New Zealand, I was selected by the Minister along with 12 other amazing young people. I am also the only member based in the Manawatu-Wanganui region.

The Ministerial Youth Advisory Group was established by the former National Government Minister of Education, the Hon. Nikki Kaye. The purpose of the group is to provide Minister Hipkins and his officials free and frank advice on all things education.

The inaugural meeting of the group took place on the 8th and 9th of February in Wellington. We met at Ministry of

Education National Office for the first time and built those important relationships with other members of the Youth Advisory Group and Ministry staff.

The group also met with the Minister of Education in his Ministerial Office in the Beehive and we had discussions on a range of things relating to education. Topics included NCEA, the use of online digital assessment and student wellbeing in schools.

This is a very exciting time in education, and it truly is a privilege to represent the Horowhenua as a member of this Ministerial Youth Advisory Group for Education.

If you know a young person aged between 14-18 who wants to have their say on education, encourage them to join the Online Youth Forum which tests the perspectives of the Ministerial Youth Advisory Group.

You can register by visiting <https://pici.forms.education.govt.nz/pici009>

Liam McLeavey



There is a taboo around the topic of mental health and illnesses, but this needs to change. A study conducted by Calm Clinic shows that avoiding mental illnesses and refusing to acknowledge them can actually make them worse.

This quarter's wellbeing feature focuses on mental health and the importance of ensuring that everyone feels as if they have someone to talk to. Mental health is of utmost importance, and mustn't be simply dismissed.

Mental illness can appear in many different forms, and this is what makes it so difficult to recognise. One in five New Zealanders are said to have been diagnosed with a mental illness in the last year. These statistics prove that mental illness is all around us, and we need to stop backing away from the subject. There is a wide range of mental illnesses, including bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder, and depression. These can affect anyone, despite what is happening in their life.

You never know what someone else is going through. What may seem like something small to one person could mean the world to someone else. Being there for someone to talk to is what will make a difference. People shy away from the topic of mental health and illness all too often, and it is this taboo that makes the people who suffer feel too afraid to ask for help. Talking to someone who is suffering about what they're going through will show them that they shouldn't be embarrassed or afraid of their illness.

If you find yourself in a position where you are struggling, or you know someone who is struggling, reach out and find help. Let's start talking to each other, and really listening to what is being said. The best way to be there for someone who is struggling is to simply show your support.

Below are some key ways to support someone who has a mental illness:

1. Encourage them to speak to a professional.
2. Research and learn about the illness.
3. Understand that patience is required as they recover.
4. You have every right to seek support for yourself.
5. Have discussions with them about their illness and the recovery plan.

One thing everyone must remember, whether they themselves are suffering from a mental illness, or are supporting someone who is, you are never alone. Helplines and counselling are always available. Here in the Horowhenua district, we have services such as the Mental Health and Addiction Services Team, PeerTalk, and Healthline. These services are in place to listen and help people suffering from mental illnesses. Do not think that you have to face a mental illness alone.

Let's stop hiding from mental health and illnesses. Let's talk about it.

Passport to the World



This school holidays youth at Te Takere Youth Space were transported around the world. First stop, the United States of America.

Our program started with Beats and Basketball at the Adventure Park. Where Life To The Max, Levin Basketball Association and the Youth Development Team from the Horowhenua District Council all mucked in for a good time. Sixty members of the public enjoyed a sausage sizzle held by the Māori Basketball Team fundraising for Nationals and were stunned by the Slam Dunk competition.

One of the highlights of summer was the Rodeo Bull inside Te Takere Youth Space at the end of the school term. It was an intergenerational event. Staff, parents and young children all had a go. There were some cowboys and gals on the night. And let's just say, they make it look a lot easier in the movies because there were some funny-walking people after. All to the amusement of the public watching from the side-line.

However, it wasn't all fun and games. There was some seriously finger-licking good crumbed chicken to be fried and inhaled, a huge golden sugar skull to be painted and some tongue-curling Spanish to test drive. For our final act, the Japanese Taiko Drumming Team from IPU Palmerston North really made a racket. Their precision and dedication really wowed the crowd.

Phew, world travel can be really exciting. But in the end there's no place like Horowhenua.



A bunch of us caught up recently for a Pizza Night at Te Takere Youth Space. There were a few new faces and some familiar.

It was great to have a wide range of ages, cultures and interests represented. This year we had a fire fighter, semi-pro photographer, Te Reo Māori and performing arts enthusiasts. The pizza was plentiful and the ideas began to flow when we started to develop some ideas for this year's Youth Week, 19-27 May 2018. The theme is 'Be Who You Want To Be'. This is a platform to celebrate talents, achievements and community wellbeing contributions of young people.

Some of the concepts targeted opening spaces to the public through art while others focused on the challenges teens face when their skills and passions aren't supported at home. It goes without saying that if this night was anything to go by, Horowhenua is in good hands.

Currently, there is some space for those aged 19-23 years to join. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Gloria at gloriaf@horowhenua.govt.nz

Community Capacity Building 2018

We are excited to announce our next Capacity Building Workshop Series: A three-part series of NGO & Charities Sector at Jack Allen Community Hub, 32a Bristol Street, Levin.

Governance and Sustainability Focused Training Workshops

(Facilitated by Mark Vallance of Accounting for Charities Trust)

- **Financial Management**
2pm, 16 April 2018
- **Governance & Organisational Management**
2pm, 21 May 2018
- **NGO Strategic Planning**
2pm, 11 June 2018

If you are interested in attending please contact community@horowhenua.govt.nz to book your place.

Beginners' first aid

On 23 February we hosted a Beginners First Aid Course at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-po.

The course was facilitated by Simon from St John and was a hugely informative and empowering training day. Participants were reminded that accessing a defibrillator is as important as CPR in an emergency.

Message of the day

Download a local A&D App so you can access information about where defibrillators are in our community in an emergency.

We have hosted a funding workshop and two first aid courses in 2018 so far.

We have been disappointed that some groups booked places and did not arrive particularly given the cost of the first aid courses. We urge everyone to be mindful that when they book they are committed and to let us know well in advance that they cannot attend so that we are not wasting resources or preventing others from attending and taking the place. Thank you all in advance.



Community grants

Shannon Community Development Trust grant applications open

Applications are now open for the Shannon Community Development Trust grant.

The Trust provides targeted funding to non-profit organisations for projects that bring benefits to the Shannon community, as well as to local individuals seeking scholarships for academic and sporting pursuits.

The Trust has approximately \$13,000 to distribute each year.

To be eligible for the grant, applicants must live in Shannon, not have excess reserve funds, and be able to show that their project will benefit the Shannon community or an individual living in Shannon.

Further information, criteria and application forms are available on the Shannon Community Development Trust page of Horowhenua District Council's website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Community/Grants-Funding/Council-Facilitated-Grants/Shannon-Community-Development-Trust. Applicants can also apply online.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 30 March 2018.

Funding opportunities for increasing participation in creative arts

Horowhenua District Council is again inviting applications for funding from the Creative Communities Scheme it administers.

Applications for round two of the 2017/2018 financial year close at 5pm on Friday 30 March 2018. \$13,500 is available in this funding round.

The Creative Communities Grant is a national scheme, funded by Creative New Zealand and administered by local government authorities. It provides arts funding to local groups and individuals. There is no limit to how much can be applied for, but most grants tend to be under \$2000.

For more information, criteria and to download application forms, visit the Creative Communities Scheme page or contact Council on 06 366 0999 or community@horowhenua.govt.nz.



Morning Tea commemorates Jack Allen House

More than 35 people gathered for a morning tea to farewell Jack Allen House.

The morning tea was held at Jack Allen House in Durham Street. It was organised by Horowhenua District Council and Contact Inc., which manages the Jack Allen Community Centre.

Horowhenua District Council's Community Development Advisor, Helen Hayes, said the morning tea was an opportunity for the community groups and clients who had been part of the fabric of Jack Allen House over the years to reflect before they moved into a new, purpose-built Community Hub at the Levin RSA.

The gathering was attended by Contact Inc. chairperson Eleanor Gully, Horowhenua District Council Mayor Michael Feyen, Councillor Jo Mason, and representatives and clients of the community groups who used Jack Allen House.

Guests signed a remembrance book and local kaumātua Matt Matamau performed a blessing.

Following the blessing, Ms Gully reflected on the history of Contact Inc. and shared some of her plans for the Community Hub's new premises.

"Before Contact Inc. moved into Jack Allen House, we were located in an Oxford Street building called Te Whare Mahana, 'The House of Warmth'. That name will be carried into the future as the name of the new Community Hub," she said.

Contact Inc. and the community groups that use Jack Allen House moved into the new Community Hub at the Levin RSA on Thursday 1 March.

Jack Allen House was demolished in March to make way for a new primary healthcare centre.



New Community Hub opens at Levin RSA



The new Community Hub offers a spacious, open and welcoming facility for community service organisations and their clients.

The Community Hub is located at the Levin RSA and Community Club in Bristol Street. The Community Club has been separated from the RSA, renovated and refitted to create a fit-for-purpose space for the Community Hub. It features an accessibility ramp, a disabled-access bathroom, a kitchen, and a separate entrance and reception from the RSA. The facility has office space for the community service organisations that moved across from Jack Allen House, as well as bookable meeting rooms and 'hot desk' space for community groups to use.



A range of community service groups and services are already using the new Community Hub, including counsellors, Citizens Advice Bureau, Stroke Foundation, Breathe Easy, Arthritis Foundation, Pasifika, Tumataniui, Alcoholics Anonymous, and Horowhenua Prisoners Aid and Rehabilitation Society. In addition to those which moved across from Jack Allen House, the benefits offered by the Community Hub are attracting interest from new services, such as IHC.

Horowhenua District Council Community Development Advisor, Helen Hayes, is delighted with the interest the new facility is attracting.

"This is exactly what we hoped the new space would do. In the past, many services have been available only in Palmerston North, but the flexibility of hiring an office or a hot desk part-time is bringing them to Horowhenua. The Community Hub will become the local centre people can go to for support," she said.

Development of the facility will continue with the conversion of the former pool room into meeting rooms with concertinaed walls that can open up into a single large space when needed.



What's Happening at Aquatics Horowhenua

Rural Schools Programme

Rural schools in our District sometimes miss out on the aquatics services available to the Levin and Foxton schools. In particular, rural schools need access to qualified swim instructors to take classes for the students and inform teachers of proper safe-swimming practices and techniques.

Aquatics Horowhenua has created the Rural Schools Programme to help ensure children in rural schools don't miss out on the education they need to stay safe in the water. The programme has been offered to all local schools. Under the programme, Aquatics Horowhenua provides transport from the school to one of our aquatics facilities to allow the children to spend time with our talented instructors.

Shannon School is the first rural school in this programme, and will kick off an eight-week block at the Levin Aquatics Centre learning all about water safety. This will culminate on the eighth week, when the children will be taken to Foxton Beach to cover beach safety, and will celebrate their 'graduation' from water safety school.

We look forward to kicking off this exciting new programme!

What's Happening

Aquathon

Friday 23 March (Levin) and
Tuesday 27 March (Foxton)

On these dates, participants will be able to try out two hours of back-to-back aqua classes. From aquacise, to aqua fit, aqua deep and aqua-stick, participants will enjoy the shared instruction of two capable coordinators. There will be great music, good exercise, and even better company to be enjoyed by all.

Hydroslide Challenge

Monday 23 April to Friday 27 April

Aquatics Horowhenua is holding its annual Hydroslide Challenge. We are looking to see who can make it down the hydroslide in the fastest times. Prizes will be awarded to those who are the fastest down the slide in each age group or who show amazing spirit.

Swimschool Holiday Block Course

Monday 16 to Friday 27 April

Aquatics Horowhenua is running a Swimschool holiday block course before Term 2 kicks off. If you or your child would like to catch up on some key swim skills, or to work on some fitness, book yourself into one (or more) of the classes over this period.

More information will be available on the Aquatics Horowhenua website soon.

Mother's Day

Sunday 13 May

Mothers deserve a well-earned day off from looking after children, so fathers who come swimming with their children will have free entry on Mother's Day.

Children's Day



photography by Oliver Perrett



Children's Day in Levin has always been a highlight for the young and young at heart.

Sunday 4 March was no exception. This was the ninth year of celebrations for the Horowhenua and it was a scorcher of a day at the Adventure Park. People travelled from as far as Palmerston North and Kāpiti to attend.

There were two entertainment stages exhibiting local talent acts such as the Levin Intermediate and Levin East Kapa Haka Groups, the Pasifika Group, Kate Martin Dance Crews, the Ukulele Group and the UB40 Tribute Band YouB4T to name a few.

The big hit for younger kids was the Teddy Bears Picnic tent where we observed Sea Week by decorating and eating hundreds of handmade cookies. Everyone who participated walked away with a teddy to take home.

For bigger more competitive youth there was the Inflatable Football Field supervised by Youth Voice, sack racing, roller-skating with Centre Skate and

sumo wrestling. Lots of children of all ages got dirty digging for ice block sticks in the Big Dig as well.

All that playing around takes a lot of energy. Luckily, there were plenty of free sausages and candyfloss. Free water was supplied by Horowhenua Taste Trail and our sponsors.

It was a jam-packed community event with the Police mucking in at the Bumper Balls, rugby field and prize tent to name a few. But of course it wouldn't be Children's Day without Bouncy Castles, facepaint, ta moko and train rides.

Families could memorialise the day in the photobooth before leaving for home, but not before stopping off for a cool dip at the Aquatic Centre.

Of course none of this would be possible without our sponsors; Oranga Tamariki, Professionals DoubleWinkel Real Estate Ltd and Horowhenua District Council, thank you for all the free and fun stuff. Finally a big thank you to the Children's Day Committee for all their hard work throughout the year-long planning.



Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom going strong

Since Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom opened in November last year it has become an integral part of the community.

More than 62,000 people have visited the centre since it opened, and Foxton Library book issues for December 2017 saw a 78 per cent increase compared with December 2016.

“Being part of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom has put our library at the heart of the community, and that’s reflected in the positive lending statistics. It’s an inviting, stimulating, safe space for young and old alike to spend time,” says Hendrix Warren, Cultural and Community Centre Manager.

In addition to a thriving Foxton Library, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom has maintained a busy and varied schedule of events and activities since it opened.

November 2017 saw the Manawatu Dutch Society hold ‘Sinterklaas’ at the centre. This traditional

Christmas event involves St. Nicholas giving presents to children.

“Sinterklaas was well-attended and enjoyed by all. It gave children and their families an opportunity to experience the rich Dutch culture in Foxton,” said Mr Hendrix.

The international flavour at the centre continued with a visit from Australian glass artist Ruth Oliphant, who flew in from Canberra to lead glass art workshops with five local schools. The workshop was held to complement the Cook Whānau window artwork, which is a beautiful feature of the Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre.

At the end of the school year, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom played host to students from several local schools, who came to donate Christmas gifts for the Fill a Shoebox project, which gave Christmas presents to 1,000 children in Horowhenua.

In addition, the centre displayed artwork by children from four local schools.



The summer holidays proved the benefits of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom once again, as the Foxton Library had enough space to provide an on-site holiday programme with storytelling sessions open to the public and a summer reading programme.

On Waitangi Day, the centre hosted musical duo Toi Warbrick, who provided a well-attended demonstration of taonga puoro, traditional Māori musical instruments.

In addition, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom has played host to a wedding and tour groups enjoying Foxton Day Tours.

“Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is giving people in Foxton opportunities they never had before, as well as attracting visitors from across and outside Horowhenua. It’s a great asset for our community and District,” Mr Hendrix said.



What’s Happening

Shadow Showdown

18 November 2017 to 18 May 2018

Located in the temporary gallery. Shadow Showdown is an interactive game that challenges players to get physical and have fun. There are single or multi-player options.

Big Dutch Day Out

Saturday 28 April

Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park. Come along and experience all things Dutch, including games, food and entertainment.

Abel Tasman Exhibition

28 April - 29 July 2018

Located in the temporary gallery, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, this exhibition tells the story of the voyage of Abel Tasma from Batavia (Djakarta, Indonesia) to New Zealand and other Pacific Islands.

Foxton Beach Pump Track opens with celebration



Cyclists, skateboarders and scooter riders of all ages and abilities gathered in Foxton Beach on Sunday 18 March for the opening of the new pump track at Holben Reserve.

Horowhenua District Mayor, Michael Feyen, and Foxton Community Board Chair, David Roache, gave locals and visitors alike a warm welcome and declared the track officially open.

Following a blessing of the new facility, the public were treated to a display of pro-riding by Southstar Adventures before getting the opportunity to try the track out for themselves.

Those present enjoyed a sausage sizzle provided by Foxton Beach School as they tried out the new track, which is the largest asphaltic-surfaced pump track in New Zealand at over 50 metres squared.

A pump track is a circuit containing berms and 'rollers' (mounds) that riders can use, instead of pedalling, to gain and keep momentum.

Horowhenua District Council Parks and Property Project Lead, Zane Bull, said the new facility offers track circuits for all ages and abilities, including a

track for children aged two to four years and loops for beginners, intermediate and advanced riders. The design allows people to progress from the easy loop to the more difficult ones as they develop their skills, and the asphalt surface accommodates skateboarders and scooters, as well as bikes. There are directional arrows to prevent collisions.

The next stage of development will add landscaping to improve the track's aesthetic appeal. The facility will also offer a drinking fountain and a viewing area with seating.

"It's a great resource for families and visitors to Foxton Beach that complements the facilities already available at Holben Reserve," Mr Bull said.

"Everyone had a good time, and it was great to see so many people out enjoying the new track."

Get your safety gear, grab your bike, scooter or skateboard and give it a try!



POP-UP
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Unique dining experience

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APRIL

11

5 - 8pm Wednesday

11 April

Te Awahou Nieuwe

Stroom, Foxton

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Strategy/Forum Updates

Education Horowhenua

Education Horowhenua kicked off again on 22 February. Made up of education providers, local iwi, central government representatives, and businesses, the aim of this group is to address pressing matters related to educating future generations.

Last year some of the key issues discussed were as follows:

- How to best manage the technology revolution, when technology can be an enabler as well as a distractor.
- With NZ being such a diverse country, both in personalities as well as cultures, how to create a system that can benefit as many young people as possible.
- Scientific literacy was identified as a key struggle for the Horowhenua district, with our young people scoring well below average in science-based tests. As a response, a working party of Education Horowhenua has launched the 'House of Science' initiative, which encourages the sharing of materials for in-class experiments throughout primary schools. This aims to increase the interest of young people in the subject, and will be a focus for the coming year.
- Businesses continue to look for ways to retain home-grown Horowhenua talent within the district, and in such, upskill our workforce.
- Last year saw record-breaking college NCEA grades throughout the whole district; a target that the group as a whole will look to improve upon further in 2018.

Arts, Culture, Heritage/Pride and Vibrancy

Hundreds turned out for Waitangi Day at Muaūpoko Park at Lake Horowhenua to enjoy music, kai and activities.

The Waitangi Day organising committee were absolutely overwhelmed with the positive feedback from the community and were incredibly happy with how the day turned out. So many came to enjoy the day that several foodstalls ran out of supplies and more sausages had to be brought for the free sausage sizzle.

Music was also a major highlight with performers Iwi – Keelan Ransfield and Kimo Winiata turning out a large crowd and it was fantastic to see our community out there dancing to LMK. A huge thanks to all our volunteers and the Waitangi Day Committee for all of their hard work.





Outdoor Movie



Come and enjoy an outdoor movie at the Levin Domain!

We will be screening the much loved children's movie Hop.

Bring a blanket, get there early and enjoy the movie commencing at sundown.

**Good Friday
30 March**

**Food stalls from
5:30pm**

Movie starts 7pm

FREE EVENT | Alcohol and smoke free

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL 