

# Community Connection

Issue 161 October 2021

**Horowhenua**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Mayor Bernie Wanden

## Message from the Mayor

Hi everybody, I hope you're all keeping safe and well.

Super Shot Saturday - what a turnout. I'd like to thank everyone for their efforts on the weekend,

with close to 500 vaccinations taking place over a few hours. The day ran smoothly, with our iwi partners Muaūpoko and Ngāti Raukawa ki Te Tonga leading the charge in Horowhenua, alongside the tireless health professionals from MidCentral DHB, Berry's Health Care Pharmacy (Levin and Foxton) and Te Waiora in Shannon. Council Officers and Elected Members also helped on the day, providing logistical support and manning the BBQs to feed the masses. Local businesses – New World, Saville's Gourmet Butchery and Contact Energy to name a few, also supported the event, supplying giveaways,

spot prizes and food. It's events like Super Shot Saturday, where the community comes together to help one another, that makes me so proud to be our Mayor.

Last month's Community Connection was jam-packed with important updates and information regarding big decisions facing our district, and this edition is no different.

Council will have heard the Representation Review 2021 submissions on Wednesday, with a record number of our community sharing their views on the topic. The Representation Review provides direction on the shape and format of Council and how the democratic process will operate in the next local elections, so the outcome of this meeting is an important one for our community.

This month, we provided feedback on the Government's proposed Three Waters Reform, one of the biggest reforms that have ever been suggested in this country. We await a response, as Government collates feedback from councils across New Zealand.

You will see in this Community Connection, an update on the health of our local economy – which is thriving despite the challenges of a pandemic. Council were also recently presented with a Draft Climate Change Action Plan, which we decided to workshop ahead of the next Council meeting. And last week, we gave out just over \$114,000 in Community Grants to community groups and initiatives that help improve the wellbeing of our district.

Thanks again for playing your part in helping to keep us all safe. With the holiday season not that far away, it gives me comfort to know that as a country and a district we are getting closer to our vaccination goal.

I look forward to catching up with you soon.

## Horowhenua economy stronger than pre-COVID-19 pandemic

### Recently, Council heard that our local economy is thriving despite the challenge of a global pandemic.

The Horowhenua New Zealand Trust (HNZT) Chair Antony Young and The Horowhenua Company Limited (THCL) Chief Executive Catriona McKay reported to Council's Finance, Audit and Risk Committee showing that across a range of economic indicators, Horowhenua has improved on nearly all indicators between 2018 and 2021.

While still below the national average, we are earning more, have increased job opportunities, and are exporting more than we did in 2018.

Encouragingly, economic indicators for Māori have performed particularly well year-on-year, with mean earnings increasing by \$4,443 over the last three years and employment opportunities for Māori increasing by 137 since 2018, a positive change based on historical performance.

Muaūpoko Tribal Authority CEO Di Rump was encouraged by the statistics but felt that this was only the beginning. Di said, "We look forward to partnering with The Horowhenua Company, as we have done with Horowhenua District Council, to deliver economic development initiatives that are by Māori, for Māori, but will benefit all."

THCL CEO Catriona McKay commented that "While it is great that the data shows that there are improvements for our local Māori, we know that there remains much to be done. This starts

by developing relationships with our local iwi and hapū groups to understand their aspirations, and identify specific initiatives where working together will accelerate outcomes for Māori. It is critical that this work is led by iwi and hapū, and The Horowhenua Company is making those connections now, to start the conversation. We welcome the opportunity to be part of making a difference for our Māori communities."

Since 2018 Horowhenua GDP has increased by \$57m. There are 481 more jobs in the district, unemployment has seen a -1.1% decline. Exports as a percentage of GDP have grown by 1.2% and mean earnings have grown from \$46,490 to \$50,159 in 2020, an increase of \$3,669.

Horowhenua District Mayor Bernie Wanden commented that "the positive growth in our local economy is heartening to see and a result of both the growth we're experiencing and the dedicated investment in our economic development capability through our partnership with the HNZT."

The report went on to highlight the relationships built, partnerships strengthened, and subsequent level of investment secured from central government. This investment totalling \$3.8m has accelerated economic development in the district and contributed towards the development of the Horowhenua Business Park. The Business Park will house 12 businesses, both new and existing, looking to expand.

Just over \$800,000 of central government investment has also gone into the Get-Go initiative, which is tasked with improving labour market outcomes in Horowhenua. HNZT reported that 600 students attended the Get-Go Futures day, connecting students with future employers and supporting candidates into employment.

THCL in partnership with the Horowhenua District Council has been tasked with developing an Events Strategy and Implementation Plan by 30 March 2022. A welcome development, given the strength of domestic tourism in the district and the opportunities posed as a result of significant and ongoing growth in the area.

To view more statistics on the health of our economy, visit <https://hnzt.org.nz/data-insights>



# Exhibition Celebrates 70 Year Contribution by Kuia, to Whānau Wellbeing

**At a time when a pandemic creates struggles and issues for whānau across the nation, it seems more important than ever to commemorate the help and support that the Māori Women's Welfare League has provided to families in need, for 70 years.**

The exhibition Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toko i Te Ora o Te Awahou – 70th Anniversary Celebrations Exhibition opened in Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton, on Saturday 9 October. It tells stories of quiet achievement in the local area – by generations of wāhine who have made countless efforts to support whānau, across the decades.

The exhibition will be on display in the Māpuna Kabinet art gallery, until Friday 10 December.

“With this exhibition, we aim to highlight the calibre of the women who contributed all their love in humble ways – for many years, and always in private – to support whānau and do the mahi,” says Tracey Robinson, president of the Te Awahou Māori Women's Welfare League branch.

“We want to pay homage to those kuia, who guided us to uphold our values and respond to the needs of hapū, tamariki and mokopuna,” says Tracey. “These days we are of course involved in the kaupapa of our response to COVID-19 and the need for immunisation. Back in the day, we supported the development of wellbeing of tamariki and the women who needed help. The mahi by these wāhine was never really in the public eye, so it is time to shine the spotlight on this wonderful piece of history.”

The exhibition will include taonga from throughout the decades, including League uniforms, a pūreke (traditional Māori cape), trophies and tāniko woven items, plus lots of photos.

“We want to tell the stories of the birth and growth of the local branch, and how it fits into the national body,” says curator Pip Devonshire.

“There are many intimate connections shared by League members and whānau with various taonga on exhibit, and we want to highlight those,” says Pip.

“The Te Awahou branch of the League carry the kaupapa of the political development of the movement, throughout the decades. Today, immunisation is important. But all our past presidents have played their part in the political development of Aotearoa New Zealand. That's how they upheld the mana of the organisation.”

To put the stories together, Whaea Ani Watson and Pip have had a number of conversations with those who have loaned taonga. “We could write a book about the Te Awahou branch, and hopefully one day someone will come forward to collect and document all that history,” says Pip.

“There is all the ground work that was done, and the connections that were made and the care that was provided by the League. To give just one example, there was a house in Jenks Street that supported many whānau over the years. But there is also the bigger historical picture, of mana whenua leaving their traditional homes to join the urban Māori migration. And there are the links with Whina Cooper, who was instrumental in creating the league. These are big stories to tell.”

In celebrating 70 years, acknowledgement needs to be given to all those who have contributed to the Te Awahou Māori Welfare Women's League over the years: Zena Falks QSM (1993), Phyl Lash QSM (1993) and Rita Lilo Secretary (30 years) Life Member, Dame Whina Cooper, Rangimahora Mete, Nita Te Tau, Sharon Mehana, Ettie Carmont, Ruth Putaka, Terry and Tilly Putaka Pa, Tiaki Peta.

And thanks need to be given to those who continue its legacy: Tracey Robinson (President), Sissiel Henderson, Life Membership (1993) (Treasurer), Anne Watson (Secretary), Hinewai Katene (Delegate); Members: Community Archdeacon, Robin Hapi QSM Honorary member, Puhiwahine Tibble, Maria Rahui, Kerry Metcalf, Claire Matena, Puna Chambers, Ann Remihana; and Moutoa Māori Wardens: Alister Thorby, Nancy Roos, Ropata Remihana, Haumaru Rooou, Josie Srafford, Chase Pkiongamaunga McFadyen, Stacey Packer, Mere Woon, Pat Te Au, Lorraine Haenga, Haley Bell, Desiree Paul and Emma Katene.

For further info, please contact @comms@horowhenua.govt.nz or call 06 366 0999.

## Exhibition:

Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toko i Te Ora o Te Awahou – 70th Anniversary Celebrations

## Location:

Māpuna Kabinet art gallery, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

## Timeframe:

9 October to Friday 10 December



From left: Sissiel Henderson, Anne Watson, Pikiongamaunga McFadyen and Tracey Robinson.



# Tokomaru residents to benefit from Community Hall funding

**Council adopted the community funding and grants recommendations on Wednesday 13 October 2021. Just over \$114,000 was attributed to organisations across the district, with Tokomaru residents benefiting greatly with a grant for their Community Hall.**

Among other community groups to benefit are Skills4Living, Age Concern, Waitārere Surf Lifesaving Club, Hope Kete and the Shannon Christmas Carnival.

Chair for the Community Funding and Recognition Committee Councillor Piri-Hira Tukapua commented that "The rural halls grant was oversubscribed again as per previous years and has proven to be very beneficial. These places are in the heart of communities and are used for a range of gatherings that include but are not limited to local events, social connections and civil defence emergencies. Overall, the value that these groups provide to our community and the impact they make, is significant. It's heartening to be able to help them achieve their goals."

Tokomaru Community Hall Funding Officer Rebecca Louth commented that "The Tokomaru Hall Committee is enormously grateful for the HDC grant that will enable us to fix structural issues in our hall. The hall is over a century old, and the work enabled by this grant will help ensure that this valuable community asset thrives for another hundred years."



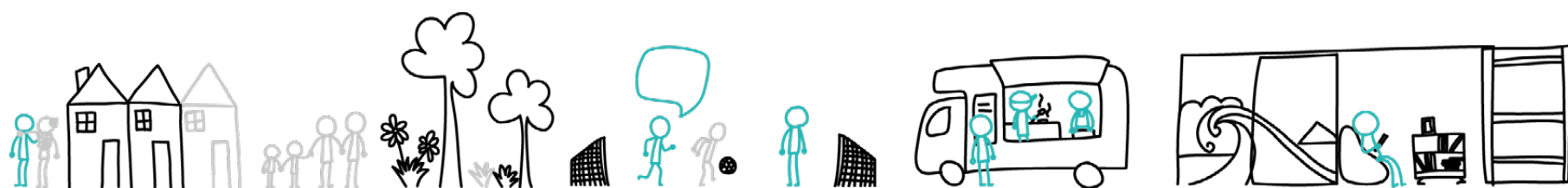
Side of the Tokomaru Community Hall that needs replacing.

**See below for the full list of Community Grants and Funding beneficiaries.**

Community and Social Services Grant		Community Development Grant	
The Hearing Association Horowhenua Branch Incorporated	\$1,000.00	Age Concern Horowhenua	\$1,500.00
Age Concern Horowhenua	\$2,000.00	St Mary Kiribati Catholic Group	\$1,000.00
Living Well Counselling Centre	\$2,500.00	Moutoa Māori Wardens	\$3,000.00
Horowhenua Sports Academy	\$2,500.00	OnBoard Skate Inc	\$4,690.00
Horowhenua SuperGrans trading as Skills4Living	\$5,000.00	Levin Waitārere Surf Life Saving Club	\$5,908.58
MAVtech (The National Museum of Audio Visual Arts and Sciences of NZ Trust)	\$2,000.00	Levin Citizens Advice Bureau	\$3,000.00
Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association	\$391.00	Children's Day Event Committee	\$2,000.00
Hinemoa Boxing Club Levin Incorporated	\$2,000.00	Horowhenua Breathe Easy Support Group	\$750.00
Birthright Levin Inc	\$1,824.00	Foxton Windmill Trust	\$1,500.00
Refreshed Creations Trust	\$957.75	Foxton Lions Club	\$1,500.00
Te Awahou Kai	\$3,500.00	Te Whare Mahana Community Hub	\$6,000.00
English Language Partners NZ Trust (Horowhenua Kapiti Centre)	\$1,800.00		

Vibrant Communities Grant		Special Projects Grant		Rural Halls Grant	
Shannon Christmas Carnival Event	\$3,000.00	Tokomaru Opiki Community Support and Civil Defence	\$740.00	Tokomaru Community Hall	\$12,000.00
Foxton Windmill Trust Inc	\$3,000.00	Hope Kete	\$8,686.96	Manakau Hall	\$6,471.58
MAVtech (The National Museum of Audio Visual Arts and Sciences of NZ Trust)	\$2,665.00	Foxton Beach Community Centre	\$1,000.00	Mangahao (Mangaore) Hall	\$7,183.28
Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support	\$4,900.00	Refreshed Creations Trust	\$2,060.00	Koputaroa Hall Society	\$4,345.14
Foxton Beach Community Centre	\$2,520.98				



**GET  
READY  
TO  
Shake  
Out™**

**OCTOBER  
28<sup>TH</sup>  
9.30AM**

NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE DRILL  
AND TSUNAMI HIKOI

## Council votes to workshop Climate Change Action Plan initiatives

**Council was presented with a Draft Climate Change Action Plan outlining key initiatives for endorsement, including a stocktake of Council's greenhouse emissions and development and the establishment of a sustainability policy to provide a roadmap for Council.**

While Council sought more time to workshop the initiatives outlined in the Action Plan, there was an acknowledgement that climate change was something that could not be ignored.

Mayor Bernie Wanden addressed the Council seeking endorsement for the draft plan, saying "It would be a dereliction of our duties to ignore climate change. He went on to say that Council needs to be a part of a solution that leaves our environment in a better place, working together as a region to make sure that climate change impacts directly related to our region, in particular, are addressed."

Council discussed the issue for close to an hour, requesting reference material and modelling relating to Horowhenua, so that they could better understand the issue at hand and how it is predicted to impact the district.

Council committed to workshoping the topic before the next Council meeting, when they will make a decision on the matter.

To view the Draft Climate Change Action Plan visit [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetings](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetings) and view the meeting details for the 13 October 2021 Council Ordinary Meeting.



## #CaptureHorowhenua

**Each season we hold a photography competition, prompting enthusiasts to capture the beautiful people and places that make our district so special.**

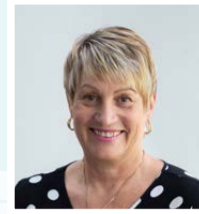
This season's theme was winter. Entries have been shortlisted and finalists are on display in the exhibition space at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō during October where the public can vote for their favourite photo. The winner of the public vote will win a bag of Horowhenua goodies! Here's a sneak peak of one of the entries.



## Horowhenua District Councillors



**Bernie Wanden**  
(Mayor)



**Jo Mason**  
(Deputy Mayor)



**David Allan**



**Wayne Bishop**



**Ross Brannigan**



**Todd Isaacs**



**Sam Jennings**



**Victoria Kaye-Simmons**



**Robert Ketu**



**Christine Mitchell**

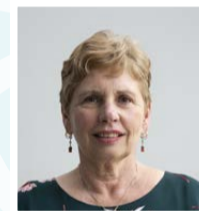


**Piri-Hira Tukapua**

## Foxton Community Board



**David Roache**  
(Chair)



**Tricia Metcalf**  
(Deputy Chair)



**Trevor Chambers**



**John Girling**



**Ngaire Newland**

## Council Meetings

27

### Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Wednesday 27 October 2021, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street,  
Levin

10

### Council Meeting

Wednesday 10 November 2021, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street,  
Levin

9

### Community Wellbeing Committee

Tuesday 9 November 2021, 1pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street,  
Levin

24

### Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

Wednesday 24 November 2021, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street,  
Levin

## Did you know?

You can watch meetings of Council and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee online at:

[horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive](http://horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive)

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