



## Message from the Mayor



Mayor Bernie Wanden

Kia ora koutou

I hope you enjoyed the two long weekends we have had recently, and managed to spend time with family and friends and doing what you enjoy the most.

It was great to see many residents commemorating ANZAC Day earlier in the week. Thank you to those who took the time to join one of the services or ceremonies across the district. Although there wasn't a military presence this year, the support from local Returned Services' Associations, Iwi, community groups and attendees was heartening and reinforces what a fantastic district we live in.

On Wednesday, 13 April 2022, we moved to Orange under the COVID-19 Protection Framework. The My Vaccine Pass is no longer required to enter Council's community facilities

and scanning requirements also came to an end. Face masks are still required indoors at public venues, except for swimming pools – more details on page 2 and on our website.

The Big Dutch Day Out on Saturday in Foxton was another great celebration of the cultural diversity that exists in the Horowhenua and again was supported well with many locals and Dutch visitors present.

Make sure you visit the Ans Westra photographic exhibition over the next few weeks in Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. It is a wonderful look at NZ history from an extraordinary artist and well worth the visit.

This week we say farewell to Interim Chief Executive David Wright, who joined Council in late January for three a month stint, bringing a wealth of experience with him. On behalf of the Council, I would like to say that it has been an absolute pleasure working with David. We have appreciated David's expertise, guidance and support over the past months and wish him all the very best.

Also this week, we officially welcome Monique Davidson back to the district with a pōwhiri. Monique is returning home to take up the role of Chief Executive of the Horowhenua District Council. An experienced and enthusiastic leader, Monique will be joining us on 2 May. Learn more about Monique on page 2.

The Local Government Commission has confirmed Council's representation arrangements for the October 2022 local elections. Changes include the introduction of a Māori Ward with two seats which will increase the number of elected members to 12 Councillors plus the Mayor. You can read more about the representation arrangements for the 2022 elections on page 3.

Enjoy the last month of Autumn, stay safe and take care.

## Horowhenua residents commemorate ANZAC Day 2022

**Mayor Bernie Wanden, Levin RSA President Wayne Kaye and Foxton RSA President David Roache would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in this year's ANZAC Day commemorations.**

"ANZAC Day is a time to reflect. A time to commemorate all New Zealanders who have lost their lives in war and to honour our returned servicemen and women who have displayed courage and self-sacrifice serving our country," Mayor Bernie said.

"We wanted people to mark ANZAC Day in a way that was comfortable for them, so with this in mind, the Civic Ceremony in Levin was live streamed on Council's YouTube channel, giving people the opportunity who may otherwise be unable to attend the parades, to be part of it."

We also supported the ANZAC commemorations with stories of our local Veteran heroes included in the upcoming Puāwai magazine, on Council's social media channels and with an ANZAC display at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.

This year was also the centenary of the ANZAC poppy. Poppy Day has been the RSA's major annual fundraiser for the past 100 years to provide welfare services for war veterans. All the money raised in towns and cities is used in their own community.



# New Chief Executive to join Council in May

## Monique Davidson is returning home to Horowhenua to take up the role of Chief Executive of the Horowhenua District Council.

"The Council and I are excited about working with Monique and welcoming her back to Horowhenua District Council, this time as our Chief Executive," said Mayor Bernie.

"In the current climate it is vital that our Council has an experienced and enthusiastic Chief Executive to help guide and lead our Council. It is evident that Monique is a transformational leader, who will support Council in leading a step-change as it looks to the future."

As an experienced and strong Chief Executive, Monique has significant and strong stakeholder relationships with iwi, other territorial authorities, and central government.

She was the Chief Executive of Central Hawke's Bay

District Council, a role which she has held for the last five years. Before that, Monique held several Senior Executive roles at Horowhenua District Council, the most recent position being that of Group Manager, Customer and Community Services.

Mrs Davidson says, "I look forward to continuing to build on the current success of Council, focussed on delivering exceptional service for the benefit of residents today and in the future. Returning to the district I was born, bred and educated presents an exciting opportunity." Monique says she is looking forward to bringing her experience home and to deliver great outcomes for Horowhenua, being a part of the Horowhenua District Council team, and together with her family becoming active members of the community.



"Monique will be a hugely capable leader for the organisation, leading change as we seek to navigate unprecedented growth and central government reform while serving value to our residents and ratepayers. We're confident that she will ably lead the organisation during an exciting period for the district," Mayor Bernie elaborated.

Mrs Davidson will join Council on 2 May 2022. She will take over from David Wright, who was appointed as Interim Chief Executive to lead the organisation in late January when David Clapperton resigned.

## Council services and facilities at Orange

**All of New Zealand moved to Orange under the COVID-19 Protection Framework at 11.59pm on Wednesday, 13 April. A My Vaccine Pass is no longer required to enter Horowhenua District Council's community facilities, and scanning requirements have also ended.**

### Under the Orange setting:

Controlled-access events can go ahead and there are no limits to how many can attend an event or public facility. Face masks are still required indoors at public venues, except for swimming pools. You don't have to wear a face mask at an event, either indoors or outdoors. At all levels, testing and isolation requirements remain the same.

Horowhenua Mayor Bernie Wanden said, "While the move to Orange would have been welcome news for many, we know there is still Omicron in our community. It's important we look after those who are vulnerable by continuing to practice physical distancing and wearing masks, especially with capacity limits removed."



### Council Services

Council's main office will remain open.

Opening hours are 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, and 9.30am to 5pm on Wednesdays.

Increased safety and hygiene measures will continue:

- Face masks are to be worn as per government rules and guidelines
- Sanitising stations will be provided
- Self-help computers are not available
- Minimal seating will be available
- Paywave and Credit Card payments are not available over the counter
- Please maintain physical distancing, and do not enter if you feel unwell
- We also have pay-it-online services and information on our website.

### Library services and Community Centres

- Face masks are mandatory, unless at a controlled-access event
- The Youth Space at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō is closed to the public but will reopen to the public from 2 May 2022
- The Mahi Space remains open as normal under the current traffic light setting
- Hand sanitiser is provided
- Physical distance from those you don't know
- Some programmes and resources may not be available
- Children 14 years and under must be accompanied by an adult
- Controlled-access events can go ahead and there are no limits to how many can attend an event or public facility
- Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom cafés remain open.

### Swimming pools

Those under 8 must be supervised by an adult (someone aged 16 or over).

#### Other helpful information:

- Levin Aquatic Centre and Foxton Pools are open
- Fitness classes are operating
- Learn to Swim is operating
- The hydroslide is operating at the Levin Aquatic Centre
- Inflatables will be available
- Controlled-access events can go ahead and there are no limits to how many can attend an event or public facility.

For more information, please visit our [aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz](https://aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz)

For more information about Council's services and facilities and how they will be operating under Orange visit [horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilServicesatOrange](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilServicesatOrange)

**Should the government announce any changes to the status, Council will publish updated information as soon as possible on Council's dedicated COVID-19 page.**



# Representation for the 2022 Local Government Election announced

## The Local Government Commission (LGC) has announced the representation arrangements for the upcoming local election of Horowhenua District Council on 8 October 2022.

Council's decision in May 2021 to introduce a Māori Ward triggered the requirement for a representation review to take a fresh look at the number of councillors and wards, ward boundaries and their names, and whether there should be any community boards.

Councils must review their representation arrangements at least every six years to achieve fair and effective representation.

"As part of the representation review process, Council is required to adopt an Initial Proposal, consult with the community, hold hearings of submissions, and then adopt a Final Proposal," Mayor Bernie explained.

Council received 226 submissions on its Initial Proposal. Considering all the submissions, changes were made, and the Final Proposal was adopted in October 2021. Appeals on Council's Final Proposal were referred to the independent Local Government Commission according to the Local Electoral Act 2002.

## The LGC determined that the following representation arrangements will apply:

### Number of wards

There will be five wards, including four general wards and one Māori Ward.

### Number of Councillors

The Council will comprise the mayor and 12 councillors elected as follows:

- 10 general ward councillors elected from four general wards and
- Two Māori ward councillors elected from the Māori Ward.

## Community Board Representation

The Foxton Community Board had a name change and will be known as Te Awahou Foxton Community Board, comprising five elected members, and two members representing the Kere Kere General Ward appointed to the community board by the council.

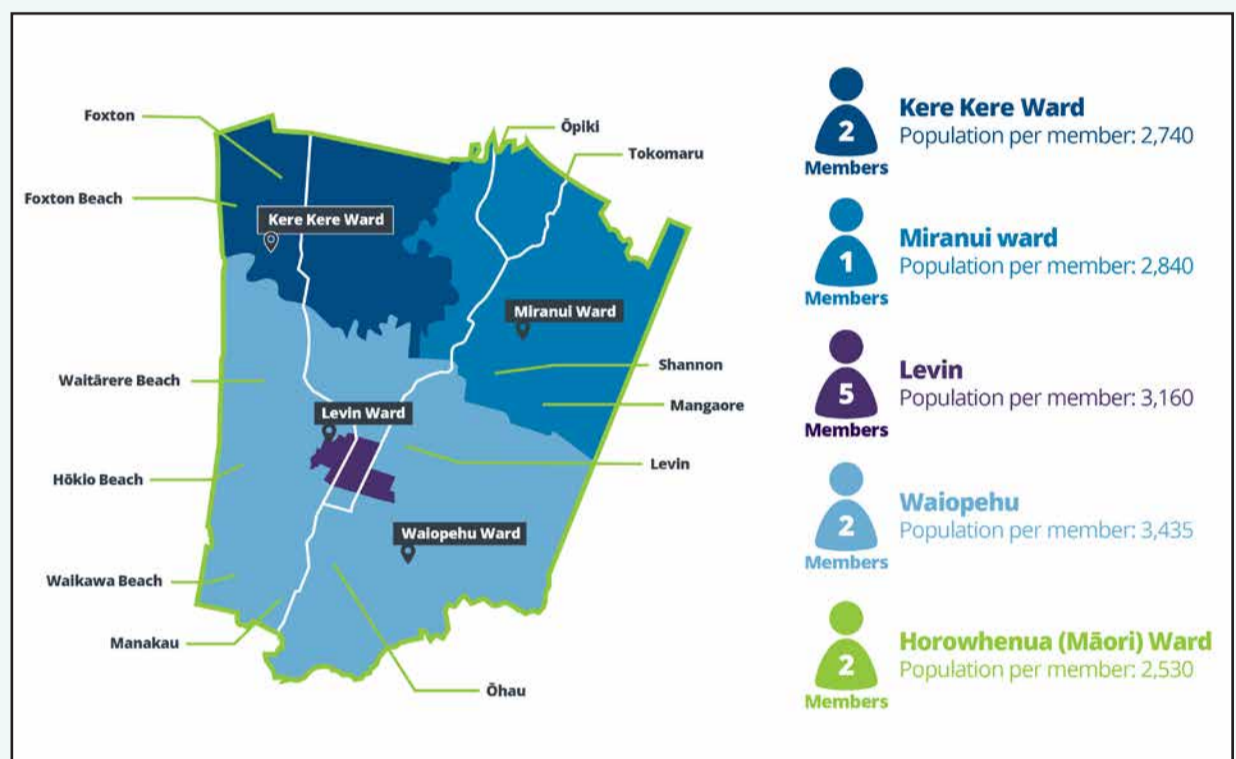
Mayor Bernie welcomed the Commission's determination, "I'm pleased with the determination of the LGC and the outcome of the representation review. I want to thank everyone who took the time and came to a drop-in session or made a submission. It is important that our communities are presented fairly and effectively to strengthen our local democracy."

[horowhenua.govt.nz/YourChoice2021](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/YourChoice2021)

## What has changed?

- The number of general wards has increased to five with the addition of the Māori Ward.
- The number of general councillors increased to 10, with the addition of two Māori Ward councillors, totalling 12 councillors.
- The boundaries of the Te Awahou Foxton Community Board were extended.

The next steps will be to get ready to vote. If you've moved since the last election, or you're not registered as a voter, make sure that you enrol or update your details so that you don't miss out.



## Level 3 Water Restrictions - Levin and Ōhau

### Level 3 Water Restrictions are still in place for Levin and Ōhau until further notice.

We issue water restrictions to conserve water when river levels drop due to dry weather conditions or when demand for water increases beyond the water treatment plant's capacity to safely supply water that meets National Drinking Standards.

"We have a resource consent from Horizons Regional Council to take water from the Ōhau River for our Levin and Ōhau town drinking water supply. For this to be sustainable, when the river levels are low, in this case less than 1,000 litres per second, we are required to implement Level 3 water restrictions to manage water demand," said Water and Waste Services Manager Asli Crawford.

### What do Level 3 Water Restrictions mean for you?

- Garden sprinklers and soak hoses must not be used at any time.
- Handheld hoses, watering cans or buckets may only be used on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 6pm to 8pm.
- Hosing of paved areas is prohibited unless cleaning is required as a result of an accident, fire, health hazard or another emergency.
- Newly constructed swimming pools and spas must not be filled.
- Existing swimming pools and spas must not be topped up or filled.
- Filling up portable swimming pools is prohibited.
- Water must not be used to clean vehicles unless cleaning is required for health or safety reasons. Cleaning for health and safety reasons must be undertaken using watering cans or buckets filled directly from taps.
- Commercial customers with very high water demand are also advised to take all practicable measures to reduce water use while this water restriction is in place.



Please get in touch with us before any major water use to confirm whether the activity you need water for is permitted.

"We'd like to thank you for your cooperation and help in conserving our water supply," Crawford said. "Any further updates will be provided via Council's website and social media channels."

[horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterRestrictions](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterRestrictions)



# Council votes to delay a decision on the future of the Levin Landfill

**After four hours of debate during the Council meeting on Wednesday, 13 April 2022 Council has voted to delay the decision to close the Levin Landfill until the incoming Chief Executive Monique Davidson can provide her evaluation on the complex matter.**

Horowhenua District Council Mayor Bernie Wanden said, "The process has been exhaustive. The future of the Levin Landfill is a complex and difficult matter and has been the topic of contention for years. After hours of debate and a Council divided in its opinion, the best outcome from the Council meeting was to delay the decision until we're able to reach a consensus around the table."

Mayor Bernie continued, "While we weren't able to reach a consensus, it was heartening to hear Councillors discuss the need for a unified focus on waste minimisation and how together as a community reducing our solid waste needs to be our priority."

Horowhenua's solid waste will continue to go to the Bonny Glen Landfill until a decision is made.



## Other important updates

- All kerbside glass recycling in Horowhenua is still temporarily on hold. We will provide further updates via Council's website and social media channels as soon as we have more information. We appreciate your patience.
- From 2 May, we will be collecting plasticised cartons, and they will be recycled into Save Board to build houses. More information on collection points will be provided soon.
- If you have recently borrowed a pulse oximeter while you had COVID-19 and no longer use it, please return it to one of the drop-off sites and receive a \$20 grocery voucher. Horowhenua: Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, 306 Oxford Street, Levin or Raukawa Whānau Ora, 152 Bath Street, Levin.



## Council Meetings

**10 Community Wellbeing Committee**  
Tuesday 10 May 2022, 1pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

**11 Council Meeting**  
Wednesday 11 May 2022, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

**25 Finance, Audit & Risk Committee**  
Wednesday 25 May 2022, 4pm  
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Council, committee and Foxton Community Board meetings are now open to the public. Public attending meetings must wear masks, and seating may be limited.

Council meetings will be live streamed on our website.

## 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**

## Did you know?

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

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

**Want to receive Community Connection in your email inbox? Sign up online:**

[horowhenua.govt.nz/CommunityConnection](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/CommunityConnection)

