



Mayor Bernie Wanden

## Message from the Mayor

Kia Ora Koutou,

People are the heart of our community, and our community showed great heart in the wake of the May 20 weather event. The way friends and whānau, businesses, community

groups and organisations collaborated is nothing short of commendable. Coming together after an event of this nature shows what a resilient and special place the Horowhenua is. There is no place I'd rather be.

I would like to acknowledge those most affected by the tornado and hope that the outpouring of support has gone some way to easing your burden. These traumatic events can be tough and I ask that you reach out should you require assistance or support, no-one is expected to go through this alone.

At the same time as the tornado struck, further south in Ōhau an extreme hailstorm and torrential rain thundered down on buildings, properties, crops and animals. I would also like to acknowledge farmers who had property damage and stock losses, and growers who suffered severe damage to crops, some that were harvest ready. This is a devastating blow for farmers and

growers who had not so long ago recovered from the December rain events.

I'm humbled by the hard work of our contractors, community leaders, business people and local heroes who stepped in to help clean up in the tornados wake. The selfless time, resources, and efforts from hundreds of people within our community was admirable and touching to all who were directly and indirectly affected by the unprecedented weather event.

Whilst the initial recovery work has commenced, it is far from over. We are aware that there are still people and properties requiring assistance. A recovery team has been established to lead the remaining effort required to support families and organisations where it is needed. Horowhenua District Council contributed \$100,000 to a Mayoral Relief Fund established within 10 hours of the tornado and Central Government matched that contribution and on Tuesday the Horowhenua New Zealand Trust confirmed they would contribute \$50,000 to the fund. The fund is currently at \$263,461.

We will continue to receive donations from individuals and businesses via bank deposit (Account number: 02-0668-0070607-002, Account name: 'Horowhenua District Council', ref: 'relief fund') and we are very grateful for the generosity of everyone who has contributed so far.

If you were impacted by the severe weather event, you may qualify for financial assistance

from the Mayoral Relief Fund. The application form is available online at [horowhenua.govt.nz/MayoralReliefFund](http://horowhenua.govt.nz/MayoralReliefFund) or in person at Council's Civic Building. Call us on 06 366 0999 or come in to see one of the team.

We even had All Black Codie Taylor, who has roots in Levin, reach out to us and offer to auction on TradeMe an autographed All Blacks jersey with all proceeds going to the Mayoral Relief Fund.

There are a lot of people to thank. Among the resource needed to clear trees and debris, local electricians, plumbers and contractors worked hard to restore services to damaged homes, whānau provided emotional support, residents provided trucks, utes and tools, animal welfare organisations cared for displaced pets, while local businesses provided food and sustenance to those mucking in. Your generous outpouring of support, time, money and resources is appreciated. To all the agencies, individuals and organisations who came together to provide help: I offer you my sincerest thanks.

Mayor Bernie



# Tornado photo collage



## Council Meetings



### Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 8 June 2022, 4pm**

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.



### Foxton Community Board Meeting

**Monday, 20 June 2022, 6pm**

Ngārongo Iwikātea Room, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton



### Council Meeting

**Wednesday, 22 June 2022, 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](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive)

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