

Community Connection

Issue 172 OCTOBER 2022



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Tēnā koutou katoa

It's a real honour and a privilege to return as your Mayor for a second term. I'm looking forward to a positive, busy and constructive three years ahead.

We have increased the size of Council from 11 to 13 members with the addition of two Māori Ward seats. This was a move that was unanimously supported by the previous Council and we are now one of 35 Councils in Aotearoa who have recognised that this offers fairer and more effective community representation, and one of many ways for Councils to honour the principle of partnership committed to in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Therefore, a special congratulations to Councillors Nina Hori Te Pa and Justin Tamihana for being elected as the first Māori Ward Councillors in the Horowhenua. We look forward to their insights, perspectives and valuable contribution they will make this term.

One of the characteristics of our new Council is the number of Elected Members who are born and bred in the Horowhenua or who have resided here for a considerable time. We are also a younger and more diverse Council, in age and ethnicity, which is more reflective of the community we represent. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to new Councillors Mike Barker, Alan Young, Rogan Boyle,

Paul Olsen, Clint Grimstone and Jonathan Procter.

While there has been quite a change in the make-up of Council, there is a great deal of knowledge and experience that is returning, which will be invaluable to not only myself, but to those who are new to the role. Welcome back Councillors Ross Brannigan, David Allan, Piri-Hira Tukapua and Sam Jennings.

I would also like to extend warm congratulations to Te Awahou Foxton Community Board members Trevor Chambers, Nola Fox, John Girling, David Roache and Brett Russell.

On Wednesday evening the Inaugural Meeting of Council was held where all Elected Members were sworn in including members of Te Awahou Foxton Community Board. It was a special occasion shared with family, friends and members of the public. As part of this meeting I announced the appointment of David Allan to the Deputy Mayor role, which he accepted. Deputy Mayor Allan has been part of the Local Government scene in this district for 24 years and is a person I respect greatly, and I have appreciated his views and opinions. I wish Deputy Mayor Allan all the very best in this role.

We as a team have a big job ahead working through a defining time in the history of Horowhenua, with many challenges and opportunities setting the direction for the future of our community. We need to find sustainable solutions for climate change, the Future of the Levin Landfill and a Long Term Plan Amendment. Obviously we can't do it alone. We need your input and engagement to guide our decision making process and ensure we're a connected community.

The construction of the new Waitāre Beach Surf Life Saving Community Facility is planned to commence in November. Read the full story on page 2. It's pretty exciting to see the aspirations of the community and the Surf Life Saving community, together with Council, come to life.

Another project launched earlier this month was the new Horowhenua destination brand, a collaborative project that delivers on a key action of the Horowhenua Blueprint. The tone or call to action came from the idea that the whenua embraces and nourishes people wherever they choose to live or visit. We can all be proud of the thought and engagement that has gone into this piece of work and the outcomes. Have a look at the new website, Horowhenua.co.nz and you can read more on page 3.

In 2019, Levin was announced as a host town for refugees. Although their journey here has been delayed by COVID-19, we welcomed the first refugee families from Columbia this month. It's heart-warming to see the interest from local people from all walks of life working with Red Cross to support and welcome the newcomers to the district.

Bernie Wanden

Age on the Go

Come down to our popular Age on the Go Expo from 10am to 3pm today at the Horowhenua Events Centre.

This is a fun and free expo organised by Council, focussing on good health, connection, and support. There will be a café run by the Horowhenua Learning Centre, live music, entertainment, games, craft activities and more.

Horizon's 'A Day Out in Town' Bus Service will make a special trip from the bus stop outside Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, to the expo and back, along with the usual around the town trip.

This is a free ride to and from the event for people with a SuperGold card and \$2 for everyone else. Levin times are as follows:

- 12.15pm - Depart bus stop at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Bath Street, Levin
- 1.40pm - Depart Horowhenua Events Centre, 32 Victoria Street, Levin.

Age on the GO

FREE EVENT

Friday 28 October 2022, 10am – 3pm
Horowhenua Events Centre, Victoria Street, Levin

<https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC>

For more information on the service visit horowhenua.govt.nz/ageonthego

Waitārere Beach Surf Life Saving Community Facility will soon be a reality



Artist's impression of the Waitārere Beach Surf Life Saving Community Facility.

Construction of the new Waitārere Beach Surf Life Saving Community Facility is planned to commence in November to replace the existing run down, no longer fit for purpose earthquake-prone building.

The new Community Facility will support surf life saving patrol and rescue operations and training. It will also provide the Levin-Waitārere Surf Life Saving Club and the community with a facility that can host up to 200 people.

Following an open tender process, local company Homestead Construction was selected for the design and build project. Over the past year the club has been closely working with Homestead Construction to design a fit for purpose building. Construction will take place from November 2022 until November 2023.

Council has more recently submitted an application to the Department of Internal Affairs as part of the Three Waters Better Off Funding Package, to contribute an

additional \$400k towards upgrading public toilets and the wider public amenity surrounding the new Surf Life Saving Community Facility.

What the new building will have

- A patrol tower or watch room
- Training and beach education rooms for junior surf development and youth beach safety education which are open to school groups, the public and members of the club
- Kitchen and facilities to accommodate up to 200 people for community related events that closely align with surf life saving
- Changing rooms, toilets and showers
- First Aid room
- Storage facilities for the Surf Life Saving Club's rescue and training equipment
- Other features include a deck, patio, BBQ area, outside rinse showers and a washdown forecourt.

Why do we need a new building?

The building is run down, not fit for purpose and earthquake-prone.

The current building is 80 metres from the high tide mark, making it difficult for life saving patrols. The growing dunes have encased the lower floor in sand, creating a basement.

The building will support the following activities:

- Surf Lifeguard Patrols throughout the summer period
- Junior Surf Saturday (up to 80 juniors attending)
- Junior Surf holiday programme
- Sports training and events
- Lifeguard training and courses
- Surf Club social events such as prizegivings (up to 200 people)
- Closely aligned activities to surf life saving.

Timeline

1950s	Current building completed
1960s	Concrete block sheds were added and a community pavilion
2008	Surf Life Saving Club starts to advocate for a new building
2014-2017	Land accretion claim for Waitārere foreshore
2020	New building site designated to Council and Department of Conservation
2020/2021	Resource Consent from Horizons Regional Council
Aug 2021	Develop Procurement Plan and MoU
Sept 2021	Go out for tender
Oct 2021	Evaluate and award professional services contract
Dec 2021	Develop design concept
Mar 2022	Preliminary design
May-Jul 2022	Detailed design
Nov 2022	Construction
TBA	Opening
2023/2024	Removal of the old building, recontouring and planting the site.

In 2013 Horowhenua District Council first resolved for Council Officers to work with the project steering group to progress the project.

The surf club and the community have advocated for this new facility for over a decade. The project is a key priority in the Waitārere Beach Community Plan.

Council considers surf life saving activities a vital part of the beach service in its seaside communities. Therefore, Council committed in the 2021-2041 Long Term Plan to set aside \$3.2m to design and build the new facility as part of major capital expenditure projects with the requirement that the Levin-Waitārere Surf Life Saving Club provide funding of \$1m to offset Council's investment. The club has since successfully secured \$1m for the project through Surf Life Saving New Zealand's allocation of Central Government funding, and additional external funding is currently being sought.

Horowhenua's new destination brand launched

The development of the Horowhenua brand and the opportunities that would follow were initially identified as a priority after Horowhenua visitor expenditure growth per capita outstripped New Zealand between 2016 and 2019. This largely organic growth led to a review of Horowhenua as a destination. Subsequently, the Horowhenua Destination, Development and Management Plan 2020-2030 was commissioned.

To develop a transformative brand narrative that celebrates the unique strengths of Horowhenua, Chief Executives of Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, Rangitāne and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga were interviewed. Local businesses, community and interest groups, iwi/hapū, rangatahi, Elected Members and tourist operators were invited to participate in a brand workshop exploring the proposition 'only in the Horowhenua will you find. It was evident that our uniqueness comes from the whenua and its relationship to its people.

It is not a coincidence that Horowhenua has the shortest distance in Aotearoa from the maunga to the moana and that this unique microcosm has provided for its people and inevitably enabled them to thrive and prosper, whether that be tangata whenua, early settlers, market gardeners or the many producers and businesses that call Horowhenua their home today.

The tone or call to action came from the idea that the whenua embraces and nourishes people, whether they choose to live or visit.

Come find yourself : Huraina tō mata

And for those already living here,

Ko tēnei whenua, tōku kāinga - This land, my home.

The website is now live, along with the brand campaign which will run through until the end of November.

[Horowhenuanz.co.nz](https://horowhenuanz.co.nz)



AN ADVENTURE THROUGH HOROWHENUA'S SPECIALIST FOOD PRODUCERS!

From tastings to tours, there are lots of new experiences for you at every stop on this year's Trail.

Go at your own pace or sign up to a guided tour. Choose how you experience all that is on offer for the Horowhenua Taste Trail 2022.

SAT 26 NOV 2022

tastetrail.co.nz [horowhenuatastetrail](https://horowhenuatastetrail.com)

Join in the all-ages festive fun!

10 Saturday 10 December 2022

Christmas Parade
5pm - Oxford Street, Levin (State Highway 1)

Christmas Carnival
5.30pm - Levin Adventure Park

Food Trucks | Live Entertainment | Inflatables | Amusement Rides | Christmas Train | And More!

horowhenua.govt.nz/christmascarnival

Council Meetings

16 Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 November 2022, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

23 Council Meeting
Wednesday 23 November 2022, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Did you know?

You can watch meetings of Council online at:

horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive

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

horowhenua.govt.nz/CommunityConnection

Meet your Mayor, Councillors and Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Members

The final election results for the Horowhenua District Council were received on Friday 14 October.

Bernie Wanden has been re-elected as Mayor for a second term.

Horowhenua District Council will have the Mayor and 12 Councillors, including eight newcomers and four returning Councillors.

Mayor



Bernie Wanden

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Kere Kere General Ward



**David Allan
(Deputy Mayor)**

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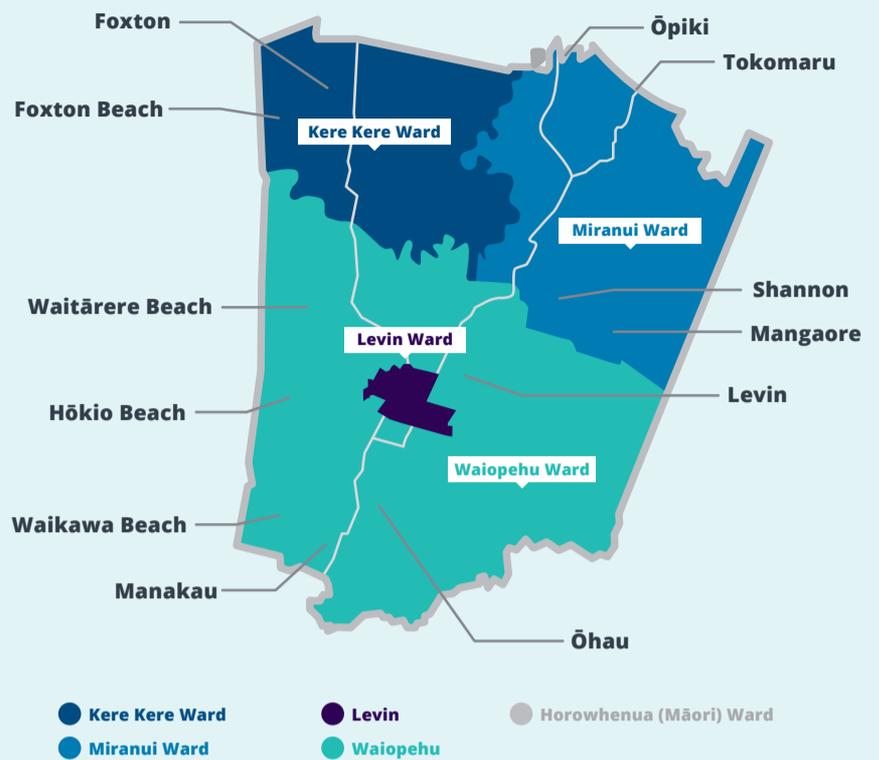
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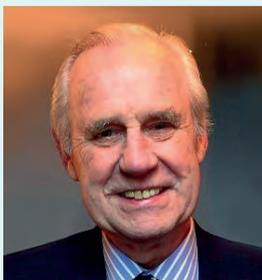
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