



Mayor Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Greetings to you all.

It's been a busy month as Council made substantial changes to its Annual Plan 2020/21 in response to community submissions. Thank you to those who took the time to submit, and to Councillors and Council officers for the hard work they put in over a short space of time to deliver an unprecedented -1.83% rates income decrease.

I am looking forward to the exciting week of celebrations Council has lined up for Matariki this month, in partnership with Muaūpoko Tribal Authority. There really is something for everyone, so do come along and enjoy the events on offer.

In infrastructure news, one important project has wrapped up while another begins. Council recently completed the set-up of a new pressure management system to improve the efficiency of the district's water supply network. Now, we are starting work on major safety improvements to parts of Queen Street. This is great news for our district, with the project creating 20 jobs and funded by the Government's Provincial Growth Fund.

Our district has been allocated \$3.86 million from the Provincial Growth Fund to begin a regeneration project for Foxton. This is fantastic news, and locals and visitors alike will benefit from the project.

Ngā manaakitanga

Horowhenua District Council adopts Annual Plan with rates income decrease

Horowhenua District Council has eased the financial burden on the district's ratepayers for the 2020/21 financial year with the adoption of its Annual Plan.

The Annual Plan decreases the amount of rates income the Council will collect for the 2020/21 year, compared to 2019/20, by -1.83%.

Council adopted the plan at an extraordinary meeting on Monday 29 June.

Mayor Bernie Wanden said Council had made substantial changes to its draft Annual Plan in response to community feedback during the consultation period.

"We created the draft Annual Plan before COVID-19 created hardship and uncertainty for many in our community, and we knew it would look different when we adopted it," he said.

"We are going out with a decision that might be considered extraordinary, but we are listening to our community and making decisions in their best interests. We received a record 142 submissions, and many of the submitters asked us to reduce the rates income," he said.

"We've worked hard to cut budgets to achieve this rates income decrease by reducing employee costs and interest costs, reducing operational expenditure and borrowing an additional \$1 million to fund asset renewals instead of rate-funding them."

While the rates income decrease would see Council collecting less money, it would not necessarily mean a rates decrease for all households in the district.

Chief Financial Officer Doug Law said rates for some properties could still go up because an independent rating valuation carried out across all properties in the district in 2019 will affect rates from July 2020.

"The way your rates will be affected by the valuation depends on whether your property value rose by more or less than the district average. A below average increase will likely have no impact on your rates or may mean you pay less. An above average increase in value could mean that even with Council's decision to reduce its rates income for 2020/2021 you may still pay more in rates."

The adopted Annual Plan also includes the following key decisions:

- \$50,000 to undertake preparations for a splash pad in Jubilee Park, including a feasibility study, site planning, stakeholder input and drawing up a design. Up to \$400,000 of additional capital will be considered as part of the 2021-2041 Long Term Plan, which Council will begin preparing later this year.
- \$110,000 from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account to support the Foxton Beach Progressive Association's project to establish CCTV cameras at Foxton Beach.
- \$30,000 for essential repairs to Shannon Pool.
- \$110,000 for work on changes to the District Plan including opportunities for small-scale rural residential subdivision, infill residential subdivision and higher density housing development.

In addition, Council officers will undertake a range of actions in response to items raised by submitters, including (but not limited to):

- further investigation of speed humps at Waikawa Beach
- exploring opportunities for improving the delivery of regulatory services

- continuing to work with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to advocate for community interests in the development of the O2NL expressway
- considering relevant comments when creating the Destination Management Strategy
- investigating the concept of edible reserves
- considering future opportunities for horseriding in the district
- reviewing the Sun Smart and Smokefree Environment Policies.

Dog registrations open with refunds up for grabs

Horowhenua dog owners who pay their dog registration online by Saturday 18 July will be in the draw to win a full refund of their dog registration fee or a hamper of pet products.

Five refunds and one hamper are on offer to encourage owners to register their dogs early and to use the online registration portal.

Council's Compliance Manager, Vai Miller said online registration offers a flexible option that takes the hassle out of dog registration.

"Registering your dog online means you can do it from home at a time that suits you," she said.

"If you need help, Council staff can guide you through online registration using one of our terminals at any time during the registration period if you call into our main office, or you can book a time for our staff to show you how to do your registration on your own smart device."

Mrs Miller said registration fees remain the same as last year, ranging from free (for a disability assistance dog) to \$120 for an entire dog, with the standard fee for a de-sexed pet dog being \$72.

"Registration fees cover the costs faced

by the Council and enable us to meet our obligations under the Dog Control Act. The fees cover about three-quarters of the cost to run our Animal Control department, as well as action complaints, pay for education programmes and material, pound facilities, and legal costs," she said.

Dog owners can choose between strap tags and round tags when they register their dog.

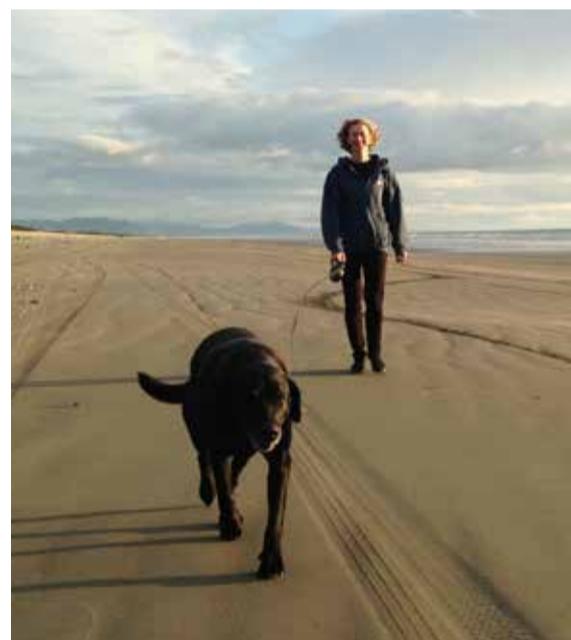
Mrs Miller says any dog owners who believe they may have difficulty in paying their dog registration fees are encouraged to contact Council now on 06 366 0999 and discuss possible options.

"We'd rather talk with people now and perhaps arrange a payment plan to avoid the risk of them receiving a \$300 infringement fee," she said.

Payments can be made online by visiting Council's website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz/pawsonline, and details of how to do so can be found on the dog registration renewal notices. Alternatively, payment can be made in person at Council's office in Levin, at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton or at the Shannon Library.

Registration payments are due by Friday 31 July 2020. A late penalty of the registration fee plus 50 percent will apply for registrations paid after 31 July.

Detailed information on dog registrations, as well as the full schedule of fees and charges for dog registration and animal control, is available on the Animal Control page of Council's website.



Foxton's Future given a \$3.86 million start

A regeneration project which aims to create a sustainable future for Foxton will begin thanks to Provincial Growth Funding.

Speaking at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Regional Economic Development Minister Shane Jones announced \$3.86 million had been allocated to the project.

Horowhenua District Council Mayor Bernie Wanden said the project encompassed the aspirations of tangata whenua and the community.

"Foxton Futures looks at creating a sustainable future for our community which both visitors and locals will benefit from," he said.

With the completion of the Ōtaki to North of Levin expressway, Foxton will be the first town north of Wellington, bringing the capital city closer for commuters and visitors.

Foxton River Loop Working Party member and Save Our River Trust Chair Robin Hapi CNZM said the funding will go towards improving

public spaces and the health of the River Loop, making the town more attractive and creating employment opportunities.

"The Foxton River Loop is a part of our history which was negatively impacted when the Whirokino cut was made. This saw the flooding of Papangaio and isolated kainga at Matararapa. Improving the environmental health of this area will also improve the health of the town and those who call this area home," he said.

One of the key aspects of Foxton Futures, is the commitment to Māori Development opportunities. Ngāti Raukawa Hayden Turoa said he's looking forward to seeing how this may be progressed further.

"We see this project as the start and are very grateful for the Minister Shane Jones in honouring his promise to the community. We're excited about this being a true example of community groups and agencies working together in improving the health of Piriharakeke," he said.

Over the coming weeks Council will finalise with the Working Party and Provincial Development Unit the timeline and deliverables.



Making Queen Street safer

Major safety improvements on the busiest local road in Levin are underway.

Recently, Council completed the rebuild of the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout.

Now, work has begun on improvements to the section between Oxford and Salisbury Streets, and a roundabout at the Queen Street/Tiro Tiro Road intersection. These two projects will create up to 20 jobs and was made possible thanks to \$1.65M from the Provincial Growth Fund.

Later this month, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency

will reveal its plans for a roundabout at the Queen Street/SH 57 intersection – rated as one of the Top 100 most dangerous intersections in Aotearoa.

Group Manager Infrastructure Development, Brent Maguire said the projects reflect Council's push to keeping our people safe on the roads and footpaths and making it easier for people to move around our district.

"The community and Council have advocated for a roundabout at the SH57/Queen Street intersection for many years," said Mr Maguire. "That project will also provide improved access to east Levin where a large residential area is proposed."

Mr Maguire said Council is taking the opportunity to upgrade water and wastewater pipes under the intersections at the same time.



Roading Services Manager, James Wallace said the Oxford to Salisbury section includes cycle lanes and safer places for pedestrians to cross the road in the heart of Levin.

"We realise the projects may cause frustration at times for motorists and local businesses. However, we are aiming to complete the projects this year, and we will have a safer more visually appealing street for everyone to enjoy."

Saving water with smart technology

A newly-completed pressure management and network monitoring system is helping to reduce water leaks, deliver a more reliable water network, and reduce maintenance costs.

Horowhenua District Council's water services provider, Horowhenua Alliance, installed the final piece of equipment to complete the set-up of the new system in June – the last of four pressure reducing valves (PRVs) for the Levin water network.

Water Services Engineer Albert Hoffmann said the PRVs deliver significant benefits.

"Pressure reducing valves are the most effective and affordable way to reduce water loss through leakage," he said.

"They also deliver savings on operational costs, because lower pressure in the water supply network reduces the number of pipe bursts. That extends the operational life of infrastructure and reduces the time and money Council has to spend on maintenance."

He said the PRVs would help Council use the existing water supply more efficiently to meet current and future demand.

"Less wasted water means Council needs to draw and treat less water from the Ōhau River to meet Levin's needs, which saves on treatment costs and is better for the environment. In addition, water saved by reducing leaks goes toward meeting

the additional demand for water created by future growth, which means Council will have to invest less in upgrading the water treatment plant."

The pressure relief valves use 'smart' controllers to optimise the opening and closing of flow valves to achieve a consistent flow at an optimal pressure, and avoid unnecessary fluctuation.

"Members of the public can expect a more reliable water supply service, with fewer network-related complaints," said Mr Hoffmann.

The PRVs are part of a water pressure management system Council is installing to improve the efficiency of the District's water supply network, as part of its water demand management plan.

The system also includes data loggers and network analytics.

Data loggers are sensors permanently installed throughout the water supply network. They monitor water pressure in the network and send daily digital data to a network analysis centre over the cellular phone network.

The data is then analysed to monitor the condition of PRVs and detect any problems, such as leakage or transients. Transients are a pressure problem caused by valves

opening and closing very rapidly, causing a damaging 'water hammer' effect.

"It makes the water supply network 'smart'," Mr Hoffmann said. "We now have the most advanced pressure management and monitoring system in New Zealand."



Contractors install the last of four PRVs at the corner of Queen Street East and SH57.



Week of celebrations marks Matariki

The rise of the Matariki stars heralds the beginning of the Aotearoa New Year – a time to reflect on the past, celebrate the present and plan for the future.

Horowhenua District Council and Muaūpoko Tribal Authority are marking the occasion with a diverse week-long programme of free events, including performances, feasts, arts and crafts, cooking, activities, and of course astronomy.

The programme runs from 13 July to 19 July, with plenty of fun on offer at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō in Levin and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton, as well as things you can do at home.

Civic and Community Events Coordinator Melissa Steedman said the programme offered ways for people of all ages, abilities and ethnicities to join in celebrating Matariki.

A highlight of the programme is a presentation by Professor Rangī Matamua, 'Living by the Stars'. Professor Matamua comes from a long line of Māori astronomers and will share the celestial knowledge handed down to him by his tipuna.

Returning from a popular performance supporting the Modern Māori Quartet at last year's Matariki celebrations is soulful

rhythm and blues singer/songwriter Amba Holly. This year Ms Holly headlines her own musical performance.

Local kapa haka groups Taitoko ki te Rawhiti Tuakana, Ngā Kōtuku o Punahau and Te Kōtahitanga o Punahau will add their performing talents to the mix with a kapa haka performance followed by a community kai.

Te Kokiri Development Consultancy is offering the opportunity to learn how to weave your own flax star – the perfect Matariki craft – with workshops in Levin and Foxton.

A stunning deep space photo exhibition by astronomer and philosophy lecturer Dr Stephen Chadwick runs in the Shared Gallery at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom throughout Matariki.

A special part of the celebrations will be a public karakia at Lake Horowhenua at first light at the beginning of Matariki week.

For those who prefer to join the Matariki celebrations from home, there will be kite-making, colouring in, and opportunities to learn about cooking Matariki kai with Easy Eats host Hera Te Kurapa in a streamed online session on the Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō Facebook page, www.facebook.com/te.takere

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

horowhenua.govt.nz/News-Notices/Community-Connection



Council Meetings

Council (Extraordinary meeting)

8 Wednesday 8 July, 4pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Foxton Community Board

27 Monday 27 July, 6pm,
Blue Room, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

29 Wednesday 29 July, 4pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Matariki - Deep Space: A View of the Stars and Beyond Exhibition

Friday 5 June until Sunday 23 August
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
Open daily

What's happening

5 to **23**

Friday 5 June until Sunday 23 August
Matariki – Deep Space: A View of the Stars and Beyond

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Open daily
Free.

6 to **10**

Monday 6 July to Friday 10 July
Friends of Horowhenua Libraries Annual Winter Used Book Sale
9am to 5:30pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.

Free entry, books \$1 or less.

6 to **19**

Monday 6 July to Sunday 19 July
Aquatics holiday lessons
Levin Aquatic Centre

Contact 06 368 0700 or levinaquaticcentre@horowhenua.govt.nz to enrol. *Free.*

12 Sunday 12 July
Jazz Jam

2pm to 4pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.
Free.

13 Monday 13 July
Matariki: Karakia

Arrive 5:30am for 6am karakia at Lake Horowhenua Domain
Free.

15 Wednesday 15 July
Matariki: Hera Te Kurapa: Kai and Matariki

6pm. Streamed online at www.facebook.com/te.takere
Free.

16 Thursday 16 July
Matariki: Professor Rangī Matamua – Living by the Stars

6pm to 8pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.
Free.

17 Thursday 17 July
Matariki: Parao Parai – Making Māori Fried Bread

From 3.30pm at Youth Space, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.

18 Saturday 18 July
Matariki: Kapa Haka Performance and Community Kai

From 4pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.
Free.

19 Sunday 19 July
Matariki: Amba Holly Performance

2pm to 3:30pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.
Free.

31 & **2**

Friday 31 July and Sunday 2 August (weather permitting)

Rose pruning demonstration
10am to 12pm at Nola Simpson Rose Garden
Free.

Matariki: Harakeke wheti (flax star) weaving

14 Tuesday 14 July, 12pm to 2pm
Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

17 Friday 17 July, 12pm to 2pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Free.

Weekly on Fridays
Local Music Showcase

12 noon to 1pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.
Free.

Weekly on Wednesdays
Quiz Night

7:30pm to 9pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.
\$5 per person.