

Community Connection



Mayor Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Greetings to you all.

We have received the results of our

annual Resident Satisfaction Survey and, while there are some areas we need to work on, it's heartening to see a high satisfaction rate with most Council services and facilities. Your feedback is valuable and I thank those who took part.

It's exciting to see work underway on the rejuvenation of the Manawatū River Loop as part of the Foxton Futures project, which aims to create a sustainable future for the Foxton community to benefit locals and visitors alike.

There are big things happening in Levin too, and Council is currently seeking your feedback on the draft Taraika Master Plan. This will be the biggest residential development in our district's history, and I encourage you to have your say.

In fact, we've been busy all over the district! We're continuing to upgrade the Shannon Library, making safety improvements to Waitārere Beach Road, and working with the community to restore the dunes at Waikawa Beach.

Finally, with COVID-19 reappearing in our country, I urge you all to do your part by continuing to practise good hygiene, keeping track of where you've been, and staying at home if you're sick.

Ngā manaakitanga

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernie Wanden".

What you think of us: Results from the 2020 Resident Satisfaction Survey

Horowhenua District Council carries out a Resident Satisfaction Survey every year as one of the ways we measure public perceptions of how we are performing.

This year's survey was conducted by telephone in May and June, using a randomised database of telephone numbers covering the district. A quota system was used to ensure the survey sample was representative of the district's population. A total of 381 surveys were completed.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to answer the survey questions and provide feedback on how we're progressing. Your input will help us to work out which areas we need to focus on most.

Here are some of our key results. Results shown are from those who use the services and are a combination of satisfied and very satisfied responses.



96% satisfied
Library services



93% satisfied
Parks and reserves



85% satisfied
Swimming pools



88% satisfied
Kerbside recycling



95% satisfied
Kerbside rubbish



81% satisfied
Drinking water



88%

Overall satisfaction with Council facilities and services.



88% satisfied
Wastewater services



73% satisfied
Stormwater services



69% satisfied
Overall performance for economic development of the district



57% satisfied
The way Council involves the public in its decision-making



95% satisfied
Sports grounds



63% satisfied
District road maintenance



93% satisfied
Cemeteries



90% satisfied
Recycling stations

Hydroslide repairs underway

Work is underway to repair the Levin Aquatic Centre hydroslide.

The stairwell leading to the hydroslide needs to be repaired due to significant corrosion to the structure, stair treads and balustrades. The hydroslide was closed in February 2019 in the interest of public safety.

Community Facilities and Events Manager Brent Harvey said the stairwell would be removed and taken off-site for repairs.

He said key considerations were to keep the Levin Aquatic Centre open during the repairs and to engage local contractors to do the work where possible.

“We acknowledge that the hydroslide has been out of action for a long time and many people have missed it. We know how much it is valued by our community and look forward to having it operational again in the not too distant future.”

Council is working with contractors to ensure public safety and keep disruption to a minimum. The hydroslide will be isolated from the rest of the facility, and most services and facilities at Levin Aquatic Centre will continue as normal. Any programme changes will be communicated ahead of time.

Repairs are expected to be complete by January 2021.



Shannon Library's makeover continues

Things keep getting better for library lovers in Shannon.

The interior of the library was refurbished in May, and re-opened for patrons in early June with new shelving, carpets, customer service desk, a small kitchen and refreshed book stock.

Now Libraries Horowhenua has work underway to give the library's exterior a fresh and tidy new look that matches the engaging interior. The 'Shannon Library' signage at the entrance has been repainted and updated, and the old frosting on the windows has been replaced with an attractive, more contemporary design.

And the transformation continues. The volunteer group Friends of the Horowhenua Libraries has donated funds for new blinds looking out to the courtyard at the rear of the library, as well as paint for a tidy-up of the courtyard itself. Further work on gardening and replanting in the courtyard will be done later in the year when the weather improves.

Inside, new 'Welcome to your library' signage will be added at the customer service desk and patrons will be able to relax on a new couch to enjoy a good book.



Last chance to have your say on draft Taraika Master Plan

If you haven't yet had your say on the draft Taraika Master Plan, don't miss the deadline – feedback closes at 5pm on Monday 7 September 2020.

The draft Taraika Master Plan is a proposal to develop 420 hectares of land, previously known as Gladstone Green, to the southeast of Levin – it will be the most significant residential development in the history of the district.

The proposed development will be home to approximately 2,500 homes, parks,

reserves, a local shopping centre, an education facility, stormwater retention areas, and several roads and a shared pathway will connect the development with Levin.

Feedback will be used to refine the draft Master Plan and inform a change to the Council's District Plan to rezone the land for residential use. Following this, the Proposed District Plan Change will be formally notified, allowing for submissions and a hearing to be held.



Image credit: Stantiall Studios.
<https://stantiallstudio.com/>

Construction begins on new roundabout

Construction of a new roundabout has begun at the intersection of Queen Street and Tiro Tiro Road.

The roundabout is one of two roading projects currently underway on Queen Street that were made possible by \$1.65 million from the Provincial Growth Fund. The projects will create up to 20 jobs.

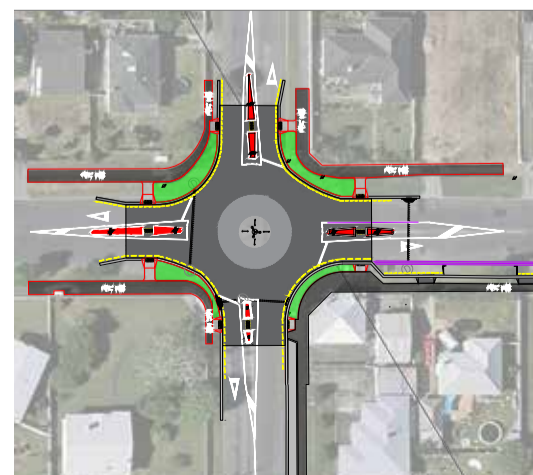
Roading Services Manager James Wallace said the new roundabout would improve safety

at the intersection for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

The intersection will be closed until Wednesday 30 September to allow works to occur, and detours will be in place.

There will be access to the closed area for residents and pedestrians during the works.

For more information, please visit horowhenua.govt.nz/QueenStreetImprovements



Foxton Futures

Rejuvenating the Manawatū River Loop

First phase of the Manawatū River Loop rejuvenation project is underway.

Following a site blessing by Ngāti Raukawa, contractors have started phase one of the project to rejuvenate the Manawatū River Loop and Harbour Street Recreation Reserve.

Flow through the Loop stopped in the 1940s after a flood diverted the main course of the river during the construction of the Whirokino Cut, a government flood-protection scheme. Since then the Loop has filled with silt, weed, and the quality of the water has deteriorated to a stage where it is not safe for gathering of kai or recreation.

The Save Our River Trust (SORT), Community and local Hapū have advocated for the rejuvenation of River Loop, and in July, the Provincial Growth Fund announced \$3.86M for the shovel-ready aspects of the project.

Horowhenua Mayor Bernie Wanden said since then work has started on the shovel-ready aspect of the project – the removal of up to 25,000m³ of silt followed by an upgrade to Harbour Street Recreation Reserve and a connection to Paretao (Seaview) Gardens.

A Foxton Futures Governance Group has

been established to oversee the project and to persevere with planning for Phase Two – reopening the River Loop, preparation of a concept plan and connection of the river with the Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park and other town features.

The Horowhenua Alliance (a partnership between Horowhenua District Council and Downer) is carrying out the work. A site office,

with images of both the current project and the aspirational project are on display, has opened in the old Foxton library on Clyde St. To make an appointment email enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of January 2021 subject to weather and Covid-19 restrictions.



Artist's impression of the area where silt and vegetation will be removed from.

This project is supported by the hapū of Te Awahou and the Save Our River Trust and partners



Foxton Pools opens with \$1 fitness deals and family fun

Foxton Heated Pools is open for its extended summer season, and Aquatics Horowhenua is offering \$1 fitness classes and a free Family Fun Day to celebrate.

The \$1 fitness classes apply to all Aquatics Horowhenua land-based and water-based fitness classes from Monday 7 September to Friday 11 September, and includes classes at Levin Aquatic Centre as well as Foxton Heated Pools.

Water-based fitness classes normally cost \$5 per class, and land-based classes normally cost \$7. MoveWell, a land-based class for older people, normally costs \$2 per class.

“Our \$1 fitness classes are a great opportunity to try something new,” said Aquatics Horowhenua Programmes and Events Supervisor Megan Ford. “We have a wide variety of fitness classes for people of all ages, abilities and fitness levels, so there’s something for everyone.”

There will also be a free day of family fun at Foxton Heated Pools from 10am to 2pm on Sunday 20 September.

Ms Ford said the day offers an opportunity for the community to try what the Foxton Heated Pools has to offer.

“There will be a free AquaCise class from 9am to 10am, and information about Streamline Swim School and our fitness classes. We’ll have plenty of activities on offer too, including a dunk tank, a photo-booth, a bouncy castle,

outdoor games, inflatable and lots of water-based fun, as well as the ever-popular Pop-Up Eats,” she said.

For more information, including fitness classes, timetables, and upcoming events, visit the Aquatics Horowhenua website, aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz



Community planting day at Waikawa Beach

Members of the Waikawa Beach community and the Waikawa Ratepayers & Residents Association teamed up with Council staff for a community planting day on Saturday 22 August.

In just over three hours, the dunes were planted with 3,500 native spinifex and pingao grasses as part of a dune restoration project.

Council's Parks and Property Officer Ben Wood thanked all who attended and said it was a great result that would benefit the coastal ecology of the area.



Photo: Miraz Jordan

Waitārere Beach Road improvement works begin



Work is underway on improvements to Waitārere Beach Road.

The project includes widening the road, lowering the road level at the crest to allow drivers to see the bend in the road more easily, and drainage improvements.

Works are expected to be complete by the end of the year, and will take place between 7am and 5pm. Stop/Go traffic management will be in place when necessary.

Roading Projects Engineer Daryl Cuenca encouraged road users to travel with caution and thanked the community for its patience.

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

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



Council Meetings

Council



Wednesday 9 September, 4pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Foxton Community Board



Monday 28 September, 4pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street Foxton

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee



Wednesday 30 September, 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: www.horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive

What's happening



Event details are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change. Please check horowhenua.govt.nz/events or contact event organisers for updates.

All month September

Expressions in Colour – Exhibition

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Local artist Audrey Garratt explores colour with paintings and drawings.

Free.

All month September

Whenu – A Multimedia Exhibition

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Open daily

Influences from around the motu and across the sea are woven together in new ways, into a vibrant kete of diversity – through canvas, fibre, paper, harakeke, wire, a large digital screen and wood.

Free.



Monday 7 to Friday 11 September

\$1 Fitness Week

Levin Aquatic Centre and Foxton Heated Pools

Try an Aquatics Horowhenua fitness class for just \$1.

\$1 per class.



Saturday 12 September

Clean Up Week

From 10am at Levin Railway Station

Do your bit to help clean up litter in your community in this local Clean Up Week event. We will start at the Levin Railway Station and head north to the other end of Oxford Street. Bring sensible footwear and clothing, sunblock, sunhat, and a drink bottle.

Free.



Monday 14 September to Sunday 20 September

September

Māori Language Week

Levin Aquatic Centre and Foxton Heated Pools

Enjoy a programme of various events to celebrate Māori Language Week. See horowhenua.govt.nz/Events for programme details.

Free.



Sunday 20 September

Foxton Family Fun Day

10am to 2pm at Foxton Heated Pools

Fun for all the family, including a free AquaCise class, dunk tank, photo-booth, bouncy castle, giant games, inflatable and Pop-Up Eats.

Free.



Saturday 26 September to Sunday 11

October

Inflatable Invasion

Levin Aquatic Centre and Foxton Heated Pools

Have fun with our aquatic inflatables throughout the school holidays.

Normal cost of pool admission.

Registrations for stallholders are open until Friday 18 September 2020.

For more information and to book a stall, visit: www.horowhenua.govt.nz/ageonthego or contact Council's Community Development Team on 06 366 0999.