



Mayor Bernie Warden

Message from the Mayor

It has been a pleasure to have been involved in a number of community

events over the last month. From school agricultural days to Civic Awards, a Citizenship ceremony and meeting with the Minister of Transport regarding O2NL, amongst many other things, it has been a busy but rewarding start to the new term.

I would like to acknowledge all those who were involved in showcasing Horowhenua through the Taste Trail. It was a fantastic day for the district, which I am sure would have impressed the many visitors and locals that visited the sites and were made to feel welcome by producers and the many volunteers.

Latest statistics show that Horowhenua is growing faster than previously estimated. Our population by year end will be over 35,000 and shows that we are one of the fastest growing districts in the country.

The Council team have been busy behind the scenes setting the priorities and the work plan for the next year or so. There is much to do.

On behalf of all at Council, Sharon and I wish you a happy, safe and relaxing time over the holiday period and look forward to a positive and constructive 2020.

Wishing you safe travels
and a Merry Christmas



Christmas fun in Horowhenua



Christmas fun is coming to Horowhenua this month with the Community Christmas Carnival set to offer a day of festive family fun on Saturday 14 December.

The day kicks off at 3pm with the Levin Christmas Parade, which will start from York Street and travel along Oxford Street to Durham Street.

Horowhenua District Council's Civic and Community Events Coordinator Melissa Steedman said this year's parade promised to be spectacular and would have a unique twist.

"We want to give our community something new and different, so this year's Christmas Parade and Carnival will have an ugly Christmas sweater theme. We're encouraging people who enter floats in the parade to weave the theme into their decorations, and we want the public to join in with their own interpretation of the theme. It doesn't have to be a sweater – you could wear an ugly Christmas t-shirt, tank top, rash shirt or your own creation. We encourage people to be creative!" she said.

The fun continues at Levin Domain from 4pm to 8pm, with live entertainment, food, market stalls, plenty of fun activities for the young and young-at-heart, and of course a live appearance from the star of the show – Santa.

New Zealand Entertainer of the Year Ainslie Allen will host a live music event with a variety of singers and guest entertainers performing Christmas carols and other tunes.

Prizes will be awarded for the top three Christmas Parade floats and for the best

interpretation of the ugly Christmas sweater theme, with categories for babies and toddlers, children aged 6 to 13 years, families comprising two adults and at least one child, and a general open-age category.

Ms Steedman says Council is focusing on making the Community Christmas Carnival accessible to everyone this year.

"At both the Parade and the Carnival we will have zones where those members of our community who would usually find going to this event too challenging can plan their day, sit back and enjoy," she said.

The zones provide parking close to the parade and carnival, accessible seating with space for wheelchairs and mobility devices, a comfortable area for assistance dogs, and accessible toilet facilities at the Carnival.

Registrations for the accessibility zones are essential to ensure there is enough space and chairs. If you would like space in the accessibility zones, please email hccc@horowhenua.govt.nz

There's still time to register if you'd like to enter a float in the Christmas Parade. To register, visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/christmascarnival or email hccc@horowhenua.govt.nz



Property valuations: Your questions answered

What is a property valuation?

At least once every three years properties in every district and city in New Zealand are revalued to set the values that the council will use to charge rates for the next three years.

The valuation has two components: capital value and land value. Capital value reflects the market value of your property if it was sold on 1 August 2019, and includes the value of your house and other improvements to the land. Land value reflects the expected sale price of the land as if it was bare, with no improvements.

In Horowhenua, the General Rate is based on the land value of your property, and the Land Transport (Roading) Rate and Urban Stormwater Rate are based on its capital value.

How does a change in valuation affect my rates?

People often think that an increase or decrease in valuation will automatically result

in an increase or decrease in rates. Many people also think that an increase in the district's values will mean that the Council gets more money. These are misconceptions.

Council works out how much money we need for the services we will provide for the next year. We then calculate the proposed rates by dividing the district's land value into the total dollars that we need.

The valuation allows us to share the cost of the rates across the district according to a set of property values that are provided for every property on a common date, 1 August 2019. This means that every property is valued on the same basis and at the same time.

The rateable value of a property will not change for the next three years even if the market value increases or decreases during that time.

Who does the valuation?

The valuations are carried out by an independent property valuation service, QV.

When do the new values come into effect?

The 2019 values will be used for setting rates from 1 July 2020.

What should I do if I disagree with the valuation?

There is a formal objection process that you can use to challenge the valuation if you feel that it is not correct. Details of the process are in your valuation notice.

If you want to object, you need to give the valuers some good reasons why you believe that the valuation is wrong and you need to suggest what you think it should be and why. If you are not satisfied with the result of an objection you have the right to have the valuation heard by the Valuation Tribunal.

For more information about property valuations, visit the Rating Information page of our website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz

Resealing our roads

Our contractors are out and about resealing our roads this month.

We reseal about 21 kilometres of our roads every year, which is about 5 percent of our sealed road network.

Resealing provides a continuous waterproof and durable surface that will protect the underlying pavement structure from water damage. It also improves the texture and skid resistance of the road surface.

Our roads are generally resealed with chip seal (small stones), as this is the most cost effective way of waterproofing the road. In some places, such as the end of cul-de-sacs and high traffic areas in the CBD, we use asphalt concrete for a smooth black surface.

This year's resealing programme includes roads in Levin, Ōhau, Foxton Beach, Waitāreere Beach, and between Shannon and Tokomaru. If you live in an urban area and we're resealing your road, we'll send you a letter two weeks before work starts to let you know when work will take place. If work has to be delayed due to weather, the reseals will be carried out on the next suitable day.

If we're resealing your road, you may experience some noise and delays, although we'll keep these to a minimum.

For more information about our Annual Reseal Programme, visit the Council Projects page on our website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz



Looking after your dog in summer

You can help your dog have a safe and enjoyable summer by following these simple tips:

- Make sure your dog is registered. This means we can identify it more easily if it goes missing or wanders off your property. If we can identify who owns a wandering dog, we can reunite you with your pet more quickly.
- If your dog is registered, remember to check it is wearing a collar and registration tag. This is especially important when you go away, go out and leave your dog at home, or take your dog off your property.
- Make sure your dog has access to shade and water, especially if you have to leave it alone for a few hours.
- Never leave your dog locked in a car, even for a few minutes. Even with a window open, the interior of a car can quickly get unbearably hot in the summer heat.
- Check out some of the places you can exercise your dog on or off the leash – you can find a list of dog-friendly places to explore in the district on the Exercising your Dog page of our website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz



New amenities proposed for the Dog Park

One of the most popular parks in Horowhenua may be getting new amenities installed.

Kowhai Park, on Queen Street West in Levin, is a popular dog exercising spot for locals and visitors. However, the park does not currently have public toilets.

Horowhenua District Council's Parks and Property Projects Lead Stephan Titze says Council is keen to hear from members of the community about whether they support the idea of installing toilets at Kowhai Park.

The proposed public toilets would be set near the entrance, closest to the left gate, and would be a single building containing two accessible cubicles.

As part of the installation, Council is also considering constructing a second fence on the park side of the toilet which would provide more security for pets.

"A second fence provides a buffer area, similar to a double door system. Many parks and reserves around New Zealand have a system like this in animal friendly areas. We are asking the public, and users in particular, whether they support the idea," Mr Titze said.

Those who want to provide feedback are encouraged to contact Mr Titze at propertyservices@horowhenua.govt.nz or on 06 366 0999.



New roundabout to improve safety

Council is undertaking two projects of works on the roundabout intersecting Queen Street and Cambridge Street.

Horowhenua Alliance is currently replacing water pipes under the roundabout, providing more capacity in the water network.

Council's Group Manager Infrastructure Services Kevin Peel says the water reticulation upgrade is being done now, as work is planned to improve the roundabout in the new year.

"The Roding team have planned works to improve the safety and functionality of the intersection. Instead of ripping up the road again to undertake the water reticulation works at a later date, it was prudent that we do it now, minimising impact to our residents and visitors in the long run."

Contractors began the water reticulation upgrade at the end of November and work is expected to continue until the end of January. At that stage, the roading upgrade work will start. It is expected to continue until the end of March.

"There will be a lot of activity on the roundabout for the next few months but we are confident our community will appreciate the improvements both below and above the ground," Mr Peel said.

The existing Queen Street and Cambridge Street intersection was identified as unsafe, particularly for pedestrians.

Roding Projects Lead James Wallace said his team had investigated the crash history of the intersection.

"There have been 14 reported crashes at the intersection between 2014 and 2019, which is far higher than we want."

Mr Wallace added the condition of the roundabout was very poor and needed full restoration to remain functional for our community's needs.

"We will be upgrading the general layout of the roundabout with improved provision for those on wheels and pedestrians," Mr Wallace said.



Protecting our waterways

Our waterways are precious and we all have a part to play in protecting them. You can help by taking precautions to stop household products that contain chemicals toxic to fish and invertebrates from entering our stormwater system.

Stormwater is water that runs off streets into our drains. As it runs over the ground, it can pick up pollutants.

Harmful products include detergents, paints, disinfectants, cleaners, petrol, oil, concrete, cement, lime, and many others. Many small discharges from numerous sources can poison streams and rivers.

If you are painting or staining your home, garage or deck, or you have hired a contractor to do this work, you or they will need to take the necessary precautions to prevent paints and solvents from entering our waterways.

If you are cleaning your car with detergents, please clean it on a grassed area and not on concrete driveways or on the road. Or, better still, use a car cleaning service as water collected from commercial operations goes to the wastewater treatment plant.

You can also help by putting litter in bins, taking it home or picking up discarded litter. Litter left on our streets, curbs, footpaths, parks and beaches is unsightly, damages our environment and can harm wildlife. Dropped litter can enter our stormwater system and end up in our streams, lakes, rivers and the Tasman Sea.

For more information about protecting our waterways, visit the Stormwater page on our website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz



Civic Awards recognise outstanding volunteer service

The Horowhenua Civic Honours Awards, held at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō on 19 November, recognised citizens whose outstanding voluntary service has made our community a better place.

Civic Honours awards were presented to Jack Shailer, Judith Sayer, Judith Hunt, Jennifer McGrath, and Pam Good.

Jenny Burnell was recognised for 50 Years' Service to the community, particularly through her contributions to the Horowhenua AP&I Association, Ōhau Good Neighbours Group, and Ōhau Underpass Mural Group.

Certificates of Recognition were presented to Shannon Railway Station Museum & Visitor Information Centre Volunteer Group, Gary Fraser, Pamela Brooking, Karen

Morow-Griffin, and Phillena Paki.

Youth Excellence Scholarships of \$250 each were awarded to George Edwards, Maia Chambers, Christina Cameron, Oliver Parrant, Carter MacLean, Kate Rowan, Josh Madgwick, Abbey Smale, Samantha Heyward, Ilisoni Rauhihi, and Caitlin O'Sullivan.

Citations are available on the News page of Council's website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz.



Council Meetings

Council

 Wednesday 11 December at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

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

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



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 Tukupua

Foxton Community Board



David Roache
(Chair)

Tricia Metcalf
(Deputy Chair)

Trevor Chambers



John Girling

Ngaire Newland

What's happening



Friday 1 November 2019 until Monday 2 March 2020

Anne Frank, NZ - Let Me Be Myself - Exhibition

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Open daily

The Diary of Anne Frank captures the real-life story of a young girl hiding from the Nazis in an attic in Amsterdam during World War II. *Students free entry; Libraries Horowhenua cardholders \$2; adult general admission \$5.*



Saturday 7 December Christmas in the Park

4pm to 9pm at the Levin Adventure Park Free family event with fun activities, food and live entertainment, including hip hop, carols and kapa haka. There will be a performance by Ben Lummis at 7pm. *Free.*



Friday 13 December to Sunday 15 December

Christmas Avenue of Trees

6pm to 8:30pm at The Salvation Army, 11 Durham Street, Levin

A public display of decorated Christmas trees, with a band playing Christmas carols.



Saturday 14 December Community Christmas Carnival

Santa's Parade: 3pm to 4pm, Oxford Street, Levin.

Christmas Carnival: 4pm to 8pm, Levin Domain.

See story on page 1 for more information.

For further details and events visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events

15 Sunday 15 December Shannon Country Christmas Carnival

10am to 3pm at Shannon Domain, Ballance Street, Shannon

A Christmas celebration with Santa, floats, barrel train, petting zoo, food, activities and live entertainment. *Free entry.*



Monday 16 December to Friday 24 January

Summer Reading Programme: The Great Reading Carnival

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and Shannon Library

Summer reading programme for children aged 3 to 12 years. Also includes Christmas craft activities. Please check tetakere.org.nz/Events-Activities/Summer-Reading-Programme for dates and times at each library. *Register at your local Libraries Horowhenua branch. Free.*

Tea and Tales

10.30am, Tuesday 10 December at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom.

10.30am, Thursday 12 December at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Join us for a festive morning tea, treats and an hour of Christmas tales. *Free.*

Christmas Crafternoon

2pm, Thursday 5 December at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

2pm, Sunday 8 December at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

2pm, Thursday 12 December at Shannon Library

Make beautiful cards, tags and decorations to get ready for Christmas. *Free.*