

Horowhenua

you want to stay connected

community connection

Message from the Mayor



Mayor Brendan Duffy

Happy New Year and I wish you all a wonderful 2016. I'm confident it's going to be another good year for Horowhenua. As vice-president of Local Government New Zealand part of my job sees me visiting other councils in districts,

regions and cities throughout the country. I can't help but compare them to us, and I can genuinely say we are in a great space.

I'm also excited by the interest in the Levin Adventure Park Mural Project, which will result in a landmark piece of artwork visible from State Highway One and further showcasing what a fantastic playground facility it is. We've already had nine artists from throughout the country, as well as one based in California, contact Council

for information. Expressions of Interest close in just over a week, so if you know of a New Zealand artist capable to take on the project please direct them to Council's website. We're now also looking for young people to submit designs for the mural. See the story on page three for how to take part.

Brendan

Hokio Beach playground now ship-shape

A pirate ship has docked at Hokio Beach in the form of a new children's playground.

Horowhenua District Council installed the new playground off Tawhiti Street just before Christmas, replacing a 25-year-old wooden fort.

The new, modern playground includes the pirate ship climbing structure, a swing set including a swinging "lilipad", as well as a "climb and spin" ride.

Hokio Progressive Association president Rose Cotter says it has been a hit with children and families, both local and those visiting the beach during the Christmas and New Year holiday period.

"The playground is an awesome asset and the new fencing surrounding it makes it very safe from traffic and the nearby stream."

Rose's daughter Ashley Cotter-Hope, who recently moved back to Hokio Beach with her family, says the new playground is a big



Ashley Cotter-Hope with daughter Harper and son Isaac

improvement to the old wooden fort, which she used to play on as a child.

"The pirate ship theme is really suited to the beach and the kids love it. In fact, I've never seen so many kids down here, and of all ages too. It's great to see."

NZ artwork on display in Levin

Youth designs invited for mural

Rates Rebates top \$1 million

What's Happening



Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL



New Zealand artwork on display in Levin for first time

The BNZ Art Collection exhibition Hope and Wonder will be on display at Te Takere, Levin from February 26 through to March 26.

The exhibition brings together New Zealand artwork created during the 1970s and 1980s by icons of New Zealand art history including Pat Hanly, Robin White, Michael Smither, Michael Illingsworth and Don Binney. Each piece has been carefully selected from the BNZ Art Collection, in consultation with BNZ Heritage Manager Barbara Allen.

Contemporary art curator at Pataka and curator of the Hope and Wonder exhibition, Mark Hutchins, says the exhibition showcases some unique New Zealand artwork.

"Twenty distinctive pieces will be on display and a highlight will be Pat Hanly's Wonder 82. This work was painted in 1970

and features crisp edges and sharply rendered symbols, it is a celebration of New Zealand's clear skies, bountiful summers and desirable, optimistic lifestyle," he said.

Sharon Crosbie, chairwoman of Te Horowhenua Trust says securing an exhibition of this scale is something our district should be excited about;

"We hope all locals come and view the exhibition and tell all their friends and families about it too," she said.

"Te Takere could not have secured this significant exhibition without the support from major sponsors BNZ, Colbert Cooper Accountants, Harcourts Real Estate, Horowhenua District Council, Ohau Wines and Todd Whitehouse lawyers".

The exhibition will be on display for free at Te Takere, Levin from Friday 26 February through to Saturday 26 March. Various events will be on offer throughout the month so locals and visitors to the region will have plenty of opportunity to enjoy this unique exhibition. For more info, visit www.tetakere.org.nz



While widely regarded as one of New Zealand's best private art collections, in recent years it has rarely been shown outside of BNZ offices, highlighting the significance of this event for locals and art lovers across the country.

Over \$1 million in Rates Rebates paid to ratepayers

Over \$1 million in Rates Rebates has been paid to eligible ratepayers in the current financial year so far.

Council's Finance Manager Jeff Paulin says "well done" to those Horowhenua ratepayers.

"This is certainly encouraging, but we urge those who have not yet applied to do so. There is nothing to lose and, who knows, if you are eligible you could get up to \$610 credited towards your rates," he said.

Since the current Rates Rebates application period opened last July, there have been 1828 applications and \$1,002,570.87 has been paid out. At the same time the previous year there had been 1733 applications made and \$942,835.18 paid out.

Residential ratepayers with a household income up to \$24,440 may be eligible for a rates rebate up to \$610. Those earning above the maximum threshold may still qualify for a rebate, depending on income,

level of rates and number of dependants. The rebate is based on total income for the year ending 31 March 2015 and the amount of rates for both Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council.

Mr Paulin says the process is not complicated and Council staff can meet with ratepayers and help them complete their applications. To make an appointment phone 06 366 0999 or email ratesrebates@horowhenua.govt.nz.

The only information applicants need to provide is proof of income (before tax) for the tax year ended 31 March 2015, including any interest received, as well as proof of a partner's income or joint income if living together.

Application forms are available from Horowhenua District Council's main office in Levin and its service centres at the Foxton and Shannon Libraries, or online at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/ratesrebates

On the Spot with one of the staff

Arthur Nelson - Property and Parks Manager



"I was originally born in South Auckland, but went overseas for an extended OE of approximately 40 years!

Whilst in the United Kingdom I undertook a range of work from building to being a medical laboratory technician, primarily in North-West England (Manchester and Liverpool).

In 1984 I discovered my true calling, working as a gardener for the National Trust in the UK. I am a time-served craftsman gardener who has been working in parks, recreation and leisure, and property/facility management for the past 30-plus years.

Prior to coming to New Zealand I managed the grounds maintenance functions for a number of large Councils in the UK, including Liverpool and Knowsley.

I returned to New Zealand in 2006 with my family to work for Nelson City Council where I managed the marina, the Trafalgar Centre, Saxton Stadium, pensioner units, crematorium and cemeteries, as well as a range of other services on behalf of Council. I also managed the Council's community leases portfolio.

In my current role at Horowhenua District Council I am the Property and Parks Manager. This provides huge opportunities to have a significant impact in assisting Council to achieve its aspiration of providing great services.

Since being in the Horowhenua I have been hugely impressed with the real pride and enthusiasm that the various communities have for the places they live.



The 'blank canvas' wall at the Adventure Park

Youth designs invited for Adventure Park mural

The Levin Adventure Park is set to receive a huge mural on the wall at its northern border in April.

Expressions of Interest are being sought nationwide for a project-managing artist, with the artwork designs to come from Horowhenua youth.

Designs are now being invited from young people aged from 12 to 24-years-old who reside in Horowhenua. The submissions period closes at 5:00pm on Monday 21 March.

The project-managing artist will help select one or more designs and then work with the youth to produce the mural.

At nearly 300m² of surface area on the south west-facing block wall of the Salvation Army and Southend Cycles buildings, it is an "art canvas of significant dimensions", says Horowhenua District Mayor Brendan Duffy.

"Young people will not only get the opportunity to make a contribution to a large-scale and highly-visible artwork along Levin town centre's southern entranceway, but also gain valuable skills working under the tutelage of the project-managing artist," he said.

"We have some seriously talented young people here in our District and we want to harness that talent and enthusiasm."

The timeframe will allow local college students to gain NCEA credits in Term 1 while preparing their submissions, and then (if successful) spend their first mid-term break getting hands-on experience to deliver the final piece.

More information, including a guide for submitting youth designers, can be downloaded from Horowhenua District Council's website at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/lap

GoShift starts building consent revolution

Horowhenua District is one of 21 central New Zealand councils to sign up to GoShift - a programme to standardise and simplify the building consenting process.

Key benefits will include:

- standardised and aligned processes (e.g. forms, templates, checklists) across participating councils
- shared online services, data and resources
- a single, best-practice quality management system

Other parts of the consent process such as approvals and inspections will be standardised over the next six to 12 months. When completed, the project is expected to save between \$2 and \$4 million a year by reducing consent application times.

Horowhenua District Council's Customer and Community Services Group Manager Monique Davidson, who sits on the GoShift project control group, says it is about councils being more efficient and providing better services.

Mrs Davidson says customers will have consistent building consent experiences, no matter which council they are dealing with.

The GoShift project is being resourced from within existing budgets in the participating councils and with in-kind contribution of expertise from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; as it is considered important the initiative does not add further cost to the system it is trying to improve.

2016 Tertiary Scholarship recipients

Horowhenua District Council is pleased to announce its 2016 Tertiary Scholarship recipients - Logan McDonald and Rhianna Morar.

Each year the Council awards up to three scholarships. Each recipient receives \$2500 towards their tertiary study fees, plus 10 weeks' paid holiday employment with Council.

Former Palmerston North Boys High School pupil Logan McDonald, of Levin, is one year into a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) specialising in civil engineering at the University of Auckland. Logan has

interests in project management and also waste and water services. While with the Council he will work in the Infrastructure Services department.

And, former Horowhenua College pupil Rhianna Morar, of Levin, will soon start a conjoint degree of Laws and Arts, majoring in political science and international relations, at Victoria University of Wellington. Rhianna's ultimate career goal is to work for the United Nations as a New Zealand representative. While with Council, she will work in the Community Development team.

Since being in the Horowhenua I have been hugely impressed with the real pride and enthusiasm that the various communities have for the places they live. As a Council officer I am extremely keen to leverage off that enthusiasm and ensure we provide a service that best aligns with local community priorities."



Logan McDonald



Rhianna Morar

what's happening

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

Saturday 6 February Waitangi Day Community Celebration

10:00am - 4:00pm at Muaupoko Park, Lake Horowhenua, Levin. Entertainment, food and stalls. BYO picnic and join in our national day of celebration. All welcome and free admission. Community bus available and leaving at 10am from Te Takere and stopping at Shannon, Foxton Beach, Foxton, and Waitarere Beach Four Square before heading on to Lake Horowhenua. Leaves at 2pm for return journey. Koha appreciated. For more info, contact Victoria Kaye-Simmons on 027 6011 014.

Saturday 13 February Medieval Market

9:00am - 4:00pm at Horowhenua Event Centre and Showgrounds, Victoria Street, Levin. Craft and food stalls as well as entertainment and activities. Dress in medieval garb and be in to win spot prizes. Whatever the weather, the market will be on. Entry is \$5 per adult. Children accompanied by an adult can enter free of charge. For more info,

visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events

Sunday 14 February Art in the Park 2016

10:00am - 4:00pm at the Levin Public Gardens, 119 Bath Street, Levin. The Horowhenua Art Society, Levin Pottery Club, and Thompson House have once again come together for the annual Art in the Park. There will be a wide variety of arts and crafts on display and for sale, as well as a sausage sizzle and live music. Free admission.

Saturday 20 February Deco Delights Express

7:00am - 9:00pm. A great way to experience Art Deco. Ride the rails in heritage carriages and hauled by an immaculately-restored diesel locomotive on a special day adventure from the Kapiti Coast to Napier. Marvel at the construction of the spectacular Manawatu Gorge and travel over many high viaducts on the journey to Napier. Join at Paekakariki, Paraparaumu, Otaki, Levin, Palmerston North and Woodville Railway Stations. Departs Levin Railway Station,

Oxford Street South, at 7:10am and returns at 9:00pm. Tickets cost \$159 per adult and \$109 per child and available from 0800 793 264.

Sunday 21 February 'Super Cheap Auto' Spectacular Car Show

10:00am - 2:00pm at Shannon Domain. The Shannon Progressive Association presents the annual community fundraiser where last year over 400 vehicles were on display. Bring your own special vehicle to display or just come on in and enjoy the day. There is always a great variety of cars, bikes and other machinery to see as well as food stalls and local groups fundraising. Just \$2 entry.

Sunday 28 February Jazz in the Park

12:30pm - 2:30pm at the Levin Adventure Park, Oxford Street. This free concert by Levin and Districts Brass is a popular event each summer. Bring a picnic. Free entry. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/levinbrass

Public Notices

Levin Aquatic Centre pool closures

The centre's main pool will be closed to the public for the following periods this month:

- Saturday 13 February from 6:00pm to 8:00pm for a Teen Rave event.
- Saturday 20 February from 6:00pm to 7:00pm for a Teen Fitness event.
- Tuesday 23 February from 8:45am to 12:30pm for a Waiopetu Swim Sports event.
- Saturday 27 February from 6:00pm to 7:00pm for a Teen Fitness event.

Aquatics Horowhenua apologises for any inconvenience.

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

The next meeting is on Wednesday 3 February at 4.00pm in the Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Foxton Community Board

The next meeting is on Monday 15 February at 6.30pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Ladys Mile, Foxton. All welcome.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Brendan Duffy
(Mayor)



Garry Good
(Deputy Mayor)



Victoria
Kaye-Simmons



Jo Mason



Tony Rush



Piri-Hira
Tukapua



Wayne Bishop



Christine
Mitchell



Ross Brannigan



Michael Feyen



Janine Smart
(Chair)



David Roache
(Deputy Chair)



Tricia Metcalf



Ross Campbell



Amanda Street



Basil Vertongen

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Customer service hours: Monday - Friday 8.00am - 5.00pm