



Mayor Michael Feyen

Message from the Mayor

Hello to you all.

This is a busy time of year with events

happening all over the district. Last month, I was pleased to see so many of you out enjoying the Medieval Market, the vibrant Chinese New Year celebrations, and the popular talks by psychologist and TV personality Nigel Latta. The fun continues this month with the Holi Festival – one of the most colourful events on any calendar.

Public engagement on Council's Annual Plan 2019/2020 opens on Friday this week. It will be a busy year with many exciting projects going on. I encourage you all to have your say.

I recently attended a seminar on localism run by LGNZ. I'm a keen supporter of giving power back to communities. We want our communities to work closely with Council and to be more involved in decisions about what is good for them.

I remind residents eligible for a rates rebate to take advantage of this great scheme. Details of who is eligible and how to apply are in this month's issue of the Community Connection.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M H Feyen".

Inside this issue:

- ➔ Leading the way with new library catalogue
- ➔ Levin's Town Clock is back on time

Public engagement opens for Annual Plan

Public engagement on Horowhenua District Council's 2019/2020 Annual Plan will begin on 8 March following adoption of the Annual Plan engagement document at the Council meeting on 27 February.

The Annual Plan 2019/2020 focuses on Year Two of the Long Term Plan 2018-2038, which Council adopted last year after extensive community consultation.

Group Manager Strategy & Development David McCorkindale said there were no surprises in this year's Annual Plan.

"Annual Plans can sometimes differ from what was anticipated in the Long Term Plan if new challenges or opportunities arise that Council needs to respond to, but for this one we've been able to stick to what was in the Long Term Plan, with the proposed rates income increase for 2019/2020 at 5.98%. This Annual Plan is focused on implementing planned projects which were discussed with the community through the Long Term Plan consultation process in 2018," he said.

With an estimated 587 extra people per year calling Horowhenua home between 2013 and 2018, and similar growth expected to continue in the near future, planning ahead to manage growth so that it contributes positively to our district is a key feature of the Annual Plan.

Mr McCorkindale said Council will continue developing Master Plans for the district's growth areas, including Gladstone Green in east Levin, Foxton Beach and Waitāreke Beach.

"We expect to need an additional 5,377 homes in Horowhenua by 2040, and taking a master

planning approach enables us to ensure new developments are well designed, connect well with existing urban areas, and provide for a variety of different needs.

"Furthermore, Council will begin working closely with our communities to create community plans that set the vision, goals and key action priorities for each community so they grow and develop in a way that meets their aspirations."

Planning ahead for the district's transport needs will be another focus for 2019/2020, he said.

"The Ō2NL expressway will create changes for the district's roading network, and Council will be working with the community and key stakeholders representing different transport modes to develop Transport Action Plans."

Another key project in the Annual Plan is starting implementation of the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade.

"Council now has a resource consent from the Environment Court to discharge treated wastewater from the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant to land rather than into the Manawatū River Loop, and we'll start implementing that," Mr McCorkindale said.

"We expect this work to take about three years. Once complete, it will improve the water quality of the river and the estuary by reducing the amount of nutrients entering the Manawatū River.

This is an exciting project that will be a major step towards Council's goal of discharging all

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Leading the way with new library catalogue

A new library Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is the latest innovation at Horowhenua Libraries.

Library Services Manager Wendy Fraser said the new OPAC has a clean, colourful, user-friendly look and aims to be informative and easy to use.

“It’s a one-stop-shop for all your library needs. You can search our catalogue; access e-books, databases and other online resources; renew library loans; and check library opening hours. A new feature of this OPAC is curated collections – so you can check out award-winning literature, books for kids to read over summer, local authors, and more,” she said.

“The focus on showcasing the library’s collection in the new OPAC offers a good complement for the Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom websites, which feature events, activities and other things going on in the community centres where our libraries are housed.”

Mrs Fraser said the new OPAC is already attracting international interest from libraries as far away as Nigeria, Greece, Fiji and Samoa. Fortunately, leading the way in the library world is familiar territory for Horowhenua Libraries.

“We created the first open-source library management platform, Koha, when we needed to revamp our library systems in 1999. Koha software is now used by over 15,000 libraries worldwide. Horowhenua Libraries punches well above its weight, and that’s something we can all be proud of,” Mrs Fraser said.

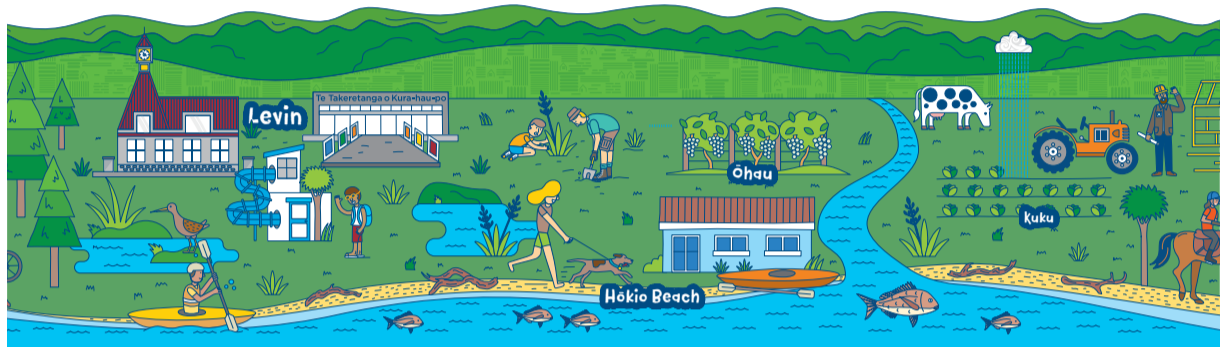


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our district’s treated wastewater to land instead of into our waterways.”

Short-term projects identified in the Transforming Taitoko/Levin Town Centre Strategy will kick off, including work to improve the visual appeal of Oxford Street and support for community placemaking initiatives. In addition, Council will investigate sites for developing a central square or laneway, and look at the feasibility and delivery of a Levin Memorial Hall redevelopment.

Following community feedback during the Long Term Plan consultation, Council will undertake a number of feasibility studies including: a community centre in Shannon; improvement of stormwater entering Lake Horowhenua; and extending reticulated water services in Ōhau and Waitāreke Beach, and wastewater services in Ōhau.



Levin’s Town Clock is back on time

The Levin Town Clock is telling the right time again following repairs.

Property and Parks Manager Arthur Nelson said four clock motors and the lights have been replaced.

“Each clock face has a separate motor. Two of the four motors had failed and the manufacturer confirmed they were all near the end of their normal service life after 10 years, so we decided to replace them all,” he said

Although the clock is now working normally, it will occasionally show the wrong time when it is adjusting to match the world clock.

“The clock is fitted with a GPS world time controller, which is linked to a satellite. It automatically adjusts the time to match the world clock after power failures and for daylight savings time changes. It does this by fractionally speeding up or slowing down the clock hand movements so the time is altered over a period. When this adjustment is happening, the clock can be seen showing the incorrect time from the street,” said Mr Nelson.

Mr Nelson said the temperature display is not connected to the clock function, and was working normally. However, a new temperature sensor will be installed while contractors have access to the clock.

For more information and to have your say visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/HaveYourSay, or Council’s Main Office or Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō in Levin, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton, or the Shannon Library.

*Annual Plan drop-in information sessions:
Levin Mall, 12pm to 2pm, Friday 22 March
Shannon Library, 12pm to 2pm, Monday 25 March*

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 12pm to 2pm, Wednesday 3 April

Council officers will also be available at Pasifika Celebration Day on 9 March and the Fairfield School Gala on 13 March.

Engagement closes at noon on 8 April 2019.



Hyde Park improvements on the way

Improvements are on the way for Shannon's Hyde Park, including public toilet facilities and a public BBQ with shade.

Parks and Property Officer Rachel Carr said the improvements were being made in response to feedback from the Shannon community during consultation for Council's Long Term Plan 2018-2038 and the Shannon Reserves Management Plan.

"During these consultations, many members of the Shannon community asked Council to provide a toilet at the park and to look at other ways we could make the park an asset for everyone to enjoy," she said.

Ms Carr said Council is working closely with the community to confirm the best location for the

toilet and determine what other improvements to the park could look like.

The improvements will be completed by the end of this year.



Refugee families welcomed

Recently, the Government announced that from May 2020 Levin will become a host town for refugee resettlement.

Deputy Mayor Wayne Bishop said the Government has laid down a challenge to Horowhenua to welcome refugee families who are rebuilding their lives after fleeing conflict in their homelands.

"We are a welcoming and friendly people here in Horowhenua. It is a strong part of our character and has been for generations," he said.

Deputy Mayor Bishop said the Ministry has advised that new arrivals will be supported by a yet to be determined, Levin-based service provider, and that provider will work with the district's existing wide network of support services. They will help the new residents by coordinating enrolment in GP practices, early childhood centres, schools and English as a Second Language classes, as well as employment.

"We have been reassured that refugee families will only come once housing has been found for them. The challenge for the Government will be to build more Housing New Zealand homes to accommodate them," he said.

For local business leaders like Geoff Lewis, founder of Tendertips Asparagus, the decision makes perfect sense.

"Most people who come here have been through tough times that we cannot begin to imagine. They seek the safety and security for their families that smaller towns can offer. Their wide range of ethnicities, religions and countries of origin can't help but enrich all our lives. After all, we've all come from somewhere," said Mr Lewis.

"They have stickability, a great work ethic and entrepreneurial skills that we as communities need in our workforce. They are great employees despite often having to learn English on the job. They are proud, happy and really want to contribute."

New fitness classes at Aquatics Horowhenua

Aquatics Horowhenua has three new land-based classes and one new water-based class on offer.

Total Body Tone is a land-based circuit workout designed to improve cardio fitness and strength.

Legs, Tums and Bums uses a variety of training methods to tone and build strength in the quads, glutes and core.

Flex and Balance is a new class with a slightly slower pace. The class focuses on breathing, stretching and relaxation to improve circulation and mental well-being.

Aquatics Horowhenua is also offering the latest trend in aqua fitness with Aqua Float. This class is a high intensity class on large inflatable yoga mats on the water to improve your core strength and balance.

"It's a great way to increase your muscle strength, coordination and balance. It's a good workout and lots of fun!" said Aquatics Programmes and Events Supervisor Lewis Young.

Most aqua classes are \$5 each, and land-based fitness classes and Aqua Float are \$7 each. Alternatively, you can get a 15 ticket concession card for \$60 for aqua classes or \$84 for land-based fitness classes.

A timetable is available on the Aquatics Horowhenua website at aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz/Programmes.



Have you applied for your 2018/19 rates rebate yet?

If you have yet to apply for a rates rebate for the 2018/19 rating year, now is a good time to do it.

Rebates of up to \$630 may be available to eligible residential ratepayers. To be eligible, you must be named as a ratepayer for a property and living at that property on 1 July 2018.

Finance Manager Jeff Paulin says applying for a rates rebate is simple and straightforward.

"All you need is your total income from all sources for the year ending 31 March 2018. Just bring this information into Council's

main office in Levin or Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton, and a Council officer will be happy to help you to complete your application," he said.

"We can even arrange a home visit if you have difficulty getting to one of our customer service centres."

Rebates are based on total household income for the tax year ending 31 March 2018 and the amount of rates for both Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council for the

2018/19 rating year. To check your entitlement, visit the 'Estimate your rates rebate' page on www.govt.nz/rates-rebate and enter your details into the rebate calculator.

Application forms are available online from the 'How to apply' page on www.govt.nz/rates-rebate or from Council's customer service centres at the main office building or Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō in Levin, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in Foxton, and the Shannon Library.



What's happening

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

**Wednesday 6 March to
Sunday 28 April**
Rembrandt Remastered

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. A remarkable collection of 57 digitally remastered reproductions of the paintings of Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn.

2 **Saturday 2 March to
Sunday 10 March**

Seaweed

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō will be celebrating Seaweed with displays and activities to promote environmental awareness to young people. Free.

9 **Saturday 9 March**
Pasifika Celebration Day

3pm to 7pm at Levin Adventure Park. Family-friendly community event with food, arts, craft and culture. Free.

9 **Saturday 9 March**
Stringbean Puppets

2:30pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Puppets, shadow and water combined tell the life story of New Zealand's native native long-fin eel. Free.

9 **Saturday 9 March**
**Terracotta Warriors: Guardians
of Immortality and Weta Workshop
Experience**

9am to 5:30pm. Departs Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Day trip to Te Papa and Weta Workshop in Wellington. Tickets \$100 from the i-SITE at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Levin, or Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton.

10 **Sunday 10 March**
Stringbean Puppets

11am at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Puppets, shadow and water combined tell

the life story of New Zealand's native native long-fin eel. Free.

10 **Sunday 10 March**
Art in the Park

10am to 4pm at Levin Public Gardens, 119 Bath Street. Arts, pottery, crafts, live music and dance, tea and scones and fun for all. Free.

13 **Wednesday 13 March**
Pop-Up Eats

5pm to 8pm at Ōhau Brown Butter car park, 3 Muhunoa East Road, Ōhau. Live music and great food.

14 **Thursday 14 March**
AGM – Contact Inc.

6pm at Horowhenua District Council's Main Office. All those interested in the future of the Jack Allen Community Hub are welcome. Contact: jackallenhub@extra.co.nz or 06 368 1195.

15 **Friday 15 March**
Nitro Circus: You Got This

4pm to 10pm. Departs Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Join us for a bus trip to see the fearless Nitro Circus FMX and BMX riders in the You Got This stadium tour. Tickets \$175 from the i-SITE at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Levin, or Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton.

16 **Saturday 16 March**
Holi Festival

3:30pm to 10pm at Village Green, Levin. Three awesome events to celebrate the Hindu spring festival, including: a free family fun day with cultural performances, food, games, fireworks and a market; colour throw and water party with DJ; UV colour throw with DJ. Tickets for colour throws \$15 from Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.

Council Meetings

Council

13 Wednesday 13 March at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Foxton Community Board

25 Monday 25 March at 6pm, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton.

Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee meeting

27 Wednesday 27 March at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen
(Mayor)

Wayne Bishop
(Deputy Mayor)

Ross Brannigan



Ross Campbell

Neville Gimblett

Barry Judd



Victoria Kaye-Simmons

Jo Mason

Christine Mitchell



Piri-Hira Tukapua

Bernie Wanden

Foxton Community Board



David Roache
(Chair)

Tricia Metcalf
(Deputy Chair)

David Allan



John Girling

Jenny Lundie

COLOUR THROWS
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES
FOOD TRUCKS
INDIAN MARKET
FIREWORKS

TICKETS: \$15
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
Shannon Library

Holi FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 16 MARCH
3:30 - 10PM