

Community Connection



David Clapperton

Message from the Chief Executive

In this issue we highlight our Pre-Election Report – it covers what we have achieved and the issues and opportunities we face. It is a must-read for candidates and the public alike. Please treat it as a conversation-starter, talk with your friends and whānau, and ask candidates how they will address the issues if they are elected. The elections will set the direction and leadership of Council for the next three years – please take part.

The Community Plans initiative is well underway, with community drop-in sessions held in Waitāre Beach, Manakau and Ōhau in July and early August. It was fantastic to see locals getting engaged in identifying goals and aspirations for their community. I'd like to thank all those who came along, as well as the many people who have contributed their views through our online surveys.

Our district contains many extraordinary people who work tirelessly to improve the lives of others and make our district a more vibrant place. The annual Civic Honours Awards offer an opportunity to give these often unsung heroes the recognition they deserve. Likewise, Youth Excellence Scholarships recognise the achievements and contributions of our young people, as well as assisting them to continue succeeding in their endeavours. If you know someone who deserves recognition, I encourage you to nominate them.

DM Clapperton

Get ready for Local Body Elections!

Discuss, debate, and most importantly, **vote!**

Council has issued a frank Pre-Election Report that aims to ignite debate amongst candidates and the public in the lead-up to the 2019 Local Body Elections.

Horowhenua District Council Chief Executive David Clapperton said the report provides some insight into the large and significant role Council plays in everyday life.

"The report highlights the many challenges and opportunities to come," said Mr Clapperton.

"How will we continue to manage the pressures of a growing population and ensure that growth represents an opportunity?"

The report includes highlights such as maintaining Council's A+ credit rating from Standard & Poor's, preparing for growth and improving relationships with iwi.

It also acknowledges that things haven't always gone our way, including central

government's decision to delay the O2NL Expressway, and the disappointing lack of success in accessing Provincial Growth Fund monies for our district.

"How do we light a fire under O2NL and get it back on track – residents and businesses need certainty and not another lost decade of delays," said Mr Clapperton.

In addition, the report prompts candidates to think about issues that face all of us, such as how we should confront the reality of climate change and its effects.

The Pre-Election Report is required by law and is prepared independently of elected members. You can find it on our website at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/elections or pick up a copy from Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Shannon Library or Council's Main Office, Oxford Street, Levin.



#standforhorowhenua

Reduced speed limits to come into effect

Reduced speed limits on most rural and rural residential roads in Horowhenua are expected to come into effect following the Council meeting on 14 August.

The changes reduce speed limits on most rural roads to 80 kilometres per hour (km/h) and on most rural residential and unsealed roads to 60 km/h. The 50 km/h speed limit zone will be extended in some areas.

In addition, new variable speed school zones will apply around Levin East School and Waiopehu College; Fairfield School; Levin North School; and Levin School and Levin Intermediate.

Council adopted the changes following public engagement between January and March this year on a district-wide review of rural road speed limits.

New speed limit signs are programmed to be installed within two months of the new speed limits coming into effect.



Aquatics Horowhenua gets stamp of approval

Aquatics Horowhenua has been admitted to the Register of Exercise Professionals (REPs), a signature mark of quality for fitness centres.

REPs is the recognised industry standard to ensure safe and effective exercise advice in fitness services.

“REPs registration means people in Horowhenua can be confident Aquatics Horowhenua instructors are trained to a high standard with approved qualifications such as AUSTSWIM and Skills Active. As a REPs facility, all our instructors are Registered Exercise Professionals, and as a result we can offer a greater variety of classes and training methods,” said Aquatics Programmes and Events Supervisor Lewis Young.

Mr Young said Aquatics Horowhenua was the only public fitness facility outside Auckland and Wellington to achieve REPs status.



Smoke, but no fire

If you see a smoke-like white vapour rising from the ground on or near your property, Horowhenua Alliance might be in the neighbourhood.

The Alliance is carrying out smoke testing of Levin's sewer system between July and December this year.

Smoke testing involves smoke being pumped into Council's sewers. Crews then monitor where the smoke escapes the sewer system.

Project Management and Design Engineer Thushantha Heenkenda said Council uses smoke testing to locate breaks and defects in the sewer system.

“We'll use information from the tests to improve sewer services, help plan future public infrastructure projects, and potentially reduce costs. Depending on the findings, we may also make immediate repairs to the sewer system where needed,” he said.

Mr Heenkenda said the smoke is actually a harmless vapour.

“It's safe for humans, animals and plants, and it leaves no residue or stains. It does have an odour, but in places with adequate ventilation you'll be able to see and smell it for only a few minutes,” he said.

Residents will be notified by mail 48 hours before smoke testing starts in their neighbourhood, and fire and police services have been informed.

For more information about smoke testing, visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/SmokeTesting



Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Horowhenua Vibrant Communities Grant 2019/20 is open for applications!

www.horowhenua.govt.nz/grants

Nominations for Civic Honours Awards now open

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for outstanding voluntary service? Or a young person who excels in their chosen field?

Nominations for Horowhenua District Council's Civic Honours Awards and Youth Excellence Scholarships are now open.

Civic Honours Awards recognise individuals and community groups across eight categories: community, cultural, education, recreation/sport, religion, social, youth and conservation.

Twelve Youth Excellence Scholarships of \$250 each are also available, with three scholarships in each of four categories: arts and culture, sport, academic, and outstanding service to the community.

Horowhenua District Council Chief Executive David Clapperton said the Civic Honours Awards recognise the huge difference volunteers make to the lives of others, and the Youth Excellence Scholarships celebrate the achievements and contributions of our community's future leaders.

Nominations close on Sunday 8 September. Successful nominees and their whānau will be invited to attend the Civic Awards evening on Tuesday 19 November 2019, when the awards will be presented.

For more information, including guidelines and criteria, and to download nomination forms, visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/civichonours for Civic Honours Awards nominations and www.horowhenua.govt.nz/youthexcellence for Youth Excellence Scholarship nominations.

Applications open for community grants schemes

Horowhenua District Council is inviting applications for funding from six community grants schemes.

Applications are now open to the Horowhenua Community Development Grant, Community Consultation Grant, Shannon Community Development Trust, Rural Halls Grant, Vibrant Communities Grant and the national Creative Communities Scheme.

General Manager Horowhenua 2040 Nicki Brady said Council was hosting a workshop at 6pm on Thursday 8 August at Horowhenua District Council Chambers to help people understand the grants Council has to offer and what makes a strong application.

"We have remarkable communities in Horowhenua, with great initiatives and ideas. I encourage anyone who is interested in getting funding for a community project or initiative and would like more information about making the most of what's available to come along," she said.

Applications for all grants close at 5pm on Friday 30 August.

For more information, criteria and to download application forms, visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/grants or contact Council on 06 366 0999 or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Recycling contamination hits record low

Levels of rubbish contaminating the kerbside recycling Horowhenua District Council collects have hit record lows since the new kerbside recycling service was introduced.

Environmental Engineer Ryan Hughes said Council sends recycling to a materials recovery facility in Palmerston North for sorting and processing, and levels of contamination in our recycling are independently audited at the facility.

"Audit results from July show that contamination levels average 2.27% so far, compared with an average of around 18% before the recycling changes were introduced," he said.

Mr Hughes thanked the community for the fantastic result and encouraged people to keep up the good work.

"Managing levels of contamination is important because the materials recovery facility can reject a whole truckload of recycling if it contains too much non-recyclable material. Everyone needs to 'do their bit' by recycling correctly to prevent this from happening and help to protect our environment."

As part of the new kerbside recycling service, a three-level system is in place for contamination of recycling bins with rubbish and other non-recyclable material.

The recycling three-level system

A three-level system operates for wheelie bins contaminated with rubbish and other non-recyclable materials:

- **Level 1 Contamination** – The first time your recycling wheelie bin contains minor amounts of non-recyclable material, you'll get a Level 1 sticker on your bin and we'll provide you with information to help you recycle right. Your bin will be emptied.
- **Level 2 Contamination** – If we are unable to collect your recycling because of major contamination with non-recyclable materials, or minor contamination occurs for the second time in six weeks, you'll get a Level 2 sticker on your bin and we'll provide you with information to help you recycle right. Your bin will not be emptied.
- **Level 3 Contamination** – In cases of serious repeat contamination with non-recyclable material, your kerbside recycling collection service may be suspended indefinitely or your recycling bin may be removed. You'll need to contact us to have your service resumed. You will still be able to take your recycling to a recycling station.

For more information about the new kerbside recycling service, visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/zerowastehero



Refugees tell their stories at resettlement workshop

Wajeeha Akbari was just 20 years old when she fled her home country of Afghanistan with her four month old. It would be another 18 months before she found out that New Zealand would be her family's new home.

"Everything was different but I am so happy in Palmerston North."

Ms Akbari was one of two former refugees to speak to the more than 35 attendees at a Refugee Resettlement workshop held at Horowhenua District Council last week.

From June 2020 Levin can expect approximately 90 former refugees per year to call Horowhenua home.

Horowhenua District Council Community Engagement Manager Lacey Winiata says since Levin was announced as a new resettlement location earlier this year Council has had numerous requests for information and offers of support for the incoming residents.

"Our community is very welcoming and compassionate but we're also aware of

the challenges ahead. The workshop brought together members of community organisations, volunteer groups and central government to identify what support we already have, the gaps and address some of those challenges."


Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment officials hosted the workshop, with topic experts facilitating conversations on housing, education, health, employment and community engagement.

The Ministry expected to announce the provider of the resettlement service next month. In the meantime, Mrs Winiata says Council will persistently advocate for our iwi partners to be included and to work with organisations and service providers.

"While we may not have all the answers yet, we will continue to work alongside our partners and community to ensure Horowhenua is welcoming and has services available for our new and current residents."

Council Meetings

Community Wellbeing Committee

 Tuesday 13 August at 1pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Council

 Wednesday 14 August at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee

 Wednesday 28 August at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.



Our Place

Horowhenua Artists' Best Works - Exhibition

8 August – 29 September | Open Daily

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street Foxton

What's happening



Thursday 1 August to Friday 30 August
Realism & Nostalgia Exhibition

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Creativity, quirkiness and innovation combine to create this showcase of paintings and upcycled sculptures.

 **Thursday 8 August**
Community Grants and Funding Workshop

6pm to 7:30pm at Horowhenua District Council Main Office. Understand the grants Council has to offer and what makes a strong application. This workshop will be of particular interest to those looking for grants or funding to support community projects or initiatives.



Thursday 8 August to
Sunday 29 September
Our Place Exhibition

Gallery, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Works in many different art forms by local artists celebrating the beauty of the district and the places artists come from. Art classes available on Tuesdays during exhibition period.

 **Wednesday 14 August**
Pop-Up Eats

5pm to 8pm at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Great food truck food and live entertainment.



Monday 19 August to Saturday 31 August
Petals for Peace Art Exhibition

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. View original artworks by New Zealand-born photographic artist Stuart Robertson. The artworks are a selection of photographs from Mr Robertson's Peace in 10,000 Hands project, which documents a single white rose, an ancient symbol of peace, held in the hands of 10,000 people from every country and walk of life. A number of New Zealand and international celebrities appear as subjects.

 **Monday 26 August**
Waste-Free Parenting Workshop
with Kate Meads

6:30pm to 9pm at Horowhenua District Council Main Office, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. A humorous, entertaining and inspirational event full of tips and ideas for how you can minimise waste in your home, especially if you have young children. *A free pack containing waste minimisation products comes with every ticket. Tickets \$27.12 from eventfinda.co.nz*

 **Saturday 31 August**
Petals for Peace Charity Auction

7pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Artworks from the Petals for Peace Art Exhibition will be auctioned to raise money for Horowhenua charities working against domestic violence. *Tickets \$25, including cocktails on arrival and canapes all evening, from Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō or www.tetakere.org.nz/petalsforpeace*



Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Art Exhibition:

Monday 19 - Saturday 31 August 2019

Charity Auction:

Saturday 31 August 2019, 7pm

visit www.tetakere.org.nz/petalsforpeace




Ready for the local elections?

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-  Freephone **0800 3676 56**
-  Go into any **PostShop**

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