



David Clapperton

Message from the Chief Executive

I'm delighted to see the high level of interest from the community in the upcoming local election. We

have a diverse range of candidates for elected positions in Council and the Foxton Community Board. Forty-six people have stepped forward, including a record number of women.

Nominations for Civic Honours Awards close soon, and I encourage you to nominate deserving candidates. Civic Honours Awards are an important way of recognising local people and groups whose voluntary service makes a huge difference to the quality of life and vibrancy of our district, but whose efforts often go unacknowledged. Nominations for Youth Scholarships are also being called for. Anyone can nominate a talented young person in the areas of sport, the arts or academia.

The safety of our community is paramount, and Council has recently ratified changes to reduce speed limits on our rural and rural residential roads. The changes also introduce new variable speed zones around six Levin schools to help keep our young people safe on their way to and from school.

On the theme of safety, we all had a timely reminder of the importance of being prepared for an emergency when heavy rains caused flooding in our district last month. Being prepared for a civil defence emergency is everyone's responsibility, and is the best way to get yourself and your family through safely. I encourage you to check out the resources listed in this issue of the Community Connection.

DM Clapperton

Reduced speed limits come into effect for Horowhenua roads

Reduced speed limits are now in effect for most rural and rural residential roads in Horowhenua after Horowhenua District Council ratified the new speed limits at its meeting on 14 August.

The changes reduce speed limits on most rural roads to 80 kilometres per hour (km/h) and on rural residential and unsealed roads to 60 km/h.

Following further consultation with New Zealand Transport Agency, speed limits on 22 roads for which an 80 km/h speed limit was proposed will have a 60 km/h speed limit to meet NZTA requirements.

While the changes mainly focus on rural areas, some urban roads are also affected, with some 70 km/h speed limit zones in urban fringe areas changed to 50 km/h.

In addition, new variable speed school zones apply around Levin East School and Waiopēhu College; Fairfield School; Levin North School; and Levin School and Levin Intermediate. Speed limits on roads around the schools will reduce to 40 kilometres per hour approximately 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after school, and remain at 50 kilometres per hour at other times.

Horowhenua District Council's Roding Services Manager, Kevin Peel, said installation of new speed limit signs is expected to be complete by mid-October.

"We encourage drivers to look out for the new signs and reduce speed in line with the new speed limits to make our rural roads safer," he said.

"These new speed limits more accurately reflect safety risk to road users on our rural roads. They are also more consistent and minimise frequent speed limit changes to avoid driver confusion."

Mr Peel said the changes follow public engagement between January and March this year, which was carried out as part of a district-wide review of speed limits to enhance safety on rural roads.

"There was a lot of public interest, with 740 participants in our online survey and 98 submissions during formal engagement. The majority of public feedback supported lowering speed limits," he said.

Council will undertake a review of speed limits of the district's urban roads this financial year.

The new speed limit schedules, and further information about the speed limit review, are available on Council's website at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/LandTransportBylaw



Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō café back in business

The café at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō is back in business, with Levin café Sponge Kitchen taking over operations.

The café closed temporarily in November last year after the previous operators, Focal Point, decided not to renew their lease.

Horowhenua District Council Community Facilities & Events Manager Brent Harvey said Council was delighted that Sponge Kitchen had taken over the lease.

“Sponge Kitchen is an established part of our local community with proven experience operating a high quality café service. With Sponge Kitchen on board, we’re confident that The Library Café will continue to be a popular spot to meet and enjoy good food and drink,” he said.

The café, previously known as Libretto, will be called ‘The Library Café’ when Sponge Kitchen takes over.

Sponge Kitchen co-owner David Hall said operating The Library Café offered an opportunity to show a different side of what Sponge Kitchen could do.

“There will be a different brand of coffee from the one we offer at Sponge Kitchen, and some new cabinet food too. People can expect a range of savouries, sweet treats, light meals, hot and cold drinks, and of course exceptional service.”

Mr Hall said he and Sponge Kitchen co-owners Fiona and Bruce Hall looked forward to working with Council.

“We’re proud to be able to keep The Library Café local and offer a valued service to the community.”



Improving building consent practices in the Cook Islands

Horowhenua District Council is working with Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) and Infrastructure Cook Islands (ICI) to improve building consent practices and processes in the Cook Islands.

In March this year, Horowhenua District Council hosted two building inspectors from the Cook Islands who were visiting New Zealand on a fact-finding mission sponsored by LGNZ. Building Controller Louis Teiti and Building Inspector Jerome Tura were introduced to building consent processes and applications used in Horowhenua, and attended on-site building inspections to observe how our systems work in practice.

Mr Teiti said ICI was keen to learn how Horowhenua District Council handles building plan applications, processing, inspection and approvals.

“We need to upgrade our consent approval systems and processes in the Cook Islands. We’re still using a paper-based system, which requires a lot of photocopying, filing and travel between islands. In addition, records are only kept for 10 years,” he said.

Horowhenua District Council Building Advisory Officer Rob Tyler returned the visit in August to observe building practices and processes in the Cook Islands and make recommendations for improvement.

Mr Tyler spent five days in Rarotonga and Aitutaki studying the Cook Islands building code, observing inspections, and learning how ICI processes plans and records findings. He then provided a written report with his recommendations.

“Overall, they need a more robust system. I recommended that they implement a reporting and filing system, introduce a more rigorous and systematic inspection regime, and provide additional training for some staff,” he said.

“I was made very welcome, and most of the people I met were keen to move forward with improved systems.”

Mr Tyler’s visit was sponsored by LGNZ.

Are you prepared for an emergency?

Flooding in Levin and Ōhau caused by heavy rain on 17 August served as a reminder that a civil defence emergency can strike at any time.

An estimated 57 millimetres of rain fell over 24 hours, with 32 millimetres falling over just two hours between 12 noon and 2pm, causing surface flooding that closed four roads and threatened some homes.

Horowhenua District Council’s Emergency Management Officer Andrew Howard said we all need to be prepared to get through emergencies safely.

“Everyone should have a household emergency plan, an emergency survival

kit, and a getaway kit in case you need to evacuate in a hurry,” he said.

There are plenty of resources available to help you prepare for civil defence emergencies:

- The Civil Defence pages on Horowhenua District Council’s website – www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/Civil-Defence
- Get Ready – www.getready.govt.nz
- Civil Defence Manawatu Wanganui Facebook page – www.facebook.com/civildefencemanawatuwanganui/

- The emergency planning guide, ‘Never Happens? Happens: Horowhenua’ is available from any of Council’s customer service centres.

In an emergency, Horowhenua District Council is your local civil defence authority. We will provide instructions, advice and updates. Follow our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC or listen to Beach FM to stay informed.



Don't forget to vote!

With the 2019 Local authority election upon us, here is some helpful information about the process;

All local authority elections will be conducted by postal vote. Voting documents will be delivered by NZ Post between Friday 20 September and Wednesday 25 September 2019. Watch out for your voting papers in the mailbox during this period.

If you have not received your voting papers after 25 September, you can call a Customer Experience Ambassador on 06 366 0999. The electoral roll will be checked to see if you are enrolled to vote. There may be a need for you to cast a special vote, an Election Official can assist with this process.

If you received voting papers that do not belong to you, you can write GNA (gone no address) on the envelope and put back in the mail as soon as possible.

Make sure you have your voting documents in the mail by Wednesday 9 October to ensure it gets back in time (by 12 noon Saturday 12 October 2019). You can also drop off your voting documents to Council's Main Office in Levin until 12 noon Saturday 12 October. All votes are scanned in and counted by Electionz.com.

20 - 25 September	Delivery of voting papers commences
20 September - 12 October	Voting period
20 September	Special voting commences
12 October	Election Day - special voting closes at 12pm. Progress results available as soon as practicable after close of voting
12 - 17 October	Official count and processing of special votes
17 - 27 October	Final result announced, as soon as practicable

Time running out for Civic Honours Awards nominations

Time is running out to nominate deserving individuals and community groups for Horowhenua District Council's Civic Honours Awards and Youth Excellence Scholarships.

Nominations for the awards and scholarships close on Sunday 8 September.

Civic Honours Awards recognise outstanding voluntary service by 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.

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.



Part of the railway line through Levin to be fenced

KiwiRail is installing a 1.8-metre-high fence on both sides of the railway line for around 1.3 km between Bath Street and Hokio Beach Road.

KiwiRail Lease Manager – Northern, Debby Copeland said it is a busy line and they regularly receive reports that people are putting their lives, and the lives of others, at risk by taking a shortcut across the tracks.

“The only safe place to cross is at a level crossing,” she said.

“The closest level crossings are on South Lane to the north of the station between Cambridge Street and Oxford Street and State Highway One to the south.”

If you have any questions about the project, please email contactus@kiwirail.co.nz or call 0800 801 070.



KiwiRail is installing a 1.8-metre-high fence on both sides of the railway line for around 1.3 km between Bath Street and Hokio Beach Road in Levin – the aim of the project is to stop people from putting their lives at risk by taking shortcuts.

Get hitched!

Tow hitches for your recycling wheelie bin are now available from Horowhenua District Council.

A tow hitch is a lightweight, easy-to-use device that enables you to tow your recycling wheelie bin behind your car.

Environmental Engineer Ryan Hughes says the tow hitches are a great option for making it easier to do your recycling.

“If you have a long driveway, or you find it difficult to manoeuvre the large 240-litre recycling wheelie bins, these tow hitches can help,” he said.

The tow hitches are available at cost price of \$25 and the tow ball hole is 51 millimetres, which will fit over the tow ball on most cars.

For those who prefer a smaller wheelie bin, Council also offers an option to swap your 240-litre wheelie bin for an 80-litre one.



To get your tow hitch or request an 80-litre recycling wheelie bin, please contact Horowhenua District Council on 06 366 0999 or call into the main office at 126 Oxford Street, Levin.



Foxton Heated Pools opens for summer season

Foxton Heated Pools opened for its extended summer season on Sunday 1 September.

This will be the second year Foxton Heated Pools has been open from September until the end of April. The season was extended in 2018 following consultation on Council's Long Term Plan 2018-2038, which showed the public wanted the pools to be open for longer.

Aquatics Horowhenua Programmes and Events Supervisor Lewis Young said Aquatics Horowhenua is now able to offer more programmes and activities in Foxton, including two terms of its popular Streamline Swim School and an ever-growing fitness timetable.

"The longer open season has been working well. The pools in Foxton are heated, and last year they were popular throughout the open season. People in Foxton, Foxton Beach and surrounding townships have told us they appreciate greater access to heated pools in their local area," he said.

For more information, visit the Aquatics Horowhenua website, aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz, or view the event on the [Aquatics Horowhenua Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/aquaticshorowhenua).



Council Meetings

Council

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

Foxton Community Board

23 Monday 23 September at 6pm, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton. (Come in at 5:30pm to catch up with Board members)

Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee

25 Wednesday 25 September at 4pm, Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Meet the Candidates Meetings

Muhunua East Rural Women

9 Monday 9 September 7pm

Focus Group: Mayoral, Waiopahu Ward, Horizons Regional Council
Venue: Ōhau Hall

Foxton Meeting

10 Tuesday 10 September 1.30pm

Focus Group: Mayoral, Kere Kere Ward, Foxton Community Board
Venue: Te Awahou Masonic Village

Levin Rotary

10 Tuesday 10 September 7.30pm

Focus Group: Mayoral, Levin Ward, Horizons Regional Council, District Health Board
Venue: Horowhenua College Hall

Tokomaru Community

11 Wednesday 11 September 7pm

Focus Group: Miranui Ward
Venue: Tokomaru Hall

Foxton Beach Progressive

15 Sunday 15 September 1.30pm

Focus Group: Mayoral, Kere Kere Ward, Foxton Community Board, Horizons

Regional Council, District Health Board
Venue: Foxton Beach School Hall

Shannon Progressive Assn

16 Monday 16 September 7pm

Focus Group: Mayoral, Miranui Ward, Horizons Regional Council
Venue: Shannon Memorial Hall

Levin Meeting

20 Friday 20 September 1.30pm

Focus Group: Levin Ward, Waiopahu Ward, Miranui Ward
Venue: Levin Cosmopolitan Club

Horowhenua Chronicle

24 Tuesday 24 September 5.30pm

Focus Group: Mayoral and Wards
Venue: Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Waitārere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Assn

29 Sunday 29 September 2pm

Focus Group: Mayoral, Waiopahu Ward, Horizons Regional Council
Venue: Club Waitārere, 90 Park Ave, Waitārere Beach

All events are open to the public.

21 - 28 September 2019

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Festival of Stories

Ready for the local elections?

Enrol, check or update your details now.



Enrol by 16 August to make voting easy.

To get an enrolment form:

- Visit vote.nz
- Freephone 0800 36 76 56
- Go into any PostShop

Local ELECTIONS