

Community Connection



Mayor Brendan Duffy

Message from the Mayor

For the second year in a row we've gained an A+ from international credit

rating agency Standard and Poor's. This rating reflects Council's strong financial management, and to know we're on the right track is heartening.

It means anyone can see that, when judged against a wide range of internationally-benchmarked criteria, our financial practices make us a safe, secure and well-managed organisation.

The reaffirmation of the rating is a very positive thing, not only for Council but also for our District, particularly as we go forward over the next few years with a number of initiatives we need to put in place to deal with the growth that will occur in Horowhenua. This does mean we will need to borrow more in order to achieve some outcomes. But to have this credit rating, allowing us to borrow at cheaper rates, will be very helpful for us.

Brendan

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Glen Smith's winning photo



Ross Gordon Henry



Reuben Nicklin



Harry Bos

Easter Photo Competition Winners

The Easter Horowhenua Photo Competition attracted nearly 150 entries and showed creativity and pride in our District!

The winning photo was taken by Levin's Glen Smith, a crew member of a hot air balloon during a morning flight with his photo looking over Queen Street East towards the Tararua Ranges.

For his prize, Glen received a GoPro HERO4 video camera, valued at \$700. "Photography is one of my interests, so the Go Pro will be well-used. I'll take it ballooning with me, but am also keen to try other things like experimenting with time lapse," he said.



Mike Gannaway

Runners up were Harry Bos, Mike Gannaway, Ross Gordon Henry and Reuben Nicklin, who each received a \$25 New World voucher. Congratulations! And, thank you to everyone who entered.



Janine Smart

Message from the Foxton Community Board

'The Manawatu Estuary Management Team' brings together the various groups who have an interest in and support the care and health of the estuary, its inhabitants and users. They meet twice a year to share and collaborate on various projects, ideas and the many challenges.

Some members of this group work on improving water quality, some on managing predators and invasive weeds, some on the wildlife itself and some on the cultural and community values. I haven't named them all but pretty much every interest is bought to the table.

We all need to look after and value our unique environment. Don't dump green or in fact any waste anywhere near the estuary or river – it ends up in it! Take pride in this beautiful place. Don't leave it to a dedicated few - pick up and bin any rubbish you see.

We, the community need to remind ourselves of what we have here, the jewel in the crown for the whole district! Let's look after it!

If you are interested in hearing more, please contact me on 06 363 8264 or smartdesign@xtra.co.nz.

Council gains A+ credit rating for second year in row

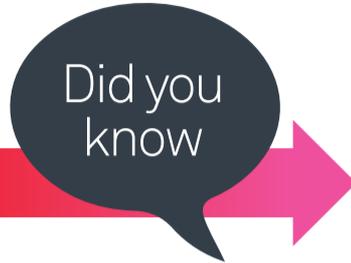
The international credit rating agency Standard and Poor's has given Horowhenua District Council an A+ credit rating, for the second consecutive year.

Standard and Poor's is an internationally recognised agency and its credit rating process takes into account whether an organisation can service its debt. The A+ credit rating allows Horowhenua District Council to borrow money at lower interest rates, making significant savings annually.

Footpath facts

Footpaths provide a safe and convenient space for pedestrians, especially in urban areas, and Horowhenua District Council is committed to maintaining them to the highest standard possible.

If you identify any particular trip hazards on a footpath, please contact us on 06 366 0999 or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz, so that we can inspect the fault or damage and add the job to our programme of repairs to be carried out.



Council manages **210km** of footpaths throughout the district, of which **75 percent** are in Levin.



There is a budget of **\$50,000** for footpath general maintenance, such as repairs to small isolated faults, repairs of trip hazards, and cleaning.



Our Footpath Renewal Programme upgrades approximately two percent of old defective footpaths each year utilising a total replacement budget of \$400,000 per year.



Council's goal is to ensure that every street in the urban area has a footpath on at least one side of the street.



There is a budget of **\$100,000** per year to install these new footpaths.



Council is aware of the problems faced by users of mobility scooters and wheelchairs, as well as the sight impaired, when getting around the District's footpaths.

We programme work to **improve accessibility** in areas of highest use as our budgets allow.

Funding for the maintenance of footpaths, new footpaths and footpath resurfacing is provided through rates.



Jeff Paulin

On the spot with one of the staff: Jeff Paulin, Finance Manager

Originally from Upper Hutt, I have lived in Levin for 12 years and have been at

Horowhenua District Council for seven years.

Prior to me working for Council, my wife and I ran a certified organic poultry farm in Levin.

In my role as Finance Manager, I have overall responsibility for the transactional processing for Council. This includes Rates, Water Billing, Accounts Payable,

Accounts Receivable as well as change of ownerships. I also look after the Rates Rebate scheme and have an overview of the Council's Treasury function.

I have a super little team that beavers away processing transactions on a daily basis and we're dedicated to providing the community with the best level of service we can.

In my spare time I play a bit of social tennis and spend a lot of time at hockey turfs and netball courts following my kids' sport.



Are leaves blocking the stormwater grate outside your property?

As the wet season approaches there is a simple preventative measure against potential surface flooding during heavy rain - and the only tools required are a brush and shovel, or even bare hands.

Residents can help by checking any stormwater grates or sump tops on or at the edge of their properties, and clearing away any leaves or other debris that may be blocking them or sitting in the kerb and channel.

Unobstructed grates and sumps help stormwater escape down drains and avoid a growing pond of water over the road or, even worse, residents' properties.

If you notice a blocked grate and are unable to clear it, you can let Council know on 06 366 0999 or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

Smartphone winner

Horowhenua ratepayer Mick Bell has won the Samsung Galaxy S6 prize in Council's promotion to encourage people to register to receive their rates invoices by email.

During the two month promo, 539 ratepayers signed up. In total, just over 1450 ratepayers are now registered.

Registering is simple and takes only a couple of minutes. Visit Council's website www.horowhenua.govt.nz and look under the 'Do it online' tab for the 'Rates Invoice by e-mail' link.

In fact, the whole rates payment process can be completed online. Ratepayers can receive their invoice by email and pay online using a credit card or debit card, or via an internet banking direct credit. The best option is to arrange a direct debit and let Council take care of the rest. For more info, visit the Rating Information page on Council's website.



New Public Places Bylaw to benefit everyone

Efforts to ensure Horowhenua residents and visitors can safely enjoy public spaces throughout the District is the aim of the new Public Places Bylaw 2016 which came into effect last month.

Horowhenua District Council Customer and Regulatory Services Manager Mike Lepper says the Bylaw is simply a means to regulate and manage the use of public places and to avoid instances of nuisance or safety hazards, or similar. He said another focus is to maintain public health and safety, well-being and enjoyment.

The Bylaw covers various activities including:

- obstructions in public places; such as footpaths or pedestrian and vehicle entrances/exits
- nuisances, safety and behaviour in any public place
- busking and mobile trading
- stalls, display of goods, outdoor dining, donation seeking
- signage; such as free-standing signs, real estate signs, and signs fixed to the outside of vehicles
- skating devices; such as skateboards and scooters

Mr Lepper said that for activities such as busking and donation seeking, the Bylaw sets out a simple permit system which has worked well for a number of years. He said it also assists members of the public to manage and coordinate their activities. Permits are free in most cases and can be applied for at Council.

He said there are three distinct benefits to a permit system.

"It ensures that people are clearly aware of the things they may need to comply with before conducting their activity. It gives surety to those conducting their activity that they will not have to compete with other users at the same times. And, if the activity is outside a retailer premises it ensures the retailer has an opportunity to consent to what is being proposed."

Mr Lepper said that regarding signage, generally this had not caused great issue.

"Complaints regarding signage are followed up and resolved by Council officers without major issues. Regular inspections are also made within the central business district areas to ensure signage is not creating a nuisance or hazard to pedestrians."

The Bylaw also sets out rules for using skating devices such as skateboards or scooters, primarily to avoid nuisance, danger or damage; and also included a list of areas where it was banned.

Mr Lepper said that during the public consultation on the draft Bylaw, held late last year through to early this year, a number of submitters encouraged Council to ban smoking in central business district areas set aside for footpath dining.

"Whilst this proposal was not carried through to the Bylaw, the Council will be consulting with food premises operators to encourage a voluntary implementation of no-smoking zones in individual outdoor dining areas," he said.



Public Notices

Intent to prepare Reserve Management Plans

Members of the public are advised under Section 41(5) Reserves Act 1977 that Horowhenua District Council intends to prepare Reserve Management Plans for the following reserves:

Waitarere Reserves

- Waitarere Domain
- Holmwood Park
- Wairarawa Stream Reserve (including Hudson Reserve)
- Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve

Ohau Reserves

- Ohau River Reserves (which includes Gladstone Reserve, Kimberley Reserve and Parikawau Reserve)

To help inform the review/preparation of these Reserve Management Plans Council would like to invite the members of the public to provide any written comments or suggestions they may have relating to the long term management and development of these reserves.

The current Reserve Management Plans

for Waitarere Domain, Holmwood Park, Waitarere Beach Foreshore Reserve and the Ohau River Reserves are available on the Council's website along with information about Reserve Management Plans and the review/preparation process for these plans (please visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/rmp).

The closing date for submitting written comments and suggestions is: 5:00pm on Friday 17 June 2016.

Send in your written comments or suggestions.

- 👤 Deliver to: Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.
- ✉ Post to: Horowhenua District Council, Attn: T. Williams, Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540.
- @ Email reservemanagementplans@horowhenua.govt.nz

If you have any questions about the review/preparation process for the abovementioned Reserve Management Plans then please contact Tiffany Williams at Council on (06) 366 0999.

What's happening

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

4 Saturday 4 June - Monday 6 June Light up Himatangi

A weekend festival "bringing light to gloomy winter". Saturday's activities include a Craft Display/Sale from 10:30am at St Mark's Church; a Quiz (\$5 per person with teams of 6) at 6:30pm at Himatangi Beach Cosmopolitan Club; and Karaoke Night at 8:30pm also at the Cosmopolitan Club. Sunday's activities include a Surf Lifesaving Club Display and a Mid-Winter Swim at 10am at the beach; Ridge Runners Sled Dog Team Display/Rides at 2pm on the beach; and the Op Shop Ball (\$20/person) from 7pm at the Community Hall. Monday's activities include a Community Garage Sale from 8am to 12 noon; a Community Patrol Sausage Sizzle and Kite Flying at the Beach at 1pm.

5 Sunday 5 June Foxton Hidden Secrets Trail 10:00am - 3:00pm at Foxton's CBD

Foxton businesses and organisations are opening up their trades for the day as a fundraiser for Friends of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Head along and see what goes on behind the scenes. Learn a few new skills or dispel some urban myths. Tickets cost \$20 and include a free coffee or tea and a slice or scone from The Dutch Oven. Participants include Margaret Hill (weaver), The Old Print Shop, Mavtech, De Molen (Dutch windmill), Whare Manaaki (gallery), Flax Stripper Museum, Horse Drawn Tram, Anderson Funeral Services, Auto Marine Interiors (upholstery), Spinners and Weavers, Fox's Cottage Quilting and Wool, Sand Hill Studio Gallery (pottery).

Tickets available from 06 363 5333.

17 Friday 17 June Comedy Club Levin presents Ben Hurley and co 8:00pm at the Levin Cosmopolitan Club, 49-51 Oxford Street.

A one night-only stand-up comedy showcase with headliner Ben Hurley, one of New Zealand's most recognisable comedians. The show's MC is fellow comedian Paul Douglas and support acts include Savanna and Sera Devcich. *The show is R18 and tickets cost \$25, available from 0800 289 849.*

24 Friday 24 June MAVtech Film Night - 1970s comedy drama 7:00pm - 9:00pm at MAVtech, cnr Avenue Road and Main Street, Foxton

The museum of historic technological items will open at 6:00pm, with the screening of a 1970s comedy drama at 7pm. Door sales only at \$8 per person. *For more info, phone 06 363 5910.*

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

1 The next meeting is on Wednesday 1 June at 4.00pm in the Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

Foxton Community Board

20 The next meeting is on Monday 20 June 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 **Ross Campbell**

Foxton Community Board



Janine Smart (Chair) **David Roache** (Deputy Chair) **Tricia Metcalf**



Amanda Street **Basil Vertongen**