



Mayor Brendan Duffy

Message from the Mayor

For a relatively small district as ours here in Horowhenua,

we are making some astounding achievements.

We're leading the way with our success in removing wastewater discharge to local waterways and irrigating to land. We have long-done this in Levin, we've now achieved this in Shannon and are working to do the same in Foxton. We are actually one of only a few councils throughout New Zealand that have wastewater plants with a land-discharge component. In fact, we're on our way to seeing at least 95 percent of Horowhenua's total wastewater volume irrigated to land and not into local waterways. This is utterly achievable.

We also continue to plan so that we're prepared for the economic revival that Levin and District is on the cusp of. As a result of this, we're already seeing more people want to live here. In the past month alone, Council issued 19 consents for new residential buildings, totalling \$4.5 million in value of investment in our District. And, we're only going to see more!

Brendan

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Huge mural transforms Levin Adventure Park wall

A huge colourful mural has transformed the wall at Levin Adventure Park's northern border.

At a ceremony to celebrate the mural's completion last Thursday, Horowhenua Deputy Mayor Garry Good described it as a 300 square-metre landmark piece of beautiful artwork.

"From Council's perspective, it's the most amazing mural in New Zealand. You won't see anything like it in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, anywhere. We've set a standard with this here in Horowhenua," Mr Good said.

The project was an initiative of Council's Community Pride and Vibrancy Action Plan and managing the painting was Auckland artist Jonny 4Higher, selected from 14 New Zealand artists who submitted Expressions of Interest for the project.

Mural designs were invited from Horowhenua youth aged from 12 to 24-years-old, with 38 submissions received. The three selected designs were by Alexa Bryant, Monique Lang and Hannah Wedlock, all students at Horowhenua College. They worked alongside Jonny to prepare a combined design and then



Mural artists Jonny 4Higher, Monique Lang, Hannah Wedlock and Alexa Bryant.

paint the mural during the recent school mid-term break. Resene donated the paint for the project.

Jonny commended the three students on their work ethic and artistic talent.

"They had never worked large-scale before, and I was so impressed with their desire to see the mural come out perfect. They would not leave any aspect of the mural at a point where they weren't happy with it. I'm so proud of what they've achieved, and what we've achieved together," he said.

"Aesthetically the mural has such high impact. For me it's a feather in my cap and will definitely be a feature piece in my portfolio."

Student artist Hannah Wedlock said that she, Alexa and Monique all felt honoured to have their designs chosen and help paint the mural.

"It was an amazing learning experience, even though we were a bit daunted when we first looked at the size of the wall," she said.

"We wanted the mural to represent the community, to encompass all aspects of what ties our community together - not just the landscape and environment, but to portray the fountain of knowledge from one generation to the next and to show the importance of education, imagination, understanding diversity and appreciating our culture and heritage."



Janine Smart

Message from the Foxton Community Board

Have you been out to the Forbes Road subdivision lately? The increase in section sales is just one example of the growing popularity of Foxton Beach.

In the year to March the number of new house building consents for the Beach increased by nearly a third, with 17 consents issued, compared with 12 during the year to March 2015. Total consents issued numbered 49, up from 35, and valued nearly \$4.5 million.

There is no single reason for this huge increase in activity bringing new residents in, but rather a number of factors.

The achievement and delivery confirmation of significant projects in Foxton including the building of a new medical centre, the imminent upgrade of Main Street and the development of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom are very significant, with undoubtedly the new highway from Wellington also being a contributor. This is how economic and social development works!

If we want to create jobs for our community including for the next generations – this is what needs to happen. If we don't make change, nothing changes!

We are starting to gain real momentum with both business and private investment. Positivity is everything!

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

Enjoy the heated Foxton Pools this winter

Anyone who has not been in the water at the indoor Foxton Pools should do so this winter.

The water sits around a comfortable 30 degrees, ideal for leisure activities and the fitness classes on offer, as well as lane swimming in the 25 metre-long pool.

The Foxton Pools will remain open this winter season, while Levin Aquatic Centre improvements are carried out until 3 September.

Physical activity is one of the most important requirements to maintain health and quality of life. Swimming is an



ideal workout for everyone because it is low impact and presents a minimal risk of injury. It also offers a complete workout, incorporating the entire body and using all muscles groups.

The Foxton Pools are open Mondays to Fridays from 6am to 6pm; Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 6pm; and on Public Holidays from 1pm to 6pm. For more info about the Foxton Pools, including activity details, visit www.aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz or phone 06 368 0070.



Horowhenua District Council is seeking your feedback on how you use available rubbish and recycling services, and

has produced a short voluntary questionnaire.

There are eight questions, such as how your rubbish collected, how often and how much usually; also seeking your thoughts on future options, as well as an opportunity for you to make any further comments.

The questionnaire can be completed online via Council's website, or fill out a printed form available from Council's main office in Levin or its customer service centres at the Foxton and Shannon community libraries.



Anna Wood

On the spot with one of the staff: Anna Wood, Urban Designer

“As a new recruit at Horowhenua District Council, I am tasked with introducing urban design into the mix here in Horowhenua. Urban design looks at the design and function

of cities, towns and villages. We work with the design of buildings, streets and public spaces to help ensure our urban areas are economically vibrant, safe and beautiful.

My position is a new role at Council. This provides us all with the opportunity to focus

on the importance of design in our built environment. Every building, site, subdivision and street is designed via a myriad of design decisions. Every design decision impacts on the success of that building or space and how it contributes to the wider outcome being sought. Urban design is all about outcomes - safe and sustainable places, healthy communities, strong local identity, vibrant centres and buoyant economies.

The public realm (streets, lanes, parks and squares) is where public life occurs. However the design of our private spaces (offices, shops and houses) plays a big part in the

success of public space. The goal is to design private spaces and buildings that contribute activity, safety and interest to the public realm; ensuring everyone benefits from new development.

I have worked as an urban designer throughout New Zealand and overseas; working across local and central government, private practice and the not-for-profit sector. I am thoroughly enjoying working with the motivated and enthusiastic staff here at HDC. We're all here, working on your behalf, to ensure that the Horowhenua is a great place to be.”

Horowhenua leading the way with land-irrigated wastewater



The successfully-completed upgrade of the Shannon Wastewater Treatment Plant takes Horowhenua a significant step closer to seeing at least 95 percent of the District's wastewater irrigated to land.

The treatment plant upgrade was celebrated recently when it was officially opened by Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Dr Nick Smith.

The new 10,000 cubic-metre storage capacity and land irrigation system will result in at least 80 percent of the treated wastewater discharge not

entering the nearby waterway. Previously, and ever since 1969 when the plant was built, all the treated wastewater had been discharged to water, via Stansells Drain that fed into the Mangaore Stream and into the Manawatu River.

Now, for approximately 355 days of the year all the treated wastewater will be irrigated over purpose-bought Council-owned farmland. For the remaining 10 days of the year, on average, when the Manawatu River is in high flow, the treated wastewater will be discharged through two 1 x 6

metre gabion baskets - wire mesh encasing small rocks - to an artificial wetland and gently-sloping channel planted with grass and flax, leading to an adjacent waterway. Council is undertaking a five-year trial to explore if more than the 80 percent can be irrigated to land and subsequently reduce the discharge to water even further.

Dr Smith said the Shannon Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade will stop about 144 million litres of treated wastewater being discharged to the waterway per year.

"Imagine 500,000 one-litre bottles per day going into the Manawatu River; but as a consequence of this scheme, no longer."

The Shannon Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project began after approval by the Environment Court in May 2015, following over two years of consultation and mediation with local iwi and other interested parties. Council worked within strict Resource Consent criteria to complete the project.

Future-proofing Levin town water supply

The Levin Water Treatment Plant upgrade is helping future-proof the town's water supply.

Phase one of the upgrade features the construction of a new six-million-litre reservoir tank, measuring 31 metres in diameter and nine metres high. It adds to two existing concrete reservoirs - a four-million-litre tank built in 1965, and a 2.5-million-litre tank built in 1943.

Council's Projects Manager Gerry O'Neill says this will provide the town with at least 24 hours of water storage capacity. Previously storage capacity had been 19 hours typically, but only 13 hours during peak demand in summer.

Mr O'Neill says the new reservoir tank is made of glass-fused-to-steel which makes it corrosion-resistant and easy to maintain.

The new reservoir at the Gladstone Road plant was blessed by Muaupoko Iwi representatives at an official opening ceremony last month.

District Mayor Brendan Duffy said it was important to acknowledge



the symbolism of the ceremony, including the importance of the relationship with tangata whenua.

"It's not just a blessing and a walk around the tank, followed by a cup of tea; it symbolises the conclusion of this part of the project and it recognises the significance of the awa (river) and the water from it that will be delivered to this community for the next 100 years," he said.

"You can drive past and see the tank, but what you don't see is what's under the ground and the magnitude of work behind it."

Future phases of the upgrade to be carried out in the next year include a new clarifier and UV treatment system. Mr O'Neill says this will improve the water quality to achieve a higher grading under the Drinking Water Standards of New Zealand.

Large-Print and Audio Book Appeal

Te Takere's annual Large-Print and Audio Book Appeal is now underway, and runs until Friday 13 May.

Large-print books and audio books are expensive to purchase, but Te Takere's collections are two of the most popular, says Customer Services Manager Wendy Fraser.

"We want to ensure we always have the latest and most exciting titles in our collection available to our customers. So each year we run this appeal, with tremendous success from the generosity of groups, businesses and individuals," she said.

"Businesses or individuals can sponsor a large print book for either \$15 for a soft-cover or \$25 for a hardback, or sponsor an audio book for \$35. If you wish to, there is an acknowledgement inside the book, and you get to read it first after it has been processed. This is a great idea for a present for Mother's Day too.

For people who want to contribute in a smaller way, we have piggy banks where you can give as little or as much as you like. We welcome each and every amount and it all goes towards enriching our collections.



Public Notices

Plumbosolvency Notice - Run a mug before drinking

Plumbosolvency - the ability of a solvent (like water) to dissolve certain materials (heavy metals) from plumbing fittings over a period of time.

Horowhenua District Council, together with the Ministry of Health, ask Horowhenua District residents to discard the first mug full of water each morning to avoid the possibility of long-term health risks from exposure to heavy metals.

Heavy metals can dissolve into the water supply overnight from your plumbing fittings and may be present

in the first bit of water drawn from your tap each morning or after any prolonged period of no water use.

Although the health risk is small, residents should run a mug each morning and after any extended period of no water use, for example after coming back from holiday.

It is important to note that heavy metals are not a problem with the water itself, but rather, when plumbosolvent water dissolves heavy metals found in household plumbing fittings.

What's happening

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

7 Saturday 7 May
Levin Monthly Market
8:00am - 11:30am
Levin Uniting Church hall, 87 Oxford Street, next to the Adventure Park

Held on the first Saturday of each month, this is Levin's original monthly market and includes a selection of crafts, jams, books, paintings, clothing and more. Stalls cost only \$10 and tables are provided. *For more info contact Rosemary on 06 368 6977.*

6 Friday 6 May - Sunday 8 May
The F Expo
During opening hours at Te Takere, Levin.

On display will be felting, feathers, fibre, flax, fabric and anything else crafty that has been inspired by the letter 'F'. For anyone wanting to demonstrate their skill or display works, stall-sites are still available. Stalls (1.8m x 2.3m) are free in return for 10 percent commission on any sales. Register at Te Takere. *For more info, phone 06 368 1953 or email events@tetakere.org.nz Mothers Day falls on the Sunday, with Devonshire teas being served at Libretto Cafe.*

13 Friday 13 May
Levin Folk Music Club Night
7:30pm - 10.30pm at The Horowhenua Scottish Society Hall, cnr Bartholomew Road and Middlesex Street

Guest performers are the old-time string band Cotton Daisy Backstep, with Helena Triplett Faust on banjo/vocals, Naomi Middleton on guitar/vocals, Nick Bollinger on bass and Eddy Abraham on fiddle. With their 1930s dress and high lonesome harmonies Cotton Daisy Backstep revive the old songs of the pioneers, haunting ballads, tales of moonshine, and old gospel thumpers. They bring a truly unique experience of Americana mountain roots to New Zealand audiences. Door sales only, with club members \$5.00 and non-members \$10.00. All ages welcome. *For more info, visit www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz*

15 Sunday 15 May
A Night of Hope with World Vision
7:30pm - 9:00pm at Levin Life Church, 20 Bledisloe Street

Olipa Chimangeni, from rural central Malawi in Southern Africa, will share

the inspirational story of how she journeyed from living in extreme poverty to becoming the first female Member of Parliament in her community. Her story includes an unplanned pregnancy at 17, a forced marriage, and even a deadly diagnosis of HIV. A Night of Hope will feature live music from social justice musician Levi McGrath, who spent six months working with former child soldiers in Uganda. Free admission.

20 Friday 20 May - Sustainable Living Expo

Providing information and choices for more environmentally-thoughtful decision-making has huge interest for many of us. We are concerned but are often not sure where or how to make a start. Head to Te Takere's first Sustainable Living Expo to see what is available and chat to the people who already do it. *For more info, phone 06 368 1953 or email events@tetakere.org.nz*



Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council

4 The next meeting is on Wednesday 4 May at 4.00pm in the Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

If you haven't been to a Council meeting, come along; it's an ideal way to stay informed about Council activities and what is happening in our District.

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