

# Community Connection



Michael Feyen

## Message from the Mayor

Thank you to everybody who has taken an interest in local body politics and helped make my election as Mayor possible. This includes my family and friends, fellow councillor Ross Campbell who has been a great ally and confidant, as well as many other campaign supporters.

Many of you showed your commitment via Facebook. With courage and sometimes outrage on my behalf, your support for me to become Mayor was very clear. This appointment is an honour and a privilege, and I won't let you down.

I want to walk with you on our journey together, enjoying the korero and mutual exchange of ideas and values to achieve and implement positive outcomes for Horowhenua.

Also, thank you to all Tangata Whenua who organised and took part in the pōwhiri and the large number of people who attended Council's meeting at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō last week.

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## New Council and Community Board members sworn-in

Horowhenua's Elected Members attended their first official meeting for the 2016-2019 triennium last week.

To open the significant occasion, a pōwhiri was held for the incoming Mayor, Councillors and Foxton Community Board members, who were supported by approximately 250 family, friends and members of the community.

As tangata whenua, Muaūpoko welcomed the guests, who were led in by Ngāti Whakatere and wider Ngāti Raukawa representatives, into Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.

New District Mayor Michael Feyen was sworn-in and presented with the Mayoral Chains from Council's Chief Executive David Clapperton.

The Council welcomed three new councillors including Bernie Wanden (Levin ward), Barry Judd (Levin Ward), and Neville Gimblett (Kere Kere Ward). Cr Judd had previously been on Council, including serving as Deputy Mayor, up until 2013.

They joined returning councillors Victoria Kaye-Simmons (Levin ward), Jo Mason

(Levin), Piri-Hira Tukapua (Levin), Wayne Bishop (Waiopēhu ward), Christine Mitchell (Waiopēhu), Ross Brannigan (Kere Kere ward) and Ross Campbell (Miranui ward). Cr Campbell was also appointed Deputy Mayor by Mayor Feyen.

Also sworn-in were three new Foxton Community Board members including David Allen (a former board member up to 2013), John Girling and Jenny Lundie. They joined returning board members David Roache and Tricia Metcalf. Mr Roache was then voted in as Board chairperson and Ms Metcalf as deputy chairperson.

In his first official speech, Mayor Michael Feyen said the evening had been a wonderful occasion.

"I look forward to working with our team of Councillors. We will work together on this exciting venture of achievement through co-operation."

Mayor Michael Feyen





Mural artist Sarah Wairau

## Mural masterpiece graces Levin Aquatic Centre wall

Horowhenua has another mural masterpiece, this one inside the Levin Aquatic Centre.

Measuring 16 metres-long and 2.5 metres-high, gracing the back wall at the learn-to-swim and aquajogging pool, the mural is the work of Horowhenua District Council

Aquatic Education Co-ordinator Sarah Wairau, also a freelance artist.

Sarah said the mural took a "full-on" 40 hours to paint, which she did during the centre's recent redevelopment.

"It was the perfect opportunity and an ideal canvas," she said.

"It's the largest artwork I've ever done. It was daunting at first; but once I got into painting, I really enjoyed it."

The mural's theme follows the Streamline Swim School's progression levels including starfish, seahorse, seal, stingray and swordfish.

"It also reflects the Council organisation's vision and journey from good to great."

## Helping make Horowhenua even greener

More than 4000 plants and trees have been planted at three local reserves in recent weeks.

Organised by Horowhenua District Council Parks and Property staff, the planting was done by members of the community together with staff from Council and contractor Recreational Services.

The first session was at Muaūpoko Park (Lake Horowhenua Domain), which saw approximately 1000 plants and trees planted, assisted by Levin School pupils and teachers. Recreational Services then planted another 1000 plants in the area. These included flax, maidenhair vine, sedges, cabbage trees, koromiko, treedaisy, horopito, ribbonwood, ngaio, kowhai, and totara.

Two weeks ago, at Hudson Reserve and along the Wairarawa Stream at Waitarere Beach, approximately 2000 plants and trees were planted by Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association members, along with Council staff.

And, last Wednesday, at Holben Parade in Foxton Beach, about 500 plants and trees were planted by Foxton Beach School pupils and members of the 21 Supply Company from Linton Army Camp, along with Council staff.

The trees and plants for Waitarere Beach and Foxton Beach included toi toi, sedges, taupata, cabbage trees, mahoe, treedaisy and flax.

Resident Sharon Freebarin helps plant at Waitarere Beach



Parks and Property Officer Craig Kidd, right, with the Levin School group



# Major upgrade for Thompson House

Levin's historic Thompson House has received some significant tender-loving-care.

The 1920s building has undergone a major upgrade, including earthquake strengthening and other reinforcing work, improvements to achieve regulatory compliance by improving disability access and fire escapes, general repair works, a new front entrance, landscaping, as well as interior refurbishments.

The \$350,000 upgrade was budgeted as part of Council's Long Term Plan and, to allow the work to happen, the building was closed for three months, reopening last week.

Offering four rooms and an upstairs gallery space, Thompson House is popular with community organisations, clubs and other groups, which make use of the facility for meetings, classes, workshops and exhibitions.

Most visible aspects of the upgrade include the new front entrance with a curved ramp and timber rail fencing. In addition to improving access, it enhances the connection between the house and the established gardens and neighbouring reserve. New decking surrounds the front and west-side, with porcelain tiles and built-in planter boxing ready for plants to be added. Around the back, a new fire escape has been built to comply with regulations.

Visible improvements inside include all the bathrooms being renovated, three gas fireplace-like heaters installed, and a new fire-rated ceiling throughout the ground floor. Also, the ugly brown scrim is in the process of being removed from the walls, replaced by painted wood.

Council Parks and Property Lead Ann Clark is delighted with the upgrade results and says that the builders employed for the job have helped solve some interesting challenges in the process and have done a "fantastic job" overall.



## Levin water to benefit from new clarifier

The Levin Water Treatment Plant upgrade is progressing well, with the recent arrival of a new state-of-the-art clarifier.

Developed by French company Veolia and manufactured in China, the 26-tonne Actiflo high-rate clarifier was shipped to Auckland and then transported down to Levin last month.

Horowhenua District Council Design Engineer Garth Flores says the new clarifier will allow water to be pumped from the adjacent Ohau River even when it is in flood and the water is muddy.

"Previously, when the river was in high flow the water was sometimes so muddy that the treatment plant was shut down for a few hours to prevent the filters from clogging up. The new clarifier will allow us to pump at any time, as it will remove any mud in the water," he said.

"The water will then go through the existing filters before being disinfected with UV and chlorine. This will provide multiple barriers to ensure that Levin and surrounds have safe drinking water."

Stage one of the Levin Water Treatment Plant upgrade was a new six-million-litre reservoir tank, completed in April. It measures 31 metres in diameter and nine metres high; and complements the two old concrete reservoirs - a four-million-litre tank built in 1965, and a 2.5-million-litre tank built in 1943.



The three reservoirs have a combined storage capacity to supply 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.

Stage two of the upgrade includes the clarifier and a new UV treatment system manufactured in Germany. The project is expected to be completed by June 2017.





# What's happening

For further details and events visit [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/events)

## 05 Saturday 5 November Levin Monthly Market

8:00am - 11.30am at the 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.

## 12 Saturday 12 November Horowhenua Taste Trail

10:00am - 4:00pm at RJs Licorice, Woodhaven Gardens, Tendertips Asparagus, Genoese Pesto, Turks Poultry, Ohau Wine, Woody's Free Range Farm, Levin Eels, and Country Treats. A free Taste Trail to enjoy at your own pace; with each stop along the trail offering a different food experience. Food and merchandise will be available for sale at each stop. For more info, visit [www.tastetrail.co.nz](http://www.tastetrail.co.nz), email [horowhenuatastetrail@gmail.com](mailto:horowhenuatastetrail@gmail.com) or phone 06 366 0999.

## 17 Thursday 17 November Thursday Night Street Feast

5:00pm - 9:00pm in the Levin Mall carpark in front of Te Takere. A variety of gourmet dishes available from a selection of high-end food trucks offering foods from around the globe. All welcome.

## 19 Saturday 19 November White Ribbon Day 'Reverse Colour Run'

At Levin Mall carpark. Registration desk opens 10:00am. White Ribbon Riders arrive 12:00pm. Reverse Colour Run starts 1:00pm. Free entertainment and food. For more info and updates, visit [www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaAbuseLiaisonTeam](http://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaAbuseLiaisonTeam).

## 20 Sunday 20 November Foxton Beach Fun Run and Walk

From 8:30am at Foxton Beach in front of Surf Life Saving Club. Choose between a 20km run, a 10km run/walk, or a 5km run/walk. Organised by the Foxton Lions Club, with proceeds to the Foxton Surf Life Saving Club, Coastguard Manawatu, and the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter. Enter online at [www.foxtonlions.co.nz](http://www.foxtonlions.co.nz) or collect an entry form from Hammer Hardware Foxton or Mitre 10 Levin. For more info, phone 06 363 5368 or email [funrun@foxtonlions.co.nz](mailto:funrun@foxtonlions.co.nz)

## 27 Sunday 27 November Waiopahu College Garden Tour

10.00am to 4.00pm. A fundraiser for the college's Japanese language students' trip to Japan in 2017. Tickets cost \$20 and are available from the college, 74 Bartholomew Road, Levin, or from Super Minx at 194 Oxford Street, Levin. For more info visit [www.waiopahu.ac.nz](http://www.waiopahu.ac.nz) or phone 06 368 8303.

# Council Meetings

## Horowhenua District Council

**2** Wednesday 2 November at 4:00pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

## Foxton Community Board

**21** Monday 21 November at 6:30pm in the library at Manawatu College, 18 Ladys Mile, Foxton. All welcome.

## Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee

**30** Wednesday 30 November at 4:00pm in Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin. All welcome.

## Horowhenua District Councillors



**Michael Feyen**  
(Mayor)



**Ross Campbell**  
(Deputy Mayor)



**Wayne Bishop**



**Ross Brannigan**



**Barry Judd**



**Bernie Wandan**



**Victoria Kaye-Simmons**



**Jo Mason**



**Christine Mitchell**



**Neville Gimblett**



**Piri-Hira Tukapua**

## Foxton Community Board



**David Roache**  
(Chair)



**Tricia Metcalf**  
(Deputy Chair)



**John Girling**



**Jenny Lundie**



**David Allan**