



Mayor Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Greetings to you all.

The year is certainly flying by. It's August already, and that means applications are open for Council's community grants. We're doing things differently this year – we've channelled funds from our regular grants into our new Community Support Grant, which aims to enhance our district's wellbeing and social connectedness in the wake of COVID-19. Our district is strong when we support each other, and I encourage you to take advantage of this grant if you have a project that meets its objectives.

We're also particularly keen to hear from you this month if you live in Ōhau or Manakau, as we seek feedback on the draft Community Plans for these communities.

Nominations open for Civic Honours Awards this month. If you know of someone who deserves recognition for their outstanding voluntary service and dedication to the community, including those who selflessly served others during lockdown, I urge you to nominate them.

Finally, there's still time to give feedback on Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's on planned safety improvements for SH57. You can find out more in this issue of the Community Connection.

Ngā manaakitanga

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernie Wanden".

Council rates for 2020/2021: Your questions answered

In June, Horowhenua District Council voted to decrease the amount of rates income the Council will collect for the 2020/2021 year, compared to 2019/2020, by -1.83%.

Here are answers to some of your questions about how the decision will affect your rates in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Q. Will my rates go down in the 2020/21 financial year?

A. Council will collect less income from rates overall, but that doesn't necessarily mean a rates decrease for all households in the district. Some property owners will get a decrease, while others will have an increase in their rates. This is mainly because of the independent rating valuation carried out last year, which took effect from 1 July 2020.

Q: What is rating valuation?

A. At least once every three years properties in every district and city in New Zealand are revalued to set the values the council will use to charge rates for the next three years.

Revaluation does not increase the amount Council collects from rates, it just helps us to work out everyone's share of rates. The rating valuation provides the means to share the cost of the rates across the district according to a set of property values that are provided for every property on a common date (1 August 2019). Using a common date means that every property is valued on the same basis and at the same time.

Q. How will the rating valuation affect my rates?

A. The way your rates will be affected by the valuation depends on whether your property

value rose by more or less than the district average. A below average increase will likely have no impact on your rates or may mean you pay less. An above average increase in value could mean that even with Council's decision to reduce its rates income for 2020/21 you may still pay more in rates than you did for 2019/20.

Communities such as Hōkio Beach, where property values have gone up more than the district average, will have a higher rates increase. In some areas, such as Waikawa Beach, values have gone up by less than the district average and as such rates will either only have a small increase, stay the same, or may decrease.

Q. How can I check what my rates will be this financial year?

A. You can check your rates in our Rating Information Database at:
<https://ratesinformation.horowhenua.govt.nz/>

Q: Will the reduced rates income affect the services and facilities Council provides for the community?

A. There will be no reduction in the levels of service Council provides for the community in the 2020/21 financial year, and no Council facilities will close because of the reduction in rates income.

However, the long-term implications of a rates income decrease for the 2020/2021 financial year are not yet fully known. This is because a number of factors, such as what goes into our Long Term Plan 2021-2041 budgets, will influence the implications this decision may have in the future.

Have your say on the future of Ōhau and Manakau

If you live in, own property in, or often visit Ōhau or Manakau, now is your chance to have your say on the future of your community.

Horowhenua District Council is seeking public feedback on the draft Ōhau Community Plan and the draft Manakau Community Plan.

Strategic Planner Lauren Baddock said Council worked closely with the Ōhau and Manakau communities to create the plans.

“Throughout 2019, we talked with the Ōhau and Manakau communities about their aspirations for the future. After community workshops, drop-in sessions, school visits, and surveys, we prepared the draft Community Plans. Now we’re taking the draft plans back to the Ōhau and Manakau communities to make sure we’re on the right track before we finalise them,” she said.

The Community Plans create a vision for each community and identify key priorities

and actions to achieve this vision. It gives the communities a voice in Council’s planning and decision-making for both Ōhau and Manakau by ensuring that Council actions align with the community’s aspirations.

For more information or to provide feedback on the Ōhau Community Plan: visit horowhenua.govt.nz/ohaucommunityplan; pick up a hard copy of the survey or feedback form at Council offices or Country Kitchen Café and Waffle House; or contact Lauren Baddock on 06 366 0999.

For more information or to provide feedback on the Manakau Community Plan: visit horowhenua.govt.nz/manakaucommunityplan; pick up a hard copy of the survey or feedback form at Council offices or the Manakau Store; or contact Strategic Planner Tiffany Gower on 06 366 0999.

Consultation is open until 24 August 2020.



Applications open for community grants

Applications are now open for three community grants schemes, including the new Community Support Grant, Shannon Community Development Grant and Creative Communities Scheme Grant.

Applications for the first round of these grants for this financial year open on 1 August and close on 31 August 2020.

The new Community Support Grant aims to support non-profit organisations running community initiatives that enhance wellbeing and social connectedness in the wake of COVID-19. It combines funds from six of Council’s regular community grants, which have been suspended for this financial year.

It has \$160,000 to disperse, and applications can be for any amount.

The Shannon Community Development Grant provides targeted funding to non-profit organisations that bring benefits to the Shannon community, as well as to local individuals seeking scholarships for sporting and educational pursuits. The Grant has \$13,000 to distribute and grants are usually between \$300 and \$2,000.

The Creative Communities Grant is a national scheme, funded by Creative New Zealand and administered by local government authorities. It provides arts funding to local groups and individuals. There is no limit to

how much can be applied for, but most grants tend to be under \$2,000.

Council is managing applications for all grants through its new online grants managing tool, SmartyGrants, and applicants will need to set up a SmartyGrants account.

For more information, criteria and to download application forms for any of the grant schemes, visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/grants or contact Council on [06 366 0999](tel:063660999) or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

For help setting up and using your SmartyGrants account, contact Council’s Community Development team on [06 366 0999](tel:063660999) or commdev@horowhenua.govt.nz

Making SH57 safer

In July, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency held a series of drop-in information sessions in the district to hear the community’s thoughts on planned safety improvements on State Highway 57.

In the last five years there have been 11 crashes resulting in fatalities and serious injuries on SH57 between the SH1 intersection and Heatherlea East Road. To help prevent more crashes like these, Waka Kotahi plans to install a roundabout at the Queen Street/SH57 intersection, widen the centrelines along SH57 and build stretches of side barriers along the road.

The planned safety improvements are a continuation of work further north on SH57 to Shannon, completed in early 2020.

A review of the speed limit of SH57 is also being considered. Feedback from the public

will help determine whether a speed limit change will improve safety.

About 250 locals attended the events, which were an opportunity to hear more about why these safety improvements have been chosen, look at plans and provide feedback. Input from the community will help fine tune proposed safety improvements, and make sure they work with the way the public and residents use the road.

Feedback is still open and can be delivered online, over the phone or by email. Find out more at www.nzta.govt.nz/o2nl-SH57-safety-improvements. Submit your thoughts by 5pm on Monday, 10 August 2020.

Waka Kotahi will also be talking to property owners this month about the new highway and will be providing updates for the wider community following that.



Nominations open for Civic Honours Awards

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for outstanding voluntary service?

Horowhenua District Council's Civic Honours Awards are the perfect opportunity to give them the recognition they deserve.

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

Mayor Bernie Wanden encouraged people to nominate those worthy of recognition.

"These awards recognise the many volunteers who work tirelessly in our community and the huge difference they make to the lives of many others," he said.

"This year we have special reason to celebrate the many selfless individuals who serve behind the scenes as members of local groups, societies and other organisations, as we reflect on the contributions of volunteers who supported those in need during lockdown."

Nominations close on Monday 14 September.

For more information, including guidelines and criteria, and to download nomination forms, visit horowhenua.govt.nz/civichonours

Congratulations to dog registration prize winners

Cooper the Australian Koolie is a very happy dog.

Cooper's owner, Penelope Nalder, was the lucky winner of a hamper of pet products after registering Cooper online in July.

Ms Nalder said Cooper was delighted with the new toys in his hamper, especially the big tennis ball and a blue ball she can put treats into.

"I'd never used online registration before, but I found it easy to use and very convenient. It's awkward for me to get into town. I'll definitely continue to use the online registration," Ms Nalder said.

Five other owners who registered online won a refund of their dog registration fee.



Customer Support Officer Stephanie Brizzle (left) presents Penelope with her prize.

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Rates Rebates Applications are open

Council strongly encourages you to apply now

Rebates of up to \$655 may be available to eligible residents.

Who is eligible?

You must have been living at the property at 1 July 2020 and you must be a ratepayer for the property.

Rebates are based on total household income for the tax year ending 31 March 2020 and the amount of rates for both Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council for the 2020/2021 rating year.

📞 Call 06 366 1050 from 10 August 2020 to 21 August 2020 to make an appointment (calls after 21 August should be made to 06 366 0999) or;

@ Email your name and phone number to ratesrebates@horowhenua.govt.nz

Myth-busting rates rebates

It's time to apply for your rates rebate for the 2020/2021 year ... which means it's also time to bust a few myths about rates rebates:

You have to be on superannuation to apply.

Not True. The rebate is based on your total income from all sources for the year ended 31 March 2020.

Self-employed people cannot apply.

Not True. The rebate is based on your total income from all sources for the year ended 31 March 2020. You just need to bring in proof of income or your set of accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020.

Rates rebates are age-related.

Not True. Anyone of any age can apply for the rebate provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

Your rates need to be up-to-date to apply.

Not True. The rebate is based on your current year's rates. Council strongly encourages anyone that is facing difficulty in paying their rates to contact Council to discuss options.

The process is complicated.

Not True. The process is simple and straight-forward. All you need is your total income from all sources for the year ending 31 March 2020. Council staff members are happy to assist you to complete your application.

We have to visit the Council building to apply.

Not necessarily. Council offers a home visit service for ratepayers who may have difficulty getting to a Council customer service centre.



Calling all artists: Submissions open for Chorus cabinet art project

Horowhenua District Council and Chorus are calling for talented artists in the district to add their artistic flair to four Chorus cabinets.

The four cabinets will be beautified as part of a project that sees some of the more frequently tagged cabinets painted with art works. They follow many others in the district that already display beautiful designs by local artists.

The cabinets become works of art in the street, often telling stories about the communities in which they are located, and help to discourage tagging.

Council's Community Development Advisor Kim Stewart will be co-ordinating designs and artists and says it is a great opportunity for artists to showcase their talents to not only the local community but also the wider world.

"This is a win-win for our communities. Not only do we get fantastic art works in our streetscape, but also it provides work and promotion of our local artists," she said.

Submissions of designs are open until Friday 28 August, and the winning design for each cabinet will be chosen from entries received.

Entries will be judged on their design, the meaning behind the artwork, artist availability, originality and creativity, and the visual improvement the project would make to beautify the community.

For more information and to submit your design, visit horowhenua.govt.nz/Chorusboxes



Local artist Philip Sue decorates a Chorus cabinet in Queen Street in 2019.

Want to receive Community Connection in your email inbox? Sign up online:

horowhenua.govt.nz/News-Notices/Community-Connection



Council Meetings

Community Wellbeing Committee

11 Tuesday 11 August, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Council

12 Wednesday 12 August, 4pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

26 Wednesday 26 August, 4pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Foxton Community Board Workshop

31 Monday 31 August, 4pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street Foxton

Did you know?

You can watch meetings of Council and the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee online at: www.horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive

What's happening

All month

Wings of War – Exhibition

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Local artist David Goodall focuses on a series of World War 2 military aviation screen-print works

Free.



Monday 3 August to Friday 28 August Winter Warmers Children's Reading Programme

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Free. Register at your library.



Wednesday 12 August Pop Up Eats

5pm to 8pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō carpark

Enjoy great food truck food and live entertainment.

Free entry.



Thursday 13 August Journey through the Southern Night Sky

From 6:30pm at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

Take a virtual trip into deep space with a video presentation by astro-photographer Dr Stephen Chadwick at 6:30pm, followed by stargazing through telescopes from 7:30pm.

Free.



Friday 21 August National Poetry Day

All day at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Unleash the power of poetry! Come on down and experience what poetry is all about with our activities Texting Couplets, Fridge Door poetry and Found Poems.

Free.



Tuesday 25 August Erika & Coco Rainbow Storytime

6pm to 7:30pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

For people who would like to know more about the rainbow community and drag. This event promotes confidence and highlights support available for those who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender or questioning.

Free. Suitable for ages 13 and over.



Wednesday 26 August Discovering Buried History

10:30am at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Would you like to learn more about how to make the most of death records and researching family history? Find out how to make sense of obituaries, probates and burial records.

Free.



Thursday 27 August Sustainable Funding Workshop

9:30am to 4pm at Horowhenua District Council main office

This workshop has practical ideas to help organisations develop sustainable funding opportunities.

Free to Horowhenua-based not-for-profit organisations. RSVP to michellero@horowhenua.govt.nz by 14 August 2020.



Monday 31 August Food Lovers Masterclass

6:30pm to 8:30pm at Horowhenua District Council main office

Learn about how to minimise food waste and save money at this educational masterclass for all household types, ages, and stages of life. You will receive a gift pack of food waste minimisation products.

Cost \$27.12 per individual or per couple. Tickets from eventfinda.co.nz/2020/food-lovers-masterclass/levin

Age on the GO

Registrations for stallholders are open until Friday 18 September 2020.

For more information and to book a stall, visit: www.horowhenua.govt.nz/ageonthego or contact Council's Community Development Team on 06 366 0999.