



Message from the Mayor

Greetings to you all.

It's hard to believe the year is nearing its

end already, with the Horowhenua Christmas Carnival just around the corner. We've all been through some challenging times this year so I encourage you to relax and enjoy the fun and conviviality Christmas brings. This year more than ever it's appropriate to reflect that Christmas is not just about the material things, but about friends, family and community.

November also brings another event on the district's calendar that is very meaningful to me – the Civic Honours Awards. One of my privileges as Mayor is to be there to honour those in our community who volunteer their time for the good of others. The crucial role these selfless volunteers play became very clear to many of us during lockdown, and this year's awards will be particularly special.

It's exciting to see works near completion on Queen Street, and progress continuing on the Foxton Futures project to restore the Manawatū River Loop. I've also been very impressed with the Shannon Library refurbishments and the work the Library has been doing out in the community, which were celebrated at their recent Open Day.

Ngā manaakitanga

Christmas Carnival comes to Horowhenua

Christmas is coming, so let's deck the halls, Horowhenua! Get together with your whānau and friends to celebrate and reflect on the year at our Christmas Carnival on Saturday 28 November. It will be jam-packed with fun for all the family!

The day starts with the annual Christmas Parade, which begins at 4pm from York Street, travels along Oxford Street, and finishes by turning into Durham Street.

The theme for floats in this year's parade is 'A Grinchy Christmas', and floats are encouraged to weave the theme into the decorations. The public can join in by dressing up in their own interpretation of the theme. There will be prizes for the top three Christmas Parade floats that incorporate the best 'Grinchy Christmas' theme, as well as spot prizes for members of the public who dress for the theme.

Horowhenua District Council's Civic and Community Events Coordinator Melissa Steedman said the theme was perfect for this year.

"Everyone has faced many challenges this year with the COVID pandemic, lockdown, and a national election. So we're taking inspiration from the famous book by Dr Seuss, and inviting you to enjoy an afternoon where you can cheer on the floats, then come to the Adventure Park where the kids can play and the whole family be entertained with music and free activities. Christmas doesn't have to be all about gifts – it's a time to spend with family and friends. So bring a picnic and a blanket, or grab your eats from

a nearby shop, and have a fun night with your favourite people!"

There will be plenty to enjoy at the Adventure Park – all the usual playground fun, as well as train rides, giant inflatables, the creative performers from Highly Flammable with their circus play zone, giant bubbles, stilt walkers, outside games and more. Two bands and MC Dylan Jacobs will keep everyone entertained with live music.

Ms Steedman said Council is focusing on making the Christmas Carnival accessible to everyone again this year by including accessible zones.

"At both the Parade and the Carnival we will have zones where members of our community who would usually find going to this sort of event challenging can join the fun," she said.

The zones provide parking close to the Parade, with accessible seating with space for wheelchairs and mobility devices, and a comfortable area for assistance dogs. Registrations for the accessibility zones are essential to ensure there is enough space and chairs. If you would like space, please email hccc@horowhenua.govt.nz

The finale to end the night will be turning on the magical Christmas lights. The Levin Adventure Park will again be spectacular with a colourful display of lights, lasting until mid-January.

There's still time to register if you'd like to enter a float in the Christmas Parade. To register, visit horowhenua.govt.nz/christmascarnival or email hccc@horowhenua.govt.nz



Saturday 28 November 2020

Water meters – Your questions answered

Council has been proactively reducing water loss in the district. As part of this effort, we did a leak survey in parts of Levin in February and March this year.

The survey found 68 leaks on private property. Water meters were installed on these properties, and people are saving 350,000 litres of water per day by fixing the leaks detected.

Here are the answers to the most common questions you've been asking us about the new water meters.

How do I know if Council installed a water meter on my property?

If you had a water meter installed this year as part of our Levin leak survey, we left a notice in your letterbox to alert you to a possible leak on your property.

Property owners were given four months to have the leaks fixed before billing started.

What if I didn't get the notice?

If you didn't receive your notice and were

unaware your property was being metered until your first bill, please contact our Customer Services team and we'll work with you on a case-by-case basis to find a solution.

What are the respective responsibilities of Council and the property owner to find and fix leaks?

By law, it's Council's responsibility to maintain the water network and supply up to the boundary of your property. Within your property boundary, it's your responsibility to maintain your plumbing and avoid wasting water.

Will Council notify me if I have a leak?

Once your meter has been installed, we'll notify you in a letter sent out with your water bill if we detect unusually high water usage that could indicate a leak. However, we can only detect unusually high usage on your third reading and after. This is because our system works by identifying outliers (readings higher than your usual usage).

For this reason, our system doesn't always pick up consistently high usage if you've had a leak since your meter was installed – we're working on a solution for this to improve our services.

We read your water meter every three months, so a leak can exist for some time before we can detect it and notify you. Therefore, it's important to check your own property for leaks.



A water meter.

How can I check my property for water leaks?

Identifying water leaks at your property is a simple task that can greatly benefit you and the community.

If your property is metered, carry out this simple five-minute test:

1. Check all taps are turned off and water-using appliances (dishwashers, washing machines, etc.) are not operating.
2. Locate the blue water meter lid on the footpath, lift it up and write down the time and reading on the meter inside.
3. Sit down and relax for five minutes.
4. Re-read your water meter, taking note of the reading and time again. If the numbers have changed then you might have a water leak and you may want to contact a plumber. If you are unsure, Council's water services staff can come and double-check it for you.

If your property does not have a meter, to check for signs of a water leak:

- Trace the route from your toby to where the pipe enters the house and check for wet areas, unexplained patches of green grass in otherwise dry ground, or obvious leaks from fittings and connections.
- Use a screwdriver for a simple listening test. First, check all taps are turned off and water-using appliances (dishwashers, washing machines, etc.) are not operating. Then go outside and put one end of a screwdriver against

your water pipe and the other end to your ear. If you hear water moving, you may have a leak.

- If you come across standing or running water and you are not sure if it is a leak, you can get a free test kit with instructions from Council's main office in Levin. This is a simple test that requires a sample of water, the test kit sachet and a few minutes of time. If the water turns pink, then you have a water leak and you may want to contact a plumber.
- Check inside the house for dripping taps and leaky toilet cisterns. Leaky toilet cisterns can often be identified by the sound of hissing, trickling or running water coming from the cistern.

For more information, or to report a water leak, contact Horowhenua District Council on enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz or 06 366 0999.



Lift the blue lid to read your meter.

What are my options if I unexpectedly get a big water bill because of a leak?

You can apply for up to a 50% rebate on the charges incurred because of the leak. To qualify, you'll need to provide proof the leak has been fixed, such as confirmation from your plumber or two photos of your meter reading taken one week apart.

If you are facing hardship, we can also work with you on a case-by-case basis to help you. Please contact our Customer Services team on 06 366 0999.

How much am I being charged for water?

If you live in Levin, Foxton, Ōhau, Shannon or Tokomaru and you have a water meter, your ordinary Council rates cover the cost of 91,000 litres of water per quarter. As long as you don't use more than this, you won't incur any extra water usage charges. If you use more than 91,000 litres per quarter, you'll be charged \$2.22 per m³ (cubic metre/1,000 litres) of water.

If you live in Foxton Beach, you'll be charged 93c per m³/1,000 litres for the first 50 m³ (50,000 litres), \$1.86 for between 51 and 100 m³ (51,000 and 100,000 litres), and \$2.79 for more than 101 m³ (101,000 litres).

For more information about water supply services, please visit horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterConsumption or horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterFAQs

Celebrating Shannon Library

Shannon Library has been a stalwart of the Shannon community for just over five decades. On Saturday 24 October, Libraries Horowhenua and the Friends of the Horowhenua Libraries hosted the Shannon Library Open Day, a special event celebrating the library, its role in the community and its recent refurbishment. It was a fabulous day filled with live music, exciting technology, free sausages and great community spirit.

Kiri Pepene, Branch Librarian, said community engagement and outreach are important parts of the Shannon Library ethos.

“Great librarianship isn’t confined by bricks and mortar. It stretches well beyond the tangible ‘place’ that is the library, into the community,” she said.

Some recent examples are the outreach work with Shannon School through the Skinny JUMP scheme and the Winter Warmers reading programme. Skinny JUMP is designed to help bridge the digital divide through low-cost home internet. At the end of last year, Libraries Horowhenua partnered with Shannon School and Spark (which then provided the service) to trial a new outreach model of delivery.

“It was hugely successful. We achieved our goal of connecting whānau with no internet access. This proved itself crucial earlier this year, during the COVID-19 lockdown. Having families connected meant a smoother delivery of the online learning curriculum,” Ms Pepene said.

“Delivering our annual Winter Warmers reading programme via outreach with Shannon School has also been successful. This year 45 tamariki from the Harakeke Hub completed the programme. These numbers exceed what would have been possible if the programme was run purely at the library, and show the power of outreach services to break down barriers to access and participation. Plus, working together is a great way to build relationships and community.”

Ka rawe Shannon Library. Here’s to another 50 + years!



Business community helps create blueprint for Horowhenua

Members of the business community in Horowhenua gathered at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō in October for a workshop to help shape a blueprint for the district’s future growth.

Council is developing the blueprint to identify its priorities for the future, and to understand the key projects it needs to focus on to move the district from its current state to what it will look like in 20 years.

“What a blueprint does is make sense of the myriad of priorities Council has across its many different plans, strategies and policies. These are things that affect all of us in one way or another, but you could be forgiven for getting lost among them all,” said workshop facilitator Kobus Mentz, an international expert in urban design.

“We’re trying to understand what are the most important priorities across all those things and put together an ‘umbrella’ strategy with the big directions for the next 20 years.”

Mr Mentz advocates thinking strategically about the design of urban networks, public spaces, and precincts for activities such as retail, commerce, recreation and nightlife. In this way, we can achieve greater efficiency and economic prosperity, strengthen employment, and improve social equity. He provided examples of where he had worked with other local authorities and business

communities to align economic, employment and investment strategies to enhance the performance of urban economies.

Mr Mentz asked participants to think about the big ideas that would drive the district forward; what type of people the district needs to attract and retain, and what needs to change to do that; and the barriers and trade-offs.

Participants identified opportunities for promoting the district as a tourist destination, in education and training, stronger connections with Wellington and attracting visitors and residents from the capital city, building a dam for recreation and water supply security, harnessing the energy and ideas of returning young people, and promoting our natural environment as a precious resource.

Barriers identified were the need for more cafes, restaurants, accommodation, big-ticket festivals and events to draw visitors to the district.

Cr Sam Jennings noted that Council is developing a Destination Management Strategy to promote the district.

Mayor Bernie Wanden thanked Mr Mentz and those who attended the workshop.

“I’m confident we’re going to see some real stuff come out of this blueprint we’re developing,” he said.

“We’re going to have 15,000 more people here in 20 years, and we have real challenges in terms of preparing for that population increase. It’s vital that you contribute your opinions.”



Road safety improvements underway in Foxton Beach

Road safety improvements are underway at Taylor Street, Andrews Street and Queen Street in Foxton Beach.

As well as improving safety for road users and residents, the project will address some key issues such as unsafe pedestrian crossings and high traffic speeds.

The works involve construction of traffic

islands and pedestrian refuge islands, safer crossing points for pedestrians, and wide medians marked with reflective paint. A mini mountable roundabout will also be constructed at the Forbes Road / Andrews Street intersection.

The project is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

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



horowhenua.govt.nz/CommunityConnection

Council Meetings

Council

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

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

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

Foxton Community Board

30 Monday 30 November, 6pm
Stuart Ellwood Room, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton.

What's happening

Event details are correct at the time of publication, but are subject to change. Please check horowhenua.govt.nz/Events or contact event organisers for updates and more events.

To have your local event included in this listing, please register your event for free at horowhenua.govt.nz/Events



Saturday 17 October to Sunday 13 December

Parallax: Shine and Shadows – Spelen met Licht

Open daily at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
Free.

All month
Zane Goode – Retro Auto Art – Exhibition

Open daily at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Free.

7 **Saturday 7 November**
Big Bang Adventure Race

7am
To enter and for more info, visit bigbangadventure.co.nz

8 **Sunday 8 November**
Foxton Family Fun Day

10am to 2pm, Foxton Heated Pools
Free.

14 **Saturday 14 November**
Poroutawhao School Ag Day

10am to 2pm, Poroutawhao School, 796 SH1, Poroutawhao
Free.

14 **Saturday 14 November**
Ohau School Ag Day

9:30am to 1pm, Ohau School, 12 Muhunoa East Road, Ohau
Free.

15 **Sunday 15 November**
Jazz Jam

2pm to 4pm, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Free.

17 **Tuesday 17 November**
Colbert Cooper Series: Pricing for Profit

12pm to 1pm, The Mahi Space, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Free.

20 **Friday 20 November**
Diwali Festival of Light Celebration

12pm to 4:30pm, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Free.

22 **Sunday 22 November**
Kāpiti Indoor Market

9am to 3pm, Waikanae Memorial Hall, Pehi Kupa Street, Waikanae

25 **Wednesday 25 November**
Boosting Resilience

12pm to 1:30pm, The Mahi Space, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Ticketed event, bookings essential. Email themahispace@horowhenua.govt.nz

28 **Saturday 28 November**
Christmas Carnival

Parade from 4pm, Oxford Street, Levin
Christmas Carnival from 4:45pm, Levin Adventure Park
Christmas Lights for Christmas Nights, lights on from approx. 9:10pm, Levin Adventure Park
Free.

Weekly on Wednesdays
Quiz Night

7pm to 9pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
\$5 per person.

Weekly on Fridays
Local Music Showcase

12 noon to 1pm at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Free.

Toddler Time

- Weekly on Mondays, 2pm to 2:30pm, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Weekly on Mondays, 2:15pm to 2:45pm, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
- Weekly on Wednesdays, 1:30pm to 2pm, Shannon Library

Free.

Exquisite jewellery on show at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

There's jewellery, and then there is 'art jewellery'. The differences between the two are vast. And that really shows, in the exhibition 'Parallax: Shine and Shadows – Spelen met Licht' at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom.

Three jewellers and one painter have come together for the exhibition, which distinguishes itself through the artists' innovative ways with light and shadows. The art on display is all about illusion.

"Dutch artists since Rembrandt's days have been fond of the concept of 'spelen met licht' – or playing with light," says contemporary artist and jeweller Peter Decker, whose work is on display in the exhibition. "We joined up to do exactly that. By coming together in Parallax, we've created something unique."

Parallax: Shine and Shadows is open daily at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom until Sunday 13 December.



Gerda Leenards: Karst Reflection: 30 panels

Lego Hour

- Thursday 5 November, 3:30pm to 4:30pm, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Thursday 12 November, 3:30pm to 4:30pm, Shannon Library
- Thursday 19 November, 3:30pm to 4:30pm, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Free.