



Mayor Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

With New Zealand now at Alert Level 2, many of Council's

services and facilities are open again. We still need to play it safe, and there are some restrictions in place to protect the health of our community and our staff. Thank you for your support and cooperation with these, and please continue to be mindful of physical distancing when you're out and about.

Several important projects wrap up this month. Safety improvements to our busiest roundabout are almost complete, and the Levin Aquatic Centre pools are open again after maintenance.

In Shannon, the library has been refurbished to create a bright, modern, welcoming space, and the community will also get an electric vehicle charging station this month.

This is an important month for planning ahead too, as we finalise our Annual Plan 2020/2021. We deliberated on the Annual Plan this week, following public hearings in mid-May, and we will formally adopt the plan on 24 June.

Finally, recent earthquakes in our district are a reminder to all of us to be prepared. Council has resources available to help you, including community response plans that provide civil defence information tailored for local communities.

Stay safe.

Council services during Alert Level 2

Most Horowhenua District Council services and facilities suspended during lockdown have resumed at Alert Level 2.

Protecting public health remains a priority, and measures are in place to keep people safe as they return to Council facilities.

Should the Government announce any changes to the alert level, we will publish

updated information as soon as possible on the dedicated COVID-19 page on our website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz/COVID-19.

If you are unable to access the internet or you'd prefer to talk to us directly, please contact our Customer Services team on 06 366 0999.

Customer service contact centres

Council's main office is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, to allow time for the public area to be sanitised each morning.

Restrictions will apply to ensure safe practice:

- Customer details will be recorded for contact tracing
- A time limit of two hours per visit applies
- Maximum of 10 customers at one time to maintain safe physical distancing
- Toilets will be closed
- Please use sanitising stations provided, maintain physical distancing, and do not enter if you feel unwell

If possible, please contact us by telephone on 06 366 0999 or email at enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz in the first instance to help maintain safe physical distancing on site. We also have lots of services and information on our website, www.horowhenua.govt.nz

Our main Call Centre hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9am to 5pm, and 9:30am to 5pm on Wednesdays. All phone calls outside these hours will be answered by our Afterhours service.

Rubbish and recycling services

All kerbside rubbish collections will continue.

Kerbside recycling collection services have resumed, following the normal schedule. To find out when your next collection date is please visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/checkcollectiondates.

Transfer stations are open to the public. Restrictions continue to apply to ensure safe practice (i.e. no more than two vehicles in at a time, no cash payment available). Car registration numbers will be recorded for contact tracing purposes.

Recycling stations in Levin, Foxton and Shannon are open at Alert Level 2, and mobile community recycling stations have been reinstated.

Water supply, wastewater and stormwater services

These services will continue.

Governance and decision making

Council and Committees of Council are meeting in person. Public viewing is by live-stream, accessible at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive

For information about public participation in a meeting or attending in person, please contact us on 06 366 0999 or public.participation@horowhenua.govt.nz

Civil defence and emergency management

These services will continue.

Parks, reserves, cemeteries, playgrounds and public toilets	<p>Public toilets are open, with increased cleaning services at high-use facilities.</p> <p>Parks, reserves, cemeteries, playgrounds and sportsgrounds are open. Please observe two metre physical distancing and hygiene precautions.</p> <p>Mowing and general maintenance continue. Litter bins will continue to be emptied.</p>
Library services	<p>Libraries are open, with reduced hours.</p> <p>Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō is open from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.</p> <p>Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is open from 10am to 4pm daily.</p> <p>Shannon Library is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm.</p> <p>Restrictions will apply to ensure safe practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of 100 people at one time at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom to maintain safe physical distancing. Maximum of 20 people at one time at Shannon Library. • Some programmes and resources may not be available • Customer details will be recorded for contact tracing • Children 14 years and under must be accompanied by an adult • A time limit per visit of one hour at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and 30 minutes at Shannon Library applies
Swimming pools	<p>Levin Aquatic Centre is open, including a limited Streamline Swim School timetable.</p> <p>Restrictions apply to ensure safe practice. These include (but are not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer details will be recorded for contact tracing • Restricted times for lane swimming, aquajogging, walking, hydrotherapy pool and play swimming <p>For more information, please visit aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz</p> <p>Foxton Heated Pools will remain closed for winter until September.</p>
Community centres	<p>Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom are open. Youth Space at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō remains closed to the public.</p> <p>Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō will be open from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. The Library Café remains closed at Alert Level 2.</p> <p>Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom will be open from 10am to 4pm daily. Millside Café is closed during Alert Level 2.</p> <p>Shannon Library is open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm.</p> <p>Restrictions apply to ensure safe practice (see restrictions listed for Library Services).</p>
Animal control	<p>Animal control will respond to all calls. The dog pound is closed to the public but remains operational.</p> <p>Please keep dogs on a leash when out walking them.</p>
Planning (resource) consents	<p>We are continuing to process resource consents.</p> <p>No face-to-face meetings – information will be emailed and discussed by telephone or Zoom virtual meetings.</p> <p>Site visits can be arranged if appropriate measures are in place. Please speak with a Council Officer to arrange and find out what safety measures need to occur.</p> <p>Contact Council on <i>06 366 0999</i> or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.</p>
Regulatory, licencing and compliance	<p>We are continuing to process licence applications and renewals.</p> <p>No face-to-face meetings – information will be emailed and discussed by telephone or Zoom virtual meetings.</p> <p>Food verifications and alcohol compliance inspections may be carried out remotely or on-site with appropriate physical distancing. A Council Officer will contact you if this is required for your business.</p> <p>Officers will attend to complaints where there is imminent risk to human health.</p> <p>Contact Council on <i>06 366 0999</i> or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.</p>
Building consents	<p>We are continuing to process building consents.</p> <p>No face-to-face meetings – information will be emailed and discussed by telephone or Zoom virtual meetings.</p> <p>Building inspections can be arranged if appropriate measures are in place. A Council Officer will contact you prior to arranging site visits and will discuss the safety requirements with you.</p> <p>To book an inspection call <i>06 366 0927</i>. For general enquiries please call <i>06 366 0999</i> or email enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz</p>
Noise control	<p>We are continuing to receive and respond to noise control complaints 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p>
Roading services	<p>Routine road maintenance and roading projects have resumed, including works on the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout.</p>
Parking	<p>Parking meters are not in use and parking is currently free.</p> <p>Please avoid touching or using the parking meters at this time.</p> <p>Please consider others and do not park long-term in Oxford Street.</p> <p>If you have parking compliance complaints please contact Council on <i>06 366 0999</i> or enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.</p>
Strategic planning	<p>You can still contact us by email or phone to discuss our Annual Plan, Community Plans, and Master Plans. Email enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz or telephone <i>06 366 0999</i>.</p> <p>We are continuing to make arrangements for consultation on other projects to occur in a safe way.</p>
Finance	<p>You can still contact us to discuss any enquiries you have about Council financial matters on <i>06 366 0999</i>.</p> <p>For enquiries about rates invoices, payments, rebates or if you are experiencing hardship please contact Council by emailing rates@horowhenua.govt.nz, or calling <i>06 366 0999</i> so we can help you.</p>
Information management services	<p>Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA), Land Information Memorandum (LIM) and Property File requests are continuing to be processed.</p> <p>Details for submitting these requests are available on our website.</p>

Roundabout safety upgrade nearing completion

Safety improvements to the roundabout at the intersection of Queen Street and Cambridge Street in Levin are nearly complete.

Roading Services Manager James Wallace said contractors made good progress in the two weeks the roundabout was closed in May.

“The centre island in the roundabout is now complete.

“We’ve also finished some of the important safety features of the new roundabout. Pedestrian refuges have been installed to make crossing safer and prevent vehicles from making unsafe turns. And we’ve installed dedicated cycleways.

“Contractors are now working hard to finish the footpath and a small pedestrian safety improvement at Kent Street.”

Mr Wallace thanked the community and affected businesses for their patience during the works.

The new Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout has improved safety features such



as dedicated cycleways; extended centre islands to make crossing safer for pedestrians and prevent unsafe turns; reduced parking for better visibility; and single-lane approaches on most sides to slow traffic and improve visibility.

The northbound lane on Cambridge Street has a two-lane approach, with the left lane providing a free turn into Queen Street to aid traffic flow.

Gardens in the centre island and at all four corners of the intersection will be planted later this month to create a visually appealing finish for the roundabout. The centre island will be planted with a low-growing carpet-style rose to draw a connection with the nearby Nola Simpson Rose Garden, and the corner gardens will have grass to allow good visibility.

A plaque in memory of former Deputy Mayor Jack Lines MBE will also be restored.

Electric vehicle charging stations to be installed in Shannon

Electric vehicle drivers will soon be able to charge up in Shannon, with two electric vehicle fast-charging stations to be installed beside the railway station, in the Te Maire Park car park.

The car park will be closed from Wednesday 17 June to Friday 19 June, weather dependent, while the charging stations are installed. Alternative parking is available along Plimmer Terrace, Stout Street and Ballance Street as shown in blue on the map, and there will be access to the railway station and Shannon Railway Station Museum and Visitor Centre through Te Maire Park.

The charging stations are part of a trans-regional partnership comprising Horowhenua District Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Electra Ltd and ChargeNet NZ. There has been a total of nine fast-charging stations installed in five towns in Horowhenua and Kāpiti. Public charging stations help New Zealanders to shift away from fossil fuel burning vehicles to electric vehicles, reducing the country’s carbon emissions. Each charger can operate a power level of 50kW, enough to add about 300km worth of driving range per hour.

The charging stations in Shannon will be available for use from Saturday 20 June and will complete a network of electric vehicle infrastructure for the district, with stations already available in Levin and Foxton.



Refurbished Shannon Library opens with a blessing

The refurbished Shannon Library opened on Wednesday with a karakia by Miranui Councillor Robert Ketu.

Councillor Ketu and Deputy Mayor Jo Mason attended the opening, along with Libraries Horowhenua and Council staff.

Library Services Manager Wendy Fraser said the refurbishment aimed to a bright, vibrant space for the Shannon community.

“It’s important that our libraries are inviting and aesthetically appealing places for learning and recreation. The Levin Library has excellent modern facilities at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, and in 2017 we moved the Foxton Library into new premises at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. We wanted to make sure people in Shannon got a fresh new library environment too,” she said.

The refurbished library has new shelving on wheels to allow more flexible use of space, new carpets, a new desk, a small kitchen and new heat pumps. Book stock has also been refreshed, with the previous Shannon stock replaced with stock from Levin and Foxton libraries.

Restrictions will be in place during Alert Level 2 to ensure the safety of librarians and library patrons in Shannon.

The Shannon Library will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm. The number of people in the library at one time is restricted to 20, so a 30-minute limit per visit is in place to be fair to everyone. In addition, there will be no newspapers or access to public computers.



Matariki shines bright in Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is open again for visitors. And the first thing people will see when they walk into the gallery is a stunning image of the Matariki star cluster – part of a deep space photo exhibition.

“Matariki has been seducing people around the world with its shimmering beauty since times immemorial,” says Dr Stephen Chadwick, photographer of deep space and Lecturer in Philosophy at Massey University.

Dr Chadwick’s high-tech digital images of the stars – and beyond – are regularly exhibited in astronomy circles and at events, and he has

authored books about the cosmos.

Dr Chadwick has selected some of his most significant images for the ‘Matariki – Deep Space’ exhibition. The digital photographs show a universe that is impossible to see with the naked eye, or an old-fashioned telescope.

‘Matariki’ is meant to be an eye-opening exhibition – full of visual surprises.

“I hope it will change the way some people look at and think about the space and galaxies that surround our small planet. These kinds of high-tech images would have been impossible to take, even 20 years ago. So it’s great to share them with a wider audience,” Dr Chadwick said.

Matariki – Deep Space: A View of the Stars and Beyond is a free exhibition at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom from Friday 5 June to Sunday 23 August. Open daily 10am to 4pm.



Helping your community respond to an emergency

Horowhenua District Council is working with communities across the district to prepare community response plans.

The plans provide localised information about the hazards and risks each community may face, how locals can prepare for and respond to a civil defence emergency, and localised information such as radio station frequencies and important contact details.

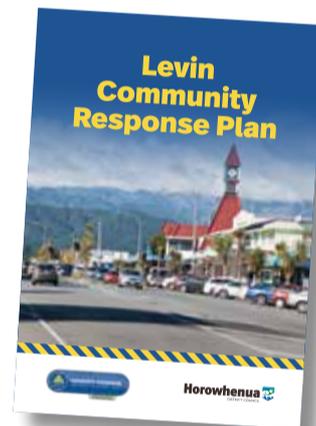
Council’s Emergency Management Officer Andrew Howard says knowing the potential hazards in your local area is an important part of being prepared.

“It allows you to plan ahead. You can use our emergency response plans as a basis for making sure you and your family get through the types of hazards your community might face safely,” he said.

“Everyone should have a household emergency plan, an emergency survival kit, and a getaway kit in case you need to evacuate in a hurry.”

Council is publishing the response plans as they are completed for each community. Response plans for Levin, Waitārere Beach, Manakau/Waikawa, Ōhau, and Makahika are currently available.

You can find the community response plans on the Emergency Management page of Council’s website, horowhenua.govt.nz



What’s happening



Friday 5 June until Sunday 23 August
Matariki – Deep Space: A View of the Stars and Beyond

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Open daily.

Astronomer and philosophy lecturer Dr. Stephen Chadwick has selected some of his most significant digital images for the ‘Matariki – Deep Space’ exhibition to show a high-tech view of the stars – and beyond. Celebrate the arrival of the Māori New Year, by gazing at stars and galaxies you’ve never seen before.

Free admission.

Weekly on Fridays

12 noon to 1pm
Local Music Showcase

Live on www.facebook.com/te.takere
Free.

Weekly on Thursdays

10:30am to 11:30am

Tea & Tales

Live on www.facebook.com/te.takere
Free.

Weekly on Wednesdays

7:30pm to 9pm

Believe It or Not Quiz

Live on www.facebook.com/te.takere
Free.

Weekly on Mondays

11am

Toddler Time

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, or live on www.facebook.com/te.takere
Free.

Council Meetings

Council



Wednesday 10 June, 4pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Council (Annual Plan adoption)



Wednesday 24 June, 3pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Finance, Audit and Risk Committee



Wednesday 24 June, 4pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Public viewing is by live-stream, accessible at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/councilmeetingslive.

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