

COME FIND YOURSELF HURAINA TŌ MATA

HOROWHENUA

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

Taitoko – Levin
Te Awahou – Foxton | Foxton Beach
Otauru – Shannon | Tokomaru | Ōpiki
Waitāreere Beach | Ōhau | Hōkio Beach
Waikawa Beach | Manakau

 **i site**
Visitor
Information

horowhenuanz.co.nz

Kia ora and welcome to Horowhenua

Recharge, or rewind, find your new favourite places amongst our welcoming horizons. Discover a land of diversity where the convergence of cultural influences and opposing landscapes provide rich cultural experiences, exhilarating adventures, and moments of peaceful contemplation.

Boasting the shortest distance in Aotearoa from mountains to the sea and host to a truly unique dune system, Horowhenua has long been valued for its unique and fertile whenua. Horowhenua's unique microcosm has given birth to a wealth of food producers, with Horowhenua often referred to as the Lower North Island's food bowl.

Home to Muaūpoko, Ngāti Raukawa Ki te Tonga and Rangitāne, Horowhenua has a rich cultural heritage. From stories of the fabled Waitaha people at 7 feet tall, Patupaiarehe or fairy people thought to have inhabited the Makahika Valley, to sophisticated tree forts and warriors said to possess the ability to walk on water – the Horowhenua holds many taonga close to its heart.



TIAKI – CARE FOR NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand is precious, and everyone who lives and travels here has a responsibility to look after it.

The Tiaki Promise is a commitment to care for New Zealand, for now and for future generations.

By following the Tiaki Promise, you are making a commitment to New Zealand. To act as a guardian, protecting and preserving our home.

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KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THESE



Local favourite



Top tip

Taitoko Levin

Levin, Horowhenua's largest town, is a desirable alternative to big city living. Housing opportunities, a warm community spirit, regional investment in business innovation, and educational opportunities provide the pillars for a thriving, vibrant town. A relaxed lifestyle, a family-friendly environment, and the centre of commerce for the district, Levin is a draw card for young families and new businesses, both fueling its resurgence in growth.



GETTING HERE

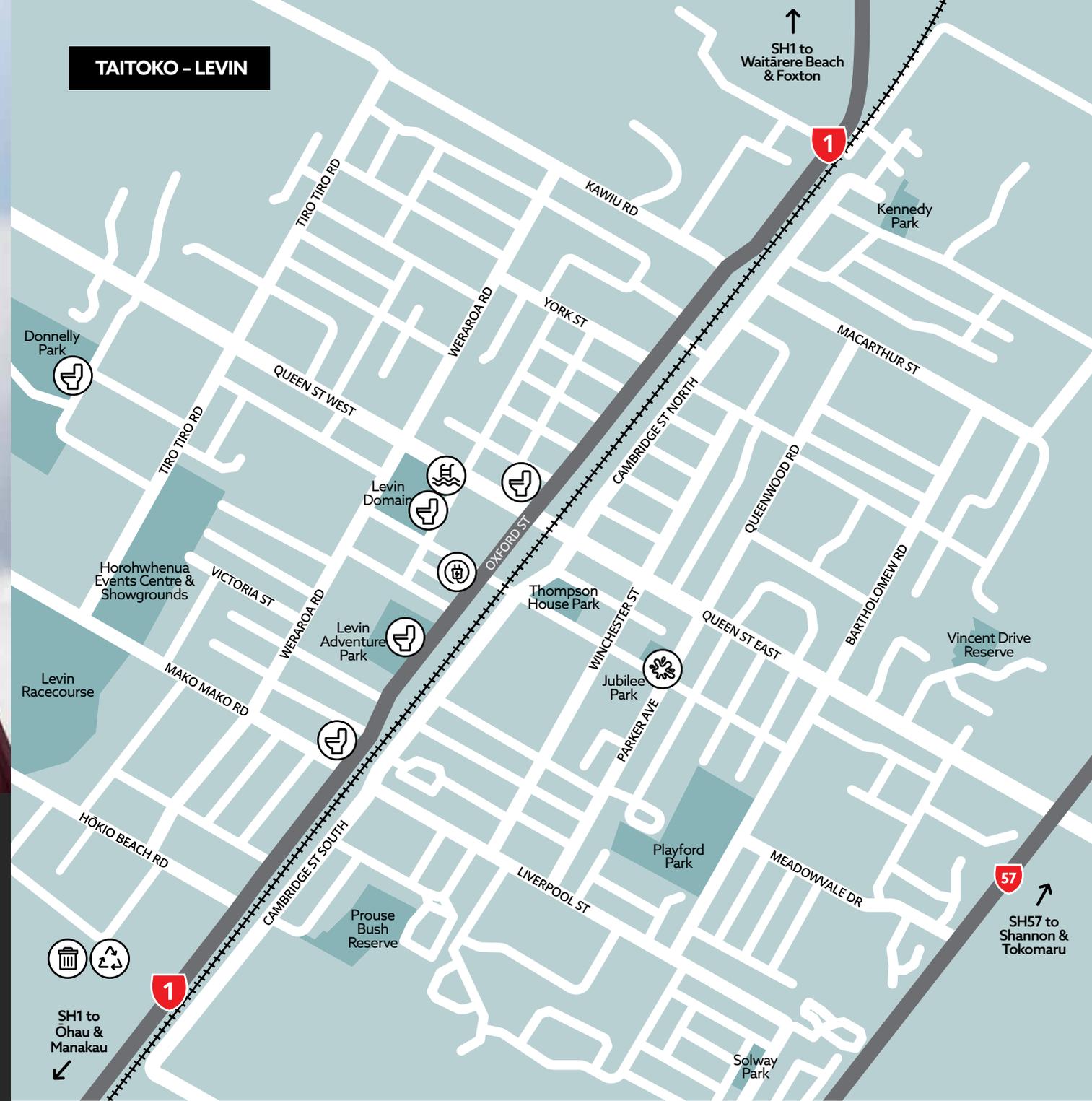
Levin is just an hour's drive from Wellington and 40 minutes by car from Palmerston North. Also part of the Intercity Bus route out of Wellington and Palmerston North, you'll find regular, hassle-free transport to Levin.

The closest airports to Levin are located just 45 minutes away in Palmerston North and the Kāpiti Coast and 1 hour and 20 minutes away in Wellington.

 horowhenuanz.co.nz/levin

 Levin Town Centre

TAITOKO - LEVIN



SH1 to Ōhau & Manakau

KEY:  Levin Aquatic Centre  Splash Pad  Public Toilet  EV Charging Station  Transfer Station  Recycling Station

HIGHLIGHTS

Play at the Levin Adventure Park

Legendary with families all over the North Island, the Adventure Park is a wide expanse of fun play equipment for all ages, complete with a flying fox and miniature train - the kids won't want to leave the best playground on State Highway 1.

 93 Oxford Street, Levin

Hike the Kohitere Trig

Where else can you feel like you are on the top of the world in just 45 minutes? Take a walk or bike up to the top ridge and take in the outstanding views of the South Island, Kāpiti Island, Taranaki Maunga and Mount Ruapehu.

The walkway is temporarily closed from January 2023 to mid-2024. There is alternative access to the summit of Trig via Grey Bush Track on Gladstone Road.

 Gladstone Road, Levin



 Levin Adventure Park

Experience the local produce

Levin's fertile plains make the district one of the biggest producers of fresh vegetables in New Zealand. Stop off at one of our many local growers and experience farm fresh vegetables, fruits and a growing range of other artisan produce such as breads, honey and pesto.

 For more things to see and do in Levin, visit horowhenuanz.co.nz/levin

 "We love the fresh strawberries, real fruit ice cream and Tendertips asparagus at Lewis Farms. Delicious!"
 747 State Highway 1



 Kohitere Trig

Te Awahou Foxton & Foxton Beach

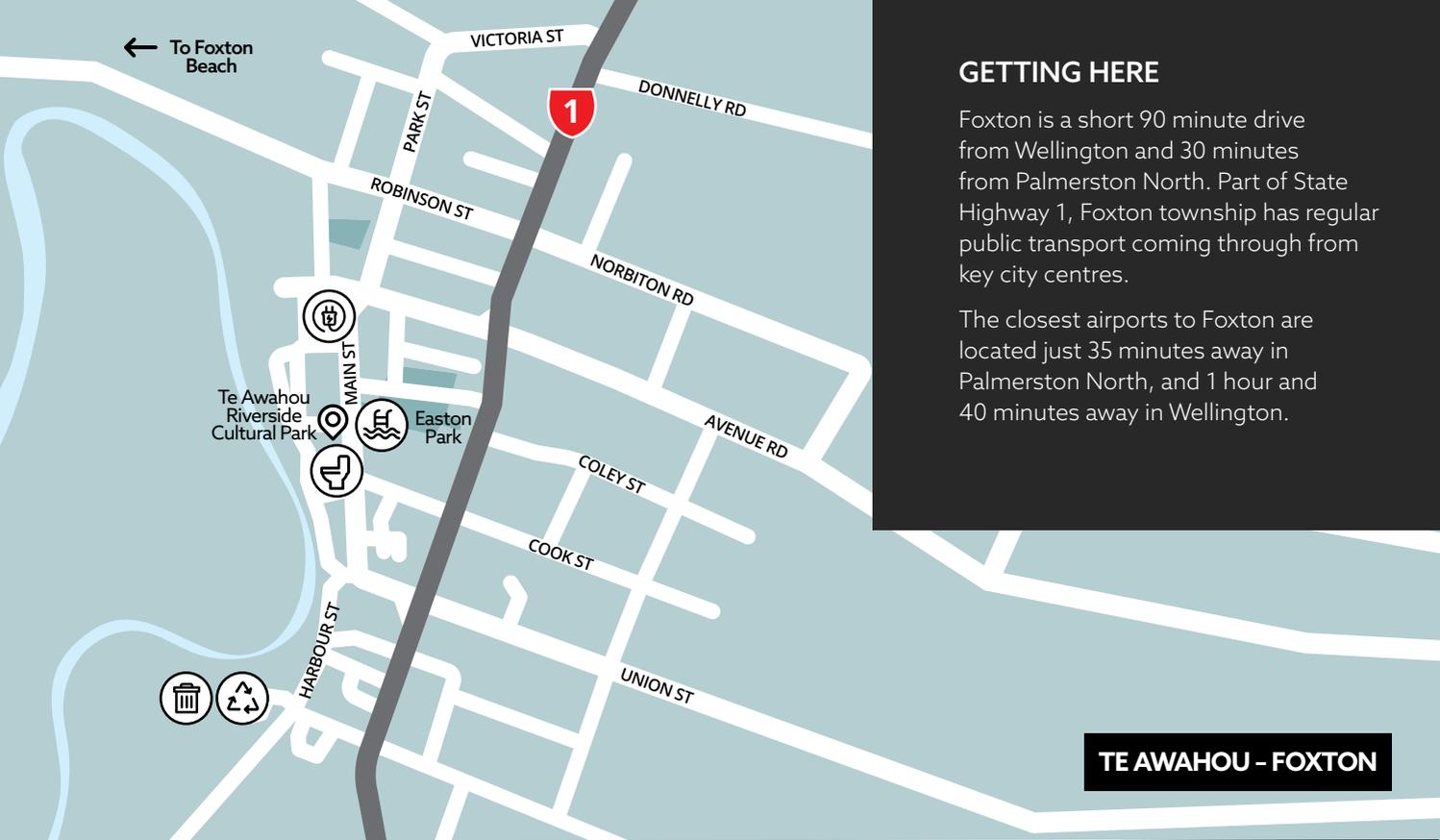
Built on the banks of the Manawatū River, once famed for its flax trade, Foxton is the oldest settlement in Horowhenua yet it offers state of the art museum experiences coupled with arts, culture and heritage. Venture off State Highway 1 and wander down Foxton's historic Main Street to experience beautifully preserved architecture and newly developed river walks.

Nearby Foxton Beach is one of New Zealand's finest west coast beaches. Home to many walking and cycling tracks and an internationally renowned RAMSAR wetlands site.



 Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park, Foxton

 horowhenuanz.co.nz/foxton

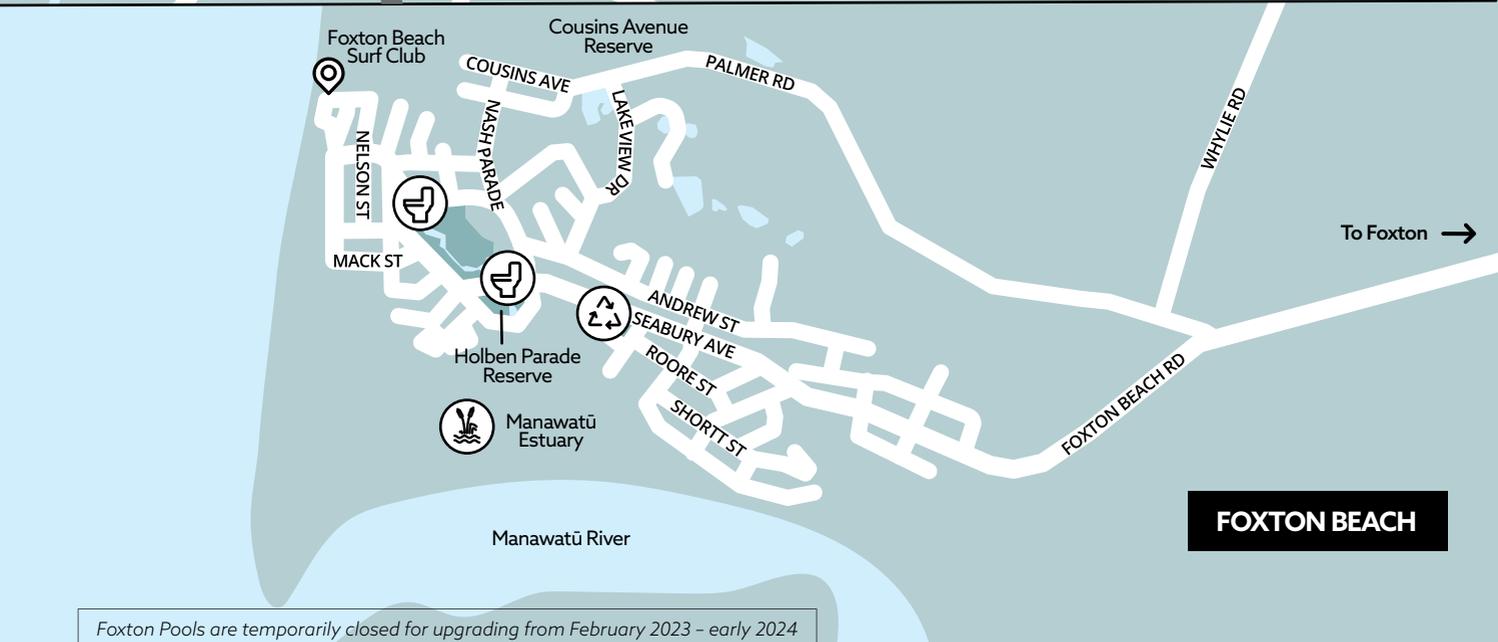


GETTING HERE

Foxton is a short 90 minute drive from Wellington and 30 minutes from Palmerston North. Part of State Highway 1, Foxton township has regular public transport coming through from key city centres.

The closest airports to Foxton are located just 35 minutes away in Palmerston North, and 1 hour and 40 minutes away in Wellington.

TE AWAHOU - FOXTON



FOXTON BEACH

Foxton Pools are temporarily closed for upgrading from February 2023 - early 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Experience Dutch and Māori history at Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

Check out the museum, galleries, antique stores, the audio and visual museum MAVtech, and the working replica of a 17th century Dutch windmill De Molen.

92 Main Street, Foxton

Birdwatch at the Manawatū River Estuary

The largest estuary on the West Coast of the southern part of the North Island, the Manawatū River Estuary is a RAMSAR-protected international wetland, famed for its birdlife.

Walking access is off Holben Parade, Foxton Beach.

Tag us on Instagram or Facebook and show us what other creatures you find here. Remember to leave everything as you found it - leave shells, plants, and animals in their habitat!
@HorowhenuaNZ #ExploreHorowhenua



Try something different and kayak on the Manawatū River Loop or if you get the timing right, watch local waka ama teams training.



Feeling peckish? Stop in at Mr Grumpy's for some mouthwatering fish and garlic butter chips and enjoy a picnic at Foxton Beach. Plus if you're staying at Foxton Beach Motel and spend over \$7, you get a free scoop of chips!



Ko au ko te taiao, ko te taiao ko au
I am the environment and the environment is me

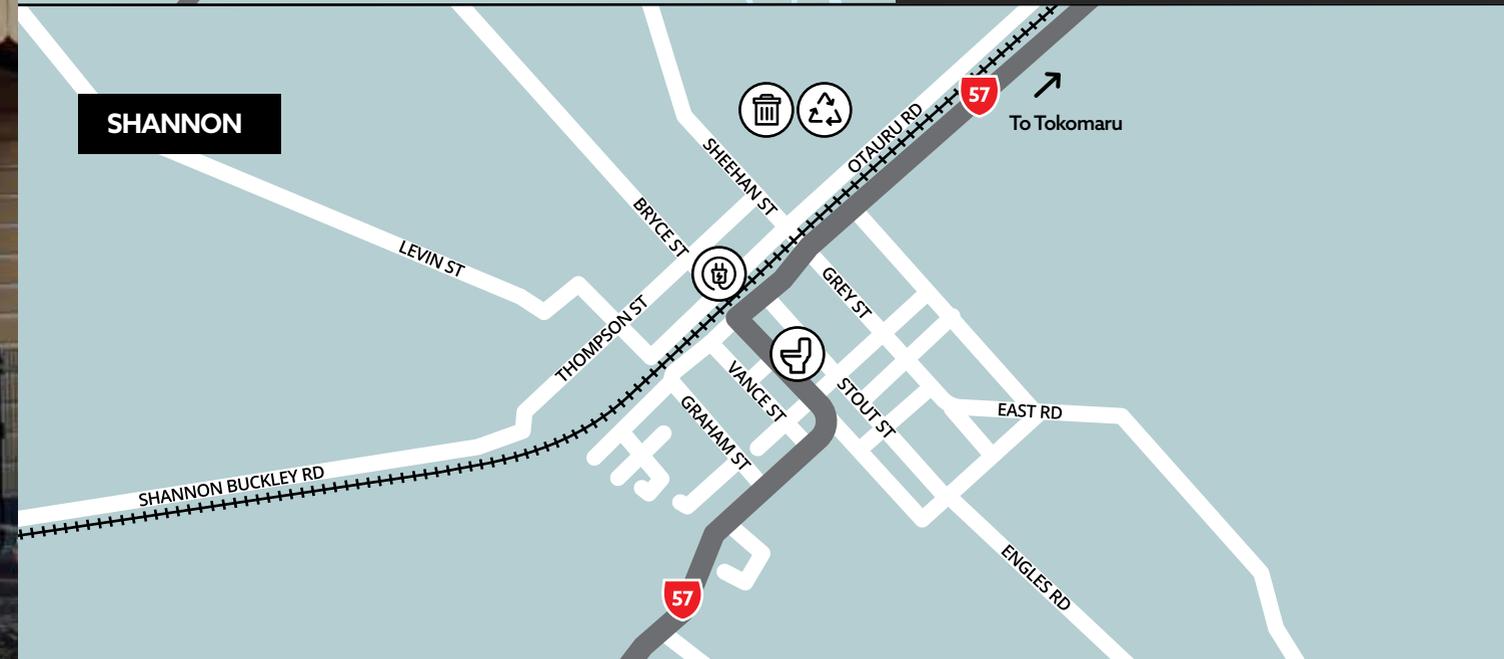
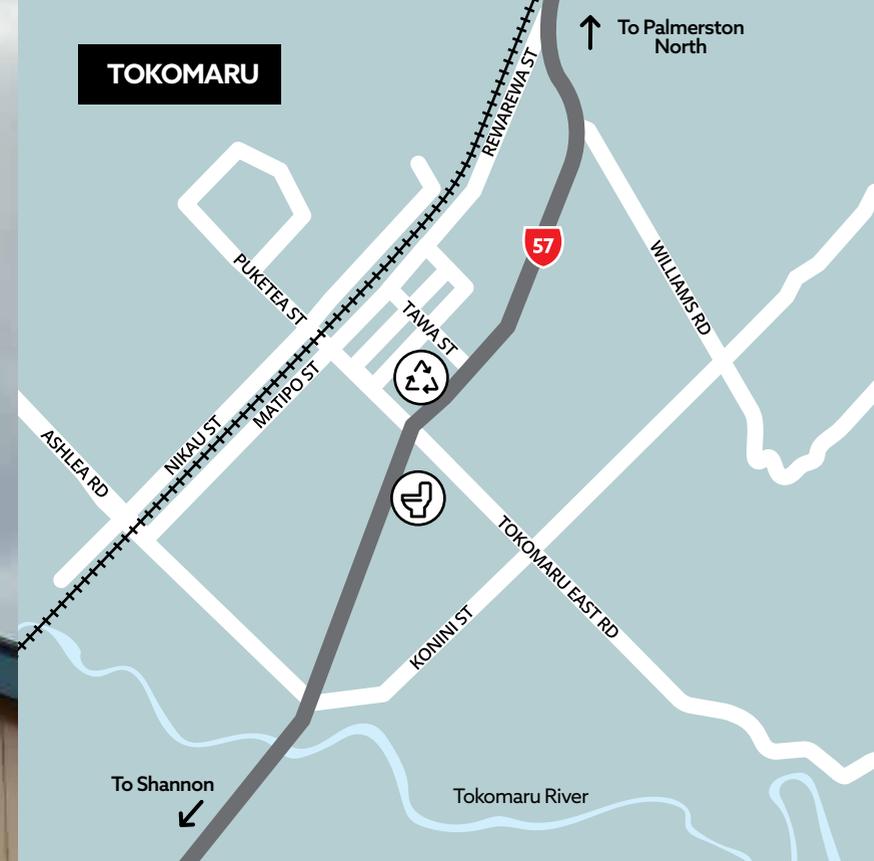
Otāuru - Shannon Tokomaru | Ōpiki

A charming town with plenty of character, Shannon is a destination stop for good coffee, food, a spot of shopping and unique attractions.



Shannon Train Station

horowhenua.co.nz/shannon-tokomaru-opiki



GETTING HERE

Shannon is situated between Levin and Palmerston North on State Highway 57. Shannon is an easy car drive to key city centres. The Shannon Railway Station is still used as a stop for the Palmerston North – Wellington commuter train.

The closest airports to Shannon are located just 30 minutes away in Palmerston North, and 1 hour and 35 minutes away in Wellington.

Tokomaru is a small town in the north of Horowhenua, located about 20 minutes drive southwest of Palmerston North, and 10 minutes northeast of Shannon.

Ōpiki is located on the plains surrounding the Manawatū river, located about 15 minutes drive southwest of Palmerston North, and 10 minutes north of Shannon.

- KEY:** Public Toilet EV Charging Station Transfer Station Recycling Station

HIGHLIGHTS

Visit the Shannon Railway Station Museum and Visitor Centre at Te Maire Park

Built in 1886, the Shannon Railway Station Museum is one of the last remaining remnants of the Wellington and Manawātū Railway Company and is home to a little museum and Visitor Information Centre open daily from 10am - 4pm.

📍 Plimmer Terrace, Shannon

Stop for a coffee and check out the shops

A visit to Shannon wouldn't be complete without exploring its boutique and antique shops. Grab a cuppa, meet the locals, and make sure to stop at Toy Circus on the way, where you'll find a world of fun and nostalgia.

📍 State Highway 57, Shannon Town Centre

💡 *Take a longer break in Shannon and charge your EV while you explore the town!*

Whether you're here in time for lunch or dinner, we've got you covered.



Stretch your legs at Te Maire Park.



Tokomaru Steam Engine Museum

Did you know?

Ōpiki, now made up of a predominantly farming community, was once renowned for its plentiful flax production and a myriad of tram tracks. Trams would cart flax to one of the forty odd flax mills located across the district. Remnants of the swing bridge built in 1917, are now a heritage site and are the last remaining reminder of this era.

Photo opposite: Construction of suspension bridge, Ōpiki 1917 - Hugh Akers.

Experience the world-class kayaking facility at Mangahao White Water Park

Located below the Mangahao Power Station and surrounded by a community-based nature reserve, the Mangahao White Water Park is a great place to watch kayakers rodeo kayaking or 'hot dogging' during competitions.

📍 355 Mangahao Road, Shannon



Take a dip at Horseshoe Bend Reserve in Tokomaru

Just a short drive between Shannon and Palmerston North you'll find one of the most popular swimming spots in the district. Take a wander through the bush walks, jump in the swimming holes, and enjoy a picnic with the family during the summer months.

📍 186 Tokomaru East Road, Tokomaru



Waikawa Beach Manakau

Head off the state highways and discover plenty of hidden gems in the laidback seaside and rural towns of Horowhenua.



 Waikawa Beach

 horowhenuanz.co.nz/waikawa-beach-manakau

GETTING HERE

Manakau is located in the south of the Horowhenua District. It is just a short drive between Ōtaki and Levin and is connected to both via State Highway 1 which skirts the western edge of Manakau.

Waikawa Beach is located on the South Taranaki Bight at the mouth of Waikawa Stream, about 10 minutes drive northwest of Manakau, and 20 minutes southwest of Levin.



KEY:  Public Toilet  Recycling Station

HIGHLIGHTS

Take a stroll down Waikawa Beach

Head over the Waikawa Beach Bridge and take a stroll down the beach, a dip in the sea or kayak along the estuary. Dogs are welcome too!

📍 Turn off SH1 at Manakau, halfway between Levin and Ōtaki



Visit the award-winning Driscoll Reserve in Manakau

Revel in the shady trees and camelia gardens at the award-winning Driscoll Reserve - the perfect place to stop for a stretch and a cuppa.

Grab a cuppa and a bite to eat from Manakau Market across the Road.

Driscoll Reserve

📍 Corner Mokena Kohere and Honi Taipua Streets, Manakau

Manakau Market

📍 1088 State Highway 1, Manakau



Things to do

If you're looking for an authentic Kiwi experience, venture a little off the main highway and you'll find rich cultural experiences, rugged landscapes that provide exhilarating adventures, and deep forests and waterways that provide moments of peaceful contemplation and natural wonder.

Horowhenua promises to provide and surprise - check out the top picks of things to do in the district from the locals who live here!



"Enjoy one of the many walking and cycling trails around the district."



"The Aquatic Centre!"



"We always take the family to Waitāreere Beach 4 Square for an ice cream on our way to the beach."



"Lake Papaitonga is excellent. A bit of history and fresh air and the walk doesn't hurt. We can also take bubs in the front pack."



"I grab a mate and ride my horses on some of the amazing beaches. They go on for miles and it's an amazing feeling to fill our lungs with that fresh sea air and let the horses have a treat and really stretch their legs."



In Summer, stop in at 123 Waikawa Beach Road on your way, grab a real fruit ice cream and pick your own organic blueberries at Waikawa Blueberries!

Arts & Culture

Experience the diversity of Horowhenua, a unique convergence of cultures providing delightful moments of learning and history. Stroll through historic architecture and visit museums of historical and cultural significance.

Discover the stories of Mana Whenua, of the European settlers and the colonialists, and of the new settlers and migrant workers all drawn here by land that provides.

 Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton

OUR LOCAL IWI

Muaūpoko - Ngai Tara o Mua Ūpoko o te Ika a Maui

Muaūpoko are the descendants of Tara, the ancestor of the Ngāi Tara tribe, and a great, great grandson of Kupe of the Matahourua waka and a son of Whātonga of the Kurahaupō waka. He and their descendants discovered, explored and named places throughout Aotearoa, and these remain on the land, coast and sea today, most notably Te Whanganui ā-Tara (Wellington) and the Tararua Ranges, Te Waewae Kāpiti Ko Tara rāua Ko Tautoki (Rangitāne). Muaūpoko - also known as Ngāi Tara o Mua Ūpoko o te Ika a Maui - developed as a separate and unique iwi over time and established its own hapū, areas of occupation, use and access to resources from the western side of the Remutaka and Tararua Ranges to Te Whanganui ā-Tara (Wellington), Porirua, Kāpiti Coast, Horowhenua, Manawatū to Rangitīkei. One source for the origin of the tribal name Muaūpoko is derived from living at the head of the fish.

Muaūpoko has shared ancestry, history, occupation and alliances with Ngāi Tara, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Ira, Rangitāne, Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Apa, Taranaki and Whanganui Iwi within this area.

In the 1820s through to the 1860s various iwi from Kāwhia, Taranaki and the Maungatautari districts

migrated and settled in these areas. The historical area of interest remains from the Rangitīkei River to Turakirae, with the largest population concentration in the Horowhenua area. Muaūpoko people have various land trusts under Te Whenua Act; a significant ownership trust is the Lake Horowhenua Trust which has private ownership of one of four privately owned lakes in Aotearoa - (Wai punahau).

The Muaūpoko Tribal Authority (MTA), based in Levin, was established in 1997 as an Incorporated Society to protect Muaūpoko identity, assets and to build a stronger economic, social and cultural base for the Muaūpoko people.

MTA has continued to support Muaūpoko iwi aspirations in all spheres of life. MTA provides a range of services including:

1. Leadership, advocacy and representation
2. Iwi, hapū, whānau and marae development
3. Iwi registration
4. Project management and administration and Land owner support
5. Treaty Settlements
6. Fisheries
7. Community services.



Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga

Raukawa is an aromatic plant, which Māhinaarangi used as perfume for her nightly rendezvous with her Tainui lover, Tūrongo. They named their son, the ancestor of Ngāti Raukawa, after the plant.

After facing endless battles over land with Waikato tribes, Ngāti Raukawa began the first of three migrations south, encouraged by Ngāti Toarangatira Chief, Te Rauparaha. The result of this means Ngāti Raukawa have two traditional homelands. The first, in the southern Waikato and northern Taupō districts, centres on Maungatautari, the ancestral mountain of Ngāti Raukawa. The second region is Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga – Ngāti Raukawa of the south. It stretches from the Rangitikei River, west of Manawatū, to Kukutauaki Stream just north of Waikanae.

A large group of Ngāti Raukawa migrated there from the first region in the early decades of the 19th century. In 1975, Ngāti Raukawa initiated a 25-year tribal development plan entitled 'Whakatupuranga rua mano – Generation 2000' which saw the widespread revitalisation of marae and the Māori language, and the establishment of Te Wānanga o Raukawa, the tribe's centre of higher learning in Ōtaki. Ngāti Raukawa people are involved in a wide range of pursuits, including the arts, sciences, business and the reconstruction of Māori knowledge. Ōtaki is a centre of Ngāti Raukawa culture, with Raukawa marae, the beautifully restored Rangiatea Church of Te Rauparaha, and the tribal centre of higher learning, Te Wānanga o Raukawa.



Rangitāne O Manawatū

Rangitāne O Manawatū are descendants of Whātonga, a Chief of the Kurahaupō waka that landed at Māhia Peninsula on the East Coast of the North Island. The tribe take their name from Whātonga grandson, Rangitāne (also known as Tānenui-a-rangi).

Rangitāne occupy Manawatū, Tāmaki nui-a-Rua (present-day Dannevirke), Wairarapa, Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington), and Wairau in the South Island. In terms of settlement in the Manawatū Rangitāne settled around the Manawatū Awa with settlements all along the River from Te Āpiti, in the north, to the junction of the Pohangina and Manawatū Rivers and the confluence of the Oroua and Manawatū Rivers down to Te Awahou (Foxton). Settlements also existed around the mouth of the Manawatū River where it became one with the sea.

Rangitāne occupation of the Manawatū and Horowhenua districts continues today with a strong connection to its many cultural sites and landscapes. Rangitāne O Manawatū hapū are Ngāti Hineaute, Ngāti Kapuarangi, Ngāti Rangitepaia, Ngāti Mairehau, Ngāti Rangiaranaki and Ngāti Tauira.

Rangitāne had strong rangatira who fought tirelessly for the ongoing survival of Rangitāne O Manawatū and helped the tribe adjust to change in the 19th century.

Rangitāne O Manawatū is today represented by a number of entities including Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Incorporated (TMI), Ngāti Hineuate Hapū Authority, Rangimārie Marae.

Rangitāne O Manawatū settled their Treaty Claims in 2016. Rangitāne O Manawatū Settlement Trust is the post-settlement governance entity that received, holds and manages the settlement. They also have an investment arm Rangitāne O Manawatū Investment Trust and their cultural arm Rangitāne O Manawatū Cultural Trust that manages the cultural part of the settlement.

PERFORMING ARTS

Levin Performing Arts Society brings the excitement, creativity and joy of musical theatre to the Horowhenua. Visit their website to find out when you can attend their next performance.

levinperformingarts.com

Little Theatres

Levin and Foxton's Little Theatres provide live entertainment, including productions, concerts and dance to Horowhenua. Head to their website to find out what's on and to book.

levinlittletheatre.webs.com

foxtonlittletheatre.webs.com

Art Galleries and Exhibitions

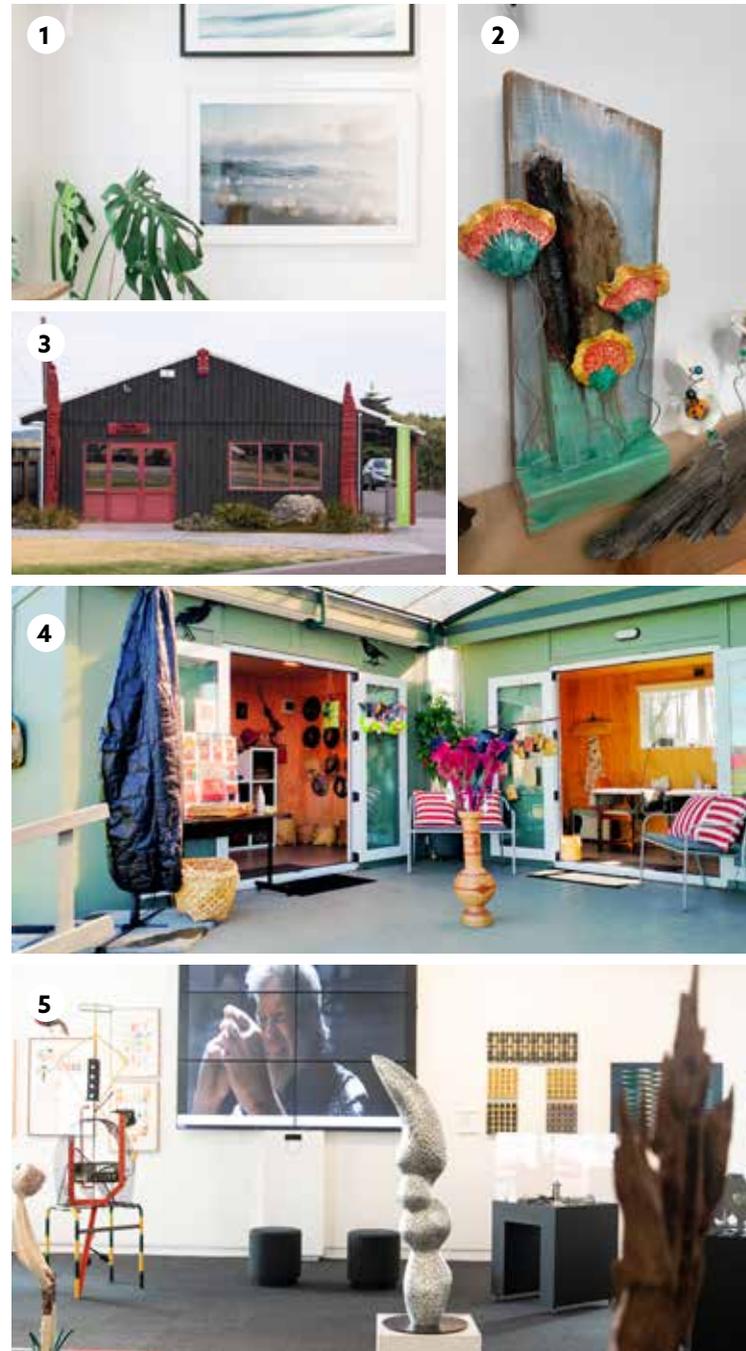
Wondering what's happening on the art scene? Check out the galleries below:

- L'arte**
21 Ocean Beach Street,
Foxton Beach
- Josef Kieninger Gallery**
Main Road, Waitāre Beach
- Whare Manaaki, Māori Gallery and Workshop**
24 Harbour Street, Foxton
- Ti Kouka Gallery**
454 Waitāre Beach Road, Levin
- Māpuna Kabinet Art Gallery**
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton

To find out what art events and exhibitions are happening around the district, check out:

[@HorowhenuaArtsTrail](https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaArtsTrail), or

visit the Horowhenua Arts Society website at horowhenuaarts.com/exhibitions



MUSEUMS

Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre

The Piriharakeke museum takes you on an engaging journey through whakapapa and pride of place. Through digital displays, soundscapes and a walk past traditional and modern art, you are immersed in Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga history, te reo and taonga.

[Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton](https://www.piriharakeke.org.nz)

Oranjarahof Dutch Connection Centre

The award-winning Oranjarahof Dutch Connection Centre tells the many stories of Dutch migration to New Zealand. Take a selfie sitting on a Dutch bicycle, play a game of sjoelen, listen to Dutch radio, and lose yourself for a few hours in stories you never knew about Dutch art and heritage.

[Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton](https://www.oranjarahof.org.nz)



MAVtech Museum

Home to over 100,000 records of various formats and an estimated 5 million feet of film, check out The National Museum of Audio Visual Technology in Foxton and uncover over 100 years of audio visual technology and history.

[Coronation Hall, Avenue Road, Foxton](https://www.mavtechmuseum.org.nz)

Foxton Flax Strippers Museum

Once the heart of the thriving flax (harakeke) milling industry, Foxton was home to some of the largest flax mills in Aotearoa. Now housing the only working stripper and scutching machines in the country, come to Foxton Flax Strippers Museum and learn about the industry that formed the backbone of Foxton. Check opening times as they may be seasonal.

[93 Main Street, Foxton](https://www.flaxmills.org.nz)

Tokomaru Steam Engine Museum

Discover one of New Zealand's largest collections of steam engines and early industrial heritage at the Tokomaru Steam Engine Museum. Tours available from Fridays to Sundays. Bookings essential.

[742 Makerua Road, Tokomaru](https://www.steamenginemuseum.org.nz)

[Want to learn more? Visit horowhenuanz.co.nz/museums for more information.](https://www.horowhenuanz.co.nz/museums)



COMMUNITY CENTRES

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Reflecting the richness and diversity of our community, explore the recreational, cultural, learning, digital and social experiences located in one convenient, modern and accessible facility in the heart of Levin.

 10 Bath Street, Levin

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Where Māori and Dutch cultures converge, discover a part of our unique history at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. Visit the local i-site, soak in both Māori and Dutch cultures, discover entertainment for the kids, take in the latest art exhibition, or lose yourself in a book at the state-of-the-art Foxton Community Centre.

 92 Main Street, Foxton



Top rainy day activities

Weather got you stuck indoors? We have the perfect rainy day activities to keep you and your little Horowhenua explorers occupied.

- 1 Play some board games or do a jigsaw puzzle at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
- 2 Snuggle in and watch a movie at Focal Point Cinema, Levin
- 3 Discover the magical world of toys at Shannon's Toy Circus
- 4 Take a self-guided tour of the De Molen Windmill
- 5 Have a game of ping pong, air hockey, or foosball at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō Youth Space, Levin
- 6 Sample wines straight from the cellar door at Ōhau Wines
- 7 Find some hidden gems at the local op shops
- 8 Enjoy the hydroslide at the Levin Aquatic Centre
- 9 Uncover over 100 years of audiovisual history at the MAVtech museum, Foxton
- 10 Discover New Zealand's largest collection of steam engines at the Tokomaru Steam Engine Museum
- 11 Pamper yourself with a mani-pedi at Beauty and the Beach in Foxton Beach
- 12 Browse the Flax Gift Gallery in Foxton for local artisan finds
- 13 Spoil yourself with a locally sourced Black Angus tomahawk steak from Savilles Butchery, Levin
- 14 Stock up on locally grown fruit and veges from the Garden of York, Levin

Adventure

Horowhenua is a place of balance, wide-open spaces, expansive horizons with pockets of wild adventure and hidden trails.

A place to test the mettle of the white knuckle brigade, watch white water adventure seekers compete at the world class National White Water Centre in Mangahao, Shannon. Join in the thrill-seeking at Off The Loop wakeboard and waterpark, one the many off the beaten track mountain bike and running trails, or try your hand at clay bird shooting, archery or axe throwing.



 Heights Road, Shannon

Horowhenua is the perfect spot for walking, cycling, swimming, fishing or simply relaxing.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Foxton Beach Pump Track

The pump track at Holben Reserve is one of the largest asphaltic-surfaced pump tracks in the country and offers track circuits for all - beginners, intermediate and advanced riders.

 Holben Parade Reserve, Foxton Beach

Heights Experience

Offering a 4 stand, 6 trap, clay shooting range, archery and axe throwing plus a hole in one Golf Challenge. They can create an adrenalin filled package to suit your needs. Perfect for team building, social and family events and workplace functions. Open by appointment only and situated 25km South of Palmerston North, just off State Highway 57 between Shannon and Levin.

 46 Te Rohenga Road, Koputaroa, Shannon

Surf with the locals at Waitāre Beach

Whether you're a grommet or an experienced surfer, the Waitāre (Okatia) Beach break offers both left and right hand waves. Keep an eye out for west-northwest swell combined with an offshore wind direction from the East, for the best local surf conditions.



Off the Loop Wake & Water Park

Unleash your inner thrillseeker and visit the premiere cable wakeboard & water park in the Lower North Island. Including inflatable aqua park play, wakeboarding and hydrofoiling. Beginner to advanced – no boat required!

 10 Stewart Street, Foxton



GOLF COURSES

Horowhenua is home to three golf courses, ranging in playability and facilities.

Levin Golf Course

Levin Golf Course is an 18 hole link course located just 10 minutes drive from the Levin township, between Lake Horowhenua and Hōkio Beach. Visit their website to book your 18 holes.

 levingolfclub.co.nz

 160 Moutere Road, Hōkio Beach, Levin

Foxton Golf Club

Foxton Golf Club has an open membership policy drawing on the whole Manawatū/Wanganui and nearby Horowhenua regions for membership subscriptions. The course is an 18 hole Par 72 layout for men and Par 73 for the ladies.

 foxtongolf.co.nz

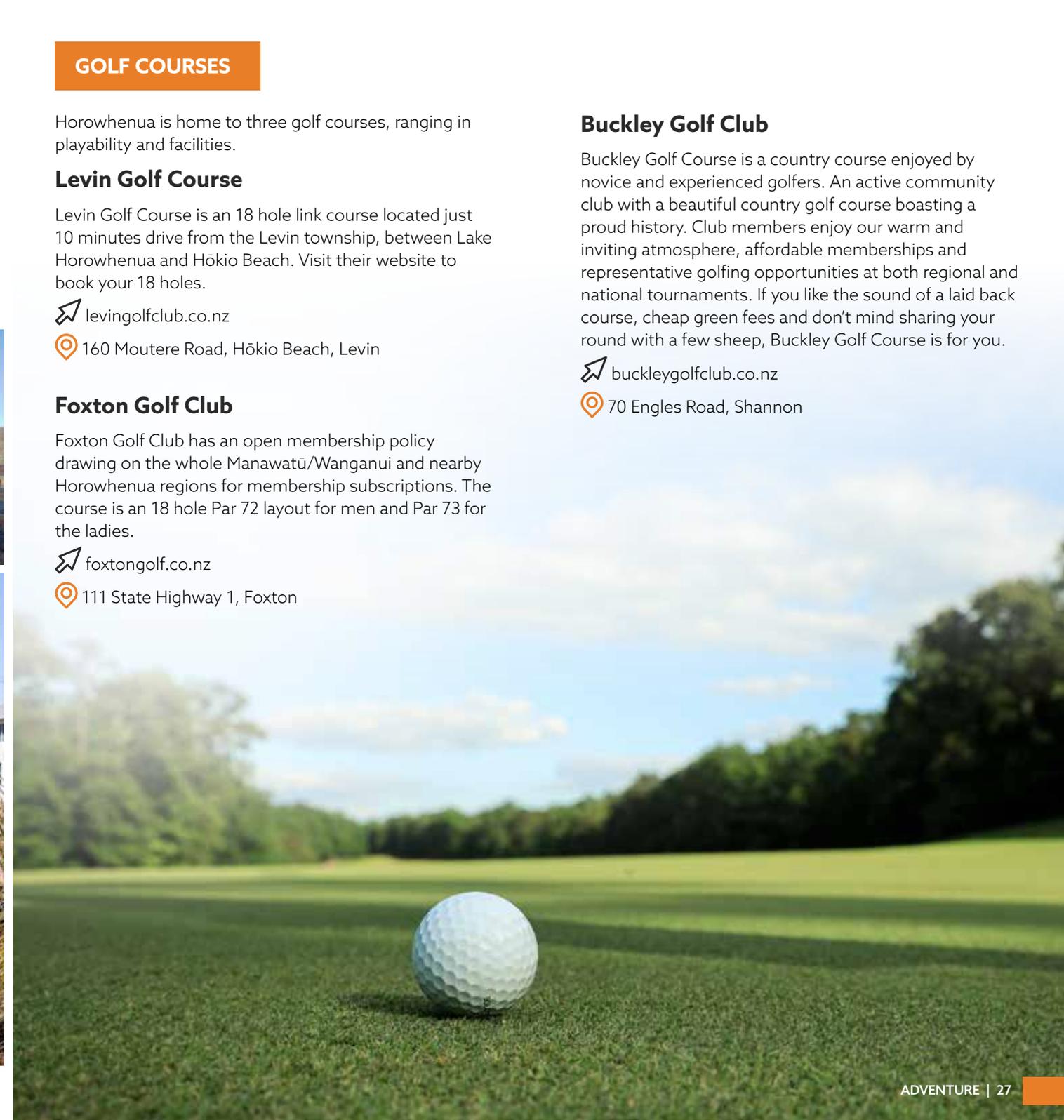
 111 State Highway 1, Foxton

Buckley Golf Club

Buckley Golf Course is a country course enjoyed by novice and experienced golfers. An active community club with a beautiful country golf course boasting a proud history. Club members enjoy our warm and inviting atmosphere, affordable memberships and representative golfing opportunities at both regional and national tournaments. If you like the sound of a laid back course, cheap green fees and don't mind sharing your round with a few sheep, Buckley Golf Course is for you.

 buckleygolfclub.co.nz

 70 Engles Road, Shannon



MOUNTAIN BIKING TRAILS

Whether you're a hiking, mountain biking or trail running enthusiast, Horowhenua has it all.

Burton's Track

Burton's Track is the perfect spot for advanced riders. The grade 5-6 track is best ridden in dry conditions from north to south and includes some river crossings. You should allow 4-6 hours for the trip and avoid cycling in wet conditions.

 Located between Palmerston North and Shannon

Ferry Reserve Track

Just a short 35 minute bike ride and starting at the Seabury Ave carpark, riders can track through the forest to Palmer Road. Return the same way on the 1km one-way trail, or turn right at Palmer Road and carry on following the Foxton Beach Loop track.

 Seabury Avenue carpark, Foxton Beach

Cousins Avenue Track

The reserve is a mature pine plantation, with 1.8km of shared trail suitable for beginner riders and kids. Park at the end of Cousins Avenue West, or find other access points along the road. Follow the signed loop trail within the forest, or explore side trails of easy grades.

 At the end of Cousins Avenue West, Foxton Beach

 For more cycling and walking trails, visit our website horowhenuanz.co.nz/walks-and-trails

Stay here for your next sports event!

With a variety of sports grounds and affordable accommodation on offer, we invite you to book your next sports event in Horowhenua and make the most of our district!

 Visit horowhenuanz.co.nz/stay

FISHING SPOTS

Horowhenua is a great spot to find yourself a fresh catch, with fishing competitions held year-round. Cast your line and try your luck fishing for brown trout at the Ōhau River, or head down to the fishing wharf at Foxton Beach and wait for the snapper to take a nibble.

 For more information about where and when to fish, visit fishandgame.org.nz



FAMILY ADVENTURES

Bring the whānau, escape for the weekend, and explore all that Horowhenua has to offer. From zooming down the flying fox at the Levin Adventure Park, to dressing up like the Dutch at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom – there's plenty of family-friendly activities to keep you and the kids entertained.

1. Jump on the flying fox at the Levin Adventure Park
2. Pick your own strawberries at Shirley's Strawberry Farm, Levin
3. Earn a Kiwi guardian badge at Lake Papaitonga
4. Find the Hydrabad Shipwreck at Waitāreere Beach
5. Dress up like the Dutch at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton
6. Have a picnic and swim in the river at Horseshoe Bend, Tokomaru
7. Take a refreshing dip at Gladstone Reserve
8. Learn to spot some native and rare birds at the Manawatū River Estuary
9. Go for a bike ride at the Sunset Walk in Foxton Beach
10. Build a sandcastle at Waikawa Beach
11. Enjoy a swim at Foxton Pools
12. Burn off some energy at the Foxton Pump Track
13. Drop in at the Waitāreere Beach half pipe
14. Discover (at your own risk) magical middle earth and the fairy garden at Waitāreere Beach
15. Pick your own blueberries at Waikawa Beach
16. Enjoy the fun for all ages at Shannon's Toy Circus
17. Get a Foxton Fizz ice cream spider at the famous Waitāreere Beach Four Square
18. Visit the Foxton Beach Farmers Market
19. Enjoy the beautiful native bush at Waiopehu Reserve



Nature

Discover the beauty of Horowhenua

From the snow-kissed ridgelines of the Tararua range, to the wide, uncrowded expanse of the sandy west coast beaches that are painted in spectacular hues at the setting of the sun - you'll be spoilt for choice in our outdoor playground.

 Thompson House Park, Levin

RESERVES

Hartley Street Reserve and Sunset Walkway

Located on the banks of the Manawatū River, Hartley Street Reserve walkway passes by the Manawatū Estuary and leads all the way out to the Manawatū River mouth.

 Hartley Street, Foxton Beach

Kimberley Reserve

Kimberley Reserve is nestled in a bush setting next to a braided river with many popular swimming holes and walking tracks nearby. Just 10 minutes drive from Levin, Kimberley Reserve is also popular with freedom campers (permit required).

 446 Kimberley Road, Levin

Gladstone Reserve

The gateway to the Tararua Range, Gladstone Reserve is surrounded by native bush that offers safe swimming in the Ōhau River as well as access to bush walks that will take you to the Waiopēhu Hut or link to the Te Araroa walkway.

 494 Gladstone Road, Levin

Hank Edwards Reserve and Waikawa Beach Foreshore

Just beside the bridge where the Waikawa Stream goes out to sea, there's a perfect family picnic spot with picnic tables, a basketball hoop and a children's playground. Enjoy a walk along the beach or build sandcastles with the kids.

 Beach end of Waikawa Beach Road, Waikawa Beach

 To find other reserves, parks and gardens in the district head to horowhenuanz.co.nz/reserves-parks-gardens

PARKS

Te Maire Park

Right in the heart of Shannon's township, Te Maire Park is a great place to enjoy fish 'n' chips or a picnic - before taking a wander through the memorial garden and nearby Shannon Railway Station Museum.

 Plimmer Terrace, Shannon

Levin Adventure Park

Right in the middle of Levin, Levin's Adventure Park is a kid's dream come true - with a flying fox, tumbling drums, ropes course, climbing wall, fitness trail, mini-ball court, skating area, sand volleyball court, disability swings, bocce courts and a separate dog rest/exercise area.

 93 Oxford Street, Levin



Jump on the Levin Adventure Park miniature train! Free train rides available from 1pm to 3pm on weekends and holidays.

Jubilee Park

A great spot for the kids, Jubilee Park features original Disney lookalike characters built by the local Rotary Club, a kids playground, BBQs and plenty of shade trees. A new splash pad has opened in time to help cool off on those hot summer days.

📍 Corner Bath Street and Parker Avenue, Levin

Kowhai Park

A dog-friendly hidden gem, Kowhai Park is the perfect place to exercise your dog. With gravel paths, plenty of open grass areas and bush, there's plenty of space for your pups to run around while you enjoy a view of Lake Horowhenua.

📍 191 Queen Street West, Levin

📌 *To find other reserves, parks and gardens in the region head to horowhenuanz.co.nz/reserves-parks-gardens*

GARDENS

Thompson House Park

Set within the grounds of historic Thompson House, this park offers botanical interest throughout the year. A lovely place for weddings, photos, or to sit with a book on a fine day. If you have time, take a wander over to the neighbouring Remembrance Park.

📍 4 Kent Street, Levin

Nola Simpson Rose Garden

Named after New Zealand's top award-winning rosarian, venture just off Oxford Street and take in the Nola Simpson Rose Garden and historical Levin Court House.

📍 Corner of Cambridge and Bath Streets, Levin

WALKS AND TRAILS

With the Tararua Forest Park right at our doorstep, as well as river, lake, beach and forest walks, and part of the famous Te Araroa Trail - you'll find walks and trails to suit all ages and abilities in our rohe (district). Check out some of our more challenging routes below!

Waiopehu Hut

A challenging but exhilarating hike for overnight trappers and located at 900 metres elevation in the Tararua Forest Park, the walk to Waiopehu Hut is not for the faint-hearted.

Burton's Track (Scotts Road to Mangahao Road)

Covering 17 kilometres of scenic countryside and bush, this historic walk involves several stream crossings and is part of the national Te Araroa Trail.

Mangahao - Makahika Track

Also joining into the national Te Araroa Trail, this tramping track covers 15 kilometres of scenic countryside and bush between Palmerston North and Shannon, and includes the Arapaepae Lookout Trail near Levin.

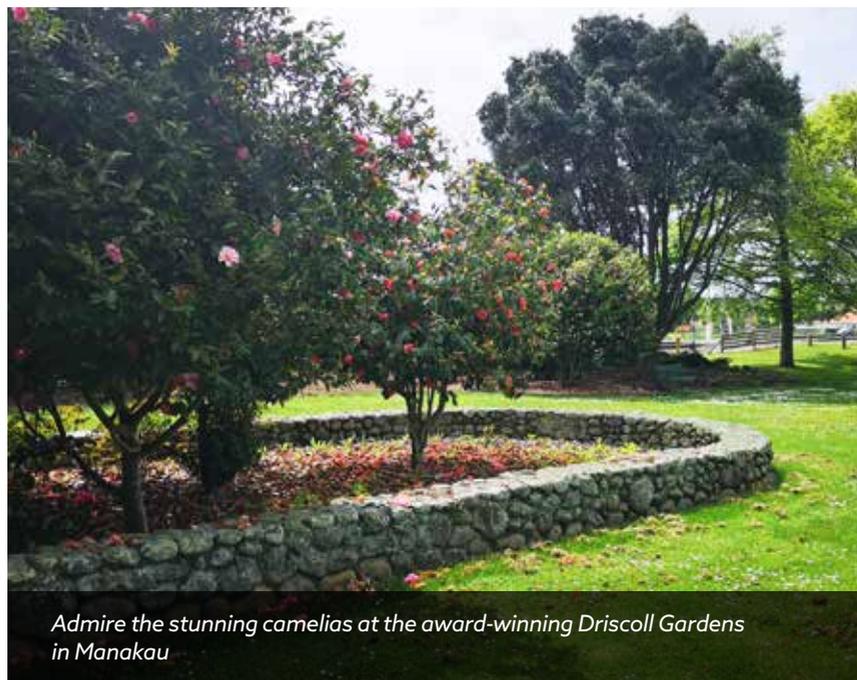
Kohitere Trig

Situated on private land, this track offers both walking and mountain biking tracks, plus access to the Tararua Forest Park. Strike the weather right, and you may see all the way from the South Island to Mount Ruapehu.

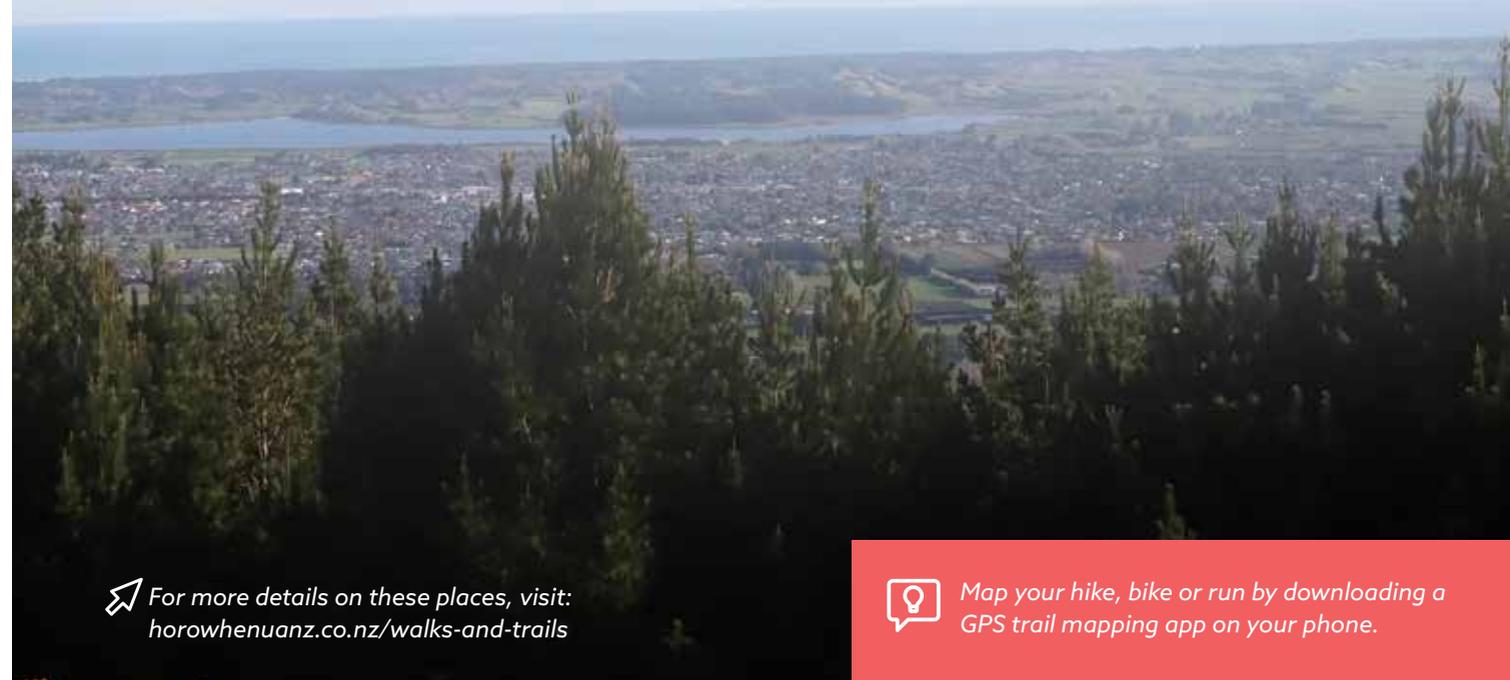
The walkway is temporarily closed from 9 January 2023 to mid-2024. There is alternative access to the summit of Trig via Grey Bush Track on Gladstone Road.

Tararua Northern Crossing

A multi-day trek for experienced walkers, this is one of the classic and iconic walks of the Tararua Forest Park.



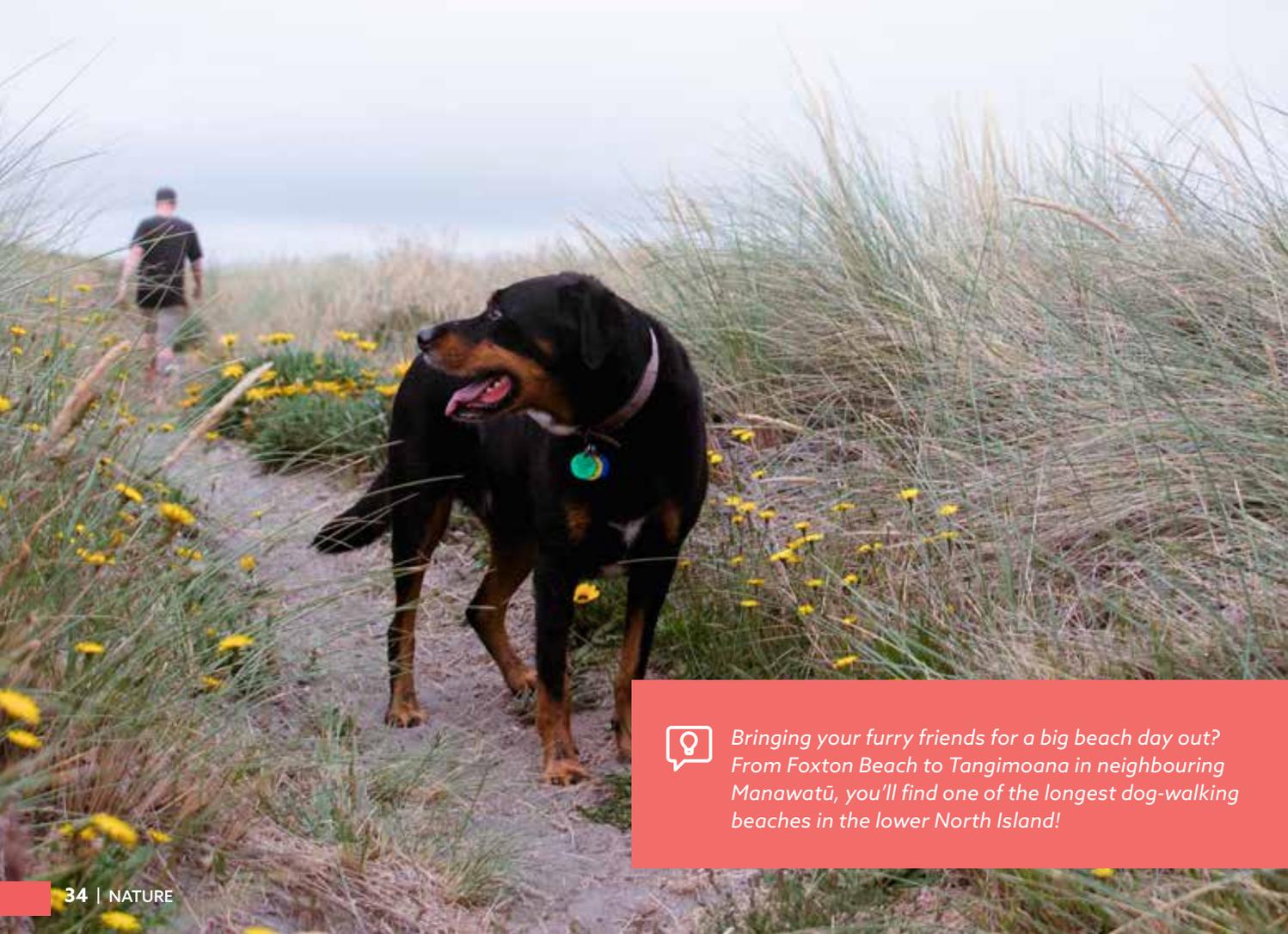
Admire the stunning camelias at the award-winning Driscoll Gardens in Manakau



📌 *For more details on these places, visit: horowhenuanz.co.nz/walks-and-trails*

📍 *Map your hike, bike or run by downloading a GPS trail mapping app on your phone.*

Get to know our taiao



Bringing your furry friends for a big beach day out? From Foxton Beach to Tangimoana in neighbouring Manawatū, you'll find one of the longest dog-walking beaches in the lower North Island!

CHILL OUT AT THE BEACH

From the quaint Hōkio and Waikawa beaches in the south, to Waitāreere and Foxton Beach in the north – you'll find plenty of charming seaside villages and lovely swimming beaches along the expansive Horowhenua coastline.

Foxton Beach

Foxton Beach is the largest coastal community in Horowhenua with parks, playgrounds and some great fish 'n' chips.

Waitāreere Beach

Unspoilt views and its very own buried shipwreck make Waitāreere Beach one of the best-kept secrets of the North Island's west coast. With a lovely swimming beach and good fishing, this is the place to go when you want to get away from it all.

Hōkio Beach

Just south of Levin you'll find spectacular views at Hōkio Beach. On clear days, you may be lucky enough to see all the way from Kāpiti Island to Mount Ruapehu or Mount Taranaki. If you like a challenge and time the tides right, heading north down the beach for approximately 13-15 km you'll find the Manawatū River too!

Waikawa Beach

With kayaking, swimming and horse riding, and the nearby Hank Edwards Reserve offering picnic spots and a children's playground - Waikawa Beach is the perfect place for a family-friendly weekend away.

Did you know?

The original name for Hōkio is actually Hōkioi – named after Te Hōkioi or the ancestor of the Haast eagle. The native bird, nicknamed the man-eater, also hunted moa, with black feathers tinged with yellow and green and red feathers on top of its head.



TAKE A DIP IN THE LOCAL AWA (RIVER)

Horowhenua is a district of converging environments. Bordered by the Ōhau and Manawatū rivers, the land flows all the way from the majestic Tararua Ranges to the Tasman Sea.

Check out the Safe Swim Spots info provided by Horizons Regional Council before swimming:

horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/water/safe-swim-spots-table



Just 10 minutes from Levin, Gladstone Reserve offers fantastic swimming in the Ōhau River and bush walks.



Horseshoe Bend is one of the most popular swimming spots in the district, located in Tokomaru.

UNCOVER THE HISTORY OF OUR LAKES

Punahau - Lake Horowhenua

A shallow lake on a sandy plain two kilometres to the west of Levin and five kilometres from the coast.

Punahau was once surrounded by podocarp forest as the centre of a rich wetland ecosystem. Today the trees are gone, the wetland has been substantially drained and the water quality very poor. Local Iwi, the Horowhenua Lake Trust, Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council are actively attempting to restore the wetland system (that also contains the smaller Waiwiri - Lake Papaitonga) to its former state as a conservation area.

Waiwiri - Lake Papaitonga

Take a family-friendly walk, enjoy the views, and discover a unique part of Horowhenua history at Lake Papaitonga. An ideal spot for a picnic and some bird watching, this dune lake is a refuge for birds that depend on wetlands or lowland forests for their survival.

WATCH OUR WILDLIFE

Manawatū River Estuary

The Manawatū River Estuary is a UNESCO protected and internationally significant wetland (RAMSAR site), famed for its birdlife. The largest estuary in the southern half of the North Island, every year it welcomes and farewells migratory guests from all around the world, including a flock of godwits in summer.

What's On



Puanga - Night Lights over Foxton



Neighbours Day community celebrations



Matariki hangi



Levin Christmas Parade



Local musicians



Inflatable football field



Pasifika Celebration Day



Hollie Smith



Horowhenua Taste Trail

[Visit horowhenuanz.co.nz/events](https://horowhenuanz.co.nz/events) for more details

Taste

Experience a myriad of tastes from cafes and restaurants or go directly to the source and sample some of New Zealand's finest produce from the farm gate or farmer's markets.



 Shirley's Strawberries, Ōhau

DINING IN

Taper Eatery

Located in Levin's CBD, fully licensed and serving breakfast and lunch, Taper Eatery offers a constantly changing menu, with delicious cabinet food and an array of baked goods. Call in for great coffee, an inviting atmosphere and arguably the best cheese scones in town!

 218 Oxford Street, Levin

Mrs Nubbs

Whether you are after a daily caffeine fix, a quick bite to eat, or have a little more time to order off the menu, Mrs Nubbs has something for everyone. Keep an eye out for their events, and you could find yourself wine tasting with friends or grooving to a jazz set while sampling yummy cocktails.

 72 Main Street, Foxton

Ocean Beach Eatery

Just 50 metres from Foxton Beach's shore line, sit back and relish in the 'small town' coastal hospitality at Ocean Beach Eatery. Where the beer is cold and the fish is fresh, enjoy a casual lunch, dinner or bar snack in their lounge or garden bar, restaurant or food truck.

 52 Signal Street, Foxton Beach

Nanyang Flavours

Enjoy the colourful flavours of Malaysia in the heart of Shannon.

 46 Plimmer Terrace, Shannon

Salt and Pepper Cafe

Nestled in the middle of Levin's Garden Depot, you'll find the award-winning Salt and Pepper Cafe. Huddle around the cosy fireplace or take in the afternoon sun from the covered outdoor area and enjoy the best flavours of Manawatū, Horowhenua and Kāpiti.

 4 Buller Road, Levin

The Greenery

If you are after a moment of quiet and a place to unwind, The Greenery is the place for you. Take a break from browsing the garden centre and hand-made New Zealand giftware, with a good coffee and a sweet treat. The Greenery has all the ingredients for a perfect day out - rain or shine!

 1198 State Highway 1, Manakau

The Sponge Kitchen

A "made from" scratch bakery & cafe making everything from delicious original recipes that date back decades.

 184 Oxford Street, Levin



Firebird Cafe

If you want a killer cuppa coffee, the most delicious pizza you've ever experienced or a bit of quiet time with a good book, they've got you! Almost everything is handmade from scratch using local, seasonal and organic ingredients when available. Keep an eye on their website for live gigs, disc jockeys and random performances from poetry to hula hooping.

📍 58 Oxford Street, Levin

Focal Point Cinema & Cafe

Offers a unique dining and cinematic experience in plush 1920's décor, fantastic comfort, and a warm friendly atmosphere. Open 7 days per week from 8am to late. Fully licensed. 80 seat dining with various quiet areas to get away from the hustle and bustle of life.

📍 14-16 Salisbury Street, Levin

➡ For more places to dine visit:
horowhenuanz.co.nz/taste



WINERIES

Ōhau Wines

Horowhenua is home to sustainable winegrowers that are daring in their production of award-winning wines. Head along to the cellar door at Ōhau Wines where you can see the vines, and sample their aromatic sauvignon blanc, pinot gris, rosé and pinot noir.

📍 6 Bishops Road, Ōhau

Celtic Organic Winery

Situated on the shores of Lake Horowhenua, just outside of Levin, Celtic Organic Winery create boutique wines that differ from your average 'bottle of plonk'. You won't find any preservatives, sulphates or chemicals of any kind in their wine as they try to do their best to work in harmony with nature, the seasons, and all the life forces that naturally occur.

📍 324 Hōkio Beach Road, Levin



SAMPLE OUR LOCAL PRODUCE

One of the largest producers of vegetables in the country, a trip to Horowhenua wouldn't be complete without sampling some fresh produce straight from the gate.

Experience our annual Taste Trail or follow your own and enjoy plump juicy berries and spiced honey, specialist breads and daring and exciting wines, we promise you Horowhenua is more than just cabbages and carrots.

Lewis Farms

From freshly picked asparagus to giant mouth-watering strawberries and real fruit ice cream - a trip to Lewis Farms is an absolute must do, in season (Spring-Autumn)

📍 47 State Highway 1, Levin



Ōhau Gourmet Mushrooms

Visit the Ōhau Gourmet Mushroom permaculture farm or head along to a local farmers market to try their delectable Shiitake and Oyster mushrooms. You can even get your own kit to grow your own mini mushroom farms!

📍 680 Muhunua West Road, Ōhau

Petal & Bee Grocers

If you're looking for locally sourced and organic food and household items, head to Petal & Bee on Foxton's Main Street. From bulk foods and plastic-free homeware to natural home cleaning products and skincare - you'll find everything you need at this locally owned and operated grocer.

📍 68 Main Street, Foxton



Manakau Market

This old-school produce market stop is a bit of a wild card. Stop for fresh produce and stay for their mouth-watering burgers, artisan pizzas and real fruit ice creams.

 1088 State Highway 1, Manakau

Shirley's Strawberries

Pick Your Own Strawberries. Available from November to mid-January. Watch out for confirmation of opening times and dates on their Facebook or Instagram pages.

 85 McLeavey Road, Ōhau

The Baked Dane

Addictive artisan crackers, rustic sourdough breads and sourdough starter kits all produced in the heart of Horowhenua.

 thebakeddane.co.nz

Potter Brothers

Treat yourself to the Potter Brothers range of premium New Zealand chocolates.

 potterbrothers.co.nz

Local markets

On the third Saturday of the month (February - May and September - December), journey over to the Ōhau Market and meet local stallholders and buyers from as far as Wellington as they gather to buy and sell vegetables, fruit, jams and chutneys, arts and crafts, pottery and much more!

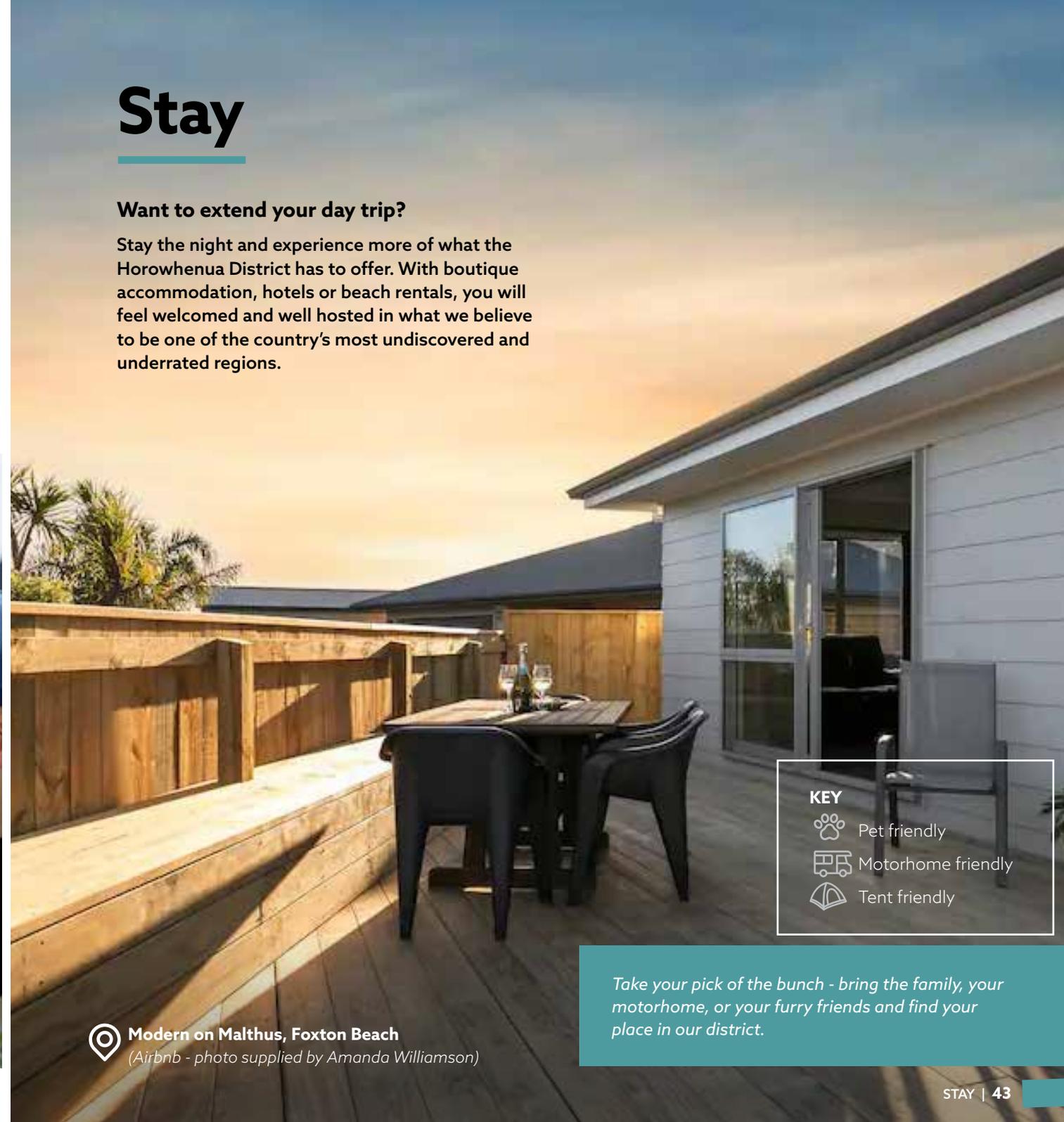
 Ōhau Hall, Muhunua West Road



Stay

Want to extend your day trip?

Stay the night and experience more of what the Horowhenua District has to offer. With boutique accommodation, hotels or beach rentals, you will feel welcomed and well hosted in what we believe to be one of the country's most undiscovered and underrated regions.



- KEY**
-  Pet friendly
 -  Motorhome friendly
 -  Tent friendly

Take your pick of the bunch - bring the family, your motorhome, or your furry friends and find your place in our district.

 **Modern on Malthus, Foxton Beach**
(Airbnb - photo supplied by Amanda Williamson)

HOLIDAY PARKS

Foxton Beach Holiday Park



1 Pinewood Road, Foxton Beach
06-363 8211

Hydrabad Holiday Park



Forest Road, Waitāreke Beach
06 368 4941

Levin Kiwi Holiday Park



38 Parker Avenue, Levin
06 368 3549

HOLIDAY HOUSES

Coastal Condo

103 Rua Avenue, Waitāreke Beach

Hōkio Beach Bach



24 Muaupoko Street, Hōkio Beach

Kanuka Retreat

Kanuka Drive, Waitāreke Beach

Nikau's on Palmer

123 Palmer Road, Foxton Beach

Want to discover your own authentic Kiwi bach experience? Head to AirBnB, Bachcare, or horowhenua.govt.nz/stay to find more accommodation options.

UNIQUE STAYS

Olly's River Retreat



Off Grid Glamping

797 Gladstone Road, Levin
canopycamping.co.nz/ollys-river-retreat

The Kauri Tree Pod Off Grid Experience

Off Grid Experience

740 Gladstone Road, Levin

Arete Retreat

Off Grid Experience

865 Gladstone Road, Levin
06 367 8438

Tiny Beach Holiday House

Waikawa Beach

Manakau Hotel



Honi Taipua Street, Manakau
06 362 6777

HOTELS AND MOTELS

Zachary's Motel

Corner 317 Oxford Street and Essex Street, Levin
06 210 2121

Bassingers Motor Lodge

374 Oxford Street, Levin
06 367 0048

Totara Lodge Motel

15 Devon Street, Levin
06 368 4114

Celtic Motel

29 Purcell Street, Foxton
06 363 5333

Foxton Beach Motel

16 Dawick street, Foxton Beach
06 363 7856

FREEDOM CAMPING

Looking to live a little on the wild side? Horowhenua is motorhome and camper friendly - take advantage of the freedom camping options we have around the district.

Kimberley Reserve



Freedom camping at Kimberley Reserve is available by permit only between the months of December to the end of Easter Weekend each year, subject to reserve availability. Permits are issued for a maximum stay of two days.

446 Kimberley Road, Levin

Parikawau Reserve



Freedom camping for self-contained vehicles is permitted at Parikawau Reserve. A permit is required to camp at Parikawau Reserve at all times.

State Highway 1 South, Ōhau, Levin

Levin Adventure Park



There are three vehicle parking spaces for self-contained motorhomes at the Northern Carpark. Camping or parking is prohibited in any other areas.

93 Oxford Street, Levin



The Kauri Tree Pod Off Grid Experience



Zachary's Motel



Parikawau Reserve

Useful information

Emergency calls:

In case of an emergency (Police, Fire, or Ambulance) always call 111.

Emergency Medical Care:

For emergency or after hours medical care, call:

-  Horowhenua Health Centre 06 366 0888
-  62 Liverpool Street, Levin
-  Healthline 0800 611 116

New Zealand country code: +64

Horowhenua Area Code: 06 (when calling from a country other than New Zealand, dial +64 6...)

RUBBISH & RECYCLING

Horowhenua District Council provides six permanent recycling stations at Tokomaru, Ōpiki, Foxton, Shannon, Waitāreere Beach and Levin and two summer recycling stations at Waikawa Beach and Foxton Beach.

Waste Transfer Stations are provided in Foxton and Shannon. Levin Transfer Station is a privately operated facility, and Council does not own or operate this transfer station.

 For more information on locations/hours, visit: horowhenua.govt.nz/RubbishRecyclingStations

MOTORHOME DUMP STATIONS

Most camping grounds will have dump stations, but it pays to ask permission prior to use. Horowhenua's public dump stations are below:

Levin Waste Transfer Station

 1 Sheffield Street, Levin

Victoria Park

 Victoria Street, Foxton

PUBLIC TOILETS

Horowhenua has many public toilets located around the district, check out the maps on pages 5, 8, 11 and 15.

EV CHARGING STATIONS

-  7 Bath Street, Levin
-  Clyde Street, Foxton
-  Plimmer Terrace, Shannon



KEY:  Public Toilet  EV Charging Station  Transfer Station  Recycling Station

HOROWHENUA

OFFICIAL VISITOR GUIDE

Visitor information

Taitoko - Levin i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

Open 7 Days

📍 Te Takeretanga o Kura-Hau-pō
10 Bath Street, Levin

☎ 06 366 0848

✉ visitorinfo@horowhenua.govt.nz

📍 tetakere.org.nz

Te Awahou - Foxton i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

Open 7 Days

📍 Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
92 Main Street, Foxton

☎ 06 363 5571

✉ enquiries@teawahou.com

📍 teawahou.com

Otauru - Shannon i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

Open 7 Days

📍 Shannon Railway Station Museum
Plimmer Terrace (opposite the shops),
Shannon

☎ 06 362 7333 or 06 362 7832

Visit our website for more information
on things to see and do in Horowhenua.

horowhenuanz.co.nz

Taitoko - Levin

Te Awahou - Foxton | Foxton Beach
Otauru - Shannon | Tokomaru | Ōpiki
Waitārere Beach | Ōhau | Hōkio Beach
Waikawa Beach | Manakau