



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora

This week is Youth Week, a nationwide initiative organised by young New Zealanders to celebrate the talents, passion and achievements of young people. We have many extraordinary young people in Horowhenua. We recognise some of the most outstanding annually through our Youth Excellence Scholarships, but I wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge the amazing contributions that young people make to our community. I'd also like to acknowledge the youth workers, youth service providers, and others working with and for young people encouraging them to take up challenges, share ideas and embrace their potential.

This week is also Road Safety Week. This year's theme is 'Be a road safety hero'. Being a road safety hero can come in many forms – from road workers to emergency services. It includes health professionals, transport engineers, community campaigners and school crossing patrollers. Thank you to everyone who considers their own safety and the safety of others when using the road – you are all road safety heroes.

It's been a busy few weeks for myself and fellow Elected Members as we met over two days for the Hearing of Submissions on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Amendment (LTPA) and Annual Plan 2023/2024 (AP).

We received 414 submissions, and I'd like to thank everyone who took the time to engage with us during the consultation process. It's an especially important time to share ideas, discuss key topics,

provide feedback on policy and planning and contribute to the future of the Horowhenua District. A special thanks goes to the 61 individuals and groups who spoke at the Hearings online and in person. We appreciate your feedback and acknowledge the effort you put in to share your thoughts with us. Together we can shape a more resilient and thriving district.

LTPA and AP deliberations will be held on Wednesday 31 May and Thursday 1 June, with the adoption of the final LTPA and AP scheduled for Wednesday 28 June 2023.

I have also enjoyed connecting with the community outside of Council Chambers.

On Saturday 6 May 2023 we marked the Coronation of King Charles III with a special tree planting ceremony at Thompson House Park. A plaque was unveiled with a whakatauki which reads: Māku te ra e tō ana; kei a koe te urunga ake o te rā - Let mine be the setting sun; yours is the dawning of a new day. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. After the ceremony we moved to Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō to acknowledge community volunteers and share some tea and scones.

Last week I enjoyed spending time with local tamariki who helped me brush up on my sign language skills. Their vibrancy and passion for learning (and teaching) was contagious and gave me an immense amount of pride.

Until next time.

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Amendment (LTPA) & Annual Plan 2023/2024 (AP)

31 May & 1 June 2023

Deliberations on the LTPA & AP

28 June 2023

Adoption of the final LTPA & AP



HOW ARE WE REALLY DOING?



Scan this QR code and give us your feedback about Rubbish and Recycling in the district.



Congratulations Foxton!

Horowhenua is home to the North Island's most beautiful small town!

thetravel.com has named Foxton as the second most beautiful town in Aotearoa, the first place went to Twizel. The travel website says "For adventure-seekers interested in finding out more about the fascinating culture and history of the Māori people, this is one of the first places that should be on their bucket lists. The town boasts a number of fun recreational spots." The full list can be read online at thetravel.com/most-beautiful-small-towns-in-new-zealand/



Emergency Mobile Alert Test



A nationwide Emergency Mobile Alert System test is taking place on Sunday 28 May 2023, between 6pm and 7pm. While you can expect to hear an alarm from your cellphone, there is no need to be alarmed. The test is to check Civil Defence systems, the cell towers and your phone's ability to receive an Emergency Mobile Alert, so it will perform as it should in an emergency. The system works on geo-targeting so there is no need to download any special app to receive emergency alerts. As the Emergency Mobile Alert is about keeping you safe, you won't be able to opt-out. If you are driving when you receive the alert, please pull over safely before reading it. Emergencies can happen anytime, anywhere. You should always be prepared. Visit getready.govt.nz for advice around making a plan before a disaster strikes.

In the Works

The construction of Coley Pond on the corner of Roslyn Road and Fairfield Road, Levin is progressing well and looking great. The stormwater retention pond and wetland will service the increased stormwater discharge from the residential growth in the North East Levin area.

Basketball hoops and backboards have been installed at Donnelly Park, Levin and more fences have been constructed around the netball courts.

The Jones Ship at Flagstaff Reserve, Foxton Beach is looking fresh after an extensive refurbishment which included installing new ropes, a repaint of the original colours and renewal of a range of metal stays and callipers.

Thatch removal and undersowing has been completed on our sportsfields.

Extra rock has been added to a scoured section of Florida Road, Levin, to prevent further erosion caused by the Ohau River.

Foxton Pools Update

The Foxton Pools upgrade is making waves with incredible progress!

Our team of contractors and specialists from Apollo Projects Limited have hit the ground running and have demolished the concrete structures to make way for the new reception area, which is already under construction. The team has also cleared vegetation to make way for the new building and landscaping footprint, and the excavation

of concrete is now complete, making way for the much-anticipated spa pool. Parts of the roof have also been removed, and painting of the beams is underway.

More sections of the building will be removed, and new Kingspan panels will take their place. The new entrance to the pool will soon take shape and add to the overall design of the building.

This \$5.8 million investment includes rebuilding the current structure, adding a spa pool, and upgrading the air ventilation system to ensure the facility remains open and enjoyable year-round.

When the redevelopment is complete, our community will be greeted with a refreshed and purpose-built facility, yet still with the memories of those who have enjoyed it for the past 15 years.

Oxford Street Plane Trees

Submissions on the potential removal of the Oxford Street, Levin Plane Trees have closed. We received more than 100 submissions and are currently working through them to determine the next steps in the process. In the meantime, maintenance work on the trees will continue. The crown of the trees (leaf cover) will be reduced by a maximum of 30% in line with the existing resource consent to protect the health of the trees and significantly reduce issues relating to leaf fall. Crown reduction has been undertaken for the past four years, and the next lot of work will begin on Sunday 21 May and will continue for three to five days.



Foxton Pools upgrade in progress



Refurbishment work at Flagstaff Reserve, Foxton Beach

Youth Week

While the refresh of the Youth Space at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō is underway, Youth Week looked a bit different this year – we bought Youth Space to our rangatahi!

Youth Space Pop Ups were held at Manawatu College on Monday 15 May, Waiopahu College on Tuesday 16 May and Horowhenua College on Thursday 18 May. During intervals, lunch breaks and afterschool our young people were treated to kai, drinks and a lot of fun. Kicking Youth Week off during the weekend, Shaan Singh from the popular New Zealand band, Drax Project was in the Studio at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. He worked alongside three budding musicians, teaching them the art of song writing, and sharing his knowledge. Rangatira mō āpōpō? Rangatira i tēnei rā! Leaders of tomorrow? Leaders for today!



WEAVE

We are seeking local cultural groups and champions to participate in the upcoming multicultural event 'WEAVE', taking place at the Levin Memorial Hall on Saturday 24 June from 7pm to 10pm.

WEAVE provides a place for people to celebrate their cultural heritage through vibrant expressions of dress, dance, food, and music. It embodies the concept of "Whiria te tangata, weave the people together," emphasising the power of bringing communities together.

The event aims to showcase and celebrate the diverse and beautiful cultures present in Horowhenua. Participants are encouraged to showcase their national dress, traditional garments and/or interpretation, accompanied by captivating performances of dance, enchanting music, and cuisine from around the world.

By coming together, WEAVE serves as a testament to the rich tapestry of cultures in our community, fostering appreciation, understanding, and unity.

Important Notice

Temporary Road Closure – Tararua Road, Levin

A section of Tararua Road, Levin, east of the Arapaepae Road (SH57) intersection, will be temporarily closed from Monday 22 May 2023 to install a new sewer pipeline as part of the Tara-Ika future growth project. The work is expected to take three months, weather depending. Road closures apply to all vehicular traffic, with the exception of emergency service vehicles or vehicles directly involved with the work. Detours will be clearly signposted. Road closures are made in accordance with the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965. We apologise for any inconvenience.

Council Meetings

Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee Wednesday 24 May 2023, 1pm to 3pm

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
Please note that this meeting is not open to the public (LGOIMA s.7 (2) (a) – privacy).

Council Meeting - LTPA Deliberation Wednesday 31 May 2023, 10am

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Live streamed)

Risk and Assurance Committee Wednesday 7 June 2023*, 3.30pm

Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Live streamed)

**previously scheduled for 31 May 2023*

Meeting dates and times are subject to change. Please refer to horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings for the full meeting schedule, minutes and agendas.