

Community Connection

Issue 180 JUNE 2023

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora

As we head into the winter season I want to take a moment to update you on some exciting news for our community for the coming years.

You might have read in the news the Minister of Transport Michael Wood has at last confirmed that the Ōtaki to North of Levin Expressway (Ō2NL) will be constructed. I'm sure you will agree that this is a significant milestone for our district and we're excited to move forward with this vital infrastructure project. Not only does this announcement bring us a step closer to a safer, easier and faster journey between Levin and Wellington, but it will also be transformational in supporting economic growth and development for our district and even the wider region. Along with the recent Capital Connection rail announcement, this investment in the region will significantly benefit all in our rohe and will accommodate the expected future traffic volumes.

The project includes the construction of a four-lane expressway with a range of safety features, including median barriers, wider shoulders, and new intersections. I can assure you that we will work closely with the community and stakeholders during this time to minimise disruption and ensure everyone is informed of progress. Construction of the Ō2NL Expressway and the shared walking and cycling path is expected to begin in 2025 and is scheduled to be completed by 2029.

We've also received excellent news from Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) that they've secured more funding for the Mayors Task Force for Jobs (MTFJ) Community Employment programme for the next two years.

Nationwide, Central Government has committed \$10m to be allocated in year one and a further

\$8m for year two for the MTFJ programme that creates new employment opportunities for rangatahi and has proven to be a valuable initiative since its inception. Although the initiative focuses mainly on young people aged between 16 and 24 who aren't engaged in education, employment or training, the programme aims to help anyone disadvantaged in the job market to help remove barriers to employment or training while providing a platform for job creation.

I'm proud to say that 267 people registered locally with the Horowhenua MTFJ programme and the team has successfully filled more than 100 vacancies for the 2022/23 financial year. The success of this project is thanks to hard work, dedication and the power of collaboration, creating a bright future for young people.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that a historical decision was made on Wednesday with Council voting unanimously to keep the Levin Landfill closed. This was a key topic in the Long Term Plan Amendment and an incredibly significant decision for our district. On behalf of Council, I'd like to acknowledge our Iwi partners, and the many stakeholders involved in this lengthy and at times difficult process. We would also like to thank everyone who engaged with us regarding the future of the Levin Landfill.

Council also voted during deliberations on the Draft Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Amendment to leave the rating system as it currently is and requested that officers commit to further review the Rates Remission and Rates Postponement policies during the first quarter of 2023/2024 that considers options to address affordability. More decisions taken and what this means for the community will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

Until next time, stay well and stay warm.

Mayor Bernie Wanden

MTFJ

MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

- **Not sure what to do now that you're out of school?**
- **Perhaps you need help with writing your CV?**
- **Or are you a business looking for employees?**

We can help! Contact one of our coordinators.

✉ local@horowhenua.govt.nz

☎ 0800 944 994

How are we doing WITH Water Services?



Scan this QR code and give us your feedback about Water Services in the district.

This survey should take less than two minutes to complete. We'd love to hear your thoughts.



CUPPA

WITH A COUNCILLOR



Thursday 8 June 2023

- Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō;
- Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom; and
- Shannon Library

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Winter weather can be wet and wild

Our Civil Defence Emergency Management Team is encouraging the community to be prepared and to take the following steps to minimise the risk of flooding on their properties.

Get ready before a storm

- Check your gutters and drains for any blockages
- Regularly inspect and trim trees and shrubbery
- Review your insurance regularly.

When a storm is forecast

- Bring or tie down items that strong winds could break or pick up
- Bring pets indoors
- Check on your neighbours and anyone who might need your help
- Ensure your mobile devices are charged.

During a storm

- If flooding does occur, please avoid travelling if you can
- Never drive through flood waters

- Stay informed during an emergency Follow your Civil Defence Emergency Management Group online
- If things get bad and your life and property are in danger, call 111 immediately
- Keep up to date with MetService weather forecasts on metservice.com.

We can't predict disasters, but we can prepare for them.



HOROWHENUA

In the Works



Installation of the Flying Fox at Holben / Te Wharangi Reserve, Foxton Beach is coming along nicely.



Drain cleaning continues across the district - Oturoa Road, Levin.



The new footpath in Whittaker Street, Shannon.



The Waitārere Beach Surf Life Saving Club is looking impressive! The build is moving very quickly.

Council Meetings

7 Risk and Assurance Committee
Wednesday 7 June 2023*, 3.30pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Live streamed)
** previously scheduled for 31 May 2023*

21 Council Meeting
Wednesday 21 June 2023, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Live streamed)

26 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Public Forum
Monday 26 June 2023, 5.30pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

26 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Meeting
Monday 26 June 2023, 6pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

28 Community Wellbeing Committee
Wednesday 28 June 2023, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

28 Council Meeting - LTPA/AP Adoption
Wednesday 28 June 2023, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Live streamed)

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.

Important Notices

Temporary Road Closure - Armagh Street, Levin
Armagh Street, Levin will be closed on Tuesday 27 June 2023, from 7.30am to 5pm, so Electra can replace the power poles along the street.

There will be no detour available, but an onsite traffic management team will be able to assist residents wanting to enter or leave their properties.

Please note that the work will be postponed if weather conditions or other circumstances prevent the work from taking place.

Road closures apply to all vehicular traffic, with the exception of emergency service vehicles or vehicles directly involved with the work.

These closures are made in accordance with the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965. We apologise for any inconvenience.

For any enquiries, please contact Electra on [0800 ELECTRA \(0800 353 2872\)](tel:0800ELECTRA)



WEAVE

CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Whiria te tangata – weave the people together

7pm-10pm | Saturday 24 June
Levin Memorial Hall

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

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

If you'd like to register and be a part of this event or find out more:

community@horowhenua.govt.nz
[06 366 0999](tel:063660999)

Enter our Capture Your Horowhenua photography competition.

The theme for the 2023 winter season is "Matariki – honouring Hiwa-i-te-rangi – the attainment of goals, dreams & aspirations".

Entries will be shortlisted and displayed in Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō during the month of July 2023 for public vote. For more information and to enter visit horowhenua.govt.nz/CaptureYourHorowhenua