

# Community Connection

Issue 185 SEPTEMBER 2023

Horowhenua  
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Bernie Wanden

## Message from the Mayor

Kia ora koutou,

It certainly seems to have been rather cold and wet over the last month, but it is great to see that spring is arriving and that daffodils and blossoms are adding some welcome colour to the district.

Recently Council was shown the results of our Voice of the Customer Survey. We had over 2000 individual responses to this survey and the definite highlight was that there is over 70% of residents who think that Horowhenua is a great place to live. This was compared to a figure of 39% in 2022. Those of us that have lived here for a while already knew that of course, but it is fantastic to see that confirmed in this survey.

The survey also saw some really positive and significant increases in our Communications and Engagement results and showed that the efforts to be more transparent and open with our community are working well.

We are now into our new financial year and the focus for Council will be to deliver the 2024 Long Term Plan. Now is the time to start thinking about your vision for our district's future. The Long Term Plan sets out what we are planning for, including our community outcomes, services, finances and infrastructure. Community involvement is a key part of shaping this Plan and the future of our district and we will be communicating with you over the coming months about how you can get involved in the process. As a Council we are facing uncertainty through government reform and unprecedented growth all while needing to make sure we deliver for our community – which is why Council is putting focus on getting the basics right.

One of the highlights of the year is our Civic Honours Awards event and we are currently calling on the community to put forward nominations for these special awards. Our district cannot function effectively without the contribution of some amazing people, committed to helping others and building strong and connected communities. The Civic Honours Awards recognises exceptional individuals and volunteer groups who go above and beyond, but often fly under the radar and not get

the recognition they deserve. The nominations are open until Friday 15 September.

Closing on the same day, are nominations for our Youth Excellence Scholarships. We have twelve \$250 Youth Excellence Scholarships to award to outstanding young people achieving excellence in one of four categories – Community Service, Sport, Academia or Arts and Culture.

Another highlight of the year is the Electra Business Awards and the induction of luminaries into the Horowhenua Business Hall of Fame and it has been great to see that an honours board has been installed in the foyer of the Civic Building. It was wonderful to be part of its unveiling this week during the Electra Business and Innovation Awards entrants function. It's fitting to house the honours board at the council building which will allow for the public to view the board when they visit. I would like to acknowledge the many Horowhenua businesses who entered the awards this year and wish them all the best for the finals in October.

As part of the effort to be more open and transparent, Council joined Antenna, a mobile app which enables two-way engagement between councils and their communities. It's free to download and use, and is an easy way to stay informed about council news, events and activities. One of my favourite features is the ability to report issues or concerns to Council. For example, if you see a damaged footpath that needs repair, instead of waiting till you get home to ring it in, you can do it right there and then using the app.

Finally, on Tuesday 29 August I had the privilege of co-hosting the Te Herenga Waka – Victoria University of Wellington Pasifika Roadshow with Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Pasifika) Luamanuvao Dame Winnie Laban. The evening was held at Council for our Pasifika community and prospective students who want to know more about study opportunities and student support at Victoria University of Wellington. This is just another example of how Council and Community can work together for the betterment of its residents.

Until next time.

Mayor Bernie Wanden

## HOW ARE WE REALLY DOING?



Scan this QR code to complete a survey about Resource Consents.

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



## Council Meetings

**6 Workshop for Elected Members to provide direction on the Horowhenua Blueprint**  
**Wednesday 6 September 2023, 12noon**  
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

**6 Workshop – Access Options Waikawa Beach**  
**Wednesday 6 September 2023, 2pm**  
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

**6 Workshop 3 – Long Term Plan 2024**  
**Wednesday 6 September 2023, 4pm**  
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

**18 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Meeting**  
**Monday 18 September 2023, 6pm**  
Ngārongo Iwikātea Room, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

**20 Community Wellbeing Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday 20 September 2023, 1pm**  
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

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

## In the Works



Parks & Property Open Space Maintenance (OSM) Contractor Recreational Services has completed a playground surfacing project upgrade at Weraroa Domain, Levin. In coming weeks, they will also be undertaking playground surfacing projects at two other park sites in Levin which will then complete a renewal programme for these important parks assets throughout all of the Horowhenua over the course of the OSM contract. This importantly keeps our young park users safe when they use our playgrounds.

CUPPA  
WITH A COUNCILLOR

**14 Thursday, September 14, 2023**  
• Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō  
• Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom; and  
• Shannon Library  
**Time: 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM**

# Clean Up Week

## Help keep Horowhenua Beautiful during Clean Up Week (Saturday 16 September to Friday 22 September).

We will be coordinating a number of simultaneous beach clean-ups with Keep Horowhenua Beautiful on Saturday 16 September between 3pm and 5pm. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Our areas of focus will be:

- Waikawa Beach to Ōhau River
- Ōhau to Hōkio Beach and Waitārere Beach to the Hydrabad site
- Waitārere Beach (from the Hydrabad site) to Manawatū river
- Manawatū River to the Foxton Surf Club; and the Foxton Surf Club to the Northern Boundary

Please bring a bucket to collect litter in, suitable footwear, clothing and gloves. Keep Horowhenua Beautiful waste warriors will also be picking up litter at Levin's Railway Reserve between 9am and 12pm on the same day.



The following week, on Thursday 21 September 2023 between 9am and 12pm, there will be a clean-up effort at Ihakara Gardens in Foxton.

Learn more on the Keep Horowhenua Beautiful Facebook page:

[facebook.com/KeepLevinBeautiful](https://facebook.com/KeepLevinBeautiful)

## Foxton War Memorial Hall decision

### Horowhenua District Council will soon be seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the Foxton War Memorial Hall.

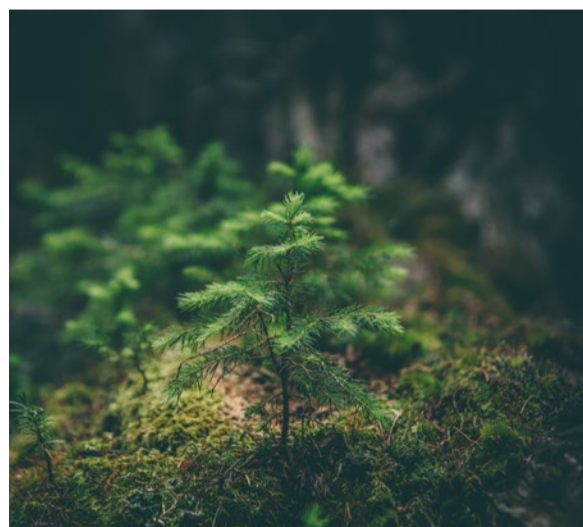
In June, Council made the difficult decision to sell the earthquake prone Foxton War Memorial Hall. An EOI will be published on Council's website over the coming days.



For more information, visit:

[horowhenua.govt.nz/EOIFoxtonWMH](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/EOIFoxtonWMH)

## Capture Your Horowhenua



### Capture Your Horowhenua is a seasonal photo competition that encourages local people to share what they love about our rohe.

Entries are open for the spring season and the theme is 'Awakening, a transformative journey or new perspective on oneself, others, or the world.'

Finalists will be on display at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō in October, or you can view entries and vote for your favourite online.



Scan the QR code for full details, and to enter your photographs.

## Important Notices

### Temporary Road Closure - Muhunua East Road, Ōhau

Several vehicles have hit the rail bridge on Muhunua East Road, Ōhau and major works is needed to make the bridge safer.

A section of Muhunua East Road, Ōhau will be temporarily closed between State Highway 1 and Bishops Road to allow this work to take place. The road closure will take place during the school holidays between Sunday 24 September and Friday 6 October 2023.

A diversion will be in place via Bishops Road.

We apologise for any inconvenience.

It is safe to use Muhunua East Road in the meantime.

Construction will be postponed if weather conditions or other circumstances prevent the work taking place.

Road closures apply to all vehicular traffic, except vehicles directly involved with the work. These closures are made in accordance with the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965.

Please direct any enquiries to enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz or (06) 366 0999.

View our current public notices at:

[Horowhenua.govt.nz/PublicNotices](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/PublicNotices)

### Ashlea Road, Tokomaru Road Improvements

Horowhenua District Council are improving a section of Ashlea Road, Tokomaru between property numbers 65 and 113.

To make the road fit for purpose for present and future traffic demands, we will be widening the road and fixing several pavement defects. Stormwater infrastructure will be upgraded in the area, and the road will be widened to 6.5 metres. We will also be rebuilding the road with new aggregate and applying a new chipseal surface.

The improvements will reduce maintenance costs as the infrastructure will be more resilient once the work is complete.

The work is due to be finished by Friday 15 September 2023 (depending on weather).

Construction will take place between 7am and 5pm on weekdays and occasionally on Saturdays if needed.

Stop-go signs will operate until the project is completed.

People whose driveways might be impacted by this work will receive a letter from our contractor (Higgins Contractors, Levin) with more information about the road improvements, and details on how you can contact them with any questions you might have.

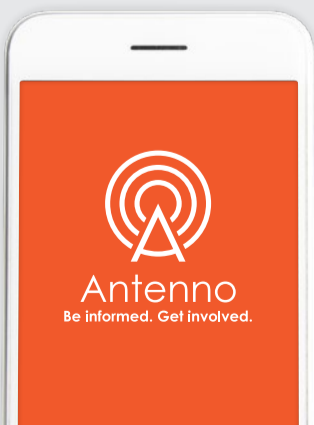
Thank you for your patience as the work is undertaken.

### Tararua Road, Levin - open

Trenching and reinstatement works have been completed early on Tararua Road East, and the road has re-opened.

Temporary traffic management will be in place as the contractor finishes the remaining works.

We thank you for your patience.



Download free app Antenno to report issues, as well as receive alerts and notifications.

[www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Antenno](https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Antenno)



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