

# Community Connection

Issue 220 JULY 2025



Monique Davidson

## Message from the CE

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Local Body election season is now upon us – which is why this message is coming from me and not Mayor Bernie.

What's important, though, is that our residents get involved in the elections, by voting or even standing as a candidate. One of the wonderful things about local government is that it's local – and that means that you as a resident can have a direct impact on your community.

To vote you need to be on the electoral roll. If you aren't - or you're not sure – visit the Electoral Commission website. You can enrol online right up to 10 October (though any later than 1 August and you won't get your voting papers sent to you in the mail).

The people elected to local councils make decisions about our daily lives and the future of our towns and communities. They set rates, oversee town planning, and make decisions on services such as rubbish collection, parks and libraries.

So if you want to take community service to another level why not consider running for office, as a member of Council or Te Awahou Foxton Community Board?

It's a serious role and not for the faint-hearted – but it offers you the chance to serve your community and shape the district's future.

To learn more about standing in this year's election go to [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/stand](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/stand), where you can also read the 2025 Pre-Election Report. This is a very useful document which sets out who we are as a district as well as Council's recent achievements, the challenges ahead, and a good summary of our financial strategy. You can pick up a hard copy from any Council office.

Nominations close at midday on Friday 1 August. As we say here around the office - Stand for something. Stand for Council.

In a sense some of you have already had a say about how we're performing. Every year, we ask the

community to provide feedback on how satisfied they are with the services and facilities that we provide.

This year's resident satisfaction survey makes interesting reading. We asked more than 8,000 of you for your views, and when we crunched the numbers your overall satisfaction rate was 63.26 percent. That's up slightly from last year and is well above the national average, which we are very proud of.

Things you liked included our libraries, kerbside rubbish and recycling, and road maintenance programme.

On the other hand many of you were worried about crime, which accounted for 20 percent of dissatisfied results. There were concerns about water and healthcare, and fewer of you found us easy to do business with than last year.

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed for their time and frankness. And I'd like you to know that we take these surveys seriously and are working hard to address the areas where we can do better. You can find more information about the resident satisfaction survey on our website.

There are also some great opportunities coming up to get involved in community life. Community Grants and Funding applications open on 1 August, and we'll be holding drop-in sessions at our libraries throughout August to help people with their applications. These sessions are a great chance to ask questions, get advice, and feel more confident about applying.

And from 28 July, nominations open for our 2025 Civic Awards and Youth Excellence Awards. These are a chance to recognise the local heroes and young achievers who help make Horowhenua a great place to live.

We'll be sharing more about both these initiatives in the coming weeks, so keep an eye on our website, social media channels, and local newspapers.

Ngā mihi,

*Monique Davidson*

**Monique Davidson**  
Chief Executive

## Council Meetings



### Community Funding and Recognition Committee

Wednesday 30 July 2025, 11.30am to 1pm  
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council,  
126 Oxford Street, Levin



### Risk and Assurance Committee

Wednesday 6 August 2025, 10am to 12pm  
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council,  
126 Oxford Street, Levin



### Horowhenua District Council Meeting

Wednesday 6 August, 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.



## Be a paw-some pet owner and register your dog

**Dog registration renewal notices should have made their way into letterboxes and inboxes throughout the district by now.**

Dog owners with their noses to the ground will know they need to pay by 31 July 2025 to avoid a late fee penalty.

With dogs on the mind, we took a look back at the most popular dog names in Horowhenua after last year's registration period. And the winners were:

### Male names:

1. Max
2. Buddy
3. Charlie
4. Teddy
5. Leo

### Female names:

1. Poppy
2. Ruby
3. Lily
4. Bella
5. Lola

Whether you own a Max, Teddy, Poppy or Lola, it's quick and easy to register your dog online at [www.horowhenua.govt.nz/pawsonline](http://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/pawsonline), or you can do so in person or by post. You can also elect to receive future registration renewal forms via email – the environment will thank you!

Dog owners who believe they may have difficulty paying their dog registration fees are encouraged to contact Council on 06 366 0999 or at [enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz) to discuss possible options.

## In the Works



**We're making good progress replacing water mains and sewer pipes along MacArthur Street in Levin. Traffic management continues to keep everything safe and free-flowing.**

Work is also going well on Bryce Street in Shannon, where we're replacing sewer pipes and installing a new pump station.

And we've finished replacing 650m of watermain replacement on Margaret Street in Shannon.

Thanks as always to everyone for their patience as we carry out this important work.



# Lift off! – Learning English for work



**Twelve Levin locals are celebrating after successfully obtaining a class 2 driver licence with a forklift endorsement thanks to Council’s Community Grants and Funding.**

The initiative, led by the local Columbian and Venezuelan communities, combined English language education with practical driver training.

English Language Partners ([englishlanguage.org.nz](http://englishlanguage.org.nz)) delivered English classes and local business One Stop Driver Training provided the forklift driver training.

“The English Language Partners class was essential for my classmates and me to master the technical

language of forklift operation. Getting my forklift operator certificate was a real milestone in my life and an opportunity for me to move towards my employment aspirations,” said learner Alejandro.

This initiative is a strong example of community-driven service delivery, responding directly to local needs. It also aligns with the goals of the Horowhenua Community Wellbeing Strategy, particularly in areas such as employment, education, and inclusion.

The 2025 round of Community Grants and Funding applications opens on 1 August – keep an eye on our website for details.

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

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



## Register for trade waste assessment

**Just a reminder that anyone who operates a business or organisation at a trade premises within the Horowhenua District needs to register with Council.**

This applies even to businesses which are not connected to the Council wastewater network. We will assess the type and volume of trade waste (if any) that your business is discharging. Depending on how the business is classified a trade waste consent might be needed.

Registering is easy – you’ll just need some basic details about your business. You can drop into a Council office or register online – just search for ‘trade waste’ on our website.

We need to manage trade waste to protect the environment and our wastewater network, to comply with resource consent conditions, and to ensure that businesses generating trade waste contribute fairly to the cost of its treatment and disposal.

# Come and plant native trees

**Council is partnering with Ngati Whakatere and the Shannon community to restore the mana of the Ōtauru Stream in Shannon.**

The Ōtauru Stream Riparian Planting project aims to improve the water quality and ecosystem of the stream, and will be completed through community planting initiatives involving several groups in our hāpori over a period of three years.

On Friday July 25 we’ll be planting 1,200 native plants at the Velvaleen Farm at 62-66 Old Foxton Road, from 9 am to 2 pm.

Bring your gumboots and join us to have fun and make a difference to the environment.



COMMUNITY AT HEART

# GRANTS & FUNDING

Opens 1 August 2025

[horowhenua.govt.nz/grants](http://horowhenua.govt.nz/grants)

Strong Communities

**Horowhenua**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## POP-UP eats

HOROWHENUA

Every Wednesday 5-8pm

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō car park

@ [events@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:events@horowhenua.govt.nz)   Pop Up Eats Horowhenua