

Community Connection

Issue 222 AUGUST 2025



Monique Davidson

Message from the CE

Kia ora Horowhenua,

This year's local elections have kicked off with a bang with 42 nominations! It's fantastic to see so many people stepping forward for a role to represent

our communities. Whether you're standing, voting, or cheering from the sidelines, thank you for being part of it.

As part of this year's elections, you'll also be asked to vote in a binding referendum on the future of Māori Wards. The Horowhenua Māori Ward was established in 2021 after community engagement, and in September 2024, Council voted to retain it. A law change last year means councils with Māori Wards not established by a poll must either remove them or hold a referendum. We chose the latter because we believe this decision belongs to the community. This is your opportunity to help shape how our district is represented in the years ahead. The result will be binding from the 2028 election, so I encourage everyone to get informed and have their say.

Recently, NZTA signed construction contracts with the North and South Alliances to build the Ōtaki to North of Levin highway. This confirms their commitment to the project, with construction starting in October. The community can expect more large earthmoving vehicles along the route as preparations begin. Recent accidents on the current highway highlight the need for this safer, faster route, which will reduce traffic through our towns and create new opportunities for Horowhenua.

Last week Council unanimously adopted a Water Services Delivery Plan, the first product of our partnership with Palmerston North City and Rangitikei District Councils under the Government's Local Water Done Well policy.

This is important because providing water services, including ongoing asset upgrades is expensive and accounted for more than 85% of the rates increase

this year. Teaming up with the other councils is estimated to save the average Horowhenua household between \$195 and \$300 per year by 2027/28 through economies of scale and improved service model efficiencies. There is little doubt that the three councils working together can deliver a long term financially sustainable water services model, while keeping a strong local voice in decision-making. We were the first to vote on the plan, and the other two councils are doing so this week. We'll keep you updated as this important work progresses.

Last week, Council formally adopted the Iwi and Hapū Relationships Framework, a significant step in outlining Council's approach to fostering and strengthening our relationships and working in true partnership with iwi and hapū. Developed over two years, it sets out how we'll walk alongside each other and the opportunities iwi and hapū will have in supporting decision-making through meaningful engagement.

We're also thrilled to share that Robert Harris will soon open in Foxton at Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom. The café will bring a fresh buzz to the space, serving up great coffee, delicious treats, and warm hospitality. It's fantastic to see strong local investment breathing new life into this much-loved community hub.

And don't forget, Civic Awards and Youth Excellence Award nominations are open. If you know someone making a difference, now's the time to put their name forward. You can find all the details on our website. So are the community grants and funding, don't miss the opportunity to bring your ideas to life.

If you're looking for a weekend outing with the kids or the dog (bring a leash!), head to Prouse Bush Reserve in Levin, just minutes from town and perfect for a walk and a picnic.

Until next time,

Monique Davidson

Monique Davidson
Chief Executive

Council Meetings

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Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Public Forum

Monday 18 August 2025, 5.30pm to 6pm
Foyer, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom,
92 Main Street, Foxton

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Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Meeting

Monday 18 August 2025, 6pm to 8pm
Ngārongo Iwikātea Room, Te Awahou
Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton

10

Council Public Forum

Wednesday 10 September 2025,
10.15am to 10.45am
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council,
126 Oxford Street, Levin

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Horowhenua District Council Meeting

Wednesday 10 September 2025, 11am
Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council,
126 Oxford Street, Levin

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Community Funding and Recognition Committee

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 10am to 12pm
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 for the full meeting schedule, minutes and agendas.

Are you eligible for a Rates Rebate?

Apply Now

Rebates of up to \$805 may be available to eligible residents

horowhenua.govt.nz/RatesRebate

Age on the GO

Call for Stallholders

Be part of our popular expo for older people on Friday 10 October at Horowhenua Events Centre.

Free stalls for community groups, \$100 for businesses.

Register by 19 September

horowhenua.govt.nz/AgeOnTheGo

In the Works

You'll see them out there, come rain or shine.

Our Local Waters team and roading contractors are constantly at work – maintaining our water network, fixing roads and footpaths, clearing slips, and keeping the district running smoothly. These jobs require skill, patience, and often a cold trickle of rain down the back of the neck. So next time you see them, give them a wave – they'll really appreciate it.

Here are just some of the things our teams have been up to lately:

Bergin Road, Foxton

Sealed pavement maintenance continues, with Higgins carrying out edge break repairs to extend the life of the road and ensure a smoother drive.

Waitārere Beach Road

We've started work on renewing the retaining wall near Achilles Avenue after monitoring showed movement over a short period. The new wall will improve stability, help manage sand drift, and keep the footpath safe for everyone.

Other works

- The rural mowing programme is progressing well, with around 70% of the district completed. The mower is now heading north along the western side of the district.
- Footpath maintenance completed on Barry Curtis Place and Heather Street, Levin.
- Fine weather has enabled our contractor to carry out unsealed pavement maintenance, addressing potholes on Gladstone Road, Poads Road, and Hoggs Road, Kuku.



BERGIN ROAD, FOXTON



WAITĀRERE BEACH ROAD

COMMUNITY AT HEART



GRANTS & FUNDING

Got a great idea for your community?

Horowhenua is full of people with big hearts and bold ideas – and now's the time to bring those ideas to life.

Council Grants and Community Funding are open now, and there's still one more drop-in session if you want a bit of help with your application:

Tuesday 26 August, 3pm to 4pm

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Levin. Or get in touch with our Community Development team:

- @ community@horowhenua.govt.nz
- 06 366 0999
- horowhenua.govt.nz/Grants



Everyday Legends Live Here



HOROWHENUA CIVIC AWARDS
Celebrating Community Champions

HOROWHENUA YOUTH EXCELLENCE AWARD
Celebrating Exceptional Rangatahi

Know someone making a real difference in our community?

Whether they're a long-standing volunteer or a young person achieving great things, we want to celebrate them.

For full criteria and to submit your nomination:

- horowhenua.govt.nz/CivicAwards
- horowhenua.govt.nz/YouthExcellence
- (06) 366 0999

Nominations close 7 September 2025

Horowhenua DISTRICT COUNCIL

Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Horowhenua Culture & Community Centre

Horowhenua DISTRICT COUNCIL