

Community Connection

Issue 229 NOVEMBER 2025



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

November has been one of those months that reminds me why I'm proud to call this district home. It's been a time of progress and connection, with plenty of moments that show the strength of our community and what we can achieve together.

On 11 November, we paused to honour Remembrance Day in both Levin and Foxton, paying tribute to those who served and sacrificed for our freedom. It was a moment of reflection and respect, reminding us of the bravery and resilience that shaped the communities we live in today.

Levin also came alive this month with the colour and energy of Diwali, a celebration of light, culture and connection that brought people together in joy and friendship. It was wonderful to see our community embrace the spirit of togetherness.

Last week I had the pleasure of presenting Mitre 10 in Levin with a certificate for becoming the first business in our district to become part of the 'Age Friendly' programme. This initiative is about more than just accessibility. It's about respect, inclusion and supporting wellbeing for older residents. Thanks to Mitre 10 and to Horowhenua Grey Power for leading the way. This really is community spirit in action and I look forward to seeing more businesses join in.

On Tuesday evening, we held our annual Civic Awards, a special occasion to recognise and celebrate the incredible volunteers who go above and beyond for our community. These are the people who work

tirelessly behind the scenes, supporting others and always putting community first.

We also had the pleasure of celebrating 15 outstanding young people through the Youth Excellence Awards, acknowledging their achievements in sport, academia, arts and culture, and community service. Congratulations to all our award recipients, your dedication, talent and generosity make Horowhenua a stronger and more connected place for everyone.

Progress in other ways as well. The Government's approval of our joint Water Services Delivery Plan with Palmerston North City Council and Rangitikei District Council is a major step forward. With the new name confirmed as Central Districts Water, this partnership means our water assets will remain locally owned while we work together to deliver safe, sustainable and affordable services for our communities.

The Council Expo at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō this week was another highlight. The aim of the expo was to support the induction of our newly elected members and give the community a hands-on look at what Council does every day. Councillors had an early viewing before the event opened to the public, giving residents the chance to meet the people behind Council's projects and services. It was a great reminder that local government is, at its heart, people helping people.

Until next time, thank you to everyone who continues to make Horowhenua a connected place to live.

Ngā mihi

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings



Council Meeting
(First full meeting of new Council)

Wednesday 10 December 2025, 11am
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.



Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The second Horowhenua District Council rates instalment of the 2025/26 financial year is due to be paid by 15 December, and Council is encouraging ratepayers to check whether they are eligible for a rebate.

You should have received your invoice in your letterbox or inbox by now.

The Rates Rebates Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$805 for low-income earners who are paying rates for the home they were living in on 1 July 2025. Rebates will be calculated based on income, the number of dependents living with you, and the total amount of rates you'll pay from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, including Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council.

Eligible households can have income up to \$32,210 and get the maximum rebate. Households getting more than this may still get a rebate, but it will be less than the full amount. SuperGold cardholders and their households can have income up to \$45,000 and get the maximum rebate amount.

To apply, you'll need proof of income (before tax) for the tax year ended 31 March 2025 (this includes any interest at the bank), proof of your spouse/ partner's or joint income if living together, and your SuperGold card, if applicable.

If you want your rebate applied to the second rates instalment, you must apply by 5 December 2025. Applications received after this date will have the rebate applied to instalment 3.

For more information and to apply, go to:
www.horowhenua.govt.nz/rates

In the Works



Sealed Road Resurfacing

We're underway with our annual road resealing programme. Mangahao Road and Foxton Beach Road are among those which have been completed — each receiving their second seal following last year's rehabilitation work. Over the next two months our contractors will continue resealing roads across the district that have been identified as needing resurfacing. Residents will be notified by letter drop before their street is resealed, and you can see the list of roads due for a spruce-up on our website.

horowhenua.govt.nz/AnnualReseals

Reinstating Donnelly Park

Now we've moved on to the second stage of replacing the main inlet pipe for the Levin wastewater treatment plant on Mako Mako Road we've also been able to start reinstating Donnelly Park. Parts of the park were closed while the first stage of the pipe was laid. Depending on grass growth we hope it will be open again by the holiday season. Thanks everyone for your patience.

The second stage of pipe renewal runs from the corner of Adkin Avenue and Collingwood Street through to Tiro Tiro Road north of Trafalgar Street. We're engaging with residents, schools and businesses to keep them informed of road or lane closures as we carry out this essential upgrade.



Important Notices

Proposed Temporary Road Closures – Horowhenua Christmas Parade

Horowhenua District Council proposes that several Levin streets be closed on Saturday 6 December 2025 for the annual Horowhenua Christmas Parade.

The parade will begin at the corner of Victoria Street and Weraroa Road, turning right onto Bath Street before finishing on Salisbury Street outside the Levin Domain.

We propose that the following roads be temporarily closed to all ordinary vehicular traffic to enable the parade to travel the planned route:

Victoria Street will be closed from 11am to 2.30pm to allow floats to gather before the parade begins. While resident access along Victoria Street will be allowed, we ask that no cars be parked on the street during this road closure period.

Salisbury Street will be closed between 1pm and 6.30pm for the Christmas Carnival at the Levin Domain.

Weraroa Road between Victoria Street and Bath Street will be closed from 1.45pm to 2.30pm.

Bath Street between Weraroa Road and Salisbury Street will be closed from 1.45pm to 2.30pm.

Hannan Street will be closed from 1.45pm to 2.30pm.

Carlisle Street will be closed from 1.45pm to 2.30pm.

Detour routes will be clearly signposted.

No resident access will be available during the period of these proposed closures.

These closures are proposed under clause 11(e) of the Tenth Schedule of the Local Government Act 1974. The proposed closures will apply to all vehicular traffic with the exception of emergency service vehicles and vehicles directly involved with the events.

Any person objecting to the proposal should lodge written notice of their objection and reasons before 5pm on Monday 24 November 2025 to Horowhenua District Council, Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540 or for any enquiries, please contact Council on:

☎ 06 366 0999

@ enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz.

41 DAYS LEFT

41 Days left for businesses to apply for a trade waste permit without paying an application fee.

Find out more on our website or contact us at @ tradewaste@horowhenua.govt.nz



No more cash at transfer stations

From 15 December cash will no longer be accepted at the council-run waste transfer stations at Foxton and Shannon.

You'll still be able to pay using EFTPOS and charges are not going up.

The move brings us into line with many other transfer stations, including the privately-run one in Levin.

Currently fewer than ten percent of transactions at the Foxton transfer station are cash.

Help shape accessibility and parking in Levin's Town Centre

We're planning for an easier, safer and more welcoming town centre - and we want your help. Council is developing a new Access & Parking Strategy to guide how people get to and around Levin, especially as Ō2NL will reshape how traffic will move through our community.

Tell us how you access town, what your parking experience is like, and what would make getting around easier for locals, visitors and businesses.

Engagement opened on Tuesday 18 November 2025 and will close on Tuesday 9 January 2026 at 4pm.

For more information visit:

📍 horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinTownCentreTransformation



Your insights will help us plan smarter for Levin's future. Scan the QR code to have your say.



HOROWHENUA CHRISTMAS Parade & Carnival



Saturday 6 December, 2pm to 6pm

Parade route: Victoria Street – Weraroa Road – Bath Street – Levin Domain

FLOATS | STALLS | FOOD | ENTERTAINMENT | FAMILY FUN

📍 horowhenua.govt.nz/Christmas

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