

Community Connection

Issue 215 APRIL 2025

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

I want to start by saying thank you and acknowledging everyone affected by the tornado that hit Levin on 8 April. It was sudden, damaging and unsettling for many – a real reminder of how unpredictable the weather can be.

But as always, what stood out most was how our community responded: quickly, calmly, with care and compassion. From our emergency services to our own Council teams, contractors, neighbours, and volunteers checking in on each other, thank you. The support was incredible. It's in moments like these that the strength of our community truly shines through.

We activated the Mayoral Relief Fund straight away to support those most affected. By midday Tuesday 15 April, we'd received 20 applications, with just over \$16,000 in funding requested. The Committee met last week to assess the applications and make funding decisions to help get support out quickly. If you're still finding things tough or unsure of what help might be available, please get in touch – our team is here to support you.

Events like this are a good reminder of how important it is to be prepared. You don't need a full kit in the cupboard – just a few essentials and a basic plan can go a long way when the unexpected happens.

We've also got a few important consultations open right now that I encourage you to have a look at. One of them is Proposed Plan Change 6A, which would rezone 22 hectares of land in north-west Levin for new housing, green spaces and a small neighbourhood centre. If approved, this could open the door for 400 to 500 new homes and help guide how Horowhenua grows in the years ahead. Submissions close Wednesday 14 May.

And if you're a dog owner – the Proposed Dog Control Policy and Bylaw is also open for feedback until Wednesday 30 April. We're looking at changes to off-leash areas and how we support responsible dog ownership. It's your chance to help shape the rules that make our parks and public places work for everyone.

A quick reminder too – rates rebates are open until 30 June 2025. If you're on a low income, you might qualify for some help with your rates. You can apply online, or come in and we'll help you through the process.

On Friday 25 April, we commemorate ANZAC Day – a time to reflect on those who served and sacrificed. There are services across the district, from dawn parades to afternoon ceremonies. You can find the full list on Council's website. However, you mark the day, thank you for taking the time to remember.

Lastly thanks to the 16 people who made submissions on the Local Waters Combined Bylaw, and in particular to the three who were able to come and speak about their submissions at a Council meeting last week.

It is always so helpful to us to hear directly from people on matters that are important to them, and it's good to have the chance to address their concerns face to face. Even on a small scale, this really is how democracy works.

Take care, and as always – thanks for being part of such a strong, caring community.

Until next time,

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings



Extraordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday 30 April 2025, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin



Risk and Assurance Committee

Wednesday 30 April 2025, 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin



Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Public Forum

Monday 5 May 2025, 5.30pm to 6pm
Foyer, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom,
92 Main Street, Foxton, Foxton



Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Meeting

Monday 5 May 2025, 6pm
Ngārongo Iwikātea Room, Te Awahou
Nieuwe Stroom, 92 Main Street, Foxton,



Horowhenua District Council Meeting

Wednesday 14 May 2025, 11am
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.

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Are you eligible for a Rates Rebate?
Apply Now

For more information, visit:

horowhenua.govt.nz/ratesrebates

Rebates
of up to
\$790 may
be available
to eligible
residents.

CUPPA
WITH A COUNCILLOR



Thursday 8 May 2025

- Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

- Shannon Library

Time: 1pm to 2.30pm



@ events@horowhenua.govt.nz

06 366 0999

Pop Up Eats Horowhenua

Eggceptional response to food scraps trial

Our food scraps collection and composting trial is going from strength to strength

For week two of the trial another 37 people put their bins out for collecting... that's a third more than the first week.

And our contractor hauled away 490 kg of food scraps – which is a lot of carrots and cabbages.

The three-month trial is being paid for by a government grant, and the compost is made locally and offered to Enviroschools in our district.

You can find out more about the trial on our website as well as plenty of tips if you want to have a go at composting by yourself..

horowhenua.govt.nz/FoodScrapsCollection

WEEK TWO OF THE TRIAL:



37

more people put their bins out for collection



1/3 more

than the first week



490kg

of food scraps collected

Old rubbish bags are still useful

Sometime soon, you'll notice a difference in your council rubbish bags: they'll have handles!

This makes them easier to carry and to tie securely. We think you'll like them better than the old ones which had a fiddly piece of plastic string to grapple with.

The new bags will be phased in as the old ones run out – same cost, same colour, and of course you can still use the old bags you've already paid for.



Have your say on the proposed Dog Control Policy and Bylaw

Consultation closes at 4pm on Wednesday 30 April 2025.

letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/DogControl

Streamline

SWIM SCHOOL

Speak to our friendly customer service team today to enrol!

aquatics.horowhenua.govt.nz[AquaticsHorowhenua](https://www.facebook.com/AquaticsHorowhenua)

HOW ARE WE REALLY DOING?

Scan the QR code to complete the survey about the building consent process.

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

Be a tidy Kiwi, put it in the bin!

Using your loo as a rubbish bin uses heaps of water (average flush is more than six litres of water) and also causes a lot of issues when treating waste too.

For more water saving tips visit: horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterSavingTips

We will remember them

ANZAC Day Observances

Friday 25 April 2025

horowhenua.govt.nz/ANZAC

In event of bad weather, commemorations will move indoors. Some locations will change as indicated. An announcement will be made on our Facebook page on ANZAC Day morning should we need to move to wet weather venues.

Don't just dream. Vote to be heard.

To vote in this year's Local Body Election in October, you must be enrolled. Remember to make sure your details are up to date.

For more information, go to: horowhenua.govt.nz/elections