

Community Connection

Issue 235 MARCH 2026

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

There's a lot happening across our district at the moment and much of it comes back to the direction Council is taking for the

2025 to 2028 term.

This term, Council is focused on three key priorities: Going for Growth, Future Fit HDC, and Financial Discipline. Those are the big picture priorities guiding our work, but in simple terms they mean planning for growth, being ready for reform changes, and spending ratepayers' money wisely.

For me, that means keeping our focus on the things that matter most to our communities. It means supporting growth and opportunity, making smart decisions, and continuing to invest in the infrastructure, services and facilities people rely on every day.

You'll see that reflected right through this edition of Community Connection. There are a number of projects and improvements underway or being delivered for the community and while some are more visible than others, they all play a part in keeping Horowhenua moving. Whether it is roads, community facilities, public spaces, or the work that happens behind the scenes, it's all about making sure we are fit for the future.

A good example is the planned maintenance work at the Levin Aquatic Centre. This is important work to keep the facility safe, reliable and running well. Looking after infrastructure properly means planning ahead, doing the maintenance that is needed, and making sure these important community assets are there for the long term.

I also want to give a quick reminder that there is still time to have your say on the NZ Transport Agency speed review consultation. If you haven't yet made a submission, I encourage you to do so before it

closes on 9 April. Road safety is something many people in our district care deeply about, and your feedback matters.

We've recently seen great support for local rangatahi through The King's Trust Enterprise Programme, hosted in Levin with support from our Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs team. Backing our young people in this way is part of building a stronger future for Horowhenua and creating opportunities.

We also welcomed 30 new citizens to Horowhenua at our first Citizenship Ceremony of 2026. These are people who have chosen to make New Zealand and Horowhenua their home, and each of them brings something valuable to our community. A very warm welcome to all our newest citizens.

It was lovely to see people coming together for Neighbours Day as well. It was a simple reminder that a strong community starts close to home. That same sense of connection can be seen in the events coming up across the district, from Horowhenua Holi to Big Dutch Day Out in Foxton and Anzac Day commemorations.

Another recent highlight was the opportunity to showcase food from Horowhenua and Kāpiti at Parliament. Our district has so much to be proud of, including the quality of our local producers and businesses. Thank you to Tim Costley MP for helping make that opportunity possible.

And with the school holidays just around the corner, keep an eye on Council channels for programmes and activities for young people and families across the district. There is a lot going on, but it all connects back to the kind of district we are working to build together. One that is growing with confidence, investing in the right things, supporting its people and staying connected along the way.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings

25

Community Funding and Recognition Committee

Wednesday 25 March 2026, 10am
Ante Room, Horowhenua District Council,
126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Not open to the public)

1

Hearings and Regulatory Committee

Wednesday 1 April 2026, 1.30pm
Horowhenua District Council,
126 Oxford Street, Levin

8

Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee

Wednesday 8 April 2026, 10am
Horowhenua District Council,
126 Oxford Street, Levin
(Not open to the public)

13

Te Awahou Foxton Community Board Meeting

Monday 13 April 2026, 6pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom,
92 Main Street, Foxton

29

Council Meeting

Wednesday 29 April 2026, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings

A new Downstream Defender helping protect our waterways

If you walk your dog or visit Kowhai Park, you may notice some fencing and construction work nearby soon.

From 7 April, contractors will be installing a new stormwater device underground called a Downstream Defender. This device helps stop rubbish from reaching our waterways.

When it rains, water runs off roads, roofs and footpaths into roadside drains. This water is called stormwater. As it travels through the drains it can pick up litter, plastic and dirt along the way.

The Downstream Defender works like an underground filter. As stormwater passes through it, the device captures rubbish, plastics and other

debris before the water continues through the stormwater network and into our waterways.

Installing the device requires deep excavation, so fencing will be in place around the work area to keep park users and dogs safe while the work is carried out.

Work starts: 7 April 2026

Expected duration: up to three weeks

This is one of the ways Council is working to reduce rubbish entering our waterways and protect the environment.

You can help too. Remember: Only rain down the drain.

CUPPA 
WITH A COUNCILLOR

Levin - Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Wednesday 25 March, 6pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 9 April, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Foxton - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Thursday 9 April, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Shannon - Shannon Library

Thursday 9 April, 1pm to 2.30pm



New look for water rates invoices

Your next water rates invoice will have a new look and feel. We've made some improvements to make it clearer and easier to understand.

If you currently receive your rates invoice by email, your water rates invoice will also be sent to you by email. If you'd like to start receiving your rates and water rates invoices by email, sign up at:

horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterRatesInvoices

In the Works

Land transport update

Our Land Transport team and contractors have been busy across the district keeping roads, walkways and footpaths safe and accessible. Recent work includes:

- **Metal roads maintenance underway** – Grading and metalling has started on unsealed roads across the district to help maintain safe and reliable driving conditions.
- **Drainage improvements on Mangahao and Mangaore Roads, Shannon** – Roadside drains have been cleaned and older culverts replaced to improve water flow and protect the road surface.



Poads Road, Levin

- **Safety upgrades on Poads Road, Levin** – A new guardrail has been installed from the bridge through to the carpark, improving safety for vehicles and visitors to the swimming hole. Bridge railing maintenance is also underway.

- **Waitāre Beach walkway access improvements** – Barriers at several walkway entrances have been removed and vegetation is being cleared to make access easier and safer.
- **Herrington Street, Foxton footpath renewal complete** – Just over 1km of footpath in Foxton has been upgraded.
- **Next up: new footpath on Ladys Mile, Foxton** – Construction will soon begin on the north side of Ladys Mile, connecting Herrington Street with Manawatū College and Te Waiora Community Health Service.



Kawiu and Tiro Tiro Roads, Levin

- **Kawiu Road and Tiro Tiro Road, Levin safety improvements** – Kerb and channel installation has now been completed as part of ongoing safety upgrades.

Big water savings thanks to our community

Since the start of the water meter project, something pretty amazing has happened.

Every day, our community is now saving the same amount of water as 3.7 main pools at the Levin Aquatic Centre.

That's a huge difference – and it's thanks to you.

Some of the savings have come from finding and fixing leaks. Other savings have come from people simply being more aware of how much water they use at home.

Water meters help us see where water is going. When leaks are found and repaired, it can save thousands of litres of water.

The meters have already helped us spot leaks and reduce water use across the district:

98-99% RESIDENTIAL WATER METERS INSTALLED across the district.

13,500 HOMES COMPLETED with just 76 left to complete.

170 BUSINESSES IDENTIFIED FOR INSTALLATION

Work to install commercial water meters is ongoing, with around 170 businesses identified for installation.

7% ↓ REDUCTION IN LEVIN WATER USE

40% ↓ REDUCTION IN SHANNON WATER USE

30% ↓ REDUCTION IN TOKOMARU WATER USE

5-10% ↓ REDUCTION IN FOXTON AND FOXTON BEACH WATER USE

IN SHANNON, MULTIPLE LARGE LEAKS ON PRIVATE RURAL PROPERTIES WERE DISCOVERED AND FIXED, WHICH MADE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

Every drop saved helps protect our water supply and reduces pressure on our infrastructure. It shows what can happen when a community works together. And together, we're already making a real impact.



SAVE THE DATE

Big Dutch Day Out

Celebrating all things Dutch

8.30am to 3pm, Saturday 18 April 2026

Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park, 92 Main Street, Foxton

Responsible Dog Owner Approval applications opening soon

If you're a responsible dog owner, now's the time to get ready to apply for Responsible Dog Owner Approval (RDOA). Applications open on Monday 23 March 2026.

Approved owners receive a discount on their annual dog registration and help support a safer community for people, pets and wildlife.

To be eligible, you must:

- be a registered dog owner in the district for at least 12 months
- have had no justified complaints or enforcement action in the past year
- provide secure fencing or containment for your dog
- ensure your dog has appropriate shelter and care
- complete an approved dog ownership education requirement.

If you've completed dog obedience training to level 2 or higher and can provide a certificate, you'll be able to apply when applications open.

If you haven't completed obedience training, Council will offer an RDOA Ready course on Saturday 28 March 2026.

horowhenua.govt.nz/RDOA



Levin Aquatic Centre Temporary Closure

Monday 13 April - Monday 11 May for essential maintenance works

The Hydrotherapy Pool will close earlier from **Monday 6 April**

Some services will continue at Foxton Pool.

horowhenua.govt.nz

Horowhenua DISTRICT COUNCIL