

Community Connection

Issue 236 APRIL 2026



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Local businesses are a big part of what keeps our district strong.

They create jobs, support local families, sponsor

community activities and help give Horowhenua its energy and identity. Whether it is a long-standing local business or a newer venture bringing fresh ideas, every business plays a part in building a district that is resilient, confident and looking ahead.

That is why the 2026 Electra Business and Innovation Awards are worth celebrating. As a major sponsor, Council is proud to support these awards and encourage Horowhenua businesses to put themselves forward. This year's focus is on businesses that are embracing change and leading the way forward, which feels especially relevant right now. We know there are some great businesses in our district doing exactly that, and I'd love to see them recognised. Entries open on 22 April and close on 10 June, so if you are in business in Horowhenua, I encourage you to have a go.

That same sense of local pride can be seen in the events we celebrate this month across the district. Get ready to grab something orange and head to Foxton, because Big Dutch Day Out is back on Saturday 18 April. This much-loved event is a vibrant celebration of Dutch culture, community and fun for all ages, and a great way to recognise the important role the Dutch community has played in shaping Foxton and our wider district. If you have never been to Big Dutch Day Out, this is your year to go along. Dress yourself, and even your bike, in orange and enjoy everything the day has to offer.

The following weekend, on Saturday 25 April, the focus shifts to Anzac Day. This is an important day on our calendar and a time to pause and remember those who served and sacrificed in war, conflict and peacekeeping operations. Across Horowhenua, communities will gather to honour that service and reflect on its lasting impact across generations.

I encourage people to attend a local service if they can. It is an important way to show our respect and keep that memory strong. With parades and commemorations taking place across the district, there will also be temporary road closures, so please follow signage and allow a little extra time if you are travelling that day. Read more about it on page 2.

Many of you will also have been keeping a close eye on the recent cyclone as it tracked over the North Island. I want to acknowledge the way our community prepared, from securing properties to checking in on neighbours and staying informed. While we were fortunate not to feel the full impact here in Horowhenua, it was a timely reminder of how important that preparedness is. Thank you to everyone who took it seriously and to our emergency response teams and partner agencies who were ready to respond if needed.

Staying connected to what is happening around us is important too, and one of the easiest ways to do that is through the Antenna app. Download the Antenna app, add locations that matter to you, like your home, workplace, your children's school or places you visit regularly, so you receive alerts that are relevant to those areas. It is also a simple way to report issues such as potholes, water leaks or broken equipment directly to Council.

Just a reminder that Cousins Avenue Reserve and Target Reserve remain closed following extensive storm damage. Forestry contractors will clear damaged trees, starting at Cousins Ave Reserve before moving on to Target Reserve. Both reserves will stay closed while that work is underway, and we appreciate your patience while this important safety work is carried out.

Let's keep backing local, celebrating our heritage and taking pride in the places and people that make Horowhenua what it is. That is all part of building a district we can be proud of.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings



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

CUPPA WITH A COUNCILLOR

Levin - Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Wednesday 22 April, 6pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 14 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Foxton - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Thursday 14 May, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Shannon - Shannon Library

Thursday 14 May, 1pm to 2.30pm



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



Oranjehof
Dutch Connection Centre



HOROWHENUA



Mangaore wastewater renewals underway

Council will renew sections of the Mangaore wastewater network from April to July 2026. While the work is happening in Mangaore, it benefits the wider community by helping protect public health and the environment, and by keeping essential services working reliably across our district. The project includes sewer main and lateral renewals as part of Council's programme to replace ageing infrastructure.

Some pipes and related assets have reached the end of their useful life. Renewing them now reduces the risk of blockages, leaks and unplanned outages, helps prevent overflows, and lowers the chance of emergency repairs that can be more disruptive and costly for everyone.

Work includes replacing ageing wastewater pipes, excavation and reinstatement (restoring affected areas), and testing and commissioning once renewals are complete. Construction will be staged where possible to reduce disruption.

The project is funded through Council's Long Term Plan as part of the wastewater renewals programme. Construction is being carried out by Tatana Contracting. On-site queries can be directed to Tatana Contracting on 06 368 9385.

For general enquiries:

horowhenua.govt.nz/MangaoreWWRenewal

enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

06 366 0999

Levin Aquatic Centre Temporary Closure

Monday 13 April - Monday 11 May

for essential maintenance works

Some services will continue at Foxton Pool.

horowhenua.govt.nz

Anzac Day Observances

Saturday 25 April 2026

Commemorate Anzac Day at services and ceremonies throughout Horowhenua.

Foxton 28th Māori Battalion Service

- 5.45am Head to cenotaph for Foxton Dawn Service
- 6.30am Service at St John's Methodist Church, Avenue Road following the Dawn Service

Foxton Dawn Service

- 5.30am Assemble on Clyde Street, outside Foxton Memorial Hall
- 5.45am Parade moves off to Cenotaph
- 6.00am Cenotaph Service begins

Wet weather alternative. Service will take place in Foxton Memorial Hall.

Foxton Civic Ceremony

- 9.00am Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Main Street
- 9.35am Parade assembles on Wharf Street and moves off to Cenotaph
- 9.40am Cenotaph Service begins

Wet weather alternative. Ceremony will take place inside Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom.

Levin Dawn Service

- 5.45am Assemble on the corner of Kent and Winchester Streets
- 6.00am Parade moves off to Cenotaph
- 6.15am Cenotaph Service begins
- 6.45am Return parade down Kent Street

Wet weather alternative. Service will take place at Levin RSA.

Levin Civic Ceremony

- 10.00am Parade assembles on Kent Street, past Thompson House Gardens
- 10.10am Parade moves off to Cenotaph
- 10.15am Cenotaph Service begins

Wet weather alternative. Ceremony will take place in Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.

Levin Retreat Ceremonies

- 4.45pm The Avenue Cemetery
- 5.15pm Tiro Tiro Road Cemetery

Manakau Special Memorial Service

- 7.20am Assemble outside Manakau Hall to march to the War Memorial in Honi Taipua Street

Moutoa Civic Ceremony

- 9.00am Moutoa Memorial Gates, Foxton-Shannon Road

Ōhau Civic Ceremony

- 3.00pm Formal reflections and acknowledgement of Anzac Day at Ōhau Community Hall
- 3.30pm Tea/Coffee and ANZAC biscuits – All welcome

Shannon Civic Ceremony

- 11.15am Parade assembles at the corner of Vance Street and Plimmer Terrace
- 11.25am Parade moves off to Cenotaph
- 11.30am Cenotaph Service begins

Wet weather alternative. Ceremony will take place in Shannon Memorial Hall.


Tokomaru Civic Ceremony

- 10.00am RSA and Country Club, Matipo Street

Waitārere Beach Civic Ceremony

- 8.30am Tea/Coffee at Waitārere Beach Bowling Club, Park Avenue
- 9.00am Service begins

In event of bad weather, commemorations will move indoors. Some locations will change as indicated. Updates will be posted on Facebook (@HorowhenuaDC) on Anzac Day morning if a venue change is required due to wet weather.

Visit  horowhenua.govt.nz/Anzac for Anzac Day observances throughout Horowhenua



Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

 **RSA**