

Community Connection

Issue 240 JUNE 2026



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Head Start | Future Fit Horowhenua engagement over the past few weeks. The kōrero

we heard through the survey and at our drop-in sessions was genuinely valuable, and it's clear that people care deeply about our district and where we are heading. Your feedback is already helping shape what comes next, and we look forward to keeping you informed as that work continues.

A warm welcome to Horowhenua's 38 newest New Zealand citizens who were officially welcomed at last week's Citizenship Ceremony. It was a lovely occasion celebrating the diverse journeys that have brought people to our district, and it's wonderful that these people have chosen Aotearoa New Zealand as their home. We wish our new citizens all the very best as they begin this new chapter as New Zealand citizens.

Last week I had the privilege of attending Horowhenua's Elder Abuse Awareness Week event at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, which highlighted the importance of ensuring our older residents are treated with dignity, respect and care. The event was a timely reminder that elder abuse can take many forms and that creating a safe, connected community is everyone's responsibility. I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of HALT, New Zealand Police, Age Concern and their community partners, who work tirelessly to support older people and raise awareness of this important issue.

Last night I had the pleasure of co-hosting the Electra Business and Innovation Awards Horowhenua Entrants Event and meeting many of the businesses and organisations taking part this year. Congratulations to everyone who has entered. Putting your business forward for judging takes courage, commitment and a willingness to reflect on and showcase the hard work that goes on behind the scenes every day. I wish all entrants the very best for the next stage of the process and look forward to seeing those who progress through to the finals.

Matariki is one of my favourite times of year in Horowhenua. As Puanga and the Matariki star cluster rise in our winter skies, it is a chance to come together as a community, to honour those who have passed, and to look ahead with hope and gratitude. This year we have a wonderful programme of whānau-friendly events running from 1 to 15 July, developed alongside local iwi and hapū, with something for everyone. Just some of what is on offer includes the Kapahaka Hapori Kai Night on 1 July, Lights over Te Awahou in Foxton on 4 July, and the Matariki Kaumātua Day Out on 8 July. I encourage you to get along to something and celebrate this special time with your whānau and community. The full programme is at horowhenua.govt.nz/Matariki.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings



Council Workshops

Wednesday 1 July 2026, 10am
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin



Community Funding and Recognition Committee Meeting

Wednesday 1 July 2026, 9am
Ante Room, 126 Oxford Street, Levin



Te Awahou Foxton

Community Board Meeting

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

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

Thursday 9 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Wednesday 22 July, 6pm to 7.30pm

Foxton - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Thursday 9 July, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Shannon - Shannon Library

Thursday 9 July, 1pm to 2.30pm

In the Works

Tiro Tiro Road Closure

Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet Pipe and Bulk Main Upgrades

Work to upgrade Levin's wastewater system and water main is progressing well. To safely continue this work, a full road closure is required.

Road closure

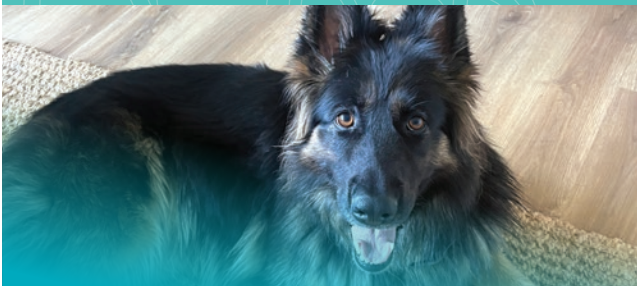
Tiro Tiro Road is now fully closed between Greenville Street and Trafalgar Street. A signed detour route is in place.

Please follow all traffic management signs, plan your journey ahead of time, and allow extra travel time.

We understand this may cause inconvenience and appreciate your patience while we carry out these important upgrades for the community. These upgrades will help future-proof our ageing infrastructure, protect our waterways, and support our growing community.

Find out more:

horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinWWTP



Dog registrations opening soon

Dog registrations for 2026/27 open soon, so keep an eye out for your renewal letter in the mail. Registration is required annually for all dogs over three months old, with payment due by 31 July 2026 to avoid late fees.

This year we're introducing Pawmanent dog tags, lifetime tags that stay with your dog for good. Registration is still renewed every year, but you won't need to replace the tag itself.

Registration fees fund animal management services, including responding to roaming dogs, education programmes, pound care, and rehoming. It also means that if your dog goes missing, we can reunite you quickly, so check your details are up to date when your renewal letter arrives. You'll be able to register online or at Council offices once registrations open.

horowhenua.govt.nz/PawsOnline

Puanga Matariki

Matariki Programme 2026

JULY

Kapahaka Hapori Kai Night

Join us for a free celebration of kapahaka in Taitoko, featuring performances from local tamariki and rangatahi.



Wednesday 1st July
5pm – 7pm
Waiiopehu College Auditorium

Friday Konohete

Enjoy a special Friday concert from a range of groups coming together to perform kapahaka and waiata.



Friday 3rd July
12pm – 1pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Foxton Matariki Pool Party

Celebrate the season with an afternoon of music, good vibes, and plenty of fun at the pools.



Saturday 4th July
3pm – 5pm
Foxton Pools

Lights over Te Awahou

Come and celebrate the arrival of Puanga with live music, food trucks, and light displays.



Saturday 4th July
5pm – 8pm
Te Awahou Riverside Cultural Park

Puna Kaukau

Join us for a karakia to acknowledge the whetū (star) Waitī, the awa (river) and Matariki before taking a refreshing mid-winter dip in the river.



Sunday 5th July
5.45am – 7.45am
Gladstone Reserve

Matariki for Tamariki

Come in for a morning of stories and waiata led by Punahau Early Childhood Care Centre and celebrate Matariki with your tamariki at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō.



Tuesday 7th July
10am – 11am
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Matariki Kaumātua Day Out

Kaumātua and older adults of the Horowhenua are invited to join us for a day out to learn about and celebrate Matariki. Board a chartered bus from Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō to Foxton Beach Estuary. Registrations required. Limited capacity.



Wednesday 8th July
10am – 2pm
Departing Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō heading to Manawatū Marine Boating Club

Te Putanga mai a Matariki

Join Muaūpoko for our Hautapu Ceremony - a time to honour those who have passed, give thanks for the present, and send our hopes and aspirations to the stars through the rising steam of Hautapu.



Thursday 9th July
5.30am
Kohuturoa Marae
306 Hokio Beach Road, Taitoko

Rā Kiriata Whānau

Bring the whole whanau along for a fun, laid-back afternoon at the movies in Manakau with a special screening of Hunt for the Wilderpeople.



Thursday 9th July
1pm – 4pm
Manakau Hall

Matariki ki Otāuru

Celebrate the Māori New Year in Shannon with Ngāti Whakarete.



Friday 10th July
10am – 2pm
Te Maire Park, Shannon

Levin Matariki Pool Party

Join us for a fun-filled celebration featuring music, inflatables, and plenty of action on the hydroslide.



Saturday 11th July
3pm – 5pm
Levin Aquatic Centre

Taitoko Night Market

A vibrant celebration of culture and community. Enjoy market stalls, food trucks, music, whakairo displays and more.



Saturday 11th July
3pm – 7pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō / Levin Mall Carpark

Explore Matariki at the Planetarium

Spaceward Bound offer an opportunity to celebrate and learn about Matariki and space through their portable planetarium. Registrations required. Limited capacity.



Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th July
10am – 4pm
Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

For a full list of Matariki events in Horowhenua visit horowhenua.govt.nz/Matariki



THE 2026 HOROWHENUA MATARIKI EVENT PROGRAMME PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

