

Community Connection

Issue 241 JULY 2026



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

There's always plenty going on across our district, and the past few weeks have been no exception.

The Head Start | Future Fit Horowhenua engagement is behind us, and now the real work begins. With more than 650 of you having your say, Council is now working through that feedback and moving toward some significant decisions about the future of local government in our district. It's an exciting time, and I look forward to bringing you along on that journey.

At our full Council meeting in June, we also signed off the rates for the 2026/27 financial year, which started on 1 July. We've held to an average increase of 5.8%, significantly down from the proposed 11.6%. Most of this increase is tied to investment in our water services, and I want to thank our community for your patience as we continue to invest in the infrastructure that keeps Horowhenua running.

I also want to shine a light on the Mayor's Task Force for Jobs and what the team has accomplished this past year. Thirty-one rangatahi placed into employment, and over 70 more supported with CVs, job applications, driver licensing, interview prep and work-readiness training. Behind every one of those numbers is a young person who backed themselves, and a community of employers and partners who backed them too.

I'm incredibly proud of what this programme is doing for our rangatahi, and I can't wait to see what next year brings.

Our latest Organisation Performance Report also landed in June, and despite a tough year of weather events and a fuel crisis, our organisation has managed to save over \$1 million in operational spend. That's a great result, and it reflects the hard work going on behind the scenes to make every ratepayer's dollar count.

One thing in that report that did concern me was the level of fly tipping we're seeing across the district. We're currently dealing with around four incidents a week, which costs you, as ratepayers, over \$100,000 a year to clean up. There are proper ways to get rid of rubbish, and I'd really appreciate it if everyone could do their part to look after our district and avoid dumping where it doesn't belong.

On a lighter note, our Cuppa with a Councillor sessions are a great way to chat with your local councillors over a cup of tea and have your say on what matters to you. Keep an eye out for a session near you, details are in this edition.

There's a lot happening, but that's what keeps Horowhenua moving forward. Thank you, as always, for staying engaged and for caring about the place we call home.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings



Horowhenua District Council Meeting
Wednesday 29 July 2026, 10am to 5pm
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

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



FREE ENTRY

TE WHĀNAU CHAMBERS PRESENTS

NGĀ TAONGA TUKU IHO

A celebration of whakapapa, creativity and storytelling across generations, featuring works by adult artists and rangatahi of the Chambers whānau. Discover traditional and contemporary Māori art, alongside workshops and family-friendly activities for all ages.

6 JULY - 11 OCTOBER 2026

TE AWAHOU NIEUWE STROOM,
MĀPUNA KABINET ART GALLERY,
92 MAIN STREET, FOXTON

Puanga Matariki

UPCOMING EVENTS

Matariki ki Otāuru

Celebrate the Māori New Year in Shannon with Ngāti Whakare.



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

Scan the QR Code for a full list of Matariki events in Horowhenua



horowhenua.govt.nz/Matariki



In the Works

Land transport - South Manakau Road Bridge

Work is progressing well to replace the South Manakau Road bridge deck, with completion expected on Tuesday 21 July.

The bridge has been fully closed since Tuesday 23 June to allow the Higgins team to carry out this important work safely and efficiently. This upgrade will ensure the bridge remains safe and fit for purpose for years to come.

What to expect

- Full road closure in place until 21 July
- Work hours are 7am - 6pm, Monday to Friday (with some weekend work)
- Detour in place via Manakau Heights Drive to Honi Taipua Street to Mokena Kohere Street and then back to SH1

The detour adds a few extra minutes to travel time. Please follow signage and take care, especially as the route passes a local school.

We know the closure is inconvenient, and we appreciate your patience. This work is essential to keep our roads safe and reliable for everyone.



Tiro Tiro Road Closure - Wastewater Treatment Plant Inlet Pipe and Bulk Main Upgrades

Work to upgrade Levin's wastewater network and water main is progressing well. Tiro Tiro Road remains closed between Greenville Street and Trafalgar Street, with a signed detour in place.

If you're travelling through the area, please follow traffic management signs, plan ahead, and allow a little extra time for your journey.

We know road closures can be inconvenient and thank everyone for their patience while this work is carried out. These upgrades will strengthen essential infrastructure, help protect our waterways, and support our growing community well into the future.

Find out more:

[Horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinWWTP](https://horowhenua.govt.nz/LevinWWTP)

Update on Ōkārito-Magnolia stormwater connection upgrade

Work to upgrade the Ōkārito-Magnolia stormwater connection is nearing completion and is expected to be finished by the end of July. This upgrade helps stormwater water move through the network faster and more efficiently. This means less surface flooding during heavy rain and a more reliable system when it's needed most. It's part of Council's ongoing work to strengthen stormwater services and support safe, dependable infrastructure for our community - keeping people, homes, and essential services safer during heavy weather. Thank you to the community for your patience while this work was carried out.



Pothole? Graffiti?
Dumped rubbish?
Report it through
Antenno.

Download the free app



Solid Waste Bylaw 2026 now in effect

Horowhenua District Council's Solid Waste Bylaw 2026 came into effect on 1 July 2026, following public consultation and its adoption by Council on 24 June 2026.

The bylaw provides the framework for how waste is collected, transported, disposed of, and managed across the Horowhenua District, supporting safe, efficient waste services and encouraging waste minimisation.

As part of developing the Long Term Plan 2027, Council will undertake a broader review of waste services, which will include opportunities for community feedback.

For more information, visit:

horowhenua.govt.nz/solidwastebylaw2026.



Speak to our friendly customer service team today to enrol!

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