

Community Connection

Issue 243 August 2026



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

A big focus for Council recently has been Head Start | Future Fit, our work to make sure Council is in the best position to serve Horowhenua now and into the future.

One thing that has stood out throughout this process is the thoughtful feedback we've received from our community. We've heard loud and clear that people want to protect Horowhenua's local voice, maintain strong services, and keep any changes affordable for ratepayers. We've also heard that there is value in councils working together and sharing resources where it makes sense, especially with communities that face similar opportunities and challenges.

This is one of the most significant changes to local government many of us will see in our lifetime. While Council has now made a decision on the direction it wishes to take (at yesterday's Council meeting), this marks just the beginning of what will be a long and carefully considered journey. Any changes will take a number of years to plan and implement, with many more decisions, discussions and opportunities for community input along the way.

The decisions made over the coming years will help shape Horowhenua for future generations. It's about holding on to what makes our district special while creating opportunities for our people,

businesses, and communities to thrive. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to have their say along the way. Your feedback has helped shape the conversations we're having and our future direction.

We also have our grants and funding workshops coming up. If you're part of a local group or organisation, these sessions are a great way to learn about the support available and how to access it.

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Civic Awards and Youth Excellence Awards, which recognise the people who give their time, skills, and aroha to make Horowhenua a better place. Whether it's a neighbour, coach, volunteer, young achiever, committee member, or community group, now is the time to shine a light on those making a positive difference in our district.

Nominations are also open for the Horowhenua District Council Tertiary Education Scholarship, which supports our rangatahi to achieve their goals while staying connected to their community.

There's a lot happening across the district, but it all comes back to the same goal: making sure Horowhenua is well placed for the future and that our community has a voice in shaping it..

Ngā mihi,

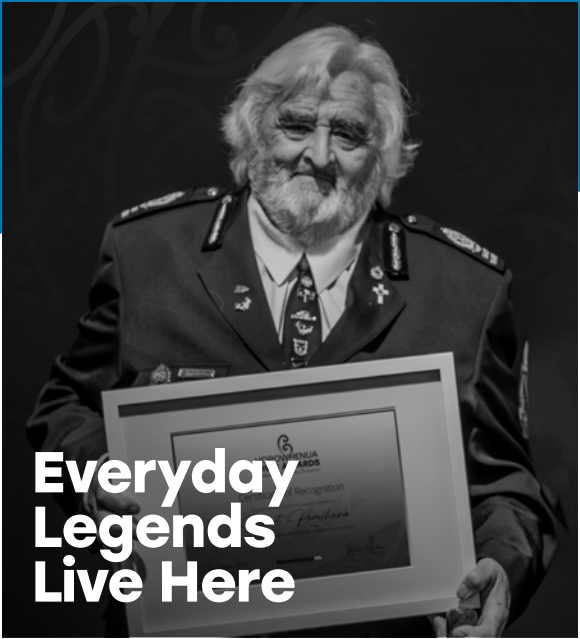
Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings

- 12 Risk and Assurance Committee**
Wednesday 12 August 2026, 10am to 1pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 17 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board**
Monday 17 August 2026, 6pm to 8pm
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton
- 19 Community Funding and Recognition Committee Meeting (Public Excluded)**
Wednesday 19 August 2026, 9am to 11am
Ante Room, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 26 Community Wellbeing Committee**
Wednesday 26 August 2026, 10am to 12pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 2 Council Meeting**
Wednesday 2 September 2026, 10am to 3pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.
horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Council-Meetings

Civic Honours & Youth Excellence Awards



Everyday
Legends
Live Here

Nominations are now open for Horowhenua District Council's 2026 Civic Awards and Youth Excellence Awards, recognising the people who give their time, energy and aroha to help our district thrive.



The Civic Awards honour individuals and volunteer groups who make a significant unpaid contribution to community life, while the Youth Excellence Awards celebrate rangatahi aged 12 to 24 excelling in community service, academia, arts and culture, or sport.

If you know a neighbour, coach, volunteer, young achiever, committee member or community group doing great things, now is the time to put their name forward.

Nomination forms and full criteria are available at

- horowhenua.govt.nz/CivicAwards
- horowhenua.govt.nz/YouthExcellence

Nominations close at 11:59pm on Wednesday 9 September 2026, with recipients announced at a special ceremony on Thursday 19 November 2026.

CUPPA WITH A COUNCILLOR

- Levin - Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō**
Thursday 13 August, 10.30am to 12.30pm
Wednesday 26 August, 6pm to 7.30pm
- Foxton - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom**
Thursday 13 August, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Shannon - Shannon Library**
Thursday 13 August, 1pm to 2.30pm

Dog registrations are now overdue

Dog registrations are now overdue, and a 50% penalty applies to unpaid registrations.

More than 4,800 dogs have already been registered across Horowhenua.

If you've renewed, just pop your teal Pawmanent dog tag on your dog's collar and you're all set.

Registering your dog helps us return lost dogs home quickly and supports local dog safety and education programmes.

If your dog is over three months old, it must be registered for the 2026/27 year.



In the Works



Levin Water Treatment Plant – refurbishment begins

We’re taking the next steps to upgrade the Levin Water Treatment Plant, helping ensure safe, reliable drinking water for our community.

The planned improvements include a new clarifier bypass and standby UV system, coming later in 2026/27, and a refurbishment of the existing pressure filters.

Filter refurbishment work has now begun, with Tarros (Max Tarr Group) on site. This work will help deliver upgrades that strengthen the resilience of our water supply and support Levin as it grows.

We'll share updates as the project progresses.

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

Land transport

Work continues across our land transport programme.

Safety improvements on Seabury Avenue are now complete, and the new Harakeke Track in Foxton is finished, with the new pathway looking fantastic. From safer streets to improved walking and cycling connections, these projects are delivering benefits across Horowhenua.



Seabury Avenue, Foxton Beach



North-South wastewater connection

Stage one of North-South wastewater connection completed

Stage one of the North-South Wastewater Connection is now complete. Installation of the wastewater pipe within the Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL) corridor has finished.

The new wastewater main will serve central Tara-Ika and run alongside the Ō2NL expressway, which is being delivered by NZTA.

This investment strengthens the wastewater network, supports future growth, and helps provide reliable wastewater services for the community for years to come.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMUNITY AT HEART

GRANTS & FUNDING

Workshops

Shannon



Shannon Library, Plimmer Terrace
Wednesday 12 August 1pm to 2pm

Levin



Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
Tuesday 25 August 3pm to 4pm

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Are you eligible for a Rates Rebate?



Rates instalment 1 invoices for the 2026/27 financial year will be arriving in your letterbox or inbox soon. If you're eligible, you could receive a rebate of up to \$830.

Need help with your application? Drop in and see us between 17 August and 4 September at Council's Civic Building in Levin. No appointment is needed, and our team will be available to help you complete your application.

Please bring all the information and documents you need to support your application.

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



Kickstart Your Future

Apply for the **Horowhenua Tertiary Scholarship** and receive:

- \$1000 towards study fees
- Up to 10 weeks paid work experience at Council.

Open to students from Horowhenua beginning or continuing tertiary study in 2027.

Applications close 30 August 2026.

horowhenua.govt.nz/TertiaryScholarship

Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOROWHENUA CHRISTMAS

Parade & Carnival

Saturday 5 December 2026

More info soon

