

Community Connection

Issue 246 September 2026



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 same thing, making sure people here have opportunities, and that the places we share are worth spending time in.

One of the highlights over the past few weeks for me was hearing about the year our Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs has had. It's a nationwide partnership between Local Government New Zealand and the Ministry of Social Development, and it connects young people with training, work and mentoring. Over the past year the programme has placed more than 30 young people into jobs here in Horowhenua.

I've long thought this is some of the most valuable work we do, and it doesn't get the recognition it deserves. Thank you to the employers in Horowhenua who've taken those young people on. Giving someone their first opportunity is a big call, particularly in the current climate, and it takes a willingness to invest time in someone who is still learning. The programme simply wouldn't work without you. If you've got work coming up and would consider taking on someone who is starting out, I'd encourage you to get in touch with us, as there's practical support available to help make it work.

We also adopted the Levin Town Centre Retail Transformation Strategy recently. This work is about creating a town centre that's vibrant, welcoming and uniquely ours, a place that reflects who we are and that people are proud to bring visitors to.

The first changes you notice will be practical rather than dramatic, with a focus on cleaner streets and better signage so it's easier to find your way around

and see what's on offer. These are the everyday details that shape how it feels to walk through town, and they're the ones we know we can do better on.

There's a bigger shift coming behind that work. Oxford Street is still State Highway 1, and it won't become our road until the Ō2NL expressway opens. I've been clear that we can't afford to wait until then to start thinking about what our town centre becomes, because by that point a lot of the decisions will have been made for us. I'd rather we were ready for this change and shaped it ourselves.

Nominations for our Civic Awards and Youth Excellence Awards have now closed, and I want to thank everyone who took the time to put someone forward. We received 15 nominations for our Civic Awards and 27 for our Youth Excellence Awards, which is a great response. These awards are a good way to recognise the people who quietly do a great deal for our community, often without being noticed for it. It's especially encouraging to see so many of our rangatahi recognised for what they're contributing.

Our Community Funding and Recognition Committee will consider these nominations when it meets on 23 September, and I'm looking forward to seeing who our community has put forward this year.

There's plenty happening across Horowhenua at the moment. Stay connected, get involved, and I look forward to seeing you out and about.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings

- 23 Community Funding and Recognition Committee Meeting (Public Excluded)**
Wednesday 23 September 2026, 10am to 12pm, Ante Room, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 30 Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee (Public Excluded)**
Wednesday 30 September 2026, 10am to 1pm, Tararua Room, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 14 Risk and Assurance Committee**
Wednesday 14 October 2026, 10am to 12pm Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
- 19 Te Awahou Foxton Community Board**
Monday 19 October 2026, 6pm to 8pm Ngārongo Iwikātea Room, 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**
Wednesday 23 September, 6pm to 7.30pm
Thursday 8 October, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Foxton - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom**
Thursday 8 October, 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Shannon - Shannon Library**
Thursday 8 October, 1pm to 2.30pm

Permanent Closure of Warehouse Carpark Toilets

The public toilets in the Warehouse carpark in Levin are closing permanently, with removal work starting on Thursday 17 September 2026.

Horowhenua District Council has repaired the block repeatedly, but the same faults keep coming back. The manufacturer has now confirmed it cannot be repaired at all, so it will be removed rather than replaced.

Five other public toilets remain available in and around the Levin town centre. The map shows where they are and when they are open. The toilets at Mako Mako Road, Weraroa Domain are open 24 hours.

Horowhenua District Council apologises for any inconvenience and encourages anyone who regularly uses the Warehouse carpark toilets to check where their nearest alternative is.

LEVIN TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC TOILETS

- 1 Salisbury Street, Levin**
Open: 7.00am
Close: 5.30pm
Daylight saving: 8.30pm
- 2 Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō 10 Bath Street**
Available during facility hours
Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri: 9.00am–5.30pm
Wed: 10.00am–9.00pm
Sat: 10.00am–3.00pm
Sun: Closed (Youth Space open 1.00pm–4.00pm)
Public holidays: Closed
- 3 Warehouse Toilet — CLOSING**
- 4 Bath Street**
Open: 7.00am
Close: 5.30pm
Daylight saving: 8.30pm
- 5 Levin Adventure Park**
Open: 7.00am
Close: 5.30pm
Daylight saving: 8.30pm
- 6 Mako Mako Road**
Open 24 hours

Horowhenua DISTRICT COUNCIL

Strong Communities

Got an idea for Foxton Beach?

Foxton Beach Endowment Fund

Applications open 1-30 September

horowhenua.govt.nz/FoxtonBeachEndowmentFund

Over the past month, we've shared some highlights from the last financial year, including:

213
POTHOLE REPAIRS

22.8
LANE KILOMETRES OF ROAD RESURFACING

6.8
LANE KILOMETRES OF ROAD REHABILITATION

What's the difference?

Road resurfacing involves replacing the top layer of the road. This improves safety, creates a smoother ride, and helps protect the road underneath from wear and weather.

Road rehabilitation is a bigger job. It involves repairing or rebuilding the layers beneath the surface to strengthen the road and extend its life.

By investing in both resurfacing and rehabilitation, we're helping create safer, smoother and more resilient roads across Horowhenua.

Seen a pothole or road issue that needs attention? Report it through the Antenno app by selecting **Your Reports** and submitting the details. Your report goes directly to our customer service team and is passed on to the right team for action.

MYTH BUSTER

Does Heavy Rain Mean More Drinking Water for Horowhenua?

Not quite.

When it rains heavily, it might seem like our water supply should get an instant boost. Heavy rain can make treating drinking water more challenging.

Meet turbidity

Turbidity is a measure of how cloudy or murky water is.

During heavy rain, soil, silt, leaves and other debris wash into rivers and streams. This increases turbidity and makes the water harder to treat.

Simply put:

More rain = higher turbidity = murkier water entering our treatment plants.

What happens at our treatment plants?

When turbidity levels are high, we may temporarily pause treatment at the **Shannon** and **Tokomaru** plants. This helps reduce how often filters need to be cleaned through a process called backwashing, which uses treated water.

Both plants have up to three days of stored water available, so a short pause does not affect supply.

The **Levin Water Treatment Plant** operates differently. It includes an **Actiflo clarifier**, which is designed to handle highly turbid water from the Ōhau River during storm events. This allows the plant to continue operating when conditions are more challenging.

FUN FACT

Levin's Actiflo clarifier is the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

The key takeaways

- Heavy rain does not automatically increase our drinking water supply.
- Some treatment plants may pause briefly to protect their filters and make use of stored water.
- Others, like Levin, are designed to keep operating during high-turbidity events.

Why this matters

When heavy rain hits, our teams work behind the scenes to keep your drinking water safe and reliable. Whether that's temporarily pausing a treatment plant or using specialised technology to treat murkier water, every decision is made with the community's water supply in mind.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

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

horowhenua.govt.nz/Antenno



Age on the GO
FREE EXPO



Join us for Horowhenua's annual Positive Ageing Expo.

Explore local services, support organisations, community groups and activities all under one roof, with something for everyone from health and wellbeing to recreation, independence and community connection.

Come along, discover what's on offer and enjoy a great day out.

horowhenua.govt.nz/AgeontheGo



Friday 16 October 2026,
10am to 2pm
Horowhenua Events Centre,
Victoria Street, Levin

TE WIKI
O TE REO
MĀORI
Māori Language Week

TE REO
TOWNS

14—20
HEPETEMA
2026
14–20 September 2026

