

Community Connection

Issue 248 October 2026



Bernie Wanden

Message from the Mayor

Kia ora Horowhenua,

There's a lot of work happening behind the scenes at the moment, all focused on one thing: the future of Horowhenua.

We've begun work on the next Long Term Plan, which will help guide Council's priorities, services and investment from 2027 to 2037. While it looks ahead over the next 10 years, it's really about making sure Horowhenua continues to be a great place to live, work and raise a family for generations to come.

Our district is growing and changing. We're seeing new opportunities, but also new challenges. The decisions we make now will help shape how we respond to things like population growth, climate change, new technology and changes in local government. Over recent weeks, we've been laying the groundwork through financial forecasting, strategic planning, preparing for community consultation and building on what you told us in the Head Start | Future Fit survey.

That groundwork started with you. Back in May and June, many of you answered our Head Start | Future Fit survey, which was part of our work on the proposed local government reforms. It was our first chance to ask what matters most about living in Horowhenua, what you think should be non-negotiable, and how important it is that decisions stay local. Your answers have become the community outcomes that underpin the plan and guide what we prioritise. Thank you to everyone who took the time.

When we talk about the future of Horowhenua, we are also talking about the lives of people growing up here now. Our tamariki will live with the effects of

the decisions we make today. We're also planning for a future where services may be delivered differently, including through organisations such as Central Districts Water, while ensuring local voice continues to shape the outcomes that matter most to our communities.

Formal consultation on the Long Term Plan opens in March next year, and I encourage everyone to get involved. It's your chance to have a say on the services we provide, the projects we invest in, and the priorities we focus on over the coming decade.

The future of Horowhenua belongs to all of us. By working together and listening to each other, we can make thoughtful decisions that leave our district strong, connected and full of opportunity.

It's also been a month of meaningful community events. On 7 October, I joined the Levin Memory Walk organised by Alzheimers Manawatū. It was heartening to see so many people come together in support of those living with dementia and the whānau who walk alongside them. Thank you to the organisers, and everyone who took part.

Next week, we'll welcome 35 new New Zealand citizens at our citizenship ceremony. It's always a special occasion and a wonderful reminder of the diverse and vibrant community we're proud to call home.

Looking ahead, mark your calendar, Diwali Festival 2026 will be held 5-9pm at Gladys Taylor Park, Levin. It's a fantastic opportunity to come together and celebrate the culture, traditions and contributions of our Indian community. I hope to see many of you there.

There's plenty happening across Horowhenua, and plenty still to come. Thank you for being part of it.

Ngā mihi,

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Council Meetings

Horowhenua District Council Meeting
Wednesday 28 October 2026, 10am to 5pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Risk and Assurance Committee Meeting
Wednesday 11 November 2026, 10am to 12pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Community Wellbeing Committee Meeting
Wednesday 18 November 2026, 10am to 12pm
Council Chambers, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.

horowhenua.govt.nz/CouncilMeetings

CUPPA WITH A COUNCILLOR

Levin - Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō

Thursday 28 October, 6pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 12 November, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Foxton - Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Thursday 19 November, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Shannon - Shannon Library

Thursday 12 November, 1pm to 2.30pm



Growing Good Habits Beyond the School Holidays

Some of the best holiday programmes are the ones that leave a lasting impact long after the activities have finished, and that's exactly what happened with Horowhenua Home Grown Readers.

Over the school holidays, we partnered with the Tararua Growers Association to bring together stories, gardening, kai and hands-on learning for tamariki and whānau. The programme was built around something that's deeply connected to Horowhenua: our proud food-growing heritage.

Rather than simply talking about sustainability, tamariki got to experience it for themselves. Through reading, growing, making and exploring, they learned where their food comes from, how to grow it, and simple ways to make the most of what we have. Along the way, there were plenty of conversations about reducing food waste, composting, and caring for our environment.

What made the programme special was the way it connected learning with everyday life.

The activities showed that sustainability doesn't have to be complicated. Often, it starts with small habits close to home.

Now that the holidays are over, there are still plenty of ways to keep those lessons growing. Plant a few herbs in a pot, compost your food scraps, borrow a gardening book from the library, or get the whole whānau involved in planning meals and using leftovers.

The programme may have finished, but the ideas behind it are just getting started. By making small choices each day to grow, share and waste less, we can all help build a more sustainable, healthy and thriving Horowhenua, one simple step at a time.

Come along to our BIG FINALE on Saturday 17 October 2026 at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. For more information visit:

www.tetakeretangaokura-hau-po.org.nz/Events-Activities/Homegrown-Readers-Finale

HOROWHENUA CHRISTMAS

Parade & Carnival

Saturday 5 December 2026

Christmas Parade from 2pm followed by the Carnival at Levin Domain

The countdown is on for the biggest Christmas event in Horowhenua. Watch the streets come alive with colourful floats, live music and Santa, then enjoy food, games and festive fun for everyone!

horowhenua.govt.nz/Christmas



In the Works



There's plenty happening across the district, from renewing essential water infrastructure to helping our community get ready for summer.

Update on watermain renewal planned for Cambridge Street, Levin

Investigation work is continuing for the proposed watermain renewal along Cambridge Street in Levin, between Bath Street and Kent Street, and extending slightly beyond Kent Street towards Queen Street.

As this work continues, there will be various road closures, lane restrictions and traffic management changes in place at different stages of the works. Road users, residents and businesses are encouraged to allow extra travel time and follow all onsite signage and detours.

The project will replace an ageing watermain that is reaching the end of its life. Renewing it now will help reduce the risk of leaks and unexpected outages, while supporting a more reliable water supply for our community.

We know roadworks can be inconvenient, and we appreciate your patience while this important work is completed. We'll continue working closely with nearby residents, businesses and road users to minimise disruption and keep the community informed.

For the latest information on road closures, traffic impacts and project updates, please check our social media channels.

Muhunoa East Road footpath complete

Walking to and from school is now a little safer for students and whānau in Ōhau, with the new Muhunoa East Road footpath now complete.

This work was an important part of a wider project to improve safety for students travelling to and from Ōhau School. To help minimise disruption, construction was carried out during the school holidays when fewer people were using the area.

Thank you to the community for your patience while this work was completed. We're pleased to see this improvement in place and supporting safer connections for local students and families.



Muhunoa East Road

Getting ready for summer: Water saving tips

As temperatures rise, so does water use across the district. That's why, from October through to March, we'll be sharing information about where our water comes from, practical ways to save it, and what water restrictions mean if they are needed.

Levin's drinking water comes from the Ōhau River. On an average day, our community uses around 10 million litres of water. On hot summer days, that can increase to 13 million litres. When river flows are low, water restrictions may be introduced to help protect our supply.

The good news is that small actions can make a big difference. Fix leaking taps, take shorter showers, and water gardens in the early morning or evening when less water is lost to evaporation.

Thanks for doing your bit. Every drop counts, when we all use water wisely, we help reduce pressure on our supply and lower the likelihood of stricter restrictions over summer.

View our water saving tips:

horowhenua.govt.nz/WaterSavingTips

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Splash into summer at Jubilee Park

The Jubilee Park Splash Pad in Levin is back for summer!

Grab the togs, the sunscreen and the whole whānau and come cool off from Labour Weekend, Saturday 24 October 2026, right through to Easter Monday, 29 March 2027. It's open every day from 9am to 7pm.

Any changes to hours or closures will be shared on the Aquatics Horowhenua Facebook page and on Antenno.



Plan Change 6A Hearing

Horowhenua District Council wishes to advise that the public hearing for Proposed Plan Change 6A (PPC6A) has now been scheduled.

The hearing will be held on Monday 23 November and Tuesday 24 November 2026, commencing at 9am each day in Council Chambers, Horowhenua District Council Civic Building, 126 Oxford Street, Levin.

Submitters who indicated they wish to be heard will be contacted directly with information about the hearing process and speaking arrangements. While the hearing is open to the general public, only those who made a submission and indicated they wished to be heard are able to speak.

All hearing information, supporting documents and updates relating to Proposed Plan Change 6A are available on:

letskorero.horowhenua.govt.nz/PPC6A

enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

06 366 0999

Shannon Community Development Trust AGM

The Shannon Community Development Trust is holding its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 12 November 2026 at 6pm in the Shannon Library, Plimmer Terrace.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Come along to hear about the Trust's activities, learn more about its work in the community, and find out how you can get involved.

For more information, visit:

horowhenua.govt.nz/ShannonCommunityDevelopmentTrust

Age on the GO

ON TOMORROW

Join us for Horowhenua's annual Positive Ageing Expo.

Explore local services, activities, and support available to help older people in Horowhenua stay healthy, active, connected.

horowhenua.govt.nz/AgeontheGo

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



FREE EXPO



Horowhenua
DISTRICT COUNCIL

[@enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz) www.horowhenua.govt.nz [HorowhenuaDC](https://www.facebook.com/HorowhenuaDC) 06 366 0999 Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540

126 Oxford St, Levin 5510 **Customer service hours:** Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm and Wednesdays 9.30am to 5pm.