

Bernie does it again

By Paul Williams

Horowhenua has given Bernie Wanden a massive vote of confidence to continue his leadership of the district with his election as mayor for a third successive term.

Familiarity can often lead to a vote for the sake of change and although the vote count is still preliminary, as of press time his 8773 votes is a 75.9% majority.

"It's wonderful to receive an endorsement like that and I'm humbled and grateful to receive a mandate by the community to continue," he says.

"It is a privilege to serve your community. You never anything for granted in this role and do your best to satisfy the faith and trust of the community."

He says a key reason for standing again was to offer continuity and stability.

"There are many challenges ahead of us and this a vote of confidence, not in me as much as it is a signal that the district is heading in the right direction," he says. "Almost every councillor that sought re-election was re-elected, which means we can approach with the confidence we have the backing of the community to continue. And we need that continuity. To change now would have been a retrograde step."

Mayor Bernie, 70, served a term as councillor before ousting Michael Feyen in 2019, and he's worn the chains ever since.

Before Horowhenua District Council was formed in 1989, just three mayors had held office for three terms: Phillip Goldsmith (1932-1941), Ernie Wise (1956-1965) and Laurie Roberts (1971-1980). Since the 1989 reforms two mayors have served at least three terms: Tom Robinson (1995-2004), and Brendan Duffy, who has the distinction of being the longest-serving mayor (2004-2016).

Mayor Bernie thanked his wife Sharon and his family for what he says is a shared sacrifice. Without their support he wouldn't be able to commit to the job and do it justice.

"It was lovely to share with them the result and to reflect, for me personally, what that support means," he says.



Three-time Mayor Bernie Wanden and wife Sharon relax at home after the election.

Photo Paul Williams

He also thanked the staff at his business, Paper Plus, for holding the fort, as being mayor was a fulltime role.

"I can't speak highly enough of them," he says.

Bernie has rung and congratulated those elected, although will pause on naming a deputy and the various committee roles until he has spoken to each of them at length about their strengths and aspirations.

Meanwhile, his only opponent, Justin Tamihana, says he is philosophical about the preliminary results given he purposely chose

not to stand in the Māori electorate this time, but instead stand for both the mayoralty and for Kere Kere Ward in Foxton. By not being elected in the hotly contested ward means he could be gone altogether once results are made official.

"I've got no regrets. I'm more than happy with the decision I made to try and bring more Māori to the table. I'm proud of what I was able to achieve and bring more Māori awareness. It's so important and benefits us all."

"It is a privilege to serve your community. You never anything for granted in this role and do your best to satisfy the faith and trust of the community."

**– Mayor-elect
Bernie Wanden**

Justin says he has more to offer the district and will consider standing again at the next election.

There was always going to be new blood at the table as Ross Brannigan, Jonathan Procter and Rogan Boyle had not sought re-election.

There was to be a pōwhiri today (Friday) to welcome the new council, with an official swearing of an oath to serve on October 29. Overall, the preliminary result could be viewed as a vote of confidence in the direction of council as every sitting councillor seeking re-election, with the exception of Justin, is holding their seat.

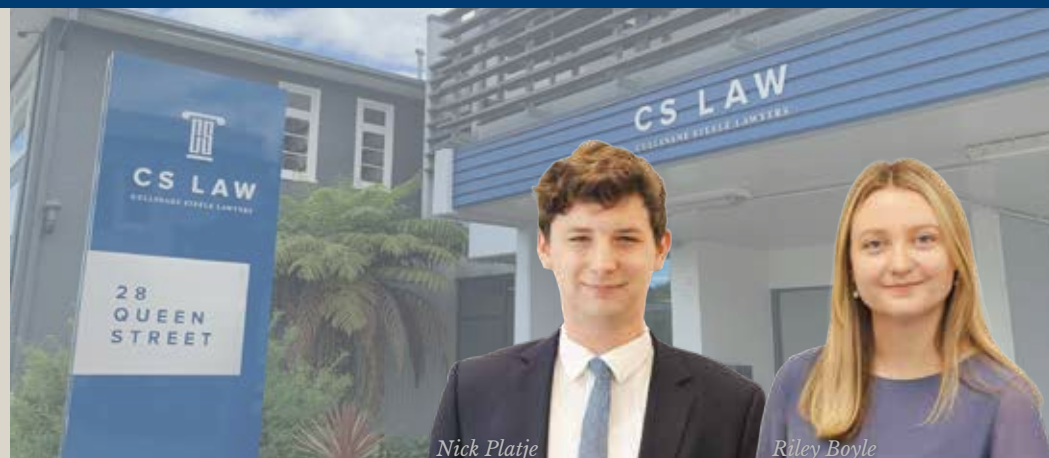
The preliminary results are showing Foxton Community Board has new blood in the form of Judy Sanson, Irene Wakefield, Ross Brannigan and Jason Davy, who will join long-serving member David Roache.

■ **Record number of women on council**
see page 3

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THE WOMEN JOINING HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL (Preliminary results)



Jo Mason



Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab



Lani Ketu



Nola Fox



Nina Hori-Te Pa



Judy Webby

A record number of women

By Paul Williams

Preliminary voting results suggest more women than ever could be at the Horowhenua District Council table this term.

Although not officially confirmed as *Horowhenua Star* went to print, preliminary results show Jo Mason, Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab, Lani Ketu, Nola Fox, Nina Hori-Te Pa and Judy Webby all holding seats.

There has never been six women on council. There were four when Christine Mitchell, Victoria Kaye-Simmons, Jo Mason and Piri-Hira Tukapua served together for three consecutive terms last decade, and in the late 1990s Olga Scott, Leigh McMeekan, Lynn Pearce and Marlene Macartney served at the same time.

Jo Mason is emphatically returned with a strong majority to be the top-polling candidate in the Levin Ward, returning to council after a term away but having served the previous three terms, including the last as deputy mayor. She

says it's an honour to be back after a decision not to stand last election for personal reasons.

The drive to return was to serve a district she is proud to call home, aware of some challenges facing the region, and she says it was heartening to see so many women also putting themselves forward.

In 2010, women accounted for just 28% of elected members to district councils, while at the 2022 election that representation figure was 38%. Just 18% of New Zealand's mayors were women in 2010, compared to 32% in 2022.

Jo says it's important to have a wide range of representation at council, of not only gender but of ages and ethnicities, too.

"It is important. Aotearoa New Zealand fought for women to have the right to vote

and as wāhine we stand true to that," she says.

"We're better together."

Mayor Bernie agreed.

"Council should represent the diversity of the community," he says. "It provides a good base from which to make decisions. It's important to have different views. We need that diversity."

"We are getting closer to that balance so this is a step forward in the right direction."

Horowhenua has never had a woman mayor. Meanwhile, Luka Jansen has been elected to represent the region at Horizons Regional Council, along with Hamish Easton.

Women accounted for just 26% representation at regional council level in New Zealand last term, and made up 27% of candidates.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS:

Horowhenua District Council
Mayor: Bernie Wanden. *Levin General Ward:* Jo Mason, Clint Grimstone, Alan Young, Mike Barker, Katrina Mitchell-Kouttab. *Kere Kere Ward:* David Allan, Nola Fox. *Miranui Ward:* Paul Olsen, *Waiopahu Ward:* Sam Jennings, Judy Webby. *Horowhenua (Māori) Ward:* Lani Ketu, Nina Hori Te Pa.

Foxton Community Board: Jason Davy, Judy Sanson, Ross Brannigan, David Roache, Irene Wakefield.

Horizons Regional Council (representing Horowhenua): Hamish Easton, Luka Jansen.

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Inspiration starts here.

'Doodler' Tracey on art trail

By Janine Baalbergen

Shannon based artist Tracey Lidene says she loves watercolouring, but often uses other media to express herself.

"I have always doodled but when my mum died in 2019, painting helped me deal with the grief."

Tracey is part of Art Trail Manawatū, running this weekend from 10am-2pm both days. She paints flowers, birds and people, and sometimes on greeting cards.

She has numerous small paintings on the walls of her studio depicting women, stressing they don't depict existing people.

"Every woman is unique, no-one is perfect."

Her painting *The Spiral*, a symbolisation of her journey through art and through life, show deep connections with nature, is featured in Horizons Regional Council's environment report.

A visit to Bali, where she learned traditional Balinese painting from a local, has inspired her to a different way of painting.

Tracey moved to Shannon more than four years ago from Levin after a developer expressed interest in her land.

"We kept the house and moved it to Shannon, where we had bought a section 17 years ago."

Once they moved in they planted 240 olive trees, which brought bird and insect life to the land. The new property needed sewerage, water pipes, electricity and other services, so they lived in a caravan on site for a while.

In the peace and quiet of her gazebo she paints and exhibits her work. She often holds workshops and has people staying on her land.

"People love getting away from the hustle and bustle," she says.

This is the first time she is part of Art Trail Manawatū, and she says visitors on the



Shannon artist Tracey Lidene with a selection of her paintings of women.

Photo Janine Baalbergen

weekend can have a go at painting, provided the weather is good.

"There's not too much space inside. In good weather I will have tables and chairs outside for them to work on. They can bring their own lunch and enjoy the olive orchard."

She has already had an olive harvest, although most olives take eight to nine years to mature.

"It's hard work as you have three days to do it all. You can't pick olives and leave them to a later date, they must be pressed as soon as possible after picking."

Tracey is a member of the Horowhenua Art

Society and has regular contact with other artists, such as Mandy Brown from Palmerston North, who inspires her.

The biggest problem for an artist she says is coping with high expectations. – from myself and other people".

"It's part of the process, but can be hard to deal with. You can be your own harshest critic."

■ Art Trail Manawatū is on 18 and 19 October, 10am-4pm. A guide can be found at communityarts.org.nz – search "Art Trail Guide 2025. Tracey is online at charlierae.co.nz and on Facebook – [traceylideneart](https://www.facebook.com/traceylideneart).

A welcome with Operation Halloween

By Janine Baalbergen

The last day of October is Halloween, the day when kids dress up as ghouls and witches, and go door-to-door to gather sweets.

Some residents get annoyed, and others are concerned about the safety of children on streets after dark.



An alternative is Operation Halloween. Homeowners happy to join in can dress up, decorate their gardens and homes, and indicate with an orange balloon on the letterbox or gate whether kids and others are welcome to knock.

Gay Leahy of One Realty has been supplying orange balloons to willing homeowners and has compiled a list of houses where halloweeners are welcome. It all started with an idea by Gemma Petit in 2016, with Gay and Kirsten Manclark taking over the programme.

Halloween is a commercialisation of All Hallow's Eve, the night before All Saints, when those who have died are remembered. The tradition originated with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, when people would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off ghosts.

Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31 they celebrated Samhain, when it was believed the ghosts of the dead returned to earth.

■ If you're happy to join Operation Halloween and allow youngsters to knock on your door on Halloween, get an orange balloon and go on the list by visiting [operationhalloweenhorowhenua](https://www.facebook.com/operationhalloweenhorowhenua) on Facebook.

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'Ease off', councils told

By Janine Baalbergen

Horizons Regional Council has been told in a letter from ministers Chris Bishop and Todd McClay to ease off on regulations, especially when dealing with resource consents, and urging it "to be sensible and not see farmers as the enemy."

RMA legislation has been removed and a replacement is not yet in the starting blocks, leaving many councils guessing. Horizons says until the new legislation is in place it will have to apply the old one.

Chief executive Michael McCartney acknowledged receipt of this letter and told the *Star*: "Horizons already exercises discretion under the Resource Management Act during the consenting process, including extending timeframes and working with individual applicants to achieve pragmatic solutions."

"While a new consenting system is on the way, regional councils are legally required to operate in line with existing legislation."

Doing otherwise, he says, even with best intentions, could create unintended legal consequences for Horizons and consent applicants.

"A solution central government could consider to provide legal security would be to provide a transitional provision between the current and future resource management systems, especially for applications to extend resource consents which are about to expire."

"Horizons supports the intent behind central government's resource management reforms, and the aim of creating a simplified and improved planning system which also enables improved economic and environmental outcomes."

"There is no argument from regional councils, including Horizons, that change to the resource management system is required," he says. "We want this change to result in benefits for the economy, the environment and the people who



Minister Todd McClay, left, and Chris Bishop, who have told councils to 'be sensible and not see farmers as the enemy'.

work, live and play in our region."

Horowhenua District Council chief executive Monique Davidson says she's aware of the letter, which has gone to regional rather than district councils.

"We are working with the information currently available," she says. "We understand that the timeline for replacing the RMA aims for the new legislation to be passed by mid-2026, with bills to be introduced to Parliament by the end of this year. We anticipate being updated by the Ministry for the Environment as part of their progress updates to other councils."

"Any District Plan or RMA related work that we are continuing with is done on the basis that it has an alignment with the government's direction of travel and signals that the government has provided. As more detail about the legislation comes out, officers will review the work to check for alignment."

"These reviews and assessments will be undertaken before progressing with key parts

of the process such as hearings. We currently believe that there is sufficient alignment with the government's direction to seek an exemption for Plan Change 6A to continue to hearings and a decision."

"The decision by the minister will dictate whether this work proceeds."

RMA Reform Minister Bishop and Agriculture Minister McClay wrote that they continued to hear reports that many resource consent processes were unduly complex, characterised by excessive information requests and conditions that imposed unnecessary cost and administrative burden on applicants.

"These reports are concerning to us," they said. "We are writing to set clear expectations of you as the local authorities who oversee the use of land, water, and discharges. We expect you to be seeking opportunities to streamline consenting processes, reduce onerous requirements wherever possible, and ease the consenting burden while we get the system changes in place."

"Where appropriate, this will mean exercising discretion available to you under the RMA, which can include extending consenting timeframes and working with individual applicants to reach pragmatic solutions."

"We are developing a detailed transition plan for the new planning system, and this will be provided to you shortly after the introduction of the legislation later this year. This will provide you with more certainty on how to manage consenting processes during the transition period to the new system. Until then, we expect you to exercise sensible judgement."

BRIEFS

Murder charge

Police on Wednesday arrested a 25-year-old man in Tauranga and charged him with murder after the death of a 6-month-old Foxton Beach baby earlier this year. The man was due to appear Tauranga District Court yesterday (Thursday).

Meagre turnout

A meagre 45.8% of eligible votes were cast in Horowhenua's local body election, up slightly from 45.07% in 2022, but well down on 54.5% in 2019. A flood of late voting on the final day helped – 2374 or almost 10% of the total, double the late votes in 2022.

Night works on Manakau bridge

Manakau residents can expect to see more improvements on the Manakau Rail Overbridge with resurfacing work planned for Sunday and Monday (October 19 and 20). Road crews will be working 9pm-4.30am under stop/stop traffic management. Drivers can expect delays of up to 20 minutes.

Annual Report signed off

Horowhenua District Council signed off its Annual Report at its final meeting last week. Chief executive Monique Davidson said the report represented a year of disciplined financial management. Key achievements include trimming \$800,000 from the annual budget, delivering \$32 million in key projects, keeping net debt-to-operating revenue below 200%, installing 9900 water meters, saving \$1.6m by moving Local Waters inhouse, and adopting community plans for Foxton and Shannon.

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Volunteers turn out to restore walkway

Students, farmers, and community members came together on the banks of the Foxton River Loop last week to restore the Piriharakeke Walkway, planting 425 native trees.

The Junior Landcare event was coordinated by NZ Landcare Trust (NZLT) in partnership with the Save Our River Trust (Sort) and the Foxton Community Board, one of 10 legacy projects throughout New Zealand designed to connect people of all ages with nature, promote mental and physical wellbeing, and strengthen intergenerational community connections.

Students from Manawātū College, Poroutawhao Kura, and Coley Street School worked alongside community volunteers and local organisations, including Horizons EnviroSchools, MPI On Farm Support, and the Manawātū River Catchments Collective (MRCC).

The planting followed a community weeding bee two weeks earlier to prepare the site for restoration, with attendees learning about the importance of riparian planting, water quality, and local ecology.

“It’s incredible to see our young people, farmers, and community groups working side by side to restore the health of our river,” said NZLT coordinator Tania Bramley. “These moments build lasting connections, between people, land, and water, and demonstrate what’s possible when we come together with a shared purpose.”

Save Our River Trust has been dedicated to restoring and conserving Piriharakeke, the



Milla, Maddy, Gytha and Karina at the planting. *Photo supplied*

Manawātū River Loop at Foxton, for more than 20 years.

Sort, a community-led initiative grounded in collective action and mātauranga Māori, was formed in response to the environmental degradation caused by earthworks in 1943 that altered the natural course of the Manawātū River.

It is committed to reviving the mauri of the awa and nurture the connection between the Te Awahou community and its waterways.

Long-standing company starts new chapter

A new chapter has begun for one of Horowhenua’s long-standing family businesses, HMC Levin.

The company, which has been operating for more than 35 years, has just added a new vehicle franchise to its stable, JAC Motors.

JAC is a 60-year-old international brand known globally for its trucks and utes. The new Levin dealership is one of 11 that’s recently opened nationwide.

HMC Levin operations manager Todd Isaacs says locals might already recognise JAC trucks as part of the Mainfreight fleets, with the same engineering in the T9 ute range.

He says the team is proud to represent the greater Wellington region for JAC.

“The T9 2L turbo-charged 4WD diesel ute has just landed, and it’s already creating a stir,” he says.

The price at \$49,999 is aimed at offering locals value for money, with a 200,000km, five-year warranty, tow bar, and 5000km of road user charges thrown in.

“You won’t find another ute offering this many extras straight out of the box,” Todd says.

A Kiwi touch means there’s a drink cooler and pie warmer, along with heated seats, 18-inch alloys, and side steps.

The arrival of JAC marks another milestone in HMC’s long local history. Founded by the late Gary McKelvie in 1989, HMC began as a Holden dealership on Oxford Street before moving to Bristol Street in 2004. Today Gary’s son, Troy, continues in the business with Todd and a team that also sells Suzuki, rents vans and moving vehicles, as well as operating a large parts and servicing department for all makes and models.



Todd Isaacs with one of the new JAC vehicles. *Photo Vicki Timpson*

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HEADS UP: WAIOPEHU COLLEGE

Bucking the trend on the stage and sports grounds

Kia ora koutou, Talofa lava, greetings to everyone.

This week saw the school celebrate sporting and performing arts success for 2025.

Congratulations to all winners, it was humbling to see how many of the students are involved in sport or performing arts.

In a time where less students are getting involved in extra curricular activities we are bucking this trend by having increasing numbers either taking to the stage or the sports grounds. A special congratulations to our major prize winners – many of these awards were hard to decide as the calibre of the candidates was so high.

I would like to thank the many members of the staff and the community who volunteer their time and skill to ensure that students are supported to participate in extra curricular activities. We’ve also just had news that Manase Nelson-Latu has been selected for the national Under 15 Baseball team. Congratulations on your achievement, Manase.

Our next major event will be our senior prizegiving where we will pay tribute to academic success in the school. This night also sees our year 13 students graduate, and the announcement of our student executive team for 2026. At Waiopēhu the students are nominated for the roles in student executive by their peers, and then they campaign to win students’ votes to make the final team.

The candidates who have been voted in will now be interviewed to ascertain which role in the executive team they will be given. There is a nervous wait for those selected between now and the 30th when roles will be announced.

The prize-giving will culminate in the

announcement of our academic Dux at the end of the evening.

In other news, Ihakara Wirimu-Matakatea returned last week from a course at Outward Bound, where he had an amazing experience (see photos at right). He was able to attend thanks to a scholarship and some additional funding from the college. The course helped him realise that his horizons are much broader than he had imagined.

He shared three key lessons he learned:

1. I should challenge myself more.
2. I can accomplish hard things.
3. The value of meeting new people.

During his time there, Ihakara spent two days sailing – the first learning how to handle the boat, and the second when his watch sailed back on their own from Torres Bay, putting their new skills into practice. He also completed a two-day tramp in the surrounding area and took on the high ropes course for a day. Overall, he had an incredible time and came away with a real sense of achievement and confidence in himself.

Labour Weekend will see our chess team travel to Auckland to compete in the national chess competition. The team has been practising hard in the library at break times, and I wish them well in the tournament.

The library has also been a hub of activity as students prepare for their NCEA exams, which begin on November 4 for years 11 and 12, and November 10 for year 11. I wish all the students the best for these upcoming exams.

– Guy Reichenbach, Principal



1/2 + 8/9 Nov '25

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PEOPLE'S POLITICS: PHIL MALPAS

Not a social media problem – it's a multi-literacy problem

Recent debates about the effects of social media reveal a troubling confusion – and a deep misunderstanding – about what's really going on.

Whenever anxiety builds about young people online, someone calls for a ban. But if bans worked, wouldn't we have solved our social ills long ago?

Think about it: We have strict laws against drink-driving, yet it still happens. We warn people not to drink to excess, even while alcohol is heavily promoted and advertised. Gambling can be ruinous, but it's still marketed as entertainment. Movies and TV glamorise wild partying,



violence, and reckless behaviour – and we act surprised when people imitate it.

"Don't do crime." "Don't speed." "Follow the rules." Yet these things continue every day.

And perhaps the greatest hypocrisy of all: "Don't do as I do – do as I say."

Our young people see all of this. They see the same media flood we do – the information, disinformation,

and propaganda that fills every screen. They also see us scrolling through the same social platforms we tell them to avoid. And then we expect a ban to fix it?

The truth is that we're not dealing with a social media problem, we're dealing with a multi-literacy problem.

Our children (and many adults) are immersed in a world where media is constant, persuasive, and often manipulative. Yet most of us have never been taught how to navigate it critically. We're functionally "illiterate" in a medium that now defines reality.

Banning platforms won't help. What's needed is the ability to obtain, process, and verify information – to

pause, to question, to think. That's multiliteracy.

Finland recognised this over a decade ago. In 2014, it introduced a national core curriculum that made multiliteracy one of the key "transversal education areas". This means every teacher, whether in maths, physical education, or English, is responsible for developing media literacy among students of all ages.

The approach starts early. Even preschoolers, who are already exposed to films, games, advertising, and social media, are shown how to engage with digital media in a balanced, civilised way. They're encouraged to think about what they see and hear, to ask questions before

forming opinions, and to understand how media shapes emotion and belief. In other words, Finland doesn't treat media literacy as an optional skill, it treats it as a foundation of democracy itself.

If we truly want our young people to make sense of the world, we must go beyond fear and control. We need to equip them, and ourselves, with the critical tools to recognise bias, question authority, and evaluate information independently. That's how you build resilient citizens, not compliant followers.

■ Phil has worked in IT consulting and lectured in management accounting and computer studies.

CITIZENS ADVICE: GINNY WILLIAMS

Navigation for KiwiSaver funds

My KiwiSaver seems to be losing money, what should I do?

The number one thing about KiwiSaver is that it's a long-term strategy to save for your retirement. Short-term activity (up or down) is generally just that, short term. The gradual application of funds building toward future need is the whole principle behind the system. Keep in mind trends over years are more meaningful than trends over months.

Most KiwiSaver schemes invest in the sharemarket, and the sharemarket reacts to global events, such as wars or pandemics. When your KiwiSaver fund loses money, you're likely to find that over the long term your funds will recover and grow. If you change funds or providers, or withdraw your funds when your KiwiSaver scheme loses money, you won't benefit from the recovery or growth that comes over time. You can try increasing your contributions because a depressed market is when shares are worth less. If you can, it might be worthwhile increasing your contributions (even if only temporarily) or make a lump sum payment when the market is depressed.

Check you are in the right fund. Talk to your KiwiSaver provider if you're unsure. Their advice is covered by the fees you pay so it's free. The best fund for you will depend on your risk profile (how much risk you are comfortable with), what you want to use your KiwiSaver for and when.

Growth funds can be good over the long term as they will grow despite market fluctuations. However, a conservative fund might be better for you if you're planning to use your KiwiSaver money in the next couple of years, to retire or buy a house.

How do I decide between a higher or lower risk fund? Providers usually have more than one fund type to select from. Ideally, the KiwiSaver fund you join should be appropriate for your risk profile. Generally, the closer you get to retirement age, or to using your KiwiSaver to buy your first home, the more you might want to be thinking about moving to a lower-risk fund.

The difference between higher risk and lower risk funds is reasonable straight-forward:

- over the longer term, funds with a higher risk can fluctuate more but will earn you more money
- funds with lower risk tend to earn less but have less fluctuation.

The higher risk, or more growth-focused funds invest in more risky assets like shares, and the lower risk funds invest in assets like bank deposits or cash.

Growth funds are the riskiest, as they invest in shares. Balanced funds mix shares with less risky investments. Conservative funds are even lower risk as about 80% of the money is invested in bank deposits and fixed-interest bonds.

Cash is the lowest risk, as the money is deposited into bank accounts. Ethical funds are unique and usually invest in, for example, sustainable energy or socially responsible companies.

Some KiwiSaver schemes let you mix KiwiSaver funds to suit your investing profile. It means you're not 100% into one fund, but you might have 25% in growth, 50% in balances and 25% in conservative funds.

Investigate the various funds, read about what's available from which investment company. In the end it should be about you, your investment and how you want to make your investments work for your retirement.

■ Ginny is chair of Citizens Advice Bureau Levin

BURNING ISSUES: CRAIG GOLD

It takes 'just a minute' for disaster to strike

Most of us spend time in the kitchen every day.

It's the heart of the home where meals are prepared, cups of tea are shared, and whānau gather. But it's also where most house fires start.

Throughout New Zealand, cooking left unattended is one of the leading causes of house fires. It often begins with something as simple as a pot left simmering while someone answers the phone, checks the washing, or steps outside "just for a minute". Unfortunately, that's all it takes for disaster to strike.

When food overheats, oil or fat ignites, or something flammable is left too close to the stovetop, flames can spread quickly. Add in the toxic smoke that fills a home within minutes, and lives can be put in serious danger.

Cooking fires happen fast. A small flame on the stove can double in size every 30 seconds. In just a few minutes, the entire kitchen can be engulfed,



spreading into other areas of the home. What's even more alarming is that most people who lose their lives in a house fire don't die from flames, but from inhaling the smoke. That's why prevention is so important.

Simple ways to stay safe in the kitchen include:

- stay with your cooking – if you're not watching it, you're not cooking it
- turn off the stove if you need to leave the room, even for a short time.
- keep flammable items well away from the stove – things like tea towels, oven mitts, paper, and curtains can all catch fire easily
- use a timer when baking or simmering

food for long periods – it's a great reminder that something is on

- stay alert – avoid cooking if you're overly tired or under the influence of alcohol.

Kitchen fires don't just threaten property; they put lives at risk. Children and elderly people are especially vulnerable in a house fire, as smoke spreads quickly and can overwhelm anyone trying to escape. That's why it's vital to combine safe cooking habits with working smoke alarms in every bedroom, hallway, and living area.

A final reminder. House fires caused by unattended cooking are preventable. The key is awareness. By making a habit of staying in the kitchen and turning things off if you need to leave, you're protecting not only your home but also the people you love.

■ Craig is Fire and Emergency NZ assistant commander for Manawatu/Whanganui region.

THE ELECTORATE: SUZE REDMAYNE, MP

Boundary changes and new quake rules

At the end of September I had the pleasure of joining Levin Rotary Club for a dinner event, alongside my friend and colleague, MP for Ōtaki Tim Costley.

The evening reminded me how lucky we are to live in communities where people are engaged, generous with their time and genuinely interested in what's happening beyond their own backyards.

Tim and I were invited as guest speakers, and it was great to share a few thoughts about what lies ahead. I spoke about the recent boundary change announcement, which will see Horowhenua join the Rangitikei electorate at the 2026 General Election. I also shared a little about what's been happening in Parliament and my responsibilities as Junior Whip.

It was good to see Mayor Bernie Wanden at the dinner, too. Congratulations, Bernie, on your re-election, and on another three years leading Horowhenua. I also want to congratulate all councillors-elect, and to thank everyone who put their hand



up to stand. Campaigning is not easy – it takes a huge amount of time, energy and commitment, and it places pressure on families, too. Our local democracy is stronger for those willing to serve, regardless of the outcome.

There was welcome news recently for Horowhenua towns with the government's changes to the Earthquake-Prone Building (EPB) system. The old rules placed an overwhelming burden on building owners, with some facing remediation costs in the millions. Too often those buildings sat empty, becoming derelict and unsafe, while owners had no practical way forward. Our changes deliver a fairer balance between safety and cost, protecting lives while making strengthening work more achievable.

In Levin, 15 buildings will be removed from the EPB register, delivering savings of about \$26 million. In Shannon, four buildings will come off the register, with others having more cost-effective remediation pathways – this will mean savings of about \$9 million. In Foxton and Foxton Beach, two buildings will be removed from the register and others will benefit from more practical remediation options, leading to savings of about \$11.4 million.

The reforms will save about \$1.8 billion for provincial and regional towns. That funding will flow into productive investment, growing the economy, creating jobs and giving building owners the certainty they need to move forward. Protecting human life remains the top priority, but now we have a system that also ensures the strengthening work is fair, practical and realistic.

I'm often in Horowhenua on my way to Parliament, so if you're from a local organisation or business and would like to catch up, please get in touch – Suze. RedmayneMP@parliament.govt.nz. You can also follow me on Facebook at facebook.com/SuzeRedmayneMP

■ Suze is the Rangitikei electorate MP

A second chamber could serve us well

Encouragement voiced for the benefits of diversity of representation and opinion along with increased opportunity for minority voices to be heard were features of the campaign two decades ago for introducing the MMP (mixed member proportional) voting system.

Today we can reflect on whether the change in the electoral system has served us well or become a significant factor contributing to a growing loss of respect for parliamentary customs and rules that is often highlighted by actions of Te Pati Maori (TPM) and the Greens.

Does MMP add diversity? Yes. Does it add fresh opinions? qualified yes. Does MPs' use of media publicity through outrageous claims, statements and actions add value to public knowledge? Arguably yes – positively for supporters, negatively for opponents and questionably for middle ground voters. Does disruption contribute to positive feelings toward Parliament?

The power, and/or influence, the two parties wield stems from parliamentary representation. But the apparent contempt they periodically signal for that institution invites scorn for their professions of belief in democracy and invites community consideration of their place in the Parliament.

This is not to say that the views they hold are of no value. But simply that if expression of them is to be based strongly on verbal confrontation and actions, not reason, there may be better forums than the current parliamentary system to meet democratic needs.

Today's Parliament operates on a well-proven

and flexible procedural basis utilising long established customs, rituals and procedures that allow robust, fiery, colourful, and considered debate and argument between MPs. The Speaker is by custom the adjudicator and setter of rules for each Parliament. His rule is law for MPs within the Chamber.

Should his position be challenged, as it is frequently today by TPM and the Greens, our New Zealand version of the Westminster system comes into question. With that questioning comes an issue as to whether a single chamber Parliament is appropriate if minority parties take disruption as a prime tactic for f their views.

expression of their views.

Were their approach to be adopted by the minority parties on the other side of Parliament, it is conceivable that the role of the Speaker as practised by the incumbent, Gerry Brownlee, and his predecessors could become untenable.

A Westminster-style Parliament depends for relevance on respect for its traditions and procedures. If it is lost, other options come into play. An additional secondary chamber that offers a forum for opinions at odds with government and possibly opposition, and has a prospect of effecting change without the destabilising impact of disruption inside the legislating body, is one.

Veterans of the political scene recall the benefits of Parliament under the FPP system. Major debates were much, much longer than today, with consideration of merits and demerits much more genuinely debated than in the five-minute shouting matches that much of today's so-called debates become.

The second chamber might be elected under today's MMP rules while the main chamber reverts to First Past the Post (FPP). The main chamber might have 80 members and the second Chamber 40. With the main chamber at 80 and FPP being used, representation could be confined to elected members only.

Advantages foreseen are: More time allotted for speeches and the duration of these are in the main chamber; all communities being directly represented by popularly elected individuals whose need to look after constituent interests is reinforced by their dependence on local area support.

List-only members would make up the second chamber with a mandate to advise and recommend on legislation before the main chamber. Through the MMP electoral system minor parties such as TPM and the Greens could have time and flexibility in procedures to champion their causes and win such public approval as to make the government of the day responsive. A failure to respond when the issue taken up by a minority party has clear public support would inevitably rebound on the governing body.

A second chamber would be able to set its own rules and procedures in accord with an electoral mandate and within these provide well

for the customs and rituals of Māoridom.

Veterans of the political scene recall the benefits of Parliament under the FPP system. Major debates were much, much longer than today, with consideration of merits and demerits much more genuinely debated than in the five-minute shouting matches that much of today's so-called debates become.

There were only two-party leaders to be given speaking time, not the six that require the call to speak when protocol demands leaders have their say. Speeches could not be read, even on such momentous and prolonged debates as that which abolished hanging in the early 1960s.

Parliament is a much different place today than it was for most of the 20th century. Some changes have been for the better, including a diversity in major party representation. But our political parties wield more power at the expense of local input. Establishment of “list” MPs mean that many have no direct link or responsibility to communities.

The coalition government could do well to establish an independent review group to look at revamping the electoral system with an eye to lifting parliamentary performance and local accountability of MPs.

■ Bruce has been an economics/business editor, and a correspondent in Washington, London and Hong Kong.

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TAKE THE LIFT TO THE FIRST FLOOR

From the moment you step through the solid timber door, it's clear this is no ordinary home. The ground floor offers generous open plan living and dining, enhanced by floor to ceiling double glazed windows that bathe the space in natural light. Three bedrooms plus an office/ 4th Bedroom.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01941
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Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 112A Winchester Street **LEVIN**

BY NEGOTIATION



SUNNY, PRIVATE & PERFECTLY POSITIONED!

Warm, welcoming, and bathed in sunshine, this delightful two bedroom home offers a lifestyle of ease and convenience in a private setting just a short stroll to town. Step inside to discover a north facing living area that captures all day sun, an updated kitchen for easy meal prep, and the bathroom with both a bath and shower box.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01894
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.45PM - 1.15PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 156 Winchester Street **LEVIN**

BY NEGOTIATION



PACKED WITH POTENTIAL

Just a short stroll to town, this property on 1057m2 section is bursting with potential inside and out. Opportunities like this don't come along every day! Whether you're looking to roll up your sleeves and breathe new life into the existing three bedroom home, or explore the possibility of subdivision.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01977
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.30PM - 2.00PM

Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 14 Okarito Avenue LEVIN

BEO \$765,000



A STANDOUT IN OKARITO

Welcome to your new home, where modern comfort meets unbeatable location. Set in a highly sought after neighbourhood and zoned for popular Fairfield School, this spacious four bedroom, three bathroom residence offers the ideal lifestyle for families who want quality, convenience and room to grow. From the moment you arrive you will be impressed.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01960
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.15PM - 12.45PM

Tracey Fraser
0210779062
tracey@wiltonandco.nz

» 115B Bartholomew Road LEVIN

BEO \$595,000



A HIDDEN GEM! EASY LIVING

Tucked away on a private rear section, this light-filled and inviting home is the perfect match for first home buyers or active retirees seeking comfort, space, and convenience. A bright, open-plan living area enhanced by charming chapel ceilings that create a wonderful sense of space. The living flows effortlessly to a sunny north-facing deck, plus there is a verandah, ideal for relaxed morning coffees or entertaining friends. The kitchen is open to the living area, making it easy to stay connected with family or guests. It features excellent bench space, ample storage, and a handy breakfast bar, perfect for casual dining or sharing a morning chat.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01939
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.30AM-12PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 76A Kennedy Drive LEVIN

ASKING \$559,000



SPACIOUS LIVING

Here's your chance to secure a home in the desirable North/East sector of town, just a short walk to Fairfield School - an ideal spot for families. The home provides generous living spaces designed for comfort and connection. The open plan kitchen and dining area flow seamlessly into a warm, inviting living room with a wood burner. From here, move through to the large lounge, complete with a heat pump and easy access to the rear deck - the ultimate entertaining hub for family and friends. A versatile flexi space, perfect as a home office or study, connects to the three bedrooms, including the master with a walk-in wardrobe.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01979
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12PM-12.30PM
Adriana Wilton
0297766902
adriana@wiltonandco.nz

» 121 North Manakau Road MANAKAU

BEO \$799,000



CHARMING LIFESTYLE HOME ON 2.5 ACRES

Prepare to be captivated by this delightful 1940s bungalow, perfectly positioned in the heart of Manakau's most sought after lifestyle location. Inside you will discover an inviting open plan kitchen, dining, and lounge, featuring original matai floors and a cosy wood burner. French doors that open onto a sun-soaked deck, ideal for enjoying your evening while taking in spectacular sunset views. This home offers three bedrooms plus a dedicated office. The master bedroom with gorgeous views is a true retreat with a walk-in robe and ensuite. The other bedrooms have a separate second bathroom complete with a spa bath.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01962
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 2.15PM-2.45PM
Lynaire Cottle
0272224017
lynaire@wiltonandco.nz

» 4 Rugby Street LEVIN

BEO \$599,000



DOUBLE GLAZED BEAUTY

This beautifully kept 1950s home blends timeless character with stylish modern upgrades. Featuring two generous double bedrooms plus a single, it's ideal for families, couples, or smart investors. Experience year round comfort with full double glazing (aluminium joinery), a new roof installed in 2016, and a cosy Kent Fire. The home is fully insulated with Batts in the ceiling and Mammoth Insulation under the floor, ensuring excellent energy efficiency. The kitchen boasts a generous pantry and brand-new linoleum flooring, while the interior has been mostly refurbished with fresh paint and wallpaper throughout. The stylish Thermotech front door enhances both aesthetics and security.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01924
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 12.15PM-12.45PM
Lynaire Cottle
0272224017
lynaire@wiltonandco.nz

» 1205 State Highway 57 LEVIN

BEO \$1,295,000



A GRAND RETREAT

This exceptional residence sitting on 4.4515 hectares, offers space, style, and serenity on a truly impressive scale. With a substantial 412m2 floor area spread across two levels, this striking home sits proudly amid picturesque, well-planted grounds. Inside, the home features four generous bedrooms, with the luxurious master suite privately positioned upstairs to take full advantage of the panoramic farmland views. Two large sheds, yards, and paddocks, ensure practicality for those looking to keep animals or enjoy the rural lifestyle.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01954
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 1.15PM-1.45PM
Lynaire Cottle
0272224017
lynaire@wiltonandco.nz

» 7 Harlech Street LEVIN

BEO \$628,000



RENOVATED & READY

If you've been waiting for the perfect blend of modern style and family friendly living, this home delivers. Recently renovated throughout, it offers everything you need and more, on a generous section. The brand new kitchen with wall oven and gas hob flows seamlessly into the open plan dining and living area, creates the perfect hub for family living. Fresh paint and new carpet add a light, welcoming feel, while three well sized bedrooms provide space for the whole family. Two conservatories extend the living space, offering sunny retreats or extra room for family life. The bathroom is new, and the laundry includes the bonus of a second shower and toilet.

Ref : www.wiltonandco.nz/WIL01957
OPEN HOME SUNDAY 11.30AM-12PM
Lynaire Cottle
0272224017
lynaire@wiltonandco.nz

HĪTŌRIA/History

FOXTON FIRES



FOXTON FIRE BOARD engine, parked outside the Foxton Fire Station on 8.1.1944, with 19 children and an unidentified woman, on board.

All photos: Foxton Historical Society



Above: DEVASTATION AFTER FOXTON FIRE: the scene on the western side of Foxton's Main Street, June 1912 – properties between Perreau's tearooms and the Post Office were all destroyed.

Below: EAST SIDE MAIN STREET, Foxton, After the July 1912 fires. The Presbyterian Church and the Coronation Hall are in the background. Mark on church roof below belfry is one of two places where roof caught fire.



OLD HAND PUMP FOR FIRE FIGHTING. Featured in historical procession during Foxton Centenary, 1955. From left: Foxton fireman A E Simpson, J Betty, K Betty and L Baird, pull an old hand pump as part of Foxton Centennial celebrations parade, in Johnston Street opposite Whyte Street.



NEW ZEALAND SHIPPING CO fibre store fire, western side of Main Street, Foxton 1933. In front of the burning building is the Foxton Public Library the Foxton Council Chambers and the Foxton Town Hall.



MAHI MĀRA/Gardening

Take an aspirin for growing pains

Some years ago I wrote about the advantages of using aspirin sprays and drenches on plants we grow.

The article was well received and several gardeners started using this interesting gardening practice. A conversation I had with a gardener on the phone this week brought back the memory of the aspirin information from more than 20 years ago.

The reason aspirin will help with gardening problems is primarily due to its active ingredient, acetylsalicylic acid, which is derived from natural plant hormones and can trigger beneficial responses in plants.



Aspirin was derived from a substance found in the bark and leaves of the willow tree. The active ingredient, salicin, was used for centuries to relieve pain and reduce fever, with its properties later leading to the modern synthesis of acetylsalicylic acid, or aspirin.

Aspirin helps plants activate their defense mechanisms earlier, making them more resistant to diseases and pests.

The advantages of aspirin include:
Improved seed germination: Soaking seeds

or watering them with diluted aspirin solutions can increase the germination rate, resulting in stronger seedlings – add a little Magic Botanic Liquid (MBL) as well.

Increased growth and yield: Aspirin-treated plants tend to be larger, have better fruit and flower production, and show improved overall health and vigour.

Stress tolerance: When applied through soil drenching or foliar sprays, aspirin can help plants withstand environmental stresses such as drought and heat.

Longer-lasting cut flowers: Aspirin inhibits hormones that cause rapid death in cut flowers, prolonging their freshness. Popping a bit of an aspirin into your vase water is an old tip also used on freshly cut pine trees as Christmas trees.

To make an aspirin spray for garden plants, dissolve one regular, uncoated aspirin tablet (300mg – or three if 100mg tablets) in 4 litres of water, mix thoroughly, and use a spray bottle to apply it to the leaves every two weeks. It's good practice to add 40ml of MBL and 4ml of Wallys Raingard to help the solution stick to plant



leaves, for overall best results.

In a trigger sprayer kept out of light when not in use, the mix will last nicely till used up.

As a soil drench it is two 300mg into 4 litres of water with 80ml of MBL added.

Water into the root zones of plants once a month that you want to improve or on perennial plants and trees twice a year – spring and autumn.

The best timing to apply aspirin spray on tomato plants is every 10 to 14 days, starting when plants are healthy and established (about 45-60cm or 18-24 inches tall, a few weeks after transplanting).

Begin applications before common diseases and pests tend to appear in your garden, which is typically early summer, and continue throughout the growing season, stopping just before harvest or when disease risk drops.

Spraying is best done in the early morning or evening to avoid leaf burn and maximise absorption. Four sprays at 10-day intervals, starting two weeks after planting, is supported by research for optimal disease prevention.

Continue with regular feeding and care

alongside aspirin spray routines. This schedule helps prime the plant's defences before threats arrive, leading to stronger, more resilient tomato plants throughout the season.

Now here is the clincher from my conversation with the gardener that brought up the subject of aspirin. He told me that last season a friend grew two plots of garlic, one of which he sprayed the foliage every two weeks starting after a good show of foliage using the combination of aspirin, MBL and Raingard. On the other plot he didn't use the combination.

The unsprayed got the dreaded garlic rust and the treated crop didn't.

Thus if you are growing garlic this season best you use the aforementioned products and start a spray programme now before rust strikes later. (Adding mycorcin to the spray will help create larger bulbs.)

I would also suggest you also spray the foliage of stone fruit with same to help with curly leaf disease and add to the spray copper nutrient, which also helps.

If all that doesn't help, then take two aspirin, put your feet up and have your favourite drink on hand.

■ Wally runs Wally's Garden Enterprises. Phone 0800 466464. For garden information and news see gardenews.co.nz

iam levin andre thompson

022 388 2668

iamlevineoutlook.co.nz

ANDRE THOMPSON

Dear Central Levin Ward,

I want to take this moment to thank you all for your votes, support, and encouragement during our recent local body election.

For a first-time candidate with just three years back in my hometown, reaching the halfway mark result is truly humbling. Although I will not be seated at the council table, my commitment to contribute to our community from the sidelines remains strong.

Congratulations to the re-elected Mayor, continuing councillors, and newly elected members. I wish you all wisdom and collaboration in the work ahead.

What Levin needs now is cooperation and business-minded action to restore prosperity and drive the transformation our region deserves. These are exciting times for Horowhenua, and together we can move forward with purpose.

Best,
Andre Thompson



A. Thompson

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Imagine (verb) /ImAjinAYt/

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Horowhenua-Kāpiti centre Emanuel Solomona manages to get a ball away in the semi-final win against Whanganui at Cooks Gardens.
Photo: Dave Lintott Photography.

Lochore Cup within HK grasp



Entrance tides

October 17-24

<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/whanganui-manawatu/tides/locations/foxton>

<https://www.metservice.com/marine/regions/kapiti-wellington/tides/locations/waitarere-beach>

Please note: The actual timing of high and low tide might differ from that provided here. Times are extrapolated from the nearest primary port for this location, so please take care.

MANAWATU RIVER FOXTON					
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 17 OCT	-	02:10	08:08	14:35	20:35
SAT 18 OCT	-	03:02	09:00	15:25	21:19
SUN 19 OCT	-	03:46	09:41	16:06	21:56
MON 20 OCT	-	04:25	10:18	16:43	22:30
TUE 21 OCT	-	05:00	10:50	17:17	23:02
WED 22 OCT	-	05:33	11:22	17:49	23:33
THU 23 OCT	-	06:06	11:52	18:21	-
FRI 24 OCT	00:05	06:38	12:23	18:53	-

WAITARERE BEACH

	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
FRI 17 OCT	-	01:08	07:23	13:33	19:50
SAT 18 OCT	-	02:00	08:15	14:23	20:34
SUN 19 OCT	-	02:44	08:56	15:04	21:11
MON 20 OCT	-	03:23	09:33	15:41	21:45
TUE 21 OCT	-	03:58	10:05	16:15	22:17
WED 22 OCT	-	04:31	10:37	16:47	22:48
THU 23 OCT	-	05:04	11:07	17:19	23:20
FRI 24 OCT	-	05:36	11:38	17:51	23:52

By Paul Williams

Horowhenua-Kāpiti have a chance to win the Lochore Cup for the first time since 2018 when they play North Otago on Sunday, and it took a mighty effort to book a plane.

Playing away against Whanganui in the semi-final at the weekend, the match was tied at 18-all, forcing extra-time.

But if the first 80 minutes was an arm-wrestle, the final 20 minutes of extra time was a game of pea-knuckle as Horowhenua-Kāpiti romped home 40-18.

It was a rare win against the old foe – the first since 2017 - and coach Aleni Feagaiga praised an effort he says was full of “heart, resilience and determination”.

The score was 8-all at halftime. Whanganui led with regulation time almost up when a late TJ Barnsley penalty on full-time levelled it at 18-all.

There was only one team in it after that. Winger Joeli Rauca scored immediately, then again, and when prop Stephen Burnell crashed over they were 17 points ahead and finals-bound.

Aleni says the willingness and energy to win was obvious, especially in the deep minutes as the lungs started burning.

“Everyone stood up to be counted,” he says. “They can be proud. It was a 23-man effort and that’s why we got there. There were some long minutes and our bench was massive.”

Of the starters, openside flanker Pene To’o had a blinder. His work-rate was through the roof, revelling in the wet conditions with turnovers and dominant tackles, while Joeli’s hat-trick was richly deserved.

HK boasted a boomer of a bench with Aaron Lahmert, Dave McErlean and Willie Paia’aua having played more than 250 games between them.

The team had good support last weekend in Whanganui, and though the final is being played near the bottom of the South Island, there is sure to be a cheering section somewhere.

The Oamaru Stadium is being rebuilt so the match will be played at Maheno Domain.

HKRU chief executive Corey Kennett says in his experience it doesn’t matter whether the team is playing at Oamaru, Te Kuiti, Ruatoria or Westport – there is always someone in the crowd cheering for Horowhenua-Kāpiti.

HK will again be captained by Dallas Wiki. The match will be televised on Sky TV. Kick-off is at 2.05pm.

Horowhenua-Kāpiti squad for Sunday’s game: George Jacobs, Harry Press, Ted Northcott, Dallas Wiki (captain), Mikaere Harvey, Alby Hemopo, Brad Reilly, Pene To’o, Kahn Fotuali’i, Rory Woollett, Joeli Rauca/Willie Paia’aua, Emanuel Solomona, Connor Paki, Darren Falaniko, Max Hoskings, Stephen Burnell, Jeremy David, Davey McErlean, Michael Laursen/Massie Harvey, Aaron Lahmert, TJ Barnsley, Jayson Aquila, Willie Paia’aua/Sean Pape.

RESULTS			
RUGBY	Monday – Speldhurst 9 Hole Stableford: Mick Thomson 19, Neville McRae 18, Dick Hayward 18.		
	Tuesday – Pink Ball Stableford team competition won by: Mark Duston, Robert Corkill. Wayne Askew 35.		
	Wednesday – 9 Hole Mixed Stableford: Cecily Archer 23, Paddy Enright 21, Jeremy Smith 19. Birdies: Paddy Enright; Ladies Irish Stableford: Carol Louisson 71, Nan Sterne 54, Margaret Hooper 40.		
	Thursday – Early Men Stableford: Ian Morby 38, Steve Boyland 34, Dean’s		
GOLF	Offord 34. Twos: Dean’s Offord; Late Men Stableford: David Louisson 37, Graeme Cliff 36, Dene Buckingham 36. Twos: Leslie Marshall.		
	Friday – 9 Hole Mixed Net: Wayne James 29, Greg Wood 37, Wayne Kaye 37.		
	Coming events: Pink Blue Par 3 Fun Day Tournament for 18 and 8 hole players on Sunday, October 26; Levin Od Boys Cricket Club/Plumbing World Charity 4 Person Ambrose Tournament on Friday, November 14; and Fundraising fore Fiadh 9 hole		
	Ambrose Tournament on Friday 21 November.		
FOXTON	Midweek (Tuesday, October 14) Todd McGuigan 38, Neville Simpson 35, Marty Berry 33, Dave Burmeister 33.		
	Foxton 9 Hole (October 15) Stableford Points: Carol Kupa 20, Neil Thompson 19, Eric Cornick 17, Clint Taylor 17, Geoff McBrydie 16, Kevin Young 16, Steve Kupa 16, Rae Jack 15, Stephen Hanna 15, and Sylvia Young 15.		

GOLF
Levin
Congratulations to Paddy Enright who scored a hole in one on the second hole on Wednesday with the 9 holers. A great effort – well done.

Wanderers league champs

By Paul Williams

Levin Wanderers are Manawātū Rugby League competition champions for the second time in three years after beating Linton Army 18-8 in the grand final at CET Arena, Palmerston North, last Sunday.

Linton Army are renowned for their fitness, but in heavy conditions – it didn’t stop raining for the duration of the match – the Wanderers forwards won the day.

On the back of solid hit-ups and tackle set completions they slowly wore Linton down, and there was no lack of support for Wanderers in the crowd either.

Wanderers had beaten Kia Ora in a thrilling semi-final 26-24 in extra time a week earlier to make the final, and when they played Linton Army earlier in the season they lost 44-32.

There was some bad luck early on for hooker Zealand Murray who broke his wrist inside the first 10 minutes, thrusting winger and man-of-the-match Ilisoni Vonomatairatu into the fray.

Wanderers tries were scored by Junior Sione on the back of a wipers kick from Arana Murphy, and Hopa Edwards who bagged two, his last one a match-winner after some magic from Himiona Henare.

Himoana took on the line and broke through before delivering a no-look pass off the deck that found Hopa’s waiting arms.

With Arana adding two conversions and a penalty it was 18-4 with 10 minutes to play, a late try to Linton the final play.

Two of the Wanderers players, Sheen Lomax and Ethan Keith, have shared in the co-coaching duties from the front row this season.

Sheen had been sidelined since round 3 with a broken thumb, which healed just in time for his return for the final.

The team included some players from rival rugby clubs who had finished their season and relished the opportunity to play some league.

The curtain-raiser was won by Raukawa women, also beating Linton.

Wanderers won their first Manawātū Rugby League title in 2023, just a few years after Ethan and Sonny Whakarau recruited a



Hopa Edwards scores the first of his two tries.

team and entered the competition, so to add another title was a real boost for rugby league in Horowhenua.

It is another chapter to club rugby league history in the region and yet another incarnation when you consider successful clubs from the past, such as Levin Eels, Levin Knights, Levin Lions, Levin Wolves and Taitoko Warriors, not to mention Foxton Rebels further north, and Whiti Te Rā to the south, who have been the dominant force in the Wellington competition for the past decade.

Ethan says as the league season starts after club rugby finishes it gives players an opportunity to play both codes, and that’s healthy.

“It just means they don’t have to choose,” he says.

He says equally important as winning a title is seeing the growth of junior rugby league, which he says is vital for the future of the game.

“You have to put focus on juniors and families and have that culture embedded if you want to grow.”

The winning Wanderers team was: Ethan Keith, Brodie Huthnance, Cryhton Comp, Himiona Henare, Hopa Edwards, Ilisoni Vonomatairatu, Jaden Hemi, Jaden Taniwha, Jayden Angove, Junior Sione, Kagyn Taunoa, Ngatoki Toru, Raana Tatana, Sheen Lomax, Zealand Murray, Anton Kerehi, Aaron Taiapa, Arana Murphy, Shelton Onesemo, Kane Mahan, James Woodmass, Keelan Ng, and Xodus Purewa.

Legendary duo return to their Levin roots



James Tamou, left, and Kenny Edwards back at Playford Park for a training camp for young league players.
Photo Paul Williams

By Paul Williams

Rugby league legends James Tamou and Kenny Edwards returned to their old stomping ground, Playford Park, this week holding a series of training camps for aspiring youngsters.

The cousins grew up just down the road and they spent hours at Playford as youngsters, kicking a ball around and honing skills that would lead to professional playing careers.

James, who played State of Origin for New South Wales, 14 test for the Kangaroos, and 307 NRL games, playing for Penrith Panthers, West Tigers and North Queensland Cowboys.

He says it doesn’t feel like that long ago that they were both across the road attending Levin East School, then Waiopahu College, before opportunity came knocking.

“We thought we’d make a thing of it,” James says. “We’re at the stage of our careers now where we are semi-retired so it’s time to give back.”

Boys and girls of all ages signed up for the camps, with the famous cousins full of tips and encouragement.

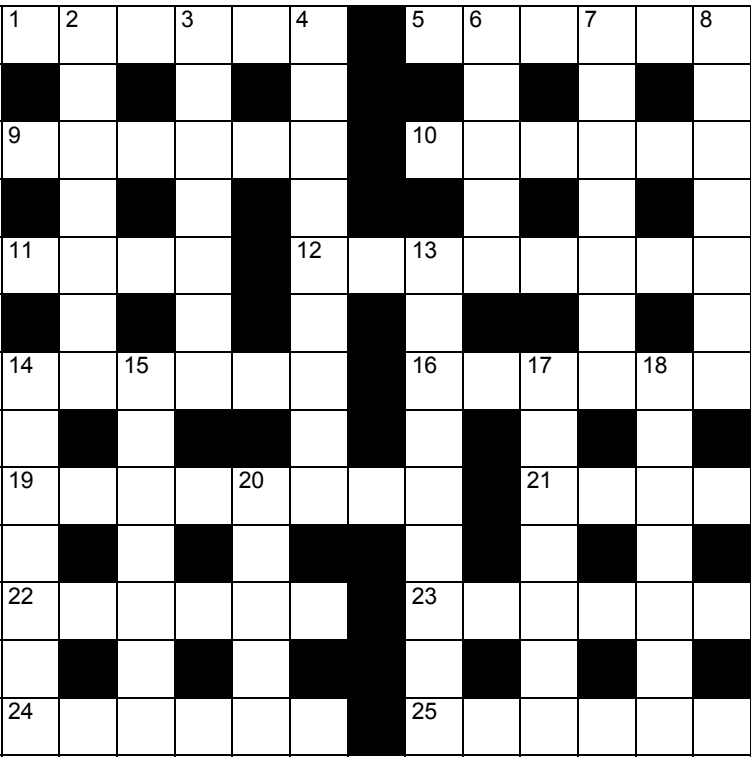
“Hopefully it can be an annual thing.”

Both James and Kenny played for Levin Knights as juniors – and senior matches as teenagers – before talent took them to Australia. Kenny played 70 NRL games for Paramatta Eels, and professionally in the UK for many years.

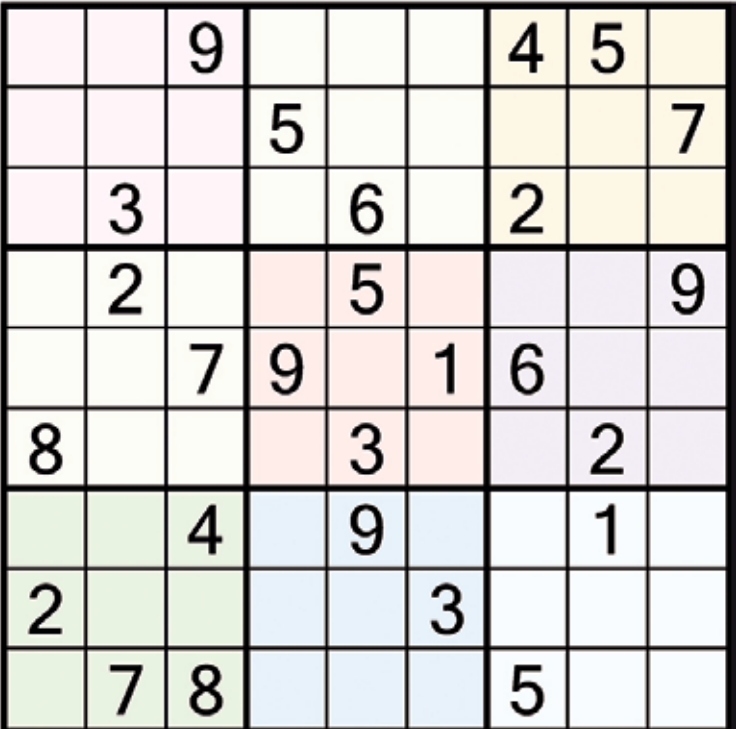
While in New Zealand for the Aotearoa NZ Māori Invitational team versus a League Legends XIII in Rotorua at the weekend they opportunity to visit whānau and teach youngsters at the same time.

James says he was impressed by the enthusiasm of those who attended: “They’re keen young kids. Hopefully by doing this they can upskill and set a goal and see that it can be achievable.

THE CROSSWORD #NZ1955F (answers below right)



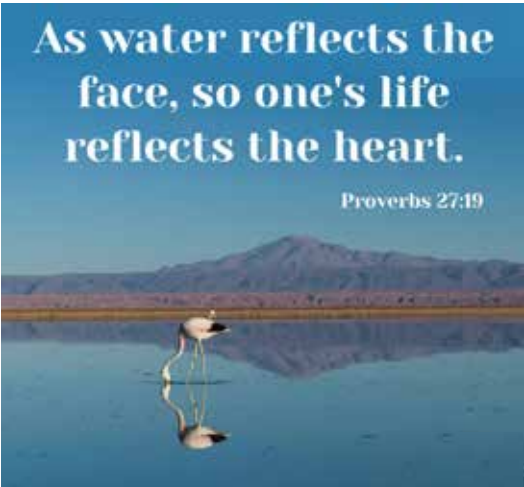
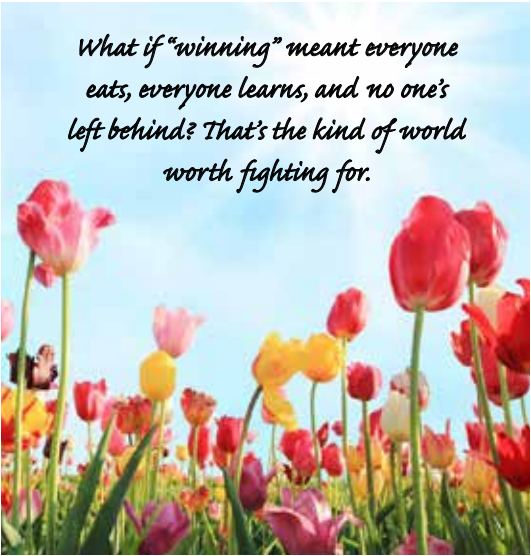
SUDOKU PUZZLES thepuzzlecompany.co.nz
MEDIUM #98M Use logic and process of elimination to fill in the blank cells using the numbers 1 through 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and 3x3 block. Answers opposite page.



CROSSWORD #1955F ANSWERS
Across: 1. Appear, 5. Septet, 9. Superb, 10. Kōwhai, 11. Knee, 12. Rehearse, 14. Hiatus, 16. Kumara, 19. Listener, 21. Togs, 22. Egmont, 23. Ninety, 24. Godwit, 25. Ice cap.
DOWN: 2. Pauanui, 3. Element, 4. Robertson, 6. Erode, 7. Toheroa, 8. Tui Tekā, 13. Hikurangi, 14. Halberg, 15. Assumed, 17. Matinee, 18. Regatta, 20. Ennui.



- ACROSS**
- 1. Materialise (6)
 - 5. Group of seven (6)
 - 9. Excellent (6)
 - 10. NZ’s unofficial national flower (6)
 - 11. Leg joint (4)
 - 12. Practise (8)
 - 14. Pause (6)
 - 16. Start place of Coast to Coast race (6)
 - 19. Weekly magazine first published in 1939, The ____ (8)
 - 21. Swimwear (4)
 - 22. English name for Mt Taranaki (6)
 - 23. Length in miles attributed to fabled Northland strip of sand (6)
 - 24. Bird which migrates between New Zealand and Siberia (6)
 - 25. Polar covering (3,3)
- DOWN**
- 2. New Zealand canal
 - town (7)
 - 3. Component (7)
 - 4. Finance Minister, 2017-2023 (9)
 - 6. Wear away (5)
 - 7. Clam found on Northland and Southland beaches (7)
 - 8. Singer and musician who died in 1985, ‘Prince’ ____ (3,4)
 - 13. Mountain recognised as the first point on the New Zealand mainland to see the sunrise (9)
 - 14. Person New Zealand’s annual sports awards are named after (7)
 - 15. Took for granted (7)
 - 17. Afternoon performance (7)
 - 18. Sailing event (7)
 - 20. Boredom (5)



FOOD QUIZ *Answers below.*

- 1. What is the primary ingredient in the Middle Eastern dish falafel?
- 2. Which nut is used to make marzipan?
- 3. Which spice is derived from the Crocus flower and is one of the most expensive spices in the world?
- 4. What’s the most stolen grocery item?
- 5. Which five fruits are scientifically related to roses?
- 6. How many hamburgers does McDonald’s sell a day?
- 7. Arachibutyrophobia is the fear of what food sticking to the roof of your mouth?
- 8. Which country drinks the most coffee in pounds per year?
- 9. What makes broth different than stock?
- 10. Which chocolate bar is the global bestseller?
- 11. How many tablespoons are in a cup?
- 12. The process of baking a pie crust before adding the filling is called what?
- 13. True or false: Cutting steak against the grain makes it tender.
- 14. What is royal icing?
- 15. What does it mean to macerate fruit?

WORD SEARCH: K-POP educate yourself!
answers page 19

F	T	I	S	L	A	N	D	C	I	W	T	G	B
I	B	V	A	H	V	A	B	U	C	G	G	B	E
L	S	T	T	E	B	E	T	A	L	L	I	B	A
L	N	E	V	L	S	L	E	I	P	G	O	I	S
O	X	E	L	L	E	B	O	G	B	E	I	W	T
R	E	N	P	O	P	P	H	A	N	T	O	M	N
A	B	T	G	V	I	N	N	B	L	O	C	K	B
T	C	O	R	E	K	G	D	U	N	I	T	E	V
S	I	P	A	N	H	K	G	Q	A	L	I	U	I
G	L	A	M	U	I	C	O	A	R	I	G	L	E
I	E	N	P	S	G	L	K	L	A	T	L	B	U
B	H	N	R	A	H	L	L	B	T	O	B	N	B
S	W	O	S	S	I	K	U	M	E	S	O	C	M
H	M	V	I	X	X	E	E	N	I	H	S	B	E

HELLO	BTOP	FT ISLAND	BEAST
VENUS	C-CLOWN	EPIK HIGH	BAP
CNBLUE	PHANTOM	BIG STAR	BIG BANG
TEEN TOP	GLAM	T-ARA	VIXX
D UNIT	U-KISS	BLOCK B	SHINEE
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FOOD QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. Chickpeas. 2. Almonds. 3. Saffron. 4. Cheese. 5. Apples, pears, cherries, peaches, and strawberries. 6. 6.5 million. 7. Peanut butter. 8. Finland. 9. Broth is made with meat while stock is made with bones. 10. Snickers. 11. Blind baking. 13. True. 14. Icing made with icing sugar and egg whites. 15. To soak it in a flavorful liquid (such as alcohol) or toss it in sugar.

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FAMILY NOTICES

deaths

BATTEN Desmond William John (Des) passed away peacefully at home in Foxton after a brief illness on 13 October, aged 80. Much loved husband of Jude, father and father-in-law of Nikki and Jon, Sarah and Tony, and grandfather of Kat, Cam and Nina. Highly-regarded big brother to Ross and Leota (deceased) and Bruce, and half-brother of Michael and Anne. Our sincere gratitude to Arohanui Hospice. A celebration of Des's life will be held at LifeChangers, 87 Cambridge Street, Levin, at 1pm on Friday 17 October, 2025.

NELSON, Audrey May (nee Graham) Wife of the late Bill Nelson, cherished Mum of Gary and Cathy, Peter and Ash, Mark, Vicki and Mark. Loved Nana to Graham, Alexandra, Harry, Christina, Jack and GG to Alora. Loved sister of the late Rick and Myra. Loved Aunt of Anna and Ian. Passed away peacefully at the Levin War Veterans Home, October 15, 2025 in her 97th year. A special thanks to the wonderful staff. A beautiful Mum who will never be forgotten. A service to celebrate Audrey's life will be held at Harvey Bowler Funeral home 284 Oxford St, Levin on Friday October 17, 2025 at 2pm.



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in memoriam

HORI TE PA, Adam Rangi
Passed away one year ago, 16 October 2024. Loved father of Mariah and Savannah. Treasured son, brother, partner, father-in-law and Koko. Missed every day. Adam's unveiling will be held at Paeroa Urupā on Saturday 18 October 2025 at 11am.

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1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1
3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2
4	4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
5	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4
6	6	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5
7	7	8	9	1	2	3	4	5	6
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