

AGENDA

Rangitāiki Community Board

Te Poari Haporī o Rangitāiki

Wednesday, 4 February 2026

Rāapa, 4 Huitanguru 2026

Lions Reading Room, Edgecumbe Library

College Road, Edgecumbe

Commencing at 5:30 pm



Chief Executive: Steven Perdia | Publication Date: 30 January 2026

A Membership - *Mematanga*

Board Member Stephanie Bonner - Chairperson

Board Member Stu McHardy - Deputy Chairperson

Board Member Heemi Brown

Board Member Bill Clark

Board Member Bruce Evans

Board Member Storm Hale

Appointed Councillor Gavin Dennis

Alternate Councillor Wilson James

B Role of the Community Board

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1. Purpose

To receive applications for funding and issue funding grants from the respective Community Board funds.

To support Council engagement and consultation processes where required, and act as an advocate for the interests of Council.

To engage with their constituent communities and provide information to Council on matters of importance to those communities as they arise.

2. Specific Function, and Delegations to the Community Board

- a. Receive applications for funding from their constituent communities, deliberate and make funding grant decisions that are funded from the respective Community Board funding allocations.
- b. Consider and report on all matters referred to by the Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- c. Receive correspondence and reports.
- d. To engage with the community, community organisations and special interest groups to both represent the interest of Council and gather community feedback and themes.
- e. To prepare an annual submission to the Council for expenditure within the community for projects that are specifically funded by the community
- f. To make submissions to the Council's Long-Term Plan and other consultation processes on behalf of the Communities it represents
- g. To authorise, within approved budgets, Board Members attendance at relevant conferences and/or training courses
- h. To make presentations verbally to the Council at the Board's discretion on matters of importance to the community or Board (Note: the ability to make presentations verbally to the Council or any Committee of Council is subject to the approval of the Mayor or chairperson presiding at that meeting).
- i. Community Boards are delegated the responsibility to develop and adopt a Strategic Plan as a Board. The Strategic Plan must articulate the collective aspirations, priorities, and objectives of the Board, serving as a guiding document for decision-making and advocacy. The plan may be developed in consultation with the community to ensure it reflects the community's needs, values, and future vision. Where an approved Community Plan exists, the Strategic Plan should reference and align with that document to maintain consistency and strengthen the connection between Board priorities and broader community objectives.

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1 Declaration

1 Declaration



RANGITĀIKI COMMUNITY BOARD
DECLARATION BY MEMBER

I, Heemi Brown

declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the Rangitāiki community, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in, or imposed upon, me as a Member of the Rangitāiki Community Board by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

DATED AT EDGEcumbe THIS 4TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

SIGNATURE: _____

SIGNED IN THE
PRESENCE OF: _____
(Signature)

(Title/Position) _____



2 Apologies - *Te hunga kāore i tae*

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No apologies were recorded at the time of compiling the agenda.

3 Acknowledgements / Tributes - *Ngā mihi mihi*

An opportunity for members to recognise achievements, to notify of events, or to pay tribute to an occasion of importance.

4 Conflicts of Interest - *Ngākau kōnatunatu*

Financial Conflict

- Members present must declare any direct or indirect financial interest that they hold in any matter being discussed at the meeting, other than an interest that they hold in common with the public.
- Members cannot take part in the discussion, nor can they vote on any matter in which they have a direct or indirect financial interest, unless with an approved exception.
- Members with a financial interest should physically withdraw themselves from the table. If the meeting is public excluded, members should leave the room.

1. Non-Financial Conflict

- If a member considers that they have a non-financial conflict of interest in a matter they must not take part in the discussions about that matter or any subsequent vote.
- Members with a non-financial interest must leave the table when the matter is considered but are not required to leave the room.

5 Public Participation - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

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5.1 Public Forum - *Wānanga Tūmatanui*

The Board has set aside time for members of the public to speak in the public forum at the commencement of each meeting. Each speaker during the forum may speak for five minutes. Permission of the Chairperson is required for any person wishing to speak during the public forum. Applicants seeking funding from the Board are encouraged to speak in support of their application at this time.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Board Members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by a speaker.

5.2 Deputations - *Ngā Whakapuaki Whaitake*

A deputation enables a person, group or organisation to make a presentation to Community Board on a matter or matters covered by their terms of reference. Deputations should be approved by the Chairperson, or an official with delegated authority, five working days before the meeting. Deputations may be heard at the commencement of the meeting or at the time that the relevant agenda item is being considered. No more than two speakers can speak on behalf of an organisation's deputation. Speakers can speak for up to 5 minutes, or with the permission of the Chairperson, a longer timeframe may be allocated.

With the permission of the Chairperson, Elected members may ask questions of speakers. Questions are to be confined to obtaining information or clarification on matters raised by the deputation.

6 Reports - *Ngā Pūrongo*

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026



To: **Rangitaiki Community Board**
Date: **Wednesday, 4 February 2026**
Author: **F Begley - Manager Community Partnerships**
Authoriser: **E Hatch - General Manager People and Partnerships**
Reference: **A3051643**

1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata*

This information report provides the Community Board with an update on projects, activities and events delivered by Council to February 2026. Information is grouped as per the GM Portfolio:

- Heavy Weather Event.
- People and Partnerships Update.
- Strategic Māori Partnership and Commercial Services Update.
- Planning, Regulatory and Transport Update.
- News.

2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report - February 2026 be **received**.

3. Heavy Weather Event

Council's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was activated on 21-22 January in response to heavy weather across the Bay of Plenty. Teams monitored conditions, managed slips, flooding, and roading issues, and kept communities informed. Impacts were particularly felt in the Manawahe area, with slips and fallen trees, but the district fared better than others, particularly our neighbours in the Western Bay. Council thanks all those who helped with the response for their dedication, teamwork, and calm professionalism.

4. People and Partnerships Update

4.1. **Community Partnerships**

4.1.1. **Youth Council Applications open**

The Whakatāne District Youth Council is looking for enthusiastic young people aged 14 to 24 to join the team in 2026. The Youth Council provides a platform for rangatahi to have their voices heard, influence positive change, and help shape initiatives that support young people in our district.

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)

Members gain leadership experience, build connections, and contribute to meaningful community projects. Help us spread the word through your networks and encourage eligible youth to apply through Council's [website](#).

4.1.2. *Community Funding Open soon*

Council's Community Grants and Funding Programme is set to get underway this month ahead of the first Community Grants and Funding Committee meeting on 18 March. Two funds will be opening for applications from 9 February to 1 March.

- **Reorua Fund**
- The Reorua Contestable Fund champions the use of te reo Māori in the Whakatāne District. The funding focus is for events, projects, and activities that encourage and uplift te reo Māori.
- **Rural Travel Fund**
- The Rural Travel Fund, set up by Sport New Zealand, encourages participation in sports for children and young people (aged 5-18) in rural and isolated communities. This fund provides financial support to schools and sports clubs, who can apply for the cost of travel expenses for sport competitions, events and practises.

For more information on how and when to apply to these two funds visit Council's [website](#).

4.2. **Road Safety**

4.2.1. *Bike Month Activities*

February is Bike Month and several events are being held in Eastern Bay schools and Whakatāne township to celebrate bikes and cycling:

- Tues 3 Feb Go By Bike Day @ Robert Harris
- Tues 10 Feb Burma Road Explorer
- Wed 11 Feb Free BBQ and Explore Onepū Mountainbike Park
- Thurs 12 Feb Wheels Day – Kawerau Schools
- Tues 17 Feb Whakatāne/Coastlands Explorer
- Thurs 19 Feb Wheels Day - Whakatāne Schools
- Mon 23 Feb Big Bike Film Night
- Thurs 26 Feb Wheels Day – Ōpōtiki Schools.

Bike Month events in 2026 are supported by Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme, Bike Whakatāne Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Robert Harris and Tracks Concrete Ltd.

4.2.2. *New Year's Day 2026 Fatigue Stops*

This year was our second year of running two stops located in Matatā and Ōpōtiki and both were a great success. Feedback from the wider community, young people using the rest areas and the multiple agencies involved, was excellent. One News visited both sites on the day, filming the events in action and interviewed volunteers and young drivers. The story featured on the New Years Day News at 6pm <https://youtu.be/KDHnnsqls5c>

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)

Gisborne District Council came on board with funding support, after Councillor Dennis presented to their Regional Transport Committee last year. The support contributed to food, drinks, portaloos, traffic management plans and improved signage at both events, ensuring that we were able to provide safe, attractive and well stocked rest areas.

On the day, more than 2500 sausages and drinks were handed out, plus road safety-themed giveaways - but most importantly, no accidents were reported or recorded on our roading network. A big thank-you to all the volunteers and supporting organisations involved in making these events possible. Particular thanks to Matatā Blue Light and the local Fire Service for their tireless work and energy on a very hot and rewarding Eastern Bay New Year's Day.



Fatigue stops another success

MORE than 2500 sausages and drinks were handed out to young travellers making their way through the Eastern Bay on the first day of the year.

Fatigue stops at Opōtiki and Matatā have been heralded successes in encouraging Rhythm and Vines partiers to break up what was for many is a long drive home from the Gisborne festival.

The Eastern Bay Road Safety Programme - a joint initiative by

Whakatāne, Opōtiki and Kawerau district councils and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council - has conveyed its thanks to the young people who stopped, rested and travelled safely through the region.

Acknowledgement was also given to the volunteers, staff and helpers from Opōtiki Lions, Waioatahe Contractors, Opōtiki Cadets, Matatā Bluelight, Higgins, ACGC, Matatā and Opōtiki Volunteer Fire Brigades, Eastern Bay Area Police, Matatā Residents Association, Bunnings Whakatāne and council staff and elected members.

Gisborne District Council came on board this year with most of the funding required to cover costs including food, drinks, traffic management, safety and event signage, and road safety-related gifts.

It is understood that no accidents occurred on Eastern Bay roads on New Year's Day.

Photo supplied

4.2.3. Summer Road Safety Roadshow




Our 2026 Summer Road Safety Roadshow, now in its second year, delivered fun, educational and interactive activities at five locations in January. The locations this year were Thornton, Kawerau, Ōhope, Ōpōtiki and Te Kaha. Sadly, our Ruatāhuna and Taneatua events were cancelled due to rain.

Each event was well attended by locals and holiday makers and focused on themes linked to Impaired Driving, Speed and Restraints.

The events were the first opportunity for us to utilise our new Road Safety Themed Go-Karts, which are super robust, have similar steering to a car and are suitable and fun to ride by both tamariki and adults.

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)



Participating whānau started by completing a cornhole activity themed on Restraints or Speed, which would involve answering a road safety question linked to the theme. They would then move on to driving the kart around a course with obstacles and upon completing the first time, they would then try again but wearing impairment goggles.



We would follow the driver throughout the process and talk about the key messaging. Some of the participants even shared their own experiences driving impaired and how the activity provided an opportunity to reflect on their choices and potential risks to others!

Once all the activities were completed, whānau were offered a few small road safety themed gifts and given the chance to spin a wheel to win a major prize. These prizes included picnic sets, bluetooth speakers, board games and chocolates.

Overall, we felt that the roadshow was successful in supporting our team to engage with community members throughout the Eastern Bay and interact on and share key road safety messages.

4.3. Social Sector Network

As part of our commitment to support a strong and connected social sector, we provide a space and networking opportunities to the sector. In December the Community Partnerships Team hosted the final Social Sector Network event for the year. This was co-hosted by Whakatāne Neighbourhood Support who provided an overview of the fabulous work they do in keeping our neighbourhoods safer, and was attended by 35 people from 26 organisations.

Mayor Tánczos acknowledged the contribution the sector makes to the wellbeing of our communities and thanked them for their participation in our various processes during the year. He also shared some thoughts on some areas of interest in the social sphere, including housing and homelessness, youth achievement, and participation.

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)

5. Strategic Māori Partnership and Commercial Services Update

5.1. Dusty the Plane joins Whakatāne Airport as a playground feature

A life-size replica of Dusty, the crop duster from the 2013 animated film *Planes*, is now ready for children to enjoy at Whakatāne Airport. This has been made possible through our close relationship with Classic Flyers in Mt Maunganui, who gifted the aircraft to Council. The agreement allows us to keep Dusty for as long as we wish, with the understanding that it cannot be sold and will be returned to Classic Flyers when we are finished with it.

The accompanying stairs were donated by Air Chathams and were previously used to load the DC3 when it operated in Whakatāne.

Our Ports and Airports team anticipates that Dusty will provide a unique, plane-themed play experience for children, complement the Rere Café space, and create a distinctive attraction for the community.



6. Planning, Regulatory and Transport Update

6.1. Three Waters

6.1.1. *Watermain Renewals in Matatā, and Edgecumbe*

Edgecumbe

Works are currently underway on Puriri Crescent and Hinau Place and are expected to finish by mid-February. The programme then moves to Tawa Street (including the adjoining portion of Main Street) and will finish at Konini Place, likely in April–May 2026.

Matatā

Renewals cover Pollen Street and surrounding streets, including Fairfield Street, Marae Lane, and remaining portions of Wilson, Nesbitt, and Heale Streets that were not renewed in the last contract. The package also includes Arawa Street (Division St to Pollen St), part of Mair Street, and St John Street. The project also includes replacing the failing pipe bridge at Wilson Creek with a drilled PE pipeline.

Works began on 9 January 2026 and are being delivered in three stages, with completion expected by June 2026:

- Area 1: Pollen St, Wilson St, Nesbitt St
- Area 2: Pollen St, Heale St, Fairfield St, Marae Lane
- Area 3: Remaining streets

Treatment Plants Upgrades

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)

The Otumahi water treatment plant (supplies Edgecumbe, Te Teko and environs) has been upgraded with the inclusion of ultra-violet light units (duty and standby) and cyclone separators for fine sand removal. With these upgrades the plant achieves full compliance with the NZ Drinking Water Standards.



The Braemar water treatment plant (supplies most of the Rangitāiki Plains area) has four 5.3m long by 2.5 m diameter filter cylinders. These remove arsenic from the water by way of a ferric oxide media. Every two years 8.25 tonnes of media is purchased to replace the media in two of the filters. During the middle of January, the old “spent” media was removed and new media installed in the two filters. This plant also fully complies with the NZ Drinking Water Standards.



6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)

Edgecumbe Wastewater Pipe Renewal

Through asset management planning and condition assessments, approximately 450 metres of wastewater pipeline within the Edgecumbe township has been identified as having significant structural defects and/or defects resulting in reduced performance. As a result, these pipes were prioritised for renewal as part of the 2025–2026 relining programme.

The renewal works utilise UV Cured-in-Place Pipe (CIPP) relining, a proven trenchless rehabilitation method that restores the full structural integrity of existing pipelines. The process involves installing a flexible tube impregnated with polyester resin inside the existing pipe, which is then cured using ultraviolet light to form a seamless, corrosion-resistant liner within the host pipe. When installed correctly, CIPP provides a minimum 50-year design life, prevents groundwater infiltration and root intrusion, and improves hydraulic performance due to its smooth internal surface.

The programme is currently around 60 percent complete, with the remaining 40 percent scheduled to be completed before June 2026.



Wastewater valve chamber works, Tawhara Place, Edgecumbe

In August 2025, the steel pipe conveying wastewater from the pump station valve chamber to the PE rising main failed due to corrosion, resulting in a wastewater overflow. Draintech was engaged to carry out a temporary repair while assessment of the valve chamber pipework was undertaken.

The assessment identified that the existing steel pipework and valves were in poor condition, presenting an ongoing risk of failure and leakage. As a result, the valve chamber is currently being renewed. The concrete chamber structure remains in good condition; only the steel pipework and associated fittings are being replaced.

Draintech is currently undertaking these works. A temporary bypass system is in place while the valve chamber is offline to prevent any disruption to the wastewater network.

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)



Bypass pumping at WWPS Tawhara Place, Edgecumbe.

6.2. Transportation

6.2.1. Roading Update

Most major road works planned for this season have been completed. Road pavement rebuilding on Thornton Beach Road, and Manawahe Road were completed pre-Christmas, and the site on Western Drain Road completed in January. The seal extension on Thornton Hall Road was also completed pre-Christmas. Council will have ongoing resealing and seal patch repairs continuing across the district through until March or April.



6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)

6.2.2. *Western Drain Road in progress*



Thornton Beach Road

Manawahe Road

We also have a major underslip repair underway on Rewatu Road. This commenced in January and is expected to be complete by May. Rewatu Road is closed during construction with access available from either side of the site.

7. Strategy and Growth

7.1. Walkways updates

Access improvements have been made at Edgecumbe Domain and Thornton. At Edgecumbe Domain there was a request to improve mobility scooter and pram access to the stop bank trail. This was done by removing the pinch bars and hoops and replacing with a single vehicle bollard providing unimpeded access. At Thornton, self-closing double gates were added. This has improved access to the stop bank trail while containing grazing stock. We will continue to improve this set-up with contractors and the grazing licence holder.

6.1 Rangitāiki Community Board Activity Report – February 2026(Cont.)



The focus for the Edgecumbe–Thornton walkway and cycleway in 2025/26 has been the development of Section 3 of the trail. The wider Destination Cycleways programme will undergo a strategic review in response to ongoing challenges, including land access constraints, escalating project costs, and the need for strengthened hapū support. As a result, progress on this section has been paused, and future decisions will be guided by the outcomes of the programme-level review.

8. News

To keep up to date with current news members are encouraged to review the “Latest News” and “Public Notices”:

<https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/news> ; <https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/about-council/public-notices>

Social media: Social media is also a useful way for members to keep up to date with Council activities in your hapori.

<https://www.facebook.com/WhakataneDistrictCouncil>

<https://www.facebook.com/WhakataneAquaticCentre/>

<https://www.facebook.com/taketakemuseum>

<https://www.facebook.com/whakatanelibrary>

The Council Facebook page is a critical communications channel for our emergency management team and posts will always be put up during times the Incident Management Team is monitoring weather or other emergency events.

Events: For up to date listings on community events, information can be found here <https://www.whakatane.com/events>

<https://www.whakatane.com/events/community-events-and-markets>

Attached to this Report:

There are no appendices attached to this report.

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026To: **Rangitāiki Community Board**Meeting Date: **Wednesday, 4 February 2026**Author: **A Dass / Governance Support Advisor**Authoriser **C Viljoen / Manager Governance Services**Reference: **A3048380****1. Reason for the report - *Te Take mō tēnei rīpoata***

This report provides the Rangitāiki Community Board with updates from the Governance Services team along with an update on the upcoming by-election following the 2025 triennial elections.

2. Recommendation - *Tohutohu akiaki*

THAT the Governance Services Report February 2026 be **received**.

3. Background - He tirohanga whakamuri**3.1. Discretionary Funding**

Applicants now complete their funding application via SmartyGrants; a cloud-based platform that Council uses to manage grants. During this round, one discretionary funding application was received however, it was declined due to insufficient information, and it did not meet the established funding criteria.

The following table indicates the unallocated grants and subsidies (discretionary) fund. The balance of the Rangitāiki discretionary fund at 31 December 2025 as shown below, is approximately \$45,093.70.

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026(Cont.)

Rangitaiki Community Board		
Unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund) as at 31 December 2025	\$ 45,093.70	
2026 Opening Balance carried forward from prior years unallocated grants*	\$13,842.70	
Funding operating surplus (deficit) for 2025 FY*	\$11,770.00	
2025/26 Annual Plan	\$19,981.00	
2025/26 revised Budget of Grants and Subsidies to allocate	\$45,593.70	
2026 Allocations		
SEPTEMBER 2025 FUNDING THE RANGITAIKI AREA, ALZHEIMERS EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY	\$500.00	Approved & Paid
Year to Date allocations	\$	500.00
Current unallocated Grants and Subsidies (Discretionary Fund)*		\$45,093.70

4. Subjects – *Kaupapa*

This section contains information that the Governance Services team wish to update Members with.

4.1. By-Election Update

4.1.1. Extraordinary Vacancy – *Murupara (One Vacancy)*

Jesse Morgan-Ranui, elected as the Māori Ward Councillor in the Toi ki Uta Māori Ward, which meant their name was withdrawn from the Murupara Community Board, triggering a by-election to fill the single remaining vacancy. Nominations for the by-election opened on Monday, 24 November 2025 and closed at noon on Monday, 22 December 2025. Two candidate nomination applications were received for the one vacancy, Karen Isemonger-Rameka and Alicia Oliver. Voting opened on Friday, 30 January 2026 and will close at noon on Election Day, which is Tuesday, 3 March 2026.

Since five of the six members have been sworn into office at its inaugural, the board can still undertake its duties as it meets the quorum requirement of four members present and voting.

4.1.2. Extraordinary Vacancy – *Tāneatua (Three Vacancies)*

Due to insufficient candidates at the 2025 triennial elections, three extraordinary vacancies have occurred in the Tāneatua Community Board. Nominations for the by-election opened on Monday, 24 November 2025 and closed at noon on Monday, 22 December 2025. Six candidate nomination applications were received for the three vacancies on the Tāneatua Community Board. Voting opened on Friday, 30 January 2026 and will close at noon on Election Day, which is Tuesday, 3 March 2026.

More information on the by-elections is available on the Councils website here:

<https://www.hakatane.govt.nz/about-council/governance/local-elections-2025/2026-elections-murupara-community-board-galatae>

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026(Cont.)

4.2. New Triennium Information

4.2.1. *Inaugural Combined Community Board meeting*

Council held its first Inaugural Combined Community Board meeting in the Council Chambers on 1 December 2025, where members were formally welcomed, completed their statutory declarations, and received legislative advice relevant to the 2025–2028 triennium. The meeting acknowledged retiring members from the previous triennium. Following an adjournment to allow each Community Board to convene separately, appointed their Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons for the triennium, and set their first meeting dates for early 2026. The minutes from the meeting are available here - [Inaugural Combined Community Board Meeting - 5 December 2025](#)

4.2.2. *Pecuniary interest forms*

You may recall during the legal advice presentation at your Inaugural meeting, you were advised of the requirement that all elected members must complete a pecuniary interest form. The forms have been sent to you and *must* be returned by 27 February 2026. Elected Members have specific *obligations* to declare their pecuniary (financial) and non-pecuniary interests to ensure transparency and public trust. It is to be noted if you do not return the completed forms, you may face a fine of up to \$5,000.

4.2.3. *Standing orders*

Local authorities, local boards and community boards must adopt standing orders for the orderly conduct of their meetings.

Standing orders are a critical element of good governance and great local democracy, because well-run meetings and hui should increase community awareness and understanding of decision-making processes and build trust.

The Department of Internal Affairs is currently updating the NZS 9202:2003 Model Standing Orders to reflect legislative changes and improve consistency across local authorities.

The Board will continue to operate under its current Standing Orders until the new model standing orders are released. Once the updated model is available, a report will be provided for the Board's consideration.

4.2.4. *Training and professional development*

Ākona is the Local Government New Zealand online learning and development program designed specifically for elected members of local government. It contains many bite-sized learning modules and Ākona also holds webinars that you are welcome to participate in.

There is also a limited Council budget for professional development for Community Board members.

4.2.5. *Community Board Executive Committee (CBEC)*

CBEC supports community board members, offers advice to LGNZ's National Council, and champions the role of community boards in local decision-making. It has one representative from each of [LGNZ's six zones](#), plus representatives from Te Maruata (Māori elected member network) and Young Elected Member network.

Nominations for new members closed on 16 January 2026.

6.2 Governance Services Report – February 2026(Cont.)

With voting papers sent late January. Voting opened on Wednesday, 28 January and closes on Friday, 27 February 2026. Each Community Board has one vote, and an email has been sent to the Community Boards.

4.3. Strategic Planning

A Strategic Plan is a ‘living document’ and a framework to guide direction, outline the goals, the actions need to achieve them, and the resources required for implementation. Benefits of strategic planning include clarity and alignment, proactive goal setting, efficient resource allocation and enhanced responsiveness.

The Rangitāiki Community Board’s Strategic Plan requires a review early in the 2025-2028 triennium. Council’s Community Partnerships team will be available to assist this process, and their experience and involvement with Community Plans will be valuable to enable the Board’s Strategic Plan to have alignments with the communities, thereby ensuring best outcomes to the rohe.

Next steps

- Members review the [Rangitaiki Community Board Action Plan 2022-2025](#)
- Members could research and review other Community Board plans for inspiration and ideas.
- A facilitated session be organised for members to develop an updated plan.
- Once developed the Plan will be formally adopted by the Board.
- At meetings, review progress on plan actions and outcomes.

7 Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports

7 Chairperson and Sub-Committee Reports

7.1 RCB Chairperson Report – February 2026



To: **Rangitāiki Community Board**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday, 4 February 2026**

Submitted by: **S Bonner / RCB Chairperson**

Reference: **A3053046**

1. Introduction

This report marks my first as chair of the Rangitāiki Community Board.

Firstly, I would like to welcome everyone. I would also like to acknowledge the recent severe weather event across the Bay of Plenty which has had a profound impact on our communities and will invite members to observe a minute's silence in remembrance of those who have lost their lives.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the board, acknowledge those we work alongside and outline our collective role within the community.

Following our recent swearing in at Whakatane District Council offices. The Rangitāiki Community Board is now made-up of a committed group of members who bring a diverse range of skills, experience, and local knowledge. I am supported by Deputy Chair Stu McHardy alongside board members Storm Hale, Bill Clark, Bruce Evans and Heemi Brown. Together we are focused on advocating for the interests of our communities and providing a strong link between residents and council.

We are supported by our Ward Councillor - Gavin Dennis whose role is vital in representing our community at the Council table and ensuring local perspectives are reflected in wider district decision making. We also acknowledge and value the contribution of our Maori Ward Councillor – Tu O'Brien whose representation brings an essential Te Ao Maori perspective and strengthens our connections with mana whenua and Maori communities.

I look forward to working collaboratively with board members, counsellors, council staff and our wider community as we move forward together.

As a board we value open communication, respectful collaboration, and strong connections within our community. Our focus for the term is on listening to local voices advocating for Rangitāiki's needs and working constructively with Council to support positive outcomes for our area.

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the recent election. Your engagement and confidence in the Community Board is appreciated and we acknowledge the responsibility that comes with representing the diverse voices of the Rangitāiki Community Board.

2. Recommendation

THAT the Rangitāiki Community Board **receive** the RCB Chairperson Report – February 2026.

7.1.1 Appendix A - From the 2022-2025 Rangitāiki Community Board

3. Activity/Engagement

3.1. 2025

- 3 November - LGNZ Elected Members Induction - Rotorua
- 6 November - Inaugural Meeting – Whakatāne
- 1 December - Community Board Inaugural meeting Whakatane District Council
- 2 December - Senior's morning tea - Whakatane War Memorial Hall
- 11 December – Matatā Residents Association – Matatā rugby club

3.2. 2026

- 1 January - Matata Blue Light Fatigue Stop - Matata
- 12 January - Community Board live walkthrough session - SmartyGrants training - Whakatane District Council
- 22 January - Chairing and Standing Orders Meeting for Community Board members – Whakatāne District Council

4. Upcoming Community Activities

- 3 February 2026 - Te Teko Residents meeting - Rugby Club
- 4 February 2026 - Rangitaiki Community Board meeting - Edgecumbe
- 5 February 2026 – Manawahe Residents meeting - Manawahe Hall
- 11 February 2026 - Matata Residents Association - Matata Rugby Club
- 17 February 2026 - Edgecumbe Collective – Edgecumbe

Attached to this Report:

Appendix A – From the 2022-2025 Rangitāiki Community Board

7.1.1 Appendix A - From the 2022-2025 Rangitāiki Community Board

7.1.1 Appendix A - From the 2022-2025 Rangitāiki Community Board(Cont.)

1 From the 2022-2025 Rangitāiki Community Board

On behalf of *our* Rangitāiki Community Board to *you*, congratulations on your elected appointment to your new role on the Rangitāiki Community Board, representing our communities.

Being a community board member is about our communities, the connections you form with community leaders, local groups, rangatahi, kaumātua and the wider whānau of Rangitāiki and everybody in-between. The relationships you make are fundamental and reflective of the quality of outcomes you will deliver in your new role.

There will be a lot of learning, be that how meetings are carried out, how to interface with our various groups and communities, how to voice matters, or connecting people and much more. At the start of your role, there will be a lot to take in. The Governance staff are there to help you in your role, guide you to resources in order for you to be the best representative for our communities towards making good and informed decisions. Your Councillor representative on RCB will also be a wealth of invaluable information.

Local Government NZ is a good resource that WDC is a part of, and is connects you with other elected representatives, sharing knowledge for the betterment of others.

We encourage you to form strong relationships with the other community boards and attend the collective community board meetings. While the information sharing and relationships are invaluable, some projects may require cooperations across boards.

It should go without saying to ensure that you:

- Read your agenda well in advance before your meetings.
- Get to know the standing orders – formal meeting operations to run smoothly and effectively.
- Attend every meeting you can. If you genuinely cannot attend for some reason, contact the Chairperson and/or Governance team and put in your apology.
- There may be the opportunity to attend an RCB meeting via video conferencing.

Your RCB meetings generally are not the place for following up on operational / maintenance matters, such as a service request. You are able to follow up on that independently with the reference number given.

While you will be assigned a community group to regularly attend, attend each of your community group meetings around the rohe at least once this will help you and your communities connect and get to know one another. Some groups appreciate other forms of communications for example, a piece to include in their community newsletter, which Manawahe Community appreciated.

The work of a community board cannot exist in isolation; it thrives because of the collective voices, ideas and aspirations of those we serve. Sometimes, you may disagree as a board and that is okay the important

7.1.1 Appendix A - From the 2022-2025 Rangitāiki Community Board(Cont.)

thing to remember is these moments provide great learning opportunities. Progress requires patience, persistence and partnership, take your time, things generally won't happen overnight.

The strength of our board lies not only in the projects we deliver but in the relationships we build. Listening, connecting and advocating on behalf of our community is a responsibility we have carried with care. From local initiatives to larger district planning, every decision has reminded us that our role is to bring the voices of Rangitāiki to the council table and in some instances beyond. It is important to be involved in processes, such as the Long-Term Plan, or Plan Changes to the District Plan and to seek the views of our community to enable you to best represent them.

Some final reminders from us before we sign off:

- The Board has a Strategic Plan so be sure to review and constantly update this.
- Make sure when coming to the table, you are free of conflicts of interest when making your decisions. When speaking, be mindful of whether what you are saying is a RCB opinion, or your own.
- The work of community boards and council is often unseen by many. It involves long hours, countless meetings and a great deal of sacrifice from our whānau who support us.

The spirit of Rangitāiki is one of unity and determination, exhibited through generosity, innovation and aroha. Celebrate in times of success and stand together in times of need. There is much still to be done from improving infrastructure and accessibility, to supporting housing and wellbeing, to fostering opportunities for our young people. We encourage the incoming members to continue building on the strong foundations that have been laid, to keep community at the centre of every decision and to always remain connected to the people you all serve.

It is an honour to represent Rangitāiki, to advocate for our people and to contribute to the betterment of our rohe. Our Rangitāiki, is uniquely resilient; its diversity and its deep connection to the whenua continues to guide future leadership. Our opportunities are many, with vision, commitment and collective effort, Rangitāiki will thrive.

True leadership is shared leadership. It is about lifting one another up and ensuring that no voice is left unheard. We wish you well and look forward to supporting you in your endeavours throughout your triennium.

“He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.”
What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.