

EQC Clean up work

EQC continues to make progress on clearing properties in the Edgcumbe township that were badly affected by debris and silt from the April flooding event.

On 9 May 2017, Hon Gerry Brownlee and Lead Minister for Edgcumbe, Hon Anne Tolley, announced that they have directed EQC to take the lead to clean up all affected properties in the township – including those homeowners who do not have insurance.

EQC has a team of claim handlers and assessors on the ground in Edgcumbe over May and June handling claims for customers who require silt and debris removed from their

properties following the storm event. They are available to help customers directly with their claim enquiries and assist the work crews to schedule houses to be cleared.

To date there have been 181 claims lodged with EQC for urgent work to be carried out. So far, 17 houses have been cleared, and the team estimates that around 40 houses will be cleared each week over the next 5 weeks.

EQC claims can be lodged online at www.eqc.govt.nz/claims, via email on info@eqc.govt.nz, or by calling 0800 DAMAGE (326 243).

\$1 million lotteries grant for floods recovery

Internal Affairs Minister Hon Peter Dunne announced that \$1 million of 2016/17 Lottery Grants Board reserves, resulting from profits of New Zealand Lotteries, has been allocated to a Lottery Grants Board Subcommittee set up to provide immediate assistance to Edgcumbe and the surrounding community affected by the Rangitāiki River stopbank breach.

Requests for assistance are for community wellbeing and the recovery of community facilities and services (not business and/or employment support).

The Subcommittee will consider requests until all of the \$1 million has been distributed.

Requests for assistance to improve the lives and well-being of the community, including capital works up to \$30,000 required for the recovery of community facilities, may be made through the Department of Internal Affairs online grant management system – go to: www.whakatane.govt.nz/recovery-project/lottery-grant

Liveable Homes



The Volunteer Army is now working with Whakatāne District Council and other authorities on the Liveable Homes project as part of the recovery effort. Many homes now need interior stripping, fencing and other tasks which require a skilled tradesperson. See www.whakatane.govt.nz/project-liveable-homes or call 0800 306 0500 for more information.

NAVA is requesting help from builders and other qualified or experienced construction tradespeople to help with the Liveable Homes project. If that's you, and you can contribute at least a full day any time from Monday, 15 May onwards, please get in touch with Wini on 021 068 8195 or navaops001@gmail.com.

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has pledged insulation for houses needing repair, regardless of insurance status. This will help to ensure healthier homes for all. Other initiatives may also arise through the delivery of this project.



Igor Gerriston – Team Leader Rural Support Recovery Hub

Rural support

The Rural Support Trust have now set up their recovery hub and can be contacted on 0800 787 254.

Our facilitators are out meeting with affected farmers to assist them to get the help they need.

For farmers, this has meant re-sowing their flood-damaged pastures and applying fertilisers to boost pasture growth in a race to build feed cover for the winter months. Extra feed in the form of hay and silage is also being sourced for the months ahead.



BIOSECURITY NOTICE

When buying in or receiving donated feed, please check that the property the feed is coming from does not have weeds that are not known to be present on your farm.

Legal services

The Baywide Community Law Service can provide free legal advice and assistance to those in need. We have expertise in a wide range of legal issues, including insurance. We are based in Phoenix House, Pyne St, Whakatāne – phone 07 308 6817. Appointments are not necessary but preferable if possible. *We can and do accept koha for our services.*

College Road footpath

A new temporary College Road footpath is being installed over the next few days to ensure the safety of pedestrians – particularly children heading to school.

Road traffic volume is currently very high, and there is a need to ensure pedestrians and vehicles who use this stretch of road are clearly visible and can pass through safely.



TEMPORARY ROAD AND FOOTPATH ALIGNMENTS



LISTEN for daily radio updates on recovery progress

Daily updates on the Recovery Project can be heard on the following radio stations:

- **Radio Tumeke and SunFM** at 8am, 12pm, 4.30pm and 5.30pm – between the news and sports bulletins
- **1XX** – 9 am, 2pm and 6pm

To date over 2,700 civil defence payments have been made to help people with food, clothing and bedding, totalling over \$685,000, and there have been 60 requests through the temporary accommodation Service (MBIE).

Bay Hopper



On Thursdays and Fridays there is a fare-paying van service between Matatā and Whakatāne that travels via Edgcumbe. It picks up in Edgcumbe at 9:45am and gets back the same day at 1:30 pm. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is looking into ways they can provide additional services. If you want more information, go to www.baybus.co.nz.

Tzu Chi Foundation

The Taiwan Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation NZ is returning to Edgcumbe on Sunday, 28 May to continue the gifting of prezzi cards to red or yellow stickered households that did not already receive one. Starting at 1pm, the gifting will be in the Edgcumbe College Hall. People representing a household that has not already received their \$700 card are asked to fill in a registration form before the ceremony begins. This will be provided on the day.

The Foundation gifts one card per household, and the gift is intended for the tenants/owner-occupiers of the property at the time of the events.

To learn more about the Foundation and the work they do in New Zealand and around the world, you can visit their website at <http://tw.tzuchi.org/en/>

Rates postponement and remission

Rates invoices marked as 'postponed' will be issued for the 269 properties (185 owner-occupied, 69 owned by non-resident ratepayers, 11 large rural properties, and four commercial properties) identified so far as eligible for rates remission. These property owners will need to apply for the remission, and a letter is being sent to explain the process.



Rates payments will not be required until these properties are repaired to a standard where they can be safely reoccupied.

Initial estimates indicate that this may cost \$168,000 in this financial year and possibly more next year.

Events coming up

"AFTER THE CHAOS"

Saturday, 13 May at the Awakeri Events Centre – dance the night away to Agent 99 and KAOS. Tickets \$15 – doors sales available. Contact Gary for more info: 07 307 0878

A fundraiser is being held in Tauranga by Kai Aroha on **13 May** in Greerton. They are baking and holding a sausage sizzle.

OHO AKE – RISE UP CONCERT

Saturday, 27 May at the Te Teko Racecourse 11 am-5pm

Featuring live bands, kapa haka, and a tamariki zone, kaumatua lounge and kai stalls. Gold coin donation appreciated. More details on Facebook.