

Patutaatahi Kohanga Reo

Despite Tāwhiri-mātea putting a dampener on the last leg of Patutaatahi Kohanga Reo's three-day working bee, kohanga members were rapt with what was achieved.

Kohanga whānau – along with help from Haier and The Block NZ, a team from the Department of Corrections and other community volunteers – pushed wheelbarrows, dug holes and shifted an incredible amount of dirt from Friday through to Sunday at the Kohanga's flood-affected Rata Avenue property in Edgecumbe.

One of the organisers, Terri Wetini, said a lot had been accomplished.

"Everyone who came down worked pretty hard, but we had a lot of laughs in the process," she said. "The Haier/Block team was incredibly generous with products and time, and they were all awesome people too."

Sunday's rain meant the day was a bit of wash-out. "We weren't able to shift as much dirt as we would have liked, but we'll wait for things to dry out and hopefully get a contractor in to finish off."

Terri thanked everyone who had taken part.

Photo top: The Haier/Block NZ Team - Dyls (left) Delwyn Karanikolaou and Dylz

Bottom: Terri Wetini gives the thumbs up



Pekatahi Bridge

Kaumatua bless the Pekatahi Bridge before its reopening last Friday. NZTA's redecking project was significantly impacted by the flooding experienced on 6 April, which swept away some of the wooden deck and damaged the bridge abutment. Slip clearance work in the Waimana Gorge was also expected to be completed sufficiently to allow SH2 to be reopened to east-west traffic early this week.



Free Building Consents

A reminder that Whakatāne District Council is offering free building consents for works undertaken to repair flood damage.

Having a Building Consent and a Code Compliance Certificate is beneficial for property owners in a number of situations:

- When applying for loans or other financing
- When applying for insurance
- When selling your home
- For safety and peace of mind

It's recommended that for any flood-related works requiring a builder, plumber or electrician, homeowners make contact with the WDC Building Control team (on 306 0500) to request a free building consent, to ensure repairs are undertaken correctly and formally signed off. You can also get a consent form from the Liveable Homes Team at Te Tari Awhina – Community Hub at Edgecumbe Library; or online at www.whakatane.govt.nz.

A Code Compliance Certificate is issued when the work is completed, confirming that it complies with the New Zealand Building Code.



Recovery Support and Funding Assistance

A reminder that there are a number of sources of support and funding available to residents, business owners, farmers and growers affected by the April flood and cyclone events.

You'll find a full list on www.whakatane.govt.nz/recovery-project and hard copies are available at Te Tari Awhina Community Hub (Edgecumbe Library); Mururpara Library; Whakatāne Horizon Energy Library; and Kawerau i-SITE.

Farmers and growers wanting assistance to complete the Bay of Plenty Primary Sector Recovery Grant can contact the Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254.

16 DAYS REMAINING TO LODGE A CLAIM WITH EQC

People have until Wednesday 5 July 2017 to lodge a claim from the 6 April 2017 event with EQC.

Community Team

The Recovery Community Team is continuing its door-to-door canvassing of flood-affected areas in the district, to make sure everyone is aware of the recovery services available.

Pictured right: Chris King-Hazel and Arapeta Taitoko out and about in Tāneatua on Friday.



EQC Update

To date there have been 252 claims lodged with EQC to have silt and debris damage removed from land around houses. Contractors have cleared material from lawns and gardens for most of the properties involved, and EQC is continuing to work with insurers to complete the clean-up under houses.

Feedback has been very positive, with EQC's text message service allowing customers to receive instant updates on their claim progress.

Customers have three months from the date of the damage to lodge a claim with EQC. To lodge a claim, call EQC on 0800 DAMAGE (0800 326 243) or email on info@eqc.govt.nz.

Edgecumbe School holiday programme



Planning is well underway for July's School Holiday Programme in Edgecumbe, which is being organised by Recovery Events Coordinator Vicky Richards and Edgecumbe Bluelight. Activities for school-aged children will run between 7.30am and 5.30pm. Details to come.

Edgecumbe Bluelight will also be coordinating another camp for Edgecumbe youth in the July holidays – numbers are limited and priority will be given to young people who have been affected by the flood. For more details, please contact Vicky Richards, 027 309 3657.



Can we help with insulation?

Was your property affected by the April flood event?

Insured with insulation	Not insured, with or without insulation	Insured with no insulation	Living in a rental property
Contact your insurer	Contact Liveable Homes at Te Tari Awhina (Edgecumbe Library) 027 565 3898	Contact Liveable Homes at Te Tari Awhina (Edgecumbe Library) 027 565 3898	Contact Smart Energy Solutions 07 308 9126

For further information, visit www.whakatane.govt.nz/project-liveable-homes