

BayTrust / Bay of Plenty Regional Council funding



John Pullar and Pearl Tāne from the Liveable Homes team.

Whakatāne District Council's Liveable Homes project received a further funding boost this week with contributions totalling \$750,000 from Bay of Plenty Regional Council and BayTrust.

Whakatāne District Mayor Tony Bonne and Liveable Homes team leader John Pullar have welcomed the announcement, saying the funding provided will go a long way towards ensuring the project's success.

"From the start, Liveable Homes' aim was to make sure that no-one was left behind because they didn't have the means to repair their homes to a habitable standard," they say. "The Eastern Bay Energy Trust's \$200,000 contribution meant that we were able to address the insulation needs of flood-affected residential properties and with this

fantastic support from BayTrust (\$250,000) and the Regional Council (\$500,000), we can look forward to delivering some significant benefits for people whose homes were impacted by the April floods."

Any flood-affected Whakatāne District residents who want to know if they are eligible for assistance with building repairs, or free insulation through the Liveable Homes Project, are asked to ring the Liveable Homes Coordinator on 027 565 3898, or call in to Te Tari Awhina Community Hub at the Edgecumbe Library.

Digital photo lab this weekend

A free service to digitally copy photographs of flood-affected families is being offered from today through until Monday. **10am and 6pm**; please note Sunday's venue is in Whakatāne.

Thursday 29, Friday 30 June, Saturday 1 July, Monday 3 July
St David's Presbyterian Church Lounge, 51 College Street, Edgecumbe
Sunday 2 July Acacia House, Louvain Street, Whakatāne



Change in Skip bin Service

Skip bin services in Edgecumbe are being downscaled because good progress with waste removal has seen a drop in demand. The skip bin 'hotline' will cease on 7 July and bins in use will be collected by 12 July.

After 7 July, anyone who still needs to dispose of flood-affected household contents, or strip-out material (floor and wall linings), can contact Whakatāne District Council Customer Services on 07 306 0500.

Waste removal services will still be supplied to support the work of the Liveable Homes Project and Task Force Green. Waste services relating to other rebuild activities remain the responsibility of contractors.

To dispose of greenwaste from garden tidy-ups – please use your kerbside greenwaste bin, or take material to the Whakatāne Transfer Station, Te Tahi Street, Whakatāne.

Pride Whakatāne community gift

The Pride Whakatāne District Committee is supporting the District recovery effort by offering a free fruit tree to flood-affected residents.

Pride Whakatāne Chairman, Councillor Andrew Iles, says the act of planting a tree is symbolic of renewal and has the added benefit of providing produce for years to come.

If you would like a tree, please decide your first, second and third preference from the options below; and either clip the coupon and post to: PO Box 6, Waimana 3186; email your order and contact details to: Andrew.iles@whakatane.govt.nz; or ring Andrew on 027 294 1849.

If you need help to plant your tree – please let Andrew know when you place your order. Pride Whakatāne acknowledges the assistance of Waimea Nurseries, Nelson.

SELECT-A-FRUIT TREE

Name: _____

Address: _____

List your first three preferences from the following selection: _____

Apple – Fig – Feijoa – Lemon – Mandarin – Apricot – Peach – Pear



Home-away-from-home (at home)

Martin and Barbara Finucane have set up camp on their back lawn – and they couldn't be more pleased.

The couple's pre-flood caravan has been replaced through insurance and, late last week, the new home-away-from-home was towed to the Finucane's Edgcumbe property. They say they are absolutely rapt and relieved to be back.

"We were renting a place in Ōhope overlooking the harbour, but we much prefer being back home. The next thing will be getting all of our animals back with us."

"We weren't able to catch one of the cats so were travelling from Ōhope to Edgcumbe every second day to leave food and fresh water."

Expected to be out of their home until Christmas, the Finucane's remain upbeat and positive.

"We're home where we can keep an eye on things and also help where we can with the rebuild."



05 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.

EQC update

Nearly 260 claims have now been lodged with EQC to clear up silt and debris damage from residents' properties in Edgcumbe. Apart from delays in sub-floor work at some houses, 80% of the work has now been completed. All external property work has also been completed. To lodge a claim, call EQC on 0800 DAMAGE (0800 326 243). To date, 2,568 tonnes of silt and debris have been removed from Edgcumbe. That volume is equivalent to 57 full milk tankers.

Tender awarded for relocatable houses

Modcom Portable Buildings Limited has been awarded the contract to supply 10 units for a 'relocatable house park' at the Whakatāne Holiday Park to meet flood-related, temporary housing needs for up to one year.



An elevation showing the floor plan for the two-bedroom relocatable units.

The development is a joint initiative between WDC and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), with the Council purchasing the relocatable units and retaining them for future tourism accommodation purposes. MBIE has agreed to contribute \$700,000 to cover transport and infrastructure needs (road access, water, wastewater and power connections, etc.) for the relocatable house park.

It is expected that the first of the units should be ready by the end of July.

Emergency alerting system test

Bay of Plenty Civil Defence is testing all of its alerting systems at 10am on Monday 3 July.



Alerting systems are checked twice each year to ensure they are working as they should.

Monday's test will include text alerts and social media updates, as well as fixed and vehicle mounted sirens in some areas. The tests also serve as a reminder that an emergency can happen at any time and that people need to be prepared.

To register for text alerts, text the two letters for the area you live in (WH for the Whakatāne District, KA for Kawerau, and OP for Ōpōtiki) to 2028. Or for more information on how to get prepared for an emergency, visit www.bopcivildefence.govt.nz. www.happens.nz also has tips for families on how to be prepared, including advice on how to evacuate, assemble getaway bags, and make plans.

MPI update

The assessment panel considering grant applications to the \$200,000 MPI fund established to help farmers and growers impacted by April's storms and floods met this week and approved 24 of 26 submitted applications. In total, almost \$137,000 of the fund was distributed.

Application forms are available on-line at www.whakatane.govt.nz/apply/flood-recovery-grant or can be picked up from Whakatāne District Council Customer Services, or via the Rural Support Trust (0800 787 254 or email BOPRST2017@gmail.com).

Eligible works under the grant scheme include:

- Re-establishment of uninsurable pasture and crops, inundated by flood waters
- Initial clean-up of silt and debris (where uninsurable).

Farmers are encouraged to call the Rural Support Trust on 0800 787 254 to talk about what they need and get pointed in the right direction for further support, information and advice.

Extra bus service discontinued

The month-long, free mini-bus service between Edgcumbe and Whakatāne has drawn to a close. The regular Bay Bus services continue – for information, go to: www.baybus.co.nz/eastern-bay/whakatane/whakatane-to-matata/