

## 'Amazing' Holiday Programme

Vicky Richards and her willing team of helpers have been "blown away" by the numbers attending the Bluelight Winter School Holiday Programme held at the Edgecumbe War Memorial Hall.

About 55 youngsters ranging from pre-school age through to teens have been spending their days immersed in a mix of physical activity, creativity, fun and relaxation. There is a movie room and a "sports pavilion" as well as the arts and crafts space.

"We've had organisations come in and take charge of different activities like weaving, art and face painting," Vicky said. "It's been amazing so far."

Still to come is a Celebration Day, complete with Treasure Hunt and an Amazing Race on Friday 21. To enquire about getting involved, please call Vicky on 027 309 3657.



*Tekylah-Rose Coffin patiently waits for her turn at the face-painting table.*



*Zac and Ryan Melrose tuck-in to morning tea.*



*Manawai Tepu shows his basketball skills.*



*The lucky winner, Edgecumbe's Thelma Walker (centre) pictured with representatives from Nicholson Autos, SunFM and friends, including Charelle Stevenson from Peppers (far right).*

## Edgecumbe local's stroke of luck

Edgecumbe community stalwart and Peppers Building Supplies Manager Charelle Stevenson was a happy lady on Saturday – the day Nicholson United Autos gave away a Holden Colorado following a six-month Sun FM Drive and Buy promotion.

Peppers and Rangitāiki Home Kills both took part in the promotion and it was Edgecumbe's Thelma Walker who took the Colorado home after making a purchase at Peppers.

"It was awesome for our team," Charelle says. "The fact the truck went to a flood-affected person was great, but what made it even better was that Thelma and her husband are loyal customers of ours and have been for a long time."

## MPI update

The Bay of Plenty Primary Sector Flood Recovery Grant applications have now closed and all grants – of either \$2000, \$5000 or \$10,000 – have been distributed.

Fully-completed applications that met the eligibility criteria were assessed by a Technical Panel and recommendations were made to the Assessment Panel, which in turn made the final grant decisions.

To talk about other assistance options, including those available from Work and Income and Inland Revenue, as well as other forms of support, please contact your local Rural Support Trust on 0800 787254 (0800 RURAL HELP) [www.rural-support.org.nz](http://www.rural-support.org.nz)

## Riverslea Mall Repairs underway

Reinstatement of Riverslea Mall has begun with The Gartshore Group contracted to do the work. Mall owner David Grindley says the job will be completed in four stages. More details will be released in the next few weeks.



## 300 local claims

The period for lodging a claim with EQC following the April cyclone events has passed. The impact of the cyclones was widespread, causing damage to property across multiple regions in the North and South Island, including Northland, Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Greater Wellington and Canterbury. EQC has received 1,014 claims and most of the claims are in the process of being settled. Once a claim is lodged with EQC, a Claims Manager contacts the customer directly to discuss the claim and resolution process.

### Of the 1,014 lodged claims:

- **300** were lodged from the wider Whakatāne District for landslips and flooding damage
- **271** were lodged by Edgecumbe residents, making up over a quarter of the total claims for the storm events.



## PLEASE take care with winter heating

We don't need to tell you it's cold, and is likely to get colder in the coming weeks. Please take extra care heating temporary accommodation.

- Make sure clothes, furniture, pets and children are kept at least a metre away from the heater – placing a screen guard in front can help.
- When using a portable LPG heater, it's important to test it for leaks and you must keep a window or two open to help ventilate the space.



## Upcoming events: Ladies Morning Teas

The Rural Support Trust is providing an opportunity for rural women to take a few hours out in each other's company this month; listen to a guest speaker; have a cuppa and enjoy delicious food you don't have to prepare! Please, let others know and come along.



- **Waimana Hall**, Tuesday 18 July, 10am – 1pm
- **Red Barn Café, Thornton**, Thursday 20 July, 10am – 1pm
- **Mou Mou Café, Tāneatua**, Tuesday 25 July, 10am – 1pm
- **Galatea Memorial Club**, Thursday 27 July, 10am – 1pm