

4 months on...

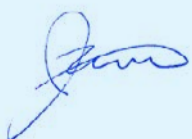
This Sunday marks four months since the Whakatāne District experienced widespread damage to homes, property, businesses, farms, the natural environment and infrastructure as a result of ex-Cyclones Debbie and Cook; and four months since 1600 people were evacuated from Edgumbe township and the surrounding area after the Rangitāiki River stopbank breached on College Road, causing extensive flooding. A number of residents in Poroporo, Thornton and Tāneatua also had to leave their homes.

Put another way, 6 August will also mark one-hundred-and-twenty-two days since the occupants of around 300 homes, predominantly in Edgumbe, have not been able to sleep in their own beds.

It's timely too, to acknowledge the resilience of people in affected parts of the district and note how much has been achieved... while also recognising how much work remains to be done.

The work being undertaken by the Recovery Team will continue until all affected families are back in their homes, getting their lives back to familiar routines, and Edgumbe people develop a plan to make their community even stronger than it was pre-flood.

We recognise that people's needs change at different stages in the recovery process. If anyone needs assistance, please contact the Recovery Office at the Whakatāne District Council on 306 0500.



Julie Gardyne
Recovery Manager



Stop bank breaches in Edgumbe and Poroporo caused widespread flooding causing 1,900 people to be evacuated from their homes.



557 properties have been assessed for flood damage, most of those in Edgumbe.



1,400 hectares of farm land was under water for 10-14 days. Total 5,125 hectares of river flooded land.



4,086 cows were trucked out of the area in the first 48 hours after the breach in Edgumbe.



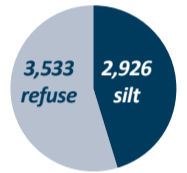
15 homes were severely damaged and deemed unsafe and over 300 homes need repair to be habitable again.



Significant roading damage isolated some rural communities for over a week.



The Ministry of Social Development has provided assistance to over 3,200 people.



TONNES OF WASTE

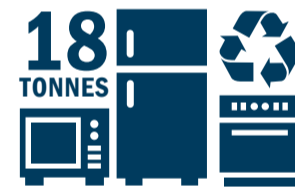
More than 6,459 tonnes of waste has been sent to landfill from clean-up in Edgumbe, of which 2,926 was silt and 3,533 refuse.



Some 1,500 registered volunteers contributed more than 6,800 hours of work to the NAVA clean-up effort.



More than 2,926 tonnes of silt has been taken to landfill from EQC section-clearing operations.



Over 18 tonnes of whiteware and steel have been recycled.



92.6 hectares of river erosion (av. Dairy farm is 131ha.)



220 flood-affected dairy farms in Whakatāne District; average recovery cost of \$122,000 per farm.



\$2.2m loss in income in the Whakatāne District due to farmers forced to dry off cows 6 weeks early.



The Recovery Facebook page has reached 91,951 people with 1,332 total engagements and over 400 likes.



22 Recovery Newsletters produced; each distributed to 800 email addresses.



SIGNS OF THE TIMES

It's pretty hard not to notice the many signs taking over the landscape in Edgumbe: Hazard Area; Danger – Keep Out – No Unauthorised Admittance; and one we particularly like – Rebuilding Edgumbe!

Recovery Project

Whakatāne District Council establishes Recovery Office

Recovery Community Team start door-to-door visits in affected areas; go on to make more than **1030 attempts to contact affected residents via visits or phone calls**



Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgecumbe Library opened



\$1 million lottery grants fund announced for community affected by stopbank breach

Tzu Chi Foundation makes the second distribution of gift cards to affected residents

MAY

The Whakatāne District Council and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) announce joint funding for the **development of a Relocatable House Park at the Whakatāne Domain Holiday Park**



Donated goods centres operating in Whakatāne, Te Teko and Edgecumbe

Positive community feedback on the Recovery Expo organised by the Edgecumbe community focus group and Recovery Office



Registrations of Interest open for the Liveable Homes Insulation programme funded by Eastern Bay Energy Trust (now at 173)

JUNE

Geotechnical rig on site on College Road, Edgecumbe to investigate the ground near the existing stopbank and breach site to inform design of stopbank re-build



71 farms registered for clean-up with Enhanced Task Force Green

Draft Recovery Action Programme released; builds a framework for recovery and a community-led plan for the future

Lodgement of claims with EQC closed 5 July – **300 Whakatāne District claims** – 271 of those in Edgecumbe

30 businesses directly affected by flooding, 19 are now open, 10 require repair



Rural Support Trust Facilitators are actively working with **72 farmers** and their families

100% of the Ministry for Primary Industries BOP Recovery Grant of **\$200K** distributed



200 free flood-related building consent applications received by Whakatāne District Council

10-day **Bluelight Winter School Holiday Programme** – attended by av. 50 children per day and 30 teenagers attend Bluelight youth camp

20 families placed in temporary accommodation through MBIE



First families return to their repaired homes

Repairs completed on first two Liveable Homes properties. Assessments, drying and repairs continue on another 13.

JULY



Kōkōhinau Marae Papakāinga housing development announced; first 5 homes to be used for Temporary Accommodation

A temporary Bailey Bridge across the washed-out northern approach to the Horomanga Stream bridge at Galatea sees **all Whakatāne District roads open for the first time since April's event**. Overall road repair costs est. \$15million



42 people attend **Insurance Information Drop-in** at Te Tari Āwhina – organised by Edgecumbe Community Focus Group and Recovery Office

Approx. 12% of the MBIE Whakatāne District Business Recovery Grant distributed (of \$200,000)

Approx. **51.5%** of **Whakatāne District Mayoral Relief Fund** distributed (of \$169,272)

Over **850 residents** have been involved in a **Recovery-related event**; Expo, School Holiday Programme, Rural Support workshops and get-togethers, Insurance Info Drop-in day

Reports of up to **10 flood-damaged homes** now repaired

1892 Visitors to Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub

LOOKING FORWARD

- Navigators Programme to be introduced to provide medium-term support for those in need
- The first two self-contained portacabin homes due onsite at the Whakatāne Domain Holiday Park on 8 August, with pairs of units arriving weekly, for five weeks
- Over a dozen partner agencies continue to work with Whakatāne District Council to support the Recovery
- Development of a Community-led plan for the future of affected-areas begins in September
- BOPRC continues repairs on 500 sites across the flood protection schemes
- All Liveable Homes Programme properties re-occupied by Christmas; 90% of all affected residents home by Christmas