



Recovery Office and NASH representatives – standing right behind Rangitāiki Community Board Chair Charelle Stevenson and Navigators Vicky Richards, Dorothy Gilliland and Cheryl Wilson.

## Recovery Team welcomes Navigators

The Recovery Team at Whakatāne District Council welcomed a new member this week, with Cheryl Wilson being seconded from Ngāti Awa Social and Health services. Cheryl joins the Recovery Navigator Service, which will work with individuals and families to support them to identify and access the wide range of services available to help with recovery and ongoing wellness.

Te Tohu o Te Ora o Ngāti Awa CEO Enid Ratahi-Pryor says the secondment position is a collaboration between the Recovery Team and Ngāti Awa Social and Health services, enabling two diverse organisations and cultures to work alongside each other to support whānau to rebuild their lives and communities devastated by the April flood and cyclone events.

Funding for the Navigator Service has been secured from the Ministry of Social Development, Bay of Plenty District Health Board and Bay of Plenty Regional Council, with a grant also coming from the Department of Internal Affairs-administered Lottery Grants Board fund for Edgecumbe recovery.

## Recognising our volunteers



Approximately 120 like-minded people gathered at the Rangitāiki Cosmopolitan Club on Saturday morning to be thanked with bacon and eggs.

Organised by the Rangitāiki Community Board, the three-hour rolling breakfast celebrated volunteers who have given, and continue to give, their time and skills to help the people of Edgecumbe.

Community Board chair Charelle Stevenson said she had been struck by the diversity of volunteers at the breakfast. "There were groups who have been in existence for 30 years, and then people who are emerging leaders."

A representative from each of the groups had the opportunity to explain their volunteer role within the community. Many of the groups had played a part in helping after the April flood.



## Edgecumbe Police back in station

The Edgecumbe Police are once again in their Kauri Street station and Constable Wayne Lawrence says it is good to be back. Officers were forced to vacate the station following the April floods, but are now back up and running in their old location. "We're back to where we were before the storm," Wayne says, "so everyone knows where to find us. But if you do call and the station's not manned, then we are out on patrol and you can get in touch by calling the Whakatāne Station on 07 308 5255."



*Te Tari Āwhina Community Hub at Edgecumbe Library - your one-stop shop for advice and support, providing friendly, face-to-face contact for the community.*

**Open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday.** Call in for a hot drink or to check out the latest news on the community board. *Timetable of currently available services:*

Navigator Service	Tuesday – Friday, 10am–noon
Liveable Homes	Monday – Friday, 9am–4pm
DHB/NASH Portacoms	Monday and Friday, 9am–2pm
Internal Affairs (Grant Funding)	Every second Tuesday (next visit - 15 August) 1pm to 3pm
Work and Income	Monday and Friday, 9am to 1pm by appointment

Information hubs are also available at the Horizon Energy Whakatāne Library, Murupara Library and the Kawerau i-SITE.



# Short-term storage available at Pou Whakaaro

Recognising the need for storage by those beginning to move back into their homes, Pou Whakaaro Whakatāne is offering four weeks of free storage for furniture and household items.

Any Eastern Bay residents who were affected by the floods, and are preparing household lots for reoccupying their homes, should contact Gary (from 9am – noon at 1 Bracken Street, Whakatāne) or call him on 07 219 3973 to find out more.



Miemie Vermeulen, left with Edgumbe College students and some of the ball gowns, and Ann and Tracey Clarke of the Kawerau Sheila's Shed, right.

## Sheilas to the rescue!

The Kawerau Sheila's Shed was set up in April by mother and daughter Tracey and Ann Clarke, who got to work in cooperation with generous locals and manufacturers Brother and Singer, to organise sewing machines for people affected by the April flood.

Then when they heard that several Edgumbe students were about to have their ball dreams dashed by the flood, they knew just what to do. After putting the word out for ball gowns for a great cause, Tracey and Anne teamed up with Miemie Vermeulen and Caterina Murphy, Edgumbe College tutors, and set about making some dreams come true. The Shed soon became the caretakers of around 80 gowns, Miemie oversaw fitting and tweaking, and nearly a dozen students did go to the ball after all. The Sheila's Shed will be storing the gowns for next year, and is already planning new projects around the Eastern Bay. Check them out on Facebook: Sheila's Shed NZ.

## Eastern Bay Curtains 4 U

It took Eastern Bay Curtains 4 U's Paula Hind a month to get set up at home after the flood. Her Riverslea Mall shop is currently under construction and Mrs Hind is looking forward to returning.

"I've been lucky to be able to work from my home address and also to have been supported by my loyal customers. We've been busy quoting new blinds and curtains for people going through the process of getting back into their homes."

The downside, she said, has been the incredible stress placed on flood-affected businesses and their employees who have not been able to work since April.

Eastern Bay Curtains 4 U is on Facebook, or Paula can be contacted on 304 6111.



## Well-spotted!

A recent stay at the Distinction Hotel in Te Rapa, Hamilton, has seen beds, bed covers, carpets, bedside tables, coffee tables and curtains donated to the District recovery. NZ Red Cross Humanitarian Services Coordinator – BOP, Julie Forrest, was staying at the hotel when she learned it was undergoing refurbishment and approached manager Colin Maclaurin with the idea that furniture no longer needed be donated to people returning to their homes after the April floods.

Colin was happy to oblige and Julie and a team of helpers and drivers collected the furniture, which is now stored at Pou Whakaaro in Whakatāne while the process of drying and rehabilitating homes continues.



Left to right: Julie Forrest, NZ Red Cross Humanitarian Services Coordinator – BOP, Colin Maclaurin from the Distinction Hotel and two helpers from the Distinction team.

## Updates

### Whakatāne Holiday Park delay

The first portacom units to be installed as temporary housing at the Whakatāne Holiday Park are now expected to be delivered on Friday, 18 August. Delivery has been delayed due to the more complex engineering design work needed for the unit services and foundations, as a result of the underlying ground conditions. The installation of services has also been delayed by adverse weather conditions. Once on site, units are expected to take up to a week to make ready for occupation. All Building Consents are now in hand and once the first units arrive, additional portacabins are expected to be delivered each week through until mid-September.

### MPI Fund

The Minister for Primary Industries has earmarked a further \$100,000 to help Bay of Plenty Farmers with recovery following the April flooding and storm events.

This is in addition to the previous round of funding of \$200,000, which has now been fully-allocated.

Primary producers in the area can apply for grants of between \$2000 and \$10,000 per farming business to help towards costs incurred as a result of the storms. Applications will be administered by the Whakatāne District Council.

The only change is that all applications will be considered in one assessment after the funding round closes on 29 September 2017.

Full details, criteria and the application form are available at: [www.whakatane.govt.nz/apply/flood-recovery-grant](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz/apply/flood-recovery-grant)