

## Ideas shared to move Edgecumbe forward

Edgecumbe residents keen to have their say on the future of the town braved a cold, wet Eastern Bay day to voice their ideas on Saturday.

Held at the Edgecumbe War Memorial Hall and facilitated by internationally-renowned community development expert Peter Kenyon, Saturday's workshop provided a platform for residents to discuss moving Edgecumbe forward as a community.

Rangitāiki Community Board chairperson Charelle Stevenson welcomed people to the workshop and after being introduced by Mayor Tony Bonne, Mr Kenyon said Saturday's visit to Edgecumbe was his fifth or sixth to the town. "I love this place," he said. "I have a genuine passion for the town."

He acknowledged April's flood had had a huge impact on the people of Edgecumbe, but said he was encouraged to see the large number of people at the workshop. "You are all putting aside your personal difficulties because you care about the future of your town."

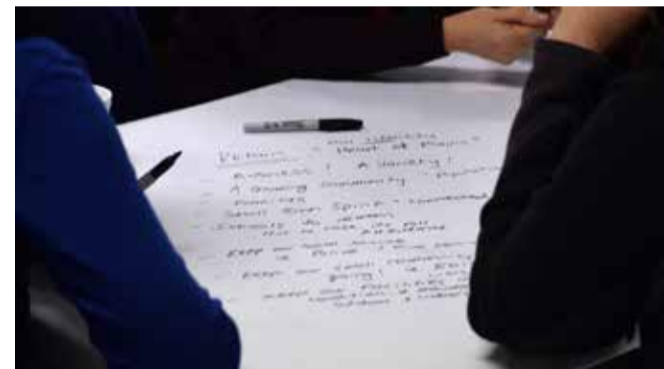
He encouraged people to think about what they wanted Edgecumbe to "feel like, look like and be like" in 12 months' time.

Over 90 ideas were tabled in four areas - what people wanted to retain; what people wanted to change; what people wanted to start or introduce; and what was a priority.

Of things to retain, Riverslea Mall featured in the lists of many of the workshop groups that community members had been divided into. Community groups and organisations, businesses within the community, schools and most importantly people, were also mentioned.

Under 'change', residents asked that the civil defence plan be revisited and revised if necessary, that traffic within the town slowed down and that reassurances about the structural safety of "the wall" be provided.

Iconic projects to be introduced included a night market at Riverslea Mall, once the build was completed; security cameras at each entrance to the town; more activities



for youth; and further enhancement of the river walkway.

At the conclusion of the meeting, people were asked to use post-it notes to highlight the things they saw as priorities. A list of priority ideas is being compiled to share with the community.

## Tāneatua Community Garden gets some help from Te Puke

Volunteers from Te Puke have recently been busy in Tāneatua helping to clean up the Community Garden. The Garden is scheduled to reopen this weekend, and with several members of the community away or busy with their own clean-ups it was feared that the garden would not be able to open on time. Fortunately, members of the Te Puke church group, The Orchard, were able to offer their time and skills to lend a hand along with

ten international Bible School students who were working in partnership with the church, and now the Community Garden is looking much healthier. Jodi Wichers of The Orchard says they were happy to be able to lend a hand to their Eastern Bay neighbours.



## Helping Police to help our community

Edgecumbe police have now settled back into their station following flood repairs, and are carrying out a minimum of eight preventative patrols each day in the area. Residents are reminded that contacting 111 as soon as possible should they see something that concerns them is the best way to keep our communities safe.

## Wifi update



Good progress has been made on bringing free wifi to Edgecumbe, with Evolution Networks working through some alignment fine tuning issues that, once resolved, will pave the way for the installation of various hotspots throughout the area. Brian Elliot, Manager Corporate and Information Services at Whakatāne District Council, says it is hoped the network will be operational by mid-September.