

Site blessing

A small ceremony was held in the early hours of last Saturday morning involving the homeowners and families of the properties acquired by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for the rebuild of the stop-bank in College Road, Edgumbe.

The small event blessed the area ahead of preparation work starting for the stop-bank rebuild. The ceremony included karakia from local kaumatua and a blessing from a local church Minister, after which a wreath was floated down the Rangitāiki River.

The Regional Council expects to start demolition works on the site in the coming weeks and to finalise geotechnical information and the stop-bank design before Christmas, in order to start work on the new stopbank in early 2018. The Edgumbe community has representation sitting alongside the engineering team during this process, to provide awareness of progress and facilitate input into final design and use of land. Questions relating to the stopbank rebuild process can be sent to: edgumbe.questions@whakatane.govt.nz

Postponement of weekend events

Forecast rain has led to the postponement of three events planned for this weekend:

- **Edgumbe's Big Gardening Day** at the Domain – POSTPONED UNTIL 11 NOVEMBER
- **Fence-Building** at 6 Puriri Crescent – POSTPONED UNTIL 26 NOVEMBER
- **Edgumbe Blue Light Whānau Day** – POSTPONED – will now be held in conjunction with Edgumbe Christmas in the Park on Saturday 25 November 2017
- **Guy Fawkes display** Edgumbe Domain – POSTPONED UNTIL 5 NOVEMBER, from 7.30pm



TONIGHT! DOOR SALES AVAILABLE

Don't miss this inspirational evening with Doug Avery

Doug Avery now shares his powerful story of how he weathered years of drought and desperation to turn his farm — and his life — around.

Friday, 3 November 2017, 7pm-9pm, Whakatāne War Memorial Hall, Little Theatre, Short St, Whakatāne. Tickets \$10 from Whakatāne Paper Plus, 07 308 6799, and door sales available. (Includes light supper, tea & coffee)

— A RURAL SUPPORT TRUST FUNDRAISER —



Inland Revenue info session – 9 November

Inland Revenue staff will be at Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgumbe Library on 9 November to provide advice and help people to understand how recent events may impact on their tax obligations. You can drop-in between 4-7pm, or make a specific appointment time by calling 07 304 8656.

Need help to finalise your residential insurance claim?

The Recovery Office is receiving good feedback from residents who have been assisted by the Residential Advisory Service. So, if you have a concern about finalising your home insurance claim please let us know.

RAS representatives are back again on 8/9 November, with future dates planned, depending on demand. Assistance by Skype or phone can also be arranged in urgent cases. To find out more, or to make an appointment, call in to Te Tari Awhina – Community Hub at Edgumbe Library or ring on 304 8656.



Community hub team from left: Whakatāne District Council's Pearl Tāne and Grahame Bryce, returning resident Vicki Edwards and Recovery Navigator Cheryl Wilson.

Welcome home

Welcome Home packs are now available for residents returning to repaired, yellow-stickered properties across the district.

The Recovery Office launched the packs - a flexi-tub of household goodies – on 1 November and they will be available until all residents are back in their repaired homes.

So... if you've returned home, call in (with ID) to Te Tari Awhina (Edgumbe and Plains residents) or to the Customer Services counter at Whakatāne District Council (Tāneatua/Rūātoki/Poroporo residents), confirm that you're back home, and receive your Welcome Home Pack.

The Recovery Team would like to thank The Warehouse, Countdown Whakatāne and The Tindall Foundation for supporting the packs.

Handmade quilts donated

A Facebook page set up by Whakatāne's Pins and Patches owner Daphne Green has seen crafters from around the North Island donate dozens of beautiful, handmade quilts to flood-impacted residents.

Daphne says she was heartened by the generosity, but she wasn't surprised. "That's the sort of people quilters are."

Daphne, whose parents had a home in Edgumbe, says she couldn't help but be touched by the impact of the flooding and she hopes the quilts will be a reminder that others recognise the personal loss and do care.

Some of the quilts have been gifted to the Kohanga Reo, and to residents whose homes have been acquired by Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Quilts will also be offered to residents collecting their Recovery Welcome Home packs.

