

Helping flood-impacted children of  
the Whakatāne District



THE  
**SECRET  
SANTA**  
project...



*The Secret Santa idea is reaching far and wide. Pictured are an assortment of Santa's elves, with a selection of beautifully hand-knitted and crafted toys which have arrived from 'the ladies of Pahiatua'. A wonderfully thoughtful contribution, received with many thanks on behalf of flood-impacted children across the District.*

The Recovery Office has launched The Secret Santa Project, with the aim of ensuring flood-impacted children throughout the District have an extra little something in their Christmas stocking this year.

A number of agencies who have been involved in recovery services are getting on board... and we're sure the wider community will want to contribute too. Christmas trees are up at Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgumbe Library and in the Customer Services area at the Whakatāne District Council as drop-off points for gifts for children aged 0 – 13.

Alternatively, businesses might like to have an office whip-around and provide cash to buy gifts where we see a gap in donated presents for a particular age group.

Details at [whakatane.govt.nz/secret-santa](http://whakatane.govt.nz/secret-santa)

## Stay up with the news!

There will be two further Recovery Newsletters this month on 8 and 22 December, and then newsletters will recommence on a fortnightly basis from 5 January. In preparation for when the Recovery Newsletter is distributed by email only, please ensure you are on the distribution list.

**Did you know that the Recovery Newsletter is also available by email...**

if you'd like to receive it in your inbox, please email [recovery@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@whakatane.govt.nz)



## DIY Workshop this Sunday



Following two very successful workshops last weekend, the E Tū Edgumbe DIY Home Maintenance workshop is on this Sunday at 58 Puriri Crescent, starting at 9am.

Everyone is welcome, and you'll be amazed at just how much you can achieve around your home when you know the basics of painting, plumbing, guttering and much more.

*Thanks to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa for sponsoring this opportunity.*



## Making connections

**Cast your mind forward to the New Year... are you likely to need help with interior decorating?**

The Recovery Office can connect you with volunteers keen to help with indoor painting and wallpapering, as well as helping with general gardening and yard work.

**If you would like a hand, please contact Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgumbe Library on 304 8656.**



## Bay of Plenty Regional Council at Waikirikiri Marae

Work has been completed on river bank erosion damage alongside the Waikirikiri Marae, Rūātoki North. Major damage was caused during ex-Cyclone Debbie by the Whakatāne River as it eroded a significant area of the bank, putting the future of the Marae complex at risk.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council staff worked closely with Marae representatives, starting on the two-month repair soon after the cyclone.



## Cash settled? – where to from here?

**Have you cash-settled with your insurance company and are you now thinking about how to repair your home?**

The Recovery Office wants to help cash-settled, underinsured property owners who may be wondering about the best way forward. We've engaged an experienced project manager as a Building Navigator who can work alongside people to unravel the building process.

So if you're wondering how to best spend your available budget; how to go about the building consent process; how to deal with contractors; or have any questions relating to your repair or rebuild, please register your interest by contacting your Recovery Navigator, or Te Tari Āwhina on 07 304 8656.