

Moving forward into 2018

*A New Year Message from Charelle Stevenson,
Rangitāiki Community Board Chair*

“Like many, I was very ready to say goodbye to 2017; but not before taking time to again reflect on what we have been through personally and collectively as a community – and a district.

Quite simply – the months since the stopbank breach have been life-changing for those whose homes and work places were directly affected by the flooding. Even those whose homes remained dry, bear the impact of a damaged community. Our businesses too have been severely affected and now more than ever is the time to ‘buy local’.

We feel the relief of those displaced families who are now back home and watch eagerly as other repairs continue. I encourage those who might feel ‘stuck’ to contact the Recovery Team at Whakatāne District Council to talk over options.

Acknowledging fully the events of 2017, I feel it’s time to look forward. Our long-awaited CCTV project is going ahead, as are other exciting and creative projects funded through the Lottery Fund; and our community action plan, which will be kicking off with renewed energy, offers real opportunity to strengthen our town now and well into the future.

Kia kaha Edgecumbe.”

Community Plan Coordinator appointed



Well respected local identity Vicky Richards is delighted to be tackling another key recovery role. Following the position being advertised, and a recruitment process, Vicky has been appointed as the Strategic Coordinator for the Edgecumbe Community Action Plan and will be working alongside the Oversight Committee to help support the plan’s further development and implementation.

District Recovery Manager Barbara Dempsey says Vicky’s local knowledge and experience, community engagement and facilitation skills make her a perfect ‘fit’ for the task.

Vicky’s new position will sit alongside her current role within the Recovery Navigator team.

Don’t forget your Welcome Home Pack

Welcome Home Packs are proving popular with people returning to their repaired homes. One-hundred-and-twenty packs have been uplifted since the District Recovery Office launched the idea in late-October.

District Recovery Manager Barbara Dempsey says the packs contain basic food staples, household items such as coffee mugs, glasses, tea-towels and clothes hangers, plus “a few treats”.

“Please remember, the packs are for all affected properties across the district. Those returning to repaired homes in Poroporo, Tāneatua or Rūātoki, can collect theirs from customer services at Whakatāne District Council, while returning Edgecumbe and Plains households can get their packs from Te Tari Āwhina – Community Hub at Edgecumbe Library. Welcome home packs will remain available until all repairs are complete,” Mrs Dempsey says.



Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s Tony Dunlop (right) discusses the Rūātoki works with insurance adjuster Nicolas Sellem.

Stopbank repairs complete at Rūātoki

Residents in Rūātoki have a renewed level of flood protection after the completion of stopbank repairs following the 2017 cyclone events.

The April events caused damage to the banks, rockworks and willow plantings. The repair work began soon after the flood but was suspended because of extremely wet site conditions. The contract works recommenced in October and have been successfully completed.



Recovery and Library services have resumed normal hours:

Weekdays 9am – 2pm

Library services, Recovery Information (including Welcome Home Pack distribution)

Weekdays 2 – 4pm

Library services only

- Recovery Navigators return 9 January
- Te Tohu o te Ora o Ngāti Awa support services resume Fridays, 9am – 4pm from 12 January

Cash settled? – where to from here?

Are you concerned that your insurance cash-settlement may not be enough to repair your home? Or do you know someone who might need help in this regard?

The Recovery Office wants to help 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.

EDGECCUMBE WOMEN’S INSTITUTE COFFEE MORNING

The Edgecumbe Womens’ Institute invites you to join them at their Coffee Morning
10am – 12 noon, 22 January 2018

Venue: Diane Harvey’s home, 143 College Road, Edgecumbe

\$2 entry includes a cup of tea or coffee, cake and entry into the prize draw, **\$1 spot prizes draw:** sales table, plants, books, baking, crafts and bric a brac

Proceeds will be donated to the Edgecumbe Fire Brigade
EVERYONE WELCOME