

**FROM THE RECOVERY MANAGER –
BARBARA DEMPSEY**

It may seem hard to believe, but this is our 50th Recovery Newsletter. Since 4 May, 2017 the regular newsletters have been a reliable way for the Recovery Office to share information, from our many partner agencies, with affected communities across the district.

We've had really positive feedback on our last issue, which took the form of an event anniversary supplement, published in the Whakatāne Beacon and also distributed to our mail-chimp database.

There are plenty of extra printed copies available from Te Tari Āwhina and Whakatāne District Council Customer Services. Please call in to pick up a copy; it's full of pictures and stories highlighting the multiple agencies, organisations and groups involved in rebuilding lives, homes and communities.

Keep a look out for the online 4 May 2018 edition, where we'll be revealing what's next for your Newsletter...



Plant Day – TOMORROW

Make the most of the great autumn planting conditions!

Get along to Te Tari Āwhina – Edgecumbe Library, tomorrow (Saturday 21 April) from 10am onwards. There will be plant give-aways and you're also encouraged to bring along a plant/cutting from your garden to swap for something you don't have. **Plant Day is for everyone!**

Contact Edgecumbe Community Plan Coordinator Vicky Richards for more information, on 027 309 3657



From left Whakatāne District Council Recovery Manager Barbara Dempsey, RSA District President Clive Collingwood, Whakatāne District Deputy Mayor Judy Turner, Edgecumbe Community Plan Strategic Coordinator Vicky Richards and RSA Support Advisor Gavin Nicol.

RSA donation gratefully received

The RSA Trust has made a \$10,000 donation towards a planned 'destination playground' in Edgecumbe.

RSA District President Clive Collingwood travelled to Whakatāne to present the cheque and explained that the funds came from a Trust established by RSA members after the Christchurch earthquakes. "People were extremely generous, to the point where there were funds left over, and so it was decided to accept applications from anywhere in the country that had been through a disaster event.

We wanted to ensure that our donation would have a lasting impact on the community and the suggestion of contributing to a very special playground that will be visited by children, parents and grandparents just fits the bill."

Icehouse workshops

Ten Edgecumbe business owners took the opportunity to attend workshops last week, delivered by professional development and coaching company 'The Icehouse'. The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment funded the two-day symposium.

The businesses that did attend found it worthwhile and one even bought along extra staff for the second day.

Kotahitanga

The community came out in force to share memories, entertainment and kai at the Kotahitanga event held on Saturday, 7 April.

Matt Bryson and his Japanese drummers welcomed the crowd ahead of a blessing by Koro Pat Ratahi. MCs Jade Elliott and Paul Hale did a great job introducing the speakers and entertainment, including local favourite, Fling Teddy and Whenua Patuwai.

Thanks go to everyone for coming along and special thanks to sponsors and supporters, including Fonterra (free drinks for the children); 1XX (giveaways and activities); Te Runanga o Ngati Awa (support for Patutaatahi Kohanga Reo stall); Trustpower (lighting); Bay of Plenty Regional Council (financial contribution for Droneographer and Elder's Lounge); Bluelight Edgumbe (Volunteers); The Popcorn Man (free nibbles for the movie); and Whakatāne District Mayor Tony Bonne (financial support across the event). A huge acknowledgement must go to the event organisers: Vicky Richards, Rio Grey, Jewel Delamare, Renae Porter, Paul Hale, Dee-Dayna Riddiford, Caleb Rika, Krissy Rika, Lee Heapey, Cheyne Walker, Jade Elliot, Diana Te Riini, Sharmaine Walker, Charelle Stevenson and numerous other helpers on the day!

The event also included two wonderful examples of just how far and wide support for Recovery has come from: Orini and Rae of Te Tohu o Te Ora O Ngati Awa also distributed blankets and beanies sent by members of The Craft Room, at Selwyn Village Rest home in Auckland; and Walt Disney Studios NZ gave permission to screen the movie free of charge.

Edgumbe Collective - Community Plan Update

The Edgumbe Community Plan Oversight Committee has changed its name. The committee of representatives from around 10 community groups will now be known as Edgumbe Collective.

Community Plan Strategic Coordinator Vicky Richards says the group is making good progress towards developing a plan that reflects the input from the community, gathered over a number of forums and workshops.

Edgumbe Collective has also made submissions to both the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Whakatāne District Council Long Term Plans.



District Mayor, Tony Bonne shares a few words.



The foam tent was a huge hit.



Kotahitanga concluded with a movie in the park.

