

Another Recovery Milestone

The Edgecumbe Library is returning to its pre-event operation – another positive sign of the town's recovery.

From Monday 28 May the Library will be operated by its dedicated band of volunteers (with support from its Whakatāne-based liaison librarian Anneke Philips).

A morning tea was held last week to farewell Grahame Bryce who has been the friendly face of Recovery Services at the library for the past eight months. At the gathering, Recovery Manager Barbara Dempsey thanked Grahame for his involvement and expressed how much Whakatāne District Council had appreciated the use of the library to create a community hub for Recovery information and services.

She acknowledged that at times this may have caused inconvenience for some users, but noted that the silver lining was an increased awareness of the library and its services. She added that the work of the Recovery team continues to support those not yet home and reminds people who need help to get in touch via the Navigators or by calling 306 0500.

The Navigators and Edgecumbe Collective Coordinator Vicky Richards will now be based out of the former Plunket Rooms (accessed by the door to the right of the main library doors). This space will also be used by Te Tohu o te Ora o Ngāti Awa support services when its current portable accommodation is moved off site in coming weeks.

Members of the public can now resume booking the Lions Reading Room for meetings by contacting the Edgecumbe Library. Recovery has greatly valued being able to use the Reading Room as a base for key Recovery Services (initially the Liveable Homes Project, and more recently, Navigator services).



Recovery Team staff and Edgecumbe Library volunteers and supporters said farewell to Grahame Bryce who left Te Tari Āwhina last week to return to his position at Whakatāne Horizon Energy Library.

Recovery Newsletter bows out

For the past 12 months – and through 52 editions – the Recovery Newsletter has been a reliable way for all of the partner agencies involved in Recovery to communicate with affected residents and the wider community.

At this stage of recovery, the time has come for us to step back and for others to shape an ongoing community newsletter.

To that end, Council will support Edgecumbe Collective as it develops its own monthly publication, which will focus on the projects to be achieved through the community plan, and other local events and activities.

Of course, there is still Recovery information to share, and we'll provide for inclusion.

So, look out for next month's new name, and new look newsletter.

**EDGECUMBE
LIBRARY**
07 304 8656

**TE TARI
ĀWHINA**
community hub

New Hours at Edgecumbe Library/ Te Tari Āwhina

- **Library services**
Weekdays 10am - 12 noon,
2 – 4pm
- **Recovery Navigators** (including
Welcome Home Pack distribution)
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
10am – 12 noon
- **Te Tohu o te Ora o Ngāti Awa
support services**
Friday 9am – 4pm



Pictured from left: Patrick Andrew (Rural Support Trust), farming family Jill, Kate and Paul Langdon and Bruce Crabbe (Bay of Plenty Regional Council) at the Edgecumbe gathering held at the Rangitāiki Cosmopolitan Club.

BBQ Series marks '1-year-on' for rural sector

The Rural Support Trust hosted the Rural BBQ series "1 year on" in May for rural families across the district who were directly affected by the April 2017 flood and storm events.

Five get-togethers were held with the support of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Whakatāne District Council, Fonterra, Farm Source, Farmlands and Federated Farmers.

The purpose of the gatherings was to provide opportunities for primary producers to come together and share their experiences of recovery.

Important Plans to be launched - Save the Date – 7 June



Residents are encouraged to get along to a drop-in session, to be held in the Lions Reading Room at Edgecumbe Library between 3 – 6pm on Thursday 7 June, to find out about two extremely important plans.

Whakatāne District Council civil defence personnel will be on hand to explain the Edgecumbe Evacuation Plan; and Edgecumbe Collective will be launching its Community Plan.

WDC Civil Defence Controller Barbara Dempsey says the Evacuation Plan has three stages, ranging from 'standby' to 'self-evacuation' and 'declaration/mandatory evacuation' with the stages triggered by Regional Council modelling of riverflows, based on rainfall in the Rangitāiki catchment.

"Naturally, we understand even the thought of evacuation planning could cause some residents to feel anxious, but that's why we're encouraging people to be proactive and come along to the info session. Our hope is that people will feel more at ease by gaining an understanding of the thought and science behind the evacuation plan."



Portashower

You may recall that our last newsletter asked for feedback from users of the portashower located beside the Edgecumbe War Memorial Hall.

In the meantime, the unit has been removed because it was again put out of action by people removing plumbing materials; and feedback showed minimal demand.

Alternative arrangements have been made for the family who did let the Recovery Team know they were using the facility.

Update from Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Good progress is being made on the College Road site in Edgecumbe. Contractors have made the most of the recent good weather and put more resources in place to move works along on two fronts. They are currently excavating for the seepage trench and material is being brought onto site for that activity. At the same time, services have been relocated and the new roadway is being built.

Work is also progressing on the Rangitāiki Floodway. The first phase of engagement is underway, primarily with directly impacted landowners along the length of Reid's Canal. You can read more about the project on the Council's website – www.boprc.govt.nz/rangitaikifloodway