

Relocatable homes in the Holiday Park

The Whakatāne District Council is contributing \$850,000 toward the cost of purchasing and installing 10 self-contained, Portacabin homes for the first stage of a relocatable house park in the Whakatāne Domain Holiday Park. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) will contribute a total of \$700,000 for infrastructure and associated costs for up to 20 relocatable units.

The two-bedroom, relocatable units provided will be available as temporary accommodation to people displaced by the floods. The Council will loan-fund the purchase of the units required. After depreciation, debt servicing and rental income for the next 10 years are taken into account, the total financial impact on ratepayers is expected to be less than \$35,000.



Ten new two-bedroom, fully self-contained relocatable units similar to these existing units at the Whakatāne Domain Holiday Park will soon be available for temporary accommodation.

Surveying and geotechnical work is expected to get underway this week and it's hoped that the first units will be installed onsite by mid-June.

The units will not be available for long-term residential purposes. Once the District's flood-related, temporary accommodation needs have been met, the relocatable house park will be used to meet the District's growing tourism accommodation demand.

EQC update

To date EQC, with help from local contractors SHL and the Whakatāne District Council, has cleared silt and debris from more than 45 properties. In the past week, SHL has been busy lifting up floorboards to clear away silt and mud build up under residents' homes. The dirt is manually moved to the curb outside the property, so it can be taken away. If you would like help to remove silt and debris build-up from your property, contact EQC by calling 0800 DAMAGE (326 243), or email info@eqc.govt.nz.



SHL contractors lifting up floorboards to clear the silt and mud build-up under homes affected by the Edgecumbe floods.



Mere Hepi, Michelle Kiro, Marama Tipuna, Priscilla Morrison pictured at the Te Teko War Memorial Hall donated goods centre.

Contamination tests confirm 'no risk'

Testing by Opus International Consultants has confirmed that there is no heavy metal contamination in Edgecumbe. Analysis shows that heavy metal levels detected are below the identified Soil Contaminant Standards and are not considered a risk to human health or the environment.

There were 19 sites around the Edgecumbe area tested for arsenic, cadmium, nickel, chromium, copper, lead and zinc. There were elevated levels of zinc at the tennis courts – most probably from the galvanised fencing. However, the level was still below the required national standards.

If you are interested in reading the full Opus report, you can find it on www.whakatane.govt/recovery-project.



Yellow sticker

In order for houses to dry out, stop rot and allow reinstatement work to proceed, all yellow-stickered properties will need to have the following removed:

- wall linings and any wall insulation, to about 300mm above the water line
- particle board floors
- silt from underneath the floors, where a polyethylene sheet vapour barrier has been installed, or where the surface of the silt is less than 450mm from the underside of the floor joists.

The home owner should obtain a free building consent for this process. This will allow a code compliance certificate to be issued once the work is completed. The code compliance certificate is a valuable document, as it confirms that the building work undertaken meets the requirements of the New Zealand building code.

A building inspector will check moisture levels and, after restoration, will confirm that the home is compliant (and place this on your property file). At the time of approving the final inspection, the Building Control Officer will remove the yellow placard.

Home owners should not move back into their yellow-stickered homes without going through this process, as people living in houses that have not been correctly dried out are likely to experience significant health problems due to exposure to continued dampness and toxic moulds.

White sticker

People can remove the sticker from their property and move back in, if they haven't already done so. It is advisable to keep the stickers for future reference.



Massage therapists

A group of massage therapists are volunteering their time to offer therapies to Edgcumbe people affected by the flood; and to the Emergency services workers involved in the flood response.

The volunteer therapists will be working at the Edgcumbe War Memorial Hall, between 9am and 4pm on Saturday, 27 May.

Any families wanting to book a bodywork treatment are asked to contact the Coordinator for NZ Emergency Response Therapists, Marina Locke, at nzert2010@gmail.com.



Te Whāiti Road

Good progress continues to be made on Te Whāiti Road and Council now hopes to have the road open, initially for local use, by early- to mid-June, with safe two-lane unsealed access available to the general public by the end of July or early-August. Both of those targets are very weather-dependent.

THE RIVERSLEA MEDICAL CENTRE (now in Te Teko)
8 Te Teko Rd – right next to the school
Opening hours: **6.30am – 4pm** Phone: 07 304 9106

EDGECUMBE PHARMACY (now in Te Teko)
Opening hours: **7.30am – 4pm** Phone: 07 304 9734

Police update

Since the flood and up to 16 May, Police have undertaken 301 prevention patrols in Edgcumbe and surrounding districts. This includes:

- 25 crime prevention meetings
- 18 foot patrols
- 67 vehicles stopped within Edgcumbe
- 6 vehicle checkpoints
- 173 directed patrols.

A total of six burglaries were reported in Edgcumbe and stolen goods have been recovered in most cases. They say that while there has been some commentary on social media about suspicious activities and alleged crimes in Edgcumbe, that is not showing up in reports to them.

Police are doing on average eight preventive patrols per day.

If you see someone in the act of doing something that looks suspicious, they want you to call 111 to report this. Or call 07 308 5255 for any other matters.

SH2 Waimana Gorge Slip

The 70m high slip face on SH2 in the Waimana Gorge remains unstable, with falling material creating an unsafe situation.



NZTA has decided the most efficient

way to resolve this, and to ensure drivers' safety, is to keep the road closed for the next two weeks and bring in extra equipment (including two 30-tonne Moxy earthmovers, three excavators and a bulldozer).

Contractors will be working 7 days a week to cut 3 or 4 benches into the top of the slope to stabilise the slip. A closer dump site has been identified, which will speed up the work. Weather permitting, NZTA expects to reopen two-lane access on Friday 2 June.