



## Liveable Homes Project update

The Liveable Homes Project is making good progress in helping homeowners who don't have the means to repair their own flood-damaged properties.

Since the programme was initiated earlier this month, the Liveable Homes team has gained better information about the numbers of property owners who will need assistance. Of the 243 yellow-stickered houses in Edgecumbe and 37 yellow-stickered houses in other parts of the Whakatāne District, we now estimate that 40-50 homeowners may need help to restore their homes to a liveable standard.

To date, 17 homes have been registered with the programme. Strip-outs have been completed on four houses, which are now in the drying-out phase.

Liveable Homes coordinator John Pullar has expressed the team's gratitude to NAVA – the Ngāti Awa Volunteer Army – which continues to organise skilled volunteers to help with house strip-outs.



*Te Tari Awhina community hub is open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday and from 9am – 1pm, on Saturday, providing a wide range of support and advice.*

**Please be aware of times for these specific services:**

Liveable Homes	Monday–Friday 9am to 4pm, Saturday 9am to 1pm
Bay of Plenty District Health Board	Monday–Friday 9am to 2pm
Ngāti Awa Social and Health NASH	Monday–Friday 9am to 2pm
Work and Income	Monday–Friday 9am to 1pm
Budget Advisory	Tuesday 10am to 12 noon
Baywide Community Law Service	Tuesday 10am to 12 noon
Whānau Ora	Friday 10am to 11am

Salvation Army personnel 'drop-in' to the hub on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For a specific time, please contact the Salvation Army's Whakatāne Office, phone 07 308 6923.



### FREE COMPUTER USE

Two computers with internet access are now available at Te Tari Awhina. Call in to the Edgecumbe Library if you need to use this service.



## Rural Support

Rural Recovery Coordinator Igor Gerritsen (pictured above) has been clocking up the kilometres – 3,000 so far this month – connecting farmers on flood and cyclone-affected properties with available services.

Ocean Ford's Stephen Hermansen heard about the Rural Support Trust's recovery work and has provided a vehicle to help get the job done.



## Please take care!

While testing has shown there is no heavy metal contamination in Edgecumbe, people still need to be aware of other potential health risks from unsafe handling of flood-contaminated material.

To ensure your personal safety:

- Wear appropriate personal protection equipment when clearing sites, undertaking strip-outs of buildings and removing silt
- Wash hands often; and make sure you check children are washing their hands regularly and wearing enclosed footwear (no jandals or bare feet).

## Task Force Green

Task Force Green teams are out and about clearing fence lines, silted paddocks and flood and tree debris on rural properties. The Ministry of Social Development has made \$360,000 available for Task Force Green initiatives in the Whakatāne District and to date, 61 farms have registered for help. To contact Task Force Green, call 0800 327 646.



## Mayoral Relief Fund update

Planning continues on the structure and application process for the district's Mayoral Relief Fund. An Advisory Board has been formed to provide 'on-the-ground' advice to Trustees, which Deputy Mayor Judy Turner says will help ensure fair and equitable administration of the fund.

Mayoral Relief Fund Trustees are Mayor Tony Bonne, Deputy Mayor Judy Turner and Independent member of the Whakatāne District Audit and Risk Committee, Colin Leonard. They will be assisted by Advisory Board members: Diane Yalden – Chair of the Tāneatua Community Board; Charelle Stevenson – Chair of the Rangitāiki Community Board; Ngāti Awa Representative Tu O'Brien; Rural Representative Bruce Woods; and Recovery Team Representative, Barbara Dempsey.

## Independent review drop-in session

Saturday, 3 June – 11am Edgecumbe College: The Independent Review Panel investigating the breach of the Rangitāiki River stopbank at Edgecumbe will be holding a drop-in session for residents to pass on their views or questions.

Feedback can also be emailed to [feedback@rrsr.org.nz](mailto:feedback@rrsr.org.nz); or provided by phone to 0800 BOP RIVER (0800 267 748)

## Temporary accommodation update

MBIE (the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment) is working with the Whakatāne District Council to get 10 relocatable homes established onsite at the Whakatāne Domain Holiday Park.

Vehicle access and connections to water and wastewater services are required, so it will be some time before these self-contained, two-bedroom units are ready for people to move in.

Site assessments, for those who have registered an interest in having a portable cabin sited on their properties, are also underway and are expected to be completed in the next 2–3 weeks.

The cabins themselves are in short supply in the region, so MBIE is working with suppliers to secure cabins as they become available.

Households who need help finding temporary accommodation, or who are interested in accessing one of these cabins, should register at [www.temporaryaccommodation.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.temporaryaccommodation.mbie.govt.nz) or call free phone 0800 779 997.



**OHO AKE (RISE UP)**  
27 MAY  
KOHĀ ENTRY SPOT PRIZES RAFFLES  
OHO AKE - RISE UP CONCERT  
TE TEKO RACE COURSE 11AM-5.00PM  
**CONCERT**  
LINE UP: IYAH ROOTS, L.A.B, DJ BLING, GARHH - TAIT KORA, TIGERHOUR, FLING TEDDY, STEPS DANCE CREW, JADE PRITCHARD, KRISSIE KNAP, MANAEA & ALIZE, MC TAMATI COFFEY  
FOR MORE INFO CALL OHO AKE TEAM - 027 317 8079 or 027 805 0813



### LISTEN FOR DAILY RADIO UPDATES ON RECOVERY PROGRESS

Daily updates on the Recovery Project can be heard on the following radio stations:

- **Radio Tumeke** and **SunFM** at 8am, 12pm, 4.30pm and 5.30pm – between the news and sports bulletins
- **1XX** – 9am, 2pm and 6pm