



Oho Ake – Rise-up

Rain may have forced a 24-hour postponement, but it didn't deter the hundreds who turned up to watch an impressive line-up of performers take to the stage at the much-anticipated Oho Ake (Rise Up) Concert on Sunday.

Oho Ake was organised by a team of locals as an effort to raise community spirits – and some funds along the way. Tremendous support was received from local businesses and individuals, who provided prizes and refreshments.

Left: Taiko Japanese Drummers led by Matthew Bryson, in action at Oho Ake.

Storm and flood damage – impact on rates

Additional costs relating to flooding and storm damage caused by cyclones Debbie and Cook last month will add close to 1% to rates costs across the Whakatāne District for the 2017/18 year, taking the average increase to 3.9%.

Estimated unrecoverable costs relating to the storm events have added more than \$1 million to the annual plan budget.

To bring the maximum average rates increase into line with the Council's financial strategy limit of 3.9%; and address one-off impacts created by last year's District revaluation on the rural sector and the Edgecumbe community in particular, Council has adopted a range of measures to bring costs down.

These included:

- Utilising \$50,000 from Edgecumbe's stormwater operating reserves to reduce rates costs for all urban properties in the township;

- Utilising part of the Harbour Fund's 2017/18 operating surplus to part-fund the cost of activities on harbour-owned land (including the Library and Exhibition Centre; Visitor Information Centre and parks, reserves and gardens), allowing the overall rating requirement to be reduced;
- Increasing the portion of total rates funded through the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) to 30% (the maximum allowed), to partially offset the disproportionate impact of property value increases on rates for high value rural properties.

Rates Remission

To help owners get through the difficult coming months, rates will be postponed and remitted for all residential properties which were made uninhabitable by flood-damage. To enquire about rates remission, please contact the Rating Team, on 07 306 0500.

Tuesday bus service added

From this week, a free minibus service will be available on Tuesdays between Edgecumbe and Whakatāne, on the following timetable.

Depart Whakatāne (Quay St)	9.25am
Edgecumbe (College Road)	9.45am
Whakatāne (Quay St)	10.05am
Depart Whakatāne (Quay St)	1.10pm
Edgecumbe (College Road)	1.30pm
Whakatāne (Quay St)	1.50pm

The Tuesday mini-bus is in addition to the scheduled Bay Bus services.

<http://www.baybus.co.nz/eastern-bay/whakatane/whakatane-to-matata/>

Waiver of Hall Hire Fees

Use of the Edgecumbe War Memorial Hall will be free of charge to regular users to help local groups to get up and running again.

Hall hire fees will be waived for three months from 1 June. Regular users of other local facilities, who have had their access and activities disrupted, can also apply for free use of the Edgecumbe War Memorial Hall. The usual booking process still applies. Please contact Hall Custodian, Lois Smeaton on 021 239 3251.

Skip bin supply

Most insured properties that required 'strip-out' work have now been completed and are moving into the drying-out period prior to the 're-build' and 'refurbishment' stage. Therefore, from now on, contractors carrying out building work will be required to organise their own waste management requirements and supply/servicing of skip bins.

The Recovery team will continue to provide skip-bins for ongoing clean-up, concentrating on operations around town, such as ditches and hedges, supporting the 'Liveable Homes' project and EQC silt removal.

EQC update

EQC's claim handling team and assessors are continuing to progress claims for residents who have been affected by silt and debris damage. To date, 230 claims have been received, with 65% assessed and scheduled for work, including 13 red stickered properties. Customers have only three months to lodge a claim with EQC after the flooding event, so if you have any damage to your land, make sure you contact EQC on 0800 DAMAGE, or email info@eqc.govt.nz before mid-July 2017.

Task Force Green

Task Force Green crews in the Whakatāne District are making great progress cleaning up flood and storm damage on rural properties. Scheme Coordinator Robyn Stokes says there has been great feedback about the quality and volume of work the crews are getting through and she encourages anyone in the rural sector who has flood or storm damage that needs to be put right, to get in touch.



The Enhanced Task Force Green Project has been jointly established by the Ministry of Social Development and Whakatāne District Council to help the rural community get back on its feet with clean-up work on farms and rural properties. To register for Task Force Green assistance, call 0800 327 646 (select 4).



Te Tari Awhina Community Hub at Edgcumbe Library - your one-stop shop for advice and support, providing friendly, face-to-face contact for the community.

Open 9am – 4pm, Monday to Friday and 9am – 1pm, Saturday. Call in for a hot drink or to check out the latest news on the community board. *Timetable of currently available services:*

Work and Income	Monday – Friday 9am to 1pm
Liveable Homes and insulation	Monday – Friday 9am to 4pm
NASH Health Services	Monday – Friday 9am to 2pm
Budget Advisory Services	Tuesday only – 10am to 12noon
Baywide Community Law	Tuesday only – 10am to 1pm

Other services, including Whānau Ora and Salvation Army, are also contactable at Te Tari Awhina.

Fitness and wellness

We all know the stress-busting and wellness enhancing effects of exercise and from next week, there's an opportunity to join in a range of classes. To get involved, please refer to the schedule below. If you'd like to add a class to the calendar, please contact Recovery Community Events Coordinator Vicky Richards on 027 309 3657.

Insight Yoga – MON/WED (starting 12 June) 9.30am – Edgcumbe War Memorial Hall, Cost: \$10, Contact: Josee, Ph 027 710 0107 (Mats Available)

Feet On Fire Hip Hop Class – MON 3.45pm to 7pm – St David's Hall, Cost: \$5, Contact: Sienna, Ph 021 155 6682

Body Fit Class – MON/WED/FRI (starting 12 June) 5.30pm – Edgcumbe War Memorial Hall, Cost: \$5, Contact: Brad, Ph 021 0836 8025

Julz Group Fitness – TUES/THURS 6am – Edgcumbe War Memorial Hall, Cost: \$5, Contact: Julie, Ph: 021 071 8179

SAY "GO" Senior Exercise Class – TUES (starting: 13 June) 10am – St David's Hall, Cost: \$2, Contact: Angelica, Ph 021 572 6001

ZUU Class – TUES/THURS 4pm – Edgcumbe War Memorial Hall, Cost: \$5 Adults \$2 Children \$10 family (4-5), Contact: Te Awhitu, Ph 021 0869 6771

What's on

Dairy NZ workshop

- Lots of new grass to manage this season as a result of the April cyclones?
- Or effectively lost some area from your farm?
- Wondering how your farm's pasture growth will shape up?
- How do you make sure you get the best out of the new pastures?

All this, and more will be covered at a workshop for flood and cyclone affected farmers being held at Awakeri on 9 June.

For venue and further details, please call 027 492 2907 or 07 349 6825.

Community Recovery Expo

10 June – 10am to 6pm. Edgcumbe Hall

The Expo will provide the opportunity for locals to:

- access advice
- connect with services and each other
- get information about the recovery project.

Information and services provided will include social, financial, government, Council, legal and housing. Look out for full details in Tuesday's 'Expo Special' newsletter.