



# Moving Forward Together



A look back on 12 months of Recovery in our district

*Reconnect  
Tūhononga  
Restore  
Whakahou  
Rebuild  
Waihanga  
Regenerate  
Whakatipu*

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The organisers of this weekend's gathering to acknowledge the anniversary of 6 April, 2017 have called the event Kotahitanga – Unity from Adversity.

The name is very appropriate, because a sense of togetherness and shared purpose has indeed come from what has unquestionably been a terribly hard year for so many in our district. I encourage all impacted residents, from throughout the district, to attend tomorrow's gathering, in the park beside Te Tari Āwhina - Edgcombe Library.

Council elected members recognise the difficulties the directly-affected residents and homeowners have faced; and the impact on Edgcombe businesses and the wider community caused by so many people being relocated during the rebuild process. We feel the sense of relief of those people who have been able to return home; and equally appreciate the frustration of those who are still working through repairs.

As of yesterday, 70 percent of the 305 homes damaged by the storm and flood events have been repaired. That means families and individuals have been able to 'go home' to 212 properties.

Of course, that also means that another 93 homes have still to be reoccupied. Of those, 78 properties have building underway and are at various stages of the repair, rebuild or sale process. Assisting the remaining home-owners to move forward is the current top priority for the Council-led Recovery Team.

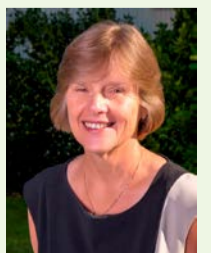
Nga mihi

Mayor Tony Bonne



## FROM THE RECOVERY MANAGER

As we mark an extraordinary year, I would like to recognise the hundreds of people who have contributed to the recovery process. To name all individually is beyond the capacity of these pages, but I hope that touching on the range of agencies, organisations and community groups involved will give some impression of the scale of efforts and resources that have come together with the shared determination to help restore the impacted communities.



Barbara Dempsey – Whakatāne District Council Recovery Manager





Twelve homes in Edgumbe, directly across from the College Road stopbank breach, were left uninhabitable after they took the full force of floodwaters. In September, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council completed the purchase of those properties to allow the stop-bank repair and associated road realignment to proceed. Demolition/removal was completed in early-March and work has started on the final rebuild of the stopbank, which is expected to be complete by the middle of the year.



Recovery – Community Team member Chris King-Hazel with Rangitāiki Community Board Chair Charelle Stevenson pictured at the 10 June Community Recovery Expo. The Community Board, Community Focus Group and Recovery Team joined forces to present a day of information-sharing involving 16 recovery agencies. That was followed by an Insurance Open Day in July and IRD drop-in session in November.

Stage one of the Liveable Homes Project saw 17 houses made habitable for people who did not have the means to repair their homes. The project had wide-reaching community benefits, significantly reducing the number of potentially abandoned homes and the resulting negative effect on overall property prices and community wellbeing. Liveable Homes was funded by BayTrust, JN Williams Trust, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Southern Trust, The Lion Foundation and Rotary District 9930. In addition, Eastern Bay Energy Trust contributed a grant that enabled over 200 homes to receive free insulation. Liveable Homes Stage two has seen a Building Navigator come onboard to provide expert advice to cash-settled homeowners. Pictured are Pearl Tane and John Pullar of the Liveable Homes team.



Te Tari Āwhina – the community hub established at Edgumbe Library continues to play an important role in Recovery; it has served as a base for central government agencies, NAVA, the Liveable Homes Project, Te Tohu o te Ora o Ngāti Awa health services, visits by the Residential Advisory Service and Navigator Services. The dedicated band of Edgumbe Library volunteers has ably assisted recovery staff. Since late October over 170 Welcome Home Packs have been distributed via Te Tari Āwhina.



The Recovery Navigator Service was introduced to assist residents to access a wide range of services to support their stage of recovery. The service is funded by Whakatāne District Council Recovery Project, the Ministry of Social Development, Bay of Plenty District Health Board, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and the Lottery Fund. The Navigator Service has contacted 323 residents and is currently providing ongoing support for around 55 individuals and families. Pictured: Recovery Office staff and representatives of Ngāti Awa Social and Health Services standing behind Rangitāiki Community Board Chair Charelle Stevenson and Vicky Richards, Dorothy Gilliland and Cheryl Wilson, on the occasion of welcoming the Navigators to the Recovery Team in August.



Support for recovery has extended well beyond the Eastern Bay. Volunteers from Rotary Tauranga-Te Papa visit regularly to assist those who need help to get gardens back in shape. From left: Lyn Voyde, Jill Kitchen, Peter Shepherd (property owner), Neil Percival and Rob Thompson. In other examples, Te Puke church group The Orchard helped reestablish the Tāneatua Community Garden; staff from Bunnings stores helped senior residents to move back in; and the Bay of Plenty Rugby Union provided flood-affected residents with 250 free tickets to Steamers home games.



Stop bank breaches in Edgumbe and Poroporo and flooding in Tāneatua caused 1900 people to be evacuated from their homes.



1,400 hectares of farm land was under water for 10-14 days.



4,086 COWS TRUCKED OUT  
2,086 cows were trucked out of the area in the first 48 hours after the breach in Edgumbe.



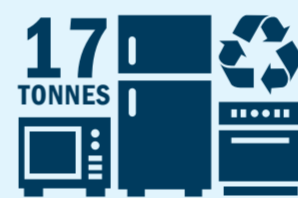
River bank erosion  
1 hectare of river bank erosion deposited 24,000 cubic metres of soil into the Waimana river – a volume that would fill the Aquatic Centre's pools 43 times.



Significant roading damage isolated some rural communities for over a week.



Nearly 3,500 tonnes of sediment has been taken to landfill from EQC section clearing operations.



Over 17 tonnes of whiteware and steel have been recycled.



7.0k TONNES OF WASTE  
More than 7,000 tonnes of waste has been sent to landfill from clean-up in Edgumbe, more than the volume the whole Whakatāne District would normally produce in 6 months.



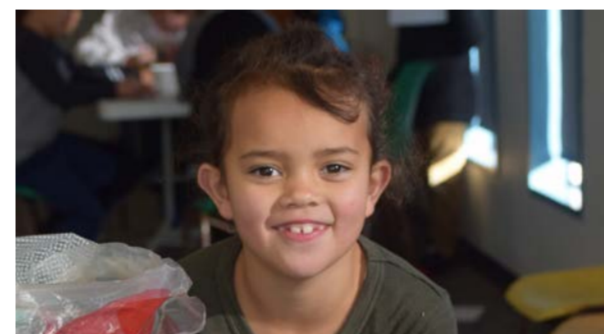
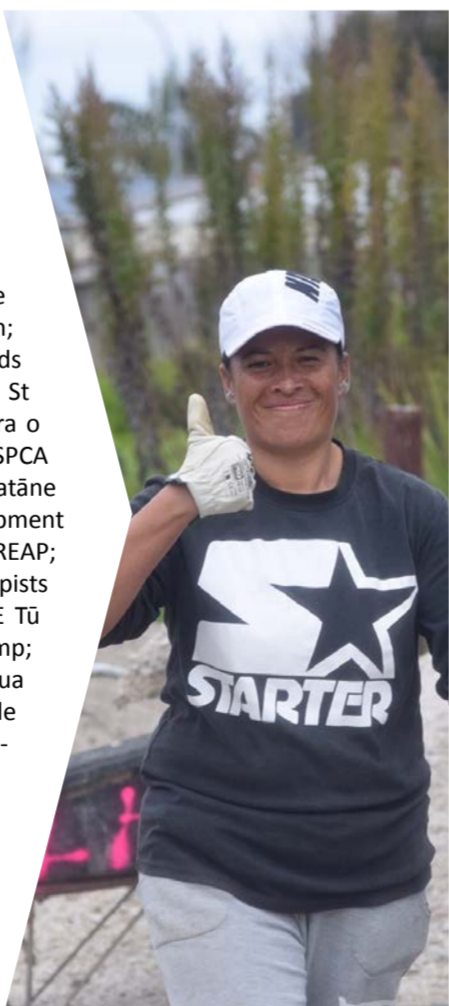
1.5k+ VOLUNTEERS  
Some 1,500 registered volunteers contributed more than 6,800 hours of work, over 11 days, to the NAVA clean-up effort.



Around 265 free building consent applications for flood repairs have been processed by Council

## Partners in Recovery...

Directly affected residents and their wider communities in Tāneatua, Rūātōki, Poroporo, The Plains and Edgumbe • Whakatāne District Council / Whakatāne District Recovery Office • Rangitāiki Community Board • Bay of Plenty Regional Council • Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa • Tūwharetoa Ki Kawerau • Te Uru Taumatua • Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whare • Tūhoe Manawaru Tribal • Timberlands • Liveable Homes Project volunteers and principal sponsors: Eastern Bay Energy Trust; BayTrust; JN Williams Trust; Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Southern Trust; The Lion Foundation; Rotary District 9930 • Eastern Bay Chamber of Commerce • Bay of Plenty District Health Board • Te Tohu o te Ora o Ngāti Awa • CENTRAL GOVERNMENT – Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet – National Recovery Office; Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management; Emergency Management Bay of Plenty; Earthquake Commission (EQC); Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE); Ministry of Education (MoE); Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI); Ministry of Social Development (MSD); NZ Police • Department of Internal Affairs (DIA); IRD Te Puni Kokiri - Ministry of Māori Development/Whanau Ora; Enhanced Task Force Green; Worksafe NZ; Insurance Council of NZ • COMMUNITY GROUPS AND AGENCIES – Ngāti Awa Volunteer Army – NAVA • Donated Goods Centres: Businesses and individuals from around the country who donated goods and the local volunteers who managed distribution; St David's Presbyterian Church, Edgumbe; Te Teko Hall; Rotary Whakatāne West; EBoP Flood Relief Centre; Pou Whakaaro • Te Puna Ora o Mataatua • Te Ao Hou Trust Ōpōtiki • NZ Red Cross • Salvation Army • Rural Support Trust • Federated Farmers Bay of Plenty Branch • SPCA • Baywide Law Services • Canterbury Law Residential Advisory Service (RAS) • Night Patrol group • Eastbay Budget Advisory • Whakatāne District Mayoral Relief Fund - donors, advisory board and allocation panel • 1XX Charitable Trust • Pride Whakatāne • Edgumbe Development and Improvement Team - EDIT • Edgumbe Bluelight and School Holiday Programme supporters – Sport BOP; Face Creationz; Eastbay REAP; Whakatāne Library staff; Te Puna ora o Mataatua; Whakatāne Bluelight • BOP Acacia Charitable Trust • NZ Emergency Response Therapists • Oho Ake event organisers • Edgumbe Movie Night organisers • America's Cup visit organisers • Big Gardening Day supporters • E Tū Edgumbe sponsors: Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, Eastbay REAP, Beulah Concrete, Peppers Building Supplies • Fitness Groups: Brad's bootcamp; Zuu; Julie's Fitness Group; Insight yoga; Say Go fitness class • Coffee2Go • Tzu Chi Foundation • Edgumbe Lions • Edgumbe Kaumatua Group • Edgumbe Library Volunteers • Bay of Plenty Rugby Union • Dyls and Dylz • Wiremu Winiata Church Group Te Puke • Bay-wide Bunnings staff volunteers • Edgumbe Volunteer groups • Kawerau Sheilas Shed • The Orchard Church Te Puke • Rotary Club of Tauranga-Te Papa • The Tindall Foundation • SCA Kawerau • Asaleo Care • Whakatāne Pins and Patches and quilt makers/donors • The Secret Santa Project donors – including Tauranga IRD staff, Brookfields Lawyers, members of the public • House of Hope Church Kawerau • Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi – NAVA Christmas hampers • Fonterra – Edgumbe Christmas Get-together • Eastern Bay Family Safety Network • Edgumbe Women's Institute • Te Toi o Patutatahi – Art of Edgumbe Mural Project • The New Zealand Returned Serviceman's Association • **We would also like to broadly acknowledge those who helped in the initial emergency response to the April 2017 event, including Edgumbe Fire Brigade, Urban Search and Rescue; and the many local marae that embraced residents and relief workers. We also thank the many who have provided goods, time and resources to recovery but have chosen to remain anonymous.**



A sub-committee of the Lottery Bay of Plenty/ Gisborne Community Committee allocated \$1 million to not-for-profit organisations providing services to people in Edgumbe and the surrounding area, to improve the physical, emotional and social well-being of people living in the affected area. Over 40 grants were made to organisations ranging from schools and sports clubs to arts groups and community event organisers. Tekylah-Rose Coffin, pictured above, was among the 55 children who took part in the Bluelight Winter School Holiday Programme, which received support via the lottery fund.



In October over 500 people packed the Edgumbe War Memorial Hall to welcome five Emirates Team New Zealand crew members and see yachting's most famous trophy – The America's Cup. Eastern Bay Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Gerard Casey convinced the syndicate to include Edgumbe in its regional tour and the Whakatāne District Council events team helped the Rangitāiki Community Board and a group of other eager locals to organise the morale-boosting visit.



The generosity of people throughout the district and much further afield who donated goods to those in need was matched by the tremendous dedication of the volunteers who manned the centres. Pictured are Priscilla Morrison, Mere Hepi, Michelle Kiro and Marama Tipuna at the Te Teko Hall donations centre. Other centres were established at St David's Church in Edgumbe; the former Countdown building in Kopeopeo (by Rotary Whakatāne West) and at Bracken Street, Whakatāne (by Pou Whakaaro).





The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment was charged with providing temporary accommodation for displaced residents and in addition to finding rental properties and allocating portable cabins, the department partnered with Whakatāne District Council (to create a temporary house park at the Whakatāne Holiday Park) and Kokohinau Marae (to develop its papakainga complex).

Above: The Hon. Anne Tolley and Whakatāne Mayor Tony Bonne with the key to the first relocatable home at the Holiday Park; Whakatāne District Deputy Mayor Judy Turner, the then Māori Development Minister Te Ururoa Flavell and Merihuka Holt at Kokohinau.



The Edgecumbe Community Plan continues to develop under the guidance of its Oversight Committee and Strategic Coordinator Vicky Richards. Feedback from community representatives is being used to prioritise the ideas that came from September's Peter Kenyon workshop.

In addition to the high priority Edgecumbe and College Road stopbank works, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council has identified 520 other locations across the region requiring repairs.

The flood repairs will take years to get through and so have been prioritised based on risk to lives and livelihoods, disruptions and lifelines. Contractors have been busy, with almost 100 high-priority repairs either completed or underway.

The repair bill will be in excess of \$45 million, a cost shared by central government, Council and insurance.

One of the earliest repair jobs was work on riverbank erosion alongside the Waikirikiri Marae, Rūātoki North. Regional Council staff worked closely with Marae representatives, completing the work in June.

*Pictured: Before and after – Rūātoki Township, Whakatāne River*



The Whakatāne District Council Transportation team led the massive job of repairing significant damage to roads, including Te Whaiti and Ruatāhuna roads.



The Ministry of Social Development provided \$360,000 to fund Enhanced Task Force Green teams to help clean up flood and storm damage on rural properties and in public reserves.



Recovery Navigator Cheryl Wilson, Wini Geddes and Te Tari Āwhina Customer Service Officer Grahame Bryce with the pakeke Christmas hampers supplied by NAVA. Over 300 Christmas presents also made their way to flood-impacted children as a result of the Recovery Office's Secret Santa Project.



The Rural Support Trust provided vital assistance to farming families in the weeks and months of Recovery. Pictured from left are Support Worker Ben Smith, Rural Recovery Coordinator Patrick Andrew, Administrator Jodie Craig and Rural Wellness Coordinator Igor Gerritson. RST had six facilitators working with rural families. Bay of Plenty Federated Farmers President Darryl Jensen was also a strong advocate for the sector in recovery. The Ministry for Primary Industries provided a grant fund of \$300,000 to assist rural recovery.



When the Medical Centre and Edgecumbe Pharmacy joined other businesses which had returned to repaired premises in Riverslea Mall in February, it was a relief for health professionals and the community. The Edgecumbe business community suffered a significant downturn due to the drop in resident population. The \$300,000 MBIE Business Recovery Fund provided grants to qualifying businesses across the district and also supported a \$20,000 Back in Business campaign.



The Whakatāne District Mayoral Relief Fund distributed \$160,000 to 142 applicants; the 1XX Charitable Trust has also distributed \$62,000 to date.

In September, 10 'hot-spots' were set up to provide free wi-fi throughout Edgecumbe and the surrounding area.

Sir Michael Cullen presented the findings of the independent review of the Rangitāiki River Scheme to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in October.

The Whakatāne District Recovery Office enlisted the Canterbury Residential Advisory Service (RAS) - established post-Canterbury earthquakes - to assist a number of residents with ongoing concerns about insurance claims.