

Computers are being set up at Te Tari Awhina community hub for free access. Newsletter No 5 will update you on when these will be ready for use.

Children going to school – extra care needed

Edgumbe in some areas looks like a continuous construction zone!

This is because the volume of contractors, builders, heavy vehicles, and household traffic has increased hugely with the amount of work that is underway.

But life needs to go on and children, in particular, have to walk and cycle to school twice a day through these very busy traffic areas.

Contractors, some from outside the local area, have been provided with additional health and

safety advice to take extra care on school days between 7.45am and 8.45am; and 2.45pm and 3.45pm.

Parents: your children will be bringing home some information about this shortly, including some advice and tips on how they can stay extra safe in the coming days and weeks.

If any parents have concerns then please call Chris or Barbara, from the Recovery community team, via the 0800 306 0500 freephone line

When stock return to your farm

- If you have access to a large volume hose, spray the feet of the herd as they are being loaded into the cattle truck prior to being relocated.
- Put returning stock into a 'quarantine' paddock.
- Inspect the quarantine paddock for unusual plants in the coming spring and report anything found to the Regional Council – 0800 884 880.

The SPCA can offer assistance for animal welfare on a case by case basis. Please contact the SPCA on 07 3084608.

Business news

A business confidence survey to collect information about businesses in all storm-affected areas was launched last week and will run until 17 May.

The information obtained will be used in the MBIE business support package process. In addition, a multi-texting service has been set up to enhance communication with businesses.

Applications for the MBIE business support package will remain open for six months. The first grants are expected to be provided this week, based on the eligibility criteria defined by MBIE.

Work is well underway to dry out the Edgumbe Mall – although this was hampered somewhat by the rain event over Friday-Saturday last week.

Updates

Security

There are three full-time security guards still on patrol.

Portaloos

The recovery office has supplied 15 portaloos. These are for contractors, volunteers and those assisting with the Liveable Homes programme. They get moved about according to where they are needed.

Waste

Wheelie bins should only be used for household rubbish and not for silt. Extra household rubbish placed in black bags by your rubbish bin will also be picked up.

Wheelie bins and crates can be washed or hosed down, the council will not be cleaning them but we will replace those lost during the flood. Please contact our customer services team for replacement bins.

Also, please use the skip bins provided as we no longer want to use berms for dumping. Most of the berms have been cleared and we would like to keep them that way. Requests for skip bins can still be made on 0800 000 611.

No chemical contamination found

Recent silt testing shows that there are no issues with chemical contamination in Edgumbe township. Where there are still areas of ponding, these may contain stagnant water, but this should be a diminishing issue as water recedes and/or evaporates.

Any floodwater, whether from the April event, or from the current heavy rainfall, should be treated as if it may contain faecal matter. This may be from farm animals and farm effluent systems, as well as wild animals and birds and/or an overwhelmed sewage system.

It is recommended that anyone specifically cleaning or handling materials that were affected by last month's flood should wear appropriate protective clothing such as mask, gloves, and overalls.

Pest control

A rat trapping programme is about to get underway in the red sticker area as a precautionary measure. There is no danger to wandering domestic pets from this.



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



Recovery Project Facebook page



The Whakatāne District Recovery Project now has its own Facebook page. For instant updates as soon as they are posted go to facebook.com/whakatanedistrictrecoveryproject

Please share this so the messages get spread as quickly as possible.

Coming up

See the screen capture below for yet more confirmation about what a great community we live in. Join these wonderful people for a free barista coffee, tea or hot chocolate (with home baking if you get in early) outside the Edgumbe Library on Saturday, between 9am and 3pm.

Hello Edgumbe. I am a Whk, Kawerau local who would like to do something to add a smile. Along with my brother, partner and a work colleague we have put together some supplies to run a day of FREE barista coffees, teas and hot chocolates and if you're quick you'll get a piece of yummy home baking as well :) Look out for the shiny blue trailer (no signage) outside the library SATURDAY 20th MAY 9am till 3pm. (You may have heard we would be there this Saturday but due to waiting on a gas fitting we had to postpone). ALL ARE WELCOME.



Liveable Homes – process summary

PHASE 1

- Contact John or Pearl in the Liveable Homes project team – phone 0800 306 0500
- Legal agreement signed
- Issue of building consent
- NAVA matches suitable volunteers to the property to begin the work
- Strip-out of water damaged building materials

DRYING PERIOD

- Monitor drying of dwellings
- Engagement with owner about refit options

PHASE 2

- Installation of insulation where appropriate
- Installation of new linings
- Installation of stove
- Issue of code compliance certificate

