

Recovery team up and running

The Whakatāne District Recovery Project is now fully established and focusing on getting affected communities back on their feet.

Led by Recovery Manager Julie Gardyne, the project team is divided into the following areas of work:

- social and welfare
- planning
- iwi engagement
- the natural and rural environment (eg biosecurity)
- the built environment (eg houses, roads)
- economic recovery.

It is important that the community is part of the restoration processes and developments, so much of the Recovery Project effort will be to ensure individuals, families/whānau, businesses, iwi, farmers, community organisations and all who need to be, are totally involved.

It is expected that the Recovery Project will run for at least six months.



Julie Gardyne

This newsletter

This newsletter will be produced twice a week in the coming weeks. You are welcome to subscribe to receive it by email.

Send us an email at recovery@whakatane.govt.nz with "Newsletter" in the subject line. We will add you to the list and you can then receive it a day ahead of the printed or online versions.

And if you can give us a better name for it than "Whakatāne District Recovery Project Newsletter" (by Monday, 8 May), you could be the winner of a \$50 prezzie voucher.



Te Tari Awhina community hub

From Monday 8 May the Te Tari Awhina community hub will open in the Edgecumbe Library. The Hub will be staffed during normal business hours for anyone from across the Whakatāne District who needs information, support, advice, referrals or meeting rooms for recovery-related business.

Staff at the Hub will be happy to assist – please don't hesitate to call in and say hi.

The Edgecumbe Hall will cease operating as the flood event response centre from Friday.

Small business funding assistance

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has provided a \$250,000 grant to assist businesses in the Whakatāne District which have suffered sustained disruption as a result of this month's flooding and storm-related disasters get 'up and running' again.

Relief grants are available to businesses with less than 20 employees who can demonstrate they have suffered significant losses caused by the storm events (for a minimum of four weeks). Any grants provided must be used to re-establish business viability through means such as premises refits or relocation; or a marketing programme designed to restore profitable operations.

The funds have been granted jointly to the Whakatāne District Council and Eastern Bay of Plenty Chamber of Commerce. Elected members from both organisations will sit on the assessment committee, which will also include local representatives with substantial business and accounting backgrounds.

Funding applications will open on Thursday, 4 May. Application forms will be distributed directly by the Chamber of Commerce to the many small businesses it has been assisting. Forms will also be available on the Chamber and Council websites (www.ebopchamber.co.nz or www.whakatane.govt.nz).

Liveable Homes



This is a project to repair flood-damaged homes to a liveable state – for those people who don't have the means to do that.

The Whakatāne District Recovery team is working with community funding agencies, the construction industry, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, volunteer organisations and other project partners to achieve their ambition of having these homes restored by Christmas.

Updates

Security

Current security arrangements remain in place until the end of this week and will then reviewed to determine what is best for each area.

Waste management

Berm clearance and private property cleaning continues.

Portaloos

12 portaloos remain in places where access to toilets is difficult.

How it works...

Free building consent issued » Strip-out flood-damaged flooring, floor linings, wall linings and insulation » Dry-out building » Refit wall linings and kitchen/bathroom cabinets » Building code compliance certificate issued » Home safe to reoccupy

More information on the Liveable Homes programme can be found at: www.whakatane.govt.nz/project-liveable-homes or by calling into the Whakaora Community Hub from Monday.

Owner of a flood affected, yellow-stickered house?



What needs to be done to get back into my house?



REMOVE CONTAMINATED/DAMAGED PROPERTY AND MATERIALS



DRY YOUR HOUSE OUT



HOUSE REPAIRS - REPLACE WALL LININGS AND FLOORING



CODE COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATE - RETURN HOME

More info at www.whakatane.govt.nz/project-liveable-homes

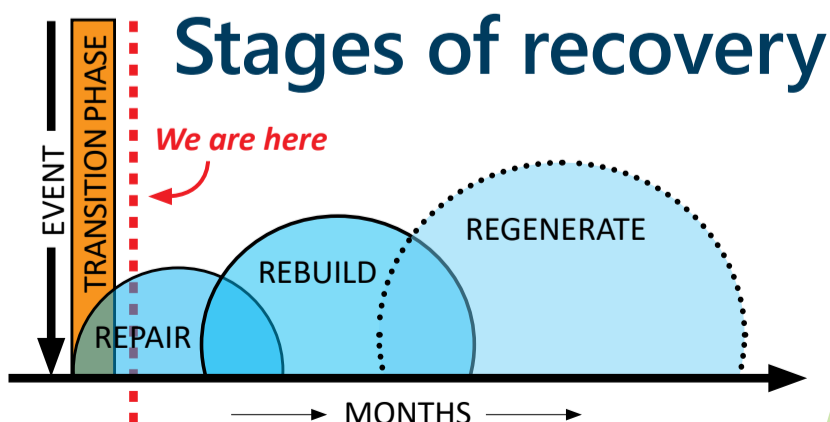
Rates remissions for flood-damaged houses

Owners of properties known to be affected by the flood events should not receive a rates invoice when the quarterly mail-out occurs next week.

A report to enable more flexibility in the existing rates remission policy will be considered by the council this week.

More detail on this will be announced after the Council meeting on Thursday.

If property owners with affected properties do receive a rates notice by mistake, then please do not hesitate to let us know.



Community feedback

The Recovery Team is keen to hear your thoughts on how the Recovery Project should roll out. We will need to know different community priorities, and what projects really matter to you. We expect to get out and hear your views on these matters and will advise via the newsletter of up-coming times and days. In the meantime, if your community would like staff from the Recovery Team to visit your area, please email recovery@whakatane.govt.nz or call the Customer Service Centre on 07 306 0500.