

Liveable Homes Project update

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust has announced funding towards ensuring that all of the district's flood-affected residents return to warmer and healthier, insulated homes. The funds are being made available to the Liveable Homes Project, which is coordinating qualified tradespeople and volunteers to people who don't have the means to repair their houses to a habitable standard. The Project could involve up to 282 identified properties in Edgumbe, the wider Rangitāiki Plains, Paroa, Tāneatua, and Rūātōki areas.

Acting Chairman of the Eastern Bay Energy Trust, David Bulley, says the Trust wants everyone to have the opportunity to benefit from improved insulation as part of the support package. "Our support includes those who are insured, but who may find that their rebuild doesn't extend to installing insulation. If that's the case, EBET funding will be available to assist with the cost."



Liveable Homes project house strip-outs got underway at a number of locations in Edgumbe this week.

Archaeology – wāhi tapu and kōiwi

The recent flooding has resulted in many changes to the land. With repair and maintenance work and earthmoving activities underway across the District, it's likely that items of archaeological and cultural importance may be uncovered. If you come across any item that you think may be of archaeological interest, or repairs are to be undertaken at a known wāhi tapu site, please report this by getting in contact with your local Iwi, or the Whakatāne District Recovery Project (iwi liaison Arapeta Taitoko) before work continues. For further details, please go to the recovery website.



Te Tari Awhina has now hosted over 200 people seeking information or support. Please feel free to drop in at any time.

BUDGET ADVISORY SERVICES

Available to provide free budgetary advice.

BAYWIDE COMMUNITY LAW SERVICE

Can provide free legal advice and assistance to those in need.

Baywide Community Law is based at Phoenix House, Pyne St, Whakatāne, or call 07 308 6817 to make an appointment.

Both services available from 10 am – 1pm every Tuesday at Te Tari Awhina

FREE COMPUTER USE

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



Pou Whakaaro steps up in recovery

When the floods struck Edgumbe and other parts of the Whakatāne District last month, Pou Whakaaro Whakatāne knew their recently acquired new premises meant they had the facilities to help.

"Naturally we wanted to offer any assistance we could," says Claire Pye, Pou Whakaaro General Manager, "and as we didn't have a tenant in the rear of our No. 1 Bracken Street premises, we decided to put it to good use. Within the first week of opening our doors, we had items pouring in – 20 double pallets of furniture arrived in the first week from Whanganui alone!"

Pou Whakaaro now takes in donations of furniture and appliances, all of which are checked and tested, where applicable, before finding new homes with those affected by the flooding. "Basically we see our mission as building better communities," Ms Pye says, "but it's also about being a good neighbour: the people of Edgumbe are our neighbours, so we want to help them out wherever we can. One of our great strengths is being able to put people in touch with one another and with useful resources and services, and this has been an integral part of the recovery in general."

While furniture and household items are continuing to come in, Ms Pye says storage space is also in big demand. "People who have been flooded need somewhere to store belongings while they are getting back on their feet and their homes are being repaired, so if you have a clean, dry garage or some storage space that they can use, then we'd like to hear from you. And of course we are always looking for volunteers – if you have a few hours to spare a week, we have something for you to do, from data entry to furniture distribution. Give us a call – your help will be appreciated!"



The Pou Whakaaro team and volunteers – Claire Pye centre front – road testing some donated couches in readiness for their new homes.

Contacting people

Community staff from the Recovery Office have contacted over 200 individuals who are from the yellow and red stickered properties. However, there are around 70 people who, for whatever reason, are not so easy to track down. So if you have a neighbour, friend or family member who has yet to be contacted by the Recovery Team, please ask them to give us a call on 0800 306 0500.



THE RIVERSLEA MEDICAL CENTRE (now in Te Teko)

8 Te Teko Rd – right next to the school
Opening hours: 6.30am – 4pm
Phone: 07 304 9106



EDGEKUMBE PHARMACY (now in Te Teko)

Opening hours: 7.30am – 4.30pm
Phone: 07 304 9734

Free coffee, tea and baking!

Outside the Edgumbe Library 9am–3pm
Look for the blue van.

Big thanks to Rachel Thomas and friends who want to bring you a smile!

Updates

Biosecurity



Be aware of the biosecurity risks that may arise when buying in feed, bringing in contractor machinery and when stock return to your property. Make sure they are all 'clean'. Monitor affected land for new weeds and grasses in the coming spring/summer. The Regional Council biosecurity team can provide an advisory service if anything of concern is detected.

Pest control



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

College Road

The temporary road now has two-lane access. The footpath is formed and separation barriers have been installed.

Cleaning of stormwater cesspits and major lateral lines is underway in Edgumbe, using a vacuum tanker and a specialised drain cleaning water blaster.



The Whakatāne District Recovery Team attended the 'Waimana Cyclone Recovery BBQ' led by Dairy NZ and held for 40-50 people earlier this week. RD1 are shown cooking the sponsored Kai.



Introducing Vicky Richards

Recovery manager Julie Gardyne welcomes the addition of Vicky Richards to the Recovery Team. Vicky will be working within the Community Team and will be involved in leading, growing and supporting community events, clubs and groups. It is recognised that a large part of community recovery is sustaining and building local community activities and Vicky will be working closely with existing groups, clubs and stakeholders to do this. A long-time Edgumbe resident, Vicky is well-known in the wider community through her role with Sport Bay of Plenty and her chairmanship of the Rangitāiki Community Board during the last triennium.

