



# WAIROA RECOVERY

TE WAIROA KA ORA TE WERO TE TAKI  
STRENGTH x UNITY x RESILIENCE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 2023 | NEWSLETTER 7



**Ka mua, ka muri**  
*Walking backwards into the future.*

This whakatauki expresses a simple and profound statement that we must look back to move into the future with the learnings of the past. As we move swiftly towards Christmas and the end of this year, it is timely to reset and review, looking back from where we have come to reset, adjust, and modify for the future for recovery.

There is a long way to go, and we still do not have all the answers. Each day, acknowledge the small wins, the steps one at a time, reach out for help and support and a reminder that this is bigger than us all; we need to lean into the values of aroha – compassion and kotahitanga – unity. If there is one message today, it would be to remember that everyone is doing the best they can, and this is not the time to make comparisons but rather take stock and dig in for the long haul and get our whānau back in their homes.

## GETTING WHĀNAU BACK INTO HOMES

Getting whānau back into their homes is our priority, says Wairoa recovery Manager Benita Tahuri.

"While houses are bricks and mortar, what they represent is safety, security and wellbeing. We have evidence to support that getting whānau back into their homes is the fastest way for a community to recover from a traumatic event like Cyclone Gabrielle.

"Our Recovery kaimanaaki team have been out and about 'ground truthing' to see how our affected families are getting on.

"We are gathering feedback so we can get a true picture of how many whānau are back in their whare and what needs and issues still exist.

"'Ground truthing' our information and gathering feedback will help validate what we already know and identify areas we may need to provide more support in.

"If you need assistance or advice to get back into your home, from under-house silt removal to help with moisture testing and plumbing, please email [recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz) or phone 0508 976248.

"Please make sure you follow the Moisture Verification Checklist so you can get back in your home as soon as possible."

### MOISTURE VERIFICATION CHECKLIST

This checklist will help guide you as to when you can contact the Wairoa District Council Building team to conduct a verification moisture check.

Items 1-7 need to be completed before the Wairoa District Council Building Team will conduct a verification moisture check.

- |                                     |   |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Septic tank cleaned, waste pipes flushed & toilet usable.  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Moisture content of exposed pine wall framing has been confirmed <18% by a contractor.<br><i>*Native timbers 20-25%.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Potable water supply available.  | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Floors cleaned/disinfected or replaced if required.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Electrical Safety Certificate obtained.  | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Wall coverings, insulation reinstated.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Silt removed from internal wall cavities, exposed timber cleaned and disinfected.  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Silt level gap under piled houses is greater than 400mm from the lowest timber, foundation vents are not blocked, and no organic matter or foul odours are present.<br><i>*If above conditions cannot be achieved silt level to be reduced to 15mm.<br/>*If polythene under house is covered in silt all silt must be removed.</i> |   |



# TĀTAU TĀTAU O TE WAIROA UPDATE

Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa is supporting whānau with post-cyclone recovery while also transitioning to building resilience in the community.

By the end of the year 35 temporary homes/pods will be on site on impacted whānau land, with 70 pods expected by the end of March next year. This temporary accommodation has enabled whānau to stay on their whenua, live independently and have their own space.

Meanwhile, we are negotiating with Te Puni Kokiri around essential repairs for flood-damaged homes. Houses have been assessed, and we know what is needed, but with most of Wairoa's flood-damaged properties in the 2A Land Category, the funding cannot be released. A flood resilience plan for Wairoa needs to be completed and have received government approval before Wairoa can move to either 2C or 1, so funding can then be released, and repair work can begin.

We are working with Te Puni Kokiri to see if we can start on some repairs, such as electrical and plumbing work, to make the homes safe while the flooding mitigation and Land Categorisation process is worked through.

Te Aka Whai Ora is also supporting whānau with care packages around making homes healthy and safe with assistance

If you would like to receive the Wairoa Recovery Newsletter, please send your email address to:  
[recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz)



around insulation, heating, etc.

All local support is built around set criteria, involves working with Wairoa Recovery, NGOs, and the Housing team, and runs alongside the requirements for temporary accommodation.

The Pātaka, set up after the cyclone by Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa, continues to support flood-affected whānau by distributing essential items based on referrals from the Recovery Hub and other Non-Governmental Agencies, with demand for hygiene and cleaning packs and gib board.

Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa received a grant of \$1 million from Kānoa – Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit, for a refit of the former Turiroa School to provide accommodation for workers who will be based in Wairoa as part of the rebuild. This project is a joint venture by three kahui Ngā Tokorima ā Hinemanuhiri, Te Hononga o ngā Awa and Te Wairoa Tapokorau Whānui.

A further joint kahui venture involving Ngā Tokorima ā Hinemanuhiri, Te Wairoa Tapokorau Whānui, Te Wairoa Tapokorau Mai Tawhiti is to repurpose the former North Clyde School site, focusing on education, training and upskilling rangatahi and whānau.

We know many in our community are experiencing cyclone fatigue and that some whānau don't interact with services and have very real needs. We can't offer support if we don't know about you or your issues. If you need assistance, please contact the Wairoa Recovery team based at the airport.

Lewis Ratapu

Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa Chief Executive Officer

## CIVIL DEFENCE REVIEW

**Have your say on the local Civil Defence Emergency Management response to Cyclone Gabrielle**

To help complete one of the final stages of the Independent Review into the Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Group's readiness for, and response to, Cyclone Gabrielle, the Review Panel has launched a short and simple online survey to enable community and mana whenua input.

Over the next three weeks, the survey will be open for Hawke's Bay communities and mana whenua to anonymously share their experiences and their views on the response to Cyclone Gabrielle during the days immediately leading into the event and then the immediate emergency response stage. The survey can be completed between now and 7 December 2023 by visiting: <https://feedback.askyourteam.com/CBqcR2c>.

The Independent Review panel, led by Mike Bush, former Commissioner of NZ Police, says the survey is an important part of the engagement programme to capture a range of peoples' experiences and opinions, which will be used to prepare the final report due in 2024.

The findings will also help Hawke's Bay's local councils, as part of the Hawke's Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group, to plan for the future, with outcomes used to identify learnings, improve resilience, and ensure Hawke's Bay has the capability and capacity to support better emergency management outcomes for its communities.

# HEAVY RAINFALL IMPACT SIGNIFICANT

Two heavy rainfall events in November have battered the Wairoa district.

Early in November, heavy rainfall caused significant damage in the Whakaki, Nuhaka and Mahia areas and on the weekend, further substantial rain caused flooding, saw over 20 local roads closed, around 30 people isolated and caused significant rural slipping.

Nineteen properties sustained damage and received Rapid Building Assessment placards in the early November event. The recent event saw two yellow restricted entry placards, and assessments were still being carried out.

As a result of the early November event, at Mahia, a permanent home and a temporary residence were red stickered - prohibiting entry, and a neighbouring property yellow stickered - restricted entry. At Nuhaka, six residences and the Nuhaka School, Kahungunu Marae and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints were all yellow stickered and three were white stickered (minimal damage). In Whakaki, two houses were yellow stickered; on Frasertown Road, near

the Awatere Stream one home was yellow stickered and a shed was white stickered.

Wairoa Mayor Craig Little said it is heartbreaking to have added new stickered properties to the extensive list from the Cyclone Gabrielle event.

"I am particularly concerned about the Nuhaka School and its students. The school was relocated to the LDS Chapel at Nuhaka after flooding following Cyclone Gabrielle. This heavy rain event flooded the chapel, causing the school to be displaced again. This is very disruptive for the students and whānau. The school has now been relocated to Tanenuiarangi Marae at Nuhaka."

Wairoa Civil Defence Controller Juanita Savage said the heavy rainfall events have had a significant impact. "Thank you to the local emergency responders, welfare support and Civil Defence response during these incidents. This was locals helping impacted locals, we are grateful for the support we received and are proud of our community."

The early November event also caused slipping and damage to the

Mahia East Coast Road at the 5.4km mark. Geotechnical engineers have been on site to assess the situation, and drivers are urged to please drive to the conditions and observe any temporary speed limits.

There was significant slipping and ground slumpage at Mahia along the East Coast Road and Brown's Rise. This affected land remains unstable, and extreme caution is advised.

Residents throughout the district, particularly Mahia, who live near cliffs and steep slopes, should be alert for any signs of instability, particularly after heavy rain. This includes movements of trees or the slope, cracks in the earth, ground slumpage, or loose dislodged rocks and boulders suspended in vegetation on the escarpment face.

Wairoa District Council also reminds people who live or work near cliffs and steep slopes (escarpments) of the need to take a precautionary approach to landslide risks.

If your home has been impacted by the heavy rain events, please contact the Wairoa District Council on 06 838 7309 to arrange an assessment.

## HOUSING, WHĀNAU AND WELLBEING POU LEAD

A chance to help the wider community has seen Abbie Taylor return home and now support the Wairoa Recovery team.

Abbie is Wairoa born and bred and returned home last year. She lives at Mahanga with her partner Saskia and their two children, Jasper, eight and Winnie, six.

Abbie is the daughter of Sharon (nee Murphy) and David Taylor and has plenty of local whānau connections.

Her training and work background has included

degrees in Business Management and Health Science, which saw her work as a radiation therapist in public and private practice. She has also worked in the Healthy Homes initiative with a focus on tamariki.

Stepping into the Recovery role was a natural progression with Abbie taking on the Pou lead for Housing and Whānau and Wellbeing.

Abbie says she has seen first-hand the struggles people are going through post-cyclone.

"We are seeing delays, which frustrates people, and more than half our flood-impacted homes

are uninsured, so there are some real challenges.

"Part of my role is to collate information and advocate so we can push forward and get the best outcomes. Getting people back into their homes is the Wairoa Recovery priority, and we will continue to work as hard as we can to achieve that."



# COLLECTION OF BUILDING MATERIALS FROM FLOOD-DAMAGED HOMES

Wairoa District Council is meeting the needs of the flood-affected community by collecting building materials from damaged housing, along with its ongoing silt collections.

Wairoa District Council Chief Executive Kitea Tipuna said people are starting to rebuild, and as a result, there is an increase in building materials from flood-damaged homes. "This collection will ensure we are putting solutions in place to support this part of the recovery process.

"Directly after the cyclone, through Government funding, the Council was able to collect flood-damaged property, which included home and building contents. Based on the

funding at that time, that collection had to stop at the end of June. Now, we are seeing a greater need for collecting and removing building materials and building-related debris, so have shifted our focus to support this area of need.

"Council has collected thousands of tonnes of flood-affected property, which has been disposed of at no cost to individuals. We won't be able to continue with this free service indefinitely, but we do want to help our community and ensure these materials are disposed of appropriately.

"A reminder also to anyone who needs silt cleared from under their homes, please get in touch.

"More than 125 houses have had the silt removed from underneath them, and this free service is still available. The council is also collecting silt from residential properties.

"Because we need to collate the collection of building materials and silt, we ask everyone who would like a collection to please lodge a CSR (Customer Service Request) with the Council to arrange collection.

"This can be done by phoning the Council on 06 838 7309 or going online at [www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request/), or call into the Council offices or in-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa airport Monday to Friday between 10am -2pm."

## SHOWING THEIR CREATIVE SKILLS

Budding Picassos pulled out their artistic flair recently.

Rural paint parties, hosted by local artist Bex Stone, have been held at Tiniroto and Putere.

The parties are designed as a pick-me-up for flood-impacted communities offering a few hours of fun and creativity.

The Tiniroto event was funded by the Tiniroto Community Association with the Putere event funded by the Wairoa Community Development

Trust. The Trust facilitates different programmes funded by MPI, delivering to isolated rural communities by connecting through the Rural Community Hubs.

The aim is to provide opportunities for people living in isolated areas to learn new skills without having to travel long distances to town.

Bex Stone, who ran the paint parties, said it was a great experience to take the parties rural and to tap into a range of local talent.



Tiniroto residents present their masterpieces after the Tiniroto Paint Party.

# NO PLACE LIKE HOME FOR WAIHIRERE KOHANGA

Despite flood waters surrounding Te Kohanga Reo o Te Waihirere, staff and tamariki consider themselves lucky the damage was not worse.

Kohangha kaiwhakahaere kaiako Pauline Tahuri said it was only because they had listened to the weather warnings the day before the cyclone and decided to close the kohanga that they stayed safe.

"The day before the flooding, we could see the river rising, and with 22 tamariki aged between six months and five years of age, we decided we would close the next day."

That decision turned out to be a lifesaver, and although flood waters lapped around the building, they did not infiltrate inside. "When we were able to return, it was heartbreaking, outside was terrible. But the kohanga is built high and on a concrete base, and there was no damage inside."

The staff of Grace Tahuri (senior), Mahanga Tahuri, Colleen Cotter, Kat Kahukura and whānau along with Enhanced Taskforce Green support, helped with the outside clean up and silt removal, which saw play equipment, trampolines and other resources written off.

Initially, the kohanga relocated to Wairoa Primary School which reached out and offered support. The next stop was Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngati Kahungunu o Te Wairoa. Pauline says they were very grateful to have alternative spaces to operate from, but there is no place like home.

"We were so lucky to be taken in, but as a full immersion pre-school, it is hard to keep the kaupapa, particularly in a mainstream school setting."

The kohanga used the time away to

spruce up the facilities with fresh painting and flooring. Although they were away from their base until the end of July, there is still more to do, including replacing their vans and car seats, which were silt-laden as a result of the flooding.

"We are trying to make do in the meantime. It is nice to be home, and we are grateful for the support we have received, especially through Wairoa Recovery, where we are part of the Focus Group and, like other affected kura, are receiving wrap-around support."



Te Kohanga Reo o Te Waihirere, staff and tamariki are pleased to be back in their home.

## GRANTS OPEN

Community Wellbeing and Hauora Grants are now open through the Regional Public Service and Te Whatu Ora partnership.

These grants are made possible via Mental Health and Wellbeing funding allocated by Government following the North Island Weather Events.

The focus of the grants is to support the health and wellbeing of those directly impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle as they adapt to changes in their lives and navigate next steps in the recovery process.

The Grants close at 11.59 pm on Thursday 30 November 2023.

To find out more about the grants and to download the grant application form go to: <https://www.ourhealthhb.nz/connect-with-us/hawkes-bay-health-fund-2/>

To apply please use the grant form that you can find in the above link or save your completed form and submit it to [wellbeinggrant@msd.govt.nz](mailto:wellbeinggrant@msd.govt.nz).

If you have any questions or need support with applying, please contact the team at [wellbeinggrant@msd.govt.nz](mailto:wellbeinggrant@msd.govt.nz).

# RATES REMISSION FOR WAIROA

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council recognises the impacts recent weather events, particularly Cyclone Gabrielle, had on the Wairoa community.

The Regional Council can remit all or part of any 2023/24 rates if you are experiencing extreme financial hardship, that has impacted your ability to pay your rates.

This could include situations like:

- You are having to pay both a mortgage and rent as you've been displaced from your home,
- You were under or un-insured and need to replace household goods,
- You have lost the ability to generate income from the land

(i.e. crops were damaged/lease income stopped),

- You have lost rental income,
- You are facing significant costs of cleaning, removing silt or debris from your property,

A Regional Council team will be based in Wairoa at the Wairoa Recovery Office at the Wairoa airport on from 11am to 2pm on Thursday, 7 December, and can help you to complete a form and answer questions.

If you are unable to visit the team during this time, please complete the remission form online at [hbrc.govt.nz](https://www.hbrc.govt.nz), search #payratesor or call the remissions team on 06 8359200 who will be happy

to assist you.

If you can't demonstrate extreme financial hardship or meet the criteria for a remission of your rates, the team can still help you through a payment arrangement that may alleviate some of the financial stress you may be experiencing.



**MAYORAL RELIEF FUND**

# \$975,000

**DISTRIBUTED**

To apply scan this QR Code or visit:  
<https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle/wairoamayoral-relief-fund>



## ADMINISTRATOR ROLE FOR RECOVERY

The Queen of manakitaanga has joined the Wairoa Recovery team.

Shar Wairau stepped into the role earlier this month 'on loan' from Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa for six months.

In welcoming her to the administration role, Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri said she is thrilled to be able to have someone of Shar's calibre on the team to provide office and administrative support. "Recovery is about the community, and I know Shar will bring a new level of nurturing and empowering to the team, which in turn will help whānau. Thank you to Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa for allowing Shar to join us, and to Shar for wanting to be part of the team to help Wairoa rebuild."



## TAILS AND TALES

The series of Tails and Tales 'stories from the streets' promoted by the Wairoa Recovery team, have been a great success.

The initiative is based on reconnecting a-tinana, a-hinengaro and a-wairua with whānau who were directly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle through whakawhanaungatanga, kai tahi and korero tahi.

The gatherings have been held around North Clyde neighbourhoods.

Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri said Tails and Tales has been a way to meet with cyclone-impacted people in their neighbourhoods and connect, share and listen to korero. "It has been really beneficial to just sit and chat with no set agenda."

# BUSINESS BACK

## WAIROA MOTORCYCLES

Stu Halpin of Wairoa Motorcycles is making the best of a bad situation as he rebuilds from the damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle flooding.

More than 600 hours have been spent cleaning up and hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of damage to stock and the building has been recorded.

On the morning of February 14, Stu and his team watched the river cross Carroll Street and head towards the business based in the old Wairoa Dairy Factory on Mahia Avenue.

"We started lifting stock

in the showroom, trying to get it to high ground, and then realised water was coming in from the back as well."

In the end, a significant amount of the business was affected by flooding with water sitting just under the showroom floor level, and flooding the parts department and old dairy factory storage area with only the workshop high and dry.

Four to six weeks after the event Wairoa Motorcycles was functioning again but only operating at minimal capacity.

"We decided to make the best of a bad situation

and are revamping the showroom, which will see more focus on the Mahia Ave frontage. We are doing the showroom work in two halves so we can still function from a basic level."

Stu reflects back to Cyclone Bola in 1988, which was around the

time he went out on his own and launched Wairoa Motorcycles. "That was 36 years ago, and while rebuilding has been a huge job, we are working to be back 100% before Christmas and look forward to welcoming clients into our refurbished business."



## SH2 BETWEEN WAIROA AND GISBORNE CLOSED SOME NIGHTS IN DECEMBER

Resurfacing a stretch of State Highway 2 along the Wharerātās between Wairoa and Gisborne will result in overnight road closures next month.

A stretch of SH2 between Maraetaha Rd and Wharekakaho Rd will close most nights from December 7 to December 19 to allow crews to safely resurface the road as efficiently as possible.

This stretch of road will close each night at 8 pm and reopen at 5am each day in time for early commuter traffic to pass through.

The road will be open overnight Sunday, December 10 and Monday, December 11 and also on Sunday, December 17 and Monday, December 18.

This overnight work is weather-dependent and if the wet weather delays work at any stage, the road will be open that night.

For updates, go to:

- Traffic updates: [journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic](https://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/WakaKotahiHGB](https://www.facebook.com/WakaKotahiHGB)
- X (formerly Twitter): [twitter.com/WakaKotahiCNI](https://twitter.com/WakaKotahiCNI)
- Journey planner: [journeys.nzta.govt.nz](https://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz)
- Phone: 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49)

## LIFESTYLE BLOCK SUPPORT

A free lifestyle block support recovery and resilience workshop is being run in Wairoa.

Funded through MPI's NIWE Time Critical Primary Industries Recovery Fund, the workshop will dive into recovery and resilience to support your lifestyle block.

If you are a lifestyle block owner seeking a strong community network and valuable resources to confidently navigate emergencies, including the wellbeing of your beloved animals, Look no further! The Lifestyle Block Support Workshop will empower you on your recovery and preparedness journey.

The free workshop is scheduled for Saturday, December 9, from 1-3.30pm in the War Memorial Hall.

To register, head to <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/free-lifestyle-block-support-recovery-resilience-workshop-wairoa-tickets-755134336127> or for inquiries and assistance email [hayley@hayleysquance.com](mailto:hayley@hayleysquance.com).

# CYCLONE GABRIELLE ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Regional and local plans are underway to recognise the one-year anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle on February 14, 2024.

The commemoration will respectfully reflect on the journey over the past year and also lay the first foundations for a platform to help establish the aspirational build-back better vision for all of Hawke's Bay.

The anniversary is a time to reflect, reset and acknowledge the magnitude of the impact this event has had on our community. It is also a time to remind communities of the psychosocial support and wellbeing services available to them during what may be a particularly difficult time.

We will stay in touch and share more information on how the commemorations will take place in Wairoa as plans unfold.

## TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FUNDING AVAILABLE

Are you a homeowner who is unable to get back into your home following Cyclone Gabrielle or more recent severe weather events?

Have insurance payments run out and you are now paying for accommodation on top of mortgage/living costs?

Did you know you can apply for Temporary Accommodation Assistance, which is not income or asset tested?

To find out more please call Work and Income NZ on 0800 559 009 between 7am to 6pm Monday to Friday, or between 8am and 1pm on Saturdays.

Please note: There are different types of supports and payments available depending on your situation, so even if you think you don't qualify, the team encourage you to call to discuss supports that you may be entitled to.

To find out more visit: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/temporary-accommodation-assistance.html>

## WAIROA CHRISTMAS PARADE 2023 *Saturday, 9th December at 2pm*

# Everyone Santa

**Floats assembling**  
1pm,  
Ski Club Domain

**Judging**  
1.30pm,  
Ski Club Domain

**Parade commences**  
2pm,  
Marine Parade

**Prize giving and family concert**  
3.30pm,  
the Lighthouse



**For the registration form and parade rules please contact Rubyanne Edwards**  
☎ 06 838 7440    ☎ 027 274 1548    ✉ [rubyanne@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:rubyanne@wairoadc.govt.nz)

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please share your Cyclone Gabrielle photos and videos with us.  
To get in touch please email [recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz)



# TRADIES BIG DAY OUT!

Celebrate those contractors, services and tradies who have and continue to work tirelessly for our Wairoa Community who have been affected by Cyclone Gabrielle through whakawhanaungatanga on the **SOFTBALL DIAMOND.**



SOFTBALL...  
FRIDAY 1ST DEC  
4PM - 8.30PM  
TAPUAE FIELDS  
MIXED OR MENS

LET US SORT THE ...  
SOFTBALL GEAR  
UMPIRES  
KAI, DRINKS  
& MUSIC  
YOU SORT...  
YOUR WORKMATES  
TRADIES ALIKE

REGISTER NOW  
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TE WAIROA KA ORA TE WERO TE TAKI  
STRENGTH x UNITY x RESILIENCE

**WAIROA RECOVERY**



# THE STRENGTH OF THE WAIROA COMMUNITY

Moving to Wairoa and buying their own home was a dream come true for Angela Swanson, her husband Vaughn Musil and their two sons.

Little did they know that 10 months later, Cyclone Gabrielle would rip through their Waihirere Road property.

The couple, originally from South Africa, moved to New Zealand 12 years ago, starting in Auckland and then moving to Wellington.

Travelling around the coast on holiday in January 2022 saw them drive through Wairoa, and a few months later, they bought their first home in Wairoa, directly off the internet, without setting foot on the property.

The couple both work from home, Angela an accounts administrator and Vaughn in IT. "We wanted somewhere quiet, out of the city, and because we can work from anywhere and Wairoa had cheaper houses, it suited us."

The morning of Cyclone Gabrielle saw water flowing through the paddocks around their house with the family quickly packing up. "We were packed up within five minutes, and as we drove out, the water was already up to the bottom of the car doors."

When they returned, they were grateful their home was relatively

elevated, but the silt was still skirting board high and meant new walls, insulation, flooring, kitchen and bathroom.

"We were lucky with our insurance and started our rebuild on March 6, with the inside work completed by the end of August."

Angela says the experience has made her like Wairoa even more, despite having gone through what they have. "We had so many offers of help and people chipping in and asking us how we were. The way the community came together has been

amazing.

"Our next step is to carry on and continue getting things back to normal. We are settled now and back in our work and school routines, although we get a bit anxious when there is rain."

Angela says the fact that flood protection is being planned is reassuring. "It's made me feel better knowing that some type of flood protection will be put in place this time, especially knowing there hasn't been flood mitigation after previous flooding events."



The way the community has come together has been amazing says Angela Swanson.

## WAIROA'S RECOVERY TEAM IS TAKING TO THE ROAD

The team has been out and about touching base with Wairoa's more isolated communities.

"We have a vast district, and our rural areas have a range of different needs says Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri.

"We are trying to connect across the rohe so we can hear people's concerns, talk about future resilience and preparedness and generally all be on the same page.

"We look forward to seeing you over the next few weeks."



Putere residents gathered at the Otoi Domain hall as part of localised community resilience discussions.

# WOODY DEBRIS MISSION

Additional funding will help with the woody debris recovery from Wairoa's beaches and riverbanks, with piled-up debris likely to be cleared by the end of the year.

In the Wairoa district, around 25,000m<sup>3</sup> of woody debris has been stockpiled to get the wood away from bridges, culverts, and off beaches to provide safe recreational areas along the coastline, river mouths, beaches and bridges.

The work has been funded through the Hawke's Bay Regional Council administered Silt and Debris Taskforce with \$1 million allocated to Wairoa for woody debris removal. Another \$500,000 in central government funding has recently been added to the project – which will allow debris stockpiled in recreational areas at Mahia, Taylor's Bay, and Whakamahi to be cleared.

Stockpiling on reserves has been a key part of the woody debris recovery and has allowed the debris to be removed from beaches, reserves and riverbanks, which has helped keep the district safe and enabled access to recreational areas.

A range of options to manage the wood that has been stacked are being considered,

and likely scenarios include a range of burning material where appropriate, chipping, shredding, mulching or carting off-site if an appropriate receiving use can be found.

The piles of woody debris could pose a safety and fire risk, and the removal project team is working with key partners, including Fire and Emergency New Zealand, around the most appropriate burning methodologies, which may mean waiting for wetter months to safely burn in some areas.

Extensive clearing work has been ongoing for months. However, large stretches of the Wairoa district coastline and riverbanks remain covered with woody debris, which could remobilise and cause further problems if left. Additional debris is still being freshly dumped on riverbanks and beaches, making woody debris an ongoing problem.

While the additional \$500,000 will mean work can continue, more funding is still needed, particularly to clear the coastline from Waikare to Mahia.

Thank you to everyone for your patience while there have been piles of woody debris stacked on our Wairoa district beaches and reserves.

## RURAL ROUND UP

### SURVEY

A rural survey is planned to provide a snapshot of Wairoa's farming sector in the aftermath of the series of severe weather events. This is a follow-on from the first impact survey carried out in April. The aim of the survey is to provide information on the district's current status and assist with long-term planning strategies. Questions will be based on rural recovery, identifying what has been done, what is left to be done, existing barriers, and future planning.

### NEW YEAR WORKSHOPS

A series of workshops will be held in the new year to address reoccurring themes raised by local farmers. Recent farm engagement visits have highlighted the following:

- Access (both on-farm and market access)
- The need for guidance around freshwater farm plans
- Land recovery/erosion control
- Stream bank planting (including different plant species)
- Poles (what is supply for the future looking like?)

### RURAL CLINICAL TELEHEALTH SERVICE

A new after-hours clinical telehealth service has been established to reduce barriers for rural communities to access primary care.

Once established, the 0800 service will provide after-hours clinical telehealth care (5pm – 8am) on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays. The service is staffed by kaiāwhina, nurses, GPs and emergency medicine specialists. The service will provide access for all rural people whether they are enrolled or unenrolled with a primary care practice.

The rural clinical telehealth service is a new addition to New Zealand's telehealth options. Healthline – 0800 611 116 continues to operate as normal.

## STICKERED PROPERTIES



# WHAKAORANGA O TE WAIROA

## REBUILDING TE WAIROA

Supporting whānau is the drive behind Hookmade Ltd - Whakaoranga O Te Wairoa.

The initiative grew from whānau need in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, and what began as kai and water distribution now involves clean-up and rebuilding work across the district.

Work to date has included kaiawhina whānau support with 317 kanohi ki te kanohi contacts with affected property homeowners, silt crews and Taskforce Green labour for affected rural properties, orchards, marae, community halls, schools and early childhood centres.

As at the end of October, Hookmade had:

Removed silt from around 63 homes.

Delivered and spread 23 loads of gravel onto driveways

Carried out gib installation and plastering at three homes

Cleaned and stripped six outbuildings/sheds

Cleaned up debris at two early childhood centres

Cleared debris and carried out fencing at 30 rural properties

Hookmade has created 24 employment opportunities with a focus on training courses including introduction to insulation and plastering of walls, working at heights, wheels, tracks and rollers, Health and Safety and first aid. Workers are also learning how to operate an excavator, and some are also on the waiting list to get their

driver's licence. Taskforce Green workers have completed units in fencing, Health and Safety and small hand tools and chainsaw use.

Hookmade is run by Benita and Maria Cairns, and Tina Wilcox, who say they will continue to support whānau for as long as the need is required and for as long as funding allows them to continue. "We are starting to see a shift in work away from silt removal and into other areas of recovery, including repairing and rebuilding damaged homes, alongside qualified tradespeople.

"We are proud to be providing a much-needed service and, through direct contact with affected whānau, are forming meaningful and trusting relationships. It is a win-win for everyone."



## WAIROA RECOVERY

TE WAIROA KA ORA TE WERO TE TAKI  
STRENGTH x UNITY x RESILIENCE

### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US

- Online form via WDC website: [www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request](http://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request)
- Call free 0508 YROA4U or 0508 976248
- Email [recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz)
- In-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa Airport (end of Airport Road) our office hours are Monday to Friday 10am-2pm.
- Recovery Website [www.wairoarecovery.co.nz](http://www.wairoarecovery.co.nz)

You can also pop into the WYAT office on Marine Parade for support and funding assistance with: Mayoral Relief Funding, HBRC Disaster Funding (residential), Pātaka forms, Red Cross Funding



WAIROA RECOVERY

Disclaimer: The Wairoa Recovery team has made every effort to ensure that this information is as up-to-date and accurate as possible. We acknowledge this is a rapidly changing environment and the information provided should be used for general purposes only. We encourage people to seek additional information before making any business, legal or other decisions. If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact us at [recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz](mailto:recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz).