

Rangitāiki

COMMUNITY BOARD NEWSLETTER

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Rohe in safe hands



The Eastern Bay Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs) met in a combined hui recently as part of their emergency planning.

Edgecumbe CERT spokesperson Ashlee Sturme says the teams have created emergency plans with maps and evacuation centre information, and distributed these into mailboxes around the district. They also communicate information on social media groups. "The intention is to have a clear plan on messaging, how we mobilise, where we're going, and how we'll communicate in an emergency."

These combined hui allow teams to share challenges and solutions.

The teams have identified evacuation centres in their respective towns, and made preparations to provide essential support in an emergency such as generator connections. They have mobilised several times, such as ahead of Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023, the tsunami scare of 2021, and other major weather warnings. "Emergencies can include flooding, slips that cause isolation, sometimes quite localised, alongside bigger events like earthquakes. The Eastern Bay has a lot of risks that we remain aware of and prepare for."

Check out the Get Ready website getready.govt.nz for resources on how best to prepare your whānau for an emergency.

Give the Rangitāiki Community Board Facebook page a like and follow  [rangitaikicommunityboard](https://www.facebook.com/rangitaikicommunityboard)

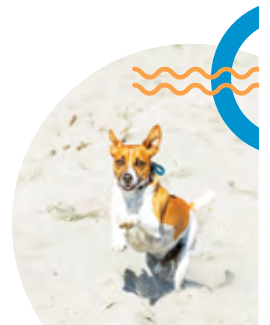
Take *the* lead

Anim^{al}
Control

It's rego time

Be an early bird and register your furry friend on or before 1 August 2024.

Save time do it online
whakatane.govt.nz/dog-registration



Withdrawal of Proposed Plan Change 6: Audible Bird Scaring Devices

Council has withdrawn Proposed Plan Change 6: Audible Bird Scaring Devices under clause 8D of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The decision was made at the Environment, Energy and Resilience Committee meeting on 31 May 2024.

The withdrawal was prompted by two key factors:

- a pre-hearing mediation was held, where Council staff, the kiwifruit industry, and affected residents agreed to work together to find alternative solutions to reduce the noise impacts of bird scaring on the community.
- the kiwifruit industry is developing a best practice guide for orchardists to improve practices.

We appreciate all submitters for their valuable contributions throughout this process.

For more information, please contact the Council or visit whakatane.govt.nz/absd

Waiho ake mā te au o Rangitāiki koe e kawē atu ki tua o pae.
Let the current of the Rangitāiki river guide you to the horizon and beyond.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Update

Wet weather reminder: Look after stopbanks

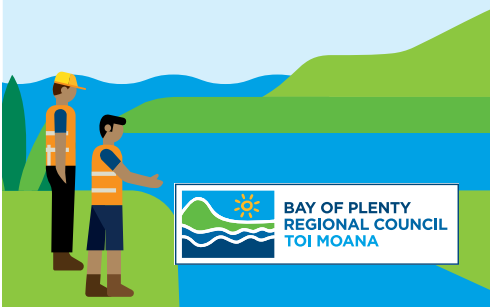
Winter is here and with it, more wet weather. This means flood defences, such as stopbanks, need to be in good condition.

While light grazing of stock is allowed on stopbanks, overgrazing or pugging is not acceptable. When stopbanks become wet, stock can churn up the ground, damage the grass cover and ultimately put the stopbank integrity at risk.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council can instruct property owners to remediate any damage done to flood defences at a cost to the landowner. The Flood Protection and Drainage Bylaws are in place to prevent damage and misuse of flood defences, so they can continue to help reduce the risk to people and property in a flood event.

Our Rivers and Drainage team routinely monitor the condition of our flood defences, but we also welcome members of the public to contact us anonymously if they see or suspect a problem.

Contact the Pollution Hotline: 0800 884 883 (24/7 service) or contact info@boprc.govt.nz



Farmer's efforts benefit community

Some people might think fencing off farmland isn't a smart decision, but that's where local Manawahē farmer Brent Mountfort would disagree.

Mountfort Pūriri farm, located just above Matatā, is a traditional beef and sheep farm extending over 270ha of the hilly Manawahē area. Brent and his family have worked in partnership with BOPRC over the past three decades, to make changes on their farm for the benefit of the environment and wider community.



Today, almost 50% of Mountfort farm has been planted with more than 30,000 native trees, with a goal to improve the biodiversity within the farm and the wider catchment area. Brent is one of hundreds of landowners around the region who are currently signed up to an Environmental Programme (EP) with Regional Council.

If you're considering environmental changes on your property, get in touch with your local Land Management Officer: boprc.govt.nz/land-management-officers



Construction complete on lower Rangitāiki River stopbanks

Construction on a 1.25km section of Rangitāiki River stopbank next to Thornton Beach Road is now complete. This upgrade is part of ongoing efforts to maintain flood defences around the rohe (region).

The upgrade works included deconstructing and rebuilding the stopbank using a suitable soil, raising its height, culvert upgrades and installing drainage.

Engineering Manager Mark Townsend says the upgraded stopbank will help reduce the impacts of flooding on neighbouring communities and road users.

"Flood protection provides a 'first line of defence', which is why the Regional Council continually invests in regular inspection and improvement of flood defences across the rohe."

"Thank you to the community for their patience as we completed this upgrade, particularly the landowners on Thornton Beach Road."

The completed stopbank has been covered with a gravel layer to future-proof the infrastructure.



If you have any upcoming events or notices you'd like included in the newsletter, send through to newsletters@whakatane.govt.nz

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