

Rangitāiki

COMMUNITY BOARD NEWSLETTER

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Matatā Community Plan

A community planning group has been established with a focus on developing a community plan for Matatā. The group is made up of representatives from Matatā community groups and local residents.

They started their journey by conducting a survey to gather feedback from the community about what's important to them, including identifying key priorities and aspirations. The group is using this key information to support the completion of a draft community plan document.

They also presented the identified priorities to both council's Long Term Plan submission processes. Once the draft plan is complete it will be presented back to the community for final input.

Edgecumbe Basketball Court

A new basketball court has recently been constructed at the Edgecumbe Domain – not just any old court, but a full-sized bball court! The hoops were kindly donated by Basketball New Zealand and Airtime Hoops and are ready to hear that sweet swish sound.



Tree Planting on Papa Taonga Reserve

Council and volunteers started replanting of the trees on Papa Taonga reserve in late June. The previous trees planted struggled to grow with the conditions which unfortunately meant they didn't survive.

They have now all been replaced with new varieties of trees selected by whānau with the hope of being more suitable for growing on the reserve. The bark gardens have also been planted out with shrubs, grasses and small flaxes, and we look forward to seeing more colour in the reserve.

The whānau would like to make a special thank you to Malcolm Lowe from Whakatāne District Council for his expertise and supervising the planting of the trees.



**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.**

Edgecumbe Dump Station



A new Recreational Vehicle (RV) dump station is currently being constructed near the public toilets at the Edgecumbe Domain. This will replace the old dump station which was located behind the former Edgecumbe Cosmopolitan Club. The dump station will be similar to existing ones at Maraetōtara Reserve in Ōhope and McAlister Street carpark in Whakatāne.

Upcoming Fonterra Edgecumbe Community Meeting

As part of our commitment to working closely with our neighbours and wider community we would like to invite you to join us for a community meeting.

Date: Tuesday 10th September 2024

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Meeting Room, front of Fonterra Edgecumbe Site

This meeting is an opportunity for you to have your say and to hear more from us about our operation and any future plans. Please RSVP to edgumbecommunity@fonterra.com by the 3rd of September 2024.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council Update

Construction update: Rangitāiki Spillway

Construction is over 50% complete on the Rangitāiki Spillway, located next to Hydro Road.

A massive thank you to our hardworking contractors who have recently completed the concrete capping of the lowered section of stopbank. This is an important design feature as it – along with erosion protection – will ensure the spillway can handle water flows during operation and prolong its lifespan.

Since 2011, we've been upgrading the floodway to increase its capacity and improve the level of flood protection that it offers to the Edgecumbe community. The spillway is the final stage of this project.

This upgrade forms part of a wider network of flood protection along the Rangitāiki River. It's on track to be completed by the end of 2024 and operational by early 2025.



Restoring wetlands for our freshwater future

Do you have a wet, soggy or spongy patch of land on your property? This could be a wetland.

Wetlands are important ecosystems for environmental, economic and cultural reasons. They help maintain water quality by filtering out contaminants and support biodiversity – including many taonga (sacred) and threatened native species of plants and animals.



They also play a key role in supporting resilience against the effects of a changing climate, such as by reducing the impacts of flooding and heavy rainfall, and stabilising shorelines and riverbanks.

Across the region, Toi Moana Bay of Plenty Regional Council works with tangata whenua, farmers, and care and community groups to help restore and protect these precious taonga.

Land Management Officer Heather McKenzie says supporting landowners and care groups to protect and restore wetlands is an important part of Regional Council's work.

"With only 10% of the region's wetlands left, careful management is required to ensure these sites are healthy and continue to provide suitable habitat for native plants and animal communities.

An example of this is the restoration and protection of Tumurau Lagoon, one of the largest and last remaining intact wetlands on the Rangitāiki Plains.

Nestled between Braemar Road and the Tarawera River, Regional Council Land Management Officers have been working to restore this 147ha wetland back to its original condition for the past 15 years.

Regional Council has a team of Land Management Officers ready to provide you with support, planning advice and guidance, and technical expertise to help you get the most out of your land.

If you're interested in restoring a wetland on your property, or learning more about biodiversity in your area, talk to your local Land Management Officer: boprc.govt.nz/environment/freshwater/rivers-lakes-and-wetlands/wetlands



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