



WAIROA RECOVERY

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



FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH 2024 | NEWSLETTER 13

TUKUA KIA TŪ
TAKITAHU NGĀ
WHETŪ O TE
RANGI

LET EACH
STAR
SHINE IT'S
OWN LIGHT

RECOVERY INFORMATION

For information and help relating to Cyclone Gabrielle please contact us:

- Online form via our website www.wairoarecovery.co.nz
- Call free 0508 YROA4U or 0508 976248
- Email 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 9am-4pm.



WAIROA RECOVERY

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WHILE REMEMBERING THE PAST

Matariki is a time to reflect on the past year, celebrate the present, and plan for the year ahead.

In line with Matariki, the Wairoa Recovery Office is also moving through a reflective phase as it continues to support whānau to rebuild from the damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Wairoa Recovery Manager Gary Borg said that as Wairoa moves into its rebuilding stage, it is an important time to take stock of our needs. "We need to reflect on what we have achieved and make plans to ensure we are meeting the evolving needs of our community.

"We are focusing our future recovery on roading connectivity, getting whānau back into their homes, including work around flood mitigation, community wellbeing, and supporting our local businesses and economy.

"It is important for us to identify our challenges and work with our partners to ensure we have solutions available. In the immediate future, the Wairoa Recovery Office services will remain, but as we move through our recovery process, there will be changes, including integrating some of the services we provide to meet the ever-changing needs."

This year's local Matariki celebrations will see Wairoa Recovery combining with Tahuri Mai.

The week-long traditional event will focus on mātauranga Māori with workshops and arts and crafts sessions for kōhanga reo, kindies, schools and kura, wānanga including weaving, hunting and fishing, kai maara karakia, waiata, and culminating in a Hautapu karakia and breakfast at the Pilot Hill Reserve on June 28 from 5am.

Register your attendance through the Tahuri Mai FB page.

"The rising of Matariki signals te Mātahi o te Tau, the Māori New Year. The appearance of Matariki in the morning sky is a sign for people to gather, to honour the dead, celebrate the present, and plan for the future."

COMMUNITY CATCH UP

Checking in on whānau was the focus of the recent Wairoa Recovery Back to the Streets programme.

Five catch-up sessions were held at Mackley Street, the Tirohia Flats, Ormond Road, Freyberg Street, and

Somerville Street.

Kaimanaaki Michelle Olsen-Tahuri said Back to the Streets was a chance to check in with whānau and have a chat. "There is a lot going on in the recovery space and people are

at different stages of their rebuild. These information sessions enable us to provide information where we can and listen to people's concerns so we can try and provide the right pathways forward."



Pictured at the Back to the Streets catch up is Kaimanaaki Michelle Tahuri-Olsen (centre) with Anita Mihaere and Gabrielle Mei.

GIVING BACK TO YOURSELF

Wairoa Recovery Respite Care is about looking after yourself.

The impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle are still being felt by many whānau, especially those who are not yet back in their homes, living in a pod, awaiting rebuilding or who have extra people staying with them.

The Wairoa Recovery Office has launched a Respite Care project to support local people impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle. The project recognises that the road to recovery is a long one and can be a time of frustration.

A range of 10 different respite options have been made available, from pampering to a meal out, time away, or

wānanga, all with a local flavour and using local providers.

The options include Tuitui Designs, a Beauty Antix package, Touchwood Fishing Charter, Wairoa Community Centre gym membership, overnight stays at Waikaremoana, Mahia and Morere, a moko wānanga and dinner and drinks at Gemmells and the Vista.

If you need to take a break and get away from the never-ending challenges, please contact the Recovery Office, where the kaimanaaki can see if you meet the criteria to enable them to help you with a respite plan.

For more information, contact michelle@wairoadc.govt.nz

Wairoa Recovery Respite Care

"Respite is not selfish; it's self-care. It's recognising that you cannot pour from an empty cup. Taking time to recharge as an individual and whānau which ensures that you have more to give."

Contact

Michelle Tahuri - Olsen
michelle@wairoadc.govt.nz

BUSINESS BACK

RIVERSIDE CAMPING GROUND BACK IN BUSINESS

In the early hours of February 14, 2023, Sharron Solomon knew trouble was coming when she looked at her security cameras and saw the river lapping at the third step of the Riverside Motor Camp ablution block.

Sharron and partner Bill Dickin have leased the Wairoa District Council-owned camp for more than 20 years, and while they had seen small floods in the past, they had never seen anything like the magnitude of Cyclone Gabrielle.

The couple, assisted by the fire bridge, worked to evacuate around 15 people who were staying at the camp along with nine caravans. "The fire bridge volunteers used their own vehicles to tow caravans out; they were amazing. When we started evacuating people, it was ankle-deep, and the river was thigh-high by the time we were finished. A couple of caravans were unable to be moved, and portacabins were left floating around the grounds."

"The river went through our sheds at about chest height. It was like a whirlpool, just waves of water

coming up in such a hurry."

The camp was yellow-stickered, and with the grounds under two feet of silt, Bill worked hard, living on the end of a shovel. Over the past year, major renovations have been underway, and this month, nearly 16 months after the cyclone, the camping ground is reopening in a limited capacity.

The new ablution block is finished and includes new toilets with wheelchair access. The refurbished kitchen has a seating area, and a bonus is a new weather-proof indoor-outdoor living area. The covered area in front of the ablution block is a great place for people to gather while enjoying the 'million dollar' river view.

The number of campsites has been increased and includes new power supplies. Hard areas have been developed so people have more options to camp in the winter. There is even a new pet bath for the dog-friendly camp.

The couple says the Wairoa District Council has been tremendously

supportive in helping to restore the camping ground to its former glory.

The one thing the couple haven't been able to fix is the loss of their Christmas decorations. Sharron has been lighting up the town for nearly 30 years and had a massive collection of lights and decorations which she shared with the community. "Losing the Christmas decorations in the flooding destroyed me, but at least we have provided many great memories over the years."

The couple says they have missed trading and are looking forward to the summer holiday season. They run the camping grounds with a mixture of permanent residents and visitors.

"We are a family-safe environment and operate like our own little town.

"We love what we do, it's a lifestyle for us. The camp has a good reputation and a personalised feel; the people who stay are fabulous and some even go on to buy homes in town. We are looking forward to being able to welcome more people to our town."



Bill Dickin and Sharron Solomon of the Riverside Camping Ground are rebuilt and ready for business.



Sharron Solomon with the only surviving Christmas lights from the now-destroyed festive collection that she had shared with the community for nearly 30 years.



TAHURI MAI



TO LIVE & BREATHE MATARIKI TIKANGA

Nga Whetu o Matariki

Frasertown School
Tuesday 25th June
9.30am - 2pm

Nga Mata o Matariki

Ngā Kōhanga Reo
Whetu Marama Marae
Wednesday 26th June
9.30am - 2pm

Matariki Wananga

Whetu Marama Marae
Wednesday 26th June
4pm - 6pm
Matauranga Māori

Kohi Kai Wananga

Whetu Marama Marae
Wednesday 26th June
4pm - Midnight

**Raranga & Hautapu
Wananga**

Whetu Marama Marae
Thursday 27th June
4pm - 6pm

**Kai Preparation
Wananga**

Whetu Marama Marae
Thursday 27th June
4pm - 8pm

**Hautapu Karakia
& Breakfast**

Pilot Hill Reserve
Friday 28th June
5am

Register through the Tahuri Mai FB page

MATARIKI MAI MAORI MAI

ROCK SCALING WORK ON SH2

Transport Rebuild East Coast (TREC) rock scaling crews will be onsite on State Highway 2 between Waikare and Napier until the end of June.

Road users are asked to plan for delays while the overnight work takes place.

Work is underway at Waikoau Hill six days a week between 8pm and 5am. There will be no rock scaling on Saturday nights. Crews expect to complete the work by the end of June.

During this work, stop/stop traffic management (where traffic is held in both directions) will be in place, with 15 to 25-minute delays expected before the lanes are reopened to traffic.

During the works, access will remain for emergency services – which will be assisted through the work site.

Both sites were scaled for rocks following Cyclone Gabrielle. A subsequent geotechnical assessment shows more loose rock is present.

NZTA thanks motorists for their support during this critical work.

2 Critical rock scaling work

Devil's Elbow and Waikoau Hill

Devil's Elbow nightworks
Sunday 12 May to Friday 31 May

- 8pm-5am, 6 days a week (Sunday to Friday)
- 15-minute stop/stop
- Expect 15-25 minute delay.

Waikoau Hill nightworks
Tuesday 4 June to Friday 28 June

- 8pm-5am, 6 days a week (Sunday to Friday)
- 15-minute stop/stop
- Expect 15 minute delay.

*Work is weather dependent.
Please regularly check the NZTA Journey Planner at journeys.nzta.govt.nz*

— stop/stop (where traffic is held in both directions)

Transport Rebuild East Coast
NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
KiwiRail

RANGATAHI WĀNANGA

A series of wānanga specifically for rangatahi will be held next month.

Whaowhia tōu kete is an opportunity for young people to learn new skills and fill their minds with the arts of mahi toi, song writing, haka, and photography.

The work from the wānanga will culminate with an exhibition in September.

To register your interest for any of the wānanga email michelle@wairoadc.govt.nz.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

Head to www.wairoarecovery.co.nz for up-to-date recovery information, stories, newsletters and a whole lot more.

Please feel free to send us any of your cyclone-related pics and videos and we will share on our webpage.

STATUS OF STICKERED HOMES



Peak numbers were reached around March 8th 2023 then on November 8th 2023 a significant rain/flood event in the Mahia/Nuhaka area resulted in a further 16 Residential Yellow Placards & 3 Red Residential Placards.

RANGATAHI WĀNANGA

Whaowhia tōu kete

"Fill your creative minds"

Mahi Toi Wānanga



FACILITATOR:
TAMATAMA CLAUSEN
VENUE:
TAIHOA MARAE
DATE:
25TH & 26TH JULY

Song Writing Wānanga



FACILITATOR:
TE OMEKA PERKINS
VENUE:
TAIHOA MARAE
DATE:
25TH & 26TH, JULY

Haka Wānanga



FACILITATOR:
TIANARA WIHONGI
VENUE:
TAIHOA MARAE
DATE:
25th & 26th JULY

Photography Wānanga



FACILITATOR:
JOS WHEELER
VENUE:
TAIHOA MARAE
DATES:
25th & 26th JULY



EXHIBITION: FRIDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER

"EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ARE OPEN NOW"



CYCLONE CLEAN-UP SUPPORT CONTINUES

Cyclone Gabrielle clean-up is still available, from collection of building materials to under-house silt removal.

Wairoa District Council Chief Executive Kitea Tipuna said the Council is continuing to meet the needs of the flood-affected community by collecting building materials from damaged housing and ongoing under-house silt removal.

"We are now moving into a rebuilding stage, and as a result, there is an increase in building materials from flood-damaged homes.

"We are seeing a greater need for

collecting and removing building materials and building-related debris, so we have shifted our focus to support this area of need. The 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 this free service indefinitely, but we want to help our community and ensure these materials are disposed of appropriately for as long as possible. A reminder to anyone who needs silt cleared from under their homes: please get in touch; this free service is still available.

"Because we need to collate the collection of building materials and silt, we ask everyone who would like building materials collected or under house silt removed 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/ or call into the Council offices or in-person at the Recovery Team Office at the Wairoa airport Monday to Friday between 10am -2pm."

CLAIMS RESOLUTION SERVICE

Resolving insurance claims can be difficult, particularly for homeowners whose properties have recently shifted from Land Category 2A to 2C.

If you need support with an insurance claim, the New Zealand Claims Resolution Service can help you access the services you need. They provide free advice, case management where appropriate and access to legal, engineering and wellbeing support, tailored to individual's needs.

The Wairoa Recovery team is also available to work with you if you are struggling to sort your insurance needs. There have been cases of miscommunication and different messaging, so please feel free to reach out to the team for assistance or go to nzcrs.govt.nz for more information.

NEED SUPPORT? WE'RE HERE

For those experiencing increased anxiety since the cyclone, feelings of helplessness, frustration, anger, or worry – there is help available. You do not have to go through it alone.

Napier Family Centre's (NFC) counselling team is available to support the Wairoa community free of charge.

Whānau don't have to be physically affected by a natural disaster for their wellbeing to be impacted. People can access free counselling support whether they have been directly or indirectly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. Offering confidential services from a private space on the Marine Parade, NFC offers Wairoa whānau a safe place to explore and express your thoughts and feelings with support and without judgment. The counselling team are all registered with professional bodies.

Seeking help can be difficult. The NFC team aims to minimise barriers to accessing the service. No referral is needed—individuals can start the process by calling 0508 678 910.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please share your Cyclone Gabrielle photos and videos with us. We would also really like to hear your stories.

To get in touch please email recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz



Need support? We're here.

If the past year has left you feeling out of sorts, we're here to help.

Maybe you're feeling anxious, sad, stressed, frustrated, or worried about your tamariki. You may be experiencing different feelings, and they might come and go. These feelings are understandable given the stress of recent weather events and it is perfectly normal to think and feel this way. Talking with someone might help.



**FREE confidential
& professional
service available**



**Our counselling team
can support you with
strategies to get on
the right track**



**We work with adults,
tamariki, families
& couples from all
walks of life**



**You don't have to
be physically affected
by a natural disaster
for your well-being to
be impacted**

CONTACT US TODAY ABOUT FREE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT IN WAIROA

Contact our Registered Counsellor Sharon on 0508 678 910 • 260 Marine Parade, Wairoa

www.napierfamilycentre.org.nz



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STRENGTH x UNITY x RESILIENCE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US

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- Call free 0508 YROA4U or 0508 976248
- Email 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 9am-4pm.
- Recovery Website www.wairoarecovery.co.nz



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.