

MY HASTINGS

ISSUE 128 • MAR 2024

United in black and white

JUMP INTO HOY ACTION

6 days of elite equestrian
action, not to be missed

CYCLONE GABRIELLE ANNIVERSARY

Commemoration and one
year on

PARKS WEEK 2024

Celebrating our parks and
heritage buildings

A
**DISTRICT
WITH SPIRIT**

**HERETAUNGA
HASTINGS**



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



Last month our communities came together to reflect on and acknowledge the one-year anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle.

It was a chance to honour those who tragically lost their lives, those who risked their lives in the immediate aftermath of the event to rescue people, pets, livestock and property, and those, who over the days, weeks and months following, provided food and shelter to the thousands without homes.

On February 11 we paid special tribute to those volunteers – we were joined by Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Recovery Minister Mark Mitchell who wanted to share in the occasion, pay their respects, and talk to those who were involved.

Today, people are still providing support to those in need – businesses, government and non-government agencies, emergency services, community groups and individuals, and support services.

On February 14, the date of the cyclone, more than 500 people joined us in Civic Square in Hastings for a commemoration service – families who had lost loved ones, emergency services, first responders, community organisations, industry leaders, individuals and families who had supported and continue to support those most affected.

This was a crisis like nothing any of us had ever experienced and, in the face of such devastation, it can be easy to be overwhelmed or lose hope.

But one year on from this natural disaster, our district continues to recover – helping people who choose to move away from high-risk areas, rebuilding our roads and bridges, moving thousands of tonnes of silt and debris, supporting our people who are still traumatised.

There is still a great deal of work to do and as a community, with our partners across the region and in Central Government, I have no doubt we will get that work done. We are strong and we will support each other – especially those most affected.

While the memories of Cyclone Gabrielle are still raw, day-by-day through our resilience, our togetherness, and our selfless caring for each other, I know as a united community we will get to the other side of this traumatic event.

**Mayor of Hastings
Sandra Hazelhurst**

Reignite your passion for all things equestrian... the Land Rover Horse of the Year is back!

This iconic show is back for 2024 so come and enjoy New Zealand's best equestrian competitors, shop your favourite brands and celebrate in our fully catered Supporters Lounge and Stables Bar.

The Land Rover Horse of the Year Show is a six-day extravaganza running from March 5-10 at Tōmoana Showgrounds. It's a special place where spectators can soak in an atmosphere like no other. It's where you will be entranced by the beauty of dressage, feel the thrill of Saturday's cross country, enjoy the excitement of showjumping, the speed of mounted games and more. The jewel in the crown is the Olympic Cup where our nation's best will compete on Sunday afternoon to win the New Zealand Showjumper of the Year crown. But each discipline has its top titles on the line, so take time to wander around the Tōmoana Showgrounds and be part of this historic show.

We are opening the gates so the whole community can enjoy 'Free for all Friday' from 2pm on March 8. This is a chance to come and see first-hand what it is that draws spectators and competitors from across Australasia all the way to the Bay.

If you love horses, make Land Rover Horse of the Year an unmissable week on your calendar. Tickets on sale now with VIP packages available. Secure your tickets today at hoy.kiwi.



2024 BMX NZ National Championships

15–17 MARCH 2024

Hawke's Bay BMX Club, Romanes Drive Reserve, Havelock North



Excitement is building in Havelock North as the Hawke's Bay BMX Club gears up to host the prestigious 2024 BMX NZ National Championships. Set against the backdrop of our vibrant community, the event promises thrills and spills as elite riders showcase their exceptional skills. This competition isn't just a showcase of local talent; it's a chance for riders to earn the coveted right to compete on the international stage. With a dynamic track and the promise of fierce competition, the Hawke's Bay BMX track is ready to welcome riders from across the nation, their families, and supporters. Join us from March 15 to 17, 2024, for an exhilarating display of BMX excellence in the heart of Hawke's Bay.

Entry to the event is free, there is a gold coin donation for parking.

Lighting of the Osmanthus Gardens

8–14 APRIL 2024

Cornwall Park, Hastings

The beautiful annual Osmanthus Gardens Lantern Festival is back and better than ever, being held once again this April for the first time since 2021.

Running from April 8 to 14, this year's event will feature more lanterns, a larger festival, food trucks – and world class performers appearing on the Friday and Saturday nights at the gardens in Cornwall Park.

Hastings District councillor and event organiser Kevin Watkins says it promises to be a fabulous festival to celebrate the Hastings-Guilin Sister City relationship.

The relationship began in 1981 with the signing of the Sister City agreement between Guilin in China and Hastings on March 4. It was the first Sister City agreement between cities in China and New Zealand. Over the ensuing 40+ years there have been numerous student, teacher, science, trade, and cultural exchanges, which have seen special friendships formed, information shared, and understanding developed.



LANTERN FESTIVAL IS BACK AFTER 3 YEARS

ANZAC Day Services 25 APRIL 2024





HAWKE'S BAY
14 FEBRUARY 2024



*He whakamaharatanga
ki te Huripari Kaperiere*

CYCLONE GABRIELLE

One Year Anniversary

Many hundreds came together at two gatherings in February to mark the first anniversary of Cyclone Gabrielle. Many more joined the public commemoration online on February 14, and across the region thousands stopped for a minute's silence at noon on that day.

The anniversary week was a time to focus on those people who suffered unbelievable losses – family members, homes, livelihoods, pets and livestock; and those who had worked so hard to save and help them – NZ Fire and Emergency, Police, Civil Defence, the National Emergency Management Agency, the NZ Defence Force, Surf Lifesaving, volunteer search and rescue, helicopter pilots, health and welfare teams, local groups and individuals from communities, schools, marae, churches, and more.

It was a time of reflection – immense sadness tinged with hope.

On February 11, a Volunteer Appreciation Day was held to thank and acknowledge the services and volunteers for their hard mahi over those first horrific days, and the weeks and months that followed.

There is still a great deal to do, by a huge range of organisations, agencies, and community, to repair Hastings and the wider region. However much of that work is already underway: assisting those who want to permanently move out of Category 3 areas, supplying emergency supplies to communities prone to being cut off in severe weather, repairing roads and bridges, moving silt, working on solutions for Category 2 areas to allow them to move back to Category 1.

The commitment by all to stand together to complete this mahi is strong. Kia kaha Hastings.



Cyclone Gabrielle – one year on

A year on from one of the district’s biggest natural disasters, the recovery and rebuild continues, with a continued focus on restoring the transport network and providing certainty for communities most directly impacted.



Dartmoor Bailey Bridge, one of ten interim bridges installed to reconnect isolated communities.

Roads and bridges

Emergency work repairing roads devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle continues across the Hastings district as the longer-term programme of recovery begins.

In the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, Council’s roading team and contractors focused on reconnecting communities and restoring access as quickly as possible. This meant the rapid installation of 10 temporary bridges, clearing hundreds of slips and culverts, and putting measures in place to protect the damaged roading network.

While some large programmes of emergency works, such as clearing large and complex slips along Dartmoor Road continue, the focus of the roading recovery effort has moved from reconnecting communities and clearing huge amounts of debris, to rebuilding roads and bridges devastated by the cyclone.

The full 1640 kilometres of roading network has been inspected and a programme of rebuilds and repairs has been developed at an estimated cost of \$800 million. Due to the scale and complexity of the work required, this will likely take seven to 10 years to be completed. It includes repairing 161 bridges damaged by the cyclone – from minor to major repairs – rebuilding the 13 permanent bridges and five large culverts that were destroyed, and repairing and restoring damaged roads.

Kererū and Puketapu communities will be the first to see construction start. The contract to build a new bridge at Puketapu has been awarded and work on the new culvert in Kererū Gorge is expected to begin in March. In these areas, temporary solutions were not feasible, so the new builds have been prioritised.

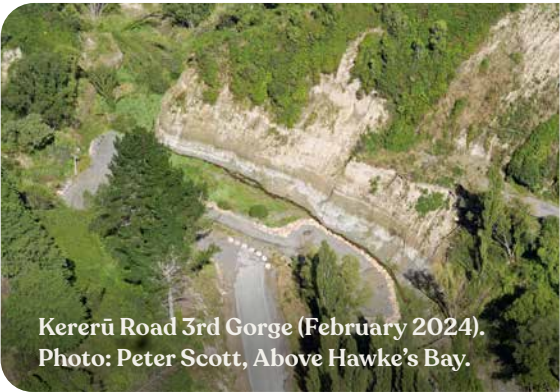
More broadly across the transport network, Hastings District Council is prioritising work based on the vulnerability of roads to new weather events, levels of road use, and the number of people affected.

Permanent solutions for other sites with large and complex damage (e.g. major landslips and missing bridges) are being investigated and designed. These projects require geotechnical investigations and surveying during the design phase. Because of this, and the scale of engineering required to install permanent structures at these sites, they will move at a slower pace than the emergency work. Specialist materials are required, and in many cases these need to be sourced from overseas.

As Council works towards constructing these permanent solutions, it is imperative road users obey the weight and speed limits on the temporary bridges and diversion routes. Adhering to these restrictions will ensure they remain open, and that communities stay connected.

Council will continue to provide regular updates on the programming and progress of these major works through its website, social media and direct communication with residents impacted by the works.

For more information on the council’s roading recovery work and a complete list and details of cyclone recovery work programmed for 2024, visit: hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/roading-recovery



Kererū Road 3rd Gorge (February 2024). Photo: Peter Scott, Above Hawke’s Bay.



Crystal Twin Culvert, after Cyclone Gabrielle (March 2023) and now (February 2024).

Voluntary Buy-out Office

Since opening on October 24 2023, the voluntary buy-out office continues to work with eligible property owners in Category 3 wanting to relocate.

As at mid-February, the owners of 129 of the 165 eligible properties had completed their initial meetings with the team; 11 meetings had been booked, with 25 not yet scheduled. Some owners were, to date, not yet ready to engage or had chosen not to engage in the buy-out process.

In the next stage of the process, 44 valuations had been completed and 63 were pending.

Three settlements had been completed, six offers had been agreed, and 28 owners were in the final offer consideration phase.

Parks

Although most urban parks and reserves around Hastings are now safe and open, there are a few across the district that remain closed or partially closed, these include:

- **Tauroa Reserve:** The upper-south end remains **CLOSED**, due to dangerous trees and lack of bridges. Lower Tauroa Reserve is **OPEN**, as is the Tauroa Boardwalk.
- **Tainui Reserve:** Hikanui Drive cul-de-sac entrance, the mountain bike trail, and lower-south end are **CLOSED**, due to slips and trail instability. Lower Tainui Reserve is **OPEN**.
- **Karituwhenua Stream walkway in Kingsgate Reserve:** The gully track from Te Mata Road to Reeve Drive entrance is **CLOSED**. The upper track from Te Mata Road through reserve is **OPEN**.
- **Maraetotara Falls:** The carpark and toilets and waterfall are accessible, however the trail along the stream is washed out or blocked in some places (not continuous).
- **Puketapu Park:** **OPEN**. Further restoration works, including repairing the cricket pitch and archery area are planned in 2024.
- **Eskdale Park:** **CLOSED** until further notice.



Puketapu Park has been cleaned up and new playground equipment installed.

Community hubs

During Cyclone Gabrielle, communities across the region provided much-needed support in hastily set-up community hubs.

These were places where communities co-ordinated their efforts to help each other before, during and after the event – and they were vital places for people to access information.

Since the cyclone, more than \$2 million received from MPI and Red Cross has been used to supply additional equipment for formal Civil Defence Centres, the purchase of two mobile welfare trailers, and the rollout of around 30 community emergency hubs.

These hubs are based in community facilities, rural halls and some schools, and are run by people in the community. Because emergency services in these kinds of circumstances are fully involved in life-threatening matters, hubs are places where neighbours can come together for supplies and support if their area becomes isolated.

Each hub will have communication equipment, such as a two-way VHF radio in case phones and internet aren’t working. The radio allows the hub to communicate with their Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

For more information on hub locations and responding to emergencies go to hbemergency.govt.nz/community/hub



Silt

Government last month announced a further \$40 million in funding for silt removal.

The new funding will allow the regional Silt Taskforce to clear more of the region’s productive land. By the end of last year, just over half of the silt and debris work had been completed at a cost of circa \$100m, between the taskforce (\$70m) and, prior to the setting up of the taskforce, the region’s councils (\$30m).

The focus will be on high priority sites, principally highly productive growing land.



Parks Week 2024

For Parks Week 2024, we will be celebrating the heritage buildings in our parks with two days of activations. Step into the rich history of these beautiful buildings, which (apart from Stoneycroft), are available for public bookings. We invite you to visit these buildings over 8-9 March to learn more about their history, how you can use them, and to enjoy the activations on offer.



FRIDAY 8 MARCH, 10AM-2PM

Stoneycroft

Constructed around 1875, the New Zealand Heritage listed Stoneycroft is the oldest of the buildings showcased during Parks Week. Join Knowledge Bank volunteers as they lead tours of this beautiful building located in Stoneycroft Reserve, 901 Omaha Road. The Knowledge Bank is based in the building and is overseen by the Hawke's Bay Digital Archives Trust which was heavily involved in the fundraising and physical work that brought the building up to the standard it is today.

Community use

While not available for public hire, the Knowledge Bank at Stoneycroft is open on weekdays to visitors who would like to know more about the services it provides. The 2.5-hectare garden is permanently open to the public. For more information, scan the QR code, visit knowledgebank.org.nz or call (06) 833 5333.



Women's Rest, Civic Square

Join Heretaunga Women's Centre staff as they showcase the Women's Rest building on International Women's Day. A Category 1 Heritage Building, the Centre started life in 1921 as a Women's Rest: a place where women could come to rest, feed their babies, and take lunch with friends. Today Heretaunga Women's Centre is based in the building offering confidential, non-judgemental support to women in the form of social groups and services, as well as making rooms available for hire to external individuals and groups.

Community use

The comfortable, welcoming newly refurbished and renovated rooms are available for rental by the hour, half day or whole by the whole community.

To make a booking, scan the QR code, visit heretaungawomenscentre.nz or call (06) 878 5401.



SATURDAY 9 MARCH, 10AM-2PM

Keirunga Homestead and Cottage, Keirunga Gardens

Visit the beautiful Arts and Crafts style Homestead and Cottage that was constructed in the early 1900s. Recently refurbished and now available to the community to book for a wide range of community events through the Keirunga Gardens Arts and Crafts Society, the Homestead and surrounding gardens will be set up in a wedding celebration theme with a coffee cart available. People are encouraged to explore the buildings and relax in the beautiful gardens.

Community use

The buildings can be booked as individual rooms or the whole facility, for a range of events including meetings, conferences, weddings, and family celebrations.

To make a booking in the Keirunga Creative Arts venue including Homestead and Cottage, scan the QR code, visit [Keirunga.org.nz](https://keirunga.org.nz) or call (06) 875 8585. More information about Keirunga Gardens and the heritage buildings can be found on the Hastings District Council website hastingsdc.govt.nz/Keirunga-gardens.



Te Mākaramū (The Meeting Room), Cornwall Park

Opened in 1929, the gorgeous former Tea Kiosk building was refurbished in 2022 and is now a popular venue for different community functions and celebrations. Located next to the children's playground, it will be set up in a birthday party theme. Mr Whippy will be on site, along with a children's face painter, and a maker table courtesy of the Hastings Libraries team.

Community use

Te Mākaramū is available for hire as a single space, including kitchen and toilet facilities. It is suitable for small events such as community group gatherings and private functions or used in conjunction with events utilising the wider Cornwall Park (such as the playground for birthday parties) for non-exclusive use.

To make a booking, scan the QR code, visit hastingsdc.govt.nz/te-makaramu or call (06) 871 5000.



Duart House

Constructed in the 1880s, Duart House is the second oldest of the buildings showcased during Parks Week. While Duart House will be hosting a separate event on 9 March, the building and museum are otherwise open to the public on the first Sunday of each month 10am-12pm (unless booked). Outside of these times, visits are by prior arrangement.

Community use

Duart House and the surrounding three acres of gardens make it a delightful boutique venue for all kinds of functions, including weddings, small conferences, and workshops.

For further information and to make a booking, scan the QR code, visit duarthouse.org.nz or call (06) 877 6334.



Beer Appreciation Day (B.A.D) is being held 9 March, 12-6.30pm

Mackersey Family Pavilion, Havelock North Village Green

Visit the cricket pavilion dating back to 1938, and relocated to its current position in 2016, which is available to the community to book for a range of small functions and events. The Havelock Handmade Market, full of local craftspeople who create their products with skill and care, will also be on-site from 9am to 2pm.

Community use

The Mackersey Family Pavilion is available for hire, together with kitchen and toilet facilities. It opens onto the pavilion's large tiled outdoor area, through beautiful French doors. The pavilion is suitable for small events such as children's birthday parties, small private functions, or community group gatherings.

To make a booking, scan the QR code, visit hastingsdc.govt.nz/mackersey-family-pavilion or call (06) 871 5000.



Hastings Place Based Housing Plan – four years on ...



Waingākau, Flaxmere
27 houses complete
37 under construction



Tarbet St, Flaxmere
17 first homes
18 social/transitional homes complete



Flaxmere Town Centre
Ready to build from March this year,
approx. 42 homes



244 Flaxmere Ave
Civil construction complete, ready to
build approx. 46 homes



Caernarvon Drive
Ready to build after June 2024, approx.
77 homes



Four years on, the Hastings Place-Based Housing Plan is delivering results – addressing the district's housing needs across the spectrum. In particular, the need for emergency housing has dropped 85 per cent, from 450 people down to just over 60.

Launched in 2019, the plan proposed a new approach to finding a solution to what had become a chronic housing shortage.

In 2019 the public housing register had grown from 50 to 600 people in four years, and 450 people were in emergency motel accommodation – 73 per cent of whom were Māori.

There was a pressing need for more Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) accommodation to house 5000 workers to relieve pressure on the rental market, and a need for more land to be made available or zoned for more housing of all types.

The plan was put to Central Government to take a collaborative approach to delivering housing for everyone – rental, affordable first homes, rent to buy, and market; as well as changes to Hastings planning rules to enable higher density development, inner city living, and RSW accommodation. Alongside this was a programme to repair existing homes to make them safer and healthier for people to live in.

The government agreed to a pilot in Hastings, taking a partnership approach involving central and local government, iwi, mana whenua and community – guided by the particular place-based needs of Hastings, with a strong emphasis on iwi/Māori-led housing solutions.

Helping the homeless

Although not part of the initial pilot, significant work has been undertaken to understand and address the needs of the homeless in Hastings. A joint venture between Council, Hastings Church and Anglican Care Waiapu, supported by the Ministry of Social Development and Te Whatu Ora, has developed a homeless hub in Hastings city, providing wrap-around support – meals, health care and welfare. In addition, Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga received Government funding to provide accommodation for up to 10 homeless per night, which has been operating since last year.



Papakāinga
85 homes complete or under
construction across 19 sites



Outcomes

66 individuals across 39 households still in emergency housing – down from 450 people in 117 households in 2019

400 zoned, serviced and build-ready lots available for public and affordable homes

2000 sections zoned across all market segments – a record forward land supply

Plan Change 5 for greater housing density to be heard in 2024

What's been delivered...

622 public, transitional, iwi, papakāinga and affordable first homes built or under construction

1500 RSE beds built – aided by a District Plan change that allowed for this accommodation to be built on orchards and industrial land

509 homes currently in the consenting process

40 homes have had critical repairs completed, positively impacting 117 at-risk tamariki

Funding support

Government stimulus funding valuable

- \$30m co-investment with council to unlock developments – Council received \$13m in grant funding for infrastructure to develop 244 Flaxmere Ave, the Flaxmere Town Centre and Caernarvon Drive
- \$1.2m infrastructure funding through the Provincial Growth Fund to develop Tarbet St in Flaxmere
- \$2m funding assistance to Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga to accelerate development at Waingākau
- \$20m infrastructure funding to Council to upgrade wastewater capacity to enable residential growth
- \$22m to Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga and Council to deliver 66 affordable rental homes in Flaxmere through the Affordable Housing Fund.

Award winning

The plan has been recognised through a number of local government awards.

2021 – Winner, Taituarā Excellence Award for collaborative government action

2021 – Winner, LGNZ Excellence Award for social wellbeing excellence

2023 – Winner, LGNZ Excellence Awards for collaboration and the Supreme Excellence Award

Sundays are here!

**Havelock North library
is now open on Sundays
10am–1pm.**

Find out more at
hastingslibraries.co.nz



Holiday kerbside collection changes

RUBBISH & RECYCLING: GOOD FRIDAY



**IF YOUR NORMAL
COLLECTION DAY IS:**

Fri 29 March

IT'S CHANGING TO:

Sat 30 March

This change affects the following suburbs:

RUBBISH: Akina, St Leonard's, Brookvale, Whirinaki

RECYCLING: Parkvale, Mayfair and Southern Havelock North

There are no other changes to Easter collection days.

Check Hastings District Council Facebook page or
hastingsdc.govt.nz/waste for more information.

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HASTINGS** DISTRICT COUNCIL

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BY-ELECTION
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