



newsletter

SNAPSHOTS FROM LOCKDOWN

Across the Hastings district, our communities all felt the impact of COVID-19 through the Level 3 and 4 lockdown, which in many ways led to increased community spirit and appreciation for our neighbourhoods.

Although work on the council's community plans halted during the COVID-19 lockdown, they are now being revisited to ensure they are considered alongside and relevant to the COVID-19 recovery plans.

In this month's newsletter, representatives from our community plan groups tell us how they all coped with the lockdown and their hopes and plans for the future.

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ANDERSON PARK *update*

Through the level four and three lockdown period; phone calls made to those such as our vulnerable, the sick, the elderly and solo mums showed that no-one one was left alone or without others in their lives already helping.

We had a care team in place but have not had to activate it as people were already in action, which was great.

In contact with Warren from Hastings Church, we heard about the awesome work they did for the homeless, in partnership with the Hastings District

Council. They housed these people, provided groceries for breakfast and lunch and cooked an evening meal every night with an amazing team of volunteers. How fantastic is that.

We offered man power, or some money but Warren said "we are sweet" and that he would let us know if it changed, but the offer was open for us



to bring baking to them every Friday as a way to say we care.

Thanks to HDC, Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst and Hastings Church for these initiatives and others they are putting in place in the near future, and for their compassion and action.

We are better together.



CAMBERLEY *update*



The most notable observation during Level 4 lockdown was our amazing increase in community spirit.

Neighbours looking out for each other, sharing their surplus, running errands for elderly, passing kindly reminders to those breaching rules and trying themselves to follow the guidelines as best as possible.

Not just because we were compelled to do so but because we all felt a strong sense of responsibility to do it for each other - our households, our neighbours our community.

Although we were weathering the same storm with COVID-19, we were not necessarily in the same boat - we all had our individual challenges and struggles to confront and overcome.

All in all, we pulled together and with the added resources made available by our council and iwi groups we have come out better, stronger and more compassionate.

CAPE COAST

update



For those on the Cape Coast, life in lockdown levels 4 and 3 for 49 days was mostly relaxed and trouble-free.

Supported by a long, warm 'Indian Summer', our community was able to enjoy the Coast from Black Bridge to Park Hill and Clifton (our local zone). Beaches, cycleways and lots of walks allowed plenty of exercise, and lots of neighbourhood contact - always at safe and correct social distancing.

We have a diverse neighbourhood, with lots of families and also lots of retired people. Everyone gets on.

What are we most proud of:

1. A great atmosphere throughout lockdown, and a generosity of spirit by all Cape Coasters. A wonderful Anzac dawn kerbside turnout. Very moving.
2. Everyone watching out for each other. Making sure everyone was all right. A connected community.
3. Making the most of the lockdown, being positive, and supporting our local Four Square!



CLIVE

update

During lockdown, the Clive community seemed to be very supportive of one another, and ANZAC Day was unique and celebrated with great community spirit.

Folk seemed to be sticking to the rules in general to help curb the spread of COVID-19, and our Four Square and pharmacy served the community well over this time.

In terms of what's important now, taking some of the learnings from lockdown and threading this into our new normal as we work on our community plan aspiration for a connected and thriving community.

There's still some way to go in terms of the aim to protect our natural resources, particularly the Clive River.



FLAXMERE *update*

The lockdown had its challenges but it also brought people together.

One young man we spoke to, a 14-year-old in alternative education, said a good thing to come out of the lockdown was that his family (Mum and three siblings) went out for lots of walks together and talked about stuff.

One Voice Community Group, TToH, Marae and churches were all delivering food parcels into the Flaxmere community and the two community kai cupboards were well stocked with food and supplies. Flaxmere New World were delivering groceries to the homes of those

who were unable to get to the store. Flaxmere residents supported each other really well.

This was something they hadn't done before, so it brought the family together. He did also comment that the worst thing was his brother being a pain!



CHESS CLUB



FLAXMERE CHRISTMAS PARTY



FLAXMERE WEST *update*

Flaxmere West did a great job through lockdown. Kimi Ora Community School staff made welfare calls to their families and provided food parcels.

Returning to school when the lockdown lifted, the kids were totally chilled out and hungry for learning.



MARAEKĀKAHO

update

Just prior to lockdown, we arranged for a flyer to go to all Maraekākaho households offering confidential support for any households needing assistance – a gesture of community spirit that was well received.

The Focus MKK Facebook page was used as a channel for residents to keep in touch, find out the latest COVID-19 information and respond to requests for assistance. Our community responded superbly when we had to put the call out for help, and as a result were able to support a

number of our local residents. We also took the opportunity during lockdown to expand our Neighbourhood Support contact lists.

Although the lockdown impacted the Maraekākaho community, this year's drought has been just as big an issue and will continue to be for some time.



MAYFAIR

update



One of the highlights to come out of the COVID-19 lockdown was seeing the community standing at their letterboxes on ANZAC morning.

Throughout the lockdown there was a positive attitude towards social distancing and interacting with others.

In terms of the community plan, the Mayfair community has been enjoying the inviting green space Bill Mathewson park has become due to the improvements that have been made.

The generosity and respect that the community has shown towards the Kai Hut on Cunningham Crescent has been a great thing to see.



TE PŌHUE

TE PŌHUE *update*

We were proud of the contribution our volunteer Fire Brigade made during COVID Alert level 4 & 3. Fire chief Murray Charteris said that they attended more call outs during the lockdown than was usual for that time period. These call outs included car accidents and medical assistance, which as can be imagined,

placed the volunteers and their family bubbles at some significant risk - we are extremely grateful for their contribution.

As we are geographically isolated from town and each other we made the effort to stay in touch by phone and usually called a phone tree of our neighbours before embarking on a

journey to the supermarket or stock-feed agent in town, so we could bring home stores and supplies for up to four other families.

Our school community also beat the geographic isolation with teachers spending their days in constant contact with children from Te Pōhue School and the feedback from Principal Richard Gillespie was that the school families did well with online learning and the teachers efforts were genuinely appreciated.



MARA KAI 2017

RAUREKA *update*

We were very proud of the iwi, hapū and super individuals for their response to COVID-19, distributing essential items.

A lot of families found it tough just to provide for their whānau, and there was a lot of manaakitanga especially in the tough times.

There is such awesome tautoko going out around the Bay and it was neat to see great aroha and tatutoko being shared during the lockdown.

There is so much help and awahi for our whānau in the community – more than what I saw before the lockdown – much of this appearing on community facebook pages.

The whanungatanga within the community and the relationship, kinship and sense of family connection saw our community come together as one.



WAIMĀRAMA *update*

The community of Waimārama rallied together during the COVID-19 lockdown with the help of some locals who helped keep spirits up.

Anyone who went for a walk along the beach or elsewhere would have come across the sculptures of DJ Morris, with everyone excited to see what piece he would come up with next – and for those who couldn't get out he posted photos on social media.

The Waimārama Store owners went above and beyond to help the community – checking on houses, collecting and delivering supplies and organising group activities such as beach clean-ups to encourage people to get some fresh air.

In what was a challenging time, these kinds of initiatives really made a difference.



WAIPATU *update*

Over the rahui the Waipatu community was grateful for:

The calm; a quieter pace though our place, as fewer cars and more nature were seen in our rohe.

The caring; as whānau carefully shared gifts of kai, and supported the essential workers that surround us.

The space to move; as so many families took the opportunity to walk and bike safely around our beautiful whenua.

Many will know that Waipatu was the site of the first meeting of the Kotahitanga of Aotearoa; during this time we all started to appreciate what togetherness truly means.

He aha i te mea nui o te Ao - He tangata he tangata he tangata.



WHAKATŪ *update*



Whakatū was very active over the lockdown, karakia every morning were followed by exercises. Food and hygiene parcels were received from Taiwhenua and distributed by Des Ratima. We need to harness this energy.

The first ANZAC Day ceremony was held in Whakatū and the community want to do that every year. The community is a rich, very vibrant and closer community now.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown, we saw an increase in residents wanting information on joining existing Neighbourhood Support groups, as well as starting new groups in their community.

Following up on the great work by Robyn Smith from Council we have also been able to contact and in some cases re-engage with a number of NS groups that were in need of some support and direction.

Work is underway to ensure we get the right message as well support and resources to these groups over the next six months.

I have been privileged to have received some great news and feedback from the community on some of the work that had been undertaken by some of our coordinators who went beyond the call of duty during COVID-19.

This involved some delivering food parcels, easter eggs and hot cross buns

to the residents in their streets as well as weekly phone checks with the elderly, well done to all of you!

Last but not least of all is congratulations to Hastings District Council's own Dr James Graham, Pou Ahurea Matua: Principal Advisor: Relationships, Responsiveness Heritage.

Dr Graham has been officially recognised by Neighbourhood Support NZ for his excellent work in gifting the following two translations.

These taonga will allow us to strengthen our connections to our neighbours, our past, and our whenua for years to come.

John Roberts

**Embracing te reo Māori to
strengthen our connections...**

**Te Kōpuni Kāinga
o Aotearoa**

Neighbourhood Support New Zealand

**Kia haumarū, kia kaha, kia
kotahi hoki ngā hapori**

Creating safe, resilient and
connected communities



Thank you Dr. James Graham!
Hastings District Council - Pou Ahurea Matua

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O HERETAUNGA



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