



Neighbourhood Support Community

JULY 2023

Newsletter

KIA ORA EVERYONE

I hope everyone is ok and that you're all taking care of yourselves with the winter weather kicking in. February 14, 2023 is a date that will go down in Hawke's Bay history as one of the darkest days as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle and the widespread flooding and devastation that it has left in the Hawke's Bay region.

The impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle have been significant and widespread, and they will be felt across our region and communities for a long time to come. The amount of rainfall coming through the region's rivers was much larger than the system was designed and constructed for, this has left Hawke's Bay with some long-term effects.

If you or any of your loved ones were affected by this disaster, my condolences go out to you all.

Extensive rainfall lead to widespread flooding across the region. Hawke's Bay sadly experienced a loss of human life as well as the loss of many animals caught up in the swift flowing flood waters. Many other people were trapped on their rooftops or cars and needed rescuing by helicopter or boat during the event.

Houses and buildings were flooded, and people's possessions lost, this event placed a huge pressure on our communities. A state of emergency was declared, with Civil Defence



activation following immediately after. Communities also banded together to provide each other shelter and necessities as people start the recovery process.

As you will all be aware, there is still a lot of work to be done and this will no doubt take some considerable time, effort, resource and patience before things return to some form of normality for some.

JR Roberts
Community Connector-Recovery



Message from the Mayor

Our roading and water teams have been kept busy over the past week with more heavy rain hitting the region.

We know this kind of weather can make people feel anxious and encourage you to check the www.hbemergency.govt.nz and www.hastingsdc.govt.nz websites and Facebook pages for updates and information should there be further weather warnings over coming days and weeks.

We're now into our fifth week of engagement with residents to gather feedback and provide information on the future of areas significantly affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. With more than 20 highly impacted communities in Hastings alone it is taking time to get around every area, but we plan to have all initial meetings completed by the end of July.

Otherwise, do take the opportunity to visit our drop-in centres where representatives from Hastings District and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils, insurance companies, our connectors and more are on-site and ready to assist.

Our rural communities have shown enormous resilience throughout this event, and to assist with their ongoing recovery and future decision-making we have produced a one-stop booklet with helpful information and contacts for anything from financial support to dealing with waste and animal welfare.

If there is anyone you know in the community who may be needing extra support or is in a vulnerable position, please do not hesitate to call 0800 117 672 so we can reach out and refer them to the right services for support.

Negotiations have begun with the Government regarding the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery package. We are very aware this is a key part of the process for our community those affected to move forward.



Sandra Hazlehurst
Mayor of Hastings

Out and About in the District!

As with the case with many a disaster, there is sometimes a bright light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

In this case we had a number of opportunities to meet with people from all walks of life who shared with us their stories and tales of their experiences during Cyclone Gabrielle.



NZ Police, I am Hope, Salvation Army, FENZ & Locals, Whirinaki Beach April 2023



Donated goods being sorted by volunteers at Tomoana Showgrounds



Alice Hughes (Waiohiki Marae) organizing emergency response actions at Waiohiki Marae, April 2023

Purchasing goods online, what to watch out for!



Police are urging people to be cautious when it comes to buying goods listed for sale on social media.

Our advice is to be vigilant when shopping via social media.

Make sure the money is in your account before you hand your items off, Police routinely see fake screenshots are being used to dupe the seller.

We have a number of suggestions for people looking to buy or sell online:

1. First and foremost, we recommend using a reputable online site to buy or sell items.
2. Check the social media profile of the seller. Is it a new profile or relatively blank? There's a chance it may be a fake profile and are sometimes deleted after you've paid.
3. If the trader insists on meeting at an unusual location to make a sale, be cautious. It may be that they are selling stolen items or don't want to be identified for some other reason.

5. Equally, if purchasers are reluctant to meet in person or insist items are dropped off at a location, they may be avoiding being seen or identified.
6. Purchasers who are happy to pay full price without trying to negotiate.
7. If you are the seller, make sure the money is in your account before sending or handing off items.
8. As the saying goes: if it is too good to be true, it probably is.

If you wish to report a scam, call 105, or report it with us online at www.police.govt.nz/use-105



Creating safe, resilient, and connected communities.

Celebrate Community – July 1st to 31st

This month is all about bringing your community together in celebration! We want July to be spent celebrating the connections we have while making new ones along the way. As we all know, what makes a neighbourhood great isn't the houses and cars, gardens and streets - it's the people who share their presence and aroha with each other.

This month Aotearoa also celebrates Matariki. Matariki signals the Māori New Year. It is a time of renewal and celebration in New Zealand that begins with the rising of the Matariki star cluster. Traditionally, festivities were conducted to

celebrate Matariki. They followed the harvesting of crops when the pātaka were full, freeing up time for family and leisure. These festivities included the lighting of ritual fires; the making of offerings; and celebrations of various kinds to farewell the dead, honour ancestors, and celebrate life.

Show us how you're celebrating community this month by tagging us in your social media posts or emailing us your photos, videos, or experiences to info@neighbourhoodsupport.co.nz

"Be safe, stay safe"

Watch this space in July 2023...

Netsafety Week

This year's Netsafety Week theme is:

Arming Aotearoa with the tools for positive online experiences

This year's theme focuses on resilience and self-defence; building knowledge and tactical tools for an online world that remains imperfect.

The week will provide New Zealanders with opportunities to learn new skills, hear from industry experts, and discover new tools and education products.

During the week, focussed on harm prevention, we hope to provoke conversations around:

- the impact of social media on our professional and personal lives,

- how employers can support their staff online,
- how New Zealanders can arm themselves against the rise of scams,
- how to have more positive experiences on some of our most popular platforms, and
- tools for young people to lead positive change in their school communities.

When is Netsafety Week?

Netsafety Week will take place between 24 and 30 July 2023. There will be a variety of tools, webinars and education materials available throughout the week. Please go online to check.



Please feel free to email me if you have anything that you think we maybe able to add to the newsletter that may be of benefit to our other Neighbourhood Support members, I would be more than happy to discuss.

I am currently working with 9 communities who, as a result of Cyclone Gabrielle, are eager to engage in Neighbourhood Support and the benefits it can have for their people and communities... watch this space!

Last but not least of all a big thank you to those Neighbourhood Support groups that supported their communities with either food, resources and a shoulder to lean on over the past 5 months for those affected by the cyclone, your thoughts and efforts are appreciated,

Take care and keep up the great work!

Take care and please look after yourselves during these uncertain times!

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TE KAUNIHERA Ā-ROHE O HERETAUNGA