



WAIROA RECOVERY

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

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27TH 2023 | NEWSLETTER 6



KIA ORA MAI TĀTAU

Nui te aroha ki a koutou katoa! Just as the sun's warm rays signal the approaching summer, we can gently remember that everyone navigates the path of recovery in their own unique way. At this point in our journey after the cyclone, it's a natural time for us to reset. In these moments, practising extra patience and compassion only benefits us.

Among us, there are those who've taken charge of their own recovery, some with access to resources, and others without. Some are eager to return to their homes, while others prefer to wait. All these responses are completely natural, reflecting their rangatiratanga, their self-determination.

Mā te whakapono
By believing and trusting

Mā te tumanako
By having faith and hope

Mā te tititiro
By looking and searching

Mā te whakarongo
By listening and hearing

Mā te mahitahi
By working and striving together

Mā te manawanui
By patience and perseverance

Mā te aroha
By all being done with love

Ka taea e tātau
We will succeed

WALKING WITH WHĀNAU

Wairoa Recovery has more feet on the ground, with Jase Hayes-Moeau and Michelle Tahuri-Olsen taking up the roles of kaimanaaki.

The duo will be out and about in the community, walking alongside whānau through to recovery.

Jase and Michelle both whakapapa strongly back to Wairoa and are passionate about their community and people.

They are also sports-orientated. Jase, who moved back home to Wairoa with his wife, Anna, a year ago, has played Touch Football at a national and international level and is coaching the NZ Women's Masters for the Touch World Cup in England next July. Michelle was behind the push to bring Saturday morning netball back to Wairoa and is involved in other community events through Tahuri Mai.

Please reach out by emailing
recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz

If you would like to receive the Wairoa Recovery Newsletter, please send your email address to:
recovery@wairoadc.govt.nz



DOUBLE WHAMMY

On-the-job training is resulting in local people being upskilled and cyclone-damaged homes repaired.

The win/win situation is helping to future-proof Wairoa's tradie workforce and helping those who may not otherwise have been able to repair their cyclone-impacted homes.

The successful project is a collaborative effort between a range of partners, including the MSD's Hawke's Bay Jobs and Skills Hub, Wairoa Young Achievers Trust and Enabled Wairoa with support from the Wairoa District Council and Wairoa Recovery.

The project has involved introducing rangatahi to the trades with the dual impact of completing repairs, such as insulation, gibbing and plastering, on uninsured homes while teaching essential skills needed throughout the recovery.

Operations Manager Jobs and Skills Hub Hawke's Bay Rani Morunga said the work combines training with building assistance under the watchful eye of carpentry tutor Casey Aranui.

"We knew there were workforce gaps in construction and infrastructure, particularly following the impact of the cyclone. Having so many yellow stickered homes - and with many of them uninsured, provided an opportunity to use these homes as a training space to teach those in the community the basics of repair work such as insulation, gibbing and plastering.

"The programme aimed to do something practical, hands-on and helpful for the Wairoa community while at the same time planting some seeds for those who took part in the programme to consider employment in the construction sector."

Rani said the focus is for the crew to continue to work alongside the builders who come into town. As well as gaining skills and learning to work independently, the nine trainees have completed health and safety qualifications and are gaining Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) qualifications. The Jobs and Skills Hub will continue to support the trainees into further employment.



Seth Walker is one of the trainees helping Wairoa build back better.



Former local woman and Operations Manager Jobs and Skills Hub Hawke's Bay, Rani Morunga, and carpentry tutor Casey Aranui are two of the drivers behind training Wairoa's future building workforce.

ALL ABOUT GIVING BACK

For Casey Aranui, training rangatahi is all about giving back.

The qualified builder had a late start to launching her carpentry career. "We bought the worst house on the best street in Taradale, and I was at home on maternity leave. With the house needing so much work, signing up for a carpentry course made sense. I was a 28-year-old mature student and had never thought about being a builder. But it all fell into place, and I loved it."

Casey has been in the trade for 10 years and enjoys the opportunity to give to the industry by sharing the skills she has learned and helping to train others.

She is thrilled to be working in Wairoa and helping repair whānau homes and train rangatahi.



E ROA A RARO, E TATA A RUNGA

THE JOURNEY IS FAR, THE SKY IS NEAR

On 14th February the sky was near in our upper catchment. The stillness of that day in and around town was no indication of what was about to occur. The only hint of danger was the wild temper of our raging river that morning. As events unfolded, it became a day that was hard to comprehend and difficult to rationalise.

Cyclone Gabrielle saw Wairoa Taiwhenua flooded to knee height alongside our tenants, neighbours, whānau, friends and wider community. Three days later I was back in our building alone. I was looking for food vouchers to contribute to the community welfare response effort. At one point I stopped, sat, took it all in and cried. Like so many others, we lost everything the water touched as well as the use of our building. I mourned. I wiped my eyes. I blew my nose. I found what I was looking for. Then like everyone else got on

with the work.

Wairoa Taiwhenua is a charity tasked with uplifting our community on behalf of our 10,000 registered members to the best of our capabilities. We have been doing so for almost 40 years. The flood saw our usual work halted, then restarted. New responsibilities were added to our workstreams. So many hui. Too many emails. Life goes on. With no building to operate from, we did this in creative ways. The past eight months are a testament to the fortitude of our team, our Board, our tenants and all those who work alongside us to support our community. We are indebted and sincerely thankful to all those who assist the collective effort. Community at its best.

While we look after each other, we also need to look after ourselves. It is okay to say no. It is okay to take time for yourself. With the

pressures of the past eight months, I am needing to take my own advice as burn-out has affected my health both physically and mentally. I am learning to say no and to delegate. I intend to be around to help the collective effort for as long as possible. Remain part of the team.

By Wairoa, for Wairoa. As a community we are strong. We are resilient. We have so much more to do. The journey remains far and we travel it together

Nigel How,

Executive Chairman of Ngati Kahungunu Wairoa Taiwhenua Incorporated.



MAYORAL RELIEF FUND

\$906,311

DISTRIBUTED

To apply scan this QR Code or visit:
<https://www.wairoadc.govt.nz/our-council/cyclone-gabrielle/wairoamayoral-relief-fund>



IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

Friends, neighbours and even total strangers were all part of the recovery journey for Linda Scott.

The 73-year-old grandmother is one of the first to move back into her yellow-stickered flood-affected Carroll Street home but says she couldn't have done it without the support of the Wairoa community.

Linda has lived in the Wairoa district for 45 years, moving from the country into town around 18 years ago after her husband Mike passed away.

On the morning of Cyclone Gabrielle, she was awoken by a knock on her door and a Police officer telling her to pack a bag and get out as the river was rising.

Not being a driver, Linda had to catch a ride and spent her first few nights in an emergency evacuation centre.

When she could return to her villa to survey the damage, the floodwaters had seeped through every room, and although she did not see the water at its peak, she was told it was about half a metre deep inside with 20cm of silt sediment on the veranda.

Linda spent the next six weeks staying with various friends until she could rent a flat. "I've had lots of help and support, which has been the difference for me."

Linda credits her insurance company for getting her rebuild underway so quickly. They sent Parthenon Construction from Christchurch, and they completed the rebuild, including project management and using local tradies.

Inside, Linda's house was relined, repainted, had new carpet and vinyl laid and a new kitchen and bathroom.

Linda described being fully insured as a lifesaver but added it does come at a cost.

While she is grateful to be back in her home, there is still a lot of work ahead. She is still unpacking from her shed into her house, with everything needing to be wiped down. She says

gardening is like pulling weeds out of concrete, although she was surprised to find two silver beet plants heartily growing in the silt.

While much of Linda's furniture was salvageable, beds and bedding were ruined, and Linda is grateful to Wairoa Recovery for a new bed and armchair.

"I am just so pleased to be back in my home, and it is clean and dry. Thank you to everyone who helped, especially those who helped empty my house. I didn't even know who some people were, but they still helped. Neighbours, friends and strangers, everyone came together as a community, which was really nice."



Carroll Street resident Linda Scott is thrilled to be back in her home, which was yellow-stickered after Cyclone Gabrielle.

WAIKARE CROSSING CELEBRATED

After nearly eight months, a safe and secure river crossing has been established on Glenbrook Road at Waikare. The bridge was washed away in Cyclone Gabrielle, leaving the remote farming community cut off.

There were occasions when they could cross the river at low tide in a 4 x 4 vehicle, but a wet winter meant those opportunities were few and far between.

The new crossing is a game changer for the resilient rural community. Robert and Janet Valler have managed Waitaha Station, about 15km from Waikare and off Glenbrook Road, for the past 12 years.

When the cyclone first struck, their road was blocked, meaning initially, they weren't aware of the other extreme damage around them.

It wasn't until the beginning of May they were able to cross the river. By July, they managed to get stock out, again over the river, using a small truck and taking seven hours to get 60 R2 steers across the river to the neighbour's yards.

Robert and Janet took their isolation in their stride and have spent the past eight months, along with their shepherd Jamie Te Kahika-Toe Toe, and his partner, Sharni Biddle, chipping away, clearing slips, creating access, and celebrating that the farm is once again stock-proof with around 600 metres of repairs carried out. The couple said this was a huge amount of work to complete in a relatively short period of time.

Robert and Janet said they were well looked after in the 12 weeks they had to stay on farm, and the following months, adding that considering how much time they had to spend together, 'luckily they are quite fond of each other.'



Robert and Janet Valler were isolated for months when the Glenbrook Road bridge washed away in Cyclone Gabrielle.



Celebrating access with the new river crossing on Glenbrook Road, Waikare



Glenbrook residents and those involved in completing the Glenbrook Road river crossing celebrated connectivity.

THE STAGES OF RECOVERY

Recovering from a disaster can be a rollercoaster of emotions.

In Wairoa, people lost their homes, livelihoods, businesses and personal possessions. This is reflected in significant physical and mental losses, and it is okay to feel angry or depressed.

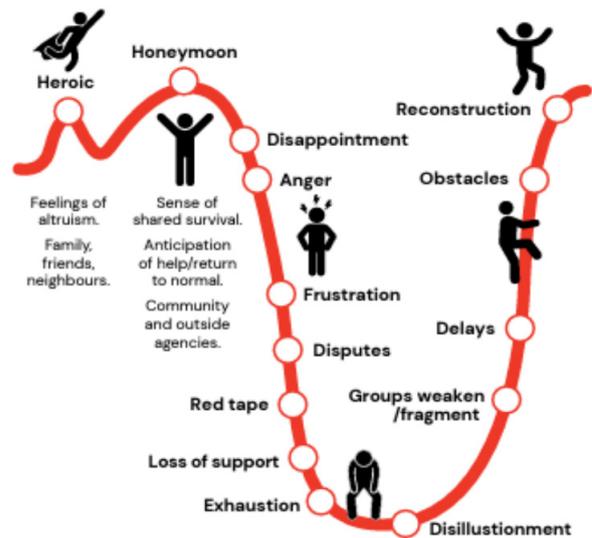
Moving through the stages of recovery is a natural reaction.

From the early stages of heroics and relief dropping down to anger, frustration and exhaustion, and then overcoming obstacles and rebuilding – the stages of

recovery often appear in no particular order, and there is nothing to stop people from going in and out of these different emotions at different times.

People are encouraged to think about where they are now, their immediate hurdles, and what they want to achieve in the long term. Try to keep looking and moving forward and maintain a sense of faith.

Recovery can be a long, slow process that feels like riding a wave of emotions.



If you need help, reach out to Enabled Wairoa by leaving a message on their website, www.enabled.org.nz, via Facebook – Enabled Wairoa, or 06 838 7390 or call into the Enabled office at 75 Apatu Street.

WAIROA IS BUILDING BACK BETTER

Wairoa aims to build back from Cyclone Gabrielle better, stronger, and more resilient for the future.

Recently, the town received a total of \$3.7m in funding through a regional recovery package supporting:

River Reserve: \$1.5 million to the Wairoa District Council to restore and improve the River Reserve area east of the lighthouse.

Wairoa Airport Runway Extension: \$1.2 million to the Wairoa District Council to extend the operational distance of the Wairoa Airport Runway, improving access for air ambulance services to fly-in equipment and supplies in times of emergency.

Accommodation for rebuild workforce: \$1 million to Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa to develop accommodation for tradespeople working on the residential rebuild of Wairoa.

The funding announcement also

included \$1.5 million to support small businesses across Hawke's Bay through extended delivery of Regional Business Partner services and \$1.2 million to Hawke's Bay Tourism to fund a programme to support the Hawke's Bay region's visitor industry. The funding provides much-needed support for small businesses and the region's visitor industry, as well as resilience and key recovery priority areas.

In Wairoa, the riverbank restoration funding will see the central town area riverbank restored to its pre-Cyclone Gabrielle beauty. This area is a drawcard for locals and tourists, and enhancing the riverbank area will be a visible sign of Wairoa's recovery.

The project will provide local training and employment opportunities and complement the main street redevelopment project, which should see phase one, the community courtyard, completed by the end of the year.

The airport runway extension will improve Wairoa's resilience and operational capacity. The project will extend the operational distance of the Wairoa Airport runway, improving access and making it easier to fly in support equipment and supplies in times of emergency and allow for bigger planes to land in Wairoa and during inclement weather conditions.

During Cyclone Gabrielle, the airport runway length limited the aircraft types, meaning helicopters were predominantly used to transport supplies, and a relatively small payload restricted them.

An extended runway will accommodate bigger planes with larger capacity and the ability to fly in inclement weather. Additional advantages are that Skyline Aviation's Cessna Mustang jet, used in Hawke's Bay for the Air Ambulance Service, will be able to be utilised, which will save lives through quicker and smoother flights.

WORKING THROUGH WAIROA'S FLOOD PROTECTION OPTIONS

Further hui to hear from the community about their flood mitigation thoughts will be held soon.

Phase one of community engagement was held in August, providing an opportunity for people to share their flood protection thoughts, feedback and insights. Recurring themes were, learning from others and looking at a broad range of river flood mitigation and protection options.

Across the Wairoa district, around 667 properties are sitting in Provisional Land Category 2A – which indicates more information is needed before any further decisions can be made about a pathway forward.

A Crown recovery support package has ring-fenced \$70m specifically for flood protection work in the Wairoa district to help manage future severe weather events and provide certainty for homeowners and businesses.

The Council is working in collaboration with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Engineering and

Environmental Consultancy, WSP and Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa to collate and analyse information from various sources. A stakeholder group is also being formed to provide feedback on ideas, options and solutions.

Based on feedback already received, key themes from the submissions were improving drainage, creating wetlands and more riparian planting. There were also concerns around slash management, the right tree in the right place and wilding pine controls.

Options from rain gardens, sandbags, managed retreat and dredging, changing river pressure points, flood channels, and spillways were all proposed flood mitigation solutions. Stop banks were also suggested, but with a reminder that whatever you do on one side of the river affects the other.

Locals also wanted more information about the Waihi Dam and the potential for Genesis Energy to increase storage capacity. Feedback also identified a need for improved

alert and warning systems, Civil Defence education and evacuation plans.

While Cyclone Gabrielle was labelled as the worst weather event, it followed a similar path to the 1948 flooding and Cyclone Bola and broke through the same low-point areas. There was also feedback around the impacts of tree removal causing erosion, the amount of slash and the impacts from other waterways.

Early findings from the original feedback and potential flood protection options, will be taken back to the community to ensure the information shared in the first round of hui has been accurately captured and to provide an opportunity for the discussions so far to generate even more korero and opportunities.

The list of potential flood protection options is expected to be refined in line with community consultation. Once the preferred solution is identified, concept designs will be created, along with costings.

ENHANCED TASKFORCE GREEN WAIROA

In response to Cyclone Gabrielle, the Government has approved the Enhanced Taskforce Green work programme.

This is a fully funded programme to help with clean-up and recovery across the rural community of Wairoa.

Two teams of five workers and two supervisors have been stood up in the area. These teams are available to provide unskilled labour tasks directly associated with the clean-up on impacted horticultural, agricultural and community properties.

Impacted entities which meet the criteria for support are eligible for an initial allocation of up to five days.

If you are interested in securing Enhanced Taskforce Green support, please register with Kylie Brown from the Rural Support Trust, email kyliebrown.occ@gmail.com or phone 02102658057.

RURAL RECOVERY FOCUS

In the rural space, Ashley Boardman is a Rural Recovery Advisor as part of the Rural Recovery Team for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council. Her role is to connect the regional council to local farmers and catchment groups, identifying key issues that have arisen post-cyclone and connecting the right people to help solve these issues. Ashley aims to support building resilient farming businesses through sustainable land management and planning to help future-proof assets for generations to come.

Originally from Otago, Ashley lives on a farm in the heart of the Ruakituri and is passionate about the rural sector and the great outdoors.

To discuss rural recovery, please get in touch with Ashley at ashley.boardman@hbrc.govt.nz



UPFRONT AND BEHIND THE SCENES

Wairoa's Recovery team is starting to grow. On the ground, Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri is supported by office manager Naomi Wilson and Kaimanaaki Matua Rupene Amato.

New kaimanaaki Jase Hayes-Moeau and Michelle Tahuri-Olsen have also taken up their roles.

On the communications front, Kate Standing, supported by Zach Wylde and Kat Pickering, are gathering and sharing information.

Pou leads are, Environment - Nathan Heath, Finance - Steve Baker, Infrastructure - Chris Chapman, Social Wellbeing and Housing - Abbie Taylor, Economic - Rachel Dossor and Resilience - Naomi Wilson.

Backup support is also provided by Keryn Goldsmith, who is looking after Red Cross admin, Lewis Ratapu of Tātau Tātau o Te Wairoa and Melissa Kaimoana of Enabled in the housing space and Kimi Hubbard

of Te Whare Maire O Tapuwae and Jaimee Tapine of Wairoa Young Achievers Trust.

Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri thanked everyone for their involvement. "It is a great to have a team we can call on. The behind-the-scenes roles are not full-time but these people add vital specialist functions to what we are trying to achieve. Thank you to everyone for your input."



The work and workers of the Wairoa Recovery team were celebrated at a welcome at Taihoa Marae recently.

DUST AND YOUR HEALTH

Dust generated from airborne silt can affect people's health. It can irritate the eyes and upper airways and worsen symptoms for those with underlying heart or lung conditions like asthma. It is important to take precautions when dust is a significant issue. This is particularly important for infants, young children and the elderly, who can be more vulnerable to the health effects of air pollution.

Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand is working with other agencies to assess the public health impacts of dust from airborne silt in Hawke's Bay. Air quality monitoring is taking place.

Precautions to reduce exposure to dust:

- Stay indoors and close windows and doors where possible.
- Try to minimise the amount of time outside and avoid vigorous exercise.
- Clean air conditioner filters - HEPA filters are recommended.
- Clean indoors regularly using mops and damp cloths to remove dust.
- Avoid sweeping and dusting as it kicks dust into the air.
- Vacuuming can increase dust levels; try to use a vacuum cleaner with a HEPA filter.

If exposure to dust cannot be avoided:

- Wear a well-fitted mask. A P2 or N95 offers the best protection, but a surgical mask still provides some protection.
- Seek medical advice if experiencing increased symptoms.
- Call 111 if anyone has trouble breathing

People worried about their symptoms should contact their doctor or Healthline on 0800 611 116.

DUST, DRAINS AND GRASS

Drainage improvements, dust minimisation and regrassing are all a focus of the Wairoa District Council

Wairoa's riverbank reserves have been contoured, levelled and regrassed using hydroseed.

Areas that are being regrassed are being fenced off to give the grass a chance to establish and people are asked to please respect the fenced-off areas and stay off the reserves to allow time for the grass to become

established.

The Council is also working towards clean-up work in the town centre and urban streets, including water blasting the main street and using a specialised truck that washes the streets and vacumes up silt and dirt to help suppress dust. Street sweepers to collect dust are also being used.

A drain maintenance programme is also underway throughout the district

WHĀNAU FIRST

Looking after Wairoa whānau is a priority and that's exactly what Daniel Tuahine, pictured with Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri, and Jenna Paku have been doing for the past eight months.

The pair began as volunteers, then worked for Hookmade as kaimanaaki in the community, and their contracts have now finished.

Daniel's advice for everyone is to be patient, be available and be happy. "Take your time and do things at a cool pace – slow and steady wins the race."

Thank you to everyone who is helping to make a positive difference.

OUR WEBSITE IS LIVE

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.

CLAIMS RESOLUTION SERVICE

In person support at Wairoa Recovery (Airport) fortnightly if you need support with your insurance claim. The New Zealand Claims Resolution Service can help you access the services you need to resolve it. They provide free advice, case management where appropriate and access to legal, engineering and wellbeing support, tailored to individual's needs.

Contact Alana Hema – Case Manager Directly
Mobile 027 720 0055 | Free Phone – 0508 624 327



BOOSTING DATA COLLECTION



Wairoa's recovery data received a city-infused boost this month.

Kath Ashley, a recovery specialist who works for the Auckland Council Tāmaki Makaurau Recovery Office, spent a week in town supporting the Wairoa Recovery team. Her role involved data collection, management and analysis. Kath said it was a privilege to work with the Wairoa Recovery Team. "They have their finger on the pulse, and the formal capturing of data will be a helpful tool to build from."

The Wairoa Recovery team are grateful for Kath's specialist support.



The Wairoa Rapid Relief Team event was a huge local success.

RAPID RELIEF TEAM

The Rapid Relief Team's visit to Wairoa was a huge success.

In total, 198 people registered for the RRT event and received fencing packs valued at around \$1,500 comprising 80 posts, 100 battens, 25 strainers, 5 kilos of staples, wire crimps and two rolls of wire. These were all loaded onto trucks and trailers, and the next stop was the Wairoa airport for a coffee, catch-up, burgers and giveaways.

Established by the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (PBCC) in 2013, RRT offers tangible support to meet the needs at hand. The team is inspired by community spirit and the gift of giving and serves people with care and compassion with an army of volunteers across the country. Christian values and beliefs are central to everything the RRT does because they know that faith-based action can change the lives of people who need it most.



Trucks and trailers were loaded with fencing supplies courtesy of the Rapid Relief Team.



The East Coast Rural Support Trust is a charitable trust that works with the rural community when times are tough on the farm or for your family. We also assist during and after adverse events.

The trust has local, rural people who know from experience that pressures can mount up. The trust's networks and training can assist with all kinds of situations and can help you get through your current challenges, from health and wellbeing, to financial and adverse events. The service is free and confidential.

Kylie Brown is our Wairoa Facilitator.

For assistance contact:
0800 787 254
www.rural-support.org.nz
Rural Support Trust
Wairoa on Facebook.



WAIROA RECOVERY

BUSINESS BACK

WANDER MOBILE CAFÉ

A brand new custom-made mobile café, top location, tasty food and great coffee are winning ingredients for the Wander Mobile Café.

Ramune Karauria has established her own eatery – in place of the former Greenhouse Café, which Ramune managed and was based at the same location and closed after Cyclone Gabrielle.

Setting up the mobile café is a dream come true for Ramune who has lived in Wairoa for the past six years, after meeting then husband-to-be, Hemi Karauria, in Europe, and returning to Hemi's hometown of Wairoa.

Ramune was already well known for her coffee-making skills and service with a smile and said establishing her own business is something she has always wanted to do.

Wander Mobile Café is based in the prime spot at Eastland Building and Farm Supplies on Mahia Avenue. "After the cyclone, I missed providing a service for locals and visitors. I also wanted to continue working on the North Clyde side of town because we had already lost so much. Ken King from Eastland Building and

Farm Supplies encouraged me to set up my own business, and it is just great to be back."

Ramune lifted the lid on her new business in early September. The purpose-built café is surrounded by the laid-back garden centre, which provides a perfect eatery backdrop. Wander Mobile Café offers a range of burgers from pulled pork, pulled beef, bacon, a brekkie burger, chicken schnitzel and vegan burgers. All burgers are served with steak fries, and onion rings, and kumara

fries are also on offer with the focus on fresh food that tastes great.

The Far East coffee is a hit, with a range of tea and Hakanoa-flavoured syrups also available. Ramune also caters to four-legged clients with her Wairoa-famous puppuccini frothy milk, a huge canine hit.

Check out Wander Mobile Café on Facebook

Open 7am – 3pm and 9am- 2pm most weekends – based on demand.



Ramune Karauria is thrilled to be back in business in North Clyde.

REGION-WIDE RECOVERY

There is a lot of local recovery work going on, but that is also backed at a regional level.

Wairoa is supported by the Hawke's Bay Regional Recovery Agency (RRA), which aims to develop a regional plan, co-ordinate the players and access the funding.

RRA Environmental Pou lead Ceri Edmonds, pictured with Wairoa Recovery Manager Benita Tahuri, visited Wairoa Recovery recently, to check in on the district from an environmental perspective.



LIFE CHANGING EVENT

Four to five hours changed a lifetime for Laslo and Cherie Kopilovic.

Their Frasertown Road home and business, right on Wairoa's township boundary, was destroyed in the Cyclone Gabrielle floodwaters with the determined couple on a journey to rebuilding.

The former beekeeper, Frasertown School teacher aide, and their sons, Luke and Ben, had lived in the two-storey home for nine years when Cyclone Gabrielle struck. "Our son came back from a bike ride and said there was water coming up the road.

"With the Awatere Stream a boundary on one side of their property, they were quickly surrounded by water that rose to the top of fences and went through the lower storey of the house up to about 30cm.

The floodwaters also took out the couple's honey extraction business. "Four to five hours in a lifetime changed everything completely, our business and our home, nothing is normal."

The family initially stayed in their house, living upstairs with lots of

community support and offerings of food and laundry services. "People helped us, they dug over our veggie gardens. We still haven't emptied the swimming pool, which is full of silt and had fish from the river swimming in it.

"It's been a rollercoaster ride of ups

and downs. We are not sure exactly what our future journey will be, we just need to get back into our home and see how we feel.

"It is hard living in limbo, but with work on our yellow stickered home now underway, we hope to be back in our home as soon as possible."



After a long eight-month slog, Laslo and Cherie Kopilovic are looking forward to being back in their home.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US

- Online form via WDC website: www.wairoadc.govt.nz/contact-us/customer-service-request
- Phone 06 838 7309
- 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 10am-2pm.
- Recovery Website www.wairoarecovery.co.nz

You can also pop into the WYAT office on Marine Parade for support and funding assistance with: Mayoral Relief Funding, HBRC Disaster Funding (residential), Pātaka forms, Red Cross Funding



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.