

A gusty start to spring in the district

Spring has certainly made itself known with days of gale force winds sweeping across the district. It was quite incredible to see Cape Turnagain receive a near record breaking maximum wind gust of 246.3km/hr, and sustained winds of 192.6km/hr on the evening of Sunday the 17th.

With that kind of wind strength comes challenges. Multiple days of power outages for many rural communities east of Dannevirke saw PowerCo

working hard to restore services as quickly as possible. However, ongoing strong wind made the restringing of lines doubly difficult with helicopters unable to immediately work in the area. A positive from the situation was the permanent installation of a base power unit at the Akitio Community Centre. A great result for the Akitio community going



Don Cameron

forward. Power outages are not uncommon in rural communities, especially not in a district like ours where high winds are often part of the landscape, however with the experience of Cyclone Gabrielle never far from mind, these kinds of events cause anxiety and stress in already heightened communities. We

hope everyone is doing ok after another tense, weather related experience.

I want to take the chance to remind all Tararua's cyclone impacted farmers and growers that applications to the Tararua on Track fund closes this Friday, 6th October. I've been really encouraged to see a steady flow of applications coming in over the past two weeks. I ask those with uninsured and critical damage to please go to the website and make

an application by Friday.

I was also really pleased to receive confirmation that all 16 of our formally yellowed stickered properties have had that classification lifted. This kind of news allows a form of closure, and the opportunity for people to move forward with certainty.

As always, take care, and although I won't be lifting lambs myself this year, I do hope docking is going well for our farmers in the district.

It's the final week for Tararua on Track fund applications

Cyclone impacted Tararua farmers and growers who have not yet made an application to the \$1 million fund for uninsured urgent maintenance and resilience works on farms, are reminded to get online and submit applications before the closing date of this Friday 6th October.

Farmers and growers are strongly encouraged to include



as much detail as possible, including proof of purchase, quotes or even a work plan. This ensures the evaluation team has all the relevant information needed to consider funding.

The last two weeks have seen a steady stream of applications coming through from those in the Tararua district who have completed, and who are yet to complete uninsured, critical

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repairs on their land and farms.

Works may include repairs to farm tracks which provide critical access, resilience works on private land where there are risks to public access being compromised, reinstatement of critical water supply infrastructure, and the reinstatement of boundary fencing

and flood gate structures.

Farmers are reminded that the Tararua on Track funding may be used in two ways; for reimbursement of works already completed, or help to pay for planned works. However these works must be able to be completed by 31 December 2023.

More information and an online application form can be found at: www.tararua.govt.nz/tararua-

on-track. You can also chat to one of our team at the Tararua Cyclone Recovery Programme by calling the Tararua District Council on 06 374 4080 (North) or 06 376 0110 (south)



Yellow stickers lifted

The Tararua District Council building team visited yellow stickered properties again last month and have confirmed that all properties in the Tararua District categorized with yellow stickers after Cyclone Gabrielle have now been lifted.

16 properties in total were yellow stickered after Cyclone Gabrielle, with the majority of those on Seaview Road in Herbertville, others on Route 52, Ngapaeruru Road and Weber Road.

YOUR VOICE MATTERS

The online post-cyclone Tararua well-being survey is open now. We want to get a better understanding of the well-being of our community following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Your answers to this survey will help us measure the well-being needs of the Tararua District and how we can best plan and deliver effective events to support you.

Fill in the survey and be in to win one of 3 x \$100 New World vouchers thanks to Rural Support Trust Tararua.

Scan the QR code with your smart device, or head to our website at tararua.govt.nz to fill in our survey today. Survey closes 8th October 2023.



Enhanced Taskforce Green doing great work

Under the expert supervision of Mike Brock of Land Based Training, the Enhanced Taskforce Green team have now completed remedial and fencing work on over 30 Tararua farms, with more in the pipeline.

Recently Jane Tylee and Simon Hales from Rural Support Trust Tararua caught up with the Enhanced Taskforce Green team and passed on a collective 'thanks', for all of the hard work they have put in for farmers in our district so far. They shared lunch and a small thank you gift to show their appreciation.

Tangiwai Martin and Freedom Woolley are among the five men who have been working on farms through Enhanced Taskforce Green in Tararua since June 19th. They both agree working outside, brushing up on hands on skills and learning new ones, has been a hugely positive experience.

Martin, who grew up in Dannevirke, is no stranger to farming, spending much of his youth in Tararua woolsheds under the direction of his late Koro and well-known shearing contractor, Luke Martin. He returned to Dannevirke after spending time in Australia and found himself without work.

The opportunity to be back on farms, re-learning skills he hasn't used for years has been really satisfying. Bike rides, the views, crisp late winter and



early spring mornings, plus the odd bit of baking from thankful farming families, have made the experience really rewarding.

Freedom Woolley is also soaking up the new experience, after previously spending years in the forestry industry. He says, "the fencing work is hard on your hands, but it's good to get paid to do something you love".

Woolley acknowledges that the practical on-site, hands-on learning is what he enjoys the most. He knows he has a lot of skills from previous work experience, but not the formal qualifications. Through Enhanced Taskforce Green, he can gain qualifications as he works, with rainy days spent in a classroom style setting doing theory based learning towards qualifications.

At the end of the Enhanced Taskforce Green contract Woolley hopes to head to a fishing school in Nelson, and then a career at sea, where his passion truly lies.

For farmers, the free help on farm has been gratefully received. Local farmer Dave Kerr said of

his experience with Enhanced Taskforce Green, "getting guys on the job and seeing stuff getting completed really lifts you up. These are really nice guys doing a really good job."

The Enhanced Taskforce Green contract in Tararua has been extended until 1st December 2023. The programme, which is funded by the Ministry of Social Development, is a regional response to adverse natural or weather events that cause significant damage. It links up job seekers with work experience, and the opportunity to help and support their local community.

Farmers who haven't had Enhanced Taskforce Green on farm, please take up this opportunity to get some assistance with cyclone related fencing repairs.

Contact Simon Hales from Rural Support Trust on 027 27 88042 for more information.



Federated Farmers generator promotion

Federated Farmers and Yamaha have teamed up for a generator promotion which offers \$200 off petrol, generators and \$500 off diesel generators.

Cyclone Gabrielle and subsequent weather events throughout the district have highlighted the benefits of having access to generators, especially for those living rurally or remotely.

Federated Farmers, who are keen to check out Yamaha's range of petrol and diesel generators are encouraged to visit the Federated Farmers Tararua Facebook page, or to talk directly to their Yamaha dealer and mention this promotion. They will just need to sight a Federated Farmers membership number.