

Every project makes a difference

It's hard to believe it is already mid-October, almost 8 months exactly since Cyclone Gabrielle made its destructive presence felt. An incredible amount has been achieved in those 8 months, and our team continue to work hard for opportunities to support our cyclone impacted communities as they rebuild.

The Tararua on Track fund closed on Friday 6th October, and the response from our farmers and growers, as expected, was huge. Our evaluation board are currently working through applications. We know that this \$1 million won't solve everything, but we do hope it will come as some relief towards

the costs of getting farm businesses back to some sense of normality.

Alongside this fund, we were thrilled to recently announce that we have secured \$250,000 from the Ministry for Primary Industries to increase resources and support with community emergency hubs in areas likely to be cut-off during extreme weather events. Our team is already conducting needs assessments in these rural areas, and we look forward to sharing more with you as the project progresses.

Recently we undertook a short



Don Cameron

well-being survey to get a gauge on how our communities are feeling post-cyclone. The information gathered will enable us to plan and deliver targeted support and opportunities around well-being

going forward. With that in mind I wanted to take a moment to share some of the fantastic initiatives happening in our cyclone impacted communities.

Fitness for Farmers, a Rural Support Trust lead initiative, offers a weekly, free group fitness session in Te Uri on a Monday evening, and Weber on Wednesday evenings.

We know how important being active is to well-being and this is a wonderful way for people to connect, have fun and get fit.

Late last month the Dannevirke Host Lions Club dropped in 3 boxes of donated baking to be distributed to cyclone affected farmers who were docking. Grateful farmers and docking crews in Weber, Makuri and Te Uri received a share of this baking. They were treated to sultana cakes, fudge slice, choc chip biscuits, shortbread and more – this thoughtful gesture was hugely appreciated.

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki nui-a-Rua hold a free monthly health and wellness check clinic

at the Pongaroa fire station on the last Thursday of every month. A registered nurse is available onsite for acute consults and blood pressure checks. And Te Kete Hauora o Rangitāne have just opened a wellness space where anyone can walk in for immunisations and cervical screening at Rangitāne Square, 91 High Street in Dannevirke.

There are countless other initiatives, events and projects that are generously and passionately created to support our district in our recovery. To everyone that has done something to assist our people, we want to say a heartfelt thank you.

Hub funding to build resilience in rural communities

The Tararua District has secured \$250,000 through the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to increase support for cyclone impacted communities.

The funding is part of a \$35.4 million package announced in Budget 2023 to support the recovery of rural communities affected by the North Island weather events, including Cyclone Gabrielle.

The Tararua District has already secured \$1 million from the fund for urgent maintenance and resilience works on affected farms.

The aim of the latest funding is to ensure rural community



hubs are well resourced with emergency equipment like generators, communication tools and first aid supplies, to support communities if they become isolated again.

Deputy Tararua Erana Peeti-Webber believes the funding will help to build critical resilience in our rural communities. "This funding alongside our experiences from the cyclone, has given us scope to work alongside our



communities and really assess their needs. It's an opportunity to ensure our rural communities have vital resources and support

at hand, when it is needed."

Recovery Manager Don Cameron says, "Cyclone Gabrielle highlighted the challenges these

communities face when services are interrupted. A number of communities in Tararua faced long periods of isolation as a result of impassable roads. This fund will support establishing community response groups, assessing their needs, and ensuring they are well equipped for any future events."

Sarah Fountaine has been employed in the role of Community Hub Coordinator. Alongside Tararua District Council Emergency Management Officer Peter Sinclair, she will engage with the eight identified communities and make initial assessments to develop a plan for each.

Cyclone impact in brief

There were 2409 faults in total from Cyclone Gabrielle. The numbers below reflect Cyclone Gabrielle faults and their progress. This is not a reflection of all works across our roading network.



Total high and medium complexity faults 513



82 high complexity faults



431 medium complexity faults

- Scope development stage : 25
- Detailed Design stage: 14
 - Approval stage: 1
 - Construction stage: 9
 - Review: 90
 - Complete: 14
 - On hold: 2

Mayoral relief fund remains open

To date, the Tararua Mayoral Flood Relief fund has approved 83 applications and allocated over \$115,000 to Tararua residents, businesses, farmers and community organisations impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Grants of \$1000 are still available for individuals and \$2000 for community groups,

farmers, businesses, including sole-entrepreneurs and marae. Funding can be used for assisting with the extra financial burdens and costs of Cyclone damage not covered by insurance or other funds.

To apply, head to www.tararuadc.govt.nz/recovery and click the 'economic recovery'

tab to find the online form. Alternately you can download an application form and criteria and drop it into any of our Council offices.

For anyone needing assistance to apply, feel free to phone Council on 06 374 4080 (North), or 06 376 0110 (South).

Lifestyle Block Support - Recovery and Resilience

Lifestyle block owners affected by recent weather events or those looking to enhance their preparedness can now participate in workshops designed to empower them in handling emergencies.

Led by Hayley Squance, the workshops offer a dynamic blend of presentations and interactive stations aimed at assisting lifestyle block owners in addressing recovery challenges, fostering community connections, engaging with emergency services and management personnel, and

collaborating with various agencies. Additionally, these workshops will guide participants in developing emergency plans for their properties.

Given the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on Wairarapa and Tararua, four workshops have been organised, including one remote session and three in-person workshops across Tararua and Wairarapa. The workshop dates and locations are as follows:

- Pahiatua: Thursday, Oct 19th
- Dannevirke: Friday, Oct 20th
- Masterton: Saturday, Oct 21st

For those unable to attend any of these in-person sessions, an online session is available for Wairarapa and Tararua residents on October 24th.

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your emergency preparedness. Register for one of these sessions by heading to <https://tinyurl.com/bwanr4yf> or by scanning the QR code.



Evaluation next step for Tararua on Track Fund

Applications to the Tararua on Track fund closed on Friday 6th October with 126 applications received and approximately \$5.3 million in financial assistance requested.

The \$1 million MPI supported fund is for uninsured urgent maintenance and resilience works on land and farms affected by Cyclone Gabrielle in the District.

As well as being able to assist farmers and growers financially, the huge response and detailed damage reports all assist with forming a much clearer picture of the extent of damage caused by the extreme weather event.

Currently applications are being evaluated, with an on-farm assessor visiting some properties where required or requested. Tararua farmers and growers can expect to start hearing back from the project team over the coming weeks, and anyone with further questions can phone the Cyclone Recovery Office by phoning Council on 06 374 4080 (North), or 06 376 0110 (South).