

DEC 2023

# RURAL REPORT



- ♦ LOCAL HEROES RECOGNISED ♦ ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY
- ♦ COMMUNITY HUBS LAUNCHED ♦ HORTICULTURE SECTOR SURVEY

## Meri Kirihimete, Merry Christmas to you and your whānau

As the Deputy Chair of the Rural Community Board, it is my pleasure to write a few words to you all as we look to close out 2023.

Firstly, if this is the first newsletter you have come across and read - Welcome!

If you aren't aware of who we are, the Rural Community Board is a separate entity from the District Council which provides an independent rurally focused voice on behalf of our communities.

Our role as governors on behalf of you is to oversee the rural rate take and make recommendations to Council on the activities of where that spend should sit across aspects such as rural roading, rural recycling and many more.

Our elected members play an active role in many of the committees and working groups across Council which ensures we have a rural perspective,

influence and input into decision making around the Council table.

As we look back and reflect on 2023, our rural communities across the district, as well as our neighbours in Central Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti, have had an extremely difficult year.

Cyclone Gabrielle was an event that none of us could have comprehended and has had a large impact across many of our communities.

Although the hills are scarred, there are fences that still need erecting, and the re-build is a long-term game - one thing we can celebrate is how far we have come since mid-February and how we rallied together as rural communities to support one another and the resilience that was shown through adversity.

This year more than any other year has made me extremely proud to be part of a rural community.

Along with Council, the Rural Community Board has some hard decisions ahead as to how the rebuild and large infrastructure bill is paid, but it's important to us that our communities know we are right there with you and we will be doing everything we possibly can to minimise the impact on our communities and families.

As always please feel free to reach out to your ward representatives at any time and you can **have a look here** to learn more about who that is and how to get in touch. Your thoughts, comments and questions are invaluable to ensure we can represent

our rural communities with integrity and confidence.

**Nga manaakitanga,  
Isabelle Crawshaw**



## Local heroes recognised

Congratulations to Rural Community Board deputy chair Isabelle Crawshaw, and nine other community members, who have been named 2024 Kiwibank local hero medallists!

In the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle, the small Hawke's Bay farming community of Pātoka was cut off from the rest of the country by road, with no electricity and limited communications.

In the face of adversity the community rallied, with Isabelle stepping up as a natural leader.

During this tough time for the community, Isabelle was on hand - organising food parcels for the locals, being the central point of contact for relief groups, and providing regular updates on everything via social media channels.

Her contribution to the response and recovery effort was nothing short of incredible - boosting morale amongst the locals and making real impact in the process.



The other Kiwibank local hero medallists in Hawke's Bay are: Alastair Needses (The Dogman), Amanda Withers, Amelia Kauri, Kristyl Noho, Lyn Gordon, Neela Neela, Syed Khurram Iqbal, Tim Hunter and Troy Duncan.

Find out more about all the medallists here [nzawards.org.nz/local-heroes/](https://nzawards.org.nz/local-heroes/)



## On the road to recovery

With hundreds of slips cleared and culverts cleaned, and the detailed design of replacement bridges and major culverts well underway, the

longer-term work plan for repairing Hastings' cyclone-ravaged roading network is becoming clearer.

After focusing on installing temporary bridges and making urgent repairs to reconnect communities in the immediate aftermath of the cyclone, Council's roading team and contractors had inspected the full 1640-kilometre network and simultaneously started on solutions for the major damage.

The result is a long list of rebuilds and repairs, estimated to take seven to eight years to complete.

Keep up to date with all the recent transport network updates at [hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/roading-recovery](http://hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/roading-recovery)



The Silt Recovery Taskforce has also been busy cleaning up since the cyclone – read about the work they are funding cleaning up fenceposts and redistributing them to build new fences on cyclone-damaged farms and orchards – [rnz.co.nz/news/country/504906/rebuilding-hawke-s-bay-orchards-and-vineyards-one-fencepost-at-a-time](http://rnz.co.nz/news/country/504906/rebuilding-hawke-s-bay-orchards-and-vineyards-one-fencepost-at-a-time)

## Community hubs launched

More than \$2m received in external funding has been used to supply equipment for Civil Defence Centres, the purchase of two mobile welfare trailers, and to support the rollout of 30 community emergency hubs in Hastings district.

They are aimed at increasing community resilience, equipped with the likes of additional clean safe water storage and upgraded switch boards to allow for generators to be easily used.

All the hubs, which could range from community halls to marae, will



also be provided with new publicly accessible defibrillators, first aid supplies and new radios that connect directly with Civil Defence to support communications during an emergency.

Read more here [hastingsdc.govt.nz/our-council/news/article/2971/funding-support-helps-build-community-resilience](http://hastingsdc.govt.nz/our-council/news/article/2971/funding-support-helps-build-community-resilience) and find out more about the hubs here [hbemergency.govt.nz/hub](http://hbemergency.govt.nz/hub)

## REPORT A PROBLEM

Trees down? Dogs or stock on the road? Potholes? Dumped rubbish? Reporting these and any other issues on council-managed roads (all roads except State Highways) is easy – simply call council on **(06) 871 5000** and let us know so we can assist. You can also call us to request a service such as cutting trees back for better visibility on rural roads. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.





## Rural Community Board Members



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## Horticulture sector survey



The region's horticulture sector is being invited to participate in surveys to inform the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery. By participating in the survey, growers will provide information needed to engage in meaningful discussions with

government officials and private sector stakeholders to support growing back better.

For tree fruit and multi-crop growers please use this survey: [smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HBHorticultureRecoverySurvey](https://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HBHorticultureRecoverySurvey)

For growers with arable and vegetables only use: [smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HBHorticultureRecoverySurveyArableFreshandProcessVege](https://smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HBHorticultureRecoverySurveyArableFreshandProcessVege)

The cut-off date for both surveys is December 22, 2023.

## RURAL RECYCLING

To ensure that we can recycle all year round please help keep the sites clean:



- Put the right things into the right bins - remember to check the signs.
- Report any mistreatment of the sites.
- Let us know when the containers are almost full. Call us on 06 871 5000.
- Don't leave items outside of the container - if it's full, come back another day.

### MAKE LANDFILL YOUR LAST CHOICE