

FAMILY NOTICES

Deaths

SCOTT, Betty Jean (Jeanie) (nee Neilson). — On 18th March, 2023, died peacefully, surrounded by family. Aged 85yrs. Dearly loved wife of the late Walter Scott. Much-loved Mum of Shane and Liz, Tracey and Burne, Michelle and Steve. Special Nana of Hayden and Nikki, Scott, Jessie, Oliver, Alec, Cole and Joelle. A celebration of Jeanie's life will be held at St Andrew's Church, Tolaga Bay, on Thursday 23rd March at 1pm, followed by interment at the Tolaga Bay Public Cemetery. A special thanks to the staff at Beetham Healthcare, Gisborne. The service will be live-streamed and will be available via www.evansfuneral.co.nz

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TOO MANY CARS: A count of vehicles entering Grey St at the Childers Road intersection over three days in January revealed "outrageous" numbers, 90 percent of them single occupant vehicles. Tairāwhiti Adventure Trust commissioned the survey, which was prompted by a comment during the Grey Street Festival last year about the "crazy traffic" in the area.

Picture by Ben Cowper



Making people think about vehicle use

by Avneesh Vincent

TAIRĀWHITI Adventure Trust is urging the public to play their part in reducing the "outrageous" volume of vehicle traffic in Grey Street and make it safer for pedestrians.

The trust recently released some of the results of a Grey Street traffic survey done in January. Trust member Haimona Ngata said the organisation employed three university students to count cars and other forms of traffic on three sections of Grey Street from 6am to 6pm over three days.

The students recorded more than 45,000 car and 900 truck and pushbike movements in and out of the street.

"Based on the overall movements, that's more than a thousand vehicles traversing the street in just one

hour," Mr Ngata said.

In the space of one hour, over 700 cars went in and out of Grey Street at the intersection with Childers Road.

"The crazy thing is that 90 percent of all the cars were single occupant vehicles."

The trust was hopeful such "outrageous numbers" would make everyone think.

Mr Ngata said if at least a small percentage of those people walked, cycled or used public transport, it would significantly help make the street safer.

The survey idea came about during the Grey Street Festival last year after a person involved in the Waka Kotahi Streets for People programme commented on the "crazy traffic" around the area.

"We spoke to her in regards to getting quantifiable data that will allow us to shape the street for the next

stage of the Streets For People project.

Through Streets for People, Tairāwhiti Adventure Trust is championing the creation of a "linear park" in Grey Street — a multipurpose site for community and cultural events.

Already it has installed a pump track and revamped Alfred Cox Skate Park, and has plans for a climbing wall.

Mr Ngata said another aim of the survey was to "move the dial on a combined effort towards climate change adaptation".

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, a typical passenger vehicle emits more than 46,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere in a year.

"Since climate change is man-made, it's important to take steps and be part of the solution," Mr Ngata said.

GDC 'risk areas' examined

by Wynsley Wrigley

THE loss of some communications was anticipated during Cyclone Gabrielle but the full impact on council's ability to function was "not fully appreciated", Gisborne district councillors have been told.

The GDC's risk adviser Daniel Haverty was speaking as council's audit and risk committee received a strategic risk management report.

Five councillors, the mayor and independent chairman Bruce Robertson sit on the committee, but the full council met later in the day at a public-excluded meeting for a "deep dive" on the Civil Defence response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

The strategic risk management report, for the November to March period, applies a "risk appetite framework" to 10 strategic and organisational risk areas — Civil Defence and Emergency Management; health and safety; people and capability; finance; fraud and corruption; procurement; legal compliance; natural environment; asset management; and business continuity.

Mr Haverty said one area — asset management risk (or failure to provide fit for purpose, safe, affordable and sustainable assets that the community expects over the long-term) — was found to be at "serious"

risk.

That is a level outside of council's "overall risk appetite".

Asset management was also considered to be a "serious" risk back in November.

The report said such a rating had previously been based on other significant flooding events reducing the resilience of council's roading network.

That had been further compromised by Cyclone Gabrielle.

The risk had been extended again by damaged water infrastructure which required significant council efforts.

He said six other risk areas were "major" risks, or the next level down.

They were Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM), finance, fraud and corruption, procurement, natural environment and business continuity.

The report before councillors said CDEM was at major risk because of the increasing number of declared events of increasing intensity, coupled with the CDEM function being situated in a building in the Tsunami Inundation Zone 8.

Cyclone Gabrielle had presented several challenges, including being isolated with both the north and south roading access cut off; loss of power for a short period and no cellphone or internet access for an extended

period, "which severely impacted our ability to communicate and for the community to access essential food and fuel services".

Construction has started on an alternative new CDEM building outside the Tsunami Inundation Zone.

The new building is scheduled to be completed in June.

Mr Haverty said having six risk areas was a high number to be out of council's "appetite risk" range.

There were two compelling reasons why the risk assessments were as they were.

Primarily financial risks were based on a prudent approach "given the wider economic environment".

That was further compounded by Cyclone Gabrielle's impact on council resources.

The financial impact to council was still being determined.

Mr Haverty said one strategic risk area — people and capability (does the council have the right people with the right skills and attitudes) — had improved from "major" risk in November to "moderate" risk in March.

That was reflected by vacancies and staff turnover data.

Mr Haverty said the council had a current turnover level of 16.6 percent which was just within the threshold of 15 to 17 percent.

But that had fallen further, since the report was written, to 15.8 percent.

The figure could fall again with further council actions.

The report concluded that the (deep dive) meeting scheduled for later in the day would focus on "re-cutting our risk profile and re-determining our top risks, given the constraints we will be working under and what is important to our community for council to focus on".

Considerations for the meeting included whether it was still appropriate to enter the scheduled consultation on the next three years of the Long-Term Plan; or would it be better to develop an interim three-year plan with a focus on the event recovery programme that restores the community's ability to participate and contribute to the Long-Term Plan.

"Given the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on the council's ability to function effectively, what is a credible response for the council in the immediate aftermath that enables both the council and our community to find their feet and develop a way forward that maximises the value of recovery resources being made available?"

Business advisory consultants PricewaterhouseCoopers staff also attended that meeting.

'Build back better' key as LDE plays part in recovery

LAND and Development Engineering (LDE) consultants have been playing a significant role in post-cyclone recovery in several parts of the country including Gisborne.

The Peel Street company started in Gisborne in 2004 and now has offices across the North Island including places where some of the worst cyclone damage was recorded.

LDE's geotech and civil engineers and engineering geologists have undertaken rapid

building assessment work simultaneously across many regions.

"Our team are proud to have been a first responder for the disasters that happened in Piha and Muriwai in Auckland in the wake of Cyclone Gabrielle," said LDE general manager Bruce Walters, in Gisborne.

"Auckland Council was one of the first to contact us and accept support working alongside New Zealand Police and Civil

Defence.

"We have donated geotechnical engineers for the work on a pro bono basis in a number of hard-hit locations.

"There was a lot happening and it has come at a cost, but looking back we made a difference and we would do the same again," Mr Walters said.

"One of our team was the first responder to the house that dropped away at Mangatapu in

Tauranga during Cyclone Hale, arriving on the scene in time to help the distressed occupants out of the building and away to safety."

Mr Walters said "build back better" will become a key underlying philosophy as the country begins its recovery.

"Sustainable and future-proofed engineering solutions will be the minimum expectation of the New Zealand public as climate change continues to show its hand."