

Virtual Eastern Bay Villages

Te Kokoru Manaakitanga

Creating Connected Communities



March/April 2024 Newsletter

Contact Virtual Eastern Bay Villages

By Email - easternbayvillages@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook – Te Kokoru Manaakitanga / Virtual Eastern Bay Villages

By Phone – We are available to answer your calls between the hours of
9am and 5pm Monday to Friday

Please be mindful that after hours and public holiday calls are for urgent matters only.

Jo (Pou Arahi) 0272923079

Kylie (Coordinator) 020 4094 4407

Tēnā koutou katoa – Greetings to you all,
Welcome to our first newsletter for 2024 and a belated Happy New Year!

We have a very full calendar for the month of March with some exciting activities
coming up while the weather is still warm.

We always enjoy hearing from our members so if you have any suggestions or feedback
please don't hesitate to get in touch!

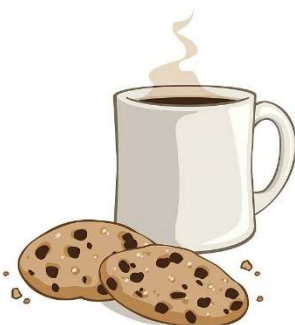
VEBV Regular Coffee Mornings

Whakatane Weekly Coffee Morning

Every Monday (except public holidays) from 10:30am to 12pm we hold coffee mornings
at the Knox Church in Whakatane.

We have an open-door policy which means everyone is welcome to come along.

Feel free to invite a friend. We have brochures and invitations if
you would like to pass them on to people you may think would
benefit from joining us.



Edgecumbe Monthly Coffee Morning

These are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the St Davids
Church Hall 51 College Road Edgecumbe from 10:30am-12pm.
Please bring a plate for shared morning tea

**This is a wonderful way to meet new people and we often have guest
speakers come as well.**

Our facebook page is the most up to date way to keep in touch with what's happening.

In the search box search

**"Te Kokoru Manaakitanga / Virtual Eastern Bay Villages"
and click on join.**

If you need help to connect to us through Facebook, please let Kylie or Jo know.



**Whakatane Public Meeting
10:30am Wednesday the 28th of
February 2024 at the Knox Church,
Domain Road, Whakatane.**

Many individuals are recognising the benefits of documenting their funeral service preferences in advance, alleviating their family's burden of arranging and financing the funeral when the time comes.

By pre-planning a funeral, you can make important decisions regarding the ceremony, burial or cremation options, music selections, readings, and more. Additionally, pre-payment options can help secure and manage the financial aspects, providing further reassurance for you and your family.

If you already have a funeral plan does this need to be updated?

On Wednesday the 28th of February we are very fortunate to have Dean Weber from Gateway Funeral Services who is coming along to have a chat about funeral planning and answer any questions you may have.

**There will be time after the meeting to enjoy a cuppa and have a chat with Dean.
All welcome!**

NZ Nutrition Foundation Just Cook Cooking Program and Shared Meal

JUST COOK Healthy Ageing is our 4-session programme aimed at building cooking skills, confidence and motivation to cook, nutrition knowledge and addressing social isolation among older people.

Together we will prepare a healthy meal and enjoy lunch together.



**These will be held on Tuesday the 27th of February, the 5th, 12th & 19th of March from
10:30 to 12:30 at the Knox Church, Whakatane**

There is no cost for this program, all ingredients will be supplied.

To ensure we have enough resources please let Jo or Kylie know if you would like to come along.



Visit to Maggie's Funtastic Garden in Edgecumbe Friday the 8th of March

Pack a picnic lunch and come along and enjoy a morning out at Maggie's Funtastic Garden. Maggie's Funtastic Garden is a rural award-winning garden created over the past 45 years. Now it is a fantastic garden where kids and adults can run free and explore.

Vans will depart from the Knox Church at 10:30am sharp so please arrive at 10:15am.
We aim to return to town before 2pm.

There will be a cost of \$5 entry fee + \$5 if you are traveling on the Waka Eastern Bay Van. The van will stop at St Davids Church Hall along the way to pick up Edgecumbe members if required.

Please contact Jo or Kylie to reserve a seat on the van.
In the event of bad weather, we will postpone till further notice.

Men's Trip to the Water Wheel Heritage Park Wednesday 13th of March Departing from the Knox Church at 10:30am

The Waterwheel project began in 1990 by people in the Eastern Bay of Plenty region of New Zealand keen to preserve a vanishing history – the industrial archaeology of New Zealand.

For 18 years, volunteers have saved or restored donated machinery, vehicles and equipment in excess of \$2 million assets worth, several to working order. Daily diaries reflect this endeavour and protect the knowledge of volunteers, some retired tradesmen who have since passed away.

The heritage park is to be named Waterwheel Heritage Park. The Trust and heritage park project are commonly referred to as The Waterwheel.

There will be a cost of \$5 for the van and a donation which will go toward morning tea which will be provided.

If you know any men who may enjoy a day out, please feel free to let them know or encourage them to come along.

Please contact Jo or Kylie to reserve a seat on the van.

Expressions of Interest

Day out in Tauranga – Date TBC

We are looking at booking a van to take members for a day out in Tauranga. Some would like to go Op Shopping, visit Spotlight and stop off at Bayfair Shopping Centre, whilst another member would like to be dropped off to visit family.

**If this is something you might enjoy, please let Jo or Kylie know.
There will be a cost of \$15 per person to travel on the van.**

If there is enough interest these trips to Tauranga could become regular days out.

Expressions of Interest

Knitting Group – Peggy and Friends in your Community

In the coming months we are looking at setting up a new knitting group based on the Peggy and Friends concept introduced by Lyn Dawson.

Lynn Dawson who has helped to warm the lives of many needy people with gifts of woolen blankets.

In 2013 Lynn expanded what had started out as a women's prison-based project, into a community project of 5 Peggy Purl groups around the North Shore of Auckland. The first 2 years saw more than 1000 Peggy Purl blankets created and gifted to vulnerable children around the communities in which they were made.

In 2015, 'Peggy Purl in Your Community' was awarded a Jetstar Flying Start grant that enabled Lynn to take the project nationwide.

Now rebranded as Peggy & Friends in Your Community, there are more than 30 programmes working in and for their own communities from Northland to Christchurch with more to come.

More than 10,000 blankets have now been created by these groups and distributed to vulnerable children.

Please tell your friends or anyone wanting to learn. We would be making blankets for kids in our area.

Peggy and Friends will supply everything each knitter needs including yarn.

If you would like any further information, please contact Kylie.

Would you like support with your phone or digital device?

We have a new member who has kindly offered to support those who could use some advice in regard to using their digital devices.

Please let Jo or Kylie know if this is something of interest to you.

Walking Buddy Available

We have a wonderful younger member who would love an elderly walking buddy. Walk at your own pace at a distance that suits you.

Let Jo or Kylie know if you would be interested and we will pass on your

Taneatua Morning Tea

Wednesday the 6th of March

It has been a while since we last met with our Taneatua members so on Wednesday the 6th of March at 11am we will meet at Moumou Kai Café for Lunch.

For those who need transport we will meet at the Knox at 10:30am

We encourage members to carpool so if you are able to help with transport or need a ride, please let Jo or Kylie know.

Occasionally we have members who would like a little support to get their gardens in order. If you enjoy gardening and have a little time to spare, please let us know.

Ideally, we would love to get a little gardening group together so if you have any ideas, please let us know.

How to save money on insurance

If you're looking for ways to cut down costs, Consumer NZ have some useful ideas on how you could save money on insurance.

Go for a higher excess

A higher excess – the amount you pay if you need to claim – will significantly lower your premiums. It could be more painful at claim time, but if it's the difference between keeping or cancelling a policy, it would be easier to find the cost of the higher excess than paying to replace your uninsured belongings. Just don't make it so high you wouldn't be able to pay it.

Shop around

You can often find big savings by spending time comparing insurance. Consumer NZ found there was an annual price difference of more than \$300 between the most expensive and cheapest contents insurance policies.

Consider an alarm

Ask your insurer if they will give you a cheaper premium if you install an alarm or cameras. If you were considering it anyway, you might find the saving subsidises the cost of installation.

Pay annually

If your budget can stretch to paying your premiums annually, you'll get a discount.

Reassess your needs

No one wants to spend their spare time reviewing their insurance needs, but you could save hundreds each year. Your life insurance needs will be different if you no longer have dependants living at home and have repaid your mortgage.

Consider third-party

It might be tempting to cancel your car insurance if it's not worth a lot, but if you cause an accident, you could be responsible for the damage you cause to another car. You could consider the cheaper third-party option that will cover you just for the damage to the other car. You can also get a third-party fire and theft policy, which covers you if your car is stolen or damaged by fire.

Have policies with the same insurer

If you have one insurer you could get a multi-policy discount, up to 20%. You should only stick with the same insurer if the price is right.

Rates rebate scheme

Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The Rates Rebate Scheme is a partial refund for people who pay rates to their council. It exists to provide financial relief for low-income New Zealanders owning their own home, including those living in retirement villages.

If you're eligible, you have until 30 June this year to apply to your local council.

The maximum rebate this year is \$750, and the income abatement threshold increased to \$30,100, aiming to help up to 100,000 low-income homeowners pay rates to their local council.

To be eligible you must be living in your own home since 1 July of the current financial year and be listed as the ratepayer in the council's Rating Information Database.

If you own more than one property, you can't claim rates rebate for other properties, even if they're in a different council area.

You can't apply for a rebate if your property is not your usual place of residence or is mainly used for commercial activities such as farming, business, or is a rental property or holiday home.

Most retirement village residents, including people who live under a licence to occupy agreement, can apply for a rates rebate. In your application, you must also complete the retirement village resident's declaration form.

If your name is not on the rates bill, you can still apply if you live in an owner occupier flat such as a company share flat or apartment. Your application must also include the company share apartment declaration form.

We have a member who is urgently seeking a rental property in Whakatane. If you know of anything that may be suitable, please let Kylie know.

Visit this website for more information.

[What is a rates rebate | New Zealand Government \(www.govt.nz\)](https://www.govt.nz/what-is-a-rates-rebate/)



Farewell & Thank You to Rosemary Sloman

In December 2023 we farewelled Rosemary from our Board of Trustees.

During her time on the board, she made some wonderful contributions to VEBV and we are sorry to see her leave.

Thank you Rosemary and all the very best for the future!



Kylie has become an expert on the barbie lately.

She did a lovely cook up for our Edgecumbe members for their monthly morning tea.

Also, a little birdie told me she has a special day coming up.

Being a leap year baby, she will turn 10 in leap years and 40 in normal years on Thursday!

Happy Birthday Kylie from all of us here at VEBV



Out & About with VEBV - Opotiki Trip

A small group of our members enjoyed a lovely day out in Opotiki recently.

We visited the Opotiki Arts Exhibition, the Opotiki Library, had lunch at the café then came home via the new subdivision in progress on the outskirts of Opotiki.

Thank you to WEB for providing us with a driver for the day – (thank you Hanz) and to Pacific Toyota for the use of their community coach.

Check out the amazing Art from 2 of our BOT Members!!



Top Left: Art Piece by David Poole
Bottom Left: Artwork by Rosemary Sloman



Thanks to Professionals who print our monthly newsletter.

