

# TAIHAPE NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

## March 2025 Newsletter

*Neighbourhood Support is a nationwide community-led movement that brings people and neighbourhoods together to create safe, resilient and connected communities. Over 220,000 households are part of the growing network. We work alongside NZ Police and other partners to equip neighbourhoods to improve safety, be prepared for emergencies and support one another so that our communities are great places in which to live.*



*To learn more about creating safer, more caring and connected streets in our town, contact Elizabeth Mortland, Coordinator, Taihape Neighbourhood Support (TNS) – [elizmortland@gmail.com](mailto:elizmortland@gmail.com)  
Tel: 021 0261 6002 or 06 388 0565*

### Taihape Civil Defence Community Response Plan

“The primary purpose of Community Response Plans is to enable communities to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies by fostering self-reliance and coordination among community members, local authorities, and other relevant community organizations. Community Response Plans help communities understand the potential hazards they face and the associated risks. They facilitate clear communication channels and coordination among community members, local authorities, emergency services, and other relevant organizations. Finally, Community Response Plans aim to equip communities with the knowledge and resources to handle the immediate aftermath of an emergency, potentially before outside help can arrive. Helping you to be prepared, Community Response Plans focus on creating a family plan, building a household kit with essential supplies (non-perishable food, water, first aid, etc.), and learning about local hazards and emergency procedures.” – Paul Chaffe, RDC Emergency Management Officer.

The Taihape Response Group Committee comprises representatives from the Fire Brigade, Police, St John, Taihape Health Centre, Mokai Patea Services, Rangitikei District Council (RDC), Taihape Neighbourhood Support (TNS), Work & Income, Taihape Older & Bolder, Taihape Area School, St Joseph’s School, Search & Rescue, Taihape FoodBank, churches and Mangaweka. This Group had weekly teleconference calls during the first COVID lock-down. TNS has been working with a group of people from Mangaweka to do a Mangaweka Community Response Plan – this will be completed shortly.

The Taihape Civil Defence Community Response Plan was delivered to all households in 2022.

Cyclone Gabrielle showed that communities with strong connections and prepared households were better enabled to manage the disruption and welfare needs made by the event. To this end, TNS will call a meeting of the Taihape Response Group Committee in a month or so to review the Plan.

The RDC Emergency Management Officer has organised training for civil defence volunteers, and we have 10 volunteers attending a First Aid course on 23 April and two volunteers for the Welfare Centre Staff course on 12 April. If you are interested in being a civil defence volunteer, contact TNS.

We all need to be prepared for an emergency – for up to seven days! Winter is almost upon us, so it is time to get our emergency kits ready and up to date, and our emergency plans in place. We need:

- 10 litres of water per person per day – up to seven days – for drinking, washing, cooking, cleaning, pets
- Easy to heat or eat cold pre-cooked food – baked beans, spaghetti, tinned fish/chicken/fruit/vegetables, pouch meals, dehydrated meals, etc

- Tin opener                      LED torch, lanterns, spare batteries                      Camping stove, barbeque
- Some form of shelter in case your house gets damaged                      Bleach, soap, etc
- Bucket, plastic bags, toilet paper for an emergency toilet                      First Aid kit
- Prescription medication, glasses                      Pet food
- Food and nappies for baby                      Toys for your children

Keep these in a location where everyone knows and rotate the food through household supplies regularly. Change the stored water every six months – when you change your smoke alarm batteries at daylight saving times.

### Let's start getting our emergency kit together!

When an emergency happens, civil defence and emergency services will be busy helping the people who need them the most. Get your household ready. It's up to you to make sure your family, and the people you care about, know what to do. Food-grade, water-storage containers are best (or plastic soft-drink bottles – do not use containers that have had milk or fruit juice in them). Thoroughly clean the containers with hot water (not boiling, as this will destroy the bottle). Fill them to the top with regular tap water until it overflows. Add 5 drops per litre of non-scented liquid household chlorine bleach. Date the outside so you know when you filled it.

### Taihape Neighbourhood Support Inc. - Annual General Meeting

We had an excellent meeting on Tuesday 18 March 2025 with 13 attendees and 10 apologies. The new committee consists of Ann Abernethy, Philip Shaw, Win Houghton, Gary Johnson, Lynda McKnight-Wilson, Elizabeth Mortland, Peter Kipling-Arthur, Tracey Peters and Carolyn Kipling-Arthur. Thanks to Helen Welch for the yummy cupcakes for supper.

### Street/Group Contact People – BBQ

The BBQ for all TNS Street/Rural Contact People on Friday 28 February was a great evening. This was an opportunity for us all to touch base and have an informal get-together and revitalize TNS for this new year. We had three Street Contacts and one Rural Contact, plus six committee members and a TNS member. We also had six apologies.

### Crime cannot exist in a community that cares

#### THANK YOU



Neighbourhood Support New Zealand – funding for new Infoodle database.

