



TŪĀTAPERE

Community Response Plan



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Printed version is no longer controlled, check EMS website for current plan.

Updated June 2026

Tūātapere Community Response Plan



Emergency Management Southland contact details

- **Website:** <https://www.cdsouthland.nz>
- **Phone:** 0800 76 88 45
- **Email:** ems@cdsouthland.nz
- **Facebook:** @cdsouthland (Emergency Management Southland)
- **Instagram:** @southlandcdem

If you would like to become part of the Tūātapere Community Response Group or have any questions, please contact Emergency Management Southland.

How to Stay Informed During an Emergency

Visit <https://cdsouthland.nz/useful-things/> for information on:

- Helpful resources
- Tsunami maps
- Weather
- River status
- Power outages
- Roads
- Geonet (Earthquake information)

Local radio stations to listen to during an emergency

Station	Frequency
The Hits	Te Anau 90.4FM & rest of Southland 98.8FM
Hokonui	All of Southland 94.8FM
More FM	Te Anau 96.0FM & rest of Southland 89.2FM
Newstalk ZB	All of Southland 864AM
Radio New Zealand	Te Anau 101.6FM, Milford Sound 92.0FM & rest of Southland 101.2FM
Radio Southland	All of Southland 96.4FM

Antenno

Receive notifications direct to your phone on council services, flood warnings, hazards, roadworks, service disruptions, community events, and more. You can also use Antenno to tell us about things that need our attention, or give us feedback, direct through the app. Antenno is available for free for iPhone and Android devices. Setup is easy and doesn't require signing-up.



Purpose of the Community Response Groups

Community Response Groups before an emergency

The more prepared a community is, the better placed it will be to look after itself and support others during an emergency.

The Community Response Group helps prepare the community by:

- Developing and maintaining this Community Response Plan.
- Identifying local hazards, risks, and community vulnerabilities.
- Providing information on Community Emergency Hubs and community gathering places.
- Maintaining important local contact information.
- Working with Emergency Management Southland to strengthen community preparedness and resilience.
- Reviewing and updating this plan as community needs and circumstances change.

This plan is a living document and can be updated at any time in partnership with Emergency Management Southland.

Community Response Groups during an emergency

During an emergency, the Community Response Group acts as Emergency Management Southland's primary point of contact within the community and provides local community support.

The Community Response Group may:

- Consider activation when local conditions indicate community support may be needed. Emergency Management Southland may discuss the situation with the Community Response Group, however the decision to activate remains with the Community Response Group based on local needs and available capacity.
- Self-activate to provide community assistance when required.
- Share local information and situational awareness with Emergency Management Southland.
- Support communication of key messages to the community.
- Help identify vulnerable people who may need additional support.
- Assist with coordinating available local resources and community-led initiatives.
- Provide a safe and trusted point of contact for community members.
- Support community resilience through local leadership and coordination.

Community Response Groups after an emergency

Community Response Groups play an important role in supporting community recovery and helping communities return to normal functionality.

The Community Response Group may:

- Act as a link between the community and recovery agencies.
- Provide local knowledge to support recovery planning and decision-making.
- Identify community recovery needs and priorities.
- Help communicate recovery information and opportunities to the community.
- Advocate for community concerns and aspirations.
- Support initiatives that contribute to long-term community wellbeing and resilience.

Further information on recovery arrangements can be found in the Southland Recovery Plan at: www.cdsouthland.nz



Community Details

Demographic details

Tūatapere is a small rural township in western Southland, located near the south coast of the South Island and approximately 80 kilometres west of Invercargill. The town sits near the lower reaches of the Waiau River and State Highway 99, and is often referred to as the gateway to Fiordland for the Western Southland area. Surrounded by pastoral farmland, native forest, and rugged coastal environments, Tūatapere provides access to the southern margins of Fiordland National Park. Nearby settlements such as Blackmount inland and Ōrepuki along the coast are closely connected to Tūatapere and form part of the wider local community.



The wider Tūatapere area has a small and stable population with a distinctly rural character and a median age slightly higher than the national average. The community includes long-term residents, farming families, forestry workers, and retirees. Blackmount is a very small inland settlement located within the Waiau Valley, closely associated with sheep and beef farming, while Ōrepuki is a coastal settlement with a mix of permanent residents and seasonal visitors, particularly during summer months.

Historically, forestry, sawmilling, and agriculture have been central to the local economy, with farming continuing to play a significant role today. Tourism is increasingly important, supported by attractions such as the Hump Ridge Track, fishing and hunting opportunities, heritage sites, and coastal recreation. Ōrepuki's rugged coastline and gemstone beaches contribute to the area's visitor appeal, while Tūatapere functions as the main service and community hub for surrounding rural settlements.

The Tūatapere–Blackmount–Ōrepuki area is characterised by strong local connections,



volunteer organisations, and community-led initiatives, which contribute to local resilience. These social networks are particularly important given exposure to natural hazards such as river flooding, coastal erosion along the Ōrepuki shoreline, and seismic risk common across Southland and the lower South Island.

Identified potential vulnerable sub communities

Emergencies affect all of us. Depending on the nature, extent and timing of an emergency, some people can be more affected than others. We need to ensure equity in response to improve assistance to all in the community. Groups who may need consideration include:

- Southland District Council Community Housing
- Tourists
 - Monkey Island Campground
 - Clifden Bridge
 - Motor Home Association
 - Rarakau Car Park
 - Last Light Lodge
 - Borland Lodge Camp
 - Blackmount Camp
 - Tui Base Camp
 - Lagoon Campers
 - Hump Ridge Track
 - Brunel Peaks Café & Car
- Schools (Waiau Area School + Horoko Valley School)

Neighbouring communities

In an emergency, it's important that neighbouring communities work together to support each other. Nearby communities can provide help if your own community is overwhelmed or unable to meet all its needs. This might include sharing resources like emergency shelters, equipment, vehicles, or trained personnel. Likewise, your community may assist others by sending support when they are in need. Reach out to the following communities during an emergency:

- Eastern Bush
- Merrivale
- Blackmount
- Orepuki
- Orawia
- Feldwick
- Clifden
- Monowai
- Ohai/ Nightcaps



Significant local treasures/ assists

Every community has special places, items, or traditions that are important to its identity — such as marae, historic buildings, taonga, community centres, or natural landmarks. These are considered significant local treasures, and while protecting people is always the top priority during a natural disaster, it's also worth planning how to protect these treasures if it's safe to do so. Following local treasures have been identified by the community:

- Central & Western Archives
- Community & Heritage Hub
- RSA Hall
- Bushman's Museum
- Clifden Suspension Bridge



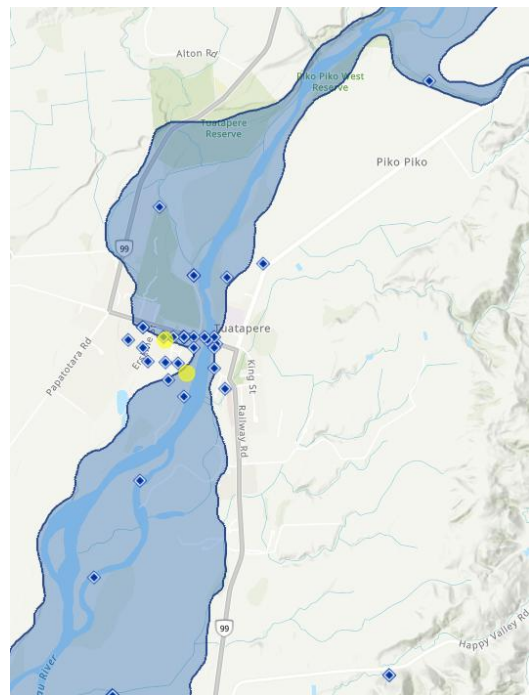
Tūātapere Community Hazard and Risk Summary

Overview

Hazard and risk information serves to provide a clear understanding of the potential dangers that could impact the community. These hazards and risks outline the nature, characteristics, and potential effects of the hazard, which is crucial to gain an understanding of the dangers the community faces.

1. Flooding

- **Risk Level (Priority):** High
- **Description:** Tūātapere is highly susceptible to riverine flooding due to its proximity to the Waiau River. The township has experienced significant historical flooding, most notably in 1984 when widespread inundation occurred across Southland. Prolonged rainfall and high river flows can pose a risk. Surface flooding from intense rainfall can also impact low-lying areas. Eg. Orawia Rd, Happy Valley Rd, Pukemaori Rd and the Coast road.
- **Impacts:** Property damage, farmland inundation, road closures, isolation, disruption to services, and potential evacuation.
- **Mitigation Strategies:**
 - Maintain drainage systems and flood banks.
 - Keep waterways and culverts clear.
 - Elevate valuable equipment and supplies in flood-prone areas.
 - Prepare emergency plans, including evacuation routes.
 - Monitor weather and river level updates.
- **Map Reference:** For detailed flood risk maps, refer to Environment Southland's hazard maps:



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/9e4fee97e31e47c3a32f6f152be51d34/>

2. Severe Weather (Heavy Rain, Wind, Storms)

- **Risk Level (Priority):** High
- **Description:** Tūatapere is exposed to severe weather systems coming from the Tasman Sea and Fiordland, bringing heavy rainfall, strong winds, and storms. These events can occur year-round but are more frequent in winter and spring.
- **Impacts:** Power outages, road closures, flooding, fallen trees, infrastructure damage, and isolation.
- **Mitigation Strategies:**
 - Secure loose outdoor items and structures.
 - Maintain trees and vegetation near buildings and roads.
 - Keep emergency supplies and backup heating available.
 - Stay informed through weather warnings and alerts.

3. Earthquake

- **Risk Level (Priority):** Medium
- **Description:** Tūatapere is located in a seismically active region of the lower South Island, with potential influence from nearby fault systems including the Alpine Fault. Large earthquakes are infrequent but possible.
- **Impacts:** Building damage, road disruption, utility outages, injury risk, and possible isolation.
- **Mitigation Strategies:**
 - Secure heavy furniture and appliances.
 - Develop household and community emergency plans.
 - Strengthen older structures where feasible.
 - Practice “Drop, Cover, Hold.”
- **Map Reference:** For New Zealand active faults map, refer to Earth Science NZ: <https://www.gns.cri.nz/data-and-resources/new-zealand-active-faults-map/>

4. Critical Infrastructure Failure

- **Risk Level (Priority):** Medium
 - **Description:** Tūatapere relies on key lifeline services such as electricity, telecommunications, water supply, and transport routes. Its relatively remote location increases vulnerability to extended outages, particularly during storms or flooding events.
 - **Impacts:** Loss of power and communications, limited access to essential services, water supply issues, and potential isolation.
 - **Mitigation Strategies:**
 - Maintain emergency kits with sufficient food, water, and supplies.
 - Use alternative heating and lighting sources safely.
 - Store fuel where necessary.
 - Strengthen community response networks.
-

5. Biosecurity (Pests and Animal Disease)

- **Risk Level (Priority):** Medium
 - **Description:** Tūatapere's agricultural and forestry-based economy is vulnerable to biosecurity threats, including invasive plant species, animal pests, and livestock diseases. These can spread through stock movement, equipment, visitors, or natural pathways.
 - **Impacts:** Economic losses, reduced productivity, animal health impacts, restrictions on stock movement, and environmental degradation.
 - **Mitigation Strategies:**
 - Follow good on-farm biosecurity practices.
 - Maintain accurate stock records (NAIT compliance).
 - Clean equipment and control farm access.
 - Report unusual pests or animal health concerns promptly.
 - Participate in regional pest management efforts
-

Hazard risk summary table

Hazard	Likelihood	Impact	Priority
Flooding	High	High	High
Severe Weather	High	High	High
Earthquake	Medium	High	Medium
Lifeline Utility Failure	Medium	High	Medium
Biosecurity	Medium	High	Medium

- **Likelihood:** Probability that the hazard will occur in or impact Tūātapere.
- **Impact:** The scale of consequences the hazard would have on the community (people, infrastructure, economy, environment).
- **Note:** This assessment has been based on qualitative judgment and local context to guide how likelihood and impact are rated. For example, flooding is “High” likelihood in Tūātapere due to known historical events, even if flood defences are present.

Maps and diagrams (Useful links)

- **Environment Southland Hazard Summaries:** Comprehensive summaries of various hazards affecting towns in Southland, including Tūātapere. It provides detailed flood risk maps for Tūātapere, illustrating areas susceptible to flooding: <https://maps.es.govt.nz>
- **Seismic Hazard Maps:** The New Zealand National Seismic Hazard Model offers maps indicating earthquake probabilities across regions: <https://www.gns.cri.nz>
- **Natural Hazards Portal:** The Natural Hazards Portal allows exploration of various hazard risks and historical claims data: <https://www.naturalhazardsportal.govt.nz>

Identified local critical infrastructure/ vulnerabilities

Critical infrastructure refers to essential facilities and systems that support the functioning and wellbeing of the community. Damage to or disruption of these assets during an emergency could significantly impact Tūātapere’s ability to respond and recover.

- Tūatapere 4Square
- Drinking water
- Medical Centre
- Pretol Stations/GAS
- Electicity
- Septic
- Bridges



Key Identified Local Resources

The resources listed in this plan are key examples intended to support community preparedness and response. While they represent a broad range of services and support networks, they are not a comprehensive list. Communities are encouraged to identify and connect with additional local organisations, cultural groups, and informal networks that play vital roles in resilience and wellbeing.

Key Local Emergency Service contacts - For urgent matters please dial 111

Organisation	Name	Phone	Address	Other details
Police – Tūatapere	Gary Mahuika	021 190 5708	17 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9642	gary.mahuika@police.govt.nz
Police – Tūatapere	Damon Templeton	021 191 5316	17 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9642	damon.templeton@police.govt.nz
FENZ - CFO	Brendon Diack	027 231 9708	4 Gillies Street, Tūatapere 9642	brendon.diack@fireandemergency.nz
St John - Group Operations Manager – Southland West	Kat Andrew	027 291 5462	25 Luxmore Drive, Te Anau 9600	katrina.andrew@stjohn.org.nz
St John – Volunteer Team Leader Tūatapere	Lynley Patterson	027 4297 436	69a Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	lynley.patterson@stjohn.org.nz

Southland District Council

Organisation	Phone	Address	Other details
Tūatapere Waste Water Treatment Plant	0800 732 732	Elder Drive, Tūatapere 9691	sdcc@southlanddc.govt.nz
Community Partnership Leader – Stella O'Connor	0800 732 732	15 Forth Street, Invercargill 9810	stella.oconnor@southlanddc.govt.nz
Tūatapere Te Waewae Community Board Chair – Anne Horrell	021 216 9808		altonlea.horrells@xtra.co.nz

Medical and support agencies

Organisation	Phone	Address	Other details
Tūatapere Medical Centre	03 226 6123	69a Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Western Southland Health Shuttle	0800 103 046	69A Owaria Road, 9620	
St John Tūatapere		69A Owaria Road, 9620	

Utility services and supplies

Organisation	Phone	Address	Other details
Arts Contracting	03 226 6551	89 Half Mile Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Kings Rural Transport	027 215 3089	1898 Otautau-Tūatapere Road, Pukemaori 9682	
KJ Sutherland Contracting	027 436 7934	2475 Ohai Clifden Road RD2, Orawia 9682	
Lindsay & Dixon	03 2266 059	9 Main Road Tūatapere 9620	
Singh Building Ltd	027 942 9316	200 Lillburn Valley Road, RD 1, Tūatapere 9691	
PPG Wrightson	03 226 9360	39 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Jay Brownlee Electrician	027 496 5863		

Service stations, supermarkets and food establishments

Organisation	Phone	Address	Other details
RD Petroleum		45 Half Mile Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Four Square	03 226 6898	73 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Allied Tūatapere	03 348 6086	20 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Hungry Hippo	03 226 6417	59 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Boundary Creek General Store	022 430 7210	3A Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	

Education providers, rest home, marae, faith and community organisations

Organisation	Phone	Address	Other details
Tūatapere Playgroup	027 551 5591	23B Orawia Road Tūatapere 9691	
Hauoko Valley Primary School	03 226 6753	956 Clifden Highway, Clifden 9691	
Pukemaori Bowling Club	03 226 6223	19 Sim Road, Pukemaori 9682	
Tūatapere Bowling Club	03 226 6492	10 Birch Street, Tūatapere 9620	

Tūatapere Bushman's Museum	03 226 6739	31 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Cemetery Trust	03 226 6065	Clifden Highway, Tūatapere 9691	
Tūatapere Community Garden	03 266 6065	Half Mile Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Community Information Centre Trust	03 226 6739	31 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Community Worker Support Group Trust	027 7575 983	5/69A Orawia Road Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Golf Club	03 226 6602	4 Clifden Domain Road, Rowallan 9691	
Tūatapere Highland Piping & Dancing	027 361 4474	61 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	
The Anglican Church of St. George	03 226 6772	43 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Pipe Band Hall	03 226 6017	50 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere RSA	03 226 6635	61 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Tennis Club	027 525 5052	45 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Tūatapere Toy Library	0274 759 075	66 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Waiau Area School	03 226 6285	47 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Waiau Indoor Bowls	021 0234 7085	41 King Street, Tūatapere 9620	
Waiau Memorial Library	03 226 6613	8 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Waiau Small Bore Rifle Club	03 226 6969	61 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	

Waiau Squash Racquets Club	021 259 9287	41 King Street, Tūatapere 9620	
Waiau Star Rugby Club	027 270 0363	Elder Drive, Tūatapere 9691	
Waiau Swimming Club		66 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Waiau Town & Country Indoor Bowls	021 0234 7085	41 King Street, Tūatapere 9620	
Te Waewae Pony Club	03 226 6822	180 Te Waewae Road, RD1 Riverton, Tūatapere 968	
Waiau Valley Presbyterian Parish	03 249 7174	63 Main Street, Tūatapere 9682	
Western Southland Gun Club	03 226 6654	Otautai Tūatapere Road, Tūatapere 9691	
Western Southland Wool & Craft Group	022 103 9327	Erskine Street, Tūatapere 9620	

Additional resources

Organisation	Phone	Address	Other details
Central & Western Archives	027 211 4675	48 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	
Last Light Lodge	03 226 6667	2 Clifden Highway, Tūatapere 9620	
Southland Locator Beacon Charitable Trust	027 412 2925	16 King St, Tūatapere 9620	
Tui Base Camp	03 226 6250	2 McFeely Street, Tūatapere 9620	
Waiau Town & Country Club	03 226 6489	41 King Street, Tūatapere 9620	
Blooming Boulders	027 475 9075	46 Clifden Highway, Tūatapere 9620	
Country Corner Tūatapere	021 0824 2716	1A Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620	

Community Emergency Hubs

Community Emergency Hubs provide pre-identified places where the community can gather in the event of an emergency. Not all hubs will be suitable during an emergency, and it is up to the community to decide at the time. It is possible that a new venue will need to be found, but the concept of a location where the community can gather is vital during a response as people seek immediate support, shelter, comfort and information.

Each pre-determined location will be provided with an Emergency Community Hub Guide and be able to access advice from Emergency Management Southland if they require further information or support. Contact information for the hubs will be available on the following page.

Community Emergency Hub key holders

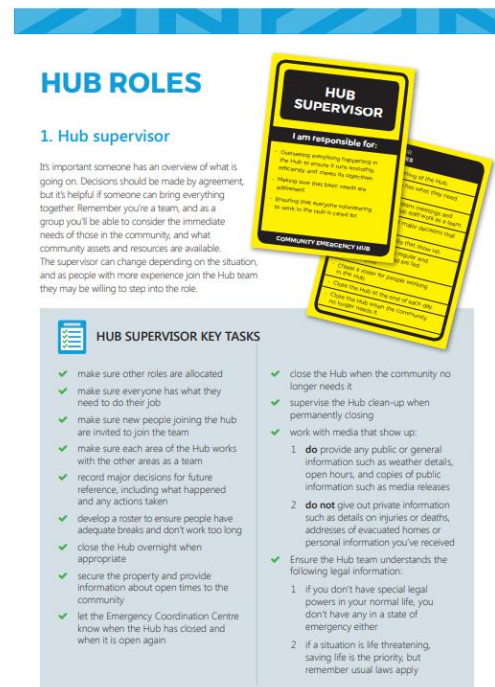
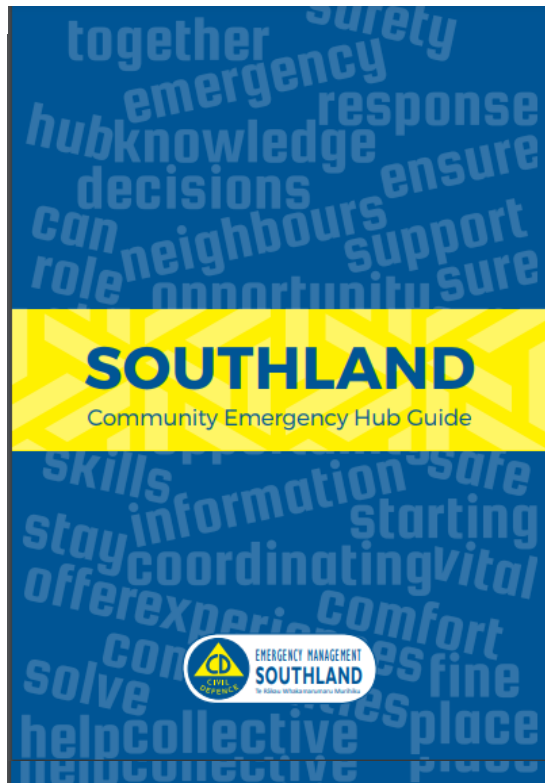
Name	Phone	Address	Key Holders
Main			
Waiau Town and Country Club	03 226 6489	41 King Street, Tūatapere 9620	Mark Hewton – 021 713 243 Bill Wright – 021 742 170
Alternative			
Last Light Lodge	03 226 6667	2 Clifden Highway, Tūatapere 9620	Craig and Violaine Rutland – 022 105 1664
Tūatapere RSA Hall	03 226 6635	61 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620	Wayne Edgerton – 021 025 11631

Basic items for a Community Emergency Hub

When opening a Community Emergency Hub, it's essential to bring basic items to support coordination, communication, and community-led response. These items are critical to help the community self-organise, share information, and meet urgent needs during a disaster when emergency services may be delayed. These items may include:

- Water
- Tea, coffee, milk
- Food
- Toilet paper
- First aid kits
- Blankets
- Torches
- Lighters
- BBQ/ LPG bottle
- Games
- Lighting
- Generators/ fuel
- Anything else that you feel is appropriate

Refer to *Southland Community Emergency Hub Guide* for more information on the set up and running of a Community Emergency Hub during an emergency response.



Community VHF Radio

A community VHF radio (Very High Frequency radio) is a key tool for communication during emergencies, especially when other forms of communication, like mobile phones or landlines, are unavailable due to network failures or power outages. This can be a communities only way to communicate with the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) if telecommunications have been disrupted due to an emergency event. Training to become familiar can be provided. Instructions on how the VHF radio are attached to the radio.



Name	Place	Address	Key Holders
Tūatapere Community VHF Radio	Tūatapere Fire Station	4 Gillies Street, Tūatapere 9620	Brendan Diack - 027 231 9708 Tūatapere FENZ Brigade members

Community Response Group Contact Lists

Emergency Management Southland

Name	Phone	Email	Other details
EMS Duty Advisor	03 211 5411 0800 76 88 45	ems@cdsouthland.nz	24/7 monitoring and on call for all enquiries
Emergency Management Advisor	021 300 272	oliver.todd@cdsouthland.nz	Oliver Todd - Liaison with the community of Tūātapere

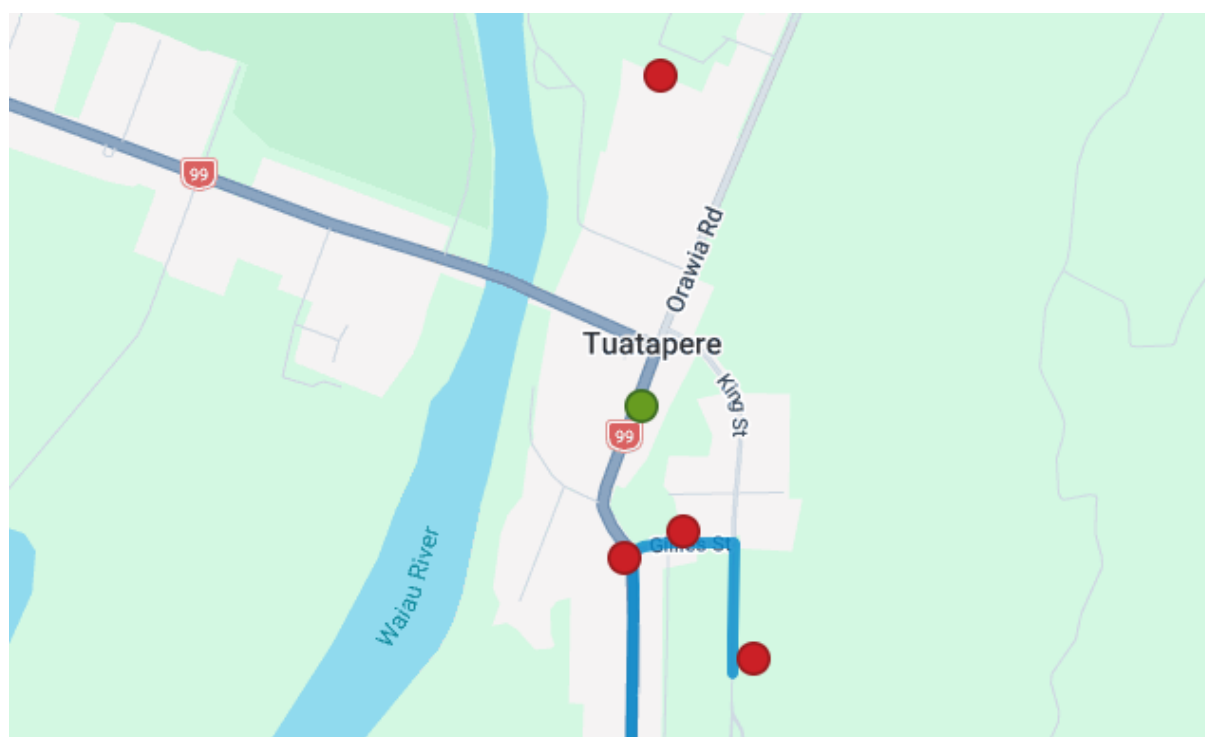
Key Community Response Group members

Name	Phone	Email	Other details
John Munro			
Brendon Diack			
Teri Diack			
Lynette Chambers			
Des Chambers			
Quinton Erskine			
Ann Sutherland			
Colin Philips			
Paula Anderson			
Kate Egerton			

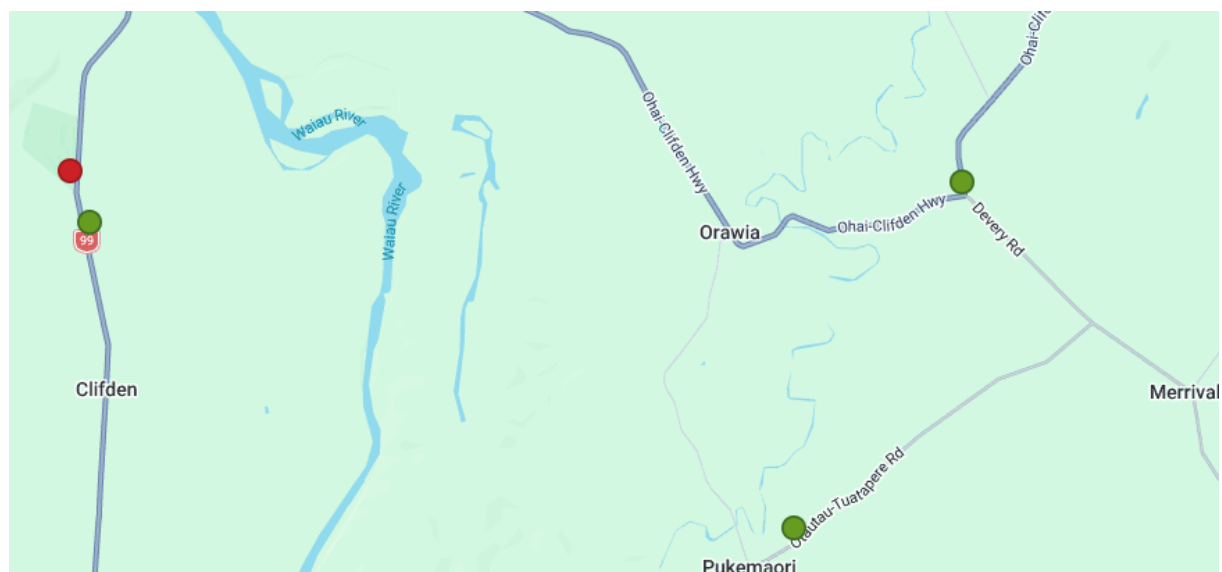
Appendix 1 – AED Locations

The table below lists the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) available within the community, including their locations and access arrangements as of May 2026. Refer to the website for updated locations: <https://aedlocations.co.nz>

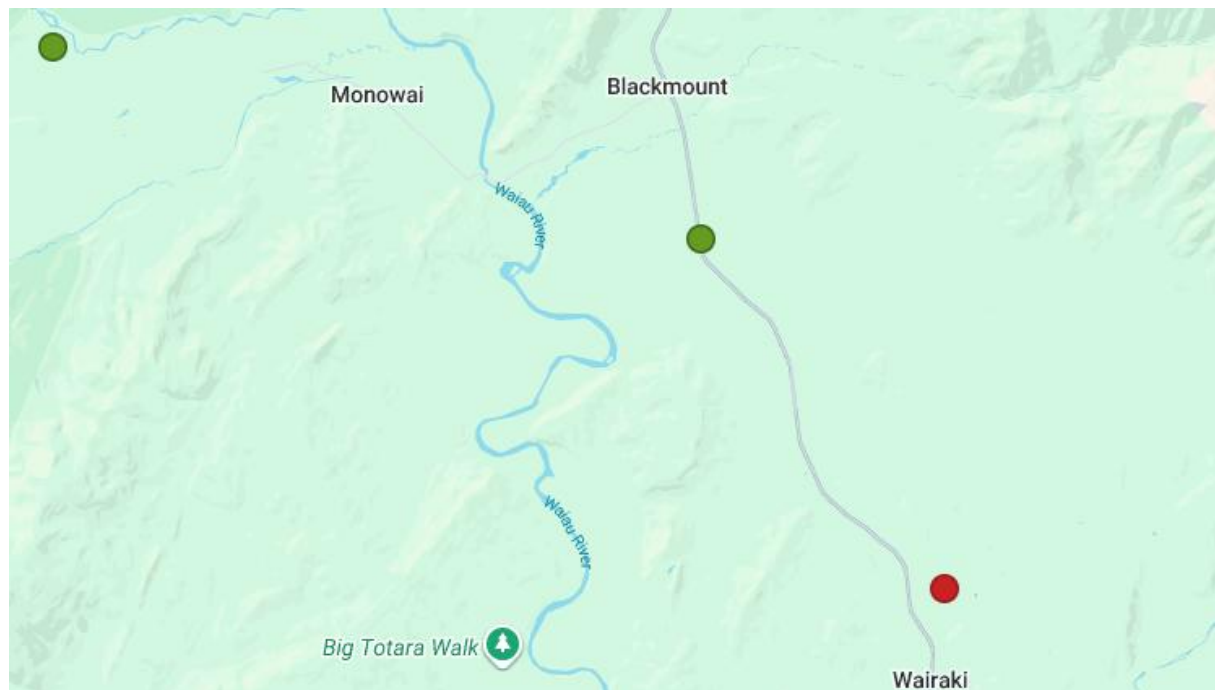
Organisation	Address	Phone	Location	Opening Hours
Waiau Town and Country Club	41 King Street, Tūatapere 9620	03 226 6489	Inside Lounge	Mon: 11:30am-10:30pm Tues: 11:30am-10:30pm Wed: 11:30am-10:30pm Thurs: 11:30am-10:30pm Fri: 12pm-10pm Sat: 11am-10pm Sun: 3pm-9pm
Four Square Supermarket Tūatapere	73 Main Road, Tūatapere 9620			
Tūatapere Fire/Ambulance Station	4 Gillies St, Tūatapere 9620	111		
Tūatapere Service Station	20 Orawia Road, Tūatapere 9620			Available 24/7
Tūatapere Medical Centre	69A Orawia Rd, Tūatapere 9620	03 226 6123		Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm Sat: Closed Sun: Closed



Organisation	Address	Phone	Location	Opening Hours
Hauroko Valley Primary School	956 Clifden Highway, RD 1, Tūatapere 9691	111	Cabinet - Administration Block	Available 24/7
Tūatapere Golf Club	2/4 Clifden Domain Rd, Clifden 9691			
DT Kings	1898 Otautau Tūatapere Road, Pukemaori 9682		Located under the main office veranda directly opposite the weigh bridge. Secure External Cabinet.	Available 24/7
Orawia Community Centre	2044 Ohai Clifden Highway, Eastern Bush 9682		Located under veranda on the south wall - Secure external cabinet	Available 24/7



Organisation	Address	Phone	Location	Opening Hours
Eastern Bush Hall Community Centre	45 Otahu Eastern Bush Road, Eastern Bush 9682		Secure Cabinet - By Girls' Toilet	Available 24/7
Private Address	2030 Clifden Blackmount Road, Wairaki 9682		Meeting Room - Inside Sliding Door - New Building 800m up driveway	
Blackmount Community Centre - Old School	4288 Blackmount Redcliff Road, Blackmount 9682		Secure Red Cabinet	Available 24/7
Borland Lodge Adventure and Education Trust	347 Borland Road, Monowai 9682	03 225 5464	Secure Cabinet - By Manager's Office	Available 24/7



Organisation	Address	Phone	Location	Opening Hours
Orepuki Fire Station	41 Oldham Street, Orepuki, Riverton / Aparima 9881		Cabinet - By door	Available 24/7

