

Chair's Report – February 2023

Firstly I'd like to acknowledge the terrible devastation that Cyclone Gabrielle has wreaked havoc throughout mainly the North Island, but particularly our Zone neighbours in Gisborne, Wairoa, Hawkes Bay and Taranaki. Our hearts go out to all those affected, and we will be discussing our Council's response later today in the full Council meeting.

Welcome Councillors back to the table for 2023.

I look forward to working with you all, and as we're already aware we've got some BIG decisions ahead.

This made me reflect on Brene Brown's interpretation of BIG.

She says we all need to '**Live BIG**': ie set Boundaries, have Integrity, show Generosity.

Having clear boundaries, being clear on what behaviour is ok.

Integrity; is the quality of being whole and honest and how we set our boundaries and hold ourselves accountable.

"Integrity is choosing courage over comfort; its doing what is right over what is fun, fast or easy; its choosing to practice our values rather than simply professing them."

Generosity is believing people are doing their best with all their ability, resources and knowledge they have right now. We are all here with positive intent.

Nāu te rourou, ōaku te rourou ka ora ai te iwi

With your basket and my basket, we will sustain everyone.

This whakatauki talks to community, to collaboration and a strengths-based approach. It acknowledges that everybody has something to offer, a piece in the puzzle, and by working together we can all flourish.