



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## ENERGY TRUST SUPPORTS CHRISTMAS EVENTS

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust approved total distributions of \$105,180 for seven energy-related community projects, at its monthly meeting on 27 October.

Christmas in the Park events in Whakatane, Kawerau, Opotiki and Murupara will be supported, with each area receiving up to \$5000 to cover the cost of sound and lighting equipment hire.

Funding of \$29,750 was approved towards Whakatane District Council's Christmas lighting upgrade, which will see Christmas lighting decorations in all the major centres in the District – Te Teko, Matata, Ohope, Edgecumbe, Murupara, Kopeopeo, and the replacement of old lights in The Strand, Whakatane and Taneatua.

The new Matata Early Learning Centre, to be built on the Matata Public School site, received \$28,566 funding for electrical work, insulation, heat pumps and an oven.

Puawairua Marae is part-way through an upgrade of old buildings, and received funding of \$26,864 for the installation of kitchen and laundry appliances, and a new hot water system.

Trust Chairman Mrs Toni Owen announced the distributions and said "The Trustees are happy to support projects that will have wide benefits for the community, and the Christmas in the Park events are certainly enjoyed by many of the Trust's beneficiaries. The Trust has supported the Christmas lighting programmes of the three District Councils for many years now, and this funding means that Christmas lighting decorations will be installed in more of the outlying townships, to be enjoyed by more of the Trust's beneficiaries."

### ***For further information contact***

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