



MEDIA RELEASE

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TRUST SUPPORTS NEW GYMNASIUM

Grants totalling \$171,495 were approved at the September meeting of the Eastern Bay Energy Trust, for community projects throughout the Eastern Bay.

Trustees voted to support the Eastern Bay of Plenty Gymnasium Club's new gymnasium, to be built on the Whakatane High School grounds. The \$90,741 grant will cover the costs of lighting, insulation and heating, electrical components and kitchen appliances, fire and security systems.

Whakatane Musical Theatre received a grant of \$40,000 to purchase theatrical lighting which will be available for use by community organisations at a small charge to cover the cost of maintenance and insurance. This is a similar arrangement to the theatrical lighting previously funded by the Trust and which is in the guardianship of Opotiki Drama Club, for use by community organisations.

Other successful recipients included Te Awanui Marae (\$28,918 for lighting and electrical work, hot water and kitchen upgrade); Te Kohange Reo O Wairaka (\$11,757 for heat pumps, lighting, ventilation, kitchen upgrade and security), Opotiki Golf Club which received an additional \$6640 for their kitchen upgrade.

Trustees also approved the hire of a generator so that Eastern Bay rugby supporters could watch the Ranfurly Shield defence game during the planned power shutdown in Opotiki.

Trust Chairman Toni Owen said "The Trustees have approved a major portion of the annual budget this month, and this is expected to be repeated next month when the full costs of the flood relief projects are known. We are pleased to support the hockey turf as it will be an important community asset that will not only benefit the sports people involved, but will also attract people to the region".

For further information contact

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