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## 🌟 Celebrating Te Wiki o te reo Māori 🌟

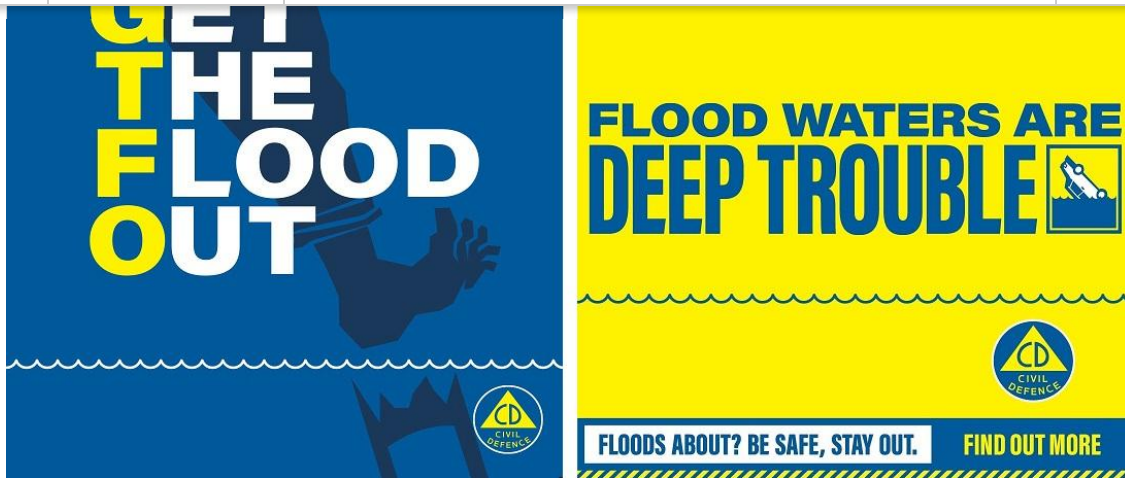
WREMO staff supported the National Māori Emergency Management Hui - Te Kotahitanga o Ngā Tai held in Porirua during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. An excellent event attended by 140 practitioners, emergency managers, volunteers, scientists and of course marae, hapū and whānau.

Some of our kaiāwhina (helpers) had the opportunity to waiata and mihimihi whilst offering manaakitanga to our esteemed manuhiri too. Every little bit counts! He iti, he pounamu.

*Nā to rourou, nā taku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi.*

*With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive.*





## Get The Flood Out

We've had a wet winter and spring can still bring some rain so remember when it comes to flood water, put safety first. Don't take any chances. Never try to walk, play, swim, or drive in floodwater: even water just 15 centimetres deep can sweep you off your feet, and half a metre of water will carry away most vehicles. Flood water is often contaminated and can make you sick.

Here's your top tips on how to keep safe in severe weather and flooding:

- Stay up to date with warnings and watches at [MetService](#).
- If heavy rain is forecast, clear stormwater drains and gutters to help prevent surface flooding.
- In high winds - secure or bring inside your outdoor items like trampolines, wheelie bins, chairs, and pets.
- Check road conditions on the [NZTA website](#) before travelling.
- Have an evacuation plan and prepare a grab bag with essentials. Follow any instructions about evacuation of your area. Flash floods can happen quickly so if you see rising water do not wait for official warnings, self-evacuate. GTFO (Get The Flood Out).

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## After a large earthquake - Don't Flush!

If a large earthquake were to occur on the Wellington fault, the region could see lengthy outages of wastewater and road networks. Recognising this, a Post-Earthquake Sanitation Plan has been produced by representatives from the region's nine councils, Massey

Lifelines Utilities Coordinator for the regional Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group, Richard Mowll, says people may be unable to flush their toilets for one to three months following a large earthquake, and should be prepared to store their own poos and wees for at least a week.

The sanitation plan suggests a number of options for emergency toilets from digging your own long drop to a two-bucket toilet system.

*"The 2011 Christchurch earthquake highlighted how vital it is that communities are prepared to manage their own waste following a large earthquake. Massey University and WREMO previously collaborated on a pilot of a two-bucket toilet system which found two-buckets – one for wee, and one for poo and toilet paper – to be the most viable option for residents of our region", Mowll says.*

Following this pilot, the region's nine councils, WREMO, Wellington Water, Regional Public Health, Ngāti Toa and managers of solid waste, discussed the process of capture, containment, emptying, transport, treatment and disposal of waste if the two-bucket system was implemented.

*"The goal of this system is to minimise gastro outbreaks in the community following an emergency event. The result of the research we've completed is a plan that acknowledges constraints but enables stakeholders and communities to take preparatory steps for, and respond to, sanitation outage events. We have found that members of the community will need to be self-sufficient for the first seven days following an event, and then adapt their sanitation practices in the weeks and months following, until wastewater networks are repaired. The plan also includes options for those with mobility impairments", Mowll says.*

For information on how to create a two-bucket system, or how to dig a long-drop toilet, visit: [www.getprepared.nz/emergency-toilets](http://www.getprepared.nz/emergency-toilets)





## ShakeOut!

New Zealand ShakeOut is our national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi. It's on Thursday 27 October 2022 at 9:30am. ShakeOut takes place across the world to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake. Drop, Cover and Hold. You can also practice a tsunami hīkoi (evacuation walk) if you're in a coastal area. Sign-up yourself, your school, or business/organisation on the [Get Ready website](#) to go in the draw to win a Civil Defence wheelie bin or personal grab bag.

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