



# HDC NEWS



From Left: Councillor Anne Marie Spicer, Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga, Rachael Coll, Briar Frew and Waihi East School Principal Zac Taylor  
Image: Scott Spicer

## Mayor recognises shining community star

The Mayor paid a surprise visit to Waihi East School last week to present Deputy Principal Rachael Coll with a special award for her contribution to local Matariki Celebrations.

"This award is a big deal," he said, "I only give these out occasionally, about once or twice a year, when it is extremely well deserved."

On this occasion he said he couldn't think of anyone more deserving of the award than Ms Coll, who has played a key role in growing Matariki Waihi from humble beginnings into a shining example of how communities can successfully work together to celebrate our bicultural heritage.



Last year more than 1500 people took part in the local Matariki hīkoi (march), at least 100 people attended a special dawn viewing and pōwhiri, and more than 400 children swung pois and piupius on stage.

Ms Coll was surprised and honoured to receive the award, which she said was a real team effort from too many people, agencies, and schools to mention individually.

"This award proves that our kaupapa (topic of Matariki) is being placed in high regard within Hauraki and Aotearoa. Ngā mihi nui (huge thanks) to our Mayor John Tregidga and the Hauraki District Council for acknowledging the importance of Te Ao Māori (Māori world) in our community."

## Busy builders

You may have noticed scaffolding, cranes, and lots of builders banging around our Paeroa office building lately. They're busy replacing our roof which has been doing a good impression of a sieve for the last few winters. They're also carrying out necessary earthquake strengthening and interior renovation work while they're at it.

You may occasionally hear some background noise when visiting the office or talking to us on the phone. We apologise for any inconvenience. We're still open for business as usual and appreciate your understanding while we get this job done.

We expect these renovations will be completed around the end of March.



## Fire by permit only

A restricted fire season is still in force in Hauraki, despite the recent soggy weather. This will be reviewed in early March, but in the meantime please contact us if you would like to apply for a permit to light a fire in the open air.

More information is available at [www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/fire](http://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/fire)



IS ALL ABOUT YOU



Keen to get out and get more active but not quite sure where to go or what to do?

Waihi's Morgan Park will be full of women and girls 'having a go' at Sport Waikato's This is ME launch festival from 10am this Saturday 17 February. Designed by women and girls, for women, girls and their families, the launch festival features local sport, physical activity, recreation and health providers and offers attendees the opportunity to find out about and connect with what is on offer in their local area.

Councillors and Council staff will also be at the event to chat with participants about Council facilities and activities throughout the District.

Waihi Ward Chair Max McLean says This is ME is a fantastic initiative aimed at supporting women and girls to take time out for themselves and get active in any way they choose.

"I'm a huge advocate for getting out and about and enjoying the outdoors, and we really are spoilt for choice when it comes to options on offer for physical activity in our District," he said.

As well as the Hauraki Rail Trail and other scenic walks, the Council has a wide range of facilities people may not be aware of such as swimming pools and event centres, playgrounds and sports grounds.

## Hauraki Thrill Sneakers hit the hills for charity



It could be said our Chief Executive Langley Cavers has led his staff on many a merry chase over the years, but this one may just take the cake!

On 10 and 11 March he will lead (drag, push, bribe) hiking team of four, the Hauraki Thrill Sneakers, on a 100km trek through the back-blocks of Whakatane to raise money for Oxfam, a charitable organisation taking on the much bigger challenge of global poverty and inequality.

The idea came from a desire to support less fortunate communities to establish safe drinking water and sanitation.

"As the provider of these services in Hauraki, this is an issue particularly close to our heart," says Cavers.

The team has been training hard for the last few months and discovering parts of the District (and muscles) they never knew existed in the process.

"We have some incredible bush and coastal walking tracks right on our back doorstep, the scenery alone has been worth the effort and verbal abuse from my team members," he laughs.

Other team members are Group Manager Engineering Services Adrian de Laborde, Construction and Maintenance Manager Mike Voykovich and Communications Officer Paula Trubshaw.

To support the Hauraki Thrill Sneakers by making a donation to Oxfam go to <https://www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/otw18/teams/hauraki-thrill-sneakers>