

# May Newsletter

As the season of Matariki draws close it is time to reflect on the year that has been, remember those who have passed from the world of the living and to celebrate hope and new life.

The rising of Matariki should not be understood merely as the beginning of the Māori new year. If we consider nga tamariki a Matariki, the children of Matariki, (the stars of the Matariki constellation) altogether they represent the different parts of the world around us, the heavens, the land, the forests, and the rivers down to the ocean. They also represent the past, the present, and the future. In Te Ao Māori, nothing exists in isolation, all things are connected.

Matariki serves to remind us of this. The Matariki star as the mother of her tamariki connects them all and in that way she represents the connection of all things, through space and through time. This is a Māori worldview. So when we take time to reflect on the rising of Matariki and her children, and everything they individually represent, we should also consider the interconnected nature of the world around us, including our place in it, our dependence upon it, and our duty of care towards

Artist credit Hāriata Mann

Read more about each of the tamariki of the Matariki by clicking the button

[Here](#)

## Matariki Planting Day

Celebrate Matariki by joining our Planting Day at Tawa Esplanade at 10AM on the 23rd of June. This is a free, family friendly event and kai will be provided afterward.

Please let us know if you're planning on joining in using the link below, it helps with our planning.

[Planting Day](#)

## What we're up to in the background

### Trapping

We are continuing with our trapping program and are seeing a significant amount of rats and mice trapped. The residents of Renata Ave in Te Atatu Peninsula have been particularly busy with 9 rats trapped in the last month. We are set to start our new trap line in Te Atatū South along the Waikumete Stream, which the Edmonton Scouts are will be monitoring. As we await our new traps we placed tracking cards and saw that many pest species had crossed the cards, we are looking forward to reducing their numbers very soon.

### Submission on the Fast Track Approvals Bill

You may be aware that the government is seeking to bring a piece of legislation called the 'Fast Track Approvals Bill' which seeks to provide a "streamlined decision-making process to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits". Which sounds good in theory but Rivercare Group Te Wai o Pareira, as well as many other environmental organisations, have some major concerns about the bill in its current format.

We feel that this piece of legislation does not give the environment adequate protection and there is too much scope for mistakes and exploitation to happen. The bill in its current form gives three ministers - Chris Bishop, Shane Jones and Simeon Brown - the power to make the final decisions on projects, even if it goes against the advice of expert panels.

We have put an official submission in regarding this bill and our recommendations are as follows:

- Do not allow any large scale project to proceed without an independent environmental assessment which is made public.
- All environmental assessments MUST include the wider impacts of the project, not just on the immediate location, but on the wider ecosystem and communities, including mana whenua.
- Engage with local communities as a part of the process to gain their insights and understanding of the impact of the project on people and place.

## Freshen Up Tawa

We held one of our freshen-up Tawa events on the 5th of May to get the area prepared for our upcoming planting day. We had a great turn out and were able to smash out the work in an hour.

Thank you to all those who came along, your mahi is appreciated

A huge thank you to our sponsors EcoMatters Environment Trust and Henderson Massey Local Board whose generous support provided the kai.

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