

*Destination Great Barrier Island*

C/- Claris Airport

*August 19, 2018*

Great Barrier Island Local Board

Hector Sanderson Road

Claris, Great Barrier Island

Dear Great Barrier Local Board

*Re; Accountability Funding Report on Funding Agreement for Matariki Festival*

Please find enclosed the report for the Local Board funded Matariki Festival.

Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards



17 August 2018

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*Gendie Somerville-Ryan*

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*17 August 2018*

**Destination Great Barrier Island Trust**

**C/- Claris Airport**

# **Accountability Funding Report**

**Report to;**

**Great Barrier Local Board**

**Hector Sanderson Road**

**Claris, GBI**

*Report prepared by;*

*Gendie Somerville-Ryan, Trustee*

**August 19 2018**

**Report to:** Great Barrier Local Board  
Hector Sanderson Road  
Claris, Great Barrier Island

**Accountability Funding Report for the period of the Matariki Festival**

The Local Board funded Matariki Festival was held between June 30 and July 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Summary**

The Matariki Festival was a huge success, with over 400 people attending various activities over the month. Each event was a highlight in its own right but some successes need to be noted: the marae dawn powhiri, the rocket making, the skills building activities, and the ball.

The attendance over the month demonstrates the enthusiasm the Island has for activities around Matariki and the Dark Sky. Now that the Festival has been established, we recommend this becomes an annual event. It promotes cultural understanding and community cohesion as well as promoting winter tourism of the best kind – stargazing.

**Publicity**

Local publicity was through posters, double page spreads in the Bulletin, and on the radio. Off Island publicity was through Eventfinda where 28,000 people viewed the event page. There was also wide publicity through both the astronomy and astrophotography Facebook pages with considerable interest in the outdoor photo exhibition.

Unfortunately we missed out on being listed in the Council's brochure of Matariki Festival events and despite sending information several times, we were not listed on the Matariki Festival webpage.

**Timing**

The event was planned to encompass not only the early sighting of Matariki, but also Mars in opposition – and the school holidays. The school holidays meant we captured off-Islanders as well as locals with airlines reporting a 24-30% increase on last year in air traffic during the month. The ferry, however, saw no increase in traffic. Some events had a 30% non-resident attendance.

## Event report

Matariki Festival			
Date	Activity	Attendees	Notes
	Photo exhibition		After an initial theft of one photo and the damaging of a second on day 1, the photo exhibition was much admired. Astro photographers were enthusiastic participants and have donated photos to the community.
Jun-30	Dawn ceremony	100	Nearly 50 travelled to the marae. Extremely well done and enjoyed by all. A great community cohesion exercise with very positive reviews from both the Marae and guests. Much talked about on the Island. The event was covered by Te Karere of TVNZ.
Jun-30	Star Stories of Aotea		Cancelled due to marae issues
Jul-01	rocket making	37 kids plus parents/grandparents	Under 9s did water rockets which could be improved and let off multiple times, and over 9s did solid fuel rockets. Solid fuel rockets travelled up to 250m. Great family exercise, especially for dads. Needed to have checked for fire permits
Jul-01	Killer asteroids	5	Very interesting talk by Alan Gilmore but low attendance due to a shocking wet night.
Jul-06	Measuring the darkness	12	good upskilling exercise by Nalayini Davies so we have the local capability to measure darkness.
Jul-07	Pathfinder stars	36	Presentation by Nalayini Davies and a clear night for star gazing - which everyone loved! Gareth Davies led the telescope work but it was good to have local

			helpers as well due to the number of attendees. Included 10 off-Islanders.
Jul-13	What's THAT star	24	Skies cleared for great star gazing led by Grant Christie. Again a very enthusiastic audience. Grant Christie is very impressed with our skies and will advocate for us.
Jul-14	Beginners Guide to Astronomy	19	Very well received session by Grant Christie. Attendees were from total novices to those with knowledge but Grant handled this well.
Jul-15	Make your own sundial		Cancelled due to extreme rain
Jul-20	Family movie night	26 kids plus some adults	Could have had a more suitable film but those there enjoyed it.
Jul-21	Photo workshop	12	Extras turned up although limited to 10. Great feedback and great skills building
Jul-21	Sounds of space	6	Clashed with darts and quiz night. Tim Natusch delivered a very interesting talk and is keen to promote Barrier as a star gazing place.
Jul-27	Mars on Medlands	20	A gift to the community from Good Heavens. 20 attended a fabulously clear night of star gazing - 2 other got lost and 2 got the day wrong. Beach viewing had the wow factor and the Good Heavens team were great with both children and adults.
Jul-28	Moondancing	19	All ages attended - from 3 to 63! It clashed with soccer and a Gallery workshop which probably limited numbers
Jul-28	Starlight Ball	over 100	Michelle Harris and the Tryphena Club did a great job both decorating the Club and running a very enjoyable

			event. A fitting end to the Matariki month

Close to 400 people attended Festival activities ranging in age from 3 to late 80s.

### Admin and running the Festival

Thanks are owed to many people for helping run the Festival: Dileeka Senewiratne at Auckland Council for making the guest speaker bookings, Orla Cumisky for doing the on-the-day organising, Deborah Kilgallon and Hilde Hoven for support, and Richard and Gendie Somerville-Ryan for organising, budget management, and running around.

Overall, the organisation was smooth and without incident.

### What we learnt

In future, the Matariki Festival needs a paid organiser. It's a lot of work! However, the relationship with astronomers coming to talk needs to be held with the DAG committee to build relationships within the astronomy/astro photography community.

The event at the marae was particularly successful and needs to become a regular keynote event to start the festival. News of how wonderful it was got around the Island very quickly and attendance in future will probably be high.

Doubling up events, although successful, are hard to organise and run – eg photography workshop and star gazing on the same night. The programme could be rationalised for next year.

Building in activities for children was particularly successful and should be built on in future.

### Local Board priorities

- 1) Our people thrive and life is good
- 2) Our environment is protected and enhanced
- 3) Our infrastructure is future-proofed for our next generations
- 4) Our economy is sustainable and prosperous

Project Name	Project objective	Corresponding Local Board Plan priority	Progress so far/ key performance indicators (figures/ stats)	Summary of outcomes – what difference has your organisation	Highlights and challenges	Looking forward- how you will improve on what you're
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				made?		doing over the next 6 months?
<b>Matariki Festival</b>	<b>Preserve, protect and celebrate our night sky</b>	<b>1, 2, 4</b>	<b>400 attendees over the month of activities  28,000 views on Eventfinda</b>	<b>Building cultural understanding and appreciation, knowledge and skills building, community cohesion, increased number of visitors and therefore economic benefit, appreciation of what we need to protect and preserve, Sanctuary and Island marketing</b>	<b>As above</b>	<b>Hire an event organiser.  Establish Marae as opening keynote event  Don't double up events  Add more for children</b>