



Flames burning on the headlands at Matiatia would be visible from ferries to and from Waiheke.

GEORGE GARDNER/STUFF

# Matiatia to get Matariki flames

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Flames burning on the headlands at Matiatia are planned to mark Matariki this winter.

Waiheke Local Board has granted \$2500 towards the Maunahara Flames community project to celebrate Matariki, or the Māori new year.

Ngāti Paea representative George Kahi raised the idea with

the board, saying flame burners on the headlands above the bay would be a unique way to celebrate Matariki.

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to remember loved ones who had passed away, so the flames would provide a chance for remembrance.

Flames would fire up to five metres in the air at about 7pm for seven nights. Choirs would perform and fireworks would be

displayed on the closing night on July 22, Kahi said.

The local board also granted \$5000 for E Tipu e Rea, a mentoring project for young artists, and \$2000 towards Waiheke Community Art Gallery's promotion of a Matariki Open Studio weekend.

Waiheke Youth Centre Trust will get \$6200 to develop a business case for a new youth space. Waiheke Adult Literacy will

receive \$2300 for equipment and Waiheke Gymnastics Club will get \$2520 to help pay for hire of the recreation centre.

The board granted \$1500 to Community Networks Waiheke to hold a Volunteers Day dinner for 95 people in June. A \$500 grant will go towards a memorial seat in Oneroa for long-serving Waiheke Fire Brigade Chief Ron Leonard, who died in March.

The board will pay \$695 for

Auckland Choral Society to hold a singing workshop and free concert at Morra Hall in October. Colin Beardon will be granted \$500 for a Waiheke-based play, Open Home.

Waiheke Teen Photography Club will get \$850 for equipment. Waiheke Musical Museum has been granted \$899 for sound equipment, and Youthline Auckland will receive \$202 towards its helpline costs.