



From left, Ursula Christel (RICI secretary); Jess Brown (Rodney Community Team); Mike Potter (CEO of Disability Connect); and Mireille Vreeburg (RICI events coordinator).

Disability expo planned for Warkworth Hope Centre

Momentum is building up for the first Rodney Support & Inclusion Expo, and stallholder spots are filling up quickly.

This community-focused event will create an opportunity for locals to connect directly with services and support organisations that care for people with all forms of disabilities, chronic illness, neurodivergence, mental health challenges, or ageing-related needs, as well as support for family caregivers.

Attendees will also enjoy interactive activities and presentations, while learning about different support opportunities, resources, self-care tools, volunteering, and employment opportunities in this sector.

Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative (RICI) is working in partnership with Disability Connect to bring together over 40 providers, charities, community groups, businesses and government agencies, operating within Rodney. The Expo will take place on Thursday, October 15 from 10am – 2pm at the Mahurangi Hope Centre in Warkworth (behind the Warehouse).

RICI secretary Ursula Christel says, “The Expo will be inclusive, culturally welcoming, and accessible to all. By connecting people with the information, services, and community they need, we hope to help ease the stress of everyday life. With the support of our local community, we can make that happen.”

Led by five dedicated volunteers, the trust is inviting local funding organisations and businesses to get in touch and partner with them to make this event possible. RICI welcomes financial sponsorship, donations of goods or services, raffle and prize contributions, event resources and equipment, and volunteer support. Every contribution will help make this community event a success.

Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative (RICI) Trust operates as an information network, advocacy group, and events coordinator in the Rodney District, focusing on matters related to inclusion and disability support. www.ricinz.com

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