

Diversity

Maree James, Administrator, Hauraki

Eleven years working for Pathways says a lot about how Maree James feels about both the organisation and her job.

Maree started with the organisation as an administrator in 1999. She then spent time working for two social enterprise businesses established by Pathways, before returning to Pathways Hauraki office as a part-time administrator three years ago.

Now she's returning to full time work – sharing the administration needs of the broader Waikato and Hauraki areas with another administrator. "We will be taking responsibility for specific tasks. I'm particularly pleased that I have been allocated reporting, as I love working with the data and tools and responding to the many requests for information that we receive."

She also loves the variety and the familiarity that comes with Pathways Hauraki. "Every day is different," says Maree, "and even within some of the routine tasks there are daily changes. I like working with the variety of staff at Pathways and I like the many different people we support." As a Thames local, born and bred, Maree knows many of the people who use Pathways Hauraki services and gets huge enjoyment from watching their recovery.

Outside of work, Maree likes to spend time with her immediate and extended family, nearly all of whom live in Thames. Papa Aroha campsite in the northern Coromandel is a favoured spot for family holidays and (other than a few years as a teenager when she refused to go) Maree has been holidaying there since she was five. "We fish, we swim, we sunbathe and we spend time together," says Maree. "It's great."

Overseas travel is another love, with Tahiti, Asia, Indonesia and Vanuatu all visited in the past few years. "I find that travelling to these places grounds you nicely when you come home," says Maree, "They all have elements of extreme poverty, and it makes you realise how affluent and privileged you are." It certainly seems Maree is happy to be with Pathways and in Thames.