



Firefighters proudly stand outside the reopened Oneroa Fire Station. Photos Erin Johnson

## Revamped fire station opens with blessing

Gleaming fire engines lined Weka Road when the Waiheke Volunteer Fire Brigade turned out to mark the reopening of the Oneroa Fire Station on Saturday 17 August.

In opening the ceremony, fire chief Bruce Sciascia acknowledged the contribution of bequests that had enabled the station to be refurbished and thanked Fire and Emergency New Zealand who had run the renovation process.

The station had continued to be operational throughout the upgrade which had been challenging, he said, but they got through it.

Area commander Geoff Purcell said



Firefighter Daniella (Dee) Hau helps Winter Collins with the fire hose.

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that only with a strong brigade such as Waiheke's, where there are contributions from the community, can the service go over and beyond providing the basic facilities at a station.

He also acknowledged the work of the volunteer brigade.

"Without our volunteers there's no paid people on this island to do this service," said Mr Purcell.

The station has received a major spruce-up including earthquake strengthening,

electrical upgrades, emergency lighting, extra storage space and new paint, carpet, furniture fittings and signage.

Paora Toi Te Rangiauaia and Huhana Davis from Piritahi Marae led a blessing of the entire renovated station.

Mr Toi Te Rangiauaia acknowledged the support from the families of volunteers that enabled them to do the work they do.

Following the blessing, fire brigade volunteers brought out the fire hoses for gathered children to have a go. •