

# Matariki

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## THE PRE-DAWN RISING OF MATARIKI HERALDS THE MĀORI NEW YEAR.

Stars within the Matariki cluster are also associated with mahika kai and observed as part of the preparations for the impending season. Matariki signifies a time of reflection, remembrance, celebration, and preparation.

Collectively the stars within the cluster connect us to the natural world and remind us to prepare for the unknown.

Whether you choose to spend Matariki acknowledging loved ones, connecting with friends and whānau, sharing kai, reflecting, and planning or just taking a moment to pause, we hope that you make some time to connect with Hiwa-i-te-raki and the hope and prosperity that the star represents.

## *Mānawatia a Matariki.*



## TĀTAI ARORAKI – MĀORI ASTRONOMY

Tātai aroraki involves the study of the stars including the moon, planets, and astronomical activities. For millennia, our ancestors have built an understanding of the universe and how it works. Celestial knowledge is applied within many terrestrial activities including mahika kai (activities associated with planting, harvesting, the natural cycles of species including flora and fauna and the management of these resources).

The maramataka is one tool that demonstrates the application of celestial and terrestrial knowledge.

Maramataka vary, most are localised and involve the position of the sun, moon phases, the heliacal rising of stars and the environment.

### PUAKA (PUANGA)

For Kāi Tahu here in the South, the star Puaka (Rigel in Orion) has important significance and is associated with seasonal change and mahika kai. Puaka is linked with health and well-being.



Pōhutukawa is the star Sterope, associated with our loved ones who have passed since the last heliacal rising of Matariki.



Tupu-ā-nuku is the star Pleione, associated with food grown in our gardens like aruhe and vegetables. During the pre-dawn rising of Matariki observations would be made to determine the impending bounty of the year based on particular stars and their appearance.



Tupu-ā-raki (Tupu-ā-rangi) is the star Atlas, connected to food grown above ground like birds and trees.



Waiti is the star Maia, linked to fresh water including our lakes and waterways. Fresh water is integral to the sustenance of mankind and our mahika kai practices. Our waterways connect the land to the sea providing passages for important species like tuna (eel) and inaka (whitebait) to migrate and spawn. Ensuring our waterways are healthy is integral to our own well-being and the well-being of our environment.



Waitā is the star Taygeta, associated with the sea including our Pacific Ocean, Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa. Abundant with food sources like kōura (crayfish) and rāwaru (blue cod) and other resources like kelp used to make pōhā (kelp bag for preserved birds), its conservation is integral to our health and that of the planet. The guardianship and conservation of the ocean is a responsibility that we all need to undertake. Matariki allows us time to reflect and plan.



Waipunaraki (Waipunarangi) is the star Electra, associated with the rains and precipitation.

Water is an essential compound and revered by Māori. Its activities and guardianship are of upmost importance.



Ururaki (Ururangi) is the star Rorope, associated with the winds. The winds are an important factor in traditional navigation practice, used by Māori over 800 years ago when navigating the Pacific. Tātai aroraki builds a broad and deep understanding of the natural world.



Hiwa-i-te-raki (Hiwa-i-te-rangi) is the star Calaeno, associated with our hopes and aspirations.



Matariki is the star Alcyone in the open star cluster Pleiades or M45, however the term Matariki is also applied to the entire star cluster. The star Matariki is associated with health and well-being, including the health and well-being of te taiao, the environment.



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