

# Mānawatia a Matariki

**Matariki Karakia**





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# Mihi

*Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki*

*Mānawa maiea te ariki o te rangi*

*Mānawa maiea te Mātahi o te Tau*

I waihangatia tēnei puka iti hei whakaatu i te kaupapa o Matariki ki te hunga ākonga me te hunga e kaingākaunui ana ki te hautapu me te umu kohukohu whetū. He rauemi tēnei hei āwhina i ngā tāngata katoa ahakoa nō hea, ahakoa ki hea, kia whai wāhi mai ki ngā tikanga whakanui i a Matariki.

Nā Te Arawhiti tēnei puka i manaaki kia hora pai ngā kōrero mō Matariki me te umu kohukohu whetū ki te motu whānui. Kia poroporoakihia ngā mate o te tau kua hipa, kia whakanuia te hunga ora i te Mātahi o te Tau, kia whakaritea te iwi mō ngā rā me ngā tau kei mua i te aroaro.

Mānawatia a Matariki!

Ahorangi Rangī Matamua ONZM

# Foreword

E kara mā, e tātou mā – mānawa maiea te putanga o tēnei taonga, o tēnei rauemi kua takohatia mai e te mātauranga Māori!

As Matariki rises in the morning sky during winter, it calls us to cluster together to celebrate our world, our people and our home by remembering our loved ones, celebrating who we are today and who we hope to be in the future.

Whether you are looking at the rising of Matariki or Puanga in our early morning sky, or even the setting of Rehua, the period of Matariki is about all of us – the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

To assist us on our Matariki journey, Te Arawhiti has published this resource to celebrate and educate readers about the traditions and cultural importance of Matariki.

This booklet, featuring karakia written by Tā Pou Temara and Professor Rangī Matamua, equips us with the relevant knowledge to understand the traditions of Matariki, while reflecting and cementing Matariki as an integral part of our society – to be enjoyed, not only by Māori and Indigenous communities, but by Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole.

As we move forward together as a nation, Matariki moves with us, guides us and marks the beginning of a uniquely Aotearoa New Zealand new year, every year.

He taonga te mātauranga tuku iho i ngā mātua tūpuna.  
Puritia, whakamaua kia tīna! Hui ē, tāiki ē!

Hon Kelvin Davis  
Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti



# Introduction

In midwinter, when Matariki appears on the Eastern horizon in the morning, the Matariki ceremony takes place. This ceremony is commonly known as 'whāngai i te hautapu', meaning to offer food to the stars. This practice involves the 'umu kohukohu whetū' – a steamy earth oven for the stars. Traditionally, food was gathered from different parts of the environment, cooked in an earth oven and uncovered when Matariki was seen. The steam would rise into the sky, feeding Matariki and opening the Māori New Year.

The following are a series of karakia – 'incantations' – to honour the rising of Matariki and to celebrate the New Year. The various stars in the Matariki cluster are associated with different environmental domains: earth, sky, fresh water, salt water, rain and wind. There is also a star that is connected to those who have passed during the year and another that is connected to our wishes. Before the ceremony begins, people gather, prepare and cook food so that it is ready to be offered to the star cluster.



# The Themes of Matariki



## Remembrance

**Remembering those who have passed  
during the year**



## Celebrating the present

**Gathering to celebrate  
the present with feasting, games  
and joyful activities**



## Looking to the future

**Planning for the year ahead**

# Using the Karakia

These karakia can be spoken to Matariki in winter just before the sun rises. Each one has a specific purpose such as honouring the dead, acknowledging the different environmental domains and opening the New Year. This ceremony includes the honouring of the dead and the offering of food to the stars.

The karakia in this booklet are a truncated version of a much larger ceremony that is conducted during the Māori New Year to acknowledge Matariki. Still, these karakia follow the same structure as the more elaborate ceremony, and they hold the same intent.



# Waerea

Waerea te rangi e tū nei

Waerea te papa e takoto nei

Whakapūmautia tēnei kawa uruora

Te kawa ki a Matariki

**Clear the sky above**

**Clear the earth below**

**Establish this ceremony**

**The formal ceremony of Matariki**

Waerea seeks to clear space and people from any obstructions in order for the ceremony to proceed.



Pōhutukawa

# Pōhutukawa

E tū Pōhutukawa

Te kaikawe i ngā mate o te tau

Ruiruia ngā mate ki te uma o Ranginui

Anā! Kua whetūrangihia koutou

**Behold Pōhutukawa**

**Who carries the dead of the year**

**Scatter their spirits into the cosmos**

**You have now become stars**

Pōhutukawa helps us remember those who have passed since the last rising of Matariki. It is at this time that people want to call out the names of loved ones who have died in the past year.





# Te Whāngai i ngā Whetū

After the karakia to Pōhutukawa and the honouring of the dead, food is offered to the stars. The steam from the cooked food rises into the sky and feeds Matariki.

Once this part of the ceremony has been completed, a series of karakia follow. The karakia are dedicated to the different stars in the cluster.



# T i p u ā n u k u

# Tipuānuku

E tū Tipuānuku  
Ko te one paraumu  
Ringihia mai rā tō rahi  
Ki te whenua haumako  
Kia puta ko te ora o Rongo  
Koia!

**Behold Tipuānuku  
Of the fertile soil  
Spread your plenty  
Across the land  
Reveal the bounty of Rongo  
Indeed!**

Tipuānuku is the star associated  
with food grown in the earth.





# Tipu āraṅgi

# Tipuārangi

E tū Tipuārangi  
Ko te pōkai tara  
Ngahoro pua, manu whaturua  
Kia puta ko te ora o Tāne  
Koia!

**Behold Tipuārangi  
Of the flocking birds  
Fruiting trees and fat birds  
Reveal the bounty of Tāne  
Indeed!**

Tipuārangi means to grow in the sky, and this karakia reaffirms our connection to the forests and the birds.





Waiti

# Waitī

E tū Waitī

Ko te wai māori

Tuna heke ki a Wainui

Kia puta ko te ora o Parawhenuamea

Koia!

**Behold Waitī**

**Of fresh water**

**Eels heading to the ocean**

**Reveal the bounty of Parawhenuamea**

**Indeed!**

Waitī is the star of lakes, rivers, streams and fresh water and acknowledges our strong connection to the bodies of fresh water.





W a i t ā

# Waitā

E tū Waitā

Ko te wai tai

Ngaru nui, ngaru roa

Kia puta ko te ora o Tangaroa

Koia!

**Behold Waitā**

**Of salt water**

**Large wave, great wave**

**Reveal the bounty of Tangaroa**

**Indeed!**

Waitā is the star of salt water, and this karakia acknowledges our strong connection to ocean.





# Waipunarangi

# Waipunarangi

E tū Waipunarangi  
Ko te ua heke  
Kōpatapata mai, hūkerikeri mai  
Kia puta ko te ora o Tāwhiriua  
Koia!

**Behold Waipunarangi  
Of the falling rain  
A light rain, a heavy downpour  
Reveal the bounty of Tāwhiriua  
Indeed!**

Waipunarangi means 'water that pools in the sky',  
and this karakia speaks to the rain.





Ururangi

# Ururangi

E tū Ururangi  
Ko te whānau pupuhi  
Tū te winiwini, tū te wanawana  
Kia puta ko te ora o Tāwhirirangi  
Koia!

**Behold Ururangi  
Of the family of wind  
Of the shuddering and awesome winds  
Reveal the bounty of Tāwhirirangi  
Indeed!**

The star of the wind is Ururangi, and together with Waipunarangi, they are the stars connected to weather.





H i w a - i - t e - r a n g i

# Hiwa-i-te-rangi

E tū Hiwa-i-te-rangi  
Ko ngā manako nui  
Kia puta ai ko ngā wawata  
Ki te whaiāo, ki te ao mārama  
Koia!

**Behold Hiwa-i-te-rangi  
Of the many desires  
Bring forth our wishes  
And make them come true  
Indeed!**

Hiwa-i-te-rangi is the Māori wishing star  
and speaks to our hopes and desires for the year.





# Matariki

# Matariki

Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki

Mānawa maiea te ariki o te rangi

Mānawa maiea te Mātahi o te Tau.

Whano, whano

Haramai te toki ata huakirangi

Haumi e

Hui e

Tāiki e!

**Celebrate the rising of Matariki**

**Celebrate the lord of the skies**

**Celebrate the new year**

**Unite, unite**

**And bring forth the dawn**

**Together**

**In union**

**We are one!**

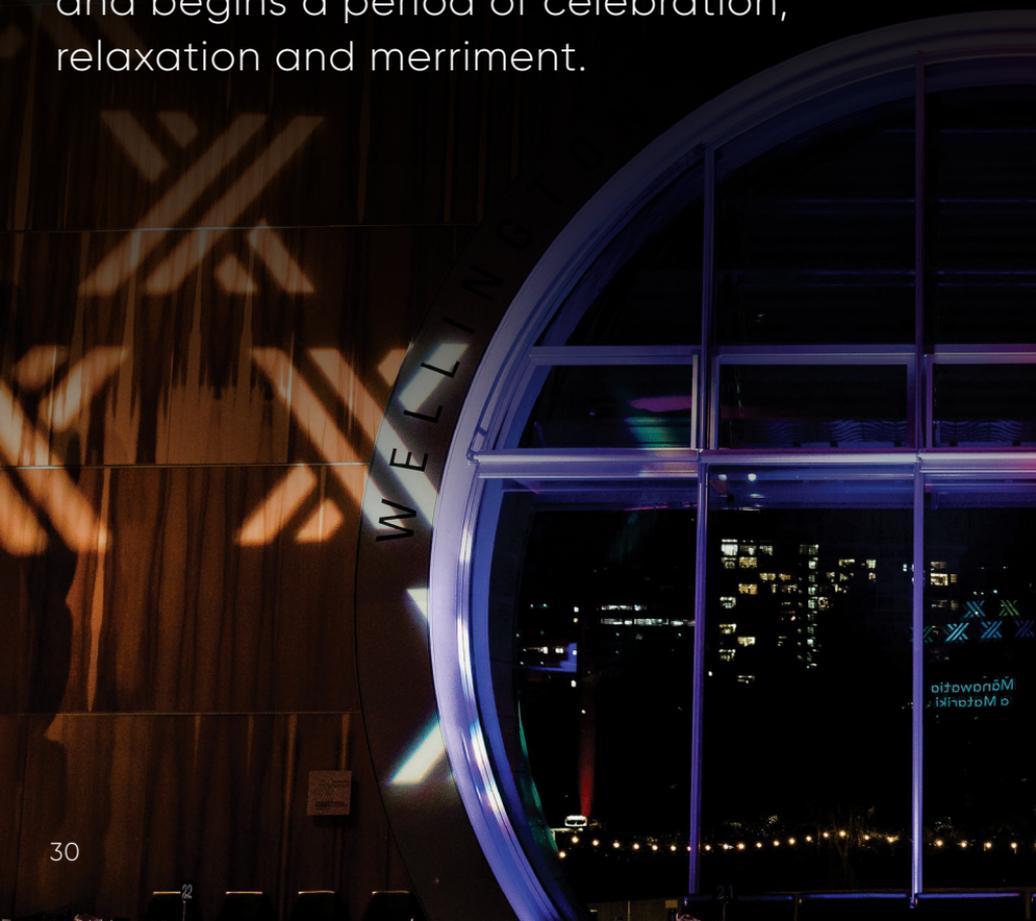
Matariki is the main star in the cluster.

It is connected to wellbeing and welcomes  
in the New Year.



# Whakanuia

This brings to an end the Matariki ceremony and begins a period of celebration, relaxation and merriment.









Mānawatia  
a Matariki

