



TITIRO KI NGĀ
WHETŪ
MATARIKI

MATARIKI PACK

*Ideas to engage with Matariki
in your setting*

MATARIKI PACK

Ideas to make your Matariki journey the best yet!

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INTRODUCTION:

We've collated a large range of ideas to help you with engaging with Matariki in your setting. Our suggestion is to look through and find a couple of ideas that you could adapt in your setting. Whatever you choose to do to acknowledge this time in your setting, our top recommendations are:

- 1. Do it well:** Whatever you do, do it well. Stick to one or two ideas and make them great!
- 2. For the community:** Cater your event for your local community and share the significance of Matariki for our nation.
- 3. The right time:** Think about the times of your services, events and gatherings – are these accessible to new people, families etc. Choose times for your activities with this in mind and advertise well!

4. What's next? However you choose to mark this time in your setting, figure out what's next? What's the follow up for visitors? What could they take home to remind them of their experience? What is the next service/event/activity you'll invite people to? What's your next series – is it relevant?

ABOUT MATARIKI:

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. Matariki is visible for eleven months of the year, disappearing in the lunar month of Haratua in May/June, and rising again around a month later, in the north-eastern skies, during the lunar month of Pipiri. This usually occurs in late June or early July. It signals to Māori that the New Year will begin. *(Source: Te Ara)*

Quick facts about Matariki:

- Not all iwi celebrate at the same time. Some may begin festivities on the first full moon after the star cluster rises, or on the next new moon.
- There are about 500 stars in the Matariki cluster, but only six or seven are visible without a telescope.
- Matariki is visible all over the world and is known by many names including Pleiades and Seven Sisters.
- In the past, tohunga (experts) looked to Matariki to predict if the next harvest would be abundant. The brighter and clearer the stars seemed, the warmer the growing season would be, ensuring a good harvest.
- Many iwi refer to Matariki stars as mother and daughters. The mother is Matariki, and her daughters are Tupu-ā-nuku, Tupu-ā-rangi, Waipunarangi, Waitī, Waitā, and Ururangi.
- Tohunga kōkōrangi (expert astronomers) used stars and star clusters such as Matariki to help them navigate great distances across the Pacific. *(Source: Te Papa)*

How to find the Matariki cluster:

From early June, before sunrise, look to the north-east horizon. Find the constellation Taurus, or Orion's belt (sometimes called 'the pot'). Trace a line northwards from the three stars of Taurus. Look for a faint sparkle of tiny dots, about the same width as Taurus is long. This is the Matariki star cluster. Matariki can also be seen during the summer months in this location of the sky after sunset. *(Source: Te Papa)*

How was/is Matariki celebrated:

Traditionally, Matariki was a time when food stores had been built up, which meant more free time for whānau and communities to spend together. It was also a time to acknowledge those who had passed during the year and share stories, as this was/is how knowledge and history was passed through generations of Māori. People would get together to share kai, kōrero, ceremony and entertainment, and look forward to the new year ahead.

Key dates:

This year Friday 14 July has been set aside as a national public holiday to mark Matariki – this could be a great time to acknowledge this significant time in your local setting.

13 May - Setting of Matariki

10-13 July - Rising of Matariki

14 July - Matariki Public Holiday

GATHERING / CHURCH SERVICE IDEAS:

A list of ideas that can be done in any level or restrictions – whether you're meeting in-person or not.

Karakia: Include appropriate karakia/prayer in your gathering during this time. You can find some karakia options on page 9 of this resource pack or check out the Te Kākano app.

Waiata: An easy way to acknowledge and embrace Matariki is to sing waiata in your gatherings – a staff meeting, church service or even small group. Check out page 8 of this resource pack for some suggestions or check out the Te Kākano app.

Time of remembrance: Part of Matariki is taking time to remember those that have gone before us and passed on. You could include a time of remembrance in your gathering/s during Matariki – you could encourage people to light a candle, place a flower somewhere, write a name and place it on a significant space.

Mid-winter feast / morning tea: Kai is a huge part of Matariki so really embrace this! Hold a mid-winter feast – this could be a full on hāngī or community meal, or as simple as a shared lunch or special morning tea.

Time to set goals / hopes for future: As part of your gathering during Matariki (staff meetings, church services, small groups etc.), allow for some response time for people to take time to set goals or reflect on hopes for the future.

Time of story sharing / whakapapa sharing: Story-telling is a big part of Matariki so allow time and space for this to happen in your gatherings. You could ask people to reflect on the past year, to think of people that have gone before them, to pass on advice and stories to future generations. You could even theme your gathering around the importance of story-telling.

What is Matariki: Take time to share about what Matariki is – raise awareness in your setting – a lot of people are new to the journey. With 2023 being the second year that Matariki is acknowledged with a public holiday, a lot of people will be still grappling with what it is. Share about it and take them on the journey.

Learn your mihi/pepeha: Encourage your staff team and congregation to take time to learn their mihi/pepeha. If you don't already, learn yours too! This is a great way to introduce yourself – you could even make it part of opening your gatherings. He Pukapuka Rauemi Māori is a great place to start!

Décor: Decorate your corps/centre foyer, create a Family Store window display, do up your kids' church space, create a display in your Toy Library or Community Ministries space. Celebrate Matariki in your spaces and get people into celebrating the new year!

Photobooth: Create a photobooth setting in your next gathering to get people excited about Matariki and the new year!

Testimony / sharing time: Matariki traditions: You could encourage people to come prepared to share testimony / stories around their Matariki traditions or what the ending of one year and the beginning of the next means to them. It would be awesome to invite local Māori to share (or find out from local groups) about local traditions and practices.

Check out Te Kākano app: *Te Kākano* is a great resource developed for our territory – this app has a range of waiata, karakia, Tikanga tika, pepeha guides and more to help you embrace Matariki. Familiarise yourself with this resource and get in touch with your local Māori Ministry rep if you need additional help.

OUTREACH / CONNECTION IDEAS:

A list of outreach ideas you could use for various events or activities in your community.

Partner with other groups: Don't reinvent the wheel... find out what's already happening for Matariki around your community and partner with it! Contact your local schools, community centres, trusts, businesses, iwi etc. and find out how you can partner with them in their celebrations!

Connect with your local marae / iwi: A great way to start your Matariki journey in your setting is to get in touch with the appropriate people in your community and learn from them. Ask how you can support and serve them this Matariki before setting off on your own journey.

Movie night: Have a Matariki theme movie night. This could be a fun, family-friendly event with food, stories and a movie. A movie night outside, under the stars would be even better!

Community meal: Host a community meal (or morning tea even!) and invite people that may not get to experience this otherwise. Make it really special; decorate, have delicious food and include some special elements. Bring people together and dig into the Matariki value of kai and togetherness!

Markets/events: Why not partner with something already happening like a market, or have a presence at an established event? Maybe a brass band, free face painting or get creative!

Decorate: Decorate the front of your building, Family Store windows or foyer of your building with Matariki themed décor. Encourage people to think about Matariki – the year gone and the year about to begin.

Playlist: Create a Spotify or YouTube playlist with Matariki theme waiata/songs or videos and share this via your social media. You could even play this before or after your gatherings, in your foyer or Family Store.

Remembrance service: Host a remembrance service – part of Matariki is remembering those that have gone before us and passed on. Create space for people in your community to acknowledge loved ones, grieve and celebrate together.

Hope and prayers wall / foyer: Create a wall or feature that encourages people to write their hopes, dreams and prayers for the new year. You could say that you have a team of people willing to keep these hopes in their prayers over the coming months.

Bonfire / star gazing night: Host an all-ages star gazing night. Take time to find Matariki in the night sky together, reminisce, share together, sing, enjoy some kai. Why not have a bonfire or brazier too!

TAMARIKI & WHĀNAU IDEAS:

A list of ways to engage with kids and families during Matariki.

Mid-winter feast/party: Host a mid-winter feast targeted specifically for families. Share about Matariki and enjoy a night of food, games and sharing.

Kids Church theme Sunday: Why not theme your kids church gathering over the public holiday weekend around Matariki. Share about some of the traditions and get them thinking about Jesus the creator of the stars in the sky or light of the world, or about their hopes for the new year.

Create family packs to drop off: Find resources online around Matariki and create some fun, activity packs for families to do together. Drop these off as a surprise or have these available in your corps/centre for anyone to pick up. Activity book idea: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/learn/for-educators/free-downloadable-activity-books/matariki-activity-book>

Partner with a local school: Get in touch with your local schools and education centres and find out what they're already doing to celebrate and partner with them!

Kid's stuff in room: Another great way to keep kids (and their families) engaged in a service or while parents/guardians are in your centre is to have some kid-friendly playthings / resources in the room. This might be an area with a rug so kids can play, a book nook, activity packs etc.

Family bonfire / star gazing night: Host a bonfire / brazier night for families to gather. This could be encouraging them to get together in their own spaces or host an all-in connected to your corps or centre. Roast marshmallows, share stories and spot Matariki in the sky together.

Get them involved: Ask kids how they would like to celebrate and get them involved in making it happen. Maybe it's an event, maybe it's part of a church service or kids church, or it's helping design packs for at home. Kids have the best ideas and already know so much about Matariki!

Matariki Kahoot: Help kids learn more about Matariki by creating and playing a few rounds of Kahoot! It's a free game-based learning platform that children all over the country are utilising at school. You can create your own quiz rounds or find a Matariki quiz created by someone else. Can be played either on tablets or phones, plus you'll need a computer and screen to display the questions/score cards throughout the quiz. This is SURE to be a winner with your kids! Sign up at [kahoot.com](https://www.kahoot.com) for a free 14-day trial.

Matariki Create Event: Host an event where the creative folk within your congregation can learn to make Matariki-related crafts from one another. Older people could teach kids and young people to knit stars or bake star cookies, while kids could teach adults about star-themed coloured slime or lego! It would be great to invite local iwi or Māori groups/trusts to share some traditional crafts / practices – from weaving to cooking.

WAIATA / SONG IDEAS:

A range of waiata ideas that you could use in your setting – for before or after your gathering as background music or sung together within your gathering.

Playlists and videos:

- Reo Maori spotify playlist: [Spotify Waiata Playlist](#)
- Waiata: [Matariki waiata \(song\) | Te Papa](#)
- Waiata: [Ngā Whetū O Matariki lyrics - Bing video](#) (this is a good one as it has actions for kids)

Hīmene/Waiata suggestions (more in Te Kākano app):

Wairua Tapu

Wairua Tapu kuhu mai

Nau mai ki kōnei

Wairua Tapu arahia korero mai anō

Holy Spirit welcome

You are welcome here

Guide us Holy Spirit speak to us again

E te Ariki

E te Ariki, Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

E te Ariki, Titiro mai rā ki a mātou

Tēnei mātou ō tamariki

E whakapono ana mātou ki a koe

Auē, auē

Te Matua, te tamaiti Wairua tapu e

Oh God listen to the cry of your children

Oh God look down upon us your children

Here we are all together

We sing and we say that we love you

Oh God Oh God

The Father the Son and the

Comfort of the Holy Ghost |

Te Aroha

Te aroha

Te whakapono

Me te rangimārie

Tātou tātou e

Love faith and peace will keep us together

Tuhia

Tuhia ki te rangi

Tuhia ki te whenua

Tuhia ki te ngākau

O ngā tāngata katoa

There is but one love

And it is Your love

Ko te mea nui

Ko te aroha

Write it in the sky

Write it in the land

Write it in the hearts of all people

There is but one love

And it is Your love

The most important thing

is love

KARAKIA / PRAYER IDEAS:

He Pukapuka Rauemi Māori has a range of karakia options and there are a range of karakia available online. You could also use a whaktauaki or or phrase as a benediction in your service or gathering.

We've included a couple of karakia below or check out Te Kākano for more.

Karakia Whakatuwhera – Opening prayer:

E te Atua

Manaakiatia mai mātou

Me ā matou mahi

I tēnei wā

I runa I tō ingoa tapu

Āmine

Lord

Bless us

And our activities

At this time

In your holy name

Amen

Karakia Whakanutunga – Closing prayer:

Kia tau ki a tātou katoa

Te atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu Karaiti

Me te aroha o te Atua,

Me whiwhingatahitanga

Ki te Wairua Tapu

Ake, ake, ake

Āmine

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ

And the love of God

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit

Be with you all

Forever and ever

Amen

He Karakia o te Atua - The Lord's prayer in Te Reo

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi

Kia tapu tou Ingoa

Kia tae mai tou rangatira-tanga.

Kia meatia tau e pai ai

ki runga i te whenua,

kia rite ano ki to te rangi.

Homai ki a mātou aiane

he taro mā mātou mo tēnei ra.

Murua o mātou hara

Me mātou hoki e muru nei

i o te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

Our Parent in the spirit world

Sacred is your Name

Bring us Your Chiefly rule;

May it happen in the way that is to You, good

may it happen on earth

In the same way as in spirit world

Give us now

The food we need this day.

Strip us of our sins;

Give us back what we have lost;

So that we, the slaves of sin, may be with you again.

Aua hoki mātou e kawea kia whaka-waia;

Engari whaka-orangia mātou, i te kino

Nou hoki te rangatira-tanga,

te kaha,

me te kororia,

Ake, ake, ake.

Āmine

Do not lead us into temptation;

May we be whole, away from things evil;

Through your chiefly position, is

the power

and the glory.

Forever and ever

Amen

SCRIPTURE:

Using scripture in te reo in your gatherings and meetings (or in your personal reflection time) is a great way to engage with Matariki. Here are some suggested passages that relate to Matariki.

Job 9:9

Nana nei i hanga a Aketura, a Tautoru, a Matariki, me nga ruma i te tonga

He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion,
the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.

Job 38:31

E taea ranei e koe te here te huihui o Matariki, e wewete ranei nga here o Tautoru?

Can you bind the chains of the Pleiades?
Can you loosen Orion's belt?

Amos 5:8

Rapua te kaihanganga o matariki, o Tautoru; e riro ke ana i a ia te atarangi o te mate hei ata, e whakapouritia ana e ia te ra hei po; e karangatia ana e ia nga wai o te moana, a ringihia ana e ia ki runga ki te mata o te whenua: ko lhowa tona ingoa:

He who made the Pleiades and Orion,
who turns midnight into dawn
and darkens day into night,
who calls for the waters of the sea
and pours them out over the face of the land—
the Lord is his name.

Genesis 1 (14-19 below)

Na ka mea te Atua, Kia whai mea whakamarama te kiko o te rangi, hei wehe i te awatea, i te po; hei tohu ano aua mea, hei taima, hei ra, hei tau:

Hei whakamarama aua mea i te kiko o te rangi, hei whakamarama i te whenua: a ka oti.

Na ka hanga e te Atua nga mea whakamarama nui e rua; ko te whakamarama nui hei tohutohu mo te awatea, ko te whakamarama tuaiti hei tohutohu mo te po: i hanga ano hoki e ia nga whetu.

A whakanohoia ana aua mea e te Atua ki te kiko o te rangi, hei whakamarama mo te whenua,

Hei tohutohu i te awatea, i te po, hei wehe hoki i te marama, i te pouri: a ka kite te Atua, he pai.

A ko te ahiahi, ko te ata, he ra tuawha.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth." And it was so. 16 God made two great lights—the greater light to govern the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to

give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day.

Genesis 15 (4-5 below)

Na, kua puta mai te kupu a Ihowa ki a ia, i mea ia, E kore e mahue iho ou taonga mo tena; engari ka mahue iho mo tetahi e puta mai i roto i ou whekau.

Na ka kawea ia e ia ki waho, a ka mea mai, Tena tirohia atu te rangi, taua hoki nga whetu, ki te taea ena e koe te tatau: a ka mea ia ki a ia, Ka pera tou uri.

Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

Hebrews 11 (1-3 below)

Na, ko te whakapono, he whakapumautanga i nga mea e tumanakohia atu ana, he whakakitenga i nga mea kahore nei e kitea.

Na konei hoki nga kaumatua i korerotia paitia ai.

Na te whakapono i matau ai tatou he mea hanga nga ao e te kupu a te Atua, a, ko nga mea e tirohia atu nei kihai i puta ake i roto i nga mea e kitea ana.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

Other relevant scripture passages:

- John 4:38
- James 5:7
- Exodus 23:16
- Jeremiah 5:24
- 2 Corinthians 5:17
- Proverbs 4:25
- Galatians 6:7
- Luke 12:24
- Genesis 26:12

The entire Bible in te reo can be found here: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Maori-Bible>

HELPFUL LINKS:

Check out these links for more info and ideas or chat your Divisional Māori Ministry representative.

Links:

- Bible gateway - Maori Bible Maori Bible: <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Maori-Bible>
- Mānawatia a matariki logo resources: <https://www.matariki.net.nz/resources>
- Reo Maori Reumi, mostly basic Te reo resources Rauemi reo: <https://www.reomaori.co.nz/resources>
- Te Papa about Matariki: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/matariki-maori-new-year>
- Te Ara about Matariki: <https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/5156/matariki-the-pleiades>
- Te Papa activity book: <https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/learn/for-educators/free-downloadable-activity-books/matariki-activity-book>
- Learnz about Matariki: <https://www.learnz.org.nz/location192/bg-standard-f/matariki>
- NZ History about Matariki: <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/te-akomanga/contexts-activities/matariki>
- Why we celebrate Matariki video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MN-OluHpl6I>

THINGS TO CONSIDER CHECKLIST:

A checklist of things to consider when you're preparing for your Matariki events, activities, and services.

The people:

- Who is your event for – is it an in-house event, for your local community or both?
- How will you communicate about your event? To your congregation? To your community?
- How is your event catering for: kids, families, older people, teens, singles, Christians, visitors?
- How many volunteers will you need to run the event?

The event:

- How will you advertise? Facebook, local schools/clubs, posters, Eventbrite? How will you resource your people to share about the event?
- Have you checked dates with other local calendars / events?
- Have you considered the budget for this event? What will you need to do to find the money needed?
- Have you considered any safety needs / issues?
- How could you partner with other churches or community groups?
- Have you checked your event aligns with our bicultural partnership and tikanga best practice?

The environment:

- How will you communicate about your facilities - toilets, other important locations, safety?
- Have you considered the type of language you will be using? Remember, you will have visitors!
- Have you looked around and through your building? How does this look to new people?
- How will people be welcomed to your event/service?
- When / how will you communicate around how long your event will be to attendees?

The effectiveness:

- What are your desired outcomes for your event/service? Will your plans help you get there?
- Is there a simple phrase, an experience or takeaway that you would like attendees to remember from your event? How will you emphasise this?
- What are the next steps for visitors? What is your next event/service that you could invite them to? What are the next steps for those already attached to your corps/centre?
- Will you give a takeaway to attendees? What will this be? What will it communicate?
- How will you thank and celebrate your volunteers who have served?