

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

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.



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.



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

E tū Waiti
Ko te wai māori
Tuna heke ki a Wainui
Kia puta ko te ora o Parawhenuamea
Koia!

**Behold Waiti
Of fresh water
Eels heading to the ocean
Reveal the bounty of Parawhenuamea
Indeed!**

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





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

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

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.



Hiwa-i-te-rangi

E tū Hiwa-i-te-rangi
Ko ngā manako nui
Kia puta ai ko ngā wawata
Ki te whaiao, 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

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.

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Mānawatia
a Matariki