

Celebrate Matariki 2016

AKORANGA: Teaching and Learning
Te Kete Aronui: Third kete of knowledge

Matariki: Māori New Year

For Māori, Matariki is both a star cluster and, at the seasonal time of its dawn rising, it signifies a time of celebration, renewal and learning.

Matariki is the Māori name for the small cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades or the Seven Sisters, in the Taurus constellation. In New Zealand it comes into view low on the north-eastern horizon, appearing just before dawn in the tail of the Milky Way within the last days of May or in early June. This heralds the Māori New Year.

Traditionally, Matariki was thought to determine how successful the coming season's crop would be. Brighter stars indicated the season would be warmer thus people could expect a more productive crop. Matariki was also seen as an important time for family to gather and pass on knowledge.

Today, we can celebrate Matariki by watching Matariki rise, planting native plants or vegetables, or popping in to your local library.

For more Information, visit christchurchcitylibraries.com/Maori