

# Get involved with Matariki

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises just once a year, in mid-winter – late May or early June. For many Māori, it heralds the start of a new year.



Picture from [Korero.maori.nz](http://Korero.maori.nz)

Below are some different ideas of how you can be part of Matariki and celebrate at your centre. These ideas are a selection from the websites listed below, as well as a few suggestions that my children love.

**Check out these great websites for more activities and information on Matariki:**

- [www.tepapa.govt.nz](http://www.tepapa.govt.nz)
- [www.koreromaori.co.nz](http://www.koreromaori.co.nz)
- [www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz](http://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz)
- [www.tki.org.nz](http://www.tki.org.nz)
- [www.matarikifestival.org.nz](http://www.matarikifestival.org.nz)
- [www.taitokerau.co.nz](http://www.taitokerau.co.nz)
- [www.teara.govt.nz](http://www.teara.govt.nz)

**Visit Stardome or Auckland Museum to see their special Matariki displays!**

## Ngā Tamariki O Matariki

Waiti Waita Waipunarangi  
Tupuanuku Tupuarangi Ururangi e

Koinei ngā tamariki o Matariki  
(These are the children of Matariki)

Ngā whetū e pīataata i te rangi e  
(The bright stars that shine in the sky)

Ngā whetū e pīataata i te rangi e  
(The bright stars that shine in the sky)

Kaitito waiata: Erana Hemmingsen

**Download music from:** <http://www.tepapa.govt.nz/Education/OnlineResources/Matariki>

## Māori kites

Beautiful kites welcome in the New Year and provide a connection to old times. Kites are traditionally flown on the first day of the New Year.

Watch spectacular kite displays, learn how to fly your own kite, or participate in one of the traditional kite-making workshops at the Manu Aute Kite Day supported by New Zealand Post at Matariki Festival 2012.



Flickr.com – Christchurch City Libraries

**You could also make stars like the ones in the photo, or by simply cutting out star shapes from cardboard and decorating them with glitter to hang from your centres' ceiling.**



Picture from [matarikifestival.org.nz](http://matarikifestival.org.nz)

## Rewena Bread

### Ingredients

To make the bug: 1 large potato or kumera and water to boil

2 C Flour

1Tbl Sugar

For the bread:

5 C flour

1tsp salt

1 tsp baking soda

1 C bug



*You could try making gingerbread Tiki's or stars.*

*You could make Kumera soup, or put down a hangi.*

*P.S. Kumera soup is lovely with a little coconut milk or ginger.*

*Picture from Bronmarshall.com*

### Step One: Creating the 'Bug' (Rewena):

Peel and cut the potato or kumera into chunks then boil. The potato must be covered by water (about 1 Cup). Once cooked mash the potatoes in the water they were boiled in and set aside until cool, but not cold.

### Step Two: Fermentation

Add the flour and sugar to your cooled mixture (while still warm). Mix well, cover and put aside to ferment in a warm dry area (the hot water cupboard works well) for 1-2 days. It will smell slightly sweet and yeasty and should have bubbles on top. Don't worry if it smells slightly sour. You will need a large jar (an old jam jar works well). Take 1 tablespoon of the mixture and put into the jar for future use. You will need to feed your 'bug' with 1 tsp sugar and ½ C warm potato water on alternate days. This can be used for future loaves.

### Step Three: Creating the Dough

Mix all ingredients together, knead, cover and leave to rise in a warm place.

### Step Five: Baking

Bake in a pre-heated oven (150°C - 180°C) for 45 minutes to an hour (timing depends on your oven). Remove and wrap in a large clean damp cloth until cool.

Bread can be served with honey, golden syrup or with butter with stews and casseroles.



*Picture from wildyeastblog.com*

***This is also a great way to involve whānau!  
Ask them for their favourite recipes and get them to help show the children how these are made.***

## Māori proverbs

"Tirohia atu nei ka wheturangitia Matariki, te whetu o te tau"

"Look above, beyond the horizon and there you shall witness Pleiades, sign of the New Year."  
Heralding the beginning of the New Year.

"Ka puta a Matariki, ka rere a Whānui, ko te tohu o te tau".

"Matariki reappears, Whānui begins its flight.  
This signals the time of the year".

"Tera Matariki huihui ana mai"

"Yonder in the skies you have witnessed Pleiades, grouped together".  
Referencing the Matariki star cluster lighting up the sky.

"Matariki kanohi iti"

"The tiny eyes of Matariki"

Referencing the Matariki star cluster lighting up the sky.

"Matariki ki tua o nga whetu"

"Matariki – search beyond the stars"

The proverb encourages artists to seek excellence in their work.

"Matariki, huarahi ki te oranga tangata"

"Matariki, pathway to the wellbeing of man"

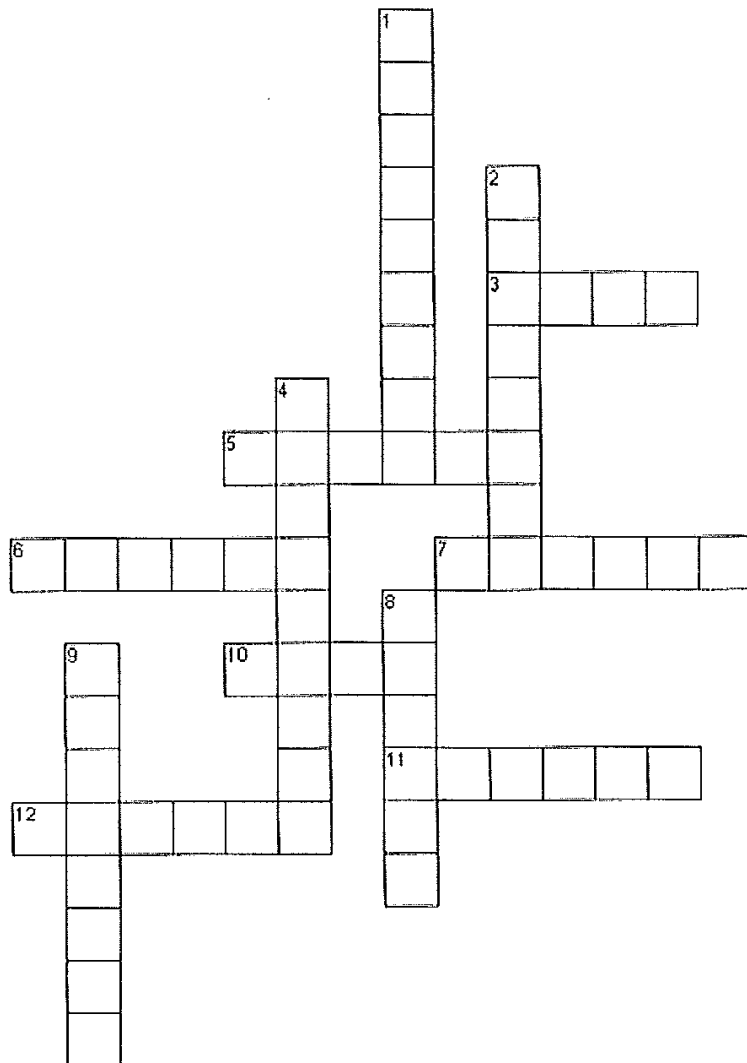


Picture from tepouahiteina.blogspot.co.nz

Māori		English
Pipiri	Hune	June
Hōngongoi	Hūrae	July
Here-turi-kōkā	Akuhata	August
Mahuru	Hepetema	September
Whiringa-ā-nuku	Oketopa	October
Whiringa-ā-rangi	Noema	November
Hakihea	Tihema	December
Kohi-tātea	Hānuere	January
Hui-tanguru	Pēpuere	February
Poutū-te-rangi	Maehe	March
Paenga-whāwhā	Āperira	April
Haratua	Mei	May



Picture from readwellwritewell.org.nz



**Across**

- 3. Nana i piki i te rangi tuhaha ki te tihi o manono.
- 5. "Matariki \_\_\_\_\_ iti."
- 6. He tohu a Matariki mo te \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7. Ka ara a Matariki i tenei wahanga o te tau.
- 10. Ko Venus i roto i te reo Maori.
- 11. "Matariki \_\_\_\_\_ nui."
- 12. Tena nga kanohi kua \_\_\_\_\_ e Matariki.

**Down**

- 1. I haere tetahi waka no Amerika ki tenei ao.
- 2. Ko nga tuahine a whitu.
- 4. Ko te Southern Cross i roto i te reo Maori.
- 8. Ko Matariki i te reo o Hapani.
- 9. Ko te kupu Pakeha mo Matariki.

## Matariki kite

Kite design Manu Tangata

Design by Anita Mitchell.

### Materials required

- Kakaho (or stem of toetoe) light weight, strong wood structure. Could use bamboo as an alternative.
- Flax strips – for binding it together
- Raupo or bulrush – to make the slats
- A reel or long string and handle
- Bridle to tie to the back of the kite.

### Instructions

#### Making the frame: (A,B)

- 1 bind the kakaho frame using harakeke (flax) strips
- 2 the diagram to the right shows whether pieces are attached underneath or on top
- 3 once the frame is constructed, flip it over before adding raupo. This will ensure your raupo lays flat onto the frame because the middle frame bars are now at the back.

#### Attaching raupo to frame: (C)

- 1 cut lengths of raupo to fit the frame (start cutting the longest strips needed, so that off-cuts can be used for smaller parts of frame)
- 2 choose flax (you can colour it or paint to make a distinctive design) and strip them into even widths
- 3 tie two strips together at one end
- 4 place knotted end underneath the frame at start point
- 5 lie ends of tied flax flush against the frame so it can be bound tidily
- 6 bind the tail first, start binding the wing in the middle. This will help to keep the raupo straight
- 7 ensure the flax strips are crossed right over left (when looking down from the top)
- 8 loop straight across at back.

### Notes

Binding in the middle first helps stabilise the raupo and will stop it from flopping around. You may also find it easier to bind two lines at a time, alternating back and forth after five stitches or so, as this also reduces movement of the raupo while working. Having all crosses at the front and all loops at the back is a traditional tukutuku technique so the back looks as tidy as the front.

Attach the bridle by tying string to the spine and frame in a T shape across the back of the kite. Then tie the main string to the cross bar in the 'T' securely... now you are ready to fly it.

Wait for a nice windy day and get flying.

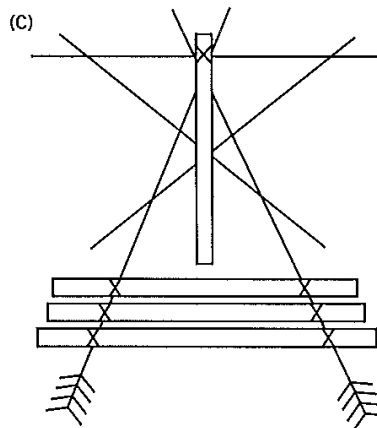
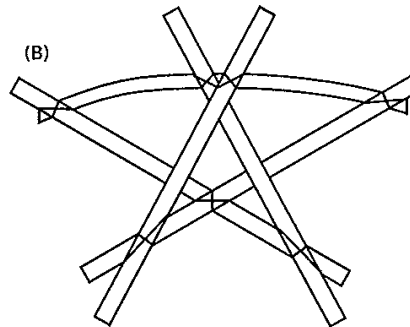
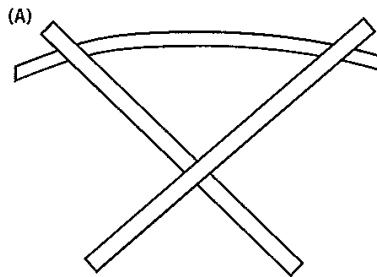
### Description of materials

#### Kakaho

Stem of toetoe - used for lining the walls of buildings and for making kites.

#### Raupo

Bulrush, raupo, *Typha orientalis* – a tall, summer-green swamp plant distinguished by its large flowering spike which looks like brown velvet, the stems (kakaho) being used as construction or decoration material. The long, narrow leaves grow to about two metres long.



### Tukutuku

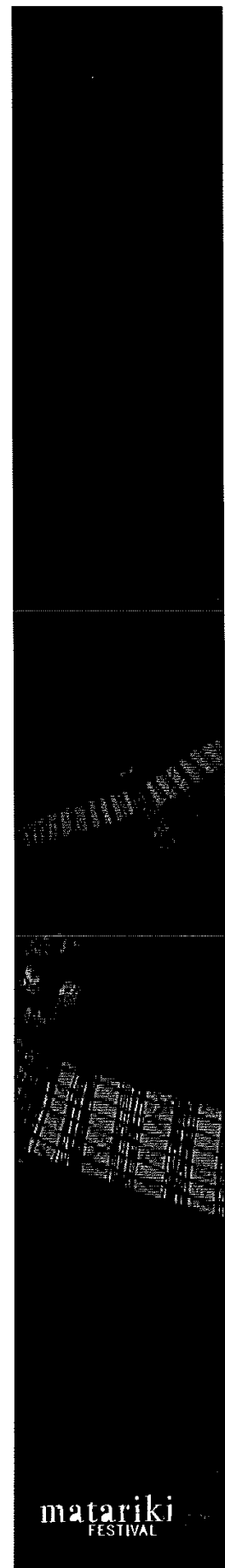
Ornamental lattice-work, used particularly between carvings around the walls of meeting houses. Tukutuku panels consist of vertical stakes (traditionally made of kakaho), horizontal rods (traditionally made of stalks of bracken-fern or thin strips of tōtara wood), and flexible material of flax, kiekie and pōngao, which form the pattern. Each of the traditional patterns has a name.

### Harekeke

New Zealand flax, *Phormium tenax* – an important native plant with long, stiff, upright leaves and dull red flowers. Found on lowland swamps throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand. It has straight, upright seed pods.

### The bridle

One or more strings attached to the spine or spars, which help control the kite in the air.



matariki  
FESTIVAL

**Matariki**

K O P U T U N O C M A A I T P  
I R A T A P A G N A K U R A A  
W C G V U M E K K R E T O M R  
A H N P M J M M A E P A H A E  
O I A E A Y A R U R U H A R A  
R K U K T R T E R E A I G E R  
O I P R A A A H U O K M N R A  
G R L M K A W U K T I O A E U  
N A A K U S H A A O T R U T A  
A T Q R K N E U T N I I P I O  
M A Z T U Q R Z R G H H J H V  
E M A H U T O N G A W W J J U  
T X R A N G A W H E N U A O S  
I G N A R E R I A M F G Q J K  
I G N A R E T U T U O P I F U

AUTAHI  
MAIRERANGI  
MATARIKI  
OTAMARAKAU  
PUANGA  
REHUA  
TAUMATAKUKU  
WHIRO

KOPU  
MARAMA  
MATAWHEREO  
PAREARAU  
PUANGAHORI  
TAKURUA  
TEMANGOROA  
WHITIKAUPEKA

MAHUTONGA  
MAREREOTONGA  
NGAPATARI  
POUTUTERANGI  
RANGAWHENUA  
TAMARERETI  
WHAKAAHURANGI