

Matariki



Matariki (Alcyone) is connected to well-being of humanity and was viewed as an omen of good fortune and health.



Tupuānuku (Atlas) is the star connected to food grown in the ground. “Tupu” means ‘to grow’ and “nuku” is the shortened version of “Papatūānuku” and means ‘earth’.



Waitī (Maia) Wai means water in Te Reo Māori, and Waitī is the star connected to fresh water and all the creatures that live in rivers, streams and lakes. Especially the korokoro (lamprey fish).



Waitā (Tygeta) is the *whetū* associated with the ocean and the many kinds of food Māori gather from the sea.



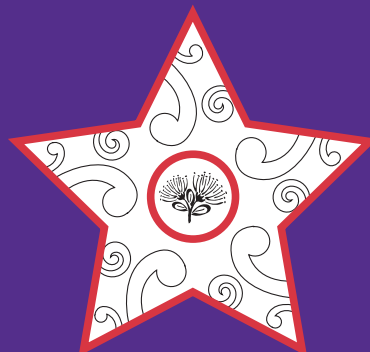
Waipunārangi (Electra)
There are two stars within the Matariki cluster which link Matariki to the weather- Waipunārangi and Ururangi. Waipunārangi is connected to rain and translates as ‘water that pools in the sky’.



Ururangi (Merope) is the *whetū* which determines the nature of the winds for the year. Māori have always maintained a keen interest in the wind.



Tupuārangi (Pleione) is connected to food that comes from the sky. During the rising of Matariki, *kererū* were harvested in large numbers, cooked and then preserved in their own fat.



Pōhutukawa (Sterope) connects Matariki to those who have passed away during the year. Relatives of the deceased would mourn the loss of their people and weep when Matariki was seen rising in the early morning.



Hiwa-i-te-rangi (Calaeno) is connected to the promise of a prosperous season. “Hiwa” means “vigorous of growth”. It is to Hiwa that Māori would send their dreams and desires for the year in the hope that they would be realised.