

Matariki



Image: Te Waka o Rangi, ©[Living by the Stars](#)

TE WAKA O RANGI

Te Waka o Rangi is a canoe formed through a constellation with Matariki at the stern (front) and Tautoru at the bow (back). Taramainuku is the captain. He casts his net (Te Kupenga a Taramainuku) down to earth to gather the souls of the people who died that day and he carries them in his net behind the waka for 11 months. When the constellation sets next to the sun in May, Taramainuku takes the souls to the underworld. The constellation rises again in a month and this is when Taramainuku releases the souls of the dead into the sky to become stars” This is where the origin of the word “Wheturangitia/hia” comes from, it means to be turned into a star.

MATARIKI

Te Waka o Rangi is associated with Pōhutukawa who represents death. Matariki and Pōhutukawa sit at the front of the waka. Pōhutukawa holds on tight to our memories of treasured people who have passed on and encourages us to take time to remember them, and to acknowledge their impact on our lives.

WHANAUNGATANGA

An opportunity to work together, sit together and reflect on the year, tell stories and get creative with activities.

MAUMAHARATANGA

Remember, honour, and recognise the significance that Matariki has with losing our loved ones by sharing stories, images, special memorabilia and kai.