

Matariki 2016



There will be lots on in Ōtaki to celebrate Matariki this month!

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises in late May or early June, signalling the change of season and the start of the Māori New Year.

Traditionally, Matariki was a time to remember those who had died in the last year. But it was also a happy event – crops had been harvested and seafood and birds had been collected. With plenty of food in the storehouses, Matariki was a time for singing, dancing and feasting.

Matariki celebrations stopped in the 1940s, but were revived in 2000. They are now extremely popular every year throughout the country.

Matariki pool party

Take your kids to Ōtaki Pool on Friday 10 June, 3.30-7pm, for fun galore!

For 8-13 year olds, there will be large inflatables, a dunk tank and an underwater photo booth where they can have their photo taken to take home. The Paepae Sound System will be playing great music to keep everyone entertained.

A sausage sizzle will stave off the hunger pangs. \$2 entry.

Also at Ōtaki Pool on Sunday 12 June, 10am-12pm:

Matariki teddy bears picnic for kids under 8 years including a treasure hunt, story time, music and a sausage sizzle. \$2 entry.



Rongoā planting

Local school children will be helping plant a māra rongoā at Haruatai Park on 8 June, giving the community a space to harvest rongoā (medicines produced from native plants) sustainably. Signs will be placed by each planted species explaining their medicinal uses.

Foodbank donations

Celebrate the bountiful time of Matariki by sharing food with those less fortunate. Food donations (tākohā kai) can be dropped into the council service centre at Ōtaki Library between 1-15 June. The food will be given to foodbanks to distribute.

Whānau fun

Ōtaki Library will be hosting lots of fun events for the whole family on Friday 17 June. First up will be a romantic-fantasy-adventure movie on a starry theme at 3.15pm. A Matariki-themed whānau event will follow from 5-6.30pm with arts and crafts, music, storytelling, face-painting and more.

Te Reo classes

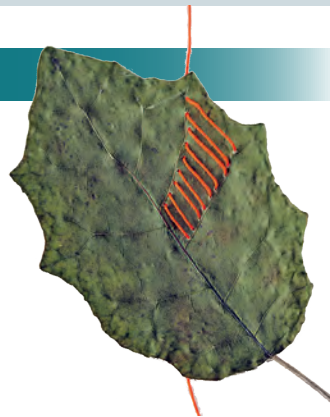
Join in a fun and informative introduction to Te Reo Māori. These classes run every Thursday between 16 June and 7 July at the Ōtaki Library, 10am. For details, contact maori.heritage@kapiticoast.govt.nz or visit kapiticoast.govt.nz/libraries

Leaf stitch project

Help create an artwork which will go on public display in July.

With Ōtaki artist Birgit Moffat, people are invited to stitch a dried leaf from native bush at Ōtaki Library (along with other district libraries) from 14-16 June. Once all leaves are stitched, they'll become part of an art installation at Waikanae's Mahara Gallery.

Check out kapiticoast.govt.nz/libraries for more details.



Community celebrations to end Matariki

A fun, free and festive family day on Saturday 23 July at the Ngā Purapura Centre, 11am-4pm, will bring an end to the Matariki celebrations.

Enjoy local music and art, Matariki-inspired craft activities, a market and food stalls.

This event is run by Te Puāwaitanga o Ngā Kākano, a group which aims to foster whānaungatanga - connectedness, collaboration and community spirit in young people and their families.

For a full list of Matariki events throughout the district, go to kapiticoast.govt.nz/Matariki

Blue Bluff slip update

Work to clear the slip site at Blue Bluff, Ōtaki Gorge Road is continuing to progress.

Around 20,000 cubic metres (m³) of dirt and rock have now been cleared off the slip face with about 25,000 m³ left to remove and take away.

Two seven-metre steps have been cut into the slip face at 25-metre intervals and one more step is being constructed. The steps will catch any small rock falling down the bank in future, so there is less risk of debris blocking the road.

The angle of the slope is also being reduced to minimise the risk of future slips occurring.

Work is expected to be completed in about six weeks. We're asking people to continue to keep away from the site for safety reasons.

