



# Matariki mā Puanga

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**Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki  
20 June 2025**

**Tirorangi Marae  
Whangaehu Valley Road  
Tangiwai 4691**

**Nau mai Puanga, nau mai.  
Nau mai Matariki, nau mai.  
Nau mai Tamanuiterā, nau mai.  
Nau mai Te Mātahi o te Tau, nau mai.  
Ko te tau hou tēnei te haramai nei,  
Koi te mata punenga,  
maiangi te mata pūihoiho,  
i te tau hou e tū mai nei.  
Whano, whano,  
Haramai te toki ata huakirangi!  
Haumi, e!  
Hui, e!  
Tāiki, e!**

**Welcome Puanga, welcome.  
Welcome Matariki, welcome.  
Welcome Tamanuiterā, welcome.  
Welcome the New Year, welcome.  
The New Year emerges,  
Where anything is attainable  
and everything is possible  
in the New Year.  
Unite, unite,  
and bring forth the dawn!  
Together!  
In union!  
We are one!**



Photo credit: Richie Mills and NAIA Limited

**Che Wilson**

## Ngāti Rangi me Te Kāhui o Puanga

Tākina mai te ara o Puanganui-o-te-rangi  
Tū kau Mahutonga i te mātongatonga  
Kau ana Rehua i te tonga-mā-uru  
Pūtongamarangai ko Atutahi te whetū tarake i te ata pō.

Nau mai e te ihi, nau mai e te wehi  
Nau mai Matariki mā Puanga me hō iwi  
Ki maunga Ruapehu, ki Ngā Turi-o-Murimotu,  
ki Whangaehu  
Ki te marae o Tirorangi te hora ake nei  
Whakahautia anō te hononga o Waikaremoana  
ki a Ruapehu  
Whakanuia Te Tahi o te Tau me ngā whana tongitongi  
ka mahuta ki runga  
Tēnei te pō, nau mai te ao  
Tihei mouri ora



As Puanga and its affiliate stars rise,  
let us celebrate the new year  
Let us celebrate the differences in tribal narratives  
Let us come together as a nation  
to celebrate diversity of knowledge  
Doing this on this solemn occasion, Te Tahi o te Tau  
Intentionally being one with nature  
to offer gratitude for the year past  
Invoking the fruits of the year ahead.

We welcome you to our region,  
to the foot of our mountains  
We welcome you to Tīrorangi Marae  
We reaffirm past relationships and  
welcome the efforts of Professor Mātāmua  
To join with us to celebrate Matariki mā Puanga together.

**Takina Puanga**  
**Takina Tautoru**  
**Takina Matariki**  
**E tū Matariki mā Puanga**  
**E tū Te Tahi o te Tau**



# **Rt Hon Christopher Luxon**

## **Prime Minister of New Zealand**

**Mānawa maiea te putanga o Matariki**  
**Mānawa maiea te putanga o Puanga**  
**Mānawa maiea te ariki o te rangi**  
**Mānawa maiea te mātahi o te tau.**

Matariki is a special day for all New Zealanders. It is a time for remembrance, celebrating the present and looking to the future. When I reflect on New Zealand's place in the world, I know New Zealand is leading the world for recognising Matariki as a uniquely indigenous public holiday which heralds the start of the Māori new year.

The rising of Matariki brings New Zealanders together and connects our island nation to the world. Pacific nations are starting to officially celebrate too, with Tahiti set to soon have their first public holiday for Matari'i. We are honoured to be guests of Ngāti Rangi at the foot of Mount Ruapehu as we mark a day that brings our nation together.

I would like to thank Ngāti Rangi for their manaakitanga, venue and hospitality. Ngā mihi nui to Professor Rangi Mātāmua for his guidance and tireless work to promote Matariki as our nation's opportunity to come together and celebrate what makes us truly unique.



Matariki continues to build our sense of national identity, strengthening those universal values of remembrance, celebration and looking forward to the future.

Matariki Hunga Nui, Matariki Ahunga Nui, Matariki Manako Nui, Matariki mā Puanga.

Mānawatia a Matariki!

Takina Puanga



**Hon Paul Goldsmith**

**Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage**

This year's theme of Matariki mā Puanga, Celebrating Together, is a reflection of what makes New Zealand unique. Coming together to share stories and embrace the natural environment are core parts of our shared culture.

Matariki honours our heritage and the Māori celebration held for centuries, now revived. Recognising Puanga as a star in our national celebrations adds new knowledge to the revitalisation of Matariki and its place in our culture.

During the winter months, Matariki and Puanga shine a light on our creative endeavours. They inspire our artists and storytellers, from orchestral collaborations with hip-hop artists, ballet and dance, film, literature and television, and bring audiences and communities together.





I am proud that as a country, we are continuing to build the momentum of Matariki. This is one of hundreds of events around the country this year, and one of countless Matariki events that will happen in years to come.

Thank you to Ngāti Rangi for hosting us at Tiorangi Marae today. To be here under your hospitality as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage is a great privilege.

Matariki and Puanga are taonga for us all to embrace and support. It is an opportunity to reflect on what makes New Zealand a special place to live.

Tēnā koutou katoa

Mānawatia a Matariki!



## **Professor Rangi Mātāmua**

### **Chief Advisor, Mātauranga Matariki**

Today the country comes together to celebrate Te Rā Aroki a Matariki. For the past month, many iwi and communities around the country have been celebrating Matariki and Puanga to acknowledge the beginning of the Māori new year.

This year's celebration is underpinned by the theme 'Matariki mā Puanga, Celebrating Together' acknowledging the regional and tribal variations that exist when observing the Māori new year.

Matariki mā Puanga allows us to celebrate our diversity which is a strength for us as a nation. Against the backdrop of Mount Ruapehu and amidst the warm embrace of Ngāti Rangi, we come together to remember those who have passed, celebrate who we are today, and to look forward to a bright and prosperous future.



Regardless of which star you choose to mark the new year, or the differences across the many facets of our day to day lives, and regardless of the difficulties many have faced in the last year – like the stars – let us rise as one, celebrating our diversity under the banner of Matariki mā Puanga.

Mānawatia a Matariki!



# Whāngai i te Hautapu

## Hautapu ceremony

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- 1 Attendees arrive at carpark, guided by wardens**  
Guests will make their way to the marquee on the marae ātea
  - 2 Briefing**  
Elijah Pue (MC) briefs all attendees about the traditional ceremony
  - 3 Hautapu ceremony begins with blowing of conch shells**  
Refer to karakia booklet for ceremonial karakia
  - 4 Rising of flags and waiata-ā-ringā concludes the ceremony**
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Photo credit: Richie Mills and NAIA Limited

# He whakamāramatanga o te Hautapu

## Hautapu ceremony explained

To honour the rise of Puanga, West Coast iwi (Taranaki, Whanganui and Rangitīkei) would traditionally hold a Hautapu ceremony called 'Te Tahi o te Tau'. This pre-dawn ceremony pays respect to the stars, people who have passed and the natural environment.

A central part of the Hautapu ritual is an offering of food to the stars. Leading into the Puanga period, people would collect food from different parts of the environment. For example, kūmara from the gardens, birds from the forest, eels from fresh water and fish from the ocean. These food items would be cooked in 'Te Umu Kohukohu Whetū', an earth oven, early in the morning before Puanga rose.

Then as Puanga appeared they would complete three activities that make up the Hautapu ceremony:

1. **Tohunga kōkōrangī** (astronomy experts) would read the stars and determine the bounty of the new year
2. **Karakia** (incantations) to the cluster would be conducted along with the calling out the names of all of the people who have passed during the year. These karakia are to honour different parts of the natural world and all that we have received during the year.
3. **Te Umu Kohukohu** (earth oven) is uncovered and the steam rises into the sky as an offering to Puanga. This ceremony ends as the sun rises into the sky welcoming in the new year.



Photo credit: Richie Mills and NAIA Limited

# Te kai o te ata

## Official address programme

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- 1 Hautapu ceremony ends**
  - 2 Breakfast service commences**  
Guests invited to enjoy hākari (feast)
  - 3 Te Kāhui o Puanga address, Che Wilson**  
**Official Government address**
  - 4 Broadcast**  
Hautapu ceremony and official addresses screened
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# **Ngā mātāpono o Matariki mā Puanga**

## **Matariki and Puanga principles**

The Puanga celebration is based around the following three major principles:



### **Puanga Hunga Nui**

#### **Remembrance**

Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Puanga.



### **Puanga Ahunga Nui**

#### **Celebrating the Present**

Gathering together to give thanks for what we have.



### **Puanga Manako Nui**

#### **Looking to the Future**

Looking forward to the promise of a new year.

# **Ngā uara o Matariki mā Puanga**

## **Matariki and Puanga values**

**Whakamaumaharatanga**  
**Remembrance**

**Kotahitanga**  
**Unity**

**Tohatohatanga**  
**Sharing**

**Mana Taiao**  
**Environmental awareness**

**Kaihaukai**  
**Feasting**

**Wānanga**  
**Discussion**

**Noho tahi**  
**Coming together**

**Whakanui**  
**Celebrations**

**Tuakiritanga**  
**Identity**



Photo credit: Richie Mills and NAIA Limited

# He mihi

## Acknowledgements

Manatū Tāonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage would like to acknowledge everyone who has helped make this hautapu ceremony possible, and has played a part in supporting Te Rā Aro ki a Matariki 2025.

Ngāti Rangi  
Tirorangi Marae and hapū  
Te Kāhui o Puanga – Puanganui-o-te-rangi  
NAIA Limited  
Prime Minister Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Professor Rangi Mātāmua  
Te Māngai Pāho  
Kahawai Productions  
Mātai Smith and Stacey Morrison  
Waikato Tainui

And everyone who contributed to the event.



Learn more about the stars that mark  
the beginning of the new year:

**[puanganui.co.nz](http://puanganui.co.nz)**  
**[matariki.com](http://matariki.com)**

