

The Seven Sisters of Matariki

Fact Sheet

Matariki is the mother and she is surrounded by her 6 daughters. These stars are referred to as the seven sisters. The names of each of these stars are Tupu-ā-nuku, Tupu-ā-rangi, Waipunarangi, Waiti, Waitā, Ururangi and Matariki. Each year the seven sisters travel across the sky to visit their tupuna wahine (great grandmother), Papatūānuku (Mother Earth) to help her to prepare for the year to come.

Tupu-ā-nuku- plants and represents food that grows within the soil.

Tupu-ā-rangi- looks out for the ngahere (forests).

Waipuna-ā-rangi- welcomes the winter sky waters in all their forms.

Waiti-watches over our freshwater environments such as rivers and lakes.

Waitā- surveys our vast oceans.

Ururangi- is the star associated with the winds.

Matariki- gathers people together and connects them with our environment.

The two new stars

Pōhutukawa- connects with those who have passed on.

Hiwa-i-te-rangi- the youngest star who is also the wishing star. Ties into our aspirations for the coming year.