



Waitaki Museum

Waitaki Archive

Forrester Gallery

Ōamaru Library

Special events

WIKI TUATAHI 4-7 JULY

4 TUES

5 WEDS

6 THURS

7 FRI

10 MON

11 TUES

12 WEDS

13 THURS

WIKI TUARUA 10-13 JULY

Whetū! Museum Matariki Activity... all of the days!
Learn about the whetū (stars) in the Matariki cluster. Using recycled materials design and make your favourite whetū to take home.

Whetū! Museum Matariki Activity continues...
8 - 16 July Waste Free Waitaki | Museum Education Room

1-4pm Archive Assistance
Matariki is also a time of reflection on those who have gone before. Come down to the archive and do a bit of digging into your family history.

digging all the holidays!

Mānawatia a Matariki | wonderlab
Tahu-nui-ā-Raki | A photographic exhibition by Damien McNamara and friends

11-2pm
Matariki Holiday Programme
Upstairs in the community gallery
All ages welcome

Te Wā Whānau Family time
every day
10 - 10.50am
Te Wā Pakiwaitara Matariki Story Time
3 - 3:30pm
Waiata mai! Matariki Waiata drop-in

Between 11am - 2pm
Art and craft drop-in session E tū Tupuārangi!

11am-12pm
Putting together your Pepeha

10-10.50am
Te Wā Pakiwaitara Matariki Story Time

11am-2pm
Family Rocks!
Waitaki Whitestone Geopark at the Waitaki Museum

6pm
Tahu-nui-ā-Raki Aurora Australis

11-11.30am
Waiata mai! Matariki Waiata drop-in

2.00pm
Here Comes the Sun!
Solar telescope

6am
Stargazing at Mākotukutuku Cape Wanbrow Lookout

10-3pm
StarLab portable planetarium Ōamaru Opera House



Tēnā koutou katoa! Nau mai, haere mai ki te wā motuhake nei, ko te wā o Matariki.

From the 4th to the 13th of July, Waitaki District Libraries, Waitaki Museum and Archives, The Forrester Gallery, Waitaki Whitestone Geopark, Waste Free Waitaki and the Ōamaru Opera House are providing wonderful opportunities for you to celebrate the special time of Matariki - the beginning of the Māori new year as observed on the lunar calendar.

This programme of exciting fun-filled events and activities will engage you with the deeper meaning of Matariki - bringing friends and whānau together to remember and honour those who have passed since the last rising of Matariki, giving thanks for the blessings of last year, reconnecting with one another and sharing hopes and dreams for the new year ahead.

Forrester Gallery

Mānawatia a Matariki | wonderlab

Matariki is a time to gather with whānau (family), hoa (friends), and hāpori (community) to reflect on the past, celebrate the present, and plan for the future. Enjoy this interactive space to celebrate and connect with whānau in the spirit of Matariki.

Tahu-nui-ā-Raki | A photographic exhibition by Damien McNamara and friends

Tahu-nui-ā-Raki is what Māori call the Aurora Australis, visible most often from the southern-most parts of Aotearoa. Māori believe that the Aurora Australis are lights from the campfires reflecting in the night sky, from ancestors who travelled further south beyond Aotearoa.

Matariki Holiday Programme

Design and make your own badge to celebrate Mānawatia a Matariki 2023 with our new badge maker. Different activities daily. All ages welcome!

Ōamaru Library

Te Wā Whānau - Family time

During the entire Matariki school holiday period, come and spend time in the library playing board games with your family and friends, do a special Matariki colouring-in activity, and add a tūmanako (hope, wish, goal) to our tree that honours Hiwa-i-te-rangi, the star who looks after our future hopes and aspirations for the coming year.

Te Wā Pakiwaitara Matariki - Story Time.

A special telling of the Matariki story for children with a yummy follow up activity.

Waiata mai! Matariki Waiata drop-in

Come and learn four waiata that will be sung as part of the special dawn Matariki ceremony at the Cape Wanbrow lookout at 6am on Thursday, 13th July. (If you can't make it along to one of the drop-in sessions, visit the Waitaki District Libraries Facebook page to hear the waiata and sing along).

Putting together your Pepeha

For everyone, an introduction to understanding and writing your own pepeha - i.e. a particular format that recounts your ancestry. Learn how to describe in te reo Māori who you are and where you come from, naming the people and places that are important to you. A session for all ages - a wonderful activity for family members to complete together.

Art & craft drop-in sessions | E tū Tupuārangi!

Celebrate our feathered friends of the forest. Tupuārangi is the star from the Matariki cluster who is linked to food and growth above ground and in the trees. Have fun making a quirky kākāpō or ruru to decorate your home for Matariki.

Here Comes the Sun!

Experience looking through a solar telescope with local astronomer, Damien McNamara. Assemble in the library by 2pm. (Wear warm clothing as we will be standing outdoors). Check Waitaki District Libraries Facebook page for notice of cancellation if weather is not suitable.

Tahu-nui-ā-Raki | Aurora Australis

Join expert astronomer and astrophotographer Damien McNamara to learn about his photography practice capturing the Aurora Australis, Tahu-nui-ā-Raki. Māori believe that Tahu-nui-ā-Raki | the Aurora Australis are lights from the campfires reflecting in the night sky, from ancestors who travelled further south beyond Aotearoa.

Waitaki Museum & Archive

Whetū! Matariki Museum activity

Learn about the whetū (stars) in the Matariki cluster. Using recycled materials design and make your favourite whetū to take home.

Archive Assistance

Matariki is also a time of reflection on those who have gone before. Come down to the archive and do a bit of digging into your family history.

Special Events

Waitaki Whitestone Geopark | Family Rocks!

At the Te Whare Taoka o Waitaki | Waitaki Museum and Archive. Bring your Waitaki rocks along to be identified by the Geopark's geologist Sasha and plot them on our giant map!

Waste Free Waitaki

Reflecting on some of the past issues we have with legacy waste, thinking about what our current waste practices are and reimagining what our Waste Free Waitaki future could be.

Come along to the Waitaki Museum Education room for an informative display of all things waste in Waitaki and Aotearoa and leave your hopes and aspirations for a Waste Free Waitaki future on the Waitaki awa.

Stargazing at Mākotukutuku | Cape Wanbrow Lookout

Join expert Māori astronomer Damien McNamara who will guide our early morning viewing of the Matariki cluster and other points of interest. Participate in Matariki ceremonial karakia with Justin Tipa from Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and engage in waiata that have been practiced in our drop-in sessions.

(NB. See Waitaki District Council Facebook page for notice of cancellation on the day. In the event of harsh weather conditions, gathering for the ceremonial karakia and waiata will take place in the Scottish Hall on Tyne Street and hot refreshments will be served).

Indoor Astronomy with StarLab, Tūhura Otago Museum's portable planetarium at Ōamaru Opera House

From navigation to calendars to stories that seem fantastical, the night sky encodes important knowledge about the world around us. To help celebrate Te Tau Hou Māori, explore our galaxy with Tūhura's science team in their portable planetarium, share knowledge and stories from around the world, and get tips for finding Puaka and Matariki in the dawn sky. Booking essential. Use the link or QR code to book. Eight free 25min sessions.

Booking link: <https://t.ly/N66r>

