Matariki Ahi Kā

Presented by Wellington City Council

Nau mai, haere mai. The celebration of the Māori New Year dates back over 700 years and is accompanied by long-established traditions.

The rising of Puanga (also known as the star Rigel in Orion) and the Matariki star cluster (Pleiades, or the Seven Sisters) marks the start of the Māori New Year, a time for remembering the past, celebrating the present, and looking to the future.

Wellington City Council invites you to celebrate the Māori New Year in a uniquely Wellington way. Enjoy a spectacular, free, whānau-friendly experience with our Matariki Ahi Kā and Mana Moana Pōneke events.

Matariki Ahi Kā

6pm-9pm, Thursday 19-Sunday 22 June Wellington Waterfront

An immersive self-led walk though journey including fire, projections, performances, as well as a ceremony to honour those who have passed away since last Matariki and express hopes for the future, and kai.

The Pōhutukawa & Hiwa-i-te-Rangi ceremony begins at the Barnett Street tomokanga (entrance) each evening at 7.40pm and moves along Te Papa Promenade to Whairepo Lagoon.

Mana Moana Pöneke

6pm-9pm, Whairepo Lagoon

Indigenous films projected onto a water screen. Watch as millions of water droplets fall and catch the light, creating the illusion of images appearing from the darkness and floating on the water.

The films have been curated by Israel Randell (Rarotonga, Tainui, Ngāti Kahungunu) and are guided by the wise words of Moana Jackson: 'In time, like te ao marama emerging out of te pō, mourning gives way to dreaming.' Randell says her curatorial direction has been informed by the 50th anniversary of the land march led by Whina Cooper and how that time is mirrored again with our recent largest hīkoi ever to parliament.



Matariki Ahi Kā Programme

Thursday 19 - Sunday 22 June

6pm-9pm Fire, projections, performances, and kai.

Check out what is on at the Fire Pits.

Mana Moana Poneke water screen

(with a short break for the ceremony)

Aroha Stage

Thursday 19 June

6pm Ngāti Pōneke Young Māori Club (Kapa Haka)

6.45pm Mokomoko and the Shwayliens (Futuristic Space Hip Hop)

8pm Chocolate Box (Soul, RnB, Funk, Surprises)

Friday 20 June

6pm Ngāti Pōneke Young Māori Club (Kapa Kaka)

6.45pm Leading Ladies (A tribute to LGBTQI's past, present, and future)

8pm SoandSo (Hip Hop)

Saturday 21 June

6pm Ngāti Pōneke Young Māori Club (Kapa Haka)

6.45pm Rei (Electro Haka)

8pm Tui (Soul, Pop)

Sunday 22 June

6pm Ngāti Pōneke Young Māori Club (Kapa Haka)

6.45pm Coverstory (Classics and Originals)

8pm Mo etc (Alt Soul)

Matariki Ahi Kā Programme

Takoha Stage

Thursday 19 June

6pm Tom Knowles (Reggae, Roots)

7pm Maako (RnB and Soul)

8pm Matua Brodz (Classic Waiata)

Friday 20 June

6pm Tom Knowles (Reggae, Roots)

7pm Lee Stuart (Alternative Pop)

8pm Maako (RnB and Soul)

Saturday 21 June

6pm Tom Knowles (Reggae, Roots)

7pm Lee Stuart (Alternative Pop)

8pm Matua Brodz (Classic Waiata)

Sunday 22 June

6pm Lee Stuart (Alternative Pop)

7pm Tui (Soul, Pop)

8pm Rameka Tamaki (Classical Guitar)