



Mauri stones hold mauri life force from places the waka has travelled to. These Mauri stones sit at the bottom of the mast of *Haunui*. Some stones are from Aotearoa, such as from Whangaparāoa at the East Cape, while others are from as far away as Tahiti and Hawai'i.



School Holiday Programme: Matariki Herenga Waka

6-9, 13-17 July
10am-2:30pm | \$5 per child
Bookings advised

Join us for a hands-on adventure where tamariki become apprentice wayfinders!

Build a cardboard waka, then set off on a journey through the museum to discover the nine stars of Matariki, learning about navigation along the way, and explore what the stars can teach us about food, weather, family, and the sea.

July
School
Holidays



THE mini MĀUI CLUB

July 2026

#23: Mānawatia a Matariki!

The stars are rising and we have SO much happening this month. Matariki is our favourite time of year – Lessgoooo!



Become an apprentice wayfinder...



...and build a cardboard waka



Haunui

No Google Maps!

Te Toki Voyaging Trust are the guardians of five incredible waka hourua — traditional double-hulled sailing canoes named *Haunui*, *Aotearoa One*, *Hinemoana*, *Rangi*, and *Te Karere*. These waka have sailed across the great Te Moananui-a-kiwa, using only the stars, moon, wind, and waves to find their way. No Google Maps, just ancient knowledge passed down through generations. Pretty cool, right?

The kaumoana of these waka have extraordinary skills. They read the stars to know where they are and where they're heading. They feel the movement of the waves under the hull to understand ocean currents. They watch birds, because certain birds mean land is close. They smell the air, observe the clouds, and read the colour of the water. Every single thing around them is a clue. And Matariki? When that little cluster of stars rises in the winter sky, a new year has begun — time to prepare, to plan, and to voyage again.

Today, *Haunui* — which means the great wind — resides here at Hui Te Ananui a Tangaroa. School groups from all over Tāmaki come to sail on *Haunui* as part of our Ara Moana Ocean Roads waka programme.

Continued on following page





Māngere College rangatahi with Noenoe from Te Toki

Māngere College student learning the ropes!



Continued from previous page

Maybe you've been on board!

These photos are thanks to two Year 10 students, **Farhana** and **Kaiah**, from Māngere College who visited us this year.

This Matariki, Te Toki helped us create something special: our Matariki Herenga Waka school holiday programme — a journey through the stars, the ocean, and the stories that connect us all. Come explore our galleries, make your own cardboard waka and discover what Matariki means for you.



Waka hourua - double-hulled canoe
Kaumoana - Ocean-going navigators
Te Moananui-a-kiwa - Pacific Ocean
Matariki Herenga Waka - Matariki The Waka Connector



Kupu huna

Matariki is a time to slow down, look up at the stars, and let the world rest and recharge — including the plants, the birds, and the ocean!

See if you can hunt down all the Matariki words hiding in the grid below.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Matariki | 9 Ururangi |
| 2 Whānau | 10 Pōhutukawa |
| 3 Taiao | 11 Waitā |
| 4 Hiwaitearangi | 12 Whenua |
| 5 Tipuārangi | 13 Whetū |
| 6 Kaitiaki | 14 Waipunarangi |
| 7 Moana | 15 Tipuānuku |
| 8 Awa | 16 Waitī |



H G K T A I A O M T Ē K
I W R I W Ē W H E N U A
W A I P U N A R A N G I
A I N U R Ū N M P Ā Ō T
I T M Ā T E Ō A I W K I
T Ā O N H K W T H H R A
E M A U Ē Ā P A E Ā W K
R I N K U R U R A N G I
A W A U Ō A H I M A R O
N Ū W H E T Ū K N U G Ē
G W A I T I W I Ū P Ā M
I G T I P U Ā R A N G I
Ē T P Ō H U T U K A W A

This Kupu huna is based on the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa's "Matariki activity book" which is licensed by Te Papa for reuse under the Creative Commons AttributionNonCommercial 4.0 International Licence.



Take a breath

Matariki is also a time for rest and reflection. Try putting on some relaxing music and have a go at some mindful colouring.

Send in a pic of your work and be in to win your own taniwha plushie!

Entries close end of August 2026

Enter

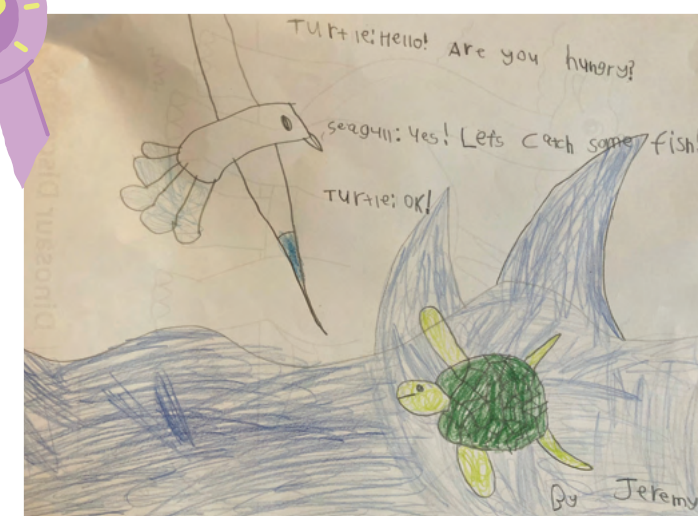
by emailing us at info@maritimemuseum.co.nz

or tag us on Insta or Facebook:

@nzmaritimemuseum

Bubble Thoughts!

We had so many great entries to our *Bubble Thoughts* competition — tino pai rawa atu!



Winner: Jeremy, age 6, for his gorgeous turtle drawing.

Shout outs to: Yann, age 4, with his underwater easter eggs and Aya, age 8, for her fun comic!



Matariki manako nui

What do you want to achieve this year?

Write down your manako/whāinga e toru *three hopes or goals*. Maybe you want to learn to surf, read 10 books, or finally beat your big sister at chess. Whatever it is, Matariki is the perfect time to say it out loud and make it happen!

A blank sheet of lined paper with punch holes at the top, intended for writing goals.