

Kāi Tahu

Our ancestors were the first long distance seafarers who explored and populated the Pacific. Riding the ocean currents, navigating by stars, trade winds, and the migratory patterns of species Aotearoa became home.

We learnt to adapt quickly living in this formidable southern environment, establishing permanent and semi-permanent settlements throughout Te Waipounamu.

Kāi Tahu/Ngāi Tahu means ‘the people of Tahu’ acknowledging our lineage and connections.





Cultural Narratives

- A corpus of knowledge that follows a framework based on values and priorities.
- The skyscape and landscape are embedded with the names and deeds of our ancestors serving as markers that illustrate our oral traditions.
- Observing, reading and interpreting the stars and sky builds our knowledge and understanding of the natural world/universe.

Mātauraka Māori- Indigenous knowledge

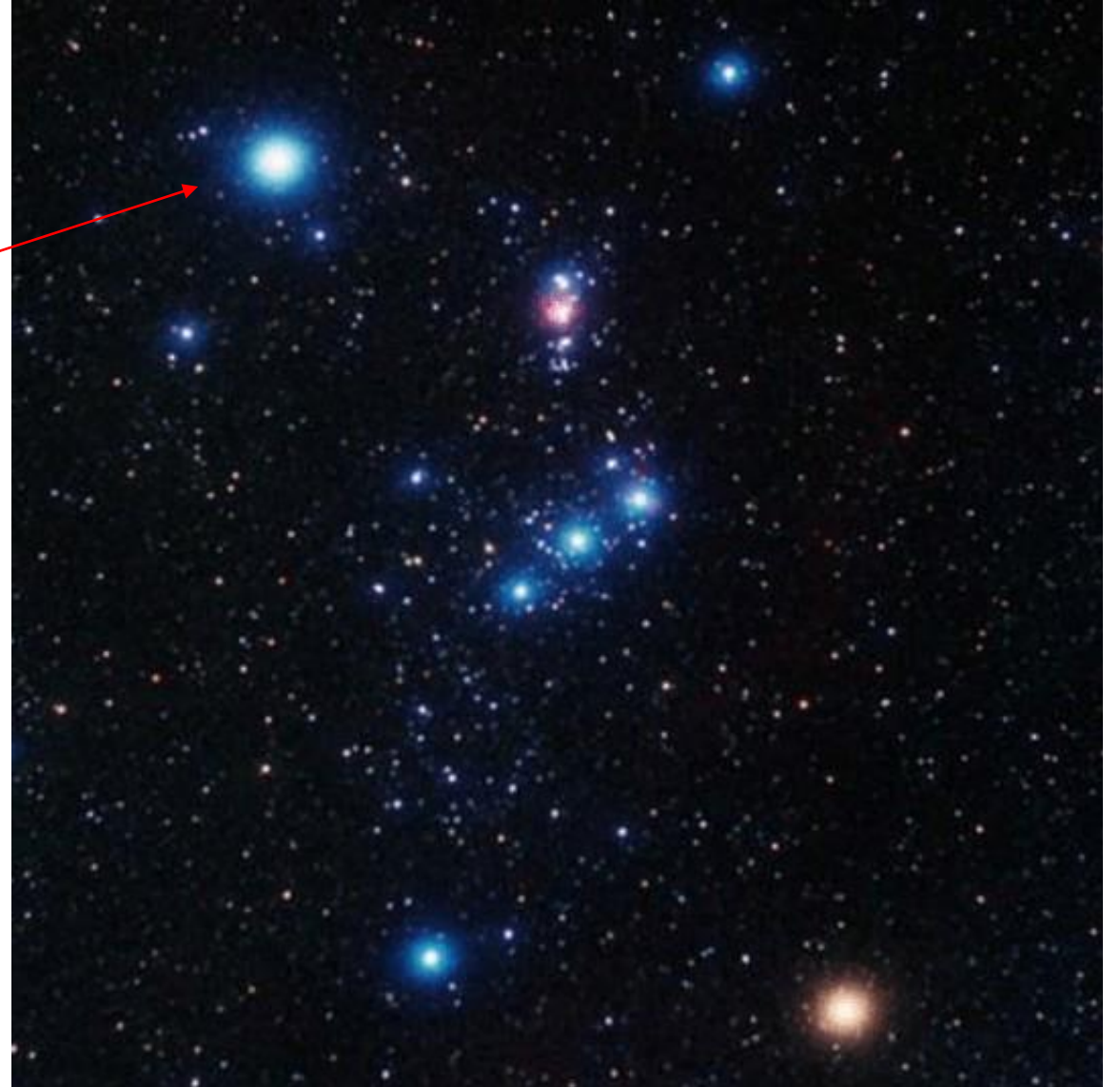
- Modern term – combined knowledge of Polynesian ancestors and the experiences of iwi living in the Aotearoa environment/Te Waipounamu.
- **Tātai aroraki:** observing, recording, reciting the stars. Applied in time keeping systems.

Study the sky to determine weather patterns and mark season (the return of birds with the appearance of stars).



What is Puaka?

- Star (Rigel in Orion)
- Phase in the luni-solar time keeping system
- Mahika kai - Tītī, Tuna
- **Weather/Season**
 - setting in the West, a time of frost.
 - Rising in the East during winter, Spring on way



What is Matariki?

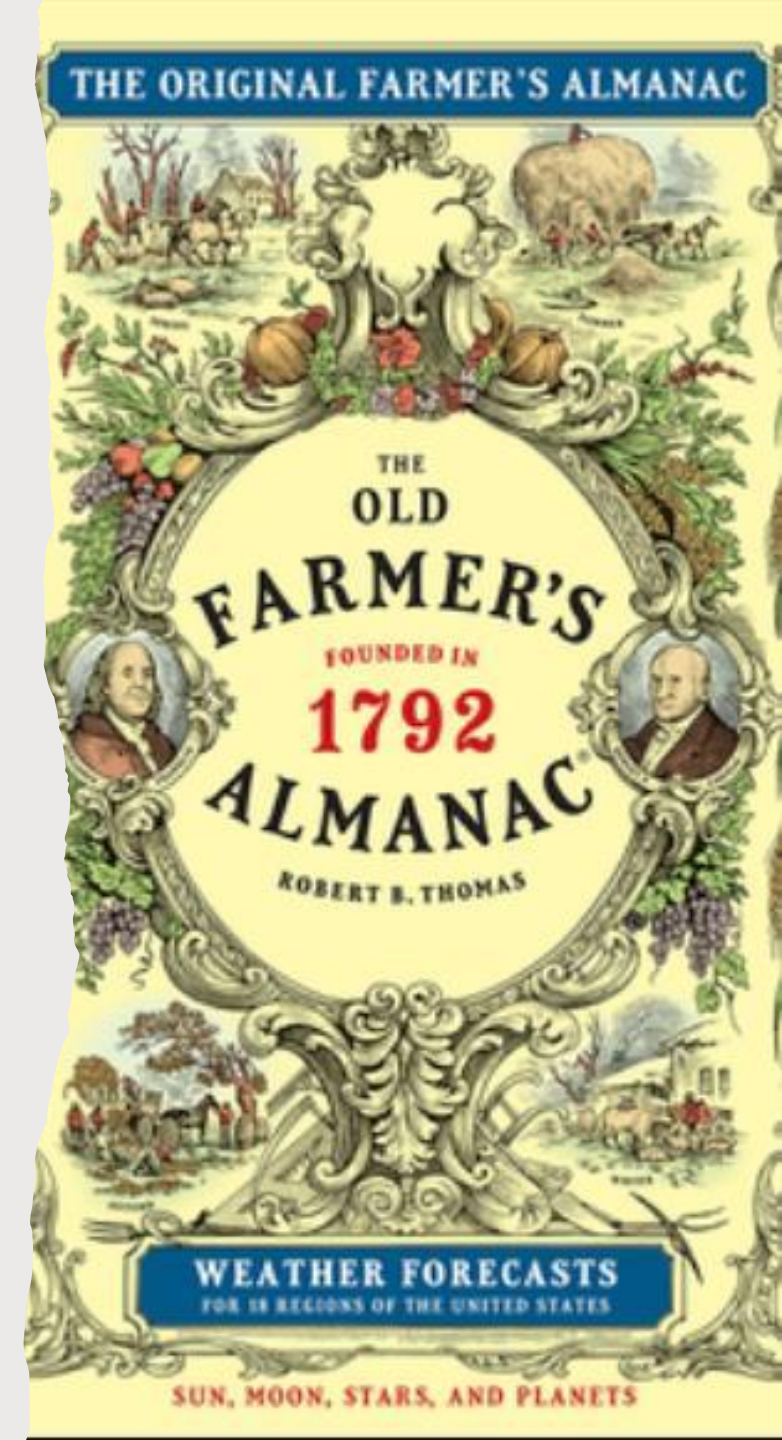
- Star (Alcyone)
- Star cluster (Pleiades/M45)
- Phase in the luni-solar time keeping system – winter solstice
- Mahika kai – seasonality
- Internationally associated with seasons, planting, harvesting, weather, religion, death and new life.





Maramataka

- Marama Moon
- Taka Almanac
- Maramataka Moon almanac
- Nā Rangi Mātāmua-Te Tau Toru Nui o Matariki 2023





Luni-solar calendar

- Position of the sun
- Phase of the moon
- Helical rising, rising of stars
- Environmental indicators
- Reconciliation of the moon and the sun

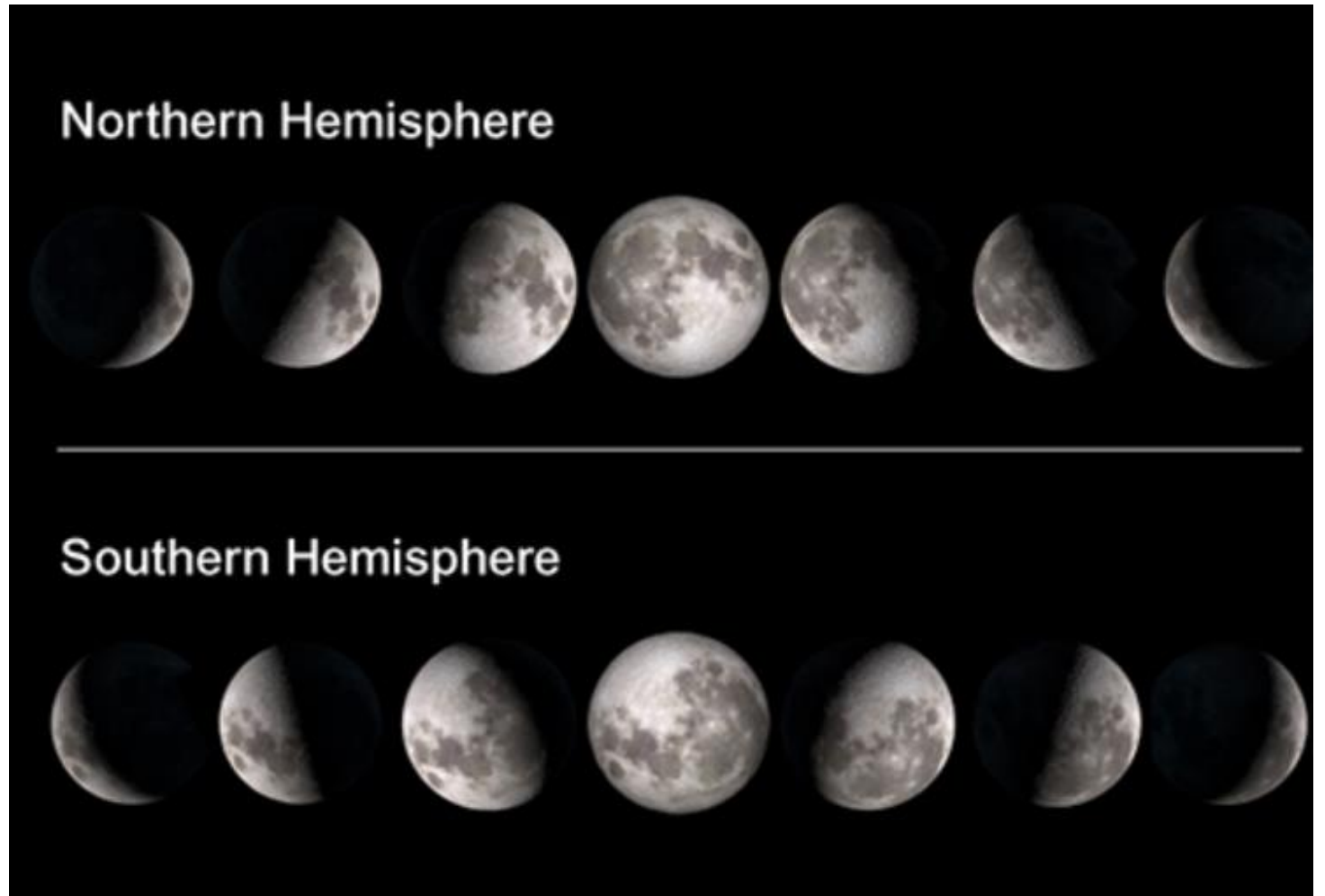
Te Rā (The Sun) Season

-
- RākuraRātuoi Hinerāumati
 - Hinetakurua
 - Te Ara Whānui a Tāne



Te Marama (The Moon)

- days/nights of the month
- Activity





Takaroa

Kā Whetū

The Stars

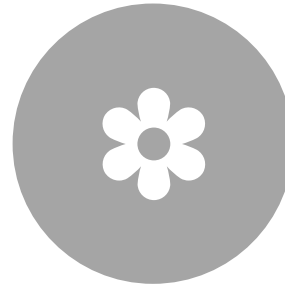
- Period of the season/Activity
- Setting of stars – ending the season
- Rising of stars – denoting the new season
- 13 stars system



The Environment



Winter – time to gather



Spring – time to dig,
blooms, birds

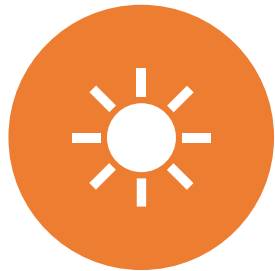


Summer – garden and
biodiversity time



Autumn – harvest time

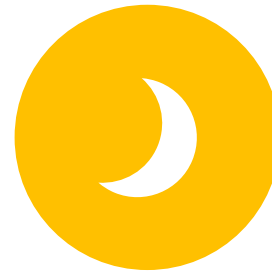
Maramataka Luni-Solar



SUN = SEASON



STAR (DAWN SKY) =
PERIOD OF SEASON



MOON PHASE =
ACTIVITIES FOR
THE PERIOD



ENVIRONMENT=
NATURAL
INDICATORS



Ururaki



Waipunaraki



Matariki



Tupuāraki



Tupuānuku



Hiwa-i-te-raki



Waitī



Waitā



Pohutukawa

Matariki

Remembrance – Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki.

Celebrating the present – Gathering together, sharing.

Looking to the future – Preparing for the impending season, goal setting.

- **Friday 28 June 2024**
- **Friday 20 June 2025**

The Matariki public holiday dates fall on the closest Friday to the Takaroa lunar period during the lunar month of Pipiri

