

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN NEW ZEALAND



- New Zealand is one of the first countries to observe the New Year, on January 1. New Year's Day and the Day after the New Year are public holidays throughout the country.

HAPPY
NEW YEAR

WHAT DO PEOPLE DO?

- Due to its geographical position close to the International Date Line, New Zealand is one of the first countries in the world to welcome the New Year. Many people use New Year's Day to relax after celebrating New Year's Eve and the countdown to the New Year. Some people visit family and friends, while others attend events such as New Year's Day horse racing carnivals and summer day fairs. Cricket is a sporting event that many New Zealanders watch during the New Year's Day holiday.

PUBLIC LIFE

The background of the slide features a close-up of two champagne flutes filled with a golden, bubbly liquid. Behind the glasses is a large, dark clock face with prominent white Roman numerals. A single lit candle with a bright flame is positioned between the two glasses, slightly behind them. The overall lighting is warm and festive, suggesting a New Year's celebration.

- New Year's Day is a statutory public holiday in New Zealand, so schools, government offices, and many private businesses are closed. New Year's Day is also in the middle of the school summer holidays in New Zealand.

THE MATARIKI

A close-up photograph of a Maori man's face, focusing on his eyes and the intricate moko (tattoo) patterns on his skin. The tattoos are dark and feature swirling, geometric designs. The man's eyes are brown and looking slightly to the right. The background is blurred.

- The Maori New Year is called after the group of stars Matakari also known as the Pleiades star cluster or the Seven Sisters. It has two meanings. Mata Riki means “tiny eyes” while Mata Ariki means “eyes of God”.

THE MATARIKI

A photograph of Maori people celebrating Matariki. In the foreground, a man with traditional Maori face paint (moko) and a headband is shouting with his mouth wide open and hands raised. Behind him, other people are also shouting and raising their hands. The background is dark, suggesting a night or dusk setting.


- The dawn rise of Matariki can be seen during the last few days of May every year and the New Year begins at the sighting of the next new moon which takes place during June. Matariki tribal celebrations are held at different times by different Iwi (maori tribes). Some tribes celebrate New Year when Matariki is first seen, while some others celebrate New Year during the full moon after Matakari rises.

THE MATARIKI

A woman in traditional Māori dress, including a patterned headband and a woven skirt, is captured in a dynamic pose, likely performing a haka. She has a joyful expression, looking upwards and to the side. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an outdoor night event.

- Traditionally, the coming season's crop was thought to be determined by the visibility of Matariki. The brighter the stars, the warmer the season would be and therefore, a more productive crop. Matariki was also seen as an essential time with the coming together of family and friends. It is a time of sharing knowledge, history, storytelling, song & dance, weaving & carving, traditional ceremonies.

THE MATARIKI

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- A group of Maori women are performing a traditional haka. They are wearing traditional Maori clothing, including patterned skirts and headbands with red flowers. They have white paint on their faces and are smiling and singing. The background is dark.
- There are many ways to celebrate Matariki. Most Maori tribes celebrate the New Year through the performance of art & sport activities, the study of stars' meanings & their history, or the making & sharing of traditional food for instance.