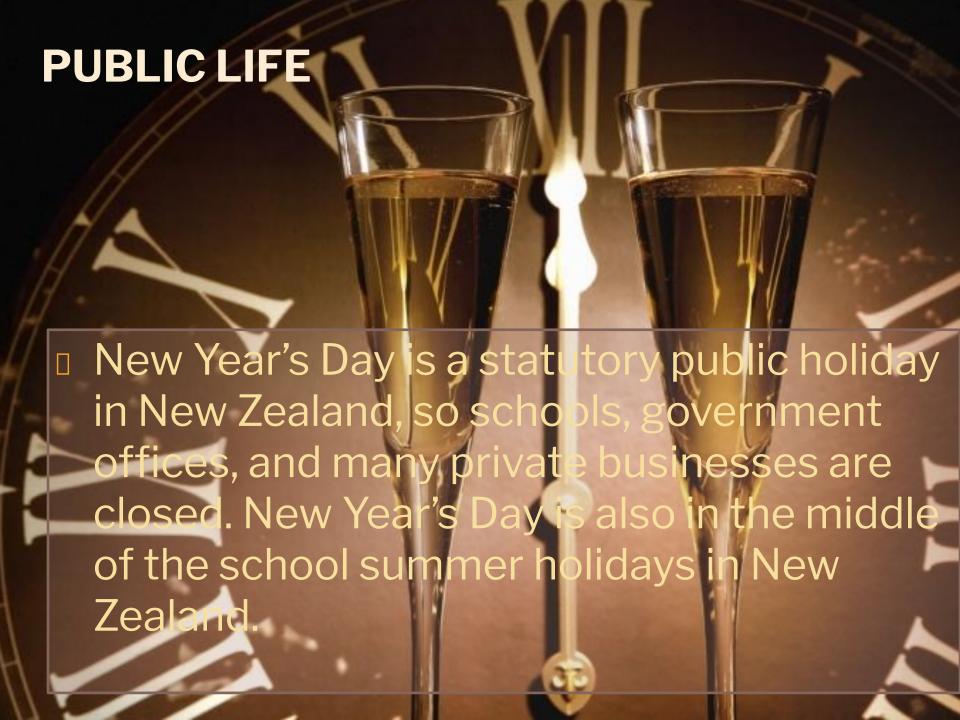
## NEW YEAR'S EVE IN NEW ZEALAND



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.

## 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.







held at different times by different lwi (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 MATARIK

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.

