



Matariki Tu Rākau Questions & Answers

What is Matariki Tu Rākau?

Matariki Tu Rākau is a programme to encourage communities to plant trees in recognition of the service of the men and women of the New Zealand Defence Forces (NZDF). The programme aims to encourage public participation in local plantings, with an emphasis on events over the Matariki period. Planting will occur on publicly accessible land such as public parks, places of remembrance and Marae.

Matariki Tu Rākau plantings can be led by local councils, community groups, and Marae, and can be in recognition of service people from a particular area. Significant plantings will be marked with a commemorative plaque, forming a Matariki Tu Rākau living salute trail around New Zealand.

Who is behind Matariki Tu Rākau?

The Matariki Tu Rākau steering group includes the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Ministry of Defence, New Zealand Defence Force, Te Puni Kōkiri the Ministry of Maori Development, Local Government New Zealand, and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Associations.

The project is being implemented through Te Uru Rākau Forestry New Zealand, within the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI).

What are 'suitable' tree types?

Suitable trees means:

- Appropriate species for healthy permanent plantings at the chosen site.
- Native tree species, particularly those that are regionally appropriate, are preferred, though other species that are significant to the community can be planted.

How much funding can we ask for?

See the Matariki Tu Rākau Application Form for details on what you can apply for. Funding will vary depending on the number of trees to be planted and the size of your event, and will include:

- Trees;
- Commemorative plaque / signage;
- At Te Uru Rākau's discretion, a contribution to costs of facilitating community-wide planting events.

How will events be promoted?

We expect applicants to promote planting events locally to ensure your whole community has the opportunity to participate. MPI may issue media release/s which you can also use to promote your event through your local news outlets. We may also list participating events on the MPI website.

What type of event is eligible?

Local events and plantings will ideally be co-designed by the community and include fitting expression of the local community past and present – it may be as simple or elaborate and as casual or formal as you wish.

The priority is that trees are planted and the planting remains permanently accessible to the public and continue to be maintained, as places of reflection and remembrance.

Invitations will be open to your whole community – children, families, descendants of past service men and women and those new to the community.

How many trees should we plant?

The number of trees is up to your community, and obviously depends on the site you have available. It may be a handful or hundreds. The number of trees planted and planting locations will be recorded and made publically available, as part of the government's One Billion Trees Programme; and also in forming a living salute trail around New Zealand.

What should plantings be like?

The site, design and setting is up to your local community, bearing in mind that these plantings will also form part of our national commemorations of the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1918.

The priority is that trees are planted and the planting remains permanently accessible to the public and continue to be maintained. Possible locations could be in public parks or reserves; civic centres; along prominent roads and avenues; or near existing memorials.

Te Uru Rākau New Zealand Forestry will provide (or fund) a commemorative plaque to mark the sites of significant plantings.

Over the three years, Matariki Tu Rākau plantings will create a national trail of living salutes that complement our time-honoured War Memorials – places where whanau and communities, and visitors, can visit in years to come, to reflect and appreciate the work and sacrifices of our service personnel.

What if we want to run an event outside of Matariki 2018?

You can tell us now if you intend to plan a project to be implemented over the next three years, and apply for funding next year.

Why Matariki?

Matariki falls near the middle of the planting season for most of the country, and the rising of the constellation of Matariki marks a traditional time of harvest, thanksgiving and remembrance celebrated as the Maori New Year.