



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Matariki and

Arbor Day Celebration 2014

Thursday 19 June
Queen Elizabeth Park

10am-12.30pm





Matariki and Arbor Day Celebration Programme

- 10.00am** Mihi – Tuki Takiwa, Te Atiawa ki Whakarongotai
- 10.02am** Kapa Haka Paekakariki School
- 10.05am** Introduce speakers: Nigel Wilson (MC)
✦ The Hon Fran Wilde
Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council
- 10.10am** Waiata by Paekakariki, Te Ra Waldorf and Raumati South Schools (E Tu Kahikatea)
- 10.12am** Cutting of cake
- 10.20am** Tree planting demonstration and health and safety talk
- 10.30am** Blessing at planting site
- 10.35am** General planting and Matariki presentation
- 11.20pm** Changeover for school groups
- 12.05pm** Refreshments and BBQ
- 12.30pm** Finish

History of Queen Elizabeth Park

The coastal setting, plentiful food and central location of what is now Queen Elizabeth Park have long attracted people to the area. Māori have been living here for hundreds of years and there were major settlements at Wainui and Whareroa up until the mid-1800s. As this occupation declined, the land was taken up by the European farmers who had moved into the area.



The park's sandy beach and rural surrounds close to Wellington were an ideal training ground for American troops preparing to fight in the Pacific during World War II. Camp Russell was built near the MacKays Crossing entrance; Camp Paekakariki on what is now the southern entrance and Camp MacKay over SH1 on the present day Whareroa Farm. Together they housed 20,000 Marines from June 1942 to November 1943.

Soon after, the land used for camps was considered as suitable for a large regional park, one of Wellington's first. From 1953, Queen Elizabeth Park provided recreation facilities for residents from the wider Wellington region. From 1990, it has been under the management of Greater Wellington Regional Council.



Tangata whenua of the park are Ngāti Haumia, a hapū of Ngāti Toa Rangatira, at the southern end and Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai north of Whareroa Stream.



Matariki

Matariki is the Māori name for the group of stars also known as the Pleiades and what is referred to as the traditional Māori New Year.

The Māori New Year is marked by the rise of Matariki and the sighting of the next new moon. The New Year is marked at the sighting of the next new moon which happens in June. This name and celebration is unique to Aotearoa/New Zealand.

To some, Matariki is said Mata Ariki – the eyes of the gods or little eyes. Matariki is a time for reflections on the past and looking to the future. It's te wā hōtoke – winter time, so it is the best time for new learning and new beginnings. Matariki is a time to think about and be with the people you love, your family and friends.

Arbor Day history

Arbor Day originated in Nebraska, USA, due to the lack of trees in the Great Western Plains. Since then many other countries, including New Zealand, recognise the importance of planting trees.

New Zealand had its first Arbor Day in 1892 in Greytown. Some of the original planted trees can still be seen today. It is great to know that this tradition started in our region and continues today!



Quiz

1. Until when were major Māori settlements at Queen Elizabeth Park? _____
2. What country were the troops from who camped at Queen Elizabeth Park during World War II? _____
3. Who is the Māori God of the Forest? _____
4. Where was the first Arbor Day held in New Zealand? _____
5. What three things should you do to plants to look after them once you have planted them? (Hint: Answer is in step 6 in "How to Plant")

Answers 1. Mid-1800s, 2. American, 3. Tane Mahuta, 4. Greytown, 5. Weeding, watering and mulching

Colouring page





Te Waonui a Tāne – the great forest of Tāne

Tāne the god of the forest had an important place in early Māori traditions. People learnt to respect and understand the forest and all of the things it sustains, because the forest is vital to life. Trees are seen as Tāne, rising to separate the earth and sky, bringing light into the world.

In the Māori view, plants and animals have lots of meanings. People also have a duty to care for those things contained within the forests and lands. When we go into the forest we must respect and care for what has been left to us.

There are many Māori traditions and sayings that come from Tāne. Look at the back of this booklet to learn a karakia about Tāne and the forest. You can also learn a song about one of his children, the Kahikatea.

What did you plant?

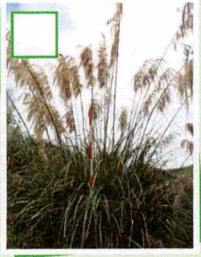
Tick the boxes



Dacrydium dacrydioides
Kahikatea



Phormium tenax
Flax or Harakeke



Austroderia toetoe
Toe toe



Hebe stricta
Koromiko



Leptospermum scoparium
Manuka



Coprosma robusta
Karamu

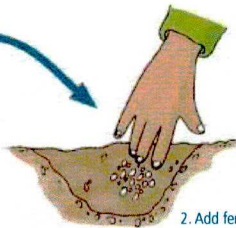


Pittosporum tenuifolium
Kohuhu

How to plant



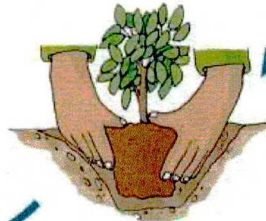
1. Clear weeds from the area you wish to plant. Dig a hole big enough to fit the plant.



2. Add fertiliser.



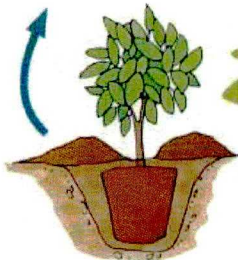
3. Remove the plant bag or pot (being careful not to harm the plant).



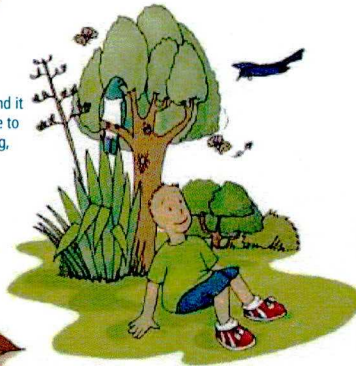
4. Gently loosen the roots and place the plant in the hole.



5. Fill in the rest of the hole with soil, and press it down firmly around the plant.



6. Water the plant and mulch around it to prevent evaporation. Continue to look after your plants by weeding, watering and mulching.



Karakia – nā Wayne Tamati, nō Te Awa o Whanganui

Ki o rite mātou ki te Tōtara

E tu, e tu, e tu

Tāne mahuta, uhia mai o taonga

Hei korowai mo mātou

Inaianei, me ake ake tonu

Tihei mauri ora!

We are like Tōtara

Standing tall

Tāne mahuta, bestow us with your treasures

A cloak for us

Now and forever

Tihei mauri ora!

Waiata – E Tu Kahikatea, nā Hirini Melbourne

E tu Kahikatea

Hei whakapai ururoa

Awahi mai awahi atu

Tātou tātou e

Stand tall like the Kahikatea

To brave the storms

Care for one another

We are one together

Kahikatea grow in groves or communities: you very rarely see a kahikatea standing alone!

Queen Elizabeth Park Community Planting

- ✿ 29 June 2014
- ✿ 13 July 2014
- ✿ 27 August 2014
- ✿ 24 August 2014

Join us anytime between 9.30am and 12noon. Morning tea provided. Please bring appropriate footwear and warm clothes.

For more information please contact bookings@gw.govt.nz, 04 830 4231