



Media release

Thursday 2 June 2016

Selwyn celebrates Matariki

During June Selwyn residents are invited to join in celebrations for Matariki – the Māori New Year.

Matariki is the name for the group of stars also known as the Pleiades star cluster or The Seven Sisters. The New Year is marked by the rise of Matariki and the sighting of the next new moon.

On Saturday 25 June a free event is planned featuring renowned artist Marcus Winter who will tell the Māori story of creation through pictures. Marcus was a finalist in an arts category in the Ngā Toa Whakaihuwaka - Māori of the Year Awards 2013. He has performed at locations such as Te Papa, the Auckland Art Museum and the New Zealand Art Show. Videos and photos of Marcus' work are available at www.marcuswinter.co.nz.

The celebration will also include Ngā i Te Ruahikihiki performing a mihi whakatau (welcome), and kapa haka performances by local high schools in collaboration with the Te Taumutu Rūnanga. The event is funded by the Selwyn District Council and will take place at Lincoln University from 2.30-5.30pm. The afternoon is open to people of all backgrounds and you don't need to be familiar with Māori protocol to attend. Registration is essential to attend this free family event. To register please visit www.selwynmatariki.eventbrite.co.nz.

Selwyn Libraries have a range of activities planned to celebrate Matariki.

Local storyteller Rosaline Brown will visit Leeston Library on Thursday 9 Piripi (June) from 3.30-4.30pm to share traditional Māori stories at a free session for all ages.

Free craft sessions open to children and adults are planned between 16 and 24 June at libraries where artist Tracey Te Karu will show participants how to weave harakeke (flax) stars.

Science Alive will also visit local libraries between 21 and 27 June to explain the science of Matariki stars and engage children in some fun hands on activities. These sessions are free and are recommended for children aged 5-10, with children 7 and under needing caregiver supervision.

For more information and to register to attend a library event visit www.selwynlibraries.co.nz. Each library is also inviting the community to join them to help create tō tātou korowai (our community cloak). Materials and templates will be provided from 3pm each day throughout June to help create the feather cloaks which will be displayed at the 25 June Matariki celebration and then at local libraries.

Images attached:

Ends

For media enquiries, please contact:

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