



Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED

MEDIA RELEASE – 29 June 2010

“Wairoa Matariki Biggest In Country”

Friday, July 2

Wairoa College’s Sheree Cotter says Matariki is one of those unique events which has the power to bring people together to inspire unity among the district’s various communities.

And that’s what she’s hoping for when Wairoa hosts its Matariki concert on Friday, July 2 and the Wairoa Community Centre.

“Matariki is unique because it involves all our people, from Wairoa, Mahia, Mohaka, Nuhaka and Lake Waikaremoana, everyone comes in and it’s massive to see them all together in one place,” Ms Cotter said.

She is the Head of Music at Wairoa College and so is well known among Wairoa entertainers and singers, who will play a big part in this year’s Matariki.

And many of the young artists who are to perform for Matariki were from the college’s senior music academy

“ I am also music tutor for (kapa haka group) Te Rerenga Kotuku which will be performing this year for the first time in three years at Matariki,” Ms Cotter said.

“Rose Campbell, who is just 8 years old, will be performing for the third year in a row at Matariki, she sings for the younger audience and is a Campbell from Mahia,” she said.

Wairoa’s Matariki celebrations will begin at dawn on July 2 with a journey up Whakapunake Mountain, kite making, traditional Maori foods preparations and some traditional Maori games all day organised by Sport Hawke’s Bay.

A karaoke concert will be held about 5pm to “get everyone warmed up” for the entertainment which Ms Campbell said would start about 6pm.

The event will end with a fireworks display outside the community centre.

This will be the sixth year Ms Cotter has helped organize Matariki and it was always an event she looked forward to.

The fireworks display was something the whole community loved, Ms Cotter said.

“It’s not often Wairoa gets a fireworks display and its absolutely amazing because care line the banks of the Wairoa river for miles just to see it, people come out especially for the fireworks.

“And it’s really a massive event, we don’t have any problems, people are just there for the kaupapa and there to support the community and the kids who are performing.

“This is the only opportunity where Wairoa gets to showcase its local talent, especially local music talent, it’s a whanau atmosphere where the whole community comes out to support Matariki, it’s awesome,” she said.

**For more information on other Matariki events around Kahungunu, contact
Te Rangi Huata on (06) 8762718 or 027 5118 052.**