



**Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi**  
INCORPORATED

**MEDIA RELEASE - 16 June 2010**

## **Matariki Shines Bright in Central Hawke's Bay**

A mixture of schools and home-grown talent will headline the entertainment planned for Matariki celebrations at Central Hawke's Bay on Friday.

Te Aute College, Central Hawke's Bay College, Terrance School and Te Kura Kuapapa Maori o Takapau will come together to perform at the A.W Parson Stadium, Waipukurau.

The event is one in a number for Matariki, from Wairoa to Wairarapa, being supported by Ngati Kahungunu Iwi from June 11 to July 2.

Those organising the Central Hawke's Bay Matariki celebrations, Robert Ropiha and Tracey Snee-Ngarotata, said the concert at the stadium would begin at 5pm and conclude at 8pm with a fireworks display.

Mr Ropiha said Central Hawke's Bay singers Walter and Sherly Munro would perform as well as pop singer and songwriter Pareri King from Wairoa.

"We've also got a group of adults who have just formed especially for this concert, they're called Te Huinga Matariki, and they're a waiata and kapa haka group.

"But really we want this to be a community event, and if anyone wants to perform, they should contact us, we'd like to invite anyone else that wants to take part," he said.

There will be competitions and games in between the performances, with 20 basketballs and rugby balls, featuring Maori artwork designs, to be given away, donated by Sport Hawke's Bay.

Mr Ropiha, who is affiliated with the Waipukurau Community Marae, said this year there would be many young people coming back to Central Hawke's Bay to be involved in Matariki, something he enjoyed seeing.

“I just like seeing the kids enjoy themselves and to be able to teach them what Matariki is all about. Matariki is really about giving, it’s something that our iwi, Ngati Kahungunu, can give back to our communities,” he said.

Ms Snee-Ngarotata, who has just moved back to Waipukurau from a stint living in Auckland, will be MC on Friday night.

“Most of the performers at our Matariki will be the young ones, and it’s good to see people like Tracey come back and be involved, we need to be able to promote our young ones more,” Mr Ropiha said.

He was excited about the chance to help organise this year’s Matariki concert but already had a few ideas to take the 2011 event to the next level.

“We’d love to be able to get the whole community involved in organising this event for Central Hawke’s Bay. A lot of the groups we have this year are Maori and next year we would like to have a bit more variety in the entertainment.

“We want to open it up and get the whole community involved, doesn’t matter who you are, we want to embrace the community with Matariki,” he said.

The Central Hawke’s Bay Matariki celebrations start at 5.30pm and end with a fireworks display in Russell Park at 8pm.

For more information contact: Robert Ropiha Phone/text 021-0291-5486 or Tracey Snee-Ngarotata on 021 027 82264.

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