

Matariki Celebration at Ōtūmoetai Baptist Church

He waka eke noa – we are all in the waka together!



At Otumoetai Baptist we decided to host an intergenerational social event where we could explore Matariki together. We gathered for dinner on Sunday evening; we sang a couple of waiata; we prayed karakia and we explored some questions. What is Matariki? What are the values of Matariki? How do these intersect with our faith?

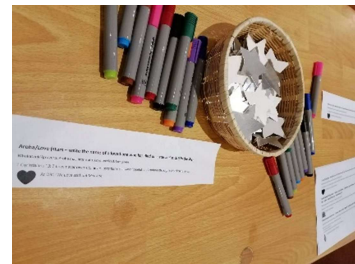
We created an opportunity for everyone to contribute to a communal piece of artwork, which represented some of the values of Matariki alongside scripture and some of our church vision.



Our artwork represents the values of Aroha (love and compassion, especially for those who are no longer with us), Kotahitanga (unity and relationships) and Manaakitanga (care for people and the land.) Together we created something meaningful that represented the whakataukī, he waka eke noa, we are all in the waka together.



We started with an empty sky, waka and landscape and finished with a night sky filled with stars (with the names of our loved ones who have passed on), a waka with lots of people in it (who represented each whānau) and the land filled with leaves and ferns (to show our care for God's creation.)



We invited our mainly music families too (and one community family came). I would like to acknowledge *mainly ministries* for inspiring us to celebrate Matariki.

The evening was a fun and significant way to bring the generations together at this important time of year in Aotearoa.