MAARA TAUTĀNE

This maara tautāne is the first to be established in the Rūātoki valley for over 300 years. It is te maara o te atua.

It represents our connection to our ancestors, our ancestral lands and practices, as well as ngā atua Māori and various star constellations.

It represents our future, our past, and our present. This is also the platform where the future of our tamariki and mokopuna is premised.

It represents and acknowledges our ongoing connection as tāngata whenua to the wider ecosystem, and Ranginui and Papatūānuku.

It represents the revitalisation of our mātauranga connected to ōnukurangi.

Maara tautāne are small gardens often nestled in a secluded area, separated from the busy activity of all other maara.

It is established in recognition of the essence of the atua Māori associated with the maara, and enabled all maara to prosper and flourish.

Historically, a maara tautāne would be erected at the annual heliacal rising of Matariki. However, in a Tāhoe context, it is prepared in alignment with the rise of Pūanga Kai Rau. Endowed with deeply spiritual connotations, it reinforced the connection between people, the environment, and the wider cosmos.

We are celebrating our maara tautāne at this time of year to coincide with the main planting event, referred to as te huamata and pure in the Rūātoki Valley.

Pūanga Kai Rau
Ka puta a Matariki
Ka rere a Whānui
Ko te tohu tēnā o te tau e!

Our maara tautāne consists of five pou whakairo. The pou hīrea represents Pūanga Kai Rau, Matariki and Whānui. The pou to the left of the pou hīrea is Pani Tīnaku, while the pou at the front left is Haumīetiketike. The pou on the right side next to the pou hīrea is Rongo Māui, while the one to the front right is Rongomātāne.

These pou represent our whakapapa back to ngā whetū o te rangi, and their immediate connection to the whenua.

All the produce grown within te maara tautāne is an offering to Io Matua Kore.

The finest kūmara tipu and riwai purapura were the main oferings, planted by the tōhunga, who used the large toe of his left foot to make the holes to plant the tipu.

Produced by