



MARAMATAKA

Traditional korero from Whanganui Iwi clearly identifies customary value and specific use of finfish. The traditional approach by tangata whenua of Whanganui is to use lunar cycles (*maramataka*) and seasonal indicators (*tohu*) to assess availability of finfish. Certain species had greater value, where value and use might relate to medicinal properties (*rongoa*), protein content (*mouri*) and spiritual importance (*wairua*). Hapu within Whanganui recognise value and subsequent use by elevating particular finfish species. Traditional relationships (*tātau pounamu*) between hapu, facilitates sharing of fisheries resources, particularly in areas renown for their ability to provide particular fish species.



The most important function of the Māori lunar calendar was to regulate planting and harvesting, fishing and hunting. The four seasons – *raumati* (summer), *ngahuru* (autumn), *kōanga* (spring) and *takurua* (winter) – called forth a series of activities to do with procuring food. The **new moon** determined the start of the lunar month, which lasted **29 and a half days** and normally straddles two calendar months. Māori spoke of nights, and each night had its own name. Generally, *Whiro* was the first night of the new moon and *Mutuwhenua* was the last. Some nights were considered unlucky for planting and fishing, while others were favourable.



MARAMATAKA

NEW MOON TO FIRST QUARTER

Whiro to Tamatea whakapā riwai



new moon

TE RA
WHIRO

TIRA

HOATA

UENUKU

ŌKORO

TAMATEA

TAMATEA NGANA

TAMATEA Ā AIO

TAMATEA WHAKAPĀ RIWAI

FIRST QUARTER TO FULL MOON

The remaining nights of the waxing moon's first quarter include, Huna, Ari, Hotu, Māwharu, Atua Ōhua & Turu (no.16)



first quarter half-moon

HUNA

ARI

HOTU

MĀWHARU

ATUA

ŌHUA

TURU

FULL MOON NIGHTS

The full moon nights are Rakaunui, Rakaumātohi, Takirau, Oika, Korekore, Korekorewhiwhia, Korekore pipiriki tangaroa



full moon

RAKAUNUI

RAKAUMĀTOHI

TAKIRAU

OIKA

KOREKORE

KOREKORE WHIWHIA

KOREKORE PIPIRIKI TANGAROA

LAST QUARTER NIGHTS



last quarter half-moon

TANGAROA MUA

TANGAROA ROTO

TANGAROA KIOKIO

ŌTANE

ŌRONGONUI

MAURI

MUTUWHĒNUA

PREDICTION

He rā kino ahakoa te aha.

A bad day for everything

He pō āhua pai ki te hī koura, ki hī tuna ki te maara kai anō hoki.

Good day for crayfishing, eeling, collecting shellfish & planting food

He rā tino pai ki te hī tuna, ki te whakatō kumara me te kakano hoki

A very good day for eeling & planting kumara & seed crops

He rā pai ki te hī ika, ki te whakatō maara kai

A good day for planting food crops & fishing

He rā pai ki te whakamahi maara kai, engari kaore mō te hī ika

Good day for planting food crops, fish are restless

He rā pai ki te whakatō maara kai, ki te aro atu ki te hauāuru, ka tau ai te ua hoki

A day for planting food crops, watch westly winds, only rain will quell

Ka takariri ngā tuna i te pō nei, otira he pai ki te hī tuna, ki te hī ika, ki te whakatō maara kai anō hoki

Eels are voracious tonight. A good night for bobbing. A good day for planting food crops & fishing

E hia kē nei ngā tuna me ngā ika engari he ririki te āhua. He pai anō tēnei ki te kohi maitai, engari me tupato rawa ngā kaihi ika

Eel and fish are abundant but small. A good day for collecting shellfish fisherman beware

He ata pai tēnei ki te whakatō kai, engari kaore mō te hī ika

A good morning for planting food crops- not good for fishing

He rā kino tēnei. Kaua e whakatō maara, kaua e hī ika, ā, ka ngoikore te koura

Don't plant food crops, bad day for fishing eel & crayfish are wary

He rā kino tēnei ahakoa te aha

No good for anything

He rā pai ki te hī ika, kaore mō te maara kai

Good fishing however, not good for planting food crops

He rā kino ki te hī ika, engari he pai ki te whakatō maara kai. Ahakoa he nui rawa te kumara ka tere pirau hoki

Bad day for fishing good day for planting food crops, kumara are large but rot quickly

He rā kino ki te hī ika ki te whakatō maara kai

Bad day for planting & fishing

He ra pai ki te hī tuna, ki te hī ika me te whakatō maara kai

A good day for eeling & fishing, good for planting food crops

He rā pai ki te hī ika, ki te hī tuna. He pai hoki ki te whakatō maara kai i te ahiahi

A good day for bobbing eel & fishing, also good day for planting food crops in afternoon

He maha rawa ngā kai i te rangi pai nei. He pai anō hoki ki te hī ika, kaore mō te hī tuna

A very good day crops are bountiful

He rā pai ki te hī ika, kaore mō te hī tuna. Tere rawa te tipu o te kakano

A very good day for fishing not eeling, seed plants grow vigorously

Ka kōrehurehu a Māhina nō reira kaore he pai ki te hī ika. Ahakoa he maha ngā kai ka ririki noa te āhua

The moon is hazy no good for fishing, planting food crops are bountiful but small

He rā kino tēnei ahakoa te aha

Not a good day for anything

He rā kino tēnei ahakoa te aha

Not good for anything

He rā kino tēnei ahakoa te aha

Not good for anything

Tangaroa nights range in number from two to four, the last of which is frequently called Tangaroa kiokio or if not, is followed by a Kiokio night. Two moon nights, Ōtane & Ōrongonui then follow, when the moon sinks further into the sea before Mauri marks the beginning of the moon's dark phase.

Mai i te poutūtanga o te rā ki te pōrehu he wahanga pai ki te hī tuna, ā, ko tēnei hoki te wā kua maha te kai

A good day from midday to sundown, a productive day period for taking eel, most foods are plentiful

He rā pai ki te hī tuna ki te hī ika ki te whakatō maara kai anō hoki

A good day for fishing, eeling & planting

He rā pai ki te hī ika, ki te whakatō maara kai

A good day for fishing & planting food

He rā pai ki te hī tuna, ki te whakarite kinaki koura me te pawhara tuna. He pai anō hoki ki te whakatō maara kai

A good day for taking eel, fishing & setting crayfish & eel traps & planting food crops

He rā pai ki te hī tuna, ki te whakarite kinaki koura me te pawhara tuna. He pai anō hoki ki te whakatō maara kai

A good day for taking eel, fishing & setting crayfish & eel traps & planting food crops

Ka rere haere te inanga i tēnei rā, ā, he pai anō hoki ki te hī ika, ki te hī tuna me te whakatō maara kai anō hoki

A good day for fishing, eeling & planting food crops

He rā pai tēnei ahakoa te mahi

Good day for everything

(new Moon)

Present Day Maramataka (As used by the whānau of Ngāti Tūera)
Source : John Tauri from Putiki Marae & Te Wera Firmin, Ngāti Tūera, Pungarehu Marae