Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Monday, June 16 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Matariki Moments at the Invercargill Public Library

The Invercargill Public Library is hosting a variety of free events to celebrate Matariki (Maori New Year) from 26 June to 26 July. These will be co-facilitated by community groups and individuals.

Community Connections Co-ordinator Diana Hosted said that the positive reaction from individuals and community groups involved had been fundamental in formulating the Library calendar of Matariki events.

“They have the real knowledge, talent and skills, and without them quite a few of our events just wouldn’t be happening”. The range of events ensured that, “there’ll be a mix of entertainment, creativity, and learning”, she said.

The cultural calendar of family-friendly events will get underway when Winnie Solomon Raranga (Maori flax weaving) tutor at Te Wananga o Aotearoa, comes along on **26 June** to share her knowledge and skills at the Library’s regular Crafternoon Tea session. Everyone will have the chance to create. All materials and refreshments provided.

Other community involvement comes from Dean Whaanga, Ngai Tahu; Phil Burt, Invercargill Astronomy Society; Arni Wainui, Principal at Te Wharekua O Arowhenua; Kapa Haka and Waiata groups;

5 July, 1.30pm, children will also be getting into the creative mix, making poi and other fun items related to the Maori culture.

10 July, 7pm – 8.30pm Dean Whaanga, Ngai Tahu and Phil Burt, Invercargill Astronomy Society, will give fascinating presentations on the Matariki constellation and its cultural significance. Supper provided.

19 July, 2pm Bilingual story time. Librarian, Cris Crighton and Arni Wainui, Principal at Te Wharekura O Arowhenua will keep children entertained with stories in both English and Te Reo Maori.

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24th July, 12.30pm Kapa Haka group from Middle School will be performing in the foyer and there'll be more Waiata and Kapa Haka filling the foyer throughout the month.

A *Find the Taonga* competition will also run in the library during the month.

ENDS.

Inquiries, please contact Diana Hosted: 2111 444 ext 7773 or 022 698 6657.

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