

This display represents te Mauri o te Matatini.

Mauri describes the life force from which life is given to a particular object, animate and inanimate. Mauri is often represented by a mauri stone, which acts as a receptacle for the life force.

In this case, the mauri is represented by the mauri stone, the small red rock. This rock comes from the Ruahine Ranges and was first gifted to Te Matatini by the people of Rangitane from the Manawatu when the Te Matatini Festival was held there in 2005 and 2009

The larger slab is Tuhua (Obsidian) and was gifted to Te Matatini in 2009 by the people of Tauranga Moana. The role of this rock is to act as a protector for the mauri stone.

The carved base on which they both sit was carved in Whakatohea, Eastern Bay of Plenty.

The Te Matatini Society is the governing body for kapa haka, Maori Performing Arts in NZ, The society along with the local iwi or tribe host the Te Matatini Festival bi annually. In 2015 the festival was hosted by Ngai Tahu and was held in Christchurch.

In 2017 the Te Matatini Festival will be hosted by Ngati Kahungunu and will be held in Hastings.

Te Matatini was bestowed upon the Organisation us by Professor Wharehuia Milroy, it acknowledges the many faces who bring life to kapa haka, Maori Performing Arts
“Māori Performing Arts brings together people of all ages, all backgrounds, all beliefs, Māori and non-Māori alike, participants and observers. When I look I see many faces, young and old”
— Professor Wharehuia