

MEKA RĀKAU

# Pōhutukawa

*Metrosideros excelsa*



Sparklers

MEKA RĀKAU

# Characteristics

Pōhutukawa are a very significant rākau to many people in Aotearoa.

For many Māori, the rākau is associated with the journey to the afterlife.

Many call this rākau the 'New Zealand Christmas tree', as the bright red blossoms are a symbol of the summer season.



## MEKA RĀKAU

Pōhutukawa is also a name for one of the stars in the Matariki star cluster.

**Are you bright like  
pōhutukawa blossoms?**



**What can we learn from  
pōhutukawa?**

**How might we apply this in  
our classroom?**

