
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	MAY 2025	
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Kia ora koutou,

As I write this, I'm perched at the Principal's desk, simply keeping it warm for Melissa until she returns next term! It's an honour to lead the school for Term 2 while Melissa enjoys her sabbatical. There is a lot to learn and I am truly grateful for the strong team supporting me. Ann-Marie Paterson has taken on the role of Primary Deputy Principal for this term.

It was great to see a large turn-out at our parent/teacher meetings this week. Thank you for making time to come along. These meetings are really important in ensuring that school and home are working together to ensure our students have a quality education.

One of the highlights of this newsletter is our unforgettable trip to Vietnam. Boarding the plane in Dunedin was a surreal moment, marking the start of an adventure we had eagerly prepared and fundraised for. What an incredible journey it was! Please read on to discover more about our experiences. We're immensely grateful to our community for making this dream a reality.

Term 2 is always a busy one. Many of our students are juggling two or even three sports, which means they're on the go after school with practices and games. Alongside these commitments are crucial academic assessments for many of our Secondary students, including the Co-requisite assessments and Senior Exams later in the term. Thirty of our Secondary students will also head to Catlins next week for the Southern Area School's tournament. Please encourage your child to find time for quality rest. Good sleep, strong routines, nutrition, and balance are key to a successful and happy term.

Our theme for this term is '1% Stronger,' focusing on building resilience in learning, play, and sports. We're also emphasising personal strength, such as standing up for what's right, being an upstander, and making good decisions.

The Co-requisite assessment dates are set: Maths on May 22nd, Reading on May 26th, and Writing on May 27th. These assessments are crucial, and our teachers are working hard to prepare the students. Letters have been sent home to parents of students sitting the assessments. If you have any questions, please reach out to Nikki Meyer or Anna Sillibourne.

Best wishes for a great term, I look forward to spending time on the side-lines watching great sport, as well as supporting our students in their learning.

Ngā mihi

Lucia Dowling
Acting Principal

Maniototo Area School

Vietnam Trip

From the 8th to the 22nd April 2025, 22 students, 3 teachers and 10 parents from Maniototo Area School embarked on a trip of a lifetime. We travelled two weeks around Vietnam, taking in key historical and cultural sites.

The goal of the trip was to enable our students to experience a culture vastly different from our own. Everything was different - the climate, the language, the food, the people. Alongside that, we visited sites of historical importance. Vietnam is the main topic for senior History, so students studying this subject were able to stand in the very places we had learnt about.

Before the trip, we launched a massive fundraising strategy. You name it - we did it! We were incredibly grateful for the support of the community who donated items, hosted events, and purchased raffles. Not only did this fundraising help financially, it really made us feel that the community was right there with us during our 2 weeks in Vietnam. Over a year, we fundraised over \$125 000. What was a big dream quickly became a reality.

We flew to Vietnam via Singapore, where we had a brief day trip to the incredible Singapore zoo. From there, we went to Hanoi where we landed and immediately were immersed in the chaos of the capital city. In Hanoi we visited the Ethnology museum, Hoa Lo Prison, the Literature Temple and Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum. We had an incredible lunch at KOTO, a restaurant that takes street children and trains them to be chefs and wait staff for top restaurants across Asia. From Hanoi, we travelled by overnight train to Sapa, near the Chinese border. Here the students experienced hiking across rice paddies and visits to remote villages.

We flew to Hoi An and visited the village of My Lai, the site of a horrific war crime. We were incredibly honoured to meet the last surviving villager of the attack who told us of his personal experiences that day. We then enjoyed some R and R, and a few visits to the local tailors, before flying to our final destination - Ho Chi Minh City. In Ho Chi Minh City we experienced incredible heat and humidity - it certainly challenged many of the group. We visited the Cu Chi tunnels, and enjoyed an afternoon at cooking school.

The trip was over way too soon. Hand on heart, this was the best group I have taken to Vietnam. The students were incredible, and were so positive about all of the activities and experiences. I hope that they have returned with an understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures. I know that some of them may have been bitten by the travel bug.

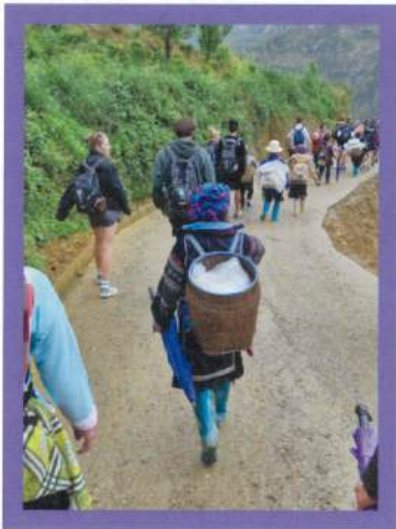
I want to acknowledge the staff who gave up their holidays to support this trip - Lucia Dowling and Deirdre Lithgow, thanks for all that you did. Thanks too to Fiona Dowling who worked so hard on all the trip preparations and fundraising. Thanks to the parents who came along on the trip. We appreciated your constant support and good humour.

Committing to an international trip of this scale is new for Maniototo Area School, but I can assure you that plans are in place for the next event. Our mantra is to 'dream big' - with hard work and community support, even the most ambitious dreams can come true!

Melissa Bell

Maniototo Area School

Vietnam Photos



Maniototo Area School

Vietnam Trip

It's hard to believe the Vietnam trip is over! We had such an incredible time, we've returned home with our cups well and truly filled. Here are some personal reflections from a few of the travellers.

One of the benefits of being in Vietnam was getting a dress made at the tailor. Many of us got a suit and a dress made for the formal. It was amazing how they could make such nice dresses in such a short time and I can't wait to wear it to the formal **(Te Oranga)**

We were looking forward to visiting a small Vietnamese school in Sapa, we arrived with our goodie bags filled with amazing things like stationery, rugby balls and hand-knitted blankets. We were shocked to find out that our visit was denied by the local government. Ms Bell was able to talk to the Principal but we then had to get on the bus and leave without meeting any of the students. Visiting the Cu Chi tunnels was a great experience, it taught us how the Vietcong lived underground for several years while they fought in the war. A few of us went through some of the tunnels, many of us didn't! **(Orlando)**

When we first landed in Singapore it was hot and it hit you fast. I thought that it would be the hottest it would get, that was until we got to Ho Chi Minh City. The temperatures there were reaching up to 32 to 36 degrees, but felt like 40 to 42 degrees. All the hotels we went to had pools, but at Sapa the pool was broken, luckily it wasn't hot there. All the hotels had small gyms. Some of us used them, others were too tired.

We had two guides with us during the whole trip, one was named Tuc and the other one was Quinn. They were very nice and helped a lot. They had a great sense of humour which kept us going when it got a little difficult. They also had a lot of stories to tell. To thank them at the end of the trip we did a haka, it was a great farewell. **(Jack)**

The food in Vietnam was like nothing I've seen or experienced. It was all great, but there was a lot of food that we'd never thought of eating, for instance, Octopus and Scorpion. The food was so delicious that I gained 5 kilograms!

Going to My Lai was a very sad day, We visited the site of the massacre, which occurred in 1968 and involved Charlie Company. 500 unarmed villagers were killed. We were extremely fortunate to meet the only survivor left, his name was Mr Cong. I was privileged to personally thank him on behalf of us all.

On a boiling day in Ho Chi Minh City, we went to the War Museum and we got to see Vietnamese Veterans, which made the war seem more real for us. The war museum was packed with tourists looking at hundreds of interesting artefacts. Something I found particularly interesting was reading the facts of the Vietnam War, such devastation was hard for us to comprehend. **(Latrell)**

I have never seen traffic so busy as what I saw in Ho Chi Minh City with motorbikes everywhere and continuous honking of horns twenty four hours a day. The temperature in Hanoi was 29 - 31 degrees and Ho Chi Minh City ranged from 32 to 38 degrees but it felt like 40 degrees. The heat was intense and humid. **(Mahaliya)**

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped with all the fundraising. We could not have done it without everyone's help to make our dream trip come true. For a tiny community it is absolutely mind blowing that we raised 120 thousand dollars for the trip.

Thank you Maniototo!!

Maniototo Area School

Term 1 Awards - 1% Better Every Day

These students have been recognised for focusing on being 1% Better Every Day. They have gone from strength to strength, and they can be proud of all they have achieved so far this year.

Michael Wade, Wade Watson, Conrad Shaw, Hemi Huddleston, Blake Scott, Levi Harley, JR Buragay, Brodie McAtamney, Karl Suplente, Jonty Russell, Ella Owens, Therese Buragay & Grace Farquhar



ANZAC Day



Maniototo Area School

Budding Scientists



During the last week of Term 1 our secondary students teamed up with the primary students to dive into some fascinating science experiments. The lab buzzed with excitement as everyone got hands-on with their discoveries. It was a blast for all the budding scientists!



Fitness

Year 9 and 10 are busy continuing with their strength and fitness unit this term. They hit the ground running on day one of term 2. Well done team!!



Maniototo Area School

Otago Cross Country

It was late in the evening, the tv was buzzing in the background and I was sitting down on the couch, staring deep into the map that laid in front of me, trying to memorize every twist and turn of the course; my Mum beside me explaining how the event would be run. After running at the Maniototo Cross Country and coming first place I had been selected to represent our school at Otago Cross Country in Dunedin. Running was a great passion of mine and I was bursting with excitement not knowing what to expect as this would be my first experience running competitively.

I was tucked down into bed almost asleep when I heard it, rain began pounding down on the roof louder and louder. Why, out of all the nights it could have rained, it had to rain the night before my big race; in that moment my stomach felt twisted with nerves hoping that the organisers wouldn't postpone it. A cross country course was supposed to be muddy and slippery, I had kept repeating to myself until I fell asleep.

I was up at the crack of dawn the next morning ready to go, screaming at my Mum to hurry up as being late was a huge pet peeve of mine. We sat in silence almost the whole drive, the radio making an irritating static sound as it flickered in and out of signal. I was still staring at the map of the course, it was only two kilometres but why on the map did it look soooo long. The closer we got to Dunedin the worse the traffic got and the more my anxiety grew;

I was only in Year 5 (10 years old) and I had no idea what I had gotten myself into.

Driving down the street past the Kaikorai Valley College school grounds where the event was being held, we realised it would not be easy trying to find a park, so my Mum dropped me off and left me to fend for myself. After walking through the crowds of children for a few overwhelming minutes I saw a tarp just outside the main crowd, and sure enough Miss Dowling was standing there.

Just before the races began there was a quick briefing and then Year 5 girls were called over the speaker phone to gather at the start line. I wasn't alone at the start line, I had Vanessa with me, and we really did feel like the odd ones out being from a small school; to fill in time we did some quick warm ups. All of the 71 girls in my race tried to push and shove their way to the front of the starting line as if their life depended on it. "On your marks, set, GO!" and we were off.

The first part of the race was extremely congested, and I was stuck right in the middle of the stampede of kids. Due to the rain the night before, the course was pretty slippery and while going around the first corner three girls slipped over and were trampled on, leaving them right at the back of the pack. One thing I regretted about that race was how fast I went off at the start after breaking out of the group; I ran in second place for the first few hundred metres before a large group of girls flooded past, leaving me right back where I started.

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Maniototo Area School

It wasn't long before I had settled into a steady pace, sitting in the middle with Vanessa just in front of me. Standing outside the classrooms were some students from Kaikorai Valley cheering us on. While looking around, I got a little distracted accidentally clipping the ankles of a Tahuna girl in front of me, tripping her over. I immediately felt guilty but I knew that I couldn't stop. After that girl got back up she came for me, shoving right into my side causing me to stumble, but I managed to regain my balance and keep going.

After what felt like hours, we were nearing the end of the course, running through a dark forest downhill that was unbelievably slippery. The organisers had even spray painted the tree roots bright orange to make sure no one fell. It truly felt like a real cross country course, running through forests, up hills and over bridges. I emerged back out into the light and prepared myself to run the last hundred metres around the rugby field before turning between the rugby posts onto the home stretch. I could see Vanessa a few people ahead and I was determined to beat her so I mustered up the last of my strength and sprinted. My legs felt heavy and I was so out of breath but I just kept running faster and faster. Everything was a total blur. I passed one, then two, then three until I was right behind Vanessa, but the finish line came faster than I expected and I couldn't quite do it.

After the race, marshalls got my name and race number, then I walked over to my Mum and flopped on the ground, absolutely exhausted. It did slightly bother me that I wouldn't find out my results for a couple of days but no matter what I was still very proud of myself. Once I had chugged down a whole bottle of water I got back up and congratulated Vanessa. We both ended up staying to support all of the other Maniototo and St Johns kids that competed who also did very well. We left the school grounds and headed out to McDonalds where my Mum got me a big Oreo McFlurry as a reward for doing well. After arriving home I hit the hay and fell asleep within seconds and began dreaming that I had won the race, (if only I had).

I learned later that I placed 17th place out of the 71 girls that I raced against and I achieved an even faster time than at the Maniototo Cross Country. From the experience I felt very proud and keen to do it again the following year.

By Laura Paterson (Year 8)



PEOPLE CONNECTING PEOPLE
INTERNET / MOBILE / HOME PHONE - RURAL OR URBAN

*Across the Otago Region, including the Maniototo.
Call our local team to find out more.*

Unifone

unifone.nz 0800 894 114

Maniototo Area School

Winter Pyjamas



This is always a difficult time of year, juggling travel, rising costs and coping with the increasing cold.

We have been fortunate enough to have winter pyjamas donated for primary aged children.

If you would like some for your child/children, please get in touch with Mrs Ann-Marie Paterson
email: patersona@maniototo.school.nz

This will be discreet and confidential.



thank you

To the Maniototo School Community

My family and I have been overwhelmed by the support since my cancer diagnosis at the beginning of the year.

The baking, meals, cards, messages and flowers have been nothing short of incredible.

I feel extremely grateful to be part of our M.A.S. community, and thank you sincerely for your thoughtfulness.

Kind regards, Fiona Dowling

Maniototo Area School



Pony Club

The local pony club entered a combined MAS/St John's team in an inter school competition on the first Saturday of the holidays. They won the primary section- Olivia Parker & Briar Gillespie were in the team. Congratulations girls - looking fab!



Event Calendar - 2025

- 5 & 6 May - Parent Interviews
- 7 May BOT Meeting
- 9 May - Road Race
- 14-16 May - Area School Tournament
- 16 May - Dunstan Rippa Tournament
- 23 May - Pink Shirt Day
- 2 June - Kings Birthday (School is closed)
- 6 June - CO Rippa Tournament
- 8-9 June - OSSSA Netball Tournament
- 12 June - Maniototo Speech Competition

Fundraising for Jake Smith Cull cow drive.

Just chat with your local agent, and they'll handle everything for you.



A huge thank you to
Ryan Dowling (PGG),
Marcus Sutherland (SSF),
Todd Dundass (Rural Livestock)
Shaun Tauti (Alliance)
for their incredible support.



This drive will run until the **end of the year**



LIFT EACH OTHER UP



CKNW KIDS' FUND
PINK SHIRT DAY

STAND UP AGAINST BULLYING

Spread kindness and unity
through pink shirts.

MAS please show your support by wearing
pink to School on Friday 23 May!!

Wear pink support anti-bullying initiatives

UNITY IS KEY

Local School Child Season Pass 2025

Unlimited Cardrona and Treble Cone season pass for local primary and secondary school kids - available to purchase online or in-store.

LOCAL PRIMARY CHILD SEASON PASS

\$179

LOCAL SECONDARY CHILD SEASON PASS

\$259

EXISTING ONLINE PROFILE

Your new season pass will be automatically loaded on to last year's red card (lift pass).

NEED A NEW CARD?

Please pick up your red card (lift pass) at our Wānaka, Queenstown, Cardrona or Treble Cone offices.

[Click here to purchase online](https://secure.cardrona-treblecone.com/s/local-school-child-season-pass/p/local-school-child-season-pass-2025)

Or copy this link: <https://secure.cardrona-treblecone.com/s/local-school-child-season-pass/p/local-school-child-season-pass-2025>

For information on our 2025 local kids programmes; Ride Tribe Cardrona, Ride Tribe TC, Ride Tribe Minis & Academy email kids.programmes@cardrona-treblecone.com

For all winter product information visit our website - cardrona-treblecone.com or email info@cardrona-treblecone.com