
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	JULY 2025	
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Dear parents and caregivers,

I am very pleased to be back at school after sabbatical in term 2. I was so fortunate to win a Ministry of Education sabbatical award which provided the opportunity to have some rest and relaxation, and time to undertake a research project. My research looked at strategies schools can use to limit learning loss from student absence. It was valuable to look at best practice across different schools both in New Zealand and beyond.

I also took time to walk the Camino trail in Spain - 830kms across the northern coast of Spain from the French border to Santiago de Compostela. Walking provided plenty of opportunity for reflection and planning. I would like to acknowledge the Maniototo Area School Board of Trustees for their support. Huge thanks also to Lucia Dowling and Ann-Marie Paterson. Lucia stepped into the role of Acting Principal and did a tremendous job of leading the school over term 2. Ann-Marie was Acting Deputy Principal, and picked up Lucia's leadership role in the junior school. While I am the individual lucky enough to have the sabbatical, there has been a real army of people in the background making it all possible - I am very grateful.

The biggest joy has been returning to Ranfurly and the school. It has been so special to be welcomed back by the students, I very much missed their smiles and chats while I was away. When you see other schools in practice you are always reminded of how special your own school community is.

As I write this we are in the middle of ice week, we have Open Night next week and we are completing the last few weeks of winter sports. Thanks to you all for your support of school activities.

Melissa Bell

Gym Redevelopment

We have just celebrated the redevelopment of our gym. While we've been enjoying this beautiful space for a while now, with the final touches complete, it was time to officially acknowledge this amazing facility.

When we thought about who should open our redeveloped gym, there was no doubt—it had to be Mr. D. He taught here for about 35 years and became a true MAS legend.

A huge thanks to those people who dedicated so much time and effort into the gym redevelopment: The Board of Trustees, Belinda Colling, Sarah Paterson, Craig Paterson, Joe Ferdinands, Melissa Bell and the Maniototo Rugby Club for their purchase of equipment.

What a wonderful facility for all our students to enjoy!



**Remember Breakfast is available
to all our students everyday.**

**All our secondary students have a
special breakfast provided every
Friday.**



Board of Trustees Election

Make a Difference at Maniototo Area School

Are you passionate about education?

Got ideas to help our school thrive?

3 Parent Rep Positions on the School Board are up for election!

Why YOU?

✓ You care

✓ You've got vision

✓ Our tamariki deserve strong, community-led leadership

Nominate yourself or someone else:

Nominations close on 6th August at noon.

Submit a short statement + photo

Questions? Contact:

Sarah Paterson (Chair) – 027 577 6411

Craig Paterson (Vice Chair) – 027 471 7017

SAVE THE DATE

29th July - Open Night 5pm

1st August - Seniors Ice Session

4th August - MAS Junior Boys Basketball at the Maniototo Stadium, 5pm

6th August - Nominations close for BOT Election (noon)

8th August - House Singing Competition

12th August - Primary Schools Cross Country (postponement date 14th)

15th August - Teacher Only Day (Primary Only)

16th August - MAS Formal

18th August - BOT Meeting

18th August - MAS Junior Boys Basketball at the Maniototo Stadium, 5pm

24th - 29th August - SISS Hockey Tournament, Dunedin

5th September - Otago Cross Country (postponement date 12th)

9th September - School Photos

15th - 19th September - Senior Exams

16th September - Interschool Curling Competition (Primary)

17th September - BOT Meeting

20th - 22nd September - Nationals Curling Competition, Naseby

Maniototo Area School

Mana Pounamu



Dakota and supporters at the Award Ceremony

Dakota Nicoll as our Mana Pounamu Teina recipient for 2025.

Dakota applies herself to her academic studies to the best of her ability, excelling in Art. Dakota is an enthusiastic sports person who participates in Netball, Basketball and Athletics.

Dakota displays porihanga (participation) in the community through her involvement and leadership in Kapa Haka performances at various events.

For the first time in a very long time (over 20 years) South of the South walked away as the overall winners of National Area Schools Tournament, 2025. Everyone is super proud.

Congratulations Nate, Yuan, Indi and Jonty for being part of the team. Special mention to Yuan and Indi who made the South Island team. Yuan for Volleyball and Indi for Football.

Huge thanks to Michelle Dowling and Nikki Meyer for leading the group!

Dakota is passionate about Māori culture and is an enthusiastic member and waiata leader in our school Kapa Haka. Dakota demonstrates atawhai and is a great role model to younger students.

Congratulations Dakota.

NZ Area Schools Tournament Invercargill 2025



Maniototo Area School

School Counsellor

Kia ora, hello and warm greetings! I'm Kara Tarapi, and I'm thrilled to be the new school counsellor at Maniototo Area School. I come with nearly 15 years of counselling experience after graduating with a Bachelor of Social Services (counselling).

I'm currently working as a school counsellor at Kings High School, Otago Girls High School and Abbotsford School in Dunedin (where I live).

We purchased a property in Oturehua where we plan to move up in 2026. In my free time, I love listening to music, going for walks, camping, watching sports, going for drives, riding my motorbike and catching up with friends and family.

Fun fact about me: I didn't know I liked gherkins until I accidentally ate one. It was hiding underneath the cheese in a burger. The takeaway lesson for me was to give things a try, even if I think I don't like it!

I look forward to meeting all students in and around the school whether it be in the supporting role or helping with school activities 😊



Kara



Ashley

Support Staff Changes

After 4 years of care and hard work, we recently said goodbye to our caretaker, Kerrin Mulholland. From early mornings to late afternoons, rain or shine, Kerrin has kept our school grounds looking fabulous. We'll miss the friendly chats, the quiet acts of kindness, and the pride he took in every corner of our school. Thank you Kerrin for everything you've done.

After 19 years of working at the school, Tania Cromb has left. Tania has been a steady and reliable presence, helping keep the primary school clean every day. Her hard work and quiet dedication have been appreciated by staff and students alike. We thank Tania for everything she's done and wish her all the best for the future in Te Anau.

We look forward to welcoming Ashley Lie-Olesen as the new Caretaker. He is very excited about the opportunity to look after our school grounds and facilities. Ewan Kirk and Trudi Swain have recently joined our wonderful support staff cleaning team.

Maniototo Area School

Song Fest '25

SONGFest'25 was a vibrant three-day celebration of exceptional young vocal talent from Ōtepoti Dunedin and across the South. Among this years performers was Trisha Buragay, who delivered four captivating songs and earned a Commended award for one of them. The experience was a fantastic boost to Trisha's confidence and offered a wonderful opportunity to connect with other passionate young singers.

A heartfelt thank you to Anna Sillibourne for her inspiring mentorship and dedication in helping Trisha grow and shine as a performer.



Trisha rehearsing at school

Amazing Photography!

Lucas Knox (Year 5) won a placing in the 2025 Tūhura Photography Competition Under 18 category. Lucas was one of sixteen (over all age groups) to get his photo displayed.

His photo was of an Otago Skink that's the biggest skink in the South Island and he snapped this picture at Mokomoko Dryland Sanctuary. Great work Lucas!



Lucas and his photo

Otago U18 Basketball

During the first week of the school holidays I had the amazing opportunity to represent Otago in Christchurch at the Under 18s Footlocker Basketball Tournament. The tournament took place over four days and involved tough competition from teams from all over the country. It was such an incredible experience to compete at such a high level, improve my skills, and be a part of such an amazing team environment.

I would like to also say thank you to everyone who helped me get to the tournament. As well as a specially big thank you to the Maniototo Community Trust for financially supporting, this helped towards uniform and tournament cost.



Artist's Corner



Year 1 students have been busy painting their wee playhouse in Art. It's looking fabulous!

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unifone.nz 0800 894 114

Maniototo Area School

Road Race Results

Year 1

Boys: 1st Michael Wade, 2nd Nate Goffin, 3rd Isaiah Fryer
Girls: 1st Olivia Parker, 2nd Kaylee Graham, 3rd Nevaeh Houpapa

Year 2

Boys: 1st Hugo Fairweather, 2nd Ronnie Hodge, 3rd Wade Watson
Girls: 1st Immy Weir, 2nd Zoe Weir, 3rd Mariam Marrero

Year 3

Boys: 1st Blake Sutherland, 2nd Conrad Shaw, 3rd William Hodge
Girls: 1st Briella Graham, 2nd Briar Gillespie, 3rd Ellie Norman

Year 4

Boys: 1st Kahu Houpapa, 2nd Hudson Crutchley, 3rd Oto Kernot-Berke
Girls: 1st Maddie Norman

Year 5

Boys: 1st Chrysler Houpapa, 2nd Archie Sutherland, 3rd Jack Parkinson
Girls: 1st Abbie Graham, 2nd Autumn Forbes, 3rd Kora Martin

Year 6

Boys: 1st Toby McFadyen Beck, 2nd Oscar McAtamney, 3rd Richard Wade
Girls: 1st O'Sharne Huriwai Kirk, 2nd Sophie McAtamney

Year 7

Boys: 1st Charlie Norman, 2nd Sam Hore, 3rd JR Buragay
Girls: 1st Thalia Hepi, 2nd Florence Dowling, 3rd, Evelyn Hagen

Year 8

Boys: 1st James Meehan, 2nd Hugo Paterson, 3rd Marshall Newth-MacDonald
Girls: 1st Laura Paterson, 2nd Vanessa Kinney, 3rd Isla Drake

Year 9 & 10

Boys: 1st Jake McMillan, 2nd Jonty Russell, 3rd Mac Dowling

Year 11 & 12

Boys: 1st Jae Newth-MacDonald, 2nd Orlando Arratia
Girls: 1st Nicola Kinney, 2nd Thea Torres

Maniototo Area School



Primary Ice Week

