
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	SEPTEMBER 2025	
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Dear parents and caregivers,

As I write this, a busy and productive term is drawing to a close. We are very proud of the efforts and engagement from our students this term. I want to especially note the huge effort made in the senior school by students during their corequisite assessments and practice exams. We are very proud of the commitment shown to learning and assessment.

At the end of school today we will be celebrating students who have excelled at demonstrating our focus on Choose calm, choose kind. I know it has been challenging for teachers to select students for this award due to the numerous possible recipients. Well done in advance to our awards winners.

I do want to wish families a safe and relaxing holiday period. I look forward to seeing students back in term 4 ready for another big and busy term.

Melissa Bell



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service



Talkteeth Southern

Maniototo Area School

SAVE THE DATE

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

6th October - Term 4 commences

7th October - Health Clinic (1pm-3pm)

13th October - HPV

15th October - BOT Meeting (5.30pm)

22nd October - Polyfest (Queenstown)

23rd October - Play Pop Up 3.30pm - 5.30pm

27th October - Labour Day (School is Closed)

28th October - Health Clinic (1pm-3pm)

31st October - Maniototo Primary School's Athletics

4th November - Health Clinic (1pm-3pm)

11th November - Otago Athletics

18th November - Health Clinic (1pm-3pm)

19th November - BOT Meeting (5.30pm)

26th & 27th November - Year 9 & 10 Exams

28th November - Year 3 & 4 Dunedin Trip

1-2 December - Year 5 & 6 Camp

1-4 December - Year 9 Camp

3-5 December - Year 7 & 8 Naseby/Beach Education

Remember Breakfast is available to all our students everyday.

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



Thanks to the Community Trust of Maniototo for their financial assistance towards transport costs to NZ Area Schools Tournament in Invercargill.

Indi, Jonty, Nate & Yuan



Maniototo Area School

Introducing Ashley

I grew up in Lyttelton and Christchurch, and after finishing my education at Linwood High and the University of Canterbury, I began my career in Lawrence as a Hydatids Control Officer for the Tuapeka County Council. It was there that I met Mary, a young woman from Naseby who was studying to be a nurse in Balclutha.

We moved to Otautau, where I became the senior Hydatids Control Officer for the Wallace County Council. While in Otautau we were married on the TSS Earnslaw. Our journey eventually led us to Dunedin where I found a new role as Shipping Manager for a wool export company, and Mary's nursing career flourished at Dunedin Hospital, where she worked in infectious diseases, general surgery, and later specialized in cardio-respiratory care.

In 2008, I took a position at the University of Otago, where I managed and expanded the university's mail, courier, and customs facility across three campuses. Meanwhile, our two children grew up and graduated from the University of Otago themselves, before leaving home to focus on their own careers.

Not long ago, Mary and I made a big decision: to downsize and return to the Maniototo. We wanted to be closer to her family and build a new home, trading the frenzy of city life for a slower pace and a deeper connection to the community.

Ashley Lie-Olesen (Caretaker)

NZASA Music Camp

We're thrilled to announce that two of our students will be attending the NZASA Music Camp in Christchurch over the holidays! This incredible event brings together Area School students from across Aotearoa for a week of musical collaboration and creativity.

Throughout the camp, students will:

- Form their own bands
- Rehearse together
- Perform live in front of an audience
- Receive mentorship from talented musicians within the local community and industry



A massive thank you to Ms Anna Sillibourne for accompanying and supporting our students on this journey. We know it's going to be an unforgettable experience – have an amazing time!

Maniototo Area School

Primary Focus on Wool

On Tuesday 2nd September the Year 3 class went on a 'Wonderful Wool' field trip to Hills Creek Woolshed and then on to Hickey's Wool Store in Omapau. This trip was an opportunity to see shearing in action, and follow the process of the wool to the woolstore.

They had fun seeing the sheep in the yards getting vaccinated, then watched Sandy shear a sheep with the machine and another one with the blades. Students then had a turn going down the chute slides!

After watching the shearing their adventure continued to Hickey's Wool Store. There they saw the woolpress in action, and saw the 'catsclaw' picking up 3 wool bales at a time. Hayden and Stacey showed the wool testing process and took them for a tour to see all of the wool in the store.

It was a very cool trip and a great way to learn more about the wool production process.



The Year 4 & 5 class had some special visitors this week. Thanks to the Dowling family for bringing their lambs into school



Maniototo Area School

Otago Cross Country

7 students from MAS travelled to Dunedin to compete in the Otago Primary Schools Cross Country; Laura, Vanessa, Thalia, Nikita, Toby, Reuben and Liam. They faced some tough competition but they all ran well, giving the course their absolute all and being exhausted by the end of it.



Wet Wool Felting

You had to roll the wool into a ball. Then you had to put warm soapy water on it. Then you put it on a paper towel to dry. It was colourful like a rainbow. *By Zoe*

First, we rolled the wool and we put some water on the ball and we rolled the ball. We made shapes. *By Wade*

First, we rolled up the wool into big balls. We can do small balls and we used soapy water. *By Isaiah*

First, we had to roll the wool. It was hard but then we used some warm soapy water. Then we made more. *By Hugo*



Maniototo Area School

Hockey

The Senior Hockey Team attended the Kate Trolove Mixed Hockey Tournament in Dunedin. We played some teams from some very big schools and learnt a lot. It was a fantastic week away with some awesome students with great attitudes and sportsmanship. We would like to thank Michelle Grundy, Donna Owens and Roger McKinney for giving up their time to attend and help out with everything!



Rugby

Our girls had another session of Contact Ready. They are getting very confident at making safe tackles now. Hannah Lithgow and her team-mate Zoe came from the Otago Spirit to join in and talked about their journey at the junior assembly.

Hannah started playing rugby for Maniototo at the age of 8. She talked about her experiences playing for the Spirit and how much she loved her rugby here when she was young. Good Luck for the rest of the season Otago Spirit!

Curling

Jonty Russell, Noah Smith and Mahaliya Pike were joined by Talika Chalmers from Dunstan and travelled to Dunedin to compete in the South Island Secondary Schools Curling Tournament. Six other school teams attended from across Dunedin. The team started slowly with two losses on Friday night. Saturday was much more successful with three wins from three, including a win over the 2024 national champs from Otago Boys High School. This left the team in a position to challenge for the top two spots. Unfortunately the final round robin game ended in a close loss to the Bayfield Burlers, meaning the team finished 3rd. A final game for 3rd/4th place against the same Bayfield Burlers team ended with revenge for the Maniototo Area School team and a comprehensive win, finishing the tournament in a commendable 3rd place overall. Jonty Russell was presented the "Spirit of Curling" award for his sportsmanship and overall attitude at the tournament. We head to the National tournament in Naseby from September 20th - 22nd and we'll look to go one better than last year and take the national title.



St Johns vs MAS Curling Tournament

On Tuesday 16th September the annual St Johns vs MAS Curling tournament was held between years 5-8 students. We had four yr 7-8 teams and three Yr 5-6 teams. There were some close games in pool play but in the end St Johns came out on top winning both the Year 7-8 and Yr 5-6 sections. A huge thank you to the Maniototo Adventure Park for hosting and organising the tournament.

Maniototo Area School

BOT



Board members at the recent
NZ Area Schools Conference in Christchurch

The following candidates were successful in
the recent BOT election:

Charlie Owens (Student Rep)
Ann-Marie Paterson (Staff Rep)
Katy Wade, Logan Dowling & Sal Byrne
(Parent Reps)

They join existing Board members: Sarah
Paterson, Craig Paterson & Donna Owens.

A huge thanks to Lucia Dowling for her
commitment and contribution to the board
as Staff Rep since 2011.



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The Maniototo Area School Secondary Hockey team would like to thank the following sponsors for their support in sending the team to the 2025 South Island Mixed Hockey tournament in Dunedin. Your help was greatly appreciated!

			
Grace Farquhar	Ella Owens	Jae MacDonald	Nate Spooner
Central Gold Bikes	Paveco Ashburton	Pig Burn Gorge Contracting	Farmlands
			
William McKinney	Orlando Arratia	Alyssa Janerol	Sophie Meehan
Inverlair Lodge	Maniototo 4-Square	Loganbrae	Collier Real Estate
			
Hayley Barroga	Indianna Hepi	Nicholas Inder	Jonty Russell
Pine Terrace Farm	Black Forest Cafe	Steele Fencing Ltd	Mum & Jimmy
			 
Mac Dowling	Rhys Wilson	Jake McMillan	Maniototo 4 Square Manawa Energy
Sumpter Moore Lawyers	Parker Earthmoving	McMillan Farm	"THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!"

2025 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE

Examinations available digitally shown in [blue](#).

Date	Session	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Scholarship
Tue 4 Nov	AM		Mathematics & Statistics	Dance	Classical Studies
	PM		Latin	Japanese Making Music Spanish	Statistics
Wed 5 Nov	AM			English	
	PM		Geography		Earth & Space Science
Thu 6 Nov	AM		English		Latin
	PM		Chinese	History	French
Fri 7 Nov	AM			Chemistry	Accounting
	PM		Accounting		Biology
WEEKEND					
Mon 10 Nov	AM	French Spanish	Lea Faka-Tonga Te Reo Māori	Calculus	Samoan
	PM	Commerce	Korean	Agricultural & Horticultural Science Chinese German	Media Studies
Tue 11 Nov	AM	English			Physics
	PM	Gagana Tokelau	Dance	Biology	Art History
Wed 12 Nov	AM	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Chemistry	Drama	Geography
	PM	Korean	Cook Islands Māori Drama	Digital Technologies Samoan	Psychology
Thu 13 Nov	AM	Mathematics and Statistics	Art History	Statistics	Drama
	PM	History	Physics	Accounting	Agricultural & Horticultural Science
CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY (Fri 14 Nov)					
WEEKEND					
Mon 17 Nov	AM	Te Reo Māori	French	Latin Psychology Te Reo Rangatira	Chemistry
	PM	Japanese	Biology	Economics	
Tue 18 Nov	AM	Science	History	Physics	Te Reo Rangatira
	PM	Digital Technologies	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Media Studies	
Wed 19 Nov	AM	Chinese	Te Reo Rangatira	Lea Faka-Tonga	English
	PM	Social Studies	Classical Studies	Art History	Economics
Thu 20 Nov	AM	Physics Earth & Space Science	Media Studies	Te Reo Māori	Calculus
	PM	Vagahau Niue	Education for Sustainability Samoan	Earth & Space Science	Chinese
Fri 21 Nov	AM	Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani		Music Studies	Spanish
	PM	Geography	Music		History
WEEKEND					
Mon 24 Nov	AM	Gagana Sāmoa	Japanese	Geography	
	PM	German	Earth & Space Science		Religious Studies
Tue 25 Nov	AM	Chemistry & Biology	Home Economics	Classical Studies	Te Reo Māori
	PM	Lea Faka-Tonga	German	Home Economics	Digital Technologies
Wed 26 Nov	AM	Religious Studies	Social Studies	French	Japanese
	PM	Health Studies	Business Studies	Health	
Thu 27 Nov	AM		Economics	Korean	
	PM		Health	Business Studies	
Fri 28 Nov	AM		Digital Technologies Spanish	Cook Islands Māori Social Studies	German