
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	NOVEMBER 2025	
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Dear parents and caregivers,

There is a strange sense of quiet around our high school at the moment. Our senior students finished formal classes for the year last week and are now on study leave. Exams have started this week and it is pleasing to see a real sense of focus. I wish our students all the very best for these examinations. I encourage them to finish the year well - with grit and determination.

You may have read about our success in the corequisite assessments on our school Facebook page recently. Our students achieved pass rates of 100% in Numeracy and 94% in Reading and Writing. I would like to congratulate the students on their achievements - we are proud of them individually, but also of the collective achievement of the group. These results are exceptionally good and they reflect so many things - hard work, self-belief, determination, persistence. The results also reflect the work of the staff who have taken extra classes, run after school tutorials, provided reader writer support and so much more. The highlight of the assessments was not just the results but watching the whole high school celebrate the success of these students. When you see a group of young people hugging and applauding their peers, you know that something special is happening. I am proud to lead a school where academic success is something to be proud of and something to be celebrated. It has been a real highlight of the year!

Another recent highlight was Athletic Sports day. I know a huge amount of work goes into planning and running this day - and I acknowledge all staff for this, but especially Donna Owens. I would also like to thank all of the parents who helped - either at Wednesday after school training and on the day. Our students represented the school well, and I was proud of the determination and achievement.

Finally, I would like to thank parents for their patience during this period of industrial action. It can be very confusing in an area school where there are two unions, and both decide on industrial action. I do also want to say that teaching is in crisis - the number of primary teachers graduating this year from Otago University is almost half the group from 5 years ago. We do need to ensure that we make teaching an attractive and appealing career for young people and we also need to make sure that when we train teachers, we keep them in New Zealand.

Melissa Bell
Principal

Maniototo Area School

Year 13 Leavers

As the final bell rings and the classroom doors close behind you, we pause to reflect on the journey you've taken – one filled with laughter, growth, challenges, and unforgettable memories.

You arrived as curious minds, unsure of what lay ahead, and you are leaving school as confident individuals, ready to shape the world with your talents, kindness, and courage. You've not only learned subjects – you've learned resilience, friendship, and the power of believing in yourselves.

As you step into the next chapter, know that you carry with you the pride of your MAS family.
Best wishes for your future endeavours.



A Shout-Out to Our Support Staff

We recently celebrated our amazing support staff team, their work may not always be in the spotlight, but it never goes unnoticed.

Our teacher aides – their support in classrooms is invaluable. They bring patience, compassion, and creativity that help students grow and succeed.

Our caretaker and cleaners – thank you for creating a clean, safe, and orderly environment where learning can flourish. Your hard work sets the tone for every day.

Our admin staff – are the glue that holds everything together. From managing finances to solving problems with grace, your work keeps MAS moving forward.

Our counsellor - ensures students have the tools and support they need to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

MAS wouldn't be the same without you!

Maniototo Area School

PTA Update

As we wrap up another busy and rewarding year at school, I wanted to take a moment to share a few important updates from our PTA.

Our popular Xmas Hamper Raffle is happening again this year, the raffle cards will make their way home to your household. Please sell as many \$2 tickets as you can and return the card with the cash, back to your child's teacher. We also ask that each family please donate 2-3 items for these hampers. Items can be anything from pantry supplies, giftware, Xmas decorations, sauces, drinks etc, etc (anything that would be beneficial to a family at Xmas time)

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported our PTA, initiatives, and fundraising efforts throughout the year. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm have made a real difference in our school community.

On a personal note, I'll be stepping down as PTA President as my family and I prepare to move out of the area. It's been an absolute privilege to serve alongside such a small but dedicated group of parents and caregivers. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together, and I know the PTA will continue to thrive with fresh energy and ideas.

With that in mind, we're actively looking for new members to join the PTA in the new year. We'd love to hear from you. It's a great way to connect with other families and contribute to the life of our school. Our next meeting is Wednesday the 12th of November 2025 at 3.15pm in the Whanau Room and I would love to see some fresh faces come along to show your interest as a parent of your school.

One of our first big events in 2026 will be the catering for Cavalcade, this event runs for the week of Sunday 1st of March through to Saturday 7th of March, it's a fun and lively tradition that brings our community together that makes a profit to PTA of over \$20k every year. We'll need plenty of hands to help with planning, cooking, serving, moving vehicles and cleanup. If you're keen to get involved, please reach out to myself (Jenna).

Thank you again for your support, and I look forward to seeing the wonderful things the PTA will accomplish in the years ahead.

Warm regards,
Jenna Huddleston

Maniototo Junior Tennis Club

Lessons starting Wednesday the 12th of November on the MAS turf.
4 lessons for \$65 total, and a 10% discount applied for families with two or more children in lessons.
Lessons capped to six in each group.

All enquiries to Kate Dowling on 0274 036 433, and check out the Maniototo Junior Tennis Club Facebook page for updates.



Maniototo Area School

Maniototo Primary Schools Athletics 2025

On Friday, 31st October, the annual Maniototo Primary School Sports were held in Ranfurly, bringing together MAS, St John's, Strath Taieri, Poolburn, and Macraes/Moonlight. The day was filled with fierce competition and impressive performances.

A big thank you to our amazing team of helpers who ensured everything ran smoothly. Special thanks to Donna Owens for her outstanding work managing the admin—a massive task she handles brilliantly.

We also appreciate the dedication of the coaches who led practices leading up to the events. Thank you to Joe Donald, Tania Murray, Stu Duncan, and Stu Weir for their expert advice, which greatly enhanced the children's skills.

Congratulations to all the place-getters and those selected for the Otago Championships in Dunedin. Well done to every student who gave it their all and participated with enthusiasm. The Sports are a cherished tradition in the Maniototo community, and we look forward to many more years of this wonderful event.

Under 8

Girls: 1st Stella Dykes, 2nd Greta Dykes, 3rd Alexis Bankshaw
Boys: 1st= Blake Andrews (MAS) & Hugh Matheson, 3rd Ben Rutherford

Under 9

Girls: 1st Frankie Pyle, 2nd Izzy Eketone, 3rd Hazel Peddie
Boys: 1st Arthur Wilson, 2nd Hudson Crutchley (MAS), 3rd Kahu Houpapa (MAS)

Under 10

Girls: 1st Abigale Graham (MAS), 2nd= Isla Rutherford & Milly Turner
Boys: 1st Max Stevenson, 2nd Chrysler Houpapa (MAS), 3rd Riley Stevenson

Under 11

Girls: 1st Rosa Scott, 2nd Olivia Ross, 3rd Juliette Dowling
Boys: 1st George Dykes, 2nd= Toby McFadyen-Beck (MAS) & Tayne Larson-McCauley

Under 12

Girls: 1st Thalia Hepi (MAS), 2nd Barbara Aisi, 3rd Osharne Huriwai-Kirk (MAS)
Boys: 1st Edward Wilson, 2nd Sam Hore (MAS), 3rd Charlie Norman (MAS)

Under 13

Girls: 1st Tayla Smith (MAS), 2nd Kaylah McCauley, 3rd Charlie Hopper
Boys: 1st Xavier Love, 2nd Liam Hamilton (MAS), 3rd= James Meehan (MAS) & Arthur Elworthy

13 Years +

Girls: 1st Laura Paterson (MAS), 2nd Vanessa Kinney (MAS), 3rd Madison Bankshaw
Boys: 1st= Ethan Chisholm & McKinley Francis, 3rd Axel McCauley

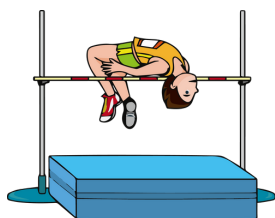
Matchett Cup:

1st Max Stevenson (34 points), 2nd Arthur Wilson (32 points), 3rd Frankie Pyle (31 points)

McSkimming Cup:

1st= Edward Wilson & Xavier Love (36 points), 3rd Thalia Hepi (MAS) (35 points)

Maniototo Area School



Athletics Day Action

Congratulations to these MAS students that have been selected to represent the Maniototo at the Otago Primary School Athletics in Dunedin on Tuesday 11th November: Abbie Graham, Briella Graham, Thalia Hepi, Osharne Huriwai-Kirk, Tayla Smith, Laura Paterson, Vanessa Kinney, Isla Drake, Chrysler Houppapa, Hudson Crutchley, Toby McFadyen-Beck, Charlie Norman, Skylah Baddock, Liam Hamilton, Hugo Paterson, James Meehan, Aubree Mulholland, Sam Hore, Richard Wade



Maniototo Area School

Important Dates

- 11th November - Otago Athletics (17th postponement date)
- 12th November - PTA Meeting 3.15pm in Whanau Room
- 17th - 21st November - Year 9 & 10 "Have a Go" week
- 18th November - Health Clinic (1pm-3pm)
- 18th November - Leavers Dinner
- 19th November - BOT Meeting (5.30pm)
- 21st November - Dunedin Symphony Orchestra visit
- 24th November - First Aid Education (Primary)
- 24th November - Strive Award Ceremony
- 26th & 27th November - Year 9 & 10 Exams
- 28th November - Year 3 & 4 Dunedin Trip
- 1-2nd December - Year 5 & 6 Camp
- 1-4th December - Year 9 Camp
- 3-5th December - Year 7 & 8 Naseby Activities/Beach Education
- 10th December - Secondary Prizegiving (7pm)
- 11th December - Primary Prizegiving (12pm)
- 11th December - Final Day of school for students

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

**THANK
you**

Remember Breakfast is
available to all our students
everyday thanks to the
Kickstart Breakfast
programme.



Over \$2 million Donated

For every 100L of bulk fuel you have delivered
our school receives 50 cents!



Call 0800 99 99 89 to start supporting us
today!

Maniototo Area School

Future Leaders Academy

On Sunday the 28th of September, I travelled with a group of students from across New Zealand to Nadi, Fiji. In Nadi airport we met with the Australian students before driving to our accommodation and greeting the local students and mentors that would be joining us. On Monday morning we participated in team bonding and leadership activities where we got to know the other students, and before we were put into our four syndicate groups.

For the following three days we participated in different activities within our syndicates, Tuesday we went snorkelling and planted coral on what will one day be a future leaders reef, Wednesday we hiked up Mt Batilamu with one of the other syndicates and Thursday we were tasked with creating solutions to one social and one economical issue within Fiji before leaving the hotel to create a historical documentary video on any site of our choice.

Friday was my favourite day as we all drove out to a village called Saravi village, where we worked as a team to tack panels to the inside walls of their hall and paint them blue as part of a project which was started the year before when the previous trip painted the outside of the hall.

Saturday was graduation day where we had an amazing ceremony in the morning to say thank you to all of our supporters, staff and students. This was then followed by a morning tea and an awesome beach day at Natidola beach.

Sunday was full of goodbyes and travel before reaching home with the experience of a lifetime. I seriously encourage everyone to apply for this as it is an awesome trip and you will make tons of friends and lifelong connections.

Grace Farquhar (Year 13)



2026
Term Dates

Term 1: Monday 2nd February - Friday 3rd April

Friday 6th February (Waitangi Day)

Monday 23rd March (Otago Anniversary Day)

Term 2: Monday 20th April - Friday 3rd July

Monday 27th April (Anzac Day)

Monday 1st June (Kings Birthday)

Term 3: Monday 20th July - Friday 25th September

Term 4: Monday 12th October - Thursday 10th December

Monday 26th October (Labour Day)

Maniototo Area School

Central Otago Inter-club Judo Championship

On Saturday, 1 November 2025, I competed in the Central Otago Inter-club Judo Championship. Although it is a Central Otago event, the tournament drew strong competitors from across the South Island, including clubs from Christchurch, which made the level very competitive.

I entered my age division, where many of the athletes were higher belts. I also chose to enter the open category to test myself against more experienced judoka.

In my division, I faced one opponent across two matches. Both were hard fights, and I managed to win both matches, earning first place and a gold trophy.

In the open division, I went up against a national-level judoka. The pace and technique were intense, and I lost the match, although it was a valuable learning experience.

I am proud to have finished first in my division, and the event has motivated me to keep improving and aim for higher-level competitions in the future. **Noah Smith (Year 10)**



Thank You, Hellers & Four Square Maniototo!

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Hellers for their generous donation of sausages and Maniototo 4 Square for the bread provided for our Year 9 camp fundraiser. Your support helped make our event a sizzling success! Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise vital funds for our camp which promises to be an unforgettable experience. We truly appreciate your commitment to supporting local schools and events.

Billy Laing Swimming Lessons

27th Dec - 31st Dec 2025 - Ranfurly Swimming Pool

Billy has been providing swimming lessons in the Maniototo for 25+ years.

Children will be put into groups depending on their ability to swim. Lessons go for 5 days.

Stronger more capable swimmers will have one lesson per day (usually early morning for an hour) and for those starting out with strokes / learning to float or new to swimming/water these children will have two shorter lessons per day.

For more information or to enrol your child/children please text Geraldine Dowling 0274 859 693 or Facebook messenger
