Newsletter

# Maniototo Area School

**MARCH 2026**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

What a fantastic few weeks it’s been for our school community! Between the dust of the trails and the splash of the pool, our community has been showing exactly what makes Maniototo special.

The Cavalcade is always a fundraising highlight of our year, but it wouldn't be possible without the incredible "behind the scenes" crew.
A huge thank you to all the parents and caregivers who stepped up last week. Whether you were in the kitchen preparing, cooking, and serving meals to keep participants fueled or on the road assisting with the complex logistics of transporting vehicles and gear.

Your support ensures this tradition continues and provides vital fundraising for our school. We truly appreciate the time and effort you give up to support us.
I have to make special mention of Jenna Huddleston who graciously came back to school to help with this important event. Jenna - we are so grateful for your drive and energy and commitment. We know this fundraising will make a difference for every single student in our school - thank you!

Congratulations to all our students who took part in the  swimming sports this week.  It was wonderful to see so many personal bests and such high levels of participation. Thanks to parents and caregivers for coming along to provide strong support for this event.

As we enter the last few weeks of the term, I am encouraging students to dig deep and finish well. It is really important to keep attendance and engagement high and to keep on top of classwork. Our focus for the year is **Believe** - and this is the time of the year where it is easy for high aspirations and ambitions to slip. You can support us by reminding students of their limitless potential and encouraging them to commit to their big goals and dreams.

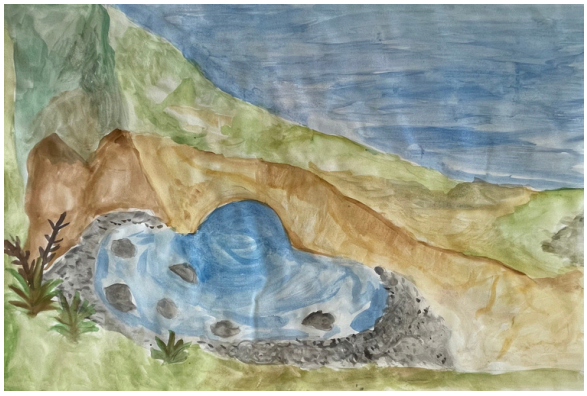
Melissa Bell
Principal

# Maniototo Area School

## Year 11 Art Trip

Huriawa Pa is an important Ngāi Tahu historical site at Karitāne where people lived, gathered kai and defended their community. The peninsula's natural landscape made it a strong defensive pā and the location of famous tribal stories, including the siege of Te Wera.

Today it remains a sacred cultural place connected to Ngāi Tahu identity and history. We use the knowledge gained on this trip to complete a visual research inquiry for our first achievement standard at level 1.



Karitane landscape watercolour paintings

# Maniototo Area School

## PTA - Cavalcade Fundraiser

A huge thanks to our incredible PTA and Cavalcade Crew

Every year, our PTA takes on one of the biggest undertakings in our school calendar — catering for the Goldfields Cavalcade. It's a massive job, and yet, our parents, caregivers, and wider whānau step up with the same generosity, grit, and good humour that make this community so special.

From the families who donate ingredients, baking, and supplies, to the parents and caregivers who spend hours planning, organising, and working on site — your effort doesn't go unnoticed. It's teamwork at its finest, and it reflects the heart of Maniototo Area School.

Yes, it's a huge task. But the rewards for our school are tremendous. This fundraiser opens doors for our students, creates opportunities, and helps us offer experiences that simply wouldn't be possible otherwise.

We are incredibly lucky — not just to have this fundraiser, but to have a community willing to pour so much into it. Thank you for lifting our school, year after year. We couldn't do it without you.

And if you've ever thought about making a differnce to our school, please join the PTA. Whether you can offer time, ideas, or simply a willingness to help where you can, being part of the PTA means playing a real role in shaping the future of our school. Every new voice strengthens our community and helps create even more opportunities for our tamariki.

Thank you Jenna Huddleston  for driving this again in 2026.

We are so lucky to have this opportunity to fundraise such a substantial amount in one big effort.
Bring on 2027, - watch this space to find out how you can be involved, and think about what the money raised could go towards. Dream big & bring your ideas to the next parents meeting

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## Sports Department Update

It's been a busy and exciting time around the school. Our students have been stuck into a range of school activities, and it's been great to see so much energy on the field and the court.

Coming into this role, I've had the chance to see our programs from a new perspective. What has really struck me is the incredible amount of effort our senior school teaching staff put in to ensure your children can participate in Central Otago competitions like volleyball and softball and also Otago Championship events. They are supported by a great group of parents, and we're very lucky to have people who consistently give their time.

I know for these adults, the real reward is seeing the kids enjoy their sport, but I am still so impressed by their commitment—whether they are coaching, managing, or handling the driving.

**Jack Martin Sports Exchange**

Next Friday, March 20th, a team of 48 students and five teachers will head to Palmerston for our annual Jack Martin Sports Exchange. Our teams will be competing across four codes: netball, volleyball, kī-o-rahi, and basketball. Everyone has been putting in the hard yards with lunchtime practices, and we're looking forward to a great day of competition. Students involved will receive a letter with final details early next week.

**Senior Athletics Sports**

This Saturday, five of our athletes - Ethan, Axel, Jonty, Isla, and Finn - are off to Dunedin for the Otago Secondary Schools Athletic Champs. It was impressive to see 20 students reach the qualifying standards after our own sports day, and we wish this group the very best of luck.

**MAS Athletics Champions**

U15: Ethan & Isla, U16: Jonty & Jayda, U17: Rhys & Indi, Senior: Nate & Charlie

**House Competition Results**

1st: Hamiltons, 2nd:Danseys, 3rd: Serpentine, 4th: Garibaldi

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Following our swimming sports held earlier this week, a group of students has been offered the opportunity to attend the Otago Primary Schools Swimming Championship. There was some fantastic talent on display, and both staff and students appreciated the parents and grandparents who came along to cheer from the sidelines. We'll have updates on both of these events in the next newsletter.

**Student Achievements**

We are so proud to share that Charlie has been selected for the Otago U18 Girls basketball team. Her season includes two mini-tournaments leading up to the National Tournament in Auckland this July. It's a fantastic opportunity, and we wish her all the best for the representative season ahead.

Good luck also to Jae and Marshall, who are competing in the South Island Secondary School Moto X Championship at the end of March. Both have been training hard, and we wish them well for the event.

On Monday, Jonty, Nick, Jake, and Rhys travelled to Balclutha to compete in the Eagles Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. Competing in a field of 54 golfers from schools across the Otago region, the boys took on a challenging 18-hole course and put up some impressive performances. The day was packed with highlights, but a standout moment for the team was Jake's well-earned birdie. While they narrowly missed out on the prize podium this time, the team is already looking forward to representing the school at future tournaments.
A huge thank you to Jamie for providing transport and supporting the team throughout the day.

**Sport Prefects Update**

Our Athletics and Swimming sports were a great success. It was awesome to see everyone getting involved, having fun, and giving their best in each event. It was great to help out the junior students at the swimming sports, they did an amazing job and tried their best in every event. Thank you to the parents for their great support and a big thank you to the teachers for organising these events and making sure they could happen.
It has been impressive to see the student turn out and determination at our East Otago Tournament training, especially the Year 7 & 8's who are learning new sports. We are looking forward to a competitive tournament against East Otago.

*Charlie Owens and Jae MacDonald.*

# Maniototo Area School

## Biology Field Trip

Our Level 2 Biology students had an enjoyable and engaging field trip to the University of Otago Marine laboratory at the Portbello Peninsula. We surveyed the intertidal zone and quickly became comfortable handling a variety of marine invertebrates within our survey sight. This was followed by a session on dissecting crab and squid and comparing gas exchange systems throughout Marine life occupying different habitats.

Thanks to the support of the local junior tennis club, our school courts now have a brand-new net.

It's a small upgrade that makes a big impact, helping Maniototo students continue to enjoy and make the most of these shared facilities for years to come.

Thank You

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## PE - Surf School

Level 1 and 2 P.E students went to Esplanade Surf School at St Clair Beach in Dunedin recently. Their experience included beach safety, identifying rips, how to perform surfboard rescues, and a lot of surfing.

For some of students, this was an entirely new experience, with this being their first time at the beach, and for many of the class, this was their first time learning to surf.

The experience connects to various Achievement Standards across the Physical Education Curriculum. Surfing was such a hit that we will definitely be including this activity in the 2027 Physical Education programme for our Level 1 and 2 students.

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## Important Dates

**16 March - Year 7 Vision Testing**
**18 March - BOT Meeting**
**20 March - EOHS Sports Exchange (Palmerston)**
**23 March - Otago Anniversary Day (School is closed)**
**24 March - 21 May - Dental Bus on site**
**27 March - Teacher Only Day (School is closed)**
**2 April - Last Day of Term 1**
**3 April - Good Friday (School is closed)**

**20 April - Term 2 commences**
**Monday 27th April - ANZAC Day Observed (School is Closed)**
**29 April - BOT Meeting**
**6-8 May - AST at Roxburgh**
**1 June - Kings Birthday (School is Closed)**
**3 June - BOT Meeting**

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# Poetry Competition

Our school community is proud to recognise Quinn for her remarkable achievement in the recent Veterinary Centre poetry competition. Thanks to Quinn's success, our school has also received an excellent boom box, a prize that will be enjoyed by everyone at MAS.

Well done, Quinn — we are incredibly proud of you. Thanks to the Veterinary Centre for organising the poetry competition and providing such a great prize.

Quinn's poem - titled **"Rural Vets"**

Rural vets are here and there,
ready when your pet needs care,
it doesn't matter where you are,
we'll come to you - near or far.
Sick sheep, cranky cow,
we will help you - we know how.
Clucking chicken, homeless horse.
we will help you all, of course.
We help them find forever homes,
cause they won't survive on their own.