
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	JULY 2026	
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Dear Parents and Caregivers

I am very grateful to be joining such a great school. Already in the first week of term I have seen so many examples of what makes Maniototo special. The genuine care and kindness shown to others and the active support that results from it, is a true testament to the values of a school community.

This term, our overarching focus across the school is "Believe you can make a difference." Every positive action, encouraging word and act of support helps shape our culture and makes our school a happy and safe environment. Making a difference often starts small with little acts of kindness or service. This sense of altruism relies on people doing something good for others without expecting anything in return. It's a great character trait to encourage as it contributes to both healthy individuals and communities.

It's a busy time with plenty of activity in and out of the classroom. Special thanks to those who give their time to support the success of our young people. It's much appreciated.

As always, if there is anything I can help with, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards, Andy Hunter



New Zealand
Education
Excellence
Awards

Ngā Tohu
Kairangi
Mātauranga
o Aotearoa

Winner

Excellence in Student Engagement & Attendance

2026



Maniototo Area School

NZ Excellence Award

Midway through Term 2, we received the exciting news that we had been named finalists in the Attendance and Engagement category of the National Excellence Awards. This recognition acknowledged the work being done to improve attendance and strengthen student engagement. Key initiatives included Breakfast Club, the Year 10 Strive Award, and targeted teaching for the co-requisite assessment.



As finalists, the school was invited to the Beehive for the awards ceremony. In our category, we were up against Nelson College, a school of around 900 students. To our great delight, we were announced as the winners.

This was a significant achievement, with other winners including high-performing schools such as Auckland Girls Grammar School and Westlake Girls. We were the finalist south of Christchurch, and the only Area School.

As Melissa Bell said in the *Central Otago News*: “Today for us proves that when we dream big and we are relentless in wanting better outcomes for our students, and we value every student no matter their postcode, we can do amazing things.”



Term 2 Excellence Awards - Believe in the Team



A huge congratulations to these students who were recognised for consistently supporting others — showing kindness, encouragement, inclusiveness, and a strong commitment to teamwork that helped their class and whānau groups succeed. John Shaw, Beau Scott (absent), Zoe Weir, Mason Smitheram, Kahu Houppapa, Mackenzie Davis, Sophie McAtamney, Florence Dowling, Bonnie Spooner, Lexi McFadyen-Beck (absent), Hayley Barroga & Trisha Buragay

Maniototo Area School

Mid year Board Update

As always the Board has plenty happening! We welcome Andrew Hunter in the role of Principal through until the end of the year. Andy has settled in exceptionally well, and we hope he enjoys his time with us. A heartfelt thank you all for ensuring Melissa had a special send off from our school last term, we wish her every success for the future. Now we have the exciting job of recruiting our next Principal to lead us from the start of 2027.

We have been busy with several property projects. Breens Building has begun the long-awaited renovation of 'The Principal's House', It's great to see this underway. The other project isn't quite as exciting as we are dealing with the damage from burst pipes in a teacher's flat following that first ripper frost of the year! It's been great to have the expertise of Mat Weir who has been co-opted onto the board to help with these projects.

We are working hard towards being able to replace the turf. All going to plan, we will complete this over summer before we host the Southern Area Schools Tournament in 2027 which is very exciting!

It's been great to see so many community members take up the offer to use our Gym. This is part of a wider strategy to help strengthen community connections while supporting our many sports teams.

During the holidays Pip and Lucia represented our school at the Innovation Schools Summit in Las Vegas. They have returned with fresh ideas and innovative approaches to enhance teaching and learning at our school. Congratulations Pip for being awarded this board funded scholarship for professional development.

As we look ahead to spring, it's great to see the grounds looking so tidy, thankyou Kerrin. Three board members are attending the Area Schools Conference in Wellington in August, these conferences are invaluable for strengthening our work in governance for the school.

We also hope to soon be able to share with you the report from the Education Review Office following their successful visit last term.

Thank you for your continued support, we look forward to sharing more exciting developments throughout the remainder of the year.

Nga Mihi nui.
The Board of Trustees

Maniototo Area School

Primary School Production

At the end of Term 2, the Primary School presented the show *Worth More Than Gold*. The performance explored the idea that, while we may wish for lots of gold in our lives, the things that truly matter most are family, friends, and community. It was a wonderful show, with every child given the chance to shine on stage. Thank you to Ewan Mason for adding that extra touch of magic — the impressive sound and lighting helped create an amazing performance.



Maniototo Area School

Sports Department Update

Term 2 wrapped up with strong performances across the board. Senior Basketball enjoyed a competitive season thanks to the coaching of Tom Weir and management from Donna Owens.

Our Road Race was a brilliant whole-school event in perfect weather, showcasing MAS spirit. Congratulations to all top-three finishers and to Garibaldi House, winners of the 2024 event.

Term 3 is already busy. Our Junior Mixed Basketball team has made a great start in the Central Otago boys' grade – thank you to Charlie, Nate, Nick for coaching, Ms Thomas for organising, and all supporting parents that make participation possible. Senior Hockey continues its winning streak including a dominant 9 - 2 win last Friday night, as the team prepares for the Kate Trolove Cup in Nelson later this term. Fundraising is underway with cheese, Waipiata Pies, and an upcoming Jingo night.

Senior PE classes are heading to the rink next Friday.

(If you haven't returned your permission slip yet, please do so ASAP!)

Later this term, Jonty Russell and Indi Hepi will travel to the Lillehammer Training Camp in Norway – an incredible achievement. Upcoming curling events include the Years 5–8 Curling Competition on 15 September, the Otago Invitational Secondary Schools Competition, and the NZ Secondary Schools Curling Cup in Naseby.

Social Volleyball begins next week as a fundraiser for the Year 12 & 13 camp – teams of five, \$200 entry.

Year 1–8 Cross Country takes place Monday 24 August at 1pm. All junior school families received an email regarding this earlier in the week.

It's great to be back for Term 3 – the Sports Department is in full swing and proud to support our students' active opportunities.

Geraldine Duncan - Sports Coordinator email: jnrsports@maniototo.school.nz

Netball Representative

We are thrilled to congratulate Bonnie Spooner on her selection for the Central Otago Year 9 representative netball team; she is currently a standout player in our mixed gender netball team that plays in Alexandra on Saturdays. Best wishes for your games Bonnie.



Maniototo Area School

Road Race Results

Year 1

Boys: 1st Mitch Watson, 2nd John Shaw, 3rd Kora Rameka-Boden

Girls: 1st Bridie Parker, 2nd Pippa Scott, 3rd Sophia Becker

Year 2

Boys: 1st Nate Goffin, 2nd Michael Wade, 3rd Thomas Becker

Girls: 1st Neveah Houpapa, 2nd Olivia Parker, 3rd Kaylee Graham

Year 3

Boys: 1st Blake Andrews, 2nd Hugo Fairweather, 3rd Wade Watson

Girls: 1st Immy Weir, 2nd Zoe Weir

Year 4

Boys: 1st Blake Sutherland, 2nd Conrad Shaw, 3rd Ghiahn Lewis

Girls: 1st Briella Graham, 2nd Briar Gillespie, 3rd Ellie Norman

Year 5

Boys: 1st Kahu Houpapa, 2nd Oto Kernot-Berke, 3rd Mack Woodhead

Girls: 1st Maddie Norman

Year 6

Boys: 1st Liam Wilson, 2nd Chrysler Houpapa, 3rd Reuben Hagen

Girls: 1st Abbie Graham, 2nd Autumn Forbes, 3rd Kora Martin

Year 7 (3km)

Boys: 1st Toby McFadyen-Beck (16.58), 2nd Oscar McAtamney (18.32), 3rd Bede Paterson (22.31)

Girls: 1st Osharne Huriwai-Kirk (18.52), 2nd Sophie McAtamney (21.18),
3rd Rose-May Poihakena-Jackson (31.33)

Year 8 (3km)

Boys: 1st Sam Hore (17.07), 2nd Charlie Norman (20.10), 3rd JR Buragay (24.46)

Girls: 1st Nikita Wilson (18.59), 2nd Evelyn Hagen (20.27), 3rd Aubree Mulholland (21.10)

Year 9 & 10 (6km)

Boys: 1st Ethan Chisholm (26.17), 2nd Axel McAuley (31.44), 3rd Finn Dowling (31.49)

Year 11-13 (6km)

Boys: 1st Jonty Russell (30.42), 2nd= Jake McMillan & Jae MacDonald (48.06)

Girls: 1st Indianna Hepi (36.51), 2nd Mahalia Tapatu (49.55), 3rd Te Oranga Huriwai (50.09)

Maniototo Area School

NZ Area School Tournament

Nine Maniototo Area School students proudly represented the Southern Zone at the NZ Area Schools Tournament in Whangārei during Week 11 of Term Two. After six busy weeks of community fundraising, the group travelled to Auckland and then on to Whangārei for four days of competition across netball, volleyball, basketball, football, and ki o rahi.

Our students showed outstanding PRIDE values throughout the tournament. They competed against Central, North, and Top of the South Island teams, with several athletes trialling for South Island selection.

We are thrilled to celebrate three students chosen for South Island teams:

- Charlie Owens – Netball & Basketball
- Mahalia Tapatu – Volleyball
- Trisha Buragay – Volleyball

From there, Charlie Owens (Netball & Basketball) and Trisha Buragay (Volleyball) were selected for New Zealand Area Schools Teams – an exceptional achievement.



A heartfelt thank-you to the many community groups, families, and supporters who helped make this trip possible. Your generosity ensured our students could take part in this unforgettable experience.

We also extend a sincere thank-you to Michelle Dowling and Geraldine Duncan for their organisation, leadership, and for accompanying our students throughout the tournament. Their commitment and care made a significant difference to the success of the trip.

Special thanks:

- Maniototo Lions
- Maniototo Community Trust Fund
- Trust of Maniototo Fund
- Maniototo Lodge
- Maniototo Area School PTA
- Maniototo Netball Club
- Cleugh Family
- Everyone who supported our raffles



Maniototo Area School

Primary Ice Week

The Primary Students have enjoyed another great week on the ice. A huge thank you to our parent drivers, this opportunity wouldn't be possible without your help. Thank you also to the great team at the Maniototo Adventure Park, we really appreciated your help and advice.



Maniototo Area School

— SERVE IT UP FOR A GREAT CAUSE! —

COMMUNITY SOCIAL VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE

**HELP FUND
THE YEAR 12
& 13 CAMP!**



LOCATION:
MANIOTOTO AREA SCHOOL GYM

TIME:
6PM ONWARDS

DAY:
WEDNESDAYS
STARTING 5TH AUGUST

5 PLAYERS
ON THE COURT AT ALL TIMES

\$200 PER TEAM ENTRY

**FUN, FRIENDLY
& FOR A CAUSE!**

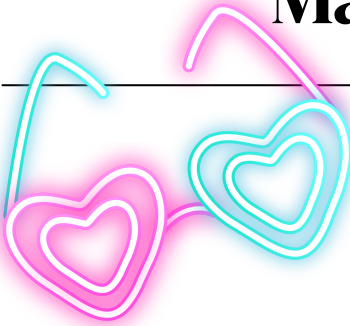
**GET YOUR TEAM
TOGETHER!** ♥

**PLEASE CONTACT
GERALDINE DUNCAN**
jnrsports@maniototo.school.nz
TO RECEIVE MORE INFORMATION
AND REGISTER YOUR TEAM.

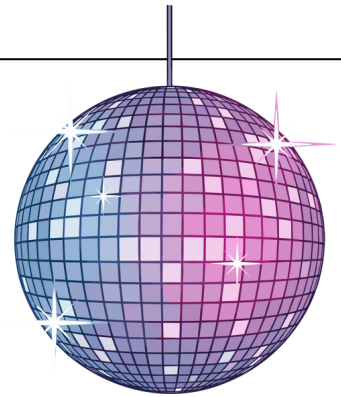
**ENTRIES CLOSE
SUNDAY
THE 26TH OF JULY**



Maniototo Area School



DISCO



The Year 7 & 8 class are holding a "Fluro Friday" Disco for Year 0-8 children. This is a fundraiser for Camp Columba at the end of term 3.

Where: Ranfurly Town Hall
When: Friday 28th August, 5pm - 7pm
Theme: "Fluro Friday"

Cost: \$7.50 includes entry and a sausage/bread.
Extra sausages \$2.50 OR \$5 entry (no sausage)

There will be chips, candy floss, drinks, lollies and a range of glow products priced from \$2-\$5 for sale.

**Pre-school children are welcome,
provided they have adult supervision.**



SPOT PRIZES

**Come dressed in your
brightest gear...
think neon!**

For more information please contact
Mrs Fiona Dowling -
email: dowlingf@maniototo.school.nz

Term 3 Important Dates

- 6 August - Holocaust Centre of NZ education programme (Secondary)
- 7 August - Secondary School Ice Morning
- 24 August - Maniototo Cross Country
- 31 August - 4 September - Secondary School Tournament Week
- 1-3 September - Year 6 Ski Camp
- 2 September - BOT Meeting
- 4 September - Otago Cross Country Champs
- 14 - 18 September - Year 11 Wellington Camp, Year 12 & 13 Wanaka Camp
- 22 - 25 September - Year 7 & 8 Camp Columba
- 25 September - End of Term 3
- 12 October - Term 4 commences

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