
Newsletter

Maniototo Area School

	August 2026	
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Kia ora koutou

As we move through the middle of Term 3, I want to acknowledge all the excellent effort and attitude across the school. Winter terms are always busy with sports fixtures, and extracurricular commitments. It's great to see such pride in representing our school and the developing talent on show.

A sincere thank you to our hardworking staff and parent coaches/managers/transport providers for making this happen. It is very much appreciated!

Whilst it's been a busy and rewarding term so far, can I also encourage our senior school to "get the balance right" regarding academic effort. It is so important to stay up with assessment commitments as we move towards the end of the term. Don't leave things to the last minute and always seek support if you need it.

Over the coming weeks, we have some exciting events with tournament week and camps dominating the last few weeks of term. Thank you again to those who have offered their support.

I'm loving what I see and hear around our school!
Keep up the good work and keep our standards high so that we can all finish the term well. Thank you to our parents, whānau, and community for your ongoing support of our school.

Ngā mihi mahana,
Andrew Hunter



New Zealand
Education
Excellence
Awards

Ngā Tohu
Kairangi
Mātauranga
o Aotearoa

Winner

Excellence in Student Engagement & Attendance

2026



Maniototo Area School



NZ Area School's Conference

At the recent National Area Schools Conference in Wellington, Melissa was invited to deliver a keynote presentation sharing the story behind our success in winning the National Excellence Award.

It was wonderful to see Melissa share our school's journey with area schools from across the country. Her presentation brought our story to life, combining the detail of our experience with impressive data and valuable advice. The room was buzzing as everyone listened and celebrated the work that has led to our success.

Thank you Melissa!



National Student Excellence Award for Jake Smith



We are proud to share that Jake Smith was named as a Student Excellence Award recipient at the New Zealand Area Schools Conference. This national honour was awarded to only five students from a pool of 30 nominees across Aotearoa, recognising exceptional character, contribution, and resilience.

Jake was nominated for his excellent attitude and gutsy determination — qualities that have long been evident in his leadership and involvement within our school community.

Many in our community will be aware that on 28 December 2024, Jake was involved in a serious motorbike accident in which he sustained significant neck and spinal cord injuries. He spent 26 nights in the Intensive Care Unit at Christchurch Hospital before being transferred to the Burwood Spinal Unit. Jake approached his recovery journey, with courage and determination.

Jake's recognition at a national level is a testament to his strength of character and the high regard in which he is held by all. Our school extends its warmest congratulations to Jake and his whānau on this meaningful achievement.

Maniototo Area School

Blue Light Life Skills Camp

Twenty-seven rangatahi from across Aotearoa have just completed Blue Light's Life Skills Camp at Burnham Military Camp, a five-day programme run in partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force. The week was packed with challenge and adventure — rock-climbing, dragon boating, tent-pitching, marching drills, and even exploring military aircraft up close — but it was the personal growth that shone brightest.

Among the standout participants was Madi Hawkes, who represented Maniototo Area School with pride, determination, and quiet leadership.

Her consistent effort throughout the camp earned her the Overall Merit Award, recognising both her commitment and the positive way she engaged with every challenge placed in front of her.

Madi's achievement reflects the strength of character she brings to our school community, and we are incredibly proud to celebrate her success.

A huge thank-you to the NZ Army, NZ Police, and the Blue Light team for providing such an impactful experience for our rangatahi.



Student Election

Our annual Board of Trustees student representative election is currently underway.

4 nominations were received.

Voting closes on 3rd September with results announced the following week.

Thank you to all the candidates.

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World Curling Academy Youth Training Junior Camp

Indianna Hepi and Jonty Russell have been selected to attend the World Curling Academy Youth Training Junior Camp in Lillehammer, Norway, from 17–21 August 2026. They departed over the weekend and will have a very busy time in Norway learning from the best curlers in the world as they prepare for the Youth Olympic Games in 2028.



Year 11 Camp Fundraiser - Makikihi Fries

Support our Year 11 Wellington Camp and stock up on delicious Makikihi Fries at the same time!

Choose from Straight Cut, Crinkle Cut, or Steak Fries.
\$25 (5kg bags) or \$45 (10kg bags)

Business orders are welcome — perfect for cafés, clubs, and workplaces.
Thank you for supporting our students and their upcoming Wellington adventure.

To order fries, you can contact any of our Year 11 students or email Nikki Meyer:
meyern@maniototo.school.nz

Orders close 27th August

Christmas Presents

We have a wonderful agency that have offered to help any families in the community who may need a bit of extra support this Christmas with providing gifts for their children.

If you would like assistance please email Mrs Kirk at the school office with the gender and age of your children. office@maniototo.school.nz

All Requests will be Confidential



Maniototo Area School

Sports Department Update

Junior Basketball

Our Junior Mixed Basketball team is currently competing in the Central Otago competition, and after three matches, their next game is this Monday at 5 pm at the Stadium - come along and cheer them on!

Senior Hockey

The Senior Hockey team is preparing for the Kate Trolove Cup in Nelson which is held during the upcoming Winter Sports Tournament Week. They still have several fundraisers happening, including a Jingo night this Saturday. If you would like to support the team, get in touch with Nikki Meyer. We wish them the best of luck for a successful tournament.

Social Volleyball

Social Volleyball has started and the gymnasium is buzzing with energy on Wednesday nights. We have 8 teams of adults and students and the games are competitive and fun. This is a fundraiser for the Year 11 camp where the students head to Wellington with Ms Meyer and Mrs M Dowling.

Spirit Sisters

Aria Monaghan from Otago Community Rugby delivered the Spirit Sisters, Girls Only Tackle sessions to 10 of our Year 3-8 girls this week, introducing them to contact rugby in a fun, safe, supportive, and girls only environment. Our girls got stuck in and thoroughly enjoyed themselves!



Spirit* **GIRLS ONLY**
sisters **2026***

ALEXANDRA
Y3-Y8 TACKLE PROGRAMME

All sessions run Thursday afternoons from 4:00PM to 5:15PM
Alexandra Rugby Football Club - Molyneux Park

SESSION 1:
THURSDAY 20 AUGUST

SESSION 2:
THURSDAY 27 AUGUST

SESSION 3:
THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

SESSION 4:
THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER

LEARN:
HOW TO FALL
HOW TO TACKLE
HOW TO BE TACKLED

Register here:
Otago Rugby Football Union
Women & Girls Lead - Aria Monaghan
aria.monaghan@orfu.co.nz
021 573 718

Maniototo Area School

Netball Representatives

We are incredibly proud of the four students who were recently selected for the Central Otago Netball Development teams.

Bonnie Spooner was selected for the Year 9 team and recently represented Central Otago at the Year 9 and 10 tournament held at the Dunedin Edgar Centre. In Year 8, Thalia Hepi, Florence Dowling and Nikita Wilson were selected to participate in the Year 7 and 8 Otago/Southland Development Tournament at ILT Stadium Southland.

This was a fantastic opportunity for all four girls to challenge themselves and grow as netballers. Highlights included playing alongside athletes they had never played with before, experiencing the excitement of competing on sprung floors in large stadiums, and gaining confidence in their own abilities.

Most importantly, the girls were able to recognise their potential as netball players and see the exciting opportunities that could lie ahead if they continue to develop their skills and passion for the game. We are very proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing where their netball journeys take them!



Join the MAS Gymnasium! We offer weight and cardio facilities for school and community members aged 17+ and students home for the summer. Our hours are 5pm–9pm weekdays and 6am–9pm weekends, with extended hours during holidays. Membership is \$10/week with a \$30 sign-up fee. For tours and membership paperwork contact me at jnrsports@maniototo.school.nz.

Upcoming events: The Years 5-8 Curling Competition takes place on Tuesday, 15th September and a parent letter will come home for those involved next week. Our senior curling team will be competing in the Otago Invitational Secondary School Competition in Dunedin, and then at the start of the next holidays in the NZ Secondary School Curling Cup here in Naseby.

The Sports Department is always on the go, and we love helping your children get active and involved in great sporting opportunities. ***Geraldine Duncan - Sports Coordinator.***

Maniototo Area School



Father's Day Raffle Year 7 & 8 Camp Fundraiser

Keep an eye out for our Year 7 & 8 students who will be selling tickets for a Father's Day Hamper Raffle.

\$2 per ticket. Thank you for your support.

Vacancy: School Cleaner

We are seeking a reliable and detail-oriented person to join our cleaning team. Our school cleaners play an important role in maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for students and staff.

All applicants must undergo a police vetting process.

If you are interested, please submit your expression of interest to the school office:
office@maniototo.school.nz

Term 3 Important Dates

- 27 August - House Dance Competition (2pm in the Gym)
- 28 August - Disco (5-7pm at the Town Hall)
- 31 August - 4 September - Secondary School Tournament Week (Hockey)
- 1-3 September - Year 6 Ski Camp
- 4 September - Otago Cross Country Champs
- 14 - 18 September - Year 11 Wellington Camp
- 15 September - Primary Interschool Curling Tournament
- 16 September - BOT Meeting
- 17 - 18 September - Year 12 & 13 School Camp
- 19 September - MAS Formal
- 21 September - Studylink for Yr 13 students
- 22 - 25 September - Year 7 & 8 Camp Columba
- 24 September - Careers Expo @ EOHS
- 25 September - Class Act Award Ceremony / 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

Care options for you and your whānau

Your usual doctor/GP is the best place to provide you with routine and follow-up care. You can find a GP at healthpoint.co.nz

There are a range of healthcare options available if you can't see your regular GP. Many are available after hours and at weekends.

Healthline 0800 611 116



- Free over-the-phone health

advice 24/7 from nurses and paramedics.

- Māori clinicians are available from 8am to 8pm weekdays.
- You can send photos or videos to help explain your symptoms.
- Option to ask Healthline to call you back.

Visit info.health.nz/healthline

Online doctor



- Online or over-the-phone

appointment with a doctor if you can't get one with your usual GP, or you don't have a GP.

- Available any time including after hours and weekends.
- Low-cost appointments for children and Community Services Card holders at some providers.

Find an online doctor at info.health.nz/OnlineGP

Pharmacy



- Advice on medications

and minor concerns including colds, rashes and itchy skin.

- Many can also help with eye infections, urinary infections, emergency contraception, vaccinations and more.
- May be able to provide a few days of medication if you run out and need a new prescription.

Find a pharmacy at healthpoint.co.nz

After hours and urgent care clinics



- After hours or urgent care if your GP isn't available and you need to see someone in person.

- For urgent medical issues including breaks, sprains, bad cuts, head knocks, minor burns, eye and ear issues, and if you feel really sick.
- Free appointments for children and low-cost appointments for Community Services Card holders at some clinics.

Find your nearest urgent care clinic at healthpoint.co.nz

Visit info.health.nz for health advice and information on services.



Got a cold or flu?

Find out what to do



Cold and flu symptoms are similar, but flu-like illnesses are usually more severe.

Signs and symptoms	Cold	Flu-like illness
Symptom onset	Gradual	Often sudden
Fever and chills	Uncommon	Common
Head and body aches	Uncommon	Common
Fatigue, extreme tiredness	Uncommon	Common
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Cough	Sometimes	Common
Sneezing, runny nose	Common	Uncommon

Symptoms of COVID-19 can be similar to a cold or flu and range from mild to severe. See covid19.govt.nz for advice or phone Healthline's COVID-19 line on 0800 358 5453.

You can treat most colds and flu-like illnesses with rest and self-care at home, but you need to know when to seek medical help.

When to seek advice

Contact your medical clinic for advice if you:

- are not getting better
- are aged 65 or older
- are pregnant
- have a sore throat and are Māori or Pasifika aged 3 to 35 years
- have diabetes or a health condition affecting your breathing, heart or immune system
- are concerned or not sure what to do.

Phone first if you might have a highly infectious virus like COVID-19.

Not sure what to do?

Phone Healthline free on **0800 611 116** for health advice anytime

When to seek immediate medical help

If you have any of the following signs you may be seriously unwell and need emergency care:

- confusion or painful breathing
- difficult to wake
- bluish lips or tongue
- stiff neck
- chest pain
- rash with purple or red spots or bruises
- coughing up blood
- clammy skin
- severe shaking, rigors
- not urinating or dark coloured pee.

Phone **111** or go to the hospital emergency department right now. Do not delay.

Self-care for colds and flus



Rest – at home if possible so you don't spread bugs.



Drink plenty of water, warm lemon and honey drinks or soups to avoid dehydration.

* honey is not safe for children under one year.



Sore throat? Suck a teaspoon of honey or gargle salt water. Adults can also try a medicated lozenge, gargle or throat spray.



Blocked or runny nose? Ask your pharmacist about decongestants and nasal sprays.



Cough? Sip a lemon and honey drink or ask your pharmacist about cough lozenges or medicines that may be suitable for you.



Aches and pains? Try paracetamol OR cold and flu medicines (check doses carefully and ask your doctor or pharmacist if safe for you).

Avoid antibiotics – they can't cure colds, flus or most coughs as these are caused by viruses.

Avoid spreading and catching bugs

Take care of your health and protect your whānau and community.

Wash your hands for 20 seconds and dry them well.

Cover your coughs and sneezes.

Avoid touching your face with unclean hands.

Don't share personal items such as cups, food utensils or towels.

Clean and disinfect surfaces often, like doorknobs.

Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with others.

Keep coughs away from other people.



Keep well this winter



Get the flu vaccine each year – it might be free for you.



Keep your immune system strong: be active, eat healthy food, be smoke-free and get plenty of sleep.



Stay warm – heat your home to at least 18°C.



Quit smoking – smokers get more colds, symptoms are worse and last longer.