# Rai Valley Area School

Newsletter




Rai Valley Area School

**Growing and Learning**
**Towards a Great Future**

Phone: 03 571 6016
Email: office@rai.school.nz
www.rai.school.nz

# Rai Valley Area School

# Newsletter

Issue No 11 | 16th November 2026

## Tumuaki's Report



Kia ora whānau,
The weeks are slipping by (although I am fully aware that time is actually a pretty concrete measurement and as such does not vary, other than in personal perspective).
We have sent our seniors off on study leave and have already welcomed a few of them back—not only for revision sessions, but also because some of our ākonga have already completed a few exams.

With that at the forefront, it is important for me to highlight the excellent work that our Exam Coordinator, Renee, and our Principal's Nominee, Ms Van Hilst, have done, particularly when it comes to issues outside of our control. The nationwide breakdown of the exam platform last week was a disruption, but thanks to the hard work of Renee (and some very prescient pre-planning), we were able to shift into our backup plan (paper copies, etc.) with what we hope was minimal disruption. The students themselves, although naturally out of kilter, were well catered for and managed to get some valuable responses in.

## Our Details:

Rai Valley Area School

6700 SH6, RD 2 Rai Valley

Marlborough 7192

Telephone: (03) 571 6016

Email office: office@rai.school.nz

Web address: www.rai.school.nz

## Our People:

Principal: Maree Furness (On sabbatical)

Acting Principal: Dan Waldie

Acting Deputy Principal: Jessica Massey

Secondary Senco: Theresa Shepherd

Primary Senco: Theresa Shepherd

Learning Support Coordinator: Theresa Shepherd

Executive Officer: Christine McDonald

Receptionist: Pauline Agnew

Caretaker: Shane Dearman

# Tumuaki's Report continued

Officially, we will be putting forward our Derived Grade exam results—and in this instance (where two submissions are entered: the Derived and the Formal External), NZQA will award the higher of the two grades. This highlights the importance of Rai Valley's Derived Grade process (and is also why we do not call them mock or practice exams!).

Outside of exams, it's great to see the mahi being done by all of our students and the whanaungatanga they show by being respectful during exam times—to the point that it seems like there is no one left at school. Then again, it's not unheard of for the Primary School to play a mega game of hide-and-seek, so maybe it's just a case of me not being invited to play?

Speaking of "out-of-the-classroom learning," next week our Year 9 and 10 cohort will be off to Mārahau for a three-day (two-night) camp. This is the first time in quite a while that we have not gone to Lake Rotoiti, as we have decided to trial running our own camp and adding a few more activities to our camp kete. Our campers will be staying in tents, playing mini golf, mountain biking, paddleboarding, and—as a whole group alongside our whānau from Tapawera—walking some of the Abel Tasman (to Anchorage) before getting a boat ride back. We will be sending three staff off on camp, and I look forward to hearing about all the positive experiences that opportunities like this bring.

As a school, we are at the stage of planning for next year. As such, Monday's Teacher Only Day is set aside for our primary staff to look at curriculum development and changes (which means they will be going through all of the updated curriculum areas and negotiating how to resource and decode what the new expectations are). Our secondary school staff have also been given the brief of looking at curriculum change in their areas, with many of them going off to Nelson to work with the schools there. This is one of the major challenges (and benefits) of an Area School, where educational change results in everyone simultaneously having to man the pumps and upskill. We appreciate your support and patience on days like this.

On the horizon, we also have Rai Valley Supreme Team, which is where our students from Years 1–8 get to mingle and compete against all of the other schools in the Pelorus Cluster. Days like this run on goodwill and parental support, so please keep an eye out for more information around this in the coming weeks.

We are also finalising our plans for our End-of-Year Prizegiving, where we celebrate the successes of all of our students—from our Year 1s who have been at school for just a few terms, all the way to those students who have spent their entire education at Rai (13+ years). These celebrations are a vital and rich part of our community, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

I am not yet at the stage of counting the number of sleeps until the end of the year, but I will say that we anticipate at least two more newsletters left for the year, so I will save some ideas for those.
As always, stay safe.

Dan Waldie






# Primary News

The end of the year is barrelling towards us at full speed now! We have a busy few weeks ahead of us with report writing, water safety for life training, Pelorus Supreme Team and Prize Giving.

Last Wednesday the Year 5 and 6 children attended Clued Up Kids at Brayshaw Park in Blenheim. We travelled in a large bus with students from Havelock and Canvastown. There the students rotated through stations about fire safety, civil defense, earthquakes, cyber safety, rail safety, dental health, boat safety and other emergency services. Students practised making calls to 111, making decisions and experiencing the earthquake machine.
Thank you to the front line workers that give up time in their busy schedules to educate us on these important things.

We are hoping to have the pool open for class swimming this week. Class teachers will notify you when swimming lessons will begin.

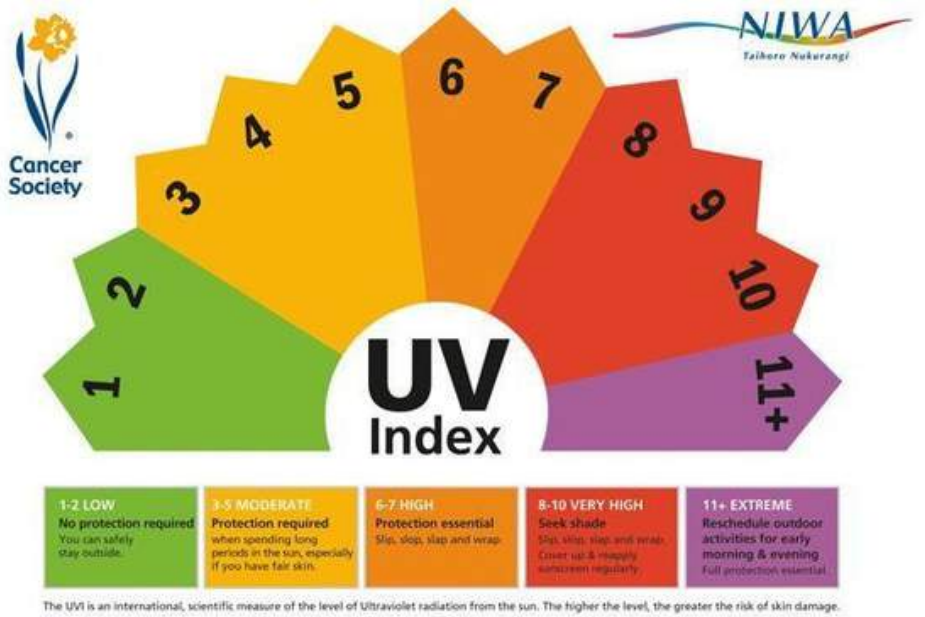


CLUED UP KIDS









# Whole School News



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

# Toileting and Tamariki "Tips and Tricks" for Parents/Caregivers

- Daytime/Night Toileting
- Wetting and Constipation Issues
- Support and Resources Available







**Wednesday 25th November 2026**
**at 1pm-2.30pm**
**and 6pm-7.30pm**
**Marlborough Community Health Hub, 22 Queen Street, Blenheim**

**Register your attendance here:**

**Light Refreshments provided**

**For more Information please contact Wairau Public Health Nurses**
**Ph 035209914**

# Secondary News : NZQA NCEA Exams

| 2026 EXAMINATION TIMETABLE | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Examinations available digitally shown in blue | | | | | |
| **Date** | **Session** | **Level 1** | **Level 2** | **Level 3** | **Scholarship** |
| **Tue 10 Nov** | AM | Mathematics and Statistics | Geography<br>Latin | Dance | Classical Studies |
| | PM | Te Ao Haka | Japanese | Digital Technologies<br>Samoan | Media Studies |
| **Wed 11 Nov** | AM | | | English | |
| | PM | Gagana Tokelau<br>Korean | Te Ao Haka | Cook Islands Māori | Geography |
| **Thu 12 Nov** | AM | | English | | Chemistry |
| | PM | Physics Earth & Space Science | Chinese | Physics<br>Te Ao Haka | French |
| **CANTERBURY ANNIVERSARY DAY (Fri 13 Nov)** | | | | | |
| **WEEKEND** | | | | | |
| **Mon 16 Nov** | AM | French | Lea Faka-Tonga<br>Te Reo Māori | Calculus | Samoan |
| | PM | Te Reo Māori | Chemistry | German<br>History | Statistics |
| **Tue 17 Nov** | AM | English | | | Accounting |
| | PM | Geography | Dance<br>Korean | Biology | Art History |
| **Wed 18 Nov** | AM | History | Art History | Health<br>Japanese | Physics |
| | PM | | Physics | Economics | Psychology |
| **Thu 19 Nov** | AM | | Mathematics & Statistics | Making Music<br>Spanish | Economics |
| | PM | Chemistry & Biology | Accounting | | Biology |
| **Fri 20 Nov** | AM | | Biology | Chinese<br>Drama | |
| | PM | Religious Studies | Cook Islands Māori<br>Drama | Chemistry | Agricultural & Horticultural Science |
| **WEEKEND** | | | | | |
| **Mon 23 Nov** | AM | Japanese | French | Latin<br>Psychology<br>Te Reo Rangatira | English |
| | PM | Spanish | Business Studies | Agricultural & Horticultural Science | Earth & Space Science |
| **Tue 24 Nov** | AM | Commerce | Agricultural & Horticultural Science | Statistics | Te Reo Rangatira |
| | PM | | History | Geography | |
| **Wed 25 Nov** | AM | Health Studies | Te Reo Rangatira | Lea Faka-Tonga | Calculus |
| | PM | Science | Classical Studies | Accounting | Drama |
| **Thu 26 Nov** | AM | Digital Technologies | Media Studies | Te Reo Māori | |
| | PM | Vagahau Niue | Health | Media Studies | Chinese |
| **Fri 27 Nov** | AM | Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani | Economics | Music Studies | Spanish |
| | PM | | Digital Technologies | Art History | History |
| **WEEKEND** | | | | | |
| **WESTLAND AND CHATHAM ISLANDS ANNIVERSARY DAYS (Mon 30 Nov)** | | | | | |
| **Tue 1 Dec** | AM | Social Studies | Earth & Space Science | Classical Studies | Te Reo Māori |
| | PM | Lea Faka-Tonga | Music | Home Economics | Digital Technologies |
| **Wed 2 Dec** | AM | Agricultural & Horticultural Science | German<br>Social Studies | French | Japanese |
| | PM | Gagana Sāmoa | | Earth & Space Science | Religious Studies |
| **Thu 3 Dec** | AM | German | Home Economics | Korean | |
| | PM | Chinese | Education for Sustainability<br>Samoan | Business Studies | |
| **Fri 4 Dec** | AM | | Spanish | Social Studies | German |

# WHAT PEOPLE THINK DYSLEXIA IS

Earthbound Madness



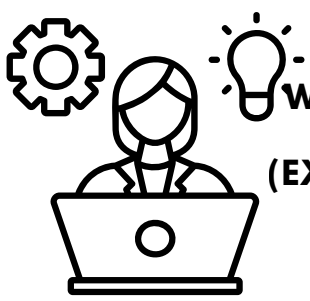
- Writing things backwards
- A sign of low intelligence

# WHAT DYSLEXIA ACTUALLY IS

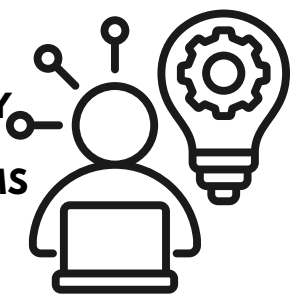


- Letter reversals
- Slow reader
- Struggle with directions
- Delayed language development
- Struggle with copying written text
- Forgetful
- Poor self esteem
- Low mood
- Anxiety
- Unmotivated to learn
- Poor concentration
- Headaches
- Stomach ache
- Feeling dizzy
- Observant
- Poor coordination
- Strong sense of justice
- Mispronouncing words

## Reminder



**WHOLE SCHOOL TEACHER ONLY DAY MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER (EXCEPT THOSE STUDENTS SITTING NCEA EXAMS**



## Reminder

# Whole School News

## Up & Coming Key School Dates for 2026

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Monday 16th November** | **T4 W6** | **TEACHER ONLY DAY WHOLE SCHOOL (except exam students)** |
| Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th November | T4 W7 | Year 9 & 10 Camp @ Kaiteriteri/Abel Tasman |
| Friday 27th November | T4 W7 | Year 9 Ki-O-Rahi tournament |
| Sunday 29th November | T4 W7 | MotoX fundraising event - Morrisons farm |
| Friday 4th December | T4 W8 | Pelorus Cluster Supreme Team @ Rai Valley |
| Monday 7th December | T4 W9 | Volunteer Morning Tea |
| Tuesday 8th December | T4 W9 | Prizegiving |
| **Wednesday 9th December** | **T4 W9** | **LAST DAY OF TERM 4 2026** |
| **Thursday 28th January 2027** | | **TEACHER ONLY DAY WHOLE SCHOOL** |
| **Friday 29th January 2027** | | **TEACHER ONLY DAY WHOLE SCHOOL** |
| **Monday 1st February 2027** | **T1 W1** | **WHOLE SCHOOL STARTS Year 1-13** |



# LOOKING AHEAD

**2026**

**Term 4, last of school, Wednesday 9 December.**




**2027**

**TOD, Thursday 28 January,**

**TOD, Friday 29 January,**

**First day students back to school, Monday 1 February.**

REMEMBER!!

Monday 16th November 2026

Whole school TEACHER ONLY DAY



# Secondary News

We're thrilled to introduce CareerWise, our school's new careers website, designed to help students and whānau stay informed about opportunities and plan for life beyond school.

On our CareerWise site, you'll find:

- *Upcoming careers events*
- *University, polytechnic and apprenticeship information*
- *Scholarships*
- *Jobs and volunteer opportunities*
- *Resources to help students explore their interests and future pathways*

Visit our CareerWise site here: https://tosi.careerwise.school/

## NCEA EXAMS for RAI VALLEY 2026...left to go.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Monday 16th November | T4 W6 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 CALCULUS AM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 CHEMISTRY PM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 HISTORY PM |
| Tuesday 17th November | T4 W6 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 ENGLISH AM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 GEOGRAPHY PM |
| Wednesday 18th November | T4 W6 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 HISTORY AM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 PHYSICS PM |
| Thursday 19th November | T4 W6 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 MATHS & STATS AM |
| Friday 20th November | T4 W6 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 BIOLOGY AM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 CHEMISTRY PM |
| Tuesday 24th November | T4 W7 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 COMMERCE AM |
| Wednesday 25th November | T4 W7 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 CLASSICAL STUDIES PM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 ACCOUNTING PM |
| Thursday 26th November | T4 W7 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 HEALTH PM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 MEDIA STUDIES PM |
| Wednesday 2nd December | T4 W8 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 AG & HORT SCIENCE AM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 GERMAN AM |
| Thursday 3rd December | T4 W8 | NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 HOME ECONOMICS AM<br>NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 BUSINESS STUDIES PM |

# Student Absence / Buses / After School Arrangements / Students arrive late / Parent deliver or collect students

**Could you please notify Pauline, when required as soon as possible, at the school office regarding above issues with a reason, either by phone (03 5716 016) and leave a message or by email (office@rai.school.nz) or personally to the office.**

**This allows up-to-date recorded information for emergencies. If students are late at school or leaving during school hours: Parents need to sign in or out at the school office. Thank you in advance. Pauline**



MY KID IS OFF THE BUS



I'M RUNNING LATE

MY KID IS OFF SICK



## CALL THE OFFICE

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## Take the Train to Santa in Seddon!



Make this Christmas one to remember and climb aboard Steam Incorporated's heritage train for a festive railway adventure from Blenheim to Seddon on Sunday the 13th December. Gather the family, bring your Christmas spirit and step back in time aboard our beautifully restored heritage train as we travel through the spectacular Marlborough countryside. There'll be a heritage train, beautiful scenery, a festive stop in Seddon — and, of course, a very special visitor waiting at the other end....

Sunday 13th December | Departing Blenheim Railway Station at 8:45am, 11:40am, 3:05pm

GeneralAdmission(3+) - $49 | FamilyPass(4People) - $169 | Infant(2&Under) - FREE

SCAN FOR TICKETS!






**Be part of your child's early learning**

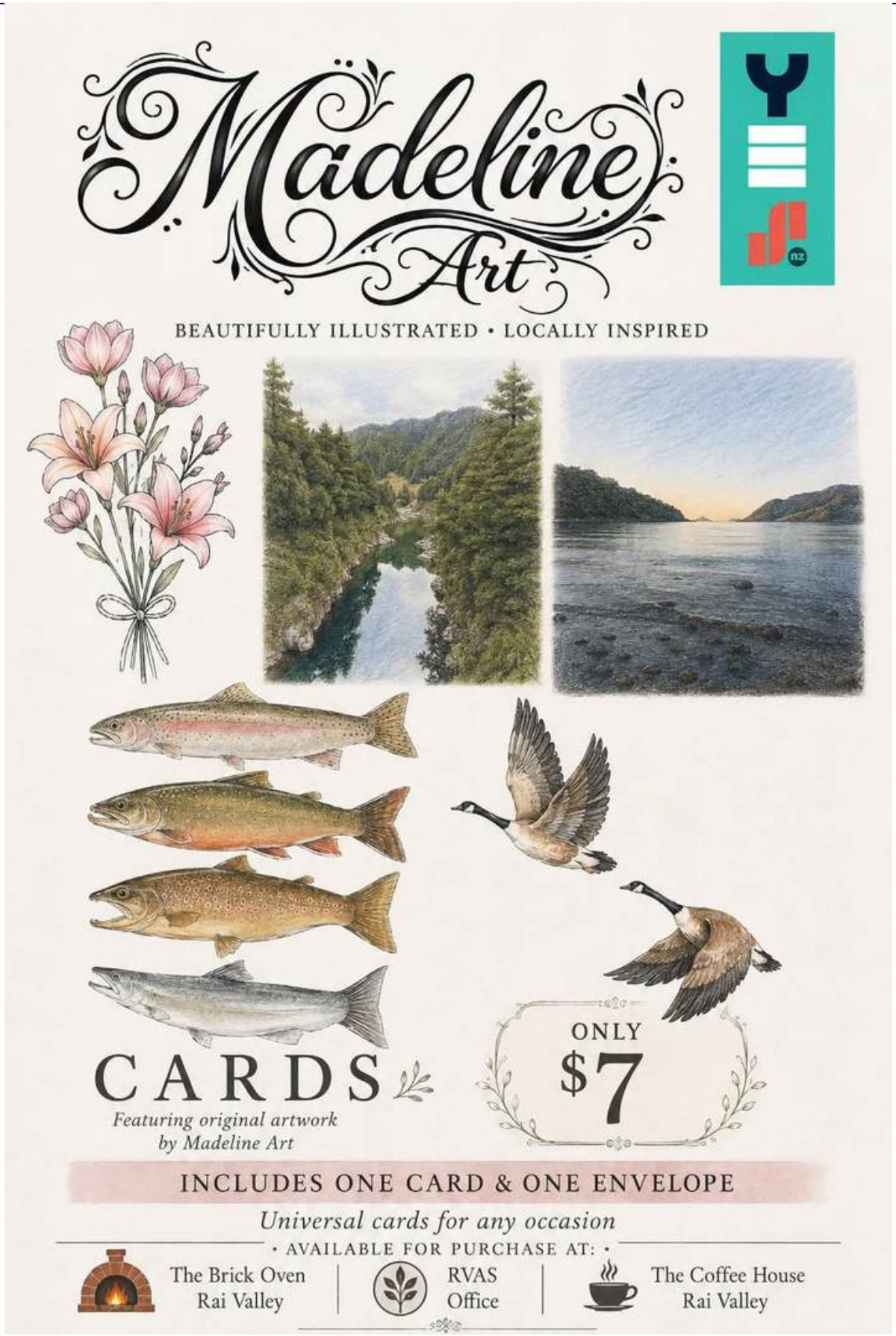
For 85 years, we've welcomed whānau to play, learn and grow - together.

Join your tamariki to explore, create and connect while building confidence as a parent within a supportive community.

Visit a **Marlborough Playcentre** in **Blenheim, Renwick, Spring Creek, Picton,** or **Seddon.**
Find us at **www.playcentre.org.nz** or on **Facebook**

Playcentre

# Art News




Year 13 student Lorna O'Donnell has started up this business as part of The Young Enterprise Scheme for her Business Studies subject.

She would love our support with this.

Great work Lorna!

University of Otago
ŌTĀKOU WHAKAIHU WAKA

School of Performing Arts




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- Weekly one-on-one lessons
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- Explore classical, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre and more
- Learn unique instruments including taonga pūoro, koto, gamelan and djembe
- No audition required for group lesson options
- Gain valuable performance experience and peer feedback through workshops
- Flexible pathways with up to 54 points of Music Performance study available at each level




## FIND YOUR SOUND

### PERFORM
- Solo performance
- Bands & ensembles
- Choirs & vocal groups
- Live workshops

### CREATE
- Develop musicianship
- Refine technique
- Build confidence
- Explore new repertoire

### EXPLORE
- Classical music
- Contemporary music
- Jazz
- Musical theatre
- World music traditions

### COLLABORATE
- Chamber groups
- Rock bands
- Jazz ensembles
- Vocal groups
- Creative projects

## STAND OUT FEATURES

- Individual lessons
- Performance workshops
- Real rehearsal and ensemble experience
- Study options from beginner to advanced levels
- Multiple performance pathways to suit your goals

SCAN TO APPLY
LEARN MORE

**YOUR MUSIC. YOUR STYLE. YOUR FUTURE.**

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

CREATIVITY BELONGS HERE

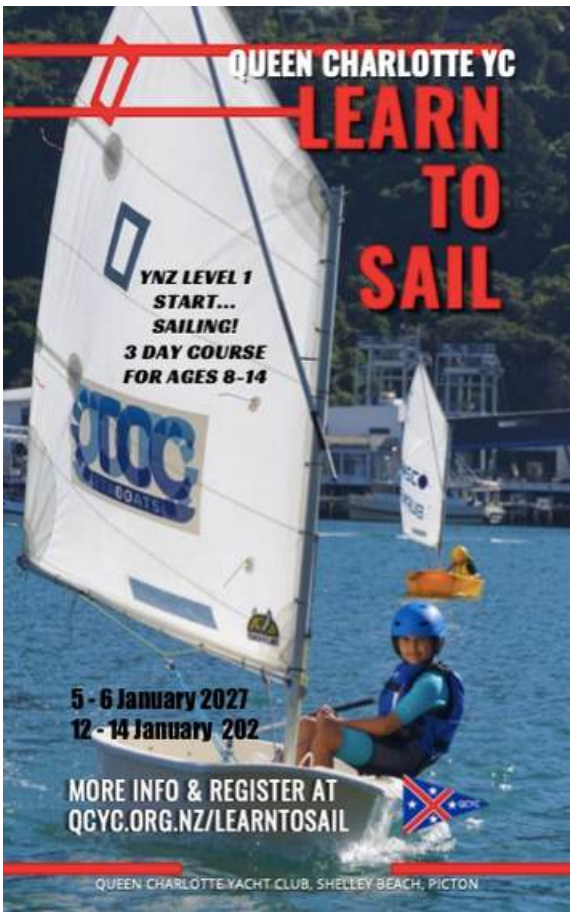
# Community News






# Community News










HAVELOCK COMMUNITY THEATRE PRESENTS
A spaced out, side splitting, singalong show
MARS SINGS THE BLUES
HCT
Directed by Suzanne Grenfell-Lordan
Havelock Town Hall
20th November 7pm
21st November 2pm & 7pm
Tickets $5 per person
under 5 years free
Tickets available online at www.trybooking.com/nz
at Havelock Gallery
or Door sales

# Community News - Summer Camps




## Bridge Valley Summer Holiday Camps!

Get ready for a summer full of adventure, new friendships, exciting activities, and heaps of fun at Bridge Valley! Campers can enjoy awesome activities like rock climbing, high ropes, archery, abseiling, the lake flying fox, luge, and much more!

### Christmas Day Camp

Ages 7–13 | 21–23 December

### Survivor in the Amazon Holiday Camps

Junior Camp (Ages 8–11): 11–15 January
Ultimate Camp (Ages 11–13): 18–22 January

### Summer Bible Camp

Ages 8–13 | 26–29 January

# PICTON CHRISTMAS PARADE 2026

## Sunday6December

## Paradestarts 2.30pm

**Followed by a concert and prizegiving on the Foreshore**

## PRIZES TO BE WON!

**Best CommunityFloat&BestBusiness Float**

**Get your fl oat registration form from**
**The Picton Bookshop, 28 High Street, Picton**
**Registrations close 27 November 2026**

**For more information contact Beryl Bowers**
**027 488 6824, 573 6885 or bowers@xtra.co.nz**

**Special thanks to:**

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# Rai Valley Area School

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• Renovations
• Alterations
• Decks

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liquidaction
BRINGING YOU A FRESH
APPROACH TO IRRIGATION

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we ♡ glass

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PLUMBING
click here


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**To download our app:** In Google Play & App Store Search **'Skool Loop'** & choose your school once installed.

SKOOL LOOP