

Rai Valley Area School

Newsletter



Issue No.1 | 11th January 2022



Tumuaki's Report

Kia ora koutou,

A warm welcome to all our new staff and students. Unfortunately due to the current red COVID settings, we have been unable to hold any after-school get-togethers so that you can meet your child's new teacher. However, I would encourage you all to make yourselves known, and in particular to our new staff members.

Our new staff members this year are Mrs. Massey who is teaching Years 5&6, Mrs. Carver who is teaching Years 1&2, Mrs. Wiesner who is teaching mainly in the secondary areas of English, Social studies and Art. Denise Mitchison will be delivering the food and fabric programme. We hope to be able to shortlist and interview for the secondary maths position later this week.

It has been exciting for our Years 3 to 6 classes to be able to move back their newly refurbished classrooms. The Year 1 & 2 classes should be able to move into Room 14 within the next 2 weeks. The builders have worked hard to complete this in some very challenging times.

Our Senior students in Years 11-13 in 2021 also achieved excellent results with 100% of our students passing NCEA Level 1 and 2 and 80% of our level 3 students passing this level. I would like to congratulate Fraser Hill, Penny Kiddey, and Vincent Maisey who all achieved their NCEA level 1 with a Merit endorsement. Lewis Hill and Electra Maisey both gained Excellence endorsements at Level 2 – an outstanding effort.

This year we began the year with a First Aid course for our year 11-13 students. Gaining their first Aid certificates is a useful qualification for all our older students for future employment and as a life skill.

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

Deputy Principal: Mike Wilson

Primary Leader: Karen Davies

Executive Officer: Selene Turner

Receptionist: Pauline Agnew

Caretaker: Shane Dearman

Tumuaki's Report

As COVID is present in both Marlborough and Nelson, one of the questions I am being asked is what happens if someone in our school is a close contact or is diagnosed with COVID. If someone is a close contact they will be required to self-isolate for a set period of time. If a staff member, parent, or caregiver notifies us that they or their child are a confirmed case we will notify our regional Director of Education and follow their directions.

Our biggest challenge will be if 2 or more of our staff are required to self-isolate for a period of time. We currently have very few relievers and are preparing for home learning should it be required. It is possible that some classes of our school may be home learning while others are at school. We are currently checking that we have accurate contact details for all students so that we can communicate as quickly as possible.

The decision has been made by the Area School Principals to postpone the Tournament until 2023 as it is not possible to run it in Red settings. Finally, it is great to see the sunshine this morning and our thoughts are with those of you who are undertaking clean up and repairs from the damage caused over the last two weeks

Noho ora mai

Maree Furness

Events Calendar

Friday 18th February

KIWICAN starts

Wednesday 23rd February

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday 21st to Friday 25th February

Fundamental Skills in Primary

Havelock Museum Society

Fill a bag week

Dear Community Members

The Havelock Museum Society has been preparing to convert the support building – the Jack Shand Building to be part of the Museum containing social history.

The building has been a fleamarket for many years with thanks to the community donations and has raised lots of funds towards the costs and renovations to the Museum, unfortunately, we now need to clear it for building changes to be made to the interior.

This means that all the items which have been donated by a great number of people will be offered to the community for a week. **This will be a 'fill a bag week' for \$5 and will commence on Monday 21st February from 10am until 4pm.** Bring own bag/s. See you there.

**Havelock Museum Society
Committee**

School News

Welcome to New Staff 2022



It has been a bit of wet welcome, but it is nonetheless a very warm one to our new staff for 2022. In no particular order we have (left to right):

Denise Mitchison - Food & Soft Tech

Vanessa Carver Years 1-2

Jessica Massey - Years 5-6

Claudia Wiesner - Art, English, Social Studies

Janine Sorensen (right) has also taken on a full time role at the school. On top of being the Year 7-8 teacher she is also responsible for: Student Engagement - in particular: attendance, pastoral, behaviour and SENCO.



Pelorus Netball AGM

Looking forward to seeing you next week at the AGM on Monday night. It will be at the brand new sports hub- please go to the entrance, up the stairs and follow your nose. We require 2 delegates from each club to attend and take part in the evening. If you are planning on attending, please head to our Facebook page, click on the AGM event, then click attending. Or email back to admin@marlboroughnetball.org.nz

For those unable to attend in person we will be hosting a Zoom session, please note this is for very limited numbers and you must RSVP to admin@marlboroughnetball.org.nz to gain access. Zoom attendees cannot take part in the voting ballot for the board nominations.

What happens if you are a close contact?

Below is some information that could help if you or someone in your whānau think they are a close contact. This information is abbreviated from [covid.govt.nz](https://www.covid.govt.nz). please check the site for the full details.

Who is a Close Contact?

You are a Close Contact if you have had contact with a person with COVID-19 when they were infectious. Close Contacts are at higher risk of getting COVID-19. You are a Close Contact in the following situations.

- If you live with someone who is positive.
- If you have been close (within 1.5 metres) to someone who is positive for more than 15 minutes and they were not wearing a mask or not wearing it properly.
- If you have had direct contact with someone who is positive. For example: kissing, sharing a cigarette, vape or drink bottle
- if the person coughed or sneezed directly on you.
- If you spent time in an indoor space with someone who is positive for more than 1 hour and at least one of the following: they were singing, shouting, smoking, vaping, exercising, or dancing, they were not wearing a mask or it was not on properly, it was poorly ventilated, it was smaller than 100m² (about 3 double garages).

What you need to do

Whether you are vaccinated or not, you need to:

- stay home and **self-isolate from others for 10 days from your last contact with the case**
- **get a test for COVID-19 straight away, on day 5, and on day 8 after your last contact with the case**
- get another test straight away if you develop COVID-19 symptoms.



Secondary contacts — if you live with a Close Contact

You are considered a secondary contact if a household member is a Close Contact and they have been asked to isolate.

If you are a secondary contact you may need stay at home until the Close Contact returns a negative day 5 test result.

If the Close Contact develops symptoms after a day 5 negative test, secondary contacts may need to stay home again until a further negative test result is returned.

If one or more household members of the Close Contact develop symptoms they should:

- get a test
- stay home until they get a negative test result and
- it has been 24 hours without symptoms.

School News

Phones at school

Thank you to all parents, caregivers and whānau who have helped remind their students to leave these at home or drop them with Pauline. As we move into the third week we expect full compliance and support with this. If staff do see a student with a phone they will be asking them to hand it over. Students will get them back. This may be at the end of the day, or may be the next day. Students can continue to bring laptops or tablets to school but do need to get a BYOD from me first and have it signed and returned. If you have questions or concerns about phones or devices at school, please get in touch.

Ngā mihi
Mike Wilson



Attendance

Reminders:

If late, please sign in at the office, and if leaving the school site, please sign out, in case of an emergency. We need to know your child's whereabouts as it is a Health and Safety issue.

Please contact the school office by phone (03 5716 016), email (office@rai.school.nz), or in person, on the day of absence, with the specific reason for the absence.

We need the reason for the codes that we report to the Ministry of Education.

If we don't hear, we will do a follow-up call or may do a home visit to make sure everything is OK.

Please provide a sick note from the doctor if your child is absent for three days or more. This is again important for the Ministry reporting.

Many thanks for your support this year in trying to boost attendance for our students which will then lead to improved learning for your child.

With Thanks

Janine Sorensen

(Student Engagement (Attendance, Pastoral, Behaviour) SENCO)

Did you know?

If your child misses 1 day a week:

= 40 days a year or 8 weeks per year or 2 ½ years missed by Year 13.

If your child misses 2 days a week

= 80 days per year or 16 weeks a year or over 5 years missed by Year 13.

If your child misses 10 minutes late per day

= 50 minutes a week or 1 ½ weeks per year.

If your child misses 1 hour late per day

= 1 day a week = 8 weeks a year or 2 ½ years missed by Year 13.

Practical Help:

Please -

1. Help your child get a good night's sleep.
2. Prepare everything the night before.
3. Schedule dental / medical appointments before or after school.
4. Take holidays in term breaks.

Primary News

Head of Primary News

Karen Davies

Well, what a way to start our year! Anyone would think that it is winter not the middle of summer, but welcome back everyone and I hope the weather will improve for us now the storm is over. My best to those families who have had damage to their properties this last week.

Music with Sam Baxter starts again this week. Please watch out for a couple of extra sessions she has to offer the children. The Kiwi Can team will be back with us on Friday 18th Feb. The week after that (21-25th Feb) we will be busy with our Fundamental Skills programme with the team from Stadium 2000 in Blenheim. Unfortunately due to the pandemic and the red light restrictions swimming sports with the other Pelorus Cluster schools will most likely NOT go ahead as planned for later this month. As well as my welcome back to you, children and families, I extend a warm welcome to our new teachers in the primary syndicate. They are Mrs Vanessa Carver who is teaching the NE- Yr 2's and Mrs Jesse Massey who is teaching Yr 5-6. Mrs Moore, who you do know, is teaching the Yr 3-4's, Monday - Thursday and then I am in their room on Fridays.

Students have moved into Room 12 - Yr 5-6 students and Room 13 - Yr 3-4 students with the renovations being mostly completed. Mrs Carver and the juniors are still in Room 8 while Room 14 is still to be completed. Thanks everyone for your patience and we hope to have some further completion in a month or so and then we can move over all of our resources.

We will also have the benefit of the new 'break-out' spaces for more small group and individual learning spaces and a deck in front of Room 14.

Please also remind your children to have their hats on when outside at play time and lunch. If they do not have one we will be asking them to play in the shade.

On a bus controller's note could all people dropping off students in the morning take extra care in the car park. The new buses are bigger and longer and so need more space for dropping off and parking. Please be mindful of the safest place to stop as you drop off your children. Students over Year 4 are expected to wear a mask while travelling on the school buses. Please remind your child that this is for the safety of everyone and especially our loyal bus drivers.

Ngā mihi

Karen Davies

Guitar Classes



Calling all budding guitarists. Anyone interested in Beginner Guitar Lessons **on a Wednesday during school time (1.45 - 2.15pm)** please put name at office for Sam Baxter

What do you think of the look of our new Newsletter Feedback welcome

Secondary News



Y11-13 First Aid Course

Despite the weather's best efforts, Year 11-13 students managed to complete a first aid course this week.

The course not only gives students a great start in terms of credits, but also provides them with essential life and work skills, and of course, makes them greater assets for our community.

The course took place on Tuesday and Thursday last week before being finished on Wednesday this week because of the closing of SH 6. Due to restrictions under Red Settings the course was a lot less practical and hands on than normal and students did well to get through the intense 12 hours in total.

Their registration lasts for two years, and if they renew it in time would just need a shorter refresher course next time around.

Staff start their courses next term, although Pauline Agnew and Steph Stuart did theirs with the students giving us up to date knowledge on the staff.

A big thank you to Red Cross and Steph Stuart for looking after the students during those 12 hours.

Y11-13 Team Building

Last Wednesday, Year 11-13 students were challenged by a morning of team-building exercises.

These included some real team problem solving over a series of team challenges. This proved a fascinating insight into students' strengths that may not always be highlighted by traditional learning and also helped the new year groups learn vital skills around working co-operatively.

A big thanks to Mr Wilkins and Mrs Stuart who helped set up and run the activities.

You can tell from the photos what fun the students had.



Learning Support News

A New Way to Teach Literacy

Debby Upsall (Learning Support Coordinator) and Vanessa Carver (Year 1–2 classroom teacher) have started training in the 'Better Start Literacy Approach', a new approach to teaching reading, writing, oral language and spelling to Year 1–2 children. It includes vocabulary development using quality children's story books, structured teaching of critical phonological awareness* skills and letter-sound knowledge through fun, game-based activities, and structured small group reading sessions using the new Ready to Read – Phonics Plus early readers series that started arriving in the school last year.

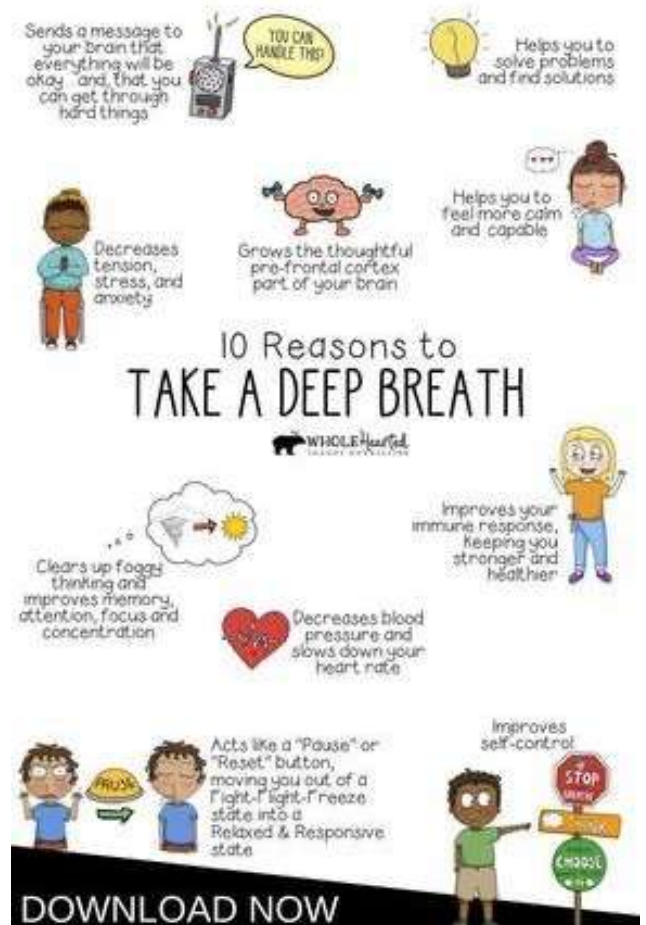
The Better Start Literacy Approach (BSLA) uses carefully designed assessments focused on critical early skills known to influence reading success. This includes letter-sound knowledge, phonological awareness, oral language, word and sentence reading and spelling. A baseline measure showing what students already know is being taken this week, through computer based games and activities. Mrs Upsall is doing this with the students individually. This will help Mrs Carver plan her new reading groups and literacy programme.

The programme is being used all around the country and is being promoted by the government as the best way to introduce children to reading and writing. It is still quite new to our school but we plan to hold a parents meeting soon to explain more about it, and of course, if you have any questions you are welcome to call in to see either of us. You may also like to check out the website

<https://www.betterstartapproach.com/>

* Phonological awareness is the ability to hear and consciously divide words into sound segments, such as individual letter sounds and blends, syllables and to recognise rhyme.

Debby Upsall
Learning Support Co-Ordinator



Counselling and Guidance

Our School Counsellor Richard Wilkins is available to support both students and adults. You can make an appointment to meet either by emailing: Richard.Wilkins@rai.school.nz or by phoning Pauline who will pass on a message.

Sports & Community News

Pelorus Netball

Pelorus Netball would very much like to see more of our junior clubs' parents and/or grandparents attend our AGM to see what goes on behind the scenes and perhaps offer to help with our junior teams and attend the occasional meeting to keep up with what is happening in the netball community.

It's been a real struggle at times to keep netball going in Havelock and the surrounding area and we don't want to see it die out.

It is not hard work! You would get full support, first hand information and help from the committee while doing the best for your kids

We had 3 teams playing Saturday last season plus years 1 & 2, and year 3 & 4, on a Friday afternoon.

We had coaches who came forward and did a great job, it was an excellent year, but it would be wonderful to have more parents to help out.



Nelson Rugby

Nelson Rugby Football Club Junior Rugby Registration

This will be held Saturday March 5th at the Nelson RFC Clubrooms (by Trafalgar Park) from 9.00am till Midday . All wishing to play this year are invited to attend and register for upcoming season. Apparel for upcoming season will be available to purchase . Come and play rugby for NZ's oldest club.

All inquiries to Quentin Harwood 027 302 3508 or Brett Newcombe 021 815 282



Respect Whakaute

Means treating people, things and places as important.

The Kiwi Can Corner



Kiwi Can is getting underway for 2022! Every week we'll be working with every class in the school, learning about important ideas like respect, resilience, positive relationships, and integrity. We'll keep you up to date here in the Kiwi Can Corner, so you know what your child has been learning about, and you can help reinforce or extend their learning at home.

"Respect" is our theme for Term 1. We'll be learning how respect means "treating people, things and places as important". We'll be exploring ideas about respect for ourselves, respect for others, and respectful communication.

Watch an intro video from your child's Kiwi Can Leaders - Tii and Zarya - here: www.bit.ly/KC22TPZQ



Stay in the loop, follow [@GraemeDingleFoundationMarlborough](https://www.facebook.com/GraemeDingleFoundationMarlborough) to find out more



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Havelock School & Community Library

I am so pleased to advise that The Community Library will operate its usual hours, 2:00pm - 3:30pm on both Tuesdays and Thursdays when school starts again.

Contact tracing will be required upon entering the building and mask are to be worn.

Rita Jacobson
Secretary,
Havelock School & Community Library



Factsheet: Wasp control Te Hoiere/Pelorus Reserves



Published by
Department of
Conservation
DOCCM-2965204

February 2022

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is planning to undertake targeted wasp baiting in the following Te Hoiere/Pelorus Valley reserves in the 2022 summer season.

Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve, Ronga Recreational Reserve, Carluke Scenic Reserve and the Brown River Reserve, part of Richmond Forest Park.

Why should we control wasps?

Vespid wasps (wāpi) are now one of the most damaging insect pests in New Zealand's natural areas and their numbers seem to be increasing. These introduced wasps threaten our native birds - particularly in our honeydew beech forests where they have been seen killing chicks as they emerge from their eggs and taking available honeydew, which is a valuable energy source for birds such as tui and bell birds.

High densities of wasps exert intense predation pressure on native invertebrates, in particular native caterpillars and orb web spiders.

Wasps attack honey bees, raid their hives and rob their honey. The flow-on effects include lost honey production, the cost of replacement bees and in turn higher pollination costs for horticulture.

Wasps pose a significant threat to human health - more than 1300 people a year seek medical treatment for wasp stings and many more wasp stings are unreported.

To protect the mauri of our forests DOC believes wasp control measures are necessary. Reducing wasps will significantly benefit conservation and te mauri ki te taiao (the life force of the environment).

Why is DOC doing this work?

Conserving many of New Zealand's natural resources and provision for safe recreation is key for DOC. Control of pests on public conservation land to protect these values is an important part of our role.

How will DOC control wasps?

The Department intends to use a toxic wasp baiting method which exploits the social structure of a wasp colony. Worker wasps collect bait from stations and return with it to their nest. They feed it to the queen and the developing larvae, therefore poisoning the entire colony, within a short time. The bait is made up of chicken meat, which does not attract bees. Bait stations only need to be filled once in summer and all remaining bait is removed after three to seven days.

The active ingredient is the insecticide fipronil. The bait is extremely toxic to wasps, but it poses a very low risk to mammals or birds. Bait stations are yellow and set at 1.5m above ground to exclude non-target animals like weka. This method has been trialled under strict research and proven to reduce wasp populations and cause little adverse effect to other species.

Timeframe

The wasp control is planned to place between early Feb to late March, when wasp numbers are at their peak.

What areas will be targeted?

The following sites will be targeted if wasp numbers reach density thresholds to trigger control: Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve, Ronga Recreational Reserve, Carluke Scenic Reserve and the Brown River Reserve (part Richmond Forest Park).

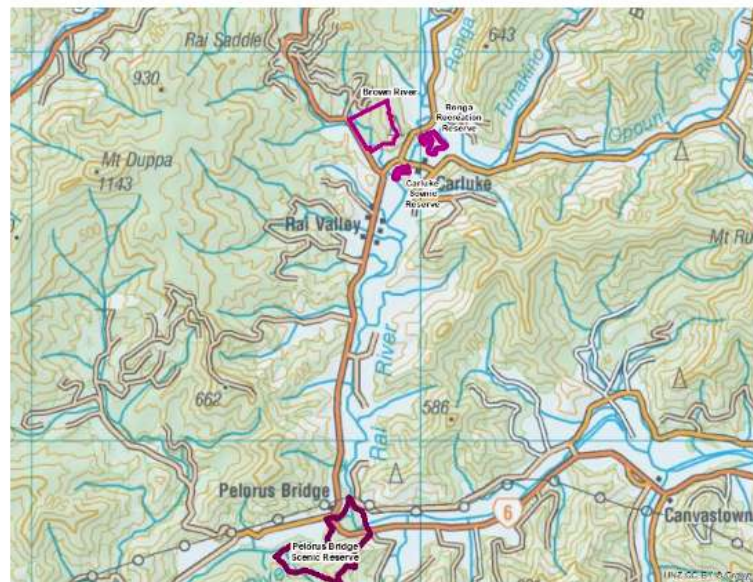
What safety measures are there?

DOC will be following best practice and strict manufacturing guidelines to ensure that the programme is managed rigorously. This includes the practice of removing bait that the wasps haven't eaten.

For more information

Department of Conservation

- Sounds District: Phil Clerke - pclerke@doc.govt.nz



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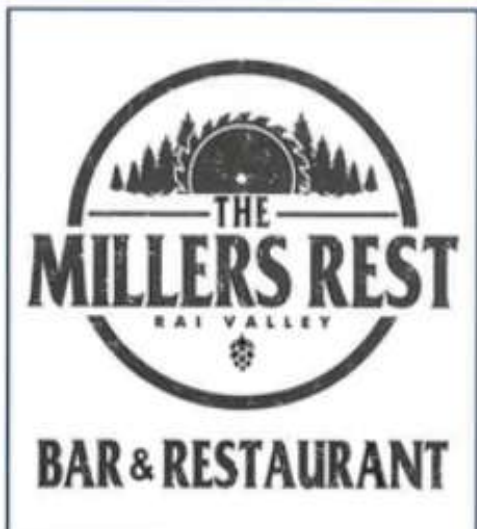
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