



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.7 | 5th August 2025

Tumuaki's Report



Kia ora koutou

Term 3 is well underway. This is a really busy term especially for our senior students. By the end of this term most should be close to completing their NCEA credits as there are only four weeks in term 4 until external examinations begin.

Congratulations to the students who attended Area Schools Nationals in Invercargill. All students were selected for a South island Team and Amy Billingsley and Tessa Zillwood were named in New Zealand teams. Thank you to those of you who supported their fundraising efforts, it was really appreciated in these difficult financial times.

Next week some of our Year 7 and 8's students are travelling to Collingwood School for a sports exchange. It will be a long day but it is a great opportunity for our younger students to complete with and meet other Area school students.

Recently some of your students may have commented on having more relievers than usual taking their classes. Currently we have 7 staff undertaking Ministry of Education literacy training as part of the changes in the new

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

Deputy Principal: Dan Waldie

Assistant Principal: Karen Davies

Secondary Senco: Eli Briasco

Primary Senco: Amy Waldie

Learning Support Coordinator:
Theresa Shepherd

Executive Officer: Christine McDonald

Receptionist: Pauline Agnew

Caretaker: Shane Dearman

Tumuaki's Report continued

structured literacy approach. There are also two days coming up in the next couple of weeks for Maths professional development.

Congratulations to the 5 Year 10 students who have a wonderful opportunity to spend 5 days on a Spirit of New Zealand sailing. The school has been very fortunate to receive sponsorship for this sailing so the cost for students will only be money towards airfares. The fortunate students are Cody Aldridge, Oliver Hope, Leah Jones, Elin Kiddey and Garth Woodley.

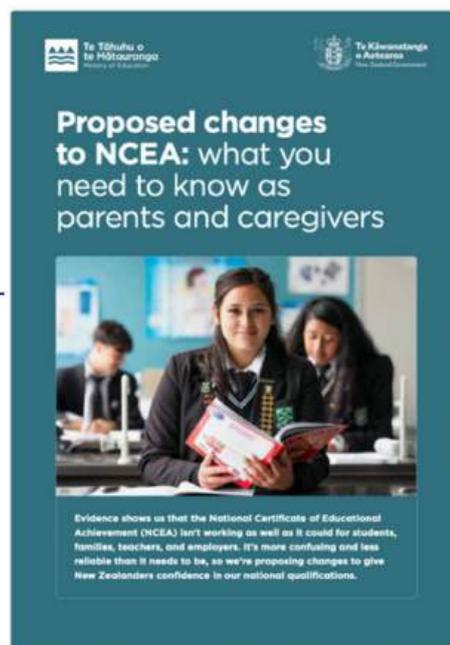
Yesterday, the Minister of Education announced the new changes to senior secondary school qualifications that will be effective from 2028. As you will be aware this announcement is very new but the consultation process is only 6 weeks. I have attached an information sheet for parents. Please do not hesitate if you have any questions and I will do my best to find answers.

[Proposed changes to NCEA: what you need to know as parents and ...](#)

Attendance continues to be a key focus. Last term illness definitely impacted our school data. However, they were marginally better than 2024. So far this term attendance is sitting at 86%. Hopefully as the weather improves, students health will improve as well.

Finally for those of you who have started or about to start carving I hope you have a smooth and trouble free time in the coming weeks.

Nga mihi nui
Maree



Art by Lawrence!



Secondary News

Term 3 is always a challenging one – the mist or fog creeps in, the mornings are cold, and if you're a senior student, your teachers seem suddenly hyper-motivated to get you working! For many of our NCEA students, Term 3 is when all the learning and study they've undertaken over the year (or in some cases, years) comes to fruition. This means lots of deadlines, assessments, essays – and if they're taking Hard Tech or Art, there'll be a fair bit of hitting, sawing, sanding, and painting too!

It's important that students stay up to date with what's required and when, as many of these deadlines are fixed. A key ingredient for success is consistent attendance – a challenge at this time of year, given the winter chills and snuffles currently sweeping through the community.

Many students will also be preparing for the next round of Common Assessment Activities in Numeracy and Literacy. These will take place from the 1st to the 4th of September.

Students undertaking courses with external assessments will also be sitting **Derived Grade exams, scheduled from Monday the 8th through to Friday the 12th of September.** These are vital assessments: not only do they give us (and you) a sense of “where we're at” with learning progress, but they also provide an invaluable safeguard should a student be unable to attend their final external assessments at the end of the year. (More information on this process will be included in later newsletters).

Year 10 reports are currently being proofread and will be posted out towards the end of next week.

Excitingly, planning is well underway for the Senior Camp (Years 11–13) to Wellington! We'll be away from Monday the 15th of September, returning on Wednesday 17th.

The ferry and accommodation are locked in, and we're now working on organising activities and opportunities to keep us busy while we're over there. Once these are confirmed, we'll be in touch with more details around costs.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Dan Waldie



Wellington

In week one of the July holidays five RVAS students travelled to Invercargill to represent the Top of the South team at the National Area Schools Sports Tournament. All five students performed extremely well in their respective sports throughout the week, and were rewarded with selection in the following South Island teams to play the North Island:

Girls' football: Amy Billingsley and Elin Kiddey

Girls' volleyball: Tessa Zillwood

Girls' rugby: Bella Hickson and Tessa Zillwood

Boys' basketball: Keegan Quirk

Kī-o-rahi: Tessa Zillwood

CONGRATULATIONS!



A special congratulations to Amy (football) and Tessa (kī-o-rahi), who were honoured with selection in New Zealand Area School teams after the North vs South games.

Ka rawe Tessa, Amy, Bella, Elin and Keegan. We're all super proud of you.

Secondary News

Year 10 Food Technology 'MY KITCHEN RULES' COMPETITION

Throughout the second half of Term 2, the Year 10's competed in our class version of 'My Kitchen Rules'. With their cooking group, they had to select a specific culture for their theme (French, Korean, German and Kiwiana were the chosen themes) and bring their 'theme to life' on their designated cooking week.

Each group had time to plan, prepare, shop online for their ingredients within a certain budget, create a visual poster on their cultural theme and cook their two dishes (they could choose either an entree or a dessert, alongside a main). Their last task was to plate up their dishes for everyone in the class to taste, mark and give feedback on their efforts. A special thanks to our guest judge each week, Shane, we really enjoyed having you join in the fun!

Final results were revealed last week...CONGRATULATIONS to the 'France' group who were announced our Year 10 'My Kitchen Rules' champions, with the 'Germany' group coming in close behind as runners up, the 'Kiwiana' group were placed third and the 'Korean' group were placed fourth.

Well done Year 10's and thank you again for your efforts!

Mrs Linton

France theme - Leah Jones, Elin Kiddey, Madalyn Sharpe, Hayley Bond.



Korean theme - Rawiri Wearing - Holmes, Oliver Hope, Gareth Woodley.

Secondary News

Germany theme - Amy Billingsley, Sophia Wiesner, Erin MacKenzie, Georgie Pratt.



Kiwiana theme - Cody Aldridge, Bill Partridge, Bayley Fenton.

Year 9 Food Technology

Last week we made chocolate cakes for Avani's birthday! The students all enjoyed decorating their cakes and of course, eating them too!

Happy Birthday Avani!

Mrs Linton

Food Technology Teacher





Greetings everyone,

We are well into the third term, and it is August already.

Although we did not get to participate in the Pelorus Cluster Cross Country, 2 students, Dawn Ready and Scarlett Morrison attended the Marlborough Schools event at the Wither Hills track, Tuesday last. It was a very cold and crisp morning, with a hard and fast pack of Year 6 girls who dashed out of the gates at full speed.

Dawn and Scarlett did us proud, maintaining their speed throughout the course and running in with the middle of the pack. Well done ladies, I was happy to supply the hot chocolate to warm you up on the way home.

The football sessions with the coaches who come from Nelson Football is in its second visit this week. Unfortunately, the field has been closed due to the weather, but students still get the coaching sessions in the hall and they have a great time.

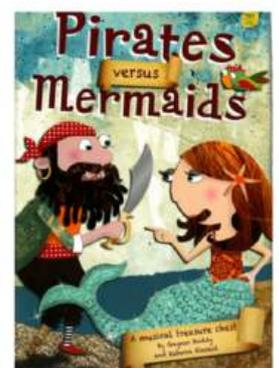
All of our teachers in the primary syndicate have a lot of Professional Development to attend this term, and so you may find your child's class with different teachers to help facilitate the time away for the teacher. I do all the organising of relievers here at Rai and it is a big part of my daily and weekly job to make sure the learning continues and the children are supported with confident teachers in front of them. Some days there is quite a juggle and it does not start smoothly, but we always get sorted as quickly as possible. This is the life of a small rural school for us and throughout NZ. The Professional Learning and Development, PLD, is crucial for us to meet the demands of the Ministry of Education updates to our Literacy and Mathematical Curriculums that have taken on a more structured approach to learning and teaching now.

Production is not so far away now, 6 weeks in fact. My 'read-through' with the main characters went very well and the characters are beginning to show themselves. Keep up the good practice. Sam Baxter is here again this Friday.

With still some ills and tummy bugs about I hope everyone is on the mend and feeling better soon. The sunshine can play a huge part in our own wellbeing and I hope the rain stays away and more sun shines through to enhance everyone's mood and well being. We still have a lot on for term 3.

Take care.

Karen Davies
HoP/AP



SAVE THE DATE! 11TH SEPTEMBER



During our regular fortnightly Friday with Sam Baxter, who is directing our production, I managed to set up the 'Set and props' that we will use and get everyone in their costumes. They look great! Check out the photo.

Performance Details are: On stage in our school hall, **Thursday 11 Sept at 6.30pm.**

If your child has a speaking part, **PLEASE** encourage them to be doing some extra practice at home. Sam will be back in 2 weeks and we need a bit more energy and volume from them.

Girls who are mermaids, need to bring me a wide-headband please by next Wednesday, if they have not already done so.

Thank you.

San Baxter and Karen Davies

FOOTBALL SKILLS



Whole School News



This years Book Fair will be running from 25th August to 4th September in the library. More information with late night dates and times to come.

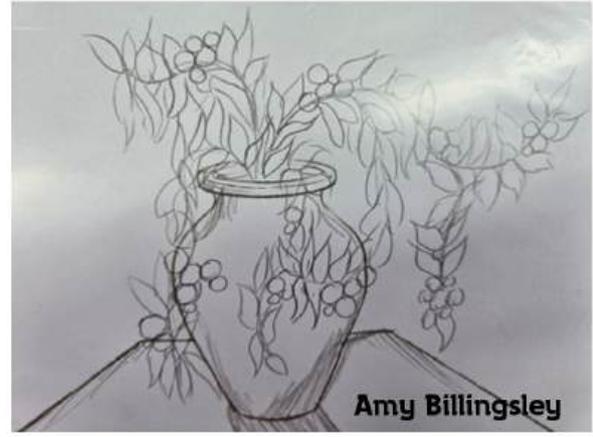


Scholastic Book Fair 2025 25th August - 4th September

Up & Coming Key School Dates for 2025

Thursday 7th August	T3 W4	Year 11 Pest vs Predator event
Thursday 14th August	T3 W5	Year 7/8 Collingwood Exchange
Monday 25th August	T3 W7	Scholastic Book Fair starts
Thursday 28th August	T3 W7	SCHOOL PHOTOS
Monday 1st September	T3 W8	CAA's 2nd 2025 round begins
Monday 1st September	T3 W8	CAA READING
Tuesday 2nd September	T3 W8	CAA NUMERACY
Thursday 4th September	T3 W8	CAA WRITING
Thursday 4th September	T3 W8	Scholastic Book Fair ends
Monday 8th - Thursday 11th September	T3 W9	Derived Grade EXAMS
Wednesday 10th September	T3 W9	Board of Trustees ELECTIONS close
Thursday 11th September	T3 W9	Primary Production
Monday 15th - Tuesday 16th September	T3 W10	Maud Island trip
Monday 15th September	T3 W10	Year 11- 13 Wellington City Camp
Friday 19th September	T3 W10	Last day Term 3
Monday 6th October	T4 W1	First day Term 4
Wednesday 15th October	T4 W2	Petday Indoor
Thursday 16th October	T4 W2	Petday Outdoor
Friday 17th October	T4 W2	TRADES Graduation - NMIT Nelson
Monday 27th October	T4 W4	LABOUR DAY - NO SCHOOL
Monday 3rd November	T4 W5	MARLBOROUGH - NO SCHOOL
Tuesday 4th November	T4 W5	NZQA NCEA Exams begin

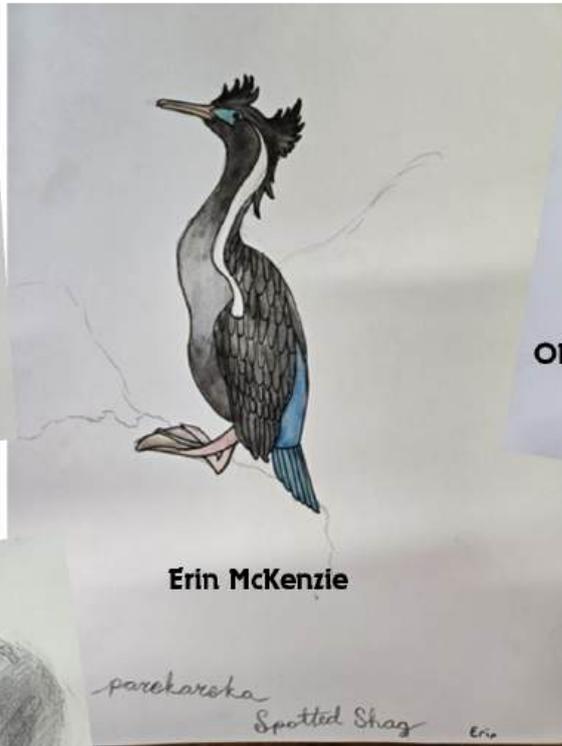
YEAR 10 ART



Amy Billingsley



Maddy Sharpe



Erin McKenzie

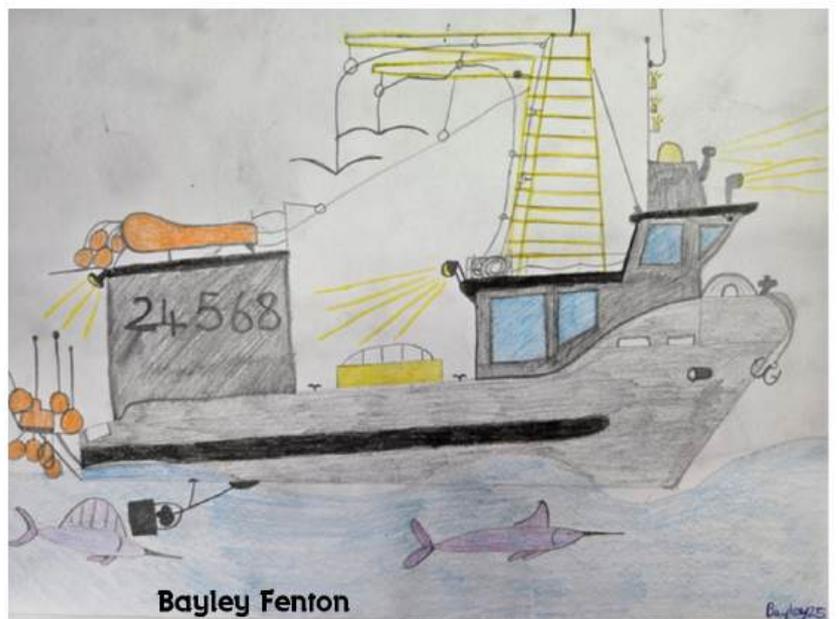
parekaraka
Spotted Shag *erin*



Oliver Hope



Leah Jones



Bayley Fenton

Bayley

DES ELLERY PHOTOGRAPHY

P.O. Box 14075, Chch 8544. Ph (03)-3599-343



Class Photo \$15 Named & Laminated A4

PORTRAIT PACK \$20



4 x 4.7x7cm Unframed 2 x 7x11cm Unframed 1 x 13x19cm Framed



1 x 13x19cm Framed
\$15

\$15-00



4 x 4.7x7cm Unframed 2 x 7x11cm Unframed

Photo Pen \$20 - Key Ring \$20
Pen-Key Ring Set \$30



Black & White Portraits PLEASE add \$10 per item.
Portrait Digital File \$75.

ENLARGEMENTS

O N L Y available when ordered by Due Date

15x23cm (6"x9") \$20, 20x30cm (8"x12") \$30,
25x38cm (10"x15") \$40, 30x45cm (12"x18") \$55 *approx.sizes*

Portrait Session *Thur 28-8-25 9am →*

Ensure your child is present for Portrait Session (no obligation to buy)

Whole School News

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



The triennial election voting day for the Board of Trustees is set for 10th September 2025.

Nominations open on Friday 18th July and close on 08 August.

Those on the parent roll that we have email addresses for will receive an email with information otherwise you will receive information by regular post.

All nominations must be entered online, including paper nominations.

If there are any questions, our Returning Officer, Alan Curtis, is happy to help

Contact:

allscots@gmail.com or

Allscots Associates, PO Box 10105, Te Mai Whangarei, 0143 or 021 667 841

or Christine McDonald at the school.

Safety for Students is important

Please be aware of vehicles at school and especially at these busy times of before and after school.



At the end of school, students need to wait within the school gate for the parent / caregiver to collect them.

If it is raining, the students can stand on the veranda by the office or be inside the office.



**Rai Valley Area School
Board elections 2025**

Nominations are invited for the election of 5 board members to Rai Valley Area School. Nominations can be made online at any time, or forms are available from the school office.

Go to www.myschoolelection.nz. Anyone can be nominated to stand as a candidate and you can also nominate yourself.

Nominations close at noon on **Wednesday 6th August 2025**.

The electoral roll will be open for inspection at the school office during normal school hours. The names of candidates will also be displayed as they come to hand.

This is an online ballot, and you will be sent an invitation to vote via email after nominations close. If you wish, you can request a postal vote be sent to you.

Voting closes at 4:00pm on **Wednesday 10th September 2025**.

Alan Curtis - Returning Officer



We're on the hunt for...



We're looking for children between the ages of 5 and 15 who have shown great courage in one or more of these categories:

- Have special needs and have attempted to overcome these obstacles
- Have shown great concern and acted courageously toward others
- Have participated in the care of their brother or sister who has a special need
- Have overcome great hardship to compete actively in their sport

The awards are recognition of the special courage shown by the child. Every child selected by the Marlborough Lions Clubs receives an award; this is not a competition.

Applications close on 10 August, Awards presentation ceremony 10 September

For more details phone Ian Cameron on 574 2558

Return your completed nomination form to Ian at ianc.cameron@xtra.co.nz before 10 August

Community News



FESTIVAL DAY
2025
YEARS 1-6

SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST
9 AM - 3 PM

LANSDOWNE NETBALL COURTS

For more info:
junior@marlboroughnetball.org.nz

#Spot Prizes
#Best dressed team prize
#Sausage sizzle



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AMAZING PRIZE FOR THE SCHOOL WITH THE MOST ENTRIES
++ MAJOR SPOT PRIZE OF A BIKE! 

SUN 12 OCTOBER 2025

BRANCOTT VINEYARD, BLENHEIM
SCAN THE CODE
TO ENTER



WWW.KIDSDU.CO.NZ



KEYNOTE PRESENTATION
ANDREW GAZE

- THE COACH FOR LIFE PHILOSOPHY: BUILDING COACHES WHO COACH THE PERSON, NOT JUST THE PLAYER
- EMBEDDING VAULES-BASED COACHING FOR LIFELONG SPORT ENJOYMENT
- WHAT RANGATAHI ARE TELLING US ABOUT GOOD COACHING

WHEN: THURSDAY 14TH AUGUST
12:30 - 2 PM

WHERE: LANSDOWNE HUB

RSVP - LOGAN.P@SPORTTASMAN.ORG.NZ



Toileting and Tamariki
“Tips and Tricks”
for Parents/Caregivers

- Daytime/night toileting
- Wetting and soiling issues
- Support and resources available

When: Tuesday 26th August
Times: 1.30-2.30pm or 6.30-7.30pm
Venue: Marlborough Community Health Hub, 22 Queen Street, Blenheim

Register your attendance here by 20th August:
<https://forms.office.com/r/ex1FF9E0ki>

Kai and refreshments provided

For more information please contact Public Health Nurses
Ph 03 5209914



Community News

新西兰中文周

NEW ZEALAND CHINESE LANGUAGE WEEK

Welcoming Communities

Blenheim Event

6TH SEPTEMBER 2025

12:30PM - 4:00PM
(DOORS OPEN FROM 12:00PM)

ST CHRISTOPHERS ANGLICAN CHURCH
92 weld street

NO ENTRANCE FEES

Pronounced "Her syeh" in Mandarin
和谐
héxié
Te Reo Māori: Kotahitanga

12:30PM | WORKSHOP

- Calligraphy 书法
- Tea Tasting 品茶
- Cultural Displays 文化展示
- Secret Shop 纪念品商店
- Arts and Crafts 手工体验

2:00PM | PERFORMANCE

Traditional Dances and Performances in Chinese Culture

ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP

- Scholarship Programs at Universities in China
- Traditional Chinese Medicine Diagnostic Experience

Event Organiser: Marlborough Chinese Community
Principal Sponsor: Roto Foundation
Co-sponsor: Marlborough District Council, REAP Marlborough, \$1 Dollar Shop, BAKSAVE

RENWICK SCHOOL TOUGH KIDS CHALLENGE

JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY!

Children will navigate a course with a variety of challenges and obstacles.
Expect a lot of fun and some mud!
2.5 km course with 15 obstacles.
The course is over farm land, up and down hills.

30TH NOVEMBER 2025

YEAR 3 - YEAR 8 can enter.
2547 Waihopai Valley Road.

Enter at:
<https://events.humantix.com/renwick-school-tough-kids>

AWESOME SPOT PRIZES!

If you would like any more info, please contact us at:
toughkids@renwick@gmail.com

EXPRESS HOME KILL

Cattle, Sheep, Pigs, Deer etc



Contact Bruce Anderson
Ph 021 894 411
Listed Operator



Pelorus Youth

Chill Night

8th August 2025

4pm - 5.30pm

Rai Valley Fire

Station area

ENTRIES NOW OPEN!

TUSSOCK RUN

Sunday, 24 August 2025

www.tussockrun.co.nz



PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US



Kurt Lindsay 027 469 9685
kurt.lindsay@bayleys.co.nz

NO.1 **TOP 5%**

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Friday 11am-8pm
Saturday 11am-3pm
Sunday 11am-3pm
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ADRIAN MARTIN
027 274 2008 OR A/H: (03) 571 6327
me@sme.co.nz

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