

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 10.

28 October 2025

Tumuaki's Report



It is hard to believe that we are in term 4 already. In the first week of term, five of our students took part in the Spirit of New Zealand sailing, unfortunately the sailing was cut short by a day due to illness but everyone had a wonderful time.

We were fortunate to have good weather for our annual Pet Day in week two. A huge thank you to our community members who gave up their time to support us with judging. Without your generosity this event could not happen. It is great to see our students with their pets. I would also like to acknowledge the work that Karen Davies and Renee put into the organisation of the day. The Marlborough Group Day event will be in Canvastown this year on Thursday 30th October.

The summer sports season is underway. This summer we have two secondary Volleyball teams, playing in Nelson on Monday nights, as well as four touch teams playing in the secondary and primary grades. Thank you to parents and staff for enabling these teams to play.

I was fortunate to attend the NMIT Trades Academy graduation recently. It is a great

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

experience for our students to join classes with other Year 12 & 13 students from Nelson /Marlborough secondary schools. Congratulations to Sophie Harrison who was awarded Top Student of the Level 2 & 3 Electrical course.

Mike Dutton has joined our staff for 4 weeks starting 20th October. Mike is a trained teacher who has been away from teaching for some time and is spending this year re-training. He will be working with Year 10 Social Studies and English as well as some senior classes.

As a number of you will be aware there have been a growing number of measles cases, particularly in Wellington. In the coming week Pauline will be ensuring that our information around measles vaccination is accurate, because in the event of an outbreak at our school we are required to provide this information to the public health nurse.

On the Tuesday after the Marlborough Anniversary the NCEA examinations begin for our Year 11-13 students. If you have a student doing these examinations please check their timetable carefully to ensure that they have the right day and the correct time. Most years we have someone who misses an exam due to this misunderstanding. It is pleasing to see that the majority of our students are on track to achieve their NCEA qualification.

Last Friday, the Kaitiaki Club, made up of students from Years 5-8, worked with the Marlborough District Council to plant the area by the Rai stream reserve. Caring for our environment is important to us as a school and it is really rewarding when our students can contribute to our community.

Finally I hope the weather treats you kindly for the Marlborough Anniversary, next Monday.







Secondary News

Kia ora koutou,

I'm pretty sure that in my last newsletter I said the weather was turning and we were gearing up for brighter, warmer days... From now on, I will not mention the weather or the changing of seasons — just in case I'm to blame for the winds, rain, and unnecessarily bitter cold!

Despite the temperamental "spring" we're experiencing, the last few weeks at Rai have been full of outdoor adventures and hands-on learning.

The Spirit of Adventure team had a great trip — unfortunately, it was cut short a day early due to illness (from other crew members), but the students came back enlightened and hopefully with some tales of the high seas to share.

We've also had some of our Seniors learning barista skills (coffee-making) and pastry-making (Parisian style, perhaps?). Not to mention Pet Day, where the climate played ball and we were treated to fine weather for the numerous goats, chickens, calves, lambs, rabbits, dogs, and perhaps a guinea pig or two. I even saw a lonesome duck who told me it was not weather for ducks... but he still seemed pretty happy watching the world go by.

Our Year 9 students also took a trip to the Suter Gallery in Nelson to get crafty with clay — their creations are due to be fired (or "baked") in the coming weeks.

On the environmental front, if you happen to stroll along the Rai Stream (up by the small play area), you should see some new native plants. Thanks to the generous support of Te Hoiere Project and Forest & Bird, our Year 5–8 students have managed to plant over 300 native plants!

Coming up, we have the Year 9 and 10 Camp to Lake Rotoiti — a summer camp this time, so no snow or waking up to frozen boots and socks! Alongside Tapawera Area School, we're looking forward to some water sports, as well as the obligatory overnight tramp — up a mountain, or perhaps to the ends of the world (or at least the lake). More information about this camp will be coming out shortly.

On the academic front, our Seniors are well and truly on the final stretch. They're either revising furiously for externals (exams) or finalising the last of their internal assessments — all in the quest to reach that magical number of credits that will unlock *exam leave*.

Those students who reach the threshold will be entitled to study at home; however, we'll still be offering opportunities at school for those who need a little more time — or a little more encouragement — to complete their work.

A quick reminder that Senior students must wear uniform to exams and follow all guidance and protocols around the examination process (phones off, etc.).

Now is a great time to remind students that exam leave is for recharging, revising, and revisiting any work for external assessments. We strongly encourage them to take these opportunities — even if the lure of extra part-time hours at work or collecting a few more "legendary quest items" on their favourite online game seems tempting!

continued next page.

Secondary News cont.

Our Senior students also recorded some very satisfying results in the recent round of Common Assessment Activities (Literacy and Numeracy), with the majority gaining the qualifications they needed. For those who still need a bit more time, the next round will be in Term 2, 2026, so there's plenty of scope and support available to get up to speed.

A few loose ends:

- Safety at pick-up and drop-off: Please take extra care when dropping off or collecting your children after school. The entrance coming from the Rai end is a bit of a blind corner, and cars or buses pulling off the highway may not immediately see a stationary vehicle or children crossing. To keep everyone safe, please pull as far into the car park as possible.
- Digital device policy: We're currently updating our digital device policies. Now's a great time to check in with your children about device use and time spent online. If you have any concerns, the best port of call is Netsafe, who provide really helpful guidance on keeping children (and yourself) safe online.

I'm sure there's more I was supposed to include but have forgotten — I blame the inclement weather!

As always, stay safe. Ngā mihi, Dan Waldie Deputy Principal - Secondary









A massive congratulations to Sophie Harrison for being Top Student in the 2025 Electrical course. This is a huge achievement to beat out students from all around that Top of the South.

Thanks to Kylie Fenton for driving students to Trades on a Friday and transporting them to STAR courses at NMIT during this year.

Secondary News

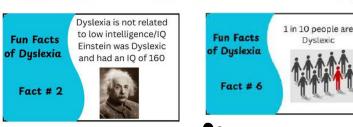
NCEA EXAMS for RAI VALLEY 2025

Tuesday 4th November	T4 W5	NZQA NCEA Exams begin - L2 MATH AM
Wednesday 5th November	T4 W5	NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 ENGLISH AM
Wednesday 5th November	T4 W5	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 GEOGRAPHY PM
Thursday 6th November	T4 W5	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 ENGLISH AM
Friday 7th November	T4 W5	NZQA NCEA Exam - L3 CHEMISTRY AM
Monday 10th November	T4 W6	NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 COMMERCE PM
Tuesday 11th November	T4 W6	NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 ENGLISH AM
Wednesday 12th November	T4 W6	NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 AG SCIENCE AM
Wednesday 12th November	T4 W6	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 CHEMISTRY AM
Thursday 13th November	T4 W6	NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 MATH AM
Thursday 13th November	T4 W6	NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 HISTORY PM
Thursday 13th November	T4 W6	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 PHYSICS PM
Monday 17th November	T4 W7	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 BIOLOGY PM
Tuesday 18th November	T4 W7	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 HISTORY AM
Tuesday 18th November	T4 W7	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 AG SCIENCE PM
Wednesday 19th November	T4 W7	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 CLASSICS PM
Thursday 20th November	T4 W7	NZQA NCEA Exam - L2 MEDIA STUDIES AM
Tuesday 25th November	T4 W8	NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 CHEM & BIO AM
Wednesday 26th November	T4 W8	NZQA NCEA Exam - L1 HEALTH PM

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.





EXAM COUNT DOWN

USE YOUR TIME WISELY

by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk



TWO WEEKS TO GO

Plan your revision effectively by spacing it out. Little and often is better than cramming at the last moment.



ONE WEEK TO GO

Do lots of past papers and quizzes. Teach the material to someone else. Seek advice, guidance and feedback from others.



THE NIGHT BEFORE

Pack your bag for the next day. Do an equipment check. Get plenty of sleep.



THE MORNING OF

Eat breakfast to fuel you for the day.



AN HOUR BEFORE

Get to school early and spend time with relaxing people.



1 MINUTE BEFORE

Take a deep breath and gather your thoughts.



AN HOUR AFTER

Once you have reflected on the exam, don't dwell on it. Move on

Secondary News

		E'version for set	non-manifestal officially etc.	mann Im Inform	
Date	Session	Level 1	ons available digitally sh	Level 3	Scholarship
		Level I			
Tue 4 Nov	AM		Mathematics & Statistics	Dance	Classical Studies
	PM		Latin	Japanese Making Music Spanish	Statistics
Wed 5	AM			English	
Nov	PM		Geography		Earth & Space Science
Thu 6	AM		English		Latin
Nov	PM		Chinese	History	French
Fri 7 Nov	AM			Chemistry	Accounting
	PM		Accounting		Biology
			WEEKEND		Account to
Mon 10 Nov	AM	French Spanish	Lea Faka-Tonga Te Reo Māori	Calculus	Samoan
	PM	Commerce	Korean	Agricultural & Horticultural Science Chinese German	Media Studies
Tue 11	AM	English			Physics
Nov	PM	Gagana Tokelau	Dance	Biology	Art History
Wed 12 Nov	AM	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Chemistry	Drama	Geography
	PM	Korean	Cook Islands Máori Drama	Digital Technologies Samoan	Psychology
Thu 13 Nov	AM	Mathematics and Statistics	Art History	Statistics	Drama
	PM	History	Physics	Accounting	Agricultural & Horticultural Scien
		CANTERBL	IRY ANNIVERSARY DA	Y (Fri 14 Nov)	
		T. D 141-4	WEEKEND	Trees	Total
Mon 17 Nov	AM	Te Reo Māori	French	Latin Psychology Te Reo Rangatira	Chemistry
	PM	Japanese	Biology	Economics	
Tue 18	AM	Science	History	Physics	Te Reo Rangatira
Nov	PM	Digital Technologies	Agricultural & Horticultural Science	Media Studies	
Wed 19	AM	Chinese	Te Reo Rangatira	Lea Faka-Tonga	English
Nov	PM	Social Studies	Classical Studies	Art History	Economics
Thu 20 Nov	AM	Physics Earth & Space Science	Media Studies	Te Reo Māori	Calculus
ARTANA	PM	Vagahau Niue	Education for Sustainability Samoan	Earth & Space Science	Chinese
Fri 21 Nov	AM	Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani		Music Studies	Spanish
	PM	Geography	Music		History
			WEEKEND		Activities (Co.
Mon 24	AM	Gagana Sāmoa	Japanese	Geography	
Nov	PM	German	Earth & Space Science		Religious Studies
Tue 25	AM	Chemistry & Biology	Home Economics	Classical Studies	Te Reo Măori
Nov	PM	Lea Faka-Tonga	German	Home Economics	Digital Technologi
Wed 26	AM	Religious Studies	Social Studies	French	Japanese
Nov	PM	Health Studies	Business Studies	Health	
Thu 27	AM		Economics	Korean	
Nov	PM		Health	Business Studies	
Fri 28	AM		Digital Technologies	Cook Islands Māori	German
F11 60			The state of the s	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	The same of the sa

Primary News

Greetings everyone,

As I write this, week 3 is upon us already and it will be over by the time you read it. The big tick in the box last week was having a great community and School Pet Day, without rain. It was pretty cold to start the morning, but it certainly brightened up after lunch. A big thank you to all those who entered exhibits, all the work from the teachers encouraging students to put forward entries and for those judges in the community and parents helping also with judging and generally supporting their children.

Big thanks to Jamie Knight and his crew and Luke Kiddey and his crew to support of the Young Farmers Challenge. Thanks to Farm Source for the water connection equipment and a big thanks to Shane for having fun and getting wet with the students at that station. If your child won a trophy can you please send it back to me or deliver to the office so we can send them away for engraving.

A full term is still ahead of us with teachers doing lots of assessment tasks in class in preparedness for writing reports. It is mandatory for us to report to you twice a year in a written format.



Out-of-school sports has started now for many of our students. This is mostly Touch Rugby and it is normally in Blenheim each Thursday.

Watchout for weekly notices and we will try and have a results slot in each newsletter to keep track, and advise the great scores and sportsmanship.

Two short weeks ahead of use, next (this) weekend is for Labour Weekend, so no school on Monday 27th Oct and then the following weekend is for Marlborough Anniversary.

Renee has populated this newsletter with great photos from Pet Day.

Here is an additional one of Jeorgie and Ellie in the sandpit with a great sand castle. This was a 'fill-in' activity for students without any animals on outdoor pet day that didn't get completed. As I covered for some primary classes on Friday afternoon, several students were creative in our outstanding sandpit. We are lucky to have this great 'resource' in our playground.

Have a great weekend everyone. I hope the weather is kind to us.

Nga mihi,

Karen Davies
Head of Primary and A/P.



Primary News



Room 13 has been lucky enough to have some Rai Valley secondary students -Erin and Haley teach them some Netball skills over a few sessions. The tamariki have enjoyed putting those skills together with a game to finish this block of learning off. Thanks so much for your mahi girls!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe, Aimee Ballantyne



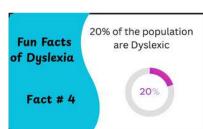


YEAR 3 & 4 SKILL DEVELOP









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

I'M RUNNING LATE

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. MY KID IS OFF THE BUS

Thank you in advance. Pauline



MY KID IS OFF SICK





Pet Day News



Pet Day News











Pet Day News

OUTDOOF	RSECTION
RVAS Cup – most points in the Lamb section	LOUIE THOMPSON
CHAMPION CALF - Sash - NO Trophy	IMOGEN STAPLES
RESERVE CALF - Sash - No Trophy	CATHERINE PARTRIDGE
BEST CALF HEAVY BREED	EDDIE NEAL
RVBGC WOODWARD STOCKMANSHIP CUP	IMOGEN STAPLES
MOST POINTS CALF RVDHS CUP	CATHERINE PARTRIDGE
RVAS Best Goat Cup	WILLOW KENNETT
RVAS Best Rabbit Cup	MADISON COUPER - SNOWBALL
RVAS Best Dog Junior School (Year 1 – 3)	HARLEY PARTRIDGE
RVAS Best Dog Middle School (Year 4 – 6)	SCARLETT MORRISON
RVAS Best Dog Senior School (Year 7 - 13)	DECLAN KNIGHT
CHAMPION DOG - Sash - No Trophy	HARLEY PARTRIDGE
RESERVE CHAMPION DOG - Sash - No Trophy	SCARLETT MORRISON - MILLIE
CHAMPION SMALL PET	HARRISON FENTON - MAX
RESERVE CHAMPION SMALL PET	OLIVIA HARRISON - COW
Most points for Pets	TYLER PAYTON
Bird Trophy	CHARLOTTE PAYTON -BETTY
CHAMPION BIRD	CHARLOTTE PAYTON - BETTY
RESERVE CHAMPION BIRD	LAURA COLEMAN-JONES - DORA
INDOOR	SECTION
Floral Work Trophy: Most points in floral	VINCENT WIESNER & SCARLETT MORRISON
Committee Trophy for most points Indoors	KHLOE DUNBAR
Secondary Cup for Indoor Exhibits	OLIVIA HARRISON
Photography Trophy	SCARLETT MORRISON
Preschool Cup	LAURA COLEMAN-JONES

Whole School News

Up & Coming Key School Dates for 2025/2026

Thursday 30th October	T4 W4	Group Day @ Canvastown School
Friday 31st October	T4 W4	Last day for Years 11-13 who have their credits and are doing exams
Monday 3rd November	T4 W5	MARLBOROUGH ANN NO SCHOOL
Tuesday 4th November	T4 W5	NZQA NCEA Exams begin - L2 MATH AM
Wednesday 5th November	T4 W5	Duffy author visit MELANIE DREWERY
Monday 10th November	T4 W6	Kaitiaki group MOTUWEKA Havelock trip
Monday 24th - Friday 28th November	T4 W8	Year 9/10 Camp Lake Rotoiti
Friday 28th November	T4 W8	TEACHER ONLY DAY Years 1-8
Friday 5th December	T4 W9	Top Team - Pelorus Cluster
Wednesday 10th December	T4 W10	TEACHER ONLY DY Years 9 & 10
Thursday 11th December	T4 W10	Prizegiving
Friday 12th December	T4 W10	Last day Term 4 2025
Thursday 29th January		TEACHER ONLY DAY
Friday 30th January		TEACHER ONLY DAY
Monday 2nd February 2026	T1 W1	First day Term 1 2026









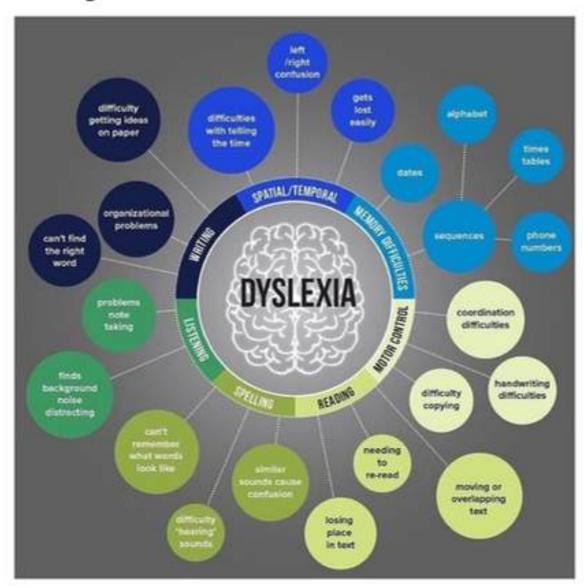
Last Friday, Catherine, Amy, Olivia, Keira, and Honor travelled to Saxton Field to join other Year 8 girls for a fun-filled day of sport. They took part in a range of activities including Māori games, basketball, golf, hockey, and cricket. It was fantastic to see the girls giving everything a go with such positive attitudes.

A big thank you to Mr Briasco for organising this great event.

Theresa



October is Dyslexia Awareness Month



It's important for our learners with dyslexia to understand that:

They learn in different ways, and that's okay, it doesn't mean they are less capable.

Many people with dyslexia have unique strengths that others may not, including being:

Highly creative and critical thinkers who can see patterns others miss

Great at seeing the big picture

Excellent problem-solvers and builders



Community News











Entries are now open for the Creative/Handmade/Student, Equestrian, and Livestock sections. It would be wonderful if you could include this information in your next newsletter to parents and/or if you wanted to get the students involved at School that would be also be fantastic.

All entries are online this year, and schedules can be downloaded from our website:

https://www.marlboroughshow.co.nz/entryinf o-schedules

The Show will be a one-day event on
Saturday 8 November, 9am – 4pm. Along with
competitions, families can enjoy live
entertainment, trade sites, food and coffee
stalls, and of course, the amusement area.
Entry is just \$10 for adults, and children
under 16 are FREE.

I've attached a poster that you're welcome to include in your newsletter and the three schedules. Thank you so much for your support in sharing this event with your community - it's greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards, Alice Parkinson Secretary

Marlborough A & P Association

03 578 5822| PO Box 115, BLENHEIM 7240 | www.marlboroughshow.co.nz





Marlborough

tips to prepare for your first exam

by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk

Space out your learning



Avoid looking at your phone

Test yourself

Surround yourself with positive people

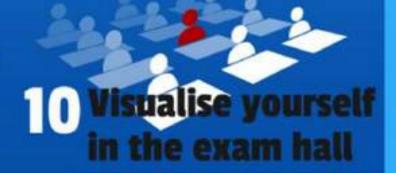
Schedule in time for yourself





9 Get enough sleep

Ask your teachers and support system for help



HOUSIE NIGHT AT OXLEYS - MONDAY NOVEMBER 10

Picton Dawn Chorus is raising funds for AT220 traps by hosting a Housie Night at Oxleys Bar and Kitchen, Picton.

Support this project by gathering some friends together on Monday November 10 and coming along to join the fun.

\$40 per person - includes 10 rounds of Housie and a chance to win a share of the prize pool!

Doors open 5.30, games start at 6pm.

Drinks and food available at the Hotel on the night.







Tickets available by emailing: admin@kaipupupsanctuary.nz with your name and number of tickets you would like. Payment must be made prior to the night - \$40 per person

Community News





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





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







SH6 Rai Valley to Hira - night closures

What's happening, where and when?

This is to let you know that night time asphalt resurfacing and maintenance work on State
Highway 6 between Rai Valley and Hira will begin soon. Night closures are required to enable
work to be carried out efficiently and safely.

Dyslexia is not a disease to have and be

cured of but a way of

thinking and learning.

Anthony

Fun Facts

of Dyslexia

Fact # 12

Where: SH6 Whangamoas, Rai Valley to Hira

Start: Sunday 9 November at 8pm Finish: Friday 28 November at 5.30am

3

Work hours: 8pm to 5.30am.

Work nights: Sunday to Thursday nights. No work on Friday or Saturday nights.

What work will be taking place during this time?

While the closure is in place we will maximise efficiency by clearing watertables and culverts, repairing guardrails and attending to other general maintenance works.

This is part of the NZ Transport Agency, Waka Kotahi annual seasonal maintenance programme to protect our state highways.

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US



Havelock FOUR SQUARE SUPERMARKET 68 MAIN RD, HAVELOCK, PH: 03 574 2166





927 439 4606 · geogiépelorusvalley.co.ms PO Box 52, Havelock 7150



RAI VALLEY MOTORS

OPEN 6 DAYS

PETROL - DIESEL - CIL. AA MENDER - ENGRE PECONDITIONING A WELDING - CHARGAN'S LAWIMOWERS - GENERAL ENGINEERS

Main Road, Plai Valley



雪 571 6014 A/H 571 6105



Mobile 027 522 0086

1 @ TheWildWeasel



Restaurant **Takeaways** Bar **Bottle Store** Venue hire

Rai Valley Brick Oven Cafe

Our Specialities: Country Filled Children - Caboring Codes - Takraways - Groceries



Homemade Food At It's Best Frendly Supporting full Valley School

Ph 571 6005



- General Engineering/Aluminium/Stairless
- Full Mechanical/WOF/MTA
- Hydraulica/Sales & Service/Mobile Truck
- Remguip/Forestry Equipment (Satos)
- Storage/Lockup

Phone 03 571 6129

www.remgroup.co.nz



Misthorough Helicopters Ltd.

Spraying, top-dressing, lifting and air transport Office & A/H (03) 579 9684

6781 STATE HIGHWAY 6 03 571 6325

STORE MANAGER KRISTIN ALDRIDGE





EXCAVATION

- LICENSED DIGGER OPERATOR
- RELIABLE 6 EFFICIENT LATE MODEL EXCAVATOR
- POLEHOLE BORING
 TILT 6 GRAPPLE BUCKETS
- · TOPSOL SAND AGGREGATES
- SLIP REMOVAL & STORM DAMAGE REPAIR
- SITEWORKS & EASTHMOVING * TRENCHING - DRIVEWAYS

CONSTRUCTION

- LICENSED BUILDING PRACTITIONER
- * HETAINING WALLS

manufactured talence.

POLESHED / FARMSHED CONSTRUCTION

ADDISHMANACED IN 027 274 2008 OR A/H: (03) 571 6337

