



# Waihi Newsletter | 11 Jun 2025



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Sport Canterbury: Jump Jam fun poster

## Weeks Ahead - Term Two 2025

### WEEK SEVEN

Wed 11 Jun -  
Fri 13 Jun                      Mid Year Assessments

### WEEK EIGHT

Mon 16 Jun                      Cultural Scholarship Auditions (Day 1)

Tue 17 Jun                      Academic Scholarship Day  
Cultural Scholarship Auditions (Day 2)

Wed 18 Jun                      Sports Scholarship Day

Thu 19 Jun                      Jump Jam Extravaganza

Fri 20 Jun                      MATARIKI PUBLIC HOLIDAY - no school today

### WEEK NINE

Fri 27 Jun                      Music Performances (AM)  
Mid-Year Reports emailed home (PM)

Sat 28 Jun                      Waihi Club Day - End of Term after sport

## 2026 Term Dates

*The Waihi School Trust Board have ratified the  
Term Dates for the 2026 school year.  
These are included in this newsletter for your reference.*

# FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Staff, and Friends,

It's been great to welcome everyone back after the midterm break. Students returned refreshed, recharged, and ready to launch into the second half of the term. The break came at just the right time. It offered a valuable circuit breaker for all of us.

Before they headed away, I challenged the students with our Waihi Midterm Challenge. This was a simple checklist of grounding routines such as getting dressed, making their beds, and eating breakfast, along with optional tasks like reading, getting outdoors, helping at home, or doing something kind. I hope it gave them a sense of structure and purpose over the break and perhaps helped things run a little more smoothly at home too.

Now in Week 7, there is a real sense of momentum. Our students continue to give their all in the classroom, on the sports fields, and in the boarding house. It has been fantastic to see their energy and effort across every part of school life.

The Friday before the break saw our annual cross country event, and what a day it was. The Waihi spirit was alive and well. In assembly, I reminded the children of our school motto, *Tu igitur perfer adversa. Thou shall therefore endure hardship*. For me, it is summed up by three simple words: just keep going. And that is exactly what they did, every step of the way.

On the topic of cross country, we were delighted to host the South Canterbury Cross Country Championships here at Waihi yesterday and even more impressed by how our runners performed. There were strong showings across all age groups, but a special mention must go to our Year 8 girls. They delivered an exceptional set of results by placing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th. A fantastic team effort and a real testament to their determination and preparation. Well done to all involved.

Warm congratulations go to Ollie Clayson, who was recently recognised by the New Zealand Boarding Schools Association with a Service to Boarding Award. This is a significant honour and a clear reflection of Ollie's outstanding commitment, leadership, and the positive example he sets every day in Pyne House.

Ollie's contribution has also been acknowledged through his invitation to join the NZBSA Executive Committee. This group is typically made up of representatives from secondary schools. His inclusion brings an important voice from the preparatory sector to the national table. It is a powerful reflection of the strength and standing of Waihi's boarding programme.

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Our Chapel theme this week has focused on consideration and cooperation. These are the quiet, often unnoticed moments when we help, encourage, or support one another. I spoke to the children about Emperor Penguins in Antarctica, who survive the brutal winter by huddling together and taking turns on the icy outer edge so everyone gets a chance to be warm. It is not loud or showy. It is steady, calm, and selfless. That is real consideration and cooperation.

To bring this idea to life in a meaningful way, I set our students a Penguin Challenge. They were asked to come up with two personal goals that reflect how they might show consideration or cooperation in their daily lives this week. Each student has written their goals on a penguin-shaped card, and we are gathering these to form our own Waihi Penguin Huddle. This is a visual symbol of our shared commitment to looking out for one another. Already, I have seen some lovely moments around the school where students are stepping up quietly, kindly, and without fuss. Just like those Emperor Penguins.

We also warmly congratulate Dr Celia Giddings, former Chair of the Waihi Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2002, on her recent appointment as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the King's Birthday Honours. This recognises her outstanding service to women's health and education. Dr Giddings has been a pioneering figure in women's health for over four decades and a dedicated teacher at the University of Otago School of Medicine. We are proud to see her receive this national honour. It is a richly deserved recognition of her long-standing commitment to others.

Finally, a quick reminder to please drive slowly and carefully through the school grounds, especially around Pyne House and the main drive. Also, please avoid parking in areas clearly marked for Waihi School vehicles. Your cooperation helps us keep everyone safe and ensures things continue to run smoothly.

There is a lot to look forward to in the coming weeks. I am excited for all that still lies ahead this term.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Gareth Wood**  
Headmaster



# Waihi School Trust Board

## Term Dates 2026

### Term 1

**Tuesday 3 February – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April (9 Weeks)**

Y8 Leaders Day: Sat 31 Jan

Boarders' Camp: Sat 31 Jan – Mon 2 Feb

Waitangi Day: Fri 6 Feb

Exeat Weekend 1: Fri 20 Feb (after Swimming Sports) – Mon 23 Feb (3 days)

Exeat Weekend 2: Fri 20 Mar (PM) – Mon 24 Mar (Parent Teacher meetings)

2 weeks break (includes Easter)

*\* Staff Professional Learning Thu 29<sup>th</sup> and Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026*

### Term 2

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July (10 Weeks - 6/4 + Half Term)**

Half Term: Fri 29 May (Waihi Cross-Country) – Sun 7 Jun

King's Birthday: Mon 1 Jun (During Half Term)

2 weeks holiday (includes Matariki)

*\* Staff Professional Learning Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Apr 2026*

### Term 3

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September (9 Weeks 5/4 + Half Term)**

Half Term: Fri 21 (Waihi Family Ski Day) – Sun 30 Aug

2 weeks holiday (includes South Canterbury Anniversary Day)

*\* Staff Professional Learning Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Jul 2026*

### Term 4

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December (9 Weeks)**

Labour Day: Mon 26 Oct

Exeat Weekend: Friday 13 Nov – Monday 16 Nov (4 days)

*\* Staff Professional Learning Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2026*

### **Note:**

*Waitangi Day, ANZAC Day, and Labour Day are all public holidays within 2026 term time. School is closed for day students on these days.*

*Pyne House will be open for any boarders who are in on these dates.*



# WAIHI SPORTS

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

We are thrilled to share that Waihi School will be entering three teams in this year's Koru Games in Christchurch from **Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th September**. This exciting multi-day, multi-sport tournament is open to Year 7-8 students across the South Island.

We'll be fielding teams in **Hockey, Football, and Netball**, and this will be our first year participating. The Koru Games are not only about competitive sport - they place a strong emphasis on fair play, team spirit, and positive sporting behaviour. Each year, the John F. Reid Memorial Award is presented to a team that best upholds these values, and we are proud to be joining a tournament with such a strong ethos.

All three teams will be staying in Christchurch for the duration of the event, allowing us to take part in the full experience - including the opening ceremony and all scheduled fixtures.

We will share more detailed information at the beginning of Term 3, including:

- Team selections (Due to the Year 8 Rugby team's commitment to the Global Games in Queenstown, these students will be unable to be considered for selection)
- Accommodation and travel logistics
- Uniform/gear requirements
- Associated costs

We very much look forward to this exciting opportunity with our tamariki.



For any enquiries relating to this, please email [eh@waihi.school.nz](mailto:eh@waihi.school.nz)

# WAIHI CROSS COUNTRY

Friday 30 May 2025



Age group **GIRL** winners were:

**Year 8**

Charlotte Rigarlsford

**Year 7**

Neve Johnson

**Year 6**

Victoria Dale



Age group **BOY** winners were:

**Year 8**

Carter Busch

**Year 7**

Ryan Harrison

**Year 6**

Ollie Baxter





**JOIN US AT THE  
SOUTHERN TRUST EVENT CENTRE  
FOR FUN PRE EVENT JUMP JAM**

**ALL WELCOME**

**THURSDAY 05TH JUNE  
3.30PM – 4.15PM**

**THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
3.30PM – 4.15PM**