



Waihi Newsletter | 13 Aug 2025



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From the Headmaster's desk

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- ☐ 2025 Science Review

****SAVE THE DATE****

- ☐ Blokes Brunch
- ☐ Ladies Lunch

Academic Space:

- ☐ Waihi Science Fair

Celebrating Our Waihians

Pyne House pics

Weeks Ahead

WEEK FIVE

Wed 13 Aug Winter Exchange (CHC)

WEEK SIX

Mon 18 Aug - Sun 24 Aug : **MID TERM BREAK - No school this week**

Sun 24 Aug SSIS Equestrian Championships
Boarders return from 5.00pm

WEEK SEVEN

Mon 25 Aug Family Ski Day @ Roundhill
SSIS Equestrian Championships (all this week)

Thu 28 Aug Soiree event (6.30pm start)

Fri 29 Aug Ladies Lunch

WEEK EIGHT

Mon 1 Sep Primary Sports Canterbury Duathlon

Tue 2 Sep Waihi Association and Board meetings (PM)

Thu 4 Sep Grandparents Day (1.00pm start)

Mid Term Break:

Sat 16 August - Sun 24 August 2025

NO SCHOOL IN WEEK SIX OF TERM THREE

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Friends of Waihi,

"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

– Benjamin Franklin

Welcome to Week Five. This quote feels particularly fitting as we reflect on the past fortnight at Waihi. Whether it has been through delivering speeches, tackling regional chess tournaments, hosting visiting students, or preparing for our next outdoor adventure, our students have been actively involved in meaningful learning experiences that stretch well beyond the walls of the classroom.

There is a strong sense of momentum and purpose around the school, and it has been a joy to watch our students grow in confidence, capability, and character through it all.

Almost a third of our students took part in the Timaru–Oamaru Regional Chess Tournament at Opihi College on 1 August, and they did us proud. Waihi placed first in the Junior section (Years 5–6) and first, second, fourth, and fifth in the Intermediate section (Years 7–8), an outstanding result. Special congratulations to Fox, Arthur, and Van, who each finished first in their respective grades. The focus, sportsmanship, and strategy shown by all our players was superb.

Over the past few weeks, Waihi teams have been busy both on the road and at home. We have faced a challenging but rewarding schedule of fixtures, playing Cathedral Grammar, St Margaret's, St Andrew's, and Wellesley College. At the time of writing, we are en route to Christchurch for our annual fixture against Medbury, while our netball and girls' hockey teams are taking on Rangī Ruru and Selwyn House.

Despite the winter chill and the quick turnarounds between games, our students have played with pride, skill, and determination, representing the school superbly in every code. Whether on the netball court, football pitch, or hockey turf, the quality of play and sportsmanship has been first class.

We also had the pleasure of welcoming Hadlow School for two nights as part of their winter fixture visit. A sincere thank you to the Waihi families who opened their homes to billet students. We've heard wonderful stories of bonfires on the beach, farm adventures, and classic southern hospitality. These connections, alongside the camaraderie built on the field, are what make these exchanges so memorable.

Over the past month, our students in Years 4 to 8 have been preparing and presenting speeches as part of our annual oral language programme. The ability to speak clearly and with confidence is a key life skill and a cornerstone of leadership and learning at Waihi. Whether debating, presenting, or simply making conversation, the ability to express ideas and connect with others matters greatly. The speech competition challenges students to think critically, structure ideas clearly, and present them with poise. To all those who took part, we are very proud of you. And to the families who supported them through the process, thank you for your encouragement and time.

~continued over the page~

A reminder to secure your Ladies' Luncheon tickets. We're looking forward to welcoming Jake Bailey as our guest speaker. It promises to be an inspiring and thought-provoking afternoon.

You will also find attached to this newsletter a *Save the Date* for our upcoming Blokes' Brunch, scheduled for 9:00am on Sunday, 2 November. Timed to coincide with the All Blacks vs Ireland test match, this is a relaxed and meaningful opportunity for students to enjoy some quality time with a significant male in their lives — whether that's a dad, stepdad, grandfather, uncle, or mentor.

Following the brunch and game, there will be an optional round of social golf at the local club for those keen to make a day of it. We hope it will be a memorable occasion, full of good company, great food, and hopefully an All Black's win!

Finally, I want to briefly update you on the proposed changes to NCEA, announced recently by the Minister of Education. While these reforms are still under consultation, it's important to note that all current Waihi students will be affected by these changes in the years to come, with our current Year 8 cohort the first to move through the new system when they reach Year 11 in 2028.

The proposals represent a shift toward a more subject-based approach, with increased emphasis on literacy, numeracy, and clearer pathways to both tertiary education and vocational opportunities. While these changes may seem some time away, they signal a significant re-shaping of how learning and assessment will be delivered in New Zealand.

This is now a time for consultation, and I strongly encourage you to read the Ministry's proposal and have your say.

Wishing you all a positive week and a restful mid-term break ahead.

Ngā mihi nui,

Gareth Wood
Headmaster

We encourage you to read the material provided by the Ministry of Education regarding the proposed changes and please have your say:

Proposed changes to NCEA: what you need to know as parents and caregivers

Online survey on a proposal to replace NCEA

WAIHI NOTICES

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates

Upcoming Waihi Community Visits

Everyone welcome. Whether you are a past, current or future parent, old boy / girl, we would love to have you join us when we are visiting your local area.

TIMARU

DATE: Wed 22 October 2025
TIME: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
VENUE: Hector Blacks, Timaru

ASHBURTON

DATE: Wed 29 October 2025
TIME: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
VENUE: Fine Lion

WANAKA

DATE: Tue 18 November 2025
TIME: 6:00pm – 8:00pm
VENUE: Edgewater, Lake Wanaka

This is an informal gathering – we would love to discuss with you how we could best nurture success in your child.

Please email your interest to:
executive@waihi.school.nz

These events are being hosted by
Christ's College, St Margaret's College
and Waihi School.

2026 Term Dates

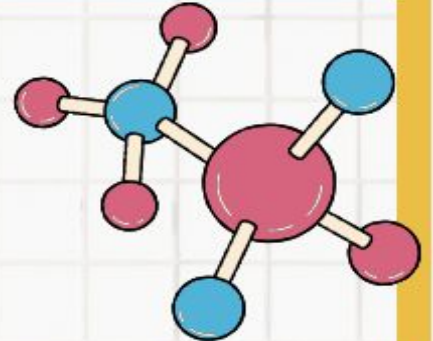
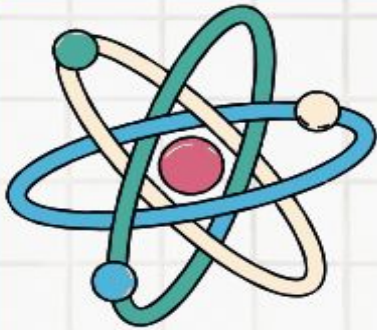
Please find a screenshot of the 2026 Year Planner showing all term dates, mid term breaks, key Waihi School events for your diaries on the back page of this newsletter.

Looking Ahead to September

SEPTEMBER	
WEEK EIGHT : 1 - 7 SEPTEMBER	
TUE 2	Association & Board Meetings (PM)
THU 4	Grandparents Day
FRI 5	Founders Day
FRI 5	Global Games: Y8 Rugby Tournament
SAT 6	Global Games: Y8 Rugby Tournament
SUN 7	Global Games: Y8 Rugby Tournament
WEEK NINE : 8 - 14 SEPTEMBER	
MON 8	Depart for Y8 Camp
TUE 9	Y8 camp
WED 10	Y8 camp
THU 11	Y8 campers return
WEEK TEN : 15 - 19 SEPTEMBER	
MON 15	NFL Flag Football Regional Tournament (CHC)
TUE 16	Koru Games (CHC)
WED 17	Koru Games (CHC)
THU 18	Koru Games (CHC)
	End of Term 3 for Year 8 students
	2026 New Boarders Overnight Experience Stay
FRI 19	2026 New Students Experience Day
	End of Term 3 for Year 4-7 students
SCHOOL HOLIDAY PERIOD	
SAT 20 SEP 2025 - SUN 5 OCT 2025	
OCT	
MON 6	Term Four commences

WAIHI NOTICES

Upcoming Events | Information | Updates



2025 SCIENCE REVIEW

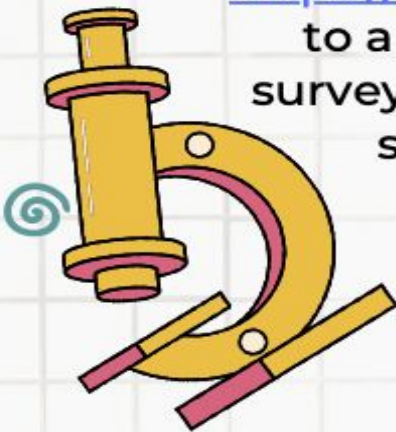
We need YOUR input!

We are undertaking a science review at Waihi School, checking out the perspectives, attitudes and experiences that science could benefit from in our community.

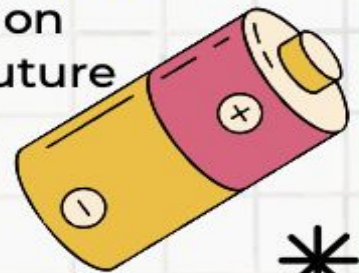
Please follow the QR code or the link as follows

<https://forms.gle/Zzs8vk1fxbX8DZLZ7>

to answer our quick 5 question survey and contribute to the future science at Waihi School!



Closing date extended to
28 August



WAIHI SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming Events | Information | SAVE THE DATE

JOIN US FOR OUR BLOKES BRUNCH

A time when sons and daughters can share the day with a
significant male in their life

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 2ND 9 AM



STICK AROUND AFTERWARDS
FOR A RELAXED 9 HOLES OF
GOLF FOR THOSE KEEN TO
CARRY ON THE FUN.

SAVE *the* DATE

29TH AUGUST 2025
MOTHER'S LUNCH

*We warmly invite all Waihi mothers and
their children to join us for our 2025
Mother's Lunch*

Invitation to follow

Waihi School | 30 Jul 2025

WAIHI SCIENCE FAIR

Love of Learning | Information | Sharing

Year 7s have put an incredible amount of effort into their science fair projects. They chose their topic and had the choice to work individually or in pairs. A huge thanks goes to David Batchelor from South Pacific Sera Laboratories in Timaru who kindly visited Waihi to help judge the projects.

1st place

Logan Gorrie

2nd place

Hunter MacKenzie and Tom Thatcher

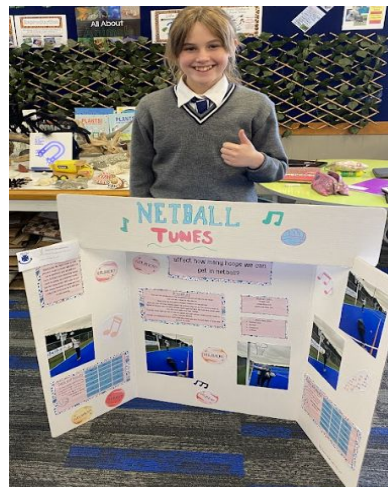
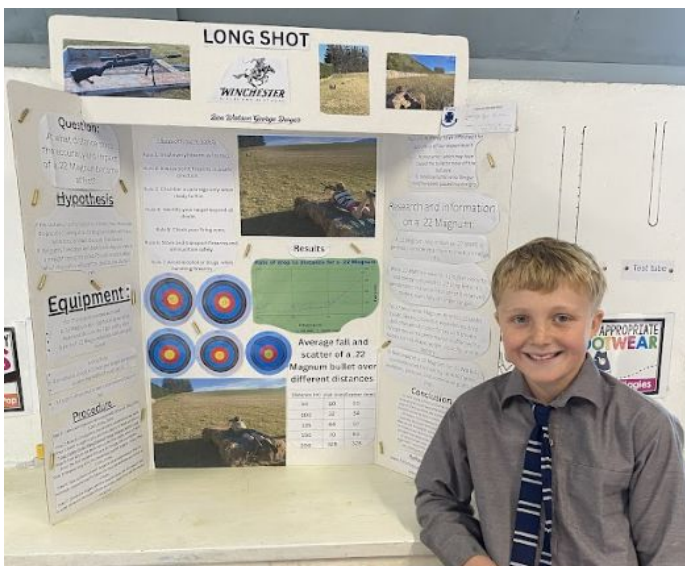
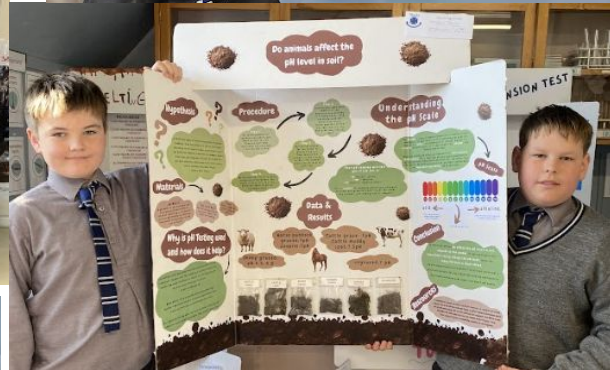
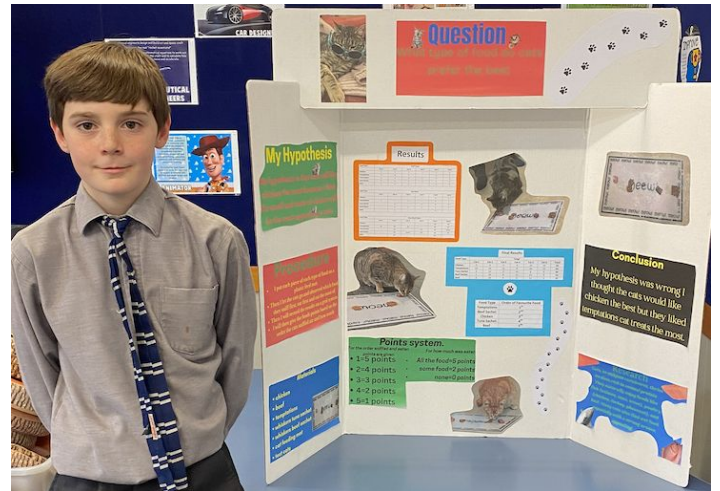
3rd place

George Dwyer and Ben Watson

Judge's Award

Evelyn Low and Shaiah Stuart

These projects will compete against other schools in the Timaru NIWA science fair in August.



CELEBRATING OUR WAIHIANS

Photographs shared by parents



Waihi School | 13 Aug 2025

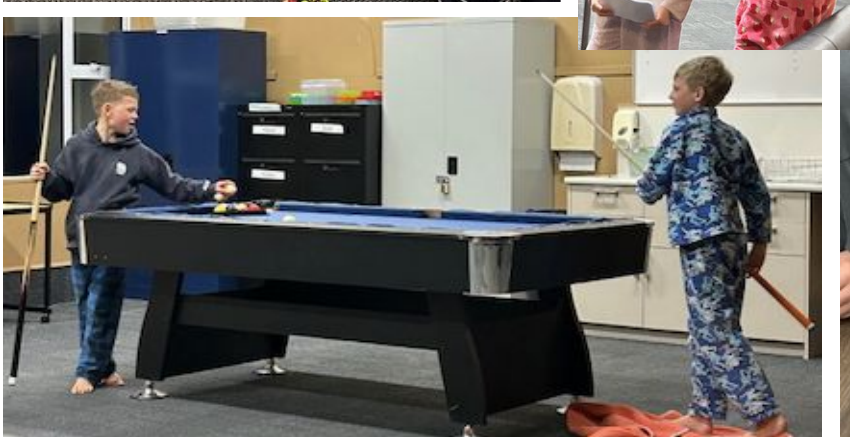
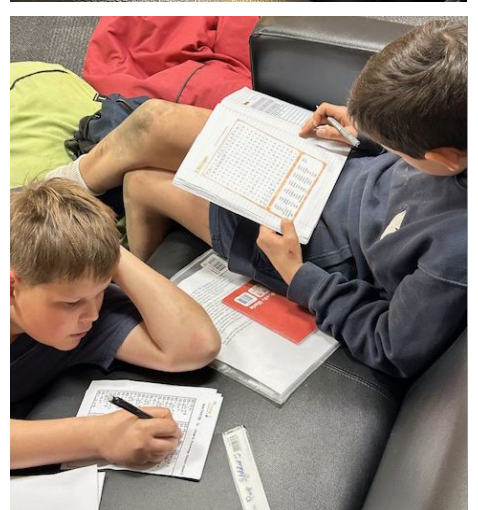
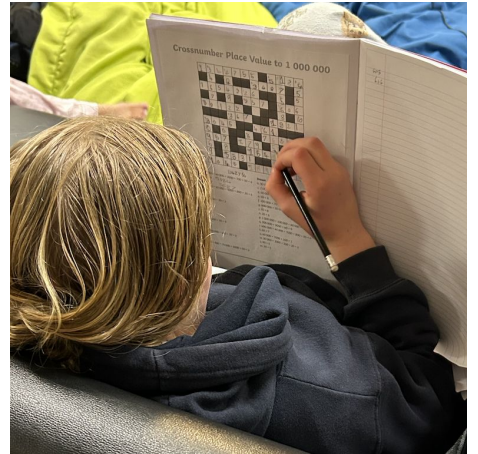
PYNE HOUSE

AFTER SCHOOL FREE TIME & DORM CHALLENGE PICS



PYNE HOUSE

EVENING PREP TIME & RELAXING BEFORE BED



WAIHI SCHOOL - 2026 Year Planner

updated 08 Aug 2025

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Sat								1				Sat
Sun		1 Boarders Activities	1					2			1	Sun
Mon		2 Boarders Activities	Week 5			1 Week 7 Sovereign's Birthday		3 Week 3			2 Week 4 Year 8 Testing	Mon
Tue		3 Week 1 8.30am School Begins for all Buses Running	3			2		4	1		3 Year 8 Testing	Tue
Wed		4		1		3	1	5	2		4 Year 8 Testing	Wed
Thu	1	5		2 End of Term One		4	2	6	3	1	5 Year 8 Testing	Thu
Fri	2	6 WAITANGI DAY Boarders Activities	6	3 GOOD FRIDAY	1	5	3 Mid Year Reports home	7	4 Grandparents Day	2	6 Year 8 Testing	Fri
Sat	3	7	7	4	2	6	4 Waihi Club Day End of Term after Sport	8	5 Founders Day	3	7	Sat
Sun	4	8	8	5 EASTER SUNDAY	3	7	5	9	6	4	8	Sun
Mon	5	9	9 Week 6	6 EASTER MONDAY Hackenzie A&P Show	4 Week 3	8	6	10 Week 4	7 Week 8	5	9 Week 5 Testing Week Y4-Z	Mon
Tue	6	10	10	7	5	9	7 Mid Year Testing	11	8	6	10 Testing Week Y4-Z	Tue
Wed	7	11	11	8	6	10	8 Mid Year Testing	12	9	7	11 Testing Week Y4-Z	Wed
Thu	8	12	12 Southern Lakes Comm. Y4H 6.00am-8.00am	9	7	11	11 Mid Year Testing	13	10	8	12 Testing Week Y4-Z	Thu
Fri	9	13	13 Wanaka A&P Show	10	8	12	12 Mid Year Testing	14	11	9	13 EXEAT	Fri
Sat	10	14	14 Wanaka A&P Show	11	9	13	13	15	12	10	14 EXEAT	Sat
Sun	11	15	15	12	10	14	14	16	13	11	15 EXEAT	Sun
Mon	12	16 Week 3	16 Week 7	13	11 Week 4	15	15 Week 9	17	14	12	16 EXEAT Teacher Only Day: 2027 Planning	Mon
Tue	13	17	17	14	12	16	16 Academic Scholarship Day Cultural Scholarship Day	18	15	13	17 Week 6 Waihi Athletics Day	Tue
Wed	14	18	18	15	13	17	17 Sports Scholarship Day	19	16	14	18	Wed
Thu	15	19	19	16	14	18	18 Cultural Scholarship Day	20	17	15	19	Thu
Fri	16	20 Meet the Teacher AM Sovereign's Sports PM Parent/Teacher Interviews Home	20	17	15	19	19	21	18	16	20	Fri
Sat	17	21 EXEAT	21 EXEAT	18	16	20	20	22 MID TERM BREAK	19	17	21	Sat
Sun	18	22 EXEAT	22 EXEAT	19	17	21	21	23	20	18	22	Sun
Mon	19	23 EXEAT	23 EXEAT Parent/Teacher Meetings	20 Teacher Only Day: no school today	18 Week 5	22	22 Teacher Only Morning Parent/Teacher Meetings	24 Week 6	21 Week 10	19 Week 2	23 Week 7 Year 8 Production	Mon
Tue	20	24	24	21	19	23	23 Week 1 Term 3 starts	25	22	20	24	Tue
Wed	21	25	25	22	20	24	24	26	23	21	25	Wed
Thu	22	26	26	23	21	25	25	27	24	22	26	Thu
Fri	23	27	27	24	22	26	26	28	25	23	27	Fri
Sat	24	28	28	25	23	27	27	29	26	24	28	Sat
Sun	25		29	26	24	28	28	30	27	25	29	Sun
Mon	26		30 Week 9	27 ANZAC Observed Date	25 Week 6	29	29 Week 11	31 Week 7	28	26 LABOUR DAY Boarders Activities	30 Week 8	Mon
Tue	27		31	28 Week 2 Waihi ANZAC Day Service	26	30	30		29	27 Week 3	31	Tue
Wed	28			29	27		29		30	28		Wed
Thu	29 Teacher Only Day			30	28		30			29		Thu
Fri	30 Teacher Only Day				29 Waihi Cross Country		31			30		Fri
Sat	31 Leadership Day New Boarders 2-3pm Returning Boarders 4-5pm				30 MID TERM BREAK					31		Sat
Sun					31							Sun