



Waikaretu School

Continuously Thrive and Learn

www.waikaretu.school.nz admin@waikaretu.school.nz 09 2333014

Fortnightly Newsletter - Paanui

1448 WAIKARETU VALLEY ROAD

09 233 3014

WWW.WAIKARETU.SCHOOL.NZ

Kia ora e te whaanau,

What an incredible couple of weeks we have had at our school!

First, a huge thank you to everyone who made our hosted inter-school cross country event such a success. To all the visiting schools and students who ran their hearts out –ngaa mihi nui for your amazing sportsmanship. We extend our deepest gratitude to our parent volunteers who prepared and ran the food and drink stalls, our course marshals who kept our runners safe, and our dedicated staff for their hard work behind the scenes.

Our senior students recently took part in an engaging BioBlitz event organised by the West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment Group. This hands-on environmental activity allowed our leaders to explore local biodiversity while successfully completing another community contribution task for their William Pike Challenge.

We also hosted our annual school speech competition. Standing up in front of a crowd takes real courage, and we were blown away by the bravery and confidence shown by all of our student speakers. Ka rawe! Thank you to Teresa Borrell who helped with judging on the day. We wish our finalists Libby Lovegrove and Will Marshall all the best representing us at the Huntly West Rural Schools Cluster speeches held at Waingaro School.

Finally, the Ministry of Education has issued a national bulletin highlighting high influenza rates across schools at this time. Beyond our usual hygiene measures, we ask our whaanau to help protect our school community by keeping unwell children home until they are fully recovered. Most children need about a week of rest before returning to school, so taking this time ensures they are ready to learn and helps prevent further illness in the community. If your child is well enough to do some light learning at home, please email or message their classroom teacher for support.

Keep warm and take care!

Bernie Denton-van Loon
Principal / Tumuaki



WAIKARETU SCHOOL

Our dedicated team of teachers is passionate about helping your child grow and thrive. We can offer all the benefits of small classroom sizes in a beautiful, rural setting.

Enrol Now for 2027

*We are a full primary school,
catering for students years 1-8.*



[www.https://www.waikaretu.school.nz](https://www.waikaretu.school.nz)

1448 Waikaretu Valley Road

09 2333014

For our digital copy of the newsletter, click on the picture for an enrolment form.

IMPORTANT DATES

31 August - 4 September
Koroneihana week

Thursday 10th September
Cluster Speeches

Tuesday 15th September
Year 7/8 Technology Huntly

Wednesday 16th September
BOT Meeting

Thursday 24th September
Last Day Term 3

Friday 25th September
Teacher Only Day

Monday 12th October
School Term 4 starts

Friday 16th October
Pet Day

Every Friday we will heat up any food the children bring (pies, sausage rolls, toasted sandwiches etc) for lunch in the pie warmer. Please let them know to give their wrapped (not clingfilm) named food to a teacher in the morning.



Community Notices

Skoollloop now allows us to make our short and local school trips easier to ask parents and caregivers for permission for a student to attend an event via their 'FORMS' tile on the parent app. You will need to assign to all possible groups available for our school on the app. The below information will explain how:

HOW TO SUBSCRIBE TO NOTICE GROUPS



TO JOIN YOUR SKOOL LOOP APP NOTICE GROUPS, SIMPLY FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW:

1. Go to the 'Settings' tile in the bottom right hand corner of the Home Screen
2. Go to 'Subscribe to groups'
3. Tap to select the group/s you would like to receive notifications from
4. You're good to go - you will now receive all notices sent to the groups you have subscribed to

NEED MORE HELP OR INFORMATION?
Call Skool Loop on 0800 238 379



WAIKARETU PLAYGROUP

Bring your Tamariki along for a play. Have a chat and coffee and make lasting connections with the other mothers, fathers, or caregivers at the school. Please contact Catherine Hore 021 113 7770



Libby, who turned 11 on the 1st of September.



See the last page of our newsletter for our sponsors and their services.

Cluster Schools Cross Country

Cross Country

What a fantastic day at our annual Interschool Cross-Country event! Our student athletes traded their desk chairs for running shoes and represented our school with absolute grit, determination, and unmatched school spirit. Whether navigating muddy trails, tackling steep inclines, or sprinting down the final stretch, every single runner gave it 100%. We saw incredible personal bests, acts of sportsmanship as students cheered on rivals and teammates alike, and plenty of high-fives at the finish line. A massive thank you to all the parents who helped our with the organsiation prior to the event and those who braved the weather to help sell food, marshal on the course and help run the event, once again, so efficiently. A big thanks to our dedicated staff for coordinating the event and coaching our students in the weeks prior. We thank the other schools for participating and hope to see you all again next year!



Cluster Schools Cross Country



Haiku poems

My heart racing fast
I had to jump in a river
I collapsed on the ground

By Aria

My heart was racing
sprinting along the vast fence
I see the finish

By Mac

Wet cold oozing mud
red hot burning cheeks with smiles
running fast as wind

By Jack

Now it is winter
through the very sludgy mud
my legs are aching

By Sienna



Cluster Schools Cross Country Results

Well done to all of our students who competed in the Huntly West Rural Schools Cluster Cross Country - especially in some pretty challenging weather conditions!

6-7 Year old Boys

13th Ayden Maniapoto

16th Ben Starr

22nd Lincoln Woodley

8-9 Year old Boys

2nd Jack Marshall

8-9 Year old Girls

7th Margo Whitford

8th Sienna Leigh

13th Amelia Besson

19th Nelly Keen-Jones

10-11 Year old Boys

3rd Eli Welch

11th Mac Whitford

10-11 Year old Girls

4th Libby Lovegrove

15th Aria Keen-Jones

12 Year old Boys

4th Will Marshall

12 Year old Girls

4th Caeley Roberts



Assembly & Awards

21st August



The WAI Way prizes went to Jack and Caeley.



Ben, Jack and Mac received the WAI Way assembly certificates.



Eli received his WAI Way band.

28th August



Eli, Lincoln, Ayden and Caeley received the WAI Way assembly certificates.



The WAI Way prizes went to Will and Jack.

Lightwire Visit

Our principal got in touch with Lightwire, wanting a backup plan for calling 111 during an extended power outage. The school needed some certainty that emergency calls would still get through if the power dropped out for a while.

Lightwire took a look and installed a dedicated 111 backup needed – the resilience measures are built into the service covering it. They also supplied an unused UPS to keep our wireless phones running, then talked through exactly how they'd support us during a major outage. They not only supplied us with this but they also made a morning out of it, having their engineers visit us and teaching us about the internet and the equipment they use. Our tamariki were fascinated! Here are some recounts of the Lightwire visit:

Today, Craig from Lightwire, came to our school. He taught us a lot about the internet, submarine cables and glass fibre. In glass fibre there is a laser that, if you look at it, it burns your eye before you feel it. In the presentation there was a plane called 'Bob' that traveled to jamaica and back in a blink of an eye, just like the speed of a message delivered via the internet. There are more than 14,000 satalite dishes on roofs and 4000-5000 hill-top reception towers. We all enjoyed learning about it.

By Caeley

Did you know that there are submarine cables that go under water so we can connect to other countries? If the glass fiber under the ocean breaks, they pull the cable up and weld it back together. By the time it takes for you to blink, I could have sent three messages to Australia. Computers use binary code to communicate, which is just made of zeros and ones. The number 51 in binary code is 00110011. The person that taught us all this, was a man that works at Lightwire, called Craig. I enjoyed this. It was really fun and interesting.

By Eli



Speeches

Year 3/4



1st Margo, 2nd Ben, 3rd Lincoln,
Highly Commended Jack.

Year 5/6



1st Libby, 2nd Mac, 3rd Aria.



Congratulations Libby
and Will who will
represent Waikaretu
School at the cluster
speech competition at
Waingaro School on the
10th of September.

Year 7/8



1st Will, 2nd Jasmine, equal 3rd
place Eli and Caeley.

West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment Group BioBlitz

As part of the William Pike Challenge, our years 4 to 8 students need to complete a variety of community service tasks. To complete one of their tasks, they attended the BioBlitz (organised by West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment Group) on Monday 31st August at the Nikau Cafe. During the Native Bird & Trees Bio Blitz the students:

- 🌿 Learnt from local bird and plant experts.

- 🐦 Discovered some of the unique native species found within our catchment.

- 📱 Learnt how to identify and record birds and plants using free apps.



Garden to Table

Today's group enjoyed some winter sunshine as we checked out the frost damage, weeded the gardens and tidied up the shed.

We hung some hooks to help organise the tools. We stirred the comfrey tea and started potting up some of the Karo seedlings into newly sifted compost from our bins. We thinned out & transplanted some of the strawberry plants.

Erica had made a lovely lemon honey (see recipe) we enjoyed some on toast, alongside our lemon drink as a reward for our hard work.



Lemon Honey

4 Eggs

1,5 Cups sugar

100 Gram butter cubed

2 Lemons, rind & juice

Place eggs & sugar in large microwave safe bowl, beat to combine well.

Add the butter, lemon juice & rind

Set microwave to high for 8 minutes, stopping every 45 seconds to stir well.

Continue until the mixture is thick and creamy. Pour into 2 small jars and store in the fridge up to 2 months.

GARDEN
TO TABLE

GROW,
HARVEST,
PREPARE,
SHARE



Please support our newsletter sponsors

A BIG Thank You to Ngahuia Thompson, our rural mail contractor who support us with the delivery of our school newsletter and so much more.

lisangahuia@yahoo.co.nz

Phone number 027 3973255

MRmotorcycles

SALES · SERVICE · PARTS · ACCESSORIES

Kawasaki SUZUKI YAMAHA KTM

09 237 3095 | 5 STADIUM DR, PUKEKOHE

WWW.MRMOTORCYCLES.CO.NZ



NOR-WEST FENCING

Keith Marshall

027 317 4657 or 07 825 4458

nor-west@outlook.com



WAIKARETU, NZ

Mobile: 021 776 486

Emilywelch648@gmail.com

WAIKARETU NEW ZEALAND



TE KARAKA

STATION & LODGE

Open for lunch bookings!

Gift Vouchers available!

 Stay@tekarakalodge.co.nz

 09 242 9229

 Open Wednesday to Sunday

Thank you

Glen Murray

Community Association Inc.

for your continuing support of
Waikaretu School



**Counties
Energy**



For more info

 Don

 027 497 5825

 don@onroadtransport.nz



**TE AKAU
TRANSPORT
LIMITED**

Livestock - Fertiliser - Aglime - Metal - Animal Feed

07 825 4805 / 07 826 3666 office@teakautransport.nz



dynamic

ACCOUNTING SOLUTIONS

Nicky Ewen

0273188527 or 09 2333042

www.das.org.nz

E: nicole@das.org.nz

Bookkeeping support, GST, payroll, Fuel Excise, Duty Refunds

Counties Bulk Haulage Ltd

Bulk Cartage

Metal. Sand. Fertiliser. Lime

Bobcat Hire

Boyd: 0274978685

Email: countiesbulk@xtra.co.nz