



# Horahora School Newsletter

Issue No. 5 | Friday 15 August 2025

Kia ora Koutou,

The past few weeks have seen a significant amount of sickness, with cases of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV being reported. We appreciate your efforts in keeping your children home when they are unwell, as this is crucial to minimising the spread of germs. In addition to our regular cleaning schedule, we have increased our cleaning protocols to ensure our classrooms and shared spaces are as hygienic as possible during this time. Your cooperation helps us keep everyone safe and healthy.

I want to take a moment to sincerely thank our previous Board of Trustees for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Your commitment to our school has been invaluable, and we are especially grateful to Roger Laxon, our Presiding Member, for his outstanding leadership. I am also thrilled to announce our new Board members, who were elected unopposed. A special congratulations to our new Presiding Member, Carl Saywell! We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of individuals. I am confident that we will continue to build upon the strong foundation that has been laid, and I look forward to working with them to guide our school into the future.

Our new Board is committed to maintaining a three-classroom model for Term Four. We've applied for funding to support this, and if needed, we have Board-funded options ready to go. We'll share more details with you as soon as the we have worked through the finer points.

In line with the Ministry of Education's focus on attendance, we want to remind you of the clear link between regular school attendance and student success. The Ministry has set a target of 80% of students attending over 90% of the time by 2030, and we believe that strong attendance is key to a student's educational achievement and future success. Thank you for your continued support in getting your children to school every day, on time, and ready to learn.

Ngaa mihi nui,  
Shannon Buckle

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# HORAHORA SCHOOL (CAMBRIDGE) PARENT BOARD ELECTION

## DECLARATION OF RESULTS

### NAME

Bushell, Elizabeth

Saywell, Carl

Steeghs, Kirsty

Laxon, Roger

Johannes, Nicole

I hereby declare the following duly elected:

### NAME

Bushell, Elizabeth

Saywell, Carl

Steeghs, Kirsty

Laxon, Roger

Johannes, Nicole

Signed,

Schooled Limited  
Returning Officer



# HORAHORA SCHOOL (CAMBRIDGE) STAFF BOARD ELECTION

## DECLARATION OF RESULTS

**NAME**

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Swanepoel, Chantal

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I hereby declare the following duly elected:

**NAME**

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Swanepoel, Chantal

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Signed,

Schooled Limited  
Returning Officer

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# Our New Board of Trustees

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**Carl Saywell**  
Presiding Member



**Liz Bushell**



**Kirsty Steeghs**



**Roger Laxon**



**Nicole Johannes**



**Chantal Swanepoel**  
Staff Rep



**Shannon Buckle**  
Principal



Our school's Board of Trustees (BoT) is a vital part of our school community, responsible for the governance and strategic direction of the school. The board's primary objective is to ensure every student can reach their highest possible standard in educational achievement. This includes setting the school's strategic plan and policies, which guide the principal and staff in their day-to-day management of the school.

As the employer of all school staff, the board also oversees personnel, finances, and property. By working in partnership with the principal, staff, and the wider community, the BoT creates a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

Parent representatives on the board are elected to ensure the community's voice is heard in these key decisions. It's a crucial role that helps shape the future of our school and the success of our students.

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# Book Week

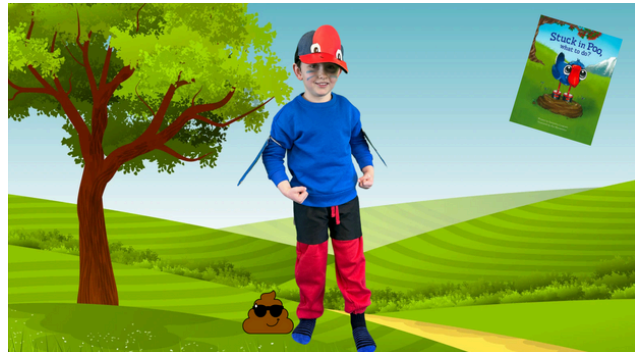
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Week three at Horahora School was Book Week. On the Friday we had Book character day. What a fabulous event! Below are our BEST DRESSED students from each class.

## BEST DRESSED - TAWA



Elle Hendl



Luke Gilmore

## BEST DRESSED - KARAKA



Georgia Boyes



Ryan Boonzaaier

## BEST DRESSED - RIMU



Kyzah Hemana-Paraha



Ruby Mounsey-McKay

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# Book Week

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Special Awards went to the following students, for their awesome costumes, too!

<b>Most enthusiastic participant</b>	Jasper Bright
<b>Best DIY costume</b>	Ollie Saywell
<b>Best book-to-costume transformation</b>	Ryder Johannes
<b>Bringing your character to life</b>	Finn Mortby
<b>Outstanding effort</b>	Zac Ramsay, Leah Swanepoel and Leah Suisted
<b>Most creative interpretation</b>	Harry Steeghs
<b>Great imaginative flair</b>	Elliott Mitchell
<b>Great detail about your character</b>	Stevie Brett-Smith



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# Special Persons' Day

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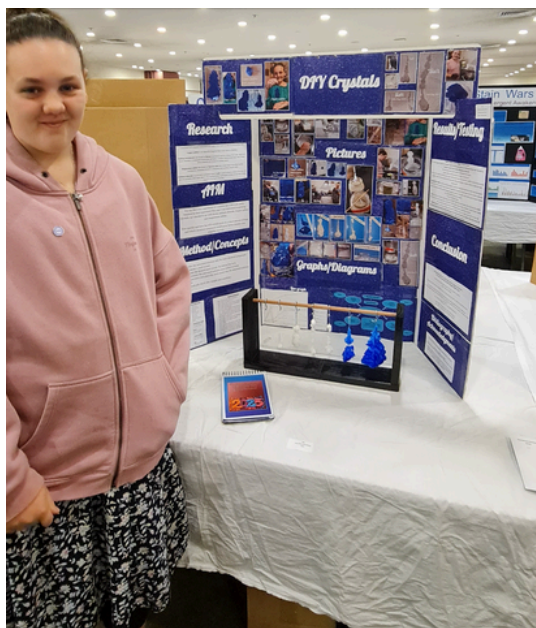
It was fabulous to share Book Character Day with some of our students' special people.



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# Waikato Science Fair

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We're delighted to share an exciting update on Ruby Mounsey-McKay, a dedicated Year 8 student in Rimu class, who recently poured her efforts into completing a compelling Science Fair project and participated in the Niwa Waikato Science Fair last week. We extend our warmest congratulations to Ruby for her exceptional hard work and commitment.

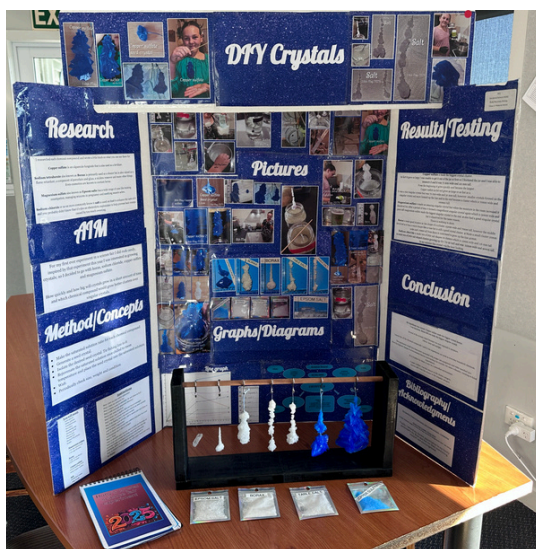
Ruby's project tackled the fascinating question: "Which chemical compound will generate the largest crystal structure?". She investigated several compounds including sodium chloride (salt), sodium tetraborate (Borax), copper sulfate, and magnesium sulfate (Epsom salts).

Her hypothesis was: "I think that copper sulfate will make the biggest cluster of crystals and that borax will make the best singular crystal". She diligently prepared saturated solutions of each compound and observed their growth over several weeks, carefully documenting her findings, including challenges like Epsom salt crystals dissolving and a Borax solution jar breaking.

Here are the remarkable results and findings from Ruby's investigation:

- **Copper Sulfate:** Ruby found that Copper sulfate 1 made the biggest crystal cluster. It grew so large that it measured an impressive 71 mm wide and 121 mm tall, requiring the jar to be fractured for its removal.
- **Magnesium Sulfate (Epsom Salts):** Despite an initial setback where the crystal dissolved due to increased room moisture, Magnesium sulfate 1 ultimately made the biggest singular crystal, reforming into a magnificent structure 30mm wide and 5mm tall.
- **Sodium Tetraborate (Borax):** Borax 1 formed good clusters in the shape of a cylinder, measuring 25mm wide and 70mm tall. While the middle dissolved, giving it a unique vase-like shape, it was still considered a good crystal cluster.
- **Sodium Chloride (Salt):** Sodium chloride 1 produced multiple small salt-shaped clusters that grew up the line, reaching 12mm wide and 116 mm tall.

Ruby's detailed research and persistent efforts yielded clear results, confirming her hypothesis regarding copper sulfate's ability to form the largest crystal cluster. We are incredibly proud of her scientific inquiry and excellent participation in the Niwa Waikato Science Fair!



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# Horahora School Kawa

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To allow  
myself and  
others to learn

To keep  
myself and  
others safe

To respect  
myself, others  
and property



## Our Shining Stars

### TAWA:

Mila Swanepoel  
Luke Gilmore  
Sebastian Bryant



### KARAKA:

Yohan Yanez  
Madilyn Bryant  
Elliott Mitchell  
Ryan Boonzaaier



### RIMU

Albie Pouaka  
Symon Baybayan



## Kawa Kiwi Award

This week's KAWA KIWI is awarded to **Ruby Mounsey-McKay** for outstanding kindness, leadership and dedication to our school community. Ruby is often seen supporting younger students in the playground and encouraging them during school events.

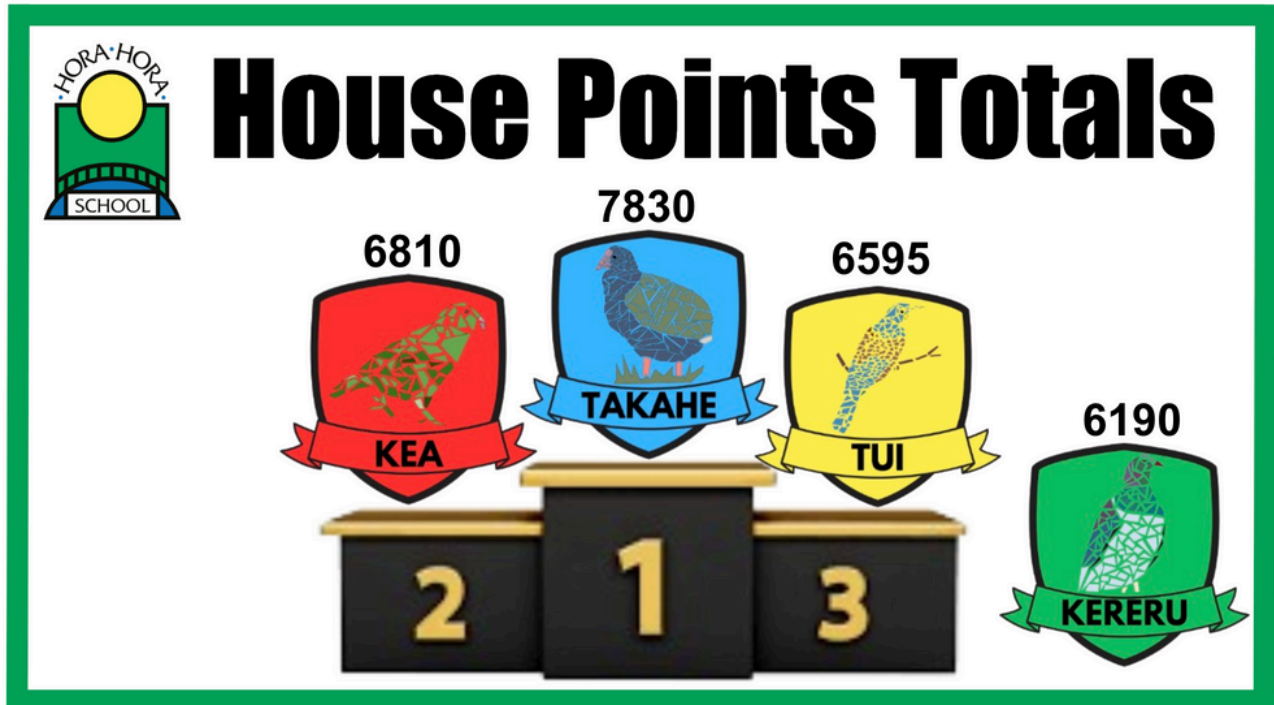


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# House Points

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The current House Points are:



**Congratulations  
Takahe!**

Winners of the House  
competition  
in Week 5 of Term  
Three.

Last Assembly's  
Winning House



**Lachy (Tui House Leader)  
with Rocky**

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# Winter Illness

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK

This factsheet explains what to do if your child is sick.

### SYMPTOMS

- Cough
- Fever
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Fatigue/tiredness
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea

### REMEMBER

- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Wash and dry hands thoroughly and often, to stop the spread of illness.
- Call your doctor to make an appointment, rather than just turning up.
- **Your hospital emergency department is a busy place in winter. Please save it for emergencies only.**

### FOR MORE ADVICE

Call Healthline: 0800 611 116  
A free, 24/7 service with  
interpreters available

Visit: [kidshealth.org.nz](https://kidshealth.org.nz) | [COVID19.govt.nz](https://COVID19.govt.nz)

**Te Whatu Ora**  
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V2 | Updated March 2023

Source: [kidshealth.org.nz](https://kidshealth.org.nz) | Auckland Regional Public Health Service

### WHAT TO DO

Most children fight off the infection by themselves and fever is a normal part of this.

If your child is miserable due to fever or aches and pains, you can give paracetamol to make them more comfortable. Follow the dosage instructions on the bottle. It is dangerous to give more than the recommended dose.

Cough and runny or stuffy nose by themselves are not serious.

Give your child regular fluids, and keep them at home and resting. Keep them away from others until they are well to stop the spread.

**See your doctor if your child has flu-like symptoms and:**

- is less than 3 months old with a fever
- has a long-lasting (chronic) condition such as heart disease, cysticfibrosis or other lung condition, asthma, diabetes, an organ transplant, cancer or leukaemia
- is 3 years or older, has a sore throat and is Māori or Pasifika. They need a swab for strep throat and treatment if positive
- doesn't seem to be improving.

**See your doctor URGENTLY if your child of any age:**

- is drinking less than half of their normal breastmilk or other fluid
- is having fewer than 4 wet nappies in 24 hours
- is severely irritable and is not wanting to be held
- has trouble breathing, has noisy breathing or is breathing fast
- looks very unwell and you are concerned
- has tummy pain, vomiting or diarrhoea and seems sicker than you would expect.

**Dial 111 for urgent medical help if your child:**

- has blue lips and tongue
- has severe difficulty breathing
- has any episodes of irregular or stopping breathing
- has a worrying rash especially one that does not go away when you press on it
- is unconscious or you can't wake them up properly.

**Your child needs a COVID-19 test:**

- if they are a household contact. Test daily for 5 days with a rapid antigen test (RAT) from the day the person with COVID-19 tested positive.

Please contact Healthline on 0800 611 116 for advice.

**Sunday 19 Oct 2025**  
**Memorial Park, Cambridge**

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**NEED**  
WAIKATO



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# THE WEEK AHEAD

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## Week Six - Term Three

<b>Monday 18 July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs Williams in Karaka</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 19 July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs Williams in Karaka</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 20 July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mrs Williams in Karaka</li><li>• Mrs Jones in Tawa</li></ul>
<b>Thursday 21 July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Miss Kaur in Karaka</li></ul>
<b>Friday 22 July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Miss Kaur in Karaka</li></ul>

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## Beyond Next Week

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### Week Seven

- Daffodil Day (Dress in Yellow, Gold coin donation) - 27 August
- Year 8 Testing CHS - 28 August
- X-Country training continues
- School X-Country - 29 August

### Week Eight

- PTA Meeting - 1 September
- Conservation Week
- Rural Schools X-Country - 4 September
- Fathers' Day - 7 September

### Week Nine

- Rotary Inter-school Speech Competition - 9 September
- Rural Schools X-Country (Postponement) - 11 September
- Cricket Awareness Day - 12 September

### Week Ten

- Te Wiki ō te Reo Māori
- Interschool X-Country - 15 September
- BOT Meeting - 17 September
- Talk like a Pirate Day - 19 September
- Assembly - 19 September

[Click here to view our School Calendar](#)

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# Horahora School Sponsors

We want to extend a massive thank you to all our generous sponsors! Their continued support is vital to our school, helping us provide enriching and engaging programmes of learning for our students. Please join us in showing our appreciation by supporting these local businesses whenever you can. By choosing them, you're not only getting great products and services, but you're also directly contributing to the success of our school. Thank you!



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