



# Duntroon School

The **BEST** we can be! • Ko te **PAI** e taetae e tatou!  
Term 4, Week 6, Friday 14th November 2025

E-mail: [office@duntroon.school.nz](mailto:office@duntroon.school.nz)

Account Number: 02-0900-0000540-000

## Tēnā koutou whanau

### Reporting: Feedback on 'Open Classrooms'

This term I had sent a feedback form out to our school families to gain feedback from the parent community regarding the 'Open Classroom' day we had in term 3, the same day as Showcase. Thank you very much to the 27 responses I had (would have liked a few more). It has given the staff and I valuable information to plan our assessment schedule for 2026.

Many said they felt their child was relaxed with the informal setting and 82% said the students were well prepared to share their learning and general classroom happenings. 59 % preferred the Open Classroom and 41 % liked the student-led conferences. Interestingly a small group in hindsight regretted not making a follow up appointment with the teacher if they did not attend. There were many that expressed they like the option of both.

It is noted that when communicating with the community we expressed that people were more than welcome to make an appointment if they felt they would like a 1-1 time with the teacher or they could not make it on the day. Across the whole school this was only done by one family.

Currently the teachers are being released to carry out assessment and write reports. There has been PAT testing for Yr.4 -Yr 8. We are very lucky to have great people we can call on to step into the classrooms across the school to release teachers. This week we have had Gemma Hamilton and Pip Francis in the school. We very much appreciate their skill and ease with the way they can step into any level of teaching and provide a stimulating day of learning for our kids.

At the end of this year you will receive a written report from the class teacher and information for 2026.

### Staff

Mrs Simpson is currently on sick leave until the end of the school year. Ms Milmine will teach fulltime in room 4 for the duration.

We are looking forward to having Miss George in school for a few weeks at the end of the term. She is coming in to spend time in some classrooms to meet the students and to also meet the staff and prepare to be with us fulltime next year.

Happy weekend everyone, I think it is going to be lovely and warm.

Sarah & Staff

### NOVEMBER

20th Nov—Rural Schools Yr 8 Science Day  
24/25th Nov—Year4/5 Camp—Dunedin  
28th Nov—Year 8 Transition Day

### December

5th Dec—Water Day Glenavy Yr 8s  
11th Dec—Reports home  
16th Dec—School break up

First day of school 2026  
Monday 2nd February

## Inspiring Futures

*Whitestone Kāhui Ako's Across School Leaders Steve, Tiffany and Dana invited Duntroun Year 8 students to an Inspiring the Future Aotearoa event last week. It was all about opening young people's eyes to new careers and different pathways to success, challenging gender stereotypes and traditional ideas about education – and highlighting all the awesome opportunities available in Waitaki! This year's role models had careers ranging from AI engineering and building to farming, firefighting, paramedicine, environmental advisory, forestry, surveying, videography, content creation and career guidance.*

### Year 8 Career day at St Josephs

The day started out with all of the Year 8s from a lot of different schools gathering in the St Josephs School hall, which had 11 people sitting up the front. We were all given a sheet of paper and were given the task of guessing what the people's jobs were. We would ask questions like: Do you work with animals? Or does your job involve heavy machinery? To narrow it down. The big reveal came when the people went out the back and changed into their work clothes. We then shared our guesses with them. Some of the jobs were easy to guess such as the firefighter, but others like the careers coach and environmental supervisor were more challenging!

We then had a break for lunch where we got to meet a lot of different people from different schools. After that we split into groups and got to meet the careers people and ask them questions. I found the helicopter paramedic very interesting as he gets to fly in the helicopter and he gets to work in a variety of different places. No two days are the same!

Overall, the day was really fun and interesting as we got to learn about a wide range of different jobs and career paths that will be helpful in the future. We also got to connect with Year 8s from other schools.

Thanks to Miss Borrie for organising and helping make it happen and Becky Wilson who helped with transport.

By Oliver Hamilton





## Year 8 careers day at St Josephs

First in the morning all the schools gathered at St Josephs to start the event. Many from our rural area went to the event such as us, Duntroon. When we came inside the school, eleven adults came in with us. They were the people that had the careers that were going to talk to us. We first had an activity where we asked questions to find out what career the 11 adults had. We had 20 questions and each question we only got a yes, no, maybe and sometimes. After that activity we gathered in groups that the teachers made and discussed what the careers of the adults were. After the discussion with the groups the adults also put their uniforms on to show what they wear in their career. Looking at the uniforms of the adults was hard and easy since some were obvious and some were difficult to guess what their job was. Then each group was told what their guesses were for each of the adults. After that activity we had a break.

After the break we came inside the schools and gathered in our groups to go around each career to discuss what they do. We had 5 minutes with each person, asked questions and then when the bell rings we swap to a different career to also discuss what they do. At the end of the day we gave some chocolate to the adults to thank them for giving up their time on their job to come to the event. One of the adults gave up their birthday and their job to come to the event.

Overall, the year 8 day was fun since we met many people in different schools to make friends. The careers were all very interesting ranging from jobs that I have heard of and jobs that I never heard of. The one job that interested me the most was the AI worker/Company worker since he worked with many different famous brands like coke and more and he also does stuff with AI. He also went to the US to work with other brands and in New Zealand. He said that he was going to the Czech Republic to work there too. His job interested me the most since I'm also good with technology and computers. It was interesting to hear about the other careers like the careers coach and the land surveyor and now I have more ideas on what career path to choose or maybe I will find a more interesting job I will like.

By Liam Amoroso



### Aspiring Futures day

The day started with a quiet car ride to St Joseph's primary school, the silence quickly replaced by the lively and excited chatter of roughly 115 students as we entered the vast room. As we made our way to our seats, we waved and eyed other students from the various schools, whom we knew from our previous year 8 days and rural school activities. We took to our seats and waited patiently for our career examples to arrive. Rebecca Ryan approached the lecturn and gave us a brilliant speech about her life story and her path to becoming Deputy Mayor of Waitaki. The career examples rolled in and took a seat at the front of the bustling hall and the event got underway. We started off with asking 20 questions each of which the 12 career examples had to answer either Yes, No, Maybe or Sometimes. This therefore narrows down the big question of; WHAT ARE THE CAREERS OF THESE 12 PEOPLE WHO ARE SITTING IN FRONT OF US?? After the 20 questions were asked by various students we got sent off into 11 different groups for 10 minutes to discuss and share the possibilities on what careers the examples who are sitting in front of us may occupy. The 12 examples then entered the room dressed in their uniforms or what they would wear on a regular day at work. Each group then took turns at standing upfront and sharing with the rest of what we thought each of the 12 jobs were. We took a lunch break and then entered the hall once more to get back into our groups. Once all groups were sorted we went around each of the careers and spent 10 minutes at each, asking questions such as; How long did you study for? What is the hardest part of your job?, or What is the best bit of your career? This therefore gave us further insight to the extent of their jobs and chances to discover new ones that we'd never heard of before.

My personal interest was probably the forestry engineer as it was a different view into agriculture that I hadn't considered before. She told us that, even though she was only in her first year she was already managing 2 harvest crew many of which were older than her and she was able to do this as she completed 3 years of university. It was interesting to learn that there are many different parts of forestry from engineering to science and many in between.

By Ruby.





## Year 8 careers day

It was November 7th 2025 when all of us year 8 from different primary schools went to this careers day at St Josephs. It was a day where we had to try and work out what the 12 people's jobs were by asking questions to them and they only had to answer with Y (yes), N (no), S (sometimes) and M (maybe). Then we had to go out in different groups mixed with other students from other schools who we didn't even know to try and figure out what the peoples jobs were. After 15 to 20 minutes we all gathered back inside the room to find out what the peoples jobs were. It was interesting to find out what the jobs were, I didn't even know there was a job called the careers coach, it was funny to see her with a angel ring and a wand though. Then we got to go out with the same groups and went to each of the people to ask questions about their job and how they had to study to get there.

My thoughts on the day were that it was good. It was cool to learn about new jobs and to even learn more about the jobs that I already knew about. It was quite different from what I expected, I thought there were only going to be 10 people that we had to try and guess what their jobs were but instead there were 12. There were also A LOT of kids. I thought there was only going to be a couple of kids but instead there was a whole bunch and it was so crowded, but we got to walk out, with new careers that we might want to join once we are older and new friends that we made on the way.

My personal interest was probably the Drone Pilot job. She said her job was to drive drones around gold fields to take photos of the area and to navigate if they are digging in the wrong spot or right spot, so they can get the amount of gold they are looking for. It was hard to figure out what her job was when we were asking the questions because it was nothing that we even knew about. That's why it's my favourite because it caught my interest and I wanted to learn more about it. It is also my favorite because it was interesting to see the drones that she used and the actual 3d print of the mine that she works at, we even got to hold the drone ourselves.

Lindsay Sinidad



## POOL CONTACT

**Please feel free to print it out, fill it out and bring it into the office, OR there are forms at the office.**

### Duntroon School Pool - Code of Conduct 2025/26

#### Safety

- Key holders are responsible for ALL people they admit to the pool.
- No one is to swim alone.
- Keys are for the use of family members and their guests. Keys are not to be shared.
- Children under the age of 16 must be actively supervised by a person 18 yrs or older.
- Due to health and hygiene reasons all babies/toddlers not yet toilet trained must wear swim pants such as Huggies "Little Swimmers" (not underwear) whilst swimming.
- No jumping, bombing or diving into the pool.

#### Pool

- Opening hours: 6am-9pm (During school terms the pool is closed to the public 9am-3pm)
- It's essential that you sign the pool register when you enter and leave the complex.
- Ensure the cover is placed back over the pool and the gate is locked when leaving.
- Please leave the complex in a tidy state and remove your own rubbish.
- The swimming pool complex is smoke-free at all times.
- Please report any damage or concerns to Sarah Caldwell, Principal - 027 434 9068

#### Keys

These are available to school families at the subsidised cost of \$50.00. They're also available to those without children at our school for \$100.00. Lost keys will be invoiced for at the replacement cost of \$10.00 each.

Online payments can be made to the school account 02-0900-0000540-00. Please enter your name and POOL as reference. A key will be issued once payment is received and a Code of Conduct completed and signed.

Keys are limited and are available on a first-come/first-served basis. Please return keys to the school office by the date specified and don't hold over until the next season.

*I/we have read the above Code of Conduct and understand and accept the guidelines therein.*

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....email.....

Signed.....Dated.....

Disclaimer: The Duntroon BOT accepts no responsibility for any accidents or injuries whilst using the pool complex or for damage to personal property. Use the pool at your own risk. The BOT reserves the right to close the pool at any time due to Health & Safety issues.



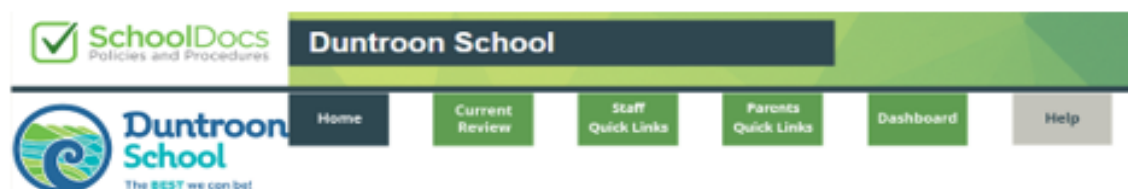
## Policy Reviews Term 4 2025

Please complete the following link to your browser to access the reviews and follow the instructions on the School Docs website.

<https://duntroon.schooldocs.co.nz/>

your username is – Duntroon

your password is – 9494



Our Policy review statements for this term are on:

- **Searches, Surrender and Retention of Property**
- **Stand-Down, Suspension and Exclusion**
- **Staff Wellbeing and Safety**

### Currently under review

We are reviewing this policy for its content and how well the school implements it. To share your comments and rate its implementation, click the "Start your review" button. This policy's subtopics are also under review if they have a review button.

[About the review process](#)

[Start your review](#)

**After choosing the review topic you can click start your review: Shown Above**

**Please complete by Friday December 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Thank you. Your feedback is appreciated.**

# DUNTROON PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS 10-12 PM | BEHIND DUNTROON SCHOOL

COME AND JOIN US!

AN INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR RURAL PARENTS TO HANG OUT WHILE THEIR CHILDREN PLAY.

BRING YOUR LITTLE ONE'S MORNING TEA, THE JUG IS ALWAYS BOILED FOR THE ADULTS.

JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP- DUNTROON PLAYGROUP FOR MORE INFO



Merry Kirimihete, Waitaki!

## CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING



Christmas Tree lights will switch on at 9.30pm

**SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES** by bringing canned food or a wrapped child's gift to exchange for...



Bouncy castle fun



Popcorn



Sausage sizzle



A BYO logo reusable coffee cup

Let's bring Christmas magic to every household this holiday season

also happening

## SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday 28th November 7pm - 9.30pm | LOWER THAMES STREET, OAMARU

Waitaki District Youth Council for sausage sizzle, plus delicious food trucks  
Music by Saggy Britches band | Luzette face painting | Bouncy castle | Popcorn

NORTH OTAGO  
**A&P** & VetLife  
ASSOCIATION Animal Health Partners

## PET DAY

16th November, 11am

Showgrounds - Ettrick St, Oamaru

Come along for a fun day with the family & pets

Classes for all pets - All pets welcomed!

Sheep, Lambs, Goats, Calves, Dogs, Rabbits and others.

Ribbons to 5th place.

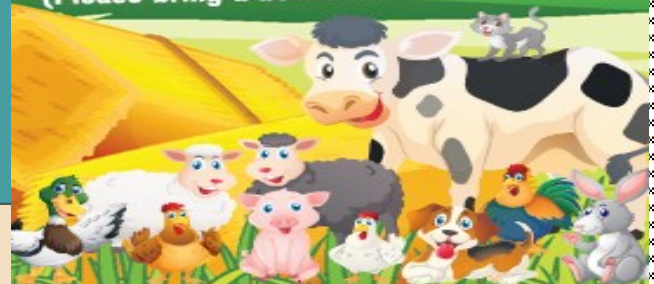
Age groups decided on day dependent on numbers.

Fancy Dress competition for all animals 12.00pm



Check out facebook page  
North Otago A&P for more info

**Lamb Drinking Competition**  
(Please bring a bottle with 250ml of milk)





Have a go at Athletics with



# LAUNCH ATHLETICS

An exciting and inclusive event for rangatahi aged 12-18 to give athletics a go in a fun, team-based setting!

No experience needed — all abilities are welcome. You don't need to be involved in Athletics to join the fun at Launch!



**Sunday, 23 November 2025**

**9:30 AM**

**TO**

**12:30 PM**

**Post-Event**

**Shared BBQ for  
everyone involved**



**Q&A with Senior Otago  
athletes**

**Caledonian Ground  
Dunedin**

Register its FREE  
Registrations close 21st  
Nov 11:59pm



Scan the QR code to  
register and find out more  
about Launch.

Any questions please contact Holly Robinson: [development@athleticsotago.co.nz](mailto:development@athleticsotago.co.nz)



**OAMARU ROWING CLUB**

# INTRO TO ROWING YEAR 8+



**Term 4 2025 - Term 1 2026**

## Hey Year 8s!

We've got a super cool Learn-to-Row program just for you, perfect for anyone heading to high school in 2026.

## It's going to be awesome!

You'll learn all about rowing, on the water and on land. We'll explore the parts of a rowing boat, try out different rowing styles, and get fit with fun gym and Erg rowing machine sessions to boost our skills.

We'll visit cool spots like Oamaru Harbour and Waihao Box, and in Term 1, we'll even go watch some real racing at Lake

Ruataniwha in Twizel.

Our rowing coach and older rowers will be there to help us learn and have a blast. You'll also get to see how the high school rowers train, which is super inspiring!

Cost: \$100 - This covers travel for the fun trips we'll take.

When: Every Monday and Wednesday, 3:30pm-4:30pm (during term), at the Oamaru Rowing Club. Starts Monday 13th October

Plus, some awesome weekend trips!

**Can't wait to row with you all!**

For more details contact:

Coach Tracey Marshall 027 240 4476



# NORTH OTAGO PONY CLUB

A safe and supportive community where young people enjoy equestrian activities and grow their knowledge.

*Where it begins!*

- Learn how to care for and ride horses safely and effectively
- Monthly rallies with instruction in riding and horse management
- Aimed at children and young people under 25 years of age
- All stages and abilities are catered for
- Earn certificates in an internationally recognised syllabus
- Make friends and participate in fun activities and events
- Opportunities to compete and be part of teams
- Excellent value with low fees and experienced coaches
- Access to grounds and facilities

**Give it a go!**

**First three rallies  
are free for  
prospective  
members**



Whether you're want to ride for fun or aim for the top, Pony Club is New Zealand's gateway to a lifelong journey with horses.

For more information contact us through Facebook  
or  
[coachnpsc@gmail.com](mailto:coachnpsc@gmail.com)

[www.nzpca.org](http://www.nzpca.org)



# WAIMATE RODEO CLUB YOUTH BULL RIDING SATURDAY 22ND NOVEMBER

**WAIMATE RODEO GROUNDS  
5TH CANTEBURY**

Ages 5-18 (years 0-13)

Bucking machines, technique coaching

Jnr Steers, Novice Steers, 2nd Division Bulls

Great low key day to come along and have a go!

**OPEN TO EVERYONE!**

**COACHING FROM 10AM**

**JACKPOT AFTER LUNCH**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Entry form to follow on our FB page

