



TE WAOTU SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

13 August 2025

Our vision:

To build confident and resilient life-long learners.

Our mission (how we will achieve our vision):

Teachers will empower students to be active learners who work in partnership with the teacher.

Teachers will ensure students know what they are learning, when they have been successful and where they are going to next.

Self and peer assessment is a routine step in the learning process.

Success criteria are most effective when great examples of work are used to show what quality looks like.

Teachers will use the learning progressions in the curriculum in order to confidently work with a diverse range of students.

The school recognises the influence of the home and will endeavour to build and nurture learning focussed partnerships with parents and whanau.

Our values:

Kind
ness, respect, honesty,
responsibility, courage.

Our houses:

Haszard, Simmonds, Barnett,
Rongowhitiao

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Term 3 is a busy time for our school community with calving in full swing for a while now making long days for our families, caregivers, whānau and wider school community. We appreciate your support to ensure our teaching and learning programmes and extra-curricular activities are also prioritised to provide a rich, engaging school curriculum, such as Student Led Conferences, coaching and managing our sports teams, attending our school assemblies and other key events that happen in and around the school. I have commented to our wider school community that this term has seen calm, connected and thriving students that are fully engaged in their learning.

Thank you for all those that have completed our [school community survey](#) - you are still welcome to add your input by clicking on the link above. I do take the time to read these carefully and think how we can best implement your suggestions into our everyday school life.

Supporting attendance during winter

Regular school attendance is vital for learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. As we move deeper into winter, there will naturally be times when it is appropriate for tamariki to stay home and recover from illness.

However, minor symptoms do not always require time away from school. Below is a link to information that will help parents and caregivers decide when it is okay to send their child to school, when they should keep them at home, and when they should contact a health professional for advice.

[Knowing if your child is well enough to go to school – Ministry of Education](#)

If you see me at the gate or around the school please stop in for a chat, my door is always open to discuss any thoughts you may have regarding your child.

Whakatauki - *Mauri tū mauri ora*

An active soul is a healthy soul

Ngā manaakitanga | Take care - Michael Thompson (Principal)

Student Led Conference - 5 & 7 August

I was blown away with the feedback from our school community regarding our Student Led conferences, we had close to 100% turn out - which is incredible! Thank you so much - this is important for student agency and empowers our tamariki to be fully, engaged active learners!



House of Science Kits | ASB Getwise (Financial Literacy) | Agri Day Prep

You may have heard your child excited to share their learning about our science boxes from House of Science. These have created practical engaging opportunities for curious, inquisitive learning. Also, we had Callum from the ASB Getwise programme that taught us spendwi\$e, savewi\$e and scamwi\$e initiatives, this has led to our students thinking how we can integrate this learning into our school programmes.

Lizzie, Rebecca and others from our school farming community have done talks regarding Agri Day preparation - this was an opportunity for our tamariki to ask questions about animals - lambs, goats and calves. See Agri Day dates below!



Out of Zone Enrolments

Please see our [website](#) or the office for any Out of Zone enrolments. These enrolments close on Monday 18 August 12pm. Notice is below and also on our school app.

ENROLMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT TE WAOTU SCHOOL - TERM 4 2025

Enrolment at Te Waotu School is governed by an enrolment scheme. This year there are four enrolment periods and the fourth enrolment period covers term 4. The Board has determined that there is likely to be a number of places available in various year levels throughout the school in term 4 2025.



The Board is prepared to receive expressions of interest for students seeking enrolment for term 4 2025. In addition to those which it already holds, so long as they reach the school by Monday 18 August, 12pm. Forms can be collected from the school office or downloaded from the [school website](#).

If a ballot for out of zone places is required, it will be held on Wednesday 20 August 3pm. Parents will be informed of the outcome of the ballot in writing within three school days. Please phone or email the School Principal - Michael Thompson (07 883 2815) or principal@tewaotu.school.nz, if you have any queries regarding this.

Staffing Update

Message from Inge Wilbers - Room 5 Classroom Teacher

Kia ora,

As many of you may know, Ria and I are preparing to welcome a very special new addition to our family. We are incredibly excited (and maybe just a little bit nervous!) as we count down the final weeks before we meet our baby.

This term is particularly special to me, and I'm looking forward to making unforgettable memories with my class and making it our best one yet. While I will deeply miss being in the classroom once I go on parental leave, I know the children will be in excellent hands. Jess Forkert will be stepping in during my time away, and I couldn't think of anyone better suited for the role. She already has a warm and trusting relationship with the class, and I have every confidence that she will continue to support and guide them beautifully in their learning journey.

Thank you to the school community for your support and kindness during this exciting time. I look forward to returning next year and sharing this next chapter with you all.

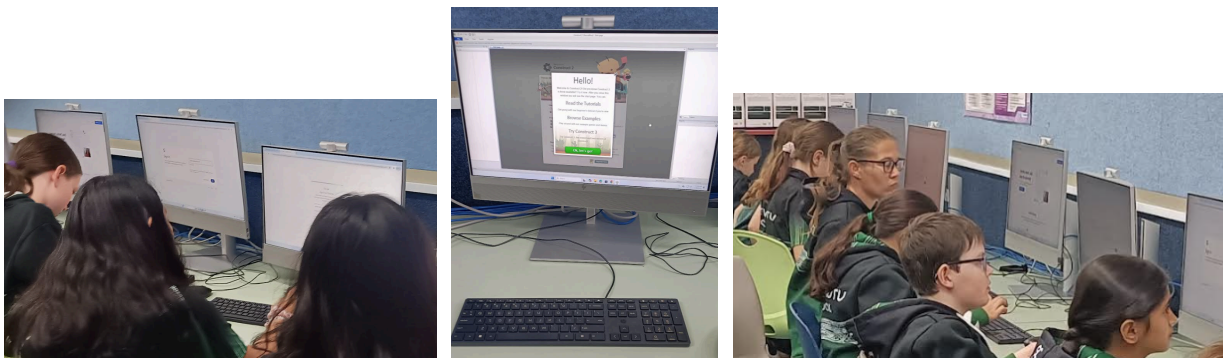
I am delighted to announce that Jess Forkert will step into the Room 5 full-time teaching role while Inge is on parental leave. This ensures we will have continuity and consistency across our classrooms for our learners. Jess will move into this role at the beginning of term 4 and will carry on into next year in this teaching capacity.

Anne Beal will take over Jess's 0.5 Release Teacher role from term 4, this ensures we can keep consistency for school operations for our classroom release time provision. I wish to take this time to acknowledge you all for your professionalism, dedication and commitment to your teaching craft, it is noticed and appreciated! You are making a difference!

I know you will take a few moments to wish Inge, Jess and Anne all the best and we will acknowledge these collective milestones closer to the time.

Technology - YR 7 &8

Our senior class has moved into their next technology elective this term which is digital technology. They have been creating digital content with a purpose and improving their typing speed - which we all know is a key skill for future career opportunities!



TE WAOTU SCHOOL PARENT BOARD ELECTION CANDIDATE PROFILES



Our school is a real asset to our community, and I want to see it continue to thrive, helping to develop well-rounded kids with an enthusiasm for learning. Ensuring that Te Waotu kids have educational, sporting and cultural opportunities that will help set them up to be successful is important to me.

My husband, James, and I are farmers in the area, and we have 4 boys at Te Waotu School, and our eldest son at Putaruru College. I have a background as a Chartered Accountant and have the skills necessary to contribute to a highly functioning Board of Trustees.

Melissa Barbour



Kia ora koutou,

I'm James Pelham, seeking re-election to the Te Waotu School Board of Trustees after proudly serving for the past three years. As Property Representative, I've worked to ensure our school facilities meet the needs of our students now and into the future.

I've been actively involved in the Great Farming Auction, helping break fundraising records three years in a row and strengthening our school-community connection.

I'm committed to supporting our teachers with the resources and professional development they need to succeed, while planning carefully to future-proof Te Waotu for the years ahead.

With your support, I'll continue to advocate for the best interests of our school, our tamariki, and

our community.

Ngā mihi nui,

James Pelham

GRAHAM, Courtney



Hi Te Waotu School community! I am standing for re-election for our school board, and have been on the board since August 2022. I have loved my time so far on the Te Waotu board, and would be grateful for your vote to continue on this journey. The school board is an important part of any school as we are responsible for setting the strategic direction for the school, consulting with our community, alongside overseeing finance, property & H&S (plus many other things!). It has been a very rewarding experience so far, and would love to continue on our school board.



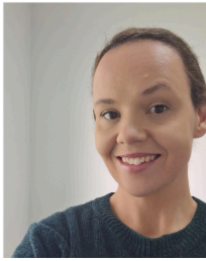
Hi I am Fiona Langford, we have 3 boys who are 6, 4, and 2 years of age. My husband and I are farming locally. I have been involved in the community and school through the local Playgroup, Puketurua hall committee, sports clubs and the Te Waotu SSG. Te Waotu is an amazing school with a great community behind it! It is important to continue to build a school that is community minded. To provide the resources and equipment our children need to get the best learning experience. To not only build their learning experience but also their practical and social skills. To continue to provide families with great communication. I bring Governance knowledge and skills through my training on the Fonterra Governance Development Course and my experience as a director on a farming business board.

MARDELL, Jess



It has been a privilege to serve on the Te Waotu School board for the past four years, including the last three as Presiding Member (Chair). During this time, our Board has worked hard to return the school to a strong position, and I'm proud of the contribution I've made to that collective effort. I am seeking your support for re-election to continue building on this progress. I believe continuity of leadership is important to maintain our momentum, and I'm excited about the opportunities ahead for Te Waotu School. I bring a strategic mindset, a focus on growth and performance, and a long-term commitment to Waotu and the South Waikato. My husband, Ev, and I have three children attending Te Waotu School and we own-operate a 700 cow dairy farm in the area. I offer a strong understanding of school governance, a passion for quality education and a commitment to fostering a positive school environment. I have completed the Fonterra Governance Development Program and am a Chartered Accountant with a background in accounting and the energy industry.

SCORRINGE, Chavonne



Kia ora koutou, My name is Chavonne Scorrige, and I am standing for election to the school board because I am deeply passionate about supporting our tamariki, kaiako, and wider school community to thrive. I believe every child deserves a fair, inclusive, and empowering education—no matter their background or challenges. My experience working with the Salvation Army in the past has taught me the value of compassion, fairness, and dignity. Supporting individuals and families facing hardship has shaped how I see the world: with empathy, resilience, and a strong sense of justice. I bring this same heart and commitment into everything I do and will use this knowledge to contribute positively and equitably to the board. I believe in the strength of community, and I'm dedicated to uplifting and empowering not only our tamariki but also my fellow board members and our incredible teaching staff. I aim to be a strong support network for our teachers and an active voice for whānau, always with the school's best interests at heart. At the core of everything, I hold firm to our school values: Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Kindness, and Courage. These values should not only be displayed in the classroom but modelled and nurtured across the entire school environment—by students, staff, and board members alike. I believe that through working together, we can continue to grow and strengthen these values in meaningful, everyday ways. I am also a passionate advocate for neurodivergent students and those who may face learning or social challenges. Every child deserves to feel seen, understood, and supported. I will work to ensure that our school continues to be a space where diversity is celebrated, and every learner has the tools and encouragement they need to reach their potential. It would be an honor to serve on the board, working collaboratively with others to guide our school into a strong, inclusive, and inspiring future. Ngā mihi nui, Chavonne



Hi, My name is Mathew Wright, and I am standing for election to the Te Wootu School Board of Trustees. I grew up in this area, and went Puketurua primary school, I have a deep connection to the community. My partner Jo and I are proud parents of two boys, Jackson and Axel, and we are committed to seeing them—and all children—flourish. I believe in a great education to shape the future, and I want the communities' children to have the experience I did going through a country school, as I feel a school like Te Wootu offers something special and unique. If elected, I will bring a practical, solutions-oriented approach to the Board, working with staff, parents, and the wider community to ensure that our school provides the best possible education for every child. I am passionate about seeing Te Wootu School succeed and ensuring our children are equipped for success when they leave. Regards Matt

 **MoE_2025_PAR_Candidate_Profile (2).pdf** [Click on the link to view the Candidates Profiles](#)

Free Lambs



COMING UP EVENTS!

Term 3 & Term 4

- Board of Trustees meeting Monday 18 August
- ICAS Exams - ICAS Digital & Writing 7 August, ICAS English 14 August, ICAS Spelling & Science 19 August, and ICAS Mathematics 28 August
- FVHS Open Day 27 August 11-12:45 in Auditorium, Open evening Year 8 Families 28 August
- SW Interschool Conservation Day - Jim Barnett Reserve 28 August
- Daffodil Day 29 August
- Storyline Tour 4 September
- School Muck- In Day - Saturday 12 September 9am-12pm
- Putaruru College Open Day - 18 September
- Te Wootu School Agri Day - 9 October
- Group Day - 15 October (Lichfield)

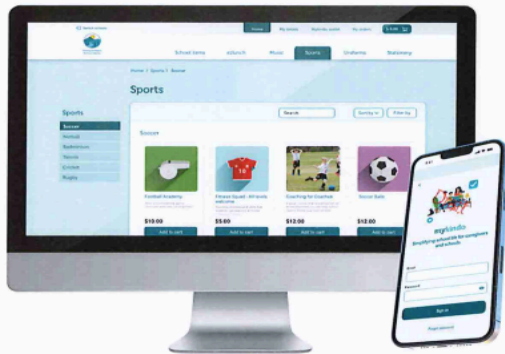


kindo.

School payments simplified.

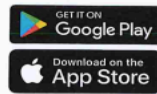
It's quick and easy to make payments, purchase stationery and uniform items, fundraise and more.

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Have questions?

Visit support.mykindo.co.nz

Our helpdesk is open 8am - 4pm weekdays
hello@mykindo.co.nz or 0508 454 636

Music lessons are well underway and the following link can be used to register interest:

<https://www.ignitearts.co.nz/registration/>



Year 1-2 are encouraged to try the *Ignite the Beatz* programme which has been designed specifically for them. Each term the student gets to try two new instruments. At the end of the programme, the students would have had a good feel for a variety of instruments, and this should give them an indication of which particular instrument they would like to continue with.

NOHO ORA MAI

Sandra, Sarah Topping, Kirsty, Inge, Anna Blair, Sarah Du Toit, Hildegard, Haylie, Andrea, Jessica Forkert, Anne Beal, Becs Vaughan, Debbie Gray, and Michael

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