



NEWSLETTER

Week 3, Term Four, 2026

(03) 433 1366 email: office@ardgowan.school.nz

Principal's Message

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa. Warm greetings to you all.

Athletics

What a fantastic day we had at the Zone Athletics in Glenavy yesterday. It was wonderful to see our students trying their best and showing great sportsmanship. Congratulations to the students who have qualified for the North Otago Athletics on Monday. We should have a list of these students in the next couple of days.

Survey

Thank you to everyone who filled in our recent school survey. The information from this will help direct our strategic plan over the next two years and help us refine and teach our school values. It was also really useful to get people's feedback on school communication and our uniform. There was a very clear majority of people who would like to see our school uniform t-shirt change from yellow to black. The next step with this is to see what different suppliers can offer us and at what price. We will keep you up to date as we move forward. We are also looking at a change to our newsletter for next year.

Congratulations to Eve Nicholas who won the \$100 New World Voucher and to Room 6 who won the class prize for the highest percentage of surveys filled out.

ERO

We have now had our confirmed ERO report, it will be on our school website for you to read.

Nga mihi nui
Adelle Banks
Principal

With the senior students away at zone athletics yesterday our junior children were putting their best foot forward with practicing for the Junior athletics on Friday.





School Notices

Drink bottles - these are a must for all children to have every day while at school. Please ensure their drink bottle is full of water, and is in their bag every morning.

Signing out - If your child is leaving school early, or you are collecting your child during school time for any reason, please ensure you come to the office to sign them out. Should we have an emergency, it is vitally important that we know whether your son / daughter is on / off the school grounds.

POLICE VETTING for parents and caregivers.

If you would like to accompany the children on school trips and camps it is a requirement by law that all parents / caregivers be police vetted, and that the vet be current with our school. If you would like to be police vetted to enable you to join in these activities, please contact the school office. We have forms available on paper, or can email out to you if you prefer. Vetting lasts 3 years and there is no cost to you. A primary and Secondary form of ID must be provided on application.

A couple of reminders for families around drop off and pick up.

The Drop and Drive area is to be used for Drop and Drive only - **NO PARKING**.

The car park is for parking to drop off and pick up your child only - **NO DROP AND DRIVE**.

Please help to keep the children safe by using both areas for their intended purpose only as it creates frustration for other users when they are used inappropriately. Please drive carefully and safely when in and around our school.

Our school event calendar for the year is on our website: ardgowan.school.nz under the **News and Events Tab** at the top. It is regularly updated with as many dates as possible but please be aware some dates - especially those further on in the year, may change.

8:40AM	Arriving before class starts means getting settled and ready for class
9:00AM	Arriving late means the start of the lesson could be missed and is likely to unsettle the class
9:05AM	5 minutes late a day means missing 3 days over a school year
9:10AM	10 minutes late a day means almost 7 schools days lost a year
9:15AM	15 minutes late a day means almost 10 schools days lost a year
	Arriving very late is recorded as an absence
Students that are late miss out on learning and can be a disruption to the classroom. If a student regularly late it will affect their learning at school.	

SCHEDULE OF LUNCHES TERM FOUR 2026

MONDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. **ONLY MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS**

Items to be securely wrapped in tin foil and named with a vivid. No Bowls as they take up too much room. Items can be taken to class on the morning and put in the class tray to be transferred to the pie warmer. Please have items defrosted.

TUESDAY - OWN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY - OWN LUNCH

THURSDAY Subway orders every week. Please have orders into the school office by Wednesday mornings. Order envelopes are available at the school office. Correct cash please.

FRIDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer. **ONLY MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS**

Please ensure that your child has a drink bottle at all times of the year. Our school promotes healthy eating whenever possible, a piece of fruit each day, and choosing healthy snack options for your child's lunchbox is a great way to ensure they get the best out of their day. It also greatly helps to cut down on the amount of plastic packaging we have to send to the tip each week.

A full range of sizes are now in stock in the office

Changed your address or phone number? Please let the office know.

Important Term 4 Dates for the Diary

School website calendar: ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar

October 2026

Friday 30th - Junior athletics 1pm.

- Home and School Halloween event.

November 2026

Monday 2nd - Science Roadshow Year 7 and 8s 9:30am.

- North Otago Athletics.

Tuesday 3rd - Swimming.

Thursday 5th - Monday 9th - Life Education visit.

Thursday 5th - Swimming.

Tuesday 10th - Swimming.

Thursday 12th - Ki o Rahi tournament Year 5-8.

Tuesday 17th - Otago athletics Champs TBC. Postponement date 19th.

Friday 20th - Rural schools science day Year 8 TBC.

Monday 23rd - Teacher only day - School closed.

Wednesday 25th - Stock the Bus - mufti and donations for the bus.

Thursday 26th - Swimming pm.

Friday 27th - Year 8 - 9 Transition day at high schools.

December 2026

Thursday 3rd - Year 1 and 2 camp Totara Estate

Friday 4th - Year 8 water day - Glenavy.

Tuesday 8th - BOT Meeting 5:30pm.

Wednesday 16th - Final Day of Term 4.

2027 Start date: Monday 1st February

2027 End date: Thursday 16th December

End of day pick up

We are continually reviewing how our end of day pick up procedures are working so that all our students are kept safe. Our school procedure is that students need to be picked up or actively supervised by whanau from 3.10pm. After that they are no longer the responsibility of the school staff. We understand that from time to time this is not possible. If this is the case please let your child's teacher know.

- Parents who pick up their child / children and park in the carpark need to make sure they are getting out of the car and meeting them in the school grounds. This is to stop children being in the carpark unsupervised when many cars are moving around.
- Students that are getting picked up at the drop and drive need to stay inside the gates until the car they are travelling in is at the front of the queue and preferably get in on the school side of the vehicle.
- You must let us know if your child has a change to their normal arrangements eg: walking along the track when they normally get picked up. This helps us make sure students have permission to leave the school grounds.

Concerns and Complaints Process

This information should be read alongside our Concerns and Complaints Policy and related policies on SchoolDocs.

OVERVIEW



You can raise concerns and complaints with our school verbally or in writing.



The school will assess and respond according to the nature of the concern or complaint.



The school will tell you how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

HOW TO RAISE A CONCERN OR MAKE A COMPLAINT

Contact the following people at the school (verbally or in writing).



A staff member involved
(e.g. classroom teacher, head of learning area)



The principal
for serious matters



The board chair
for concerns or complaints about the principal



Another board member
for concerns or complaints about the board chair

- Concerns or complaints may be referred to a more appropriate person (e.g. senior staff, principal, board member).
- The school may ask you to put your concern or complaint in writing to help address the matter.
- You are welcome to have a support person (e.g. whānau member, friend, lawyer, union representative).
- Everyone involved is expected to respect privacy and confidentiality.

HOW THE SCHOOL MANAGES CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

We manage concerns and complaints in a timely manner and seek to protect people's mana and dignity. We ensure:

- people are treated fairly
- those involved have the opportunity to be heard
- decision-making is unbiased.

The school assesses the concern or complaint and responds according to its nature and seriousness, and who is involved (e.g. student, staff member, principal, board member).

NOTIFICATION AND CLOSURE

We will tell you about how we plan to manage your concern or complaint, and let you know when the matter is closed.

After responding to your concern or complaint, the school considers the matter closed.

If you feel your concern or complaint has not been resolved after receiving a response, you may escalate the concern or complaint to the principal or board.

After the board has dealt with a matter, there is no further avenue for consideration by the school.

If you need help to understand the concerns and complaints process, please contact the school.

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ARDGOWAN HOME AND SCHOOL

We welcome any of our parents/caregivers to join our Home and School committee.

homeandschool@ardgowan.school.nz

Absentees. Please inform the school via email, phone or Skool Loop if your child is going to be absent or late to school for any reason. Please expect a phone call or email from our school office if you have not contacted us - this is to ensure all children are safe, and is a Ministry of Education requirement which all schools must follow.

Please keep your child home if they are showing signs of sickness and let the office know.

School and Community Feedback Our Board of Trustees really values feedback from our school families and community. If you have any comments or feedback please feel free to email feedback@ardgowan.school.nz all communication is treated confidentially

BUS FAMILIES. If your child is getting off at a different stop in the afternoon to what they would normally, please give Pearsons a call or inform the school office so we can let the bus driver know. For safety reasons they are unable to drop children off at alternative stops unless prior parental permission is given

PLEASE DON'T PARK ON THE BERM! Our neighbours across the road have a lovely area of grass in front of their house, but vehicles parked there cause a considerable safety hazard to the residents and other road users. Tyre marks on their lawn are not appreciated. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Parents - road rule changes are here!

Four road rule changes came into effect across New Zealand on **1 October 2026**. Make sure you know what's changed before you and your children head out on the road.

Check out the **four changes below**, plus a link to helpful information from NZ Transport Agency for parents on teaching children how to ride safely on the footpath.

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/Safety/docs/Riding-bikes-on-the-footpath-for-children-12-and-under.pdf>

Four new road rules became law on 1st October 2026

Here's what they are:

- 1** Children 12 years old and under can ride bikes on footpaths and parents or caregivers can ride with them for safety.
- 2** People can ride e-scooters in cycle lanes.
- 3** Drivers must leave a minimum gap of 1.5 metres when passing other types of road users, e.g. cyclists, horse riders, pedestrians.
- 4** People must give way to buses leaving bus stops in areas with speed limits of 60km/h or less.



Cyclists (12 and under) on the footpath

- **Must give way** to pedestrians and mobility device users.
- Ride carefully in the middle of the path but move left when others are approaching.
- Ring your bell to let people know you're approaching from behind.
- Keep your hands on the brakes ready.
- Watch for vehicles entering or exiting driveways.
- Always wear an approved cycle helmet.



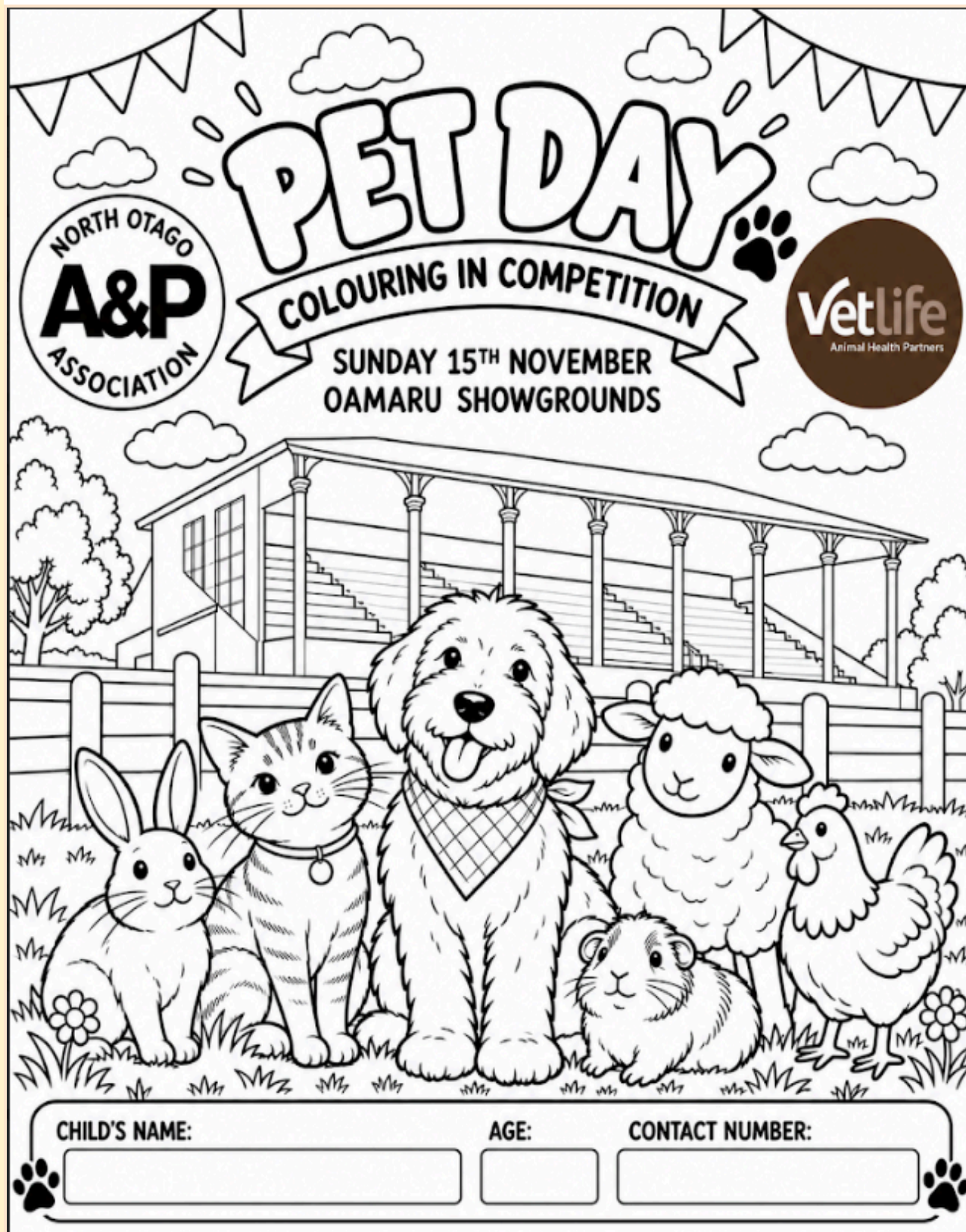
Drivers

- Give way to cyclists on the footpath when entering or exiting a driveway.
- Slow down when passing cyclists and give them at least 1.5 metres of space.
- Check for cyclists before opening your car door.

Pet Day on Sunday 15th November at the Oamaru Showgrounds, Competition Details

- **Entries close:** Saturday 7th November 2026
Prize: A family pass to the North Otago A&P Show on Saturday 27th February 2027!
Who can enter: All our budding little artists!

Simply colour in the attached sheet and fill in the child's name, age and contact number. Please return all entries to the school office by Friday 6 November.



Caring for Kids: Essential First Aid Training

Do you look after children in your home? Would you know what to do in a medical emergency? This **FREE half-day course** will give you the skills to identify and respond to serious illness and life-threatening medical emergencies. Through practical lessons and scenario-based activities, you'll gain the confidence to provide vital first aid assistance when it's needed most.

Course details

Date: Saturday 14 November

Time: 9.00am-1.30pm

Venue: St John Hall, [23 Exe Street, Oamaru](#)

Spaces are limited. Bookings are essential.

Book online:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/ZdaEE8mF6e>

Email: oamaruareaoffice@stjohn.org.nz



STOCK THE BUS

IS COMING YOUR WAY, AND
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOUR
SCHOOL OR KINDY ON BOARD
- LITERALLY!



Dunedin Wednesday 25 November 2026
Oamaru Wednesday 25 November 2026

Climb aboard, meet our festive characters, and (if possible) bring a donation in a reusable bag.

PLEASE DONATE

Toiletries (eg. deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary items)

Christmas treats (eg. chocolates, chips, biscuits)



Presbyterian Support
Otago

**NO TOYS AGAIN
THIS YEAR.**

With support from
RITCHIES

Caring for Kids:

Essential First Aid Training

This FREE half-day course is ideal for people who are looking after children in their own home. Our in-depth lessons and scenario-based activities will give you the skills to identify and deal with serious illness and life-threatening medical emergencies and the confidence to be able to offer vital assistance.

Upcoming course date:

Saturday 14 November 9:00am - 1:30pm
St John Hall, 23 Exe Street, Oamaru

Ardgowan School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:

NORTH OTAGO ROOFING

Talking Real Estate?
Jan Meikle
Harcourts

ASHTON WHEELANS
SHAPING SUCCESS
Business Consultants and Chartered Accountants

paperplus Oamaru

EXAXIS
CNC ROUTER & MACHINING
Innovative Precision Cutting - Reliable Results

WAIKAKI HEAVY
24HR DIESEL SERVICING
FOR ALL YOUR HEAVY DIESEL SERVICING & REPAIRS BOTH ON AND OFF THE ROAD

If you would like to advertise on the Ardgowan School Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com
To download our app: In Google Play & App Store
Search 'Skool Loop' & choose your school once installed.

SKOOL LOOP

Learn to be a Sugar Sleuth!



Did you know sugar comes in many forms with different names? Be a sugar sleuth and see how many of these you can find on food and drink packets
Often having food or drinks with added sugar can weaken our tooth enamel overtime, leading to holes in our teeth

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Community Oral
Health Service

Talkteeth Southern

Oamaru Multisport Club

DUATHLONS & FUN RUN SERIES

Wednesday nights, Registration is at 5.30pm.

November series: Duathlon and Fun Run - Three events to be held on Wednesday 11th, 18th and 25th November 2026.

Prizegiving will be held at the conclusion of the event on Wednesday 25th November.

Oamaru Harbour Playground. Registration is at 5.30pm

These events are suitable for all ages and abilities.

We encourage people to walk the Fun Run distances if they prefer

We also encourage teams including children and parents.

We recommend a parent bike beside their children if their child is under the age of 10.

Fun walk/run - 2.5k (1 lap), 5k (2 laps) or 10k (4 laps)

Duathlon:

Off the Couch 2k walk/run; 4k (1 lap) bike; 0.5k run

Weekend Warriors 2k run; 12 k (3 laps) bike; 2.5k run

3 week series - Wednesdays November 11, 18, 25 @ 6pm.

Register on-line or email oamarumultisportclub@gmail.com; Adair Craik 021-309439; Diane Talanoa 021-08150688

Adults \$10 per event or \$20 per series / students \$5 per event or \$10 per series

<https://www.sporty.co.nz/.../NOVEMBER-Fun-Run-Duathlon...>



MOUNTAIN BIKING

North Otago's Mountain Biking Club is holding another fun Chocolate Fish series in November

Dates are: 15th, 22nd and 29th November 2026

Venue is Willowpark Trails, Papakaio (entrance is opposite the Papakaio School)



Start time is 9.30am for children and 10am for students who are more advanced riders and adults

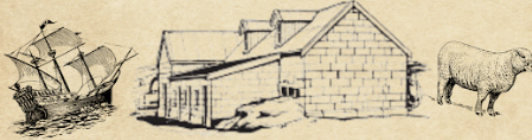
There is a choice of easy or more technical tracks

TOTARA ESTATE
565 ALMA-MAHENO HIGHWAY - 8KM SOUTH OF OAMARU

Victorian Heritage Celebrations

TALES and TEA at Totara

Celebrate the birthplace of the frozen meat industry



THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

10.30am & 2pm: Hear the story of Totara Estate from a different perspective. Explore the Estate as it comes to life through stories, then celebrate afterwards with freshly baked scones and billy tea.

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

10.30am & 2pm: Hear the story of Totara Estate from a different perspective. Explore the Estate as it comes to life through stories, then celebrate afterwards with freshly baked scones and billy tea.

\$30 per person, scones and tea included.
Bookings recommended.
Email: totaraestate@heritage.org.nz Phone: 03 433 126



Proudly cared for by
HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

TOHU WHENUA
Landmarks that tell our stories

TOTARA ESTATE
565 ALMA-MAHENO HIGHWAY - 8KM SOUTH OF OAMARU

Victorian Heritage Celebrations

SCONES, ZINES & HORSESHOES

AT TOTARA ESTATE

OPEN TO ALL AGES

GOLD COIN ENTRY

Victorian Zine Station

Drop in and create your own miniature masterpiece at our Victorian Zine Station. Inspired by the pamphlets, penny publications, illustrations, and printed ephemera of the past, visitors are encouraged to experiment with words, drawings, collage, and design.

Grand Victorian Scone Competition

Bring along your best scones for The Grand Victorian Scone Competition — a light-hearted celebration of baking and tradition. Bring four scones from any category (plain, cheese, or fancy/creative) to Totara Estate by 12pm to be judged and in to win a prize!

Competition details on Totara Estate Facebook or VHC website.

National Horseshoe Throwing Championship

Step into the ring and test your aim as you compete head-to-head for the chance to be crowned National Horseshoe Throwing Champion! Open to all ages and skill levels. Have a go while your scones are being judged!

Sunday 15th November 11am-2pm



Sunday 15th November 12pm



Sunday 15th November 12.15pm



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HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

TOHU WHENUA
Landmarks that tell our stories

SMASH PLAY
JUNIOR — TAMARIKI

\$20

Skill based games for kids new to cricket,
ages 5 years +
5 week programme starting 3rd Nov
3:30-4:15pm

Tuesday- Weston Park, Weston
Wednesday - Centennial Park, Oamaru
Thursday - Kurow Domain, Kurow
Friday - Palmerston Domain, Palmerston

Head to PlayHQ:
<https://www.playhq.com/new-zealand-cricket/register/088826>




Family works
Presbyterian Support Otago

Stronger whānau
Brighter futures

GRANDPARENTS & WHĀNAU SUPPORT GROUP

You don't have to do it alone.

Come along, connect with other caregivers, share experiences, and build a supportive whānau network.

CONNECT ♥ SUPPORT ♥ STRENGTHEN

- Connect with other caregivers who understand the journey
- Share practical support, ideas and experiences
- Strengthen your confidence and capacity to meet tamariki needs
- Support your wellbeing, belonging and connection
- Access individual support, advocacy and help to navigate services
- Share knowledge, strengths and resources

A SPACE FOR YOU

Whether you are a grandparent, auntie, uncle, sibling, or another whānau member caring for tamariki — you are welcome here.

Monthly Support Meeting
Fourth Thursday of the month
10:00am – 12:00 Noon

For further information contact
Christine Moffat
christine.moffat@psotago.org.nz
021 191 6327

Tamariki thrive when whānau are supported

PEOPLE • WHĀNAU • STRONGER TOGETHER

