



Geraldine Primary School

The heart of our community, together we thrive

NEWSLETTER/PĀNUI

Friday 6th March 2026

<u>Contact information:</u> Stuart Wilcox – Principal principal@geraldine.school.nz Office – Ph 03 693 8208 office@geraldine.school.nz Website: https://www.geraldineprimary.school.nz/	<u>Term Dates: 2026</u> Term 1 2 nd February - 1 st April Term 2 20 April - 3 July Term 3 20 July - 25 September Term 4 12 October - 15 December
<u>Important Dates:</u> Tuesday 10 th March – Year 5 & 6 Rippa Tournament, Timaru 8.30 Wednesday 11 th March – Tane Mahuta and Tāwhirimātea Try-a-thon 11.15 start Thursday 12 th – Friday 13 th March – Year 5 camp Raincliff Tuesday 24 th Wednesday 25 th March – 3 way conferences (see below) Wednesday 1 st April – Term 1 finishes	

Principal's Kōrero

Kia ora koutou whānau and welcome to our Pānui.

Thriving at Geraldine Primary School

Since our last newsletter, Geraldine Primary School has continued to be a thriving place, full of opportunities for our tamariki.

Year 6 Camp – Lindisfarne (Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th February)

The annual Year 6 camp was blessed with three days of stunning sunshine. The tamariki enjoyed a wide range of activities including visiting Rock Farm, tackling the famous Gut Buster, taking part in the camp talent show, swimming in the river, camping under the stars, building wakas and carrying out environmental water studies.

The children were outstanding throughout the camp, demonstrating resilience, teamwork and a great deal of manaakitanga. Our whānau who generously gave up their time were fantastic; without their support camps would not run so smoothly and efficiently. A special thank you also to Mrs Wilcox and Mrs Hanrahan for their organisation and energy in making this such a memorable experience.

Tangaroa Triathlon – Thursday 26th February

On waking up that morning, the weather looked dreary and certainly not very summer-like. Teachers made some quick adjustments and decided to continue with the event, offering it to those students who were particularly keen to participate. I was very impressed with the number of children who chose to take part. The event did not disappoint, with everyone giving their maximum effort. Well done to all those who participated.

Width Swimming Carnival – Tuesday 3rd March

This is such a wonderful opportunity for students who may find swimming challenging but want to showcase the progress they have made over the term. It is always a pleasure to see the smiles, determination and enthusiasm from the students as they give it their best.

Length Swim Sports – Wednesday 4th March

The weather was warm and the swimming talent was clearly on show. Throughout the afternoon we saw many personal bests and an impressive level of energy and encouragement. The afternoon concluded with the Year 6 whānau relay, which was closely contested and a great way to finish the event.

All of these events would not have been possible without the support of our teachers and parents. Our teachers work tirelessly to organise, manage and run these events to ensure our children experience as many opportunities as possible. Our parents are incredible in the way they volunteer their time and offer support so that our tamariki can enjoy these opportunities in a safe and supportive environment.

Staff news at Geraldine Primary School

Geraldine Primary is pleased to announce that we have employed Andrea Shaw as maternity cover for Jodi White. Andrea will begin at the start of term 2. Andrea is presently employed at Oxford Area School and is a very experienced Year 3 teacher. We are looking forward for Andrea to develop her career and Geraldine Primary School.

Our Values and Vision in Action

Over the next few newsletters we will spend time unpacking what each value and vision mean to all of us, whether we are at school, at home or in the community.

Be Caring and Have Heart

Mā te ngākau aroha koe e ārahi

Let a loving heart guide your decisions.

Let a loving heart guide your decisions is a gentle reminder that the choices we make should be grounded in kindness, empathy and care for others.

At Geraldine Primary School, this means encouraging our tamariki to think about how their actions affect those around them, and supporting them to make decisions that show respect, inclusion and manaakitanga.

When kindness guides our choices, we help create a school environment where everyone feels valued, safe and able to thrive.

These simple ideologies form the foundations upon which we should all strive to live. It is important that adults model these behaviours and continually remind both themselves and their children of their importance and relevance in our society. Without these foundations, the four walls of our whare become fragile and can easily be fractured or broken.

Attendance at Geraldine Primary School

This is just a reminder:

Regular attendance plays a vital role in learning, wellbeing, and success. Every day at school helps our tamariki access learning opportunities and reach their full potential.

We work closely with whānau to promote positive attendance habits and understand that challenges can arise. Please keep in touch with the school if your child is absent or if you need support. We are committed to working together to remove barriers and support regular attendance.

Clear information about our Attendance Management Plan and the STAR (Stepped Attendance Response) framework can be found on our school website.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping our tamariki thrive.

We have lots of exciting events coming up over the next few weeks, so please keep an eye on our school calendar to stay up to date.

Some important dates to note:

- **Three-Way Conferences** will be held on **Tuesday 24th March (3.00–5.30pm)** and **Wednesday 25th March (3.00–7.00pm)**. This is a valuable opportunity for tamariki, whānau, and kaiako to come together to discuss learning progress and next steps.
- **Term 1 finishes for students on Wednesday 1st April.**
- **Thursday 2nd April** is a **Ministry of Education Teacher Only Day**, and the school will be closed for instruction on this day.

We appreciate your support in planning ahead for these important dates.

Finally, we are looking for more of our wonderful whānau to join our **Community Engagement Group**. This group includes our two Head Students, staff members, and of course parents. The aim is to help organise whole-school events and act as a positive, fun link between school and home. It's a great opportunity to share ideas, strengthen connections, and contribute to the vibrant culture of our kura.

Our first meeting for the year will be held on **Wednesday 11th March** in the school meeting room.

I can't wait to see you there and hear your many awesome community ideas!

Stu Wilcox

Our senior triathletes



Tuakana Teina – Year 6 helping our juniors to play rippa.



Our happy width swimmers



Japneet enjoying the sun



Daniv and Lydia enjoying the cool water



Thank you so much Barkers for our yummy slushies



		PB4L	Desire/Aspire to Achieve
Tāne Mahuta	Room 3: Room 6: Room 7: Room 8: Room 9:	Hazel L-K Maymay Tazana Nevaeh Alex	Vinnie M Liam Harry R
Tāwhirimātea	Room 10: Room 11: Room 12: Room 13:	Mason Logan Uno	Eden Liam Hezekiah
Tangaroa	Room 1: Room 2: Room 4: Room 5:	Lydia B-R Carlos S Cohen	Mazean Flynn B Ariella

School Notices

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBERS

Please update us. We need to be able to contact parents/caregivers in case your child is unwell or injured.

SCHOOL HOURS

A reminder that school starts at 8.50am and finishes at 2.45pm. Please note that there is no teacher supervision for children who arrive at school before 8.20am.

Emails to and from school

We are aware that some emails both to parents and from parents are going straight to peoples spam or junk folders. Please check these regularly

Geraldine Primary School Board Casual vacancy for a parent representative

A casual vacancy has occurred on the school board for an elected parent representative.

The board has decided to fill the vacancy by selection.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent to:

Presiding member (chair), Alicia Pridham

Geraldine Primary School Board

Address: office@geraldine.school.nz

by: April 3rd 2026

Annual Donation Update - Thank You for Your Support!

We are delighted to share that at our recent meeting the Home & School Committee has proudly contributed a total of **\$19,000** this year to support a wide range of activities and resources that directly benefit our students.

These funds are to continue offering enriching learning experiences, updated resources, and memorable events across the school. Thank you to everyone in our school community whose ongoing support makes this possible.

This year's donations include items such as:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| • Educational Games | \$2,500 |
| • Swimming Lessons | \$5,500 |
| • Robot Maintenance | \$1,000 |
| • Reading Resources | \$3,000 |
| • Transportation | \$3,500 |
| • Events and activities | \$3,500 |

Total Contribution to date: **\$19,000**

These investments help ensure our students have access to high-quality learning opportunities and well-supported school events. We are incredibly grateful for the ongoing generosity of our school whānau.

Committee AGM - All Welcome

A reminder that our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** will be held on:

 **Tuesday, 31st March**

 **7:00pm in school staff room**

The **Committee Meeting** will follow immediately after the AGM.

We warmly invite all members of our school community to attend—your support and involvement make a meaningful difference.

Get in Touch

As always, if you want to contact us, please email gpsHOMEandschool@gmail.com or send us a message via our [Facebook page](#).

Beautiful Valley Trailride

SUNDAY 29 MARCH 2026

VENUE:

The Spurs, Beautiful Valley, Geraldine
(signposted from Geraldine/Fairlie Hwy, 15 minutes from Geraldine)

**SIGN ON &
SCRUTINEERING:**

Sunday from 9.30am

COST

\$ 70.00 Senior 16 yrs & over
\$ 50.00 Junior 12 - 15 yrs
\$ 20.00 Children 11 yrs & under

REQUIREMENTS:

All Riders Under 16 yrs Must Be Accompanied By An Adult Rider
Bikes & Riding Gears Must Be Clean
Boots, Helmet & Spark Arrestor Muffler (Compulsory)
No Dogs Please.



" Proudly Supports The Safety Of This Event"

- HIGH COUNTRY FARMLAND AND FORESTRY TRAILS
- SUITABLE FOR TRAILBIKES, NO QUADBIKES OR SXS'S
- CHILDREN'S, BEGINNER OFF-ROAD LOOP, SHORTCUTS
- NEW ENDURO OPTIONS FOR EXPERIENCED RIDERS
- BBQ/REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
- KNOBBLY TYRES ESSENTIAL
- FUNDRAISING FOR GERALDINE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Enquiries to Email

EMAIL: trailrides@xtra.co.nz for event posters & cancellation notices
www.facebook.com/AdventureTrailridesEvents



Community Notices

New Trustees Needed

Geraldine Children Social Work Trust has been raising funds to employ two social workers in local schools since 2012.

Children and youth grow up in a complex world these days, and they sometimes need a helping hand when things go wrong, for all sorts of reasons. GCSWT provides free local support for children, youth and whanau in the wider Geraldine area, as and when this support is needed.

If specialist services are needed from agencies based in Timaru or beyond, our social workers will liaise with the family and the agency to get the help they need. No judgement, just the right support as and when it's needed.

The social workers are based at Geraldine High School and Geraldine Primary School but they respond to referrals from Carew Peel Forest School, Woodbury School, Geraldine Kindergarten and Geraldine Preschool. So it's a district-wide support service.

Brittany Jordan (GHS) and Anna Clubb (GPS) are the two local social workers who are currently employed with funds provided by Geraldine Children Social Work Trust.



Brittany Jordan



Anna Clubb

Two long-serving Trustees, Kerry Stevens and Mark Hayward, are retiring soon at the Trust's next AGM. Both have contributed much to the Trust over many years, so we thank them and wish them well for the future.

Two or three new Trustees are now needed to help run the Trust to ensure local children and youth continue to get the support they need. A Trustee's commitment is not onerous, but the rewards for Geraldine's children and youth are great.

If you're interested in helping to make sure Geraldine's children and youth are supported appropriately, please contact any of the existing Trustees to discuss details of what is involved and how you could help to sustain the Trust.

Current GCSWT Trustees are:

- Ali Bowan 027 648 4423
- Kerry Stevens 021 043 6651
- Mark Hayward 027 420 6178
- Susan Pooke 027 368 2613
- Suzie Leslie 021 185 6570

All enquiries are welcome and will be treated confidentially. We look forward to hearing from you, so make that phone call now.

SJ Café
Social Joining
Every Wednesday 10am – 12 noon

What to expect – a perfect time to work on a puzzle, play cards, or a board game, bring your own activity/craft, or just turn up for a chat.
Be in the company of others in a relaxed and casual atmosphere.
No need to register -just turn up!

Tea and coffee provided
Transport by arrangement

Contact 027 432 2518 or northaorakicommittee@stjohn.org.nz
Location St John Geraldine, 124 Talbot Street, Geraldine

Registrations Now OPEN Seniors close, March 5th (contact Shaun)
Junior/Youth registrations close March 25th
2025 players will be contacted New players email the club

PLAY FOOTBALL 2026

Girls & Boys 7– 18
First Kicks 4-6
Seniors—Male 15+
Competitive & Social teams for Men

Geraldine Football Club
geraldinefootballclub@gmail.com
Paula 027 637 4775 Shaun 027 654 0658

LEARN TO SPEEDSKATE
INLINE SPEED SKATING BEGINNERS COURSE

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026

Where: SC Roller Sports Club on Marine Parade.
When: Sundays at 10am
Cost: \$3 per session (first session free)
Who: Anyone 5 and up
You can use your own skates or borrow a pair of ours. Bring long socks, a helmet and a drink bottle



SOUTH CANTERBURY Roller Sports Club

Weather permitting - If it's wet, we will start on the 22nd
For more information - Contact Cheryl on 021 026 26277

 **Anglican Advocacy South Canterbury**
Christchurch City Mission

Timaru Grief Cafe

1.30pm
Third Friday of the Month

Located on the 1st Floor of Cantec House (Tower Building) 22-24 George Street, Timaru.

Grief cafes are a non-judgemental, confidential cafe style peer support. Supported by experienced facilitators these cafes offer a time to share our personal journey of loss and be with others. Come and join the conversation.

Please contact me for any questions or programme requests.

Contact: Alexia on 0274 623 267

On **Wednesday 18 March**, Timaru District Council is supporting **#EYESUPNZ Driving and the Teenage Brain**, an engaging evening session designed for **young drivers and their caregivers**, hosted by **motorsport legend Greg Murphy** and **neuroscience educator Nathan Wallis**.

This practical, highly relatable session helps families better understand what's happening in the teenage brain when young people are behind the wheel — and how that impacts driving decisions and risk.

The session will cover:

- How the brain works
- How the brain works when driving
- Fatigue and driving
- Distraction and driving
- Speed, alcohol and drugs, and mobile phones
- Key driving and car safety tips

Event details

- **When:** Wednesday 18 March | 6:30 – 8:00pm
- **Where:** Caroline Bay Hall, Timaru
- **Who:** Young drivers and their caregivers
- **Cost:** This is a FREE event

Registration is required to help us manage numbers.

Please register at www.eyesupnz.co.nz/young-drivers

NOTE: ALL GAMES WILL BE PLAYED DURING THE WEEK IN TIMARU
WEDNESDAY NIGHT FOR PREM, PREM 1 & PREM 2 GRADES
THURSDAY NIGHT FOR WOMENS A & SOCIAL GRADES



2020
GERALDINE OLD GIRLS
TRIALS
SIGN UP - TRIAL FOR
GERALDINE OLD GIRLS

SUNDAY 22ND FEB
THURSDAY 26TH FEB
SUNDAY 1ST MARCH

CLICK ON THE QR CODE TO GET THE LINK TO REGISTER
AND GET INFORMATION, OR CONTACT ZOE 0279251088
OR EMAIL geraldineoldgirlsnetball@gmail.com



freshchoice geraldine

Junior Registrations 2026

Calling all 5-13-year-old girls and boys:
Please register using the new Rugby Xplorer portal
auth.rugbyexplorer.com.au/register
and join the Geraldine JAB Facebook page

\$60.00 SUB
(\$40.00 for any subsequent child/ren
from the same family)

EMAIL: geraldinejabrugby@gmail.com



Four Peaks Geraldine Seido Karate

Beginners classes start on **THURSDAY 12th of February 2026** at 5-50pm and runs for 12 weeks. Cost is \$2 per session. It is recommended that children are at least 6 years old and must be accompanied by a parent.

Venue: Geraldine Bowling Club rooms, 45 Wright Street, Geraldine, 7930

Four Peaks Geraldine Seido Karate is a well established club and has been running classes in Geraldine since 2006.

Seido Karate is a martial art that develops the following :

- ❖ Great Fitness Training developing stamina, strength and co-ordination skills.
- ❖ Builds up confidence and self-esteem as well as resilience in a supportive environment.
- ❖ Great Self Defence & Martial Art that will give you the skills and confidence to cope in any situation.
- ❖ Ideal for families as parents and children can train together in the same classes.
- ❖ Quality coaching from time served martial artists.

Contact Sensei Gisell on 02102287049 for more information or come down when we train and see what we do.

Sunday 22 February 2026
 Caroline Bay & C Bay Outdoor Pool, Timaru
Open For All Abilities - Come And Give It A Go!

Registrations: open now
 Event starts at 10 am
 facebook.com/TimaruKidsTriathlon
 email: entries@timarukidstriathlon.nz

Scan to Register

Sponsors: Be part of the action! become a TRIATHLON sponsor
 Support our kids, support our community! Help make magic happen!
 Put your logo where the action is - become a TRIATHLON sponsor!

8th March 2026 Great Spot prizes

Temuka Swim Club Triathlon

Mini Tri - Swim 2 widths, Bike 900m, 500m Run (approx 10am)
 Try a Tri- 50m Swim, 1.5km Bike, 500m Run (approx 9:30am)
 Short Course- 150m Swim, 4.5km Bike, 1.5km Run (approx 9am)
 393 - 300m Swim, 9km Bike, 3km Run (approx 8:30am)

Note - All bike courses are on grass and tracks. Start times will be finalized once online entries close.
 Cost- Primary \$10, 13-17 years \$15, Adults \$20, Teams \$30

If numbers allow, late registrations may be taken on the day at an extra cost

REGISTER ONLINE
 Before 6th March

Temuka Swim Club Website or Facebook

Molloy Agriculture Adventure Race

Sunday 15th March 2026
 3 and 6 hour rogain options available for teams
 Plus new 2km dash and 5km cross country run!

This event is a fundraiser for the Methven Community Pool Committee. Held at Mt Alford Station expect hills, farmland, pockets of native bush, rocky outcrops, and awesome views over the plains!

Visit crazykeaevents.nz for more information, or find Crazy Kea Events on Facebook

MTB | GRAVEL | E BIKE
170km, 92km, 77km, 34km
SATURDAY 11 APRIL 2026
Lake Tekapo, New Zealand
THEMACKENZIERACE.COM

THE MACKENZIE
LAKE TEKAPU
DEVOLD



COME RIDE THE MACKENZIE!



FREE EVENT

CELEBRATE CHILDREN'S DAY 2026

AT CAROLINE BAY HALL

SUNDAY 1st MARCH 10am-2pm

BRING A PICNIC. THE WHOLE WHĀNUA. AND YOUR SMILES FOR A DAY OF FREE FAMILY FUN!

#CHILDRENSDAYNZ

Celebrating Te Kōwhiri Children's Day!

TE Kōwhiri Children's Day



GNTM

SECRETARY WANTED

Join Our Committee!

ABOUT THE ROLE

- ✓ Manage emails and correspondence
- ✓ Take minutes at meetings
- ✓ Assist with general administration
- ✓ Support committee communication

WHY GET INVOLVED?

- ✓ Support local netball
- ✓ Be part of a friendly, supportive committee
- ✓ Flexible volunteer role
- ✓ Make a real difference in your community

INTERESTED?

For more information or to apply, contact:

✉ geraldinenetball@gmail.com
☎ Nicky 0276992237



Woolworths **futureFERNs**

NNZ Year 1 & 2 Netball Programme

Fun • Active • Confidence-Building

GN GERALDINE NETBALL

Starting Wednesday 22nd April 3.15pm - 3.45pm

Geraldine Domain Netball Courts

For Year 1 & 2 children \$20 per child 10-week programme

futureFERNs is Netball New Zealand's official introductory programme, designed to help young players learn basic skills, build confidence, and have fun in a supportive environment.

REGISTER ONLINE
www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/475232

MORE INFORMATION

☎ Nicky Taylor 027 699 2237
✉ geraldinenetball@gmail.com
🌐 www.sporty.co.nz/geraldinenc/Home

Follow us on Facebook:
Geraldine Netball Centre

GERALDINE NETBALL CENTRE

GN GERALDINE NETBALL

Centre Inc, PO Box 97, GERALDINE



Woolworths **futureFERNs**

NNZ Year 3-6 Netball Programme

Fun • Active • Confidence-Building

GN GERALDINE NETBALL

Starting Friday 24th April 2026 3.20pm - 4.45pm

Geraldine Domain Netball Courts

For Year 3 to 6 children \$60 for Year 3 & 4 \$65 for Year 5 & 6

futureFERNs is Netball New Zealand's official introductory programme, designed to help young players learn basic skills, build confidence, and have fun in a supportive environment.

REGISTER ONLINE
www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/475232

MORE INFORMATION

☎ Nicky Taylor 027 699 2237
✉ geraldinenetball@gmail.com
🌐 www.sporty.co.nz/geraldinenc/Home

Follow us on Facebook:
Geraldine Netball Centre

GERALDINE NETBALL CENTRE • PO Box 97, GERALDINE

GN GERALDINE NETBALL



**Geraldine Lioness Lions Club
presents a**

GARDEN & HOME EXPO

11th July, 2026

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Geraldine Primary School Hall

**Stalls, workshops, interesting
happenings all day.**

**We are looking for people to
have stalls selling either indoor
or outdoor garden or home
themed products.**

**All profits to Geraldine Bus
Trust and Westpac Helicopter**

**If you are interested please
ring Elizabeth 03 303 7241 or
0273083538 Or email**