



# Duntroon School



The **BEST** we can be! • Ko te **PAI** e taea e tatou!  
Term 4, Week 10, Friday 12th December 2025

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Account Number: 02-0900-0000540-000

*Kia ora whānau*

*We are feeling excited as we get to the end of the school year with some special times still to come. Everyone is enjoying the pool on these warm days and getting outside for games and fun times. There has been Christmas craft and baking happening in the classes. The Staff were very spoiled this week with some good fairies shouting us morning tea on Monday. We have had our own Secret Santa fun, then yesterday some generous senior students made a lolly laden gingerbread house for us. We are all feeling very spoiled and appreciated. Thanks everyone.*

### **Personnel**

As you are all aware Mrs Simpson has been on sick leave. After a lot of thought, Jane has handed in her resignation this week. She has given many years of service and educated generations of Duntroon students over a very long teaching career. I know she did not take this decision lightly as school is a big part of her life.

She was not intending to be at the end of year Assembly or Yr 8 graduation as she has her own daughter's Graduation to attend. At the start of the 2026 school year we will have a send off for Mrs Simpson to acknowledge her teaching career. Details will be sent home next year.

Ms Milmine will continue her work with the junior students from this term and teach Room 5 in term 1 next year.

### **Reports**

*This notice was on Skool Loop yesterday:*

*Your child brought home their school report yesterday. Please take the time to sit together, read the report and celebrate the progress and affirming comments their teacher has written. Discuss their next steps. The reflective comment each child has contributed to their report is often very enlightening and one to also celebrate and enjoy. They may want to chat more about this as well.*

*I know each teacher has taken time on each report, deliberated on everything they write. They take their assessments from class observations, student interactions and involvement in the curriculum inside and outside of the classroom along with data from testing. It is what we call triangulated information, not just on one piece of work or a test.*

*This year we have on the cover the class and teacher for 2026.*

*Something to know is our room numbers are now in this order from room 5 - 1, juniors to seniors. Team Tahī is still the senior room as per Duntroon tradition.*

*Ms Milmine (yr 0-2) rm. 5, Miss McNeill (yr 2-3) rm. 4, Miss George (yr. 3, 4, 5) rm. 3, Mrs Frear (yr. 5-6) rm. 2, Miss Tilbury (yr 7 - 8) rm. 1*

### **Year 8 Graduation**

*Next Monday after school the Yr 8s will have their Graduation celebration and afternoon tea for invited guests. A big group to say goodbye to. Miss Borrie has been extra busy preparing for this. It is a large group of students moving onto High School - a group of students who have been great role models in the school and very responsible and a pleasure to have in the school.*

*I look forward to seeing everyone at the final Assembly and shared lunch on Tuesday 16th December.*

*Treat day will happen on Monday to celebrate the positive behavior our students have shown over the term. Keep an eye on your child's teachers weekly class notes as to what they require for this day.*

**Wishing everyone a safe and happy festive season with their families.**

**Nga Mihi Nui, Sarah and Staff**





**Sarah Todd, Paul King, Lou Tait and the local Firetruck visited Duntroon School this week after the students have been doing a Firewise unit. They have been recording in their Firewise book their escape plan if a fire starts at their home and learning many useful facts about being Firewise with Ms Milmine and Miss McNeill. Such important and practical learning.**



**Final Assembly and Shared Lunch**

**Our last day for 2025 is Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>.**

**The final assembly will begin at 11am at the Duntroon Hall. At the completion of the assembly, we will head to the school for a shared lunch. We ask that families bring some food to contribute to the shared lunch.**

**Buses will run at 1pm from school.**

**Any queries, please contact the school office.**

**Thanks – Sarah and Staff**

**December**

15th Dec—Term Treat

16th Dec—School break up, 11am start.

**First day of school 2026**

**Monday 2nd February**



## DUNTROON LEAVERS 2025



Liam Amoroso

Liam started at Duntroon when he was 11 in Mrs Campbell's class. Next year, he will go to St Kevin's. His favourite thing about Duntroon is playing Basketball with his mates. In the future, Liam would like to work as an Information Technology Engineer.



Lilly-Grace Bayne

Lilly-Grace started at Duntroon when she was 5 in Mrs Simpson's class. Next year, she will go to Waitaki Girls'. The things she will miss about Duntroon are the camps, teachers and her friends, especially Annabelle. In the future, she would like to be a doctor.



Kaley Edwards-Seal

Kaley started at Duntroon when she was 5 in Mrs Simpson's class. Next year, she will go to St Kevin's. Her favourite thing about Duntroon is that it is a small, quiet school and you have one teacher all day. She is going to miss her Year 7 friends. In the future, she would like to be an author or actress.



Seth Black

Seth started as a 5 year old in Mrs Simpson's class. Next year, he will go to Otago Boys'. His favourite things about Duntroon are the sports, especially playing Basketball and Touch. He also likes that it is a small school with less people as it makes it feel more like a community. In the future Seth would like to work in the Agriculture industry, potentially something in genetics.



Travis Butcher

Travis started at Duntroon as a Year 7 in Miss Borrie's class. Next year, he will go to Waitaki Boys'. A highlight from his time at Duntroon has been playing hockey and making the final this year. Travis isn't sure what he'd like to do after school yet.

Oliver started as a 5 year old in Mrs McCone's class. Next year, he will go to Waitaki Boys'. His favourite things about Duntroon are that we have good resources and facilities, the teachers and the sports opportunities. Oliver would like to do something in engineering after he leaves school.



Oliver Hamilton



## DUNTROON LEAVERS 2025



Hamish Isbister

Hamish started at Duntroon when he was 5 in Mrs Simpson's class. He is heading to Waitaki Boys' next year. His favourite thing about Duntroon is the sports team. The highlights being the hockey final in 2024 and 2025. In the future, Hamish would like to be a farmer.



Ida Mangmee

Ida started at Duntroon when she was 5 in Mrs Simpson's class. Next year, she will go to St Kevin's. The things she will miss about Duntroon are the people because everyone takes care of each other and are supportive. In the future, she would like to be an artist.



Maevyn Monegro

Maevyn started at Duntroon when she was 11 years old in Mrs Campbell's class. Next year, she will go to St Kevin's. The things she will miss about Duntroon are the teachers and her friends. She will also miss activities such as camps. She would like to be a structural engineer or a lawyer in the future.



Zham Salcedo

Zham started at Duntroon when she was Year 7 in Miss Borrie's class. Next year, she will go to St Kevin's. The thing she will miss about Duntroon are the teachers. She thinks she might like to be a nurse when she leaves school.



Kristian Nicol

Kristian started at Duntroon School when he was 10 years old in Mrs Frear's class. His favourite thing about Duntroon are the term treats. When he grows up he would like to be a game developer.



Lindsay Sanidad

Lindsay started at Duntroon when she was 5 years old but shortly after went to Glenavy. She returned to Duntroon when she was 8 years old. Next year, she will go to St Kevin's. The things she will miss about Duntroon are the teachers, her friends and the fact that everyone is kind. She thinks she might like to be a vet.



Olivia Strachan

Olivia started at Duntroon when she was 5 in Mrs Simpson's class. Next year, she will go to Waitaki Girls'. Her favourite thing about Duntroon has been her friends because they are kind and fun people. Olivia is thinking she might like to be a teacher or work in the medical field.



Clive Tepper

Clive started at Duntroon when he was 9 in Mr Hannigan's class. Next year, he will go to Waitaki Boys'. His favourite thing about Duntroon is the camps because they are fun and exciting. In the future Clive would like to be an accountant.



## DUNTROON LEAVERS 2025



Ruby Tremewan

Ruby started at Duntroon when she was 5 and a half in Mrs Simpson's class. She is heading to Craighead next year. The things she will miss about Duntroon are the people, her friends and the sports opportunities. She would like to be a large animal vet in the future.



Leah Wilson

Leah started at Duntroon when she was 5 in Mrs Simpson's class. She is heading to Waitaki Girls' next year. The things she will miss about Duntroon are her friends, the environment and the sports opportunities. She thinks she might like to be a nutritionist in the future.



Hazel Wills

Hazel started at Duntroon when she was 5 in Mrs Simpson's class. She is heading to St Kevin's next year. Her favourite thing about Duntroon are all of the good people at school and she will miss the horse jumps. After leaving school she would like to be an interior designer or architect.

## DUNTROON TRAIL RIDE SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

Keep the 21st of March free to help your school in this once a year amazing fundraising event!



The Danseys pass trail ride has been going for over 20 years and has been the biggest trail ride in the south island for a number of years, we have over 1000 riders coming every year! It is an amazing event which helps provide amazing resources and opportunities for the kids at Duntroon school.

The trail ride committee has been busy ticking away in the background these last few months, getting Key things organised. However This ride needs more than committee people to ensure the event can run. On the weekend of the event we basically need someone from every family to help out in some way.

This doesn't mean you need to know anything about bikes! You also don't need to commit a lot of time, just 2 hours is all we need. There is more than one type of role needed, So have a read of this newsletter to get an idea of what we will need, ready for February when I will be sending out a request for help/availability. And don't hesitate to contact me if you want

(Sarah Todd on 0273832555)

## DUNTROON TRAIL RIDE SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

The Danseys pass trail ride covers a wide range of country from the tussock hill blocks up towards the Otekaieke reserve, forestry blocks behind Livingstone, gnarly bush tracks behind the Maraewhenua river, and spectacular views from the top of Ben Lomond. It has track levels for everyone from a family friendly 50cc level trail, fast and open intermediate track, 2 advanced loops providing diverse riding conditions and an 'extreme' gnarly tight track. Very few people can complete all the tracks in a day, which keeps people coming back for the fun and the challenge.



### Providing epic tracks makes this a great ride!

We need **track makers** and people to help with **track maintenance** leading up to the day of the event. If you enjoy riding a 2 wheeler and want to be involved in the track team talk to Phil Wilson (0274240311) Track levels range from family to extreme.

If you're happy to use loppers, line trimmers, weed wackers or chainsaws, to clear broom gorse, and trees from tracks come along to some working bees. You will start to see notices in the newsletter/ facebook pages/Skool Loop regarding track working bees. For any information about this you can talk to Lowri OCallaghan (0211176214)

## DUNTROON TRAIL RIDE SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

Having a smoothly run event makes this ride a great event to come to.

People arrive at the 'Base paddock' from 7am. We need lots of people on deck here to get the event started. We require people to help with.

car parking,

registration and payments,

checking bikes and riders for safety gear

For any questions relating to these jobs, talk to Sarah Todd (0273832555) in the first instance.

**Providing a safely run event is also what makes this a great ride.**

we need track marshalls to ride loops of the tracks throughout the day,

Riders also cross roads out on track, and we need help manning the road crossings

If riding bikes is up your alley, and you're happy to help in this way let Phil Wilson (0274240311) know. You need to be available to pre ride on Thursday and on the day.

If you're happy to sit out on a quiet country road for some part of the day, this can just be for a 2hr stint, or if you're available all day, you can cover a variety of crossings throughout the day. Many of the roads will see no car traffic, so bringing young kids will be fine. The busier roads are best suited for people who are able to find help for kids on the day, or have older children (over 10) for questions regarding this talk to Sarah Todd (0273832555)



## DUNTROON TRAIL RIDE SATURDAY 21ST MARCH 2026

If you're interested in helping please keep an eye on newsletters, and Skool Loop, but also sign up to **Duntroon school families facebook page**. This is the easiest way for committee members to communicate with families.

**Providing a great ride day also means FOOD!** We provide food for riders and volunteers on the day with a **BBQ** running from 8am-5pm.

For more information about the BBQ talk to Charlotte Montgomery (0273470329)

**Kids can also help** by selling spark arrestors at registration tent, they can hand out rider briefings as riders line up to register, and older kids can be the second adult on the quieter road crossings.



### Summary

	Role	When
Bike riding roles	Assist with track making	months leading up
	Track marshall	Thursday/Friday/Saturday
Field jobs (bike related)	Spark and safety gear checking	On the day 7-11am
Field jobs (not bike related)	Car parking	On the day 7-11am
	Registration and payments	On the day 7-11am
	Controlling a road crossing	On the day (2 hr roster)
	Track Maintenance (working bees)	Months leading up (usually 6/7.30pm)
Food	BBQ assist	On the day (7-5pm on a roster)

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## NEED A BABYSITTER?

HI, I'M AMELIA WILLS! A RESPONSIBLE, FRIENDLY  
TEEN BABYSITTER. WHETHER YOU NEED  
OCCASIONAL OR REGULAR HELP, FEEL FREE TO  
REACH OUT!



# BABYSITTING

PHONE NUMBER - 0220907598  
\$20/HR

# Active Kids Waitaki Holiday Programme

## January 2026

Waitaki Community  
Recreation Centre

Monday - Friday  
19 Jan to 23 Jan; 9.30am – 12.30pm

Primary & Intermediate-  
aged children



WAITAKI COMMUNITY  
**RECREATION  
CENTRE**

**\$10 per child per day**  
Regos open now. Places are  
limited to 40 children per day.  
To register, go to

[www.sporty.co.nz/waitakircr](http://www.sporty.co.nz/waitakircr)

For more info contact the Rec  
Centre 4346932 / 021 08150688

Registrations open now [www.sporty.co.nz/waitakircr](http://www.sporty.co.nz/waitakircr)

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday: 9.30am – 12.30pm  
Different activities each day!

## 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 well
- 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

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  
[coachnopc@gmail.com](mailto:coachnopc@gmail.com)

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



**Give it a go!**

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

