



Duntroon School

The **BEST** we can be! • Ko te **PAI** e taea e tatou!
Term 1, Week 3, Friday 20th February 2026

E-mail: office@duntroon.school.nz

Account Number: 02-0900-0000540-000

Kia ora whānau

It was great to see many families attending the 'Meet the Teacher' day last Friday. I recognise our community is great at getting involved and being informed of what is happening for their child here at Duntroon School. Our doors are open and we love seeing families in our school.

Yesterday I worked with the whole school and asked for 'student voices' about what they see as what it means to them about being a Duntroon-ite. Such genuine responses from all ages, and beautifully supported by our senior students. We started with a feels like, looks like & sounds like. Here is a small snapshot of them. (these will lead to a display in the Office for you to see)

Looks like: happiness, fun, smiles, people playing together, people helping each other, wearing uniforms with pride,

Sounds like: children's laughter, talking, sharing ideas, manners, greeting people, kind words used.

Feels like: safe, welcoming, home, inclusive, supported & included.

As I said to Julie from ERO last week, if you want to really know about our school go and talk to the students (which she did). ERO was a very intense 3 days involving Board, Staff and students. I very much appreciated the support and hard work from the teachers and Board leading up to and during the visit. Julie Greenwood is now working on her report which will be firstly shared with the Board then the Community.

PALs 2026 students (insert photo)

It is exciting to announce the new PAL Leaders at Duntroon School for 2026 these students are:

Kane Bell, Tate Hamilton, Henry Tremewan, Willow Armiger, Mason Montgomery, Jacob Trezise, Eden Savill & Michael Craig. PAL stands for **Physical Activity Leader** and is a first for Duntroon School. We are a great school at being active and enjoying our playground space.

This is an opportunity to continue this great school culture and contribute to enhancing it even more by having PALs in our School. The PALs program helps students who are already showing Leadership skills, become role models and develop their skills further. This training includes Leadership, Communication and Inclusion training, finishing with some planning. The training will be carried out by Sport Otago on Wednesday 18th March at Waitaki Valley School.



Request for donations:

If there were any households where the following items are in good condition and surplus to requirements we would very gratefully accept them:

- Classroom building equipment like Lego, connect, blocks, construction toys.
- Sandpit equipment: cars, trucks, diggers, shovels
- Wheat bags
- We are wanting to keep our new carpet pristine and wondered if anyone had a lux stick or hand vacuum.

News Cont....

Structured Literacy

All of the teachers had two full days of Professional Development this week which continues into next week with a full day online training for each teacher. This is a massive commitment to ensure we are delivering the Structured Literacy component to learning which will be taught across the School. An intense start to the year for our dedicated teachers who do this while keeping all the other balls in the air with their regular classroom teaching workload.

Reminder:

Mrs Simpson's farewell afternoon tea - 25th February 2:30 pm

Mrs Simpson will be formally farewelled by the school at an afternoon tea here on the verandah on the 25th February .

The Board and Staff warmly invites any one who wishes to attend. This is in acknowledgment of the very many years of teaching service Jane has given to Duntroon School.

We will have afternoon tea and share some words of farewell. Can you please bring a small plate to contribute to the occasion.

Looking ahead:

Goal setting Teacher/Parent meetings - 11th and 12th March

Buses will run early on these two days as interviews start at 2:15pm. As in previous years the bookings can be made via Skool Loop. **You will get a message closer to the time when the booking system is open.**

Ngā mihi

Sarah & Staff

UPDATE

Paid Union Meeting 24th February(PUM) ½ day SCHOOL WILL NOT BE CLOSED as said in the previous newsletter.

Dates to remember

February

Tues 24th—Paid Union Meetings (afternoon)

March

Mon 2nd—Upper Waitaki Swimming Sports

Tues 3rd-Fri 6th—Tech Week

Wed 11th—N.O. Swimming Sports

March cont...

Sat 21st—DANSEYS PASS TRAIL RIDE

Thurs 26th- Fri 27th—Year 8 Camp, Iona

APRIL

Thurs 2nd—Last day of term 1

Fri 3rd—Easter, Good Friday



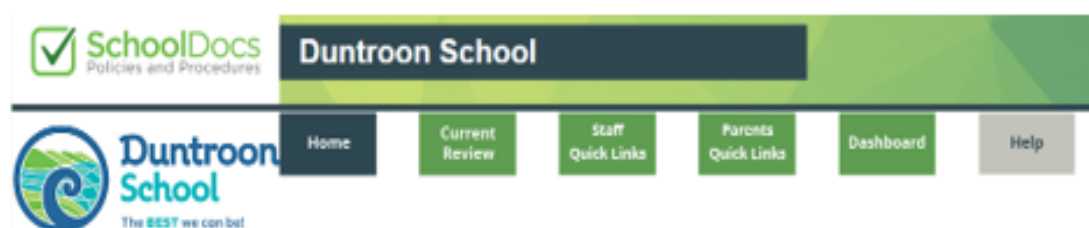
Policy Reviews Term 1 2026

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:

- **Cellphones**
- **Firearms (optional policy)**

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 March 27th

Thank you. Your feedback is appreciated.

Have you downloaded our Skool Loop app yet?

Never miss important school information again!

- ✓ Events
- ✓ Notices
- ✓ Instant school messages
- ✓ Absentee
- ✓ Newsletters
- ✓ Permission Slips

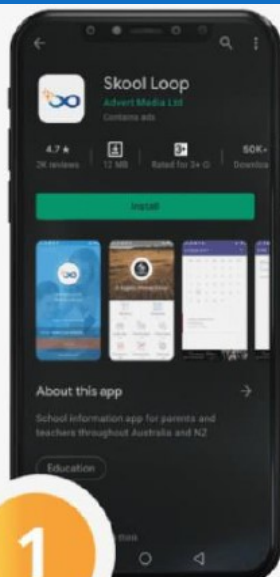


Simple free download:
In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed

Downloading the Skool Loop app - a step by step guide

Once you have downloaded the Skool Loop App, via either your Google Play or App store, please follow the below instructions to select your school -

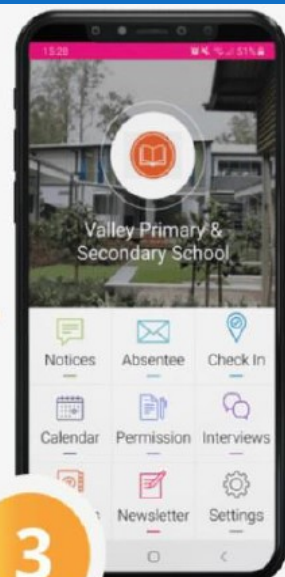
- Open the Skool Loop App - you will land on a welcome page.
- Click the 'Select your schools' this will bring you to a menu you can either search your school or follow the country/region prompts.
- Once you reach your school, select it with the tick on the righthand side.
- Tap the 'select schools' button in the top right corner.
- Tap the big orange choose button. This will load your school and bring you to the settings page.
- Subscribe to the groups that are relevant to you, then click the 'go back' button on your phone, which will bring you to the main screen of your schools app.



1



2



3

Ruma Rua News



CLASSROOM HIGHLIGHTS

Our first three weeks have been filled with exciting activities and new discoveries. We enjoyed having Mrs Kingan for two days this week doing some creative writing, making stop motions and doing some art. Then today we had Mrs Hamilton in for music, a lovely way to finish the week.



THE BEST PART OF ME

For writing the students did such an amazing job of sharing what is the best part of them and why. I am so proud of how they have turned out. We read "The Best Part of Me" by Wendy Ewald and then created our own bubble maps to organise our thoughts.



LICHTENSTIEN PORTRAITS

Roy Lichtenstein was a prominent American pop artist who favoured old fashioned comic strips as a subject matter. The students of Ruma Rua have executed these well.

Please feel free to come and visit us and read our favourite parts of us and see our amazing portraits.





We could be in to win a visit from
Jash Coppins MX legend.
Please go to this link to enter us in
the draw.

[https://www.facebook.com/
share/1GhUjm5pSF/?
mibextid=wwXlfr](https://www.facebook.com/share/1GhUjm5pSF/?mibextid=wwXlfr)

The more entries we have, the
bigger chance we have of winning.

**Massive thank you to
Madison Coulter Fine Art**

Duntroon School was lucky enough to win one of her
exquisite prize packs, which will be great for the education
of our kids.

Check out her website

<https://madisoncoulterfineart.com/>

MADISON  COULTER
FINE ARTS



Danseys Pass TRAILRIDE 2026

SAT 21ST MARCH

BUSHY CREEK ROAD DANSEYS PASS
6 TRACKS & 165KMS+ OF EPIC TERRAIN



**ONLINE REGISTRATIONS
ARE OPEN NOW!**

www.danseyspasstrailride.org

COME HUNGRY!



PROUDLY SUPPORTING



NEXT MONTH its TRAIL RIDE
So keep the weekend of 21st March FREE!

Keep up to date and get the word out!
Like and share the Danseys pass trail ride facebook page

If you haven't been involved in the trail ride before here is some information to help give you an idea of what is involved, and hopefully give you some ideas of how you could help

The Danseys pass trail ride has traditionally been the biggest trail ride in the south island for a number of years, we have over 1000 riders coming every year! And we want to keep it this way.

There are 5 tracks catering for different rider levels and providing diverse terrain. Terrain ranges from open tussock country, steep rocky bush covered river gorge track, forestry, old mining areas and easier farm land for the junior rider



Keep up to date
Join up to Duntroon school families facebook group
Keep eye on Skool Loop and newsletter

NEXT MONTH its TRAIL RIDE

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TRACK MAKING

One of the main roles leading up to the event is track making, this involves riding areas on 2 wheelers and deciding where tracks will go, determining any maintenance that will be required to get bikes around on the day. This year track riding is on a Thursday evening each week. The week of the trail ride tracks will also be marked with fluorescent paint/tape and signs. if you would like to be involved for this trail ride or just find out about it for next year talk to Phil Wilson (0274240311)

TRACK MAINTENANCE

In order to get over 1000 bikes around the tracks, tracks need to be cleared of gorse, broom, broken branches , trees and some areas sprayed. You will start to see the notices regarding track working bees. (on the "[duntroon school families facebook group](#)") dates and times these will be held is TBC. Just turn up with some gardening equipment such as loppers/hedge trimmer/chainsaw/saw, and bring the kids too. Lowri O'Callaghan is looking after this, so any questions please just send her a message or give her a call (0211176214)

TRACK PRE RIDE

On Thursday and Friday before the event, all the tracks will be ridden by track marshalls and as many other people as possible. Each track needs about 20-30 bikes over it to check that the marking is adequate, and also to create wheel marks to help further with track marking. It also identifies any problem areas. If you are able to do this please talk to Phil Wilson (0274240311)

TRACK MARSHALING

On the day of the event we need 50-80 marshalls. These people ride 2 wheelers over the tracks throughout the day wearing pink vests. They are able to rectify any problems on the track, key marshals have radios to sort help if needed, and can report back to base paddock if tracks need to be closed or issues remedied. If you are able to do this on saturday (MUST also be able to do the pre ride days) please contact Phil Wilson (0274240311)

BASE PADDOCK

Base camp set up on Friday involves turning up to paddock on Bushey creek road on Friday 20th for 1-2 hours (time to be advised) to help set up tents, and signage for the next day

Keep up to date

[Join up to Duntroon school families facebook group](#)

[Keep eye on Skool Loop and newsletter](#)

NEXT MONTH its TRAIL RIDE

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Base camp cleanup on Sunday: Turn up to base paddock on Bushey creek road on Sunday 9am. We collect rubbish, pack down tents, load all equipment onto trailers and store away. The more people who turn up, the faster and easier this job is.

CAR PARKING

Riders start arriving from 7.30am on Saturday, so from about 7am-9.30am we need about 6-8 people to direct vehicles to their car park. This needs plenty of people early on as the cars need directed to the far side of the paddock, as the car park fills up we don't need many people to finish off car parking

REGISTRATIONS

From 7.30am until about 10am all riders will need to come through the registration tent to pay and collect their rider sticker. This job involves ticking off pre registered riders, and registering and collecting payments from "on the day registrations" we need at least 10 people on the desks

SPARK CHECKING

All bikes have to enter the spark checking chutes before they can enter tracks. This job requires people to see if the bike has a spark arrestor (stop the chance of starting a fire in dry conditions) and also just ensuring basic safety gear is worn as per safety gear policy. Once checked riders have a sticker for their bike to identify the bike is suitable to ride. If required bikes are directed back to registrations where they can purchase a spark arrestor. We are not responsible for bike safety as per our disclaimer. Some bike or mechanical knowledge is helpful in this role but not necessary, approx 4-6 people needed here.

BBQ

We provide food for riders on the day. We run a BBQ making burgers on the day, and also provide other food items for purchase. At the BBQ your role could be cooking eggs/onions/bacon/patties. It could be preparing buns/salad and supplies, it could involve taking orders and money, or it could involve cleaning and clearing up in the background. During the busy lunch period we have more people around to keep the bbq going as quickly as possible.usually anywhere around 10-15 people helping out here

ROAD CROSSINGS

Keep up to date

Join up to Duntroon school families facebook group

Keep eye on Skool Loop and newsletter

NEXT MONTH its TRAIL RIDE

So keep the weekend of 21st March FREE!

The tracks cross roads in a number of points, there are usually 6-8 crossings manned by 2 people in 2 hour shifts from 8.30-5pm. (so approx 15 people at any one time) Road Crossing people are to stop bikes if there is any car traffic. Crossings are also a communication point, and have radios to communicate with base paddock, often people with injuries will get to a crossing, and can then organise collection via st John or can be directed via shortcuts back to base if the injury is not too serious, it is also where any issues out on track can be communicated back to base and a plan implemented to remedy. Most of the roads will have little to no car traffic, so it is easy enough to bring children with you. I like to ensure that the busier roads are manned by adults who have older children. If you have any questions regarding this please get in touch with me (Sarah Todd 0273832555)

KIDS CAN HELP TOO

Kids can sell raffle tickets throughout the day with prizes donated from local businesses, They can sell spark arrestors at the registration tent. They can hand out rider briefings and rider registration forms as cars arrive. and older kids can be the second adult on the quieter road crossings. In other years an adult with a group of older kids has set up a milkshake bar at the BBQ (milk and syrup can be supplied) as a year ½ camp fundraiser. So if someone wants to take responsibility for this, get in touch with me (Sarah 0273832555)

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE

Attached is the volunteer questionnaire for people to fill out. Please let me know ALL the times you are available, and ALL areas where you would be happy to help as I use this to put together a roster that ensures we have enough hands on deck for all the areas mentioned above.

It is OK to just head down for your rostered job, but it is also great to come down for the day and be available to fill in where needed, especially from 8am-10am when all the riders are arriving!

See you there!

Danseys Pass trail ride 21st March 2026

Our main school fundraiser!!

For those who are new to trail ride, I hope the trail ride info in the newsletter gave everyone a better understanding about the trail ride and what is involved, and how you might be able to help!

It would be great if everyone could get back to me by **Friday 27th February**, please let me know even if you are unavailable, as I will do a final ring around if I haven't received any reply.

Please write your name down for as MANY areas you would be comfortable helping with

(This ensures that I have enough flexibility to put the roster together-it doesn't mean you will be doing all of them)

Family:

Parent (Name/Number)

Parent (Name/Number)

Children: (Names/ages)

School children will be there on the day: Yes/No

Preschool children will be there on the day: Yes/No

(this in particular is helpful to know when sorting road crossings, as some roads are busier than others)

	Parent name(s) available	Times available
Help set up base camp (Friday) 9am-12pm		
Registration (Saturday) 7.30-10am		
Car parking (Saturday) 7.30-10am		
Spark arrestor checking (Saturday) 7.30-10am		
Road marshall (Saturday) 2 hour stint between 8.30-5pm		
BBQ -lunch (Saturday) 2 hour stint between 10am-6pm		
Clean up (Sunday) 10am-12pm		
Kids can help (Saturday) (name/age/what they want to help with)		

Return by phone/message to Sarah Todd 0273832555

Return by email to Sarah Todd tjs.todd.dairies@farmside.co.nz

Or return to school with your child

FIL PAPAKAIO 8 HOUR SCHOOL COMP

7-12 YRS KIDS TRACK / 13 YRS+ MAIN TRACK 4/8 HRS
1 & 2 HOUR LOOPS RIDE SOLO OR IN A COMPETITIVE OR SOCIAL TEAM



14TH MARCH 2026
WILLOW PARK, OAMARU

WIN A BIKE!

Thanks to Victor
Nelson Cycles & Giant

ENTRY FEE \$10 7-12YRS
\$80 13YRS+ / RIDER

**WHO WILL TAKE HOME
THE SHIELD & GLORY?**

Register Now at

www.papakaio8hour.nz

Follow us on
social media



Papakaio 8 Hour
Mountain Bike
Challenge



@papakaio8



FUNDRAISER FOR
PAPAKAIO SCHOOL



BACKED BY MAJOR SPONSOR



PAPAKAIO 8 HOUR MTB CHALLENGE

14TH MARCH 2026

WILLOW PARK, SH 83, DAMARU

WWW.PAPAKAIO8HOUR.NZ



FUNDRAISER FOR
PAPAKAIO SCHOOL



MARCH 14TH 2026 / WILLOW PARK

BATTLE OF THE BIKERS

RIDE OUR EVENT AND COMPETE AGAINST OTHER SCHOOLS TO TAKE OUT THE TITLE

Check out our socials for more info



How to score big and rep your primary school

IT'S TIME TO RIDE, SCORE, AND MAKE YOUR SCHOOL THE ULTIMATE BIKING CHAMPION!

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN STACK THOSE POINTS AND CLAIM VICTORY:

Sign Up = Score Up: Just by registering, you score 1 point for your school. Easiest points ever, right?

1

Lap Masters: Every lap your school smashes out earns 1 point. So, keep those wheels spinning!

1

Bonus Squad: For every 10 riders signed up, your school bags 5 bonus points. Round up your crew and lock in those points!

5

ASK YOUR PARENTS TO REGISTER ONLINE FROM JAN 1ST 2026
www.papakaio8hour.nz

WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL *Free*
presents
OAMARU'S FRIENDLY BAY FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 07 MARCH 2026 10.30AM - 2.30PM

BRINGING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR CLASSIC FAMILY FUN AND WHĀNAU WELLBEING

SPORT WAITAKI | Waitaki Road Safety | real | BREAKTHROUGH | WASTE FREE WAITAKI | Waitaki District Council

LATIN DANCE WORKOUT



This activity is part of the Active Movement Programme and is available to all newcomers and migrants

SATURDAYS

7th February, 14th February, 21st February 2026
12.30 - 1.30 pm, Recreation Centre, 43 Orwell Street
No classes during school holidays. **Cost: FREE**



Join us for our Latin Dance Workout. Spaces are limited.

REGISTER / QUESTIONS

Justyna Miller: 0224663240
connector@waitakimulticultural.org.nz

WAITAKIMULTICULTURAL.ORG.NZ

FACEBOOK.COM/WAITAKIMULTICULTURAL

WAITAKI MULTICULTURAL

ENGLISH CONVERSATION

🕒 Every Tuesday 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm
Does not run during school holidays

📍 Community House
100 Thames Street, Oamaru 9400

- ✓ Improve your English language skills
- ✓ Learn English speaking and listening
- ✓ The topic changes on a weekly basis
- ✓ Meet and connect with new people

Contact Justyna Miller
📞 022 466 3240
✉ connector@waitakimulticultural.org.nz

FREE JOIN US TODAY

KUROW CRICKET CLUB

2026 season starting Friday 13th February

Games are Friday nights in Term 1 and Term 4 starting at 4.30pm. There are 4 grades; Smash cricket, Primary Cricket, Intermediate A and Intermediate B. Duntroon is the home ground and games are played in Oamaru, Weston and Duntroon.

Practice will be on Wednesdays, location TBC with your coach.

For more information please follow the Facebook page @Kurowcricketclub or contact Ben Nowell 0272266619



Kurow Cricket Club



LET'S GET ACTIVE

LEARN HOW TO PLAY CRICKET

Join us for some cricket. Everyone is welcome

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
FROM 3.30 PM TO 5 PM AT
WHITSTONE CONTRACTING
CENTENNIAL PARK

Register your interest

Justyna Miller - 0224663240
connector@waitakimulticultural.org.nz



FREE

FAMILY CONNECT GROUP

Everyone is welcome

JOIN US FOR

- ✓ Friendly chats and support
- ✓ Guest speakers from Community Organisations
- ✓ Meet parents from around the World
- ✓ Playgroup activities for children 0 - 5 years

- 🕒 **Every Monday**
10.30 am - 12.30 pm
- 📍 Plunket Rooms
1 Severn Street, Oamaru
- ✉ Contact Justyna
022 466 3240
connector@waitakimulticultural.org.nz



Danseys Pass TRAILRIDE

2026

SAT 21ST MARCH

BUSHY CREEK ROAD DANSEYS PASS
6 TRACKS & 165KMS+ OF EPIC TERRAIN
ONLINE REGISTRATIONS ARE OPEN NOW!

www.danseyspasstrailride.org

PROUDLY SUPPORTING





MEADOWBANK UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB

2026 JUNIOR FOOTBALL REGISTRATIONS OPEN NOW!

SEASON DATES – FOOTBALL WAITAKI

Start: Saturday, 2 May 2026

Final / Festival Day: Saturday, 4 July 2026

AGES & FEES

First Kicks (ages 4–6): \$40

Grades 7–13: \$80

TRAINING

Wednesday afternoons / evenings

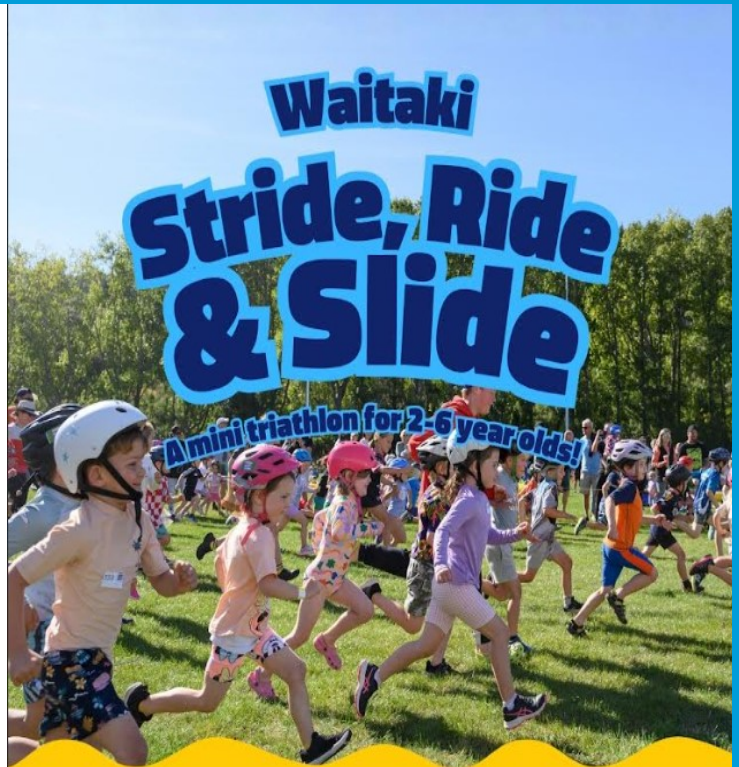
(Times confirmed once coaches are finalised)

Fun • Friends • Fitness • All Skill Levels Welcome

SCAN TO SIGN UP



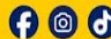
<https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/500428>



MARCH 1

AWAMOIA PARK
ŌAMARU
1PM START

ONLINE ENTRY
\$7 OR \$10 CASH
ON THE DAY



WWW.SPORTOTAGO.CO.NZ



13 - 15 MARCH, 2026
ŌAMARU, NZ

RUNNING ALONGSIDE CONNECTING COMMUNITIES CREATIVELY – KA HUI TAHI, WE'RE EXCITED TO OFFER A DEDICATED JUNIORS MUSICAL THEATRE PROGRAMME IN ŌAMARU FOR PERFORMERS AGED 18 AND UNDER.

JUNIORS WILL EXPERIENCE A WEEKEND FULL OF SINGING, DANCING, ACTING AND TEAMWORK, GUIDED BY INDUSTRY RECOGNISED TUTORS FROM JUNIOR THEATRE FESTIVAL NEW ZEALAND. PARTICIPANTS WILL BUILD CONFIDENCE, DEVELOP NEW SKILLS, AND WORK TOWARDS A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT OUR KA HUI TAHI GALA EVENING.

THIS INITIATIVE IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALASIA (MTIA).



SPACES ARE LIMITED – REGISTER TODAY AND BE PART OF THE MTNZ JUNIORS EXPERIENCE IN ŌAMARU IN MARCH 2026!
VISIT MTNZ.ORG.NZ TO REGISTER!