

## Principals News....

### Welcome Back!

It is great to be back at school and into routine. The staff have been busy planning and setting up classrooms ready for a jam-packed term ahead and are looking forward to getting stuck into our mahi!

### Swimming

Swimming lessons started on February 4th. These are compulsory. Students need to be prepared with togs every day. We have Candy coming through from the Waitaki Aquatic Centre over the next 3 weeks. All students will receive 8 lessons with her. This is funded through our annual fundraiser – The Danseys Pass Trail Ride.

### Meet the Teacher

Our meet the teacher sessions are scheduled for next Wednesday February 12th. Each teacher runs a 15 minute session introducing themselves and talking about what is happening in the class. These will start at 1.45pm.

Room 4—Jane Simpson—1.45pm-2pm

Room 3—Rebecca McNeil—2pm-2.15pm

Room 5—Grace Tilbury—2.15pm -2.30pm

Room 2—Kate Frear—2.30pm—2.45pm

Room 1—Kate Borrie—2.45pm—3pm

The meet the teacher session is not a parent teacher interview. Buses will be running as normal.

### Goals Setting Interviews

We will be having our goal-setting interviews in the last two weeks of this term. This will be an opportunity to catch up with teachers about your own child and their learning.

### Parking

When parking outside the school we have some clear expectations for parents. We need you to reverse into a space along either side of the road or drive over into the courts beside the hall and park there. These are the safest options. Thanks for your co-operation with this.

### School Opening Times

A reminder that from 8.30am students can arrive at school. Teachers are in classrooms to supervise and welcome students and parents between 8.30am-9.00am.

### Change of address/cellphones/emails/emergency contacts

Janette is currently updating addresses, cell phone numbers, emergency contacts and emails. If any of these have changed over the holidays it is important that we have our records up to date. Can you please email [office@duntroon.school.nz](mailto:office@duntroon.school.nz) if you wish to have these updated.

### Pie warmers/Lunches

A reminder that the pie warmer is operating every day. Students can bring along something to be heated for lunch. Please send this in either tin foil or another appropriate container. It is essential to name these food items.

News Continued over page....



The **BEST** we can be!

**BELIEVE IN  
YOURSELF**

**EMPOWERED  
TO LEARN**

**SOCIALLY  
RESPONSIBLE**

**THINKERS AND  
LEARNERS FOR  
LIFE**

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## News Continued.....

### Buses and After school

Please notify the school office of any changes to bus arrangements and after school organisation. If we are not made aware of after school arrangements your child will be sent home on the bus.

### Touch

Touch starts on Tuesday February the 18th. Kate Borrie is overseeing the organisation of touch for 2025. Notices have gone home with those students who indicated they were interested in playing. Teams will be organised and out to parents next week. If you are able to manage a team on Tuesday afternoons, please email Kate and let her know. [kateb@duntroon.school.nz](mailto:kateb@duntroon.school.nz)

### Danseys Pass Trail Ride Volunteers

Next month it is the Danseys Pass Trail Ride. So keep the weekend of 22nd March FREE! This is our main fundraiser for the school year and is a great day working together as a school community. If you haven't been involved in the trail ride before there is information coming home today to help give you an idea of what is involved, and hopefully give you some ideas of how you could help. We ask that you fill out the volunteer form and return these by one of the following ways by Friday 21st February.

1. Phone/message to Sarah Todd 0273832555
2. Email to Sarah Todd [tjs.todd.dairies@farmside.co.nz](mailto:tjs.todd.dairies@farmside.co.nz)
3. Return to school with your child

Enjoy your weekend

Nga Mihi Nui

Kate and Staff

## CUTLERY FOR LUNCHES

**Please remember to send cutlery in your child's school lunch if they need cutlery to eat their lunch.**



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## **Duntroon School**

1 Livingstone Street  
Duntroon 9494

Phone: 03 4312 829  
Cell: 021 216 1249

E-mail:  
[office@duntroon.school.nz](mailto:office@duntroon.school.nz)

Account:  
02-0900-0000540-000

# **DATES TO REMEMBER**

## FEBRUARY

- 10th February—Swimming Lessons
- 12th February—Meet the Teacher
- 12/13th February—Swimming Lessons
- 17th –Swimming Lessons
- 18th February—North Otago Cricket visit
- 18th February—Touch Starts
- 20th February—BOT meeting
- 20th February—Swimming Lessons

## MARCH

- 10th March—Upper Waitaki Swimming sports
- 11th-14th March—Tech Week (Yr 7&8)
- 19th March—North Otago swimming sports
- 22nd March—Danseys Pass Trail Ride*
- 24th March—Otago Anniversary Day (School Closed)
- 27th March—BOT meeting
- 28th March— V.I.P afternoon
- 29th March—Agri Kids Ashburton

## APRIL

- 02nd April—Goal Setting Interviews
- 3rd/4th April—Year 8 overnight camp
- 9th April—Goal Setting Interviews
- 11th April—Last day of term one

# Welcome to Duntroon!!!



## Grace Tilbury

**A huge welcome to Miss Tilbury, who is joining us this year to teach in room 5.**

**Grace lives in Oamaru with her partner Tony. They have a dog named Tiger who is a wire haired pointer.**

**In her spare time Grace likes to hang out with her family and friends, and go boating and swimming.**

**Her favourite colour is pink. When she was younger she played Netball and Touch. Sushi is her favourite food.**

**One of Grace's dreams when she was little was to open up her own restaurant, but as you know she became a teacher instead.**

**We hope you enjoy Duntroon School and community!**

# Danseys Pass trail ride 22nd March 2025

## Our main 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 21st February**, please let me know even if you are unavailable, as I 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)<br>9am-12pm                         |                          |                 |
| Registration (Saturday)<br>7.30-10am                               |                          |                 |
| Car parking (Saturday)<br>7.30-10am                                |                          |                 |
| Spark arrestor checking (Saturday)<br>7.30-10am                    |                          |                 |
| Road marshall (Saturday)<br>2 hour stint between 8.30-5pm          |                          |                 |
| BBQ -lunch (Saturday)<br>2 hour stint between 10am-6pm             |                          |                 |
| Clean up (Sunday)<br>10am-12pm                                     |                          |                 |
| Kids can help (Saturday)<br>(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](mailto:tjs.todd.dairies@farmside.co.nz)*

*Or return to school with your child*

# **NEXT MONTH its TRAIL RIDE**

## **So keep the weekend of 22nd 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**

### **So keep the weekend of 22nd March FREE!**

#### **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 marshalls 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 22nd 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

## So keep the weekend of 22nd March FREE!

**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 22nd 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.

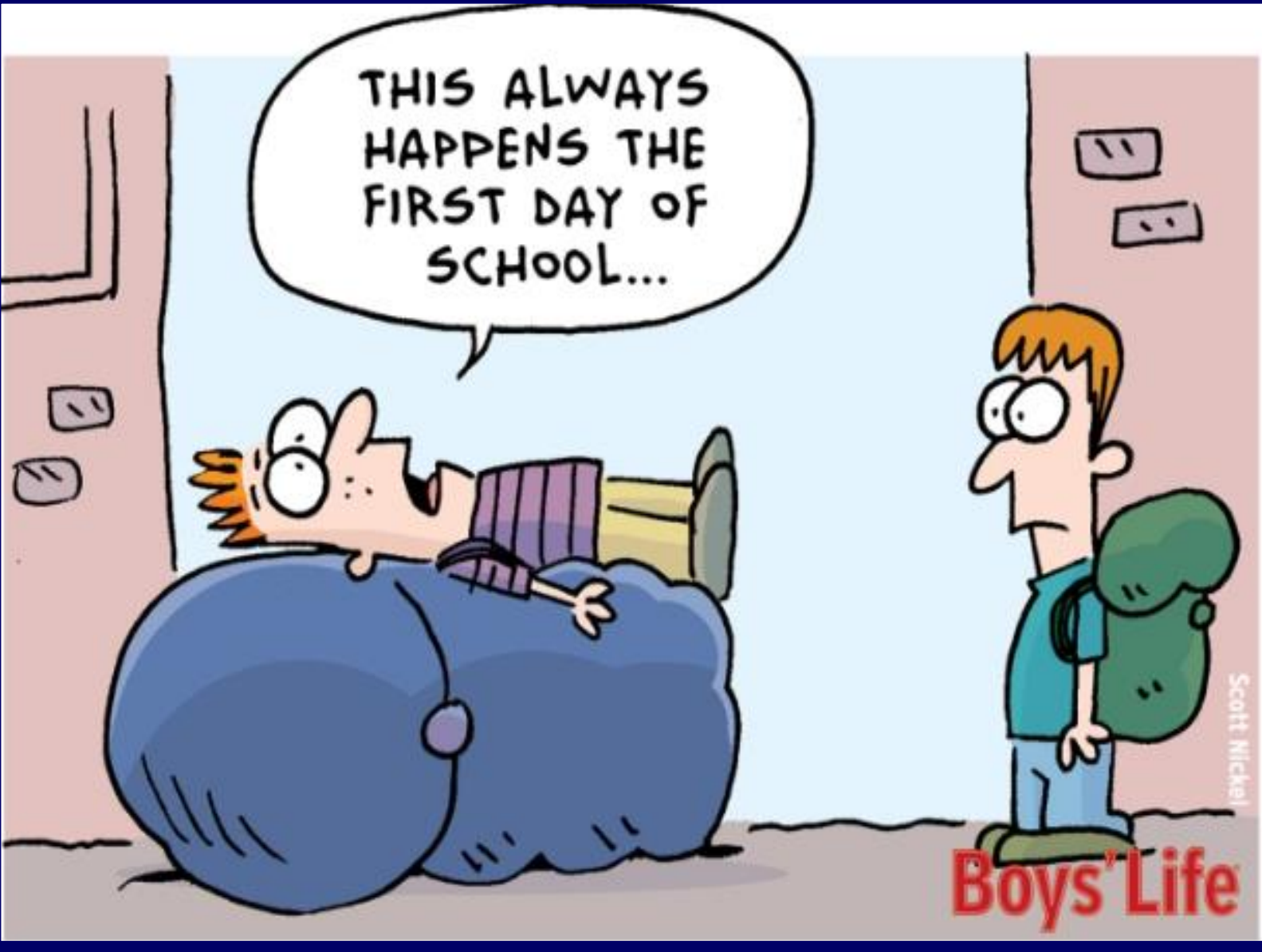
It is OK to just head down for your rostered job, but it is also great to come down for the day and be available to fill in where needed, especially from 8am-10am when all the riders are arriving!

See you there!

THIS ALWAYS  
HAPPENS THE  
FIRST DAY OF  
SCHOOL...

Scott Nickel

Boys' Life



# DUNTROON PLAYGROUP

THURSDAYS 10-12 PM | BEHIND DUNTROON SCHOOL

COME AND JOIN US!

AN INCLUSIVE SPACE FOR RURAL  
PARENTS TO HANG OUT WHILE  
THEIR CHILDREN PLAY.

BRING YOUR LITTLE ONE'S  
MORNING TEA, THE JUG IS ALWAYS  
BOILED FOR THE ADULTS.



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP- DUNTROON PLAYGROUP FOR MORE INFO



# 1st & 2nd March 2025

46 Raupo Creek Road, Five Forks | 9am-3pm

Offering a spectacular motorbike trail ride with more than 45km of rarely accessed tracks through rolling hill farmland & mountain tussock.

PEE WEE | JUNIOR/FAMILY | INTERMEDIATE | ADVANCED



[www.fiveforkstrailride.co.nz](http://www.fiveforkstrailride.co.nz)  
[facebook.com/fiveforkstrailride](https://facebook.com/fiveforkstrailride)  
or call Kylie - 027 484 7646

Pee Wee Track - FREE  
Adults - 1 day \$60, 2 days \$110  
Child - 1 day \$25, 2 days \$40

FOR MORE INFO FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK  
AND HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE - [WWW.FIVEFORKSTRAILRIDE.CO.NZ](http://WWW.FIVEFORKSTRAILRIDE.CO.NZ)

**North Otago Junior Tennis is coming back to a town near you!**

Starting Monday 10<sup>th</sup> at Waitaki Valley school.

To register for Hot shots hit the link below

<https://clubspark.kiwi/NorthOtago/Membership/Join>

Follow us on Facebook - North Otago Tennis



More information on North Otago tennis  
can be found on our website [clubspark.kiwi/NorthOtago](https://clubspark.kiwi/NorthOtago)



**Music Tutors wanted  
in 2025 for  
Out of Hours Music Classes in**

- **Drums**
- **Guitar**
- **Ukulele**

Please contact  
[kruddenklau@weston.school.nz](mailto:kruddenklau@weston.school.nz)

# Scotts Own Sea Scouts

## 2025

**Keas**

ages 5-8

Time and night TBC

Check out our  
facebook for details

All sections start  
back the week of 10  
of Feb

**Scouts**

ages 11-14

6:30-8:30pm

Monday

**Cubs**

ages 8-11

6-7:30pm

Tuesday

For more info  
find us on  
Facebook or  
contact Megan  
Phillips

ph: 0274371479

New Members  
always welcome

First 3  
nights  
are  
free!



Join

Find out more



# ST JOHN YOUTH

Young people developing their potential through leadership, hauora and engaging in their communities.

St John Youth is for all young people aged 5 to 18 years, so come and learn, connect and grow with us.

### Oamaru Division



Monday



Cadets - 6pm - 7:30pm  
Penguins - 6pm - 7pm



St John Oamaru  
23 Exe Street, Oamaru

[youth@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:youth@stjohn.org.nz) | 0800 ST JOHN | [youth.stjohn.org.nz](http://youth.stjohn.org.nz)



Hato Hone  
St John

## TOPIC FOR FEEDBACK 6

# DO YOU REALLY NEED THAT COMMUNITY HALL?



## SHOULD WE HOLD ON TO YOUR UNDER-USED ASSETS?

**Residents in each area pay rates towards their local Community Hall, and a local Hall Committee has the job (or burden) of maintaining it.**

There are 29 Community Halls across Waitaki. Some are owned by Council but most are owned by the community. Council collects rates for all these halls which contributes to the costs of maintenance.

The needs of our communities have changed. Where halls used to host dances, meetings and be a community hub – now some are barely used at all, or are no longer fit for purpose.

Some feel these halls are simply getting too expensive to keep up with ever-increasing costs of insurance, electricity and maintenance, and ever-decreasing hire income.

On top of that, national rules for Committees are getting stricter, and meeting these rules is more demanding on Committee members.

Some communities have told us that they would like to sell their local hall so the money could be better invested in their area where it would have greater benefit.

The Windsor Hall Committee are in the process of selling their hall. The community has come together to build a low maintenance, modern facility that meets the wider needs of the community.

## WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

**If your local hall is no longer benefitting your community, it could be sold to remove the rate onus from ratepayers, and the onus of maintenance from your Hall Committee.**

Proceeds from a sale would go directly back into your community.

The most important thing to consider is the value of your local hall to your community.

If you know your hall is well-used and well-loved – tell us about it!

Here's a list of community halls across our district, as well as the running costs and cost per household each year in rates (based on 2024-25 rates).

| Hall   | Rates per household per year | Running costs per year | Total rates by halls per year |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Airedale Hall  | \$40                         | \$1,005                | \$1,080                       |
| Ardgowan Hall  | \$20                         | \$3,360                | \$3,160                       |
| Awamoko Hall   | \$40                         | \$3,202                | \$3,520                       |
| Dunback Hall   | \$30                         | \$3,616                | \$3,960                       |
| Duntroun Hall  | \$20                         | \$2,957                | \$3,060                       |
| Enfield Hall   | \$20                         | \$1,824                | \$2,720                       |
| Five Forks Hall  | \$30                         | \$2,263                | \$2,370                       |
| Hampden Hall   | \$40                         | \$9,654                | \$11,440                      |
| Kakanui Hall   | \$20                         | \$7,248                | \$8,040                       |
| Kauru Hill Hall  | \$90                         | \$3,606                | \$4,140                       |
| <b>Kurow Hall</b> - this rate also contributes to Whalan Lodge restoration and the school gym          | \$110                        | \$31,585               | \$36,190                      |
| <b>Lower Waitaki (Papakaio) Hall</b> - this rate also contributes to the tennis courts and school pool | \$80                         | \$14,560               | \$16,400                      |
| Macraes Hall   | \$60                         | \$2,821                | \$3,000                       |
| Maheno Hall  | \$40                         | \$6,549                | \$8,000                       |
| Moeraki Hall   | \$40                         | \$7,634                | \$9,160                       |
| Ngapara Hall   | \$20                         | \$1,859                | \$1,740                       |
| Omarama Hall   | \$50                         | \$17,784               | \$19,800                      |
| Otekaieke Hall   | \$20                         | \$1,341                | \$1,700                       |
| Otematata Hall   | \$50                         | \$23,826               | \$27,600                      |
| Otepopo Hall   | \$50                         | \$7,774                | \$9,300                       |
| <b>Palmerston Community Halls</b> - this rate contributes to the Sports Hall and Community Centre      | \$40                         | \$25,365               | \$28,840                      |
| Pukeuri Hall Rate  | \$20                         | \$2,112                | \$2,120                       |
| Tokarahi Hall  | \$30                         | \$3,115                | \$3,300                       |
| Totara Hall  | \$40                         | \$7,764                | \$9,160                       |
| Waianakarua Hall   | \$30                         | \$1,638                | \$1,860                       |
| Waitaki Bridge Hall  | \$20                         | \$3,088                | \$3,120                       |
| Weston Hall  | \$40                         | \$20,632               | \$26,120                      |
| Windsor Hall   | \$50                         | \$3,118                | \$3,500                       |

## QUESTION

Do you think your local hall could benefit your community more by being sold or repurposed? Or do you want to tell us "Hands off! We love our hall"?

Let us know and we can work with your Hall Committee to find the best outcomes for your community.



Let us know your thoughts on Waitaki's Community Halls on page 59 or on our website:

[letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/LTP-2025-34](https://letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/LTP-2025-34)