

TERM 3 2026

Hurunui College

WHAKAURU KI TĒ AKO, WEHE ATU KIA MANAAKITIA, ENTER TO LEARN, LEAVE TO SERVE

Ngā Kōrero ā te Tumuaki

Kia ora koutou parents and whānau,

As we round off Term 3, it is wonderful to see the daffodils bursting out around the school grounds, the mornings getting lighter, and the weather gradually beginning to warm up. Coming out of the cold winter months always brings a shift in energy as we look forward to the longer, summer days ahead. It has been a full and productive term for our students and staff and I would like to take this opportunity to share a few important updates and highlights from the past few weeks as we prepare for the final stretch of the school year.

SISS Netball Tournament

A huge congratulations to our SISS Netball team for their fantastic efforts at the tournament in Nelson. They represented Hurunui College with pride, sportsmanship, and determination throughout a full week of competition. Competing at this level requires significant commitment, and we are very proud of the way they conducted themselves on and off the court. A huge thank you to Bronnie and Kira for supporting the girls over the week and all the training and build up prior to the tournament.

Hurunui College Board Update

We are pleased to welcome Emma Gunn to the Hurunui College Board. Emma has been appointed to fill the casual vacancy left by Kelly Morris and will serve out the remainder of the three-year term. Emma brings a strong legal and educational background, along with valuable expertise from her work with SchoolDocs in policy development and review.

PTA Pet Day

A big thank you to our hardworking PTA for putting on Pet Day on the final day of term. It is becoming a highlight on our school calendar, bringing a lot of fun to the students on the last day of term. I'm confident everyone would have had a fantastic day (and that the weather played ball!).

2027 Course Selection Evening Y10-12 - Wednesday 14 October:

Please take some time over the upcoming break to look through the Course Information Guide with your child and discuss their options. This was emailed out to all families. To support you in making these choices, we invite you all to our Course Information Evening on Wednesday 14 October.

This event provides a valuable opportunity for parents and students to speak directly with subject teachers, learn more about what each course involves, and discover which subjects best align with potential career paths before selections are submitted.

Key Dates Term 4 2026

Oct 12	Term 4 begins
Oct 12-13	Dental Van visit for Y8 ONLY
Oct 14	Y10-12 Course information evening
Oct 21	Athletics Day (ppd Oct 22)
Oct 26	Labour Day - School CLOSED
Nov 9	Y11-13 Study leave begins
Nov 10	NCEA Exams begin
Nov 12	Teacher only day - School CLOSED for students
Nov 13	Canterbury Anniversary day - School CLOSED
Nov 17	Orientation day for 2027 Y9s
Dec 15	Full School Prize Giving 10am Last day of Term 4



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NCEA Exams & Year 11–13 Study Leave

The last official day of regular timetable classes for Year 11–13 students will be Friday 6 November, with NCEA exams officially beginning on Tuesday 10 November.

We encourage our senior students to manage their study leave effectively during this period. Please remember that the school remains open and fully available for these students to come in and work with staff on internal assessments or gain extra support for external exams. The regular school timetable remains in place, and teachers will be available to help learners unless rostered for relief. Any students coming onto campus to sit exams or study must sign in at the office and be in full school uniform.

Upcoming Teacher Only Day

Please note that school will be closed for instruction on Thursday 12 November for a full school Teacher Only Day. This falls directly prior to the Canterbury Anniversary Weekend. The focus will continue to be curriculum change for 2027.

Term 4 Sunsmart Reminder

As we head into the warmer months, a reminder that hats are compulsory for all Year 1-8 students when outdoors during Term 4. We also strongly encourage and recommend our secondary students to be sunsmart. Young skin is particularly vulnerable to UV damage, and developing good sun protection habits early makes a lifelong difference. We will allow a brief settling-in period during the start of term 4 to get into the habit before strict enforcement is put in place.

100-Year Centenary Celebrations – Labour Weekend 2027:

We are now officially just over a year away from our Hurunui College Centenary on 23 October 2027! Lock the date in your calendars now and start spreading the word to family, past pupils, and friends near and far so people can begin booking flights and planning their trips back home.

Term 4 will see a major push as we launch Phase 1 of our promotional strategy. You can expect to see our official Centenary Facebook page launch, updates to our website and details regarding the opening of formal registrations. It is going to be a massive coming together of our community, both past and present and a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old friends and peer groups. The date is set in concrete, and we will share more details in the coming months.

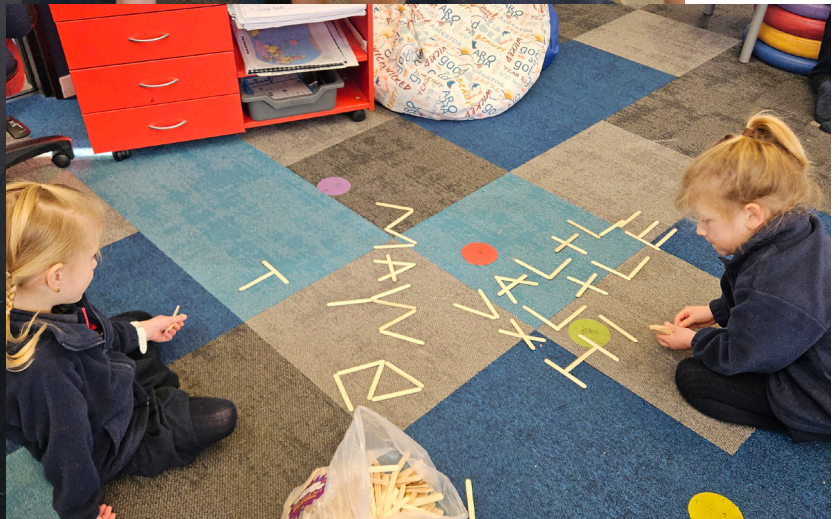
As we wrap up another successful term, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of our parents and whānau for your ongoing support, involvement, and partnership with our school. The strong relationship between home and school is what makes Hurunui College such a wonderful community to be a part of.

I hope you all have the opportunity to slow down, spend some quality time together, and recharge over the holiday break before we take the short, sharp dive into Term 4 and head toward the end of the school year, including our Full School Prizegiving on Tuesday 15 December. Travel safely if you are heading away, and we look forward to welcoming all our students back refreshed and ready for an exciting final term ahead.

Nāku noa, nā

Stephen Beck
Tumuaki - Principal
Hurunui College





Our class has grown since the beginning of the year. This term we have been focusing on being a good friend, and really enjoyed Harold visiting. We have loved learning how to write to share information about different animals. Have a look at all the great learning we have been doing in Ururangi Class.



Harold taught me how to be kind. We had a photo with Harold. Pippa	Harold taught us about monsters. Some monsters can be happy, sad and scared. Some can be lonely and get left out. Hunter
Harold has been nice to us and he likes to hug me. Harold couldnt find his hat. Mayve	Harold was kind to us and he gave us hugs. He taught us about kind monsters. Halle
Harold was nice when we came to see him. He put pyjamas on his head. Adley	Harold was kind to us. He taught us colour monsters. We had to fix feelings for the colour monsters. River
Harold taught us to be friends. To make friends let someone play with you and play kind. Jasper	Harold sprinkled stars on the roof. Lottie



During Term 3, our clever writers have been busy exploring Informative Writing! They've been learning different facts about a range of topics and how to share them clearly with others through their writing. We've had a blast diving into some wonderful topics, including Our Pets, Different Animals and the incredible adventures of Sir Edmund Hillary. We are so proud of how hard they are working to become little subject-matter experts—be sure to ask them to share some of their favourite facts with you at home!

K Boyd and K Frame

My Pet by Blake Bamford

My pet is called Merch and it lives in a kennel and it likes to do farm work. Its colours are black and white.

Cows by Matthew Trew

The cows live in every continent but not in Antarctica. They eat for 8 hours a day and sleep for 8 hours. A bull is a boy and a cow is a lady and a calf is a baby.

My Pet by Mason Hunter

My pet is called Jeffrey. My pet likes to eat fruit and veges. My pet is annoying because it bites me. My pet Guinea Pig makes this noise "oink oink".

Sir Edmund Hillary by Georgia Rutherford

Sir Edmund Hillary was the first man ever to climb Mount Everest summit. He was born in Auckland. His job was a bee keeper. You can see him on the five dollar note. He climbed the tallest mountain in the world. They reached the top at 11:30am on 29th May, 1953. He was proud to help the Sherpa people by building hospitals and schools.

Sir Edmund Hillary by Angus Gunn

Sir Edmund Hillary was the first to top of Mount Everest. He grew up in Auckland, New Zealand. His job was a bee keeper. He is on the front of the \$5 note. At school he loved books about adventure. He went to serve in World War Two at 24 years old.

My Pet by Millie Schwass

My pet is called Cous Cous. My cat is really crazy. Last night he was meowing at my door. When I got my cat it was in a box and it was trying to get out of the box. When I pat him too much he bites and scratches me.

My Pet by Holly Burrows

My pet is a lamb. My lamb drinks milk and my lamb is called Twinkle. I go out every night and play with my lamb and I love it.

Sir Edmund Hillary by Jock Fraser

Sir Edmund Hillary was the first to the top of Mount Everest with his supporter Tenzing Norgay. He died in New Zealand at the age of 88. His job before climbing mountains was a bee keeper. After he climbed mountains he taught kids how to play rugby. He helped schools and hospitals.

My Pet by Connie Pelaez van Wichen

My pet's name is Gato. She likes to sit in the middle of the path. She also can climb our big acorn tree and sleeps on our old bean bag. Sometimes she fights with other cats in the Hawarden village. She fights with my pet sheep and kitten because she thinks she is the boss.

Sir Edmund Hillary by Sadie Nesbit

Sir Edmund Hillary was the first to climb Mount Everest. He is on the \$5 note. He helped people. He was a bee keeper. He grew up in Auckland. They reached the top at 11:30am on 29th May, 1953.

My Pet by Laite Tawake

My pet is a baby chick. It is yellow and fluffy. Chick lives in a cage on my Dad's farm. Chick eats chick food and drinks water.

My Pet by Riley Gibson

My pet is called Sadie. My dog can do lots of tricks. It can stand up. My dog eats bones and kibbles.

Cows by Lily Harris

Dairy cows sleep for eight hours. They have babies called calves.

My Pet by Blake Francis

My pet is a dog. Its name is Jin. When I say "bang bang" my dog lays on her back.

Cows by Jim Earl

Dairy cows sleep for 8 hours a day and even eat for 8 hours! A bull is a boy and a cow is a lady and a calf is a baby. They live all over the world but not Antarctica, which is good because there is no grass.

My Pet by Franklin Guthrie

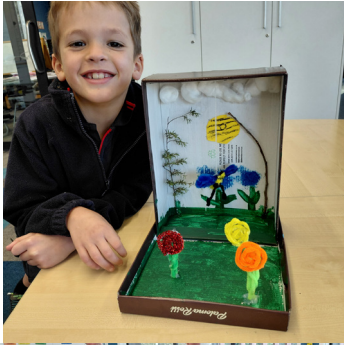
My cat is lovely and snuggly and it plays all day.

My Pet by Juniper Luscombe

Frosty is my pet cat who always gives me smooches.

My Pet by Josh Velmonte

If I had a pet it would be a hamster. It is called Max. Max eats apples and has a huge cage so he has lots of room. He runs in a wheel.



Waiti have had a very busy and eventful Term 3. We have been lucky enough to have Setareki Valevatu join our class. Setareki is from Fiji and had only been in the country a few days when he got to have his first snow experience. It was pretty neat for all the children.

The Year 4s got to participate in the 7 Aside tournament for the first time. It was a fantastic day for everyone.

Harold came to visit us near the start of the term. He is always greatly anticipated by the class and this year talked to the children about feelings, regulating yourself and how to look after others.

We have been busy bees working on our Dioramas this term and presented these at assembly in Week 6. The children were super engaged in this and their creativity and artistic skills never cease to amaze me. We came up with a number of facts about bees that were new and astounding for all of us.

The children have worked hard this term and we have managed to have a lot of fun along the way. I know many have also been busy with sport and extra curricular activities as well. Enjoy a well earned break. Ka kite ano.



We were very excited to have the Science Alive Star Dome visit us!
Our classes were able to experience this incredible opportunity to see our solar system up close.

Exploring | Waitā

Space Exploration

This term, Waitā class has been learning about space and our solar system. On Mondays, we have joined with the Year 6 students from Hiwa-i-te-Rangi class to create our own scale models of the planets in our solar system. We are looking forward to displaying our models along with our information booklets in our classroom.

With Mrs Zino, we have created some impressive planet art that we shared at our last assembly. Through its creation, we learned about colour mixing and shading with chalk pastels. It was a messy but fun process. We have also been learning about the rovers that humans have sent to explore Mars. We are also in the midst of creating our own Mars rovers. We have carefully thought about how we can design them to withstand the harsh conditions on Mars.

By the end of this term, we are definitely going to be space experts!

Ngā mihi nui, Waitā Class, Mrs Zino & Mel





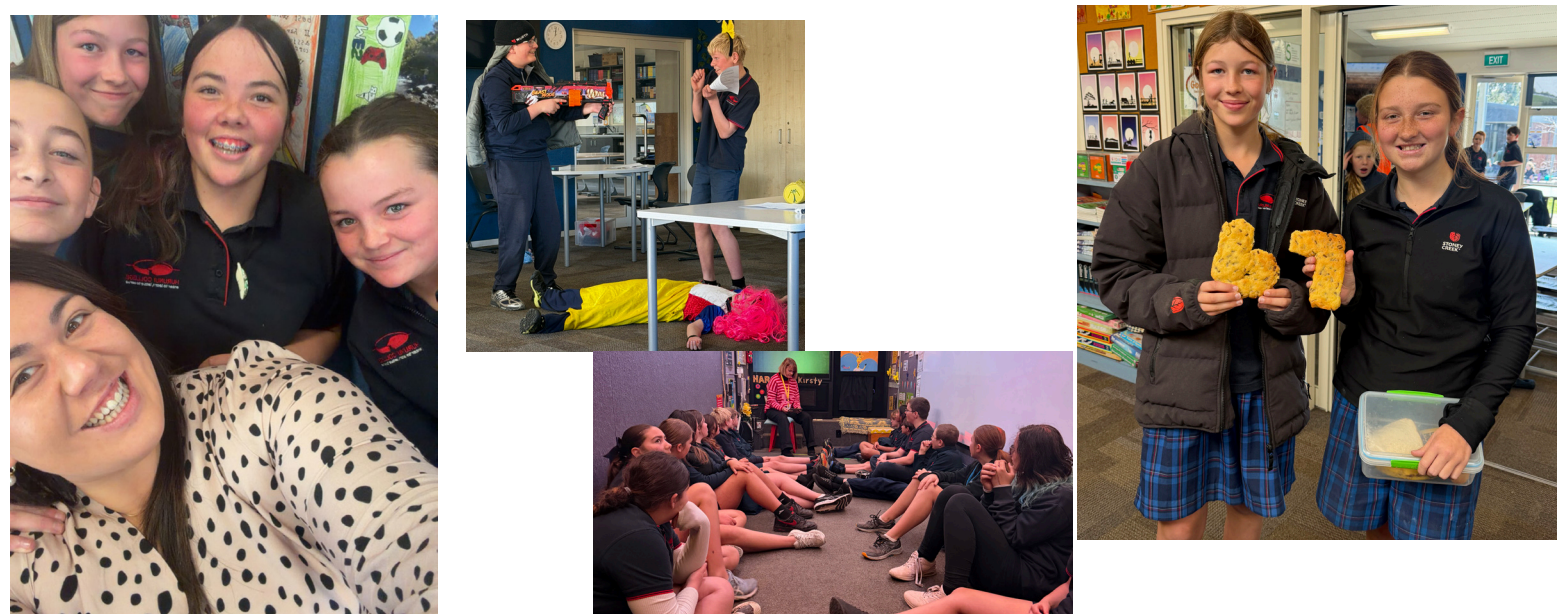
Hiwa-i-te-Rangi has had a fantastic term, which has flown by! The class has worked really well and adapted positively to changes in teaching staff. This term, the class farewelled Mel, as our Friday teacher, and welcomed Mrs Hendrix.

A highlight was Life Education, where Harold visited and students learnt about staying safe online and looking after themselves. The class also enjoyed the 7 Aside tournament, where they demonstrated the RISE values, supported one another and tried their very best. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the BLAKE VR experience too. Some students also participated in Cantamath and represented Hurunui College really well.

In Mathematics, students have been working hard on multiplication and division and are now moving into algebra and measurement. In Reading, they have been developing their ability to answer questions in greater depth by explaining their thinking and using evidence from the text. In Writing, students have been creating information reports and researching interesting facts about their chosen topics.

We are finishing the term with athletics practice and preparing posters for Pet Day.

Exploring | Matariki



It has been another busy term for Matariki. Life Education with Harold, Cantamaths, Blake NZ, Daffodil day, 7 Aside and lots of epic learning in the classroom. Our tamariki have loved learning new skills in gymnastics, tried their hand in drama with acting out plays and most importantly making the most of their time together as a class!

A special mention to Billie and Mollie who had their writing published in the latest 'Write On' Magazine and to Abby, Jacob and Jeremy who raised an incredible amount of money for the Cancer Society by shaving their hair. As your teacher and as a school, we are so proud of you all!

M Scanlan





Exploring



Blake NZ

The three Exploring classes were lucky enough to have Blake NZ speak with our students about climate change and conservation.

This engaging experience used virtual reality to bring learning to life, with our students immersed in 3D videos showcasing our beautiful planet. Students learnt more about the impact we are having on our environment and, most importantly, what we can do to help protect our planet for the future.

On behalf of Exploring, we would like to extend a huge thank you to our PTA for funding this fantastic experience and to Mrs Zino for all of her hard work behind the scenes organising the visit. It was an incredible opportunity for our students and one they all thoroughly enjoyed!

M Scanlan



Earlier this term, Hurunui College sent five teams of students to compete in the Amuri Cantamaths Competition. All five teams performed extremely well, demonstrating excellent mathematical thinking, teamwork and problem-solving skills.

A huge congratulations to all of our students who took part. We are incredibly proud of their collaboration and the way they represented our school! A big thank you to Serena, Nick and Liz who supported us with transport too!

M Scanlan



HPSSA 7 Aside

It was fantastic to see our students get out on the field for the 7 Aside Tournament, alongside many other local schools. It was a great day filled with plenty of action, teamwork and, most importantly, lots of fun!

A special mention must go to our Year 10 PE class, who stepped up in the weeks leading up to the tournament to coach our Hurunui students. Their commitment, encouragement and organisation was greatly appreciated and made our students feel super confident going into the tournament.

We would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible mahi that happens behind the scenes to make an event like this possible. A huge thank you to Bronwyn Gunn for the countless hours she dedicated to coordinating the tournament and ensuring everything came together. Thank you to Lee Copplestone for his exceptional expertise in preparing our Year 10 students to take on their coaching roles and his leadership that made the whole day run smoothly, and to Jenny Jackson for her organisation and coordination of our primary school teams.

Finally, a massive thank you to our wonderful parents and whānau who volunteered their time as managers on the day, as well as those who supported our PTA by helping with lunches. Your time, energy and support make these opportunities possible for our students. You all are absolute stars!

M Scanlan and R Cooper





Visual Art - Year 9 and 10

This term, Year 9/10 Art students have been exploring the theme of ***“Glitch Art.”*** The project began with students creating realistic portrait drawings, which they then transformed using a range of glitch-art techniques.

Students have experimented with a variety of approaches, including physically rearranging sections of their portraits, incorporating stitching and mixed media, and manipulating colour to create distorted and unexpected effects. Through this process, students have explored how traditional portraiture can be transformed into something contemporary, experimental and visually engaging.

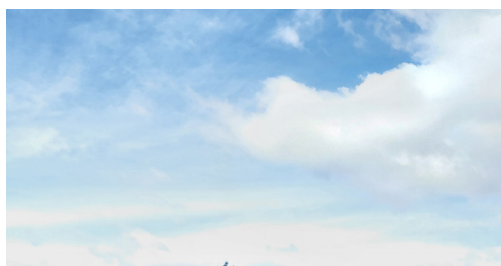
L Copplestone

L - R Mielah MacGregor, Nico Oberholder

L - R Felix May, Channel Ania



Te Ao Māori - Year 9 and 10



Mahinga kai hākari

After studying a unit on Mahinga Kai in Term 2 our classes came together to put on a hākari for whānau, staff and each other. There were many lessons within this one activity including sustainability, looking after nature so it can look after us, how to be a good host and look after our guests and all the learnings around food preparation and presentation.

Initially this was a steep learning curve for our whānau but they worked together to pull off an incredibly successful day. We are very grateful for the support of whanau and staff, and feedback from both were most complimentary.

The students can be very proud of themselves for creating a memorable occasion for all.

Social Studies - Year 9 and 10

This term the year 9 and 10s have been studying WWII in the Pacific and the RNZAF's involvement in this conflict. The students have grown a strong understanding of the causes of consequences of this event and how close New Zealand came to an invasion. The learning was supported with a trip to the Air Force Museum in Christchurch. These visits were led by the museum's education officer, Chris Davey, who did a fantastic job in reinforcing the importance of the Pacific and took our students on a behind the scenes tour of the Wigram base.

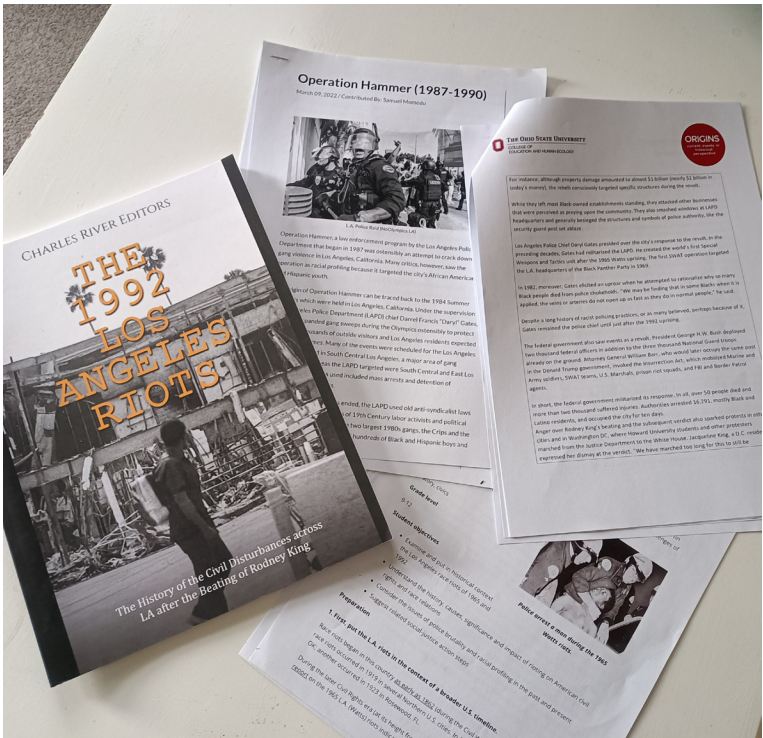
W Harnett



Level 1 History

Over term 3, the Level 1 History class has been working on the second assessment of the year. The topic of choice was the 1992 Los Angeles Riots. The students developed a strong understanding that these riots were not caused by a single event, but were a consequence of decades of broken relationships between the state and the people of South Central, LA. I have enjoyed teaching this topic as the class have been very diligent throughout the unit and produced essays of a high standard.

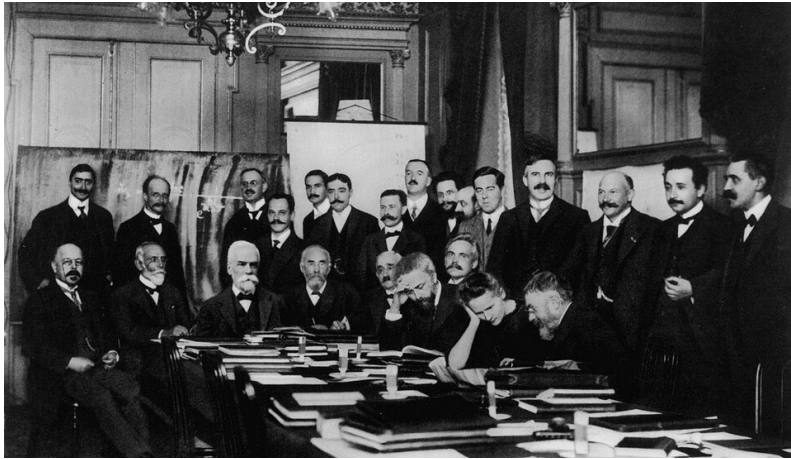
W Harnett



Univeristy of Canterbury Nuclear Physics Workshop

The Year 12 Physics class took an enjoyable trip to UC to do lab work with radioactive materials. The trip also incorporated an exploration of the work of Lord Earnest Rutherford, who's research career began in Christchurch. While we were at UC, we also met with past Hurunui College student, Callum Clausen, who is completing a research masters degree in Ramen spectroscopy. Callum's work uses lasers to determine the qualities of crystals when cooled to near absolute zero. He is hoping to undertake a PhD in this field after his masters degree. Callum first learned about this field of research during a school trip to UC many years ago, highlighting the value of such trips for our students.

T Kelly



Photograph of participants of the first Solvay Conference, in 1911, Brussels, Belgium (the greatest ever gathering of nuclear physicists).

Seated (L-R): Walther Nernst, Hendrik Lorentz, Ernest Solvay (he wasn't present when the above group photo was taken; his portrait was crudely pasted on before the picture was released), Marcel Brillouin, Emil Warburg, Jean Baptiste Perrin, Wilhelm Wien, Marie Skłodowska-Curie, and Henri Poincaré.

Standing (L-R): Robert Goldschmidt, Max Planck, Heinrich Rubens, Arnold Sommerfeld, Frederick Lindemann, Maurice de Broglie, Martin Knudsen, Friedrich Hasenöhl, Georges Hostelet, Edouard Herzen, James Hopwood Jeans, Ernest Rutherford, Heike Kamerlingh Onnes, Albert Einstein, and Paul Langevin.

Events

NetNZ Music Festival

After many weeks of practice, senior music students from Hurunui College and distance learning music students had a three day music festival. We spent a large amount of time rehearsing, had a social trip out, then a performance in front of the public.

P Biddlecombe



The Riccarton Sunday Market

The students had an early start taking their business on the road to town. A massive thank you to the parent support on this trip. Be on the look out for their new product coming soon!

P Biddlecombe



North Canterbury Youth Futures Careers Expo

We took 9 students to the Careers Expo at Mainpower Stadium in Rangiora. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students, and they all had a great time connecting with employers, companies, industry training organisations, and tertiary institutions to explore future pathways.

B Gunn

Year 11 - 13 Formal





Thank you from Hurunui College!

Hurunui College would like to express a huge thank you to our wonderful community and generous sponsors as we reflect on an action-packed Term 3! Whether you sponsored our students' T-shirts or kindly supported our Hurunui College Quiz Night, your contribution meant the absolute world to us. Your support played a vital role in sending our team of four students to represent our school at the National Area Schools Tournament in Whangārei, from 29 June to 2 July. Opportunities like this simply aren't possible without such strong community backing, and we are so grateful for the staggering amount raised at our Quiz Night to help get our athletes there.

Our students joined the Top of the South Island (TOSI) team and put in a fantastic effort over four days of fierce competition against teams from across the country in rugby, basketball, football, volleyball, kī o rahi, and netball. A special mention goes to Tanner Barton (Rugby) and Jamie Oberholzer (Basketball), who were selected to represent the South Island teams on the final day—playing with incredible heart and pride!

CCHS Senior Tournament (10th August) Our Senior Netball team had a brilliant day out at the CCHS Senior Tournament. It was fantastic to have Casey Dibble come over from South Westland Area School (SWAS) to play for the day, giving the girls a great chance to meet, play and connect before heading away to the SISS Tournament together.

The team played some awesome netball with fantastic sideline support, finishing 2nd overall.

vs Amuri: Loss 13–34

vs Oxford: Loss 16–57

vs Rangiora New Life: Win 48–14

vs Cheviot: Win 23–18

A massive well done also goes to Jamie Oberholzer, who played in the Amuri Area Schools A Grade basketball team on the same day, coming away with a win to take home the inaugural trophy! Outstanding work, Jamie.

B Gunn

Sport Canterbury - Primary Duathlon

Darcy Kelly and James Habgood represented our school with outstanding determination at the Primary Sports Canterbury Duathlon held on, Monday, 7 September 2026, at Ruapuna Raceway. Battling challenging conditions on the track, both boys showed incredible grit and resilience:

James Habgood (Year 5): Finished 58th out of 127 in a massive Year 5 field, tackling a wet 2 km run, a slick 6 km cycle, and a final 1 km sprint to the line.

Darcy Kelly (Year 8): Placed 49th out of 84 competitors in the Year 8 division, pushing through a gruelling 2 km run, 9 km cycle, and 1 km final run despite the downpours.

Both boys were navigating tricky multi-discipline transitions and staying focused in wet, slippery conditions on the open motor-racing circuit is no small feat. Well done to both boys for their effort, endurance, and fantastic sportsmanship!

J Jackson






NZ AREA SCHOOLS SIS NETBALL TEAM 2026

THE COMBINED HURUNUI COLLEGE/SOUTH WESTLAND AREA SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM
COMPETING IN THE SOUTH ISLAND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS NETBALL
TOURNAMENT.

AUGUST 31ST- SEPTEMBER 3RD.
NELSON



A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE SPONSORS











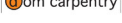











NZ Area Schools - SISS Netball

What an incredible tournament!

Our combined Hurunui College and South Westland Area School netball team finished 10th overall in the C grade competition at the South Island Secondary Schools (SISS) Tournament in Nelson.

Hurunui College could not be prouder of these girls. From nail-biting wins to hard-fought losses, their determination, grit, and sportsmanship from the very first whistle to the final game were an absolute credit to our school and community. A massive thank you to South Westland Area School for joining forces with us and lending us Casey Dibble so we could take a team away this year.

This amazing opportunity would not have been possible without the incredible support from our local community.

Financial Grant Support

A special thank you to the Hurunui College PTA and the Hawarden Waikari Lions Club, for providing direct financial funding to help make this trip possible.

Our T-Shirt Sponsors

A HUGE shout out and thank you to our wonderfully generous sponsors:

Patoa Farms, Waikari Community Op Shop, ComMec, Hawarden Community Gym, Dom Carpentry, End Of The Line Cafe, PHG Building, Chatham Islands Kaimoana, Philp Shearing, Fletcher Farms Ltd, Sumner Sharks, Devines Automotive, Smith Shearing, Glenallen Merinos, Tomsoffroad, Hurunui Hotel, Gavin's Joinery, Nathan Trethowen Photography, Limehurst Farm, R & S Shearing, Harris Estate, Kells Kitchen, Kate Earl at Beta Print

Please remember to support these local organisations and businesses—they keep our community together and continuously back our students.

To the players, coach, parents, and supporters who cheered from near and far—thank you for making this tournament such a memorable success. You've done us all proud!

B Gunn



Sport

Secondary Schools Postal Shooting

We had Max Harray, Hunter McKinlay and Jake Kirkland-Manderson shooting in the TSNZ Challenge – Secondary Schools Postal Competition.

Huge thanks to Katrina Quigley and the Hawarden Miniature Rifle Club for making this happen for these boys and the Hawarden Gym for their funding for this competition. The team achieved a fantastic 7th place out of 24 teams.

Check out these individual results among 71 competitors:

Max - 12th Jake - 14th Hunter - 58th



B Gunn

Term 3 Squash Competition



Squash was a huge hit this term, with 14, Year 4–7 students and 12, Year 8–13 students taking part. It was fantastic to see such great competition on the court, along with wonderful sportsmanship as our more experienced players stepped up to help guide those who were less familiar with the game so everyone could join in and enjoy. The photo is from daffodil day squash games.

B Gunn

Canterbury Secondary Schools Cross Country

We had a fantastic effort from our runners at Ascot Park!

Great results all round from our competitors:

Eva Kelly: 25/51

Macy Oberholzer: 49/51

Jack Savage: 50/54

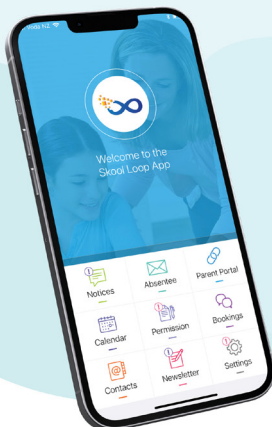
Jack Dingle: 51/54

Unfortunately, Nico Oberholzer was injured and couldn't compete, but we wish him a speedy recovery!

B Gunn



Don't miss a thing this spring!
One app. All our school news



Get our Skool Loop app!
Download today to keep up to date with school information. Notices, newsletters, absentee notifications and much more.

Simple free download
Scan the QR code or In Google play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.



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