Tokomairiro High School Newsletter & Community Noticeboard

Genesis

Wednesday
4th February 2026

238 Union Street
MILTON
T: 03 417 4483

E: genesis@tokohigh.school.nz



School Celebrates Effort

Yesterday afternoon, all students and staff from Tokomairiro High School joined the community in welcoming Shane Bichan as he walked through his hometown in his quest to walk from Cape Reinga to Bluff.



He has clocked up over 1,800 kms since he left Milton on 28th December and started his walk on 30th December to raise awareness for the aftermath of suicide.
Early on, he commented that "toots from passing cars, waves, smiles, quick conversations and words of encouragement reminded him "why this journey matters and how powerful simple human connection can be"

Shane's son Toby (Year 8) is very proud of his dad, saying he thinks he is "very brave" to have taken this on for a "good cause". He has been keeping up with Shane's progress as he has travelled down the country, and enjoyed a couple of catch-ups with him in Christchurch, Dunedin and Milton on his journey. He was pretty proud to welcome his dad into Milton alongside his school mates yesterday and is looking forward to having him home soon "to have a rest!"

Children Miss Out If They Miss School



Other children keep on learning while a child is absent. When a child returns, there are learning gaps.
The child may feel:

- That the teacher did not explain
- Other children know more
- They are not part of team work, in class or in the playground
- They are always trying to catch up on work or in activities

Costs to the child may include feelings of social isolation, loss of learning and social confidence and reduced self-esteem.

Dates to Remember

Friday 6th February - Waitangi Day (School Closed)

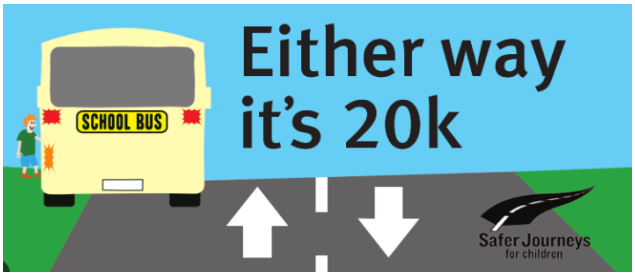
Wednesday 4th February
Itinerant Music Teachers Concert (Yrs 7-10)

Wednesday 11th February - School Photos

Monday 16th February - Year 7 & 8 Day Camp

Tuesday 17th February - Athletics Day

Friday 27th March - Swimming Sports



TOKO HIGH PTA

ONLINE AUCTION

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

Scan me!

After the Lake to Sea Trail Ride—our school's major annual fundraiser—was cancelled two years in a row, we need your help to fill the coffers and keep amazing opportunities alive for our students!

AUCTIONS RUN FROM:
12PM SUNDAY 25 JAN
UNTIL 12PM SUNDAY 15 FEB

Scan the above QR code or head to:
facebook.com/THSPTAAuction
to **follow** & join the auctions!!

THANKS TO ALL OUR AMAZING SPONSORS FOR THE GENEROUS PRIZES!

School Contact Details

School Office: 03 417 8620 School Cellphone: 027 268 3362
Office email: office@tokohigh.school.nz

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Tokomairiro High School Newsletter...

SCHOOL MISSION: Inspiring Excellence in Education, in Character and in Life.

Tena koutou katoa

We have had a great start to the school year. Our new students are settling into life at Tokomairiro High School quickly, and I have been very impressed by the positive attitudes towards learning I have seen in the many classes I visited last week. It was also heartening to hear how many of our students were genuinely looking forward to returning to school. I am feeling very optimistic that this is going to be an amazing year for our school community.

Parent Portal
The Parent Portal is a valuable way for caregivers to access up-to-date information about their child, including attendance, NCEA credits, and school notices.
This year, we will also be using the portal to share pastoral information related to behaviour and classroom issues, where appropriate. This is intended to support open communication between school and home and to ensure caregivers are kept informed and able to work alongside us when support is needed.
Login details and passwords will be emailed to caregivers later this week. If you experience any difficulties accessing the portal, please contact the school office for assistance.

Athletics Day
Athletics Day is always a highlight on our school calendar and will be held on Tuesday 17 February, with a postponement day of Thursday 19 February. This will be the first of our major house events for the year, and we encourage all students to come to school dressed in their house colours and ready to get involved.
Last year, Ross House were the overall winners of Athletics Day. It will be great to see the house spirit on display and which house takes the title this year.

Attendance
While we have seen a dramatic improvement in our school attendance rates over the past two years, attendance continues to be a key focus for us.
Under the Government's new STAR framework, students who have five days of absence in a term fall into the category of *Early Concern.* When this happens, the school will begin to explore how we can best support a student to improve their attendance. This includes working closely with whānau to identify any barriers to regular attendance and, where needed, providing support to help students catch up and stay on track with their learning.
We ask that all caregivers please let the school know as soon as possible if a student is unwell or absent for any other reason. Our full Attendance Management Plan is available on the school website.

Vehicle Access – Union Street Drainage Work
Drainage repair work on Union Street outside the front of the school is due to begin next week and is expected to continue for up to three months. This will significantly impact parking and vehicle access at the front of the school.
We ask caregivers to plan accordingly and to take extra care during drop-off and pick-up times. We will keep you informed as further information becomes available

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or our Facebook page!

PTA Auction
As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the PTA Auction is currently live on Facebook, and there are some fantastic auction lots available. I strongly encourage families to jump online, take a look, and bid generously.
Our PTA does an outstanding job of raising funds that directly support learning experiences and opportunities for our students. This auction is particularly important, as weather events meant the PTA's major fundraiser, the Lake to Sea bike ride, was unable to go ahead for the past two years.
The auction closes on 15 February, so there is still time to get involved and to bid hard for some great items while supporting our students at the same time.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)
All students are expected to have access to a suitable digital device for learning. The use of digital tools is now a regular part of classroom teaching and learning across the school.
Please note that we no longer have devices available for students to loan on a lesson-by-lesson basis. It is important that students come to school each day with their device fully charged and ready for use.
Information about acceptable devices is available through Noel Leeming, who can provide guidance on devices that meet school requirements.
If there are any concerns about accessing a device, we encourage caregivers to contact the school as soon as possible so we can discuss available options and support.

Ngā mihi nui
Vicki Wish,
Principal | Tumuaki

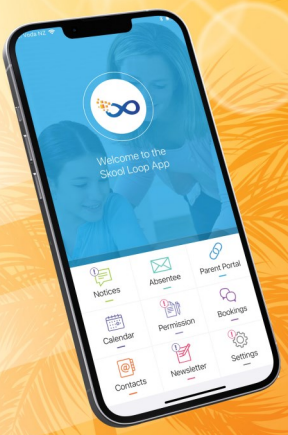
Genesis

The Genesis is a free publication, delivered weekly to homes and businesses in Milton, and is available on the school website, Facebook or via email. The Genesis office is open Tuesday 8:30am - 3:30pm and Wednesday 8:30-12. If the office is unattended, any articles, advertising or payments can be taken to the school office or left in the secure box in the office door.
Genesis Deadlines: Advertising and Articles - **Monday 12 noon**. These can be emailed to the Editor at genesis@tokohigh.school.nz.
Genesis is delivered FREE to your letterbox on Wednesday afternoons. Any payments or donations can be made to *Tokomairiro High School,* account number *03 1736 0009803 000.* Please use GENESIS and your name as reference. - *Carolyn Shanks*, Genesis Editor

Bible Reading for the Week

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."- ***Psalm 3:5-6***

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Milton Country Club Sports

Here we are the first month of 2026 gone already, which means this month the sports picks kick off at the Country club. If you think you have what it takes to pick sports results from rugby, to boxing to well just about any sport you can think of then have a go. It all kicks off on Friday the 13th of February so get your name in now and maybe you can be this year's winner and take away the coveted prize. As last years champion I highly recommend you do it.

SNOOKER Yes also this month we kick off the South Otago snooker pairs comp, of which we are last year's champions defending our title, so good luck to all those involved in this competition. On Wednesday night from 6pm onwards we have our weekly snooker nights. These nights are for anyone who has a desire to play or learn more about this great game. So if you are keen to join our very relaxed fun filled evenings then come on down on Wednesday nights and join us, we would welcome you in.

Cheers!

Genesis Deadline 12 Noon Monday

BAYLEYS



I have buyers waiting - Another property wanted please!

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RSA News from the Trenches...

First off this week I need to advise of the Special General Meeting which will be held Thursday 12th February at 6:15pm to discuss potential lease of the Senior Citizens Rooms. All members interested need to vote on the resolution. So make sure you have your say as it's your club.

Getting closer in a bit over a week is our Super Sports Comp which kicks off on Friday 13th February (unlucky for the previous back to back champion). This year's Comp has changed its format slightly and there is the promise of a major prize for the leader at halfway point. There are plenty of entries so far so there is good interest in becoming a new champion.

Also rapidly approaching is our annual Spud Dig competition which is on 7th March with plenty of gardening wizards looking at their magic potions to bring in supreme Spud.

This coming Friday we will be open for Waitangi Day from 11am so come along for a quiet lemonade and solve world's issues.

We had a member this week who was in Dunedin getting eyes tested as it's claimed he's a one eyed supporter. Called into the RSA for a lemonade and forgot they had ice cream in the boot. Was turned into an ice cream milkshake when devoured later on!

Quote for today: "It's ok if you don't like me. Not everyone has good taste!!!".

- *Private Spike Pike*

THS Turf Grassroots Fundraiser



SPONSOR A SQUARE METRE

For just $150, you can help support the future for our students by sponsoring a square metre of our new turf!

Your name will be recognised on an appreciation board, which will be displayed on the new turf



Tokomairiro High School Account: 03-1736-0009803-000
Code: TurfDon, Reference: Name
Email turf@tokohigh.school.nz with name for board

Genesis Classifieds ...

Church Notices



Tokomairiro Co-Operating Parish

Sunday 8th February
10am Worship Service in the Milton Church Hall
All welcome!

MOUNT ZION CHURCH

We are a Christian Faith Bible based Church

Sunday Service—10am
110 Union Street All Welcome!
For more information, follow us on Facebook

YOUTH UNITED

Youth United meets fortnightly on Saturdays in term time for ages 10-18. Check out our Facebook page for events & times.

Genesis Advertising

Contact the Genesis Office for more information about advertising.
Advertisements start at just $12, and can be run weekly, fortnightly or monthly.
Email genesis@tokohigh.school.nz



Situation Vacant

Manager Wanted.

Milton Op shop are looking for an energetic, friendly face to be our new shop manager.
This manager will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the shop as well as management and training of our volunteers.
You will be also leading the re-opening of our store. Training will be provided on our shop policies and procedures.
The right applicant would have prior retail experience and would be willing to hit the ground running as a sole operator.
This position will be between 24 and 30 hours depending on the applicant.
Please email miltonopshop@outlook.co.nz with your CV and references or leave them at the Tokomairiro Community Hub.
Full job description will be available via email and physical copies at the Tokomairiro Community Hub.
If you have any questions, please email these through.

Articles and Reports

Genesis relies on articles and reports supplied by the community to fill our pages.
Please email these to genesis@tokohigh.school.nz so we can share what is happening in our area.

Sumpter Moore –Barristers & Solicitors

SUMPTER MOORE LAWYERS

5 Eden Street, (PO Box 16) Milton

For all your legal requirements, contact our friendly team at (03) 417-8004 or email milton@sumptermoore.co.nz

Quote of the Week:
'Expert: a man who makes three correct guesses consecutively" - ***Lawrence J Peter***

Public Notices | Public Notices | Public Notices | Public Notices

Milton Bruce RSA

Formal Meeting Notice – Special General Meeting

To all members,

A Special General Meeting of the Milton Bruce RSA will be held to discuss a matter requiring member consideration and vote.

Purpose of Meeting:
The RSA has received a formal letter of interest from a local business expressing their wish to enter into a long-term lease of the old Senior Citizens building, which is owned by the Milton Bruce RSA.
This meeting has been called to present this proposal to the membership and to put the question of approving a long-term lease to a vote.

Meeting Details:
Venue: Milton Bruce RSA
Date: 12 February 2026
Time: 18.15
All members are encouraged to attend, as the outcome of this vote will determine how the RSA proceeds with this property.

Signed:
Evan Jenkins
President of the Milton Bruce RSA.

Genesis Deadline 12 Noon Monday

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE MILTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY?

Storytime
Thursday
10:30am - 11am

Clutha District Council Libraries

Join us at the Milton Community Library for Storytime! First Thursday of every month for families and preschoolers, with different special guest readers each time.

We have local legend **Kim Schiller** joining us as this month's guest reader! Kim is a long-time community member and the Community Development Manager at Project Bruce.

STORYTIME WITH KIM
Milton Community Library (Coronation Hall)
Thursday 5 February, 10.30am-11am

Storytime for little listeners, preschool-aged children and their families.

See you there! - Jill, Barb and Liv.

www.cluthadc.govt.nz | **Phone:** (03) 419 0200 | 0800 801 350
Address: 1 Rosebank Terrace, Balclutha 9230, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240

Council Updates & Notices

Updates from the Clutha District Council | Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Upcoming wastewater and stormwater upgrades for Union Street/State Highway 1, Milton



Significant wastewater and stormwater upgrades are getting underway on Union Street in Milton, which are expected to take about three and half months to complete.

This work will provide new wastewater and stormwater pipes between Melville Avenue and Springfield Road. The replacement work also extends into Melville Ave and connects into Park Rd. Stage 1 of Clutha District Council's four stage project began in late Janaury, with investigative work in front of the Milton Four Square to confirm alignment for the new pipes.

Stage 2 is scheduled to begin after Waitangi Weekend, with the laying of stormwater and wastewater lines in the trench running parallel to the kerb and channel. A two-lane diversion will be set up with two crews working: one starting from the Four Square, the other from Duthie St, moving north. **A temporary site office will also be established on the corner of Duthie & Union Street, and this intersection will be closed for the duration of the project.**

Traffic management will be put in place at each stage for the work to be carried out safely. The aim is to maintain two lanes of traffic for most of the work, however, there may be short periods when a detour is required for the southbound SH1 traffic between Melville Avenue and Springfield Road.

The Four Square will be open throughout the project and will have periods when access is only available from Springfield Road, as it was during the recent investigative stage.

Council will be keeping the community informed of the traffic management required and the start dates for stages 3-4, which will include installing the lateral connections to the new main line and to cut in the new sewer line in the manhole on Springfield Road.

To read more about this project and keep up to date with progress, please visit our website.

www.cluthadc.govt.nz

www.cluthadc.govt.nz | **Phone:** (03) 419 0200 | 0800 801 350 | **Address:** 1 Rosebank Terrace, Balclutha 9230, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240

Genesis Classifieds ...

Public Notices

Notice of Special General Meeting

Notice is given that a Special General Meeting of Tokomairiro Waiora Incorporated (TWI) will be held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 6:30 pm at Tokomairiro Waiora Office, 4 Shakespeare Street, Milton.

Business to be considered:

1. To adopt a revised constitution that meets the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.
2. To approve that TWI re-registers as a society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Any person who is recorded as a member of TWI may attend, but must RSVP to office@tokowaiora.co.nz

Health Services

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Open Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 5:00pm

To book an appointment or make an enquiry:

Phone 03 417 8226

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TOKOMAIRIRO WAIORA INC.
4 SHAKESPEARE STREET, MILTON

FREE NURSE CLINICS 2026

Next Clinic: Tuesday 10th February, 2pm-6pm

This clinic is free and open to all members of the community, and it provides a range of services. To make an appointment call or email using the contact details below:

03 417 7430 - 0800 184 420 - reception@tokowaiora.co.nz

Public Notices

YOGA CLASS with Jas

Thursday 06.00pm | Friday 07.30am

Where: Tokomairiro High School Library (entrance via Genesis driveway)

Down-to-earth classes focused on improving movement and recovery, enhancing breath awareness and rebuilding the mind-body connection.
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School Magazine 2025



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Phone Robyn 027 359 1144 to book an appointment or email: shaggytosleek@gmail.com

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Articles and Reports



Genesis relies on articles and reports supplied by the community to fill our pages.
Please email these to genesis@tokohigh.school.nz

Trades & Services

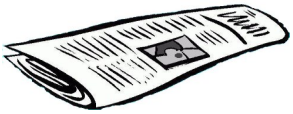
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Genesis Deadline 12 Noon Monday



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