

TOKOMAIRIRO HIGH SCHOOL
NEWLSETTER AND
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

238 UNION STREET, MILTON
03 417 4483
GENESIS@TOKOHIGH.SCHOOL.NZ

ANZAC Day Commemorated

ANZAC Day was commemorated in Milton on Saturday with a parade followed by a service at the Cenotaph.
We were proud to see our school so well represented.











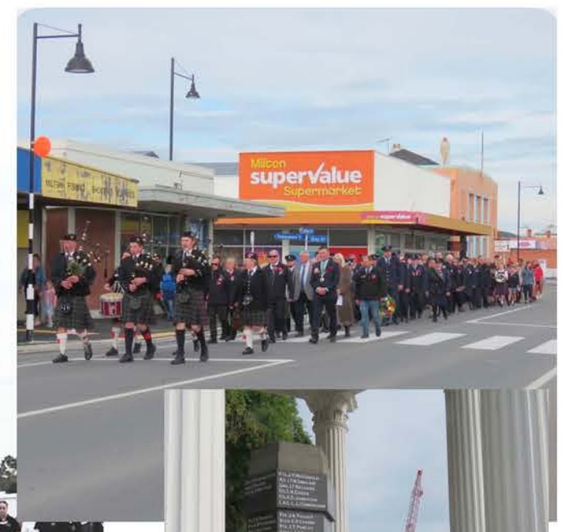



Student Steps Behind the Sound Desk.

Last Wednesday, Shane Taylor had the opportunity to work alongside Tom from Crossfade during *The Rock Tenors* show at Te Pou Ō Mata-Au. The experience gave him insight into what it takes to run a live performance from a technical perspective. Shane was involved from the ground up, helping to build the stage and set up the sound equipment before the show began. Throughout the event, he learned about lighting design and how to operate sound equipment -- key elements that bring a live performance to life. The opportunity provided valuable, real-world learning and a glimpse into potential future pathways in the music and events industry.









Upcoming Events

Year 13 Tertiary Open Day: Monday 4th May
Parent Teacher Hui:
Wednesday 6th May (3.15pm to 7.00pm)
NCEA Common Assessments:
18th - 22nd May
The Addams Family:
Wednesday 27th May, Thursday 28th May
Teacher Only Day: Friday 29th May
Kings Birthday: Monday 1st June

Host Families Wanted: Short-Term Cultural Exchange

Tokomairiro High School is seeking hosts for visiting students from Yasuda High School, Tokyo this August.
This is a fantastic opportunity for your family to experience a new culture right from your living room!
The Details:

- Duration: 13-night stays.
- Timing: Early August (2 Females), & Mid-August (2 males).
- Requirement: Students must have their own room.

Help us give these students an unforgettable Kiwi experience!
Interested?
Please contact the School Office at 417 8620.

supervalue Milton Weeklies

SuperValue Milton: 59 Union Street, Milton
Ph 417 8008 Open 7am - 8pm, 7 days.
Prices valid 27th April to 3rd May 2026 or while stocks last.

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Fresh Chicken Breast Fillets Skinless
(Product of NZ, Excludes Free Range)

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Loose Seedless Satsuma Mandarins
(Product of NZ)

Tokomairiro High School Newsletter
29th April 2026

RESPECT WHAKAUTE
RESPONSIBILITY HAEPAPA
EXCELLENCE HIRANGA

Tēnā koutou katoa,
I hope everyone enjoyed the recent long weekend. On Saturday, I had the pleasure of attending the local ANZAC ceremony. It was a moving service and our school feels deeply honoured that our head students are invited to participate each year. It is always a proud moment for me as Principal to watch our Head Prefect deliver their speech and raise the flag with such dignity. Last week, Pippa also shared her speech during our school assembly as we paid tribute to past students who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Looking ahead, it is wonderful to see the sun shining just in time for our first major house event of the second term: Cross Country. We also wish to extend a warm welcome to our three placement teachers joining us this term; two from Otago University and one from Open Polytechnic. We hope they find their time at Tokomairiro High School rewarding.

SMART Testing
Last week, students in Years 7 to 10 undertook the new SMART tests. This was a learning curve for both staff and students, as we had limited prior access to example materials. I could not be prouder of how seriously our students approached these assessments. While we are still waiting for official marks and feedback, this data will be included in the mid-year reports published at the start of Term 3.

Year 13 Tertiary Open Day
A key goal from our recent ERO visit was to strengthen student transitions "into, through, and out of" school. To support this, we have established a Pathways Programme for Years 9–13, focusing on financial literacy and career planning amongst other things. On Monday, Mr. Simpson and Mrs. Burgess will accompany the majority of our Year 13 cohort to the Tertiary Open Days at Otago University and Otago Polytechnic to help them envision their lives beyond our gates.

NCEA Common Assessments
For students to attain any NCEA qualification, they must meet literacy and numeracy co-requisites. Most students achieve this through Common Assessment Activities (CAAs) in Reading, Writing, and Numeracy.

- Next Assessment Window: Week 5 (18th May – 22nd May).
- Who Sits Them: Primarily Year 10 and 11 students, though teachers will advise individual students on their readiness.
- Format: These are not strictly timed but must be completed in one sitting (usually around 60 minutes).

Attendance
To ensure student safety and accurate records, we ask that caregivers please notify the school office as soon as possible if your child will be away. Whether for illness, medical appointments, or family circumstances, knowing the reason for an absence is vital. This year, all schools are required to follow a new Attendance Response Plan with specific thresholds for absence within a term. We are now required to notify caregivers via letter when these thresholds are met, regardless of prior correspondence regarding the absence:

- 5 Days Absent: Notification of "Yellow Tier" status.
- 10 Days Absent: Notification of "Orange Tier" status.
- 15 Days Absent: Notification of "Red Tier" status.

These notifications are a formal requirement to ensure all students remain supported. On a positive note, we continue to celebrate consistency. Students with over 90% attendance are entered into a prize draw each term. In Term 1, more than two-thirds of our students qualified for this draw, which is an excellent result. With the new term now underway, tracking resets, offering everyone a fresh opportunity for a strong start.

Parent Teachers Hui
The parent teacher hui will take place on Wednesday, May 6th, from 3:15 pm to 7:00 pm.
This will be an important opportunity for caregivers of Year 7-13 students to meet with their child's class teachers. The primary purpose of this meeting is to discuss student progress so far in 2026, and to collaboratively set goals and put necessary supports in place to meet them for the remainder of the year.
To book an appointment time, please follow the QR code below.

Uniform
As the weather turns colder, we are reminding everyone about our uniform policy and appreciate your support in ensuring students are wearing the correct items.
Key Uniform Reminders:

- Outerwear: Students must wear regulation uniform items from NZ Uniforms, or a plain navy or black jacket. Hoodies are not permitted as part of the school uniform.
- Footwear: All shoes must be black.
- Warmth: We encourage students to wear thermals under their uniform during the colder months.

Thanks to KidsCan, we have warm jackets available for students who need them. Please contact the school office if this assistance would be helpful for your child.

Ngā mihi,
Vicki Wish
Principal | Tumuaki

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Tokomairiro High School PTA
AGM
5th May 2026 at 7pm
Followed by a General Meeting

Tokomairiro High School
HORT SHOP

OPEN WEDNESDAYS
1pm-4pm.
Variety of Plants & Shrubs
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ELIZABETH WALKER

SUCCESS PROFILE



L1 CERTIFICATE

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SIX SUCCESS TRAITS THAT REQUIRE ZERO TALENT:

SHOWING UP

Showing up means being reliable and committed. Even on the days when I might not feel like it, being there gives me the chance to learn something new or help my team. It also shows others that they can count on me being there.

BEING ON TIME

Being on time is important to me because it shows that I respect other people and their time.When I arrive on time I feel more prepared and less stressed as I'm not rushing to catch up. This helps me stay organised and ready to focus on what I need to learn.

SHOWING KINDNESS

Showing kindness is important because it helps create a positive environment around me. Being kind to others can make people feel more comfortable and supported. Small things like helping someone or being respectful can make a big difference.

BEING HONEST

Being honest helps build trust with teachers, teammates and friends. If I make a mistake, being honest about it helps me learn and fix it instead of hiding it. I think honestly is important because it shows integrity and helps people know they can trust me.

PUTTING IN THE EFFORT

Putting in effort makes a big difference because the more effort I give, the better the result usually is. Even if something is challenging, trying my best helps me learn and improve. It also makes me feel proud of what I've achieved.

WORKING HARD

Working hard has helped me improve and reach my goals. Since sometimes things aren't easy at first, if I keep working at it I usually get better. It also shows that I care about what I'm doing and that I'm willing to put in the effort to do my best.

Whakaute, Haepapa, Hiranga
Respect, Responsibility, Excellence

Bible Reading for the Week

The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? - **Psalm 118:6**

Sporting Chance - Overcoming Barriers to Playing Sport

Sporting Chance is a Sport Otago grant that provides financial assistance to children from disadvantaged circumstances to help them take part in sport. It funds participation and will assist with a contribution to the basic costs of playing a sport. Sporting Chance makes grants for the cost of club or school fees for playing sport.
Please contact Kim-Guidance Counsellor via email kim@tokohigh.school.nz by May 10th if you would like more information or support to access this funding.



Genesis Deadline - 12 noon Monday

BAYLEYS

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SMART Testing

In Week 1, our Year 7–10 students completed the new nationwide SMART assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing. These assessments are aligned with the refreshed New Zealand Curriculum and will help provide clearer, more consistent information for reporting later this year. We were really impressed with how seriously students approached the testing, demonstrating focus, effort, and pride in their work. This approach reflects and complements the high standards and strong results we continue to see at Tokomairiro High School, and the data gathered will further support teachers to tailor learning to meet individual needs.



Skills put to Good Use

IAt the end of Term 1 the Food Technology Students demonstrated the values of *manaakitanga* — caring for others through food, hospitality, and working together — as they prepared meals to be shared on camp.

They worked together to produce meals for the Agri/Food Tech camp. From layering lasagne, stewing apples for apple crumble to baking garlic bread, students took real ownership of the process, managing everything from béchamel sauce to meat quantities and timing.

It was great to see such strong teamwork and pride in their work, with students supporting each other and sharing responsibilities in the kitchen. Photos show the students in action, collaborating and building confidence in a real-life context.









kindo

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Use the 'create account' option to set up an account.

Call in to the school office, or visit support.mykindo.co.nz,
email hello@mykindo.co.nz
or phone 0508 454 636.

Grow Your Leadership Potential.

Ready to take your next step, personally, professionally, or in your community, with support along the way?

The Bruce Stewart Leadership Programme provides funding assistance for learning and development that builds confidence, skills, and the ability to make a positive impact. While the programme has a strong leadership focus, leadership can take many forms and looks different at every stage of life.

Applications are now open to past and present residents of the Tokomairiro region.

Apply today

brucestewartleadership.org

Bruce Stewart Leadership Programme

National Netball Tournament Provides Opportunities

Aotearoa Māori National Oranga Healthy Lifestyles Netball Tournament - Whāngārei.



During the Easter holidays, I attended the 39th Aotearoa Māori National Oranga Healthy Lifestyles Netball Tournament in Whāngārei. Our Te Waipounamu rōpū was made up of U13, U15, U17, U19, and Premier grade teams. On 2nd April, we travelled to Tāmaki Makaurau, flying in from different locations across Te Waipounamu before continuing our journey north to Whāngārei. After a three-hour drive in a convoy of six vans, we arrived at our accommodation at Matapōuri Marae, located on the east coast near Whāngārei.

This tournament is about more than just competition on the court. Teams also take part in a waiata during the pōhiri and a march pass, which celebrate identity, promote healthy lifestyles, and highlight what it means to be Māori.

On Friday, we attended the official pōhiri at McKay Stadium, where we were welcomed with a wero, haka pōhiri, and waiata performed by the people of Te Tai Tokerau. With over 1,000 people in attendance, it was a powerful and positive start to the tournament.

Saturday began early with a 5:00 am wake-up as we prepared for both the march pass and five games. The day was physically and mentally demanding, with heavy rain making playing conditions difficult.

On Sunday, we played another five games. Due to injuries within the Premier team, I was called up to fill in. Although I felt very nervous, I was extremely grateful for the opportunity to compete at this level. Overall, the tournament was a valuable and rewarding experience that strengthened both my skills and confidence. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent Te Waipounamu Māori Netball and look forward to sharing my skills and knowledge with my school netball team.

-***Saffron Healey***

Worldvision Leadership Conference



On Friday, Tokomairiro High School students joined with other Otago secondary schools to attend the World Vision Youth Conference 2026 at the Edgar Centre in Dunedin.

Throughout the day, students gained a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by communities around the world, particularly families experiencing extreme poverty and famine in places like the Solomon Islands. Through powerful presentations, real-life stories, and student-led speeches, the experience highlighted the daily struggles many young people face without access to basic necessities such as food and clean water.

A focus of the conference was preparing to lead participation in the 40-Hour Challenge, where those involved give up something essential to raise funds and awareness for those less fortunate. This initiative not only supports communities in need but also helps participants better understand the realities others face every day.

Our participants are excited to take part in this year's 40-Hour Challenge and encourage others in our school community to get involved and help make a meaningful difference. More details soon!

Bringing Local Artists to Life





The Level 1 art students were out last Friday in the old stomping grounds of Dame Robin White (Ngāti Awa).

We visited the sites of two of her most iconic works, as well as seeing where she lived in Portobello. An amazing way to see paintings come to life - how lucky are we in Otago!



THS Turf Grassroots Fundraiser



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.

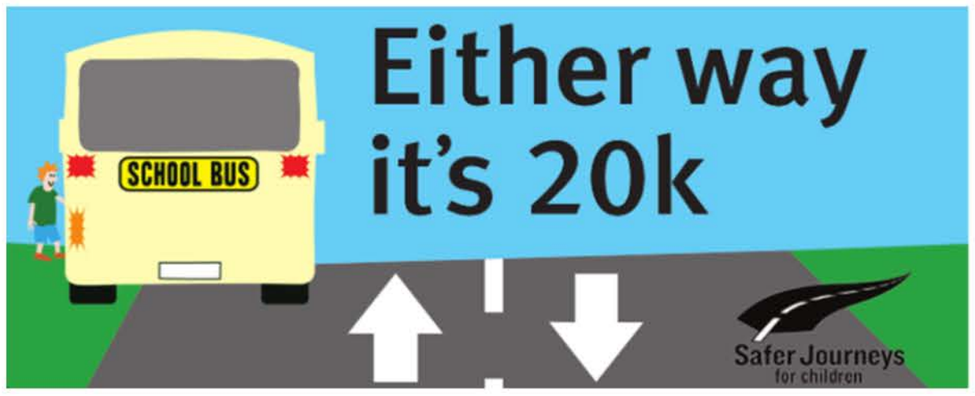
Genesis is delivered FREE to your letterbox on Wednesday afternoons. Any payments or donations can be made to Tokomairiro High School, account number 03 1736 0009803 000. Please use GENESIS and your name as reference.

- Carolyn Shanks, Genesis Editor

Tetra Pak Stars!



Thank you for helping us again last term with our Tetra Pak project. The SPEC class processed 153 Tetra Paks over the 10 week term - cut, washed, stacked and ready for the next step towards becoming an affordable building product. Nice mahi!





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One Last Opportunity

Milton's famous "Town of Opportunities" sign is bowing out - but not quietly. With the Clutha District Council rolling out refreshed welcome signs across South Otago, Milton's long-serving slogan has officially retired, replaced by a sleek new design celebrating the Tokomairiro wetlands and the town's cultural heritage. But while the new sign stands polished and slogan-free, its predecessor is about to enjoy one last -and arguably greatest- opportunity of all: becoming the star of a community fundraiser. For two decades, the "Town of Opportunities" sign has greeted travellers, confused tourists, and delighted locals with its earnest optimism. It has been photographed, teased, celebrated, and -most iconically - peppered with bullet holes, each one a tiny punctuation mark in the ongoing love letter between Milton and its sense of humour. The sign has appeared in travel guides, online galleries, and even wayfinding archives, cementing its place as a quirky local landmark. Now, as part of Milton's exciting transformation, including the Elsie Stewart Community Pool and Library currently under construction, the old sign is heading to auction. And what an auction it will be. This is the Ultimate Opportunity for someone to claim a piece of small-town legend: a weathered, storied, slightly perforated relic of community pride. Every dollar raised will go toward the community contribution for the new pool within the new facility, an investment many Milton residents have championed for years as part of the town's future-focused upgrades. So, who will win the honour of giving the sign its next life? A local business? A nostalgic resident? A collector of eccentric Kiwi memorabilia? Whoever steps up will not only take home a conversation-starter of heroic proportions, they'll also be helping Milton seize its next big opportunity.



Contact the Genesis Office for more information about advertising.
Just email genesis@tokohigh.school.nz

News from the Trenches

And that brings the curtain down on 2026 Anzac Day commemorations where the weather played it's part. This contributed to a fantastic day judging by the large crowd at the Cenotaph on Saturday. It just highlights the excellent community spirit that a lot of younger generation were participating. Special shout out goes to the Toko HS Prefects for their contribution to both Poppy Day and Anzac Day. On behalf of the RSA thank you to all the volunteers who assisted in making the day a success in every sense. Thanks to those who created and presented the wreaths along with the crew looking after traffic control.

Just a reminder that our AGM is rapidly approaching on 5th May at 7pm so would be good to see an excellent turnout of members. Nomination book is open for those wishing to stand for the Executive Committee.

Next Sunday we will be having our annual Duck Weigh-In between 2pm and 4pm with prize giving commencing at 5pm. This event is always very popular to those keen hunters. Some have a very close relationship with their weapon.

Finally due to Duck shooting there are a couple of Club Rugby matches being played on Thursday night so make sure you have your entries marked before 6pm Thursday.

- Private Spike

Toko Rugby Club Report

On Saturday in perfect conditions, and in front of a large raucous crowd, Toko Premiers took on Lawrence at home in a match where both teams were keen on taking the win.
Toko dominated both territory and possession in the early stages through a thumping scrum and powerful forward ball runners. Toko finally opened the scoring with a try before Lawrence scored their own. Toko scored 2 more tries to take a handy 19-5 halftime lead. The second half was more of an arm wrestle with lots of heavy hitting defense from both sides. Toko eventually came out victorious with their first win of the year. For Toko Jared Hayes, Sam McDonald, Arnold Dinh, Damon Clement and Keegan Ferguson scored tries with rest of the points coming from boot of Jared Hayes. Toko thoroughly deserved their win and here's hoping they can take this confidence into future matches.
Due to Duck shooting next Saturday the Toko Premiers travel to Clinton on Thursday night for hopefully their second victory.
Also worth a solid mention are the Toko players playing with Crescent in senior grade as both teams were struggling with numbers. They had a comprehensive victory over West Taieri last Saturday with Toko players featuring prominently
-The Judge



Milton Indoor Bowls

A much better turnout at the second tournament of the season. Players were put into teams and three games were played.
Round 1: Russell Copland, Bronwyn Woodhead, Dave Cook 9, Gary Foster, Elizabeth Read, Catherine Clark 7: Alastair Allison, Lynne Copland, Judith Hand 10, Barbara Read, Raymond Perry, Eric Meatlan, 5. Ray Low, Stephen Woodhead, Carol Rutherford 11, Graeme Hill, Alwyn Read, Carol Smaill 7.
Round 2: G. Hill 16, G. Foster 1: R. Copland 8, B. Read 3: A. Allison 5, R. Low 4:
Round 3: A. Allison 8, G. Foster 4. G. Hill 7, B. Read 3: R. Copland 11, R. Low 3
The winner was Alistair Allison's team with 3 wins and 44 points, and in runnerup place was Russell Copland's team also with 3 wins and 43 points.
The final pre interclub tournament is on Tuesday night.
The South Otago Ladies 8 team was announced after the Otago Rep game on Sunday. It is Milton's Barbara Read, Lawrence's Avis Rishworth and from Balclutha and Owaka Christine King, Shona Preddy, Laura Laughton, Lilly Paterson, Sue Kingipotiki, and Natalie Paterson. This year they are playing in Alexandra in the middle of May.



Toko Junio Rugby Club

Results - Round 1

POD = Player of they day
ROD = Rippa of the day
TOD = Tackler of the day
CC = Coaches Choice

Rippa Toko White
POD: Ollie Barrett-Weyer
ROD: Isaiah Kohe

Rippa Toko Gold
POD: Lexie Griffin
ROD: Axel Ackland

Rippa Toko Blue
POD: Vinny Lyon
ROD: Colton Warren

Yr3/4 Toko Blue
POD: Liam Calteaux
TOD: Leo Mathieson

Yr3/4 Toko Gold
POD: Julian Kohey
TOD: Opal Waldron

Yr 5/6 Toko Blue
POD: Arlo Fox
TOD: Jacob Calteaux

Yr 7/8 Toko Gold
POD: Benson Smaill
TOD: Hunter Wardell
CC: Nathan Senada

Making an Appointment

If you would like to see a member of the Senior Leadership Team or your child's Dean or Teacher, please call or email the office to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Although we like to meet with parents/ whanau, we are not always available at short notice and may be teaching or working with students or other staff.



Genesis Classifieds

Church Notices **Church Notices**

Tokomairiro Co operating Parish

34 Union Street, Milton



Sunday 3rd May
10:00am Worship Service in the Milton Church Hall
2:30 – 3:30pm Recovery Church
4:00 – 6:00pm Whanau Funday
All Welcome

Waihola Grace Presbyterian Church

Sunday Morning Service
10:30am at Waihola District School Hall
Cnr Chatham St and Kilgour St

Pastor Alf Bradfield
Phone: 03 417 4373 Cell: 027 230 8820

WAIHOLA
Grace Presbyterian Church of New Zealand

MOUNT ZION CHURCH

We are a Christian Faith Bible based Church
Sunday Service 10am
110 Union Street, Milton - All Welcome!
For information, follow us on Facebook

YOUTH UNITED

Youth United
meets fortnightly on Saturdays during school terms for ages 10-18.
Check out our Facebook page for events & times.

Genesis Deadline - 12 noon Monday

Public Notices **Public Notices**

RSA
RETURNED AND SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Milton Bruce Returned Services Association (Inc)

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Milton Bruce Returned and Services Association Inc, Will be held in the Club Rooms, 31 Union Street Milton on Tuesday 5th May 2026 at 7.00 p.m.

Business

1. Apologies
2. Confirmation of Minutes of previous AGM
3. Adoption of Annual Reports
4. Adoption of Accounts for the year ending 31.12.2024
5. Election of Executive Committees.
6. General Business.
7. Adoption of Subscriptions for 2026

D. Williams
Secretary

Council Updates & Notices

Updates from the Clutha District Council
Stay Informed, Stay Connected

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS 2026



NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2026 COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS!

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to make our community a better place? These awards celebrate the outstanding contributions of individuals, groups and youth who give their time and energy to help others.

There are three categories:

- **Youth Spirit** (a year 13 student from a local secondary school).
- **Individual.**
- **Group**.

Nominations close 9pm, Sunday 24 May 2026.

Visit **www.cluthadc.govt.nz/community-awards** for more information, or email us at **help.desk@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

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.

Bruce Community Calendar MAY 2026

Wednesday 6th May - Lovells Flat Women's Institute 1:30pm, Bryce Memorial Hall
Sunday 17th May - Book Sale, Coronation Hall 9:30am - 3:30pm.
Tuesday 19th May - Crafternoon @ the library - (3rd Tuesday of the month)

Wednesdays
WOMEN'S SPACE at the Toko Hub 2-4pm
JP Service Desk at the Library, 3pm-5pm
3:30-4:30 Board Game afternoon @ the Library

Thursdays
MILTON COMMUNITY SHED behind the Showgrounds
BRIDGE at the Senior Citizens Rooms, 6:45pm—All welcome
TAI CHI at the Milton RSA, 1pm, ph 027 279 1602

Fridays
CROCHET 10-11am @ the Library
Friendship Group meets at 1:30pm at old Senior Citizens Rooms. Ph Christine 021 028 46101

Children & Youth

Every Wednesday 10am-11am Lovell's Flat Playgroup, Bryce Memorial Hall
Every Thursday 10:30-11:30 Toddler Time-Milton Library
Thursday and Fridays, term time. 9.15-12: Playgroup @ Te Whare Puāwai, 34 Spenser Street, Milton, 0-5yrs, Free, Morning Tea provided

For the full calendar, visit www.projectbruce.org/community-calendar

PROJECT BRUCE

Genesis Classifieds

Public Notices Public Notices

Tokomairiro Early Learning Centre - Annual General Meeting

7pm, Thursday May 7th at our 94 Johnson Street centre
All welcome
Supper provided.

Ear Micro-suction Clinic

Wednesday 13th May at the Toko Hub

Cost $55 adults $45 child/student
For appointment phone Ruth O'Neill 027-419-6463



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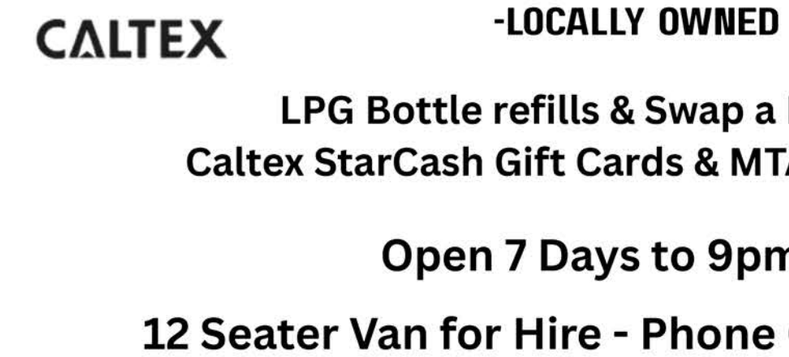

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