

TOKOMAIRIRO HIGH SCHOOL
NEWLSETTER AND
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

Changes to Year 9 and 10 Curriculum

Over the past few years, there have been significant changes to the New Zealand Curriculum. This year we introduced the new English and Mathematics curricula in Years 9 and 10 and from 2027 we are required to implement the new curriculum across all learning areas. These changes have meant that we have had to review how we organise and deliver our programmes, particularly in Years 9 and 10.

Over recent years, we have offered students a considerable amount of choice in their learning programmes. This has allowed us to develop more personalised timetables, giving students opportunities to explore their interests and strengths. This is something we have valued, but the requirements of the new curriculum mean that we need to make some changes to this approach.

From 2027, Year 9 and Year 10 students will be taught in separate year-level classes rather than the combined Year 9 and 10 classes we currently operate. This will allow teachers to deliver the specific curriculum content required at each year level.

Students will also no longer select individual subjects as part of their Year 9 and 10 programmes. Instead, all students will study across the required curriculum areas, including the Arts, Technology, Health and Physical Education, alongside English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences.

While these changes mean that we will have less flexibility than in previous years, we remain committed to providing students with a broad and engaging curriculum. Our focus is on ensuring that students have a strong foundation across all learning areas while continuing to provide opportunities for them to discover their interests and develop their strengths.



Enrolment Interviews for 2027

Please email Erica Milligan on erica@tokohigh.school.nz or contact the office to book a time for an enrolment interview.
We are looking forward to welcoming all our new students for 2027.

TOKOMAIRIRO HIGH SCHOOL

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HELP DURING OUR **EXAM PERIOD**
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

INTERESTED? Call the office on 03 417 8620 or email sharlene@tokohigh.school.nz

Upcoming Events

Derived Grade Week: Monday 12th to Friday 16th October
NCEA Exams Begin: Tuesday 10th November
Teacher Only Day: Friday 13th November
Year 7 & 8 Camp: Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th November

supervalue Milton Weeklies

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Tokomairiro High School Newsletter
14th October 2026

RESPECT WHAKAUTE · RESPONSIBILITY HAEPAPA · EXCELLENCE HIRANGA

Welcome back to Term 4! I hope everyone enjoyed a break over the holidays and that students have returned refreshed and ready for what is always a busy final term of the year.
We have certainly hit the ground running, with our senior students straight into Derived Grade Week. With NCEA examinations beginning on 10 November, the next few weeks are particularly important as they complete their final assessments and prepare for their external examinations.
There is plenty happening for our younger students too. Our Year 7 and 8 students have their camp to look forward to in November and on 27 November we will welcome our incoming Year 7 students for 2027 to an Orientation Morning. This is always a lovely opportunity for our newest students to begin getting to know the school and feel more confident about the move to high school.
Term 4 is also a time when we celebrate the achievements of our students and reflect on everything that has happened throughout the year. I am looking forward to the weeks ahead.

Strategic Plan
Over the next few weeks, the Board of Trustees will be developing our new Strategic Plan, which will help guide decision making at Tokomairiro High School for the next three years.
We want to ensure that the plan reflects the views and priorities of our whole school community. If you haven't already done so, please take a few minutes to complete our survey using the QR code. Your feedback is important and will help us identify what we are doing well and where we should focus our efforts over the coming years.
Thank you to everyone who has already contributed. The survey will close on Monday 19 October.

Supporting Students Through Exams
With NCEA examinations fast approaching, this can be a stressful time for our senior students. Many are juggling study, assessments, part-time work and other commitments.
There are some simple things families can do to help. Encouraging students to establish a regular study routine, providing a quiet space where possible and helping them to balance study with breaks, exercise and plenty of sleep can all make a difference. Short, focused periods of study, practising past examination questions and revisiting areas where students are less confident are often more effective than simply rereading notes for hours on end.
Most importantly, encouragement and reassurance go a long way. Examinations are important, but so is looking after our young people's wellbeing. If your child is feeling overwhelmed or unsure about how best to prepare, please encourage them to speak with their teachers

SMART Testing
During the first week of November, students in Years 7–10 will complete their second round of SMART testing in reading, writing and mathematics.
The first round of testing earlier in the year provided us with valuable information about students' learning. This second round will allow us to measure the progress students have made and identify areas where further support or extension may be needed.
These assessments are one of the tools we use to understand how our students are progressing and to help inform our teaching programmes. Students do not need to undertake any special preparation for these tests.

Teacher Only Day
We will be holding our second Teacher Only Day for 2026 on Friday 13 November. The school will be closed to students on this day. Staff will be using this time to continue planning for the curriculum changes being introduced in 2027. A significant amount of work is involved in reviewing our programmes and ensuring that we are ready to deliver the new curriculum across all learning areas. This day will provide valuable time for staff to work together and prepare for next year.

BYOD
As we head into Term 4, it is a timely reminder that students in Years 9–13 need to bring a device to school each day, charged and ready to use. Many NCEA assessments are now completed digitally and devices are also used regularly as part of students' everyday learning. With the Black Friday sales coming up, it may also be a good opportunity for families to start thinking ahead to 2027 if a new device is going to be needed.

Ngā mihi,
Vicki Wish
Principal | Tumuaki

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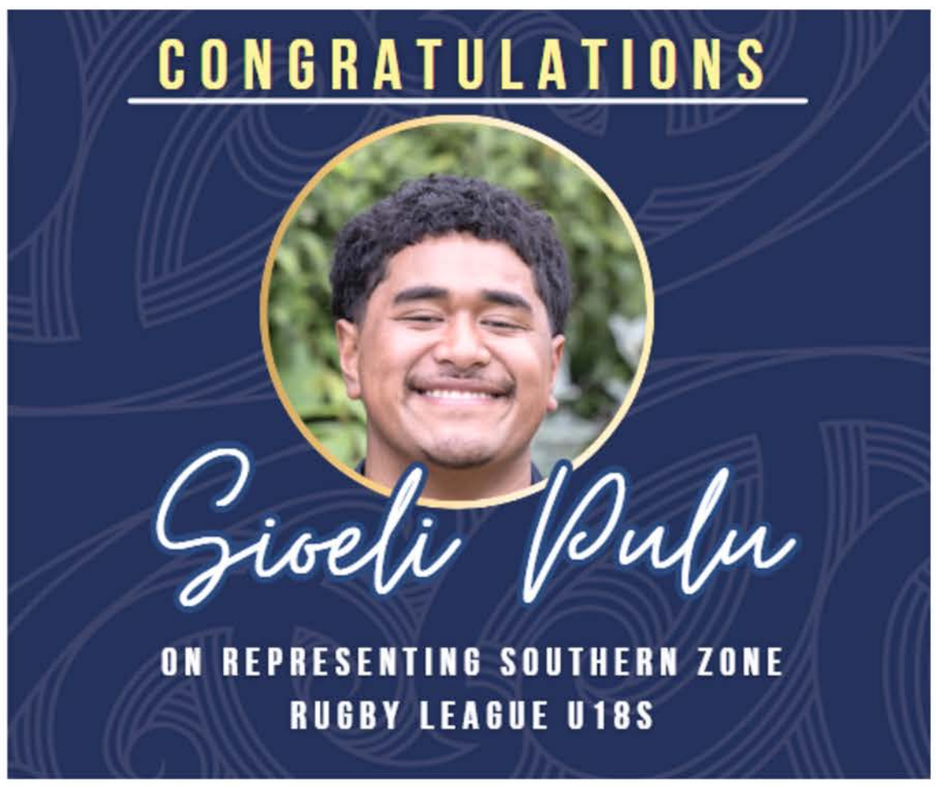
Skills and Passion Pay Off

Congratulations to these students who have gone the extra mile and have been named as reps for Otago Maori Rugby U17's and U18 Southern Zone Rugby League respectively. They all got some game time over the holidays. We wish them all the best!





News from the Trenches

We'll start this column on a sombre note to mark the passing of Brian Murdoch last week unexpectedly. '4' as he was known, was extremely popular at the RSA with his iconic grin and quiet manner while enjoying a beer and a yarn. He was always knowledgeable on betting on horses and willing to offer tips. As this was written on the Sunday before Tuesday's celebration of 4's life, I'm sure the good turnout is testament to the standing he had. On behalf of the RSA, I offer condolences to all family and friends. Enjoy your last ride - RIP 4.

This last weekend was a critical turning point in our NPC Comp with only 2 weeks left which I predict the competition getting closer and closer until the prize giving on Saturday 30 October when winners announced and stress levels will be over.

Also this weekend is the second Bledisloe Cup match and pretty sure that score wasn't struck last week so the pot is growing rapidly. One idiot picked a score over 100 which one hindsight was almost a brilliant idea. So all options are open.

Finally a double dose of Pikes Fact Hunt. Did you know wearing a tie reduces blood flow to your brain by almost 8 percent. Based on some people I've seen wearing ties, it could be more!!. And to keep you awake at night, remember Sloths don't fart, they reabsorb and respire gas. Something to contemplate having your weetbix.

Private Spike Pike

Articles & Reports

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

Bible Reading for the Week

You, Lord, are my lamp; the Lord turns my darkness into light. *2 Samuel 22:29*

St John Scholarships Offered

Two $1000 Hato Hone St John scholarships for prospective new healthcare workers in Milton

Hato Hone St John is offering two $1000 scholarships to Milton residents and students who are looking to take up a career in healthcare.

Funded by donations from the local community, the two scholarships offered by the Milton Area Committee are to help residents and students who wish to study a healthcare-related course or degree at a time when communities struggle with the cost of living, and the country suffers a growing shortage of doctors, and nurses across multiple disciplines.

Applications can be submitted from Monday 28th September until Saturday 31st October 2026, with successful recipients being notified by Monday 9th November. The minimum age for applicants is 16 years old.

Contact oli.blackbourn@stjohn.org.nz for an application form, or any questions.

Check us out: www.tokohigh.school.nz







Toko Golf Club Results

Ladies Golf - 6th October 2026
Game of the Day LGU and Putting

0- 26.4
J. Greene 86 – 18 – 68
J. Good 97 – 24 – 73

26.5 - 40.4
M. Cain 108 - 37 – 71
P. Keddell 120 - 41 – 79 c/b
J. McLeod 117 – 38 - 79 c/b
H. Vollweiler

9 Holes – Medal and Putting:
A.Smales 58 – 19 – 39
L. Rogan 65 – 20 - 45 c/b
N. Cubitt 70 – 25 – 45

Putting 9 Holes: N. Cubitt 16 putts
Longest putt: S. Bearman

Jo Hitchon Button - D. Matsopolous Nett 75
Anna Burnett Brooch - J. Greene Nett 68
May Murdoch Tee - L. Mitchell - 30 stabs
E. Kennard Trophy - J. Greene 31 putts

Can all trophies won in 2025 be returned to Jayne Greene for the 2026 prize giving please.

Final Fourball - 10th October 2026
B Sheath & B Frost bt B Cowie & P Stevenson
P Scott 38pts
P Sheath 36pts
M Mead 35pts c/b
N Taylor 35pts c/b
G Findlay 35pts
F Taylor 34pts
Two's: G Findlay & L Adam

Waihola/ Clarendon Women's Institute

We met in the Waihola Hall on the 21st September with a good attendance. We did not have a speaker for this meeting, but held a book exchange, followed by a glass bottle auction. The auction is always fun and raises money for the group.
Our October meeting is a trip to the Dunedin Botanical Gardens for lunch followed by a tour around the lower garden. Cars to leave the Hall at 10.30am

Euchre Results

30th September 2026
Winner: Cath
Loser: Raelene
Raffle: Cath

7th October 2026
Winner: Bruce
Loser: Shirley Ann
Raffle: Cath

Genesis Classifieds.....Church Notices



Tokomairiro Co operating Parish
34 Union Street, Milton
Sunday 18th October
10am Worship Service in Milton Church Hall.
All Welcome

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.

Rebus Club of Milton

We met in the RSA on the 15th September at 10-00am A good attendance was welcomed.
Our speaker was Eileen Steven from St John in Dunedin. Eileen talked about and displayed medical alarms for use in the home - there are two personal units that can be either be worn on the arm (like a watch) or around the neck as a pendant. There is a base unit that sits in the home plus a mobile unit for use outside the home. All connect to St John ambulance or family members when help is needed. Eileen travels Otago putting the units in homes and will also come to your home and explain the units if needed.
Our October meeting is on 20th October in the RSA at 10.30am when our speaker is Jasmine Boulton from Ashley Grove Resthome. She will talk on "Going Into Care". All are welcome to attend and to bring any questions for Jasmine to answer.

Genesis Deadline
Monday at noon

Genesis Classifieds.....Public Notices



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We want to acknowledge these amazing local businesses for their ongoing sponsorship of our local non-profit gym. You guys are AWESOME!

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If you would like to become a supporter of our gym, get in touch with Lily!
tokogym@gmail.com

Tokomairiro Community Recreation Centre
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Gym Open Hours: 8:00am -4:00pm | 24 hour access
www.tokogym.co.nz



Genesis Classifieds.....Public Notices

Public Meeting
with Joseph Mooney MP

Saturday 17 October

10am

Tokomairiro Hub
61 Union Street, Milton



Authorised by M French, Matthew.French@National.org.nz

Check us out: www.tokohigh.school.nz

Council Updates & Notices

Updates from the Clutha District Council
Stay Informed, Stay Connected

SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND

Applications are open for the 2027 Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund.

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is designed to help subsidise travel for junior teams participating in local sport competition.

Applications are open to rural sport clubs and rural school teams with young people aged between 5-19 years, who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local competitions (excluding regional or national events).

Funding will be for travel expenses incurred for the period 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027.

Applications close on Friday, 6 November 2026.

An application form and additional information is available at **www.cluthadc.govt.nz/sport-fund**.

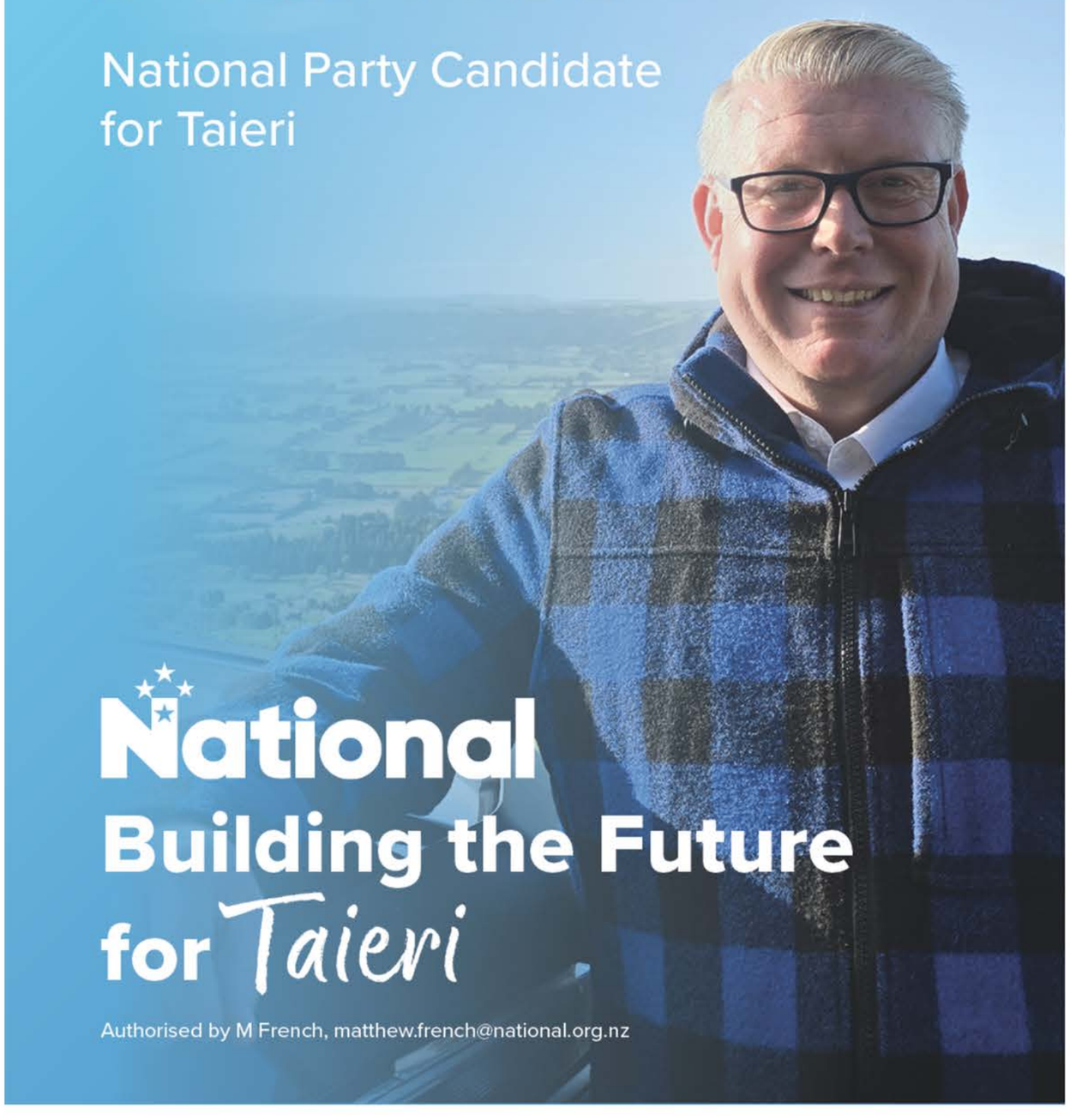
Alternatively, please phone Council on 0800 801 350 or email **help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz**.

SPORT NEW ZEALAND IHI AOTEAROA

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

Matthew French

National Party Candidate
for Taieri



National
Building the Future
for *Taieri*

Authorised by M French, matthew.french@national.org.nz

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/IngridLearyMP @ingrid.leary

Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington.

Genesis Classifieds.....Public Notices

FOR THOSE LEFT BEHIND

OUR FIRST COMMUNITY GATHERING

For anyone affected by the loss of someone to suicide.



Wed 7th Oct 7pm

Te Pou Ō Mata-Au
Clutha District War Memorial &
Community Centre (Community Room)

Wed 14th Oct 7pm

Milton Community Hub
61 Union Street (opposite Supervalue)

Guest Speaker: Martina Bruwer

Light supper provided
For more information call
Shane 027-264-1111 or
Sharni 027-779-7628

Everyone welcome. Free to attend. Safe, supportive space to listen, share & connect

MILTON COMMUNITY HEALTH TRUST

Annual General Meeting

7.00pm on Tuesday, 17th November 2026 at the Milton, St John Ambulance Rooms

Four positions have become vacant for nomination this year on the Board's stand-down rotation policy - Toni Marr is standing down while Justin Geddes, Kerry Dowling and Oli Blackbourn offer themselves for re-election.

Members of the public who may be interested in standing for the Board are encouraged to speak to one of the current board members or the Nurse Manager, Dale Wyber. An information pack including the Job Description and nomination papers is available from the Milton Community Health Trust Office:
7 Eden Street, Milton.
Phone: (03) 417 4399
Email: admin@milcomhealth.nz

The time commitment for this board is approximately three hours per month with meetings on the second Tuesday evening of each month.

Nominations must be received in writing at the Trust's office, signed by a proposer and seconder, and carrying the nominee's consent, by Friday, 6th November 2026.

Elections will be held at the AGM on Tuesday, 17th November 2026.

Current Board Members:

Julie Rutherford (Chair)..... 027 212 3436
Kerry Dowling (Vice Chair)..... 417 8004
Justin Geddes..... 027 487 6487
Toni Marr..... toni_marr@yahoo.com
Oli Blackbourn..... 027 354 0519
Zheng Li (Eric)..... 021 208 1205
Emma Lister..... 021 055 7582

For further information contact Dale Wyber, Nurse Manager on (03) 417 4399 or 027 417 8861.

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