

28th October 2026

GENESIS

TOKOMAIRIRO HIGH SCHOOL
NEWLSETTER AND
COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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

Students Accept the Challenge

Last week, Year 7 & 8 students took part in the Police PCT Challenge held at Cross Recreation Centre in Balclutha.
The students tested themselves on the PCT course along with students from other schools from South Otago.









Recovery Church Celebrates First Year

On November 1st 2026 at 2:30pm, Recovery Church will celebrate its first year of recovery fellowship, marking twelve months of hope, healing, and community connection.
Over the past year, people have travelled from Central Otago, Dunedin, Balclutha, Mosgiel, and Milton to be part of a unique and welcoming fellowship. Recovery Church is built on participation, where everyone is encouraged to contribute in one form or another. Whether through music, personal sharing, education, or fellowship, members are discovering hidden talents, building confidence, and developing new skills.
The church provides a safe, non-judgmental environment where people of all ages are welcomed and valued. Through personal responsibility, mutual support, spiritual awareness, and meaningful relationships, individuals are finding encouragement and strength for their recovery journeys.
More than just a meeting place, Recovery Church has become a thriving community where lives are being transformed through connection, acceptance, and growth.
As the first anniversary approaches, members reflect on a year of friendship, learning, and personal development, while looking forward to an even brighter future together.
What people are saying...
"*Recovery Church gave me a place where I felt accepted and encouraged to grow.*"
"*I've discovered confidence and talents I never knew I had.*"
"*It's more than a church, it's a community and family of support.*"
Tokomairiro Cooperating Parish, Milton
For more info: 027 959 8570



Upcoming Events

Year 7 & 8 *Inspiring the Futures* Day: Friday 30 October
Lake to Sea: Saturday 31st October
SMART Testing (Years 7–10): First week of November
NCEA Exams Begin: Tuesday 10th November
Teacher Only Day: Friday 13th November
Year 7 & 8 Camp: Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th November

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Tokomairiro High School Newsletter
28th October 2026

RESPECT WHAKAUTE | RESPONSIBILITY HAEPAPA | EXCELLENCE HIRANGA

Tena koutou katoa,

I hope everyone enjoyed the Labour Weekend break and managed to make the most of the extra day away from the usual routines. With November just around the corner, our senior students are focused on completing their remaining NCEA assessments and preparing for external examinations, while our junior students have plenty to look forward to before the end of the year.
We are also looking forward to the return of the Lake to Sea this Saturday, after the disappointment of having to cancel the event for the past two years due to weather. Fingers crossed that the weather is on our side this time!

Emergency School Closures
It is hard to believe that a year has passed since the storm that caused so much disruption across our region last October. We were fortunate that students were not at school when the storm struck, but it was a reminder of how quickly circumstances can change and the importance of being prepared.
The anniversary provides a timely opportunity to remind families about our procedures should we ever need to close the school unexpectedly during the day.
If an early closure is necessary, we will normally notify caregivers by text message, with updates also provided through our school Facebook page. Students aged 16 and over who do not travel by school bus may be released independently once it is safe to do so. Students under 16 will remain supervised at school until they are collected or we have received confirmation from their caregivers about alternative arrangements. Students who normally travel by school bus will remain at school until their bus arrives unless another arrangement has been confirmed.
One of the challenges highlighted by last year's storm was the possibility of losing electricity and communication networks. We are therefore considering additional arrangements for situations where we are unable to contact families, including having caregivers nominate in advance the people authorised to collect their children in an emergency.
Our priority is always the safety and wellbeing of our students, and no student will be required to leave without a safe way of getting home. We will provide further information about any additional arrangements once they have been finalised.
In the meantime, we encourage all families to ensure that their contact details and emergency contacts are up to date.

SMART Testing
Next week, students in Years 7–10 will complete their second round of SMART testing in reading, writing and mathematics.
The results will help us measure the progress students have made throughout the year and identify areas where further support or extension may be needed. This information will also help inform our planning for 2027. Students do not need to undertake any special preparation, as the assessments are designed to provide a picture of their current learning and progress.

Teacher Only Day – Friday 13 November
A reminder that Tokomairiro High School will be closed for instruction on Friday 13 November for our second Teacher Only Day of the year.
Staff will use this time to continue preparing for the curriculum changes being introduced in 2027. This includes reviewing teaching programmes, planning learning sequences and ensuring that our students will experience a coherent and engaging curriculum across all learning areas.
While much of this work happens behind the scenes, it is an important part of ensuring that we are well prepared for next year.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) – Planning for 2027
As families begin thinking ahead to next year, a reminder that students in Years 9–13 are expected to bring their own device to school each day, charged and ready to use.
Digital technology is an important part of learning across the curriculum, and many NCEA assessments are now completed digitally. Having access to a suitable device allows students to participate fully in classroom activities and develop the digital skills they will need beyond school.
With Black Friday sales approaching in November, this may be a good opportunity for families who are considering purchasing or replacing a device to plan ahead for 2027.
We encourage families to check the school's BYOD requirements before making a purchase to ensure that any new device will be suitable for school use.

Ngā mihi,
Vicki Wish
Principal | Tumuaki

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Orientation Day
We will be holding an orientation day for all incoming 2027 year 6 students on Monday 30th November. Please note the change in date.
Students can arrive at school from 8.40am and will be returning to their primary school at 12pm. Any questions please email erica@tokohigh.school.nz

Genesis Deadline Monday at noon



Halloween Fun at Moore Park Pump Track

Bible Reading for the Week

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Milton's Moore Park Pump Track will come alive with Halloween fun on Saturday, 31st of October, with tamariki (children), rangatahi (young people) and whānau (family and friends) invited to enjoy a free afternoon of biking, activities and community fun.

Third-year Occupational Therapy students Molly and Anna from Otago Polytechnic are working alongside Project Bruce to organise the training and fun day, with the aim of promoting the pump track and encouraging safe, enjoyable outdoor activity within the Milton community.

A special highlight will be the appearance of Levi Goodall, a freestyle mountain biker and YouTuber, who will share his skills and tips with participants. Levi will also put on a 20-minute demonstration using an inflatable ramp, showcasing some of his freestyle riding tricks. The session will be a great opportunity for young riders to learn more about biking and build their confidence in a fun and supportive environment.

With Halloween falling around the event, attendees are encouraged to dress up and bring along their Halloween spirit! There will be a free sausage sizzle and lollies for participants, while Mr Whippy will also be there for anyone wanting to purchase a treat.

The event aims to support hauora (wellbeing) by encouraging physical activity, confidence, connection and participation in the local community. Whether children are regular pump track users or keen to give it a go for the first time, everyone is welcome, including community members and whānau.

Safety is a priority on the day, and helmets are compulsory for all riders. A couple of spare helmets will be available for those who do not have their own. Tamariki under 10 must have a parent or caregiver present, and adults will be supervising throughout the event. A St John ambulance is also planned to attend, subject to availability. So, bring your bike, helmet and best Halloween costume for an afternoon of active fun and new skills.

Event details - When: Saturday, 31 October, 12 pm–2 pm
Where: Moore Park Pump Track, Milton
Cost: Free entry

Featuring: Levi Goodall's freestyle bike demonstration, riding tips, Halloween dress-ups, a free sausage sizzle, lollies, prizes and Mr Whippy (available to purchase).

Nau mai, haere mai, everyone is welcome! Come along, give the pump track a go and enjoy a fun afternoon with your community.



Articles & Reports

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

BAYLEYS

SOLD!

Rare freehold beachfront

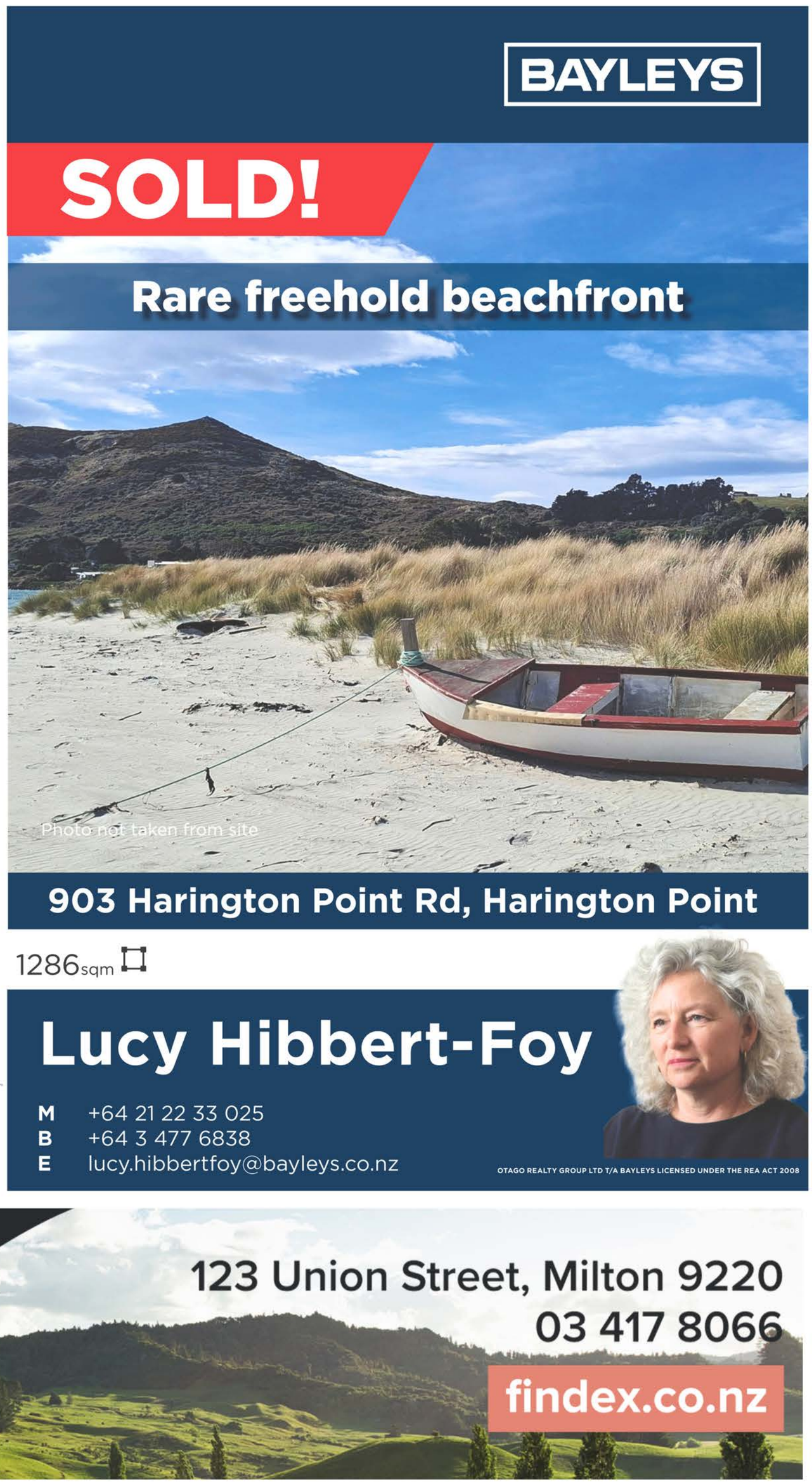

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Photo Opporuntiy in Historic Stables



Ten minutes. One gorgeous old stone stable. Photos you'll actually love. Hidden away on a private farm in Clarendon, just 10 minutes from Milton, The Stables is a magical spot that many don't even know exists. Thick stone walls, old timber, and that soft, moody light you just can't fake. For one day only, you're invited in.

Local photographer Kerry Hodge is running 15 portrait sessions there, and they're $99 each. That gets you 10 minutes in front of the camera (quick enough for toddlers, teenagers and reluctant husbands but long enough to capture the magic of you and your people), then you choose your three favourite images from a private gallery, fully edited and ready to frame, print or show off.

Come on your own, bring your other half, or round up the family (up to five). It's also the perfect excuse to finally ditch the headshot you cropped out of someone else's wedding photo.

No awkward posing, no stiff smiles. Kerry's all about real people looking like themselves, just on a really good day.

Even better, 25% of the day's profits go to the Tokomairiro Toy Library, so your photos help local kids too.

Over half the sessions are already gone, with just 8 left. Bookings close 14 November, or as soon as they're snapped up.

👉 https://www.kerryhodgephotography.com/the-stables-portrait-day

Information Centre and Museum Report

Saturday opening hours have begun 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. along with the regular weekday hours. With the summer season underway travelers are in their campers often bringing along their cycles to enjoy riding the local trails. The Plaza area has seating, bike stands and Information board erected with additional info available at our Centre.

On display is a recent acquisition to the collections being the high desk used by the teacher at the Glenledi School which opened in 1879. The first teacher was Miss Jessie Grant of Port Chalmers. She was also there at the time of the shipwreck of the Marguerite Mirabaud which grounded at Chrystal's Beach 17 February 1907 on Milton's east coast, assisting with Mr & Mrs McGuigan and Waters. Thankfully no sailors were lost.

The School was closed in 1923. When dismantled part of the timber was used for a new school at Akatore, replacing one that suffered fire in 1920. Part of the building was converted into an outside building at the Tokomairiro District High School. The last teacher at Glenledi was Miss Marion Sanderson. The desk has been in the care of the Sadler family.

We have many items on display from the Shipwreck, a recent addition being a dinner plate and painting.

The A.G.M. for the Historical Society is being held 10th November 7.30 p.m. We welcome all along and supper will follow. Your support for the continuation of this community facility is appreciated.

Euchre Results

14th October 2026
Winner: Dori (Lawrence)
Loser: Di
Raffle: Cath

21st October 2026
Winner: Lorraine (Owaka)
Loser: Una
Raffle: Di

News from the Trenches

And the winner is??? About to be announced this coming Saturday when the prize giving for our NPC Comp is announced. The night will commence at 6pm with winners lauded at 7pm. I watched the NPC final at the RSA on Monday in front of a large raucous crowd and some potential prize winners. The stress level has finally ended.

On the 20th November we will be having our annual sports night vs the Milton Fire brigade in a battle Royale with plenty of bragging rights. I know a couple of guys from the Fire brigade and when they stop playing with their hoses, they hopefully will put up some competition.

Also coming up at the RSA we will be calling for entrants for 2027 Darts Competition so get your name down for that as well. Last couple of years it's been a spectacular occasion.

Finally for Pikes Fact Hunt, did you realize that the word SWIMS is the same if you stand on your head and read it. I know you are trying this as we speak. *Private Spike Pike*

Toko Golf Club Results

20 October 2026

Game of the day - Three Clubs and a Putter

18 Holes

J. Good	36 c/b
H. Vollweiler	36
J. Greene	35
M. Cain	34

9 Holes

N. Cubitt	16
J. Clark	16

Longest Putt - H. Vollweiler

Genesis Classifieds...Acknowledgement

MURDOCH, Brian - Wiki and the family would like to express their deepest gratitude to everyone for the overwhelming support and kindness shown to us during this difficult time.

Thank you to everyone who brought food, sent cards, and offered comfort with your hugs and presence - your care has meant the world to us. A special thank you goes to the team at St John for their incredible support and care.

To our wonderful whanau, both near and far and on both sides, thank you for standing by us and wrapping us in your love.

Please accept this as a personal acknowledgement of our appreciation.

Genesis Classifieds.....Church Notices



Tokomairiro Co operating Parish

34 Union Street, Milton

Sunday 1st November
10am Worship Service.
2.30-3.30 Recovery Church
4pm- 6 pm Whanau Funday
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 Intermediate & High School children. Check out our Facebook page for events & times.

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

Genesis Classifieds.....Public Notices

Council Updates & Notices

Updates from the Clutha District Council
Stay Informed, Stay Connected

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

LAKE TO SEA TRAIL RIDE
31 OCTOBER 2026

Proposed Temporary Road Closure
(Pursuant to the Local Government Act 1974)

The following roads will be closed on Saturday 31 October 2026 between 10.00am to 4.30pm for the purpose of the Lake to Sea Trail Ride:

- Quoin Point Road (Akatore Rd end)
- Irishmans Road (last 200m at beach end)
- Akatore Road (at Easons Rd, also at Quoin Point Rd)
- Bull Creek Road (beyond Rapid 114)
- Eason Road (at intersection with Akatore Road)

Vehicles will intermittently be permitted during these closures as required and when it is safe to do so.

Steve Hill
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND

SPORT NEW ZEALAND IHI AOTEAROA

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**.



Matthew French

National Party Candidate for Taieri



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

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Authorised by Rob Salmond, 2 Gilmer Terrace, Wellington.

Genesis Classifieds.....Public Notices



Tokomairiro Ploughing Match & South Otago Ploughing Match

31st October and 1st November 2026
From 11:30am both days

Scott Johnston's Property
Lindsay Road, Milton



Scan the QR code for more information about Genesis advertising

MCC Milton Country Club

AGM

Sunday 1st November
1pm



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.

ŌWAKA

Community Funding Session

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER | **3:30 PM**

CATLINS MUSEUM
10 CAMPBELL ST, ŌWAKA

Need funding for a community project?

Come and meet your local funders to learn more about the funding available and how to apply.

OTAGO Community Trust

RSVP ONLINE AT OCT.ORG.NZ OR:
0800 10 12 40 | Info@OCT.ORG.NZ

Bruce Community Calendar NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday 1st November - Recovery Church 1st Birthday Celebration, 2:30pm, 34 Union St. All welcome!
Wednesday 4th November - Preschool Storytime @ the library, 10:30-11:30am
Lovell's Flat Women's Institute, Station Road, 1:30pm
Sunday 8th November - Coastal Classic - MTB, Run, Walk. Taieri Mouth
Tuesday 10th November - Game afternoon @ the library, 3:30-4:30pm. Come and play board games with us!
Tokomairiro Historical Society & Bruce Trust AGM, 7:30pm

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 (next door to the RSA), 6:45pm —All welcome, beginners included.
TAI CHI at the Milton RSA, 1pm, ph 027 279 1602
Fridays
CROCHET 10am-12pm @ 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

Lawrence Heritage Trust's 2026 Heritage Homes Tour:

Sunday 1st November, 11am-3pm.

Tickets $35 pp include morning OR afternoon tea. Pre-bookings highly recommended: heritagetrustlawrence@gmail.com or cash only sales on the day from Museum & Info Centre.

Part of Lawrence Heritage Day festivities



Lawrence HERITAGE & CULTURAL CHARITABLE Trust



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www.tokohigh.school.nz

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