



Aparima College Newsletter

ISSUE THREE: MAY 2026

Blaze Daane



Congratulations to Blaze Daane for being selected for the Young Entrepreneurs in Action Weekend in Wellington. Blaze is selected as one of 42 students from across Aotearoa. As one of the 5000 students participating in Young Enterprise, Blaze has invented an awesome product (top secret at this stage) but one that supports people who require life saving medications. The programme is designed to further develop students' passion for business, their entrepreneurial mindset and their confidence through exposing them to real-world business scenarios and direct mentorship from corporate leaders.

If you are interested in supporting Blaze through investment in his Young Enterprise Company, please contact the school.

Blaze will be in Wellington, working alongside business mentors and other young entrepreneurs in July.

Madison Heta



We are very proud of Madison Heta who was this week selected for the World Literacy Foundation's Youth Literacy Ambassador Program.

Out of a remarkable pool of over 1300 applicants from across the globe, Madison stood out as a young person who could become an empowered literacy advocate and change maker.

She will be connecting with youth and mentors from all over the globe.

Aparima College
33 Leader Street
Riverton 9822
Telephone: 03 2348 900

Email: office@aparima.school.nz

Website: www.aparima.school.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/aparimacollegenx

He kupu mai i te teepu tumuaki (a word from the Principal's desk)

Kia ora koutou,

It has been a very busy couple of weeks. Aparima students are excelling on Local, National and Global stages, Living their learning in a huge variety of ways. We are very proud of Blaze and Madison for being selected in their fields amongst tough competition (See cover). We are also very excited for Taria who will be heading to Argentina shortly for three months. Taria travels to Argentina as a part of the AFS Student Study Programme.

Students are getting into winter sports and I would like to thank all volunteers for giving their time to support students to participate.

Term 1 2026 records the best attendance in over 5 years!!

Ngā mihi nui to our community for the effort to get Aparima Students to regularly attend school. With **70%** of students attending more than 90% of time in Term 1, the Government target of over 80% is still a way away, however, we are a significant step closer. Term 1 attendance eclipsed the 54% of 2025 which had been the highest in 5 years. Our challenge as a community is to maintain this level of attendance through the winter months.

Morning Struggles

- Set up the night before: Lay out clothes, pack bags, and prepare lunch
- Create a consistent bedtime routine to ensure adequate sleep
- Consider whether your child is getting enough sleep, teens need 8-10 hours per night

Anxiety or School Avoidance

- Talk to your child about what's making school difficult
- Connect with teachers who can provide support
- Consider whether there are underlying issues that need addressing

Health Concerns

- Distinguish between genuine illness and reluctance to attend
- Maintain regular health checkups to address ongoing issues
- Work with the school if your child has chronic health conditions

<https://www.kotakureo.school.nz/parents-and-whanau>

Every Day Matters!!

Aloma

Uniform Reminders

With winter coming there are slight changes in uniform, no sandals are to be worn in Terms 2 and 3. A reminder that the uniform does have school socks. These come in packs of 3 for \$21 from the U-SHOP. They are plain black with a green hoop at the top. Jackets should be plain black or should be the soft shell Aparima College Jacket, in stock at the UShop for \$98. We thank you for your support in this matter. Students have opportunity to express themselves on Fridays, Non-Uniform day; we expect all students to wear the uniform with pride on all other days.



School Playground Project

We're looking for a dedicated **volunteer project manager** to help lead our school's upcoming playground development project. If you have experience coordinating projects, enjoy bringing people together, and want to make a meaningful impact for local tamariki, we'd love to have your support. This role will help guide planning, timelines, and community collaboration to create a safe, fun space for our kids to learn and play. If you're interested in contributing your skills, please get in touch.



Speed Careers

Our senior students were privileged to take part in a Speed Careers session hosted by Great South. It was fantastic to have so many local employers come along and chat with students about the wide range of career pathways available right here in Southland. A great opportunity and lots of positive conversations all round!



Science

The Year 9 and 10s were lucky to attend sessions held by Jessa Barder, the Community Engagement Co-ordinator for Te Whai Ao - Dodd-Walls Centre.

The students were shown examples of super conductors, light waves, lasers and the basis of quantum physics. They got to see physics in action and how physics can relate to their world around them



The U Shop - Invercargill are now selling Velvet Black Fleece Lined Tights for students to keep them warm over Winter.



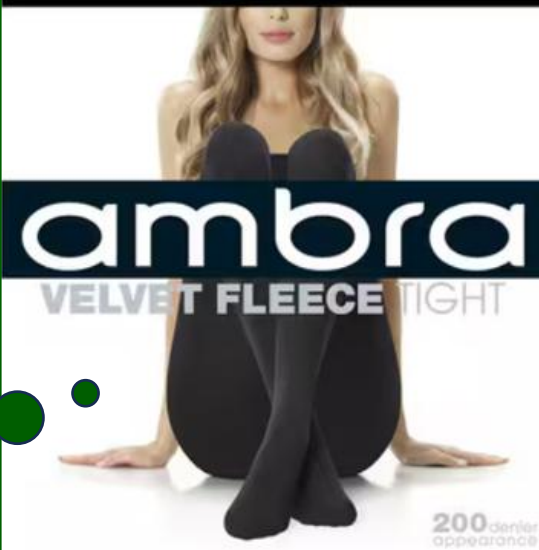
UNIFORM GROUP
CREATING IDENTITY



U'S
SPORTSWEAR



THE U SHOP
YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP



ambra
VELVET FLEECE TIGHT

200 denier appearance

These soft, luxurious tights are lined with a plush velvet fleece for the ultimate in comfort and warmth.

- Soft velvet fleece inside
- Ultimate comfort and warmth
- Regular brief
- Gusset with cotton
- 200 denier appearance

Composition: Polyester / Elastane / Cotton

EPRO 8 Challenge

EPro8 Challenge recently. Our two teams chose to make the Super Mario Karts. The managed lots of problem solving and they did well. It was a tricky build and the two and a half hours flew by

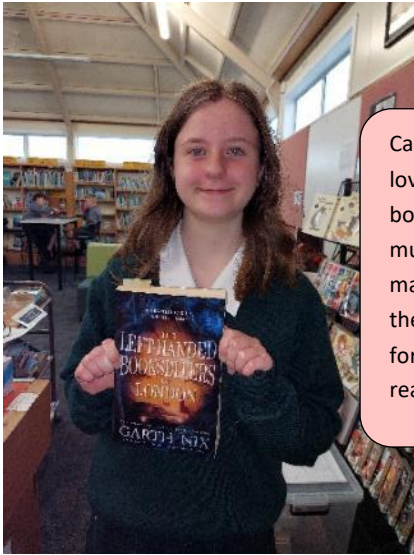


REMINDER

Please name your child's clothing as we cannot returned lost items if we don't know who they belong to. Thanks



Library Corner



Carmen loved this book so much she made me buy the next one for her to read.



Celebrating Good Borrowing



Today was a nice quiet Library lunch hour, so we had a chance to capture some great reading. There was a whole lot of excitement about the much awaited books arriving. Rosie added them to the Catalogue at morning tea

At lunch Lucy and Carmen learnt to label and cover them before settling in to read and eat their lunch.

Alex and Jax are regular chess players in the Library during lunch and quite evenly matched which means they are always growing their skills by trying to outwit each other.

Finding a book that delighted her has transformed Porsha into a keen reader.

Porsha was so delighted by the story of a refugee family trying to survive she looked up to see if there were more like it. She found the sequel was published last year and convinced the librarian it would be a good addition to the collection.

While she waits for it to arrive, Porsha has chosen a story based on another students book review poster. It is always good to have a review to let you know someone else enjoyed it to give you confidence to have a read. She says it's goods far!



Aparima College – Student Attendance Expectations

Regular attendance is vital for student success. There is a strong link between consistent school attendance and academic achievement. Ensuring students attend and engage in learning is a shared responsibility between the school and families.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Ensure your child attends school every day.
- It is essential that you notify the school promptly if your child is absent. You can:
 - Phone the school on 2348900 or
 - Send an email to office@aparima.school.nz , or message via KAMAR
 - Please provide the reason for the absence (eg medical/dental appointment, unwell)

School Support:

- We understand that occasional absences may be unavoidable.
- If absences become frequent or prolonged, we will contact you to discuss the situation.
- We are committed to helping your child attend regularly and can work with you to develop a support plan.

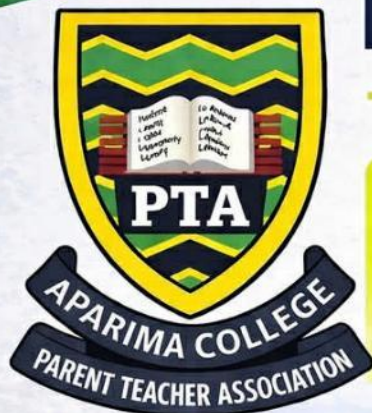
Need Help?

- Speak with your child's teacher or dean
- Message us via KAMAR or email
- Call 2348900 and ask for Rebecca Carran or Leah Fraser

For more details on attendance rights and responsibilities, visit the <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/student-support/student-attendance/>.

Less than 5 days absence in a school term	Up to 10 days absence in a school term	Up to 15 days absence in a school term	15 days or more of absence in a school term
Parents/Guardians • Ensure student attends every day they are able • Reinforce good attendance habits • Support other parents to reinforce good attendance habits • Open communication with school • Follow school attendance management plan and associated policies and processes Schools • Communicate with parents about every absence • Monitor contact details of parents • Provide student with regular updates on their own attendance • Report regularly to parents on attendance of their child • Support student ○ attending school ○ to continue learning if unable to attend school every day, including using Ministry approved well-being or transitional plans, or health schools where appropriate ○ to access other education pathways where appropriate	Parents/Guardians • Return student to regular attendance • Contact school to discuss reasons for absence and impact on learning • Support student to catch up on missed learning • Engage in supports offered Schools • Contact parents to discuss reasons for absence and impact on learning • Support student to catch up on missed learning where required • Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers e.g. counsellor, alternative timetable, PBL	Parents/Guardians • Return student to regular attendance • Participate in meeting with school to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan • Implement strategies at home Schools • Contact parents to escalate concerns • Hold meeting to analyse reasons for absence and to collaborate on a support plan • Develop and implement a support plan tailored to the reasons and circumstances around the child's absence • Use in-school resources as appropriate to remove barriers and request support from Attendance Service or other agencies as needed	Parents/Guardians • Return student to regular attendance • Engage in support plan • Participate in regular meetings Schools • Contact parents to inform of escalated response • Request support from Attendance Service or other agencies as needed • Participate in multi-agency response • Monitor implementation and monitoring of support plan • Undertake school-led prosecution, or request Ministry-led prosecution, when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up • Unenrol if student will not be returning to school
Ministry of Education Attendance Service • Work with chronically absent and non-enrolled students and their families to identify and address barriers to attendance. This includes: ○ agreeing changes to be made, ○ addressing some unmet basic needs impacting on attendance, and ○ referring students to other services as necessary • Collaborate with schools so that ○ they remain engaged so plans are developed and implemented, and ○ they can continue to provide support as the student increases their attendance at school, and the additional Attendance Service support is withdrawn Regional and National teams • Facilitate involvement of other agencies • Support schools to access other education pathways for a student where appropriate • Consider system-wide initiatives for high-risk attendance • Reportable regional support resources to where most needed/effective • Undertake Ministry-led prosecution when considered appropriate if supports are offered and not taken up, when requested by schools			

Sausage Sizzle also available on the day.....



PTA GARAGE SALE

— SAVE THE DATE —

24

Sunday 24 May 2026



10:00am – 2:00pm



Aparima College Hall



♥ **Raising funds for **NEW** outdoor seating & shade areas for our students.**

DONATIONS WANTED:

- ✓ Good condition clothing
- ✓ Toys
- ✓ Books & household items
- ✓ Home baking
- ✗ No large furniture
- ✗ No electronics

**Thank you for
supporting our
students!**

DONATION DROP OFF:

21

Thurs 21 & Fri 22 May



3:00pm – 5:00pm



Aparima College Hall



SELL YOUR OWN ITEMS?

21

Limited tables available - \$20 each

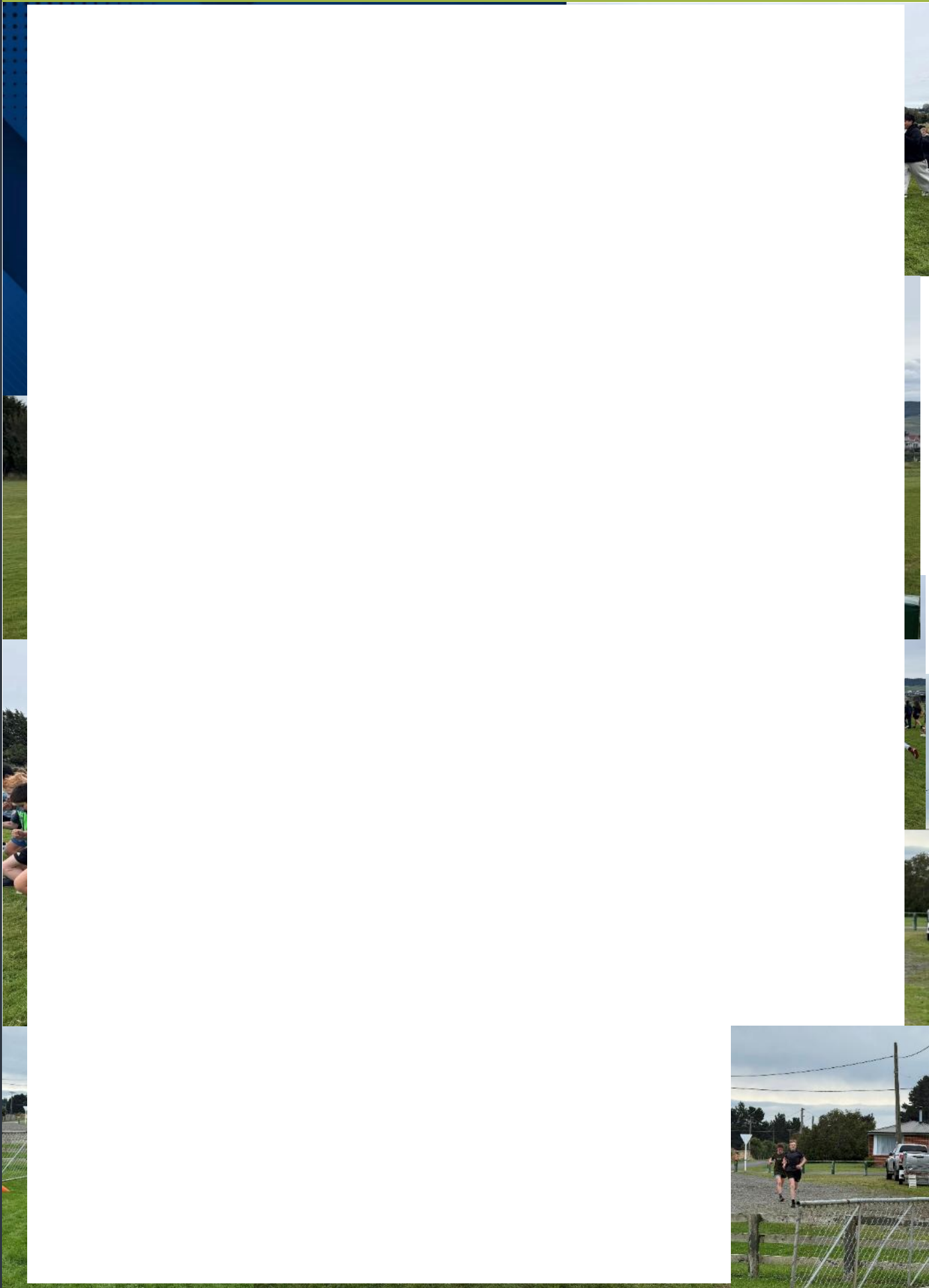


Cash only - pay on the day



College Hall

**Enquiries: Laura Delgado
027 416 3961**



LEST WE FORGET

— ANZAC DAY —



Football

Well done to a couple of our students Rawinia O'Neill and Rosie Coburn who played for Southland United at the Queenstown International Football Tournament recently. The team had an outstanding weekend and were crowned Team Champions in the U13 Girls Grade.



Watch this space.... A production is underway!!!!

A drama filled with pretend pirates, retired pirates and real pirates set in the 1700's on the high seas.....



**Have your bulk fuel purchases
make a difference in our community**

For every 100L of bulk fuel you have delivered
our school receives 50 cents



Call 0800 99 99 89 to start supporting us
today!

APARIMA COLLEGE SWIMMING SPORTS RESULTS

House Points

4 th - Longwood	206points
3 rd - Ngapohatu	388 points
2 nd - Oraka	405 points
1 st - Wallace	528 points

Champions

Year 7/8 Boys - Loius Eade
Year 7/8 Girls - Caitlyn Crowther
Year 9/10 Boys - Grey McGregor
Year 9/10 Girls Maleia Pou
Senior Boys - Baxter Wills
Senior Girls - Sophie Douglas

Well done to all the swimmers

Junior Netball

Introducing our Year 9 & 10 Combined Aparima College Netball Team, these amazing students are diligently training twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays, in preparation for heading away to compete at the South Island Secondary Schools Junior Netball Tournament in the first week of July school holidays in Christchurch.

Over the next couple of months, the team will be fundraising to help with the tournament costs and would love your support. We are running a "Got Your Back" fundraiser (on now). A firewood raffle will be run on Saturday 6th June at Fresh Choice Riverton, and a Bingo night on Monday 28th June at the Riverton RSA.

The team will also be playing in the Southland Junior Netball Tournament on Sunday 14th June, and they invite to come along and watch!



**APARIMA
COLLEGE
BALL
09.05.2026**





Year 7 Enviro

The Year 7 enviro students have been learning all about our environment, the problems in the environment, and how they and others can take action to improve and care for our environment.

A trip to the Adam's sediment trap looked at one way farmers are looking after the waterways. Picking up rubbish around the school resulted in posters being created to share messages about putting litter in the right place. Great mahi.



UP AND COMING EVENTS

24 May 2026	PTA Garage Sale – College Hall
28 May 2026	Girls in Trades
28 May 2026	Southland Cultural Games Festival
29 May 2026	Western X Country
29 May 2026	YES Pitches
1 June 2026	KINGS Birthday (Public Holiday)
12 June 2026	Southland X Country
14 June 2026	Junior Southland Secondary Schools Netball Tournament
17 June 2026	BOT Meeting 5:00pm in Room 9/10
17 -18 June 2026	Manu Korero (Māori Speech Comp)
19 June 2026	Agri Kids
10 July 2026	MATARIKI
6 August 2026	Careers Fest
7-9 August 2026	NZ Secondary Schools Squash Champs
14 August 2026	TEACHER ONLY DAY
17 – 19 August 2026	Life Education Bus
19 August 2026	BOT Meeting 5:00pm in Room 9/10
27 August 2026	Polyfest
17 September 2026	Year 7/8 Southern Interschools

COMMUNITY EVENTS

🦷 FREE DENTAL CARE FOR YEAR 9–18 YEAR OLD STUDENTS 🦷

Did you know teenagers can choose to see Tooth Works for their free dental care?

Tooth Works holds the Combined Dental Agreement contract with Health NZ, allowing us to provide FREE dental care for eligible Year 9–18 year old students.

We provide:

- ✓ Check-ups
- ✓ X-rays
- ✓ Fillings
- ✓ Dental advice
- ✓ Emergency treatment

Our friendly team aims to make dental visits relaxed and comfortable for young people. We can also see children younger than Year 9 privately if parents wish.

📍 Tooth Works – Invercargill

☎ 03 218 4937

🌐 toothworks.co.nz

Women's Health Evening WITH LEONIE RAE



Wednesday 17th of June 7pm
Cafe 102
Riverton

Join us for a relaxed evening chatting all things women's pelvic health. Leonie, pelvic floor physiotherapist from Invercargill, will share simple tips and practical advice to help you feel stronger, more confident and in control

Ask your questions in a safe and supportive environment.
Stay for nibbles, connection and conversation

Bring your mum, sisters, aunties, daughters and friends!

To register for this free session or for more info, get in touch:
027 390 6155

ConnectHER
CONNECT · EMPOWER · THRIVE



Get Connected

Southland Region

What's On This Month

May 2026

Please check directly with the organiser for full details and for confirmation.

Invercargill

Social Groups

Weekly Inclusive Social Group

Every Tuesday
Southland Working Man's Club
154 Esk Street, Invercargill
Meet near the jukebox
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Waffling Wednesdays

Every Wednesday
Enjoy conversations with others.
From 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Tui Room
The Pantry
133 Grace Street

Autistic Adult Social Group

Held on the second Monday of every month
Invercargill City Library
In the upstairs meeting room
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Superskills Workshops

Have fun whilst learning new life skills.
23a Forth Street, Invercargill.
Contact: Heather
superskills@jubileebudget.co.nz
for more information or to register.
Free - bookings essential.

Neurodivergent VolleyBall

Tuesdays, 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm
Supportive, low-pressure environment.
Volleyballs provided.
40 Forth Street, Invercargill.
\$10 per person, carers are free.
Canteen open, safe, fully-fenced courts.

Support Groups

Minds In Motion Day Group

Held on the first Thursday of every month
Rothbury House, 36 Kelvin Street, Invercargill
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
zavana@able.org.nz or 021 360 096

Parent2Parent Support Group

Held on the second Monday of every month
Southland Community House,
46 Kelvin Street, Invercargill
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
maryann@parent2parent.org.nz

Gore

Minds In Motion Support Group

Held on the first Monday of every month
Connected Eastern Southland
1 Charlton Lane, Gore
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
zavana@able.org.nz or 021 360 096

Learn to Sew (free)

Fridays 10 am to 3 pm
Salvation Army Building, 21 Inwell Street.

Woodworking for beginners

Southern REAP - BackShed
6 Fairfield Street, Gore

Cost \$60 (all materials supplied)

Mondays 4th May, 11th May,
18th May and 25th May
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Enrol online at
www.reap.co.nz/easternsouthland
0800 111 117 or email: info@reap.co.nz
(see flyer below for more details)



Way to Play

Invercargill - Monday 19th October, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

Venue to be advised

For family/whānau, early childhood teachers, health professionals, or anyone else living or working with young children with autism. Way to Play is a fun one-day introduction to playing joyously with a young child on the autism spectrum.

Way to Play has been specifically designed for people directly involved with a young child with autism. Adults are often left bewildered when trying to play with the child. The course offers some simple, easy-to-use, practical strategies to begin playing joyously together. Having fun playing together is the focus.

Cost: Professionals \$125 / Whānau \$25.00

To book or for more information: <https://book.autismnz.org.nz/event?id=914>



Flyers

WOODWORKING FOR BEGINNERS

Learn to make a project out of wood for home.
Small class size and lots of encouragement, no previous skills required!

Project options to create:

- Small foldable chair
- Children's BBQ picnic table
- Planter box
- Small book shelf

Learn new skills and how to be confident with hand tools.

MONDAYS
4, 11, 18, 25 MAY

6:30pm - 8:30pm

\$60 for the 4 weeks (all materials supplied)

Southern REAP - BackShed
6 Fairfield Street, GORE

Enrol online at www.reap.co.nz/easternsouthland or
please phone Southern REAP on 0800 111 117
or email info@reap.co.nz

Enrol online

Southern REAP

REAP - RURAL EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

May 2026

Southland Region

Please check directly with the organiser for full details and for confirmation.

Queenstown

Pivotal Point Parent Support Group

Held on the first Wednesday of every month
Queenstown Events Centre,
Mezzanine Meeting Room
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

ND Adult Support Group

Held on the third Friday every month.
Frankton Library, Hawthorne Drive
10:30 am - 12:00 pm
Spaces are limited - to book, please contact:
Deb Saint NDconsultant2024@outlook.com

Parent2Parent Support Group

Wednesday, 20th May
Frankton Library, Hawthorne Drive
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Please confirm with the host the event is going ahead before travelling.
maryann@parent2parent.org.nz

Te Anau

Daily Respite Care Service

Supporting independence and quality of life across all ages.
For more information,
contact: 027 208 9339 or email:
dailyrespitecare@gmail.com



Parent2Parent Support Group

Tuesday, 26th May
Fiordland Community House
Luxmore Drive
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm
Please confirm with the host the event is going ahead before travelling.
maryann@parent2parent.org.nz

Online Social Groups

Autism New Zealand

Autism Connect

To access the groups, please
sign up using the QR Code link.



Autism NZ Adult Group

Every second Monday - Via The Autism Connect App. Please join for details.
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Parent and Caregivers Group

Every Second Tuesday - Via The Autism Connect App. Please join for details.
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Altogether Autism

By Autistics for Autistics (18-25 years old inclusive)

VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES
Via Zoom
See Altogether Autism website
for details and to register



By Autistics for Autistics (26 years and over)

VARIOUS DATES AND TIMES
Via Zoom
See Altogether Autism website
for details and to register



Please check website for sessions and times



Equine Respite

Balance Equestrian

Horses act as non-judgmental, empathetic partners, fostering autonomy and providing unique opportunities for engagement, skill development, and sensory integration in a fun and therapeutic environment.

✓ Qualified & Experienced Staff

✓ Carer Support / IF Accepted

✓ Police Vetted

✓ Manawauui Registered

Contact Us



☎ 027 882 0830
✉ balance.equestrian.nz@gmail.com
📍 24 Bethunes Lane, Invercargill

