



NEWSLETTER

Week 9, Term One, 2026

(03) 433 1366 email: office@ardgowan.school.nz

Principal's Message

Kia ora koutou e te Whānau,

It is with a heavy heart that I pen this final newsletter as Principal of Ardgowan School.

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to our community, our dedicated staff, and—most importantly—our students. I feel incredibly fortunate to have been your Principal, and I thank you all for the support you have shown me during my time.

As I have shared before, Ardgowan School has been a significant part of my life for many years. Choosing to move on was an incredibly difficult decision for both myself and my whānau, but I do so knowing that the school is in a fantastic position to move forward into its next chapter.

I was reminded of this last week while on camp with our Year 5 and 6 students and their parents. Seeing our students shine in a new environment and experiencing the incredible support of our parent volunteers reaffirmed everything I love about this place. The students were outstanding, and the parents were there for every child, not just their own. To me, that sense of unity is the ultimate "litmus test" for a school, and it proves that the heart of Ardgowan is strong.

Thank you for the memories and for allowing me to be part of your journeys.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ryan Fraser

The 'Papagowan Pony Pals' had a fabulous time at the Interschools Equestrian Competition on Otago Anniversary weekend.

The team was Izzy Montaperto on Dubbo, Bella Mackenzie on Drummer, Prue Leckie on Oreo, and Robyn Brar on Billy.

The girls were very successful and took out the overall win in the Primary section, for which they won the Otago Field Days Championship Shield.

They won the team turnout. All of them won their dressage section. Prue, Bella and Izzy won their jumping section, Robyn was second in hers. Then they were second in the fun team fancy dress class at the end of the day - they went as the 'Circus Papagowan', which was the girls' idea and involved a lot of planning.

More importantly, they were a great team and supported each other so well all day. A lot of fun was had and good memories were made!



Regular attendance at school is very important.

8:40AM	Arriving before class starts means getting settled and ready for class
9:00AM	Arriving late means the start of the lesson could be missed and is likely to unsettle the class
9:05AM	5 minutes late a day means missing 3 days over a school year
9:10AM	10 minutes late a day means almost 7 schools days lost a year
9:15AM	15 minutes late a day means almost 10 schools days lost a year
	Arriving very late is recorded as an absence
Students that are late miss out on learning and can be a disruption to the classroom. If a student regularly late it will affect their learning at school.	

School Notices

Uniform Prices. Due to one of our suppliers increasing their price for uniform we are having to raise the price. This will take effect from 1st April and is only for Polar Fleece at this stage. We make no profit from the sale of uniform, it is sold to families at cost. Please see below for new pricing.

Ardgowan School Sunhats are mandatory for ALL children to wear during Terms 1 and 4. Hats are available for purchase at the school office in 4 different sizes for \$23 per hat. Please make sure your child's hat is clearly named as they are easily misplaced.

Drink bottles - these are a must for all children to have every day while at school. Please ensure their drink bottle is full of water, and is in their bag every morning.

Signing out - If your child is leaving school early, or you are collecting your child during school time for any reason, please ensure you come to the office to sign them out. Should we have an emergency, it is vitally important that we know whether your son / daughter is on / off the school grounds.

POLICE VETTING for parents and caregivers.

If you would like to accompany the children on school trips and camps it is a requirement by law that all parents / caregivers be police vetted, and that the vet be current with our school. If you would like to be police vetted to enable you to join in these activities, please contact the school office. We have forms available on paper, or can email out to you if you prefer. Vetting lasts 3 years and there is no cost to you. A primary and Secondary form of ID must be provided on application.

A couple of reminders for families around drop off and pick up times.

The Drop and Drive area is to be used for Drop and Drive only - NO PARKING.

The car park is for parking to drop off and pick up your child only - NO DROP AND DRIVE.

Please help to keep the children safe by using both areas for their intended purpose only as it creates frustration for other users when they are used inappropriately.

Please drive carefully when in and around our school.

+Hand Foot and Mouth Disease. We have had a confirmed case of Hand, Foot and Mouth within the school.

Here is some general information for families should we get more cases.

You can pass the infection to others for 7 to 10 days from the start of the illness. To reduce the risk of spreading the infection:

- wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water

- avoid close contact with people, such as kissing, hugging and sharing toys or eating utensils
- keep your tamaiti (child) home from childcare or school until their fever has gone and their blisters have dried.

If your tamaiti only has a few blisters on their hands or feet, and none in their mouth, they can attend childcare or school so long as they feel well and you can cover the blisters. Please follow the link below for further information.

[Hand, foot and mouth disease](#)

Our school event calendar for the year is on our website:

ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar

under the **News and Events Tab** at the top. It is regularly updated with as many dates as possible but please be aware some dates - especially those further on in the year, may change.

SCHEDULE OF LUNCHES TERM ONE 2026

MONDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer.

Items to be securely wrapped in tin foil and named with a vivid. No Bowls as they take up too much room. Items can be taken to class on the morning and put in the class tray to be transferred to the pie warmer. Please have items defrosted.

TUESDAY - OWN LUNCH

WEDNESDAY - OWN LUNCH

THURSDAY Subway orders every week. Please have orders into the school office by Wednesday mornings. Order envelopes are available at the school office. Correct cash please.

FRIDAY Hot Eaties in the pie warmer.

Please ensure that your child has a drink bottle at all times of the year. Our school promotes healthy eating whenever possible, a piece of fruit each day, and choosing healthy snack options for your child's lunchbox is a great way to ensure they get the best out of their day. It also greatly helps to cut down on the amount of plastic packaging we have to send to the tip each week.

UNIFORM PRICES

Polo top Size 6 - 16 \$32.50

Polo top Size S, M, L \$37.00

Polar Fleece Size 4 - 14 \$45.00 **\$48 as at 1st April**

Polar Fleece Size S, M, L \$54.00 **\$57 as at 1st April**

Sunhats \$23.00

A full range of sizes are now in stock in the office

Changed your address or phone number? Please let the office know.

Important Term 2 Dates for the Diary

School website calendar: ardgowan.school.nz/pages/calendar

March 2026

Tuesday 31st - BOT Meeting 5:30pm

Friday 3rd April - Good Friday - School closed. School holidays start.

April 2026

Monday 20th April - First day of term 2.

Monday 27th April - ANZAC Day observed.

Thursday 30th April - Ardgowan Home and School AGM 7:30pm at school.

May 2026

Tuesday 5th May - BOT Meeting

Friday 8th May - Year 8 day - Papakaio

Tuesday 26th - Friday 29th May - Tech Year 7 & 8 at OIS

June 2026

Monday 1st June - Kings Birthday - school closed

Thursday 11th June - WRSN speech finals

Tuesday 23rd June - BOT Meeting

July 2026

Friday 3rd - Last day of Term 2.

Active Kids Waitaki Holiday Programme

April 2026

Waitaki Community Recreation Centre
Monday - Friday
13 April to 17 April; 9.30am - 12.30pm
Primary & Intermediate-aged children



\$10 per child per day
Regos open now. Places are limited to 40 children per day.
To register, go to www.sporty.co.nz/waitakirc
For more info contact the Rec Centre 4346932 / 021 08150688

Registrations open now www.sporty.co.nz/waitakirc

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9.30am - 12.30pm
Different activities each day

Joke / Riddle of the week: I can bat, but I never hit. I am near a ball but it never gets thrown.
What am I?

ARDGOWAN HOME AND SCHOOL

Home and School Notice

Ardgowan Home and School would like to thank all our wonderful sponsors who have supported our Grocery Grab Raffle.

We also extend a big thank you to all the families who have sold tickets and returned them to the school office.

Please note that our Derby Night fundraiser has been cancelled.

Our next AGM will be held at 7.30pm on 30th April at Ardgowan School and we welcome anyone who would like to come along.

If you wish to be a part of any of our events or know of a way we can help within our school community, please don't hesitate to reach out, We would love to hear from you.

homeandschool@ardgowan.school.nz

Absentees. Please inform the school via email, phone or Skool Loop if your child is going to be absent or late to school for any reason. Please expect a phone call or email from our school office if you have not contacted us - this is to ensure all children are safe, and is a Ministry of Education requirement which all schools must follow.

Please keep your child home if they are showing signs of sickness and let the office know.

School and Community Feedback Our Board of Trustees really values feedback from our school families and community. If you have any comments or feedback please feel free to email feedback@ardgowan.school.nz all communication is treated confidentially

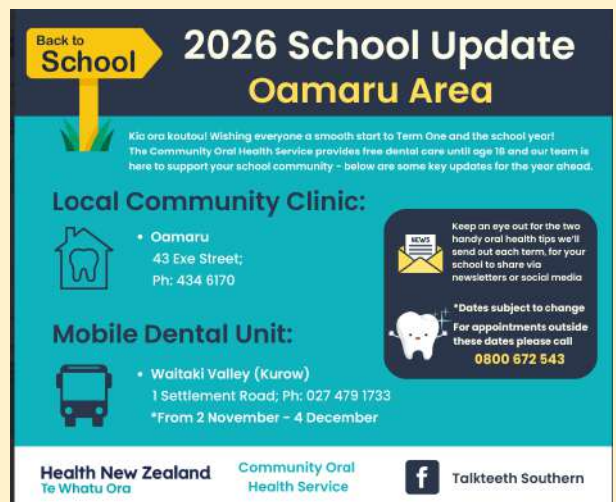
BUS FAMILIES. If your child is getting off at a different stop in the afternoon to what they would normally, please give Pearsons a call or inform the school office so we can let the bus driver know. For safety reasons they are unable to drop children off at alternative stops unless prior parental permission is given

PLEASE DON'T PARK ON THE BERM! Our neighbours across the road have a lovely area of grass in front of their house, but vehicles parked there cause a considerable safety hazard to the residents and other road users. Tyre marks on their lawn are not appreciated. Your cooperation with this is greatly appreciated.

Wild Dunedin – NZ Festival of Nature returns these Autumn school holidays (10–19 April) with more than 200 events celebrating the incredible wildlife and landscapes of our region. There are activities for the whole family, and many events are free.

Enjoy big days out at Tūhura Otago Museum, visit NatureDome at Forsyth Barr Stadium with Suzy Cato, take part in interactive experiences, enjoy a screening of *Happy Feet*, or join the Wild Ride along the Otago Harbour Cycleway with fun challenges and activities along the way.

There is so much to explore these holidays. Discover the full programme and book your events at wilddunedin.nz



Back to School 2026 School Update
Oamaru Area

Kia ora koutou! Wishing everyone a smooth start to Term One and the school year!
The Community Oral Health Service provides free dental care until age 18 and our team is here to support your school community - below are some key updates for the year ahead.

Local Community Clinic:

- Oamaru
43 Eye Street;
Ph: 434 6170

Mobile Dental Unit:

- Waitaki Valley (Kurow)
1 Settlement Road; Ph: 027 479 1733
*From 2 November - 4 December

Keep an eye out for the two handy oral health tips we'll send out each term, for your school to share via newsletters or social media

*Dates subject to change
For appointments outside these dates please call
0800 672 543

Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora | Community Oral Health Service | Talkteeth Southern



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10-19 APRIL 2026

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Riddle answer: Eyelashes.

Southern Football is excited to deliver a series of Holiday Football Clinics across Timaru, Oamaru, and Geraldine this April, providing young players with a fun and engaging way to stay active during the school holidays. These sessions are designed for both new and experienced players, giving everyone the opportunity to develop their football skills in a positive and supportive environment. Whether your child is trying football for the first time or already plays regularly, our clinics focus on skill development, confidence, teamwork, and enjoying the game.

GIRLS FOOTBALL OPPORTUNITIES

We are particularly excited to be offering Girls Only Clinics across all three locations. These sessions are designed to create a supportive environment where girls can develop their skills, build confidence, and enjoy playing with other female players. Additionally we have a session dedicated to female players looking to grow and develop in a high performance environment.

Girls football is continuing to grow across the region, and these sessions are a great opportunity for players to:

- Try football for the first time
- Develop their technical skills
- Connect with other girls playing the game

Sessions are available for both younger players and older age groups, ensuring everyone has a chance to be involved.

WORLD CUP 5v5 TOURNAMENT DAY

One of the highlights of the holiday programme will be our World Cup 5v5 Tournament Day in Timaru.

With the World Cup upcoming, Players will have the opportunity to form teams representing countries and compete in a fun World Cup style tournament, with small-sided games designed to maximise touches, goals, and excitement.

This day will bring the energy and excitement of the global game to South Canterbury and is sure to be one of the most enjoyable days of the holidays.

Expect:

- Lots of games
- Team spirit and friendly competition
- A festival atmosphere celebrating football

Players of all ages are welcome to take part.

OPEN TO ALL PLAYERS

Our holiday clinics are open to:

- ✓ New players wanting to try football
- ✓ Current players wanting extra training
- ✓ Boys and girls across a range of age groups
- ✓ Players from any club or school

Everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTEER COACHES WANTED

We are also looking for members of the football community who may be interested in helping out as a volunteer coach for a day during the programme.

If you enjoy working with young players and would like to support football development in the region, we would love to hear from you.

REGISTER OR ENQUIRE

To register or find out more about any of the holiday clinics:

leigh@southernfootball.co.nz

Timaru and Geraldine – <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/504808>

Oamaru – <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/503009>



OAMARU HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

DATE	VENUE	SESSION	TIMES	PRICE
Thu 8 April	King George Park, Geraldine	Football Fundamentals: 7-12 year olds Boys and Girls	10am - 1pm	\$40
Thu 8 April	King George Park, Geraldine	Girls Only Clinic: 7-12 year olds 13+ year olds	2:00pm - 3:30pm 3:45pm - 5:15pm	\$20 per session \$35 for both

To register email leigh@southernfootball.co.nz



Purebred English Staffordshire Terrier puppies for sale. Ready for their forever homes at the end of April \$1900. All beautiful Boys. Please phone Sue 0276895762.

JUNIOR HOCKEY CO-ORDINATOR

North Otago hockey are looking for an outgoing person to join our Association, co-ordinating our Junior Hockey. This role is predominantly on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon from 3pm to 6/7pm but may also include some in school visits and helping out with turf bookings.

Tasks include

- Overseeing Junior Competition
- Learning the Fun Sticks Programme
- Allocating umpires and assisting
- Inputting scores to playhq

Attributes

- Some understanding of sport
- Have strong communication and problem solving skills
- Be able to think on your feet
- Develop relationships with players, umpires and coaches.

This job is a fixed term.

Training will be given to the successful applicant.

For all enquiries please email
northotagohockey@gmail.com

Research Invitation for Parents and Caregivers

Kia ora koutou,

A Master's student from the School of Psychological Sciences at Victoria University of Wellington is inviting parents/caregivers of young people aged **10–18** to take part in a free and confidential **20-minute online questionnaire**.

The study explores parents' and caregivers' understanding of young people's legal rights, including the role of a nominated person when a child is questioned or arrested by police.

Participants can also enter the draw to **win one of four \$50 vouchers**.

Your participation would support research aimed at improving outcomes for rangatahi/young people.

If you would like to participate, you can click on a link or follow the QR code that will take you directly to the online questionnaire:

https://vuw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1X1aqBmdFSwHuei



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Amelia Romijn: Forensic Psychology Master's Student
Email: amelia.romijn@vuw.ac.nz

Dr Clare-Ann Fortune: Principal Investigator
Email: clare-ann.fortune@vuw.ac.nz

This research has been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee (No. 2025/HE04044).

If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research, you may raise this with the MEC Convenor, Te Hōrangā Waka Victoria University of Wellington, by emailing human-ethics@vuw.ac.nz or phoning the University's Service Centre on 0800 04 04 04.