



#1- 5 March 2026

# RiwakaNews

Kia ora e te whānau and Welcome Back to 2026 – Our Place

It has been wonderful to welcome our tamariki back through the gates and into a new year of learning. There's something special about the first few weeks of a new year — new beginnings, big smiles, and that unmistakable buzz of possibility.

We are incredibly fortunate to have such a strong, dedicated team of teachers and support staff at Riwaka School. Their commitment to your children — academically, socially and emotionally — is what makes Our Place exactly that.

**Education in 2026** – It's no secret that education across Aotearoa is in a dynamic season of change.

Curriculum refreshes, updated expectations, evolving systems — it can feel like a lot.

Here at Riwaka School, we are firmly in the implementation phase. That means our focus is on embedding what matters well, rather than chasing every new thing. We are being thoughtful, measured and strategic — ensuring our teachers feel confident and capable, and that learning for our tamariki is coherent, purposeful and high quality.

Teaching and learning remains our core business. Everything else supports that.

★ **Celebrating our AWHI Superstars** - We have already seen our AWHI learner attributes shining brightly across the school — Ako, Whanaungatanga, Hauora and Integrity in action.

From students supporting one another in class, to leadership on the playground, to thoughtful participation in assemblies — our tamariki continue to impress us.

We are so proud of the way they represent Our Place.

🦋 **2026 House Captains** — A special congratulations to our new House Captains who have confidently stepped into their leadership roles this term. Leading assemblies, running House Hui, and modelling what positive participation looks like — you have started the year strong.

💛 **Governance in Action** — Behind the scenes, our Board of Trustees has been working hard to support the direction of the school. School governance is no small undertaking, and our Board members have already gone the extra mile to deepen their understanding and strengthen their stewardship. Thank you for your commitment, your time, and your steady focus on what is best for our tamariki. Your mahi is noticed and deeply appreciated — by me, by our staff, and by our wider community.

Our Focus Remains Clear - At the forefront is always our tamariki.

We are investing time and energy into:

Quality learning opportunities

Clear, structured curriculum delivery

Building capable, confident and empowered teachers

Creating a school environment where every child feels connected, nurtured and able to flourish

Because that is what Our Place is about.

Here's to a strong, steady and successful 2026.

Ngā mihi nui,

*Adele Lidgard*  
Tumuaki - Principal

My reason for joining the Board was to support stronger connections between the school and whānau. Like everyone here, I want our kids to feel proud of where they come from, confident in who they are and well prepared for whatever comes next.

I've lived in Riwaka for a grand total of nearly five years and feel incredibly invested in this community. My parents moved here back in 2000 and enjoyed a wonderful 25 years together here during their retirement.

Professionally, I bring more than 20 years of senior leadership experience across both the public and private sectors. Communication is one of my strengths, and I've spent much of my career helping people navigate complex or sensitive conversations, building understanding and ensuring different perspectives are heard respectfully.

I'm committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to ensuring our school reflects and serves our whole community. I also love the original Blues Brothers movie and like them, have even made it to the Cook County Assessor's office.



**MORAG INGRAM**

# MEET THE BOARD

**JANE CORSTON**



I am a proud parent and committed board member, passionate about strong governance, student wellbeing, and leading meaningful school fundraising initiatives that create valuable opportunities and resources for students.

I value a strong parent community and believe in building genuine partnerships between families and staff to foster a connected, inclusive school environment where every child can thrive.



## SHAY GILL

Kia ora, I'm Shay. My wife, Simone, and I have been part of the Riwaka community since our children began schooling here over a decade ago, and my family connections to the wider Tasman region run back many generations.

I'm guided by the concept of tūrangawaewae; the sense of belonging and connection to place. I believe our school should offer that feeling to every family and student, whether they've been here for generations or have only recently joined our community. That shared sense of belonging is one of the things that makes Riwaka such a special place to raise a family.

Being involved in the board is a way for me to support a school environment where every child feels valued, challenged, and excited about learning. I'm committed to good governance, clear and transparent communication, and making decisions that reflect the needs and aspirations of our students, staff, and whānau. In my professional life, I bring experience in both management and frontline work within the local tourism sector. This helps me contribute a practical, steady approach to board discussions, along with a bit of "good humour" and plenty of real-world experience in leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving.

Outside of school and work, you'll usually find me enjoying the outdoors and spending time with whānau.

I look forward to continuing to serve our school, supporting the amazing work of our team, and seeing our community grow and thrive.



# MEET THE BOARD

## CLAIRE BROWNLIE



Kia Ora koutou

I am delighted to have joined the BOT. As a Senior Associate and practicing lawyer of almost 15 years I bring experience in tailored problem solving solutions, having hard conversations while being aware of sensitivities and working collaboratively to support strong, sustainable decision making. I am excited to apply my analytical thinking skills to our governance.

My family and I have been part of the community for a few years with my two youngest currently attending. Being involved as both a parent and now a trustee gives me a valuable perspective on what helps our tamariki thrive - both in and out of the classroom. I am passionate about ensuring that every child has access to a safe, inclusive and inspiring learning environment. I look forward to working with my other BOT members, school leadership and you all to support the ongoing success and wellbeing of our school community.

Outside of my professional life we are a family of active relaxers, you will often see our family running the streets, riding in the MTB park or soaking up the rays at the beach.



Kia Ora! Tim here!

I volunteered for a position on the board because I happen to really appreciate and value this school and the people in it, and I wanted to be part of a dedicated team that helps support the students and staff, all the while making a positive difference to the next few years- guiding its direction with care.

Being part of a fun, flourishing & inclusive community that holds a shared sense of belonging is also important to me. I was raised in Perth (the Scottish one) where the weather is the exact opposite of here, and so I emigrated in 2008 and now have two daughters who are fortunate to call Riwaka their school.

My background is in Arboriculture, and I can still be found climbing trees and admiring the view of this beautiful part of the world from the lofty heights of the nearest mighty conifer.

I am also a keen photographer, am very happy when tramping in the mountains, and throw a frisbee whenever possible. Sometimes I combine those three.

Mostly though, I enjoy supporting and working with people who share similar values (or when working co-operatively towards a shared goal), and having a good laugh along the way with my kids.



**TIM NORMAN**

# MEET THE BOARD

Completing the Riwaka SchoolBoard of Trustees  
line up:

- + Adele Lidgard - Principal
- + Fiona Cook - Staff Trustee

I'm Paul, and I've been lucky enough to call Riwaka home for the past 13 years, along with Amber and our two tamariki, Mac and Ashley. Ashley is currently in Year 7 at Riwaka School, and Mac graduated from Riwaka three years ago and is now at Garin College. I suppose you could say I'm the numbers geek on the Board — I like things to add up and make sense — but I'm just as passionate about people and community.

I reckon Riwaka is the coolest place on the planet to live. We've got a fantastic community (a real one), incredible surroundings, and endless opportunities to get outdoors.

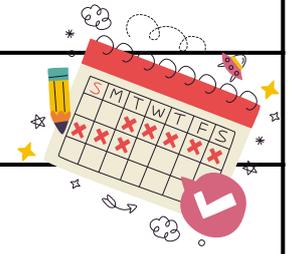
Over the years I've been involved in all sorts of school activities — from sports and camps to school lunches — so when the Board asked me to join, saying yes was an easy decision. When I'm not busy with work or school matters, you'll likely find me out dirt biking, on the football field, scuba diving or making the most of everything our great little community has to offer.



**PAUL MILES**

# SOME UPCOMING DATES

Tue, 10 March	3.30pm - 7.00pm	Goal Setting / Learning Commitments
Wed, 11 March		Inter Schools swimming sports day - Motueka High School
23 - 25 March		Year 4 camp - Mārahau
23 - 27 March		Year 5 & 6 camp - Mārahau
Tue, 31 March	6pm - 8pm	School Board meeting
Thurs, 02 April	9:10am-10am 3:00pm	Learning Celebration Assembly School ends for Term break
Fri, 3 April		Good Friday - school closed
6 - 17 April		School Holidays



## Friends of Riwaka School – We Need You

Friends of Riwaka School (FORS) plays an important role in supporting the “extras” that make Our Place special — from fundraising for additional resources and experiences, to strengthening the sense of community that sits at the heart of Riwaka School.

The Riwaka School Board is looking to grow a small, committed team of parents and caregivers who are willing to be involved across the year. A sustainable group means shared responsibility and meaningful impact for our tamariki.

If you are interested in being part of FORS in 2026, please join us:

**Wednesday, 11 March**

**3:15pm – PAC Centre**

Even if you’re just curious and would like to hear what’s planned for the year ahead, you are very welcome.

Ngā mihi

**Jane Corston**

Riwaka School Board



Kia ora e te whānau,

Each term, our school invites parents, caregivers, and staff to take part in reviewing selected policies on SchoolDocs. These reviews are an important way for our whole community to have a voice in how our school operates.

How **SchoolDocs** reviews work:

- SchoolDocs selects a set of policies for review each term.
- Parents, caregivers, staff, and board members are all encouraged to read the policies online.
- You can then provide feedback directly through the review form on the site. For ease we have included a copy of the review form in the recent board documents and there are also copies at reception.
- All feedback is considered by SchoolDocs and the Board of Trustees before policies are updated or confirmed.

Why your participation matters:

- Reflects our community's values: Your insights ensure our policies align with what our whānau believes is important for our tamariki.
- Promotes safety and wellbeing: Many policies relate to student welfare, behaviour, health, and school culture—areas where community perspective is essential.
- Supports strong governance: Feedback helps the board make informed decisions and ensures our policies remain current, practical, and responsive.
- Strengthens partnership: Schools work best when staff, trustees, and families share responsibility for creating a positive learning environment.

These reviews usually take only a few minutes, but they make a meaningful difference. We encourage everyone to take part when the next review cycle opens.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Claire Brownlie**

Riwaka School Board



Our school works with **SchoolDocs** to provide a website for maintaining, updating, and reviewing our school policies. Different policies are under review each term and our school community can submit feedback. Follow the instructions below to contribute to the review.

1. Go to the SchoolDocs site for our school by clicking on this link:  
<https://riwaka.schooldocs.co.nz/1893.htm>
2. This will take you to Current review and review instructions.
3. Enter the username (**riwaka**) and password (**awhi**).
4. The policies listed here are the key policies under review this term. Click on the policy you want to review.
5. Click the “Start your review” button at the top right-hand corner of the page.
6. Follow the prompts to submit your review.

Note that you can review any policy that has a “Start your review” button, not just the key policies listed in Current review and review instructions. There will be other related policies in that section of the site open for review.

If you don't have internet access, school office staff can provide you with printed copies of the policy and a review form.





# GARDEN TO TABLE



GROW,  
HARVEST,  
PREPARE,  
SHARE

## We need you!



Volunteers Wanted - for our kitchen and garden programme.

Our school is developing a Garden to Table programme — a unique and inspiring initiative where children learn to grow and harvest produce from the school garden, then prepare and share it together in our school kitchen.

For this to be successful, **we need you!** The programme relies on the support of volunteers to work with children in the garden and kitchen, sharing their experience, enthusiasm and knowledge.

You don't have to be an expert! Our Garden and Kitchen Specialists are always on hand to provide expert advice and oversee the sessions. You just need to be interested in helping children learn about growing food, cooking and sharing food, and enjoy working with children. Or, if you know a grandparent, neighbour or friend that might be keen - please point them in our direction

*Have we talked you into it? We'd love to hear from you!*

Please email [stevee.rhind@riwaka.school.nz](mailto:stevee.rhind@riwaka.school.nz) for more information.



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

**SAT 7th MARCH 3 - 7PM**  
(SUNDAY IF RAINING)

## MAHANA SCHOOL

**TWILIGHT FOOD and MUSIC FIESTA**  
LIVE MUSIC

WATER SLIDE

DELICIOUS FOOD

★ UNDER 5'S AREA ★ RAFFLES ★ FUN FOR KIDS ★  
BOUNCY CASTLE ★ HOMEMADE PRESERVES ★ FACE PAINTING  
★ CRAFTS ★ GOLD COIN ENTRY ★ EFTPOS AVAILABLE ★

Proudly supported by:

## MUDDY BUDDY

Adventure Fun Run

**SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 2026** tasman.school

FOOD | COFFEE | SILENT AUCTION | WHITE ELEPHANT STALL & MORE!

### GREAT SPOT PRIZES!

PRIZES FOR THE BEST ECO DRESS-UP!

EARLYBIRD / ONLINE | \$20 per person | \$50 family  
ENTER ON THE DAY | \$25 per person | \$55 per family  
SIGN IN 10.30-12pm | RACE STARTS 12.30pm

EACH LAP APPROX 1KM 1 LAP - Kids, Family Fun, Open 2 Laps - Open 3 Laps - Open

[www.tasman.school.nz](http://www.tasman.school.nz)

## Go Wild

**13-17 April**  
5 days (9-3pm each day)  
7-10 y/o

WHENUA ITI  
JOURNALS OF DISCOVERY

[wio.org.nz](http://wio.org.nz)

BRIDGE VALLEY

## ARMY CAMP

This April, **Bridge Valley** is running two 'Army' themed overnight holiday camps:

### Junior Army Camp (Ages 8-11) 7 - 10 April

A three-night overnight camp packed with team challenges and exciting activities including archery, rock climbing, drift trikes, and more.

### Ultimate Army Camp (Ages 11-13) 13 - 17 April

A four-night overnight camp featuring our extreme activities like high ropes, luge, laser tag, and more. This camp also includes a trip to Armageddon Paintball!

For more information or to register, visit [www.bridgevalley.co.nz](http://www.bridgevalley.co.nz).

**Riwaka Scout Group** have made the difficult decision to say goodbye to the Riwaka Scout Den at the Domain following the big floods in 2025.

There have been Scouts in Riwaka since the early 1900s, and the Riwaka Den itself has been their home for more than 50 years, so on **Sunday 19 April**, Riwaka Scouts will be holding a short ceremony for a formal final closing and Flag Down.

All former members or adults who have a connection to the Riwaka Den are welcome to join us, as we say a farewell to the building that's been part of our community since the 1960s. If you know of someone with a previous connection to the Riwaka Den, please pass on the invite to them to join us at 2pm, Sunday 19 April. Contact for more information: [riwaka@group.scouts.nz](mailto:riwaka@group.scouts.nz)

Up to **30 Hours FREE** per week\*

## Spaces Now Available

### Motueka South Kindergarten

- Welcoming Tamariki 2-6
- 100% Qualified Kaiako
- Open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 2:45 pm

Enrol now at [nelsontasmankindergartens.com](http://nelsontasmankindergartens.com)

\*T&C's apply.