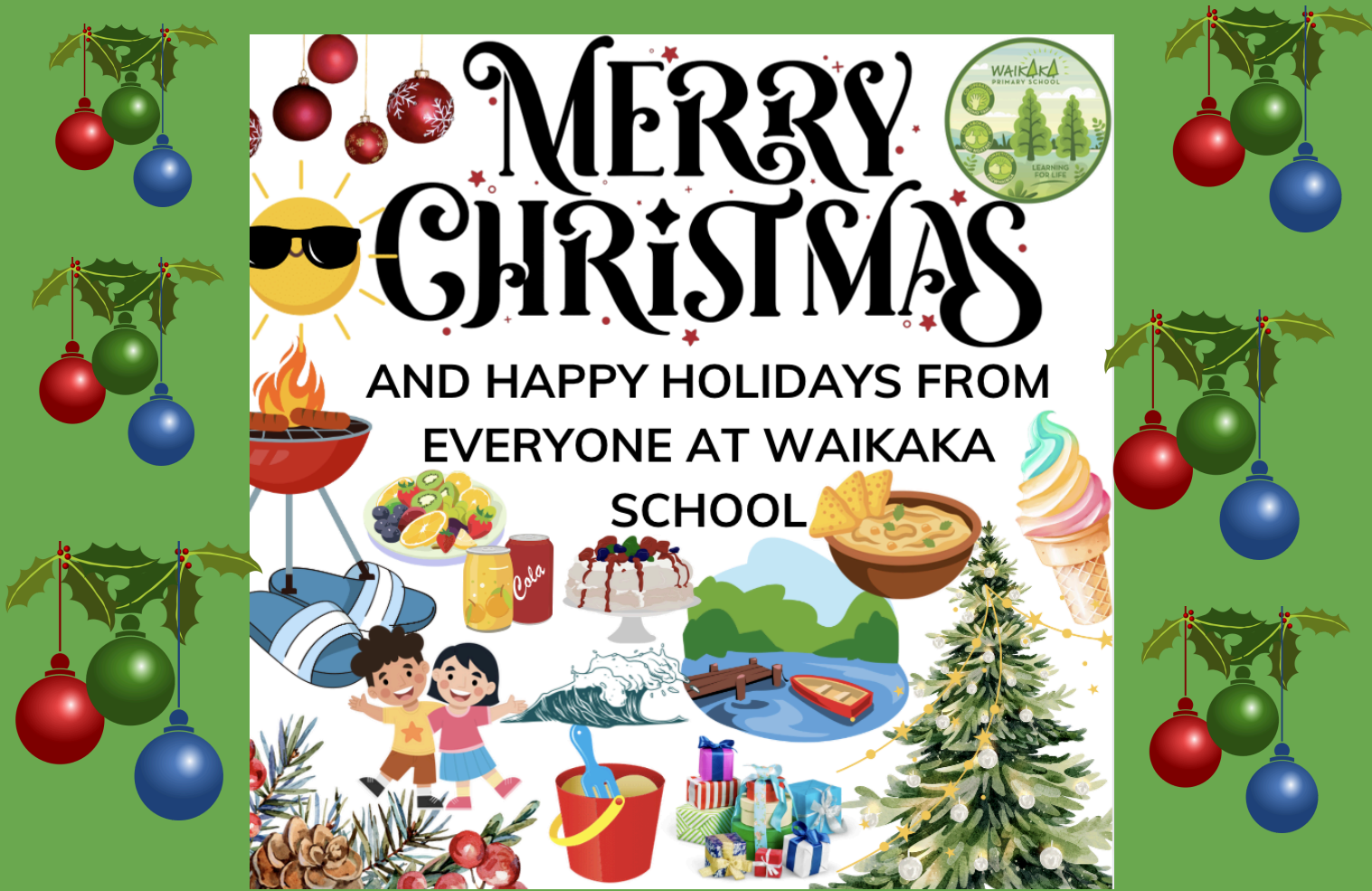


FINAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2024



Merry Christmas everyone!

Thank you for joining us last Wednesday evening for our School Concert and Prize Giving. What an incredible evening it was! I'm sure you'll agree that the children gave an amazing performance—huge congratulations to all and especially our award winners. We are so proud of you! For those children who felt disappointed about not receiving an award, this can be an important opportunity to build resilience and determination. These are valuable life skills that will support them in their future successes.

As we near the end of the year, I'd like to reflect on what an incredible year it has been at Waikaka School—one filled with achievements, challenges, and memorable moments. A heartfelt thank you to:

- **Our tamariki**, who inspire us every day with their enthusiasm, creativity, and resilience.
- **Our talented and dedicated staff**, who go above and beyond to create nurturing learning environments.
- **Our School Board**, for their guidance and focus on making our school the best it can be. You do so many things that nobody sees! Thank you!
- **The PTA**, whose ongoing & tireless effort, you make a huge difference to our school, we are so lucky.
- **Our wider school community**, for your unwavering support, fundraising support and involvement.

Despite challenges like curriculum changes and funding pressures, we have remained optimistic and committed to providing exceptional education for our children. Together, we are helping them grow into kind, confident, and creative individuals.

It is a privilege to be part of this amazing community, and I look forward to all we will achieve together in 2025. Thank you for an outstanding year. Nicola Millar - Principal / Tumuaki Waikaka School

Important End-of-Year Information

- **Monday, 16 December:** Please ensure **all school items**—including vests, sun hats, uniforms, and books—are returned so we can complete our stocktake before the break.

Monday, 16 December: We have a waterslide on this day, please ensure children have togs and a towel. The waterslide begins at around 1.00pm - 1.30pm, please feel free to come on into school!

- **Tuesday, 17 December:** School will finish early at **12:30 PM**, and buses will leave at this time. The afternoon is dedicated to staff cleaning, tidying, moving furniture, and organising resources. While children are welcome to attend (as it is a half school day), **we understand some parents may choose to keep them at home instead due to their end of year exhaustion.**

Thank you - Nga mihi!

- To the Waikaka Cricket who paid the subs for the six students who entered into the Summer Cricket competition. Thank you very much!
- To Carmen & Darryl from the Waikaka Hotel providing all of the drinks for our children at our recent Prize Giving / Concert! You are so generous and our children loved these!
- To the person who dropped these goodies off to the office... Thank you very much! Can you please let us know who you are!



Events Calendar

13/12/24 Week 9 Newsletter

16/12/24 Water slide from 1.00pm.

17/12/24 Last day of Term 4 ~ School finishes at 12.30pm

29/1/25 SCHOOL BEGINS for 2025!

School Board Report 2024

It's been a massive year at Waikaka School. The drive for the Board during this year was to take the school from "Good to Great". We employed Nicky Millar as Principal to help us with this mission. And we are delighted with the result.

During this year we have had ups and downs. We have all been challenged with change - with many curriculum changes to deal with and learning how we all work best with each other. These challenges have driven us to greater strengths that will benefit the children at our school.

We have seen the completion of the new school pool enclosure (and just this week, new toilet structure 🇺🇸), replacement of our verandah roof and modernisation of the classrooms with new cabinets and the big sliding door between the middle and senior classes. All of these things are helping to make our school look and feel amazing. Next year we will see some new carpet and progress towards new toilet blocks. Also our playground is top on the list for an upgrade to the fort/slide structure. We are excited that the PTA and Board will work on this project together.



New toilet structure December 2024

Thank you to the community for getting behind the Board fundraisers of the Battery Drive and the Whitestone Cheese sales. Together these have raised over \$2500. Also various fundraisers have been run by Helen, Carol and Nicky during the year. The PTA have supported us financially and with ideas & assistance at the school during the year which has helped our school families connect with each other.

Personally the community connections and engagement seen during 2024 have been heartwarming and provide huge encouragement that we are on the right track. This has all come about from the exceptional leadership that Nicky Millar has brought to our school and the fantastic support from each of our staff members.

A huge thank you to you all!

From your School Board, we wish you a safe and very happy festive season.

Donna Hamilton, Matt McCall, Victoria Weir, Jess Lamb, Nathan Wilson and Mel Taylor

Congratulations to our Year 8 Graduates for 2024:
Daylee Byars - Graduating to Blue Mountain College
Bella Gardyne - Graduating to Maruawai College
Lucas Miller - Graduating to Blue Mountain College



Congratulations to our award winners for 2024
Emmie Paterson - Diligence Award



Lucas Miller & Georgia Bell - Cultural Award



Hunter Taylor - Sports Award



Lucas Miller - Academic Award

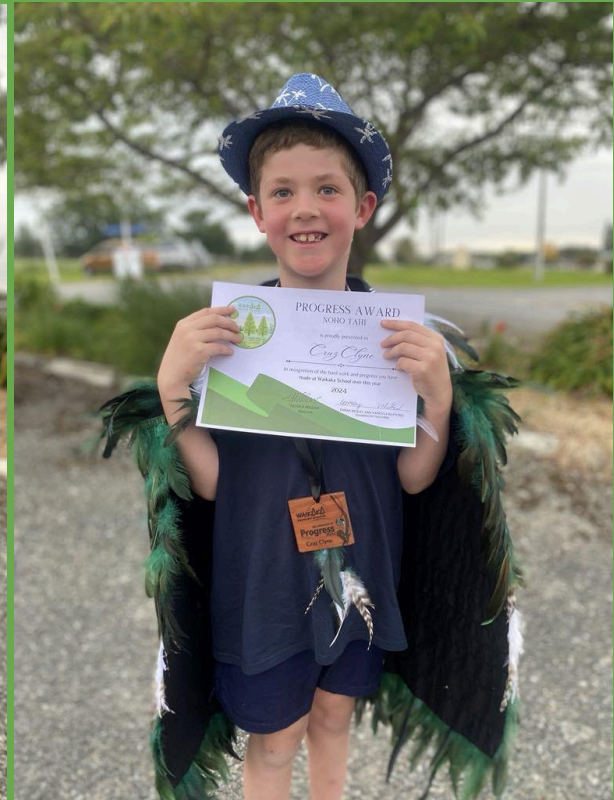


Georgia Bell - Arts Award



Noho Tahī

Hazel Steel ~ Values Award & Cruz Clyne ~ Progress Award



Mahi Ngatahi
Emma Clyne ~ Values Award & Celia Seed ~ Progress Award



Tauwhainga
Jess Cleland ~ Values Award & Max Weir ~ Progress Award



🌿 Waikaka School Achieves Bronze Enviroschool Status! 🌿

We are thrilled to share that Waikaka School has been awarded **Bronze Enviroschool status!** This is a huge milestone in our journey as an Enviroschool since 2018, and we couldn't be prouder of the hard work and dedication from our tamariki, staff, and whānau.

Jane from Environment Southland joined us at our prize giving to present this prestigious award, celebrating our efforts to foster sustainability and kaitiakitanga (guardianship) in our community.

Our children have truly embraced this kaupapa, taking part in a range of projects to improve our environment. From cultivating our fabulous gardens and developing a stunning succulent area to implementing pest control initiatives, they have worked tirelessly to make a difference. The students have been thinking about their rubbish and improving how we care for our surroundings.

This achievement is a reflection of our shared vision for a sustainable future. Thank you to everyone who has supported us along the way—together, we are making a positive impact!

Let's keep the momentum going as we strive for even greater heights in our Enviroschools journey. 🌱 ✨



C E R T I F I C A T E S (LAST ASSEMBLY)

Cooperation: Charlie McCall

Charlie you are Mr Steady! You are so reliable, hard working and show incredible awareness of everyone around you. We can always count on you to be ready and listening, to follow instructions, to help others and ensure the task at hand gets completed to a high standard.

Your awareness of the environment and people around you shows a maturity beyond your years. We can already see your many leadership skills beginning to shine; we can't wait to see these grow in your senior years.

Cooperation: Connor Bartel

Connor is a delightful and engaging member of our class, who brightens our classroom environment. Connor serves as a positive role model to his classmates, consistently demonstrating acceptable behaviours and encouraging others to do the same. He has a wonderful ability to set high expectations for himself. His resilience is evident in the way he approaches challenges, embracing them with a positive mindset and determination. Connor's welcoming nature and supportive attitude contribute greatly to the friendly and inclusive atmosphere of our class. We commend Connor for his fantastic personal qualities

this year and are excited to see how these traits will continue to flourish in the future. Well done, Connor!

Competition: Briar Reeves

You are always thoughtful and kind to others by showing respect to your peers and our school. You are inclusive and you show appreciation for others' ideas and contributions.

You like to help others, help our school environment and you are willing to develop yourself by always trying to improve your learning.

Well done!

Certificates

Fergus Curley for sharing his amazing Maths brain and helping classmates learn about fractions.

Brooklyn Crowe for being kind and welcoming to the new students on school visits!

Louisa Wilson for working hard with her reading!

Gus Bould for working really hard on sounding out words independently at reading.

Lylah Winter for improving your handwriting and your reading fluency.

Alec Duff for improving your handwriting and reading. Great effort.

Henley Robertson for improving your handwriting this term. Well done!

Zara McCall for a massive improvement and progress in reading in one term. Well done!

Leo Paterson for taking responsibility for our school and going out of his way to do extra jobs around school.

Erica Byars for always willing to help out and supporting Alex in his learning.

Allie Stewart for working attentively on your writing and sharing with the class.

Quinn Byars for helping Alex in his learning journey and being a great role model.

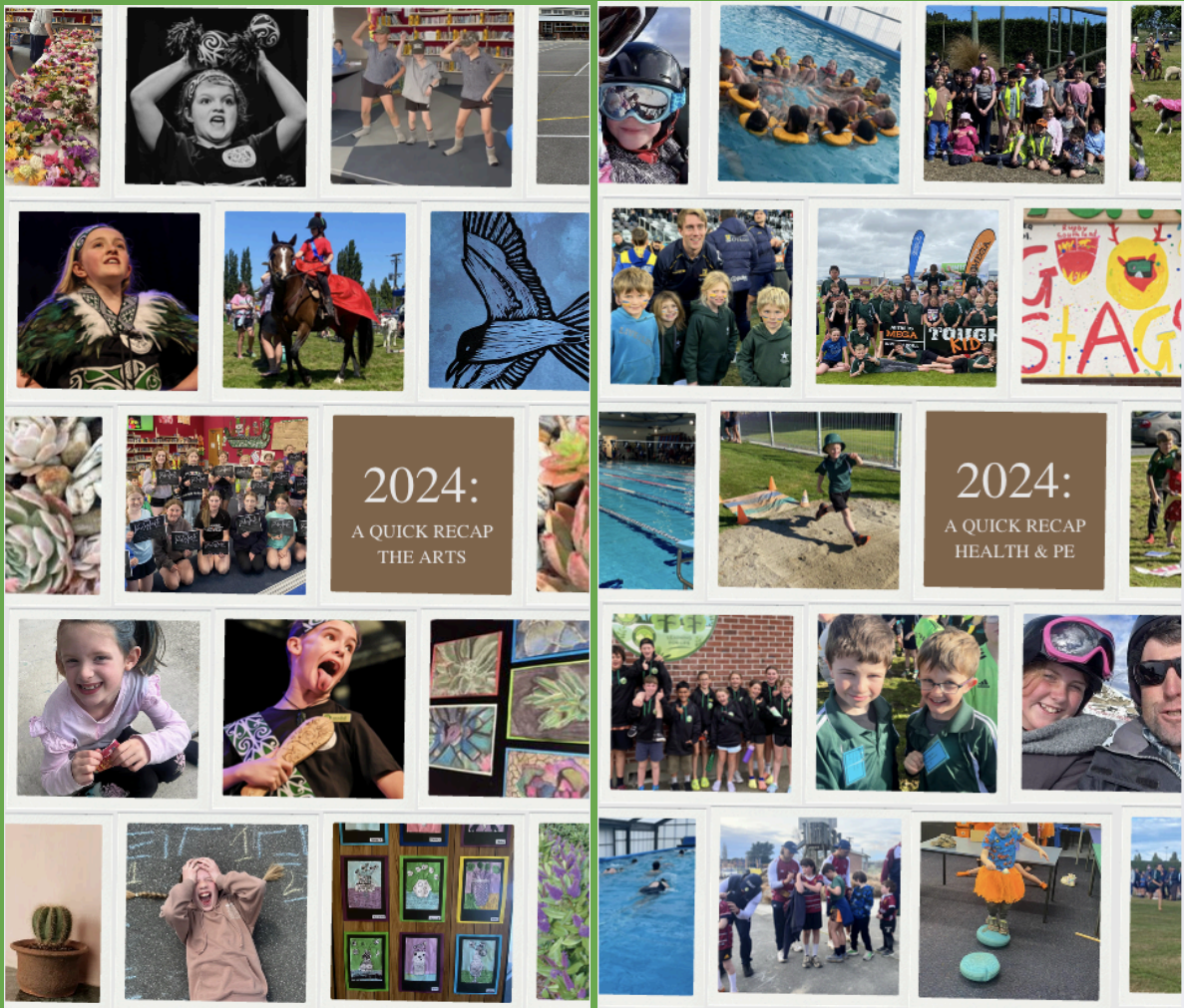
James Curley for showing exceptional talent in collaboration skills, by working alongside Max and Laurence to create the amazing assembly slideshow today. Working with others is an extremely important skill! Well done.

Jacko Gardyne for taking a huge amount of pride in your work and for aiming high. You have high expectations Jacko, you work alongside others to aim for the best outcome. Great!

Oscar Reeves for taking a calm approach towards all of the challenges you face. Way to go Oscar, you are showing good leadership skills.

Ranger Hamilton for staying focussed and working hard with your peers to learn our class item for the end of year concert. Working together helps everyone achieve!

Micheal Curley for continually striving to be your best; asking for challenging problems in Mathematics, managing your responses with your peers, taking responsibility for your actions. Well done!



Contact

Waikaka School
22 Matheson Road
Waikaka 9773

Ph: 03 207 2887

Email School Office
Helen ~ office@waikaka.school.nz

Website

Facebook
School Loop App

Nicola Millar
principal@waikaka.school.nz

Text an absence 027 2072027

SAUSAGES

We are selling sausages and saveloys again this term for Friday lunches. Please have all orders to the school office by Thursday lunchtime with your money. They are \$3.00 per sausage / saveloy.

SCHOOL ACCOUNTS

School accounts have gone home and I know a lot of these are just for small amounts but as we are moving to a new student manager system next year, we would like to get as much of these cleaned up as possible. If you are having trouble paying please don't hesitate to talk to us in the office. Also if your child has ordered a sausage for lunch, please add that on or send cash to school please.

We use School Docs as a way to manage our policies. Policies are always open to consultation in our school community.

Go to www.schooldocs.co.nz

Click search for your school.

Start typing Waikaka and select from the dropdown list.

Username: waikaka

Password: matheson

You will see which policies are under review and you can respond to them as well.



The Star of Christmas: WIN \$1000 to spend at JB Hi-Fi

This Christmas morning on Newstalk ZB – it's *The Star of Christmas* singing competition on *The Crazy Kiwi Christmas Kids Show!* The grand prize? \$1000 in JB Hi-Fi gift cards!

If you can sing, and are under 13, email a recording of yourself singing a Christmas carol to christmas@newstalkzb.co.nz before the 18th December. Then tune into Newstalk ZB on Christmas morning from 8am to see if you've won!

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact me via email (malorie@loveit.nz) or call on 027 464 8159.



WAIKAKA TWILIGHT GOLF

**FRIDAY NOV 1ST-
FRIDAY 13TH DEC**

**5:30-6PM TEE OFF
WAIKAKA GOLF COURSE**

**3 PERSON
AMBROSE**

ANY COMBINATION OF MEN/ LADIES/ NON GOLFERS. YOUNG PEOPLE 10YRS AND UP MAY JOIN WITH A GOLFING ADULT/PARENT (1 PER TEAM)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
FAYE ANNE LAMB - 0274827022



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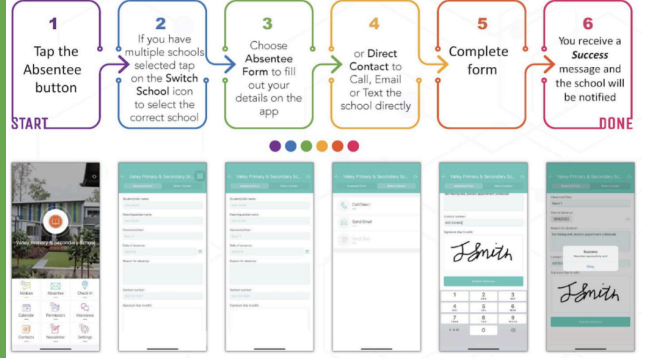
MEETING TO BE HELD IN JANUARY TO
ESTABLISH A LOCAL YOUTH GROUP
FOR YR 7 UP
COME ALONG AND HAVE YOUR SAY

WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY 2025
5:00 PM
WAIKAKA CHURCH HALL
BUSHY PARK ROAD
INQUIRIES TO LYNNE HALL 027 2190 441

Submitting Absentees

with THE SKOOL LOOP APP

Download The Skool Loop App. A simple 100% free download. In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose our school once installed.



Waikaka School

Thanks to the below businesses for sponsoring our school app:

Paul Herron 2 Ontario Street East Gore
Automotive Painters 03 208 9363 or 027 210 4131

If you would like to advertise on the Waikaka School Skool Loop App please email Content@skoolloop.com
To download our app: In Google Play & App Store search 'Skool Loop' & choose School once installed.

WANTED: CASUAL FARM WORK

I am looking for casual farm work in the Waikaka/Gore/Tapanui region. I have 5yrs+ experience with sheep work. Please get in touch if you need a hand.

Contact:

Sophie Stark by text or call on **020 4133 4895**

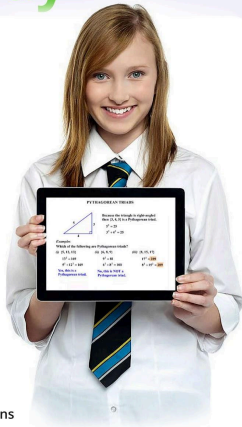
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LIMITED TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

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World Ice Skating Day 2024 Demonstration

World Ice Skating Day is a worldwide extravaganza dedicated to the joy and excitement of ice skating.

We are celebrating with a demonstration of our skaters, all levels from Kiwiskate to Competitive. Come and watch some fabulous skaters for FREE.

**Sunday 15th Dec.
11am**

**FREE
EVENT**



Join the

Read & Roam 2025 Summer Reading Challenge



TRUE IN NATURE

SUMMER SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME



NATURAL CREATORS

(Ages 5-16)
Invercargill

Creating and Cooking
Join us for an inspiring day of creating through arts and cooking

Your child's imagination will be truly ignited as they bring their creativity to life using a variety of NATURAL materials and textiles such as clay, wool, flowers and plants to explore as well as preparing nutritious meals to enjoy and that they can cook at home.

Children will go home feeling fulfilled, inspired, capable and independent.

Natural Christmas Creators (3 days)
16th-18th December

Natural Creators
15th & 16th January

Bush, Make and Make
Natural Creators and Bush Kids combined, 27th January

BUSH CRAFT

(Ages 7-13) & (Ages 11-16)
Invercargill, Gore and Otautau

Adventures, Challenges and Connection to Nature.

One day and three day options (not overnight).
Fire starting, cooking on fires and gas stoves, whittling, navigation, team survival challenges, foraging, nature discovery, exploration in the bush, at the beach and down at the estuary and much more.

CHILD VS WILD (7-13) Invercargill
16th - 20th December (5 days)
15th - 17th January (3 days)

A WILD DAY OUT (11-16) Invercargill
20th January (1 day)

BUSH KIDS (7-13) (1 day) Invercargill
21st & 22nd January

BUSH, MAKE & MAKE
(Bush Kids & Natural Creators combined)
27th January

BUSH KIDS (7-13) (1 day) Gore
23rd & 24th January

BUSH KIDS (7-13) (1 day) Otautau
28th January



WAIKAKA SCHOOL

22 Matheson Road
RD 3
Waikaka



Why Choose Us?

Waikaka School is a small rural school that offers small classroom sizes with experienced and dedicated teachers. We are currently running 3 classrooms ranging from New Entrants to Year 8. We have a supportive community and offer quality education and experiences. We would love to welcome you to our community. If you would like to find out more about Waikaka School or arrange a visit please give us a call or email Helen in the office.

Our Values

- ✓ Co-operation
- ✓ Collaboration
- ✓ Competition

www.waikaka.school.nz

Enrol Now for 2025

Call: (03) 207 2887
Email: office@waikaka.school.nz

Gareth and Katie Oliver at: GarethandKatie@trueinnature.com
www.trueinnature.com Phone: 0226381497



