



Principal's Message

TERM ONE, WEEK FOUR

Kia Ora Koutou,

I came across a reflection recently that stayed with me:

“When a photographer cannot change a scene, she changes her angles and lens to capture the best of that scene. Similarly, when you cannot change a situation in your life, change your perspective to get the best out of that situation.”

In our school community, we see every day that adversity is something all young people face – sometimes in small ways, sometimes in ways that feel overwhelming. What we also see is that each person responds differently. Some run from the challenge, some disrupt or push back, and some express their frustration by complaining or withdrawing. These reactions are human, and very normal, especially in the teenage years.

It is vital to remember that **There is always another angle; there is always another way to see a situation, and changing the angle can change everything.**

Just like a photographer cannot always control the scene in front of them, our young people cannot always control what life throws their way: friendship issues, workload pressures, disappointments, unexpected changes, or personal struggles. But they can learn to shift their perspective, adjust the “lens” they use, and approach challenges with new eyes.

“Mrs Gill, how can I change the angle?": ask for help instead of giving up; take a break and come back with a clearer mind; try a new strategy when the old one clearly is not working; and look for what is within your control instead of what is not.

As a school, we are committed to helping every young person learn this skill – it is all about the three Rs - reframe, reset, and rise again.

St Matthew's win outright in the Whanganui Collegiate Fixture

This week, our students and school hosted the Whanganui Collegiate Fixture – and while the headline reads “St Matthew's win outright in the Whanganui Collegiate Fixture”, the real story sits much deeper than the result.

It was a celebration of community, talent, teamwork, and true St Matthew's spirit. The day was a demonstration of skill and determination, but just as importantly humility, kindness, and respect – on and off the field. They supported one another, celebrated the strengths of their peers, and carried themselves in a way that made all of us proud.

We were also honoured to be known not just as competitors, but as warm hosts and gracious guests. Our students laughed, connected, cheered loudly, and played hard, but they also made sure everyone involved felt welcomed and valued. That balance – excellence with heart – is what makes our school community special. He waka eke noa – we are all in this together.

PARENTS and caregivers, WE NEED YOU!

(Yes... YOU. Don't look away.)



St Matthew's whānau, this is your official, slightly dramatic, entirely heartfelt call to action. Just like the classic posters that once proclaimed "Your country needs YOU!" ... we're here to announce that: OUR SPORTS TEAMS NEED YOU!

Our young people have energy, enthusiasm, and talent. What we do not have (yet!) is enough wonderful adults to help coach and manage our teams – and that is where you come in.

Maybe you have coached before. Maybe you have not, but you know which end of the field is which. Maybe you are excellent at standing on sidelines making encouraging noises. PERFECT. You are exactly who we are looking for.

We need parents who can blow a whistle with confidence (or mild panic – both acceptable)

We need parents who can offer supportive sideline commentary (e.g. "Nice pass!" "Good try!" "What was that?")

We need parents who can manage subs, oranges, water bottles, or the occasional existential sports meltdown

We need parents who can bring good humour, patience, and your best "We've got this!" attitude
In return, the remuneration is PAYE and you will receive volunteer PAYE Package (Parent Assistance Yields Everything)

Because at St Matthew's, we believe in rewarding our heroes... creatively. First part of the package is **Eternal Gratitude**, which is Tax-free, non-transferable, and payable in unlimited instalments. Side effects may include warm fuzzies and spontaneous smiles.

Secondly you will have in your package **Bragging Rights at Family Events**. This is claimable immediately. It also may be offset against any past sporting failures you wish to overwrite with this new heroic narrative.

Thirdly your package includes **Front-Row Seats to the Best Moments in School Sport**. This is valued at approximately one million dollars in proud-parent currency. I guarantee it is better than watching from the car.

Finally in your package **is the knowledge that you have saved us from having to clone our staff. We are a small staff and there are not enough of us to cover all bases**. That is where you come in and IRD has confirmed this qualifies as a significant national service.

If you have ever thought, "Someone should help with coaching" ...Surprise! That someone could be you. **Sign up. Step up. Suit up.**

To volunteer, simply email the school office and we will contact you.

Sport Dispensation

Please see the information which follows, which is being sent by all Secondary schools, on Dispensation to play club Sport

That is me for now.

Have a great and safe weekend and let's be our best selves.

Ngā Mihi





DISPENSATION FOR STUDENTS TO PLAY CLUB SPORT

School sport is a vital part of the secondary school experience. It supports student wellbeing, builds pride and belonging, and strengthens both school and community culture. All Wairarapa colleges, alongside WAISS Sport, are committed to ensuring that school representation remains the first and most important priority for all secondary school-aged athletes.

Students are expected to play for their school in the first instance. Only in specific and limited circumstances will a dispensation to play for a club — or in exceptional cases another school — be considered. Dispensations are not automatically granted and must meet the criteria outlined below.

Dispensation Criteria

A dispensation may be considered only when one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. High-Level Performance

The school does not offer a team at a sufficiently high level to extend or develop the student's performance (e.g. Netball Premier 1). Students must still prioritise playing for their school in other available grades or competitions where appropriate.

2. Age Grade Eligibility

The student began college at age 12 or younger and wishes to continue playing in an Under 13 grade (e.g. Rugby).

3. Sport Not Offered by the School

The school does not offer the sport the student wishes to play.

4. Wellbeing Considerations

Where a student's wellbeing may be at risk. This will be assessed by the Principal in consultation with the student and their whānau.

Important Notes

- All colleges follow the same dispensation process and criteria.
 - Dispensations are granted by the Principal only, following an application that clearly meets one of the above criteria.
 - Dispensations exist to support students in exceptional circumstances — not for convenience or preference.
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Boarding

As you can see from the photos, we had a fabulous evening over at the dive pool last night. A huge thank you to Miss McCoy, our Tutors Olive and Hessie, our boarding prefect Ruby Ferguson, and our head of Main House for term 1 Grace Jaspers who made our Big Splash Competition such a success.

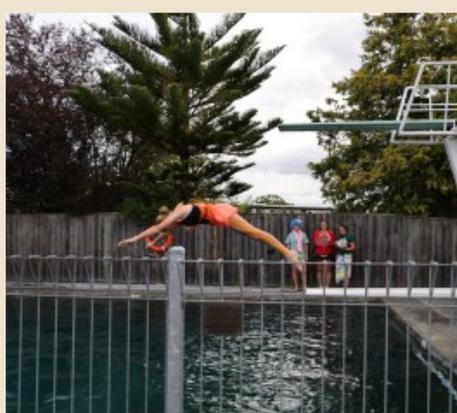
It was so good to see so many supporting the event by either representing their dorm, cheering them on, and/ or dressing up in their allocated dorm colours. Thank you!

A reminder to all boarders, it is compulsory to sign in and out of boarding. If you have a reoccurring pass, you are still required to activate it before you depart.

Next weekend is the second and final exeat for the term which means both boarding houses closes 5pm today and reopens 6pm Sunday. A reminder there is no catering provided on Sunday evenings on exeats.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jo



Integrated Activity Schedule

Integrated Activities Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Binerank Teachers Onsite	Deborah Percy (Voice) David Heath (Drums)	Deborah Percy (Voice)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Thomas Nikora (Piano)	Deborah Percy (Voice) Thomas Nikora (Piano) Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)	Kate Marshall (Piano/Flute)		
Before School / All Day							
During School	<p>1.15-2.00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)</p> <p>1.10-1.55pm Junior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus</p> <p>Swimming Pool opens - Lunch time</p>	<p>1.15-2.00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)</p> <p>Swimming pool open- lunch time</p> <p>1.10-2.00pm Environmental Group Meet (Lib 1)</p>	<p>1.15-2.00pm Shakespeare Practice, unless in Junior Choir (Hall)</p> <p>1.30-2.00pm Junior Choir Rehearsal (Music Suite)</p> <p>Swimming Pool open- lunch time</p> <p>10.30am Cricket 1st XI BYE</p>	<p>1.15-2.00pm Shakespeare Practice, unless in Kapa Haka (Hall)</p> <p>1.15-2.00pm Kapa Haka (Music Suite)</p> <p>Swimming Pre-Heid 18 lengths freestyle open age group</p> <p>10.30am Primary Touch Rugby Training for both teams with Audrey @ SMS Field</p>	<p>1.15-2.00pm Shakespeare Practice (Hall)</p> <p>1.15-2.00pm Jazz Band (Music Suite)</p>		
After School	<p>3.30pm - 4.15pm Tennis - lessons Starlings and Slicers</p> <p>4.15pm - 5pm Tennis lessons - Aces and hitters</p> <p>5pm - 6pm Regional 1,2+3 Tennis Training</p> <p>3.30pm - 4.30pm Cricket Training Primary Green and Gold</p> <p>3.30-4.15pm Swim Club @ St Mitts pool</p> <p>Volleyball Snr @ Makoura College SMS Panthers vs WaiCol Red @ 4:05 Court 2 (Van Departs 3:45 Pick up 4:30) SMS Cheetahs vs KC Junior A @ 4:30 Court 3 SMS Lynx vs MC Pango @ 4:30 Court 1 (Van Departs 4:15 Pick up 5pm)</p> <p>3.15pm-4.30pm Futsal @ WaiCol turf SMS vs Solway 3.30pm KO (Mrs Selthiro collect Raribakaale 3pm, Main House 3.15pm Return 4.35pm)</p>	<p>3.15pm Cricket Development vs Solway 3.45 @SMS/1A Cricket 2nd XI BYE</p> <p>3.30-5.30pm Cricket training 1st XI</p> <p>3.30-4.30pm Swimming House Lengths</p> <p>Volleyball Snr @ Makoura College SMS Leopards vs WaiCol 11 Blue @ 3:40 Court 1 (Van Departs 3:20 Pick Up 4:10) SMS 13s vs KC Senior A @ 4:05 Court 1 (Van Departs 3:45 Pick up 4:35)</p> <p>3.30pm-4.30pm Touch Rugby Falcons & Eagles Training @ SMS Field</p> <p>Social Tennis with Hannah (Tere, TBC)</p>	<p>3.15pm Primary Green vs Hadow Girls 3.45 @Hadow School / 1 SMS Primary Gold vs Solway College Primary Girls 3.45pm @ Solway College / 1 Cricket 2nd XI vs Nga Tawa 4:00pm @SMS</p> <p>3.30-4.15pm Senior Dance Troupe @ Lazarus</p>	<p>3.30-4.30pm Cricket training Development</p> <p>3.30-4.30pm Swimming House Lengths</p> <p>3.00-5.30pm Schola Cantorum (Hall)</p> <p>Touch Rugby @ Makoura College: TBC SMS Jays vs 3.45pm SMS Ravens vs 3.45pm SMS Robins vs 3.45pm (Van departs 3.15pm & pick up 4.20pm) SMS Hawks vs 4.20pm (Van departs 3.50pm & pick up 4.55pm) SMS Eagles vs 5.35pm SMS Falcons vs 5.35pm (Van departs 5pm & pick up 6.10pm)</p> <p>Primary Touch Rugby SMS Primary Green vs Gladstone Gladiators 5pm Field 1 SMS Primary Gold vs Lakeview Blues 5pm Field 2 (Van departs 4.30pm & pick up 5.30pm)</p> <p>3.20pm-4.30pm Tennis Lessons Primary 5.00pm-6.00pm Tennis Lessons Secondary 6.00pm Regional 3 Tennis Games SMS White vs SMS Green (St Matt's) SMS Gold vs Marimborough (St Matt's) (Girls to book van return if required)</p>	<p>3.30pm-6pm Tennis - Junior Interclub games SMS Hitters vs Greytown Team 3 (MTC) MTC White vs SMS Aces (MTC) SMS Slicers vs SMS Starlings (St Matt's)</p>	<p>Pre-Season Winter Sport Sessions 6.7-5.00pm Netball Yr 9-13s SMS Gym Football All year groups SMS Field Hockey Yr 9-13s SMS Turf</p>	

Live Integrated Activity sheet - available on our website:
<https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/newsletters/>

Sports Results Week 3

Tennis

Regional 3

Gold vs White	White win
Green vs Opaki White	Green win

Interclub

Slicers vs MTC White	
Hitters vs Acers	Acers win
Starlings vs Greytown Team 3	Starlings loss

Volleyball

Leopards vs KC Snr A	Leopards loss
13s vs KC Snr C	13s loss
Lionesses vs KC Snr B	1-1 draw

Cricket

1st XI vs PNGHS	SMS loss
Primary Green vs Primary Gold	41-41 Draw

Touch Rugby

Primary Green vs Chanel	loss 0-3
Primary Gold vs Gladstone Gladiators	draw 2-2
Jays vs WaiCol 12 Gold	loss 0-4
Ravens vs WaiCol 10 Gold	win 2-1
Robins vs WaiCol 10 Orange	loss 1-4
Hawks vs KC Seniors	win 3-1
Eagles vs MC Girls	loss 3-5
Falcons vs KC Blues	win 2-1



Around School



Happy Chinese New Year! 新年快乐

We have been celebrating The Chinese New Year, the year of the horse. Fiona Lin (international student and Deputy Head Girl) ran a series of craft activities in the boarding house and in the library at lunchtime. Students made horses and fireworks. We wish all our Chinese families a Happy New Year, 新年快乐.



Speech and Drama lessons now available – please email Mr Atkins if you are interested: andrew.atkins@trinityschools.nz



Karaitianatanga / Christianity Alive

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are reminded that this season is not only about giving something up, but about taking something up – drawing closer to God and growing in love, humility and faith. Lent invites us to return to the heart of the Gospel and to walk thoughtfully in the teachings of Jesus – love God and love others.

Scripture encourages us:

“E rapu i a Ihowā i te mea e kitea ana ia; e karanga ki a ia i a ia e tata ana.”

“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.” – Isaiah 55:6

And we are reminded:

“Kia ū, kia mau ki te aroha; ko te aroha he mea nā te Atua.”

“Let us love one another, for love comes from God.” – 1 John 4:7

May this sacred season be a time of seeking, loving and growing together in Christ.



High School Exchanges!

If you want to know more about overseas High School Exchanges from Your Education, register your interest for our next online Information session on Tuesday, 3rd March at 6.00pm or Wednesday 18th March at 6.00pm.. All interested parents and students Y9–Y13 welcome. An experienced staff member and returnee will share information about the destinations we are offering in 2026 and 2027.

**UPCOMING
ONLINE
INFORMATION
MEETINGS**

YOUR EDUCATION
High School Exchanges

**TUE
3 MAR
AT 6PM**

**WED
18 MAR
AT 6PM**

REGISTER HERE:

RSVP on our website www.youreducation.co.nz/next-steps. Follow us on Instagram @youreducationexchanges for regular updates and stories from us.



The Year 12 English students, with Ms Hancox's encouragement, tried to experience what a soldier in the trenches would be feeling writing poetry.



Choir Camp 2026



Our choir is spending the weekend at Waimainaki Camp at Riversdale, immersing themselves in music, teamwork, and plenty of fun. The camp is focused on rehearsals, and opportunities to strengthen connections across the group.



SMOGA Grants Now Open!

The St Matthew's Old Girls' Association (SMOGA) is delighted to open applications for two exciting student opportunities



Outward Bound Grant – A \$2,500 grant (incl. GST) toward an 8-day or 21-day Teen Outward Bound course.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/GW1RJ4qiwJ4tCboK7>

Spirit of Adventure Grant – A fully funded voyage aboard the Spirit of New Zealand.

Apply here: <https://forms.gle/xDER84v7JRyi2b9Y8>

These grants are open to current students in Years 11–13 who are either daughters, nieces, or granddaughters of SMOGA members, or who join SMOGA as part of the application process.

For full details, please visit:

www.stmatts.school.nz/academic/scholarships/

Uniform Shop hours for 2026

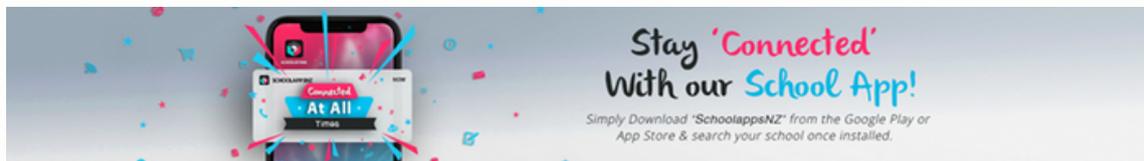
New opening hours: Thursdays 1pm– 4pm during term time.

If you would like to arrange an appointment outside these hours, please email Juliet Smith: smcsuniforms@trinityschools.nz or sm.uniforms@trinityschools.nz

New Zoggs togs available at the St Matthew's uniform shop @\$49.00 for women's, girls' sizes @\$40.00. Caps are available from the school office for \$3.50

Uniform information:

<https://www.stmatts.school.nz/parents/uniform/>



Key Dates:

Tuesday 3 Mar Scots College Summer Fixture

Tuesday 3 Mar – Yr7 Vaccination

Wednesday 4 Mar – Dessert Dance

Wednesday 4 Mar – World Shears Competition Starts

Friday 6 Mar – SMCS Swimming Sports

Friday 6 Mar – Yr 9/10/11 Parent Meetings

Saturday 7 Mar – Exeat Weekend

2026 Term Dates

Term One – Monday 2nd February to Thursday 2nd April

Term Two – Monday 20th April to Friday 3rd July

Term Three – Monday 20th July to Friday 25th September

Term Four – Monday 12th October to Saturday 5 December





What's on the menu this week?




Launch the Camera App and aim your camera at the QR Code to scan it.



Year 7 Vaccinations – Important Information



Our Public Health Immunisation Nurses are coming to your school soon

Our Public Health Nursing Team will be visiting the school this term to administer the Year 7 Boostrix and HPV vaccinations to students whose parents or caregivers have provided consent.

Consent Forms

Consent forms were handed out to students this week.

Please make sure these are completed, signed, and returned by the date stated on the form.

Need to Update Your Consent or Have Questions?

If you have reconsidered vaccinating your child, have had a change in circumstances, or have any questions or concerns, please contact the Public Health Team **at least 24 hours before the vaccination day.**

Contact Details:

Email: GW-NPHSImmunsation@tewhatauora.govt.nz

Phone: 04 587 2949

Please include **your child's full name and the school they attend** when getting in touch.

Vaccination Dates

- **Boostrix and HPV Dose 1: Tuesday 3rd of March**
- **HPV Dose 2 – Tuesday 1st of September**

If your child is absent on this date, a **catch-up clinic** will be held within **four weeks** of the scheduled vaccination.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support in keeping our school community healthy

"Really bat-mospheric!"

BAT'S INCREDIBLE

DATE: Sunday 8 March
PLACE: Wairarapa Events Centre
TIME: 4pm – 5pm
PRICE: \$5 in support of Wairarapa bats

BOOK ON EVENTFINDA

STORYTELLER TANYA BATT AND MUSICIAN PETER FORSTER INVITE YOU INTO THE TWILIGHT REALM OF THE BAT. SHOW CASING AOTEAROA'S ONLY INDIGENOUS LAND MAMMAL AND ONE OF THE MOST PROLIFIC MAMMALS ON OUR PLANET - THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMME IS A WEAVE OF TRADITIONAL BAT STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD. BAT SCIENCE, STRANGER THAN FICTION FOLKLORIC TRADITIONS AND A BAT - FACTS QUIZ WITH PRIZES!! SPREAD YOUR WINGS UP AND DON YOUR MASK AND COME A DISCOVER JUST HOW INCREDIBLE BATS ARE.

"Bat-Tastic!"

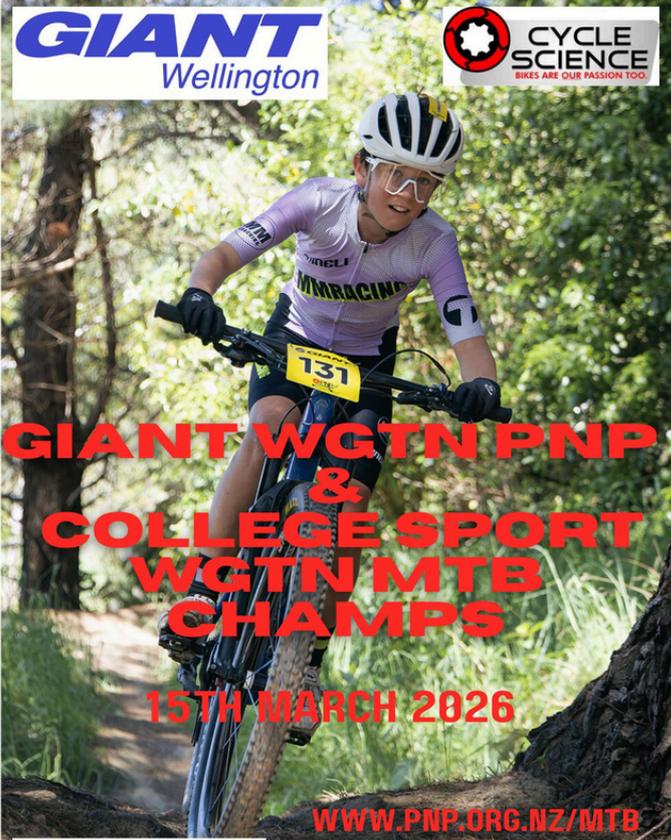
ALWAYS BE YOURSELF UNLESS YOU CAN BE BATMAN. batwomen ALWAYS BE BATWOMAN.



"Completely Batty!"

wbs  

www.imagined-worlds.net



GIANT Wellington

CYCLE SCIENCE
BIKES ARE OUR PASSION TOO!

GIANT WGTN PNP & COLLEGE SPORT WGTN MTB CHAMPS

15TH MARCH 2026

WWW.PNP.ORG.NZ/MTB

PNP CYCLING CLUB

Photo Credit Don Johnson

Introducing the St John Youth Programme – an incredible opportunity for our young leaders to shine and make a difference in our community!

What is the St John Youth Programme? The St John Youth Programme is not just about learning first aid and lifesaving skills; it's about building confidence, leadership, and resilience in our youth. From hands-on first aid training to community service projects, this programme empowers our young minds to become future leaders and compassionate community members.

When and Where? We have three St John Youth Divisions in the Wairarapa. These Divisions meet each week during the school term at the below times:

FEATHERSTON DIVISION
When: Thursday 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Where: Featherston St John Hall
4 Lyon Street, Featherston

CARTERTON DIVISION
When: Tuesday 5:30pm – 7:00pm
Where: Carterton Events Centre – Youth Wing
50 Holloway Street, Carterton

MASTERTON DIVISION
When: Monday 7:00pm – 8:30pm
Where: ATC Building, Hood Aerodrome
Hood Aerodrome, South Road, Masterton

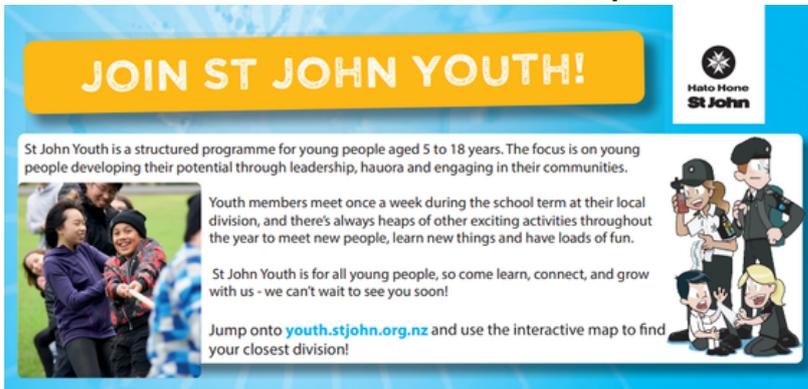
Who Can Join? This is open to all passionate young individuals aged from 5 to 18. Whether you're interested in healthcare, leadership, or simply want to give back to your community – the St John Youth Programme is the perfect place for you!

Why Join? ✓ Gain life-saving first aid skills. ✓ Develop leadership qualities. ✓ Make lasting friendships. ✓ Contribute to community well-being. ✓ Boost your confidence and resilience.

How to Join? Ready to embark on this exciting journey? Come along and visit your local division for a 2 week trial! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to grow, learn, and give back!

Spread the Word! Help us build a community of empowered and compassionate youth by sharing this with your friends, family, and anyone who might be interested. Let's make a positive impact together!

For more information, please email: "zachary.moir@stjohn.org.nz"



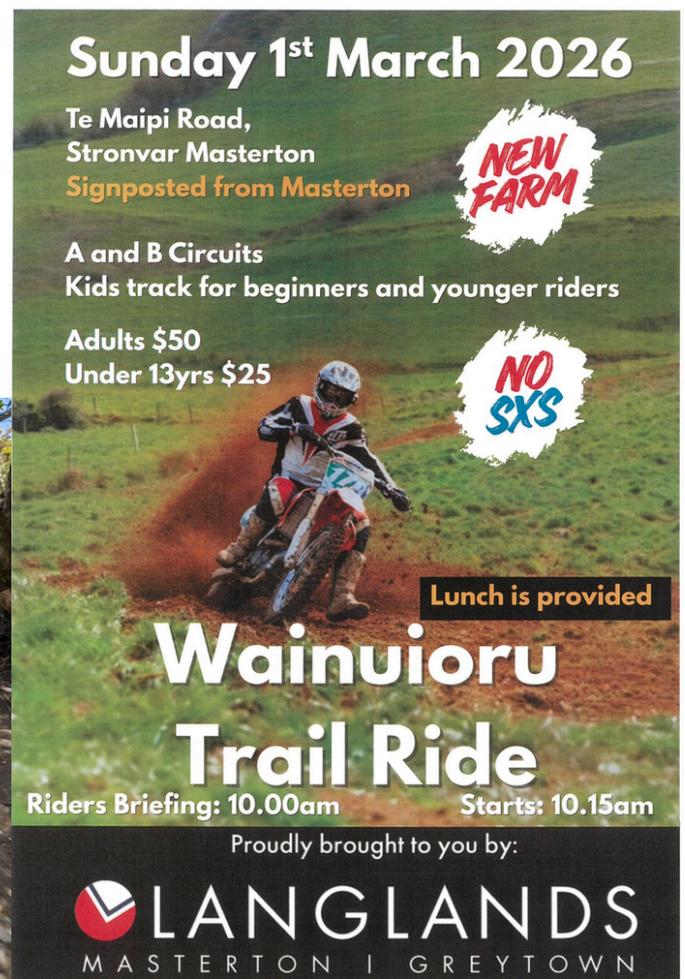
JOIN ST JOHN YOUTH!

St John Youth is a structured programme for young people aged 5 to 18 years. The focus is on young people developing their potential through leadership, hauora and engaging in their communities.

Youth members meet once a week during the school term at their local division, and there's always heaps of other exciting activities throughout the year to meet new people, learn new things and have loads of fun.

St John Youth is for all young people, so come learn, connect, and grow with us - we can't wait to see you soon!

Jump onto youth.stjohn.org.nz and use the interactive map to find your closest division!



Sunday 1st March 2026

Te Maipi Road,
Stronvar Masterton
Signposted from Masterton

NEW FARM

A and B Circuits
Kids track for beginners and younger riders

Adults \$50
Under 13yrs \$25

NO SXS

Lunch is provided

Wainuioru Trail Ride

Riders Briefing: 10.00am Starts: 10.15am

Proudly brought to you by:

LANGLANDS
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NORTH ISLAND MTB CHAMPIONSHIPS

CYCLING NEW ZEALAND
SCHOOLS

26 - 29 March 2026
Wellington

