



Principal's Message

TERM FOUR, WEEK TWO

Kia Ora Koutou

Kotahitanga yesterday saw us belatedly celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week. We still acknowledged the week itself, but without our Years 11, 12 and 13 students, who were busy with Derived Grade Exams.

We played Capture the Flag in our House groups. Every girl belongs to a House and, as a House, they worked together to get that flag. We ate ice blocks. We ate BBQ sausages. Georgie Reid, our Counsellor, addressed the student body and spoke about the theme of belonging. She reminded us that even something as simple as sharing kai is an opportunity to remember that we all belong here at St Matthew's.

And belonging matters.

We are moving into a reframing of the school that puts clearer language around something that has always been important to us: what does the journey through St Matthew's actually look like?

If you have not already, you will begin to hear us talking more about the ASTRA Years.

ASTRA gives us a framework for the journey from Year 7 to Year 13. It is not another programme to add to an already busy school. Rather, it helps us be more deliberate about the experiences, opportunities and milestones that shape a St Matthew's girl as she moves through the school.

At its heart sits a very simple promise:

A Place to Belong.

A Place to Grow.

A Place to Shine.

Belonging comes first for a reason. Before our girls can truly grow, take risks, lead, perform, achieve or shine, they need to know that this is their place.

Today that looked like Houses chasing flags, sharing sausages and ice blocks, laughing together and probably arguing about whether someone was actually tagged.

Across seven years at St Matthew's, it looks like much more than that.

ASTRA will help us tell that story more clearly: how a girl arrives, how she finds her place, how she grows in confidence and capability, how she takes on greater responsibility and, ultimately, how she leaves us ready to step into the world beyond St Matthew's.

Over the coming weeks, I will share more about the ASTRA Years and what that journey looks like. But perhaps today was a rather good place to start. Before we grow and before we shine, we need a place to belong.

An A-to-Z moment

Wednesday's Assembly was an absolute treat. Two of our flock growing wonderfully in front of us and taking the opportunity to showcase their talents. It's what I love about belonging to this school, and it is what we hope to keep encouraging in our school: letting our poppies shine.

It was literally an A-to-Z Assembly, which started with Ada Wilkie. Ada proudly represented her school at the Intercollegiate Speech Competition in the Year 10 section.

Ada won.

We were treated to her winning oratory and what a blessing. I, for one, was riveted. Her delivery was compelling; her words were considered and future-focused. But Ada also spoke to the past. Knowing the origins of anything can make a difference, don't you think? It makes a difference to the changes one could, or must, make.

Her speech was 'Mankind's Greatest Innovation': fire.

This is what I left with. Ada brilliantly reflected on the innovation of fire and how it changed the day-to-day, made things easier, and transformed life.

She then segued.

Ada brilliantly reflected on the discovery of AI and how it is changing the day-to-day, making things easier, and transforming life. But she ended with a cautionary note that both innovations, if not used carefully, could 'snuff' things out.

We have recently finalised guidelines for AI use for students and staff, and we will begin sharing and discussing these shortly. Throughout communities, AI is topical, and we need to be sure we have controls; you as a community need to feel confident that we do.

I feel humankind has to play a part.

Fire in Te Reo is ahi. The 'H' in ahi is important. For me, it is the difference between AI and ahi, because it is H for humankind that keeps AI as a tool.

The assembly ended with Z for Zoe Crout (Year 11). Her growth as a pianist is beautiful to see, and her growing number of awards and recognition bear testimony to her talents.

Zoe played Drunkard's Song by Béla Bartók. It was brilliant. Zoe was brilliant.

We are on a mission to have more music, and Zoe was able to showcase her extraordinary talent, but also inspire others to be the music makers of the future.

Orientation Day: where belonging begins

Our ASTRA Years journey begins in Year 7, and the focus of that first year is very deliberately 'BELONG'. And today, for our new Year 7 and 8 students, that journey begins.

In previous years, all students new to St Matthew's have started their journey together. This year, we have made a change. Today is just for our incoming Year 7 and 8 girls.

Because there is something important in saying: today is about you.

Before the uniform feels completely familiar, before you know which staircase goes where, before you have found your people or quite worked out where you fit, we want you to hear one message clearly:

You are important. You have a place here. You belong.

Our Year 10 girls are alongside them today too, stepping into the role of older "sisters". They are welcoming, encouraging and showing our newest girls the ropes. I love that. Belonging is not something we simply tell girls about. It is something we create for one another.

In a few months' time these girls will walk through the gates in uniform for their first proper day at St Matthew's. But I like to think that their St Matthew's story actually starts today.

A Place to Belong. And this is where it begins.

Labour Weekend

Yours will be slightly longer this year, so I thank you for adding a day to this weekend so that we can have a Teacher Only Day on Tuesday.

We are set to look at curriculum changes, what we need to do for the ASTRA Years, and how we respond to the changes ahead. It is about making sure your daughters, and we as staff, belong to a community that has the tools to grow our flock so they can shine.

I also hope the sun shines over the short break. I encourage you to wear sunblock so that you do not give that same sun the opportunity to grow redness in places it does not belong.

Have a safe longer weekend.

Be your best selves.

Ngā mihi





Boarding

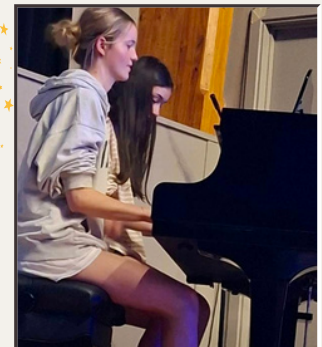
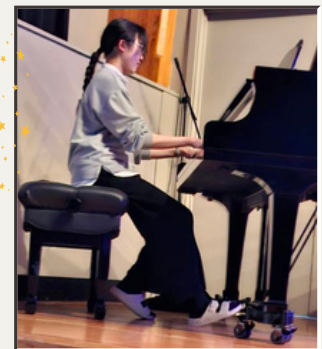
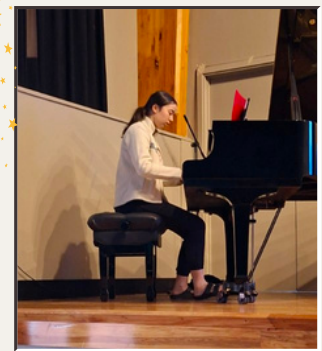


On Wednesday evening, our Year 11 girls organised a fantastic Talent Night.

Each year group was invited to perform an item showcasing their talents, followed by a variety of individual and group performances.

Hampton House rose to the occasion, especially impressive given they had just completed their DGE that day. The Year 13s took out first place in the group category, while our talented Zoe and Chika shared first place for their outstanding piano performances. The judges simply could not separate them

The matrons also entertained everyone with a dance routine. While Hollywood is unlikely to come calling anytime soon. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all and a great example of our boarding community coming together to support and celebrate one another



A reminder for girls to bring their togs and sunblock back to the hostel. The pool is being well used on most afternoons, and it has been lovely to see the girls making the most of the longer evenings, brighter mornings, and warmer weather. Many are also enjoying meals outdoors at the picnic tables.

Summer sports are now underway. Please ensure that all sports gear is **clearly named** and that girls bring all required equipment to practices and games. We encourage students not to lend out their gear.

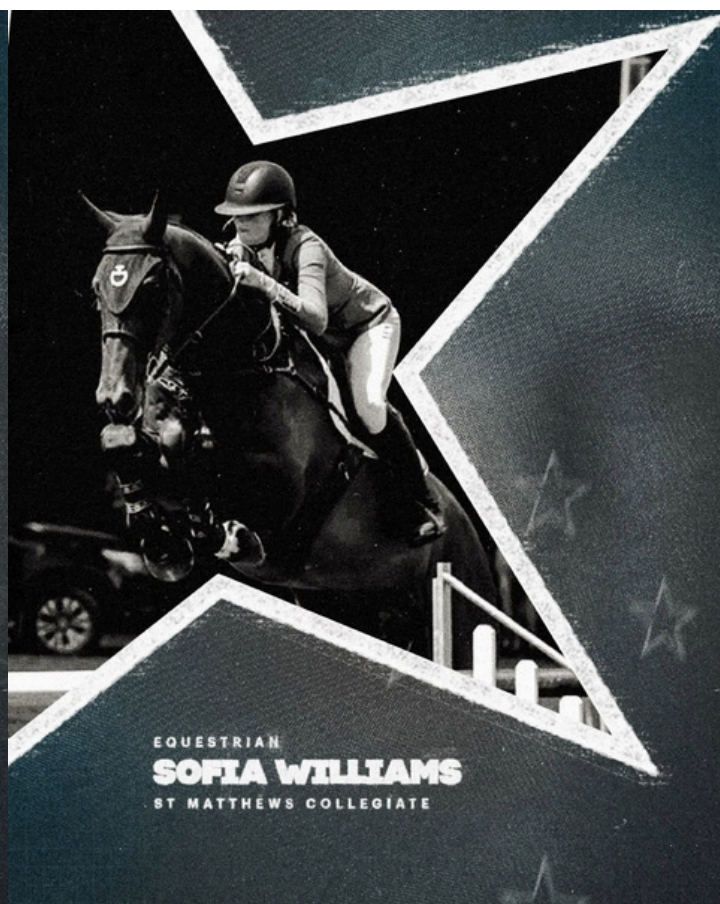
Year 11, 12 and 13 students have been busy completing their DGEs in preparation for NCEA.

With just two weeks of regular school remaining before exams begin, they will be making the most of every opportunity before entering the examination period.

cater PLUS

What's on the menu this week?

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



Sport Schedule

Week 3 Term 4
 Monday Oct 26 - Sunday Nov 1st

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Before School / All Day				Scots College Primary Cricket Fixture @ Scots College. Bus Leaving 8.10am, return 4.45pm			
During School			Pool Open Luncheon	Pool Open Luncheon	Pool Open Luncheon		
			Primary Touch Rugby Training with Audrey on SMS Field 1.15-1.50pm				
			Touch Rugby Training Hurricanes Training 3.30-4.30pm @ SMS Field	Tennis lessons @ SMS with Coach Marco Yr 7: 3.20-3.50pm Yr 8: 3.50-4.20pm Yr 9: 4.20pm-4.50pm Yr 10/11: 4.50-5.20pm Regional 3 Tennis Games SMS Diamonds vs Marty Women 6pm @ Martinborough. Tennis club Courts 1,2 SMS Rubies vs Masterton Racquettes 6pm @ Masterton Tennis Centre Courts 10,11	Tennis Games Junior Interclub Acers vs MTC Cheetahs 3.30pm @ Masterton Tennis Centre Courts 1,2,3 Hitters vs Hadlow Djokovic @ Masterton Tennis Centre Courts 4,5,7 Starlings vs Greytown Team 3 3.30pm @ SMS Regional 2 Games Trinity Schools Gold vs Opaki Black 6pm @ Rathkeale Tennis Courts Trinity Schools Green vs Greytown Club 6pm @ Featherston Tennis Centre Trinity Schools White vs Opaki White 6pm @ Opaki Tennis Club		
After School	Labour Day	Teacher Only Day	Cricket 1st XI Training @ SMS SMS Primary Gold vs Lakeview Girls Blue 3.45pm @ Lakeview School Van departs 3.15pm, pick up 6pm SMS Primary Green vs Hadlow Girls 3.45pm @ SMS	Touch Rugby Games @ Makoura College SMS Hurricane vs Chanel 1 4pm Field 1 SMS Broncos vs Solway College 4pm Field 2 Van departs 3.20pm, pick up 4.40pm SMS Panthers vs WaiCol Purple 4.35pm Field 2 Van departs 3.55pm, pick up 5.15pm Primary Touch Rugby @ Red Star Rugby Grounds SMS Raiders vs vs M15 Crusaders 7pm Field 3 Van departs 6.15pm, Pick up 7.40pm SMS Warriors vs vs Chanel 7pm Field 2 Van departs 6.15pm, Pick up 7.40pm SMS Cowgirls vs vs Opaki Tahiti 6.30pm Field 4 Van departs 5.45pm, pick up 7.05pm Cricket Training @ SMS with Coach Chopper 2nd XI Cricket Training 3.30-4.30pm			

Around School

Year 9 Social Studies

Wednesday in Year 9 Social Studies we discussed the digital money world and the issues around cards and pay wave etc. We then went back in time and used an old 'zip zap' machine for credit card transactions and wrote checks. It was quite a leap, especially using carbon paper!



Year 8 Maths



Our girls took their maths learning outside this week, exploring the school grounds to calculate the perimeter of five different objects. They carefully sketched each object (not to scale), labelled the measurements, and worked out the perimeter. It was a fantastic way to apply classroom learning in a hands-on, real-world setting while enjoying some time outdoors.



**Friends of St Matthew's**
Raffle 
SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND BE IN TO WIN!

**PRIZE**
Ninja Swirl by CREAMi
Ice Cream & Frozen Treat Maker
RRP approximately \$599
Create delicious ice cream, sorbet, smoothies and more at home!
The perfect prize for summer.

**TICKETS**
\$5 each

**SUPPORTS**
Funds raised will go towards school projects and resources for our St Matthew's community.

**DRAW DATE**
Saturday 7 November 2026
Drawn after the Rathkeale Fête. Winner will be contacted directly.

**Can't make it to the Fête?**
You can still be in to win. We're making raffle tickets available to our St Matthew's school community in advance, with the raffle also running at our Friends of St Matthew's stall at the Rathkeale Fête.

HOW TO ENTER

1

Purchase your tickets from the school office.

2

Provide your name, number of tickets and payment at the office.

**A SMALL CONTRIBUTION MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE TO OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**

**ST MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE**
YEAR 7 AND 8
PRESENTS

**THE LITTLE MERMAID JR**

Save the date

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER
WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER
ST MATTHEW'S COLLEGIATE SCHOOL HALL

From the team that brought you Seussical Jr in 2024, come join us for a journey under the sea - more details to follow soon...

Karaitianatanga Ora / Christianity Alive

This week we learnt in chapel that leadership is not about title, power, or standing at the front of the room. True leadership—as modeled by Jesus Christ—is found in the quiet, everyday acts of service to others. This is called leading by serving and is manaakitanga in action.

At the heart of our Anglican Special Character is the concept of Manaakitanga—uplifting the dignity and mana of those around us. Jesus turned the world's view of power upside down when He took off His outer robe, wrapped a towel around His waist and washed the feet of His disciples.

"Ko te tangata hoki e hiahia ana kia nui i roto i a koutou, me waiho ia hei kaimahi mā koutou."

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." — Mataiao (Matthew) 20:26

In our kura (school), we encourage our ākonga (students) to realise that real strength comes from tautoko (support) and kindness, not dominance. Servant leadership (te arataki handere) looks like the Year 11 student welcoming a nervous Year 7, the boarder helping a friend with her mahi kāinga (homework), or the athlete who encourages her teammate after a tough game. It is about having a ngākau manawanui—a heart of humility and steadfast willingness to serve. When our girls lead through service, they not only strengthen our community, but they also discover their own true purpose and potential.

Mā te Atua koutou e manaaki
(May God bless you all)



Book Character Day
Monday 2 November

Kiwi Christmas Books Donation Drive

As part of our Book Character Day fundraiser on Monday 2 November, we are collecting brand-new books to gift to children in need this Christmas through the Kiwi Christmas Books initiative.

We welcome picture books, chapter books, fiction and non-fiction, especially by Kiwi authors and illustrators. To learn more about this wonderful organisation and the impact of your donation, please visit their website.

kiwichristmasbooks.org.nz

Donations close Friday 6 November, Please drop books to the School Library.
Thank you for helping us share the joy of reading this Christmas.



With NCEA exams approaching, we encourage students to plan ahead so they can arrive at school with plenty of time to prepare.

Before travelling, please check the Metlink app or website for the latest service information and allow a little extra time for your journey. It's also a good idea to have an alternative travel option in mind, just in case.

Best wishes to all those students undertaking exams!

SMOGA Grant Now Open!

Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship

Applications are now open for the Gretchen Williamson Excellence in Commerce Scholarship, available to Year 13 students intending to study Commerce at tertiary level. This prestigious scholarship offers \$5,000 in funding over two years, as well as mentorship from Gretchen Williamson — a leading financial adviser and

St Matthew's Old Girl.

Gretchen is passionate about supporting young women into careers in finance and investment. This scholarship is part of her ten-year commitment to helping close the wealth gap for women through education and opportunity.

Applications close on 23 October 2026, with the recipient announced at Prizegiving in December. For more information and to apply, <https://forms.gle/owWyycFXJZdhqS74A>

The St Matthew's second-hand uniform shop will close in February 2027

The process of winding down the shop starts now.

IMPORTANT: If you need a senior skirt or winter uniform for next year, please come to the second-hand shop as soon as possible to try on and buy.

Currently there is a fairly good selection of second-hand uniform, but that stock will diminish quickly with no further uniform being accepted for sale.

Tracksuits: Second-hand tracksuits for sale at the uniform shop have now been heavily discounted as the new tracksuit with the standardised green has arrived at NZ Uniforms.

Shop hours during term four: Thursdays 1pm-4pm. The shop will then be closed for the summer break, re-opening the week starting 26th January; days and hours will be posted on the school App.



Key Dates:

Monday 26 October - Labour Day
Tuesday 27 October - TEACHER ONLY DAY
Wednesday 28 October - Yr10 Social Studies Trip
Thursday 29 October - Scots Primary Cricket Fixture
Friday 30 October - Yr9 Orientation Day
Saturday 31 October - Bronze Duke of Ed Qualifying Journey
Monday 2 November - Book Character Day
Thursday 5 November - Senior College Prizegiving
Tuesday 10 November - NZQA Exams Start
Thursday 12 November - Scots College Primary Fixture

2026 Term Dates

Term Four - Monday 12th October to Saturday 5 December

2027 Term Dates

Term One- Monday 1 February to Friday 9 April

Term Two - Tuesday 27 April to Friday 2 July

Term Three - Monday 19 July to Friday 24 September

Term Four - Monday 11 October to Saturday 4 December





THE FRIENDS OF RATHKEALE COLLEGE

Donate Designer Clothing & Make a Difference!

We are looking for donations of designer and brand-name clothing for our pre-loved charity clothing stall at the upcoming Rathkeale Christmas Fete.

Help us turn high fashion into high impact! All proceeds go directly to the Friends of Rathkeale to support student resources.

We are collecting: (clean and in great condition)

- Adult and teen clothing
- Designer handbags and shoes
- Popular labels

Please only donate items in **great condition**, just one or two quality items would be greatly appreciated.

Donation Drop-Off:

Please drop any donations into either the Rathkeale or St Matthews school office during October.

Thank you for your support!

*"Ma tui, mā mano, ka rapa te whai
Many hands make light work"*

Expressions of Interest Sports Coaches & Managers for 2027

As we begin planning for the 2027 sporting year, St Matthew's Collegiate School is seeking expressions of interest from enthusiastic and committed individuals interested in coaching or managing our sports teams.

Sport plays a vital role in the St Matthew's experience, helping students develop confidence, teamwork, resilience and a lifelong love of participation. We are looking for people who are passionate about supporting young people and contributing to our vibrant sporting culture.

Whether you are an experienced coach, former player, parent, old girl, or community member, we would love to hear from you.

We are seeking expressions of interest across all sporting codes for:

- Coaches
- Team Managers

If you are interested, please email Rachel Shearing, Director of Sport, outlining your sporting and/or coaching experience and the sport(s) you would like to be involved with.

Email: rachel.shearing@stmatts.school.nz

Expressions of interest will remain open over the coming weeks as we begin planning for the 2027 season.

Thank you for considering how you might support our students to thrive both on and off the field. We look forward to hearing from you.



Rathkeale College Christmas Fête Raffle 2026

- 1st Prize** One year UNLIMITED MOVIE PASS FOR TWO and a \$50 meal voucher per month at The Screening Room Cinema & Eatery, Masterton. Value Incredible! Est. value \$1,500. Donated by Eve Buchanan.
- 2nd Prize** Daily Life - \$350 Devotus Vineyard Voucher, \$300 Vetcare Voucher, \$300 Petrol Voucher and \$100 New World Voucher. Value \$1050. Donated by Devotus, Vetcare Masterton, Anneka Joll and New World Masterton.
- 3rd Prize** Martinborough Treats - a one-night stay at The Martinborough Hotel and a \$350 Devotus Vineyard Experience Voucher. Value \$700. Donated by Devotus, and The Martinborough Hotel.
- 4th Prize** Wairarapa Treats - \$350 Devotus Vineyard Voucher, \$50 Wingate Lane Voucher, \$50 Clareville Bakery Voucher. Value \$450. Donated by Devotus, Wingate Lane and The Clareville Bakery.
- 5th Prize** A Year's Supply of Rebel Bakehouse Wraps. Donated by Breadcraft.
- 6th Prize** Home Supplies - \$200 Bunnings Voucher, \$100 New World Voucher and a trailer of firewood delivered to your door. Donated by Island Bay Builders, New World Masterton and McCarthy Transport.
- 7th Prize** A Day's Surfing Tuition for up to 6 people at Castlepoint. Donated by David Woodcock.
- 8th Prize** One month Platinum Membership at Strength Nation Masterton. Donated by Strength Nation Masterton.
- 9th Prize** One month Platinum Membership at Strength Nation Masterton. Donated by Strength Nation Masterton.
- 10th Prize** A Year's Supply of Rebel Bakehouse Bagels. Donated by Breadcraft.

All proceeds go towards facilities for students at Rathkeale College.
Entries close 3.00pm on 01/11/2026. This raffle will be drawn under supervision on 09/11/2026 at Rathkeale College.
Winners will be notified and published. Prizes are not transferable and cannot be taken in cash.
Organiser: Sarah Summers, The Friends of Rathkeale College Incorporated, 217 Willow Park Drive, Masterton 5875.
Tel 06 370 0175. Limited to 5000 tickets numbered from 1001 to 6000.

Super prizes to be won!

\$20 for 5 tickets or \$5 a ticket.

Contact Rathkeale College to purchase.

06 370 0175 or office@rathkeale.school.nz



\$5 per Ticket
Book of 5 for \$20



DEVOTUS



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2026 WAIRARAPA A&P SHOW

WAIRARAPA A&P SHOW

31 OCT - 1 NOV 2026

SAT & SUN 9am-4pm

CHESTER ROAD, CARTERTON

TICKETS: GATE SALE EVENTBRITE.CO.NZ

ADULT \$10 OVER 65'S \$5 CHILDREN \$5 UNDER 5'S FREE

EMERY \$20 2 adults & 2 children

FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY - FREE ENTRY

5PM UNTIL LATE. CARNIVAL AREA ONLY

Scavenger Hunt | Wood Chopping | Lawn Mower Racing | Tractor Exhibitions | Animals | Carnival Rides & Amusements | Equestrian | Guided Pet Corner | Feeding | Shearing

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Stuff Wairarapa Times-Age

WUREROY

CARTERTON

GRAY BROS

THE GENTLEMAN'S BARBERS

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Goldilocks AND THE Three Bears

TE HUINGA TĀNGATA WAIRARAPA EVENTS CENTRE
SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER - 4.00PM
SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER - 4.00PM
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER - 6.00PM

HALLOWEEN AT NGĀ TŌTARA DOJO

31ST OCTOBER

205 NGAMUTAWA ROAD,
MASTERTON



PARKING ON ROADSIDE OR
MAKE IT PART OF YOUR
TRICK OR TREAT WALK



LITTLE SPOOKERS

(5:00PM - 6:30PM)

SPOOKY-FUN,
NOT SCARY

BIG FRIGHTS

(7:00PM - 9:00PM)

ENTER IF YOU DARE

SOMETHING SINISTER
IS LURKING IN THE
SHADOWS...
AND THE BUTCHER
IS ON THE HUNT!



\$5
ENTRY
INCL. LOLLY BAG



SAUSAGES
\$2



COLD
DRINKS
\$2



BLOODY
SHERBET BAGS
"BUTCHER'S
SNACK BAR"



FUNDRAISING FOR OUR OKINAWA KARATE TRIP

APRIL 2027

SUPPORTING

MASTERTON GOJU RYU KARATE



WAIRARAPA CRICKET

2026-27

PLAYER EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

We are seeking expressions of interest from
players keen to be involved in the below
teams.

*Please note that these age groups are
based upon the players 2026 school year*

- Year 6 Boys
- Year 7 Boys
- Year 8 Boys
- Year 9 Boys
- Year 10 Boys
- Year 11+12 Boys
- Year 7+8 Girls
- Year 9+10 Girls
- Year 11-13 Girls

PLEASE FILL IN THE
GOOGLE FORM LINK



Holmes
Construction NZ
EST. 1957

PGG Wrightson

FRIGHT NIGHT

AT THE

MUSEUM

8.00PM SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER

TICKETS \$20.00 AT eventfinda R12+



COBBLESTONES

WAIRARAPA'S HERITAGE VILLAGE

169 Main St, Greytown 5712