



Positively

JUNE 2026
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MĀNIATOTO!



**MĀNIATOTO
WHAT'S ON**

Your Calendar
Pages 12 & 13

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

A Scoop of Winter Wisdom

With all these frosty mornings lately, it has been hard not to notice the sparkling crystals coating the cars, paddocks, and trees. They look magical - especially if you are admiring them from indoors with a hot coffee rather than scraping the windscreen before work. But those icy little crystals reminded me of something far less scenic this week: the frosty layer forming on a half-forgotten tub of ice cream in our freezer.

In our house, ice cream is serious business. To avoid lengthy debates over flavours, we usually buy the Much Moore tubs with four flavours in one container. It is diplomacy in dessert form. Whether you are loyal to Cookies and Cream or firmly on team Goody Goody Gum Drops, everyone gets a say and peace is restored for at least a few minutes.

I used to be addicted to hokey pokey... but I turned myself around.

As the evenings get colder though, even ice cream loses some popularity. That container had been sitting in the freezer longer than usual, and when I opened it the other night, there it was - freezer burn. Still edible, technically, but the creamy goodness had turned icy and grainy. Nobody dreams about a crunchy scoop of vanilla.

Apparently, ice cream does not enjoy being fussed over. Every time the lid comes off, warm air sneaks in, the top softens slightly, then freezes again. Repeat that often enough and tiny ice crystals start taking over. The advice from ice cream experts is surprisingly simple: keep it tucked in the coldest part of the freezer, avoid leaving it on the bench, and warm the scoop instead of softening the whole tub. Some people even store containers upside down, which sounds either clever or slightly risky.

There is probably a life lesson in there somewhere. Good things are best enjoyed while they are fresh, shared often, and not forgotten at the back of the freezer. Speaking of scoops, Positively Māniatoto would love your community news, stories, photos, events, and updates. Send them through while they are fresh - before they go icy around the edges.

Erica and James.

Front cover image:

Bethany Fullerton captured this stunning frosty scene after we asked readers to send in their frost photos. Inside this issue, you will find winter driving tips, firewood burning advice, winter activities in the Māniatoto, community updates, and plenty more from around the district.

Acknowledgment

We want to thank everyone following the passing of Stu.

It was a beautiful send-off, and seeing so many people and clubs lining the street was an overwhelming tribute that showed just how much he was respected.

We are incredibly grateful for your support during this time.

Eileen and Stu's family.



*Wanted to borrow/hire
for one week*

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CURLERS COMPETE ON WORLD STAGE

Several New Zealand curling teams have recently been away competing at world events.

Team Smith, the sibling duo of Ben Smith (Naseby) and Jessica Michels (Invercargill), travelled to



Geneva, Switzerland, to compete at the World A Mixed Doubles Championship. Despite a tough week, finishing with 3 wins and 6 losses, they achieved an important result by winning their relegation game and successfully retaining their place in the World A division.

At the same time, both New Zealand Senior Men's and Women's teams have also been competing in Geneva at the World Senior Championships.

Meanwhile, Jed Nevill (Poolburn) and Ellie McKenzie (Dunedin) travelled to Edmonton, Canada, to compete at the World Under 21 Mixed Doubles Championship. It was a fantastic experience for the pair, showcasing some excellent curling on the international stage.

Anton Hood (Naseby), a prominent figure in New Zealand curling, has recently been competing in the Rock League, the sport's first professional league. Representing the Typhoon Curling Club, Anton and his teammates had an outstanding tournament, advancing all the way to the finals. The championship match proved to be a nail-biter that went right down to the wire. Typhoon finished as runners-up, narrowly defeated 2-1 by Shield Curling Club in a dramatic final that was decided by a last-shot tiebreaker.

As always, Maniototo Adventure Park are proud sponsors of all our New Zealand curling athletes.

Written by: Janet Steele

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PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG

There have been increasing concerns about dog poo being left around the Maniototo Park Stadium grounds on Pery Street, particularly on grassed areas and along the kerbside. In many cases, the waste has even been left behind in plastic collection bags, which still creates a mess and health concern for others using the area.



The Central Otago District Council states that dog owners must immediately remove and properly dispose of dog faeces from public places, and owners can be fined for failing to do so. Council rules also require dog owners to carry a suitable receptacle or bag when exercising their dog.

Leaving filled dog poo bags on the ground or roadside is not acceptable. Please place them in an appropriate rubbish bin or take them home for disposal.

We are lucky to have great public spaces in the Mānīatoto. A little responsibility from all dog owners helps keep these areas clean, safe, and enjoyable for everyone.

Written by: Erica

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IDA VALLEY WINTER ART SHOW RETURNS FOR MATARIKI WEEKEND

Written by: Erica

PHOTO CREDIT: Margaret Campbell Mitchell



The Ida Valley Winter Art Show returns to the Oturehua Community Hall this Matariki weekend, bringing regional art, local connection, and a welcome burst of activity to the Ida Valley this winter.

James recently interviewed Vivian Haderbache about the event, which will run from Thursday 9 July through to Sunday 12 July. The opening night begins at 7pm on Thursday 9 July, with the show then open across the long weekend.

Vivian says the art show began to create more social activity in Oturehua and to make use of the town hall as a place for people to gather. After a strong turnout for the first show last year, organisers are hoping this year's event will build on that momentum. The aim is to keep the hall open, active, and full of life, while giving people a reason to stay, visit, and connect in the Ida Valley.

A key focus of the show is supporting artists. Unlike some gallery or exhibition models, the Ida Valley Winter Art Show does not take a percentage from art sales. If an artist sells a piece, they receive 100 percent of the sale. Vivian says this helps encourage artists to keep creating, stay motivated, and see real value in their work.

This year's show will have a strong focus on the new generation, with three young artists under the age of 25 who have local connections to the area. Milo Henry, Caitlin Shea and Safi Foale will be showing work that ranges from charcoal drawings to colourful light sculptures.

They will be joined by Martin Sullivan, who won the People's Choice Award last year, Leora Werner, and Steve Varga, a knifemaker. Together, the artists will bring a mix of creative work to the hall, with something for locals, visitors, art fans, families, travellers and day

trippers from around Otago to enjoy.

Adding to the community feel, Mark Button of Waipiata Pie Company will be set up next to the hall for the duration of the show, selling our favourite pies and giving visitors another reason to enjoy Otarehua over Matariki weekend.

The art will be available for sale during the show. Visitors are asked to note that any purchased artwork will need to remain on display until the show closes at 5pm on Sunday 12 July, so everyone has the chance to enjoy the full exhibition throughout the weekend.

The event is sponsored by local organisations, with sponsor support contributing to awards for the artists, including the People's Choice Award. Vivian says sponsors have been important from the beginning, helping make the event possible and allowing the art show to recognise outstanding artists.

The show is also designed to support the wider community. Revenue from the door/Koha will go to local causes, with this year's funds supporting the Upper Manuhierikia Young Farmers Group. The event also supports the Otarehua Hall Association by renting the hall for four days.

For the wider community, the show offers something thoughtful and creative to do over Matariki weekend. It also supports health and wellbeing in an isolated rural area by creating activity, connection, and a reason to come together.

The opening night will be held from 7pm on Thursday 9 July at the Otarehua Community Hall. Visitors can meet the artists, view the work, and enjoy a relaxed community evening.

The art show will then be open from 10am to 5pm on Friday 10, Saturday 11, and Sunday 12 July.



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NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED FOR COMMUNITY TRUST OF MANIOTOTO

After more than fifty years of supporting the Maniototo community, the Community Trust of Maniototo has launched a new website, marking an important step forward in improving accessibility, communication and community connection.

The new website, available at ctm.org.nz, has been designed to provide clear and accessible information for community groups and individuals seeking grant funding, as well as those wishing to support the long-term work of the Trust through donations or bequests.

Alongside practical funding information, the website also shares the story of the Trust itself, featuring trustee profiles, Trust history, current news and a growing collection of historical photographs connected to both the organisation and the wider Maniototo community.

Community Trust of Maniototo Treasurer Tim Carson has led the development of the website and says the project quickly became much more than simply creating an online presence. "Working on the website gave us a real opportunity to reflect on the history of the Trust and the people who have contributed to it over the years. I enjoyed speaking with past trustees, gathering stories and uncovering photographs and information. We hope the website becomes not only a practical resource, but also something the community enjoys exploring and connecting with."

Community Trust of Maniototo Chair Janyne Fletcher says the trustees are proud to share the new platform with the community. "The Trust has been part of the Maniototo for more than five decades and has quietly supported countless projects, organisations and people during that time. This website is a way of honouring that history while also making sure we continue to move



Former trustee and secretary John Levido, cutting the cake at the 50th anniversary celebrations for the Community Trust of Maniototo.

forward and remain accessible and relevant for future generations. We are proud to share it with our community."

The website is now live and can be accessed at www.ctm.org.nz.

For further information please contact:

Janyne Fletcher
Chair
Community Trust of Maniototo
021 989 424
chair@ctm.org.nz



WINTER FUN BEGINS

Winter
Excitement is
Building at the
Maniototo
Adventure
Park!



After a fantastic summer season, Maniototo Adventure Park is getting prepared for the winter season, and we are very excited about the coming months.

Weather permitting, we plan to open our outdoor ice rink on Saturday 30 May for King's Birthday weekend. On Saturday 6 June we'll hold our annual Lights on Ice dance in the evening, and the fun will continue Sunday 7 June with our highly anticipated Ice Festival. This promises to be a weekend of great value family fun! If the conditions don't allow, these events will move to the following weekend, 13 and 14 June.

Our popular Friday Night Kids Curling returns on Friday 5 June from 5.30pm. With free coaching, gear provided, a sausage sizzle, and a welcoming atmosphere, it's the perfect way for young people of all ages and abilities to get involved.

On the weekend of 18 to 21 June, the indoor rink will host the New Zealand Mixed Doubles Curling Qualifier, while the exciting Erewhon Cup Ice Hockey Tournament will be held on the outdoor rink. Both events are great opportunities for spectators to come along, show their support, and watch some of our top athletes in action.

Our winter season passes are now available, so get in touch on 03 444 9878 to secure yours.

Don't forget our popular Ice Camp, Luge Camp, and Curling Camps are all scheduled for the July school holidays from Monday 6 July to Friday 17 July, along with our Ice Dance/Costume Party on Saturday evening, 11 July for Matariki weekend.

For more information, please contact us directly or check out the Maniototo Adventure Park Facebook page.

FROM THE HEART OF MANIOTOTO HEALTH

CEO UPDATE

It is a particularly busy and important time for Maniototo Health Services Ltd (MHSL), with several developments underway that strengthen the long-term sustainability of local services. Recently, we marked a significant milestone with the official opening of the new four-bedroom extension on 7 May. This was a special occasion for our community and our organisation, and it was wonderful to see so many people come together to acknowledge what has been achieved.



At the opening ceremony, Liz and Stuart spoke about the project and its value to the community, and Stuart formally opened the extension by cutting the ribbon. The event also gave us the opportunity to recognise the generosity of those who contributed - many donors attended, and it was a pleasure to share the moment together and enjoy a cup of tea afterwards. Community support makes projects like this possible, and we are grateful for the time, commitment, and contributions that helped bring this extension to life.

Tracey Kubala, CEO

RANFURLY MEDICAL CENTRE

We are now progressing work with Di and Verne to support the transition of Ranfurly Medical Centre to MHSL, with the change taking effect on 2 June 2026. This is a planned and structured handover process, and our priority is to keep patients well-informed and supported throughout the transition.

How we will keep you informed

We will communicate with you through several channels so that information is easy to access and reaches people in different ways. This will include:

- Posters in the waiting room/sitting room areas, for quick, visible updates when you attend the practice
- Positively Māniatoto, for community-wide updates and key messages
- Email and/or letters where needed, for information that is important to receive directly

This multi-channel approach helps ensure that, for example, people who don't regularly use email can still see key notices in the practice, while those who prefer written communication can receive letters when required.

Change of Practice Ownership - From 2 June 2026

What's changing?

From Tuesday 2 June 2026, Ranfurly Medical Centre will be operated by Maniototo Health Services Ltd (MHSL). The purpose of this change is to support the long-term sustainability of local health services, helping ensure the community can continue to access care locally into the future.

In practical terms, this is a change in who operates the practice, practice ownership/management, rather than a change to the fundamental purpose of the service. MHSL will provide organisational support so the medical practice can continue to operate in a stable and sustainable way.

What is NOT changing?

We want to reassure patients that several key things remain the same:

- You will continue to access care locally
- Our focus remains on high-quality patient care
- Services will continue with MHSL support

To put this simply: the intent is continuity. Patients should still be able to seek care in the local area, and the commitment to providing safe, high-quality services remains unchanged.

Your health information

Your health records will be securely transferred to MHSL in line with the Health Information Privacy Code 2020. This means your information must be handled with care, kept secure, and used appropriately for the purpose of providing health care.

As a practical example, transferring records securely helps ensure that clinicians and staff can continue to provide safe care without interruption - such as having access to relevant medical history, allergies, medications, and care plans when you attend appointments.

Your right to opt out

You have the right to choose not to have your records transferred.

If you do NOT want your records moved to MHSL, please contact us before 2 June 2026, or as soon as possible after that date.

You can do this by:

- Speaking with reception staff
- Phoning: 03 444 1073
- Emailing: admin@ranfurlymed.co.nz

If you opt out, you can also request that your records be transferred to another provider. Reception can help guide you through what's needed so your request is handled correctly.

Health reminders

Please allow at least 3 to 5 days when requesting a repeat prescription. An urgent prescription on the same day will incur an additional fee. At times it may be necessary for you to be seen at the practice by either a GP or nurse, prior to a repeat prescription being issued.

June is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month, and Men's Health Week runs from 15–21 June 2026. These are valuable reminders to be proactive about health - especially for those who may have been postponing a check-up. Gentlemen, if you've been putting it off, now is a good time to book an appointment and get a routine health check. We look forward to seeing you at the medical practice and supporting you to stay well.

Finally, a timely seasonal reminder: please remember to get your Flu/COVID vaccinations if you are due. Staying up to date with vaccinations helps protect you, your whānau, and the wider community - particularly those who are more vulnerable to respiratory illnesses.

Looking After Your Health This June

Healthy men, stronger whānau, stronger communities.

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month and Men's Health Week

Bowel Cancer Awareness Month
June is Bowel Cancer Awareness Month in New Zealand. Bowel cancer can often be treated successfully when found early. Know the symptoms and do not put off getting checked.

- Blood in your bowel motion
- A lasting change in bowel habits
- Ongoing stomach pain
- Unexplained tiredness
- Weight loss
- Anaemia

If something does not feel right, talk to your GP.

Men's Health Week 15 to 21 June 2026
Men's Health Week is a reminder for men to check in on their health. Small steps can make a real difference.

- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Blood sugar
- Mental wellbeing
- Health worries you may have been ignoring

A simple check up or conversation could make all the difference.

Find out more at bowelcancernz.org.nz and menshealthweek.co.nz

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Counsellor (Free call or text any time to talk to a trained counsellor)	1737

LOCAL LANDSCAPES FEATURE IN NETFLIX SERIES

Written by: Erica

Netflix has released the first teaser trailer for its new limited series East of Eden, giving viewers an early look at the South Island locations used in the production. The seven-episode series stars Florence Pugh as Cathy Ames and is based on John Steinbeck's classic novel.



For the Mānīatoto, the series is an exciting moment, with filming reported in the district after production in Oamaru. The area's wide-open spaces, dry hills, big skies and historic rural feel helped create the period setting and give the series a strong visual backdrop.

The wider Central Otago landscape has also been used for major screen productions, including Jane Campion's The Power of the Dog, which filmed ranch scenes in the Mānīatoto, near the Hawkdun Ranges and Hills Creek area.

Oamaru also played an important role, with filming in the Victorian Precinct and nearby rail area. The town's heritage buildings and streets were used for period scenes, helping stand in for early California.

East of Eden was filmed in several New Zealand locations, including Dunedin, Central Otago and Oamaru. Netflix says the series will be released in northern autumn, which is New Zealand spring, though an exact date has not been announced.

EVERGREEN TREE CARE BRINGS QUALIFIED ARBORIST SERVICES TO CENTRAL OTAGO

Trees are a valued feature on many Central Otago properties, but when they become too large, grow too close to buildings, or suffer storm damage, they can quickly turn into a safety risk.

Sean from Evergreen Tree Care says he and his partner moved to Ophir after spending the past 20 years in Arrowtown. About seven months ago, they launched Evergreen Tree Care, providing qualified arborist services throughout Central Otago. The business operates with a truck, chipper, and specialised equipment capable of handling everything from routine maintenance to complex tree removals.

One of the company's main areas of work is hazardous tree removal. Sean says this often involves trees overhanging homes or jobs that require specialist rope and rigging techniques to remove trees safely. Evergreen Tree Care also offers hedge trimming, formative pruning, shelter belt maintenance, section clearing, and assistance with storm-damaged trees.

Sean says hiring a qualified arborist is especially important when safety is involved. Large trees can be dangerous to manage without the proper equipment, training, and experience. As James joked during the interview, "you want to lose tree limbs, not human limbs."

Proper pruning can also play an important role in maintaining the health and longevity of trees. Sean says removing dead wood at the right time can help prevent disease from entering or spreading through a tree. Pruning can also improve a tree's shape and help manage growth when trees have outgrown the spaces where they were originally planted.

In Central Otago, Sean encourages property owners to monitor trees leaning toward homes, particularly after strong winds. Early-season snow loading can also create problems, although he says this is less common. During spring, warning signs that a tree may need attention include branches without leaves or a brown, decaying top.

Sean says customers who contact Evergreen Tree Care can expect honest and practical advice. Not every tree needs to be removed, and he is happy to reassure people when a tree is healthy and safe.

Evergreen Tree Care can be contacted by cell phone or online at evergreentrecare.co.nz.

DUCK SHOOTING TRADITION CONTINUES ACROSS THE MĀNIATOTO

Written by: Erica
PHOTO CREDIT: Scott Smith



Joshua Scobie on the lookout for more parries, with the moon in the background.

Duck shooting season has again proven to be a major talking point across the Mānīatoto, with favourable wetland conditions and strong paradise shelduck numbers contributing to a positive start to the 2026 season.

According to Fish & Game New Zealand, a wet spring and summer across Otago created excellent habitat conditions heading into opening weekend, helping support strong bird numbers across the region.

The Mānīatoto featured prominently in Otago opening weekend reports. In a regional hunting update from Otago Fish & Game, hunters near Ranfurly reported good success with paradise shelduck, despite calm weather



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making mallards more difficult to decoy. One local group of nine hunters secured 115 birds over the weekend, including 90 paradise shelduck.

Fish & Game says paradise shelduck numbers in Otago are currently sitting at some of the highest levels recorded in decades, with conditions across much of the region helping bird populations thrive heading into the season.

Duck shooting weekend remains a long-standing tradition throughout the Mānīatoto, bringing together families, friends, and visitors from around the region. Local accommodation providers, cafes, fuel stations, and rural businesses often see an increase in activity over the opening weekend as hunters travel into the district.

Otago Fish & Game says the 2026 season is shaping up similarly to the improved 2025 season, although winter weather conditions will continue to influence bird movement and hunting success in the weeks ahead.

For many locals, the opening weekend is about more than just the hunt itself. It is also a chance to reconnect, spend time outdoors, and continue a tradition that has been part of rural life in the Mānīatoto for generations.



Ducks over Rough Ridge the night before opening.





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MANIOTOTO NETBALL ENJOYS STRONG SEASON SUPPORT



The Maniototo women's netball team is enjoying a positive season, with strong numbers and plenty of enthusiasm both on and off the court.

Bree Taylor says the team has been very fortunate this year to have about 14 women attending practices and around 10 players travelling to Alexandra on Saturdays for games. She says it is the highest number of women involved in the team during the past three years, making it an exciting season for everyone.

The team recently held a Duck Shooting Raffle Night at the Wedderburn Tavern on Friday 1st May, raising just



under \$1,500. The fundraiser was held to help purchase jackets and training tops for the team, which will make a big difference during cold game days in Alexandra.

Bree says the night was well supported by the local community, with plenty of people getting involved. The

raffle included a range of duck shooting themed prizes, including bacon, eggs, toilet paper, and a balaclava, adding to the fun of the evening.

On the court, the season has been going well, with players continuing to turn up each week and enjoy the social side of the game. Bree says one of her goals as manager was to give women an opportunity to get out on a Saturday, be active, enjoy each other's company, and take part in something local.

The team would like to thank Angela Stockdale at the Wedderburn Tavern for hosting the fundraiser, along with all the players and supporters who helped make the night a success. Special thanks were also given to Sarah McMillan, and Raelene Huddleston for their support.



Written by: Erica

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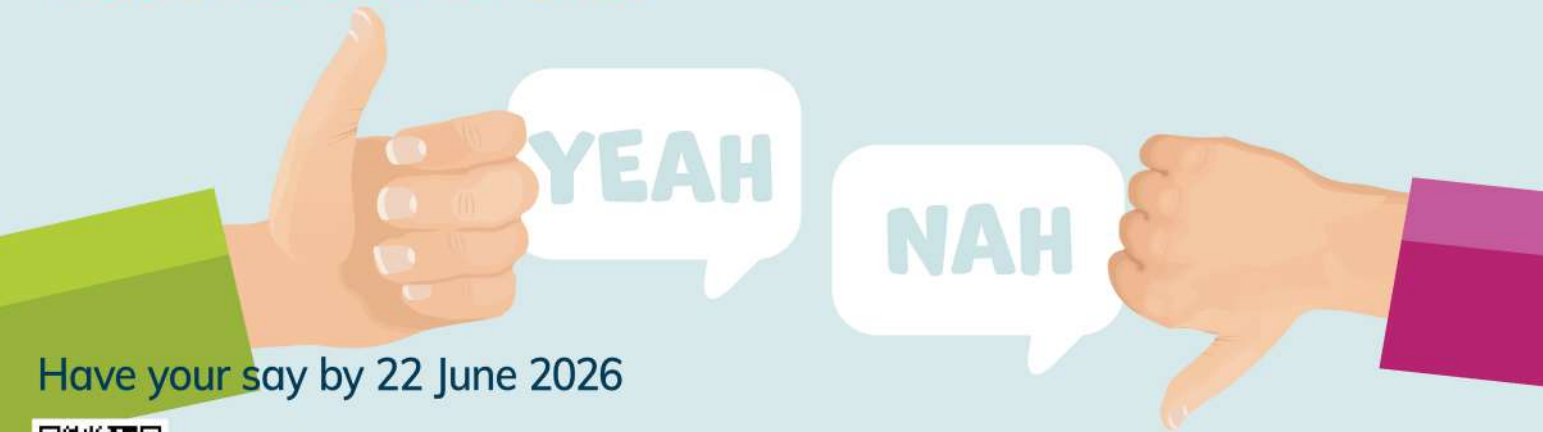
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RESIDENTS' SURVEY 2026

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June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 KING'S BIRTHDAY	2 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm	3 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	4 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Toy Library, 3.15pm-4.15pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm,	5 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm -"Kids Curling", Maniototo Adventure Park, Evening WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY	6 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm -Rugby: Maniototo Premier Men vs Upper Clutha Premier Men, 2.30pm, Maniototo Park Stadium 1 Lights on Ice Dance, Maniototo Adventure Park, Evening
7 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Anglican Parish, 10.30am -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 3pm 2.15pm -Toy Library, 11am-12pm Ice Festival, Maniototo Adventure Park.	8 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am	9 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm	10 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	11 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm,	12 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm	13 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm -Rugby: Maniototo Premier Men vs Arrowtown Premier Men, 2.30pm, Maniototo Park Stadium 1
14 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY	15 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm -Crafternoon, Maniototo Library, 1pm-3pm Deadline for Positively Māniatoto Submissions - for July edition.	16 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm -Combined Church Service, Hospital, 2pm -Sexual Health Clinic, Well Child Rooms, Hospital, 3.30-5.30pm	17 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	18 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm,	19 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm	20 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm -Rugby: Cromwell Goats premier Men vs Maniototo Premier Men, 2.30pm, Cromwell 1
21 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm WORLD MUSIC DAY	22 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am	23 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm	24 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	25 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, Maniototo Community Support Hub, Ranfurly Medical Centre, 10am-1pm	26 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm	27 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm -Rugby: Alexandra Armadillos Premier Men vs Maniototo Premier Men, 2.30pm, Omakau Domain 1
28 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 5pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm -Toy Library, 11am-12pm	29 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm	30 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm				



Positively
MĀNIATOTO!

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Positively MĀNIATOTO!</p>					<p>3 END OF TERM 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm -Rugby: Maniototo Premier Men vs Wakatipu Premier Men, 2.30pm, Maniototo Park Stadium 1
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Anglican Parish, 10.30am -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm -Toy Library, 11am-12pm 	<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturehua Hall, 7pm 	<p>10 MATARIKI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturehua Hall, 10am-5pm 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rugby: Alexandra Armadillos Premier Men vs Maniototo Premier Men, 2.30pm, Molyneux Park 1 Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturehua Hall, 10am-5pm Ice Dance/Costume Party, Maniototo Adventure Park, Evening
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturehua Hall, 10am-5pm 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am Deadline for Positively Māniatoto Submissions - for August edition. 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, 	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm WORLD EMOJI DAY 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm 	<p>20 START OF TERM 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am -Crafternoon, Maniatoto Library, 1pm-3pm 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm -Combined Church Service, Hospital, 2pm 	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am 	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, 	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 5pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm -Toy Library, 11am-12pm 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, Maniototo Community Support Hub, Ranfurly Medical Centre, 10am-1pm 	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm 	

COMMUNITY CONTACTS:

Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Barre Fit Classes

Melissa 021 220 8655

Catholic Women's Fellowship - Opportunity Shop

Francie (03) 444 9243

Embroidery Guild

Diane (03) 444 9831

Jazz & Contemporary Dance

Brit 021 239 7345

Kids' Art Club

Rowena 027 259 2320

Maniototo Golf Club

Mark 027 423 911

Naseby Golf Club

Jacqui 021 220 0310

Patearoa Golf Club

Suzy 027 201 4054

Ranfurlly Bowling Club

Maureen 027 506 7375

Patearoa Bowling Club

Doreen 027 490 5970

Pilates:

Barb 021 165 4872

Scrap booking and cardmaking

Sandra 027 847 5643

Scrabble & Cards

Helen 027 333 1267

Spinning, Knitting & Weaving

Lyn 027 557 1638

The Pottery Club Māniatoto

Nina 027 271 3399

Steady As You Go

Joan (03) 444 9629

Tai Chi (03) 444 9831

Maniototo Garden Club

Denise 021 0252 0116

Indoor Bowls (03) 444 9756

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

George Barroga Ranfurly 021 029 95030

Jill Binnie Ranfurly 022 186 3772

Rowena Kinney Hyde 027 259 2320

Murray McKnight Ida Valley 021 252 4355

Val McSkimming Ranfurly 021 278 1055

Janice Remnant Naseby 027 597 8454

Tracey Weir Patearoa 027 472 6661

PLEASE PHONE OR MESSAGE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Winter Driving Tips

Tune to Burn Radio 92.3FM & 729AM



Check before you drive

Check weather and road conditions before leaving.



Slow down

Drive to the conditions, especially in ice or snow.



Use your headlights

Turn them on in rain, ice, snow, fog, or dark conditions.



Leave more space

Increase your following distance on slippery roads.



Brake gently

Avoid sudden braking or sharp turning.



Do not drive tired

Rest, take breaks, and share the driving if you can.



Expect delays

Roads may be closed when conditions become too dangerous.



Travel prepared

If possible, travel by day and carry warm clothes, water, and food.



Fuel or charge up

Have enough battery range or at least half a tank of petrol.



Never ignore a road closure

Driving on a closed road is illegal and dangerous.



Before you go, check NZTA Journey Planner, NZTA regional Facebook pages, and MetService.



Your Local Winter Road Information Radio Station

Your Contributions

Positively
MĀNIATOTO!

We welcome your submissions for consideration in Positively Māniatoto! Send in short articles (200–300 words), milestones, events, history, recipes, poems, photos, ads, or anything of local interest. **Deadline: 15th of each month.**

Classified Advertising

Submit classified ads, calendar entries, or articles with photos for consideration to positivelymaniototo@gmail.com by the 15th. Contact us for ad sizes and costs.

Contact Us

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ANGUS SALES REFLECT STRENGTH OF LOCAL FARMING



Recent Angus bull sales in the Mānīatoto have again highlighted the quiet strength of the district's farming sector, with strong results, loyal buyers, and generations of local breeding knowledge on show.

At Penvose Angus, near Wedderburn, the

Duncan family marked a significant milestone, holding their 40th annual on farm bull sale. Speaking with James after the sale, Stu Duncan said the family had been involved in auctions for 60 years, with 40 of those years held at the home farm.

The day proved successful, with the sale averaging \$12,200 and all but one bull sold. Stu said he was very pleased with how the day went, describing the result as "really good" and saying the family was "really happy" with the sale.

The wider Angus market also appears to be strong. Stu said Cole and Emma Hagen at Puketoi Angus had also held a good sale, with the market continuing to show strength. The Otago Daily Times reported strong interest at the start of the southern bull sale season, with confidence helped by strong autumn calf prices and ongoing demand for Angus genetics.

At Penvose, around 40 rising two-year-old Angus bulls were offered, with support from Central Otago hill country farmers, as well as buyers from Western Southland and North Otago. After the sale, the bulls were already being loaded and sent out to their new farms.



Beyond the prices and bidding, these sales tell a wider

story. They reflect years of careful breeding, family commitment, and the ongoing importance of agriculture to the Mānīatoto.

In a district where farming remains central to both the economy and local identity, confidence at the sale ring is encouraging. It shows that while seasons and markets may change, the strength of local farming families continues to stand firm.

Written by: Erica

WINTER SAFETY IN THE MĀNIATOTO

Winter is the busiest season for local volunteer fire brigades. The Naseby Volunteer Fire Brigade reminds the community to keep these simple safety checks in mind.

Winter safety checklist

1. Smoke alarms
Test smoke alarms monthly.
2. Electric blankets
Check for hot spots or worn cords before use and turn off before sleep.
3. Chimneys
Get chimneys cleaned before lighting the first fire of the season.
4. Heaters and fires
Keep clothing, curtains, furniture and firewood at least one metre away from log burners, pellet fires and electric heaters.
5. Ashes
Soak ashes with water in a metal bucket and store outside, well away from wooden decks, fences or walls.
6. Clothes dryers
Remove lint from the filter before every use.



Can we reach you in an emergency?

Fire appliances need driveway clearance of at least 3 metres wide and 3 metres high. Please check for overgrown trees, low hanging branches or tight gateways.

In an emergency, dial 111 immediately.

Stay warm and stay safe.



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ORC FIREWOOD REMINDER



Air quality can degrade during winter due to wood burners, cold calm weather, and inversion layers. Always make sure the wood you burn is dry. It's better for you, your home, and the environment.

Burn Dry, Breathe Easy tips:

Stock up on firewood before Christmas so it can dry before winter.

Stack firewood off the ground, out of the rain, with plenty of airflow.

Use a moisture meter to check your wood is dry enough to burn. Less than 25% moisture means more heat and less smoke.

A well-built fire with paper/firelighters, kindling, firewood, and plenty of airflow helps heat your home and reduce smoke.

Don't burn wet or green firewood, treated wood, or household rubbish such as plastics, as they can release harmful toxins.

To reduce smoke overnight, make sure you can still see flames when you turn your fire down.

Find out more at orc.govt.nz/burndry

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Dry paper



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17

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RANFURLY PLAY CENTRE.

Written by: Chloe Rosser

Playcentre is now operating on winter hours for the rest of Term 2 and throughout Term 3, with sessions running from 10am to 12 noon.

It has already been a busy and fun-filled term, with tamariki enjoying a range of activities including water play, obstacle courses, story time, painting, and much more. The sessions continue to provide a welcoming space for children to learn, explore, and play together.

The centre has also enjoyed visits from Jo and Helen from Playcentre, along with Mary from REAP, who have all brought support, encouragement, and fresh ideas for activities and learning opportunities.

There is still plenty to look forward to before the end of the term, with celebrations planned for the Winter Solstice and Matariki in June before the holiday break begins.

Playcentre looks forward to welcoming families back for more fun, learning, and friendship in Term 3.

Follow their Facebook page for updates and upcoming activities: Ranfurly Playcentre - Maniototo Playgroup.



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BURN RADIO UPDATE

What a fantastic few weeks it has been for Burn Radio.

During April, we celebrated the launch of Burn Radio on 92.3FM, giving listeners across the Mānīatoto another way to tune in alongside 729AM. It was all about getting the community involved, having some fun, and encouraging people to switch on, stay tuned, and enjoy local radio.

Our final launch activity was held in Ranfurly on 6 May with our “Be Outside Your Gate” promotion. Congratulations to everyone who won. We gave away radios and Maniototo Four Square vouchers and were blown away by the response.

A huge thanks to Alex from Ranfurly Balmoral Dairy, Fish and Chips, who put his drone up and helped us spot the winners from above. It was great to see listeners getting into the spirit of it, with people dressing up, making signs, and joining in the fun.

We only wish we could have given prizes to everyone.

The launch of 92.3FM is an exciting step for Burn Radio, helping us share local information, weather, community updates, interviews, music, and Mānīatoto voices with more listeners.

You can hear Burn Radio on 92.3FM, 729AM, and online through iHeartRadio. Whether you are at home, on the farm, in the car, or away from the area, streaming is a great way to stay connected.

Burn Radio, keeping it live and local.

Written by: James



EST. 1862

DANSEYS PASS

HOTEL

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ELEVEN STUDENTS HEAD NORTH

On Wednesday 6 May, 29 of our budding senior students travelled to Roxburgh for the annual South of the South Area Schools Sports Tournament. This year was to be our most successful tournament in quite some time, with 11 of our students being selected to compete in the National Area Schools Tournament at the end of June.

Our teams had some great results, with second placing in basketball, netball, football and Ki o Rahi, whilst we also won the chess and quiz competitions. The other schools certainly took note, with some asking "what we'd put in the water" as they had improved so much!

This year was extremely competitive, especially against our local adversaries, Roxburgh, but we were also competing in a number of nail-biting finals against Twizel and absolutely held our own in each game.

We are incredibly proud of the way our team performed on and off the field, especially their dance performance. Thank you to Ms Bell for the choreography!

At the end of June, our team of 11 students will join the other South competitors and make their way up north to Whangārei:

- Mahalia Tapatu, Rugby, Ki o Rahi
- Jack Kiri Kiri, Rugby, Basketball
- Peyton Baddock, Rugby, Basketball
- Jonty Russell, Rugby, Ki o Rahi, Football
- Jake McMillan, Basketball
- Charlie Owens, Netball, Basketball
- Indianna Hepi, Football, Ki o Rahi
- Nick Inder, Football
- Trisha Buragay, Volleyball
- Yuan Macapondag, Volleyball
- Vlad Badillo, Volleyball

We are knee deep in fundraising at the moment, having raised our first \$1,400 over the weekend supporting the



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Maniototo Rugby Club Day. If any local businesses would like to financially support our students in any small way, we would be forever grateful!

If you would like to financially support our students, please contact the MAS Office.



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NASEBY DARK SKY EVENT WORTH THE WAIT

Naseby Dark Sky Group had a community viewing day scheduled for 26 April 2026, but the weather had other ideas, and we had to delay until the following weekend. It was worth the wait as the day, and evening were stunning with clear skies. Those who were keen got some wonderful views and lots of information from Paul and Nick, our local night sky astronomers. Paul also had his sun telescope up and running during the afternoon, providing sun viewing. Something that is only available via the correct telescopes and lenses. Do not look at the sun without the proper equipment.

A big thanks to those who came along and the helpers who all made for another successful event.

Our next event will be along the lines of an Astronomy 101 information event during the July school holidays. Keep an eye on the Naseby Dark Sky page on Facebook and the local Naseby notice boards for more details.

Photo information

All photos taken by Paul Bishop, except the Night Sky Viewing one, which was taken by Pauline Simpson.

Article written by: Jill Wolff.



We cover Alexandra through to Ranfurly/ Naseby and everywhere in between.

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CHECKETTS MCKAY SHORT STORY COMPETITION OPENS

The first Checketts McKay Short Story Competition is now open, giving both budding and established authors the opportunity to share their writing.

Launched in 2026, the competition is intended to become an annual event.

Entries are open across Central Otago from 4 May through to 31 July 2026.

All short stories must have a connection to Central Otago or Queenstown Lakes. The theme is broad, allowing writers to reflect the region through place, people, memory, imagination, or any other link to the area.

The Open Category is available to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents over 18 who are currently living in New Zealand. Winners are expected to be announced towards the end of September.

There is also a Schools Category for Years 5 and 6, Years 7 and 8, and Years 9 to 13, for schools in Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes. School entries are being collected through participating schools and close at the end of Term 2.

For details, entry requirements, and to submit an entry, visit cmlaw.co.nz/short-story-competition-2026.



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Positively MĀNIATOTO! OUT AND ABOUT



Exploring the countryside between St Bathans and the Hawkduns on 26 April. The wide-open landscape, old sheds and dramatic sky capture the rugged beauty of this special part of Central Otago. Captured by Nick and Kamila from Ranfurly Hostel.



One of these things is not like the other. Archie the cat was not at all bothered by the surprise visitor on the lawn, staying comfortably perched on his cat tower while a random sheep enjoyed the view outside. Captured by Fleur.



Tussock enjoys the fine weather, perched on the hay bales and watching the hens while the coop is cleaned. Captured by Micheala Allen.



Scoobie and Eva Mae enjoy a chilly, windy morning walk at the rugby grounds in Ranfurly, getting out for fresh air. Captured by Micheala Allen.



A few familiar faces at Burnbrae Farm in the Styx Valley, enjoying a quiet moment up against the fence. Captured by Scott Smith.



Early morning on Pery Street, with Joey the horse and the sheep making their way through the frosty mist. Captured by Colleen Parker.



On Golden light over the Styx Valley, capturing the wide-open beauty of the landscape and the quiet glow of the countryside. Captured by Scott Smith.

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