



# West Melton SCHOOL

Te Kura o Papatahora

Driving a Passion for Learning

## Board News

Term 2 | May 2025

Kia ora koutou whānau,

In true Canterbury-autumn fashion, we're experiencing a heady mix of beautiful sunny days, a bit of rain and signs that winter is well on its way, with a couple of frosty mornings.

As always, the weather doesn't seem to have slowed us down or curbed the enthusiasm of our ākonga who are embracing this time of year. We're thrilled to celebrate our students' achievements, dive into an exciting new project, while making the most of the many opportunities in front of us, because there's certainly plenty happening in this busy term.

But I want to start by acknowledging the phenomenal effort of the Fete, raising \$51,000 for the school. These funds will go towards the development of the school grounds with the upgrade to the bike track - read more on that below.

Our thanks also extends to the parents, whanau and wider community who turned up in their thousands to support the school. It's always heartwarming to witness the strength and connection of this community.

Last term, Steve Hooper stood down from his role on the Board. On behalf of the Board and leadership team, I extend our sincere thanks to Steve for his contribution to the Board and school. Steve was instrumental in the renovation of the Ti Kouka block and leading our property subcommittee.

You may have seen the government's announcement this week of a further \$160m worth of funding being directed to building new classrooms and schools in Selwyn. While we are thrilled to see this commitment to funding, we are concerned that West Melton School has not been considered in these decisions. As a Board, we had already begun to actively engage with the Ministry of Education, our local MP and Council prior to this announcement and we will continue to press for consideration to future growth impacts and needs for our school and campus.

This year is election year for the Board, and we encourage anyone considering putting their name forward to join us on 16 June to learn more about this opportunity (full details are below).

Winter is a very busy time of year, particularly with sports and many will be eagerly anticipating the opening of the ski fields in a few weeks. Stay safe and well.

Ngā mihi,

**Lissa Birse**

Presiding Member (Chair)

## HIGHLIGHTS SO FAR THIS YEAR

Mihi Whakatau



Celebration of Learning



School & Canterbury Triathlon



School, Zone & Canterbury  
Swimming Sports



Junior Aquathlon



Junior Duathlon



Year 5 & 6 Rugby Fun Day



Year 7&8 Literacy Quiz



Leadership Day



Year 5-8 Selwyn Schools Basketball



Year 5 & 6 Camp to Hanmer



School & Zones Cross Country



Strum, Strike, Blow Performance



Pink Shirt Day



PJ & Teddy Day



## BOARD MEMBERS

**Lissa Birse**, Presiding Member

**John Willats**

**Joe Gradwell**

**Andrea Innes**

**Mike Davison**

**Nathan Beaumont**

**Jo Buckenham**, Staff representative

**Tracey Riley**, Principal

# New chapters

## Farewells & thanks

Last term we farewelled a stalwart of West Melton School, **Jeanette Neal**. Jeanette made a huge contribution to the school, not only as a classroom teacher but also as the leader of learning in Team Tahī (Kōwhai and Tī Kōuka) and prior to that as Learning Support Coordinator. But most recently Jeanette was instrumental in leading the Fete committee to deliver our most successful Fete yet.

Jeanette has left a lasting mark on the community and we wish her all the best for her next adventure as she moves into the world of financial advisory with Lifetime based in Christchurch.

## New staff in 2025

A huge welcome to new staff who started with us at the beginning of the year: Nicole Hall (Classroom Release), Harriet Duffield (Toetoe), Gemma Rowe (Manuka), Deborah-Jayne Solomon (Kowhai), Liz Langford (Kowhai), Amanda-Kate van der Jagt (Ti Kouka) and Kate Purdon (Kowhai, started Term 2).

We're thrilled to have you all in the West Melton School community.

## Special thanks

### To the Fete organising committee

We continue to be incredibly grateful to the team of enthusiastic volunteers who make up the Fete organising committee. Many of the people involved have been with this group from the start, and it is incredible to see this event go from strength to strength each year.

A big thank you to Jeanette Neal, Sonja Beaumont, Abbey Coalgate, Adele O'Connor, Kate Pugh, Hannah Helm, Sandra Grant, Emma Wooding, Bec Lowery, Megan Adamson, Andi McElwain, Pippa Smith, Louise Shrimpton, Ellie Pike and Amelia Toole and the many volunteers on the day. The school and our community is greatly enhanced thanks to your commitment and enthusiasm.

### To our swimming pool committee

The covers have been on the pool for a while now and swimming season may seem like a distant memory. While summer might not have turned out to be the cracker that many of us hoped for, we still relied on a committed bunch of parents to ensure the pool was always open during the holiday period for the community to enjoy.

Our sincere thanks to our team this year: Olivia and Ross Whelan; Kate and Glen Gardener; Megan and Simon Morse; Hayley and Richie Knight; Danielle Toneycliffe, Stephen Tippen; Alex Tasker; and Andy Cooper. And of course, our ongoing thanks to caretaker, Sam who continues to look after the pool right through the off season, ensuring that it's in tip-top condition ready for the summer.

We are grateful for your ongoing support to help us ensure the pool continues to be a fun and safe place for our community.

### To the Friends of West Melton School

We continue to be incredibly grateful to the team of enthusiastic volunteers who make up the Friends of West Melton School (FoWMS).

We are thrilled to welcome new members of the committee: Kelly Roberts to the role of Chairperson and Mary Wiering as Deputy Chair, Amelia Toole supporting Megan Adamson as Treasurer and Pippa Smith taking on the position of Secretary. We also want to extend a huge debt of gratitude to outgoing Chairperson Janelle McIntosh and Abbey Gradwell who is standing down as Secretary, your commitment and contribution to the committee and school as a whole has been very much appreciated.

### To our teachers & support staff

We acknowledge that there is a lot of change taking place in primary education at the moment with curriculum review and assessment. We don't always get information in a timely manner so please bear - often information can come via the media before schools have had an opportunity to digest information provided to them in advance of announcements. This is something to bear in mind when navigating the changes to curriculum and assessment that will take place this year. Communicating with parents and whanau is a priority for us and the school's leadership team.

## Property update - exciting new project underway

Our much anticipated upgrade to the school bike track is now a reality, with some very excited ākonga now eagerly awaiting the arrival of the machinery around September. There is still a bit of work to be done before we can get underway but we're excited to share the plan with you now.

We have engaged expert track construction - Cam Bisset of Dirt Trailbuilding.

The total project is estimated to cost around \$130K + GST, with the Board committing to underwrite the remaining costs after considering the funds raised at the Fete. This ensures that we can move forward with this exciting initiative. However, we're also eager to minimise the financial burden on the school, so this is where the support of our local community and businesses can play a crucial role

The track will provide a fantastic space for learners, families, and the wider community to enjoy outdoor fun, promote physical activity, and bring people together.

Here's how you can be part of this exciting project:

### Corporate sponsorships

We're offering a range of corporate sponsorship opportunities for businesses to get involved and show their support for the track. Sponsorships come with various recognition benefits, including logo placement at the track, on event materials, and across our school's communications channels. This is a great chance to gain visibility in our vibrant school community and make a lasting impact on the youth of our area.

### Bikeathon – Official track opening

To officially open the track, we're considering hosting a Bikeathon. This will be an exciting, family-friendly event where participants can enjoy the new facilities and raise funds through sponsorship for each lap they complete. It's a wonderful way for families to get involved, promote fitness, and help support the project.

### Track naming rights – Leave a lasting legacy

For businesses or individuals looking for a unique and impactful way to contribute, we're offering naming rights for the track. This exclusive opportunity allows you to have your name or business associated with the track, with prominent signage at the entrance or along the track.

We appreciate the generosity of our school community and local businesses in helping to bring this exciting project to life. If you or your business would like to get involved or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please reach out to Nathan Beaumont [nathan.beaumont@westmelton.school.nz](mailto:nathan.beaumont@westmelton.school.nz)

## Board elections this September

School communities elect parent and staff representatives for their school board every three years, with our elections falling in September this year.

If you are considering putting your name forward, you are invited to join the Board on **Monday 16 June at 5.00pm** in the staffroom to learn more about the role of the Board. If you have any questions or are unable to make this meeting but wish to express your interest, you are welcome to contact Lissa in advance, email [lissa.birse@westmelton.school.nz](mailto:lissa.birse@westmelton.school.nz).