

6 August 2025

Week 4 Term 3

Newsletter 11




Te  
Parito  
Kōwhai  
Russley School

ENDING SOON

SCHOOL BOARD  
ELECTIONS

Board parent election  
nominations  
close today 12pm

## Coming Up...

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| 4-7 August  | EPro 8 interschool science and engineering competition  |
| 3-9 August  | Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Airani - Cook Islands Māori Language Week  |
| Wed 6 Aug   | - Yr 7/8 indoor basketball tournament<br>- Assembly 2.30pm. <b>Note—due to the hall being used for Epro8, assembly will be an 'awards only' presentation under the COLA</b> |
| Fri 8 Aug   | - ICAS writing exam 0930<br>- Russley Disco's: 5.30pm and 6.45pm  |
| Sat 9 Aug   | Jump Jam (Yrs 3-6) @ Cashmere High  |
| Mon 11 Aug  | Yr 5/6 indoor basketball tournament   |
| Tues 12 Aug | ICAS English exam 0930  |
| Wed 13 Aug  | BandQuest, James Hay, 6.30pm  |
| Thur 14 Aug | Sausage Sizzle \$2   |
| Fri 15 Aug  | Winter sport Years 5-8  |
| 17-23 Aug   | Uike Kātoanga'i 'o e lea faka-Tonga – Tonga Language Week   |
| Tues 19 Aug | ICAS science exam 0930  |
| Wed 20 Aug  | Term 4 out of zone applications close   |
| Fri 22 Aug  | - ICAS spelling exam 0930<br>- Final winter sport Years 5-8   |
| Tues 26 Aug | - ICAS maths exam 0930<br>- Zone winter sport tournament  |



TE PARITO KOWHAI RUSSLEY SCHOOL PTA  
INVITES OUR STUDENTS  
TO A

# DISCO

ON  
FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
2025

**COST: \$2.50**

Junior (Years 0-3) 5:30-6:30PM  
Senior (Years 4-8) 6:45-8PM

Snacks (incl GF+DF+Halal options) and  
Glow in the dark temporary tattoos will  
be available for purchase.

Please note that ALL children MUST  
be picked up by an adult  
at the side door of the hall  
at the end of their disco.

## Russley on Debut Makes National Final



In its first year competing in ShowQuest, Te Parito Kōwhai Russley School made the national final of the performing arts competition combining art, music, dance, drama, culture and technology. [To view on YouTube, click here.](#)

Russley earned its place in the final by winning the Canterbury event — a remarkable achievement for a first-time entrant. Other national finalists were Levin Intermediate, James Hargest College, Western Heights Primary, Excellere Heights Primary, Tamatea Intermediate, Maidstone Intermediate, Henley School, Knighton Normal School, Northcote Intermediate, St Mary's Putāruru, Avondale Intermediate, Te Puke Primary.

Russley was awarded the NZ Excellence in Culture award. We are proud of our senior students. We can't wait to see what's possible next year!

## Principal's Message

Tēnā koutou katoa. Nau mai hoki mai ki te kura Te Parito Kōwhai Russley School. Kia Orana to Russley's Cook Islands Māori families who are this week celebrating Cook Islands Māori Language Week - Epetoma o te reo Māori Kūki 'Airani.

### Value focus — auahatanga

This term, we are focused on the value of **auahatanga (o-aha-tongue-a)**. The graphic represents the two hemispheres and four sections of the brain. The brain plays a crucial role in creativity and problem-solving.



*Auahatanga inspires my curiosity, bravery and love of learning. It helps me be innovative and resourceful when solving problems. I learn to take risks, think creatively and explore different solutions. By encouraging perseverance and offering new perspectives, auahatanga helps me to adapt to new situations and challenges with confidence.*

Final building work is now officially complete and Te Māhuri has settled into its new space. The new building is called Te Waihonga (Te (not tee) why-hong-a) - the nectar of the kōwhai.

| TE WAIHONGA BUILDING  |      |      |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| Te Māhuri (Years 4-6) | Year | Room |
| Ms Rachel Simmonds    | 4    | TW1  |
| Miss Lucy Handford    | 4    | TW2  |
| Ms Sophie Lennon      | 5/6  | TW3  |
| Mr Pete De Wit        | 5/6  | TW4  |
| Mrs Vanessa Ireland   | 5/6  | TW5  |
| Miss Maria Thwaites   | 5/6  | TW6  |

One or two related work projects that the Board is funding, continue. These include turf on the courts and the new junior playground in the north-east corner. Work on these projects will continue throughout the term, until completion.

### Whānau time

Now that we have a covered outdoor space, we invite parents and caregivers to join us at whānau time each morning. This is an occasion when the whole school comes together to start the day. The reason for doing this each day is to set aside everything that happens before school, to come together as Te Parito Kōwhai Russley School whānau, and to support each other to be the best we can be. We start at 8.50am with a karakia and sing a waiata. We will provide copies of the words so that parents and caregivers can join in — we'd love to see you.

### Community visioning

Thank you to parents who took part in the community visioning exercise available at a survey station set up onsite after school each day last week. Parent feedback is valuable to the board and management team as they plan for the future of our school. Those parents/guardians unable to contribute onsite, a quick and easy online version is [available here](#). We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Finally, all the best to our senior rock band which performs at BandQuest at the James Hay Theatre at the Town Hall next week. BandQuest is a live music competition for primary and intermediate aged students. Our Russley musicians have been practicing hard over recent months and we wish them well.

Ngā mihi nui

Greg Lewis  
Tumuaki  
[principal@russley.school.nz](mailto:principal@russley.school.nz)

## Kōwhai Awards

### Focus: Auahatanga



#### Te Kākano (Years 0-3)

Georgia-Lee Gemmell, Mason Butler, Matthew Firestone, Zahria Sila, Ashley Salmons, Maiken Weaver Danielsen, Basti Clare, Hayoung Kang, Aila Hogan, Odey Mahdi, Lucy Coles, William Holmes, Riley Mitchell, Charlie Bellew

#### Te Māhuri (Years 4-6)

Neil Chen, Chloe Liu, Sua Shin, Jenny Lee, Hayley Chen, Bernadette Surrey, Piper Mackay, Haylee Greene, Kahn Hodges, Taeyoung Lee, Sally Ng, Samuel Murphy

#### Te Kōhure (Years 7-8)

Vinnie Hewa Lunuwilage, Ben Pryor, Brodie Morris, RP Jansen van Rensburg, Theo Andersson-Yellowlees, Tjala James, Javahn Bhangu, Saakhi Kaur

#### Te Tohu Kōwhai Winners

Te Kākano — Natu Desta  
Te Māhuri — Damon Wu  
Te Kōhure — Kasra Saberi

## New Entrants



If you have a child due to start at Russley School in the next 12 months, please [email the office](#) with their name, birth date, and parent contact details so that we can include your child in our planning, or fill out an [enrolment form](#) and email it to the office with birth cert, immunisation record and inzone documentation.

## ezLunch

Lunch orders are available from Monday to Friday. Register and order online at [www.mykindo.co.nz](http://www.mykindo.co.nz).

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
|        |         |           |          |        |

## Russley Poets

Year 8 student, **Henry Peters**, won the NZ Poetry Society's 2025 International Poetry Competition, Primary/Intermediate section, Haiku Junior category. Henry won \$50 and his poem will be published in the NZPS 2025 Anthology. In addition, **Angela Zhao** placed 2nd in the open junior division and **Kelvin Ma** was awarded Commended. <https://www.poetrysociety.org.nz/our-news/>.

Meanwhile, Year 4 students, **Zachary** and **Charlie**, have had 'storm' poems published on Paula Green's Poetry Box website: <https://nzpoetrybox.wordpress.com/2025/08/04/poetry-box-challenges-some-favourite-storm-poems/>.

## Year 3/4 Poetry Recital



### Year 3

1st - Kieran  
2nd - Lily  
3rd - Henco  
Highly Commended - Basti

### Year 4

1st - Shrirang  
2nd= - Evie, Aoife  
Highly Commended - Neil

## Steven Adams Basketball Camp

Thanks to a competition entry submitted by teacher Vanessa Ireland, Russley School won **10 passes** for a group of Year 5/6 basketball players to attend a Steven Adams Basketball Camp at Rolleston today. In addition, the prize included a **\$5,000** donation towards equipment and gear upgrades.

Supported by the Steven Adams Sports Pathways Trust and sponsored by Meadow Fresh, four basketball camps for children aged 8-14 years will be held throughout the country.

Today at the Selwyn Sports Centre, ten lucky kids from Russley had the opportunity to meet NBA player Steven Adams and spend some time on the court, building their confidence, teamwork, leadership and having fun.

Sports Pathways Trust was created to help provide pathways for student athletes and to give back to the game of basketball. It aims to create opportunities for student athletes, create educational pathways and foster initiatives that support education and grow the game of basketball as a game for all.



*Meadow Fresh sponsors Steven Adams basketball camps which offered Russley Year 5/6 players a rare chance to train with the NBA legend.*

## Community Notices

NOW IN  
ROOM 4

OSCAR & MSD  
Approved.  
WINZ  
Subsidies.



Award Winning  
Before & After School Care

[https://  
www.busybumbles.co.nz/  
Our-Locations/Russley/](https://www.busybumbles.co.nz/Our-Locations/Russley/)

### Karate At Russley

Thursday evenings. Junior and senior sessions. Phone Hayden 021 412212 or email [hayden@takecontrol.co.nz](mailto:hayden@takecontrol.co.nz)

### Taekwondo

Classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 4:30 to 6:00pm. Cost: \$15 per class. St Marks Community Centre, Withells Rd. Ph Tim (022) 393 4328. Email: [toly1217@gmail.com](mailto:toly1217@gmail.com)

### Riccarton Softball Club

A fun, family-oriented club based at Crosbie Park in Avonhead/Russley, offering:

- Tee Ball and Softball for boys and girls aged **3 to 19**
- Senior Men's, Women's and Social Mixed teams
- Both competitive and social grades

Register online at <https://www.sporty.co.nz/riccartonsoftball/register-here/2025-2026> or in person at the Riccarton Leagues Clubrooms at 16 Apsley Drive on **Monday 4th August, 4.30pm – 6.00pm**. If you have questions, email: [riccartonsoftball@hotmail.com](mailto:riccartonsoftball@hotmail.com)

**Te Parito Kōwhai  
Russley School PTA  
Presents**

# FAMILY QUIZ!

**\$10 PER  
ADULT/  
\$5 PER  
CHILD**

**Don't miss our Quiz Night fun at Russley School Hall!**

- TEAMS OF 6-8 (MAX 6 ADULTS - TEAMS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN)
- MIX OF KID AND ADULT QUESTIONS TO CHALLENGE ALL AGES
- AMAZING PRIZES FEATURING DONATIONS FROM LOCAL COMMUNITY
- SNACKS AND DRINKS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE
- FUNDRAISING TO ENHANCE OUR NEW OUTDOOR SPACES

**PRIZES • RAFFLES • AUCTION**

🕒 **Sunday, 14 September, 2025** | **Starts at 4:30pm**

**CLICK HERE REGISTER AND BOOK A TABLE NOW!**

**Find us on Facebook** OR USE QR CODE ➡

### Russley Playcentre

Mon-Thurs 9am-12pm at 8 Apsley Drive. Mixed-age sessions. Ph 027 880 2796 or email [russley@playcentre.org.nz](mailto:russley@playcentre.org.nz)

### Avonhead Playcentre

166 Waimairi Rd, Ilam. Ph 3587922. Vacancies now! We are open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri from 9am-12pm, and Wed for our Wild Wednesday Explorer sessions 9.30am-1.30pm. First 3 visits are free!

### Kidsfirst Kindergartens

49 Staveley Street, hours morning 8.30am–12.30pm and full days 8.30am to 2.30pm. 20 free hours for all children and \$3 per hour after this, up to 30 hours. All qualified ECE teachers. Phone 03 348 6803.

### Westburn Brownies

For 7-9 year old girls, Mondays (term time) from 4.30-6.00pm at Waimairi Community Centre, 166 Waimairi Rd, Ilam. [westburn\\_brownies@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:westburn_brownies@hotmail.co.nz)

### Kākano

A co-designed parenting resource, designed to help whānau to support children (aged 4+) with big emotions. Rooted in Te Ao Māori values (tika, pono, aroha), Kākano takes a strengths-based, whole-whānau approach. We're seeking feedback from parents of kids aged 4+ years on Kākano's value, and areas for improvement. If you're keen to find out more, please head to <https://forms.gle/aM2cEpk914NsF7hQ9>.