

WHĀNAU MANAAKI

For Whānau, not for profit

Whānau Pānui #8

August, 2026



Featured image: harvesting apples at Ngahina Kindergarten, Paraparaumu

Nau mai, haere mai. Welcome to our Whānau Manaaki Parent & Whānau Pānui | Newsletter

We hope you enjoy reading about what has been happening across our organisation and the many ways our people continue to support tamariki and whānau every day.

This pānui is produced by Whānau Manaaki. Although we know you receive regular communication from your child's kindergarten or service, we decided to produce a regular newsletter that is published every 3 months or so, to provide you with information that impacts our network and Early Childhood Education in general.

Previous editions of our pānui can be found on our website.

In this issue we talk about:

- Islington Kindergarten Joins Whānau Manaaki
- York Street becomes Pūrātā Kindergarten
- Election Year – Enrolling to vote
- Teaching and Learning
- Around the Regions

Mō Matou | About Us

Whānau Manaaki Kindergarten Association operates the service that your tamariki attends. Whānau Manaaki pays staff, provides professional and pastoral support, and maintains properties of our kindergartens and home-based services.

We offer high-quality teaching and learning with our 100% qualified teachers and trained educators. We also provide transport, and support from social workers and community workers in some regions.

As you know, Whānau Manaaki tamariki get a great start in a caring community-focused environment.

Each kindergarten offers its own individual programme, based on Te Whāriki - our world leading early childhood curriculum.

**We provide up to 20 hours free
ECE for all children –
regardless of age!**



WHĀNAU MANAAKI

Visit us to find out more
www.wmkindergartens.org.nz

Whānau Manaaki welcomes Islington Early Childhood Centre

Whānau Manaaki proudly welcomed Islington Early Childhood Centre on 1 July. It became our 136th kindergarten – with a name change to Islington Kindergarten.

Islington Kindergarten is a small not-for-profit, community-based centre situated in North East Valley, Dunedin.

It has a proud history of providing high quality early childhood education for the tamariki and whānau of North East Valley. The centre was established in 1974, by the Dunedin Collective for Women (DCW). The DCW was a feminist group, set up to support women.

Whānau Manaaki has been providing support and guidance to the centre for the past two years, and both Islington and Whānau Manaaki decided that the best way forward is for the centre was to join us.

Together we will continue their proud history of providing high-quality early childhood education to whānau in North East Valley.

Islington Kindergarten
16A Islington Street, North East Valley, Dunedin
Monday to Friday: 8:30am - 2:30pm
P: 03 473 7490
E: islington@wmkindergartens.org.nz



A New Chapter: York Street Kindergarten Becomes Pūrātā Kindergarten

Masterton's York Street Kindergarten has begun a new chapter with a new name: Pūrātā Kindergarten. This follows a journey over several years to understand the kindergarten's place in the community and the stories of the land on which it stands.

The team connected with local iwi and sought the views of the community. With the support and guidance of iwi, the name Pūrātā was chosen. Pūrātā is the Māori name for the Solway area and refers to a flowering rātā tree that was once a prominent feature of the landscape. Pūrātā connects the kindergarten to the rich native bush that once flourished here. Large rātā trees sheltered and protected the plants beneath them, creating a strong environment where growth could thrive. Today, remnants of this ngahere can still be seen.

The symbolism of the rātā reflects the role of the kindergarten. Pūrātā Kindergarten aims to nurture, protect, and walk alongside children and their families as they grow, learn, and flourish. While the name has changed, the commitment to providing a welcoming, caring, and inspiring learning environment remains.

The Pūrātā Kindergarten team are proud to celebrate this milestone and grateful to everyone who shared their knowledge, perspectives, and support.

Pūrātā
KINDERGARTEN

www.wmkindergartens.org.nz

WHĀNAU MANAAKI

**Our New
NAME**

Pūrātā

Pūrātā (meaning flowering rātā tree) connects us to the rich native bush that once grew here. Overarching rātā trees would nurture and protect the plants beneath them, creating a strong and sheltered space for growth.

Even today, you can see remnants of this ngahere in the protected native forest beside the Solway Showgrounds. Just like the rātā, we see ourselves as part of our tamariki's wider whānau - here to nurture, protect, and walk alongside them as they grow.

E Tū Kaha

STAND UP STRONG



E Tū Kaha is a Whānau Manaaki campaign that encourages our staff and kaiako to advocate for early childhood education (ECE) as a public good and a right for all tamariki in Aotearoa.

Enrol to Vote

Election Year – make sure you're on the roll to have your say.

2026 is election year, and election day is November 7.

This year, people won't be able to enrol and vote at the same time, with the electoral rolls closing earlier than for the last two elections. The last day to enrol will be October 25.

The date to switch to or from the Māori roll closes on August 6.

Kindergarten provides quality affordable education and care for every family. But kindergarten is at risk from Government underfunding and from pressure to lower standards which could make it harder for us to employ qualified teachers.

We are not-for-profit, and so our funding goes into our services. We care about families having access and we never turn anyone away.

Enrol here: vote.nz

OR scan here



ENROL TO VOTE

in the 2026 election!



RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW

Voting is important, but to do so you must be enrolled by 25 October.

You can enrol right here, right now by:

- Filling out the paper form
- Enrolling online on vote.nz

<https://vote.nz/enrolling/enrol-or-update/enrol-or-update-online>



Qualified teachers

We have qualified teachers, because your children deserve skilled, knowledgeable, and caring professionals who value every child and understand how children learn.

Teachers have responsibilities as professionals, to do the best for your family – and they are committed to supporting you.

The government is reviewing qualifications with a view to downgrading them, and looking to have fewer qualified teachers in services. We oppose this because it will make early childhood education less safe and lower the quality children receive.

Funding is important – oppose funding cuts for kindergarten

Kindergartens are in every community, and support families who have no other early childhood options.

A government appointed funding review suggested **less money** for kindergartens and **more taxpayer money** going to private profit-oriented services.

This means we will be forced to charge more, and some children will miss out completely on early childhood education, affecting their education for life.





Teaching and Learning

Learning Stories and why whānau voice matters

When you read your child's learning stories, you will notice lots of play - building towers, digging in the sandpit, painting, climbing, dressing up, caring for dolls. Look deeper and you'll discover that play is rich mahi and learning for tamariki.

Through play, tamariki develop confidence, curiosity, communication, creativity, problem-solving, perseverance, physical skills, friendships, and emotional wellbeing. They are learning how to think, wonder, negotiate, take appropriate risks, recover from challenges, and make sense of the world around them.

Learning stories are designed to capture this deeper learning. Rather than simply noticing what your child did, they tell the story of how your child is learning - recognising the strengths they are developing, the interests that motivate them, the relationships that support them, and the learning dispositions that will continue to grow over time.

Learning happens within the context of children's relationships, culture, language, identity, interests, and everyday experiences. You know your child in deep ways, that's why your voice is so important.

Perhaps they've become fascinated by insects, are helping to cook dinner, have discovered a love of music, are using new words or ways to communicate. Sharing these moments helps us build a richer understanding of your tamaiti and informs how we respond to and extend their learning at kindergarten.

When we share observations between home and kindergarten and share stories with tamariki, they are more likely to make meaningful connections between their learning. Recognising that the same dispositions, interests, and ways of learning are valued in different contexts helps strengthen their confidence, deepen their understanding, and support learning that continues over time.



We love to hear from you!

Your voice matters. The next time you read a learning story, consider leaving a comment, photo, or video online through Storypark, or write a handwritten note in your child's printed learning story book.

Every contribution helps us better understand, celebrate, and extend your child's learning journey, while strengthening the connection between home and kindergarten.

You can learn more about play and learning here:

<https://tewhariki.tahurangi.education.govt.nz/he-kohinga-t-karo-m-te-ako-play-ideas-for-learning/5637214328.p>

Image above: Ōtaki Kindergarten



Teaching and Learning

Recipe

Broccoli Balls

Makes approximately 12 balls

TIME: 30 Minutes



Your kids will go crazy for these broccoli balls - and you can even get them to help you make them. This is a great recipe for using broccoli stalks.

Ingredients You Will Need

- 2 cups grated broccoli stalk and/or cooked florets, finely chopped
- 1 small onion grated or finely chopped
- 1 large egg
- 1/3 cup plain flour
- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Pepper, to taste
- 1 tablespoon fresh herbs, finely chopped (optional)

How to Make Broccoli Balls

Step one: Preheat oven to 180°C.

Step two: Mix all of the ingredients together.

Step three: Roll the mixture into teaspoon sized balls then place on a baking tray lined with baking paper.

Step four: Bake for 12–15 minutes, turning the broccoli balls about 8 minutes into cooking time.

Find the recipe here:

<https://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/recipes/broccoli-balls/>



Recipe and above image from lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz



FamilyBoost

Accessing FamilyBoost

Helping with the cost of childcare.

FamilyBoost is a government initiative designed to help families with the cost of early childhood education. It's a scheme that supports whānau to recover some of their early childhood education fees.

We're here to help whānau with this process, which can be a bit complicated. If you need help from our team please email: familyboost@wmkindergartens.org.nz

If you want to make a FamilyBoost claim, please visit Inland Revenue at: <https://www.ird.govt.nz/familyboost>

Around the Regions



Wairarapa

Preparing vegetables for soup at Meta Riddiford Kindergarten in Featherston



Porirua

Practicing balance at Pukerua Bay Kindergarten.



Otago

Clutha Valley sharing in a Matariki hāngī with their local primary school.



Wellington

Celebrating Samoan Language week at Strathmore Kindergarten.



Horowhenua | Kāpiti

Harvesting apples at Ngahina Kindergarten.



Whanganui

Imaginative play at Barsanti Kindergarten.



Hutt Valley

Discovering colour and light with this spray bottle art activity at Doris Nicholson Kindergarten.



Taranaki

Washing the babies at Bell Block Pohutukawa Kindergarten.



Central Plateau

Happy swinging at the tire swing in the outdoor Kindy at Waiouru Kindergarten.