



# Kōrakonui School

## Community Newsletter

734 Wharepuhunga Road, R D 3, Te Awamutu

Ph: 07 8722762 Email: [office@korakonui.school.nz](mailto:office@korakonui.school.nz)

Website: [www.korakonui.school.nz](http://www.korakonui.school.nz)

**KORAKONUI SCHOOL**

Welcome to our Kōrakonui Community Newsletter for Term 1, 2025

# 2025 GALA

## Grow a giant!

Korakonui School  
Pumpkin Growing Competition

How are  
your pumpkins  
growing?

It's nearly pumpkin  
judging time and we  
have some GREAT prizes  
up for grabs!

There are 6 categories, with the winner of each  
taking away a "Giant" prize pack!



Most orange  
Heaviest  
Roundest  
Strangest shape  
Best dressed  
Tallest



Judging will take place at the Korakonui School Gala  
on Friday the 21st of March. Entries will be accepted from 5 pm.  
Prize winners will be announced at 6.30pm.

**Good Luck! We can't wait to see your pumpkins!**  
**A huge thank you to Storyteller for their support.**



BBQ sausages - Burgers - Spiders  
Baking Stall - Field Games - Swimming  
Face Painting ... *plus*

**Grow a Giant! Pumpkin Judging Competition**

We warmly invite our school  
and wider community to our

**2025 Twilight Gala**  
**Friday 21st March from 5pm till 7pm**

We are planning a fun event for our students and a great opportunity for our community to come together and connect. We will have loads of great things available for everyone to enjoy including the pool being open, tug o war, games, a BBQ and food stall with burgers, sausage in bread, and spiders for sale.

The Wharepuhunga Playcentre will be holding their traditional baking stall, which is always loaded with delicious treats. Please save the date and come along to support this event.

The gala is a great opportunity for the community to come into school and meet our staff and check out all the building projects we've done over recent months.

A huge thank you to Pak'nSave Te Awamutu and Silver Fern Farms for their generous donations of food to support the school gala.

***Please note whānau are required to supervise  
their children when using the pool.***

**5 March 2024**

Kia ora koutou,

Welcome back to all our Kōrakonui whānau for the 2025 school year! We hope you have had a fantastic summer break and enjoyed special moments with friends and family. It has been wonderful to see our students return, full of energy and excitement, eager to share their summer adventures and ready for another great year of learning.



We began the year with our Mihi Whakatau, a meaningful occasion where we welcomed new students and their whānau into our school community. It was fantastic to see so many families join us for this event, reinforcing the strong connections that make Kōrakonui such a special place.

Term 1 is already shaping up to be an exciting one, with many enriching opportunities in the calendar for our students. So far, they have taken part in swim safety lessons at the Ōtorohanga pools, our school swimming sports, and a thoroughly enjoyable camp at Pāpāmoa for our Year 5-6 students. Still to come are the inter-school swimming sports and the EPro8 engineering and technology competition, starting in Week 8. Alongside these events, our classrooms are buzzing with engaging learning programmes that support our students to grow into confident, capable learners, ready to embrace new challenges.

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support from our whānau and wider community. It was fantastic to see so many of you at the Junior Swim Safety demonstration on 21st February, as well as assisting with transport and supervision for the swim safety sessions in Ōtorohanga. Your involvement truly enhances these learning experiences for our tamariki.

Over the summer, significant property improvements took place to ensure our school remains a welcoming and well-maintained environment. The school's exterior has been freshly repainted, and the Ngahape classroom has temporarily relocated to allow for major remedial work on its building. Additionally, upgrades to our water system have progressed, including the installation of a new submersible pump and extensive repairs to leaks around the school. Further improvements, including the replacement of the ring main, are scheduled for the next school holidays to minimise disruption.

With a fresh and vibrant school environment, dedicated staff, and a supportive community, we are excited for the year ahead. We look forward to celebrating the many achievements of our students in 2025 and sharing these successes with you.

Ngā mihi nui,

**Tom Cochrane**

Principal

[principal@korakonui.school.nz](mailto:principal@korakonui.school.nz)

### **Congratulations to Our 2025 Student Leaders!**

A huge congratulations to the eleven students who applied for student leadership positions this year! The application process required students to submit a formal written application outlining why they would make a great leader, followed by delivering a speech at our first assembly of the year.

We were incredibly impressed by the quality of applications and the dedication shown by each student. Speaking in front of the school and wider community is no easy task, and you all represented yourselves with confidence and pride.

We are excited to announce our student leaders for 2025:

**Tui House** - Juan Palaganas & Hunter McGillivray

**Weka House** - Rosie Morgan & Max Watkinson

**Kiwi House** - Odin Conn & Edison Port

### **Bus Monitors 2025**

Congratulations to our newly appointed 2025 bus monitors: Myah Cotton-Hirama, Dulcie Kay, Juan Palaganas, Edison Port, Louis Dorssers, Dominic Shaw, Ruby Magon, Beau Leigh, and Isla McFall. We are confident that they will take on their roles with responsibility and leadership, helping to ensure our school buses run smoothly and safely. Thank you for your commitment to this important role!

### **Stock Scheme Update**

One of the highlights of 2024, was the ongoing success of our Stock Scheme, which continues to provide essential funding for our school and enriches opportunities for our students.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to James Kay and his team for their dedication, skill, and enthusiasm in running the Stock Scheme throughout 2024. Their hard work has been instrumental in its success.

In 2024, the Stock Scheme raised over \$26,500 - a staggering contribution that has directly supported school trips, camps, new equipment, and additional learning support hours. A huge thank you goes to our generous graziers and donors - your unwavering support and commitment year after year are unmatched, and your role in making this initiative successful cannot be overstated.

Looking ahead, we are excited to have James Kay and Simon Fookes coordinating the Stock Scheme. With their combined expertise and fresh perspectives, we are confident the Stock Scheme will continue to thrive in 2025 and beyond. Thank you to everyone who contributes to making this initiative a success!

### **School Pool**

The school pool has been open over the summer break, and it has been fantastic to see so many people making use of this facility. We are also most appreciative of how well looked after and respectful the community has been whilst using the school pool.



## 2024 End of Year Prizegiving Awards



### Class Awards

**Academic Excellence** - Sebastian Fookes, Shawn Gerber, Grace Rapley, Stella Stacey, Marie Wing, Jaxson McFall, Edison Port.

### Academic Effort & Progress

Sonny Andersen, Harlow Williamson, Addison Nelson, Letalje Du Plessis, Sadie Bryant, Thomas Dainty, Odin Conn.

**Values** - Leah Tyler, Rochen Cabanela, Mila Cathro, Georgia Boyden, Sage Southall, Shane Honeyfield, Jeuan Palaganas.

**Competency** - Gaige Rapley, Simon de Vries, Maggie MacDonald, Wyatt Andersen, Ayla McArthur, Dulcie Kay, Max Watkinson.

**House Trophy winners** - **WEKA**

### Year 8 Awards

**Tennis Trophies** - Gemma Honeyfield & Stan Wing

**Swimming Trophies** - Samantha Ryan & Hunter McGillivray

**Athletics Trophies** - Samantha Ryan & Stan Wing

**Cross Country Trophies** - Gemma Honeyfield & Stan Wing

**Smith Family Sports Trophy** - Samantha Ryan

**McNeil Family Trophy (Cultural Leadership)** - Valor Takataka

**Inwood Award (Speech Competition)** - Valor Takataka

**Student Council Service Award** - Mia Gall

**Chick Family Trophy** - Briony Morgan

**General Excellence Cup** - Kendall Campbell

**Lethbridge Memorial Dux Trophy** - Stan Wing



Our school makes regular use of our school's Facebook page to advertise/highlight events and activities taking place and to send priority messages with our community. If you haven't visited our page to give it a like and follow, please do so, it is a great way to stay connected and up to date with what's happening at our school.



**Korakonui School**

1K likes • 1K followers

### Term Dates 2025

**Term 1**– Monday 3 February - Friday 11 April (11 weeks)

**Term 2** - Monday 28 April - Friday 27 June (9 weeks)

**Term 3** - Monday 14 July - Friday 19 September (10 weeks)

**Term 4** - Monday 6 October - Friday 12 December (10 wks)

## Memorial Plaque



At the end of last year, we were delighted to receive a special memorial plaque commemorating the Kōrakonui Hall, which had been recently demolished. This beautiful plaque is crafted from the original Matai flooring

salvaged from the hall, preserving a piece of its history. This plaque proudly hangs in our office foyer.

A heartfelt thank you to the Port family for their generous donation and to the Kōrakonui Hall Committee for funding the plaque's graphics.

Built in 1929, Kōrakonui Hall stood opposite our school and served as a vibrant community hub for nearly 100 years. We are grateful to have this lasting tribute to its legacy.

*(Extract below from the Kōrakonui School 75th Jubilee history book)*

### *Korakonui Hall*

After the old school was demolished and removed to Christies farm buildings in the early '20's, the district was without a meeting place except for the new school which was fairly crowded. Some settlers were keen to build a hall. Others said, go to Te Kawa Crossroads Hall. Finally, Mr Kelly found it necessary to put a partition across his classroom, rendering it unsuitable for entertainment or meetings, so a subscription opened to raise funds for a local hall, on the old site opposite the present school.

Generous subscribers opened the list with fairly large cheques, and all the district gave what they could and promised to back it up with work. A carrier up the road, Dinah Thompson, delivered the timber free of charge, and a Happy Valley farmer, Edgar Froggatt carted the iron with his wagon and team of horses. With one carpenter, Mr Mensforth, the local settlers built the present hall in the winter of 1929 at a total cost of 236 pounds.

The following is an account of the opening, published in the Waipa Post, June, 1929:-

#### "NEW BUILDING OPENED WITH CONCERT AND DANCE

"The enterprise of the Korakonui settlers was much in evidence last evening when the new public hall was formally opened. The building is situated almost opposite the school, in a very central situation, substantially built with a floor space of 40ft x 25ft, and a good high stud, the interior lined with oiled Rimu match lining, and the exterior walls of corrugated iron. Provision is made for dressing rooms and a moveable stage, while the matai floor is specially laid down for dancing. The building is equipped with seating, electric lighting and plenty of windows. There is a porchway, and probably a supper room annex will be added later.

"The hall was crowded to its utmost capacity, and Mr T. H. Lawry in addressing the assembly, referred to the energy and perseverance of the settlers in the last sixteen years in making Korakonui the fine district it now is, and concluded by thanking the ladies for encouraging the men to work unitedly in erecting the hall.

"The Rev. R. Hailey Trill, congratulated the warm-hearted folk of Korakonui upon having such a beautiful and useful hall, which would foster the real community spirit, and be used for enjoyment, recreation, education, and religious purposes. It was with pleasure that he declared the building open."

Alterations were made to Korakonui Hall in 1935, when a permanent stage, dressing rooms, a "smoke-hole" with fireplace, and supper-room annex were added at a cost of 125 pounds.

The last alteration took place in 1957 after the road had been tar-sealed. A wing was added to the right side — widening the hall 10ft. The left side was turned into one long supper room with cupboards and sink — these alterations costing 600 pounds.



# Korakonui Community Directory



**RIDGELINEHOMES**  
New Residential Specialists  
Matt Fookes 027 313 1317  
Paul Diack 027 448 4734  
info@ridgelinehomes.co.nz  
New Home Builds • Renovations • Commercial



**Troy Sircombe**  
Qualified Arborist  
027 666 9461  
tsircombe@gmail.com

Tree removal & stump grinding  
Tree pruning, lifting & shaping  
Firewood ringing & splitting

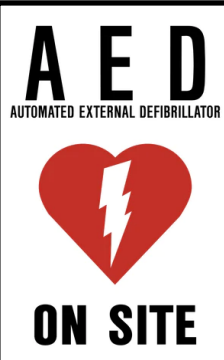
Chipping  
Hedging & planting



**FIGURE 8 FENCING**  
027 444 2776 F8FENCING.CO.NZ



**KJR CONTRACTING** (2010 Ltd)  
KELVIN RICHARDSON 027 4970080  
KJRCONTRACTING2010@GMAIL.COM f KJR-CONTRACTING-2010-LTD  
Loader Wagons ~ 3 Trucks ~ Digger  
Big square/round bales hay or silage ~ conventional hay or silage  
Maize complete job ~ contact Kelvin for all seasonal needs



**A E D**  
AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR  
**ON SITE**

**Public Access Defibrillator**  
At Korakonui School  
located on outside wall by our school office  
*'Caring for our community'*



**RECYCLING STATION @ KORAKONU**  
Located by the Bus Shed at Korakonui School  
Bottles - Plastics - Cardboard  
Only plastics with No 1 or No 2 are recyclable  
PLEASE NOTE: If the recycling bottle bin is full - please change the bottle bin by entering through the end door.  
Thank You for keeping this area clean



**WHAREPUHUNGA Playcentre**  
743 Wharepuhunga Road  
opposite Korakonui School  
Call in or phone 07 872 2540  
SESSION DAYS  
Tuesday & Friday mornings - Birth to 6 years old  
and  
Monday mornings - 4 to 6 years old  
FUN, FUN, FUN FOR EVERYONE  
QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



**Wharepuhunga Playcentre**