



# South Otago High School

## Newsletter 19th March 2021

*Nga mihi mahana ki a koutou katoa*

*Warm greetings to you all*

### Dear Parents/Caregivers

#### ***Kia Ora Tatou***

The term is really flying by and it is some relief that we have a long weekend this weekend and the opportunity to relax. It has also been great to see New Zealand retain the America's Cup this week. I believe that the work of Team New Zealand, both those on the boat and those onshore, reflects what we should all aim for.

On Monday I watched the two teams race in light winds. Firstly, Team NZ fell off the foils, facing a lead to Prada extending out to over 2km the New Zealand boat did not give up when defeat was all but certain. Then, just before the gate the Prada boat also fell off its foils and the race was back on. Seeing the exhausted crew at the end of the race showed the perseverance of not just the skipper, Pete Burling in organising the team but of every member of the team onboard that boat.

The races that followed demonstrated New Zealand Technical knowledge and engineering skills to produce a boat that was significantly faster than the opposition. New Zealand demonstrated world class ingenuity and skill to produce boats that 4 years ago was said to be impossible. We have engineers within our school that also achieve world class results (See the next item below)

Finally, the award ceremony celebrated all that it means to be a New Zealander. To watch Team NZ being called on to the stage with a stirring Karanga. It was a demonstration of pride in Te Kanga Maori which will have been seen around the world. This is something that we should all value as part of our cultural heritage and ensures it is celebrated.

#### **Past students continues to achieve**

In 2016 one of our Year 13 students, at the time, won the national Bright Sparks award and was featured on a TVNZ news item. Mitch Hollows had designed and built a device to measure paua whilst diving prior to removing them from the rock. <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/southern-teen-invents-measuring-device-save-undersized-paua>

This week I received an e-mail from Canterbury University celebrating Mitch's continuing success in the field of engineering. The full article can be found at:

<https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/news/2021/uc-mechatronics-project-kick-starts-new-innovation-for-local-manufacturer.html>

Also this week I met Alasdair and Helen McKillop who sponsor the South Otago High School McKillop Family Dux medal. They both talked about their long association with the school and also about the achievements of their children. Most notable to me was their daughter who had been invited to address a committee of the United Nations in Geneva to develop a protocol for driverless cars.

Once again, these two examples of student success proves that students from South Otago High School can continue beyond Balclutha to take on leading roles wherever their passions take them. I believe that the values of Excellence and Perseverance will have played a large part in these and other students success.

#### **South Island Secondary School Touch Tournament**

Today the South Otago High School team depart for Christchurch to compete in the South Island Secondary School Touch Tournament. We wish the team all the best with the competition and I look forward to hearing the results during the weekend and a report in next weeks newsletter.

#### **Finally**

During the last couple of weeks we have noticed some students starting to become grumpy and tired. As a result some are making poor decisions. Whilst we understand that teenagers are going to make mistakes I have appreciated that the ones I have spoken to have been honest and owned up to their faults. This makes resolving the issues easy for both the school and the student.

Parents, please support your child to make good decisions. We are close to the end of term when students do get tired. With the long weekend please encourage them to get some rest and quality sleep. We do have a long weekend coming up over Easter and I will encourage parents again to make sure that their children get good rest at this time too!

Have a good weekend

***Ka kite ano***

**Mike Wright**

**Principal**

#### **Portal Access**

There are currently issues regarding access to the Portal on our website. This is being sorted and will hopefully be back up and running as soon as possible.

## **GORE SUMMER SPORTS INTERCHANGES TOUCH**

### *Senior*

Ben Smart, Harlin Puna, Jaxon Evans, Jonty Sopp, Kairus Booth, Wyatt Shanks, Sam Stratford, Ryan Soper, Callum Maze, Falconer Smith, Keely Hill, Sydney Marshall, Aimee Johnson, Gemma Johnson, Emily Unahi and Maddie Deacon

### *Junior*

Blake Evans, William Maze, Regan McDonald, Brendan Soper, Henry Craig, Clay Marshall, Kingston Davis, Morgan Stephens, Leah Stephens, Ashlee Anderson, Zoe Hyslop, Emily Smith, Zara Upston, Taelah Dawson, Claudia Mardon and Kayley Strachan

## **GOLF**

Aiden Upston, Nathan Peoples, Oliver Hunter and Danyon Bennington

## **CRICKET- BOYS**

Chirag Thakkar, Will Clark, Luis Smales, Alec Mills, Archie Smith, Lachlan Roy, Brooklin Smith, Kurt Botting, Hayden Sheppard, Nicholas Roy and Lachlan Judson.

All students need to have handed in a permission slip along with \$15.00 for the bus. Students are to wear their SOHS PE tops for this Interchange.

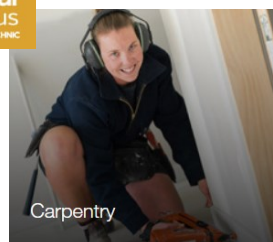
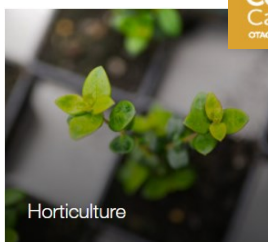
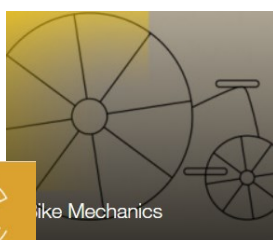
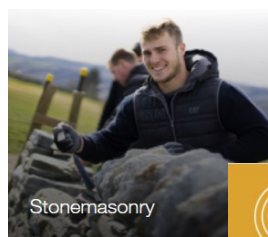
Any queries pop in and see Mrs Hannah or email at [phannah@sohs.school.nz](mailto:phannah@sohs.school.nz)

**Pam Hannah**

**Sports Coordinator**

## **CROMWELL PATHWAYS EXPLORATION**

On Wednesday 5th May one bus will travel to Cromwell to allow senior students to investigate pathways and tertiary training available at Highlands Motorsport Park and Otago Polytechnic. The bus will depart SOHS at 7.45am and return approx 6pm. A special one off fund from the MoE will cover the cost of the transport, burger lunch and go cart ride at Highlands. Any Y12/ 13 student with an interest in Hospitality, Automotive, Carpentry, Horticulture, Viticulture, Brewing, Snowsports and High Country Farming should email Mrs Cullen [pcullen@sohs.school.nz](mailto:pcullen@sohs.school.nz) outlining why the trip would be of interest and how it will benefit future plans.



## **World Down Syndrome Day**

This year on the 21st of March is world Down Syndrome day. Down syndrome is a genetic disorder caused by the presence of an extra chromosome 21. Down syndrome causes developmental delays which mean that people with Down syndrome will do most of the same things as everyone else; it will just take them a bit longer to get there. The council is holding a mufti day to raise awareness for down syndrome next Wednesday, March 24th. It's a gold coin per student to wear non-uniform and we encourage students to also wear colourful socks with their non-uniform to show your support. The money will go to the Otago Down Syndrome Association who support people with down syndrome and their families with things such as social events and educational seminars, which help teachers learn how to teach students with down syndrome.

- Student Council

## **Bikes**

It's great to see that the number of students biking to school is rising. We have a bike rack around the back of the school behind the staff car park (and we are getting more). While there has been very little harm come to these bikes, we strongly recommend the use of a bike padlock. Happy biking everyone.

**Jo Jory—Assistant Principal**



## Kaitangata Mine Trip

Year 11 extension class visited the coal mine at Kaitangata on 12th of March to learn about 'C cycle' which they are learning about as an internal standard.

**Shobhana Bir**

**Science and Chemistry**



### Upcoming Events Term1 2021

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| • Monday 22nd March.....               | Otago Anniversary Day - School Closed |
| • Tuesday 23rd March.....              | Gore Summer Interchange               |
| • Tuesday 30th March.....              | Taieri Summer Interchange             |
| • Friday 2nd to Tuesday 6th April..... | Easter - School Closed                |
| • Friday 16th April.....               | Last Day Term 1                       |

## Rugby

Welcome to the first rugby newsletter item for 2021. Let's keep our fingers crossed that the season is not as complicated as it was last year with the outbreak of COVID. This year it looks as if we will have five teams - First XV, Colts, and three junior teams. The make up of these three junior teams is yet to be decided but will be done at our coaches meeting next Tuesday evening. I want to thank all of the parents, players and coaches who provided feedback to my survey that I sent out. All of this information will be taken into consideration when designing teams.

We have a couple of pre-season games planned for the next couple of months.

- SOHS First XV vs Dunstan – 17th April (Alexandra)
- SOHS vs Taieri Rugby festival – 8th May (SOHS)

The season will then kick into gear on the 15th of May.

For new South Otago Rugby students who require uniform, please head down to Stirling Sports and pick up a pair of red shorts as well as red and blue socks. Please see the picture attached to this newsletter item. If you are in financial difficulty and are not able to afford shorts and socks for your son, please let me know via email as we can sort you out. Alternatively, if you have any shorts, socks or boots that you would like to donate to the SOHS rugby club, please let me know.

While training is underway, coaches are still being confirmed. At this stage we have the following coaches on board – Clark Stephens, Craig Shanks, Nathan White, Tony Mallon, Adam Wyber, Jason Gilder and Mark Shore. Over on the girls side we have Dan Marshall and Tony Pringle. I would also like to welcome Mrs Bensley on board. She has taken over the role of teacher in charge of girl's rugby from Mrs Hannah. In the next couple of weeks I will be sending out coach contact details. It is vital that you contact them if you are unable to attend training.

Registrations are now open, and these must be completed before the season starts. If you have not registered, then you are unable to play. Players from 2020 would have been sent an invite to their inbox. If you are a new player, I would have sent a link out to you. If you did not receive this email, then please use the following link – <https://www.sporty.co.nz/viewform/143294>

Subs have also been loaded onto accounts. These are \$120 for the season which covers all gear maintenance, field costs, association fees and travel (excluding pre season games). If you are a non SOHS player, account details have been sent out via email.

SOHS rugby also now has an online shop where gear can be purchased. I would like to thank Linda Booth for working quietly behind the scenes on this. More information will be sent out about purchasing gear next week.

We have also had an awesome opportunity available for students to purchase fitted mouthguards. A local dentist will be coming into school during rugby trainings to fit one team at a time. The cost of these mouthguards will be \$50 each and this is payable to the school office by Friday the 2nd of April. Please email me once you have transferred the correct amount. If you are in a tight financial position, please let me know and some assistance may be available. We do not want anyone missing out on this opportunity due to financial reasons.

**First XV**



**All other grades**



I would like to thank the Phillips family for donating a mountain bike to the South Otago Rugby Club. This bike has been passed on to a very deserving rugby family. I would also like to thank Powerzone Suzuki for assembling the bike free of charge.

On the note of a bike, thank you very much to Colin Dempster who has donated a quad bike to South Otago High School. While this bike belongs to the school, its primary use will be for rugby and will reduce the amount of time it takes me to set up the field on a Saturday morning.

Finally, on Wednesday we have 32 students heading to the Rippa Rugby Tournament in Dunedin. I wish these students the best of luck. I will post some photos in the newsletter article next week.

**J Palmer (TIC Rugby)**



**A former South Otago High student (Mitch Hollows), and recent University of Canterbury Engineering graduate, has appeared in The University of Canterbury News items.**

*Former South Otago High student Mitch Hollows recently graduated from the University of Canterbury (UC), with his Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Mechatronics Engineering, a field of study that is an intersection of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering, and combines sensors, software, and motors to create innovative new devices.*

*For his final year project, Hollows joined a team of four tasked with how to automate vegetable detection and processing for Wyma Solutions, one of the world's leading manufacturers of post-harvest vegetable and fruit handling equipment.*

*"The course of study at UC really appealed due to its practical nature and strong focus on applied projects," says Hollows. "One of the highlights of my study was my final year project where I was able to apply my skills and knowledge to a real world challenge, which was hugely rewarding.*

*"Automation will become even more integrated into the future of work and society, so I am really excited to be getting into this field."*

*The project has led to Wyma Solutions employing Hollows fulltime in the research and development team, where he will be involved in the project's next stage of development.*



UC graduate Mitch Hollows worked on a final-year engineering project for Wyma Solutions, which kickstarted his career with the locally based global manufacturer.

### **Class Photos**

**To access and purchase your student's class photo go to [www.geoffhorrell.co.nz](http://www.geoffhorrell.co.nz) and SOHS Class photos.  
The password sohsc21**