



NEWSLETTER

St John's Girls' School

28 August 2026



Greetings from the
Principal

Mālō e lelei, Kia Ora,
Talofa

**Whakatauki - Māori
Proverb**

**E toi
whakairo, ka
ihiihi, ka
wehiwehi, ka
aweawe te ao
katoa**

*Artistic excellence
makes the world sit
up in wonder.*

It has been an incredibly busy, yet rewarding fortnight. There have been some wonderful celebrations of St John's Girls' School in our wider community. The school is buzzing with excitement and learning. It is becoming lighter in the mornings, and the tulips are starting to pop up in the gardens around our kura. This is a sure sign we are well and truly into the second half of the year.

Polyfest

Our Kapa Haka rōpū did themselves and the kura proud on the Polyfest stage on Tuesday afternoon. We have received a great deal of positive feedback from others outside of our kura who have commented on the standard of singing, uniformity and passion. Our girls who were spectating also did themselves proud with their lovely manners.

A considerable amount of time and effort goes into preparing our bracket, and I acknowledge and thank Miss McSoriley, Miss Woods and Mrs Bradley for their passion and dedication.

Our wonderful support staff were instrumental in ensuring our girls were stage-ready. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure uniforms are correctly sized and ready for our girls. A big thank you to Mrs Lang, Mrs Smith and Mrs Dennis for all of your mahi.

I would also like to acknowledge the awhi and support from whānau on Tuesday. Your support at Polyfest was immense. It was lovely to see so many families come backstage for photos after our performance. The girls were blown away by how many of you came to support them. Thank you!

Jump Jam

Our school's success in the Southland Jump Jam competition continued this year. Our Year 3-4 team placed second in their section, and our Year 5-6 crew followed this up with first place in their section too! Once again, we had wonderful support from whānau in the audience. Thank you to Mrs Bradley, Mrs King and Ms Coatsworth for their passionate coaching. I think they were just as excited as the girls!

Speech Exams

By now, your daughter will have received her speech exam report, with her accompanying certificate and badge. Thank you for your support of our updated speech curriculum and exam process this year. Mrs McIlwrick and Mrs Dawkins have worked hard to ensure our exam system was fair and robust. The girls should be incredibly proud of their results.

A big thank you to Mrs Roberts for her work behind the scenes creating the report documents and certificates for the girls.





Values Cup Recipients



Quinn Botting
Room 1

Southland Interschools Speech Competition

We held the first round of the Southland Interschool Speech Competition last week. Every girl in the senior syndicate wrote and presented a speech to her class, with representatives from each year level competing in our school final.

The girls delivered a variety of topics, and we were impressed by their bravery and speech skills!

Lydia O'Brien, Amelia Bosma, Madeleine Davison and Charlotte Farley went on to represent St John's at the cluster final.

Congratulations to Lydia and Amelia, who won their section of the cluster final and will now compete in the Invercargill Area final next week. Good luck, girls!

Arts Extravaganza

The Parents' Association is excited to bring you the St John's Girls' School Arts Extravaganza on Thursday 24 September. This is an important fundraiser for our kura, and a wonderful chance for our girls to demonstrate their talents to our school community.

Keep an eye out for ticket information next week!

Request for Raffle Prizes

As part of the Arts Extravaganza, the Parents' Association will be selling raffles for hampers before each show. They are gathering donations for these hampers in the school office. Food [non-perishable], health and beauty, and gift items will be gratefully received.

Every girl who brings in an item to go into a hamper will receive a bonus point for her house.

Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

Absences

We are experiencing a high volume of student absences due to winter illness. Please inform the school office of any absence as soon as possible [phone, email, Skool Loop]. We appreciate you keeping your girls at home when they are unwell; it certainly helps stop the spread of illness to other girls and staff.

Have a relaxing weekend with your whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga

Holly Bradshaw
Tumuaki | Principal



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- **3** Invercargill Area Speech Final [Evening] - SJGS Hall
- **9** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **11** Snr Syndicate - Council Tour
- **14-20** Māori Language Week
- **16** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
Sing Out Technical Rehearsal [pm]
- **17** Sing Out Dress Rehearsal [am]
Sing Out Performance [7-8.30pm]
- **18** Virtual Parliament Tour [Rms 6/8]
PA Sausage Sizzle & Chill
Jnr Gymnastics Festival [1-3pm]
- **21-24** Book Fair
- **22** Snr Gymnastics Festival [1.00-3.00pm]
- **23** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
KIPRRR Day
SMAC Maths
- Yr 7 5.00-5.30pm
- Yr 8 5.45-6.30pm
- **23** Bookfair - Dress up as your favourite Book
Character Parade [8.40am]
- **24** Arts Extravaganza dress rehearsal [1.00-3.00pm]
Arts Extravaganza show [6.30 - 8.00pm]
Last day of Term 3
Virtual Parliament Tour [Rms 5/7]
- **25**

OCTOBER

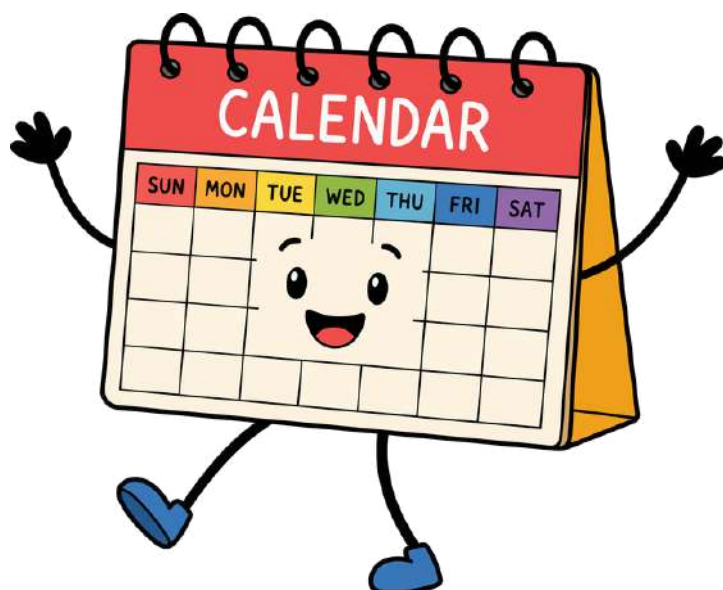
- **12** **First day of Term 4**
- **14** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
- **15** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **20** Parents' Association Meeting [7pm]
- **21** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme
- **26** **Labour Day [School Closed]**
- **28** Rm 7 Weaving Wellness programme

NOVEMBER

- **10** Cultural Day
- **11** BoP Meeting [5.30pm]
- **14-15** William Pike - Overnight Dolamore Park
- **19** Greats & Grands [am]
Christian Education Speeches [pm]
- **24** New Entrant Morning [Yrs 2-8 for 2027]

DECEMBER

- **1** School Board Meeting [5.30pm]
- **4** Tabloids [1-3pm]
- **7** Tabloids [postponement day]
- **9** Father / Daughter Netball [2pm]
- **14** Christmas Service & Prizegiving Practice
Christmas Service [First Church 6pm]
- **15** **Last day for students**
Prizegiving [First Church 1.30pm]
Leavers' Farewell [3.15pm School Hall]



WEEKLY AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS

ROOM 1

Adeline Gerken, Quinn Botting, Ivy Dickens, Athena Parsons

ROOM 2

Darcy Beer, Annabel Flannery, Lily Vaughan, Charlotte Risk

ROOM 3

Oriana Smith, Mia Mojica, Lexi Dwyer, Charlotte Dore

ROOM 5

Mahya Gilmete, Sophia Risk, Millie Dobbie, Tilly King

ROOM 6

Amelia Goodwright, Victoria Duncan, Eloise Smith, Charlotte Dowling

ROOM 7

Jayne Holms-Johnston, Laura van Westrenen, Lexie Nicholl, Ava Amar

ROOM 8

Indi Howden, Morrigan Parsons, Peyton Cornish, Aliviah Giles

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD

Rm 2 Indy Frost
Rm 5 Maeve Devlin, Lilly Stalker, Pippa
Rm 6 Vaughan
Rm 8 Eloise Smith, Portia Smith
 Briar Nicholl

VALUES CUP

Rm 1 Quinn Botting



FROM YOUR KAIARAHĪ

POLYFEST

On Tuesday, our kapa haka rōpū performed at Polyfest. The girls sang four waiata: Ngā Iwi E, Wairua, Utaina, and Hine E Hine. We made a change this year, as there is no longer a Pasifika group, and the kapa haka rōpū now includes students from Years 1 to 8. This year, we gave a fantastic performance, with all 77 girls joining together to sing with pride. The girls are grateful to all the teachers who lead both the junior and senior groups: Mrs Bradshaw, Miss McSoriley, Mrs Bradley, and Miss Woods. The girls looked wonderful in their costumes, which included dresses and piupiu, and their moko kauae completed the look. We would also like to thank everyone who helped with the performance and assisted in getting us looking spick and span, ready to perform.



Maggie Mulqueen

"I enjoyed looking out at all the people in the audience and being on stage. My favourite song was Ngā iwi ē. I really liked the costumes and how we got to wear moko."

Lucy Dixon-Calder

"I thought that it was very fun and I really enjoyed it. I also liked showing our schools Māori culture as I am part Māori."

Briar Nicholl [Kaea]

"I was a little nerve wrecked at first but the girls singing and excitement gave me confidence. I joined the group because I love my Te Reo culture. My favourite song was Utaina because I got to lead the juniors and it really showcased the performance."

Simone Paganelli

"My favourite song was Ngā iwi ē because of the mood and the beat of the song. I joined the group because I did it last year and I love the performing."



SECRET GARDEN

BOOKFAIR

COMING SOON!

 SCHOLASTIC

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Monday 21 - Thursday 24 September



FAMILY VIEWING

Times for parents to come and look at books to purchase

Wish lists available to take home



COMPETITIONS

Colouring Competition

Book Cover Competition & small prizes



SPECIAL EVENTS

Dress as your favourite book character day

Prizes for best dressed

EFTPOS & CASH ACCEPTED
Fundraising Goal: \$2,500
towards Library upgrade

 SCHOLASTIC

ROOM 1

COMMONWEALTH GAMES



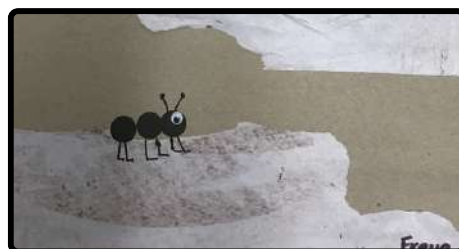
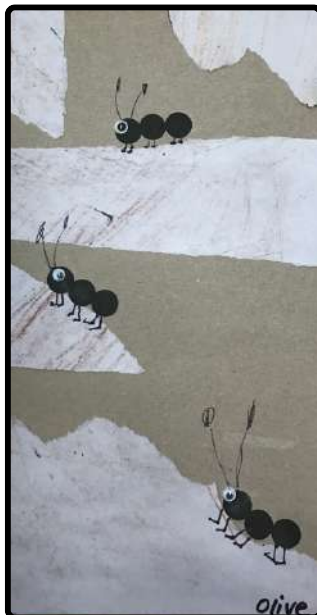
Room 1 enjoyed the Commonwealth Games celebration at the Stadium. It was a great afternoon together and the girls experienced many different sports skills.



Jasmine wrote - "We had a mini Commonwealth Games. It was at the Stadium and we had Jamaica, Scotland and Canada. We had bowling, hula hoops, ribbons, gymnastics, balls and round things. First we went around the court."

CREEPY CRAWLIES

Suzanne came in to show the girls all sorts of bugs, insects and creepy crawlies as a way to begin our Inquiry about creepy crawlies.



ROOM 2

Well isn't Term 2 just flying by? Week 6 already!

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Room 2 has been very busy and started the term learning all about the Commonwealth Games. This was an exciting time to watch the competitors and learn about our chosen country. We have 3 countries and completed in a mini Commonwealth Games at the Stadium. We dressed up in our countries' colours and it was a very fun, action packed day out.



CREEPY CRAWLIES

We have started a new topic all bout Creepy Crawlies. We were very lucky to have Suzanne from the new museum [Te Unua] come and show us all her bugs. We learned a lot about them. We have lots of wonderings that we would like to explore during the rest of the term.

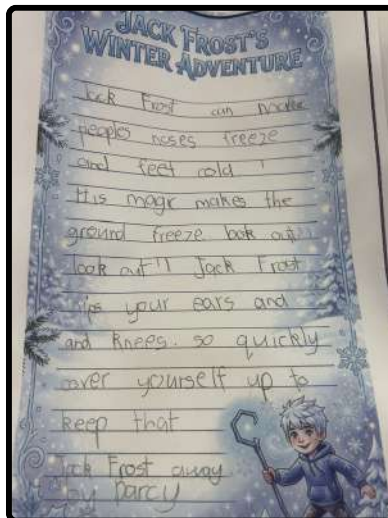
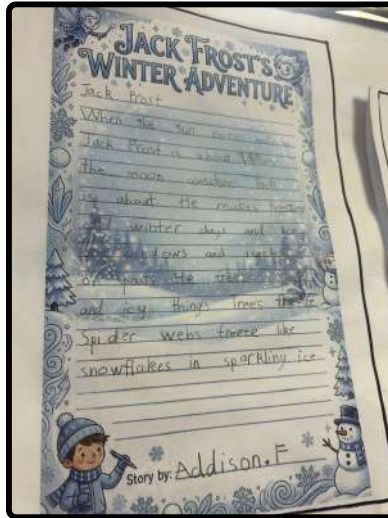
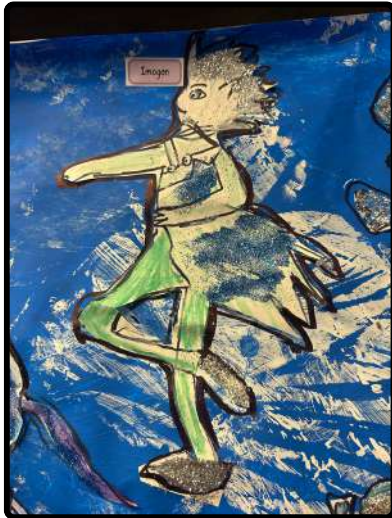
Fact we learnt about bugs

- Not all bugs are called insects
- A spider is not an insect
- Spiders can have 2, 4, 6 or 8 eyes [they will always have an even number]
- Worms have no eyes and even though they have a mouth, they breathe through their skin



WINTER

The weather this winter has been..... outrageous, horrendous, freezing, crispy, wintery, icy. We have been learning about describing words that we can use in our writing to describe the weather. Describing words help hook our readers in and help to put a picture in our readers mind. We wrote about Jack Frost and made some Jack Frost art.



Thanks to the PTA for your generous donation of wet day games!!! We have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to play these when we can't get outside to play.



ROOM 3

We have had a busy start to the term with many great learning opportunities and activities we have been involved in.

NETBALL

On Monday afternoons we travelled to ILT Stadium Southland to learn how to play netball with Ariana from INC Netball. We have learnt many skills such as passing, footwork, driving to the ball, defending, shooting and the girls have even learnt the basics of a seven a side game. The girls' skills have really improved over our 5 weeks, and they have loved getting involved and enjoyed playing netball.



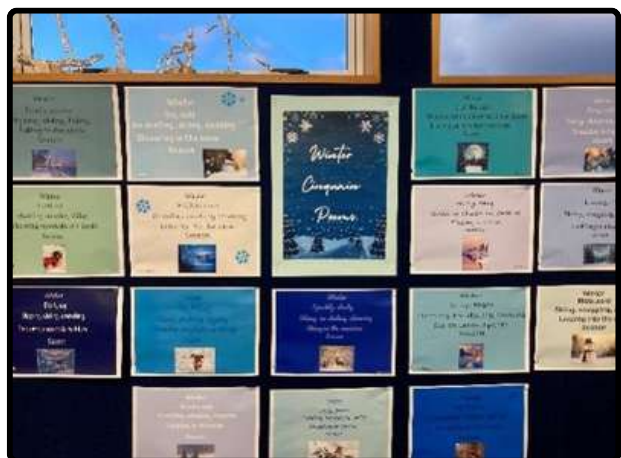
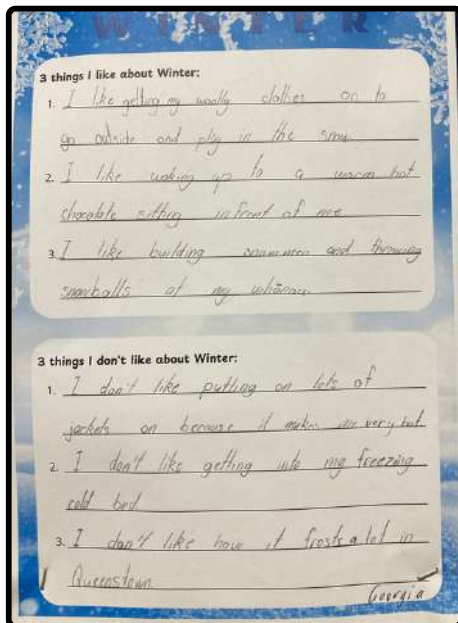
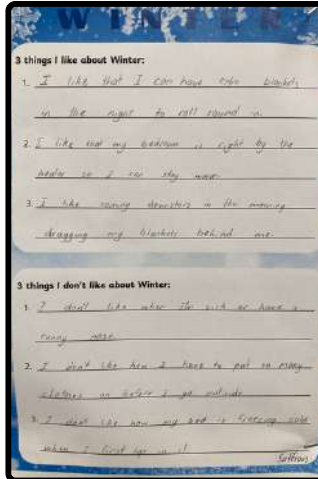
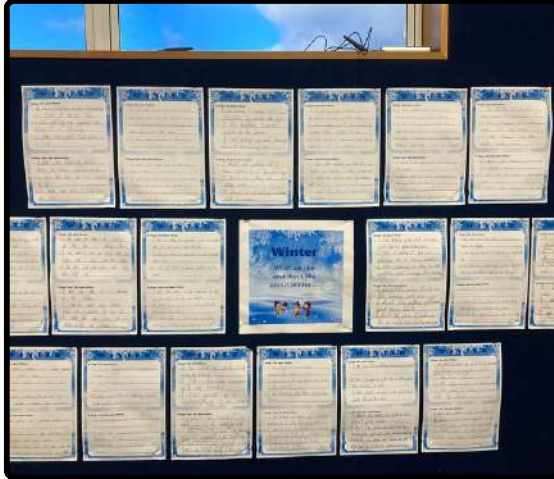
MATHS WEEK

All over New Zealand many schools have participated in Maths Week. There are a variety of activities to choose from. We did the Power of 2 individually and Daily Dollar with a partner. The girls earned money as they completed each task and had a wallet that they kept their money in. At the end of the week, we added up what they had earned and had some overall winners. The girls enjoyed the variety of activities as they pushed them to solve problems, challenge their mathematical thinking, and work collaboratively.

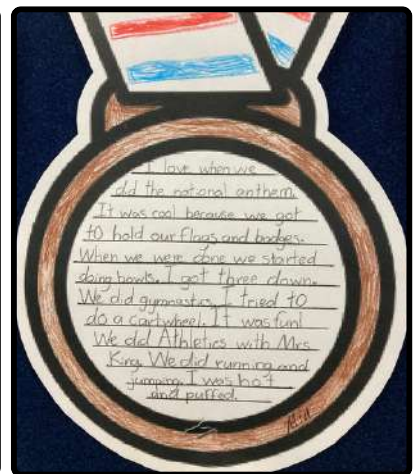
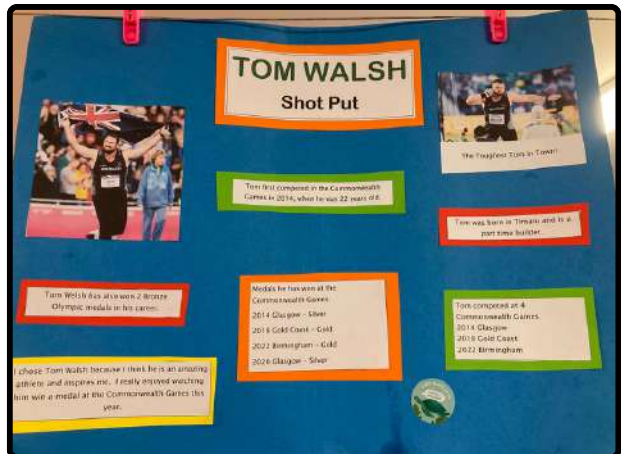


WINTER

It is the perfect time of year to be talking and writing about Winter. We have written Winter Cinquain poems; we've written about what we like and don't like about Winter and created some wintery penguin art.



We loved learning about the Commonwealth Games. We enjoyed learning about the history, our athletes, the countries involved and even watching some of our athletes win medals. Each day we would talk about who had done well and kept a tally of NZ's medals. We made some posters with a partner about different aspects of the Commonwealth Games we researched, made tinfoil silhouettes of our athletes, shared information about an athlete during current events and thoroughly enjoyed our Junior Syndicate Commonwealth Games at ILT Stadium Southland.





SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMME

LUNCH MENU

All subs are made freshly baked white or wheat bread

WWW.SUBWAYEXPRESS.CO.NZ



BE IN TO WIN A FREE 6-INCH SUB WITH YOUR NEXT SCHOOL LUNCH ORDER!

Invercargill City Libraries & Archives
TE HAEATA

Term 3 After School Clubs and Drop-ins

Monday Get creative with Lego at the library. - Drop in, build something brilliant and see where your imagination takes you. - Weekly, 3pm - 5pm - All ages LEGO DROP-IN Come along to Teen Book Club to chat about what you're reading, discover new favourites and meet other young readers. - First Monday of the month, 5pm - 6pm - Suitable for ages: 11+ TEEN BOOK CLUB	Tuesday Come along and try out some of our digital tech, including tablets and robots. - Weekly, 3pm - 5pm - Ages: All ages DIGI DROP-IN Come along to Pokémon Trading Card Group to play, trade and connect with other Pokémon fans. - Weekly, 3:30 - 4:30pm - Ages: 10+ POKEMON TRADING CARD GROUP Explore your creativity. - Registration required (register at www.library.co.nz/clubs) - Weekly, 3:45pm - 4:45pm - Location: The Shed - Suitable for ages: 12+ DRAWING CLUB
Wednesday Get crafty with handfuls of fun. - Weekly, 3pm - 5pm - Ages: All ages CRAFT DROP-IN Come along for games, strategy and friendly competition. - Weekly, 5pm - 8pm - Ages: All ages TEEN BOARD GAME DROP-IN	Thursday Join Minecraft Club to build, explore and get creative with other young players. - Registration required (register at www.library.co.nz/clubs) - Weekly, 3:45pm - 4:45pm - Suitable for ages: 8-11 MINECRAFT CLUB Come along to Zen Corner for relaxed, hands-on activities including building blocks, magnetic tiles, Polytrons and gaming. - Weekly, 3pm - 5pm - Ages: All ages ZEN CORNER DROP-IN

ADVANCED LEGO FRIDAYS

Calling all LEGO builders aged 10 - 18

Ready to take your LEGO skills to the next level?

Challenge yourself with advanced LEGO builds, tackle exciting design challenges and build alongside other passionate LEGO enthusiasts. Whether you're an experienced builder or looking to test your creativity, there's a new challenge waiting each week.

Delivered by Invercargill Public Library in partnership with LUG South.



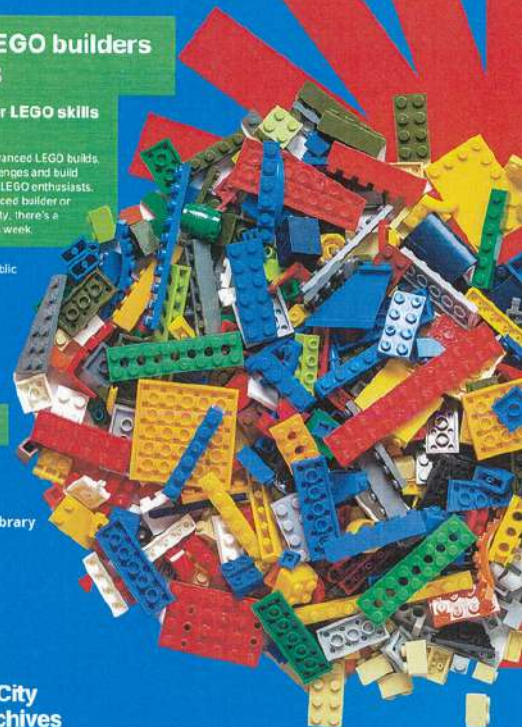
Every Friday
4pm-5pm

Adult Lounge,
Invercargill Public Library

FREE - no
registration
required

Invercargill City Libraries & Archives
TE HAEATA

ilibrary.co.nz





SEPTEMBER SCHOOL HOLIDAY

PROGRAM

MONDAY 5 OCTOBER
9 – 3PM
TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER
9 – 3PM



At ILT Stadium
Southland
YR1-6



\$70 one day
\$130 two days

Register Now



<https://www.invercargillnetball.co.nz/viewform/523610>

ILT SING OUT PROUDLY PRESENTS

PARTY LIKE IT'S

THE 80S!



CELEBRATING 80 YEARS OF ILT SING OUT

SEPTEMBER 17 2026

7:00PM

LOCAL SCHOOL CHOIRS PRESENT A SPECTACULAR CELEBRATION
OF THE ICONIC MUSIC OF THE 1980s

Adults \$19

Children \$12

Tickets available at ICC Booking Office or online at Ticketek

Booking Fee Included. Credit Card charges will apply.

Donovan Primary School
James Hargest Junior Campus
St John's Girls' School
St Patrick's School
Wallacetown School

**ILT
SING
OUT**

 iltsingout.nz

 Civic Theatre, Invercargill





GILBERT ENOKA

Mental Performance Coach



GALA EVENING

25TH
SEPT

CONNECT. GROW. STRENGTHEN.

Gilbert Enoka is best known for his long-standing role with the All Blacks, where he has helped shape one of the most successful high-performance teams in sporting history. With a background in psychology, education, and performance science, Gilbert has spent decades supporting individuals and teams to build resilience, manage pressure, and develop a culture of excellence. His work extends beyond sport into education, business, and leadership, making his insights highly relevant for people from all walks of life. Come along to hear from one of New Zealand's leading thinkers in performance and wellbeing, and leave inspired with approaches that can make a meaningful difference in both your work or personal life!

TWO COURSE MEAL | AUCTION ITEMS
MUSIC BY D&M DUO

Doors open at 6pm, event starts at 6:30pm



Ascot Park Hotel

Cnr Tay & Racecourse Road,
Invercargill

Get your tickets at:

events.humanitix.com/chatbus-south