

The Kindy Chronicle

Bush Kindy | Taiao Tūhura



Bush Kindy is a transformative asset for Kindergartens South, brilliantly extending our Enviroschools kaupapa beyond the kindergarten gates and directly into the local ngahere (forest). By immersing tamariki in Southland's rugged and beautiful natural environments, we bridge the gap between learning about the world and truly connecting with it.

This enriching natural experience deeply supports holistic well-being, physical development and emotional resilience for all children through unstructured outdoor play. It naturally integrates Te Ao Māori, empowering our young learners to practice kaitiakitanga and form a profound, lifelong bond with Papatūānuku. By honouring our guiding principles, Bush Kindy inspires all tamariki to become confident explorers, capable thinkers and passionate guardians dedicated to building a healthy, peaceful and sustainable future for our communities.



The Cottage Kindergarten claims Shield

The Cottage Kindergarten are the official winners of the Southland Kindergarten Annual Sports Trophy for 2026. Demonstrating extraordinary stamina and community spirit, The Cottage secured the title by fundraising the most money and completing the highest number of laps during the recent 'Relay for Life' event at the Stadium.

A massive shout out to Aletta Reid and her dedicated team; their commitment, leadership and enthusiasm were the driving forces behind this remarkable contribution to an amazing cause.

Ka mau te wehi.



Te Ngahuru mā tahi o Paengawhāwhā

Rakaunui/Full Moon - 2 Apr 2026

Whiro/New Moon - 17 Apr 2026

Matariki preparation has begun

Matariki may still be a few months away, but the creative momentum for Kindergartens South's Matariki Art Exhibition at the Otepunī Gardens in July, is already in full swing. Having now completed three interactive workshops at recent community events, the team is gearing up for another massive creative session this Saturday at the Multicultural Food Festival.

Behind the scenes, dedicated volunteers Bridget Higham and Jenna-lee Shave have been working tirelessly to bring their vision for the exhibition to life. At the recent Otepunī Carnival event they got the community to curate the night sky on the 'Te Waka o Rangi' mural.

Thanks to their efforts to get the community involved, the project has already become a cross-generational affair, with excited tamariki and adults of all ages and backgrounds already putting their artistic skills to good use to create the stunning community artworks set to be displayed alongside the creations of our tamariki at this year's Matariki Art Exhibition.



Coming Up...

Southland Multicultural Food Festival
@ ILT Stadium Southland, Invercargill
21 Mar, 10am - 6pm

Try Whānau Festival
@ Bluff Rugby Ground, Bluff
22 Mar, 9:30am - 1pm

Riverton Heritage Harvest Festival
@ Aparima College, Riverton
28 - 29 Mar, 9am - 6pm

Adventure Park ft. Bounce House
@ ILT Stadium Southland, Invercargill
12 - 15 Apr, 10am - 5pm
\$15 per hour session

Kupu o te Marama



Whenua

(fair-nu-ah)



= Land

- also meaning placenta, highlighting the deep connection between people and the earth.

"Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua."

Care for the land, care for the people, go forward