

The Owairoa Primary

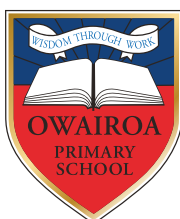
School Scribe

news and views from around our school

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Issue No 4, 6th May 2025

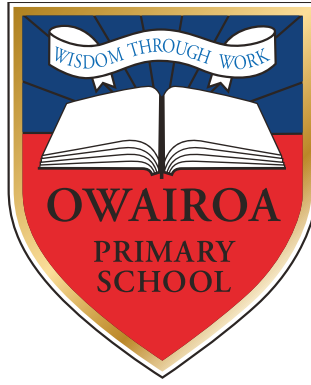


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

Principal Mr Alan McIntyre J.P., B.Ed., G.D.I.T.E., Dip. Tchg., Cert Sch Mking (CMS), A.N.Z.E.I.

Phone 0064 9 538 0060 **Email** officemanager@owairoa.school.nz

www.owairoa.school.nz



Dear Parents and Caregivers

Welcome back to an exciting new school term. With things already well underway as we start Week Two of the term already, it has been a pleasure to see students quickly re-engage with their learning after the holiday break.

This term is set to be a busy one, with a wide range of academic initiatives, cultural events and school activities planned over the nine weeks of Term Two.

We look forward to meeting with many of you during our upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences in a few weeks time. This is a great opportunity to reflect and celebrate your child's progress and achievements to date.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Zephyr Allen
- Aiden Zhou
- Rupar Min
- Eshon Nawuruna Acharige
- Ethan Siu
- Max Buitendach
- Manraj Pannu
- Carina Wang
- Faye Lyons
- Miraal Zehra
- Isla White
- Arsshbir Kathuria
- Anna Mitchell
- Allison Lin
- Alyssa Lin
- Chang Jun Li

SCHOOL CLOSED FOR CURRICULUM DAY 2

School will be closed for 'Curriculum Day Two' (Teacher Only Day) on **Monday 9 June** as our staff will be participating in the second Mathematics Professional Learning and Development (PLD) session that day.

Please note this is a change from the previously advertised date of 30 May.

The Ministry of Education has introduced nationwide PLD to support the implementation of the revised Mathematics and Statistics Curriculum, so we appreciate your support keeping your children home from school on this day, as we undertake this essential professional development to enrich our mathematics teaching practices.

PTA FAMILY FUN NIGHT SUCCESS

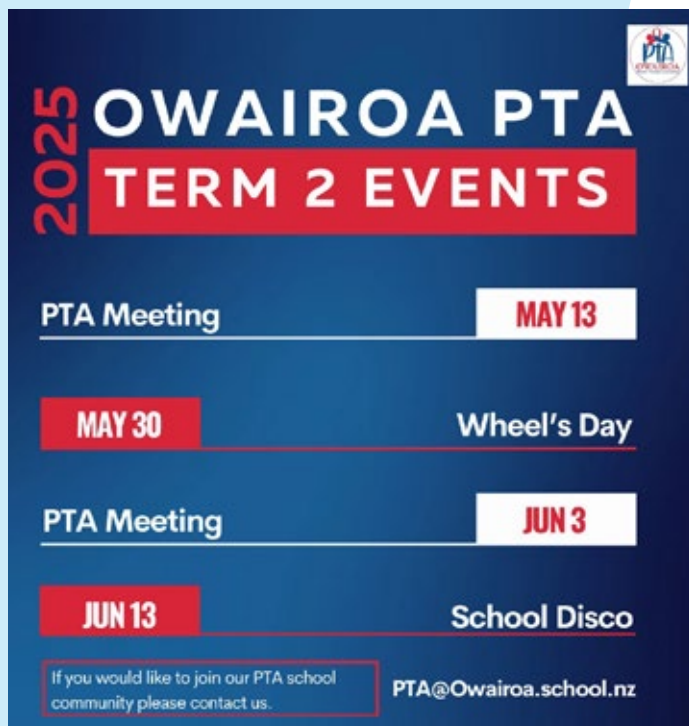


What a night! On Friday 28th March our school community came together for an unforgettable PTA Friday Family Fun Night—packed with games, bouncy castles, a chocolate trailer, photo booth, temporary tattoos and much much more!

Thanks to your incredible support, the PTA raised approximately \$8,500 towards our school's fundraising efforts! Congratulations to our four lucky raffle winners, and a huge thank you to our amazing sponsors and volunteers who made it all possible.

The PTA can't wait for more fun-filled events ahead—see you next time!





2025 OWAIROA PTA TERM 2 EVENTS

PTA Meeting	MAY 13
MAY 30	Wheel's Day
PTA Meeting	JUN 3
JUN 13	School Disco

If you would like to join our PTA school community please contact us. PTA@Owairoa.school.nz



COOKIE TIME!

\$2
per 45g choc-chip cookie

Every Friday at 3pm

Pay by Cash or Kindo Card

Stalls outside M Block under stairs & Room 4

OWAIROA PTA
Parent - Teacher Association

Strategic Planning and Reporting

Through consultation with our various stakeholders, we have developed the following:

- Our two-year Strategic Plan Initiatives 2024-2025 that sets out how we will meet the primary objectives set out in the Education and Training Act 2020
- Our Annual Implementation Plan 2025 that sets annual targets and actions for working towards our strategic goals

These documents have been approved by the School Board. A copy of these documents can be found on our school website. www.owairoa.school.nz/our-school

These important documents incorporate the Strategic Initiatives for Owairoa Primary School for 2025 and have been developed to coincide with the direction and vision of the School Board. They are planned as dynamic documents, responsive to change and are reviewed annually.





Anzac Assembly - Lest we Forget



In the final week of Term One, Senior School students and staff held an ANZAC assembly. After Wednesday's lunch break, students walked solemnly towards the school's flagpole and white crosses, which were positioned outside the office block. Students had created hand-made poppies in class, which they left by the crosses, some also proudly wore a red poppy on their uniform.

All were there to attend the ANZAC Day Commemoration Assembly, which is held at Owairoa Primary School annually around ANZAC day. In their classes, students had been learning about the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) and the events that took place in Gallipoli on 25th April 1915.

The somber event was respectfully lead by a number of House Leaders. A number of significant texts were read aloud, through which attendees were reminded why we commemorate ANZAC Day and why poppies are significant. The poems "In Flanders' Fields", as well as the "For the Fallen", were listened to in respectful silence. Classes had practiced reciting the words to 'The Flag', as well as a verse from the 'For the Fallen' poem, these were both recited in unison.

To conclude, all watched as the NZ Flag was raised and listened to the song 'Let there be peace on Earth'. The service was concluded by a minute's silence.

Learning about what has happened in years gone by, helps us to understand the world we live in presently.

Lest We Forget.



A SOAKING SUCCESS

AT OUR Splash & Dash DAY

We shared a spectacular day of sunshine, smiles and splashes at our 'Splash and Dash' event in the last week of Term One, as our school was transformed into a watery wonderland.

The excitement on the faces of our students and staff said it all, as they tackled water-filled obstacle courses, slid through slippery challenges and enjoyed every drop of fun that came their way. Every activity created fun moments that will be talked about for years to come.

The grand finale water fight was a clear highlight for many. With students, Teachers, and many brave parents joining in, it was an epic way to finish the day with a splash. Thank you to everyone who helped contributed to our Splash and Dash day, through sponsorship, volunteering and cheering us on.

Through the incredible support of our Owairoa Family community, we raised an amazing **\$52,657** for our Owairoa Primary School Digital Dream Lab initiative. Thanks to your support, this allows us to equip our future-focused space with more cutting-edge technology and creative opportunities for our Owairoa students.

Some feedback from our amazing volunteers on the day:

Thanks for organising such a fun day for the kids (and us parents), I love coming to these events and helping out, there was so much laughter and my son said it was the best day ever! The perfect way to end Term One.

We ended up having a great time, We genuinely enjoyed ourselves and all the little challenges that popped up made the day an all round crazy fun filled event. My daughter had the best time and was absolutely exhausted by the time she got home! Plus what an awesome amount generously donated for such a cool cause. Great job guys

I have seen some photos and videos of fun fun FUN!! The kids had an absolute blast!!! Thank you for all your efforts into making this such a cool and memorable day for the kids.













Eye on Nature at Auckland Botanic Gardens

At the end of Term One, 28 Senior School students had the exciting opportunity to take part in the free “Eye on Nature” School Days Programme at the Auckland Botanic Gardens. We were fortunate to be selected for this special programme, which provided hands-on learning experiences in nature.

Sponsored by the Beautification Trust, this year’s theme was “Wellbeing: Taiao and Me.” The students explored the vital connection between people and the environment, learning how caring for te taiao (the natural world) helps provide clean water, nutritious food, and supports both physical and mental wellbeing. Students learned how spending time in nature not only calms the mind but also fosters stronger connections with others.

Over the course of four days, nearly 1,500 students participated in the programme, each engaging in four interactive lessons and hands-on activities delivered by expert programme partners. This gave our students the opportunity to dive deep into practical, real-world learning in a stunning natural setting.

The day was made even better thanks to the support of five amazing parent helpers, we are incredibly grateful for their assistance.

A big thank you to the Beautification Trust for making this valuable experience possible—it was a day full of learning and inspiration for all involved!

We were pleased to receive feedback from the Botanical Gardens following our visit...

“Just want to thank the school for allowing a group of students the opportunity of attending the Eye on Nature event here at the Botanic Gardens. The kids were extremely well behaved and very enthusiastic and I hope they enjoyed their day out of the classroom.”



House Spirit Day Brings Colour, Competition, and Community



Owairoa Primary School was bursting with energy, colour and pride on Thursday 27th March as learners and staff celebrated House Spirit Day in spectacular fashion. It was a day to remember as everyone came together to represent their house—Aotea, Tainui, Tokomaru, or Takitimu—with style, creativity and an unbeatable sense of team spirit.

From the moment the bell rang, it was clear that House Spirit Day was no ordinary school day. Learners arrived dressed to the nines in their house colours, with faces painted, costumes carefully crafted and accessories that would make any catwalk jealous.

Of course, it wasn't just the learners bringing the wow factor—our teachers joined in with just as much enthusiasm. The highly anticipated 'Best Dressed Staff' award was hotly contested, but in the end, it was Mrs Burton and Mrs Morrow who stole the show with their incredible outfits and commitment to the house spirit vibe.

We can't wait for the next House Spirit Day!



Young Leaders Day



In April 2025, our newly selected House Leaders took part in a special Leadership Development Day with Miss Hewlett. The programme, titled 'The 7 Great Habits' is designed to help young leaders grow in confidence and learn important life skills that will support them both at school and beyond.

Throughout the day, students explored each of the 7 Great Habits and unpacked what it means to be an effective leader. The course helps students understand how to take charge of their own choices, build stronger friendships, communicate better with adults, replace unhelpful habits, and focus on what really matters to them. It also encourages them to manage their time well, feel more confident and create a healthy balance between school, home and social life.

The leadership day involved practical, hands-on activities to help students develop these skills in a fun and meaningful way. It also provided an opportunity for them to reflect on their new responsibilities at Owairoa Primary School and how they can positively influence others in their roles.

To finish the day, each student prepared a short speech to share with their fellow House Leaders, Mr McIntyre and Mrs Huang. They spoke about the key lessons they had taken away, which habit they would like to focus on improving and how they planned to use their new learning at school and at home. They also wrote their own personal mission statement—a guide they can refer back to as they continue their leadership journey.



Senior Students Set Sail at Bucklands Beach



In Week 7 of Term One, our Senior Students had an unforgettable experience on the water at Bucklands Beach. Over five days, two classes per day travelled to Bucklands Beach to take part in a sailing programme that introduced them to the exciting world of optimist boats.

Thanks to the fantastic team of volunteer coaches at the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club, students were guided through the basics of sailing in a safe and supportive environment. For many, it was their first time on a boat and although there were some nerves to start with, they quickly found their sea legs and their smiles!

The weather was mostly kind, with patches of sunshine and the odd passing shower. Even so, spirits remained high as students embraced the chance to get wet and have fun. Alongside learning to sail, the children also explored the science behind pulleys, practised tying various knots and even built and tested their own tin foil boats.

A big thank you to the Bucklands Beach Yacht Club and its volunteers for making this experience possible. The memories made and the skills learnt will stay with our students for a long time.





Open Classroom

A Successful First Open Classroom Event

The first Open Classroom Event hosted at Owairoa Primary School was a fantastic success. Held over the course of an hour, this special morning gave our Parent community a unique opportunity to step inside their children's classrooms and experience a 'snapshot' of a typical school day.

This new initiative was designed to give parents insight into how teaching and learning takes place at our school. It offered a front-row seat to observe the variety of activities that make up a classroom session—from group rotations to independent tasks, and teacher-led instruction to collaborative learning. For many Parents, this was their first chance to see the classroom environments in action.

The response from families has been overwhelmingly positive. Many parents commented on how valuable the experience was in helping them understand not just what their children are learning, but how they are learning it. One parent shared, "It was especially pleasing to see how the teachers and children all interact together... everyone seemed very happy." Another wrote, "As a new school parent, it helped me understand what my daughter is learning and how I can best support that at home."

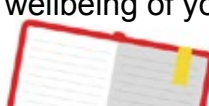
Thank you to those Parents who attended, for your interest in your children's learning, and for helping to make our first Open Classroom Event such a rewarding experience for everyone involved.



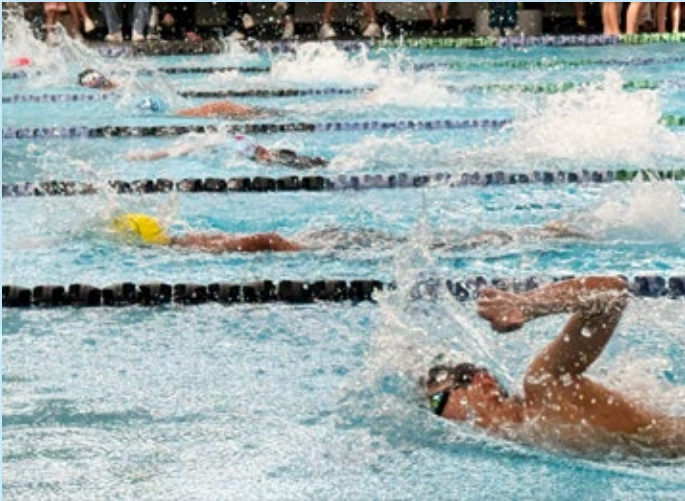
Reporting to PARENTS

Parent Teacher Conferences have been scheduled for early in **Term Two** on **Wednesday 14th May** and **Thursday 15th May**. Please note the school day for students will **finish early at 12.30 pm** on the **Wednesday 14th May**.

These conferences will be a chance for Students, Parents and Teachers to meet to formally discuss the learning progress, needs and wellbeing of your child.



Making Waves at Interschool Swimming



The atmosphere was electric inside the swimming pool complex for the Interschool Swimming Competition this year. With nine East Auckland Primary Schools taking part, our learners stepped up to the challenge with determination, resilience and outstanding sportsmanship.

The event kicked off with the Championship Freestyle, where several of our swimmers advanced to the final heats. Our novice competitors followed, impressing everyone with their skill and tenacity, and several went on to secure podium positions.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the freestyle relays. Amid cheers and chants of encouragement, our relay teams pushed themselves hard and managed to finish in the top 3 for their event, although time constraints prevented us from swimming the final heats.

Such a successful event would not have been possible without the support of our parent helpers, dedicated staff and the hosting school. Ultimately, the true stars were our learners, whose impeccable manners, sportsmanship and teamwork exemplify the spirit of R.I.S.E (Respect, Integrity, Self Esteem and Excellence) that defines our school community.

We are immensely proud of our swimmers and look forward to more opportunities to demonstrate our OPS spirit in future competitions.



WHĀNAU GET-TOGETHER

Sharing the Neurodivergent Journey

A special gathering for whānau of neurodivergent students. This is an opportunity for parents, grandparents, and caregivers to come together, share experiences, and connect with one another in a warm and welcoming environment.

When: Thursday, 15 May

Time: 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Where: Howick Library Meeting Room

(Use the door on the left inside the main entrance - look for the sign 'Whānau Get-Together'.)

☕ Enjoy a relaxed morning tea while connecting with others who share similar experiences.

💬 Share your journey, hear from others, and gain insights into challenges and successes.

📌 Information on local support services will be available.

🍷 Light refreshments provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!



HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Connor Thompson, Takitimu House Leader

My name is Connor Thompson, I'm a student in Room M12 and I'm proud to be a House Leader for Takitimu. I am very grateful and excited to have this opportunity this year.

I love Owairoa Primary School because there are so many amazing opportunities for all students, and we are very fortunate to have wonderful teachers who encourage and support us throughout our Primary School journey. My favourite school activities are rugby, cross country as well as the speech and poetry competitions.

I have many great memories during my time at Owairoa such as our White-Water Rafting and Sailing trips. My most favourite memory was being part of the rugby team and winning the HPPA tournament last year.

When I'm not at school I enjoy playing basketball, rugby and swimming. I also love spending time with my family, friends and classmates during my free time.

My advice for other students would be to always try your best and always believe in yourself. I would encourage everyone to follow our school's RISE values.

My goal as a House Leader is to represent my house with pride, support my peers and help make our school a welcoming and fun place to learn and grow. Let's go Takitimu!



Ryleigh Zita, Takitimu House Leader

My name is Ryleigh Zita and I am turning 11 years old in 3 months. I love doing art, sports, and creative writing.

Since my first footstep at Owairoa Primary School, my journey of becoming a leader began. Every time I see students having a positive mindset and doing services so passionately it motivates me to be the best I can be. I love being around people with different backgrounds.

At Owairoa we have opportunities to experience memorable school trips and fun art projects, plus much more. One of my favourite memories was the Great Owairoa Obstacle Fun Run, which was filled with tons of laughter and friendships.

What I appreciate most about Owairoa is the magnificent teachers and staff who work tirelessly to give us a good education. I am beyond grateful.

Opportunities such as kapa haka, choir, mediator, and many more will form lifelong memories. They will be new experiences that will last.

As a student, a friend, and one of your House Leaders my advice is don't be scared to dream. Have the courage and work hard on your goals, whether it's something small or big. Time is gold. Don't wait for time to change and let it be you that shapes the time.



TAKITIMU





Make sure you go online to our school website, to keep up to date with our school blogs.

These are a great way for our junior, middle and senior school teams to share highlights of the learning journey throughout the school year.

Junior School Blog - Stop, Look and Listen



Children are eager to explore the world around them. Whether they're walking to school, heading to the park, or just playing outside, knowing how to cross the road safely is a must-have skill. Road safety isn't just about following rules—it's about keeping our learners safe and giving them the confidence to navigate their surroundings responsibly. Teaching children about road safety from an early age helps prevent accidents and ensures they develop good habits that will last a lifetime.

This term, the Year 1's have been learning about Road Safety. The learners practiced using the pedestrian crossing, and they were safety champs! They practiced stopping on the footpath behind the Road Patrol, avoiding the islands. They listened carefully until they heard, "cross now" and crossed over the road safely. Children learn by example and so if we're crossing the road safely on the pedestrian crossing or at the traffic light, we are setting them up for success.

While teaching kids how to cross the road safely is essential, we can't forget about car safety. Whether they're riding in the family car, a friend's vehicle, or a school bus, proper precautions can make all the difference. Depending on their age, height, and weight, children should be secured in the appropriate car seat or booster. Teach children that seatbelts should be worn at all times, no matter how short the journey. Encourage children to exit the car on the side facing the footpath rather than into the street.

Even with all the right steps in place, roads can still be dangerous. So, it is important to stay alert, avoid distractions, and always be cautious around parked cars and driveways. Let's work together to reinforce these habits at school and home so our explorers stay safe while they gain independence.

Middle School Blog - We Are MITEY!



This term, we've embraced MITEY learning, focusing on understanding what makes us unique, managing our emotions, and supporting one another. The key areas of our learning have been exploring our feelings, understanding ourselves better, and knowing how to share and support others.

One of the most important things we've learned is how to describe emotions. Sometimes it's hard to put how we feel into words, but this term, we've spent time identifying different emotions like happiness, anger, excitement, or nervousness. Recognising these emotions helps us understand ourselves better and communicate more effectively with others.

A fun and exciting activity this term was creating self-portraits. This helped us reflect on what makes us special. We looked at our likes, interests, and what makes us happy, learning to appreciate who we are and how unique each of us is. This activity gave us a chance to express ourselves creatively while reflecting on our identity.

In our shared reading sessions, we explored books that focus on emotions and feelings. These stories helped us understand how emotions can shape our actions and relationships. By connecting the characters' feelings to our own experiences, we learned about empathy, self-regulation, and the importance of expressing emotions in a positive way.

We also worked on writing prompts like "What makes me happy?" and "The Best Part of ME" These prompts encouraged us to reflect on our own emotions and helped us learn how to manage difficult feelings. It also allowed us to acknowledge our strengths and celebrate what makes us unique.

As we move forward, we'll continue to use the MITEY toolkit to support our young tamariki, manage and understand their BIG feelings.

Senior School Blog - House Spirit Day



On House Spirit Mufti Day, Room M13 students created Cityscapes using only the house colours of red, blue, green, and yellow against a black background. They cut coloured paper into various sizes and shapes to form buildings in blue, red, and green, then added yellow for windows, doors, and a night sky. The display turned out beautifully, with each piece being very effective, unique and eye-catching.

House Spirit Day was an exciting event that brought together students to showcase their school spirit and support for their houses. The day was a celebration where everyone embraced the colours of their houses, bringing an energetic and fun atmosphere to the school.

Students from each house wore costumes representing their house colours, with Takitimu in bold blue, Tainui in strong and vibrant red, Aotea in fresh green, and Tokomaru in bright yellow. Some even went the extra mile with face paint, transforming themselves into true embodiments of their house spirit.

A highlight of House Spirit Day was the friendly competition for the best costume, judged by the House Leaders. These leaders had the difficult task of choosing the most impressive outfits from the crowd, rewarding those who displayed exceptional creativity and house pride. The competition encouraged students to put their best foot forward and truly immerse themselves in the fun and camaraderie of the event.

The atmosphere throughout the day was filled with excitement to support their houses. Whether it was through unique costumes, vibrant face paint, or pure enthusiasm, House Spirit Day was a reminder of the sense of unity and pride within the school community. It wasn't just about winning the competition but about coming together to celebrate the diverse colours and identities that made each house special.

Looking ahead

☺ May

- 13 PTA Meeting 7.30pm
- 14 Parent Teacher Conferences
1-8pm. School closes at 12.30pm
- 15 Parent Teacher Conferences
3.30pm – 6.30pm
- 19 Winter Uniform Transition
Begins
- 20 Trees for Survival Planting
Day
- 21 Simultaneous Storytime
- 27 School Board Meeting 7pm
- 30 PTA Mufti Wheels Day

☺ June

- 2 Kings Birthday– school closed
- 3 Full Winter Uniform
- 9 Curriculum Day Two –
school closed
- 13 PTA Disco
- 16 Photolife Photos Day 1
- 17 Photolife Photos Day 2
- 18 Photolife Photos Day 3
- 20 Matariki Public Holiday –
school closed
- 27 End of Term Two

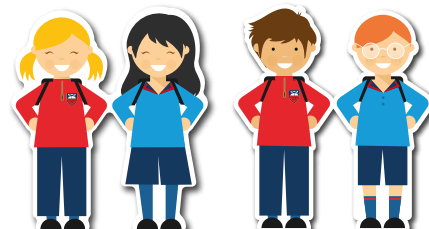


Uniform Transition

As the cooler weather arrives, it is almost time for students to switch to their winter uniform options. This includes long-sleeved polo shirts, socks with black leather and the option of wearing the long pants. The wearing of the school hat is relaxed during Term Two and Three during the winter months.

A two week transition period will start from **Monday 19th May**. Full winter uniform is expected to be worn as from Tuesday 3rd June (the first day back after Kings Birthday Weekend).

Brand new uniform items can be purchased from Argyle, our school uniform supplier, who courier items directly to your home. Alternatively, you can purchase second hand items from our PTA Uniform Shop. For more information on both of these options, please head to our school website www.owairoa.school.nz/parents/uniform



With kind regards,
Alan McIntyre
PRINCIPAL





Before School Care: 7.00am - 8.30am

After School Care: 3.00pm - 6.00pm

School Holidays: 7.30am - 6.00pm

Enrol via our website or pop into our programme

WINZ subsidies are available

For all questions or queries please contact our office or the programme

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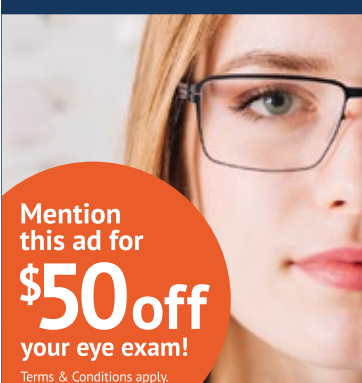
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