



The Owairoa Primary

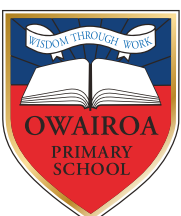
School Scribe

news and views from around our school

follow us on

facebook 
Instagram 

Issue No 5, 27th May 2025

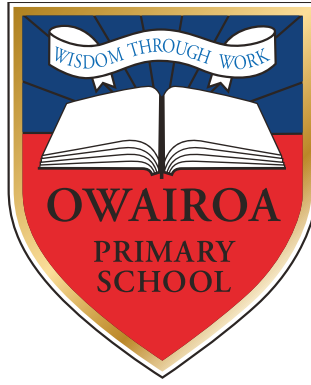


Owairoa Primary School, 85S Nelson Street, Howick, Auckland 2014, New Zealand.

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

We are already in the second half of Term, and even though the cooler weather has arrived, it is great to see enthusiasm remains high, with everyone staying focused and on task.

In this newsletter, we are pleased to share some of the great learning and activities that have happened across the school in the last few weeks.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our recent Parent Teacher Conferences. It was a great turnout of parents for both days of sessions. Your participation helps make the link between home and school stronger, and it was good to see so many families taking part to discuss the progress and achievements of their children.

As we look ahead to the remaining weeks of Term Two, we are excited about a full range of events planned. From environmental planting days and Interschool Sports competitions, to our much-anticipated Cross Country event, there are many opportunities for students to partake in events both inside and outside the classroom.



WELCOME
to our Owairoa "family"

- Willow Whittington
- Thaswin Krishnan
- Lezhi Liu
- Baylee Beazley-Hales
- Pepe Nikolao
- Alanita Peni
- Evania Peni
- Moealofa Peni
- Brooklyn Murray
- Asghar Zaidi
- Benjamin Frijns
- Delilah Griffin
- Scarlett Campbell
- Qanita Salie
- Declan Emberson
- Kaede Takiguchi

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.

Introducing our Popokotea Wellbeing Nest

At Owairoa Primary School, we are committed to nurturing the whole child—academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. As part of this commitment, we are proud to introduce a new school initiative designed to support our students who experience challenges in their learning and wellbeing: the **Popokotea Wellbeing Nest**.

Inspired by the Popokotea or whitehead bird—a native taonga in Māori culture—this special initiative draws on the rich symbolism of this bird, which is associated with the health of the forest, the presence of ancestors, and positive influence. Just as the Popokotea plays a vital role in maintaining the wellbeing of its environment, our **Wellbeing Nest** represents a safe, nurturing space within our school where every child is valued, supported, and encouraged to thrive.

The Wellbeing Nest serves as a sanctuary of care, much like a bird's nest protects and nurtures its young. It reflects our school's dedication to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment where children with additional needs can flourish.

To bring this vision to life, we are fortunate to offer a growing range of in-school professional support services, including:

- **A full-time SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)** providing a key role in supporting and delivering individualised support
- **Music therapy** harnessing the power of music to support emotional and social development
- **A registered psychotherapist** providing a space for students to process their thoughts and feelings
- **A dedicated school chaplain** offering pastoral care and emotional support
- **A student counsellor** to provide guidance, counselling, and resources to help students navigate challenges and achieve their goals
- **A qualified Speech Language Therapist** to help students with communication challenges

These services work together under the guidance of our SENCO to provide tailored support to students in need, addressing a range of emotional, behavioural, and communication needs.

The colours of the Popokotea Wellbeing Nest logo below have been thoughtfully chosen to reflect our mission:

- **Yellow** symbolizes positivity, energy, and mental clarity
- **Green** represents natural balance, grounding, and growth

We are excited about the positive impact the **Popokotea Wellbeing Nest** will have on our students, and we are deeply proud to be leading this important work. By offering this holistic and culturally grounded support, we reaffirm our commitment to the success and wellbeing of every child at Owairoa Primary School.

This new initiative is fully supported by our School Board and funded by the generous school donations from parents. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to grow and evolve the ways we can extend our care and support for our learners.



END OF SCHOOL DAY ETIQUETTE

Student safety and supervision at the end of the school day



* For health and safety reasons, students must NOT play in the school grounds after 3pm unless accompanied by a parent/caregiver



* Please notify the school office if you are running late for the 3pm pickup



* Students not collected by 3.15pm will be directed to Bizzy Bodz for supervision (charges will apply)



Our Juniors are Fire Wise



Term 2 has seen our Junior school students complete the Get Firewise in-school programme. Get Firewise is a sequenced programme of learning experiences designed to give five and six year olds knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that will keep them safe around fire.

It is designed to help students understand that fire can be dangerous, how to prevent fires starting, and learning how to get themselves out of a burning building quickly and safely to a safe meeting place. Students have been role playing different scenarios and have made a safety plan of meeting by your mailbox in the event of a fire. This is a great conversation topic for your family.

After doing the classroom learning, students were excited to see the fire engine from our local Howick Fire Station. The firefighters were impressed with the knowledge students had learned. They explained their role in keeping our community safe and students were able to see all the safety gear firefighters needed to wear. The firefighters discussed the importance of students knowing their home address if they are ever in an emergency and need to call 111.

Students were able to share what they learned from our local firemen:

"when the smoke alarm goes off we shout Fire!, Fire!"

"go to your safe meeting place by your mailbox, not your Mum and Dad's room"

"don't play with matches, they are tools for adults, not toys"

"he showed us his pants, jacket and how to breathe in his helmet"



Step Inside the Classroom – Open Home Event

Have you ever wondered what a day in your child's classroom looks like? Now is your chance to experience it first hand. We are excited to invite you to our second Open Classroom Event, where you can step into the heart of your child's learning journey.

This special hour-long event on **Tuesday 10th June from 9.15 am-10.15am** is an opportunity to see your child in action in an educational setting. We look forward to welcoming you into the classroom and sharing this experience with you.



The poster features a central illustration of a young girl in a blue school uniform, smiling and pointing upwards while holding a red folder. She is positioned next to a large blackboard with the words "Open Classroom" written in white cursive. The background is a vibrant blue with various school-related icons like a pencil, ruler, and clock. In the top right corner is the Owairoa Primary School crest, which includes the motto "WISDOM THROUGH WORK". The bottom of the poster is decorated with a grid pattern and includes illustrations of a megaphone, a globe, a book, a potted plant, an apple, a notebook, and an alarm clock. The text is presented in a mix of bold sans-serif and cursive fonts, with yellow stars used as decorative elements.

OWAIROA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Open Classroom

**Step into your child's world of learning
and experience education first hand**

TUESDAY 10th JUNE 2025
9.15am - 10.15am

**We welcome your visit to see our students shine as capable
leaders, independent learners, problem solvers and valued
members of our 'Owairoa Family'. (No preschoolers please)**

A FUNDRAISING CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER

Splash & Dash



Our school was abuzz with excitement last week, as we recognised the collective efforts of our top three fundraising classes redeemed their well-earned reward for the Splash and Dash fundraiser.

Room 10: "The Ultimate Day Off" Champions

Taking out first place, Room 10 students designed their dream day. Their itinerary included wearing mufti, art projects, extended playtime in the playground and a cosy movie session complete with popcorn. By the end of the day, students declared it the "best day ever!"—a well-deserved reward for their top-tier fundraising efforts.

Room M2: Pizza Picnic Party

Our second-place winners, Room M2, put a clever spin on their prize by turning the lead-up into a fun educational lesson. As part of their maths learning, the class calculated how many pizzas would be needed to serve up the perfect lunchtime picnic. The anticipation grew as delivery time approached and when the pizzas finally arrived, Room M2 was filled with big smiles with the cheesy pizza goodness.

Room 13: Fruju-Fueled Fun!

Third place went to Room 13, who cooled down in style with their well-earned Popsicle Party. The simple joy of getting a refreshing fruju on a sunny afternoon was the perfect way to celebrate their great fundraising efforts.





International Student Shines at Assembly

At our recent school assembly, our staff and students enjoyed a musical performance by one of our International Students from Japan, Anna Sawa.

Anna performed two beautiful pieces on her trumpet, You Raise Me Up and the New Zealand National Anthem, accompanied by our Music Teacher Ms Won on the piano. What made Anna's performance even more impressive, was that she played both pieces entirely from memory, without any sheet music in front of her.

Being new to our school and with English as her second language, this was a big personal milestone for her, especially when she received a Principals Award for her efforts. We are so pleased she shared her musical talent with us all. Well done, Anna!





THANK YOU

Reporting to Parents



Thank you to those Parents who attended our recent Learning Conferences.

These conferences are crucial for us to collaborate on your child's progress and set goals for the remainder of the year. Ongoing support from home and consistent student attendance remain key factors in achieving positive academic outcomes.

As part of the Government's focus on lifting student achievement, they have introduced a new, knowledge-rich and internationally comparable curriculum this year for Maths in Years 0-8 and English in Years 0-6.

Our schools has only been using the new curricula from the start of 2025, which includes new teaching and assessment methods and content, so we are currently changing from the old to the new curriculum.

Because of this you could see a change in your child's progress or achievement compared to previous years which may be the result of changes in the curriculum expectation for your child's year level. If you have concerns for questions about your child's achievement, we suggest you talk with your child's teacher. They will also have used their own observations, classroom tasks and other tests to report on the progress your child is making.

Helping You Decide If Your Child Is Well Enough for School This Winter

As we head into the colder months, it's common for children to experience various illnesses. To assist Parents in making informed decisions about school attendance, Health New Zealand has provided updated guidance. This ensures that children attend school when appropriate and stay home when necessary to recover and prevent the spread of illness.

When It's Okay to Send Your Child to School

Children can usually attend school if they:

- Have mild respiratory symptoms (e.g. a slight cough or runny nose) but no fever and are eating, drinking, and behaving normally.
- Experience symptoms consistent with known allergies or hay fever.
- Have non-infectious skin conditions like eczema or insect bites.

When to Keep Your Child at Home

Children should stay home and recover if they:

- Have a fever or are too unwell to participate in normal activities.
- Have tested positive for COVID-19 and are following current isolation guidelines.
- Have been diagnosed with an infectious disease such as measles, whooping cough, or chickenpox.
- Are vomiting or have diarrhea; they should remain home until 48 hours after symptoms have ceased.

Preventing the Spread of Illness

To help keep our school community healthy:

- Encourage regular handwashing with soap and water.
- Teach children to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow.
- Ensure your child is up-to-date with recommended vaccinations.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Health New Zealand guidance: [Health Information and Services](#).

By working together, we can maintain a healthy school environment for all our students.



Jewellery at School

In the past few weeks, we have seen an increase in the number of students wearing jewellery items to school. Jewellery can be easily lost or damaged while at school. Items such as rings, necklaces and dangly earrings may also cause injury to the wearer or other students, so for safety and security reasons, these are not to be worn. The school accepts no responsibility in the case of loss, damage or injury.

As part of our acceptable uniform guidelines, students may wear:

- one small earring stud per ear
- a watch (with smartphone capabilities turned off if applicable)
- a medical identification tag, as required
- a necklace of religious or cultural significance (to be worn underneath clothing)

The Principal must be approached if an exemption is sought for religious or cultural reasons.



Say Cheeeese – it's Photo Time

A reminder that PhotoLife are scheduled to take classroom, team, individual and sibling photographs on Monday 16th June, Tuesday 17th June and Wednesday 18th June.

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform on these days, so they are looking their best for their photos. All students must wear their red sweatshirts for all school photographs.

Details about the online viewing and ordering process with PhotoLife for the photographs will be sent home separately.



★

★

KAHUI AKO

We wish to congratulate our Kahui Ako Within School Leaders, who have successfully completed their one-year appointment with our Bucklands Beach Te Ara Kahui Ako Community of Learning, which included a year-long inquiry focus as part of their appointment:

- **Jonathan Basson - Gross and fine motor skill development**
- **Luke O'Brien - Targeted improvement in structure and organisation of writing**
- **Tracey Haugh - Structured Literacy in Year 0 and Year 1 classes**
- **Joline Kennard - Structured Literacy in Year 2 classes**
- **Alex Cornea - Promoting children's wellbeing through Performing Arts**

The Bucklands Beach Te Ara Kahui Ako' Kahui Ako is a collaborative network of local schools, including our school, along with Bucklands Beach Primary, Macleans Primary, Mellons Bay Primary, Pigeon Mountain Primary Bucklands Beach Intermediate and Macleans College.



PTA Wheels Mufti Day

Get ready for a day of fun and movement on Friday 30th May, when students can wear mufti and bring their favourite set of wheels for a day filled with wheeled fun.

For \$2, students can wear mufti and bring along their wheels. For \$1, students can wear mufti and enjoy participating in some fun activities.

Important reminders:

- No helmet = no riding – all riders must wear safety gear.
- No riding to or from school – wheels to be brought in by hand.
- No e-bikes or e-scooters.
- Fun activities provided for students without wheels!

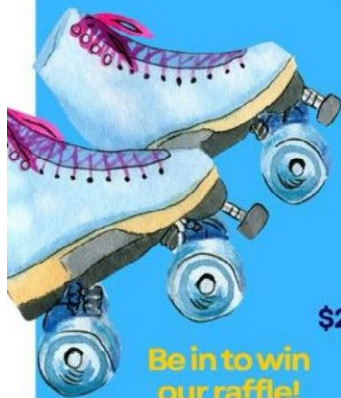
The PTA are raffling off two MADD Gear scooters, RRP \$230 each

Tickets are \$4 each, or 3 for \$10 and are available at the School Office before and after school or by emailing the PTA.

More details on our exciting Wheels Mufti Day event will be shared via the school app.

FRI 30 MAY MUFTI & WHEELS DAY

**Bring your wheels to school
and take part in fun
'wheeled' activities!**



**Bring Bikes, Scooters,
Skateboards, Skates
(no motorised bikes
or e-scooters)**

More info to come on Audiri...



**\$2 to bring your wheels and mufti
\$1 for mufti only**

**Be in to win
our raffle!**

**1 x Boys scooter and
1 x Girls scooter
to be won on the day**

**Raffle Tickets:
\$4 each or 3 for \$10**

Tickets can be bought
from the office or email
pta@owairoa.school.nz



**Safety helmets
and/or safety pads
must be worn at all
times. Wear mufti
clothes.**

HOUSE LEADERS Spotlight



Cooper Bradley, Tainui House Leader

My name is Cooper Bradley, and I'm currently 10 years old. I have a passion for all sports and enjoy staying active. I'm a helpful and responsible student at Owairoa Primary School and I always try my best in all my schoolwork.

I love Owairoa because the teachers work hard to give every student the best education possible. I take part in as many opportunities as I can, such as Kapa Haka, Kaitiaki and various sports.

My favourite memory at Owairoa was when I went to Wero Vector Water Park in Year 5, as I got to jump into the rapids.

This year, I hope I can help guide Tainui to win the House Shield.



Camike Ferreira, Tokomaru House Leader

My name is Camike, I'm 10 years old, and my birthday is on April 16. I absolutely love rugby and enjoy giving any sport a go.

Owairoa Primary School is a great school where everyone is so friendly. There are lots of opportunities to get involved in sports and cultural events.

My advice for other students is to give everything a go and do it with a smile and a positive attitude. Don't forget to follow all the R.I.S.E values (R-Respect, I-Integrity, S-Self-Esteem, E-Excellence).

I am grateful for all the support I have received during my time at Owairoa Primary School.



TOKOMARU



Second Hand Uniform Shop

Our PTA Second Hand Uniform Shop has a good range of second-hand uniform items currently in stock, available for purchase.

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is located in the foyer entrance of the Hall, and is open as follows:

- **Thursday afternoons 2.45pm – 3.15pm**
- **Friday mornings 8.30am – 8.45am**

There is no EFTPOS facility, so please bring cash to make a purchase.

The PTA greatly appreciates uniform donations. If you have any unwanted uniform items in reasonable condition, please donate by leaving at the school office, or drop to the uniform shop during opening hours.





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 - Feeling Mitey in Team 2



In Term 1 Team 2 focused on various aspects in Mitey.

Room 10 enquired into various emotions and identified the body language that comes with them. To cope with different emotions they learnt how to belly breathe to calm their minds.

In Room 11 students discussed what makes a good friend. This included what children expect from their friends and what their friends expect from them. The Shared Book "How To Make a New Friend", was used to discuss and learn about making new friends. Role play was also used to practise the skills of making friends step by step.

Room 12 explored 'different ways of finding calm.' They looked at the story "Fugo is Fuming" and discussed what made Fugo the dragon angry/overwhelmed. In groups, they role played things that make them annoyed/angry/overwhelmed. Pupils then brainstormed

strategies they could use to calm themselves down. For example, reading, drawing, patting their dog, watching a movie.

Room 9 learnt about the levels of different emotions, in terms of where they start and where they may end up i.e. moving from annoyed to furious. They used clines to show the progression and talked about different strategies they could use to bring their emotions back down when they rise. They also explored different names for different emotions from scared to terrified to petrified and used them in stories to make their writing more interesting.

Room 13 explored different emotions and when and why they might experience them. They wrote stories and poems describing how that emotion felt. They also linked emotions to colours and objects. They discussed negative emotions and acknowledged that these are normal emotional reactions that everyone feels at times. The need to deal with these emotions in an effective manner using appropriate strategies was discussed. Useful strategies were brainstormed by the children.

Middle School Blog - ANZAC Day in the Classroom



ANZAC Day offers a rich context for cross-curricular learning. Learners in the Middle School engaged in a variety of learning experiences that explored many different aspects of ANZAC Day and why it is important to us.

Some of the learning areas that linked in well with ANZAC Day were writing and art. In writing learners looked at emotive language and how it impacts our writing to add interest to the targeted audience. Inspired by their reflections, learners wrote powerful pieces in the voice of a soldier. Some described their piece as exciting and exhilarating whereas others remembered those we lost, and how the soldiers could have felt while serving. Others shared what it felt like to be in a faraway land, facing fear with courage.

There was sadness, but also pride. Their writing showed a depth of emotion that surprised even them. Words flowed from the heart, words that carried the voices of people who served, and the thoughts of young learners doing their best to understand.

To bring our learning full circle, some classrooms created ANZAC-inspired art that reflected each learner's understanding and emotion. Using a range of mediums, such as paint, pastels, collage, and silhouette, the middle school classrooms transformed into a gallery of remembrance. There were fields of red poppies beneath dusky skies, and letters woven into artwork to show the connection between word and image. Each piece told a story, each stroke of colour a tribute.

Our Middle School students learned what it means to be brave, kind, and thoughtful, which linked in well with our schools R.I.S.E. values. They used their imagination to understand others' experiences, and their creativity to express what they felt.

Through writing and art, they learned and remembered. Through their hearts, they understood. Lest we forget.

Senior School Blog - It's Time for National Simultaneous Storytime



National Simultaneous Storytime is an exciting annual event that brings children together through the magic of reading. In 2025, the event celebrated its 25th anniversary, with over 2 million children in Australia and New Zealand participating by reading and listening to "The Truck Cat" by Deborah Frenkel, at the same time.

The event creates a unique shared experience where children across different schools and regions simultaneously engage with the same story. At Owairoa Primary School we all sat and listened to this great book. We got to see and hear the author and also the illustrator of the book Danny Snell. It was great to listen to them explain how they got their ideas and the process they went through to make this cat come alive on the page.

In M14, we all sat like in a cinema to enjoy the reading. We all then followed Danny's instructions on "how to draw a cat". The fun of this

was not one cat looked the same! It was great fun and thoroughly enjoyed by all of us.

The students at Owairoa Primary were so inspired that they're already looking forward to next year's National Simultaneous Storytime. We realise that reading is not just about consuming words, but about experiencing stories, understanding creativity, and connecting with others.

Looking ahead

☺ May

27 School Board Meeting 7pm

30 PTA Mufti Wheels Day

☺ June

2 King's Birthday – School Closed

3 Full Winter Uniform

3 HPPA Hockey Field Days

3 PTA Meeting 7.30pm

5 Filipino Parent Evening

6 Interschool Rugby

9 Curriculum Day Two – School Closed

10 HPPA Chess Tournament

10 Open Classroom Event,
9.15am – 10.15am

11 Girls Soccer Day

12 School Cross Country Years 3-6

13 Boys Soccer Day

13 PTA School Disco

16 Photolife Photographs

17 Photolife Photographs

18 Photolife Photographs

18 Puberty Parents Night 6pm

19 Soccer Field Days

20 Matariki – 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

www.bizzybodz.co.nz | 09 530 9020 | 021 837 051

RayWhite



Jon Jaksic -
your local
real estate
professional

021 113 9963
jon.jaksic@raywhite.com

Special **Cakes** for Special **Occasions**



Call Now
274 7744


f /thegateauhouse ig /thegateauhouse_official

THE GATEAU HOUSE

www.gateauhouse.co.nz

Albany / Botany / Glenfield / Henderson / Mt Eden / Newmarket / Queen St / Stonefields

KUMON



Confident to learn each day

Strengthen the skills your child learns at school with Kumon Maths and English. Contact your local Kumon Centre to hear how we can support your child's learning.

KUMON HOWICK EDUCATION CENTRE
Unit 2, 230 Wellington Street
Howick, Auckland, 2014
Instructor: Vincent Lam
tel: 021 297 7681

<http://nz.kumonglobal.com>

D-B-O

DEREK BARWOOD
ORTHODONTIST

B.D.S., M.D.S.(OTAGO).

Specialist Orthodontics for Children and Adults

4 Bleakhouse Rd, Howick, Auckland 2014
W: www.derekbarwoodorthodontist.co.nz
P: (09) 535 4311 | E: reception@dbo.co.nz

HOWICK TYRES & ALIGNMENTS Est. 1975

Michael Johnson
Ph: 09 534 4975
e: tyreman1@hotmail.com

Continental MAXXIS VITORA

EYES of HOWICK
KRISTINE JENSEN | OPTOMETRISTS



Mention this ad for
\$50 off
your eye exam!

Terms & Conditions apply.

100 Picton Street, Howick
Ph 534 5565
www.eyesofhowick.co.nz

Howick Kindergarten

Join your local kindergarten!

Kindergarten is a special place where children, families and teachers come together to build strong foundations for life.

- 100% qualified teaching team
- Educational focus and school readiness
- Large, natural outdoor environment
- 20 hrs free for 2-5 yr olds

51 Wellington Street, Howick
09 534 9124
howick@aka.org.nz
www.aka.org.nz



FULTON SWIM SCHOOL



Torrens Rd, Burswood



Argyle Schoolwear proudly supply Owairoa School community with their uniform requirements sold exclusively online at www.argyleonline.co.nz

MANUFACTURING QUALITY UNIFORMS FOR NZ SCHOOLS FOR OVER 30 YEARS

PROTECT ELECTRICAL LTD



Paul Myers 0274 248 075
Registered Electrician

paul@protectelectrical.nz

Specialists in • Kitchens • Lighting • Renovations
• Maintenance & Repairs

