

JULY 2026

# FYI

## YOUR DCC NEWS



**DUNEDIN**  
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera  
a-rohe o  
**Ōtepoti**

## MAYOR'S DESK



Council marked a major milestone last month – we agreed to adopt the latest version of the Dunedin City Second Generation District Plan (2GP).

The 2GP sets out the rules and requirements for development and how land is used in Ōtepoti Dunedin. While it might sound a bit bureaucratic, good planning is vital to how we build our city and create our future.

Lots of submitters helped shape the 2GP by sharing their thoughts. Our staff worked hard to consider thousands of pages of submissions, and the result is a plan I am confident balances the needs of the community and potential for growth.

I also announced who will succeed our current Chief Executive when her contract ends. Current Chief Executive Sandy Graham will leave the organisation once her term concludes in October; Council is very grateful for her dedicated efforts and energetic hard work over the years.

Sandy's insightful knowledge, skills and expertise have been essential to help Council work through the complexities of local government decision making. I wish her the best.

Richard Briggs will join the DCC organisation as our new CE. Richard has previously lived and raised a family here in Dunedin, so he knows the area well. More recently, he spent seven years as the Chief Executive of Hamilton City Council leading it through a significant period of growth and transformation. He also served as interim Chief Executive of the Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Agency.

**Sophie Barker**  
**Mayor of Dunedin**

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Have you ever wondered what it would be like to dance with Josephine the locomotive train?

On the last Sunday of every month, spend an afternoon in the light-filled Josephine Foyer at Tōitu Otago Settlers Museum and join Balfolk Dunedin for a free folk dancing session. Suitable for all ages and experience levels, each session begins with a short introduction before participants take to the dance floor beneath the watchful presence of Josephine – one of the museum's most treasured exhibits. Josephine was brought from England to operate on the Dunedin-Port Chalmers Railway and was in use for 45 years. She has been a much-loved part of

Tōitu's collection for more than a century. She provides a spectacular backdrop for an afternoon of music, movement, and community.

While you're visiting, explore the Material Culture Gallery and discover highlights from the celebrated Eden Hore Collection. From wool and animal skins transformed into high fashion, to glamorous sequins, lurex and sheer evening wear, these remarkable garments showcase the creativity and flair of New Zealand designers. You can also browse the accompanying book *Central Otago Couture: The Eden Hore Collection* available at the Tōitu gift Shop.

Tōitu tells the stories of the people who shaped Dunedin and Otago through their innovation, creativity, culture, fashion and transport. Admission is free.

# COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



## MOSGIEL-TAIERI

Mosgiel is the fastest growing suburb of Dunedin, offering a unique blend of small-town charm and country living.

Locals and tourists are discovering the appeal of the Taieri where scenic and community attractions, and a relaxed lifestyle create the perfect day out or place to call home.

A stand out attraction is the Chain Hills Tunnel Trail that goes through a repurposed 19th-century railway tunnel. Just minutes from Dunedin, the recreational trail showcases the beauty and history of the area through stunning native bush. Future plans will see it connect Mosgiel to Dunedin via a cycling route.

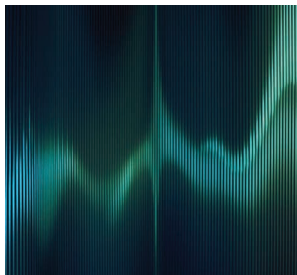
As one of a few areas in the district with flat land available for development, Mosgiel is experiencing growth. Its proximity to the city and strong community makes it an attractive place to live.

However, this brings the need for careful planning so transport infrastructure can keep pace with development, and increasing congestion and heavy traffic. Pedestrian and cycle safety is also front of mind, highlighted recently with a bike safety event at Silverstream School, where the AA, Police and Mosgiel Taieri Community Board helped students improve visibility and safety with bike lights and bag covers.

With thoughtful planning, Mosgiel-Taieri is well placed to thrive while maintaining the community spirit that makes it special.

**Rebecca Shepherd**  
**Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board Chair**

# NOISY! SPACES!



Local musicians have been given a live-line with a guide on community facilities for them to rehearse at.

The Noisy! Spaces! project covers a network of venues in and around Ōtepoti Dunedin for performing artists to plug into for their varying rehearsal needs.

These range from spaces in the heart of the city to small halls on the Otago Peninsula as well as semi-rural facilities.

Details of each space are featured on a booklet that includes a map, as well as on the DCC website.

Noisy! Spaces! aims to cater to a range of artists, from newly formed bands looking for a regular space to practise, to community choirs

in need of a place to prepare for an upcoming concert.

The DCC's Ara Toi Creative Partnerships team is leading the initiative and worked with a range of community groups, clubs and other organisations to develop a list of places in which to practise.

It provides a win-win arrangement by providing venue owners a way of bolstering their coffers, while musicians find more doors open to them.

Building connections to bolster the local music ecosystem is a key element of the Ōtepoti Live Music Action Plan.

The Noisy! Spaces! list comprises a range of urban venues across the central city and in South Dunedin, as well as more distant venues in semi-rural areas – including a hall on the Otago Peninsula where The Chills once played.

More information can be found online.

# OLVESTON ELECTRIC UPGRADE



The electrical systems at Olveston Historic Home are about to get a massive upgrade.

It will be the first significant overhaul of the electrical system at the heritage site – which still features original components from when it was first built in 1906.

A recent assessment of the building found some of the electrical systems have degraded over time and need to be repaired to address safety concerns.

While some work can take place with the building open to visitors, Olveston will need to be fully closed for a short period to complete the more complex work. This full closure will be widely advertised and will begin in July and take until September.

Work includes the complete upgrade of the main switchboard and submain cables, and the replacement of its older outlets and connections, light fittings, and general repair and maintenance of the outdated components.

As well as an upgrade of the electrical system, a now redundant bathroom will be converted into a storeroom. The main visitor entrance will also be upgraded to improve accessibility.

Olveston has long been recognised for its heritage status and the upgrade will help bring the iconic building into the modern era. The work will be sympathetic to its original look and status in order to maintain its historic character.

# 2GP OPERATIVE



The Dunedin City Council has resolved to adopt the Dunedin City Second Generation District Plan (2GP) as fully operative.

Following the Council vote, the milestone came into effect last month and completes a significant process stretching back to 2015.

The new plan – the 2GP – formally replaces the previous district plan. The 2GP is the key document that sets out the rules and requirements for land use and development in Dunedin. It has a critical role in shaping the look and feel of the city, as well as enabling opportunities for future housing and business to locate in Dunedin.

Developing the proposed plan involved significant engagement with the

community and key stakeholders and technical work by DCC staff. The plan was notified and formal submissions and hearings with a panel of independent commissioners and elected members followed.

There were 83 appeals lodged against a range of decisions when it was first notified. All of the appeals to the 2GP and Variation 2 of the 2GP have since been resolved, meaning it has now been made operative.

The resulting plan balances the need for growth and development while protecting things the community values, such as maintaining biodiversity, significant heritage buildings and places, important landscapes and areas of significance to mana whenua. It also considers risks associated with natural hazards and climate change.

The fully operative 2GP and associated Planning Map can be viewed online.

# AWARD FOR TRAIL WORK



Work undertaken to reopen the Chain Hills Tunnel has been recognised with a rail heritage restoration award.

The Dunedin Tunnels Trail Trust and the Dunedin City Council were jointly recognised with the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand Restoration Award at the Federation of Railway Organisations of New Zealand conference held in May.

The award recognises the work to restore and reuse the Chain Hills tunnel as part of the wider Dunedin Tunnels Trail project.

Trustee Gerard Hyland, who first championed the project, received the plaque which will be placed on the tunnel portal.

The trust and the DCC acknowledge the significance in the project being recognised for its heritage values and the efforts of trustees, DCC staff, contractors and volunteers. The project has been many years in the making and is already proving popular.

Stage one of the project involves a 1.5km trip along a disused rail alignment through the historic Chain Hills Tunnel and stops a few hundred metres beyond the tunnel.

Work on the first stage was delivered by the DCC, which provided \$1.8 million in funding.

The trust has also received a further funding grant of \$2 million from the government, which will go towards delivering future stages of the project, and the DCC continues to work with the trust to support delivery of the project.

This will include making Caversham Tunnel available for future track development.

## WILDING PINES REMOVED

The DCC has begun work to remediate the land surrounding the former Stevenson & Cook Foundry building in Port Chalmers.

Last month, contractors removed wilding pines on the Dunedin City Council-owned site to allow geotechnical engineers to carry out a detailed assessment of the bank. This assessment will then inform options to stabilise the bank long-term if needed.

The tree removal and geotechnical assessment is part of the DCC's commitment to support the Port Chalmers Foundry Trust's plans to redevelop the historic Stevenson & Cook Foundry building, also known as the Sims building, into a multi-use arts and community centre.

Now that the wilding pines are removed, engineers will undertake a more comprehensive assessment of the bank to determine what stabilisation work may be required.

The DCC will also consider replacing the pines with plants that are more appropriate for the area and better suited to the site conditions.

The original foundry building was constructed at Beach Street at Port Chalmers in 1880. The building is currently owned by the DCC and has a long history in Port Chalmers' ship building industry.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the DCC and the Trust was signed in 2022 to secure the future conservation and refurbishment of the heritage site. Under the agreement, the DCC committed to remediate the site and stabilise the neighbouring bank, while the Trust raises funds for its plans to refurbish the heritage building for community use.

# MARLOW PARK PLAYGROUND



Work is underway on a developed design for a new playground at Marlow Park.

The redesign of the popular seaside park in St Kilda follows strong public feedback calling for a large-scale, inclusive playground. As part of its 9 Year Plan deliberations last year, Council voted to include \$4.62 million to design and build a new playground at Marlow Park.

Preliminary designs were released last month and a developed design is now being refined with input from Councillors. Dunedin is very passionate about Marlow Park. The plan is to provide the best play experiences for present and future users of the playground. This includes ensuring any equipment is

fit-for-purpose and can be easily maintained.

One proposed addition to Marlow Park is a large bespoke whale and waka play structure to replace the existing whale. It also offers climbing, sliding, shaded play areas and multiple interactive features.

Staff are currently working with specialists to confirm what work will be required to repair the dinosaur slide and the associated costs. This will be reported back to Council to consider the options for the dinosaur slide.

One is to repair and incorporate it within a new setting, including a “prehistoric forest” of towers and nature-inspired elements.

The other is to replace it with new dinosaur-themed equipment. This could be integrated with new towers and design elements suggestive of prehistoric Aotearoa fauna such as moa, pouākai (Haast’s eagle) and tuatara.

## SHORT AND SWEET



Where would we be without volunteers? Hundreds of volunteers help support DCC services and the many festivals for which Ōtepoti Dunedin has become known.

During June we joined a number of organisations across the motu to mark National Volunteer Week Aotearoa.

The week celebrates hometown heroes and heroines who help to make the city a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Whether supporting Dunedin Public Libraries, Dunedin Botanic Garden, local parks and recreational spaces, or the many annual events the city hosts – the success of these wouldn't be possible without volunteers.

There are coaches and caregivers, community builders, and environmental champions who give their energy to a range of causes to ensure the city thrives. A big thank you to all.

[dunedin.govt.nz](https://dunedin.govt.nz)

## COUNCIL MEETING TIMES

All council, subcommittee and community board meeting times can be found online. Check the DCC website regularly for livestream links and updates as meeting times can change from what has been advertised. Meetings are held at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery unless otherwise stated.

The public is welcome to attend all meetings. A public forum will be held at the start of each ordinary Standing Committee, Community Board and Council meeting. Those wishing to speak should contact the Governance Support team – phone 03 477 4000 – at least one clear working day before the meeting.

[dunedin.govt.nz/council/council-meetings](https://dunedin.govt.nz/council/council-meetings)

# EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Here's a small selection of what's going on over the next month. To the best of our knowledge this information was correct at the time of publication.

KEY: 🍷 Family event | 💰 Free

## MATARIKI AHUKA NUI 🍷💰

The rising of Puaka and the Matariki cluster signals the end cycle of the seasons and the beginning of the next. Join this dawn ceremony to farewell the past year and welcome the new one.

Friday, 10 July | 7.15am - 10am | Tūhura Otago Museum Reserve | Free

## MATARIKI MĀ PUAKA COMMUNITY FESTIVAL AND DRONE SHOW 🍷💰

Featuring cultural performances, workshops, kai, and two drone shows inspired by the stars of Puaka and Matariki. Headlined by iconic Aotearoa musician Tiki Taane.

Friday 10 July | 3pm | Logan Park | Free entry

VISIT: [www.dunedin.govt.nz/puaka-matariki-events](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/puaka-matariki-events)

## NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL: NANOFEST 2026 🍷💰

This year's New Zealand International Science Festival has a free drop-in festival hub full of hands-on science activities, workshops, talks and science shows.

Wednesday 15 to Sunday 19 July | Various event times and locations | More info: [scifest.org.nz](http://scifest.org.nz)

## BOWIE: A ROCK TRIBUTE

Ten years after the death of one of music's most influential artists, Dunedin audiences are invited to celebrate David Bowie with a live tribute rock concert.

Thursday 16 and Friday 17 July, 7.30pm | Saturday 18 July, 5pm and 8pm | Knox Church | Tickets from \$79.50

## THE BUBBLE SPECTACULAR 🍷

Enter the bubbly-brilliant world of Dr Hubble with this fun-filled, out of this world, bubble-riffic show. Get ready to pop, bounce, and boogie in a bubbly blast of fun.

Friday 17 July | 11am | Regent Theatre | GA seating \$34.90, Premium seating \$49.90 (+BF)

## INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE – PROFESSOR JEREMIAH DENG 💰

Hear about Jeremiah's research spanning a broad spectrum of computer and information sciences with his lecture titled *Patterns and logos – a learning journey with two books*.

Tuesday 21 July | 5.30pm | Burns 2 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago | Free

## INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE – PROFESSOR DAWN COATES

Professor Dawn Coates presents her lecture *The biology of building bone* based on her background as a molecular and cellular biologist with expertise in bone regeneration.

Wednesday 22 July | 5.30pm | Burns 2 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago | Free

## DUNEDIN FOOD TRUCK MARKET 🍷💰

Bringing together a lineup of local food trucks serving flavours from around the world — from loaded fries and burgers to bao, desserts and everything in between.

Saturday 25 July | 4pm – 7.30pm | Dunedin Railway Station | Free

## PĀTAKA ORA FREE COMMUNITY MEAL 🍷💰

Come along to Pātaka Ora for a free community meal at Araiteuru Marae in a holistic, fun, educational and safe space. All welcome for kai and kōrero.

Monday 27 July | 6pm | Araiteuru Marae, 24 Shetland St | Free

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