

AUGUST 2026



FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera
a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



Kia ora koutou.

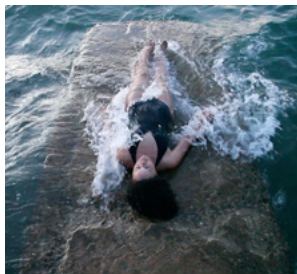
Last month was a timely reminder of the importance of being prepared. The heavy rain event in the first week of July came with little warning, but a large number of DCC staff, contractors and other teams from across the city were quick to act and worked tirelessly to ensure Dunedin weathered the storm as best as it could.

Weather events like these can be wild and unpredictable, with significant consequences even with the best laid plans, but I'm incredibly proud of the efforts of all those who contributed to the response. My thoughts and sympathies also go out to our district neighbours in Waitaki and Oamaru who were hit particularly hard in the deluge.

Now that the shortest day is out of the way, it is a sign that we're on our way to longer, sunnier days and hopefully drier weather with less rain events like the one last month. Council has a lot of work to do as we approach summer.

And while there's a lot to achieve over the coming months, that doesn't mean we haven't already delivered on a range of projects since the start of the year. Both McMillan Park and Watson Park got some love with refurbishments to their play areas. Improvements to the facilities at Moana Pool have been ticking along nicely. There's plenty underway!

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



The new exhibition *Staying Power* brings together a group of significant works from the Dunedin Public Art Gallery collection by Angela Tiatia (Sāmoa, Aotearoa, Australia), John Vea (Tonga, Aotearoa) and Kalisolaite 'Uhila (Tonga, Aotearoa).

Performance is central to each artist's practice, with the body and physical movement used to explore ideas of endurance, as well as systems of labour, value, exchange, and impact.

Tiatia, 'Uhila and Vea are Moana Pacific artists who studied art in Aotearoa New Zealand – all having attended Auckland University of Technology.

Their works offer different perspectives on Pacific lives in Aotearoa and beyond while also encouraging deeper understanding and connection. At the same time, all three artists work within an international context. Their practices invite consideration of the global systems that connect and reshape our lives – from climate change to migrant labour conditions.

Staying Power also includes a community project developed in collaboration with the Ōtepoti Pasifika Arts Collective. The project creates a welcoming space for conversation and exchange, building on relationships and connections that have grown over time.

The exhibition is open now and runs until 13 December at the Dunedin Public Art Gallery.

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



There's a lot to be excited about here in Port Chalmers and West Harbour.

Work recently finished on the new skatepark at Watson Park and it's looking great. There's a new track with rails and ramps for our skaters and wheelers to muck around on. The new skating area follows other upgrades to the park including new climbing structures, a trampoline and swings. Overall, Watson Park looks like a much more fun play area for locals and visitors alike.

The DCC has also made great progress in our neighbourhood by finishing slip repairs on Blueskin Road ahead of schedule.

This has been a pressure point for many travellers, so it's great to see the work finished as quickly as possible. It means no more detours and no more delays for those driving between Dunedin and Port Chalmers.

I'm also proud to see a series of information panels detailing the history of the area pop up around Port Chalmers. Bringing the six panels into existence has been an ongoing project for the West Harbour Community Board. The panels provide insights into our local rich history.

Lastly, the community board recently agreed to contribute \$2200 to the Ravensbourne Volunteer Fire Brigade to go towards some new equipment. The fire brigade does a great job looking after our community so it was especially pleasing to help them out.

Jarrod Hodson
West Harbour Community Board Chair

RAIL SAFETY WEEK



Now is a timely reminder to be aware of trains when crossing railway tracks – particularly if you're a fan of the shared pathway in Ravensbourne.

The railway crossing near the Ravensbourne Boating Club is one of the most widely used crossings. KiwiRail staff and train drivers have noticed a concerning number of near misses along the crossing. Not enough people are taking the time to look and listen for trains, and don't notice them coming. If they do, they sometimes gamble and risk crossing in front of oncoming trains.

Trains are fast, heavy, quiet and cannot stop in a hurry. They can come at any time – day or night – from either direction even on single railways, so look both ways. Crossing railway tracks anywhere except for official railway level crossings is dangerous and illegal. Wait behind yellow marked tactiles.

It's important to listen for trains when walking or wheeling at crossings, and remove headphones so you can hear them properly. It's also important you're not distracted looking at your phone.

Get off bikes or scooters when waiting for a train to pass, and walk them across the tracks while steering straight so wheels don't get stuck in the rails.

Be safe – stop, look, and listen, and wait. Keep an eye on out for other safety reminders during Rail Safety Week from 10 to 16 August.

FORTUNE THEATRE PROPOSALS



Only a few weeks remain for interested parties to submit a proposal for what they want to do with the property at 231 Stuart Street – formerly known as the Fortune Theatre.

The building's central location, heritage character and flexible zoning means it can support a wide range of uses. It is classed as a Category 1 Historic Place and identified in the heritage schedule of the Dunedin City 2GP.

Requests for a proposal on the potential purchase of the DCC-owned property opened last month, and close 4pm on Monday, 17 August.

The DCC has owned the property at 231 Stuart Street since 2000, and has continued to maintain it over the years.

It was formerly used as the Fortune Theatre, but it has remained unused since operations ceased in 2018.

Now, the DCC is looking for an individual, organisation or developer with the vision to breathe new life into the heritage property. Whether that's commercial, residential, hospitality, community or something else, the DCC is interested in proposals that will benefit the city.

Applicants have to demonstrate they understand the building's condition and repair work required, how it will be funded, as well as details on how the proposal will benefit the city, and the sale conditions.

Interested parties can download a full information pack online. Once applications close, a report will be presented to Council to decide which proposal, if any, it wants to progress.

HĀPAI ACCESS CARD



The Hāpai Access Card scheme is now recognised at the DCC's aquatic and swimming facilities.

The Hāpai Access Card is a nationally recognised accessibility card that helps people with disabilities communicate their access needs quickly and discreetly through symbols displayed on the card. The card is independently verified and recognised by businesses throughout New Zealand.

Visitors can now use their Hāpai Access Card for entry to swimming pools such as Moana Pool and Te Puna o Whakaehu.

The Hāpai scheme is optional and does not replace existing concession arrangements.

For example, customers with a Community Services Card may continue to access concession pricing.

The Hāpai Card is for pool entry only and does not apply to swimming lessons, Swim School or school visits. Cardholders can access a casual Hāpai swim pass for \$3.00 valid for 7 days. They can also use the Hāpai weekly membership option at \$3.00 per week paid upfront. Cardholders will be issued with a receipt/ticket, which should be retained as proof of payment.

Hāpai Card users may bring a support worker for free. The support person can be linked to the cardholder account for ease of access.

Pool staff are being trained to recognise the card's symbols and immediately offer appropriate assistance.

BMX CHAMPS FOR DUNEDIN



Save the date! One of New Zealand's premier cycling events is coming to Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Dunedin will host the 2029 BMX New Zealand National Championships.

It will be the first time the event has been held in Dunedin for over 30 years and coincides with the 50th Anniversary of the Dunedin BMX Club.

The BMX NZ National Championships is the top BMX racing event in the country and attracts the best riders from across Aotearoa and expat riders from overseas.

The event will attract riders of all ages with categories ranging from just 8-years-old to over 60 – meaning riders of all abilities can get involved.

The Championships will be held at the home of the Dunedin BMX Club at Forester Park – where there is a full national-standard BMX track. It will be held in March 2029, and BMX fans are encouraged to book in early for a bike-filled long-weekend in Dunedin, so they don't miss out on the action.

The event will be an opportunity to showcase the city and celebrate not just the sport but also the people. The BMX Nationals will mark the beginning of a pipeline of cycling events considering Dunedin as a premier host destination.

The event is supported by the DCC's events procurement funding which was approved by Council as part of the city Festivals and Events Plan.

SHORT AND SWEET

NO BIRD FEEDING

Confirmation of H5N1 avian flu in New Zealand last month has prompted the Dunedin Botanic Garden to cease bird feeding and stop providing the free supplementary food to garden visitors as a precautionary measure. This is to reduce direct interaction between people and wild birds. The Gardens remain open and safe to visit, however visitors are being asked not to feed the ducks or other wild birds. Visitors are also reminded that ducks or other wild birds should not be fed human food, including bread.

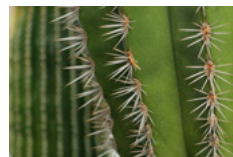
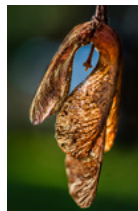
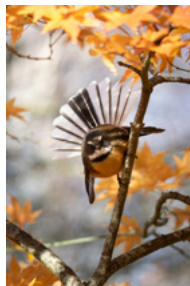
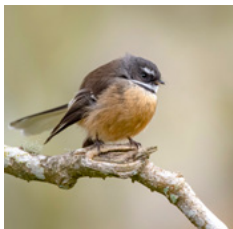
The confirmation of bird flu in New Zealand is a timely reminder to be alert for sick or dead birds. If you do see dead birds, do not touch or move them, and report the sighting to MPI on 0800 80 99 66. Include information on the location, photographs, species, and condition.

BIODIVERSITY FUND

Calling all landowners and community groups keen to protect and enhance Dunedin's native biodiversity! Applications for the DCC's Biodiversity Fund will open from 1 to 30 September. Up to \$5,000 will be available for each applicant on a 50:50 cost-share basis. The fund is available to local landowners and community groups to help with 'on the ground' biodiversity projects.

Volunteer labour can count as part of the cost sharing contribution to a project. This means if groups or landowners are willing to put in the labour, the DCC can fund the goods and materials needed for the project. This includes native plants, traps, herbicide, and fencing. The fund can also cover contractor costs for some jobs. A summary of the Biodiversity Fund including how to apply is available online. You can also call the DCC's Biodiversity Advisor on 477 4000 for an informal chat about your project and how the fund may be able to assist.

GARDEN PHOTO WINNERS



The winners of the Dunedin Botanic Garden photo competition *The Living Lens: Botanical Views* have been chosen.

The top pic picks range from wild, wacky and quacky, to wonderfully simple.

Held throughout May and June, the photo competition invited all ages and photography experience levels to capture the magic of Dunedin Botanic Garden. Photographers were encouraged to send in their snaps of the garden's vibrant plant life to fascinating wildlife.

Over 250 entries were received – each photograph celebrating the beauty of the

Dunedin Botanic Garden in creative and inspiring ways.

The competition had two categories split across three age brackets – Flora (plants) and Fauna (people, animals, insects etc).

Award-winning Otago Daily Times Illustrations Editor and guest judge Stephen Jaquiere was impressed by the quality and breadth of entries.

Winners received JB Hi Fi gift cards and the opportunity to have their winning entries displayed in an exhibit at the Dunedin Botanic Garden Information Centre. The exhibition is open until the end of August.

FLORA WINNERS

Junior

Winner: Reynu Sabin

Autumn Colours

Runner-up: Lewis Wilson

Winter Flare

Youth

Winner: Hugo Siloy

The Three Stages of Bloom

Runner-up: Stevie Duncan

Among the Spikes

Adult

Winner: Kathy Richards

Helicopters

Runner-up: Grant Reddington

Paw and Pal

FAUNA WINNERS

Junior

Winner: Lucas Kingsbury

The White Duck

Runner-up: Addison Gittoes

Dancing with Fans in the Sun

Youth

Winner: Mila Lou

Crested Pigeons

Runner-up: Hugo Siloy

A Bumblebee's Bouquet

Adult

Winner: Gautam Pahwa

Sanctuary

Runner-up: Kathy Richards

Piwakawaka

Staff Pick

Winner: Jenna Hales

Autumn Dancer

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

PINK FLOYD – DARK SIDE OF THE MOON PLANETARIUM EXPERIENCE 🧑👤

Settle in for a fully immersive musical journey to The Dark Side of the Moon in this stunning planetarium show.

Friday 7 August | 8.30pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | \$40

BACK TO THE FUTURE MARATHON 🧑👤

Travel through time with Doc Brown and Marty at this back to back marathon screening of the Back To The Future trilogy.

Saturday 8 August | 1.30pm – 8.30pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | Adult \$45, Concession/children \$35

THE RELUCTANT DRAGON – CITY CHOIR DUNEDIN 🧑👤

A family-orientated performance of Rutter's 'The Reluctant Dragon' featuring some of Dunedin's most promising young soloists (and City Choir Dunedin as the villagers).

Saturday 8 August | 4pm and 7.30pm | Otago Boys High School Auditorium | Adult \$30, Concession \$25, Student \$10, Children FREE

ALAN DAVIES: THINK AHEAD

One of the UK's best-loved comedians, Alan Davies covers his extensive career, the highs, the lows, and the struggles he's experienced at this stand-up show.

Thursday 13 August | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | \$72.20 (+BF)

DSO PRESENTS 'KIRI AND LOU – A FAMILY CONCERT' 🧑👤

The beloved Aotearoa children's series Kiri and Lou is brought to the stage with live orchestral music and heartfelt storytelling.

Saturday 15 August | 3.30pm | Dunedin Town Hall | Adult \$38, Student and Children \$28, Family packages

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 29 August | 4pm – 7.30pm | Dunedin Railway Station

DOWNTIME ACTIVITIES – D&D LIVE GAME

An experimental, improvised theatre show in which local actors play a live game of Dungeons and Dragons. Potentially adult themes, swearing and general shenanigans.

Sunday 30 August | 6pm | Gasworks Museum

RANKIN CUP AND INDIA SHIELD

New Zealand's premier secondary school hockey tournament with 32 qualifying teams going head-to-head over five days.

Monday 31 August – Saturday 5 September | Alexander McMillan Hockey Centre, Harbour Terrace

dunedin.govt.nz/whatson

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

CONTACT US

dunedin.govt.nz

P 03 477 4000

E dcc@dcc.govt.nz

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EDITOR: Monique Devereux

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Samuel White

COVER IMAGE: The Living Lens Photo Competition
2026 Adult (18+) Winner: Kathy Richards – Helicopters

GLAM IMAGE: Angela Tiatia Holding On (2015). Still.
Courtesy of the artist and Sullivan + Strumpf, Sydney

PRINTER: Spectrum Print

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