

SEPTEMBER 2026

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera
a-rohe o
ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



Kia ora koutou

Many of you will know I'm passionate about Ōtepoti Dunedin's renowned heritage buildings. Having grown up within the walls of Larnach Castle, I came to appreciate the beautiful historic architecture from a young age. That love has never waned. Lately, I have been delighted to see a heritage renaissance here in Dunedin.

I was in a video with Frank Film about Dunedin's rich heritage building legacy and the importance of preserving our iconic heritage buildings. I'm thrilled by work being done to restore these places. Whether it is the DCC refurbishing the Dunedin Railway Station and the ongoing Dunedin

Town Hall and Municipal Chambers restoration project, or other heritage heroes restoring places like Cargill's Castle, these sites have immense heritage and historical value. The DCC Heritage Fund supports many worthy projects.

You can find some of these extraordinary heritage buildings by going on a self-guided walking tour through the city streets. The recently launched Ōtepoti Dunedin Architecture walking guide provides the perfect avenue to discover these hidden (and not so hidden) gems scattered across Dunedin.

In other exciting news, Dunedin will host the World Surf League Dunedin Pro QS4000 and Junior Pro competitions next year in March. About 200 surfers are expected to head south to compete on the best city surf break in the country. It's an exciting addition to our events calendar, and I can't wait.

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



We're a well-read bunch on the Otago Peninsula.

You only have to see the vigorous competition at any of our local quiz nights to see whose general knowledge is grown by a voracious literary appetite. Perhaps, it's the climate and our chilly winter nights that make many of us curl up by the fire with a good book to forget the gales and frosts outside.

The Otago Peninsula boasts three public libraries. Pukehiki Library was established in 1869 and is no longer a lending library, but rather a heritage building and collection. However, Portobello Library (established in 1870) and Macandrew Bay Library

(1878) remain operational and still lend books today.

Run by diligent volunteers they provide an essential service to many locals who need the pleasure and escape of a good book – but they are also meeting and social place for the community. As community-run services they are also well supported in tandem by the Otago Public Library Book bus that comes once a week to the main centres of the peninsula.

In the 21st century, it would be easy to say that libraries of books are obsolete due to the dominance of modern technology. However, our libraries perform a much more profound purpose. They bring our community together because “reading brings us unknown friends”, as said by Honore Balzac.

Paul Pope
Otago Peninsula Community
Board Chair



The Dunedin Botanic Garden will be hosting some exciting workshops and tours as part of the recently launched Ōtepoti Garden Festival.

The already iconic garden destination is a magnet for visitors and is recognised as a botanic centre of excellence with three NZGT Gardens of International Significance – all right here in Ōtepoti Dunedin. And now there is more on with the Garden Festival.

There is something for every type of green-fingered folk. Upskill your plant propagation techniques by learning about the grafting process and take your own grafted tomato plant home with you. If beautiful

arrangements on a budget is more your thing, join the flower arrangement workshop. If you're an indoor plant fanatic (or want to become one) there is also a workshop about propagating your own indoor house plant. There are also a variety of curator led tours that will highlight special elements about the various collections at the garden such as adaptive traits, flowering native plants, lesser-known edibles and our herbarium collection.

Workshops and tours start from Tuesday, 20 October. Registrations are a must. Head to the Dunedin Botanic Garden website for more information.

WINTER DRIVING



Recent bouts of frost and snow have been good reminders to take care when travelling and to slow down and drive to the colder conditions.

The DCC and its contractors work to alleviate hazards on the roads especially during wintry conditions.

When there is a chance of a frost or snow, roads are assessed in the early hours of the morning to see which areas need grit or de-icing. Most residential streets are not gritted. Major traffic routes are the priority and are treated before 7.30am. Busy roads that feed on to arterial routes are next.

Frosts can happen any time of the night and in different areas. The hardest frosts

arrive at sunrise; so, while it may not be frosty first thing in the morning, it could soon be as the sun appears.

Before starting your journey, make sure windscreens are de-iced and de-misted. You can get a free ice scraper from DCC service centres. Allow extra time for travel and leave greater distances between vehicles on the road. Use main roads when possible. Sunstrike is also an issue at this time of year. Make sure windows are clean, use window visors, have sunglasses handy, and slow down when the sun strikes. It may be best to pull over and wait until visibility improves.

If cycling, make sure your lights and your reflectors are working. Wearing bright or light-coloured clothing also makes you more visible.

FITZROY STREET HOMES READY



Four new DCC Community Housing units have come in under budget and on time – and the new tenants are happy to be home.

The redevelopment project to replace the four former units in Fitzroy Street finished last month.

The new community houses are a vast improvement on the previous units which had become aged and not-fit-for-purpose. They were deconstructed to make way for new, modern and accessible homes better suited to tenants' needs.

Breen Construction, based in Dunedin, was the lead contractor and was selected in a competitive

tender process. The new units cost \$1.475 million to build – significantly less than its original budget of \$2.01 million.

The new houses are modern, warm, and compliant with healthy homes legislation, and have a few additional features such as improved insulation, double-glazing, and efficient heat pumps.

The improvements should result in a decrease in electricity use making energy costs more manageable.

The houses have been designed with Universal Design Principles to ensure they are more accessible for those with specific needs.

The new units bring the DCC's community housing portfolio to 940 across 92 sites throughout Dunedin city, Mosgiel and Port Chalmers. Community houses are available for those with limited financial resources, and applicants are approved based on their priority and housing needs.

NEW TOILETS FOR MARLOW



Marlow Park is about to get an upgrade with flush, new public toilets.

The DCC has been planning to replace the toilets for a while owing to the deteriorating condition of the existing block. Marlow Park is a popular destination for families, and the toilets will be replaced to ensure the recreational area is adequately serviced and remains an attractive place for visitors.

The new toilets will be similar in design to other recently upgraded DCC toilets. The toilet block will feature four stalls, two of which will be accessible and have baby change facilities, as well as two standard unisex stalls. There will

also be an outdoor shower. It aims to be more resilient to reduce maintenance and repair costs.

Outside of the toilet replacement work, there is also work underway to upgrade the playground at Marlow Park itself. The new toilets have been designed with the future plans in mind, and will fit in well with what is hoped to become a destination playground.

It should take about four months and be finished by December. Portalooos will be in place while construction is underway to ensure there is still toilets available.

The contractors will work to minimise any disruption to the public and traffic. The project has a budget of \$450,000 which includes the enabling works.

OUTREACH ADVISORS

The DCC is taking further steps to support vulnerable people in Dunedin and help reduce homelessness in the city.

Two Homeless Outreach Advisors were recently appointed to help connect with those experiencing homelessness in the city. The advisors will work with those facing housing hardship and help them access existing support services and identify gaps in care and support around the city.

While the DCC already plays a role in helping homeless whānau and those who might become homeless, the outreach advisors will further develop existing relationships with other agencies supporting homeless people.

The community has been asking for solutions to rising homelessness. There is concern for the welfare of homeless people, community safety, and its impact on public spaces.

The outreach advisors will not provide counselling or social services but will connect with providers already working in the community and help homeless whānau navigate the support and services available. This includes housing options, healthcare, mental health support, addiction services, and income assistance.

The Homeless Outreach Advisor service is designed to complement existing services delivered by community-based providers – not duplicate or replace them. Having dedicated workers connecting with the community will provide a better understanding of the issues leading to homelessness and identify gaps in the system.

While Homeless Outreach Advisors are newly created roles at the DCC, similar positions exist in Wellington, Christchurch, Tauranga and Auckland, and other cities and towns across the motu.

BIODIVERSITY FUND



Calling all landowners and community groups keen to protect and enhance Dunedin's native biodiversity!

Applications are now open for the latest round of the DCC Biodiversity Fund.

The fund is available to local landowners and community groups working to protect, manage, and enhance native biodiversity across Dunedin city.

There is \$40,000 available – up to a maximum of \$5000 per project – in the form of grants. The DCC will provide up to half the cost of a project on a 50:50 cost-share basis.

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.

Applicants can claim an approved grant after paying costs associated with the project. The fund is contestable, and each application will be assessed on its merits on a case-by-case basis.

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.

Applications close at 5pm on Wednesday, 30 September. Applications can be made online.

FUNDING ROUNDS



The latest rounds of the Dunedin Heritage Fund and Community Events Grants are now open.

Applications for the Dunedin Heritage Fund close on Saturday, 31 October. The Heritage Fund is available to owners and occupiers of historic buildings embarking on a heritage project with a conservation focus. The DCC's Heritage Advisors can provide guidance on whether your property and project are eligible, and advise on how to plan heritage conservation projects and apply for funding.

Eligible projects include essential repairs, restoration work, specialist report

preparation, and seismic strengthening. The fund aims to protect the heritage values and character of Dunedin, and support the conservation and continued use of heritage places in the city. Find out more online or give us a call on 03 477 4000.

Community Events Grants supports events created for Dunedin residents. The DCC is committed to supporting a range of vibrant events in Dunedin that build a sense of community, enhance the city's unique identity and add to its cultural wealth.

The grant is aimed at incorporated societies or trusts planning smaller, community-orientated events. Applications can be accepted from individuals or commercial organisations, however the event itself cannot be commercial. Up to \$10,000 is available from the fund.

For more information, head to our website. Applications close at 5pm on Friday, 25 September.

dunedin.govt.nz/heritage-fund

dunedin.govt.nz/events-funding

GETTING IN TOUCH

If you follow the DCC's social media pages, you might have noticed we no longer allow public comments on our Facebook posts. That doesn't mean we've stopped listening, or that we don't want to hear from you.

We're always open to constructive, respectful feedback, and your ideas and concerns, and we have many channels for you to share what you are thinking. You can still contact us by phone, or by writing directly to us via Facebook's and Instagram's Messenger function, or email.

Please continue to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns, and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.

dunedin.govt.nz/closing-facebook-comments

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.

Check our [DCC.govt.nz](https://dunedin.govt.nz) Latest News section on council meeting days for updates and decisions made in each meeting.

dunedin.govt.nz

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

LIZ CONWAY PERSPECTIVES ALBUM RELEASE TOUR

Liz Conway's new album reflects different seasons of life. Be treated to her diverse range of music at this release show, and even a piano solo performed to a film.

Saturday 5 September | 7.30pm
First Church | Tickets \$25 – \$30

OTAGO POLYFEST 2026

One of Aotearoa's longest-running Māori and Pacific cultural festivals, it brings together thousands of tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and kaiako to celebrate language, identity and community.

Monday 7 to Friday 11 September
Breeze Arena, Edgar Centre

THE ASB GEORGE STREET MILE RUN

One of New Zealand's most iconic streets will be turned into a racecourse for the afternoon with four races for different levels of fun competition starting at the Octagon.

Saturday 12 September | 4pm – 6pm
The Octagon and George Street

EMERSON'S MARATHON

The annual Dunedin marathon is back with additional half marathon, 10km and 5km run and walk options. Join in or come along to cheer everyone on.

Sunday 13 September | 6am – 1pm
Finish at Emerson's Brewery



THEATRE SHOW: GONE TO SEED

Written by Tim Hambleton for Mosgiel inspired by a local gardening club. Gone to Seed is a bittersweet comedy sure to resonate with many people.

Friday 18 to Sunday 27 September | Fire Station Theatre, Mosgiel | Adult \$20, Senior/Student \$15

SOUTHERN SOUNDS



After another unforgettable year, Southern Sounds returns for a massive day of music, good vibes, and celebration in the heart of Otago.

Saturday 19 September | 2pm – 10pm
Logan Park | Tickets from \$99

DUNEDIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA 60TH GALA

Celebrating the DSO, this gala features one of its first Musical Directors Jack Speirs and renowned pianist Michael Houston. All under the masterful baton of Conductor James Judd.

Saturday 19 September | 7.30pm | Dunedin Town Hall
Tickets \$42 – \$82 (+BF)

NZ WHEELCHAIR RUGBY NATIONALS AND DISABILITY SPORTS FESTIVAL



Ōtepoti Dunedin is proudly hosting the New Zealand Wheelchair Rugby Nationals alongside a disability sports festival to promote participation in disability sport.

Friday 25 to Sunday 27 September
Breeze Arena, Edgar Centre

CONTACT US

dunedin.govt.nz

P 03 477 4000

E dcc@dcc.govt.nz

 [dunedincitycouncil](https://www.facebook.com/dunedincitycouncil)

 [dunedincitycouncil](https://www.instagram.com/dunedincitycouncil)

 [dunedincitycouncil](https://www.youtube.com/dunedincitycouncil)

EDITOR: Monique Devereux

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Samuel White

COVER IMAGE: Aster

dunedin