

JUNE 2026

# FYI

## YOUR DCC NEWS



**DUNEDIN**  
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera  
a-rohe o  
Ōtepoti

## MAYOR'S DESK



A lot has happened over the past month! We've been consulting on our Traffic and Parking plus the Keeping of Animals bylaws, and the Local Alcohol Policy. Thank you to all who took the time to share their thoughts on the proposals.

We'll soon be holding hearings on those to listen to feedback from the community in person.

The government also asked local councils to consider local government reforms. Myself and the rest of Council will be working closely with other neighbouring councils to review our functions going forward, and discuss putting

forward a proposal that works for our communities. The issues are complex, but this is also an opportunity to look at how we can best shape the future for the communities we all serve.

It is also not too long ago we marked two years since completing the George Street and Retail Quarter upgrade. Looking at how the street has changed, I'm happy to see new retailers and shops in the area, and more people out supporting local businesses and our city's vitality. I'm really pleased with how the city centre has turned out. Investing in the upgrade was vital to make it a great place to visit.

I'm excited to see Dunedin continue to grow and thrive, and events like the Midwinter Festival this month are a prime example of many enjoyable experiences across the city. I'm also looking forward to Puaka Matariki Festival next month.

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



## DUNEDIN LIBRARIES

The library is thrilled to have been gifted The Olga and Marcus Fitchett collection of books for children, young adults and related materials.

Donated by Dr Tony Fitchett and family, the collection comprises 2,681 volumes of children's literature, many of which are first editions.

Spanning Victorian, Classic and New Zealand authors, the collection significantly enhances the libraries' existing children's collections originally established by Dorothy Neal White, QSM.

The Dunedin City Library was also delighted to host the launch of the newly formed Dunedin Public Libraries Heritage Foundation in May.

The foundation has been established to increase awareness of the libraries' Heritage Collections and foster community appreciation of their importance and research significance.

Initiated by former-Library Director Bernie Hawke, the foundation seeks to secure additional funding to support the continued preservation, promotion and growth of this internationally significant collection.

The event included the launch of the foundation's patron, Christopher de Hamel's new book *The Migrants: A Memoir with Manuscripts*.

Last month also saw the unveiling of an update to the popular Dunedin Public Libraries App – available free from the Apple and Google Play Stores. The app now includes exciting new features such as push notifications for holds and useful links to events and resources. The app can also act as a digital library card and families can easily link cards together to see everyone's borrowing in one place.

# COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



## WAIKOUAITI COAST COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

The young people of Warrington are eagerly awaiting the opening of their new half-basketball court. This much anticipated addition at the Warrington Domain is due to be completed by the end of the month.

The concrete slab has already been poured and left to cure. Once settled, the next phase of work is to paint in the court markings and install the basketball hoop. The court is located beside the existing playground at Warrington Domain, and is one of a number of similar installations which the DCC Parks and Recreation Department have been installing throughout the area.

Farther north, we will soon be speaking with the young people of Karitane, and the wider community, about what can happen next at Karitane Wharf. The existing building, which is in poor condition, is being removed and this will leave a wide open space. We look forward to exciting new ideas as they arise. The wharf is a licensed landing site for commercial fisherman, and the local school has been conducting water safety training in the vicinity for a number of years.

Still on the topic of water, the Waikouaiti Water Treatment Plant Upgrade is nearing completion. DCC 3 Waters staff have been very busy over the past few years installing new equipment which will improve the quality of the drinking water, as well as constructing new reservoirs which will increase storage capacity and provide greater resilience into the future.

**Alasdair Morrison**  
**Waikouaiti Coast Community  
Board Chairperson**

# EARLY ENGAGEMENT



Are you interested in what's happening around Dunedin and the decisions Council makes? Would you like to have more say and help make the city a better place for everyone? Voting is one way to have your say, but there are others!

The DCC is regularly looking at how it manages its services and bylaws – but it needs to understand the community's wants to properly inform some of the choices it makes. That's why we ask for feedback from the public – people like yourself – on important issues.

Your voice is vital in letting Council know what you and the rest of Dunedin think.

We have a number of early engagement consultations at the moment, and we want your thoughts. Early engagement is more flexible and casual, and is just to gather general ideas. This helps us develop more detailed plans or options that we can then formally consult on.

Some of the proposals we recently consulted on include the Traffic and Parking Bylaw, Keeping of Animals Bylaw, and the Local Alcohol Policy. Soon, we'll be starting early engagement on the Alcohol (Control of Alcohol in Public Places). This kicks off Monday, 22 June.

If you want to have your say, head to our website and have a look at what we're considering in more detail. You can find information on the purpose of each consultation, any relevant documents, and how to make a submission.

# NEW DCC UNI SCHOLARSHIP



The Dunedin City Council and University of Otago awarded the first of its newly created Entrance Scholarship last month.

The inaugural award was presented to first-year Bachelor of Science (Computer Science) student Alexander Lea.

Alexander received the award in keeping with the late former Dunedin Mayor Jules Radich's desire for it to go to someone studying IT.

Alexander says he feels very privileged to be chosen, and the scholarship has provided opportunities for him to be involved in projects he might not have been able to pursue otherwise.

Alexander volunteers for Rotary and at Com2Tech – a Dunedin-based not-for-profit focused on reducing digital inequity. He also contributes to iFixit, an online repair forum for smartphones and laptops.

He plans to pursue a career in network engineering.

Dunedin Mayor Sophie Barker says the scholarship builds on the town-gown relationship between the DCC and the University of Otago which is vital to the ongoing success of Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Vice-Chancellor Hon Grant Roberston says the DCC scholarship is a welcome addition to the suite of entrance scholarships offered by the university.

He says it is wonderful Alexander is already contributing to the Ōtepoti community outside of his studies.

The scholarship is valued at \$15,000 and will be awarded once every three years to an undergraduate student at the University of Otago.

# COMMUNITY HOUSING UPGRADE



**Our new community housing redevelopment will soon be ready for residents to move into.**

Last year, we started construction work to upgrade and replace the DCC's Fitzroy Street community housing units.

Our lead contractor – local company Breen Construction – has been hard at work to develop the site and deliver the project on time. It is set to be complete in the coming month.

There will be four new housing units to replace the former community housing at the site, which had become aged and not-fit-for purpose.

The new houses will be modern, warm and compliant with healthy homes

legislation along with a few extra assurances for comfort and warmth. This means they will have new heat pumps, insulation and double glazing, improved ventilation and drainage, and other health and safety improvements.

All have been designed with Universal Design Principles in mind to ensure they are accessible for everyone. Construction is on time and expected to be finished by July and residents will move in shortly after.

Community houses are available for those with limited financial resources and applicants are approved based on their priority and housing needs.

Ensuring those with priority needs have a place to live provides a significant community and social benefit.

Once complete, the new units will bring the DCC's portfolio of community houses to 940 across 92 sites throughout the city, Mosgiel and Port Chalmers.

# NOVEL LIBRARY WELL READ



The opening chapter of the South Dunedin Community Library has been punctuated by positives.

It is just over seven months since the facility opened in September last year. In that short space of time, the library has been embraced by a range of users.

Since opening, there have been more than 25,094 visitors, 980 people have signed up at the library to be Dunedin Library members, 63,775 items have been borrowed, and 80,622 items have been returned – revealing the library is a popular place for people to bring back items borrowed from Dunedin's other libraries.

In fact, staff have had to change the regular courier run to accommodate the number of books returned there!

Meeting rooms are constantly in use with 100 bookings in February and March alone, including the Justice of the Peace and Community Law sessions. The Taupuni Oro recording studio is also popular.

A range of programmes are hosted there including Storytime, Babytime, Page Turners book group, Friday Creative, Lego Club, and fantasy roleplay gaming sessions. Meanwhile, Te Wahi Auaha makerspace has Sew-cial Sewing Club, Cricut Club and the community-led Yellow Suitcase – Fibre Crafts Group.

Accessibility is something to celebrate, and the library has a relatively high use by people with special needs and disabilities. The wonderful and diverse customer base frequently report how much they love the space for its welcoming and calm atmosphere.

In short, it's both a hive of activity and a haven!

# TREES FOR FAMILIES



Another successful *Trees for Families* ceremony was held last month.

The annual native tree planting is organised by Keep Dunedin Beautiful in partnership with Rotary Club of Dunedin, the DCC and Hope and Sons. Dunedin City Mayor Sophie Barker and Councillor Mandy Mayhem welcomed guests to the event.

Having grown up gardening with her mother in the historic garden at Larnach Castle, Mayor Sophie Barker is keenly aware of how trees and long-lived plants can represent significant moments and create emotional ties between people and places.

First started in 2003 as *Trees for Babies*, *Trees for Families* provides an opportunity

for friends and whānau to mark important milestones by planting a tree and contribute to the biodiversity of Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Some families choose to mark their plantings with the birth of a child, a marriage, graduation, to remember someone who has passed, or simply connect with the environment.

About 50 trees are planted each year resulting in more than 1000 trees being planted across the city over the past 20 years.

By planting a native tree, participants are adding to the city's living landscape and linking themselves with hundreds of other individuals and families involved in previous plantings.

Plantings have since been held Frasers Gully, Roseneath, Bayfield, Magnet Street at the Harbour Cycleway, and at the current site at Rotary Park. Having spent ten years at the Harbour Cycleway site a 'forest of memories' is now growing on the harbour's edge.

# NEW GARDEN CAFÉ



Dunedin Botanic Garden has a new café in its centre to cater to its many visitors.

Aster, the newly established café, opened last month at the site of the former café next to the garden information centre.

The previous café closed in mid-2025, and the DCC took the opportunity to refurbish the site and seek out a new vendor to take over the premises.

The refurbished design of the café building breathes a fresh, modern life into the space while complementing the surrounding Botanic Garden.

The Dunedin Botanic Garden team worked closely with the owners of the new café, Caitlin Holloway and Jonas Hansen, who also own and manage ADJØ café in George Street.

The DCC and garden team are ecstatic to have an awesome hospitality business open at the much-loved Dunedin Botanic Garden.

It is exciting to have an experienced and innovative food and beverage hospitality provider that can cater to a diverse audience, including tourists, families, students and many other members of the community.

The team is confident Caitlin and Jonas will bring their experience in running ADJØ to create a successful café space that suits the garden atmosphere.

The new café aims to provide a great dining experience for garden visitors, and will be a bright, warm and welcoming environment.

# SHORT AND SWEET



## BY-ELECTION RESULT

The final result of Dunedin City Council by-election was announced last month.

Jo Galer was newly elected to Council, surpassing second-place candidate Aaron Hawkins. She was formally sworn in as Councillor at the Council meeting on 18 May.

At the final count, Councillor Jo Galer received 10,201 votes, Aaron Hawkins received 10,112 votes and third-place candidate Conrad Stedman received 7447 votes. The voter participation was 33.31% of all eligible voters, with 31,629 voting papers returned, including special votes.

The by-election was held after the passing of Councillor and former Mayor Jules Radich.

## HERITAGE FUNDING

The Dunedin Heritage Fund is open to owners and occupiers of historic buildings embarking on heritage conservation projects.

Applications for the next funding round are now open and close 5pm Friday 31 July.



The DCC's Heritage Advisors can provide guidance on whether your property and project are eligible, advice on project planning, and explain how to apply.

Eligible projects include essential repairs, restoration work, preparation of specialist reports, 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 and how to apply on the DCC website, or phone 03 477 4000 to speak with a Heritage Advisor.

# 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

## DUNEDIN BOTANIC GARDEN PHOTO COMPETITION – THE LIVING LENS

Snap your favourite Dunedin Botanic Garden scenes (plants, people, animals) and be in to win great prizes.

Competition ends Sunday, 14 June | Dunedin Botanic Garden

## REGENT THEATRE MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT SALE

Returning to the main stage of the Regent Theatre, you'll find a treasure trove of records, DVDs and CDs, sheet music, music literature and video games for bargain hunters and collectors alike.

Saturday 6 June | 10am – 6pm | Regent Theatre

## IRELAND: THE VOYAGE

Check out this celebration of Ireland's history, heart, and heritage through authentic voices, live music, and world-class Irish dance.

Tuesday 9 June | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | Various ticket prices and booking plans

## DUNEDIN MIDWINTER CARNIVAL: A RUSTLE IN THE NIGHT

Rug up and gather with friends and whānau as the night glows with lantern light, playful shadows, and friendly nighttime creatures.

Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 June | 5.30pm and 7.30pm | First Church, Moray Place | Adults \$10, Children \$5, Family pass \$25

## SOCIAL ANIMAL

A fiercely funny solo theatre piece by Damon Andrews and Stephen Papps. A biting satire about the fear of irrelevance and the healing power of a rescue greyhound.

Thursday 18 June | 7pm | Clarkson Studio, Regent Theatre | \$40 Adults, \$25 Concession (+BF)

## MATARIKI MAGIC – DUNEDIN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Come along to hear the choir sing songs inspired by the stars, the seasons, and the spirit of Matariki, and a show exploring the meaning behind Matariki within te ao Māori.

Saturday 20 June | 6pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | Adult \$10, Children/Concession \$5, Family pass \$25

## 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 27 June | 4pm – 7.30pm | Dunedin Railway Station | Free entry

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

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