

FEBRUARY 2026

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera
a-rohe o
ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



The year started on a sad note with the death of former mayor Jules Radich.

Jules served his first term as City Councillor from 2019 before being elected the 59th Mayor of Dunedin. After serving as Mayor he was reappointed as a Councillor and was a valued and dedicated member of our team.

His mayoralty will be remembered for his unstinting dedication to the Southern Hospital, and for his many and varied contributions to our city. The funeral at First Church was full to overflowing: a fitting testament to a man who gave so much to Ōtepoti Dunedin.

As Councillor Radich was a sitting Councillor, a by-election will now be triggered. Please have your say and vote for the candidate you'd like represent you and our city.

We're now in the thick of an action-packed events season, and I hope to see you at one of the diverse cultural events, such as at the Chinese New Year Celebrations at Lan Yuan, or the Regent Theatre's annual book sale.

I do love a good story, and I'm sure we've all enjoyed the tales of pakake (sea lions) popping up in unexpected places. Please give them a wide berth and treat with them respect. Our wildlife is our taoka and having sea lions on our doorstep (sometimes literally!) is one of the many magical things about living in our wonderful city.

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



LAN YUAN – DUNEDIN CHINESE GARDEN

恭喜发财 Gōng xǐ fā cái
– Celebrate Chinese
New Year – the Year of
the Horse!

Join us on Saturday 21 February to see out the Year of the Snake and welcome in the Year of the Horse. Follow the Dragon Parade as it leaves the Octagon end of Princes Street at 7pm and travels to Lan Yuan Dunedin Chinese Garden. Once there, step into an evening of authentic food, traditional and contemporary performances, and a grand finale special headline performance by Ersha Island 二沙岛 before a fireworks display at 10pm.

Entry to Lan Yuan is by gold coin donation from 7pm. While you are enjoying your summer evening visit, listen to live traditional Chinese music and add a red ribbon wish in the hopes of making your new year dreams come true. This year also sees the festivities extend beyond the garden with a new lantern display at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum.

The Chinese Cultural Festival culminates with the Lantern Festival at Lan Yuan on Sunday 1 March. Enjoy lantern making workshops, a tea ceremony demonstration, and music. Now is the perfect time to visit the garden as we bask in the beauty of the summer weather and celebrate peace in a perfect miniature of a traditional Chinese landscape painting.

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



Welcome to the new year everyone!

There's been a range of activity going on in West Harbour these past few months. Many of you will have noticed the return of cruise ships and visitors to our side of town. Many of them have been stopping here and providing a much needed boost to our local businesses. Hopefully you have been showing them a warm welcome and leaving a positive impression of the people here.

Road works along the State Highway into Port Chalmers are ongoing and due to be finished in June. While this work has been disruptive for travellers heading to Dunedin and

back, it is critical as it is to replace underground pipes and improve the water infrastructure.

We're regularly seeking updates from the DCC about the work and are confident it will be finished on time. There's only a few more months left to go, and hopefully you haven't been impacted too much by what is going on.

I also want to bring up some issues we've been having on the shared cycle and walking path between Roseneath and Dunedin. Unfortunately, train drivers have noticed a number of people going over the Ravensbourne pedestrian level train track crossing when trains have been oncoming. While there have been no collisions, I want to remind users of the pathway to listen and look, and check both ways, before crossing the train tracks.

Please be safe and vigilant.

Jarrod Hodson
West Harbour
Community Board

WASTE WORKS



Work is well underway on state-of-the-art developments at the Green Island Resource Recovery Park (GIRRP).

Improvements will see new state-of-the-art facilities for processing recyclables and waste. The work includes a new Materials Recovery Facility for processing yellow-lidded mixed recycling kerbside bin contents, a composting facility for green-lidded bin contents, upgraded glass recycling storage and an upgraded bulk waste transfer station.

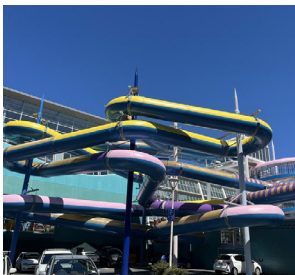
If you are dropping off recycling or waste to the GIRRP, or visiting the Rummage store, you'll see excavations for drain laying and building foundations.

Some pine trees have been removed from the footprint of the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) building that will process the contents of yellow-lidded mixed-recycling bins once built. A weighty pile of gravel is being placed within that footprint, and will be removed again once it has done its 'pre-loading' job compacting the ground before a concrete pad is poured.

We are busy planting hundreds of trees and shrubs around the edge of the site to help screen it from the view of nearby houses. The plants include lots of native species to help to improve the area's biodiversity.

All regular Green Island Landfill and GIRRP services will continue while the redevelopment is underway, but please be aware of any changes to access and walkways in public areas, and follow signs as directed.

SLIDES REOPEN



Family fun has returned to Moana Pool with the reopening of the hydroslides at the end of last year.

The iconic slides were closed for almost six months as part of a multi-year \$25 million refurbishment project at Moana Pool.

The hydroslides were given a revamp to ensure they remain a popular attraction for the community.

Work involved cleaning their exterior, refurbishing the slides and support structure, re-grouting tiles, and repairs to the access ramp and enclosure area.

New fire alarm and emergency lighting systems were installed and a new ceiling area added between

the main pool and the leisure pool.

The hydroslides are now back in action in better condition than ever before.

Work on the slides was one part of a wider refurbishment plan at the pool which also includes improvements to family changing rooms and other facilities, new tiling, upgraded ventilation equipment, seismic strengthening, accessibility improvements, and the removal of asbestos.

For those living further afar, the Port Chalmers Community Pool is still open for the summer season, as well as the St Clair Hot Salt Water Pool.

And don't worry, Te Puna o Whakaehu in Mosgiel and Moana Pool in Dunedin are still open all year round.

TOWN BELT TRAVEL TRIAL



We have begun a trial project aimed at enhancing the recreation and amenity potential of our city's Town Belt.

The Town Belt Active Travel Trial, which began on Monday 26 January, is an opportunity to reimagine a section of the Town Belt as an active, people-focused space — a place to enjoy the reserve as a park, rather than a vehicle thoroughfare.

The trial, which runs until Sunday, 19 April, involves closing to traffic a section of Queens Drive between Braid Road and Preston Crescent, as well as a section of Braid Road that connects to Ross Street.

Vehicle access for residents and essential services will be maintained while bollards and signage will define what areas are closed to traffic.

The trial will test how changes along Queens Drive could help promote transport safety for all users, encourage walking, cycling and other travel options, and reduce illegal parking and rubbish dumping.

The trial area includes food truck zones, spaces for outdoor activities, as well as opportunities for community groups. A range of public events are being planned, including yoga workshops.

As part of the trial, we are seeking community feedback, as well as collecting data on use, safety, access and community experience.

Spanning approximately 202 hectares, the Town Belt forms a continuous green corridor around Dunedin's central city, offering residents and visitors access to native bush, recreational areas, and scenic viewpoints.

LIBRARY CITATION



The latest Dunedin Public Libraries Citation was awarded to local champion Richard Joseph for his leadership and role in driving a range of initiatives at the library.

The citation was presented in December last year, and is awarded annually to a local resident who has made an outstanding contribution to the Libraries' collections, services or programmes.

Richard was recognised for his long-term involvement with the City Library and his tangible and meaningful impact via a number of ventures.

Initially, the connection was formed through the intensive leadership and personal development training provided to staff through the Turning Point Programme.

Through his association as president of the Cedars of Lebanon, Richard became a champion for the Library's digitisation programme. By working with the Cedars, Richard helped secure funding to establish Scattered Seeds – He Purapura Marara (the Libraries' Recollect site).

This digital platform was created to give the city a place to store the memories, mementos and stories of the people – individuals, whānau/hapu, and cultural groups who have landed here, taken root and come to call Ōtepoti Dunedin home.

As a trustee for the newly-formed Dunedin Public Libraries Heritage Foundation, Richard has already secured external funding for the digitisation of the Downie Stewart Archive.

Outside of these activities Richard also gives up his free time to mentor and support senior Libraries staff.

SOLAR PANELS



Installing solar panels for your home just got easier.

The Government recently introduced new building consent exemptions for installing solar panels on most residential and commercial buildings.

The changes will remove some of the administrative and financial barriers for households and businesses wanting to invest in solar.

Previously, exemptions only covered ground-mounted solar arrays, but the new approach extends to include rooftop systems on both residential and commercial buildings and streamlines the process for installing them without needing a building consent.

For most Dunedin homes, this means solar panels can now be installed faster, with fewer barriers, and at a lower cost, helping more residents generate renewable power and reduce household expense in the long term.

Installing solar panels is a simple, practical way to cut costs and emissions, and lets people have more control over their energy use.

This is great for individual households and businesses, neighbourhood air quality, and global efforts to mitigate climate change.

This is a step forward enabling more distributed renewable energy generation across Aotearoa.

The building consent exemption applies to most roof-mounted solar panels under 40m², with certain criteria dependent on the location or type of building.

Check the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's guidance to see if your installation meets the exemption criteria.

NEW CAR PARK BUILDING



We've added a new parking building to our range of parking areas in the central city.

Located on the corner of Moray Place and Great King Street in the newly developed Mataukareao building, the DCC-managed parking space was opened last year.

The new parking facility is ideally located in the centre of town and is just what Ōtepoti Dunedin shoppers need.

The parking space on the lower floors in the Mataukareao building adds to the DCC's other centralised parking areas.

These include parking buildings and off-street spaces in Great King Street,

Filleul Street, Frederick Street, St Andrew Street, the Railway Station, lower Moray Place and at the Dunedin City Library and Wall Street Mall.

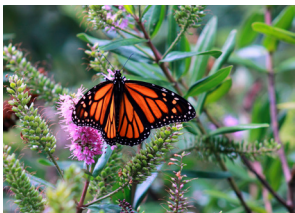
All these locations provide premium and affordable parking in the centre of town for shoppers and travellers.

The new parking space at Mataukareao has 30 new public parks, is open every day from 6am to 8pm and costs \$5 for the first hour, and \$6 for every hour after that.

The DCC hopes more visitors to the city centre continue to take up the opportunity to park in the convenient location and support local businesses, as well as use its range of other parking buildings and off-street parking spaces.

More information on the range of parking options, including fees and operating hours, can be found on the DCC website.

SHORT AND SWEET



BIODIVERSITY FUNDING

Calling all those keen to help protect and enhance Dunedin's native biodiversity. Applications for the latest round of DCC's Biodiversity Fund are open from 1–28 February. There is \$40,000 available to landowners and community groups. Up to \$5000 is available per application on a 50:50 cost-share basis. Volunteer labour counts as part of a contribution to a project. This means if applicants are willing to put in the labour, the DCC can fund the goods for the project, including plants, herbicide, and fencing. The fund can also cost share with contractors for some jobs. Information on criteria and how to apply is available online. For an informal chat about your project and whether the fund can help call 03 477 4000.

dunedin.govt.nz/biodiversityfunding





SEA LION PUPS

Take care and watch out for sea lion pups when walking your own pups and pooches this month. Sea lion breeding season is underway and mother sea lions are finding safe spaces around the coast and city area to deliver their newborns. New mothers will stay with their pups for about a week before heading off to hunt at sea while leaving their pups on land. The DCC and Department of Conservation are asking walkers and dog owners to keep an eye out for the young sea lions, and make sure all dogs are kept on a leash and for people and animals to maintain a safe distance from all wildlife at all times.

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

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

KEY:  Family event |  Free

THE BEST OF THE BEE GEES SHOW

Endorsed by the Gibb Family, this tribute show honours the 1979 "Greatest" album with a set list of iconic disco, ballads and songs by the Bee Gees.

Thursday 12 February | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | Adult \$79, Child \$49, Seniors and Groups \$69 (+BF)

A KIWI DROPS IN: THE PILOT WITH NINETEEN LIVES

Join this extraordinary talk from Geoff Piper on the amazing story of RAF pilot Jim Hayter who was shot at, shot down, and somehow always survived cheating death not once, but 19 times.

Friday 13 February | 6pm | Hutton Theatre, Tūhura Otago Museum | FREE

AUSTRALIA'S THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER

This male revue is turning up the energy with electrifying performances, undeniable charm, and an unforgettable night of entertainment. Expect sculpted physiques and dynamic dance routines.

Friday 13 February | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | Tickets from \$59 (+BF)

REGENT THEATRE 24 HOUR BOOK SALE @ EDGAR CENTRE

The infamous 24 Hour Book Sale is back and just as popular as ever – having outgrown its former venue with tens of thousands of books and items on sale now at the Edgar Centre.

Friday 20 and Saturday 21 February | 10am – 10pm | MoreFM Arena, Edgar Centre | FREE

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Join us at Lan Yuan Dunedin Chinese Garden as we farewell the Year of the Snake and welcome the Year of the Horse. This is the flagship event of the Chinese Cultural Festival.

Saturday 21 February | 7pm | Lan Yuan Dunedin Chinese Garden | Gold coin entry

MATT JOE GOW AT MOONS

Irresistible. Captivating. Unforgettable. When Matt Joe Gow sings, everything else stops, such is the power of his voice and his songs. A unique opportunity to see him perform live.

Saturday 21 February | 8pm | Moons Restaurant and Bar | \$30

EXHIBITION: SOFT LINES – ILLUSTRATING EMPATHY

Dunedin-born illustrator Ruby Jones is one of New Zealand's most exciting contemporary illustrators. This exhibition features dozens of her most famous, impactful, and personally cherished works.

Now running until Sunday 29 March | Beautiful Science Gallery, Tūhura Otago Museum | FREE

COUNCIL MEETING TIMES

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

The public is welcome to attend all meetings. A public forum is 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 beforehand.

CONTACT US

dunedin.govt.nz

P 03 477 4000

E dcc@dcc.govt.nz

 DunedinCityCouncil

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

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

EDITOR: Nicola Morand

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Samuel White

COVER IMAGE: NZ sea lion by Alistair Craig

PRINTER: Spectrum Print

WANT TO READ ME ONLINE?

A digital version of FYI can be found on our website, and you can subscribe to our email list to have the latest copy sent your inbox at the start of each month. Head to: dunedin.govt.nz/fyi

FSC Logo

dunedin