NOVEMBER 2026

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



Kia ora koutou –

Last month, I led a cohort of over 20 Dunedin city leaders and ambassadors to Shanghai. It was the largest and most diverse Dunedin delegation to visit since the signing of our Sister Cities Agreement in 1994. I'm so proud of everyone for helping each other navigate Shanghai and build connections. A huge thank you to Hui Zhang from Enterprise Dunedin for his organisation and support.

Our relationship with Shanghai is hugely important to our university, companies, and communities. About a quarter of international students at Otago are from China, and our business with ADInstuments and Silver Fern Farms is significant. Student and cultural exchanges, such as sharing exhibitions from Shanghai, and being showcased to one of the world's most populous and exciting cities is a huge benefit. Tourism is a key economic driver and Chinese visitors love our heritage and wildlife.

The timing was perfect as we were the first sister-city to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Shanghai's new Mayor Zhu. The signing ceremony was on Shanghai TV with tens of millions of viewers, cementing Dunedin's importance and making us famous. I noticed us being recognised in the street the next day!

While I nearly lost my voice from so many speeches and conversations, I look forward to connecting more with our city partners.

Now I'm back, I'm spending time with Council on our Long-Term Plan building an ambitious future and making our city the best place to live in NZ!

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



Te Awa: The River of Many Journeys is a new immersive visitor experience at Toitū Otago Settlers Museum.

The experience introduces audiences to the history of Ōtepoti Dunedin through the defining presence of Te Awa Ōtākou – the Otago Harbour.

Using large-scale projection, spatial sound and integrated lighting, Te Awa takes visitors on a journey above and beneath the harbour's waters in an evocative introduction to Ōtepoti.

Developed in partnership with mana whenua, the experience places Kāi Tahu perspectives, histories and values at its heart, recognising the harbour's significance as both a cultural and environmental taonga, and how it has shaped life in this place for generations.

It is a natural gateway into Ōtepoti serving as a transport route and place of arrival and departure, a source of food and resources, and a rich habitat supporting abundant wildlife. Throughout history, the harbour has connected people and communities coming and going to the area. It has shaped the journeys, exchanges and experiences that have contributed to the city's development.

Rather than attempting to tell a definitive history, Te Awa serves as a concentrated immersive theatre experience that introduces visitors to key moments that have shaped the city. It invites them to understand Ōtepoti through its enduring relationship with the harbour and provides a foundation for further exploration of both Toitū Otago Settlers Museum and the city beyond.

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



Strath Taieri continues to be a great place to live, work and be involved in, with plenty happening across our district – and lots to look forward to.

A warm welcome to our new residents who have made Strath Taieri home. Whether you have moved for the lifestyle, the wide-open spaces or to be closer to family, we hope you feel part of our community and enjoy everything our district has to offer. It is the people who live here, the connections we make and the time we give that make this place special.

It's fantastic to see a new youth group providing opportunities for our young people to connect, build friendships and get involved in the community.

There is also a significant milestone coming up with the Strath Taieri Rugby Club celebrating its 125th jubilee next year. This is a wonderful achievement and an opportunity to recognise the generations of players, families, supporters and volunteers who have contributed to the club.

We are also getting closer to turning the first sod on our new playground. This will be a great community asset and create a space for local children and families to enjoy.

Our bike trails will soon bring visitors to the area creating opportunities for local businesses and showcase what makes Strath Taieri special.

Finally, thank you to the DCC for its funding of our library, swimming pool and museum. We appreciate the ongoing support that keeps them available for our community.

Terina Geddes

Strath Taieri Community Board chair

RESOURCE CONSENT CHANGES



The Government recently introduced significant changes to the Resource Management Act which determines how the DCC assesses resource consent applications.

The changes mean that some matters can no longer be taken into consideration when evaluating resource consents. More information and guidance about the changes is available on the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport website and at www.planning.govt.nz

For DCC it means that when assessing new residential developments, with the exception of protecting historic heritage, the area of glazing, the presence or absence of balconies, outdoor living space, internal layout, the size of a residential unit or the size of landscaped areas (except in relation to permeability) will no longer be considered.

Additionally, for all activities, the DCC can no longer consider the negative effects of a development on trade competition, effects on retail distribution, any lack of demand for a project or financially viability. It can also no longer consider views from private property or the type of residents to be housed in a new development.

For example, the rules no longer require outdoor living space or landscaped areas to be provided for new dwellings, and planners will no longer be able to consider impacts on views from private property when assessing the effects of a tall building.

The District Plan (2GP) will be updated to reflect these changes. The changes only apply to applications lodged from 30 October onwards.

NEW YEARS BACK WITH BANG



Celebrations for the 2027 New Year will be back with a bang as fireworks return to the Octagon for the first time in years.

Powerhouse performers Rock Tenors and Rock Divas will also headline the city's New Year's Eve party celebrations.

An evening of entertainment for all ages is planned for the festivities on Thursday 31 December – all building towards a spectacular midnight fireworks display in the heart of the city.

The Rock Tenors and Rock Divas will take centre stage, fresh from a highly successful national tour, bringing big voices and high-energy performances singing much-loved rock anthems.

The entertainment kicks off from 5pm, with plenty to keep families entertained early in the evening, including popular children's entertainer Rainbow Rosalind. Younger partygoers can enjoy their own moment of midnight magic, with a Kids' New Year's Eve countdown at 8pm, giving families the chance to celebrate together before the little ones head home.

Then, as the clock ticks over to midnight, fireworks will light up the city centre in a spectacular display.

The return of fireworks, together with the Rock Tenors and Rock Divas, will see this year's celebrations create a memorable New Year's Eve with something for everyone.

Come into the city, bring friends and whānau, enjoy the entertainment and be part of the excitement as the community counts down to 2027 together.

BOARDWALK BOOST



The Portobello boardwalk is about to get a boost!

Construction of an extension to the Portobello boardwalk will soon be underway – marking another step forward for the Peninsula Connection project.

A boardwalk 220 metres long will be built along Latham Bay between the Portobello Boat Club and Portobello Township.

The boardwalk will help improve the safety and accessibility of Portobello Road, as well as provide protection to the original and unique stone harbour walls nearby.

Downer Group will be the lead contractor for the project, having successfully completed the Blanket Bay boardwalk along State Highway 88 as part of the Dunedin to Port Chalmers shared path Te Ara Moana.

Construction of the new boardwalk will involve the development of a shared pathway, ramps to connect it to the existing harbourside path, and some additional small stone harbour walls.

Site preparation is set to begin by the end of the year, and crews will then start piling work from a pontoon in Latham Bay early next year. This will be followed by the installation of specialised, durable decking.

Most of the decking will be built off-site with sections lifted into place during off-peak hours.

The full project is expected to be completed by mid-2027.

The Portobello boardwalk extension is a $3.5m project co-funded by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

TASK FORCE GREEN



Have you heard of Task Force Green?

Supported by the DCC, Task Force Green is a volunteer programme that provides work skills training and personal development, and instils pride, improved self-esteem, and confidence for volunteers.

The team undertakes a range of work across the city, including graffiti removal, event preparation, painting and restoration projects, clean-ups, responding to illegal dumping and fly-tipping, and firewood processing and deliveries. Their mahi supports schools, community groups, events, and residents who may need additional support.

Task Force Green currently has 33 volunteers who contribute their time every day to projects across Dunedin. Many have been part of the programme for more than a decade.

The impact of Task Force Green is felt right across the city. It helps make community events possible, supporting occasions such as the Dunedin Brick Show, Matariki, Dunedin Craft Beer and Food Festival, Christmas in the Gardens, and many others.

Beyond the work itself, Task Force Green provides a sense of connection, purpose, and belonging. Some volunteers face personal challenges, barriers to employment and health conditions. Task Force Green creates a supportive environment for people to build relationships, contribute to meaningful projects, develop skills, and take pride in making a difference.

The volunteers' generosity, commitment, and dedication is inspiring. Their work makes a lasting and valuable contribution to communities across Dunedin.

SPRAY EXEMPTION APPLICATION



Did you know the Council undertakes herbicide spraying to control noxious and nuisance weeds on the city roads and footpaths?

This helps keep our city streets tidy and well maintained and ensures services such as roadside drains aren't clogged up and continue to flow freely. Herbicides containing glyphosate and aminopyralid are most commonly used.

For a variety of reasons, people may not wish to have herbicides sprayed outside their property. If this sounds like you, you can apply to have your property listed on the Council's "no-spray register".

This means that we will not spray directly outside your property.

However, it is important to note that if this is the case, you will be required to take full responsibility for the control of weeds instead. If we notice that you aren't able to control the weeds, we may resume spraying. To apply to join the list of properties where our contractors do not spray, fill out our online form or give us a call.

Make sure you have all the information needed, such as address, location, description of the property and even images to help our contractors know which properties to avoid. We can also provide a stencil to mark the zones on the footpath.

SPEED LIMIT CONSULTATION



The DCC is proposing changes to the speed limit on five roads in Dunedin and wants to know what you think about the proposed changes.

Reductions to the speed limit are proposed for Dalziel Road, McMaster Road, John Wilson Ocean Drive and Kettle Park Road, and a section of Three Mile Hill Road.

These changes are being proposed to better suit the way are roads are used and to mitigate the challenges of road safety risks, and address community concerns, residential growth and the increased pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle activity in these areas.

These proposed changes have been developed following a review of the draft Speed Management Plan and consideration of additional community concerns. After consultation closes, a Hearings Committee will consider public submissions and make recommendations to Council. Council will then consider each proposal separately before making a final decision.

Consultation is now open and closes at 5pm on Monday, 30 November.

To have your say and make your submission, or for more information about the proposals, including maps and supporting information, head to the consultation page on our website.

dunedin.govt.nz/consultation

SHORT AND SWEET



NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Dunedin City Council has a new Chief Executive. Richard Briggs started his tenure at the helm of the DCC last month. Richard spent seven years as the Chief Executive of Hamilton City Council and most recently served as interim Chief Executive of the Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Agency.

He has also previously lived and raised a family in Dunedin while working for Audit New Zealand and coming in as Chief Executive for the DCC marks a return for him to the city.

Richard has been appointed to the role for five years and succeeds Sandy Graham.

BEST IN TRAVEL

Dunedin and Waitaki have been named one of the world's top destinations to visit in 2027 by global travel giant Lonely Planet in the latest edition of its Best in Travel publication. Dunedin and Waitaki are described as one of the "coolest and quirkiest" areas of Aotearoa and full of character.

The listing recognises Dunedin's vibrant hospitality and arts scene, and the scenic surrounds of the coastal bays, rolling hills and wildlife. Ōamaru was also noted for its wildlife – such as the Blue Penguin (Kororā) – and steampunk and quirky attractions.

They are the only places in New Zealand to make the list for 2027. They join a shortlist of 50 other global destinations including Quebec (Canada), Chengdu (China) and the Swedish Riviera. Best in Travel can be picked up from most major bookstores.

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

HEATH FRANKLIN'S CHOPPER GOLD

Aussie comedy legend and icon Heath Franklin's Chopper is celebrating his 20th anniversary with two decades of Chopper's funniest bits and hardest hits, and all your favourite jokes.

Saturday 14 November | 6.30pm | Mayfair Theatre
$49.90 Adults, $46.90 students and concession

MOVIE MAGIC: JOHN WILLIAMS

Experience the music of John Williams from some of the world's most beloved movies including Star Wars, Harry Potter, Indiana Jones and more. Presented by the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra.

Saturday 14 November | 7.30pm | Dunedin Town Hall
$75 Circle and Gallery, $62 Stalls

RIDE WITH YOUR DOG FOR PET REFUGE NZ

Does your dog ride with you on a bike, in a cart, or running by your side? Bring your dog and ride from the Edgar Centre to Glenfalloch Garden in support of Pet Refuge NZ.

Sunday 15 November | 9am – 11am | Edgar Centre to Glenfalloch Garden

THE SLEEPING BEAUTY

The Royal New Zealand Ballet revives its production of Greg Horsman's fairytale *The Sleeping Beauty.* A lavish, heartwarming celebration of dance, beauty, and true love.

7.30pm, Saturday 21 and 1.30pm, Sunday 22 November
Regent Theatre | Various ticket prices



CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET

Put on by the team at the Port Chalmers Artisan Markets, this annual market has over 180 stallholders selling their amazing art, craft and products.

Sunday 22 November | 9am - 5pm
Breeze Arena, Edgar Centre | Gold coin entry



DUNEDIN CRAFT BEER AND FOOD FESTIVAL

A two-day taste sensation! Savour the flavours from food vendors and breweries from across Aotearoa with live music and interactive events.

Friday 27 November 4pm – 11pm | Saturday 28 November 12pm - 7pm | Forsyth Barr Stadium



ST ANDREW'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Come celebrate Dunedin's distinctive Scottish heritage this St Andrew's Day with pipe bands, highland dancing, highland games, and interactive performances.

Saturday 28 November | 10am - 2pm | First Church, Moray Place

DIARY THESE XMAS FESTIVITIES

The holiday season will be here before we know it, put these in your diary now!

CHRISTMAS IN THE GARDEN 5 December
SANTA PARADE 6 December

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