

NOVEMBER 2025

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera
a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Kia ora koutou,

It's an honour and a privilege to have been elected as your new Mayor.

I'm delighted to be working with Deputy Mayor Cherry Lucas, a proven stalwart of local government.

The elections have also delivered six new Councillors, creating a fresh team of talent around the Council table.

Congratulations to all the Councillors and Community Board members elected to represent their communities. A big thank you to everyone who participated in the elections, whether that was as a candidate or a voter.

Thanks are also due to last triennium's Councillors and Community Board members for their hard mahi and enduring contributions to Ōtepoti Dunedin.

Council processes can seem distant from daily life, but the DCC deals with everything from flushing the loo to driving on the roads. Accessibility and transparency are important to me, and I aim to help make it easier to understand what we're doing, and why.

The completion of the Southern Hospital is of critical importance, as is creating a thriving, vibrant city with great jobs and a sense of purpose and positivity.

Everyone who's sitting around the Council table stood for office because we love our city. I look forward to working together to make Ōtepoti Dunedin a place that works for everyone, leaving no one behind.

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



Olveston Historic Home has released its first official book tracing the story of the Theomin family, the history of the house they built and its relationship with Dunedin.

The book *Olveston: Portrait of a Home* was publicly launched in September this year.

Olveston was originally built as a private residence for the Theomin family in the early 1900s, and was later bequeathed to the City of Dunedin in 1966 by Dorothy Theomin.

Located in Royal Terrace, the historic home was designed by English architect Sir Ernest George and furnished with fine art, furniture and artefacts from around the world.

The recently released book explores the architectural significance of Olveston and cultural life of early twentieth-century Dunedin and offers readers a rare insight into New Zealand's social history.

The story behind the notable house was brought to life by author John Walsh and photographer Jane Ussher with guidance from publisher Nicola Legat.

Jane's photographs showcase the house and its contents, lush colours, ornaments, paintings, decorations, and furniture on display.

The team at Olveston worked to ensure every detail was captured accurately and authentically in retelling the story of the home and family.

Olveston remains open to the public for tours and visiting. Visit Olveston Historic Home and see what makes this house so remarkable.

Olveston: Portrait of a Home is available to buy at the Olveston gift shop and online.

ELECTION RESULTS



The final results for the Dunedin City Council election have been released and confirm Sophie Barker as the new Mayor, and Cherry Lucas accepting the role of deputy Mayor.

Mayor Sophie was first elected to the City Council in 2019 and served two terms before becoming Mayor.

The final election result brings in six new faces at the Council table – Andrew Simms, John Chambers, Russell Lund, Benedict Ong, Doug Hall and Mickey Treadwell.

Councillors Lee Vandervis, Jules Radich, Marie Laufiso, Brent Weatherall, Cherry Lucas, Steve Walker, Mandy

Mayhem, and Christine Garey all return to the Council table.

We farewell previous Councillors Andrew Whiley, Carmen Houlahan, Bill Acklin, Jim O'Malley and Kevin Gilbert, and thank them for their service to our great small city.

David Benson-Pope retired at the election.

The new Mayor and Councillors were officially sworn into office last month at the Inaugural Council meeting.

Many Dunedin residents left voting until the very last minute. About 9400 voting papers were returned on the final day of the election period making it the highest single day tally of returns for this election period.

Overall, about 44% of eligible Dunedin residents voted in the election which is slightly less than previous elections.

Councillor contact details and Community Board election results, will be in the next edition of FYI – Your DCC News.

BATH STREET COMPLETE



From make-under to makeover, complex streetscaping in Bath Street is now complete leaving the inner-city street with a modern look that nods to its historic past.

Work constructing footpaths, new paving, and drainage in Bath Street has been underway for the past few months following an upgrade to the underground pipes and infrastructure.

The above ground and road surface areas have been refreshed and made more pedestrian friendly.

With improved paving, utility and lighting upgrades, and a new road surface, Bath Street looks better than ever.

The 'makeover' above ground involved complex streetscaping work to improve the surface of the road, and includes pedestrian and shared spaces with attractive new tiling.

The DCC and contractor Downer worked hard to minimise disruption to local residents and businesses while the work was underway.

Prior to the above ground work, the main focus of the project was on improvements to and the replacement of water, stormwater and sewer pipelines.

The essential below-ground pipe replacement work means the underground infrastructure has been future-proofed for at least the next century.

The DCC is thankful to the local residents and businesses for their patience while the work was underway.

HEXAGON MAGIC



The DCC is harnessing the power of the hexagon to help protect the beach at Taieri Mouth.

A small section of the seaward side of Taieri Mouth Road is having hexagonal, fibre-reinforced concrete modules installed and configured together to reduce erosion and road slips.

The road was damaged and reduced to one lane following last year's October rain event, and the modules are being installed to help manage further erosion and damage to the roadside.

The New Zealand-made modules have been tried and tested in North Island coastal areas and river sides.

The modules act as physical barriers to beach erosion, protection for the road, and can be used as containers to support wildlife and native plantings.

The hexagonal shape provides the ability to interlock the modules and shape the structure to soften and absorb wave energy (rather than reflect it) to help prevent secondary erosion.

Instead of using a typical rock buttress approach to reinstate the road, the DCC adopted the use of modules as a modern engineering solution. They will be laid to reinstate the road shoulder, support adjacent dunes, and restore the road to two-way.

While the initial cost is higher than traditional methods, the ongoing benefits and reduced maintenance makes it more cost-effective in the long-term.

Having started last month, the \$450,000 project is expected to continue until mid-December.

SOUTH DUNEDIN FUTURE



Plans for what South Dunedin might look like in the future have been narrowed down to three potential options.

The three options were selected from a list of seven that were presented to the community early this year.

Community feedback was considered as part of the process to narrow down the list, as well as socio-economic and technical factors such as community wellbeing, engineering, and urban design.

The shortlisted options each have a different focus. The first considers elevating the land and pumping and draining water, the second focuses on improving

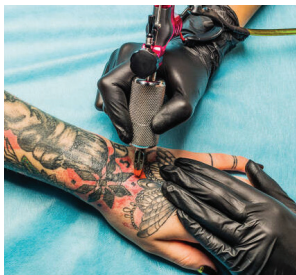
waterway infrastructure alongside establishing wetland areas, and the final option focuses on improving waterway infrastructure and raising the land.

Each option will be further assessed to determine the long-term effectiveness, risks, timeframes, location, scale and cost. Once the assessment is complete, the detailed options will be presented to both councils and the community.

The South Dunedin Future programme is complemented by the DCC's wider infrastructure work, with \$60 million to go towards wet weather flow management over the next nine years.

South Dunedin Future is a joint programme between DCC and ORC to find ways to respond and adapt to climate change and flooding in South Dunedin.

BYLAW CHANGES



Changes to two Dunedin bylaws took effect last month following public and stakeholder consultation.

The Beauty Therapists, Tattooists and Skin-Piercers Bylaw aims to protect public health and safety, and prevent the transfer of diseases and skin infections through beauty therapy, tattooing and skin piercing practices.

Key changes include adding a requirement for a parent or guardian to be present during skin-piercing (such as ear piercing) for under 16 year olds, no tattooing or nipple or genital piercings for under 18 year olds, mandatory bloodborne pathogen training for skin

piercers and tattooists, and only allowing qualified ophthalmologists to administer eyeball tattoos.

Customary and cultural tattooing carried out in non-commercial settings, such as on a marae and not for profit, are exempt from the bylaw so age and other restrictions do not apply.

The amendments add a greater level of protection and respond to trends in the industries. Council may alter, suspend, or cancel a practitioner's licence if conditions are breached.

The Trading in Public Places Bylaw has also been updated. Public trading activities include street performances, fundraising, mobile trading, commercial footpaths use, and tour operators.

Greater clarity around the nature and scope of trading activities and conditions has been added, including changing 'pedestrian access' to 'footpath access' to acknowledge not all footpath users are pedestrians.

RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS



The results of the latest Residents' Opinion Survey show the DCC is focused on the priorities of the people living here.

Satisfaction with DCC's overall performance, including value for money, remains stable compared to results from the previous year.

The results indicate residents want the DCC to focus on infrastructure maintenance, controlling rates, reducing debt and managing our stormwater.

Despite economic difficulties facing all councils, the DCC is delivering on these basics.

The maintenance and renewal of core infrastructure remains a central focus, including

road, stormwater and wastewater pipe renewals across the city.

At the same time, the Council continues to seek savings to alleviate pressure on rates.

Residents are most satisfied with the city's attractions and facilities such as Dunedin Botanic Garden, Tūhura Otago Museum, Toitū Otago Settlers Museum, Olveston Historic Home, as well as libraries, reserves, recreational walking and biking tracks. The new kerbside recycling collection system also rated highly.

All of the above had an 80% satisfaction rate or higher.

It is especially pleasing to see a good percentage of residents say they consider Dunedin to be a great place to live and that overall the DCC is doing well in many areas the community considers most important.

COASTAL GEOBAG WORK



Work investigating the present and future environmental conditions and approaches for more long-term solutions to manage coastal erosion at St Clair and St Kilda beaches is ongoing.

About 500m of 'geobags' were installed in front of Kettle Park at Middle Beach, between St Kilda and St Clair Beaches last year.

Kettle Park at St Kilda was formerly a landfill that has since been covered up and is now used for sports fields, but it continues to pose a risk as some of the landfill sits within the sand dunes.

The geobags are a short-term tool to prevent the sea wall from eroding and exposing the hazardous materials buried in the sand dunes.

They are made of technical fabric formed into a tube-like shape and filled with sand or soil. They are moveable, and much easier and more effective to deploy than a seawall.

With an expected lifespan of about five years, it is anticipated they will need to be replaced sometime around 2029.

The geobags are not a permanent solution. The DCC's St Clair – St Kilda Coastal Plan lays out the management plans for the coastal area and how the effects of coastal hazards and climate change will be handled.

Some of the work involves a coastal monitoring programme, exploring different engineering options, and improving the beach access at St Clair.

FLUSH YOUR TAPS



The water that comes from our network supply is safe. However, metals such as lead can leach from pipes and fittings into the water if it's been sitting for a while, such as overnight.

Taps are the main source of metals found in drinking water in most houses, and

flushing a small volume of water – about 500ml – from the tap before drinking, cooking or brushing your teeth is advised. You should also run a cold tap for about 30 seconds each morning to flush out water sitting in your pipes overnight.

This can reduce the risk of tap water containing metals.

This is all that most people need to do, but longer flushing is advised in buildings with large diameter pipes, if you're located further away from the road or have high-risk fittings.

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-meetings

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

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

KEY:  Family event |  Free

WINE AND DESIGN – VICTORIAN DAISY CHAIN

Channel your creative energy at a night of wine and design where you'll create a stunning Victorian daisy chain glass and gemstone bracelet. Ticket includes craft supplies, glass of wine, and canapés.

Tues 4 November | 6pm – 9pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | \$75

WINE AND DESIGN – CHRISTMAS EARRINGS

Create your own jewellery at this wine and design event where you'll craft a stellar pair of beaded Christmas earrings. Ticket includes craft supplies, glass of wine, and canapés.

Wed 5 November | 6pm – 9pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | \$75

7 DAYS LIVE

NZ's favourite comedy show has once again gone rogue, jumped into a van and is touring the country to deliver live, original stand up and showcase the popular television show.

Fri 7 November | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | Tickets \$64 & \$69



THE FLEETWOOD MAC EXPERIENCE

Immerse yourself in the timeless classics and chart-topping hits that defined a generation, as this tribute act faithfully recreates Fleetwood Mac's unforgettable sound.

Sat 8 November | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | Tickets from \$55

KAYLEE BELL: COWBOY UP TOUR

New Zealand country-pop powerhouse Kaylee Bell is hitting the road with her biggest show to date. Fans can expect a full-throttle live show featuring Bell's biggest hits.

Fri 14 November 2025 | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | Tickets from \$79.90

SIMPLY THE BEST: A CELEBRATION OF THE GREATEST POP DIVAS

Head to this evening of powerhouse vocals and unforgettable music as the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra celebrates the biggest hits from the world's greatest pop divas.

Sat 15 November | 7.30pm | Town Hall | Tickets from \$59

THE CHILLS: THE TRIUMPH & TRAGEDY OF MARTIN PHILLIPPS

A screening of the intimate documentary that explores and follows the eccentric Martin Phillipps as he battles with the jarring reality of his own mortality.

Sun 16 November | 3.15pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | \$15



THE NUTCRACKER PRESENTED BY THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND BALLET

Central to Christmas memories for generations of audiences, The Nutcracker is a timeless celebration of family, fantasy and growing up.

Fri 21 and Sat 22 November | Regent Theatre | Various ticket prices and plans

PORT CHALMERS CHRISTMAS ARTISAN MARKET AT THE EDGAR CENTRE

Over 170 stalls displaying an amazing range of local products, art, craft and garden plants, with entertainment and cosplayers. Gold coin entry.

Sun 23 November | 9am-5pm | More FM Arena, Edgar Centre

CONTACT US

dunedin.govt.nz

P 03 477 4000

E dcc@dcc.govt.nz



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EDITOR: Iris Eijbrink

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Samuel White

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