

MARCH 2026

A person is walking from right to left across the lower half of the image. The background is a wall made of wood panels with a repeating diamond-shaped pattern. Each diamond is formed by a glowing orange light strip. The ceiling also features a similar pattern of glowing light strips. The overall lighting is warm and modern.

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN | kaunihera
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o
ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



Kia ora koutou

Ōtepoti Dunedin is starting to transform once again as our tertiary students return to the city and get settled in their studies. The 25,000 strong cohort have a busy year ahead of them – as does the Council.

We'll soon be considering our draft budget for the next financial year. With Government reforms on the horizon and indications that we may have to limit planned rate rises, the Council has tough decisions to make as we feel the economic pinch.

We'll be going through each budget to see what projects and works need to be prioritised in order to ensure the most efficient use of our money and return on

investment to benefit the community.

There are tough decisions ahead, but also plenty to look forward to. This month, we welcome back the Fringe Festival. The annual arts and performance festival offers an eclectic blend of artists, theatre and touring shows, and showcases a range of art and entertainment disciplines.

I hope you'll join me in checking out some of the acts – especially those by local artists. Seeing our young and upcoming artists flourish gives me a great sense of pride. We need more creative, innovative young people establishing themselves in Ōtepoti and contributing to our great small city.

I'm encouraged by the talent and hard work on display.

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



Te Ahikāroa, a major new exhibition celebrating the artists and stories of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery (DPAG) collection, opens to the public on Saturday 28 March.

Positioned across the five major exhibition spaces on the Gallery's ground floor, and building on a new book of the same title, the exhibition uses artworks to explore ideas of arrival and departure; ways of occupying and experiencing land and the natural environment; buildings, structures, and spaces of shelter and protection; and the sharing of stories through art.

Acknowledging mana whenua and the concept of ahi kā as an expression of the continuous occupation of

land through whakapapa, Te Ahikāroa offers a rich sense of the unique location and history of DPAG, the wide range of artists in the collection, and the artistic, cultural, and historic context of their works.

The accompanying book celebrates Aotearoa New Zealand's earliest public art collection at DPAG, which opened in 1884, and how it has long connected Ōtepoti Dunedin with local and international art.

The book features over 200 works, and spans historic European painting to significant artists from Aotearoa, including Claude Monet, Frances Hodgkins, and Ralph Hotere. Developed in collaboration with mana whenua, its title acknowledges Kāi Tahu presence and storytelling traditions. Essays by curators and invited writers explore history, values and evolving relationships, affirming art's power to connect people, place, and time.

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



For two weeks my wife and I had a friend from Germany stay with us on the Otago Peninsula.

It's her second visit here and we love showing her around the Otago Peninsula and the city. She has two main passions; op shops and wildlife. And luckily we are well appointed with both in Dunedin. The biggest disruption to her dreams of warm summer walks and harbour swims was the unpredictability of the weather. As a weather nerd with my own weather station, January in Portobello has not been our finest. I was able to measure 126mm of rain, 60kmph winds and a low temperature of 8° Celsius.

Still, there is nothing like optimism and a good coat to put a positive slant on living here. However, on a rare fine day we set off out past Taiaroa Head in our boat. It's interesting watching a visitor's reaction to our coastline filled with birds, sea lions and fish.

The wonderment at the life here by our visitor gives you a greater appreciation of just what Dunedin and the Otago Peninsula offers visitors (despite the weather).

It also highlights the fragility of the coastal and aquatic environment to weather and how, as Community Board guardians, we must work to protect and nurture it for future generations.

Paul Pope
Otago Peninsula Community Board Chair

TAIERI MOUTH SPEED LIMIT



We're proposing to reduce the speed limit on Taieri Mouth Road to make the road safer and improve access.

The road's current speed limit is 100 km/h – but we've noticed the average driving speed of road users is closer to 90km/h. This suggests the speed limit is too high for the road.

And like many coastal roads in New Zealand, Taieri Mouth Road has numerous curves and corners, and blind spots near homes and beach access points. This poses a safety risk.

Members of the community around Kuri Bush have asked for part of Taieri Mouth Road to have its speed limit reduced to 80 km/h for safety reasons.

Taking this all into consideration, we've decided to consult with the public on whether we should lower the speed limit. Public consultation is now open to consider three possible options.

The first option is to introduce an 80 km/h speed limit on the entire length of the road, the second option is to introduce an 80km/h speed limit on only part of the road (which includes Kuri Bush), and the third option is for there to be no change to the existing 100 km/h speed limit.

The first option would increase travel time by about 54 seconds, and the second would increase it by about 25 seconds.

Your feedback will help Council make a final decision, so let us know what you think before 13 April.

CHANGING PLACES



Dunedin is set to become the latest place in New Zealand with a fully accessible Changing Places bathroom.

Construction of a new public toilet featuring a Changing Places bathroom is underway near the Dunedin Railway Station. The facility will also feature two public toilets to replace the previous existing toilets nearby. The location was chosen based on its proximity to town and ease of access.

Changing Places bathrooms are designed for those with complex care needs who are unable to use standard accessible or public toilets. Key features include a height

adjustable toilet and hand basin, built-in hand supports, and a change table. There is also a ceiling hoist system to enable people to move safely in the bathroom.

There will be some landscaping and road works surrounding the construction site at the railway station. The inside of the Changing Places bathroom will feature a bespoke art wall featuring images inspired by Dunedin's heritage and environment. The exterior of the bathroom is designed to be in-keeping with the surrounding heritage environment.

Because of the specialist features of the bathroom, access to the Changing Places unit is limited to members registered with Changing Places New Zealand via a key card. These key cards can be obtained for those with complex care needs and severe disabilities by applying online. The other two toilets will be accessible to everyone.

A DREAM COMES TRUE



British woman Catherine Lee recently visited New Zealand, where she came face to face with a bronze likeness of her younger self.

For almost 60 years, a younger version of Catherine has held a special place in the cultural fabric of Dunedin.

As a nine-year-old, Catherine posed as Wendy for the J.M. Barrie-inspired sculpture, Wendy and her Attendants (also referred to as The Darling Children Learning to Fly).

Commissioned by the Dunedin Botanic Garden and created by British sculptor Cecil Thomas OBE in 1967, it followed the installation of

another Sir Cecil sculpture, Peter Pan, nearby in 1963. Both artworks were a result of a donation by Green Island resident Harold Richmond.

Catherine used to pose for Cecil Thomas in his studio at Dora House, in South Kensington, London, where she was asked to balance somewhat precariously on a stepladder to give the illusion of flight.

Seeing the statue in the setting of the beautiful Dunedin Botanic Garden was the realisation of a lifetime dream for Catherine, who enchanted Dunedin children by reading a story at a special Peter Pan picnic.

It is delightful to see Harold Richmond's gift continuing to bring joy to Gardens visitors more than half a century after it was made.

COUNCIL BY-ELECTION



Get ready to vote next month, when a by-election will be held to appoint a new Councillor.

The election will be conducted by postal voting using the Single Transferable Voting electoral system.

Voting papers, with booklets featuring candidate photos and statements, will be mailed out to enrolled electors. Candidate names will be listed in random order on the voting papers.

Voting opens on Friday 10 April and will close at midday on Tuesday 12 May.

You will be able to post your voting papers or bring them into one of our drop-off boxes at our Service Centres.

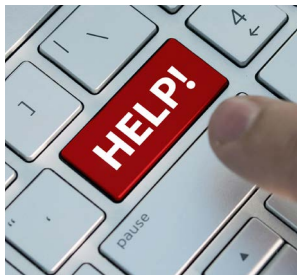
Keep an eye on the DCC website and social media pages for information on the candidates, including video interviews and profiles.

There are also various in-person candidate events being held around the city. Details about these events can be found on the DCC elections website.

Local elections allow the community to make democratic decisions about who represents them, and to have a say in how their towns, cities and regions work, grow and develop, so it is important you take the opportunity to vote.

If you have not enrolled to vote, head to the Voting NZ website (vote.nz) for more information.

FREE TECH HELP



Need a little help navigating the digital world? Or know someone who does? We can help.

Our Dunedin City Libraries team is expanding its popular Tech Help 1-2-1 programme to help address the digital divide.

In response to growing demand, free drop-in sessions will now be run monthly at all our five community libraries. The sessions provide up to one hour of personalised, one-to-one assistance using technology and doing technical admin tasks. Follow-up sessions can also be booked. In addition, there are daily sessions at the City Library that require bookings.

We understand there are lots of people who need a little help navigating the digital world. Challenges include staying in contact with family, banking, applying for jobs, accessing services, and doing things such as registering to vote or getting a passport.

By offering patient, practical, one-to-one support at no cost, our Dunedin Library staff are helping ensure everyone – regardless of age or confidence – can stay connected and make use of essential online services.

They can help with setting up and using smartphones, installing apps, creating CVs, online forms, accessing accounts such as RealMe, using email and digital streaming services, general online safety, and guidance on Dunedin Libraries online services.

For more information, head to our libraries website or come in and see us.

VARIABLE SPEED LIMITS



Variable speed limit times around schools have been standardised across Dunedin.

At present, a permanent 30km/h speed limit applies to 25 schools in Dunedin, while another 46 schools sit within a zone where the speed limit varies depending on the time of day.

In order to make it less confusing for motorists, the DCC has standardised when these speed limits apply so it is consistent across the city.

From this year, all 46 schools within the variable zones will have a speed limit of 30km/h from 8am to 9.15am and 2.45pm to 3.45pm on school days.

Previously, the times varied depending on the school.

The inconsistent times was potentially confusing for motorists who had to adhere to different times for different schools.

The variable school speed limits now apply at consistent times so motorists only have one rule to follow across Dunedin.

This standardised approach helps make school drop-off and pick-up times clearer and safer for everyone.

The digital and static speed limit signs around schools are being updated to reflect the change. The static signs will be updated with stickers as a more cost-effective and sustainable alternative to replacing them.

The new variable school speed limit times are also in line with Central Government's Setting of Speed Limits 2024 rule.

You can see which speed limits apply to which schools on our website.

SHORT AND SWEET

HERITAGE FUNDING

The Dunedin Heritage Fund is open to all owners and occupiers of historic buildings embarking on a heritage project with a conservation focus.

Applications for the next round of the Heritage Fund are now open, and close 5pm Thursday, 30 April.

Not sure if your project meets the criteria?

Our Heritage Advisors can provide guidance on whether your property and project are eligible, give advice on planning, and explain how to apply.

Eligible projects include repairs, restoration, 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 online or give us a call on 03 477 4000.

dunedin.govt.nz/heritage-fund

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 is advertised. 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 at least one working day before the meeting on 03 477 4000.

dunedin.govt.nz/council/council-meetings

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

DUNEDIN FRINGE FESTIVAL



From comedy to improvisation, circus arts, installations and beyond – the free spirited and fearless Fringe Festival is back. Programme and tickets can be found online: dunedinfringe.nz

12 March to 22 March | Various times, dates, locations and ticket prices

SOUTH ISLAND IRB CHAMPIONSHIPS 🏠

Inflatable Rescue Boat crews from across the country will line up to showcase their surf skills, fitness and experience amongst their peers.

Saturday 14 March | 8.30am |
Warrington Surf Life Saving Club

SOUTH DUNEDIN STREET FESTIVAL 🏠 💰

Come and experience a vibrant multicultural carnival that showcases and celebrates the wider South Dunedin community.

Saturday 14 March | 10am – 3pm |
King Edward Street



SPORT OTAGO STRIDE, RIDE & SLIDE 🏠

A mini triathlon for young tamariki. Two-year-olds through to six-year-olds stride their way around the field, hop on their bike, and water slide to the finish.

Sunday 15 March | 8.30am | Logan Park | \$7 entry fee

THREE PEAKS MOUNTAIN RACE

Runners and walkers race through Dunedin's lush native bush where they are rewarded with incredible panoramic views.

Sunday 15 March | 8.30am |
Woodhaugh Gardens / Chingford Park

MOANA NUI FESTIVAL 🏠

Celebrate Pacific cultures with vibrant performances, delicious food, and engaging activities for all ages.

Saturday 28 March | 10am – 4pm | Forsyth Barr Stadium |
Koha/Gold coin entry

BASELINE MUSIC FESTIVAL

A full-day dance marathon, with two stages, an unrivalled atmosphere, and a stacked lineup, it's the ultimate way to finish off the festival season.

Saturday 28 March | 2pm | Logan Park | Tickets from \$125

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 28 March | 4.30pm – 8pm |
Railway Station carpark

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

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COMMUNITY BOARD IMAGE: Mollymawk in flight – Paul Pope

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

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