

MAY 2026

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera
a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



As a keen gardener, I know this time of year involves preparing for winter. From raking leaves to planting in readiness for spring and summer, it's a busy time. For example, Dunedin Botanic Garden's May Day plant sale is all about the joy of growing things for pleasure and sustenance.

As we highlight in this FYI, it's also time to recall our winter driving skills and plan our trips to allow for variable road conditions or works that may cause issues.

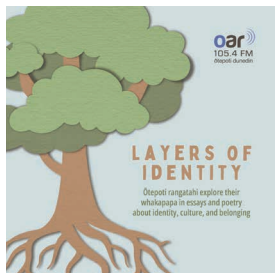
While speaking at an Infrastructure New Zealand event last month, I was proud to describe key projects in areas such as roading, water and coping

with climate change as we continue to fulfil our vision for a strong, resilient city.

Last month's Otago Rally and the many Wild Dunedin Festival events are lively examples of how quality infrastructure and a thriving environment provide strong value in ways beyond the purely practical.

Remember, by-election voting ends at noon 12 May. You may still have time to vote. Please do so. Thanks to all those who have voted already. Check our website for details about voting and by-election results as they come to hand.

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



CITY OF LITERATURE

The City of Literature team, in partnership with Otago Access Radio (OAR FM), is thrilled about the upcoming release of *Layers of Identity* – a powerful and inspiring book celebrating the voices of Ōtepoti's rangatahi (young people).

Originally created by OAR FM's Youth Zone as a podcast and creative writing project, the initiative showcases 15 remarkable writers aged from 8 to 24 as they explore their whakapapa, identity, culture and sense of belonging through original poems, essays and speeches.

With honesty and creativity, these rangatahi invite us to listen, read deeply and take in

their histories, hopes and the many layers that shape who they are.

City of Literature is delighted *Layers of Identity* brings these powerful voices together in a vibrant and lasting collection. From poetic reflections to deeply personal essays, it is a testament to the strength found in storytelling and the importance of knowing where you come from.

We warmly encourage you to explore the OAR FM podcast and hear these voices for yourself. The podcast can be found on OAR FM's website and audio podcast streaming services.

The book will be launched on Friday 22 May in Dunedin City Library in celebration of Youth Week and UNESCO's World Day for Cultural Diversity – all are warmly welcome. Check our website for information about the launch and how to order copies of the book, which will also be available at Dunedin Public Libraries.

oar.org.nz/shows/layers-of-identity

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



As I write this, the sun is shining and there is a real autumn feel across the Strath Taieri. The trees have taken on beautiful golden tones, reminding us of what a special time of year it is in our part of the district.

It has also been a remarkable time for the community. Large crowds gathered for several fantastic events, including the Strath Taieri A&P Show, the Young Farmers Speed Shearing competition, and the Goldfields Cavalcade. These occasions showcased the very best of our region and brought many visitors into the Strath. A huge thank you goes to the volunteers and organisers who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make these events possible.

Winter sport is another important part of community life. Saturday afternoon rugby is a highlight for many and a great chance for our rural communities to connect, from children travelling into Dunedin for age-group sport to our senior rugby team, the Strath Taieri Rams. The Rams are also looking ahead to celebrating their 125th anniversary in 2027.

If you prefer a slower pace, I encourage you to explore www.discovermiddlemarch.nz, where you can learn about local gems such as the Sutton Salt Lake and the historic Leaning Lodge – both remarkable places just an hour's drive from the heart of Dunedin.

For those new to the area, our community groups are a wonderful way to get involved. From playgroups and sports clubs to gardening, weaving, darts and the library book club, there is something for everyone – and a friendly welcome waiting.

Terina Geddes
Chairperson, Strath Taieri
Community Board

CARBON EMISSIONS PROGRESS



Dunedin has made measurable progress towards its climate goals with the city's gross greenhouse gas emissions going down.

Over the past year, carbon dioxide emissions have been 13% lower than they were in 2019 – dropping from just over 1.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) in 2018/19 to just over 1.4 million tCO₂e in 2024/25.

When the amount of carbon absorbed by trees is taken into account, the net emissions were just over 1.1 million tCO₂e in 2024/25.

Transport emissions fell by 8%, agricultural emissions were down by 9%, and Industrial Processes and Product Use emissions (from

the likes of refrigerant gases used in heat pumps) decreased by 27%.

Improved landfill gas capture at Green Island and the new kerbside organics collection service contributed to a halving of emissions from the waste sector since 2019, and emissions from coal use dropped by 70% as schools and public institutions moved to low-emissions alternatives.

The reductions in coal usage and cleaner industrial practices across the city show what is possible when meaningful, deliberate changes are made.

The DCC has committed to taking action on climate change and changing the way it consumes fuel, reducing usage and emissions.

It's encouraging to see practical actions make a measurable difference in the city's carbon footprint as Dunedin strives to be a Zero Carbon city.

MAJOR ART DONATION



The Dunedin Public Art Gallery is delighted to have received one of Aotearoa New Zealand's largest and most important private collections of contemporary art.

The Barr Collection, comprising 435 individual items, was gifted to the gallery by Wellington collectors Jim Barr and Mary Barr.

The collection includes major New Zealand artists such as Michael Parekōwhai, Peter Peryer, Ronnie van Hout, Frances Upritchard, John Pule, Simon Denny and Kate Newby.

It also includes international artists including Mikala Dwyer, Ricky Swallow and Martin Creed.

The Barrs placed their entire collection on long-term loan with the gallery in 1997 and, beginning in late 2025, began the process of formally gifting it to the collection. That has now been completed.

Accepting one of New Zealand's most significant private collections of contemporary art is a fantastic result for the gallery, the wider community and Dunedin city.

The Barrs began collecting contemporary art in the 1970s and focused on conceptual and experimental practices often overlooked at the time.

The collection captures key moments in the development of contemporary art over the past five decades and includes pieces from artists early in their careers.

Exhibitions from the Barr collection include *Reboot* and *Good Work*, which toured across New Zealand.

CAPTION: Jeffrey Harris
Untitled [Judith No.5] 1978-79.
Oil on board
Collection of Dunedin Public Art Gallery. Gifted 2025 by Jim Barr and Mary Barr.

FLUSH YOUR TAPS



We make sure the drinking water that comes from our network supply is safe to consume and wash with. However, metals such as lead can still sometimes leach from your pipes and fittings if the water has been stagnant or sitting for a while – such as overnight.

The Ministry of Health notes that taps are the main source of heavy metals found in drinking water in most houses, and advises flushing a small volume of water – about 500ml – from the cold tap before you use water for drinking, cooking or brushing your teeth. You should also run a cold tap for about 30 seconds each morning, to flush out the water sitting in your pipes overnight.

This flushing should reduce the risk of drinking water containing metals.

This is all that most people need to do, but longer flushing is advised in a few situations, such as if your building has large diameter pipes, is located a long way from the road or has high-risk fittings.

If you think this might apply to you, go to our webpage for specific advice and more information.

Flushing your taps daily is good practice no matter where you live in Aotearoa New Zealand or the world.

HAND RAIL REPLACEMENT



Work is underway to upgrade and replace the aging handrails at St Clair Esplanade.

Work started in April to replace the 500m long balustrade at the top of the St Clair esplanade sea wall with a polished marine-grade stainless steel resistant to corrosion and rusting.

The much-needed replacement avoids the potential hazard posed by sections of the railing having corroded over time.

The pragmatic approach will ensure consistency and improve safety in a vibrant and popular part of the city.

The work is being done in sections of about 30 metres at a time. the final stages

of the project will finish at the St Clair Hot Salt Water Pool end of the esplanade later this year. The new sections of balustrade will be prefabricated off-site to minimise disruption at the esplanade. Footpath and road access will be maintained at all times.

Protective scaffolding will be in place as each section is replaced and will be moved along the sea wall as work progresses.

The design of the balustrades and framing will remain the same, although it will be increased in height to reflect regulation updates.

WINTER DRIVING



With winter on the way, now is time for a reminder to take care when travelling.

Winter in Dunedin can be treacherous, with more than 70 ground frosts and the occasional snow day every year. Drivers are encouraged to be aware of winter conditions and take extra care on the road – especially in bad or cold weather.

The DCC works to alleviate hazards on the city's main roads, and keep people informed about road conditions across the city. Information on road conditions and snow days are regularly updated on the DCC website.

On frosty mornings, roads are patrolled and treated with grit or a de-icing agent

as needed. Keeping the main arterial routes clear is the first priority, and major traffic routes are treated before peak morning travel times. Busy roads that feed on to arterial routes are the next priority. Most residential streets are not gritted.

The hardest frosts tend to arrive at daybreak. Make sure you de-ice and de-mist the windscreen before starting your journey and allow more time to get to your destination. Drive slowly and use headlights. In wet, icy or snowy weather, leave a greater distance between your vehicle and the one in front. Try to use main roads where possible. If cycling, make sure your lights are working and wear high visibility clothing.

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.

SHORT AND SWEET

PARK SAFE AT SPORTS

Now that the winter sport season is well underway, the DCC is asking the sporting community to be mindful of others and adhere to road rules when parking at games.

Dunedin's sportsgrounds get busy over winter, putting pressure on surrounding streets with more vehicles in the area.

Remember to be considerate when parking at events to keep others safe as the number of people driving to weekend games increases. This means no parking across driveways, footpaths, on broken yellow lines, grass verges or at stopping areas such as bus stops.

The sports community can help by carpooling, walking, catching the bus or cycling to matches, or by parking in appropriate spaces nearby and walking to the venue.

dunedin.govt.nz

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

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

DISNEY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID – STAGE SHOW

Trinity Catholic College is excited to take you to a magical kingdom where the mermaid Ariel dreams of life above the waves. Come along and bring the whole family!

Tuesday 5 to Friday 8 May | 6.30pm | Trinity Catholic College Auditorium | Adults \$22, Seniors and Students \$18, Children \$15

MAY DAY PLANT SALE



All sorts of indoor and outdoor plants for sale. Grab a bargain, rain or shine.

Saturday 9 May | 9am – 12pm | Propagation Facility, Dunedin Botanic Garden

MOTHER'S DAY HIGH TEA

Celebrate Mum or the special mother figures in your life with a special High Tea at Larnach Castle. An elegant afternoon with exquisite teas, delectable treats, and delightful company.

Sunday 10 May | 12.45pm – 4.30pm | Larnach Castle | \$55pp

YOGA WITH THE BUTTERFLIES

Relax and recharge with an unforgettable yoga experience among the butterflies. Move mindfully through a sequence of poses while connecting with your body and breath.

Wednesday 13 May | 5.45pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | Adults \$25, Students/Concession \$20

'MAHLER'S RESURRECTION' – DSO AND NZSO UNITE

The Dunedin Symphony Orchestra is delighted to celebrate its 60th anniversary in collaboration with the NZ Symphony Orchestra to present Mahler's Second Symphony: 'Resurrection'.

Friday 15 May | 7.30pm | Dunedin Town Hall | Tickets from \$42 – \$82

THE BIG BIKE FILM NIGHT

Bringing the best cycling short films from around the world for you to enjoy. The evening is unashamedly designed and devised to delight the two-wheel devotee.

Sunday 17 May 4pm | Monday 18 May 7pm | Rialto Cinema | Adult \$24, Under 17 \$19, Under 12 \$14

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 30 May | 4pm – 7.30pm | Dunedin Railway Station | Free entry

BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY FILM SCREENING

Experience a night of music, stars, and pure magic with a double feature screening of 'CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

Friday 29 May | 5.30pm | Tūhura Otago Museum | \$20

CONTACT US

dunedin.govt.nz

P 03 477 4000

E dcc@dcc.govt.nz

 dunedincitycouncil

 dunedincitycouncil

 dunedincitycouncil

EDITOR: Nicola Morand

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR: Shane Gilchrist

COVER IMAGE: St Clair sunrise, Dunedin NZ

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

dunedin