

APRIL 2026

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera
a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



Kia ora Ōtepoti Dunedin,

It's an eventful April with the Wild Dunedin Festival of Nature, Easter break and Anzac Day all happening before the Relay for Life in the first week of May.

I'm really excited about the Wild Dunedin Festival. There's so many fantastic events to enjoy yourself learning about our incredible nature, and celebrating Dunedin as the wildlife capital of New Zealand. We're very lucky to be in a city surrounded by stunning scenery and populated by such a unique array of wildlife.

There's also a lot going on at Council. Hopefully you're aware of the by-election and remember to get your

voting papers in on time. You have until noon on 12 May to make sure they are handed in. Some voting bins will be collected on 11 May. Visit dunedin.govt.nz/elections to check the collection date of your local bin.

We're also consulting on our draft Annual Plan for the next year and are starting early engagement for our 10 Year Plan.

The consultation on our 10 Year Plan will be your opportunity to provide feedback and suggest ideas on everything from public toilets to potholes. You have until the end of May to provide feedback on the 10 Year Plan, and there will be plenty more opportunities for you to have your say.

Your opinions do matter. We take your feedback into account when making decisions, so please let us know what you think.

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



This April, the Dunedin Botanic Garden is hosting two events as part of the Wild Dunedin Festival.

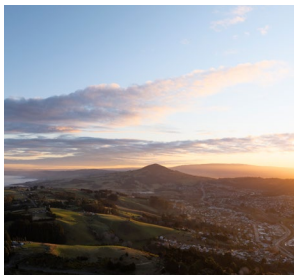
This year, the garden is focusing on the festival's sustainability theme through the wonderful world of plants.

There will be a family friendly, self-directed plant trail called Plants that Persevere. Go on a journey through the Rock Garden and Winter Garden to seek out plants that have developed interesting adaptations to survive extreme conditions – such as hot dry deserts or freezing mountain slopes. In the wild, some of these plants grow in places where it might be tricky to get enough water so have had to adapt to seek

out or conserve moisture in unique and amazing ways. Find out how these plants survive where water is scarce. Along the way, collect clues to spell out a mystery word in exchange for a small prize. Head to the garden Information Centre for details and get your map! This activity will run 10.30am to 3.30pm daily from Friday 10 to Sunday 19 April.

If a hands-on activity is more your thing, join the propagation team for a one-off workshop to learn some sustainable propagation techniques. Sow your own seeds or make eco-friendly paper pots and clay seed balls. This family-friendly workshop will be held at 10am on Tuesday April 14. Spaces are limited and booking is essential. Email botanic@dcc.govt.nz with the subject 'Wild Dunedin Propagation Workshop' to get involved.

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



The Saddle Hill Community Board was saddened by the sudden loss of our friend and colleague Jules Radich. Jules was a member of our board for a significant length of time. He was always a positive and reflective team member and will be sincerely missed.

With a patchy summer behind us, it's nice to have some clearer autumn days to enjoy getting out and about before winter arrives.

Currently, we have several projects underway – including the highlight of the Youth Ambassador Award recognising outstanding youth in our area. It has been

a privilege to read so many applications from dedicated rangatahi with aspirational targets and goals. This year's champions join previous winners in gaining funding towards their chosen goals.

While the ongoing fixing of key roads in our area has caused significant disruption, it is good to see these being completed to help fix and prevent issues in the future.

Anzac Day services will be held at the Brighton Hall and Green Island Cemetery for those wishing to attend. Further details can be found on the DCC website.

As always, the Saddle Hill Community Board supports the funding of community organisations and groups in varying ways, so feel free to apply online via the DCC website.

Ngā mihi,

Paul Weir
Saddle Hill Community
Board Chair

GASWORKS CHIMNEY



You may have noticed some pretty impressive scaffolding surrounding the chimney of the Gasworks Museum in South Dunedin.

This is an important part of the ongoing work we're doing – supported by the Gasworks Museum Trust – to ensure the gasworks chimney and its surrounds remains safe for the public, now and into the future.

The scaffold has been installed to allow access to all parts of the chimney. Our contractors will next carry out a detailed assessment of the structure and some weatherproofing work.

The detailed assessment will provide the DCC and the Trust with a more complete understanding of the condition

of the chimney and how it is best managed into the future.

We'll also design a new protective cap to add at the top of the chimney to shield the brickwork from the elements, but don't worry – the chimney will remain operational even after the cap is installed.

The work comes after significant cracks in the chimney were found last year, prompting a three-week project to partially deconstruct the top of the structure – reducing its height by 3.4m – to ensure public safety.

The work by Naylor Love involved the removal and cataloguing of about 4000 bricks, which have been individually labelled and stored to preserve the option of a rebuild at some future date.

The emergency work cost about \$230,000, and the next stage of work – which is expected to take about six months – will cost a further \$105,000.

FRESH SOUNDS ON THE WAY



Indie punk, jazz, rap and other musical flavours abound on a forthcoming compilation album of contemporary new music from Ōtepoti Dunedin – set to be released next month.

The DCC project *Ōtepoti Hou*, loosely translating to “Fresh Dunedin”, is an upcoming record comprising ten acts who represent the city’s broad range of musical talent.

The compilation album will be released as a small vinyl and cassette run and on digital platforms as part of Aotearoa New Zealand Music Month in May.

The DCC’s Ara Toi/Creative Partnerships team invited

music organisations and communities to recommend local artists.

The final artists were agreed upon after a series of meetings, assessing proposed tracks, and considering the best fit for the album.

The artists are Crash Out, Cuck, Dunedin Youth Jazz Orchestra, HŌHĀ, Keira Wallace, Scapegoat MERCY, Seek Help!, Suge Sound, Tough Guy, and Turama ite Ara.

As well as album production, participants are provided with business, professional, and technical mentoring and advice. They will also receive a vinyl record, cassette, and a zine publication. The album will be available for free download on Bandcamp.

Kāi Tahu artist and musician Madison Kelly designed the album artwork and visual material.

The project is expected to cost less than \$24,000 and is covered by Ara Toi/Creative Partnerships.

HOLLYWOOD REEL



Could Hollywood come calling to Ōtepoti Dunedin? That is the hope with the recent release of a marketing showreel that transforms the city into a plethora of other-worldly cinematic locations.

The showreel features Dunedin-raised comedian and actor James Mustapic in a range of locations across the area as he parodies an assortment of characters to highlight Dunedin's filming potential.

The video was created entirely in-house by Enterprise Dunedin and produced by Film Dunedin with the aim of showcasing Dunedin's varying and conveniently close

landscapes, locations and settings for filmmakers, producers, location scouts and industry executives.

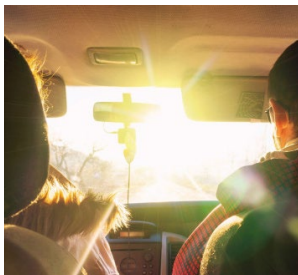
The showreel demonstrates how Dunedin could stand in for the Scottish Highlands, Manhattan, an English estate, a magical fantasy world, or even an alien planet.

Locations used include Princes Street and the Exchange as "The Big Apple", Blackhead Quarry as "Alien Planet", Dunedin Railway Station as a magical train platform, Middlemarch as "Middle Realm", and Ocean View Beach as a deserted island.

Dunedin has a long history of attracting film projects from Hollywood juggernauts like *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*, *The Hobbit* and *The Power of the Dog* to indie films like *Uproar* and *Mārama*.

Most recently, it was used as a setting for the Netflix film *The Royal Treatment*, and yet-to-be-released miniseries *East of Eden*.

CHILLY DAYS AND HOT TIPS



This time of year sees an increase in the risk of sunstrike when driving.

When the sun's rays hit your windscreen at a low angle, it makes it hard to see. Make sure your windows are clean, use window visors, have sunglasses handy, and slow down when it strikes. It may be best to pull over and wait until visibility improves.

And with temperatures dropping, many people have the fire going to make the house nice and toasty. If you haven't used your fireplace in a while, you may need to give it a clean. Ashes can stay hot even after the fire has been put out. Remember to dampen discarded ashes, and store them in a securely lidded

metal container and leave for at least three days to make sure they're cold. Bag cold ashes before putting into the red-lidded waste bin for kerbside collection. The last thing anyone wants is an unintentional fire.

Old batteries and gas bottles can pose a fire risk, as can damaged lithium batteries, so dispose of these safely. Gas bottles and batteries should not be put in rubbish or recycling bins as they can explode and start a fire. You can take them (and other household batteries) to the Rummage Store at Green Island Landfill for safe disposal.

There may be a charge depending on what is being disposed of. Other options include recertifying or swapping expired bottles, so check with your local gas supplier too.

FOUNDATIONS FESTIVAL



Get ready to celebrate Ōtepoti Dunedin's rich heritage and evolving cultural identity with the launch of a new city-wide festival next year.

A collaboration between the Southern Heritage Trust and the Dunedin City Council (DCC), Foundations: Festival of Dunedin's Past, Present and Future will build on previous heritage festivals and expand the scope to engage broader and more diverse audiences.

The new festival will combine themes of history, heritage, creativity, food, music and community, and aims to honour stories that have shaped Dunedin and its cultural identity – and how these continue to influence the city going into the future.

The new festival represents a major step forward in how Dunedin's outstanding heritage is shared and celebrated.

Foundations will honour Dunedin's heritage in a way that is more inclusive, dynamic and relevant to contemporary audiences.

It will build on Dunedin's place as the heritage capital of New Zealand, and act as a drawcard for national and international visitors.

The Trust recognises that heritage is not static, and it continues to be part of our daily lives and seen in our streets and surrounding areas. The festival will embrace the idea that heritage is ever-changing and constantly woven into the community.

Foundations is scheduled to launch in 2027, with further programme details, partnerships and announcements to be released in the coming months.

HAVE YOUR SAY



DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 26-27

Submissions on our proposed draft Annual Plan for the 2026/27 financial year are now open. The draft Plan enacts the second year of our 9 Year Plan 2025-34 (9YP) which we consulted on last year. The draft Plan reflects the 9YP so closely that we are asking for feedback on just one key proposed change.

We're proposing to change the rating method to address a significant rise in the valuation of our water assets and prevent a significant rise in water rates.

More information about the draft Plan and the proposed change can be found in the consultation document.

There is also information about covering stadium expenses and debt in the long term. You have until Wednesday 29 April to get your submissions in.

dunedin.govt.nz/2026AP

10 YEAR PLAN 2027-37 – EARLY ENGAGEMENT

We're forming our plans and budgets for the next 10 years and we're checking in early to find out what is important to you. We need your help prioritising the activities that will shape Ōtepoti Dunedin's future so we can develop our draft 10 year plan for 2027–2037.

For instance, we are planning a review of options for Smooth Hill landfill and we want to hear what you think. Learn about all the DCC services and facilities, from libraries to cemeteries, from emergency management to social housing, and tell us what matters most to you.

Early feedback opens Tuesday 14 April and closes noon Sunday 31 May.

dunedin.govt.nz/10yp

SHORT AND SWEET

COUNCIL BY-ELECTION

Nominations for the Dunedin City Council by-election closed last month with 14 confirmed candidates vying for a position on the Council.

The confirmed candidates are Pamela Taylor, Conrad Stedman, Andrew Whiley, Bill Acklin, Aaron Hawkins, Richard Knights, Carmen Houlahan, Garreth Ottley, Jo Galer, Angela McErlane, Lync Aronson, Lianna McFarlane, Gordon Dickson and Angus MacKay.

More information about the candidates including profiles and video interviews, and details on how and where to vote, can be found on our website.

The by-election will be held by postal vote. Voting papers, with booklets featuring candidate photos and statements, will be mailed out to enrolled electors from 10 April when voting opens. Polls will close at midday on 12 May.

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 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



WILD DUNEDIN – NZ FESTIVAL OF NATURE

This ten-day festival showcases all that makes Ōtepoti Dunedin the wildlife capital of New Zealand with various events and opportunities to learn and experience local wildlife.

Friday 10 to Sunday 19 April | Various locations, times, dates and events and prices | See website

K-POP LIVE!

Bursting with dazzling costumes, dynamic choreography, and all the biggest K-Pop hits, this fun-filled show will have audiences singing, dancing, and smiling from start to finish.

Friday 10 April | 2.30pm | Regent Theatre | Tickets from \$35

OLVESTON @ SIX – MUSIC OF THE NIGHT

Three gifted classical singers will perform a selection of beautiful opera, art song and musical theatre pieces over two evenings at Olveston Historic Home. Bookings essential.

Friday 10 and Saturday 11 April | 6pm
Olveston Historic Home | \$50

PACO PEÑA: FLAMENCO IN CONCERT

Rooted in the culture of Andalucía, flamenco blends centuries of song, dance, and rhythm into a powerful expression of human emotion.

Saturday 18 April | 7pm | Regent Theatre | Tickets from \$75



ROCK TENORS: ANTHEMS RELOADED TOUR

The Rock Tenors and Rock Divas unleash a seismic surge of power, nostalgia, and pure rock with their electrifying new show celebrating the greatest rock hits of all time.

Saturday 18 April | 7pm | Dunedin Town Hall
Tickets from \$81.05

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.

Tuesday 28 April | 4pm - 7.30pm | Dunedin Railway Station
Free entry

INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE – PROFESSOR ANNA HIGH

Anna's research delves into a range of areas, including sexual violence, evidence, Chinese law and mindfulness pedagogy. Join her for her inaugural professorial lecture "Dignity and Law."

Tuesday 28 April | 5.30pm | Burns 2 Lecture Theatre,
University of Otago | Free entry

RUNWAY REVIVAL FASHION SHOW

Celebrate emerging designers as they debut fresh, original creations crafted from op-shop finds and experience an atmosphere filled with energy, innovation and heart.

Thursday 30 April | 7pm | Errick's Event Venue, Crawford Street | Tickets from \$80

RELAY FOR LIFE DUNEDIN

A community fundraising event that brings friends, whānau, schools and workplaces together to celebrate, remember, and raise funds for those affected by cancer. Sign up to take part, build your team and start fundraising.

Saturday 2 May | 10am-10pm | Forsyth Barr Stadium
Registration from \$10

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