

OCTOBER 2026

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL | kaunihera
a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

MAYOR'S DESK



The year is fast drawing to a close, and with it our maintenance teams are getting ready for a busy tourist season.

Work has been underway making improvements at Olveston, Lan Yuan, and Moana Pool, and at some of our outdoor areas such as the St Clair esplanade where we're replacing the handrails.

The St Clair Hot Water Pool and Port Chalmers Swimming Pool both recently opened for the summer season. There is a new theatrette at Tōitu Otago Settlers Museum with a special show that delves into the history of Ōtepoti and Ōtākou, and the Spring programme is underway for

the Ōtepoti Garden Festival. I'm also excited about the launch of the Bloom Hub at the gardens, and Dunedin Heritage Weekend from 9 to 11 October.

All of these exciting things, and more, help make Ōtepoti a special place to be – and this hasn't gone unnoticed. The global travel giant Lonely Planet has recognised Dunedin and Waitaki as one of the world's top destinations to visit in 2027. Lonely Planet has named our city and neighbours in Ōamaru in its annual Best in Travel publication celebrating where to go and what to experience in the year ahead. I'm thrilled with Dunedin's inclusion as one of the best destinations for 2027.

But of course, this should be no surprise to those of us who have long known our city's appeal – and it's great to see the rest of the world is catching on.

Sophie Barker
Mayor of Dunedin



Lan Yuan Dunedin Chinese Garden is a perfect miniature of a traditional Chinese landscape painting encapsulating the essence of nature.

It was built to take you on a journey to a greater understanding of Chinese history, culture, heritage, and tradition. And it is right in the heart of Dunedin city and open to explore and enjoy all year round.

Prefabricated and assembled in Shanghai on a site identical in size and shape to that at Lan Yuan, the garden was then dismantled and transported to Dunedin and reconstructed by artisans and supervisors from Shanghai. You may have noticed Lan Yuan has been a hive of activity lately.

Work has been underway as part of the annual scheduled maintenance programme incorporating cleaning, inspection, repairs on the masonry gables and roof tiles, maintenance on the timber, and painting of the exterior walls.

And as the weather warms up, the changing season brings to life the azaleas, camellias, magnolias, maple trees and plum blossom at the garden. Enjoy tea and snacks as you sit in the Tea House overlooking the pond, explore the gift shop for unique mementos, and wander the winding stone paths and bridges at your leisure. Information on garden entry and annual passes are available on the Lan Yuan website.

COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE



The Saddle Hill Community Board is proud to support our local community through both our Community Funding Grants and Youth Ambassador Awards.

This year, grants were awarded to Fairfield School, the Brighton Club, Brighton Surf Life Saving Club, the Otokia Creek and Marsh Habitat Trust, and the Fairfield Bowling Club. These groups play an important role in enriching our community, and we are pleased to support their valuable work.

We were delighted to receive a high number of applications for our Youth Ambassador Awards, with six local young people receiving grants. We are incredibly proud of what these young ambassadors

have gone on to achieve and the positive way they represent our community.

At our most recent meeting, we welcomed Councillor Marie Laufiso as our newly appointed council representative. We also acknowledged the passing of Jules Radich and paid tribute to his service to the community.

Recently, we hosted a Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness evening, participated in consultation on proposed speed limit changes at Taieri Mouth, and worked alongside stakeholders to address drainage issues on Old Brighton Road.

Looking ahead, our top priorities are improving road safety (including advocating for a shared pathway between Waldronville and Ocean View), continuing to improve flood resilience and relief, and progress on the Southern Coast Erosion Plan.

Tracey Boereboom
Saddle Hill Community
Board Deputy Chair

JOB DUN INTERNSHIP



Local businesses struggling in the search for skilled workers are encouraged to apply for help with the JobDUN internship programme.

The DCC-led internship programme has been supporting businesses for over ten years, and it is now open for applications.

JobDUN is a business-driven programme that connects businesses, social enterprises and not for profits in Dunedin with talented, tertiary-educated students. It aims to retain skills in the city by helping businesses find students to meet their needs.

Since 2012, over 656 interns have been connected with local businesses under

the programme. This has resulted in 344 employment positions – 249 of which were new roles. About half of the interns are offered a permanent role with the help of JobDUN. Ninety-five percent of businesses have been satisfied with the quality of the interns.

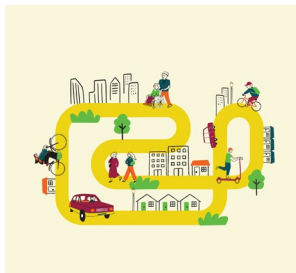
Under jobDUN, your business can access skilled and motivated interns to fill gaps in your team, tap into a pool of fresh ideas and perspectives from Dunedin's top students, contribute to the local economy by retaining talent and skills in the city, and provide a pathway to career development for young people. JobDUN Dunedin's Business Internship Programme provides a \$1000 grant to support intern remuneration.

So, whether you're a startup, small business, not for profit, or an established firm, JobDUN is a proven, easy, and cost-effective way to find the talent you need.

Applications are now open. More information is available online.

jobdun.co.nz

ŌTEPOTI PATHWAYS FEEDBACK



Feedback on the Draft Ōtepoti Pathways Strategy is now being sought.

The strategy aims to make it safer and easier for people of all ages and abilities to walk, cycle, and wheel around Dunedin looking 30 years into the future. It focuses on improving travel choices, supporting healthier lifestyles, and economic benefits to the city. The strategy could also boost tourism by connecting with the wider regional trail network.

The strategy aims to work alongside other plans and policies to ensure transport networks are functional and resilient, and provide more choices as the city grows.

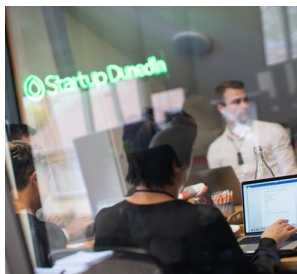
The strategy's vision statement is 'in Ōtepoti it is safe and easy for people of all ages and abilities to walk, cycle or wheel for everyday travel'. The strategy sets out goals and priority areas to support this.

To ensure our proposed footpaths, cycle ways and shared paths are the right fit, we want you to tell us what you think. Have we got the direction right? Is there anything important missing? What should we consider before adopting the strategy? What prevents you from walking or wheeling or biking more often? Are we prioritising the right things?

This is a 'big picture' strategy, so there is no funding allocated. After consultation is complete, projects may be considered through the DCC 10 Year Plan, Annual Plans and other funding processes.

Feedback closes 5pm,
Friday 16 October.

STARTUP WIN



Startup Dunedin is going from strength to strength after adding another accolade to its trophy cabinet.

The organisation was recently awarded Entrepreneur Support Organisation of the Year at the Global Entrepreneurship Network New Zealand (GEN NZ) Unconference and Awards.

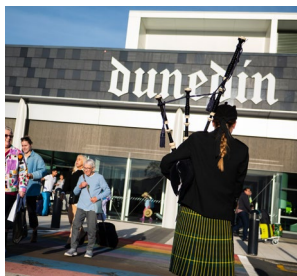
The award recognises the invaluable support given to entrepreneurs on their journey. It is based on reviews from the organisation's founders, how connected and supportive it is to the local community, its level of collaboration, and prioritisation of entrepreneurs.

Over the past year, Startup Dunedin worked with 174 founders and ran 135 events and workshops across Dunedin. Thirteen high-growth startups went through the Distiller incubator, and 72 students completed Audacious. Audacious is the entrepreneurship programme for Otago tertiary students, and it was also nominated in the Youth Programme of the Year category at the awards.

The award shows that Startup Dunedin has become an integral part of the local ecosystem by supporting numerous aspiring entrepreneurs and helping those seeking to grow.

The awards follow other recent success for Startup Dunedin, including receiving the regional trailblazer award at the previous GEN NZ awards in 2024 and manager Rachel Butler being named the Otago Daily Times' 2025 Business Leader of the Year.

DUNEDIN IS A STUNNER



The people of Ōtepoti are basking in the good life.

The results of the 2026 Rangahau te Korou o te Ora/ Quality of Life Survey show Dunedin residents continue to enjoy top quality of life scores in comparison to other towns and cities.

The survey found 83% of participants from across Ōtepoti rated their overall quality of life as positive, securing the city the top spot among seven participating centres for the second year in a row.

In addition, almost half of respondents said quality of life has stayed the same compared to the previous year, and almost a quarter said it has improved. Over half of respondents (62%)

reported their local area has a positive look and feel, and 90% find green and open spaces easy to get to.

Almost the same percentage of people (84%) agree these spaces support their wellbeing.

The survey also revealed areas that need improvement, including frustrations with traffic congestion, vandalism, and rubbish and litter. It also highlighted factors affecting quality of life, including housing affordability and cost of living.

Despite concerns around dangerous driving and theft or burglary, 92% of people said they feel safe in city centre during the day.

The overall results tell an incredibly positive story about Dunedin. Other participating centres included Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Porirua and Hutt City.

ALCOHOL BYLAW CONSULT



The DCC wants to know what you think about some proposed changes to Dunedin's Alcohol (Control of Alcohol in Public Places) Bylaw.

The bylaw prohibits people from bringing, possessing, or consuming alcohol in designated public areas (with some exceptions). It also allows temporary alcohol bans to be in place for special events. Police are responsible for enforcing the rules.

The proposed changes won't prevent people from transporting alcohol through alcohol ban areas. People will still be able to carry alcohol such as purchases from licensed premises or taking drinks to a private property.

Following conversations with the community and key stakeholders in early engagement, some of the proposed changes include introducing a permanent alcohol ban in the Logan Park sports hub area and continuing the existing permanent alcohol ban in central Dunedin.

Do you have thoughts on this issue? Making a submission is a simple way to let us know what you think before final decisions are made. Public feedback helps inform Council decisions and gives Councillors a better understanding of community views.

Consultation closes Friday, 23 October.

NEW STREET NAMES A DESIRE



More influential Dunedin women are being recognised for their contributions to the city.

The DCC recently agreed to name five new roads in a Calton Hill subdivision after women who have had a strong and positive influence in Dunedin.

The move is part of a commitment by the DCC to add more names – including more influential women – to its Road Naming Register.

The register is a database of potential names of influential New Zealanders that can be chosen for new road names when new streets are formed.

From the register, the names of five women were chosen and approved by Council for the Calton Hill subdivision.

The five chosen names are Rachel Reynolds Place, Lusk Lane, Fache Lane, Hinds Place and Soper Close in reference to Rachel Selina Reynolds (1838-1928), Doris Lusk (1916-1990), Ada Fache (1918-1994), Elizabeth Hinds (1940-1998) and Eileen Louise Soper (1900-1989) respectively.

The Council also sought to fast-track the road naming process, to allow developers who choose a name from the register to skip to the end of the process.

Updating the list of names on the register is part of efforts to encourage a more inclusive and representative mix of street names in Dunedin.

Developers are picking up and running with the new approach which reflected with a more diverse representation of names and the shared history here in Ōtepoti.

SHORT AND SWEET

DROP



COVER



HOLD



PREPARE TO SHAKEOUT

Are you ready to Shake Out?

ShakeOut is New Zealand's national self-run earthquake and tsunami drill and hīkoi (evacuation walk). This year it takes place on Wednesday, 21 October at 1.30pm.

Workplaces, schools and households are encouraged to DROP, COVER and HOLD as if they are in a real emergency or earthquake. You can practice a tsunami hīkoi if you're in a coastal area.

It is also a reminder and good time to check personal and household emergency plans and supplies such as water, non-perishable food, extra toilet paper and buckets, work gloves and facemasks, and a grab bag in case you need to evacuate.

More information can be found on the ShakeOut and NZ Civil Defence websites.

NEW NEWS UPDATES

Did you know we now regularly publish Council decisions on our website?

To keep everyone in Ōtepoti Dunedin regularly updated we are providing summaries of key decisions after each full Council meeting. Whether the Council decides to consult on a new bylaw, what to spend money on, or what new projects and work it wants to start soon, the information will be published on our Latest News section of the website alongside our other media releases and news.

We're also providing more regular updates on our social media channels to ensure we reach more people and our news can be easily found.

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

DUNEDIN HERITAGE WEEKEND

Join us for a weekend of talks, tours and events exploring some of the stories, places and people that have shaped Dunedin.

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 October | Various events

ARTIST TALK: JULIET CARPENTER ON HEAVEN'S BLADE 💰

Hear from filmmaker Juliet Carpenter about the production and conceptual elements of their film Heaven's Blade, set in a world where the sun is too intense to safely inhabit the outdoors.

Saturday 10 October | 11am | Dunedin Public Art Gallery

DUNEDIN TWEED RIDE

Don your finest tweeds, vintage attire or best spring frock for a relaxed cycle ride from the Dunedin Gasworks Museum to the Glenfalloch Gardens.

Sunday 11 October | 10.30am | Dunedin Gasworks Museum
\$5 per rider



ANNA PAVLOVA IN NZ: A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION 💰

This illustrated lecture explores Anna Pavlova's 1926 tour of New Zealand, her repertoire and impact on New Zealand audiences and dance traditions.

Monday 12 October | 5.30pm | City Library

WAKARI ART GROUP DISCOUNT ART SALE

Peruse through hundreds of beautiful artworks created by local artists on sale at affordable prices at the Meridian Mall – a perfect opportunity for art lovers and Christmas gifts.

Wednesday 14 to Sunday 18 October | Meridian Mall

BEATLEMANIA ON TOUR

Relive the heyday of The Beatles with performances of their biggest hits brought to life on stage with authentic costumes, replica instruments and theatrical lighting.

Friday 16 October | 7.30pm | Regent Theatre | \$79 Adult, \$71.10 Senior

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW



Let's do the time warp again! Taieri Musical presents Richard O'Brien's cult classic rock 'n' roll musical that has thrilled, shocked, and delighted audiences for more than 50 years.

Thursday 29 October – Sunday 7 November | 8pm | Mayfield Theatre

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.

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