



Dunedin Gymnastic Academy

Dunedin City Council 2025/26 Annual Plan Submission

Introduction

Dunedin Gymnastic Academy:

- Is a not-for-profit charitable organisation,
- Has over 650 active members,
- Employs over 30 paid, part-time and full-time staff. Our coaches are often ex-gymnasts and tertiary students,
- It is the 5th largest gym club (by membership) in New Zealand and the second largest in the South Island,
- Has a 'gym for all' philosophy of providing fundamental movement skills for all ages and skill levels in a wide range of programmes and classes,
- Offers many programmes such as artistic gymnastics (recreational and competitive), parkour, preschool gym-fun, tumbling, trampoline, school programmes, adult gym, circus, school holiday programmes and even host birthday parties,
- Provides a regional hub for Artistic Gymsports, hosting Southern Champs and other large events which cater for athletes from multiple clubs across the South Island,
- Is a specialised training facility for multiple sports including diving and athletics (especially pole vault) as well as many other aerial skills-based sports (through open adults' classes),
- Is one of several gymnastic clubs in Dunedin. Total membership from others is approximately 200, and,
- Is governed by a committee of elected volunteers.

Submission

DGA has submitted to Council on several occasions about the need to develop a fit for purpose regional facility for Gym Sports and wider multi-use activities in Otago.

At the Annual Plan hearing in 2022 Council directed DGA to work with Parks and Recreation staff to evaluate potential sites for such a building. This was completed.

At the Annual Plan hearing in 2024 DGA requested assistance of \$50K for further investigation work at the Sidey Park ground. This was declined.

In October 2024 a potentially suitable building was identified in Kaikorai Valley Road, Dunedin. This building was a cool store facility. The DGA invited other possible user groups to view this building along with Dunedin City Councillors in December. Due diligence was completed and we met with various council departments to discuss requirements necessary for this to be a viable option. DGA cancelled this project on 2-April 2025 due to untenable negotiations with the vendor.





DUNEDIN GYMNASTIC ACADEMY

takaporepore mo te katoa

The DGA has since found an alternative building central to Dunedin which will meet our current needs. This building requires some ceiling alterations, new lights and heating. It is on leasehold land and does have some tenants which will assist with lease payments. We are currently expecting to sign and sale and purchase agreement subject to due diligence by the beginning of May.

Proposal

- We ask that the Council subject to completion of the sale and purchase provide financial assistance of \$300,000 for 3 years to assist our rates, outfitting and development costs of the building.
- We know that the rates relief grants process has been suspended until it can be re-evaluated by the DCC, but we hope that the Council will consider other ways to support organisations who may struggle to pay commercial rates that are not currently supported by the scheme.
- DGA is confident with your support that the Dunedin Gymnastic Academy will finally have a home.

Marion Maxwell

Facility Project Lead

Dunedin Gymnastic Academy

Michael Eathorne-Gould

President

Dunedin Gymnastic Academy

