Weekly Executive Update Report

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General Updates

1 Ōtepoti Dunedin isite Visitor Centre welcomes cruise ship season

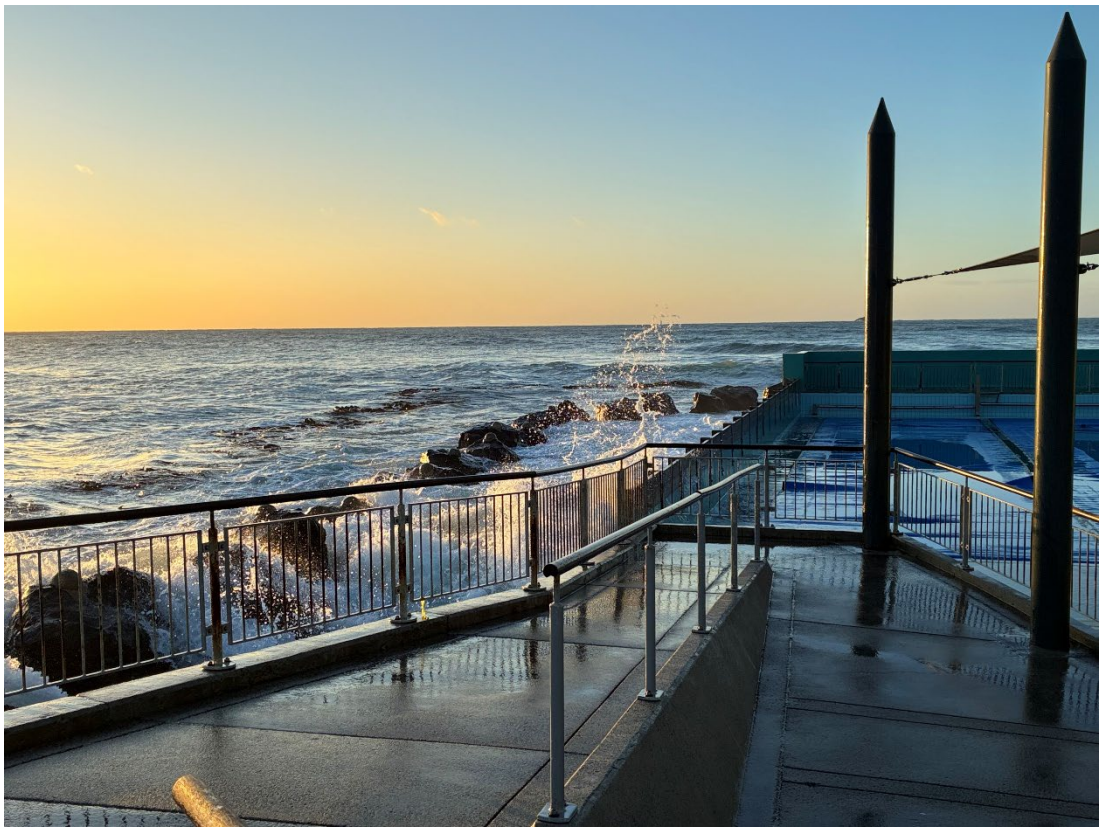
1.1 The first cruise ship of the season, Celebrity Edge, arrived in Dunedin on Wednesday 21 October with approximately 2,900 passengers and 1,320 crew. In partnership with Port Otago, isite operated a temporary visitor centre at the Port Chalmers Cruise Terminal alongside its Octagon location, helping welcome and orient visitors as they arrived. A piper greeted passengers at the terminal.

1.2 With 85 cruise ships scheduled to visit Dunedin through to mid-April 2027, isite has welcomed several new summer staff to support the busy season. Throughout this period, the team will act as ambassadors for Dunedin by showcasing the city's attractions, recommending local cafés, restaurants and businesses, and connecting cruise visitors with local tours and experiences.

2 Parks and Recreation update

Aquatics

2.1 St Clair Hot Salt Water Pool closed on Tuesday 27 October after an overnight power cut left the water below operating temperature. High tides and large swells caused flooding and further closures on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 October. The pool reopened at midday on Friday 30 October. Staff provided updates through the Dunedin Pools social media channel.



2.2 Christmas operating hours for our pools have been confirmed.

Christmas Hours 2026/2027

Date	Moana	St Clair	Te Puna	Port Chalmers
Thursday 24th December	5.30am-12.00pm	6.00am-12.00pm	6.00am-12.00pm	6.00am-12.00pm
Friday 25th December	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday 26th December	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	Closed
Sunday 27th December	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Monday 28th December	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday 29th December	9.30am-5.00pm	7.00am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Wednesday 30th December	9.30am-5.00pm	7.00am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Thursday 31st December	9.30am-5.00pm	7.00am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Friday 1st January	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Saturday 2nd January	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	Closed
Sunday 3rd January	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Monday 4th January	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	9.30am-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm
Tuesday 5th January	Normal Hours	Normal Hours	Normal Hours	Normal Hours

2.3 Work on the Moana Pool construction project is progressing. The new laundry is expected to be completed by Friday 6 November, and work on the high windows is due to be finished by the end of November 2026. Work on the heat recovery renewal is ongoing.

2.4 Te Puna o Whakaehu Spa Pool work continues with water proof testing underway and once this is complete the final tiling will begin.

Parks and Recreation bookings

2.5 Parks and recreation bookings to Wednesday 28 October:

Field Bookings	160
Gymnasium Bookings	23
Lights	1
Change facilities	22
Athletics Track and fields	24
Botanic Gardens	1
Reserves & Carparks	13
Pavilions and function rooms	1
Total:	245

Botanic Garden

2.6 The Botanic Garden hosted the Garden Ōtepoti Festival Picnic Day on Labour Day, Monday 26 October. Approximately 300 people attended and enjoyed a mix of performances, stalls and family-friendly activities.

2.7 The October night shoot at the Botanic Garden removed five rabbits, two possums and two rats over two nights.

Parks Planning

2.8 The Parks Planning team has commenced a review of the Coastal Dune Reserves Management Plan (2010). The Coastal Dune Reserves Management Plan was adopted in 2010 to guide the long-term management of Dunedin's coastal dune reserves. This is the first stage of engagement. The submission period is from Thursday 29 October until Friday 27 November at 5pm. Staff are organising engagement activities for this period with a series of public hui listed below and offer an online feedback form here.

- Ocean View & Brighton on Monday 9 November 5pm-7pm at the Brighton Surf Lifesaving club
- Long Beach on Tuesday 10 November 5-7pm at the Long Beach Community Hall
- DCC Civic Centre on Friday 13 November 12-2pm and Friday 20th November 12-2pm

2.9 Brenda Harwood from *The Star* newspaper met with military historian Charlie Boyes at ANZAC Square in front of the Dunedin Railway Station to mark the installation of a new sign that acknowledges the significance of the space as a gathering and departure point for Otago soldiers serving overseas during wartime. ANZAC Square was the stepping off point for Otago and Southland soldiers heading for service with the NZ Expeditionary Force in World War 1.

Parks Operations

2.10 The team are carrying out maintenance on the Flagstaff/Pineapple Track and the Mount Cargill Track. Work on the Flagstaff/Pineapple Track is nearing completion.

2.11 We are currently renewing equipment and softfall at Riselaw Road Playground and repainting existing equipment.

2.12 Foundation posts for the George Street seesaw have arrived, allowing Parks Operations to schedule repairs and reopen the play equipment as soon as possible.

2.13 The Caledonian Ground upgrade is underway. Primary school sports have relocated to Mosgiel Memorial Park and Tahuna Park while the work continues.

2.14 The team have sprayed Prospect Park Sportsfield in preparation for ground reconstruction.

2.15 Parks Operations is trimming the shelter belt at Green Park Cemetery to maintain clearance from nearby power lines.

2.16 Development work at Green Park Cemetery includes the installation of a new road and drainage. The additional infrastructure will provide areas for full burials, family ashes and double-ash interments.

2.17 We have increased mowing and spraying across the city's grassed areas in response to seasonal growth.

2.18 Warm weather is expected to contribute to increased wasp activity this season. The city-wide Vespex programme will begin before Christmas. In the meantime, residents who identify wasps in DCC parks or reserves should contact Customer Services or email pests@dcc.govt.nz so contractors can locate and destroy the nests.

2.19 Our gardeners are refreshing the garden beds at Green Island Memorial by removing and replacing annual plants.

2.20 OSPRI's TBFree Programme will begin in the Outram, Mosgiel and East Taieri urban areas next week. DCC is working with OSPRI and its contractors to keep affected communities informed, although OSPRI is leading the programme. Contractors will use toxins only on private land where landowners have given consent. They will use traditional trapping methods in DCC parks and reserves to minimise risks to non-target species. The programme will support the health of native plants and wildlife. Further information is available on the OSPRI website.

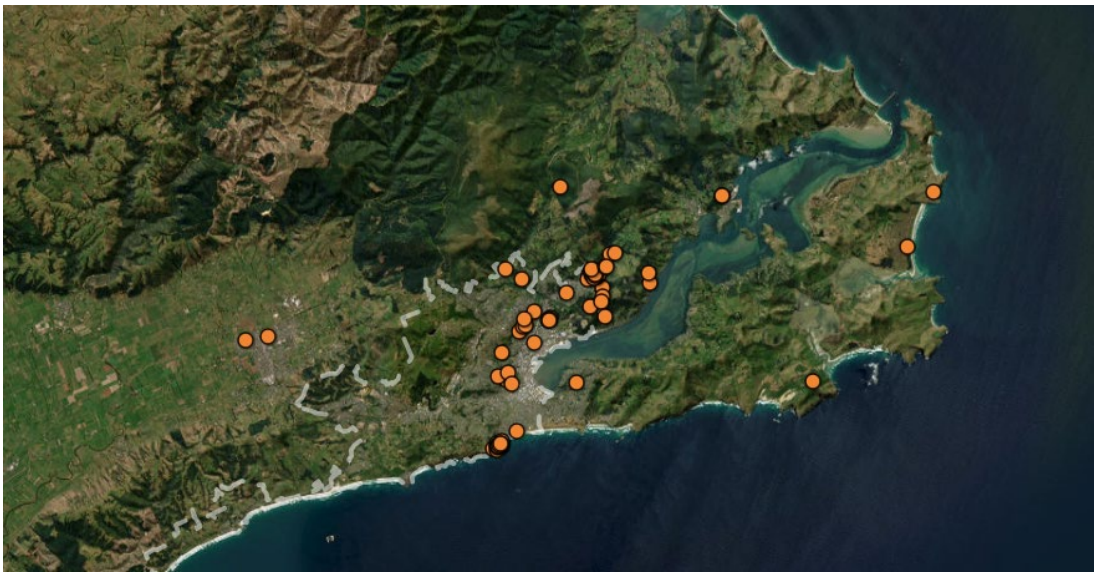


Map 1: Possum Control Operating Area (within the blue outline)

City Sanctuary

2.21 City Sanctuary is transforming the former Mulford Park Scout Hall in Concord into a shared conservation volunteer hub. Since taking over the building earlier this year, staff and volunteers have prepared the interior for a volunteer celebration on 6 December. The new hub will support community-led conservation initiatives across the city's parks and reserves.

2.22 City Sanctuary is working with Orokonui Ecosanctuary to map kākā sightings across Dunedin and support the safe return of kākā and buff weka to the city's urban environment. The project will track sightings and help protect these taonga species as they establish beyond Orokonui's predator-proof fence. City Sanctuary is also investigating reports that buff weka may have been released in some DCC reserves. Members of the public can report sightings to info@citysanctuary.nz



Map 2: Dunedin's Kākā & Weka Sightings 2026

2.23 Five-minute Bird Counts (5MBC) Volunteers and staff have just completed our quarterly 5MBC round. This programme commenced in January 2025 and compliments our Town Belt Bird Trail which is supported by BirdsNZ. Results of these programmes enable us to measure the success of the city-wide trapping networks and demonstrate the immense effort from volunteers and backyard trappers. This data is reported to the Department of Conservation as part of Predator Free Dunedin's new strategic objectives.

2.24 Volunteer Contributions – City Sanctuary volunteers contributed 328 hours between 26 and 30 October, the equivalent of 41 workdays.

3 Septic waste returning to Green Island Wastewater Treatment Plan

3.1 Septic trade waste (transported via trucks) has been diverted to Musselburgh Pump Station since the end of 2025, due to a renewal upgrade at the inlet pumping wells in at Green Island plant. The upgrade project has now finished allowing Green Island plant to again receive the loads of septic trade waste from Monday 2 November.

4 Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti Dunedin Public Libraries

4.1 The launch of Public Libraries of New Zealand (PLNZ) Community Impact Survey is this week. This survey invites library users across Aotearoa to share how they engage with their local library. Click here to complete the survey.

4.2 Come to City Library's *Reading allowed* to enjoy hearing chapters read from Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee and Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell by Susanna Clarke on Wednesday 4 November at 5.30pm.

4.3 Dunedin Public Libraries Heritage Foundation hosted a talk by Dr Tony Fitchett about the Olga and Marcus Fitchett Collection of over 2800 children's books which the family

recently donated to Dunedin Public Libraries. The talk was well attended at the Dunningham Suite on Thursday 29 October.

4.4 Our Director hosted a tour of the library for Rachel Harvey (Burns Fellow, University of Otago) and Siobhan Harvey (Caselberg Trust Margaret Egan Cities of Literature Writers Resident) on Wednesday 28 October.

4.5 Halloween themed vinyl decal making was held last week in Te wāhi Auaha at South Dunedin Community Library.



5 DPAG, Toitū, Lan Yuan and Olveston update

5.1 The Toitū team is currently rolling out a new City of Music display in the museum's Twentieth Century Gallery. The final phase of the project is an alcove dedicated to the Dunedin Sound, which is scheduled for completion by the end of November.

5.2 Toitū has recently acquired several significant objects to help tell the City of Music story, including a guitar that featured in the 1982 music video for *Kaleidoscope World* by The Chills. The guitar was purchased by Toitū at a recent local auction of items from the collection of Martin Phillipps, founder of The Chills and one of New Zealand's most influential musicians. The auction attracted considerable public and media interest, reflecting Phillipps' enduring significance to Dunedin's cultural identity and New Zealand music history. The acquisition represents an important addition to Toitū's collections and a tangible connection to the internationally recognised Dunedin Sound. The guitar will eventually go on display as part of the new exhibition.

5.3 Link to music video featuring the new acquired guitar: Kaleidoscope World - The Chills

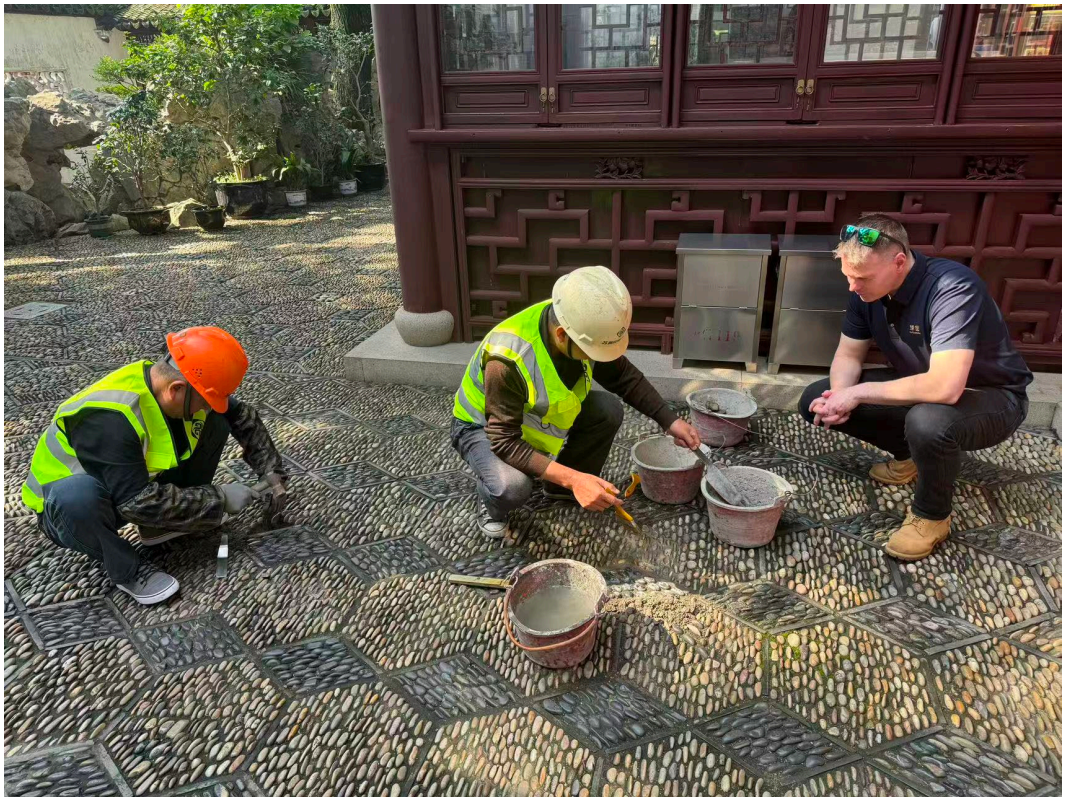
6 Shanghai delegation update

6.1 Project China lead Zhang Hui has stayed on in Shanghai following the Mayoral Delegation for a schedule of business meetings. This has included discussions with the leadership at Shanghai Botanic Gardens to establish a range of collaborative projects with Dunedin Botanic Garden.



Photo 1: Zhang Hui pictured

6.2 Hui has also supported Ciaran Cooper, DCC Property Services, to settle into accommodation and start a month-long residency with the building and heritage maintenance staff at Yu Yuan, the 400+ yr old sister garden to Lan Yuan in Dunedin.





Photos 1 and 2: Ciaran Cooper pictured

7 Community Partnership update

7.1 Enviroschools met with schools and community partners during the week to progress a range of environmental initiatives. This included edible garden discussions with Waikouaiti, Fairfield, Musselburgh, Port Chalmers and Bayfield schools, engagement with Good Food Dunedin, predator monitoring using tracking tunnels with Elmgrove, and participation in the New Zealand Bumblebee Conservation Trust AGM. The team is also preparing to welcome 40 students from 10 schools to the Enviroschools Year 4–6 Student Hui, *Learn Grow Create*, at Otago Polytechnic's Living Campus on Friday 6 November.

7.2 Task Force Green community volunteers are completing a range of maintenance and improvement projects across the city, including pathway and cemetery upkeep, vegetation clearance, graffiti removal, painting and playground improvements. The team is also delivering a weed-eating programme across 29 sites.

7.3 The Keep Dunedin Beautiful team are researching potential mural locations for the next mural project.

7.4 The Rates Relief Grant fund is now closed with assessments underway.

7.5 Our Community Partnerships team activity with groups across the city includes the Otago Providers Elderly Network meeting on Wednesday 4 November and with the Place Based end-of-year hui scheduled for Tuesday 10 November.

8 Mana Ruruku preparing for the upcoming Te Pae Māori Committee meeting

8.1 The Mana Ruruku team is working with mana whenua and staff across the organisation to support the successful delivery of the upcoming Te Pae Māori Committee meeting. As a joint committee, Te Pae Māori provides a key mechanism for Māori participation in local government decision-making and for giving effect to the organisation's commitments under Te Tiriti o Waitangi through the implementation of Te Taki Haruru.

9 Remediation works for Kettle Park resulting in Middle Beach partial closure

9.1 On Friday 30 October, DCC issued a media release and social media update advising that emergency remediation work would begin at Kettle Park following significant beach erosion along St Clair/St Kilda beach during this year's winter storms.

9.2 A 2.8m-high erosion scarp has formed approximately 4m from the dune toe in front of the Kettle Park Coastal Landfill. Previous investigations have identified buried contaminated material as close as 4m from the dune face, highlighting the increasing risk of contaminant exposure. An aerial drone survey of St Clair to Lawyers Head Beaches was commissioned to assess the extent of the sediment loss and determine the placement of the geobags.

9.3 In response, temporary geobag structures will be installed to stabilise the dune system in front of Kettle Park and reduce the risk of contaminated material being discharged into the marine environment. The works will involve extending the existing geobag structure approximately 150m eastward with fourteen 20m-long bags and will be undertaken as emergency works due to the extent of recent erosion and the increased vulnerability of the landfill to further erosion during next winter's storms.

9.4 Geobags were last placed at Kettle Park landfill two years ago to stabilise the most exposed areas of the landfill. This current work will address previously unprotected areas of the landfill, ensuring protection from weather in 2027. Geobags are a temporary solution as they can have detrimental effects over long periods and are being used while long-term remediation planning develops.

9.5 The works are estimated to cost $750,000 with site preparation underway this week. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of December, subject to weather conditions and any required stand-down periods. Public access to the beach will be managed throughout the works to maintain safety.



9.6 Long-term remediation options for Kettle Park will be presented to Council in the next few months, alongside the broader coastal management strategy for Saint Clair–Saint Kilda.

9.7 The ODT published their story on the ODT website on Friday 30 October https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/erosion-threat-to-close-section-of-popular-dunedin-beach-tywx4buu

10 Transport department update

10.1 With support from the DCC Web Team, the Transport team has upgraded the Cycle Counter Dashboard using an improved product from our supplier. The dashboard displays a rolling year of data. Most counters run on batteries and may occasionally go offline, so staff complete a monthly data review to fill any gaps. View the dashboard here: Cycle Counter Dashboard - Dunedin City Council

10.2 The off-road shared path between the St Andrew's Street carpark and the Forsyth Barr Stadium area is currently closed due to hazardous waste removal following demolition work at a site on Fryatt St.

10.3 Some areas of George Street in the retail precinct are showing signs of deformation and cracking, particularly at the St Andrew Street and Hanover Street intersections. The Transport team has arranged testing and will work with our contractors to develop a plan to remediate these areas.

11 City of Literature update

11.1 Dunedin City of Literature is collaborating with the Otago Scottish Heritage Council to deliver the annual Robert Burns International Poetry Competition. Everyone is warmly invited to submit a poem by 30 November in English, te reo Māori, Scots, or their first

language on the theme From Heather to Harakeke – Poetry of Land, People, and Belonging. The competition, which attracts poets from Ōtepoti and around the world, has three divisions: Published Poet; Unpublished Poet; and Rap Like Robbie, for school students under 18. Thanks to the competition sponsors, generous cash prizes, trophies, and medals are offered. All first prize winners will be invited to attend the Dunedin Burns Supper on Saturday 23 January 2027 and to recite their poem on stage or on screen. Details and entry form are here Robert Burns International Poetry Competition – Otago Scottish Heritage Council.

11.2 Dunedin City of Literature is a proud community partner for FactBeast Country Challenge, an online game show conceived and hosted by young Ōtepoti writer Ajax Banstola (12), who is also a popular podcaster on OAR FM's Youth Zone. Ten rangatahi representing four continents (Asia, Europe, Africa and Oceania) are part of 'New Zealand's first youth-led multicultural game show'. Led by Ajax as host, the participants share 15 interesting facts about their country and culture, 'from food and festivals to sports, music, traditions, and surprising stories', while other rangatahi, known as the challengers, try to guess the country. Ajax intends that the FactBeast Country Challenge will 'give young Kiwi talent a chance to take the spotlight and showcase their knowledge, culture, creativity, and confidence'. The first two episodes are live now and episode one has already had 5.4K views FactBeast Country Challenge 2026 | Introducing Country Ambassadors and Challengers | S1 EP 1.



12 Enterprise Dunedin update

12.1 The Destination Manager took part in a Southern Way strategy hui in Cromwell. This partnership of the 8 regional tourism organisations and 3 airports in the Lower South promotes regional experiences and supports regional dispersal of visitors. The group discussed the successful international campaigns of the past year thanks to funding from the central government funded Tourism Boost Fund, and how consolidating capacity and trade activity could be of benefit to each region's operators.

12.2 The Events team facilitated a pre-summer city coordination meeting with key city stakeholders. These meetings ensure local businesses can contribute to, and make the most of the opportunities provided by, busy event days in the Dunedin.

12.3 The Marketing team have supported a number of organisations to share content and details of our local landscapes and experiences with international audiences – these included Tourism New Zealand, ChristchurchNZ, Otago Trails Trust and some local businesses.

12.4 The Business Events Lead attended the Business Events Industry Aotearoa Conference in Christchurch, catching up with industry colleagues, making new connections and sharing ideas with business events professionals from around the country. It was a great opportunity to discuss emerging opportunities and bring back fresh ideas to support our work attracting conferences and business events to Dunedin, helping grow the city's profile and deliver wider economic benefits.

12.5 The International Study Lead delivered a webinar to introduce our economic and destination strengths to a leading education partner in Philippines. This was well attended by over 20 counsellors and was a follow up request after a joint session with ChristchurchNZ to an Education New Zealand roadshow in Manila last month. Philippines is an emerging market for New Zealand with a high retention (90% retention with an average age of 30+ years) of skilled migrants after completion of studies.

13 Council diary

13.1 This week a Council meeting will be held on Thursday 5 November with a live stream here (117) Dunedin City Council - YouTube

13.2 Next week the following meetings will be held;

- Te Pae Māori Committee on Monday 9 November
- Finance and Performance Committee on Thursday 12 November

13.3 Agenda and minutes can be found here on our website Agendas and minutes - Dunedin City Council