

SEPTEMBER 2025

FYI

YOUR DCC NEWS



DUNEDIN
CITY COUNCIL

kaunihera
a-rohe o
Ōtepoti

CEO'S COLUMN



Kia ora koutou

The work of Council continues at pace in the lead-up to the election. The South Dunedin Library (located in Te Whata o Kaituna on King Edward Street) has been formally blessed, we've completed the hearings for the Mosgiel Recreation Area management plan review, and Council has signed off on the adoption of the Water Services Delivery Plan.

The Plan was developed following feedback from the community indicating a preference for water delivery to remain in-house. It is now with the Department of Internal Affairs | Te Tari Taiwhenua for sign-off, after which we'll share more information about what it means and what we'll be working towards.

Progress is being made on another significant piece of Dunedin infrastructure with work on the Southern Hospital now well under way. Last month the Mayor and I attended the inaugural Southern Engagement Group forum, which has been established by Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora to keep community stakeholders informed on progress. The work happening on site is testament to the passion of the people of the South who advocated for this important asset.

Local elections are almost upon us, and voting papers will be delivered in the coming weeks. You'll receive booklets with information about each candidate. If you'd like to learn more about the candidates you can check out their Otago Access Radio interviews at oar.org.nz/shows/localelections2025, or watch their videos on the DCC website. The role of Councillors and Community Board Members makes a real impact on the day-to-day lives of Ōtepoti residents, so be sure to vote.

Sandy Graham
DCC Chief Executive Officer

dunedin.govt.nz



This year marks 80 years since the catastrophic Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings and, to mark the anniversary, a ginkgo tree was planted at Truby King Reserve last month.

Organised by the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board, the small planting project aims to honour the resilience of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki since the bombings.

The planting of the tree acts as a call for peace, and it will join two other ginkgo trees already planted at Truby King Reserve in Seacliff.

All three trees are direct descendants of a tree at Tsuruhane Shrine that survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

In 2017, thirty Ginkgo biloba seeds that originated from a surviving tree in Hiroshima came to Dunedin and have been nurtured at the Dunedin Botanic Garden since.

Garden staff have had the honour of successfully propagating 23 of the seeds and helped grow them into healthy trees. Last year, one of the trees was planted at the Market Reserve to mark Hiroshima Day on 15 August.

A grove in the arboretum near the Northern Cemetery has also been planted and trees from it have been distributed to other botanic gardens in the South Island.

Go and visit the trees, and have a walk around the reserve, to see the results of the wonderful mahi of garden staff and the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board.

LOCAL ELECTION VOTING



Voting papers for this year's local body elections will be arriving in Dunedin letterboxes this month, as Election Day fast approaches.

Dunedin voters have plenty of choice, with 16 candidates standing for the mayoralty, 54 for Council at large, and a further 59 running for seats on the city's six Community Boards.

Local government elections are held by postal vote. Post back your completed voting papers by 7 October to ensure they are received on time, or drop them into one of the orange voting bins around the city by midday on Saturday, 11 October.

If you don't receive your papers in the mail, or you're

not yet enrolled to vote, it's not too late – but you'll need to cast a special vote. Check your details or enrol online at vote.nz. Then you can collect a special voting pack from our voting station in the Civic Centre, or by email: specialvotes@electionservices.co.nz

In the last local elections, about 50% of enrolled Dunedin voters cast their ballot – and we'd love to see that number increase this year!

To be eligible to vote, you must be aged 18 or older, a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and your enrolled address must be within the Dunedin City Council district.

Find out more about the election candidates – and about how and where to vote – on our website.

HERITAGE FUNDING



The Dunedin Heritage Fund is open to owners and occupiers of historic buildings – including privately owned homes – embarking on a heritage project with a conservation focus.

Applications for the next round of the Heritage Fund are now open, and close at 5pm Friday, 31 October.

Not sure if your project meets the criteria? Dunedin City Council's heritage advisors can help provide guidance on whether your property and project are eligible, give advice on planning heritage conservation projects, and explain how to apply for funding.

Eligible projects include essential repairs, restoration works, preparation of specialist reports, and seismic strengthening.

One project recently financed by the Dunedin Heritage Fund involved restoration work at Pinner House. Two grants went towards a new slate roof and exterior repainting of the prominent St Clair residence.

Slaters John Meegan and Gavin James replaced the old slate to ensure the roof can last another 120 years. Traditional trades are crucial for looking after Dunedin's heritage buildings. Retaining the slate maintains the character and authenticity of the residence.

The fund helps protect the heritage values and character of Dunedin, and supports the conservation and continued use of key heritage sites in the city.

To find out more about the fund and how to apply, visit our website or give us a call on 03 477 4000 to speak with our Heritage Advisors.

dunedin.govt.nz/heritage-fund

NOT LONG TO GO



It's not long until the opening of the South Dunedin Community Library!

Contractors have been busy on the outdoor landscaping and finalising interior design details.

Not only does the building look great from the street front, it's looking beautiful out back as well. Lots of landscaping work has been happening at the Rankeillor Street entrance to the library.

There are sheltered reading nooks, a canopy and tree shelter, garden beds with native and scented plants, mobility and bike parking, space for community performances and outdoor events – as well as a second book return chute.

Construction has come a long way since the section was left vacant after the iconic Wolfenden and Russell Building burnt down in 2020. Not all was lost in the destructive fire, as bricks from the Wolfenden building have been salvaged and incorporated into the design of the new library as a lovely nod to the past.

Inside the building, finishing touches are being made to the ceiling and wall decals and designs.

Contractors are working hard to ensure everything is ready for the opening at the end of this month.

We'll have more information about the opening date and details soon. Keep an eye out on the DCC and Dunedin Libraries Facebook pages.

When complete, the library complex will feature a modern and accessible library and DCC service centre, as well as meeting rooms, creative spaces, and a recording studio.

YOUR SAY ON LOGAN PARK



We're looking at improving the parks in Ōtepoti, and next on the list is Logan Park. We've prepared a management plan for Logan Park and we want to hear your thoughts on it.

The plan looks at ways to enhance the area and accommodate the changing needs for sport and recreation in our community. We also want to improve traffic flow, parking and pedestrian access.

Feedback from an initial round of consultation helped us understand what people think about the park, how they use it, what its biggest issues are, and what activities they'd like in the future. Overall, the

community thought it was a good central location that could be utilised better.

There was clear support for Logan Park to function as a key sports hub in Ōtepoti Dunedin, and host other events such as Baseline and music festivals, as well as a need for improvements to its facilities to make it more accessible for all genders and people of all abilities.

There was also some concern about the subscription and booking system and groups not using it properly.

We're now in the second stage of consultation to help us make a better plan on how the park is used and looked after.

Have a look at the Logan Park Management Plan on our website and let us know if what you think. The final plan we prepare will reflect what Dunedin people value about this space.

You have until Monday, 3 November to make a submission.

NORMA UPGRADE



The symphonic pipe organ at the Dunedin Town Hall – affectionally known as ‘Norma’ – has been undergoing some repairs and refurbishment recently.

First built in 1919, the pipe organ had an early life touring England before it was brought to the Dunedin Town Hall in 1930.

It is made up of about 3500 pipes, and is used for many events throughout the year including graduations, school visits and choir events, as well as church services and concerts.

Norma holds significant historical value, and the maintenance work is being carried out to ensure it is

preserved and fit for use for generations to come.

The refurbishment involves re-leathering, and replacing some of the older and degraded materials such as blower sleeves, handrails, passage boards, and access stairs and ladders.

Norma was extensively restored 30 years ago and upgraded with the latest playing accessories and new console. Special care was needed to ensure the organ’s original sound was not greatly altered during the upgrades.

Although Norma now has modern features, its older accessories are on display as a working display of the original.

The first stage of the maintenance work is expected to be completed over the next few months, and further upkeep will be staged over the next four years.

BATH STREET MILESTONE



A major milestone has been reached in the Bath Street Upgrade Project with the completion of the essential pipe replacement work.

The project to replace degraded underground pipes in Bath Street and lower Stuart Street started in May of last year.

Ongoing work over the past year has seen significant improvements to the pipes and pavements, and now the underground work has been officially completed.

The pipe replacements future-proof the water, stormwater and sewer pipelines in the area for at least the next century – a wonderful outcome for the city and the community.

The work presented a number of challenges including the excavation of a five metre deep hole at the Stuart and Bath Street intersection, and having to navigate and connect a complicated 'spaghetti junction' of utility pipes in Bath Street, and reinforcing a building in Moray Place to make way for the work.

The last major aspect of the underground works involved decommissioning and grouting the watercourse pipe. It was the failure of the pipe that prompted the need for the upgrades in the first place.

With the underground work done, the focus is now on the above-ground works – the 'makeover' stage – to refresh road surfaces and make the area more pedestrian-friendly with shared spaces similar to those on George Street.

The surface level work is expected to be complete in October.

MAKE A SPLASH



With the warmer Spring weather approaching, now is the time to springboard into action and make a splash at your favourite Dunedin swimming pool.

The Port Chalmers Community Pool will open on Tuesday, 16 September. There you can find lane swimming, aqua jogging, school and club swimming and general recreation. There is also a barbecue area which can be hired (along with the pool) for private functions.

Then, for those that prefer salt water swimming but not the chilling cold, the St Clair Hot Salt Water Pool is open from Wednesday, 1 October. It's a great place to take

a relaxing dip or participate in lane swimming and aqua jogging.

And don't worry, Te Puna o Whakaehu in Mosgiel and Moana Pool in Dunedin are still open all year round if those are your local go to swimming spots.

Refurbishments at Moana Pool are ongoing, with the latest work to install a new ceiling between the main pool and leisure pool currently underway.

There are some slight changes to the access to the leisure and spa pools from the main pool area.

The spa pool will remain operational, but access will be limited to stair use only. The leisure pool's lazy river, curtains and waterfalls are out of use while the work is underway.

The work is expected to be finished in October.

SHORT AND SWEET



Did you see more youngsters out and about last month?

To celebrate Active August, Dunedin primary schools encouraged their students to wheel, walk or scoot their way to school instead of using the bus or getting a ride in.

The initiative, supported by the Dunedin City Council, aims to get children to stay active by walking or wheeling to school, even during the colder winter months.

Active travel – such as walking or riding – not only gets children moving but also improves safety at the school gate by reducing congestion, and lowers carbon emissions and contributes to children's overall wellbeing.

Part of a wider Move It! programme for schools, Active August is supported by Police and Enviroschools.

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-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

OTAGO POLYFEST

One of Aotearoa's longest-running Māori and Pacific cultural festivals bringing together tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and kaiako to celebrate language, identity and community.

Monday 1 to Friday 5 September |

More FM Arena, Edgar Centre | \$2 gold coin entry

COKI IN DUNEDIN

One of the most innovative and influential producers in dubstep history, Coki brings his foundational electronic tunes to Dunedin at this special gig.

Thursday 4 September | 8pm |

DropKicks, 354 Great King Street | \$30

NEST COLLECTIVE ŌTEPOTI – FUNDRAISER QUIZ

Get your team together, brush up on your general knowledge, and get quizzing in support of the Nest Collective in the annual fundraiser.

Thursday 11 September | 6.30pm | Otago Golf Club | \$60 per team

ACHIEVEMENT UNLOCKED: READY PLAYER ONE + ARCA ARCADE GAME NIGHT

Enjoy old-school gaming in the Arca Arcade with classics like Pac-Man, Street Fighter and Sonic on wall-mounted arcade machines, followed by a showing of Ready Player One on the big screen.

Friday 12 September | 5.30pm | Perpetual Guardian Planetarium, Tūhura Otago Museum | \$20

GREATER GREEN ISLAND GET TOGETHER

A fun family day out featuring community groups, free activities, performances from local schools and groups, hot food and drinks.

Saturday 13 September | 10am – 1pm |

Dunedin City Baptist Church, Main South Road | Free

DSO – ANNA LEESE, GLORIA AND THE ORGAN SYMPHONY

After an absence of four years, welcome Anna Leese's return to join the Dunedin Symphony Orchestra and City Choir Dunedin in DSO's final 2025 international series.



Saturday 13 September | 7.30pm |

Dunedin Town Hall | Tickets from \$42

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

The Taieri Musical Society presents the popular rock musical following the personal relationships and struggles between Jesus, Judas, Mary Magdalene, and his followers and the Roman Empire.

Thursday 18 to Saturday 27 September | Regent Theatre |

Various ticket prices and plans

PANDA BEAR PICNIC



Bring your deck chairs, picnic blankets and lunch, and your teddies for a special Teddy Bear Picnic and hear lunchtime stories with the pandas.

Tuesday, 23 September | 11am – 1pm |

Lan Yuan Dunedin Chinese Garden |

Standard garden entry

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