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NZ FESTIVAL OF NATURE



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10-19 APRIL 2026

dunedin

THE ROTHESAY NEWS

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Forever Wild

Wild Dunedin 2026 roars to life with hundreds of opportunities for you to get out and explore nature with many free or discounted events. Plan your school holidays with the festival that showcases all that makes Ōtepoti Dunedin the wildlife capital of Aotearoa. From big attractions like Pitch Choir, Nature Dome and a masquerade ball, to boutique workshops, bioblitzes and bike rides – there's something for everyone.

Our 2026 festival theme is sustainability, exploring our relationship with the natural world and the importance of environmental stewardship — *kaitiakitanga*, the shared responsibility to care for and protect our environment.

This theme emphasises the importance of adapting to change and the power of communities working together for a sustainable future. Check out Port to Port's special Wild Dunedin school holiday rates for a Quarantine Island Treasure Hunt or take a volcano tour of Otago Harbour.

On Monday 13 April, Bruce Mahalski is back at Port Chalmers Library for *Bones – the Framework of Life*, with some special items from his Museum of Natural Mystery. Festival guest Steve Mushin will be visiting the Library for a special ultra wild model making workshop on Tuesday 14 April. Places are limited so book early.

This year the festival celebrates Dunedin's growing network of cycleways. Dust off your wheels, oil the gears and join the Wild Ride on Sunday 19 April. The harbour trail will be packed with activities and 'ologists' stationed along the route to help you identify and learn about your surroundings. If your bike needs a pre-trip tune-up, head to the Crooked Spoke or the Box Cycle for servicing or the OneCoast bike maintenance day, 10am-2pm Saturday 18 April at Waikouaiti School. Pick up a programme from your local library or favourite café. Visit www.wilddunedin.nz for all booking details.

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www.therothesaynews.org.nz

SailGP coming to Otago Harbour



Photo by Kévin Jiner

A consortium of sailors has contacted *The Rothesay News* to advise that they have gained agreement to host SailGP on the Otago Harbour.

Yachts will be based in the Port Chalmers area, and the racing will move through the entire length of the Otago Harbour, and should provide for exciting sailing which people will be able to observe from many excellent points around the Harbour and purchase tickets for the prime locations on offer.

Spokeswoman Flo Lipolar said that the event would bring a world class event right to the Otago Harbour doorstep and be a game

changer for local yachties on Otago Harbour.

The plan is to also hold workshops at the Port Chalmers Town Hall on sailing techniques and technology and ways to go faster with your average yacht.

The event will draw world class sailors who will help with the workshops and some practical training tips on the harbour for local yachties. Well-known local yachtsman Russell Couldts told *The Rothesay News* that this will be awesome for yachting in Otago and put Dunedin and especially Port Chalmers on the world sailing calendar and that this is truly an exciting event to look forward to.

The dates of this event and the local locations where tickets for premier observation spots can be purchased is due to be announced by 12noon on April 1 2026.

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Hi all,
I'm pleased to report that since my last update, things are still moving along nicely, with plenty of buyers inspecting homes currently on the market. Multiple offers are still happening regularly, and even homes that are a bit quirky seem to be selling well.

At this time of year, potential sellers often ask if autumn or winter is a good time to sell. From my experience, there are always good numbers of buyers looking to purchase throughout the year. The great news is that if a seller's home is warm, autumn and winter can be a great time to sell, as a warm home will always stand out from the rest.

There's a lot more to selling in the colder months than just the warmth of a home, so if you're thinking of making a move, I would love to hear from you.



Hamish McDonald

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W: hamishmcdonald.co.nz

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Harbour Physio Matters Fibromyalgia

Fibromyalgia is a long-term health condition characterized by widespread musculoskeletal pain where the nervous system amplifies pain signals. It is accompanied by fatigue, sleep problems and cognitive difficulties. It is estimated to affect approximately 2-4% of the population and is more common in females. It is usually diagnosed between 30-60 years of age. Symptoms develop gradually over time, becoming chronic.

1. Widespread Pain

Pain is typically diffuse and persistent, occurring on both sides of the body, above and below the waist. This is commonly associated with back, abdominal and headaches.

2. Associated symptoms include

Persistent fatigue, and sleep difficulties. Sleep disturbances contribute to fatigue and therefore worsening of symptoms. The fatigue is often severe and persistent. Often people with fibromyalgia will have difficulty concentrating and their memory may be affected ('fibro fog').

Management of fibromyalgia is multidisciplinary and typically involves a combination of education, medication, lifestyle changes including exercise, sleep improvement, stress relief and psychological support. Other therapies that can provide symptomatic relief include physiotherapy, massage therapy and acupuncture.

Please phone 0276310476, or email harbourphysio@gmail.com to make a booking.

Krystal Cameron



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Community Constable

If there is a car outside the Port Station (possibly 8am - 4pm Monday to Friday) that will mean Liam is about, so feel welcome to go to the counter, or call 03 472 8822.



Backyard Medicine Water!

Our bodies are between 55%- 80% water, so it makes absolute sense to keep it flowing in and out throughout the day.

Your entire body relies on water, it regulates temperature, lubricates joints, transports nutrients and oxygen, flushes out waste, aids digestion, and maintains cellular integrity.

Signs of dehydration include foggy thinking, dry skin, fatigue, constipation, thirst, low blood pressure, headache, low energy, dark urine, dry mouth and lips. There can be other reasons for all these, so if you think you're getting enough water, get checked out please!

A calculation of how much you may need is to multiply your body weight by 3 - this is the litres you need, e.g., if you weigh 70 kg, you need 2.1 litres daily. If you are actively sweating, you will need more (plus electrolytes, water won't be the only thing coming out of your body!)

The best way to step up your intake is to start the day with 1-2 large glasses, and continue drinking during your day. Each time you think 'I'm hungry' do try a glass of water first, that may well be what your body is asking for. Of course foods and beverages do contain water, and about 20% of your daily intake will be from your fresh food and drinks, but there is no substitute for good old H2O.

Francisca Griffin, Naturopath



Steam Yacht Aurora: The Port Chalmers connection

The Port Chalmers Maritime museum recently held a new exhibition, *The Steam Yacht Aurora*, curated by Pat Caswell.



Aurora sits alongside *Discovery*, *Nimrod*, *Terra Nova* and *Endurance*, ships that played an integral role in Antarctic exploration at the beginning of the 20th Century.

Built in Dundee in 1876 for whaling, sealing, and Arctic rescue,

Aurora's steel-sheathed bow and rugged hull equipped her for some of the harshest conditions on Earth.

Dunedin and Port Chalmers played a central role in her most dramatic voyage.

Purchased by Sir Ernest Shackleton for his Imperial Trans-Antarctic Expedition, *Aurora* carried a party of men to the Ross Sea area to set up supply depots for Shackleton's team. In 1915, while anchored at Cape Evans, a violent storm tore the ship from her moorings. Locked in pack ice, without engines or radio, *Aurora* drifted helplessly for almost a year, the crew surviving through ingenuity, rationing, and resolve.

When radio contact was finally restored, the response was immediate. The Otago Harbour Board dispatched the tug *Dunedin* from Port Chalmers, racing south through heavy seas to bring the battered ship home. Crowds gathered as *Aurora* was towed into Otago Harbour and berthed, a symbol of endurance and community effort. Repairs, refitting, and

From the chef...this recipe is courtesy of Wild Fennel.

Spiced blue cod and lentil casserole

You Will Need:

- 300g blue cod (or other white fish)
- 2 tbsp of Wild Fennel Co. [White Fish seasoning](#)
- 1 diced onion
- 1 tin of brown lentils, washed and dried
- 1 tin of chopped tomatoes
- 100ml brown beef stock
- Olive oil for cooking
- Optional: fresh chilli, coriander, and chipotle sauce

To Make:

Coat the fish in the seasoning. Gently pan fry the onions in a deep non stick pan with the olive oil until caramelised. Add the fish and brown on all sides. Then add the lentils, the chopped tomatoes and beef stock.

Bring to the boil and turn it down to a simmer for ten minutes. Stir carefully so you do not break the fish up. Have a taste and if it's too mild for you, add 1 more tbsp of seasoning. Serve in pretty bowls topped with fresh cut chilli and coriander. I like to add a little smokey chipotle sauce too!

public support in Dunedin made possible her final mission, the rescue of the surviving Antarctic shore party.

Aurora would sail once more - and then vanish without trace in 1917. Her legacy endures, in the extraordinary connection between Antarctic exploration and the people, skills, and harbour of Dunedin and Port Chalmers.

Port Chalmers Maritime Museum Open:

Monday – Friday 10am – 3pm;
Saturday and Sunday 1 - 4pm

Philippa Keaney

The Rothesay News May 2026 Issue

Copy deadline is 10 April 2026

Landscape photos for the Masthead needed, send your photos in!

Please make sure you have your activities and events with dates, times, location and any other information, **in by the deadline above.**

Forward your stories (max. 280 words) photos, news, upcoming events, or if you have not received the *Rothesay News* to:

editor.rothesaynews@hotmail.com

West Harbour Weekly Exercise Classes

Zumba with Grace

Every Tuesday night 5.45pm - 6.45pm @ Pioneer Hall, \$5.00. Everyone welcome. For Information, contact Grace on 027 241 1885.

Yoga @ Port Chalmers Town Hall

Wednesday - Yoga4Life at 10.00am at Chalmers Lounge, Port Town Hall, upstairs, Lisa@ayurveda.yoga4life.co.nz www.elementallife.co.nz 027 437 0779.

Steady as you Go -

Port Chalmers

Falls prevention programme for men and women, Port Chalmers Town Hall Wednesdays 10am. \$3 per class.

Long Beach

Falls prevention exercises for women and men. Wednesdays 1.30pm \$3.00 per class. McCurdie Grimmon Hall Driver St, Long Beach.

Ravensbourne

Steady as you go exercise class to be held at Ravensbourne Hall, Wanaka St Mondays 2.00pm till 3.00pm \$3.00 per class. All welcome.

Pilates with Hayley Davey

Last class Thursday 18 December, restarting 19 Jan 2026. Private lessons available from Jan 12 2026. For more information contact Hayley Davey, 021 183 5352, hayleybeer@hotmail.com

Port Fit Express

Workouts. Suits all fitness levels, 10 classes, \$100 per term. Enrol now.

Cruise Ship Season 2025 - 2026

15 April 2026 Norwegian Spirit

Timetable correct at the time of printing, for any updates, please check www.portotago.co.nz
Ange McErlane

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Port Chalmers Golf Club

E āku nui ē āku rahi nei te tai o mihi e rere ana ki a koutou katoa.

The Golf Club has been a busy and vibrant place of late with so many different opportunities and activities on the go.

Each week we have been hosting our local Twilight Tournament which has been well subscribed by our West Harbour community. Also our weekly She Loves Golf has been a massive success and despite some adverse weather has also seen a hardy group of women turning up to learn more about golf and how to play this seemingly simple yet highly frustrating game.

Currently the Club is in the middle of playing our annual Club Champs competition which seeks to identify the "top" golfer across a number of sections - Senior, Intermediate and Junior.

Of special note this year is the competition for women with sufficient numbers to warrant two sections. It has been many years since this has happened.

To all those competing this year - Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui!

for information on this or anything else about the Club please contact Club Captain Brent Jackson
pcgc.clubcaptain@gmail.com or 0275 72 8810 *Fiona Matapo*



WHEN PASSING
When using the Shared Path, keep left, and use your bell to alert other users you are coming.

Rachel Brooking MP for Dunedin

Rachel.BrookingMP@parliament.govt.nz
544 Great King Street, Dunedin
03 474 1973

[f/RachelBrookingMP](https://www.facebook.com/RachelBrookingMP)



Authorised by Rachel Brooking MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Pioneer Hall

Heading well into Autumn we have plenty to enjoy at the Hall in April, there are lots of activities on offer.

- Hayley from Cultivate Pilates runs classes on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings, these are very much a local favourite.
- Zumba with Grace runs on Tuesday evenings, Zumba is really fun, friendly and welcoming.
- Guitar Lessons are on Wednesdays, Chris aka Shakes can teach beginners thru to intermediate with guitars provided.
- Movement with Miriam is holding regular Thursday evening dance sessions.
- Waves of Breath breathflow with Hanka is held on Friday evenings.
- Transformation with Tee has Gather and Ground sessions and other offerings to which everyone is warmly welcomed.
- Caro brings Port Wave to the Hall at regular times and provides welcoming Wave Freestyle Dance sessions.

If you would like any further information on any of these, please contact us here at the Hall or look at our Facebook page.

We recently hosted another amazing all ages gig by Sogg, Talking Furniture, Seek Help!, Deaf Raccoon and Eris

We feel so privileged to have these talented youth bands at the Hall, they are so appreciated by all who attend and receive wide community backing. A big thank you to Jono and Anita who wholeheartedly support youth gig initiatives.

We also had a performance by Dave Flynn, Celtic guitar master on his NZ tour. This was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

We felt humbled to host a family service led by a well loved local celebrant. Locally there is so much love and support within our community at such times.

We have our fabulous Pioneer Hall T-shirts for sale if you would like to support the Hall and support local youth and local events in our community. They are \$45, we can deliver to you locally and payment can be bank transfer or cash. A big thank you to Digiart for their support.

If you have an interest or special skill set that you would like to share with the wider community, we would love to hear from you. pcpioneerhall@gmail.com or 022 369 6807 and leave a message.



Did you know ?

If you need a Justice of the Peace there is a Service Desk at the Port Library on Friday morning at 11am - 1pm? It's free.

There are also several Justices in the West Harbour area. You can search for a JP at www.justiceofthepeace.org.nz



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pcgc.clubcaptain@gmail.com or 0275 72 8810. **Fiona Matapo**

VOTE

Ange McErlane

for Dunedin City Council

- 20 + years' experience working at Dunedin City Council in Infrastructure and Tourism.
- 20yrs experience of Local Government Governance on the Chalmers & West Harbour Community Boards, last term as Chair.
- Justice of the Peace.
- Dunedin born & educated
- Life Member of New Zealand Waste Management Institute (WasteMINZ).
- *Experience, common sense, transparency, honesty and no grandstanding!*

Authorised by Ange McErlane,
47 Wickliffe Terrace, Port Chalmers

COMING UP

at St Leonards

15 APR 1-2:30PM WILD DUNEDIN ORIENTEERING	17 APR 10-11:30 WILD DUNEDIN ORIENTEERING	18 APR 11AM-2PM POP UP OP SHOP
19 APR 11AM-2PM PRESCHOOL FAMILY COFFEE AND PLAY	16 MAY 11AM-2PM POP UP OP SHOP	

St Leonards School

Kia ora West Harbour community,

This month, two of our tamari-ki, Xan and Chloe, will let you what we've been up to.

Mitey - Mental Health Education
Since the start of the year, we have been working on Mitey. It is a programme to teach

kids about good mental health. We have made a cloak (called a kākahu) out of paper feathers. We have written on the feathers what we are brave about, what we are good at and what we like. We have been reading a book called Tu Meke Tūi - there's more to being a bird than flying and learned about being a friend and being brave. This week we've been talking about how to be a good friend during playtime. *By Chloe Spooner*

Beach Education Day

On Monday 16th of February, St Leonards School and other schools went to St Clair for a beach education day. The kids learned about rips. Rips are little calm areas that take the water out. When the water comes in, stay clear if you're close. If you do get caught by a rip, try to relax while floating on your back. If you see a life guard, put your hand up. Even though it was a cold and windy day they persevered and went swimming in the sea. The adult supervisors made a barrier to keep them safe. The waves pulled and pushed them.

By Xan Wolsink

You are warmly invited to attend our upcoming events. The preschool morning tea is for anyone with preschoolers. It's the opportunity to meet up with other parents and children in an inclusive and friendly environment. **Sarah Thompson (Tumuaki)**



Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua

Kia ora koutou katoa, From late February and early March there were a number of Lodge guests and day visitors who enjoyed some Island-time. Lodge guests included students from Logan Park High School who travelled by raft, a 5-day meditation retreat, members of the Otago Entomology Society returned to do their annual bug survey and Bayfield High School returned for their 7-night camp. Special thanks to the retreat participants for all their mahi including releasing seedlings, gardening, and cleaning in and around the Lodge!

On our Mahi Days, our small core group of regular volunteers helped with grounds and maintenance work which our resident Keeper usually does. Other mahi included caring for native seedlings, weed control, predator control trap maintenance, and maintenance of the Chapel. Special thanks to Portobello Fire Station for visiting the Island, specifically to offer support with our fire-fighting set-up.

The committee has also been working on preparations for re-advertising a new Keeper/Resident Manager position, following Jon Clark's sudden death in late November. Many thanks to a few regular members, including **Joe Hunter** (West Harbour/Roseneath resident and QI/KTC committee member), who have volunteered to care for grounds, the Island's hipi/sheep, maintenance jobs, and welcome and support Lodge guests during this time.

Our February Welcome Day was enjoyed by new visitors including Otago Girls High School international students who helped with bush track maintenance and weed control.

Our next Community Welcome Day is planned for Saturday 25 April. To join us complete the Booking Form available on our website quarantineisland.org.nz Events page, or like our Facebook and Instagram pages to hear about all events and opportunities to join us.

We will again be featuring in this year's Wild Dunedin Festival of Nature on Sun 12 April, Sat 18 & Sun 19 April. Details available in the festival programme, on our website, or socials.

To arrange a day visit or stay in St Martin Lodge, for a school camp, workshop venue, hui, celebration or retreat, to hire the Married Quarters building, and volunteering opportunities, and how to become a member, you can find information on our website quarantineisland.org.nz with up-to-date contact details. **Claire Hagglund**



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Overall zero rates increase in Otago Regional Council's draft Annual Plan

Balancing important environmental work and finding cost efficiencies were the key focus for the draft 2026–27 Annual Plan. ORC's draft plan delivers an overall zero rates increase in 2026-27, a significant drop on the 8.7% increase forecast during the Long-Term Plan process. For the average residential property in Dunedin, Clutha, Waitaki and Central Otago, rates drop slightly. In Queenstown, properties that pay a public transport rate will see an increase. This is due to the cost of extra services introduced after public consultation, such as the new Arrowtown to Jack's Point bus service and increased frequency of services on other bus routes.

While there's no increase in the value of the overall rates amount collected, rates for each property vary depending on things like location and the services provided. Some properties will still see a change with rates increasing or decreasing.

See more information about the draft Annual Plan on ORC's website and look up estimated rates at www.orc.govt.nz/ratesap2026.

Opportunity Knocks: Meet Quilae Wong at Orokonui

Dunedin's Wild Dunedin Festival is set to get a political boost this April as Opportunity leader Quilae Wong (pictured) arrives



in the city to celebrate our unique local biodiversity. With the general election looming, Quilae is being touted as a potential Deputy Prime Minister—regardless of "whichever Chris" ends up in the top job.

For Dunedin residents, the festival offers a rare chance to meet the woman who could hold the balance of power, in a relaxed and

quintessentially West Harbour setting.

Walk, Talk, and Explore

On Saturday 11 April, Q will be hosting a "Walk and Talk" at the Orokonui Ecosanctuary. Starting at 2:00pm, members of the public are invited to join Q and Opportunity's local candidate for Dunedin for a stroll through the sanctuary's stunning cloud forest trails.

It's an informal opportunity to discuss policy, the future of the region, or simply enjoy the birdlife. To join the walk, attendees simply need to purchase a standard entry ticket from the Orokonui visitor centre.

NatureDome at the Stadium

For those who can't make it to the heights of Waitati, Q will also be at the NatureDome event at the stadium on Sunday 12 April.

The event promises to be a highlight of the Wild Dunedin calendar, showcasing the best of our city's conservation efforts and natural heritage.

Whether you want to talk infrastructure, economic reform, or simply learn more about Opportunity's vision for a sustainable New Zealand, make sure to catch Q while she's in town.

David Bainbridge-Zafar



The Halo Project, managed by volunteer group the Landscape Connections Trust (LCT), are looking for a trustee with financial nous!



Halo Project Director Rhys Millar and LCT Trustees Margaret McFarlane, Katy McIntyre, Gerald Fitzgerald, Jill Hetherington (Chair), Dave Sharp, Marieke Mahoney.

Established in 2009, the Trust that was set up with a mission "To create healthy landscapes that support resilient communities". The LCT vision is "from Silver Peaks to sea, communities and nature thriving in balance".

The Halo Project mission is to inspire and work with our communities to enhance, protect and connect with this landscape.

We strive to achieve this through our Strategic Goals:

- **Community Action:** Working with our community to be kaitiaki of this landscape.
- **Community Education:** Building and sharing resources to expand our collective knowledge.
- **Governance:** Operating at the highest standards of governance and delivery.
- **Leadership:** Inspiring transformational change for increased landscape resilience.
- **Partnerships:** Working in partnership with our community, Māori and our funders.
- **Science and Research:** Collaborating with science providers to fill our knowledge gaps.

The LCT's primary role is to support the planning, administration, fundraising, development and implementation of a variety of environmental projects under the name 'The Halo Project'.

Currently, these are:

- [Predator control](#) through our Predator Free project.
- Freshwater enhancement through our [Source to Sea](#) project.

To advance the Trust's objectives the LCT is recruiting an experienced and enthusiastic Trustee whose possesses skills, knowledge and expertise in accountancy.

Roles and Responsibilities

Trust Governance

- Ensuring the Trust meets its contractual, ethical and legal obligations
- Ensuring resources are sufficient and well managed
- Ensuring the Trust's objectives/mission are developed and sustained
- Planning and monitoring organizational achievements in relation to these objectives/mission
- Ensuring the ongoing viability of the Trust.

Commitment:

The Trust meets once monthly, for 2-3 hours. Trustees are provided the agenda and supporting documentation in advance. Outside of meetings Trustees respond to any issues that arise, generally by way of email or phone.

The Trust is supported by Moore Markhams who manage the accounts and financial reports.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jill Hetherington (Chair) hetherington.j4@gmail.com

The Halo Team

WHEN PASSING When using the shared path, please keep left and use your bell to let other users know you are coming.



D U S T I N G O F F

The First Royal Visitor to Port Chalmers

Prince Alfred of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, second son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, was born in 1844 and created Duke of Edinburgh in 1866. Known as 'Affie' in the Royal family he was of a reserved disposition and was never one of the Queen's favourites, nor as popular with the general public as the Prince of Wales and his younger brothers. He made a career in the Royal Navy and achieved even more rapid promotion than Lord Nelson, being a post captain by the age of 23. In 1869 he was the first member of the Royal Family to visit New Zealand in the course of a world tour in H.M.S. *Galatea*.

From Wellington he embarked in the barque-rigged steamer H.M.S. *Blanche* of 1268 tons. After visiting Lyttelton the ship hugged the coast so he could get a good look at the bays and harbours on the southern passage. Beset by a strong northern set this made them late for their expected arrival at Port Chalmers on the morning of 26 April. Crowds who filled the town from early morning or who took one of the several steamers from Dunedin had a long wait before the smoke of the ship slowly emerged from the fog off Shag Point in the afternoon. She was met by the steamers *Wallace*, *Peninsula*, *Geelong*, *Golden Age* and *Tairoa*, the yachts *Cygnets*, *Champion*, *Royal Alfred*, *Gold Seeker*, *Dauntless*, *Greens*, *Blue Jacket* and *Flirt* and a decorated Maori boat.

They were meant to form two lines on her quarters as she came up the channel but, after boarding the pilot, she steamed quickly up to her anchorage off Observation Point leaving them behind in her wake.

The Superintendent and several Provincial Councillors went on board to present their loyal address and about 3.30 p.m. the Duke finally came ashore in the *Peninsula* as the crew manned the yards.

A twenty-one gun salute was fired, which startled the horses of the Armed Constabulary. As he landed at the jetty, blasts were let off in the big quarry and the Port Chalmers Naval Brigade gave another salute from its three howitzers.

The town was decorated with all sorts of greenery and flags and the Borough Council had erected a decorated arch at the foot of George Street bearing the messages 'Welcome' and 'God Bless our Sailor Prince'. It was there that Mayor Thomas Taylor read the town's loyal address stating that though the town was small it yielded "to none in loyal devotion to our beloved Sovereign, her throne and family..."

The Duke then entered the funeral state coach drawn by six matched greys and driven by that prince of drivers Ned Devine. The dignitaries fell in behind and progressed along the street between lines of volunteers, the Naval Brigade and the Armed Constabulary with drawn sabres. The excitement was too much for Dr Drysdale's horse which threw him, breaking his leg above the ankle.

As the procession headed out the old main road and up to Upper Junction the road was alive with horsemen, buggies, met, and women and children on foot. At the junction there was a very neat little arch and further on an avenue of cabbage trees terminating in an arch. The Duke stayed at Fern Hill and attended levees, a ball, races and the Horticultural Show.

Thousands of visitors came to Port Chalmers to see the *Blanche*, on which they were "courteously received" by Captain John E. Mongomerie, his officers and crew.

On 30 April Prince Alfred boarded the ferry *Peninsula* at the Dunedin Jetty and without stopping in Port Chalmers went directly on board the *Blanche*. The Naval Volunteers under Lieutenant Robertson fired a twenty-one-gun salute and the ship steamed away shortly after 4 p.m. accompanied as before by passenger-laden steamers. When the *Golden Age* and *Geelong* returned in the evening they berthed at the jetty to allow their passengers time in the port before returning to Dunedin.

Prince Alfred went on to marry the Russian Grand Duchess Maria Alexandrovna, daughter of Tsar Alexander II, in 1874, which proved a happy marriage. He became an Admiral in charge of the Mediterranean Fleet but never saw any action. His only son died in 1899 aged 25 and he himself died of throat cancer the following year.

Ian Church





Port Chalmers DCC Library & Service centre

LEVEL UP YOUR SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AT PORT CHALMERS LIBRARY!

Have fun every day with our lineup of drop-in crafts, boardgames, and activities.

Get magical during Week One as we explore the worlds of dragons and unicorns.

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10.30am Monday 13 April

• Ultrawild Modelmaking with Steve Mushin

10.30am Tuesday 14th April

Book at www.wilddunedin.nz

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- Friday 10th April at 11am

SAT 25th & MON 27th APRIL: ANZAC DAY All Libraries will be closed

JP Service Desk - Fridays 11am – 1pm. No need to book.

Normal Library opening hours:

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm

Late night Thursday - 8.00pm

Saturdays 11.00am - 2.00pm

The Port Library Team



**Decorative Garden
Flags & Flagpoles**

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**WHEN PASSING
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10 Questions... with Kate Fitzharris

Each month we ask a West Harbour local to answer the same ten questions. This month is local librarian Kate Fitzharris (pictured).

Kate lives in Waitati, but she has been working at Port Chalmers Library for over 10 years. She loves working within the West Harbour community- helping people find the information they need and recommending a good book. When Kate is not at the library she can be found in her studio at home working with clay. You can see some of her work in the newly opened exhibition at Dunedin Public Art Gallery 'Te Ahikāroa'.



Q. If you had the chance, which three people (alive or dead) would you invite for dinner?

A. Two of my favourite artists Robyn Kahukiwa and Kiki Smith and my great, great, grandmother.

Q. What are your three favourite movies?

A. Spirited away' by Studio Ghibli, 'Parasite' by Bong Joonho, and 'Never let me go' based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Q. What was your first car and if money was no object what car would you like to buy?

A. A baby blue VW Combi van with a pop top. I travelled around the east coast of Australia in with my now husband, working on organic farms, in the late 1990's. And right now if money was no object an electric version of a camper would be great.

Q. If you were to face the guillotine in the morning, what would you choose as your last meal?

A. Something from the garden! At this time of year, lots of salad and apples.

Q. Which three countries would you most like to visit?

A. Ireland and Scotland to see where my ancestors came from to Aotearoa New Zealand and some pre-Christian sculpture. And to Japan because they have very interesting and beautiful traditions in ceramics.

Q. When you were at school can you remember what you first wanted to be when you grew up?

A. It might have originally been something to do with animals but quickly turned around to be libraries or art and now I get to do both.

Q. What do you think is the most useful invention of all time?

A. Libraries!.

Q. What is the best book you have read?

A. That is so hard to choose! And my answer could be different on any given day, but today I'm going to choose 3: *Funny Weather - Art in an Emergency* by Olivia Laing: she makes the case for the generosity of art and why art matters, especially in turbulent political times. *Nga Kaihanga Uku - Māori Clay Artists* by Baye Riddell and anything by Dunedin author Laurence Fearnley.

Q. If you had a time machine where in the past or future would you go?

A. I'd go back to the time before my ancestors immigrated, to learn what life was like for them at home in Ireland and Scotland, their decisions for leaving and their anticipation of arriving in a new place.

Q. If you had to spend one month on a desert island, name three things you would take along?

A. I'd have to take a good book- one that I'm anticipating coming out very soon is Charlotte Grimshaw's *The Black Monk*. A sketch book and some sort of good sun protection.

Ange McErlane

What's on this month on the West Harbour

- **Pea Sea Art** - 'Our Arboretum' - Joanna Abraham Joseph. Ends April 23.

- **Koputai Indoor Bowling Club** - Opening Night Tuesday 14 April 2026 at 7.00 p.m. at the Port Chalmers Bowling Club, entrance off Albertson Avenue. Meets every Tuesday 7.00 p.m. Free membership for the first year. No experience necessary. For information telephone Shirley Boekhout 472 7169 or Fiona Webster 021 118 7831.

- **Long Beach McCurdy Grimman Hall** - our hall is available for hire, e-mail your contacts to longbeachhall@gmail.com for more details.

- **Port Chalmers Taekwondo** - we train Monday & Thursday 6.00pm - 7.00pm at Port Town Hall, \$50 term or \$75 a family. Drop in and see us in term time.

- **Ravensbourne Community Hub** meets at Ravensbourne School every Monday 9.00am - 10.30pm during school term for a chat and cuppa. All welcome. Please phone 471 0410 for more info.

- **Harbourside Table Tennis Club** - 7.30pm Thursday nights, cost \$3, coaching and gear provided, Iona Church Hall, Mount St.

- **The Murray McGeorge Toy Library**. Open Sat. 2.00-4.00pm (excl. school/public holidays), 2 Athol Place, Ravensbourne (just off Ravensbourne Road). New members welcome, look for the yellow sign during opening hours. Look out for the yellow sign on Ravensbourne Road.

- **Senior Citizens** Meet each Tuesday at 1.00pm in the Port Chalmers Bowling Club Albertson Avenue, easy parking, open to all seniors harbour-side. Information contact Margaret Hedges 472 7233.

- **Port Chalmers Women's Institute**. Meets upstairs in the Chalmers lounge, Port Chalmers Town Hall, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7.00pm. For information contact Mary Fahey 021 259 2417. Come join us.

- **Holy Trinity Port Chalmers**. Main Service - 10.00am, Sunday. Family Service 1st Sunday of the month.

- **St Mary's Star of the Sea, Magnetic St. Port Chalmers**. Mass 5.00pm Saturday.

- **Emmanuel Church, Sawyers Bay** - There is a service at 10.00am on the first and third Sundays with an informal get-together on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. All welcome.

- **Bookshare @ Port Chalmers Library** - first Friday of the month at

11.00am.
- **Sawyers Bay Garden Club** - meets at Emmanuel Church Hall, Sawyers Bay, at 7.00pm on the 2nd Monday of the month. For information contact Secretary Karina Jackson 472 8510.

- **Port Chalmers Maritime Museum** - normal hours: Monday to Friday 10.00am-3.00pm, Saturday, Sunday & public holidays 1.00 - 4.00pm. Also open by special appointment. Enquires 472 8233.

- **Quarantine Island** next welcome day is Saturday 25 April see website quarantineisland.org.nz

- **Port Chalmers & District Lions Club, club night with dinner**. 4th Wednesday of the month. We welcome anyone who would like to get involved and help their community. For information contact President Lion Bruce Clark on president@lionsclubs.org.nz:

- **All fibre handcrafts** e.g. knitting, crochet, patchwork, embroidery, spinning. Monday 13 & 20 April, 11am or 1pm. Emmanuel Church Hall, Sawyers Bay. For info contact 472 8487.

- **Kirtan**. Last Friday of the month (except Dec) Pioneer Hall. 7.00pm-8.30pm. Chai and chat afterwards. Gold coin koha and bring a cushion. Contact Kate 022 690 8077.

- **Terra Nova Sea Scout Group** - Join the adventure West Harbour Youth, welcomes all adventure-seeking youth in West Harbour to join us. We have restarted our Venturer section. Scouts work towards their Kings Scout Award (formerly Queens Scout) at this level. Session times are: Keas (ages 5-8) 5.00pm Thurs; Cubs (ages 8-11) 6:00pm - 7.30p Tues; Scouts (ages 11-14) 6:00pm - 8.00pm Thurs. Venturers (ages 14-18) 6:00pm - 8.00pm Thurs; meeting at Ravensbourne Scout Hall contact Skip (Tom) for more information at terrano-va@group.scouts.nz or 027 343 5364

- **Port Chalmers Swim Club** Please contact Hazel Scales (Secretary) for information on 021 217 1117 secretarypcswimclub@gmail.com

- **The Rothesay News** Committee meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month, 7:00pm, Rolfe Room, Port Chalmers Town Hall. All welcome.

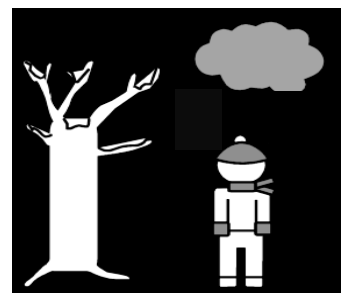
- **Story time at the Port Chalmers library**. Wednesdays at 10.30am. e after 2pm on Tuesday afternoons during the school term.

- **Guitar Lessons @ Pioneer Hall** Wednesdays at 5pm. Beginners to Intermediate. For more information contact Chris on 027 2065 035.

FOR FUNCTION HIRE
Port Chalmers Town Hall complex.
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For any enquiries contact the custodian
☎ 021 222 8878

Port Chalmers Pharmacy
We are open:
Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 3.00pm
We are now doing vaccinations for both the flu and COVID 19
Monday - Friday 3.30pm - 5.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 3.00pm

 **Justice of the Peace Service Desk**
Port Chalmers Library
Our friendly Justice of the Peace are available to assist you with documentation.
Our services
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• Witnessing of signatures
• Document certification
• Verification of identity and more ...
11.00am - 1.00pm every Friday.



Masthead Photo
Wild Dunedin Festival
April 2026




Column sponsored by the West Harbour Community Board Information

Port Chalmers Library & Service Centre
Ground floor
Town Hall,
Beach Street.
Ph. 474 3690
Hours:
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 9.30am - 5.30pm
Thursday 9.30am - 8.00pm
Saturday 11.00am - 2.00pm
Service Centre hours:
Mon-Fri 9.30am - 5.00pm

West Harbour Community Board
Jarrood Hodson - Chairperson
021 0825 9761
trainplanecar@gmail.com
Barbara Olah Deputy Chairperson
021 068 1699
barbara.olah@gmail.com
Ange McErlane
027 438 0601
ange@angemc.nz
Duncan Eddy
021 1740 400
duncaneddy@yahoo.com
Marian Poole
021 0842 5948
marian.p96@gmail.com
Wayne Sefton (Blackdog)
0274376578

West Harbour Community Board Meeting
Next Meeting
1 April 2026 6.00pm
Any inquires or to submit information or participate in next public forum contact Wendy Collard Dunedin City Council 477 4000.

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Blessing of Tug Ōtepoti

Local iwi led by Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou Upoko Edward Ellison blessed the Tug Ōtepoti and welcomed her into the harbour, during a wet but heart-warming ceremony last month.

GM Marine and Infrastructure Grant Bicknell says iwi blessings of vessels are particularly special. "It's about belonging — connecting our team to this harbour, to the traditions of those who have called these waters home for centuries, and to the forces that watch over all who go to sea."

The ceremony included the gifting of a taoka, an artwork by local artist Dana Te Kanawa featuring a traditional food-gathering basket holding cockles.

Grant says the taoka acknowledges the name — Ōtepoti — that was gifted from Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou. "The taoka has been placed in the heart of the vessel — the mess room, the space that belongs to the crew — because, at the heart of any ship are its people. Placing the taoka there creates a living connection between the crew, the vessel, and the spiritual guardianship it carries. The crew do not simply work aboard this vessel; they are part of it and the taoka honours that bond."



The taoka is an artwork by local artist Dana Te Kanawa.



Port Noise Liaison Committee new Independent Chair Jeri Fraser.

New chair for noise committee

West Harbour local Jeri Fraser has been appointed as the Port Noise Liaison Committee's Independent Chair.

Jeri is an experienced strategic advisor with more than 15 years' experience across government and private sectors. Originally from Canada, Jeri and Kiwi-born husband Jamie have lived in Port Chalmers for seven years and have a four-year-old daughter.

"My husband had previously lived in the area and always spoke fondly of it. I was open to where we landed, when we moved back to New Zealand and, once we arrived, it didn't take long for me to fall for Port Chalmers' charm too. The walkability, beaches and strong sense of community make it a very special place to live."

Jeri is currently Principal Advisor — Partnerships and Investment at the Department of Conservation (DOC). She was attracted to the chair position because it "brings together community voices, transparency and the practical realities of a working port".

Jeri says her focus will be on maintaining a respectful, well-run forum, where people are heard and discussions are constructive.

Stakeholder cruise vessel visits

Over the past six weeks, our Cruise team has hosted three cruise ship tours for key stakeholders, including new Otago Regional Council and Dunedin City Council councillors. Cruise Manager Carolyn Bennett says the purpose of the tours was to show firsthand why Otago — our port and our region — is known for delivering a quality experience for cruise passengers and cruise lines. "The visits included Q&A sessions with senior port managers so attendees could ask all and any questions they've ever had about 'cruise'. The visits have been positive and generated some very good and wide-reaching conversations."

New videos on museum website

Our friends next door at the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum have a new series of video interviews on their website. Garry Bain (pictured) is the latest local to be featured. There are six short videos covering a range of subjects, including his lifetime of shipspotting, teaching career and the Prince of Tokyo grounding in 1999. You can watch the clips on the museum's website: www.portmuseum.co.nz/whats-on/ourpeople

