



THE ROTHESAY NEWS

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Port Chalmers women make a splash at NZ Masters Games

Six women from the Port Chalmers Swim Club recently took to the pool at the NZ Masters Games, held in Dunedin from 31 January to 8 February at Moana Pool — and what a splash they made.

Our group was a true mix of backgrounds, experience, and age groups. Some of us were seasoned swimmers, others were first-time racers. A few had competed as children but hadn't raced in over 20 years, while others had never stood on a starting block before. What united us was the Port Chalmers Swim Club Swim Fit group, which we all joined in October last year.

With the guidance and encouragement of our coach, Ali Hill, we gradually built up our swim fitness, confidence, and skills — and before we knew it, we were entering the Masters Games. Over the three days of swimming competition, the six women collectively won an incredible 39 medals, an achievement we are immensely proud of.

We competed across a wide range of events, including freestyle, breaststroke, butterfly, backstroke, individual medley, and distances from 50m through to 400m. We also took part in women's relay, as well as the mixed medley relay.

Beyond the medals, the Masters Games provided an enormous learning opportunity. Over the three days, there was huge improvement in technique and understanding — from correct starting procedures and how to dive properly (including how to dive so your goggles actually stay on!), to pacing different race distances, mastering correct turning techniques, and learning the finer points of technical rules. It became clear that there is always more to learn and plenty to keep working on.

One of the most empowering aspects of Masters swimming is that you truly race at your own level. Regardless of who is in the lane next to you, it's about challenging yourself, learning, improving, and celebrating personal progress. The atmosphere throughout the event reflected this perfectly — supportive, encouraging, and inclusive across all ages and abilities.

It was especially cool to see both young and young-at-heart competitors racing side by side in the pool. We even received several shout-outs from the commentator, who noted how well the Port Chalmers Swim Club swimmers were performing — our distinctive 'Port' swim caps certainly helped us stand out.

Look out, Masters Games 2028 — we'll be back, and hopefully with many more swimmers joining us.

If you're interested in joining the Port Chalmers Swim Club Swim Fit Programme, we'd love to hear from you. Classes run from October to April on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Email: portswimclub@gmail.com And remember — swim club isn't just for kids!

Antonia Wood



L to R: Caren Van Gastel, Ali Hill, Antonia Wood, Libby Caldwell, Sarah Thompson, (Absent: Licia Mihaka)

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Burns Reserve

Would you like to join the Friends of the Burns Reserve in restoring a local place of beauty? Help out on one of our work parties that clear invasive weeds such as barberry from within the Burns Reserve. The bush clad reserve overlooks the West Harbour but our access is via Signal Hill Road. Volunteers should be fit and able to walk the 30 minute rough route in. Once you are there, work at your own pace.

Join us for the mornings on 14 March and/ or 4 April from 9am to 12.30pm.

For more information contact Jane and Spen at daywalk@xtra.co.nz or 027 305 9546 or check out our website at burnsreserve.nz for details of other events and information on our group.

Clare Ridout



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Hi all,

And just like that, it's March.

I'm pleased to report that the market is going really well at the moment. Multiple offers seem to be the norm, and even homes that are a bit quirky are still getting strong interest, which is great news for sellers.

I haven't seen any real evidence of significant price increases yet, but my guess is that if interest rates stay where they are and more buyers continue missing out in multiple-offer situations, prices should increase slightly.

As always, if you're considering selling or would just like to chat about real estate, I'm always keen to hear from you.



Hamish McDonald

A LIFETIME IN REAL ESTATE

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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

Tea gathering time again. You've probably got access to many of the plants I'm going to write about. If these plants are not in your garden then ask your friends. Wildcrafting or foraging is another option. Make sure you are not taking them from a sprayed area or private land. More importantly, do not remove all herbs, instead pick 25% of what is there, is a good rule of thumb, that leaves some for others and the plants to continue their life cycles. If you have a dehydrator, use the lowest setting and check often. If a dehydrator is not being used, place in a single layer, somewhere dark and dry, and check daily. If you are a person that does this yearly, whilst the new herbs are drying, the herbs can be thrown into your compost. Dried elderberries and rosehips make a tasty and valuable addition to any herbal tea blend, both are high in antioxidants, and some minerals. Lemon Verbena is a tasty addition to your teas, it is high in antioxidants it's a good addition to pre or post-workout tea, and great for your digestion. Dandelion leaf is a kidney and bladder helper, and has the advantage of being everywhere, while you're picking those, dig some of the roots too. They are a great liver tonic. These are a bit of work to prepare, but well worth it. Wash all the soil off, split them if they are large, and cut up into about 1/2cm lengths to dry. Please do consult your healthcare professional if you are on any medications before embarking on your teas adventures. And, in the case of dandelion root, do not take it if you have gallbladder issues.

Francisca Griffin, Naturopath

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

Fragrant & Spicy Tofu Burger

The tofu burger is a hit even with the meateaters in our house! Its layered with spices and packed with flavour. This recipe makes enough for two people.

You will need

- 1 block firm tofu
- 2 quality burger buns
- 15g (half sachet) Wild Fennel Co. duck seasoning
- ¼ cup cornflour
- 1 spring onion
- ¼ cucumber
- Small bunch fresh coriander
- ½ fresh chilli (optional)
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- Hoisin sauce
- Butter
- Cooking oil
- Aioli
- A squeeze lime juice

To make

Pre-heat your grill.
 Finely slice your cucumber, spring onion and chilli (if using) and place in the same bowl with the coriander. Drizzle with sesame oil and a squeeze of lime and mix to combine. Set to one side.
 Slice and butter your burger buns, and set to one side.
 Slice the block of tofu through the centre horizontally. In a bowl, mix the duck seasoning and cornflour to combine, then pop your tofu in the bowl coating both sides. Heat your frying pan with a splash of cooking oil on a medium-high heat, and fry the tofu for 2-3 minutes either side until lightly brown and crispy. Whilst the tofu is frying, toast your burger buns under the grill.
 Remove your buns from the oven, and spread the hoisin sauce generously over the bases, place your tofu on top, followed by a handful of salad. Spread the lid with a healthy amount of aioli and place on top - your burgers are ready to serve!

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.

Port Chalmers School

Parent talk: Left to their own devices (Internet safety)

How is the digital world shaping our kids?

Join us on Tuesday 10 March from 6:30 – 8:30 pm for an evening with renowned therapist and TEDx speaker Jo Robertson.

Jo is an expert in youth mental health and online safety, offering practical advice for parents in Aotearoa.

Don't miss this chance to get the tools you need to protect and empower your tamariki online. Location Port Chalmers Town Hall, Gray Street, Port Chalmers. *Vicki Nicolson, Principal*

to get the tools you need to protect and empower your tamariki online. Location Port Chalmers Town Hall, Gray Street, Port Chalmers.

'The earth is but one country and mankind its citizens'

From Baha'i Writings. Investigate at www.bahai.org

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

The Rothesay News April 2026 Issue

Copy deadline is 10 March 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

Cruise Ship Season 2025 - 2026



07	March 2026	- Villa Vie Odyssey - Noordam
11	March 2026	Zaandam
12	March 2026	Norwegian Spirit
22	March 2026	Norwegian Spirit
24	March 2026	Riviera
25	March 2026	Celebrity Edge
30	March 2026	Anthem of the Seas
15	April 2026	Norwegian Spirit

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

Bowling Club Eatery (update to February article)

The delivery schedule is now going to be Tuesdays and Thursdays rather than four days a week -- cooked dinners arriving at Port Chalmers Library for you to collect.

Visit thebowlingclub.co.nz for information, menus, and ordering details.
Barbara Corcoran

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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

Rachel Brooking MP for Dunedin

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



Authorised by Rachel Brooking MP,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington



Port Chalmers Women's Institute



Members gathered in the Chalmers Lounge on Tuesday February 10 at the earlier time of 7.00pm for both the annual general meeting. It is always heartening to be reminded of all the amazing voluntary work and contributions that our group provides both in Port Chalmers and beyond. Items such as jam to Koputai Annex, Christmas gifts for Women's Refuge, donations to our local fire brigade, easter eggs to Presbyterian Support to name just a few. And alongside that we have a jolly good time at our gatherings. Fun and friendship is always evident.

We then continued on to our monthly meeting agenda which was mainly centred on our programme for the year, planning our 75th birthday celebrations and preparing for the Eastern Otago Federation's AGM to be held in March. Items were collected for the local kindergarten.

Competition Results

Large bloom: 1st Gaylene Gardener 2nd Pam Woods

Small bloom: 1st Mary Fahey 2nd Alison Moodie

3 sweet peas: 1st Mary Fahey

A piece of Christmas cake: 1st Mary Fahey 2nd Gaylene Gardener. A cuppa, cake and a catch up were well earned at the conclusion of the meeting. If you would like to join our friendly group call Mary on 021 259 2417.
Mary Fahey



Pioneer Hall

We have plenty to enjoy at the hall in March, there are many classes and sessions running. Pilates with Hayley, Cultivate Pilates, runs on Monday evenings and Thursday mornings, these classes are a local favourite. Zumba with Grace runs on a Tuesday evening and is well known for being a really fun and welcoming session for all. Guitar Lessons on Wednesdays are popular and Chris aka Shakes can teach beginners thru to intermediate with guitars provided. 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. 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 have recently hosted many live performances including a Youth All Ages gig by Talking Furniture, Eris, Deaf Raccoon and Misty. We hosted a lovely acoustic evening with Violet Hurst and Keira Wallace, also an evening of traditional Irish Music by Manuela Centanni and Robert Zielinski. And another fabulous Youth All Ages gig hosted by VD Band. Thank you so much to all these talented people bringing amazing gigs to the hall.

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.



Port Chalmers Golf Club

Kia ora e te iwi. Nau mai haere mai ki tēnei tau hou me te timatanga o ngā whakataetae 2026. Eke ki te taumata!

The 2026 year at the Port Chalmers Golf Club begins with members looking to qualify for the prestigious Club Champs in March. Qualifying is held over several weeks with players competing for places in a 'medal' format.

Medal rounds require players to count every shot they have from tee to green and can be very challenging for many golfers. Coupled with the qualifying medal rounds are several other trophy competitions.

The first is known as the Ace of Aces. This competition is run in sections - senior, intermediate and junior sections for men, and one section for women. It is played over seven rounds, with qualifiers from each round competing in a final. The three trophies for the men's competition were donated by Hugh MacIntosh, who was the Club Captain in 1986 and the women's trophy donated by Robin Richan.

In each of these rounds players also keep a count of the number of putts they have.

There are two trophies played for in this competition. One is the Men's Milburn Putting Trophy and is played over five rounds, with the trophy going to the player using the lowest number of putts in three of the five rounds. This trophy has been competed for since 1977, and was donated by club members Tom and Isobel Milburn. Isobel Milburn served for many years as the secretary/treasurer of the Ladies club, and was the Ladies Junior Club Champion in 1974, and the Senior Club Champion in 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1987.

The second is the Milnes Rosebowl which is the women's equivalent of the Milburn Putting Trophy, with the trophy going to the player using the lowest number of putts in three of eight rounds. Fay Milnes was the Ladies Senior Club Champion in 1958 and 1964.

Happy golfing everyone

If you would like any information about the Port Chalmers Golf Club please contact Club Captain Brent Jackson pcgc.clubcaptain@gmail.com or 0275 72 8810. **Fiona Matapo**

Iona Church

Iona Church is looking for volunteers to welcome visitors to Iona Church.

We are open when there is a larger cruise ship in Port, but would like to be open more often if we can find enough volunteers to welcome visitors and help with any questions etc.

It is a great way to meet some really interesting people, either from around New Zealand and often with connections to Port Chalmers, or from different parts of the world. There is no requirement for a huge commitment - every little bit helps. If you are interested, please give Liz a call on 021 144 1225.

On Sunday 29 March at 10am United Church of Port Chalmers will be holding its service at Iona Church instead of at Emmanuel. This will be led by Steve Taylor. All are welcome.

"Hans Hielscher is returning to Port Chalmers to give an organ recital at Iona on Sunday 1 March at 3pm. Entry is by donation. He will be playing a number of favourite pieces from different operas.

Entry is by donation. All welcome."



Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua

Kia ora koutou katoa,

For my last article for the February edition, I had changed the end paragraph. Unfortunately, it was noted that the previous one was used, which is a bit unfortunate as Jon's name, phone number and Keeper email address was published. We no longer use these as contact details. Please use the following instead.

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.

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

St Leonards School

Welcome home to St Leonards, a community for the whole Whānau. It is so exciting to see the number of young families in our area increase again. If you have recently moved into St Leonards or the wider West Harbour area, welcome! You have chosen a special corner of Dunedin to call home.

Choosing a school is one of the most significant decisions a parent makes, but we believe that the connection between a family and their local school shouldn't begin only when a child turns five and end when they leave for intermediate school. A school should be a hub for the entire community, a place where parents find support and children find a sense of belonging. After all, it's never too early to get involved in our wonderful school community.

St Leonards School offers something increasingly rare in modern education, a boutique learning environment where every child is known, celebrated, and challenged. Our strategic focus is simple: ensuring every student reaches their highest potential through a rich, well-rounded curriculum grounded in local knowledge and their own cultural contexts. Whether it's exploring our own backyard through wild orienteering or diving into sustainability projects, our tamariki learn that their identity and their community matter.

Join us for coffee and play

We know that for parents of preschoolers, the school years can feel like a lifetime away. However, building those local connections now can make all the difference. To help foster these links, we are excited to host semi-regular Sunday morning coffee and play sessions.

These mornings are designed specifically for families with preschool-aged children living in the area. There's no formal agenda and certainly no hard sell, just an opportunity for you to enjoy a quality coffee and a kōrero with other local parents while your little ones explore our playground and safe play spaces. It's a chance to meet the people who may one day be your school gate community and ask questions in a relaxed, low-pressure environment.

Looking ahead

Whether you are already considering St Leonards for your child's future or are simply looking to meet some neighbours, our doors are open. We are proud of the quality of the relationships we have at school both within and beyond our walls. We look forward to seeing some new and familiar faces at our next Sunday gathering. Keep an eye on our school noticeboard and Facebook page for the next date. Welcome to the neighbourhood, we can't wait to meet you!

Sarah Thompson (Tumuaki)

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Port Chalmers Rowing Club – summer update.

The beginning of the year is always a busy time for our club. We kicked things off with the South Island Championships in Twizel, followed by the Masters Games in Dunedin, where some of our rowers competed in indoor rowing events.

South Island Championships – Twizel, 31 January –

1 February Rowers representing our club were Judith, Neil, Sheryl, Corinne, and Judit, with Anouk joining us once again from France, as she does each year. Steve from Bluff joined our mixed quad crew. We were very grateful to have our coaches Ray and Lesley with us, guiding everyone through the whole process - from loading boats to winning races!



Despite being a small club, we achieved some fantastic results:

- 🏆 Women's Quad: Judith, Judit, Corinne, Sheryl
- 🏆 Mixed Quad: Steve, Neil, Judith, Judit
- 🏆 Women's Single: Corinne
- 🏆 Women's Single: Sheryl
- 🏆 Mixed Double: Anouk, Neil

It was a great regatta, and we added more medals to Ray's tree, which has now become a much-loved tradition after strong race finishes.

Masters Games 2026 – Dunedin



The Masters Games were held in Dunedin, with Faye, Neil, and Judit competing in 2000m, 1000m, 500m, and 300m indoor rowing races.

They all had outstanding performances, winning every race in their age groups, with Faye setting several New Zealand records. We are now busy training for our next event in Invercargill,

where our novice rowers will be competing in their very first races. Exciting times ahead for the club!

Judit Varadi

House Fire in St Leonards

A house fire destroyed the Wardell family home in St Leonards last July (in Hawk Lane). The support of the West Harbour community was really wonderful. They were so grateful. The house is still under repair, and its likely they wont be home in it till June.

Susan Wardell is having a small art exhibition, 'Into the Afterlands' as part of the Fringe Festival in mid March www.dunedinfringe.nz/events/into-the-afterlands.

Photography, sculpture, and poetry, in the aftermath of the fire is her way of sharing with the wider community a glimpse of some of her experiences. 14 - 21 March, Hanover Hall, there is no entry charge. However, it is important to her to invite the West Harbour community, since many others also experienced the fire via seeing the smoke, the flames, the trucks, etc.

Susan Wardell



Susan's sister from Australia looking through debris for any salvageable stuff

Port Chalmers Seafarers Centre

The most recent meeting of the Otago Seafarers Charitable Trust was held in the seafarers centre in Port Chalmers on Sunday 7 December 2025. At about the same time the Trust thanked and farewelled our centre manager Heather with a special function that was well attended by both trustees and volunteers. Twelve years represents a significant contribution keeping the seafarers centre running smoothly.

The depth of gratitude from so many has been highlighted and passed on to Heather. With the centre actively involved with the busy 2026 cruise ship season we welcome Neil Adams to the position of centre manager. Neil is returning to Port Chalmers the place of his birth and early life. He is enjoying meeting with old friends after so many years away. We wish him well as he becomes acquainted with his new responsibilities.

Ken Fahey



Sycamore... one of, if not the single most threatening pest plant in the Ōtepoti landscape. From the town belt to Sullivans Dam, this pest plant is systematically smothering our existing natives,

presenting an exponential threat to our taoka species. It is vital we to eliminate the sycamore plant. At the risk of sounding alarmist, the time is now.

Sycamore seed spreads by wind or water, and as such the potential exists for us to remove seed sources completely. Currently the threat posed by this species is significant but manageable, however these trees can tens of thousands of seeds each year. As seedlings thrive in all environments this is a problem we need to manage with urgency.

Sycamore is a garden escapee, once planted in Otago by well-meaning locals. More recently groups such as the West Harbour Beautification Trust, the West Harbour Community Board, concerned community members and councillors like Steve Walker and Marian Poole have been spreading the word about this plant.

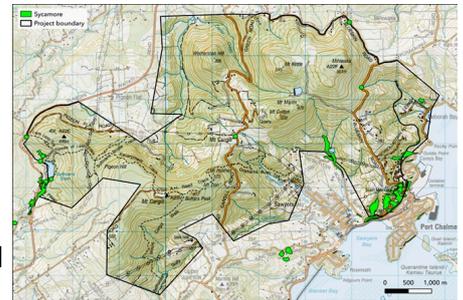
Longtime anti-sycamore advocate Matt from Monowai Ecological states 'sycamore provide little to no benefit for native birds, no co-evolved nectar producing flowers for our bell-bird, tui and wax eye. No fruit for our kereru. They actively out-compete native vegetation to the point where it is shaded out and killed. Mature stands of sycamore completely smother everything underneath with a heavy leaf fall each autumn.'

The Halo Project map shows the density of sycamore in areas adjacent to remnant forest habitats at Sullivans and Sawyers Bay Reservoirs. Much of the problem exists on public land and we are collectively responsible for managing this issue.

The Halo Project, supported by the Otago Regional Council will be controlling sycamore at Sullivan's Dam in the coming weeks as we move to push this species out of this precious area.

As we shift our focus to sycamore, we are appealing to our community to stay abreast of this issue, be aware of sycamore in your landscapes and control them where you can! Reach out to us if you need support, we are keen to work together. Just by reporting sycamore locations in your area using, www.iNaturalist.org.nz you can contribute to the collective control efforts. Let's stop sycamore before it smothers our native species!

The Halo Team



D U S T I N G O F F

Treasures of the Port Maritime Chalmers Museum



The Hat Box

One of the most popular exhibits at the Port Chalmers Maritime Museum on Beach Street is the colourful and detailed exhibit known to all museum volunteers as the hat box (left). Portraying life in miniature aboard one of the many immigrant sailing ships that frequented the port during the 19th century this exhibit draws many a comment from museum visitors.

Created by Port Chalmers Historical Society member Celia Wright, visitors would notice greatly how times have changed in sea travel. In some ways the immigrant ship of yesterday was a type of cruise ship, the only similarity being an opportunity to meet people and see new places.

Cruising around the globe today is all about safety and comfort. As the hat box shows a voyage on an immigrant ship from England was anything but that. The voyage would take on average three months, usually without stopping, for the passengers down below in steerage (steerage meant the deck between the open deck on top and the storage hole below. Bunks lined the walls with a table and chairs down the centre) it could be hell on earth.

The hat box illustrates what life looked like on an immigrant ship. The lot of a steerage passenger left a lot to be desired. Being crammed down below in the bowels of the ship surrounded by hoards of other people they never knew or hardly knew was a challenge. Though some faces were familiar as often families that emigrated did come from the same English village. Living all together in a confined space with only a few feet between the next bed and a crowded table at meal time was far from what was expected. The smell and air was hard to take, ventilation was poor and the natural light practically non-existent.

New born babies crying, the constant noise from above with the stomping of feet as the crew went about their business plus with the moaning of the ships rigging, all contributed to a cacophony of noise. The heavy seas and the heat of the tropics and then the intense cold of the southern ocean made the voyage far removed from the posters advertising sea travel back in their home village. The food was often monotonous and water scarce. A death of a passenger, especially a child, was not uncommon. Even if some immigrants never liked the life in New Zealand very few would go through another lengthy voyage back to the old country.

A number of immigrant ships made frequent voyages from England to Port Chalmers. Vessels, such as the *Taranaki* (21 voyages between the 1870's and 1890's), the *Westland* (14 voyages between 1879 and 1894), the *Oamaru* and *Wellington* (14 voyages each between 1875 and 1901) and the popular *Wild Deer* (11 voyages between 1870 and 1882). These ships plus others were as familiar to the people of Port Chalmers as the frequent cruise ships of today.

Immigration peaked in 1875 when 31,785 people came to New Zealand on 93 voyages. The average voyage from England to New Zealand was 96 days. No wonder many people crossed the Atlantic to America for a better life as the voyage there took only about a third of the time. Celia has gone to much detail with her model. The hat box shows 22 emigrants eating and sleeping, while a funeral takes place on the lid of the exhibit. Also the lid features a copy of a steerage passengers contract ticket.



Bruce E. Collins

A First Single and a Big Leap

The Shenatics share 'All Hail Me' as they settle into their new Port Chalmers home.

For any musician, releasing a first single is equal parts thrilling and terrifying. After months of writing, recording, mixing and second-guessing, the moment arrives when the music is no longer yours alone — it's out in the wild for anyone to hear. The Shenatics know that feeling well. On February 16 their debut single 'All Hail Me' joined the 120,000 songs released daily across Spotify, YouTube and beyond. It's a vulnerable moment for Jack (18), Lana (18) and Colbie (18), who have poured themselves into a track about being underestimated and finding your voice anyway.

They hope listeners will not only hear it but connect with the story behind it. 'All Hail Me' is the first taste of their upcoming debut album, set for release later this year, and marks the beginning of a new chapter for a band determined to make their mark.

Three years of bouncing from garage to garage has helped shape The Shenatics' sound, and now they've planted their roots in Port Chalmers.

Having played every market, fete and community support event they can, their musical journey has extended past school and into something more sincere. They look forward to updating you on their progress, thank you for your support, and encourage you to continue supporting local music! @theshenatics



Shenatics, L to R: Colbie Hill, Jack Hobbs, Lana Clark
Photo: Sam

Dunedin gets busy with backyard bounty

The fruit harvest season is well underway across Dunedin, with plum trees now ripening and ready to be picked. Our Food Network has welcomed a number of new volunteers and registered several new fruit trees in recent weeks. Thanks to Mercy Hospital, the Lotteries, and the DCC Waste Minimisation Grant, new Community Fruit Harvest Coordinator Karin Ludwig is connecting homeowners with volunteers who enjoy an outing with a difference – picking and sharing fruit from private gardens to benefit the wider community. Volunteer harvesters have already collected surplus fruit from Mosgiel, Fairfield, Macandrew Bay, Opoho, North East Valley, and as far north as Warrington and Evansdale, ensuring excess fruit is put to good use rather than going to waste. Fruit Harvest Dunedin Otepoti on Facebook for updates. With plenty more fruit to come, Our Food Network hopes the community will continue supporting this simple but impactful way of reducing food waste and strengthening local food resilience. Karin Ludwig, CFH Coordinator.

Once harvested, the fruit is redistributed to community food pantries and food banks throughout Dunedin, providing fresh, locally grown produce to people who need it most. Residents are encouraged to get in touch. Our Food Network website under community fruit harvest www.ourfoodnetwork.org.nz/community-fruit-harvest



Port Chalmers DCC Library & Service centre

Crafternoon - Get crafty at the library!
Join us for a FREE once a month adult

CRAFTernoon session. No skills needed, just bring yourself and your curiosity! A new project each month. FREE 3rd Thursday of the month, 1.30 – 2.30pm
All materials supplied.

TECH HELP 1-2-1 (Drop-in sessions)

From RealMe to CV help; from Borrowbox to an introduction to smartphones. Help is available for a range of tech needs. FREE, 1st Wednesday of the month, 1.30 – 2.30pm

Stories and Rhymes

Have fun with your child and enjoy stories and rhymes for babies.

Wednesdays 10.30 – 11am

Suitable for 0-2 year olds and their whanau

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

Library opening hours:

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm

Late night Thursday - 8.00pm

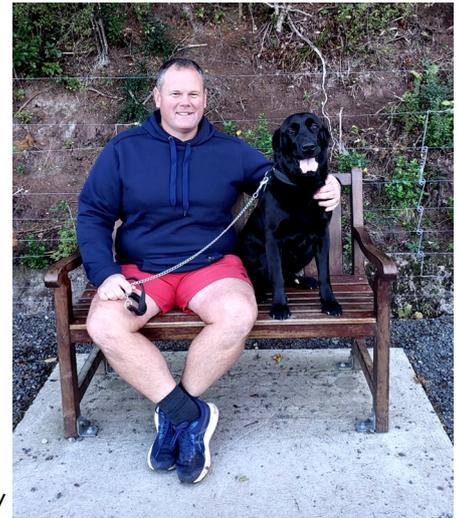
Saturdays 11.00am - 2.00pm

The Port Library Team

10 Questions... with Hamish Mc Donald

Each month we ask a West Harbour local to answer the same ten questions. This month is Hamish McDonald (pictured). Hamish's family moved to Sawyers Bay when he was two and he went to the local playcentre then Sawyers Bay school, DNI and then Logan Park.

Real Estate was always something that was in my blood as his mum Edna did it from 1986 till 2016. From a young age Hamish was always interested in what she was doing and in 2005 he started working with her which he tells *The Rothesay News* was a great way to get going. It was a massive help having known so many people in the community for over 40 years.



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

A. He has passed unfortunately but would be happy to just have dinner with my dad .

Q. What are your three favourite movies?

A. Smokey and the Bandit, Happy Gilmore, Forrest Gump .

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

A. 1988 Amon Toyota Corona, if money was no object a Valiant Charger.

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

A. I really don't think I would have much of an appetite but probably some Cadbury chocolate like it used to be before they changed the recipe.

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

A. USA, Canada, China .

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

A. Real Estate was plan B but I wanted to fly sky hawks, as it turned out there a three issues with this plan, you have to be under 90kg, you have to be a ninja at school and sadly there are no fighter jets to fly these days .

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

A. Boats.....well I think they are the best.

Q. What is the best book you have read?

A. *One 13th of an Elephant* by Ian Denys Peek .

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

A. 100 years down the track I would love to see what life is like. "Honest answer, next weeks lotto draw" .

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

The Rothesay News acknowledges Otago Community Trust and the Dunedin City Council for the colour printing of this issue.



Decorative Garden Flags & Flagpoles

Decorative Garden flags & Flagpoles with wall bracket. Various theme flags, seasonal, welcome, theme flags and more, reasonable prices.

0274 380 601

**The Rothesay News Committee
welcomes your donations,
our bank account is:
11-8427- 0421556-11**



88 Drive responsibly on the highway, observe signs, be safe and reach your destination.

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

What's on this month on the West Harbour

- **Pea Sea Art March 20** (5 -7pm) - exhibition opening for, 'Our Arboretum.' New works by Joanna Abraham Joseph. At Pea Sea Art.

- **Organ recital at Iona 1 March** "Hans Hielscher is returning to Port Chalmers to give an organ recital at Iona on Sunday 1st March at 3pm. Entry is by donation. He will be playing a number of favourite pieces from different operas. Entry is by donation. All welcome.

- **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 Karlina 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 9 & 23 March. Emmanuel Church. 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 Scoles (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.

- **Iona Church, Port Chalmers** Iona is open from 10am - 2pm (or longer) when the larger cruise ships are in Port. All visitors are welcome.

FOR FUNCTION HIRE
Port Chalmers Town Hall complex.
weddings - functions - meetings
 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
 • Statuary declarations
 • Witnessing of signatures
 • Document certification
 • Verification of identity and more ...
11.00am - 1.00pm every Friday.

Port Chalmers Swimming Pool
Closes for winter
Tue 31 March 2026
Hours
School Term (1 & 4)
Lane Swimming only
 Mon-Fri 6.00am - 9.00am
 12 noon - 1.30pm
 Tues & Thurs 5.30pm - 7.00pm
 Sat & Sun - 10am - 11am
Leisure Swimming
 Mon, Wed, Fri - 3pm - 7pm
 Tues & Thurs 3pm - 4.30pm
 Sat & Sun - 11am - 5pm
School Holiday Times
Lane Swimming only
 Mon-Fri 9.30am - 11am
 Sat & Sun - 10am - 11am
Leisure Swimming
 Mon - Fri - 11.00am - 5pm
 Sat & Sun 11am - 5pm

Masthead Photo
 Shared Path from Curles Point



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
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 021 0825 9761
trainplanecar@gmail.com
Barbara Olah Deputy Chairperson
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barbara.olah@gmail.com

Ange McErlane
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ange@angemc.nz

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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.

The Rothesay News community newspaper is published by The Rothesay News Inc, 47 Wickliffe Terrace, Port Chalmers March 2026. Circulation 2,540, Ravensbourne to Aramoana. Copy deadline 10th of the month prior. Copy should be submitted as a virus-free emailed text document. Images should be greyscale with a minimum of 300 dpi in jpg format. Community News articles should be 100-280 words, and may be abridged at the editor's discretion. Any notices not submitted as paid advertisements are subject to space availability. Preference is given to news of interest to the wider community, and promoting future events. Photos to be captioned and named. Contributions to have a contact name and phone number. The views and opinions expressed by contributors and correspondents in printed articles, are





Welcome Tug Ōtepoti

Tug Ōtepoti received a movie star's welcome, when she arrived into the Otago Harbour last month.

At 0900 on Thursday 12 February, the four-person Damen crew onboard the \$15m 70-tonne Damen ASD 2312 tug was greeted by a lone piper at the end of the Aramoana mole. Ōtepoti was then joined by the port's marine fleet and made her way up the Lower Harbour, past gathered groups of people waving and welcoming the weary crew. When she reached the Port Chalmers basin, Port Otago kaimahi were out on the wharf, welcoming their newest team member – 32 days and 6070 nautical miles after departing Zhangjiagong on 9 January.



Tug Ōtepoti arrives into Port Chalmers, escorted by the Port Otago marine fleet



One very happy Marine team

GM Marine & Infrastructure Grant Bicknell says the tug looked outstanding after her long voyage. "The crew was very glad to see the Tairaroa Lighthouse. "When we asked them how the tug had handled the trip, they said one of the window wipers wasn't working. The fact that was the only issue is testament to the care taken by many people from many countries when building the tug, and the high level of supervision by Port Otago's Marine team during the build."

The tug's new Master Dave Tuson (see photo left) boarded at the same time as Grant and took control of the vessel, guiding her all the way up the harbour and into the basin. "The new tug is one metre shorter and one metre wider than the Tairaroa and with her twin fin keel, quite different to drive."

Impromptu donuts win the day

As you can imagine, chatter on the marine channel was lively on Thursday morning. Best idea of the day goes to Dwayne L from our Marine team, who suggested the donuts at Pulling Point.

**A big thank you to everyone who joined us in
welcoming Ōtepoti into our beautiful harbour.
*It really was a very special day.***

