



THE ROTHESAY NEWS

Number 400 Est. 1989

May 2026

Published at 47 Wickliffe Tce, Port Chalmers

NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA

Neighbours Aotearoa

Rebecca Harris is the 2026 Community Weaver for Neighbours Aotearoa in Dunedin and Invercargill. Her role is to spread the word about Neighbours Aotearoa locally to get people motivated to connect with their neighbours and be involved in our Public Conversation.

Neighbours Aotearoa is about connecting neighbourhoods across Aotearoa. Every year, we encourage people to take a small (or big!) step to get to know a neighbour better. Whether it's two neighbours talking for the first time or a whole street coming together for a clean-up, the size doesn't matter – it's about creating meaningful connections that spark future relationships.

For more than 15 years, traditionally March has been the month when we've encouraged neighbours, streets, suburbs, apartment buildings, rural communities – everyone living in Aotearoa – to come together in ways that make sense locally and to get to know each other a little better. This looks different in every community, and we love seeing the fun, creative, and meaningful ways people lean into it. This year, we're evolving our approach.

In 2026, we want to acknowledge that whether you know everyone on your street or mostly just exchange nods, we're all neighbours – it's something we all share. Neighbours Aotearoa is about thinking how we show up. It's about honest, realistic relationships and finding relevant, doable ways to look out for each other. This year we really want to understand how people view what it is to be a neighbour, and the role of Neighbours Aotearoa within that. Our 2026 Public Conversation asks people to reflect on questions like 'what does "neighbour" mean to you?'



How you can participate: start conversations about what events or activities your community could do to encourage neighbourly relationships. Participate in our [Public Conversation](#) on our website. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and share our posts. Share our website with your community, www.neighboursaotearoa.nz.

We'd also love to share your neighborhood's plans on our social media, so please register your ideas – big or small – on our website and send us any photos, videos, or promotional details.

Rebecca Harris

This Issue

- Know your Neighbours pg 1.
- Compost Week pg 2.
- From the Chef pg 3.
- Pioneer Hall pg 4.
- Quarantine Island pg 5.
- Vote 1 for Ange pg 5.
- Trades & Services pgs 6 & 7.
- Maritime Museum pg 8.
- Dusting Off pg 9.
- 10 Questions with David pg 10.
- What's On... pg 11.
- Port Otago News pg 12.

International Compost Awareness Week - 3-9 May, 2026 *Compost!* *Feed the soil that feeds us*

Did you know, an estimated 300,000 tonnes of food scraps are produced annually in NZ, most of which still goes to landfill? This International Composting Awareness Week, WasteMINZ are encouraging households and communities to explore the benefits of composting and start your composting journey! Instead of viewing food scraps and organic materials (such as lawn and garden clippings) as waste, view it as a resource.

Compost at home for your own garden or use your council greenwaste/food scraps bin if you don't have a garden or room for a garden home compost bin. If you do have room, get started now!

The WasteMINZ Organic Materials Sector Group has developed a campaign toolkit to raise awareness of the value of compost and the extremely important role it plays promoting the health of our soil, ensuring it continues to provide the food, clean water, and resilience that all life depends on. The toolkit is designed to help share inspiring stories aligned with this year's theme. Compost Awareness Week, you will help raise the awareness of the value of compost as nature's solution to reusing organic waste in New Zealand! Download the toolkit PDF at www.wasteminz.org.nz/icaw.

Ange McErlane



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Hi all,

Well, it's my 21st! I started selling back in April 2005. We were under the brand of First National back then, before we did away with the big, cumbersome corporate brand. Things have changed a lot in that time: print media was very important, we often did deals through the fax machine, the cell phone was mainly for calling and texting, the median house price was \$250,000, buyers could get finance with no deposit, and we always wore a tie.

One thing is still the same: it's all about connecting with people and helping them buy and sell real estate. I am very appreciative of all the many people who have supported me over this time, and I'm excited about the next 21 years in this fantastic job.



Hamish McDonald

A LIFETIME IN REAL ESTATE

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Harbour Physio Matters - does gardening count as exercise?

We know exercise is beneficial for our health and wellbeing but are you completing the recommended amount, and does getting out in the garden count?

Activities like strength training, stretching, and aerobic exercise improve muscle strength, flexibility, balance, and coordination. These benefits are especially important as people age, helping reduce the risk of falls and maintaining independence. Exercise also plays a major role in preventing and managing chronic diseases. Consistent physical activity is strongly linked to lower risk of conditions such as heart disease, stroke, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and osteoarthritis. It supports better cardiovascular health, improves blood sugar control, and helps maintain a healthy body weight.

The Ministry of Health and the Heart Foundation recommends that adults should be completing 150 minutes of moderate or 75 minutes of vigorous activity per week. Moderate activity should leave you breathing more heavily, while vigorous activity should make it difficult to talk or say more than a few words at once. Gardening offers numerous health benefits. It often includes activities like walking, weeding, clearing dead trees, moving materials, carrying items, shoveling, and digging, all of which engage major muscle groups. It can provide a full-body workout. Research shows that a 30-minute gardening session can burn around 165–220 calories, similar to other forms of moderate exercise.

Other research suggests that people who garden regularly tend to be more active overall. Additional benefits include reduced stress levels and lower anxiety.

So the next time you are out in the garden, know that you are not only helping the environment, but you are also supporting your physical and mental wellbeing. Please phone 027 631 0476, or email harbourphysio@gmail.com to make a booking.

Krystal Cameron



Harbour
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Backyard Medicine

Ribwort - *Plantago lanceolata* is this month's herb. You may remember it from previous columns about weed salad, ears and the respiratory system. Like many herbs, Ribwort has a wide range of uses. It is Antic-atarral - good for sinus troubles, astringent - useful in and bronchiectasis, demulcent - when you have a sore throat, also great for gastritis and peptic ulcers, and vulnerary - which means it helps with bleeding (for example from an ulcer).

If you are interested in herbs - you may wonder what the 'wort' ending of plenty of plants is all about - it is an old word for 'herb'. If you know what Ribwort looks like, you will quickly understand the rib part of the name. It is everywhere, you will discover, once you start to look. Look it up on the web - you will quite likely recognise it from your garden - you may even call it a weed.

I have a friend who told me when I started gardening that a weed is simply a plant in the wrong place! Why not make a tea next time you have a cold, or your allergies are playing up? Add some elderflower if you have any dried. Use some thyme with it if you have a sore throat. Pop in some chickweed if it's for your tummy. As always, proceed with caution if you are unfamiliar, and should you be on any medications, please talk to your healthcare professional before embarking!

Francisca Griffin, Naturopath

Port Chalmers Seafarers Centre

The cruise ship season will be completed with the visit in mid April of the Norwegian Spirit. A busy first quarter of 2026 has seen very good numbers of visiting seafarers using our facilities and hospitality. A new television screen has recently been installed in the front reception room. Within days a rostered volunteer reported how a group of crew members greatly enjoyed a karaoke session after one member logged on to a Filipino site using his personal YouTube account. Good fun in an unexpected way.

It does not happen very often but in late February eight of our volunteers had a delightful three hour visit as guests of a visiting ship. As its passengers disembarked to visit various local places and events we boarded the Noordam to be conducted on a tour viewing and appreciating some of the grandeur and workings on offer.

The conclusion of the Noordam's generous hospitality was the invitation to have a smorgasbord lunch alongside a good number of crew and passengers enjoying their own lunch time. Our two Noordam hosts who arranged and managed our visit have become firm friends and it can be reported that Port Chalmers and our Seafarers Centre rates very highly on their list of locations.

Our centre is looking all swish and clean after the recent repaint and maintenance tidy up. The new colour scheme and easier to see signage has been receiving the big tick of approval by many. Take another look as you pass by if you have not yet noticed the improvements.

Ken Fahey

'The tabernacle of unity hath been raised; regard ye not one another as strangers. So powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the whole earth.'

From the Baha'i Writings

Investigate at www.bahai.org

Local contact 021-109-1772

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

Beef meatballs with mustard & mushroom cream sauce

This comforting wintery dish is packed full of flavour for those cooler nights. Try serving with a crusty baguette or some creamy mashed potatoes.

You will need

- 500g beef mince
- 1 x sachet [Wild Fennel Co. Beef seasoning](#)
- 1 x egg
- 1 x cup panko crumb
- 1/2 brown onion, diced
- 4 x cloves crushed garlic
- 2 x tbsp Dijon mustard
- 300g mushrooms (any kind)
- 200mL cream
- Oil for frying
- Celery leaf and sea salt for serving

To make

Mix the beef, panko, egg and seasoning together with your hands. Roll into golf ball sized balls (run your hands under cold water first to prevent sticking).

Fry the meatballs in a non-stick pan or skillet in oil on a medium to high heat, caramelize on all sides. Add the mushrooms, diced onion and crushed garlic. Once they're browned, add the mustard and cream, stir to combine.

Reduce the heat to low-medium, put a lid on the pan and allow to simmer for 10-15 minutes. Remove the lid, give everything a stir, and serve garnished with celery leaf and a sprinkle of sea salt.

**The Rothesay News
June 2026 Issue**

**Copy deadline
is 10 May 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

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Pioneer Hall

We reflect how thankful we are for the support we receive from the wider West Harbour community.

Each fortnight on a Thursday, Foodshare is held at the Hall at 4pm.

Anita and Jono spend the day collecting and organising the items that will be on offer. Recently we had a large donation of fresh produce and other items from the Rudolf Steiner School community. This is an annual event and very appreciated.

Our local Four Square is also very generous and has a large donations box at the front of the store. These items really help and go a long way in making Foodshare a successful local community initiative.

We are always thankful for the support of Digiart who does our printing for the hall, a huge big thank you to the team.

We would also like to thank Relics, Dunedin's premier music and hifi store who generously support the hall.

All our usual excellent classes and sessions are running in May. Perhaps the colder months are the perfect time to try something new and support local.

We have our fabulous Pioneer Hall T-shirts for sale if you would like to support the hall. They are \$45, made from organic cotton and printed with sustainable inks from the Print Room. We can deliver to you locally and payment can be bank transfer or cash.

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.

Harbourside Table Tennis

It's been an exceptionally busy time at the club. We have had several new members join and club nights are really busy. We've had to add an extra evening to our practice schedule to fit everyone in. This is fantastic for the future of the club going forward.

We hope to enter an extra team in the interclub competition this year and may even have a team in the top grade!

With members practicing so regularly it's been great to see the all round improvement in skill level especially from our new members who are catching up fast. Interclub starts early in May with a 2x2 competition lasting four weeks and when the main season begins. Chris Button has been elected as President of the OTTA (Otago Table Tennis Association) which further increases our profile locally. We have several players entered in the South Island championship in mid April. This is an opportunity to test ourselves against some top opposition.

If you want to come in and give table tennis a go come along on Thursday nights at 7.30pm, all gear and quality coaching provided!

If you'd like to join our not so little club please come along. Gear and coaching is provided and the cost is just \$3 a night.

Ian Landreth



Port Chalmers Golf Club

Papaki kau ana ngā tai o mihi ki a koutou katoa

This is the time of year at the Port Chalmers Golf Club when the most prestigious competition on the calendar takes place, namely the Club

Champs. This competition seeks to identify the top golfers across the different categories of players which are determined by handicap bands.

There are still two matches to be played and so results will need to wait until the next issue.

However we can celebrate the results of another eminent golf competition known as The Masters.

This globally recognised and iconic tournament played on the Augusta course in Georgia, USA has been patronised by the world's top golfers since 1932.

Sir Bob Charles was the first New Zealander to play in the Masters in 1963 and 1970 finishing 15th and 17th respectively. Other golfers to make the cut and compete for honours include Danny Lee, Phil Taurangi, Ryan Fox and Frank Nobilo with Nobilo producing the best result with a fourth place in 1996.

Congratulations to Rory McIlroy who held on to take the honours in 2026 and retaining the title for a second year in a row. No mean feat. Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu

pcqc.clubcaptain@gmail.com or 0275 72 8810

Fiona Matapo

Volunteer Proof Reader needed

Are you a proof reader with a couple of spare hours each month?

The Rothesay News is looking for someone with great computer/English skills. Contact Jan on 027 6020 624.



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

St Leonards School

Kia ora West Harbour community.

Rogaine Fundraiser

Earlier in the term St Leonards School organised a rogaine orienteering event as a fundraiser.

The course was in Port Chalmers. We gathered at Watson Park and were ready to head off!

I saw over 200 people competing! I had a lot of fun at it.
by Freyja

The hardest checkpoint (control) was 72 because we had to go down a cliff. It was like walking down the devils staircase at the jubilee hut. We had fun running down it and it was very steep. At some controls there was chocolate and at the end there was a sausage sizzle. If you dressed up then you would get another chocolate as a spot prize.
by Xan + William

Alice Keirle - Kaiako/teacher

VOTE 1 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



Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua

Kia ora koutou katoa,

From late March and early April a number of Lodge guests and day visitors enjoyed some 'island-time' in a mix of weather. Lodge guests included groups of family and friends, students from Otago Girls High School and University of Otago SPEX316, and members of the Danca Latina Dunedin who held a weekend dance workshop over Easter, using the Married Quarters building.

Day visitors included local a cappella group, *Cap'n Spoonbill and the Hoiho*, who performed a number of sea shanties in the Married Quarters as part of the Dunedin Fringe Festival in March. 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. Many thanks to Matthew Tait, regular volunteer and friend, who stayed for a month as Keeper reliever. Our March Welcome Day was enjoyed by regulars and a returning visitor, who helped with bush track maintenance, collecting seedlings, and weed control. We held a couple of events for the Wild Dunedin Festival of Nature in April, which included an autumn bird count and the return of *Tēnā koe te Whenua- Dear Earth - Letters to the Land*. We invited visitors to write a letter, a reflection, a poem, a drawing, or a thank-you note to the 'environment, keeping this legacy of land connection alive created by former Keeper, Liv Taylor-Peebles.

The governance committee advertised for a new keeper/resident manager in February, and a sub-committee interviewed our short-listed applicants in March. We are pleased to announce that we have found a new keeper who will begin in late May. Watch this space for further information, as we finalise this appointment at the time of writing.

Special thanks to Alexander McMillan Trust for a grant for new signs, and also Jess Penwarden for all her fundraising mahi, and offering her support with finding a new webhost.

Our next Community Welcome Day is planned for Saturday 30 May 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

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

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

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Anzac Day 2026

You may remember last year The Museum featured the Port Chalmers WW1 war effort.

We recorded in book form the stories of 103 Port Chalmers Soldiers, with the promise of completing more. The research is continuing but slowly as we react to different priorities, so no update this year. Hopefully 2027.

The Aurora story will remain in our Porchway Exhibition space and this year we have utilized the foyer with our Anzac display. Hospital ships, the work of local doctors and nurses who worked on ships or NZ hospitals based in the UK, is featured, and we again recognise those brave men and women who were awarded medals for their service.



A Sawyers Bay soldier recognised for his service was:

Porteous Alexander William 8/1048

- Born 23.07.1875,

- MIA 19.08.1915.

- Parents - Alexander and Elizabeth Porteous, St Leonards.

- Wife Catherine Porteous.

- Attended Sawyers Bay School.

Worked Government workshops and Served in the South African War aged 24, as a member of Otago Infantry Battalion. Sergeant Major - the rank he held within Port Chalmers Navals for 6 yrs, served 8 yrs with the Caversham Rifles.

Following the South African War, for 12 years he was a volunteer – acknowledged for 16 years service. He was a 'crack' shot.

World War 1 – Enlisted 11.04.1914 – Arrived Egypt 23.12.1914. Tour of duty 8 months. Referred to and commended in a letter Lt Col. Bauchop wrote home.

Mentioned in dispatches 2 times. "On 26, 15.1915 April during operations in the neighbourhood of Gaba Tepe, for gallantry in action and again on the night of 2/3.05.1915. May for exceptional bravery and devotion to duty. All the officers of his company being killed or wounded, he organised and led the company continually exposing himself for four hours and showing fine military spirit and powers of leadership." Captain Redmond stated "he had never had a better non-commissioned officer."

He was a quiet and unassuming man and was esteemed and respected by all who knew him." 9.07.1915 killed in action in Gallipoli.

What's Pūrākaunui School been up to?

Kia ora koutou,

Term 1 has been full of energy, learning, and connection here at Pūrākaunui School, and we're excited to share a snapshot of what we've been up to. Primarily, we have been very busy learning. Alongside the day-to-day teaching and learning in the classroom, there has been a strong focus on building capability across the school. I have been studying to better support dyslexic learners, completing a 12-month Accelerating Learning in Literacy Programme through Learning Matters, as well as taking part in the Beginning Principal Programme and Numicon maths professional development. This learning is already making a difference in how we support all learners to succeed.

We are also incredibly fortunate to have Sophie, our kaiako, who has taken to her role swiftly and with ease. She brings skill, warmth, and professionalism to her teaching, and we feel very lucky to have her as part of our team. Sophie, alongside her children and with the support of our school community, also helped reorganise the school library during the holidays. It has been wonderful to see this space refreshed. At the start of term 1 we had a big clean-up, thank you John Davidson and his helpers it is very much appreciated.



One of the absolute highlights of the term was our overnight stay at Puketeraki Marae. A special highlight was going out on the waka, an experience that was both exciting and meaningful for our students. We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Waka

Ama group and for sharing their knowledge and expertise with our tamariki.

It was also wonderful to work alongside Kiri from Puketeraki Marae, who has stepped into the educator role. Her guidance, warmth, and connection. We also had another very exciting moment this term when we won the vegetable basket at the Blueskin A&P Show. It was a proud (and slightly competitive!) moment for the school, and a real highlight for the children.

A huge thank you to Waitati for supporting us again, we really value the connection and generosity from our wider community.

We also enjoyed some fantastic local trips this term. A visit to Discovery World, Moana Pool, made for a memorable day, and added an extra level of excitement to our swimming experiences.

We were also lucky to connect and collaborate with other small schools across Ōtepoti.

Alongside this, we've continued to build on the values we explored last year. Two that have really stood out for us are *manaakitaka* — showing care, respect, and kindness — and *manawanui* — being courageous, resilient, and persevering through challenges.

The school bike track is also coming along beautifully. A big thank you to Rotadig for all the hard work put into developing the track. We were thrilled to receive our surfboards this term, and our after-school surf club has quickly become a favourite.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Cori for stepping in while Sarah was away. It has been delightful having her in the office — not only for her positivity and can-do attitude, but also because Julien, her two-year-old, helped spark something special. His presence led the way in getting our new playgroup up and running.

We're excited to now to have Sarah Wara, a highly experienced early childhood teacher, working with us at the junior end of the school as we grow our cradle roll. It has been so lovely having little people back at school, bringing a new sense of energy and connection to our space. Our Little Pipi Playgroup now runs on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00am–12:30pm, and we warmly welcome whānau with young children to come along and be part of it.

Looking ahead to Term 2, we're excited to be part of Kids Sing and Pink Shirt Day, our afternoons will keep a strong focus on science, technology, art, forest play, and our Garden to Table programme — all hands-on opportunities that our tamariki love.

As always, we're grateful for the support of our community. Pūrākaunui School is a special place. If you're ever passing by, feel free to stop in and see what we're up to — we're always happy to share our learning. *Kā mihi nui, Pūrākaunui School*



D U S T I N G O F F

Augustus Maurais, Town Clerk of West Harbour



At the north end of Blanket Bay, almost hidden by rampant vegetation, stands an old villa which was once the 'Willowdale' home of Augustus William and Emma Valeria Maurais and their three daughters, Winifred, Mildred and Thelma.

'Gus' was born in London in 1858, descended from a family which had fled there to escape the French Revolution. He had at least one elder brother and three sisters and received a good education at St Paul's School before becoming apprenticed to a printer. Emigrating in 1875 he worked for the *Oamaru Times* and *Oamaru Mail* before spending a year at sea with his cousin, former whaler Captain William Isaac Haberfield of Moeraki.

After promoting the *Popotunoa Chronicle* in Clinton he became a reader for the *Evening Star* in Dunedin in the early 1880s. It was at this time that he purchased a small property at Corner Bush, Merton, and married Eliza Orbell. They had a daughter Mary Orbell born in 1881 and a son Walter Haberfield born in February 1883, but Mary died in October 1883 and Walter in December. Eliza was only 25 when she died in August 1885; all three are buried in St John's Cemetery at Waikouaiti.

Apparently after these tragedies Gus bought the Blanket Bay farmlet and married Emma, the daughter of Captain Christopher Henry Welch and his German-born second wife Christiana Henrietta (nee Hamm). Emma was born while they were living in Sydney about 1865 and spent her early life at sea with her parents, before the family settled in Port Chalmers in 1873. Both Emma and Gus were Anglicans and sang in church choirs. They were married at St Paul's Church, Dunedin in 1888 and settled into their new home.

Gus was keen on tramping and farming but though Emma joined him in climbing around the Organ Pipes on Mt Cargill she refused to milk the house cow. Maurais was elected to the West Harbour Borough Council and served a term as mayor in 1893.

Gus had high principles and resigned from the *Evening Star* when the introduction of rotary presses made a number of printers redundant. He opened an intellectual bookshop in Princes Street, Dunedin but proved an impractical businessman and narrowly escaped bankruptcy. In 1899 he applied for the position of Town Clerk for West Harbour, a position he was to hold for the next twenty years.



Photo: John Moodie

His interest in Theosophy led him to become Secretary of the Dunedin Branch of the Theosophical Society in 1892. Its members were mainly well-off business people and Maurais presented lectures to them on its beliefs in universal brotherhood, the study of comparative religion, philosophy and service, and the development of the latent powers of man. This brought him into clashes with the Catholic Bishop Moran and the Anglican Dean Fitchett, and he was also non-too popular with his Presbyterian neighbours at Sawyers Bay.

'Willowbank' became a discussion centre for such notables as poet Thomas Bracken (before he became a Catholic), unionist John A. Millar (first secretary of the Tailoresses' Union), *Otago Daily Times* journalist Silas Spragg, who helped fire the campaign against sweated female labour, and even

Mrs Annie Besant from America. Gus had his supporters, notably Robert Pairman of Roseneath, GP Farquhar, owner of the Glendermid tannery, and George Robertson, a Dunedin author of Theosophical works.

But after he suffered from a stroke Gus was stricken by senile dementia at a relatively early age and had to resign his post. The family moved to North Dunedin, where he died on 27 August 1926, aged 67. There was a short obituary in the *Evening Star* "with kindly recollections of faithful services rendered in various capacities.... and at their next meeting members of the Otago Typographical Union stood to show respect for their former member. Ian Church (with acknowledgement to *The Captain's Daughter* by Kate Rutherford, privately published in 1983, from which the old photograph is taken. The more recent photographs of the house and area were taken by John Moodie.)

Ian Church



Photo: John Moodie



Port Chalmers DCC Library & Service centre

Crafternoon ...

Get crafty at the library! Join us for a free once a month adult crafternoon session. This month we are learning about sashiko stitching for visible mending.

Free
Thursday 21 May 1.30 – 2.30pm
All materials supplied.

Tech help 1-2-1 (Drop-in sessions)

From apps and smartphones to digital photos and editing. 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.

Normal Library opening hours

Monday - Friday 9.30am - 5.30pm.
Late night Thursday - 8.00pm.
Saturdays 11.00am - 2.00pm.

The Port Library Team



Port Chalmers & District Lions

Peastraw - The majority of the peastraw bales have been pre-sold and please contact our Club Secretary Lion Ella on 472 7770 if you wish to buy some. Please keep a lookout on our Facebook page for the dates and times of the Lions Club members selling peastraw by SH88 Sawyers Bay.

Port Chalmers Lions Club has donated to the following for the 2025 - 2026:

- Lions Club International Foundation; Rescue Warriors Mission 2026;
- Cancer Society Shuttle Service;
- Salvation Army;
- Spirit of NZ;
- Lap the Map for Diabetes;
- Dunedin Harmony Chorus;
- Iona Church;
- Family Fun Day for Foster Kids,
- Child Cancer Foundation;
- Dunedin Ronald McDonald House;
- Otago Hospice;
- Terra Nova Sea Scout Group;
- Great Kiwi Circus and to various individuals.

Port Chalmers Lions Club received non monetary donations from:

- Port Otago; Placemakers; Earnslaw One.

We are recruiting new members and would love to host you at one of our Dinner meetings – they are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month so the next one will be on Wednesday 27 April from 6.30pm at the Port Chalmers Town Hall. Don't be shy, contact Lion Bruce Clark portlions.president@lionsclubs.org.nz to book a meal.

Any information or inquiries on our activities or about joining the club, Please contact Club President Lion Bruce Clark for more information.

Email: portlions.president@lionsclubs.org.nz



10 Questions... with David Bainbridge-Zafar

Each month we ask a West Harbour local to answer the same ten questions. This month is David Bainbridge-Zafar (pictured).

Dave is originally from the UK, and when he decided to move to Dunedin, his folks were living in Port Chalmers, his aunt in Sawyers Bay, and his sister was in Ravensbourne - so he knew he'd be living somewhere in West Harbour!

Dave worked for Dunedin City Council for a few years managing their property team, then moved over to the SDHB to become head of Infrastructure for Southern, trying to get the new hospital built and trying to stop the old one from falling down in the meantime. He's now back in local government with Gore District Council, but works from home most days. Dave and his wife built their home on a lifestyle block above Port Chalmers last year, where they live with their alpacas and doggies!

Dave tells *The Rothesay News* that In his younger days, he played rugby for the mighty Harbour Hawks, and coached their U-21 Colts team, now he feels he's a bit too old for rugby, but is playing a bit of table tennis for Harbour table tennis club instead! He's running for Parliament as the Opportunity candidate for Dunedin.

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

A. Jon Bon Jovi for definite, great guy, great music. David Attenborough, what a legend, what amazing stories he'd have to tell, and maybe little Alex Horne - I'm a big fan of the TV show Taskmaster .

Q. What are your three favourite movies?

A. Lord of the Rings (cheating there as its 3 in 1), I love the Christopher Nolan Batman trilogy, so I'd maybe go Batman Begins from that one, and Super Troopers, one of my favourite comedies.

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

A. My first car was a Ford Fiesta that cost me about \$100 and lasted about 2 months! I'd love to get a full EV, either a Tesla (if Elon Musk wasn't such a loon), or maybe a BYD.

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

A. Full roast dinner, like a Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

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

A. I've been to a few! I've lost count now but in my thirties I was keeping up with the adage of 'visit as many countries as your age' - not sure I've been to 40 countries now though, COVID definitely slowed the travelling down! I always wanted to visit Bhutan - supposedly the 'happiest' country in the world, home of the 'thunder dragons'. I'd like to go to Samoa too, and I'd love to see a cricket test match in India

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

A. Pretty sure I wanted to be a cowboy when I was 5! But then a footballer or a cricketer. Definitely not a politician!

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

A. Seems obvious to say something like 'the wheel' or 'fire'. Lately, the smartphone - its changed the world - not necessarily for the better!

Q. What is the best book you have read?

A. The Game of Thrones books, *A Song of Ice and Fire* by George RR Martin. (Honourable mentions to *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller and Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*).

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

A. I'm a history buff, my degree was focused on European religious history and the reformation. Maybe back to the time of bad King John and Robin Hood? See if I could join the merry men? .

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

A. The afore-mentioned Game of Thrones books - I can read them again and again! Honestly, my sunglasses - I'm quite sensitive to bright sunlight! And assuming there is food for me there and I don't need to catch and cook for myself, I'd take my doggie - Kibi!

Ange McErlane



What's on this month on the West Harbour

Bertha Artspace - Sticky Earth, a group ceramic show from artists and potters from Dunedin and around Aotearoa. The exhibition will be on until the 15th May

- 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 harbourside. 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 30 May 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 4 & 18 May, 11am or 1 pm. 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 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.

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.

Volunteer Committee Members wanted
The Rothesay News
committee is welcoming new members—come and be part of your local group to support your local newspaper!
Enquiries please phone Jan 027 602 0624.

Masthead Photo
Port from St Leonards
John Holmes



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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marian.p96@gmail.com
Wayne Sefton (Blackdog)
027 437 6578

West Harbour Community Board Meeting
Next meeting
10 June 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 May 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 not necessarily shared by the editor, or any member of The Rothesay News Committee.



ISSN 1171-0950

New Era enjoys a refresh



Our 41-year-old New Era dredge recently flew through her five-yearly survey and enjoyed a new paint job while she was in dry dock on the Nelson slipway (pictured). While a new \$36m dredge will join the marine fleet later this year, the New Era remains a favourite with the team and has life in her yet.

PPE recycling success story

Over the past five years, we have investigated and pursued different options for recycling our PPE (personal protective equipment), particularly our hi-vis clothing.

Our Sustainability Manager Carolyn Bennett says the challenge with hi-vis clothing is the trade-off between safety and environmental responsibility. "Hi-vis must be bright and shiny in a high-risk workplace like ours. So, when it fades, it needs replacing. The frustration is that there is still plenty of wearable life in the clothing. This is complicated by the fact our clothing is branded, so we don't want it circulating randomly out in the community."

But finding a responsible recycling option is more difficult than you might imagine. "For the first couple of years, we had a wonderful relationship with Cargill Enterprises. Its team would remove the branding and find homes for our old gear. But, after a while, its market was saturated and there was nowhere to move the product on to."

The next company was Australian based and no longer operates in New Zealand. Then, a year ago, we met Annie (pictured left) from Workwear Recycled and we now send our PPE up the road to her company in Timaru.

Annie: "Port Otago's old uniforms are made into a product called 'Retex' that's used for signage, insulation and packaging. It can also be custom-made for manufacturing businesses to use as packing material around items, such as basins."

Isn't that amazing?!

Port Otago sustainability Manager Carolyn Bennett (right) with Annie Light from Workwear Recycled. All of the products pictured are made from recycled materials.



Cruise season wraps up

It was a somewhat flat end to our cruise season with the final vessel, the Norwegian Spirit, cancelling her 15 April call due to severe weather systems affecting the Tasman Sea.

Since the first vessel on 26 of October, we hosted 74 vessels: 62 at Port Chalmers and 12 at Dunedin town wharves, including two superyachts. There were six maiden vessels, including a residential apartment ship. In total, 110,000 passengers and 47,000 crew came across our wharves.

As demonstrated by the Norwegian Spirit cancellation, the 2025/26 cruise season was noteworthy in the relatively high number of cancellations for weather. There were seven, but five of these were due to weather outside of Otago. Ironically, these particular days coincided with great weather in Dunedin. Why the cancellations? Port Chalmers is often the first or last port of call in New Zealand, before vessels head back to Australia via Foveaux Strait, so it was weather in the strait that was driving the cancellations. (Or, in the case of Norwegian Spirit, it was the Tasman Sea.)

Tentatively, we have 85 bookings for the 2026/27 season – up 8% on the 79 booked for 2024/25. Before you know it, we'll be back in "cruise mode".