



festival calendar

VALLEY FEST: COME CURIOUS, LEAVE CONNECTED

What makes North East Valley such a special place to live? This September, Valley Fest invites you to discover the answer for yourself.

This year's theme is DISCOVER. PARTICIPATE. BELONG. Discover the people, places and possibilities tucked into the Valley. Participate by trying something new, sharing your skills, or simply turning up. And belong by meeting your neighbours, supporting local groups and being part of the wonderfully varied community around you.

Valley Fest gets underway with another instalment of the ever-popular Community Dinner on Saturday, September 5, at the North East Valley Bowling Club. Come hungry, bring your neighbours and friends—or just yourself. Hearty kai and activities kick off from 5pm!

Local artists are set to showcase their brilliant creations! The Dunedin Pastel Artist Group is holding an Open Day on the 8th, and a Makers Market on the 12th will tempt shoppers with a colourful and inspiring array of Ōtepoti-made treasures. *(Continued page #6...)*

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Open 7.30am - 9pm Daily



Gardens



Love the Valley Voice? Be a part of what powers it.

Every gift — modest or mighty, one-off or long-term — supports The Valley Project's grassroots community development mahi.

Each issue costs over \$7k to produce, including \$3k for printing alone — and rising! Keep local stories, voices, and neighbourhood connection alive and accessible for another 30+ years!



[givealittle.co.nz/
org/northeastvalley](http://givealittle.co.nz/org/northeastvalley)



HEALTH AND GROWTH ARE RARELY TIDY

Gardens blow over, organisations change shape, teenagers make noise, volunteers improvise, old music gets reinvented, and chefs play with their food. Perhaps thriving is less about keeping things neat than having the resilience to keep growing through the mess.

VALLEY PROJECT RECEPTION HOURS

262 NORTH ROAD, NORTH EAST VALLEY

Monday - Thursday 9am - 2pm | Closed Fridays and public holidays

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 📺 gifts | 📢 placement of notices | 🌱 seed library | 🍴 event hireables: |
| 🔧 trap hire | 📄 newspaper advertising | 🔑 room bookings | marquees, tables, |
| 📄 laminating | 🖨️ printing & photocopying | 🍎 food assistance | PA system, dishes |



Subscribe to full-colour digital copies of the Valley Voice and/or OpenVUE newspapers:
tinyurl.com/VPnewspapers



Join the Valley Project Community Business Directory! Listings are entirely free!
northeastvalley.org/directory



2026 VALLEY VOICE SCHEDULE

ISSUE #:	#6	#7	#8
CONTENT DUE:	Sep 2	Oct 7	Nov 11
DISTRIBUTION DATE:	Sep 26	Oct 31	Dec 5

VALLEY PROJECT COMMUNITY ROOMS FOR HIRE

FRED HOLLOWES COMMUNITY ROOM has a max capacity of 30 and is equipped with a kitchenette (microwave, sink, jug, dishes/cutlery, serving wares, fridge, etc.), tables & chairs, whiteboard, TV, and more.

TE PŪTAKE ROOM is suitable for small meetings of up to 10 people. Available all hours over weekends and after 5pm on weekdays. The room is equipped with a kitchenette, heat pump, and TV w/HDMI.

CLINIC/QUIET ROOM is ideal for the provision of health and social services, or other one-on-one sessions.

Check the bookings calendar on our website for availability (www.northeastvalley.org/services/community-room-bookings), then book by emailing reception@northeastvalley.org.



Fred Hollowes Room	Te Putake Room	Clinic Room
\$25 (inc. GST) p/hour	\$23 (inc. GST) p/hour	\$13.50 (inc. GST) p/hour

A NOTE FROM THE VP TEAM

There's something special about spring. After the slower pace of winter, the Valley begins to wake up again. The days stretch a little longer, blossoms start to appear, gardens come back to life, and there's a renewed sense of energy in the air. It feels like the perfect time to reconnect with one another, try something new, and celebrate everything that makes our community such a wonderful place to call home.

That's exactly what Valley Fest is all about. This year's theme, *Valley Fest: Discover, Participate, Belong*, reflects the spirit of our community and I'm so excited to see it come to life. We're working alongside an amazing group of community organisations, clubs, artists, businesses, and volunteers to create a month full of activities for all ages and interests. It really is a community effort, and we're so grateful for everyone who is helping to make it happen.

I hope you'll join us this spring. Come and discover something new, take part in the festivities, reconnect with familiar faces, and perhaps meet a few new ones too. I can't wait to see our Valley buzzing with life, laughter, and the wonderful sense of belonging that makes this place so special. -- Jennie Wagner-Gorton



Peter Waymouth
Arborist

Tree pruning professional

greentrees.co.nz
027 432 9646



Scott Willis

List MP based in Ōtepoti

scott.willis@parliament.govt.nz

Funded by Parliamentary Service, Auth: Scott Willis, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



On a tight budget?
No problem — you can still foster!
We will cover all food and vet bills for your canine house guests — all you need is time and love to spare!
Visit www.sPCA.nz/foster to find out more

KAI SHARE



Short-term help with groceries for Valley region residents.

(03) 473 8614

www.northeastvalley.org/community/kai-share

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39 North Rd. North East Valley



YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!

WINTER DONATION DRIVE

Our Kai Share Programme supports 38 whānau across North East Valley with kai every week. Unfortunately, whānau often have to go without crucial supplies like personal hygiene items and baby products.

THAT'S WHERE WE NEED YOU!

We would welcome any donations of:

- PERIOD PRODUCTS • BATHROOM ESSENTIALS
- BABY FOOD AND NAPPIES • PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS
- HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS • TOILET PAPER AND LAUNDRY POWDER



Please drop donations to
The Valley Project
262 North Road, North East Valley



@valleyproject
Phone: 03 473 8614

AN UPDATE FROM THE VCW

In recent times, the Valley Community Workspace (VCW) has experienced some challenges as we moved from an Incorporated Society to a Registered Charity. We are looking to refresh our board and transition into the sustainable organisation we always intended to be.

We have reached out to Ōtepoti Community Builders, who have a pilot programme in which one of their team is contracted to help VCW navigate the changes and address the challenges we have been facing. We are very lucky to have been given the resources to organise a hui for the Valley (members, stakeholders and interested public) to clarify our way forward.

Members are invited to our **Special General Meeting** at 11 Allen Street, Saturday 19 September at 3pm. All Invited to the hui following from 3.30pm, led by Joy Davis of OCB. This will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to listen to each other, address the challenges and agree on a way forward. Refreshments provided. RSVP sam@northeastvalley.org. -- Acting Chair, Christine Keller

☎ (03) 473 8614

📍 262 North Road,
North East Valley,
Dunedin

📧 @valleyproject

🌐 www.northeastvalley.org

✉ project@northeastvalley.org

📘 facebook.com/valleyproject

The North East Valley Community Development Project (The Valley Project) is a registered charitable organisation that builds community connections and promotes the wellbeing of local whānau. If you like what we do, you can donate at:



give a little

www.givealittle.co.nz/northeastvalley

The opinions expressed in articles are the author's own and are not necessarily shared by the editor or Valley Project team. Submitted articles may be edited at the editor's discretion.

We'd love to hear from you! Send us your local photos, stories, announcements, etc. Next deadline for newspaper copy is 2 SEPTEMBER, 2026. Submissions later than this date cannot be guaranteed space. Please keep your contributions to 300 words or less. Advertising information available on the VP website.

Crop Swap	Sunday 30 August
Sycamore Working Bee	Sunday 30 August
Valley Fest	Month of September
Cuppa & Connections	Tuesday 1 Sept.
Community Dinner	Saturday 5 Sept.
Pastel Artists Open Day	Tuesday 8 Sept.
Makers Market	Saturday 12 Sept.
Com2Tech Tech Help	Monday 14 Sept.
E-Waste Collection	14 - 19 September
Tool Refurb Workshop	Saturday 19 Sept.
Foraging Tour	Saturday 19 Sept.
BioBlitz & Bug Talk	Saturday 19 Sept.
Beeswax Wraps Workshop	Saturday 26 Sept.
Kids Day Out	Saturday 26 Sept.
He Ao Hou Wellbeing Expo	Saturday 26 Sept.
Ferment Workshop	Sunday 27 Sept.
Crop & Seed Swap	Sunday 27 Sept.
Mend & Make Workshop	Sunday 27 Sept.
NEV Garden Open Day	Sunday 27 Sept.
Sycamore Working Bee	Sunday 27 Sept.

Follow our Facebook for official event info and notices.



MANAGER WANTED!



We are looking for a motivated, community-minded leader to manage our team, run our community rooms, and help deliver events and programmes across North East Valley, Ōpoho, Pine Hill, and Dalmore.

If you're passionate about people, great at building relationships, confident with funding and grants, and happy to get stuck in, we'd love to hear from you!



Do Good Jobs: bit.ly/4xmXl6s
project@northeastvalley.org

Applications close at 5pm 1/9/26



OPEN VUE: A YEAR IN REVIEW

What a year it's been for Open Valley Urban Ecosanctuary! Thanks to the support of our community, we're seeing more people than ever getting involved to make North East Valley an even better place for wildlife and people alike.

Over the past 12 months, 174 volunteers have generously contributed more than 1,500 hours to restoring biodiversity in our community. From young children discovering nature for the first time, to long-time volunteers sharing their skills, every helping hand has made a difference. Together we've welcomed 22 new backyard trappers, delivered 14 school visits, held 16 community working bees, and removed 36 kilograms of litter from our local environment. We also propagated more than 2,000 native plants, ready to help restore and strengthen precious habitats across the Valley.

Learning has been a big part of the year too. Our workshops have covered everything from bird identification and pest monitoring to foraging, seaweed composting, mushrooms, soil science, seed dispersal, and even the fascinating world of aquatic insects. These events have helped people of all ages connect with the environment right on their doorstep.

Behind the scenes, we've also been tackling larger restoration projects, including mapping invasive sycamore trees throughout the Lindsay Creek catchment and using cutting-edge environmental DNA (eDNA) testing to better understand the wildlife living in our waterways.

Whether you can spare an hour each month or a few hours each week, there's a place for you at Open VUE. Together we're creating a thriving urban ecosanctuary where native wildlife can flourish—and we'd love you to be part of the journey.

-- Jennie Wagner-Gorton

PROTECTING OUR BIRDS FROM BIRD FLU

You may have seen recent news about High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (H5N1), or bird flu, which has now been detected in New Zealand. While it's understandable to feel concerned, there's no need to panic. The risk to people remains very low, and New Zealand agencies have been preparing for this for some time.

As a community that cares deeply about our local wildlife, there are a few simple things we can all do to help protect our local birds.

The most important message is: **don't touch sick or dead birds.** If you come across one, leave it where it is and report it. If it's safe to do so, note the location,

approximately how many birds are affected, whether they are sick or dead, the species (if you know it), whether people or pets are nearby, and take a photo if possible. Please report this to MPI online at report.mpi.govt.nz or by calling 0800 80 99 66.

When you're out enjoying nature, keep your distance: stay away from sick or dead wildlife and keep dogs under control; keep clean: wash your hands and clean your gear after being outdoors; and don't handle or move birds or pick up feathers.

With so many bird-loving gardens in North East Valley, consider removing open water or food containers that can become contaminated by bird droppings. Give

your feeders a clean each day to keep them hygienic. These simple habits help reduce the chance of spreading disease between places.

Our community has worked hard to make North East Valley a haven for wildlife. By staying alert, giving birds plenty of space, and reporting anything unusual, we can all play a small but important part in protecting the birds we love.

-- Jennie Wagner-Gorton



WEKA IN DUNEDIN: REQUEST FOR CURRENT RECORDS

The weka in North Dunedin have gone a bit quiet with a paucity of records from observers during autumn and winter.

It's a different situation on the Peninsula where a single bird is a frequent participant in 'selfies' at a trap site at Sandymount. I'm advised that there are still birds up on Signal Hill Road, but they seem to have given up walking around Normanby. After such a successful breeding season of three broods fledging, it seems a bit odd that records of weka have dropped off.

I'm still maintaining my data set which is now up to 110 individual records over the last five years. Every new sighting helps build a better picture of where our local weka are living.

If you see or hear weka in your backyard, please drop me an email or a text: brucejmckinlay@gmail.com or 027 389 1477. -- Bruce McKinlay

Listen to weka here: bit.ly/4g0jGRP



Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group

RAT SEASON IS STILL HERE

As a fundraiser for current environmental initiatives, Open VUE has discounted traps and trap boxes available for purchase.

03 473 8614

openvue@northeastvalley.org



**TRAPS \$5
BOXES \$15**



**WELCOME SESSIONS FIRST
WEEKEND OF THE MONTH.
CHECK OUR ONLINE CALENDAR
FOR THE NEXT DATE!**



**NEV COMMUNITY
GARDEN, BEHIND NEV
VALLEY NORMAL SCHOOL
248 NORTH ROAD**



TEL. (03) 473 8614



DALMORE RESERVE COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEES

Sat. 22 Aug. 10am	Sat. 26 Sep. 10am	Sat. 24 Oct. 10am
Sat. 12 Sep. 10am	Sat. 10 Oct. 10am	Sat. 14 Nov. 10am

N.E.V. COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEES

Sat. 22 Aug. 9:30am	Sun. 13 Sep. 1pm	Sat. 3 Oct. 9:30am
Sun. 30 Aug. 1pm	Sat. 19 Sep. 9:30am	Sun. 11 Oct. 1pm
Sat. 5 Sep. 9:30am	Sun. 27 Sep. 1pm	Sat. 17 Oct. 9:30am



kieran's
GARDEN

PREPARING FOR A WILD YEAR AHEAD

At this time of year my mind casts forward to the coming growing season. NIWA has declared this an El Niño year and predicts it could be the strongest on record. Ōtepoti will be drier, hotter and windier than usual.

Water conservation is one of the hardest parts of 'being green' to get right. Not least because water is not metered in Dunedin, and we don't see a dollar cost to the water we use. But, rainwater is far better for plants than treated water from the tap, and the more water we conserve, the longer the city can avoid bringing in water restrictions.

Installing water storage now is a fantastic way of preparing for the season to come. And it needn't cost the earth. I picked up an IBC tank (Intermediate Bulk Container) from the landfill's rummage store, and for \$15 now have one cubic metre of water storage. All I need is to connect the tank to some spouting on my shed, and I'll be away.

Following simple principles also helps save water. I choose only to water annual vegetable crops, and never water my ornamental plants, save those in pots. If a plant can't survive in my garden on its own, then I should plant something else that can better cope with the environment. And above all, never water your lawn. It's a hardy plant, and even if it goes brown, it'll recover later.

We live in Pine Hill, and wind is a huge challenge in our garden. In the ornamental garden, the biggest challenge is plants with tall herbaceous growth. We love growing cardoons, but they fall in windstorms with increasing frequency. Herbaceous perennials such as leucanthemum regularly fall to the floor. Even our wild meadow lawn can look bedraggled and messy after a strong gust or two. And in the veggie patch, climbing beans tend to struggle in exposed areas – and I'd love to grow pumpkins as a climbing vine, but I'm just not convinced they'd survive.

This year could be a good chance for us to reflect. How can we make our gardens more resilient and self-sufficient in hotter and windier summers, bearing in mind they might also need to cope with wet winters? Native plants are a great place to start – they're a hardy bunch. And the planting needn't be boring. Plants like *Coprosma* 'Red Rock' can offer colour all year round, and *Hebe* 'Wiri Mist' offers white flowers in spring. Native grasses, tussocks and harakeke look great flowing in the wind. And if you do want to keep exploring herbaceous perennials, then we can use the structure offered by tougher shrubs, interplanted with herbaceous perennials to offer a supporting structure to lean on. -- Kieran Ford

Kieran writes a weekly email newsletter, The Kōwhai, which can be found at: thekowhai.substack.com. He co-hosts a radio show, The Potting Shed, with Sam Williams on OAR FM. And, Kieran runs the gardening services company Kingford Gardens: www.kingfordgardens.co.nz

AN UPDATE ON WILD DALMORE RESERVE: 6 YEARS LATER!

"They come, they wake us," said poet Philip Larkin. "What are days for?" Between Dalmore and Liberton, a group of locals have been answering this question since 2020 through the methodical and dogged restoration of Dalmore Reserve, a much-loved 6.2-hectare patch of native bush. Readers from 2020 may remember reading about the origin of the group during the first months of New Zealand's Covid lockdown. Group leader Maureen Howard began an appreciation Facebook page, Wild Dalmore Reserve, and within a few months there was a group of neighbours exploring, planting natives, and planning for weekly care on Sundays.

After coordinating with the City Council, which provided trees and helpfully lent some gear, the group began to reforest the top of the reserve with saplings. Between 2020 and 2024, 1600 eco-sourced native plants and trees were planted. Saplings that found a home at Dalmore include native conifers tōtara (*Podocarpus totara*), kahikatea (*Dacrycarpus dacrydioides*) and rimu (*Dacrydium cupressinum*), and the charismatic yellow-flowered kōwhai (*Sophora microphylla*) – among many others!

Since 2024, Wild Dalmore has shifted focus to caring for these trees as they grow: releasing them from weeds, encouraging interest in the reserve, and maintaining the access tracks. From the start, non-chemical methods have been used to remove some of the invasive non-native plants, and they hope to stimulate as much natural regeneration as possible, particularly now in the post-planting years. Other jobs, such as the clean-up of historical rubbish, began in 2021 and nature surveys can now continue.

Wildlife sightings include a rare Megascolecidae earthworm spotted in 2020, native bee holes in 2022, many kererū, and a 2021 sighting of an escaped pet cockatiel! Visitors can also view the 2024 memorial plaque, created by local artist and volunteer Becky Cameron, dedicating a kahikatea to rewilding pioneer George Lusty. Lusty was part of the story of the reserve by guiding Maureen on the Bradley method of weed-removal. The plaque is a small window to the wider story too: Wild Dalmore Reserve is part of a global movement towards ecologically restoring the world.

New volunteers are always welcome to come and join in! Anyone keen can email Maureen at mo4planet@gmail.com to subscribe to the activities calendar. Activities take place weekly on Sundays 2 – 4pm at 20 Allenby Avenue, Liberton (weather-dependent). -- Daisy Kirtley



FREE NORTH EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY DINNER 2026

Join Us for a Night of Community Celebration

Bring your neighbours, friends, whānau or just yourself!

Everyone is welcome.

Warm, welcoming atmosphere.

Enjoy some hearty kai together.

Connect with other Valley locals.

Koha welcome.

Saturday 5 September
5:00 - 7:30pm
(Dinner served at 5:30pm)
Food Provided

North East Valley Bowling Club
139 North Road, NEV

Thank you to our sponsors:

www.valleyproject.org
03 473 8614

The Dunedin Pastel Artists Group invite you to an **Open Studio** 2026

Tuesday 8 September
12.30 to 2.30pm

Fred Hollows Room
The Valley Project
262 North Road,
North East Valley

Painting with pastels is enjoyable because of the directness and brilliance of the pastel sticks, and the variety of expression possible, from photographic realism to dreamy abstract effects.

Come and talk with us, see what we are painting, and perhaps you might be interested in joining our group.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

We are looking forward to meeting you!

GARDEN TOOL Refurb WORKSHOP 2026

Give old garden tools new life!

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

FRED HOLLOWES ROOM
The Valley Project, 262 North Road, North East Valley

Workshop 1: 1.30pm - 2.30pm
Workshop 2: 3.00pm - 4.00pm
Maximum 10 participants per workshop

Koha appreciated

CHOOSE ONE OF TWO OPTIONS

NEED TOOLS?
Learn how to refurbish a set of garden tools and take them home when you're finished (if you need them).

OR

ALREADY HAVE TOOLS?
Bring your old secateurs, spade, trowel, fork or other garden tools and learn how to restore and maintain them.

YOU'LL LEARN

- How to clean and remove rust
- Sharpening techniques
- Oiling and protecting timber handles
- Caring for your tools so they last for years
- Simple maintenance tips anyone can do at home.

REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL
When registering, please let us know:
- Which workshop you'd like to attend
- Whether you're bringing your own tools or require a set
- If you require tools, please tell us which tools you need so they can be prepared in advance

Scan the QR code to register or ph: 03 473 8614

KIDS' DAY OUT 2026

Fun for the whole whānau!

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF PLAY CONNECTION, AND COMMUNITY!

Kids' activities, awesome stalls, great kai and memories to cherish!

10.30am - 2.00pm
Saturday 26 September
North East Valley Normal School
248 North Road, North East Valley

FEATURING MUSIC, PUPPET SHOWS, FACE PAINTING AND MORE!

FREE ENTRY

FOOD TRUCKS

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

He Ahoi! FAMILY & YOUTH WELLBEING EXPO

www.valleyproject.org | Valley Project, 262 North Road, Dunedin | 03 473 8614

(...from front page) Get your e-waste sorted! Com2Tech is accepting your digital detritus from the 14th to 19th, and holding a software troubleshooting clinic on the 14th.

There are plenty of ways to get curious about the natural world, too. A foraging workshop exploring wild edibles is planned for the 19th. On the same day, Give to Grow Ōtepoti is running a tool refurbishment workshop to breathe new life into your old secateurs and spades. Later on, join Open VUE and the Entomology Society for a bug talk and a round of BioBlitz: a fast-paced biological surveying race against teams!

Families and young people are well catered for with Kids' Day Out on Saturday, September 26. Face painting, food trucks and bake stalls, puppet shows, obstacle courses—you're in for a bunch of fun! Running alongside is the He Ao Hou Family and Youth Wellbeing Expo, connecting youth and whānau with local wellbeing resources, clubs, activities and organisations. This will be the biggest event of Valley Fest month!

The festival continues with a variety of DCC-sponsored waste minimisation events, including a Mend & Make Awesome workshop by Stitch Kitchen, where you'll learn to repair and reimagine well-loved clothing, as well as fermenting and bees wax workshops. Also in store is a crop and seed swap, and a Community Garden open day.

And that's just the beginning. More events and activities will be added as September approaches, bringing even more opportunities to discover, participate and belong. For the latest dates, times and details, follow the Valley Project Facebook page or head to the Valley Project website for the full, regularly-updated programme.

Valley Fest is your invitation to discover the wider Valley, participate in its community, and find your place in it. See you soon!

DISCOVER... PARTICIPATE... BELONG...

BUG OUT AFTER DARK! 2026

★ UNDERDOGS OF BIODIVERSITY ★

Chingford Park Pavilion Hear experts from the University of Otago as they present "Underdogs of Biodiversity" - discovering the incredible creatures that might be small but play a BIG role in our environment.

Saturday 19 September
5PM

THEN, JOIN US FOR A NIGHT-TIME BIOBLITZ!

Working alongside the Otago Entomological Society, we'll head outdoors to see what we can discover! From moths and beetles to spiders and other nocturnal treasures, who knows what we'll find?

6-8PM BIOBLITZ TIME!

WHAT TO BRING

- Warm clothing - it can get chilly after dark!
- A headtorch or torch
- Download the Naturalist App beforehand
- Sturdy, comfortable footwear
- Bring your evening kai, tea & coffee provided
- Curiosity and a sense of adventure!

NO EXPERT KNOWLEDGE NEEDED!
Come along, explore, learn something new and help us discover the incredible biodiversity living right on our doorstep.

WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?
You'll also have the opportunity to sign up as a member of the Otago Entomological Society on the night and connect with others who share a passion for the fascinating world of insects.

www.valleyproject.org | Open Valley Urban Ecosystem | 03 473 8614

Stitch KITCHEN 2026

Inspiring and building community through creative practices, while reducing textile waste and its impact on our environment

MEND & MAKE AWESOME!

SUNDAY 27 SEPTEMBER
1 - 4PM

TE PUTAKE ROOM
THE VALLEY PROJECT
262 NORTH ROAD,
NORTH EAST VALLEY,
DUNEDIN

Why 'make do' when you can Mend and Make AWESOME!
Join the repair revolution with our friendly team of experienced menders for inspiration and practical help turning flaws into favourite features!

Develop confidence with skills in hand darning, patching, seam repair, re-hemming and much more!

All ages, and levels of sewing experience welcome.

Registration optional (ph: 03 473 8614), FREE TO ATTEND

GET INSPIRED BEYOND THE WORKSHOP!
Visit <https://stitchkitchen.nz/> or follow them on Facebook for classes, events, and sustainable sewing inspiration.

www.valleyproject.org | Valley Project | project@northeastvalley.org | 03 473 8614

THE FERMENT KITCHEN 2026

Kia ora, I'm Geraldine! I love fermenting and will give almost anything a go...cockles, pine needles, tamarillo skins and the more usual suspects...sauerkraut, kombucha and sourdough!

Join Geraldine and learn how to make brine pickles and a fermented drink - both excellent for using up scraps and leftovers. You'll also learn some quick five minute ferments to supercharge your diet with probiotic goodness.

FREE EVENT - BOOK NOW
Limited to 25 participants
Book your place via the QR code or phone 03 473 8614

12.00 - 2.00pm Sunday, 27 September
The Fred Hollows Room
The Valley Project, 262 North Road, North East Valley, Dunedin

www.valleyproject.org | Valley Project | Ph: 03 473 8614



WARM UP WITH RAMEN

The Tokyo-Tokyo team, Eric, Wendy and James (of Philippine origin), have had extensive training with a Japanese chef. Their Facebook page, *Tokyo Tokyo Filipino Asian Cuisine & Ramen*, highlights their selection of recipes and cooking videos. The chefs are very proud of their 12-hour efforts to make genuine tasting ramen broth and noodles, a preparation just as one would find in Japan.

On our visit, we chose Tonkatsu Special Ramen, Miso Tofu Ramen and Salmon Nigiri. The Salmon Nigiri (6 pieces of sushi) was presented on a rectangular white plate, just as one would see in Japan. Together with wasabi and ginger, this dish can be considered a 5-star standard of fresh salmon.

The restaurant consists of two dining areas, both bright, clean, nicely heated and decorated with Japanese posters. Their hardcopy menu comes with a simple explanation of every dish. They also serve a few Filipino and Thai foods. Hence, customers can choose from a wide range of foods.

Wendy, tending the cashier counter, is very attentive to the need of the diners. Food was served promptly with a bright smile.

If you like authentic Asian flavours, Tokyo-Tokyo is a good choice for a winter dine-out. There is no alcohol, but a range of soft drinks and water. Open since November 2025, this restaurant is a great addition to the North East Valley food scene. -- *The Food Explorers, hungry golfing pals*



THE LAND OF THE COCONUTS (1958)

Far upon the ocean grey,
Where fishes swim and mermaids play,
There stands an island green with grass,
Where seldom mighty liners pass.

The palms are tall and stately,

The sands of golden hue,

The air is soft and still and warm

And the sea is richly blue.

The tossing waves roll up to meet

The horizon clear and wide,

While tiny ripples cross the sands

To retreat with the ebbing tide.

Wavering, wavering are the palm trees tall

And the leaves with the rustle of the wind, do fall.

Showering, dropping are the coconuts brown,

Tumbling, falling, crashing down.

Dusk comes creeping on gentle toes

And the sun's radiant colours, it shows.

For as the breeze begins to sigh,

The seagull utters its lonesome cry.

-- *Marian Mackay, Ross Home Resident*

Marian first began writing poetry

at primary school in Dunedin.

This poem is from her collection

spanning over 70 years.

AROUND THE VALLEY TABLE: POLISH DOŻYNKI FESTIVAL, 22 SEPT.

Dożynki Festival is a traditional harvest festival that marks the end of the agricultural year. Although celebrated across all Slavic nations, its most famous celebrations take place in Poland. The festival is closely tied to Poland's comparatively large and well-developed agricultural food system while also reflecting the predominantly Catholic nature of Polish society.

During a special church mass, held after a harvest procession, priests bless elaborate harvest wreaths woven from the latest season's grains, wildflowers, and nuts. They also lead prayers of thanksgiving for the year's harvest. Showing gratitude to God in this way is testament to how deeply religion is intertwined with the festival. The Bible asks followers "to bless God for the good land he has given you" and also encourages people to share food with the poor and vulnerable, another important aspect of Dożynki.

The sharing of food throughout the celebrations also reflects the work of the Catholic Church in Poland. As one of the country's largest social welfare and charitable organisations, the Church provides vital community support, including initiatives that help ensure food security for those in need.

The food served at the festival showcases the bounty of Poland's agricultural food system. Stuffed cabbage, soups and stews made from root vegetables and newly harvested grains, bread, honey products, pierogi, kielbasa, Polish doughnuts, fruit-filled pastries and poppy seed rolls are traditional favourites. Locally brewed beers, cider and traditional Polish fruit liqueurs are also enjoyed, with many recipes and ingredients reflecting regional customs passed down through generations.

The festival is attended by government officials and church leaders and broadcast nationally, highlighting its significance as both a religious observance and celebration of Poland's agricultural heritage.

-- *Lara Anderson*

POTATO/CHEESE PIEROGI RECIPE

DOUGH

4½ cups all-purpose flour

2 teaspoons salt

2 cups sour cream

2 large eggs

1 egg yolk

2 Tbsp melted butter

2 Tbsp vegetable oil

FILLING

8 medium potatoes,
peeled and cubed

1 cup grated cheese
(farmer's cheese is
traditional; cheddar or
tasty cheese are suitable)

Salt and pepper, to taste

METHOD

Boil the potatoes in salted water until tender. Drain, mash with the cheese, season with salt and pepper, and cool. Whisk together the sour cream, eggs, egg yolk, butter, and oil. Mix with the flour and salt to form a soft dough, then knead until smooth. Rest for 30 minutes. Roll the dough 3–6mm thick and cut into 7.5–10cm circles. Fill each with a spoonful of potato mixture, moisten the edges with water, fold over, and seal. Cook in batches in gently boiling salted water until the pierogi float, then cook for a further 2–3 minutes. Then pan-fry in butter until golden. Serve with sour cream and/or fried onions.



DEAF RACCOON BACK IN NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

A North Dunedin band featuring students from both John McGlashan College and Logan Park High School is heading back to the national stage after Deaf Raccoon was named a finalist in New Zealand's 2026 youth music competition Smokefreerockquest.

Deaf Raccoon features Leo Hill, Chris Body and Jamie Bradfield, and their achievement marks the second consecutive year the band has reached the national finals. It is one of just eight bands selected as national finalists from more than 1,100 acts that entered Smokefreerockquest across 22 regions this year. More than 3,700 student performers took part in 37 live regional events, with almost 100 acts later assessed by a panel of musicians, artists and music industry professionals.

The band will now travel to Wellington to perform at the Smokefreerockquest Band National Final on 18 September, with this year's national finals being held in the capital for the first time in more than two decades.

The finalists will have the opportunity to record a song in a professional recording studio, while the national winners will

compete for a prize pool valued at more than \$60,000, including awards from Rockshop and NZ On Air.

They will also be following in the footsteps of some impressive Smokefreerockquest alumni, including Aldous Harding, Bic Runga, Balu Brigada, The Black Seeds, Six60, and Marlon Williams.



Dunedin has another reason to celebrate, with Talking Furniture from Bayfield High School also named among the eight national finalist bands. It's the second year in a row that two Dunedin bands have made the national finals, a strong result for the city's young musicians.

Smokefreerockquest judge and former participant Riiki Reid said the calibre of this year's young musicians had been particularly impressive, describing the talent as inspiring and leaving her hopeful about the future of New Zealand music.

The national finals will be held over three days in Wellington, with the Solo/Duo final on September 17, Band final on September 18, and Smokefree Tangata Beats final on September 19. Details of any livestream or broadcast are yet to be announced. Stay updated at www.rqp.co.nz/rockquest.

TEN TUNES, TEN YEARS AND A WHOLE LOT OF FIDDLING

If you've walked past the Valley Project on a Wednesday night, chances are you've heard the lilt of traditional folk tunes drifting on the evening air. At once uplifting, thought-provoking and toe-tappingly catchy - what's going on?

"Its full name is the Dunedin Scottish Fiddle Orchestra or DSFO," says co-founder Mike Moroney, after my bungled attempts to pin it down to a particular musical genre. "We play traditional folk tunes from the UK and Ireland, and while it's mostly fiddle, we also have many other instruments involved."

The brainchild of folk musician and NEV resident Anna Bowen, the DSFO was established by Anna and Mike in 2013. An ad placed in the Valley Voice to 'learn ten tunes in ten weeks' quickly garnered the attention of local fiddle players, many of whom had put their instruments away for decades. Over a decade later, the original crew has grown to fill the Valley Project's Fred Hollows room on any given week in a friendly atmosphere of reels, jigs, Strathspeys and airs. "The group has become a real family," says Mike. "We've been through a lot together and support each other in many ways outside music."

Originating in the UK, the idea of a fiddle orchestra is to combine an army of fiddles with other instruments to provide a 'wall of sound' effect, in contrast to the more common handful of musicians in traditional folk music. Mike explains that the effect is similar to a regimental bagpipe performance, and while many of

the tunes are traditional, often stretching back hundreds of years, bringing them into a massed-musician format is quite a new invention.

While fiddles dominate the sound, SFOs are often supported by other traditional and acoustic instruments such as guitars, Irish bouzouki, cellos, flutes and others. There are many SFOs worldwide, and the Dunedin crew often host travelling members, who will run workshops and performances during their stay in Dunedin.

Mike is particularly interested in the group learning to play by ear, rather than read from the sheet music available. To this end, he transcribes and arranges the music in simple parts, with the hope that the music becomes embedded with regular practice. The combined skill of the group is really something to behold, evident in the many events and festivals they've played over the years. Notable examples include St Andrews Day, Burn's Night, the Whare Flat Folk Festival and most recently, winning the prestigious Quaich Award from the Otago Scottish Heritage Council for their contribution to Dunedin Scottish heritage.

As a newcomer, I quickly became aware that the style is quite distinctive and my own technique would need some modification to fit in with the other instruments. "The tunes we play aren't particularly hard, but it's important to match the style and feel of the music we're

playing," says Mike. "As an orchestra with occasional solo arrangements, it's more about playing in the style."

Such a talented group requires skilled direction and support, and it's no surprise that Mike and Anna have a long history of local music under their belts - Mike has been active in the local folk music scene since the 1980s and is a well-known member of the Dunedin Folk Club, now resident at the Ōpoho Bowling Club rooms. You may remember music director Anna busking with a marionette attached to her bow in the early 2000s; she has since teamed up with Mike to form folk groups Catgut & Steel, with many performances and recordings out in the wild. Their recent collaboration, Skin & Bone, plays 'western swing' style music, and has recently released an album entitled Last Bus to Brockville, a mix of original and western swing standards.

Interested in joining? The DSFO is welcoming of newcomers, and while all skill levels are catered for, Mike stresses that a basic command of the instrument and the ability to play in first position is probably the bare minimum requirement. All the tunes and resources needed to get started are available on their website at www.kiwifolk.com/dfc.

Interested in finding out more? Come along to the Valley Project Community Rooms at 7.30pm on Wednesdays, check out the website, or email Anna Bowen at anna.bowen1@gmail.com. -- Karl Bray

OPINION: STUDENT DEBT PRICING YOUTH OUT OF EDUCATION

As someone in my final year of school, this issue feels personal rather than theoretical. I am being asked to make a decision that could shape the rest of my life. I either pursue university and accept years of student debt, or choose immediate financial stability through a modest salary.

For me, this becomes an economic question. Do I invest in higher education and take on financial pressure now in the hope of greater opportunities later? Alternatively, do I avoid debt and begin earning immediately? It feels contradictory that while Aotearoa encourages young people to become more educated and highly skilled, the financial reality can make that path feel inaccessible. I would have thought that if higher education is considered valuable to the country's future, then people willing to take that harder path would be supported rather than discouraged.

In my opinion, New Zealand's future cannot rely solely on exporting raw products and hoping international demand remains strong. We want higher wages, stronger industries, and a more resilient economy. To achieve this, we need people who can design, innovate, research, market, finance, and expand New Zealand products and services internationally. Universities and tertiary institutions do more than educate individuals; they build the workforce that determines New Zealand's future prosperity.

As costs increase, education becomes less of an opportunity and more of a financial risk. Students are forced to choose what they can afford rather than what they are capable of achieving. That decision not only affects individuals, but the economic strength Aotearoa will have in the future.

New Zealand domestic tertiary enrolments fell by 3.5% in 2025. In high-performing OECD countries, student fees are low or set to zero. This is seen in countries such as Estonia, Finland, and Belgium where their economies excel. Which raises an important question: if higher education is essential for New Zealand's future, should financial barriers continue to prevent capable students from pursuing it?

This is ultimately my opinion, but it is my current reality as I plan my future.

To build our nation, we need stronger industries, higher wages, and a more competitive economy. This means education cannot be viewed as a cost, but instead needs to be seen as nation-building. Every student who gains access to higher education becomes part of New Zealand's future intellectual capability and productivity.

Funding education is not just spending money for today; it is investing in the next generation of researchers, teachers, engineers, business leaders, and entrepreneurs. The returns are not immediate, but over a lifetime it pays dividends that strengthen both the economy and society. The difficult question is whether New Zealand is willing to make that investment in students before students are financially able to decide whether they can make that investment in themselves.

Because of this question, I have created a petition calling for the reinstatement of Fees Free for the final year of university: <https://tally.so/r/ODV7B7>. I hope that this helps build support to reduce the financial pressure on myself and other New Zealand students and to improve access to higher education for all the reasons I have outlined above.

-- Maja Greig and Bella Golds-Uili

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OUTDOOR FIRES: WHAT VALLEY RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW

A fire can be safe but still disallowed. It sounds contradictory, but it's one of the biggest misunderstandings surrounding outdoor burning. While many people assume a fire permit is all they need before lighting a garden burn-off, there are actually two separate sets of rules to consider—and both must be followed.

With winter garden clean-ups in full swing and recent smoky days reminding many Valley residents how quickly smoke can settle over the neighbourhood, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and the Otago Regional Council (ORC) are encouraging people to understand the difference between fire safety and air quality before striking a match.

FENZ's role is to ensure outdoor fires don't spread, threaten property or put lives at risk. ORC's role is to protect air quality by regulating what can be burned and the amount of smoke a fire produces. In other words, FENZ decides whether a fire is safe to light; ORC decides whether it's allowed to be lit. If either agency says no, the fire can't go ahead.

Is it safe? FENZ manages fire seasons, which can be Open (no permit required), Restricted (a permit is required), or Prohibited (no outdoor fires allowed) depending on weather conditions, vegetation dryness and fire danger. Some areas are also designated Special Risk Zones, where permits are required year-round because of factors such as public use, ecological significance or a history of fire incidents.

During a Restricted Fire Season, most outdoor fires require a permit. Permits are free and are assessed according to the location, weather conditions, the type of fire and the safety measures in place. Applications generally take between five and ten working days to process, and a site inspection may be required. If conditions are unsafe, a permit may be declined. Residents can apply at checkitsalright.nz.

Outdoor burning includes much more than traditional burn-offs. Braziers, fire pits, chimineas, bonfires, campfires, outdoor fireplaces and hangi all fall under FENZ's outdoor fire rules, while gas barbecues and gas fire pits do not require a permit.

Jason Sarich, Senior Advisor Risk Reduction Inspector for Otago Community Risk Management, says common call-outs in the wider Valley include escaped garden burn-offs, unattended

outdoor fires, vegetation fires, chimney and flue fires during winter, and rubbish fires that have spread beyond control. With the Valley's steep terrain and pockets of vegetation, even relatively small fires can spread quickly.

FENZ recommends keeping at least a three-metre safety zone around any outdoor fire, having a hose and shovel nearby, wearing natural fibre clothing such as wool or cotton, avoiding windy conditions, and never leaving a fire unattended. If a fire escapes, threatens people or property, or appears suspicious, always call 111 immediately.

Is it allowed? Even if FENZ determines conditions are safe, ORC's air quality rules still apply.

Tim Ware, Communications Advisor for the Otago Regional Council, says residents often don't realise that a fire permit does not override the Otago Air Plan. ORC regulates smoke rather than fire itself, meaning a fire can comply with FENZ requirements but still breach air quality rules if it creates excessive smoke or prohibited materials are burned.

Only dry vegetation, untreated wood, paper and cardboard should be burned. Treated or painted timber, plastics, tyres, chemicals and household rubbish should never be burned, as they release harmful pollutants and pose health risks to the wider community.

Different parts of Dunedin are also subject to different air quality rules. Residents should check which ORC Air Zone applies to their property, as additional restrictions may apply, including setback distances from neighbouring properties or, in some areas, a prohibition on outdoor burning altogether.

Before deciding to burn, residents are encouraged to consider alternatives such as composting, mulching, chipping prunings or using local green waste services. These options reduce smoke while returning valuable organic matter to the garden.

The message from both organisations is simple: before lighting any outdoor fire, check the current fire season and permit requirements through FENZ's Check It's Alright website, then check the ORC's outdoor burning rules for your property. A few minutes of planning can help protect your neighbours, your community and the Valley's winter air.

-- Information supplied by Tim Ware (ORC) & Jason Sarich (FENZ)

ANOTHER PLACE TO GATHER

If your next gathering needs a little more room than the Valley Project, the Bowling Club or local church halls can offer, there is another option just 25 minutes from the Botanic Gardens: Tirohanga Camp in North Taieri.

Set among 30 hectares of native bush, the camp offers something that can be difficult to find closer to home: a large, flexible space for gatherings and events that groups can hire exclusively, complete with accommodation.

Tirohanga has 15 bunk-style cabins sleeping up to 83 people, as well as space for tents and caravans. Its main hall and dining area can accommodate up to 100 people, with a commercial-style kitchen available for self-catering.

The arrangement could suit a wide range of groups. Families could hire the whole camp for a reunion, with individual cabins giving several families their own space while still enjoying a holiday together. It could also provide a base for retreats, workshops, environmental programmes, school or community groups, or simply a weekend away.

And there is plenty to do without going far. The camp is surrounded by native bush and birdlife, with bush walks, a glowworm trail, campfires, orienteering, outdoor cooking, a sports field and other activities available. The surrounding area also offers opportunities for walking, cycling, and fishing.

Bring a group, plan what you want to do, cook together and have the whole place as your base. More information, including photos, facilities and booking details, is available at tirohangacamp.co.nz or on Facebook.





What's changed about selling your home

The market right now

The national headlines have been gloomy, but the local picture tells a different story. According to the latest OneRoof figures, Ōpoho recorded an 8% increase in average property value over the six months to July, placing it among the top performing suburbs in the country. Dunedin as a whole has led South Island growth in 2026, with average values up 4.2% to \$691,000.

Well-presented, realistically priced properties with 'good bones' are still selling really well, including some with multiple offers. It's the unusual and/or poorly prepared homes that are sitting. The cream, as they say, still rises to the top. In this market, that matters more than ever, and it's exactly what this article is about.

In the previous issue, I mentioned that the tools agents and buyers use have changed considerably in recent years. I promised to come back to that. Here it is.

How buyers find homes now

Most buyers today start well before they attend an open home. They search online, track price trends, compare recent sales, and run mortgage figures from their phone. By the time they walk through your door, many have already formed a view.

This is a genuine shift. Trade Me Property now offers an AI ChatGPT-powered search tool that lets buyers search listings through normal conversation, typing something like "a three-bedroom home near good schools in North East Valley, under \$750,000". That is one example of where things are heading. The way buyers search is changing, and it is happening quickly.

What this means for sellers is simple; the first impression your home makes is almost always online, not at the gate. The photos, the description, the price, all of it is being judged before anyone picks up the phone.

How the tools agents use have changed

On the agent's side, the tools available now are considerably sharper than they were even five years ago. Better data on buyer behaviour, smarter ways to target marketing, the ability to track which types of homes and price points are getting attention and which are not. These things help shape a campaign that actually reaches the right people rather than just casting a wide net and hoping.

AI tools are also being used to improve the quality of listing material, analyse feedback, and reduce the time spent on repetitive tasks. That last point matters more than it might sound. Time that used to go into admin can now go into the things that actually move a sale forward. I much prefer communicating with clients and purchasers than dealing with paperwork.

Disclaimer: This article provides general information from a real estate perspective only. It does not constitute legal, tax, or financial advice. Always seek independent professional advice specific to your situation.

Let's Chat Before You Start

Before you pick up a paintbrush or call a builder, give me a call. I'm happy to pop by and give you honest, practical advice about what's worth doing—and what isn't. My goal is to help you make the smartest decisions for your next move.

Peter Gale is a long-time Ōpoho resident; and also the agent/licensee and advisor for NZ Property Solutions

Peter Gale | 021 608 107 | peter@nzps.co.nz

Why the human side still matters most

And yet, for all of that, the part of this job that makes the real difference has not changed at all.

A buyer deciding whether your home is right for them is not making a spreadsheet decision. They are asking themselves how it feels. Does it feel warm? Does it feel like somewhere they could actually live? Dunedin homes vary enormously in sun, shelter, layout, the amount of work they need, and the way they sit on their section. No algorithm captures that. It takes a real conversation, at the right moment, with someone who knows the home and understands the buyer.

In my experience, the sale that gets the best result is rarely just the one with the flashiest marketing. It is the one where the right buyer is found, someone who genuinely connects with the home, and where the agent is close enough to the process to recognise that moment and make the most of it.

Technology helps. Good judgement, local knowledge, and a well-timed conversation still close the gap.

What this means if you are thinking of selling

The fundamentals have not changed. Presentation and pricing matter. Professional, well-targeted marketing is important in reaching those 'premium' purchasers. And working with an agent who understands how to pull all of this together makes all the difference.

Buyers today do their homework thoroughly before they commit. In the current market there is no great sense of urgency, and most will research carefully and take their time. But when the right property comes along—something well-presented and appealing in a city full of old, cold homes—that changes quickly. Interest sharpens, multiple offers can follow, and suddenly those same cautious buyers are moving fast. Getting your home in front of the right people, presented in the right way, is what triggers that moment.

Spring is just around the corner—traditionally the start of the selling season—and now is the time to start thinking. Most people underestimate how long it takes to get a proper appraisal done and a home ready for market. The sooner those conversations happen, the more planned and stress-free the process becomes. That is where I come in. By the time the 'For Sale' sign goes up, the hard yards are done, the home is market-ready, and the right campaign is in place.

Find out what your Property could sell for...free!

Spring does not wait, and neither should you. I will visit your property, assess its unique features, and give you a clear and honest picture of what it is worth and what, if anything, is worth doing before you go to market. I would love to hear from you. Just give me a call or email.



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ART PASTEL GROUP

All levels welcome. We meet every second Tuesday of the month, 12.15–3.15pm, Valley Project. More info: txt ☎ Anneloes 027 3077 034 or ☎ Adrienne 027 387 4529

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NEV JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

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NEV JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Upper Junction resident, John Campbell, available for JP services by appointment only. ✉ johnandmaryjanecampbell@gmail.com ☎ 021 646 266

NORTH DUNEDIN SHED

Open Mon, Wed & Sat mornings, 9–1pm. 35 Bonnington Street, over the bridge. ☎ North Dunedin Shed Society Inc.

NORWOOD STREET NEIGHBOURS

Newcomers to Norwood Street, Normanby, are warmly invited to join our friendly, community-minded Facebook street page to connect, share ideas, ask questions, and support one another. ☎ Norwood St Neighbours

OP-SHOP VOLUNTEERS

To work at Cat Rescue Op Shop. Clean police record required. Ideally people person with till and Eftpos experience. Full training. 3-hr shift p/week. 10am–1pm, or 1–4pm, Mon–Sat. Apply via ✉ raewynalexander@gmail.com or come into shop Friday 10am–1pm

WILD DALMORE RESERVE

Help protect and restore the native biodiversity of Dalmore Reserve. Meet Sunday afternoons. Entrance at 20 Allenby Ave, Pine Hill. ☎ Wild Dalmore Reserve ☎ 021 206 3593

WRITING GROUP

Seeking new members. Meetings once a month. Great way to receive constructive feedback from other writers. ☎ Guy 021 203 2734

fitness & health

ADULT YOGA CLASSES

Fiona Johannessen, experienced yoga teacher of all ages & levels Monday 7.30–8.30pm (school term). Ōpoho School. \$10 casual rate. All levels welcome. ✉ Fiona: sweetfee77@gmail.com

BALFOLK DANCE

Classes are now paused until mid-september.

Minibals continue:
Toitū Otago Settlers Museum,
2pm last Sunday each month,
2–3.30pm. FREE!

Next minibals: 31st May, 28th
June, 26th July, 30th August

✉ balfolkdunedin@gmail.com
🌐 www.balfolk.co.nz

BELLEKNOWES GOLF CLUB

Green fees \$15

\$10/player after 4pm

Come & enjoy our fantastic
9-hole golf course on Lawson St.
Spectacular views over the city.
Call Secretary, Lorraine Lobb:
📞 027 465 1516

BRAIN INJURY SURVIVORS

Brain Saver is dedicated to assisting individuals who have experienced brain injury. Free recovery support packs for survivors. No one should have to face recovery alone. Get in touch: ✉ brainsavernz@gmail.com
📞 022 574 9254 📧 brainsavernz

CONTRA DANCE

Every Monday 7.30–9pm.
Ōpoho Presbyterian Church,
Signal Hill Rd. No partner required.
\$3. Info 📞 021 185 4566

CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY

Suffering from stress, anxiety, migraines, chronic pain or digestive problems? Quiet your mind, relax your body, settle your nervous system with craniosacral therapy. Local student offering low-cost sessions in the Valley to gain practical experience. To book: ✉ summeroak@proton.me

CRISIS RECOVERY CAFÉ

Safe, after-hours space for free peer support for mental health & addiction recovery, or anyone simply seeking connection. No referrals needed. Drop in: 262 North Rd. Tues 6.30pm–10pm; Sat 5.30pm–10pm.

CROP SWAP NEV

FREE! Last Sunday of the month, 262 North Rd. Swapping begins 3pm sharp. Trade garden produce, preserves, baking, flowers, bulbs, seedlings, garden supplies, etc.

DIVINE MASSAGE

Mobile massage/reiki for LADIES. Qualified & experienced over 10yrs. Weds, Thurs, & Fri A.M. Bookings 📞 022 317 3597. Call or text (preferred). PEACE.

DUNEDIN BMX CLUB

Race night, Forrester Park BMX track, 5.30pm, Thursdays.

'EVERY BODY' HOLISTIC MASSAGE

Based in Ōpoho! Swedish relaxation - deep tissue - myofascial release. Queer-friendly, trauma-informed & disability support-led by your needs. \$90/hr. 📧 Tamsin 022 1240 525 for info or to book.

FOLK DANCING FOR FUN

North East Valley Bowling Club, 139 North Road, 10–11.30am, Fridays, \$5. 📞 Yvonne 455 2406
✉ stureid1@yahoo.co.nz

FRUIT & VEGES NFP

Fresh quality fruit & veges at lower prices at St Martin's Church, 194 North Road. \$14, \$7 or \$4 prepaid weekly bags for pick-up. Sign up online: 🌐 allsaintsdn.org.nz/all-saints-fruit-and-veges/ Want to volunteer? Email: ✉ admin@allsaintsdn.org.nz

MASSAGE FOR WOMEN

with Uschi Heyd. Book your session online 🌐 www.kindliving.co.nz or call/text 📞 Uschi 027 360 0238 Mention the Valley Voice to receive a 10% discount on your first massage.

MASSAGE THERAPIST

On-site chair massage (place of work, minimum 3 people) and private studio sessions. Hohohono, Reiki. Mere kara 📞 021 171 8094 📞 massage serenity and healing

MEDITATION FUNDAMENTALS

Discover the ART OF WISDOM. 12wk courses consist of 'Theory and Practice.' One cannot go without the other. Koha participation, run all year, and are level based. Contact Colleen Robb: 📞 021 0228 7258
✉ ciga.nz.dunedin@gmail.com

NEV BOWLING CLUB

139 North Rd. New members welcome. Come along and have a go. Room bookings available. Bruce 📞 027 432 8649 or Michelle 📞 027 408 2603
✉ nevbowl@xtra.co.nz

ORTHO-BIONOMY

In pain or discomfort? Had surgery or injuries? Ortho-Bionomy is a gentle way to help you in maintaining balance or accessing your resources during your recovery! For info & bookings: 🌐 juliafast.nz

PARKRUN

Free, weekly timed 5km run/walk, Sat, Botanic Gardens. Meet at café, 8am summer, 9am winter. Go to 🌐 parkrun.co.nz for more info.

PERSONAL TRAINING AND BOXING

Interested in one-on-one strength training or boxing sessions in NEV? Flexible schedule and \$25 45-minute session(s).
📞 Jeremiah 021 221 1039 or ✉ raganclan0077@gmail.com

STEADY AS YOU GO

(Age Concern) Gentle balance and strength exercises, NEV Bowling Club 10.30am Mondays, Ōpoho Church Hall 1.30pm Tuesdays, and St. Thomas Hall in Pine Hill 11am Thursdays.

TANNOCK GLEN

Torridon St. Ōpoho. 3.5 acre garden of the Dunedin Rhododendron Group. Members of public invited at any time. Dogs permitted on lead.

THREE LEFT FEET

Social dance group. No experience or partners necessary. Folk & traditional European dance. \$5 or \$7.50 per couple, Nga Maara hall, 6–7pm Thursdays. 📞 Marilyn 027 446 3358

WEIGHTLOSS SUPPORT GROUP

Mondays 5.15–6.15pm in the Valley. Learn nutrition, healthy strategies, emotional regulation techniques. Karyn Chalk has qualifications in nutrition and brain health. ✉ karyn@changingways.co.nz

ZEN MEDITATION

Traditional Zen for experienced & beginners. All welcome. 7pm Thur. Quaker Rooms, 15 Park St., Dunedin North. Koha please. 6wk beginners courses through the year. 7-day retreat on Quarantine Island annually. 📞 021 050 4605

families, kids, and teens

AURORA TAMARIKI EARLY YEARS CARE AND KINDY

Childcare for 0-5yr-olds inspired by Rudolf Steiner & Emma Pikler, offering homely rhythms, seasonal songs/stories, and natural space for children to learn and grow. Organic vegetarian kai provided. 351 Pine Hill Road. 🌐 auroratamariki.co.nz

DUNEDIN CITY TOY LIBRARY

Moved to St Thomas' Hall in Pine Hill, corner of Pine Hill Rd & Raleigh St. Vibrant toy library for children 0–7yrs. Huge range of toys, puzzles, ride-ons, dress-ups, & games. 3.15–4pm Wednesdays and 10–11.30am Saturdays.

DUNEDIN RUDOLF STEINER PLAYGROUP

Te Whare Ako Marie. A sanctuary for creative play for children from birth to kindy. A place of peace and friendship for parents. Groups... meet weekly, term time. Contact us for times and days 📞 471 2163 or ✉ dunedinsteinerplaygroup@gmail.com

GO! YOUTH GROUP

Group for youth, school years 7–13. Meet 6pm Saturdays during school terms in Hope Church hall 304 Pine Hill Road. Games, food, activities, outings. Beckha 📞 022 023 5249 or Carlos 📞 027 646 4628.

INTERGENERATIONAL PLAYGROUP

Bringing together multi-generations, supporting communities, and nurturing relationships through play. Every Friday at 11am in the Maybank Room in Ross Home, 360 North Rd.

MT CARGILL GIRLGUIDES

Pippins, brownies, guides, & ranger groups in the valley. 📞 0800 222 292 or ✉ info@girlguidingnz.org.nz

NEV NORMAL SCHOOL PTA

Monthly meetings at Valley Project on a Thursday evening. Anyone interested in being of service to this wonderful school is welcomed. ✉ nevn.pta@gmail.com

NEV PLAYGROUP

0–5yrs. Meet other local families. Free morning tea provided for adults. Please supply your child's food and drink. 9am–noon, Wednesdays. 194 North Road. ✉ nev.playgroup@nevbctrust.org

ŌPOHO PLAYCENTRE

Nurturing play space for 0–6yrs, where children and whānau attend together. Child-led learning through play. Make friends, play, learn, & grow. 3 free visits. 28A Signal Hill Rd. Mon and Wed–Fri, 9am–12pm, school terms. 📞 opoho.playcentre 📞 opoho@playcentre.org.nz or 📞 027 880 2365

ŌPOHO SCOUTS

Keas aged 5–8yrs, Wednesdays 5–6pm; Cubs aged 8–11yrs, Thursdays 6–7.30pm; Scouts aged 11–14yrs, Wednesdays 6:30–8:15pm. Ōpoho Scout Den. ✉ opoho@group.scouts.nz

SPACE FOR YOU AND YOUR BABY

Programs run by registered ECE teachers supporting families through their 1st year with new baby. New location: 194 North Road ✉ space@nevbctrust.org 📞 021 150 9165

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Variety of classes with stories, crafts, songs, and more. Ages 4–18yrs, 9.30am Sundays (term time only) DNI (tech area). All welcome! No charge. 📞 020 4079 5727 or go to 🌐 dunedinchristadelphians.org

further education

BEGINNER ENGLISH FOR CHINESE

Beginner English conversation group for senior Chinese new to English language. Shared meal. Small contribution to costs. Improve simple conversation. No English necessary. Tian: 📞 029 02 0009 68 📞 254783519@qq.com

Classifieds continued next page... 📄

COM2TECH DIGI DROP-IN

Community-led group offering range of free classes to upskill communities in communications technology & online safety. 10am–12pm Monday, Valley Project.

✉ office@com2.tech 📠 com2.tech
📍 com2tech ☎ 027 256 9182

COGNITIVE ENHANCEMENT

Thinkit Feuerstein is a cognitive enhancing program for individuals with learning differences. Enriching thinking and learning skills for ages 5+ to adults. Private sessions held in NEValley/Dunedin schools.

Tutor Kiri Scott, certified practitioner in Feuerstein method.
☎ 021 118 9882 📠 www.icelp.info
✉ Thinkit.fie@yahoo.com

ITALIAN CLASSES

Experienced teacher, native speaker of Italian. Small groups all levels, from absolute beginners to advanced and conversation.

☎ 027 341 8312 or ☎ 473 0832
✉ antonella.vecchiato@gmail.com
📠 italianclasses.co.nz

LEARN ENGLISH

English for daily life and work. Free and low cost courses. Please contact one of our staff at English Language Partners: ☎ 455 5266

LEARN GERMAN

with a native speaker. Whether it's for school, business, holidays, hobbies, movies, or casual convo, let's get creative with your learning! ☎ 022 189 4564

✉ creativemethodes@gmail.com

MATHS MADE EASY

Experienced maths teacher, recently retired. Primary and secondary certified. Montessori trained. Private tutoring at your home or mine. Zoom option. Different strategies to help your child achieve success. Diane ☎ 021 357 565

✉ dvalavanis@aol.com

REO MĀORI

Reo Māori teaching or tutoring for adults. Groups or individuals. John Birnie: ✉ johnbirnie@hotmail.com or ☎ 021 236 3765

VOCAL TEACHER

All ages, all skill levels. Starts from \$30 a lesson. Studio on Vogel Street. Text for more info/to book: ☎ 022 122 3405

trading corner

529 PLANTS

Support your local grassroots nursery! Wide plant selection incl. large, diverse succulent & cacti collection. Come by 529 North Rd. 10am–3pm Mon.–Wed. or Sun. Call/text Andy ☎ 027 323 1793

ALL-ROUNDER

Available for odd jobs, cleaning, gardening. Good references available. Chris ☎ 022 374 5970

BABYSITTER

10 years of childcare experience. Full drivers licence. Have worked with twins. ☎ Kelly 027 697 9194

BALDWIN STREET BOOK

Substantially revised and enlarged edition. 32 A4 pages, 8,000 words, 60 photos. \$20ea. Available from ✉ saddlehillpress@xtra.co.nz and Valley Project ☎ 027 248 0714

BIN CLEANING

Smelly bins? Get them cleaned by Bin Blast. Text ☎ 021 157 4953 or email ✉ blair@binblast.co.nz. Use code VALLEY for 20% off first clean.

CHIMNEY SWEEPS

Top Hat Chimney Sweeps offering single flue cleans for \$100 or two neighbouring houses for \$85 each. FREE glass door clean. Replacement services on firebrick, door seal, and baffles. Text Luke ☎ 027 332 2915

COFFEE WITH PETE

Join realtor Peter Gale for a relaxed, no-pressure chat about downsizing, selling, buying or simply exploring your real estate options. No sales pitch, just coffee and honest convo. ☎ 021 608 107 ✉ peter@nzps.co.nz

COMPUTER & MOBILE SUPPORT

Half the usual cost! Patient and honest for SENIORS or anyone needing help. 20% Supergold discount. Free testing of systems and devices. ☎ Pete 021 032 1258 ✉ mrfixit.today@outlook.com

COMPUTER REPAIR

I fix computers! Low rates, great service, Windows, Linux, Mac Android. ☎ Matt 022 048 0012

CROP SWAP

Everything is free! No money exchanges. Bring along things you have in abundance from your garden or kitchen. Last Sunday of every month, 262 North Rd. Doors open 2.45pm. Swapping starts 3pm.

DAVE'S COMPUTER SERVICE

Troubleshooting and tuition. FREE optimisation software. Lowest charges in the Valley. Phone Dave: ☎ 022 635 9414

DOG WALKING

Homeschooled kid available to walk your dog any time Sun–Fri, even on school holidays. Will be chaperoned by adult or older sibling. ✉ Noah: dogwalkingnoahr@gmail.com or ☎ 021 836 950. Negotiable pricing. Suggested cost \$15/hour per dog.

EXPERIENCED PAINTER

Bruce Interior Painter (B.I.P.) Int/external, residential, commercial 20 years in industry. ☎ 022 171 5102 ✉ bip.painters@gmail.com

FARELLA ORTHODONTICS

Offering Valley residents complimentary consultations for children. Cutting-edge tech. 30yrs clinical experience. Flexible financing options. ☎ 021 228 4895 📠 farella.co.nz

FLATMATE WANTED

Large home on quiet cul-de-sac with owner residing on separate floor. Bedroom and separate study room, plus utilities, fibre internet, fully furnished kitchen, lounge, etc. Text or call Karl ☎ 027 696 1858

FREE SCRAP METAL & BATTERY PICKUP

Clearing out the shed or garage? Free local pickup service for small to medium loads in NEV, Pine Hill, and Ōpoho. Station wagon pickup—perfect for steel, aluminium, copper, brass, and old car, truck, or marine batteries. Friendly, fast, and right down the road. Call or text ☎ JT: 027 206 1725

GARAGES TO RENT

Pine Hill. 24-hr level access. Secure, dry garages 5.5m long x 2.8 wide x 2.3 high. 36 cubic metres. Plus new 20ft containers. Only \$210 a month GST inclusive. Cheapest in Dunedin. Household items, old car, etc. ☎ 027 213 2474

GOLD & SILVER

Buying gold/silver. Unwanted or broken jewellery, chains, watches, coins, bars, etc. Local buyer, fair prices. ☎ Alexander 027 367 8863

HAIRDRESSER

Retired senior hairdresser providing service for seniors. Your home or mine. Dunedin North only, ☎ Helen 467 9644 or ☎ 021 104 1011

JESCARGO CARPET REPAIRS

Domestic and commercial carpet repairs. No job too small. 100% local. ☎ Jesa 022 012 1194 ✉ jescargo_carpet@outlook.com

LAWNS ELITE

Lawn renovation company based in Dalmore. Years of lawn care and landscaping experience. We work with homeowners & renters. WINZ quotes welcome. ☎ 022 690 5682 ✉ dunedin@lawnselite.co.nz

LAWN MOWING

Ōpoho Lawn Mowing. Servicing the Valley region and beyond: mowing, edging, trimming, wedding, pruning, spring/fall clean-up. Free quotes. ☎ 021 080 35799

LOCAL HANDYMAN & LANDSCAPER

Fencing, decks, retaining and all types of concrete and paving. For a free quote contact Liam George on ☎ 027 239 0220 or email ✉ Lg.contracting98@gmail.com

NEV LAWNS & GARDENS

Lawns, edges, hedges, gardens, bushes, trees, weeds and green waste removal. Consultation & quote: Keegan ☎ 027 474 1828 ✉ nevlawns@gmail.com

NORTON BIKE WANTED

1930's–50's Norton motorcycle or parts, especially sidecar. Also motorcycle books, pictures or photos, etc. from those years. Please phone ☎ 027 213 2474

RELIABLE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Leaky taps, fence repairs, accessibility solutions & more. Comprehensive services to keep your home in top shape. Professional, high-quality service... w/safety compliance and peace of mind. Free consultations. Photo references. Text/ring: ☎ Michael 027 509 5642

SPLIT FIREWOOD FOR SALE

Mixed grade & seasoned. \$120 per cubic meter. Pick-up only (Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays 9.30am–12.30pm) ✉ secretary@northdunedinshedsoc.org.nz

STORAGE UNITS

Located Pine Hill. 24-hr level access. Secure, dry garages 5.5m long x 2.8 wide x 2.3 high. 36 cubic metres. Plus new 20ft containers. Only \$210 a month GST inclusive. Cheapest in Dunedin. Household items, old car, etc. ☎ 027 213 2474

VENUS FLY TRAPS

Large caliber plants. 5x bigger than sold by shops and are \$4.00 cheaper. Growing instructions included. \$10. ☎ Pat 473 0159 (PM)

WANTED TO BUY

Vintage jewellery, gold and silver, any condition considered. Contact ☎ Jonelle 021 255 1465

WELDING REPAIRS

Gates, fences, balustrades also. Advanced welding courses. More info: Bob ☎ 027 206 4064

church services

ANGLICAN: ST MARTIN'S

194 North Rd, 10.30am

GLENAVEN METHODIST

7 Chambers St, 11am

HOPE CHURCH

304 Pine Hill Road, Sun.10am & 7pm

LEITH VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN

George St. Normal School Hall, 10am

ŌPOHO PRESBYTERIAN

50 Signal Hill Rd, 10am

PACIFIC ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN

160 North Rd. English, 11am on 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Sundays; Cook Island 9.30am; Samoan 11am, 4th and 5th Sundays

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC

89 North Rd, Mass 9.30am

SALVATION ARMY

43 North Rd, community worker only, Mark O'Donnell

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

Add or update listings:
voice@northeastvalley.org

\$2 per listing per issue
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Green

for all of us



Fran is a Kiwi-Filipino MP with a background in climate policy, public service and student unionism.

He is vocal in standing up for public services and protecting the role of tertiary education as a public good.

“New Zealand deserves a government that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few.”



Francisco Hernandez MP
Dunedin



Lisa (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Te Uri o Hau, Te Rarawa) is a Professor of Māori Health and Nutrition with more than 20 years' experience in public health research and advocacy.

“This current Government won't listen to the evidence or the people.”



Dr Lisa Te Morenga
Te Tai Tonga



Get Involved



Authorised by M. Ross
www.greens.org.nz

“The Green Party has the plan to put power where it belongs, with people and communities.”



TRIBAL HEARTBEAT: THE MAGIC OF FESTIVALS III



A kaleidoscope of colour, culture and creativity. Dreams made manifest through inspiration and passionate performances. Timeless stories told through music and dance. Resonating rhythms connecting communities in joyful celebration.

Join us to celebrate the launch of the latest collection from award-winning photographer Martijn Buyck, screening on the City Library Cube. Featuring live performances from Blue Heron and the Kadodo African Drummers, with brief speeches from festival organisers and a slideshow of 200 new festival images.

Enjoy nibbles and refreshments provided by Dunedin Public Libraries.

FREE

Friday 11 September | 5.30pm
4th Floor | City Library

CITY MOSGIEL BLUESKIN BAY WAIKOUAITI PORT CHALMERS SOUTH BOOKBUS

It's time for the legendary Opoho Church Fair



Saturday 19 September ---- 10 am to 1 pm
Opoho Presbyterian Church, 50 Signal Hill Rd



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