

RADICAL SIMPLICITY: LIFE ON TWO-WHEELS

Jess has been on two wheels for so long, that being in cars feels alien to her. It's not a quirky phase or a fleeting lifestyle experiment—it's a deliberate, full-commitment way of moving through the world. Her all-in mindset began years ago after her first big overseas trip when she was inspired to buy a Vespa, securing both her NZ motorcycle and car learner licences at the same time. The car learner licence eventually gathered dust and was surrendered. The life on bikes, however, never wavered.

There's a certain electricity in doing things differently that Jess leans into. Riding—whether on a Vespa, motorcycle, or bicycle—has consistently drawn attention often laced with disbelief. "You rode how far?" people ask. "You endured what elements for this?" The implied absurdity of travelling long distances for everyday errands seems to delight her. There's also a quieter, more subversive satisfaction: breaking gender stereotypes and earning credibility in spaces where it isn't always freely given.

In Wellington, Jess found herself part of a "tiny but mighty" Vespa community—a niche within a compact but high-density city. It offered camaraderie, adventure, and the kind of spontaneous road trips that become lifelong memories. But life evolves. Children arrived, priorities shifted, and the logistics of motorcycle ownership began to tip the balance. Around the same time, Dunedin was quietly transforming its cycling infrastructure. When Jess and her children moved south in late 2017, the city's separated cycle lanes offered something Wellington hadn't: a sense of safety on shared roads.

Painted lines on busy roads are one thing; physically separated lanes are another entirely. Add in Dunedin's comparatively flatter terrain, and the transition from motorcycles to bicycles began to make practical sense. Jess started with a vintage, New Zealand-made push bike. Today, she owns an assortment of five, including electric. *(Continued page #6...)*



Jess standing proudly with her Primavera ET3 Vespa at Otago's Brass Monkey Motorcycle Rally in 2001. Credit: Mike Nash.

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2026 VALLEY VOICE SCHEDULE

ISSUE #:	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8
CONTENT DUE:	Jun 3	July 29	Sep 2	Oct 7	Nov 11
DISTRIBUTION DATE:	Jun 27	Aug 22	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 QUICK NOTE FROM THE VP TEAM

We've been heartened by the steady rhythm of people coming together—whether that's sharing kai, lending a hand, or simply taking time to check in with one another. Our Cuppa and Connections Group continues to be a warm and welcoming space each month, offering exactly what the name promises: good conversation, friendly faces, and a chance to stay connected through the quieter season.

We're looking ahead to one of our favourite seasonal highlights—the Winter Warmer. Planning is underway for another cosy, community-focused event that brings people together over hearty food and freebies. It's always a special event that reflects the generous spirit of this valley.

An exciting recent development has been the opening of the Otago Mental Health Support Trust Recovery Café in our Community Room. Running on Tuesday and Saturday evenings, this space offers a supportive, relaxed environment for people on their recovery journeys. It's been inspiring to see the room activated in this way—providing connection, understanding, and a sense of belonging for those who attend.

Alongside these gatherings, our wider mahi continues—from environmental restoration efforts to food resilience initiatives like Kai Share and community meals. These everyday actions, often small in isolation, collectively make a meaningful difference. -- *Kā mihi nui, Valley Project*



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



Short-term help with groceries for Valley region residents.

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www.northeastvalley.org/community/kai-share



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save the dates

Crop Swap	Sunday 31 May
Cuppa & Connections	Tuesday 2 June
Winter Warmer	Saturday 6 June
NEV Resilience Group	Monday 15 June
Crop Swap	Sunday 28 June
Cuppa & Connections	Tuesday 7 July
Community Dinner	Saturday 5 September
Valley Fest 2026	Month of September

Follow our Facebook for official event info and notices.



GOT BAGS?

THE VALLEY PROJECT WILL TAKE THEM OFF YOUR HANDS!

38 paper bags are used weekly for our Kai Share programme. Why not donate your spare to us?

We would also appreciate the occasional donation of small egg cartons.

**Drop at Valley Project reception
Monday - Thursday 9am - 2pm**

WINTER CLOTHING Drive

the VALLEY project

**Donation Drop-off Hours
Monday - Friday**

**From 25 May
9:00am - 4:00pm**

The Valley Project
262 North Road,
North East Valley, Dunedin

The Valley Project will be accepting donations of clean, tidy, winter appropriate apparel starting the week of 25 May for our annual 'Winter Warmer'. We hope to receive a good mix of men's, women's and kid's clothing, as well as bedding, curtains and winter accessories.

Donation deadline: noon Friday, 5 June

@valleyproject | project@northeastvalley.org
03 473 8614

Winter Warmer FREE MARKET & COMMUNITY LUNCH

the VALLEY project

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Saturday, 6 June | 10:30am - 1:00pm

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@valleyproject | project@northeastvalley.org

(03) 473 8614

262 North Road,
North East Valley,
Dunedin

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www.northeastvalley.org

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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:

givealittle

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 JUNE 3, 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.



TŪI BUSY, KERERŪ CURIOUS: IT'S BIRD COUNTING TIME!

At Open Valley Urban Ecosanctuary, we're getting excited about one of the simplest and most rewarding citizen science events of the year — the New Zealand Garden Bird Survey, running at the end of June. We'd love North East Valley to be right in the middle of it!

For just one hour, participants sit in a chosen spot such as a garden, park, or doorstep and record the birds they see. These observations contribute to one of Aotearoa's longest-running wildlife datasets, helping track changes in bird populations over time.

Locally, the Valley is home to a wide range of native birds including tūi, kererū, and pīwakawaka, whose presence (or absence) can provide valuable information. The survey is open to everyone, from families and children to keen birdwatchers and first-time participants, with every count adding to the bigger picture of biodiversity in New Zealand.

This year's theme for International Day for Biological Diversity, happening 22 May, couldn't be more relevant — "Acting locally for global impact." It's a reminder that global change starts with local action — and your backyard is part of that story!

So, grab a pen, look out the window, and see who shows up. You might be surprised who's already living alongside you. Visit gardenbirdsurvey.nz or email openvue@northeastvalley.org for more info. -- Jennie Wagner-Gordon

AWA ALIVE! WHAT DNA REVEALS BENEATH LINDSAY CREEK

What's really living in Lindsay Creek? Well, thanks to generous funding from Otago Catchment Community (OCC), we were able to recently conduct eDNA testing to get a fascinating glimpse beneath the surface—and the results are both encouraging and motivating.

As part of Stage One of the Sycamore Removal Project, water samples from Lindsay Creek have been analysed using cutting-edge "electronic DNA" science. This method detects tiny traces of DNA left behind by plants, animals, insects, and even mammals — giving us a powerful snapshot of life in the awa.

The results are exciting!

Despite years of pressure from urban development and invasive species, Lindsay Creek is still very much alive. The findings show that the creek is home to a variety of life. Native freshwater fish such as kōaro and banded kōkopu were detected, indicating that important habitat remains. The creek is also teeming with aquatic invertebrates—mayflies, caddisflies, and stoneflies—all of which are a good sign that the creek still has a solid ecological foundation to build on.

Plant life is thriving too. The tests identified a range of native aquatic plants, along with diatoms and algae that form the foundation of the creek's food web. Together, these species help keep the ecosystem functioning.

But it's not all good news. The testing also picked up a number of introduced species and signs of environmental stress, especially in the lower reaches of the creek. These species can put pressure on native wildlife and disrupt the natural balance of the ecosystem.

Importantly, this study gives us a baseline to track how the creek responds to restoration over time. Lindsay Creek is full of life. This is where our community can play a powerful role—together, we have the chance to help it thrive. Simple actions at home and around the valley can make a real difference to the health of Lindsay Creek. Keeping stormwater drains clear and remembering that they flow straight to the creek—only rain should go down them—helps prevent pollution. Picking up litter, reducing runoff from gardens, and making sure green waste doesn't enter waterways all help protect water quality. Planting natives, avoiding harmful chemicals, and caring for the spaces around us all add up. When we look after our backyards and streets, we're also looking after the creek.

For a detailed report of the eDNA test results, visit northeastvalley.org and scroll down to "News from the Valley".

-- Jennie Wagner-Gordon



TAKE SOME, LEAVE SOME

As you are putting your garden to bed for winter, consider donating some of your harvested seeds to the Valley Project Seed Library.

Drop--or collect!--labelled/dated seeds at our reception:
262 North Road, Monday through Thursday 9 - 2pm

READY FOR RAT SEASON?

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

Call 03 473 8614 or email openvue@northeastvalley.org for more information.

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RESTING THE GARDEN(ER) IN WINTER

The idea of 'putting the garden to bed' has fallen out of fashion. With crops available year round on supermarket shelves, gardeners (or is it mainly online influencers?) seem increasingly enthusiastic about extending the growing season: growing later into the year, and sowing seeds as early as possible, minimising the middle, unproductive zone to only a few weeks.

It's not possible in an Ōtepoti climate to truly grow all year round. Our cold winter temperatures, and short winter days, ensure minimal plant growth in this period. You can't plant something in June and expect it to be ready in early August. 'Winter gardening' is actually more about autumn gardening, and winter harvesting. And lots of crops are good options here: parsnips, leeks and brussel sprouts are great hardy veg that can survive a winter in the garden. Glass or tunnel houses can be transformed into mini forests of leafy greens to keep you harvesting through into the 'hungry gap' of spring.

But I, for one, like to rest. Winter should be, I believe, a time for curling up in front of the heat pump and either sitting with a seed catalogue on your lap dreaming of the season to come, or—even better—not thinking about the garden at all. I'd love to have the organisational capacity, time and energy, to have a garden full of winter crops, and overwintering spring crops like broad beans, purple sprouting broccoli and garlic. But this requires that time and energy to appear in early autumn, when I'm already tired from the summer harvest, and the year has begun in earnest with thousands of other things to occupy my time and brainspace, from school visits to tax returns.

So this time of year for me still remains one of 'putting the garden to bed'. I don't have many crops ready to enjoy a cold winter before bursting into life in spring, though I will sow broad beans as a cover crop. But the garden is still full of the detritus of exhausted veg, the relatable frazzle of having made it this far.

I 'chop and drop' my spent plants. Cutting the plant at the base, leaving roots unmolested in the ground, I gather all the plant material in a wheelbarrow and taking hedge shears hack at it all until I have a 'chopped salad' of plant bits ready to return to the surface of the bed like a leafy duvet. I add fallen leaves, pea straw, or other garden waste like rhubarb leaves, making sure no bare soil is visible. Mother nature hates bare soil, and grows weeds if you don't cover her up.

And when the beds are all cozy, save for the upright stalks of leeks, parsnips and sprouts, that's when I too can head inside, put my feet up, and breathe. -- *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

SCHOOLYARD APPLE PICK

We have already woken up to the first frosty mornings of the year in the Valley, and another reliable tohu/sign that Autumn is here is the ripening of fruit on the North East Valley school apple tree. In previous years these fallen apples, packed with sugar to fuel roaming insects while fermenting in the sunshine, have attracted wasps hungry for a late season feed.

Much as we appreciate most of our insect visitors to the school playground, we prefer not to have too many wasps buzzing around the sandpit, so our Nature Club tamariki were lucky to call upon Karin from Our Food Network who runs Community Fruit Harvest Ōtepoti.

With the help of Karin's super-safe harvesting ladders and ingenious home-made fruit pickers, the Nature Club kids were able to harvest a box full of apples in no time. We found that while some of the apples didn't look as perfect as the ones in the supermarket, if anything they tasted more delicious.

The crop was shared amongst the school community, with a second stash of the 'export quality' apples donated to the community kai pantry.

Thank you Karin for sharing your time, knowledge and equipment with Nature Club and for reminding us that picking and sharing fruit can be so rewarding. -- *Ed Ansell*

To volunteer or to register a tree for the next harvest season, visit www.ourfoodnetwork.org.nz/community-fruit-harvest or go to facebook.com/OurFoodNetwork.



GROWING FORWARD

Late November last year, a group of us met to look at the future of the Dalmore Reserve Garden. It will be its 10th birthday this year, and we all want to see it continue in a way that is sustainable and achievable.

We had a great meeting, with lots of ideas and discussion about what grows well, what doesn't, the work involved in maintaining the space, and potential plantings and design. We've written up a plan to make the garden easier to look after by a small group of people.

First up is taking down the beds that are too big. These are mostly in the middle of the garden, and we'll leave that space clear so it can be mown and kept tidy, using the soil to replenish the remaining beds.

After that, we'll clear away the old compost bins—we think that area will be good for more rhubarb and redcurrants. We've started direct composting in beds and are taking weeds home for the DCC green bins.

It's a good direction to be moving in. The front bed will stay as a bee garden and to look nice from the street for our neighbours.

Keep an eye out for upcoming working bees—we'd love your help anytime. Here's to another 10 years of the Dalmore Reserve Community Garden. -- *Tiana Hill*

DALMORE RESERVE COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEES		
Sat. 23 May 10am	Sat. 27 June 10am	Sat. 25 July 10am
Sat. 13 June 10am	Sat. 11 July 10am	Sat. 8 Aug. 10am

N.E.V. COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEES		
Sat. 16 May 9:30am	Sun. 7 June 1pm	Sat. 27 June 9:30am
Sun. 24 May 1pm	Sat. 13 June 9:30am	Sun. 5 July 1pm
Sat. 30 May 9:30am	Sun. 21 June 1pm	Sat. 11 July 9:30am

(...continued from front page.) Her current go-to is a mountain bike adapted for gravel riding—a versatile setup that keeps her fit and ready for the longer, multi-day trips she fully intends to return to when time allows.

Recently, Jess embarked on what some would consider an unnecessarily long journey from her residence in North East Valley, all the way to Brockville for a Marketplace exchange: two buses, two and a half hours, and a further walk. It was intentional. Jess knowingly sacrifices time for experience, trading convenience for challenge, scenery, and the simple pleasure of movement. “The journey is the destination,” she says—and she means it. Offers of car rides are politely declined unless absolutely necessary. Automobiles, for Jess, just don’t deliver the same joy.

Of course, committing to life on a bike does shrink your world. Spontaneity looks different. Modern convenience takes a back seat. But Jess doesn’t see this as a loss—more a recalibration.

Still, there are limits. Getting beyond Dunedin remains one of the biggest challenges. Jess is eagerly awaiting the completion of the Dunedin Tunnels Trail, which will open up safer access to Mosgiel, and eventually the Coastal Connections cycleway stretching toward Karitane. For now, venturing out of the city—especially on an e-bike—comes with its own set of nerves. Battery range can be unpredictable, particularly when hills are involved, and “range anxiety” is real.

Even for someone with two decades of experience, things don’t always go smoothly. Jess has been lost due to faulty mapping and deteriorating signage. She’s run out of fuel mid-ride in the rain. Though, what stands out isn’t the mishaps—it’s the response. Help, she says, is never far away. Strangers step in. People notice. They offer assistance before she even has to ask. That reliance on community has taught her something simple but powerful: talk to people. Connection is as essential as preparation—but preparation is everything.

That preparation extends to security, especially in the context of

the recent fuel crisis, which has coincided with a probable rise in bike theft. Jess suggests investing in a solid U-lock or chain, avoiding flimsy cable locks, and securing both frame and back wheel. Park where you can see your bike. Take valuables with you. Register your bike with 529 Garage (project529.com/garage).

Then there’s the gear. If Jess has one non-negotiable recommendation, it’s mudguards. In Otago conditions, they’re less of a stylistic accessory and more of a necessity. More broadly, she encourages riders to make their bikes appealing as much as functional—something you actually *want* to ride in all conditions.

Underpinning everything Jess does is roadcraft—a concept she carried over from her motorcycling years. It’s not just about knowing the road rules; it’s about developing a kind of situational awareness that borders on instinct. Observation, anticipation, positioning, speed management—it all combines into what she describes as a “sixth sense.” In 20 years of riding, Jess has never had an accident involving another vehicle. The few incidents she has experienced came down to equipment failure. That’s no coincidence. Roadcraft, paired with proper gear and maintenance, is her foundation.

Looking ahead, Jess is realistic about infrastructure. She believes New Zealand is still some years away from truly efficient systems for electric bikes and cars. In the meantime, more people are turning to cycling out of necessity as fuel prices fluctuate and the cost of living tightens. Jess spots the new riders immediately, tentative and learning. Be patient with them, she reminds. Everyone starts somewhere.

That ethos has naturally led her into mentorship. Jess has begun supporting newer riders through local online communities, offering advice that blends experience with encouragement.

At the heart of Jess’ story is interdependence. Cyclists, drivers, pedestrians—we’re all sharing the same spaces, the same systems, the same unpredictability. “Everybody has to look out for each other.” -- *Krysha Brzuza*

VALLEY COMMUNITY WORKSPACE AT TURNING POINT

Valley Community Workspace (VCW) at 11 Allen Street is currently home to three businesses and three community projects. It remains one of the few shared community spaces in the Valley worth preserving, at a time when such spaces are steadily disappearing. We are seeking your support to help keep it going.

The building was brought back into use in 2013/14 by a group interested in sustainable action and in finding space for community-focused projects. It had been vacant for several years under private ownership. This coincided with the Valley Project (VP) beginning to take shape and considering the purchase of the former post office adjacent to the now-demolished Baptist church as a potential community hub.

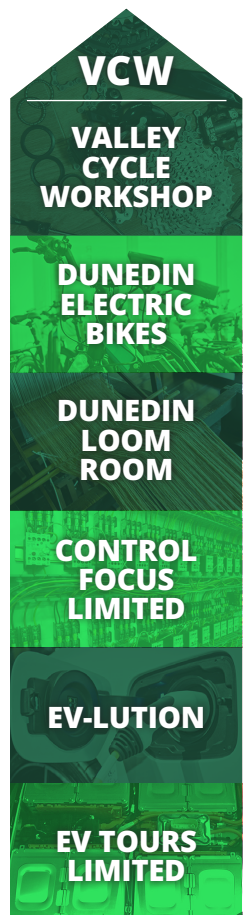
When that proposed purchase did not proceed, the allocated funds were instead used to buy the Allen Street property. This created a community-owned space with strong potential and active use. VCW Incorporated Society became the landlord for tenants at 11 Allen Street and took responsibility for developing and maintaining the building.

Because funders typically allow only one application per project per funding round, we established VCW as a Charitable Trust in July 2024 to avoid competition with VP. Sincere thanks go to outgoing VCW Chair James Sutherland for his work in helping make this transition possible.

With this new structure in place, we are now better positioned to apply for funding and receive donations. While we have a solid track record in managing grants, most require us to hold at least 30% of project costs upfront. Our most urgent need is funding for a new roof and other essential repairs to secure the building.

At the March AGM, I stepped into the role of acting chair as we move from establishing the organisation to maintaining the building. We are now seeking new board members with relevant skills to support this next stage. A bookkeeper is in place, but we are looking for a treasurer and a secretary. Most importantly, we are seeking a chair. It is important for the organisation’s long-term health that not all board members are also tenants. Existing members will continue to provide support during a smooth transition. -- *Christine Keller, Owner Dunedin’s Loom Room and VCW Acting Chair*

**Donations would be immensely appreciated: givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-us-get-a-new-roof-vcw
Any expressions of interest can be sent to Christine Keller at loomroom@northeastvalley.org**



ELECTRIC BIKES GAINING GROUND IN DUNEDIN

If you've noticed more cyclists puffing or gliding up Dunedin's hills lately, you are not imagining things. With global tensions in the Middle East pushing fuel prices and uncertainty skyward, more people are rediscovering a simple truth: two wheels can be surprisingly liberating.

In Dunedin, that shift isn't just about saving money—it's about practicality. This isn't Amsterdam; we've got hills that make your calves file complaints and headwinds that feel oddly personal.

Enter the ebike... part bicycle, part quiet superhero. Ebikes flatten hills, tame the Southerlies, and make winter commuting feel less like an endurance sport. You still get exercise but without arriving at work looking like you've just escaped a survival situation.

They're also brilliant equalisers. Whether you're returning to cycling, commuting daily or keen to explore a bit more with friends of varying fitness levels, an ebike opens up options. There's another factor quietly nudging people toward two wheels: price pressure is building. Suppliers are signalling that production costs are expected to rise by around 10–20% and shipping costs to New Zealand are potentially increasing by up to 50%.

Here's where a gentle reality check comes in: that too-good-to-be-true online deal? It often is. We recommend buying from

a local bricks-and-mortar shop; it means someone assembles the bike properly (important when speeds and batteries are involved). You've got backup when things go wrong (and occasionally, they do), and advice that's actually tailored to Dunedin conditions.

An ebike is not just a product; it's an ongoing relationship. And when your charger stops charging or your motor starts making a noise like a disgruntled possum, having a real human to talk to is worth its weight in lithium.

Secondhand ebikes can be great, but they can also be a bit like mystery leftovers in the fridge. If you're considering one, take it for a decent test ride—not just around the block—and try on some hills. Pay attention to battery performance (range dropping quickly = expensive future). Ask about battery age, charging habits, and find out who will repair the bike if it develops an electrical issue. Remember, no warranty means you own every surprise.

Schemes that make it easier to purchase an ebike, such as WorkRide and The Wheel Deal, help employees get onto bikes by making them more affordable. In simple terms, employers sign up to the scheme, paying for the bike before tax through your salary, and you spread the cost while saving money overall. It's one of those rare situations where doing something good for your wallet, your health, and the

environment all line up nicely.

Take care of your ebike in Dunedin—where winter isn't kind to anything left outside—by storing it under cover. Keep your battery warm by storing indoors if you can; cold batteries are grumpy batteries. Keep your tyre pressure up; under-inflated tyres make riding harder and increase wear (and yes, you will feel it on those hills). Go easy on chain lube; more is not better. Over-lubricating turns your chain into a gritty paste that quietly eats your drivetrain. Think "light dressing," not "deep fried."

Cycling in Dunedin has always required a certain sense of humour. Remember to ring your bell on the harbour loop, smile and wave at envious motorists stuck in the rush-hour traffic, try to avoid the ocean of broken glass in the student area, and dodge all wayward sea lions.

With ebikes, a few good habits, and some sensible buying decisions, you will find that getting around by ebike isn't just viable, it's genuinely enjoyable.

-- Nathan Parker



Dunedin Electric Bikes 11 Allen St.
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WHAT DOES

“NEIGHBOUR”

MEAN TO YOU?



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.

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.

Scan and join our Public Conversation

or email us at
kiaora@neighboursaotearoa.nz



**NEIGHBOURS
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Valley resident Rebecca Harris is the Community Weaver for Neighbours Aotearoa in Dunedin and Invercargill, helping share the message of connecting with neighbours and encouraging involvement in our Public Conversation.

Neighbours Aotearoa is about building connections across the country. We encourage people to take a simple step—big or small—to get to know those living nearby. From a first conversation between two neighbours to whole streets coming together, it's about creating meaningful connections that can grow over time.

In 2026, we're evolving the kaupapa to recognise that we are all neighbours, whether we know each other well or just share a nod. It's about how we show up for each other in practical, honest, and achievable ways. This year's Public Conversation invites people to reflect on questions like: what does “neighbour” mean to you?

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Start conversations in your community about neighbourly activities or events

Take part in our Public Conversation:
neighboursaotearoa.nz/public-conversation

Follow and share our Facebook and Instagram: *NeighboursAotearoa*

Share our website with your community:
neighboursaotearoa.nz/

Register your ideas and send photos, videos, or event details so we can help share your story

AROUND THE VALLEY TABLE: BUDDHA DAY, 24 MAY

Buddha Day (aka Vesak Day, Buddha Purnima, or Buddha Jayanti), the most sacred festival in the Buddhist calendar, is celebrated by Buddhists worldwide. It honours not just Buddha's birth, but also the enlightenment of his teaching.

Followers are asked to pay homage to Buddha by following these teachings. While offerings of flowers, water, and incense are laid at Buddha's feet (that is, before a statue or image at a shrine or altar), it is more important to emulate his generosity, humility, morality, kindness, and service to humanity.

On the morning of Buddha Day, monks lead chants, prayers, and hymns in temples, which serve free meals. Devotees, without expecting anything in return, are also encouraged to share food, as well as shelter and other material goods.

Buddha views this sort of behaviour most positively—not just as the foundation of any truly enlightened spiritual life, but also as a way to create responsible and caring societies. Generosity of this magnitude weakens greed and hatred.

Candlelight on Buddha Day symbolises the light of wisdom, enlightenment, and the elimination of ignorance. For this reason, the day often ends with a candlelit procession and the lighting of lotus-shaped lamps.

The UN also recognises Buddha Day, so there are celebrations at UN headquarters and other locations worldwide.

Many Buddhists believe in the importance of not taking life, which extends to animals as well, so many are vegetarians. Vegetarian food is served during the celebration, such as kheer (a dessert made from coconut milk, rice, and spices), decorated biscuits, and Buddha's Delight stir-fry (Lo Hon Jai). These shared meals often bring families, temples, and communities together in a spirit of warmth, reflection, and gratitude. -- *Lara Anderson*

BUDDHA'S DELIGHT RECIPE

INGREDIENTS

10 dried Shiitake mushrooms
10 dried Chinese mushrooms
2 dried bean curd sticks
1/2 cup of lily flower stems
1/2 cup of black fungus
1.5oz of vermicelli noodles
1 Tbsp grated ginger
2 scallions (spring onions)
2 cups chopped napa cabbage

1/2 cup bean sprouts
12 baby corn
1/2 cup bamboo shoots
2 Tbsp Shaoxing rice wine
2 tsp toasted sesame oil
2 Tbsp soy sauce
2 Tbsp sugar
Fresh cilantro (coriander)
Ingredients available at
Dunedin's Asian markets

METHOD

Soak mushrooms, bean curd sticks, lily flower stems and black fungus in bowls of warm water for at least 20 minutes, then cut into similar-sized pieces. Soak vermicelli noodles according to packet instructions. Drain and set aside. Heat oil in a large wok. Add scallions and ginger and cook briefly until fragrant. Add prepared mushrooms, curd sticks, lily stems, and black fungus. Stir in Shaoxing rice wine and cook for a minute. Add chopped napa cabbage, bean sprouts, halved baby corn, and sliced bamboo shoots. Stir-fry for a minute. Add sesame oil, soy sauce, sugar, and a splash of water. Cover and cook for 5 minutes. Stir in soaked noodles and cook until liquid is absorbed. Garnish with fresh cilantro and serve hot.



MISS E.M. BRAID: A NAME RECOVERED FROM THE RUBBLE

Following the demolition of the Baptist Community Centre, a marble plaque was carefully set aside by demolition workers. The name on it—Miss E.M. Braid—prompted renewed attention to a long-serving figure in the local Baptist community.

The original reflection in the previous Valley Voice came from Valley resident Kate Grace, who witnessed the demo and wrote about the moment the plaque was recovered, raising questions about memory, anonymity, and the people who quietly shape community life.

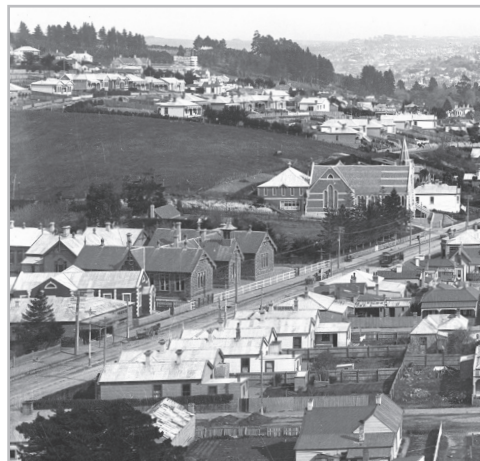
Subsequent research has brought Miss Braid's life into clearer focus. Elizabeth Morey Braid (1871–1954) was a lifelong North East Valley resident and a central figure in the North East Valley Baptist Church. According to historical material compiled by local historian Sarah Gallagher, she was deeply involved in both church and civic life, working for over fifty years in the congregation's Sunday School, particularly in the Primary Department, where she taught and led generations of children.

Gallagher's research draws on archival records and civic documents that show Braid's broader social engagement. She worked as a tailoress and was involved in the Dunedin Tailoresses' Union, the oldest women's union in New Zealand, and participated in labour advocacy during the 1930s. Her family was also connected to major social movements. Her mother, Mary Ann Braid, signed the 1893 Women's Suffrage Petition, placing the household within wider currents of political and social change in New Zealand history.

Further detail comes from Otago Uni professor Hugh Morrison, who holds a digitised collection of *The New Zealand Baptist* magazines from the 1930s–1950s. These records repeatedly reference Miss Braid in connection with Sunday School teaching, children's programmes, and church life. She appears as a consistent presence in reports of church anniversaries, Christmas events, and community gatherings, often described as leading "primary scholars" or

organising activities with her helpers.

One account notes her reflecting on early teaching days when classroom discipline required unusual behaviour-management arrangements, and her observation that many of her early pupils grew into "fine men." Another describes her leading youth Christmas gatherings, remembered as "very happy hours," underscoring her long-standing role in shaping intergenerational church life.



Detail from a 1912 photograph of the original Baptist Church site, taken from the quarry by Muir & Moodie (Te Papa C.025234). The image shows the "old church" location where Miss Braid first taught Sunday School, adjacent to the original North East Valley School buildings.

By the time of her retirement in 1949, her contribution spanned more than four decades of continuous service. Morrison's archival material records a farewell gathering held in a packed Sunday School Hall, attended by former pupils, families, and church members across three generations. Speakers included people who had themselves been taught by her, as well as parents and deacons connected to her ministry. She was presented with a fireside chair, slippers, a cheque, and flowers—tokens of collective gratitude for her years of dedication.

Braid died in 1954 at the age of 83. Her cremated ashes were placed in Northern Cemetery alongside members of her family. In her final affairs, she left a significant portion of her estate to

Baptist causes, including both the New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society and the North East Valley Baptist Church, reflecting her lifelong commitment to the denomination. Her last known address was 5 Dalmeny Street, just 250 metres from where the Baptist Church last stood.

The living memory of Miss Braid remains present. Nola Myles, a Valley resident now in her late eighties, wrote in response to Kate Grace's article, recalling that Miss Braid was her first Sunday School teacher at the "old church" on the site where the Valley Project rooms now stand. Myles remembered being about four or five years old, learning Bible stories through flannelgraph displays and sand tray scenes—early childhood teaching methods that left a lasting impression.

Despite this substantial record in both archives and memory, Miss Braid's name had largely faded from public awareness until the demolition brought the plaque back into view. That it was identified and preserved by demolition workers has been noted as an unexpected act of historical awareness.

The plaque now remains set aside, its future uncertain, but its rediscovery has brought into focus a life of long and steady service that once formed a central part of North East Valley's community fabric. -- **Collaborative Authorship**

WOODLAND RHYME (1956)

The frisky squirrel with his bushy tail,
The slow but gentlemanly snail.
The fantail flitting through the trees
And a cool hushed silent breeze.
A streak of sunlight here and there,
The stately fox-glove everywhere.
The dearest of all things I've seen,
You may guess the sparkling stream.
Tiny pebbles gold and grey
Glinting in the sun's warm ray.
Frisky bambies come down to drink
And lap with joy at the gurgling brink.
They drink their fill and gallop away
And sleep until the dawning day.
The sun has dipped behind the hill
And all the wood is hushed and still.
The evening creeps with silent feet
Until the moon has risen to meet.
Stars appear in the curtained night,
Homeward go the birds in flight.

-- **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.



It is likely that Elizabeth Braid is pictured here at the 1939 Dunedin Tailoresses' 50th Jubilee.

DUNEDIN TAILORESSES HOLD A BANQUET TO CELEBRATE THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THEIR UNION

A CLUB SEASON TO REMEMBER

This time last year, the future of the North East Valley Bowls Club looked uncertain. After considerable soul-searching by members, support from the Valley Project, and the ongoing effort of a loyal core group, the club has come through another season with renewed optimism.

The club is growing, and its facilities are now used by a range of community groups. Their presence brings fresh energy and life to the space. Market days have attracted steady crowds, quizzes have been lively, and cheese rolls have been in high demand. Dancers, playgroups, exercise classes, and a darts team competing in a chartered clubs league have all found a home here.

Keen to try something new or be part of a welcoming club? Drop in—someone is there most days—or get in touch via the club's page. New faces are always welcome.

As for the bowls, despite a smaller membership, the club continues to punch above its weight, particularly in the women's ranks. This season, North East Valley players claimed the Bowls Dunedin Champion of Champions titles in Pairs, Triples, and Fours, along with a silver in Singles.

Bronwyn Stevens and Ange Francis defended their Champion Pairs title, adding to last season's Dunedin and national Champion of Champions wins. These results reflect the skill, determination, and pride within the club.

The club also celebrates Kerrin Wheeler's selection for the New Zealand Commonwealth Para team (visually impaired category), with Colin Wheeler as director. Kerrin heads to Glasgow in July.

Wednesday men's teams also enjoyed success, winning their interclub section, while other teams remained competitive.

What a standout season, with sights set firmly on continuing that momentum into 2026/27.

QUIZ FUNDRAISER ON SATURDAY 23 MAY

Help support our womens players travelling to the North Island to compete in the national championships. Teams of up to six are \$30 to enter, with a maximum of 20 teams. Doors open at 6pm, with a 7pm start. To register: nevbowls@tra.co.nz. Spectacle Dunedin is back as quiz master. There will also be cash raffles on the night!



Triple: Vicki Robinson, Bronwyn Stevens (Invercargill) & Shona Mann
Pair: Ange Francis & Bronwyn Stevens (Both Invercargill based)
Four: L to R - MaryAnn Harrington, Michelle Fallow, Doreen Fraser & Sarah Scott (Invercargill)

DJ AUTO THINK TANK

Q: Should I sell my car and move into a cave?

A: While I completely understand the squeeze of rising fuel prices—and the appeal of a simpler, geographically fixed lifestyle—it's unlikely most of you would be satisfied living in a cave. Given that getting around New Zealand is still pretty essential, let's take a look at what vehicle ownership might look like in the near future, and how things are changing.

The smart and powerful people in charge have blessed us with new WOF inspection schedules, rolling out in November. New cars will require a WOF every four years, vehicles aged 4-14 years will move to inspections every two years, and anything older will be checked annually.

This could have serious implications for the unprepared or unaware. Alongside this directive—and in the name of keeping our roads safe—the powers that be have increased fines for driving a defective vehicle, or one without a WOF, to upwards of \$1000.

These changes could have some noticeable consequences, not just for us as a business, but for anyone who owns, works on, or relies on a vehicle. The biggest shift will be the relative costs and how visiting a mechanic could "feel".

Over your now-extended WOF period, your car will continue to wear at the same rate it always has—previously earning an average of two or three fail items per inspection. Components like tyres and brakes that may have just scraped through at the legal minimum could easily wear out before your next WOF, creating safety risks and potentially leading to larger repair bills and more time without your vehicle.

There are currently no changes to minimum WOF thresholds, which means the responsibility sits more firmly with you to keep an eye on your vehicle's condition between inspections.

There's also the very real risk of simply forgetting your WOF is due—until a helpful officer provides a reminder you weren't budgeting for.

All in all, these changes aren't necessarily bad news. Fewer inspections mean more flexibility and less time spent booking appointments. It's just the adjustment period that may cause some heartache.

Don't worry—DJ Auto is doing what we can to smooth the transition. From November, we'll be adding a more focused, WOF-aligned safety inspection to every service, with the goal of flagging future WOF issues early. We'll also offer a standalone quick safety check, both of which can be set up with reminder intervals that suit you—helping you stay road-safe and avoid losing track of your vehicle's condition. We've also dropped our labour rate to help balance out the ever-increasing cost of existing these days.

Email or text us with any questions and we will do our best to provide answers via this publication: dud.dj.automotive@gmail.com or 021 331 528. -- The DJ Auto Family



NZ's PREMIUM AUTOMOTIVE CENTRES

DJ AUTOMOTIVE

134 NORTH ROAD, NORTH EAST VALLEY, DUNEDIN

Holiday Closures: 30 Mar–7 Apr, 1–8 June, 26 Oct–1 Nov, 24 Dec–10 Jan



What the Numbers Are Really Telling Us

The latest figures for our Valley suburbs patch paint a picture that's actually quite sensible once you strip away the headlines. Over March, there were 34,000 online searches for homes in our wider area. That's about 11% more than the same time last year, so the buyers are still out there looking. At the same time, only 21 new listings came to market, which is a touch down on last year, so there's still a bit of a gap between how many people are browsing and how many homes are actually available.

Perhaps the most interesting number, though, is the price index. Across our local suburbs it's sitting at around \$697,000, which is roughly 5% higher than a year ago. That's not a boom, but it's certainly not a decline either—more of a steady “slow climb” than a rollercoaster. For owners, it means values are holding up reasonably well, especially if your place is warm, tidy, well-presented and appropriately marketed.

Days on site—the time it takes a typical listing to find a buyer—has come back too, sitting at about 34 days and down just over 20%. That suggests that the homes which are priced realistically and look the part are still selling in a fairly normal timeframe. The ones that sit unsold tend to be the “trying their luck” prices or where the marketing is doing them no favours. So yes, buyers are more careful than they were in the boom, but they're still making decisions when something feels fair and looks like it has been well cared for.

Timing Your Life, Not the Market

One of the most common conversations I'm having at the moment isn't actually about interest rates or graphs; it's about life. People in our Valley are asking, “Do we really want to be mowing this lawn in five years?” or “How long do we want to be carrying groceries up all these stairs?” Those questions don't disappear just because the market has had a quiet month or a busy one.

If you look at the data, the truth is pretty simple: over the long term, Dunedin has been a steady, resilient market. The jumps and dips along the way make good newspaper articles, but for most homeowners they don't change the bigger picture. What does change is your health, your energy, your family situation, and the way you want to spend your time. That's why I often say the more important timing question is, “Is my home still serving the way I live now?” rather than, “Can I pick the magic top of the market?”

In a patch like we're in now—stable prices, active but sensible buyers—you actually have a bit of breathing space to plan a move properly. You can take time to sort out the bits and pieces you've accumulated, do the small maintenance jobs you've been putting off, and think about what you genuinely want in your next place. For some people that will mean moving sooner rather than later. For others, it might mean

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

a clear plan to hold for a few more years, but with a better understanding of what that looks like. Either way, it's about timing life decisions first and letting the market sit in the background, not the other way round.

Thinking About Downsizing? Let's Have a Coffee

With all of that in mind, I'm putting together a relaxed “Coffee with Pete” morning here in the Valley. Nothing formal, just a chance to sit down over coffee and talk things through if you've been thinking about downsizing, or even just starting to wonder what the next step might look like.

There'll be no presentations and no sales pitch, just a friendly chitchat with opportunity to ask the questions you might not want to ask at an open home. We can talk about timing, what to do to get a home “market-ready,” whether to sell before you buy, or even whether holding and renting your current place could make sense for you. You don't need to be ready to do anything immediately; this is as much for the “not yet, but one day” group as it is for people who feel closer to making a move.

If you think you might like to come along, just get in touch with me and I'll let you know the details once I've got a feel for numbers. If there's enough interest, I'll make it a regular thing, so you can come along when it suits and keep the conversation going at your own pace. My contact details are below.

I've also set up the ‘Downsizers’ Facebook Group. Feel free to join up if you want some regular tips and discussion: www.facebook.com/groups/downsizers

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.



Coffee with Pete

— CASUAL —
PROPERTY CHAT

Thinking about downsizing or your next move? No presentations. No sales pitch. Just a relaxed chat over coffee.

REGISTER FOR DETAILS:
peter@nzps.co.nz



NZ PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

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art, craft & music

ART CLASSES

For all levels. Casual attendance welcome, tutor Rose Shepard, community rooms, 10am-noon, Thur. ☎ 027 406 4154 or ✉ email: roseshepard.artclasses@gmail.com

ART CLASSES

Continuous class, newcomers welcome, 1-3pm, Wed, community rooms; 1-3pm, Thurs, St Peter's Church Hall, Caversham; 7-9pm, Thurs, Logan Park High School, \$15 per session. ☎ Friederike 482 2025

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 ☎ Marijke 021 101 4333

CALLING LOCAL CRAFTERS

The Valley Project is developing a community gift shop in reception to showcase incredible creativity of local artists. Be part of this growing space! Pop into 262 North Road, Mon-Thu 9am-2pm.

CELLO LESSONS

All welcome. What works for you is best! Some instrument hire options available. NEV based. 4 years cello teaching experience & a performance degree. Also open to performance opportunities. ☎ Ellen 027 430 7739 ✉ ellen.walters@gmail.com

CURIOUS ABOUT SINGING?

Sing with us! Dunedin Harmony Chorus is for women of all ages singing and performing a cappella barbershop. Join us Tuesdays, 7pm. ✉ Enquiries@dunedinharmony.org

DIAL-A-PIPER

Available for any functions including birthdays, weddings, funerals, Haggis Address, etc. Feel free to contact me to discuss your function. Can travel. ☎ 03 473 0045 or ☎ 027 473 0060 ✉ thepiper50@gmail.com

DUNEDIN FIDDLE CLUB

Mostly Celtic tunes, mostly fiddles. New players always welcome! Wednesdays 7.30pm at The Valley Project community rooms. Just drop in or ✉ anna.bowen1@gmail.com

FOLK CLUB OPEN MIC NIGHT

Songs, tunes and convivial company. Thursdays 7.30pm. Dunedin Folk Club, 80 Lovelock Ave. Come and join the supportive circle to play or listen. ✉ info@dunedinfolkclub.co.nz

GROUP DRUM LESSONS

Learn to play djembe, cajon, percussion with a focus on enjoyment, finding your sound, and jamming. Jamie: ☎ 027 550 2858 ✉ drumwithjamie@gmail.com

GUITAR LESSONS

Want to learn how to play the guitar in NEV? \$15/hr for your first session and \$25/hr for future...

sessions. ☎ Jeremiah 021 221 1039 or ✉ raganclan0077@gmail.com

KIDS ART CLASS

Thinkit Art, dynamic after school term art classes for 7-15 year-olds. Focused on enriching creativity & exploring who you are as an artist. Book now! Kiri Scott Artist: ☎ @thinkitart ☎ 021 118 9882 ☎ @thinkitartfeuerstein.art ✉ Thinkit.fie@yahoo.com

KNIT/CROCHET LESSONS

Beginner to intermediate levels. One-on-one or small groups, 8yrs and above. First 30min free! Tutor Aurora, at a public place or at your home. Flexible time and day. Rates TBA. ☎ 020 4031 4040 ✉ aurlyn.knits@gmail.com

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Tuesdays at the Inch Bar from 7pm. Stand-up comedy open mic, Wednesdays from 7pm (\$5 entry). 8 Bank Street. ☎ Inch-Bar

PAD-MAKING WORKING BEE

Interested in plastic-free period products? Like to sew? Learn to make sustainable period products for you and whānau. Contact ✉ christine@sewonderperiodcare.org

PIANO LESSONS

Beginner and advanced, all ages, all welcome. Your place or mine. Places available on Tuesday. Rates TBA. Text ☎ 021 0842 5948 in first instance. Marian Poole: RMTNZ, ATCL, PhD, Music Journalist.

SHE CHOIR DUNEDIN

A non-auditioned, collaborative choir welcoming women, non-binary, and gender queer people. Rehearse Wednesdays, term times, 6.15-7.30pm at DNI. No prior contact or experience needed. Just turn up and sing with us! ☎ shechoirdunedin

SINGING FOR FUN

For social and practice. Meet in Musselburgh at 10am on Mondays. Singing at aged homes approx. every 6wks. At present mixed group of 6-8 ladies + 2 men. ☎ Graham 03 929 4834

SINGING LESSONS

All ages and stages. Contact Griffin to enquire: 0210 8155 693 ☎ golden.protoceratops@protonmail.com

UKULELE SESSIONS

Wed, 7-8.30pm. Just turn up or call/text Mary for info: ☎ 027 929 9813

community

ALZHEIMERS OTAGO

Concerned about your memory loss or supporting someone with dementia, we are here for you. Free support for individuals, carers and families. ☎ 03 471 6154...

✉ Still.Me@alzheimersotago.org.nz
☎ www.alzheimersotago.org.nz

BIKE WORKSHOP

Get help, use our workshop. Bikes available for koha, 3-5:30pm Tues, and 9.30am-12.30pm Sat. Valley Community Workspace, 11 Allen St.

BOOKBUS LIBRARY

Gardens New World, Fri. 11am-12.15pm | North Rd./Watts Rd. Thurs. 1.30-2.45pm | Signal Hill Rd./Farquharson St., Thurs. 3.15-4.30pm | Pine Hill Rd./Forrester Ave. Thurs 6-7pm.

BURNS RESERVE WORKING BEES

Volunteers needed for weed removal around Gerry's rock. Meet at bend on Signal Hill Rd just past stone-walled farm buildings. Saturdays, 4 April 9am-12.30pm, 25 April 9.30am-1pm, 16 May 9.30am-1pm. ☎ 027 305 9546 ✉ burnsreserve@gmail.com ☎ burnsreserve.nz

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Free, confidential, independent info & advice. Know your rights, how to take action, how to access needed services. For ANYONE about ANYTHING! 155 Princes Street ☎ 03 471 6166 or 0800 367 222 ☎ www.cab.org.nz ☎ CABDunedin

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTING

Dunedin Community Accounting. Free accounting training & advice for non-profits. ✉ kiaora@dca.org.nz ☎ www.dca.org.nz ☎ 0800 113 160

COMMUNITY PATROL

Dunedin North Community Patrol. Assisting police to ensure our communities are safe to live in. Volunteers welcome. Call Garry for more info: ☎ 027 364 1485

COMMUNITY STUDY CIRCLE

Baha'i Spiritual Training. Develop your capacity to offer service to your community as a result of exploring spiritual concepts and how to apply them to everyday life. Strictly FREE. Ash: ☎ 022 615 6115

CUPPA & CONNECTIONS

Drop in for new faces, warm cuppa and engaging chats, hosted by The Valley Project at 262 North Rd. Stay for 5 minutes or the full hour. First Tuesday of every month, 1-2pm. Koha welcome.

DALMORE RESERVE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Join us fortnightly at the garden on Allenby Ave., Pinehill. All welcome. Tools provided. Check Facebook for dates/times or ✉ dalmorecommunitygarden@gmail.com

DUNEDIN CURTAIN BANK

Got a StudentID, Community Services card, or SuperGold card with CSC? See us at 174 Princes St. 9-4pm Mon-Thurs. or apply online: ☎ dunedincurtainbank.org.nz

DUNEDIN NORTH PROBUS

Retired/close to retirement? Could you benefit from meeting others? Enjoy social outings? Now accepting women's membership! NEV bowling club, 10am, 2nd Monday p/month. ✉ Peter: peabee@xtra.co.nz or ☎ 455 1256 or ☎ Don 473 7544

ENABLING LOVE

Friendship and social connection. 18-65yrs welcome to weekly coffee group. More info: ☎ enablinglove.nz or ✉ enquiries@enablinglove.nz

FERN COLLECTIVE

Accepting new clients. Self referrals welcome. Open to all ages. Support for individuals & families facing unique challenges of neurodiversity and more. Let us support your journey w/practical tools & resources. ✉ ferncollectivenz@gmail.com

LEGAL ADVICE

Free legal advice at Community Law Otago, available by appt. Qualified lawyers. Practical solutions. ✉ reception@dcl.org.nz ☎ 03 474 1922

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

Create safer, more caring communities. For info and local contacts: ✉ coordinator@nsotago.nz ☎ 03 456 0857

NEV COMMUNITY GARDEN

North East Valley Community Garden, directly behind NEV school. Pay us a visit! We meet every wknd: 1st & 2nd Saturdays 9.30-12pm, 2nd & 4th Sundays 1-4pm.

NEV JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Pine Hill resident, Colin Lind, available for JP services. Flexible days and hours. ☎ 03 473 7174 ✉ colinlind@hotmail.com

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 NEIGHBOURS

Any newcomers that have moved into Norwood St, Normanby, are invited to join our street page on Facebook. Community minded, very friendly. ☎ TheNorwoodCommunityTalk

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: ✉ summersoak@proton.me

CRISIS RECOVERY CAFÉ

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

CROP SWAP NEV

FREE! Last Sunday of every month at Valley Project, 262 North Road. Swapping begins 3pm sharp. Trade garden produce, preserves, baking, flowers, seedlings, bulbs, cook books, jars, garden supplies, etc.

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. Merekara ☎ 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 ✉ nevbowls@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 & 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

Torrison 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 in 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.

ISLINGTON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

Small, not-for-profit centre providing care & creative play for up to x20 2–5-year olds. Well-resourced play space, nature playground & family community. Mon–Fri 8.30am–2.30pm, including school holidays. Visits welcome. 🌐 islington.org.nz ☎ 03 473 7490 ✉ islington.ecc@gmail.com

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

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

Classifieds continued next page... 📄

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

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

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 at the Valley Project, 262 North Rd. Doors open at 2.45pm. Swapping starts at 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/exterior, 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

FREE GRAND PIANO

Hope Church. 304 Pine Hill Road, Liberton. ☎ 020 4165 2050

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 and silver. Unwanted or broken jewellery, chains and watches, coins and 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

SCRAP METAL COLLECTION

Seeking your scrap metal you have rusting away or cluttering up the shed, etc. Can do small to medium size loads. ☎ JT: 027 206 1725

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

STOLEN ORNAMENT

Elephant garden ornament with solar-powered eyes was taken from my garden in December. I bought this elephant in memory of my mother. If anyone has any information please phone me (Patti) on ☎ 027 413 6379, or just return it to my garden.

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)

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

Add or update listings:
voice@northeastvalley.org
\$2 per listing per issue



DINING ROOM HIRE

Daytime: \$25 per hour

Evening: \$30 per hour

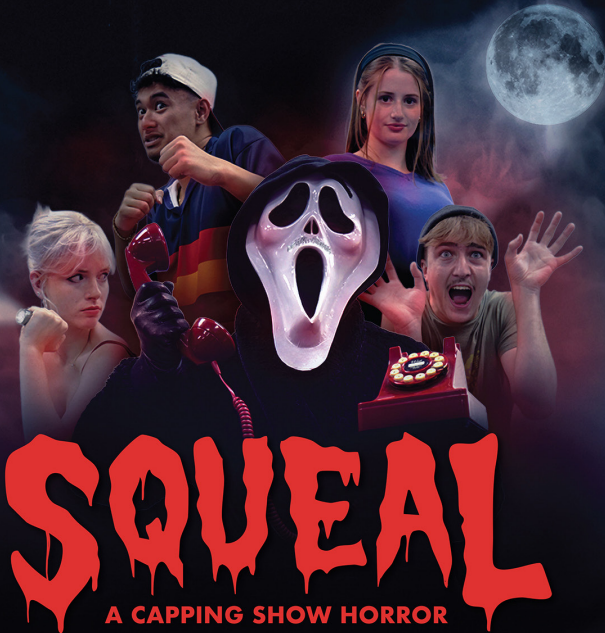
With kitchen use: \$35p/h

LOUNGE AND BAR HIRE

Let us know what your event looks like and we'll let you know a price.

139 NORTH ROAD, N.E.V.
NEVBOWLS@XTRA.CO.NZ
BOWLSNEV.CO.NZ
03 473 9704

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ousa

Prince of the Psychiatric System

New Athenaeum Theatre Octagon 2026

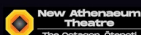
Fri, 22nd May at 7pm
Sat, 23rd May at 7pm
Sun, 24th May at 2pm

Book tickets online from
www.newathenaeumtheatre.com

Tickets \$25
On sale from 6th of April



Written & Produced by Haki Davis
Directed by Sofie Welvaert
Starring Tyrell Potaka George, Zac Henry,
Kimberley Buchan and Laura Wells
Guest appearance by Warren Chambers



inch Bar



8 BANK STREET
BOTANIC GARDEN CORNER
f i INCH BAR

may

- 16 Hip Hop Night feat Krit + Mic Sure + Raheem + Live
- 17 Big Jazz Apple from 4.30pm. Koha entry.
- 19 Open Mic Night: 7pm, koha entry.
- 20 Wednesday Weekly Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 21 Velvet The Label Takeover: 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 22 Maxine Funke + CJA 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 23 Martinette + AKOBA 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 24 Big Jazz Apple from 4.30pm, koha entry.
- 25 Inch Bar NZ Music Month QUIZ! 7pm, \$5p/p, max 6 per team. Booking recommended!
- 26 Electric Open Jam. Sign-up and music from 7pm.
- 27 Wednesday Weekly Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 28 Velvet The Label Takeover: 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 29 Palomina: 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 30 Audrey's Mystery Corner - an evening of bangin' NZ covers to celebrate NZ music month: 8pm, koha entry.
- 31 Big Jazz Apple: 4.30pm, koha entry.

june

- 2 Open Mic Night: 7pm, koha entry.
- 3 Wednesday Weekly Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 4 DJ De Fib: 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 5 Takatapui Bottoms Up! Drag and music hosted and produced by Austin Power-Bottom: 8pm, koha entry.
- 6 Jay Juggler - magic, circus & more! 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 7 Celtic Jam Sessions from 3.30pm
- 9 Open Mic Night: 7pm, koha entry.
- 10 Wednesday Weekly Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 11 Catherine KS: 7.30pm, koha entry.

“Prince of the Psychiatric System” is a true-life story written by North East Valley resident Haki Davis, a Dunedin playwright and poet. The play aims to highlight lived experience in the New Zealand mental health system. The first performance of the play in 2021 was met with success, but it has now been reviewed and edited by Haki with substantial changes made based on feedback from the audience.

Prince of the Psychiatric System is a powerful, original stage play that explores the inner world of a patient navigating life inside a psychiatric ward in Ōtepoti. Blending lived experience with elements of surrealism and allegory, the play invites audiences deep into the mind of DeArk—a character experiencing schizophrenia, paranoia, religious delusion, and grandiose ideologies—while confronting the stigma and side effects of mental health treatment.

Guided by the invisible presence of Pinocchio, an audible voice only he can hear, DeArk embarks on a profound psychological and spiritual journey. Pinocchio does not heal through pills, or diagnosis but through radical empathy, his cultural identity as Maori, imagination, and challenge.

With moments of absurdity, tragedy, and deep human truth, Prince of the Psychiatric System critiques the limits of conventional psychiatric care while honouring the resilience of those who endure it. The work confronts the uneasy balance between medical treatment and personal agency.

CURIOUS CREATURES CREEP FROM VALLEY HOLLOWS

The Dunedin Midwinter Carnival returns on 12-13 June, inviting the community to gather for **A Rustle in the Night**. Set in the glowing grounds of First Church, this year's event celebrates the hidden beauty of nocturnal life, with lanterns, playful shadows, and native creatures brought to life through art and performance.

Event Manager Xanthe Naylor says the theme explores the fascinating world of creatures that dwell in darkness and undergrowth, encouraging visitors to look beyond first impressions and appreciate their ecological importance. Expect glowing dragons, watchful ruru, and ancient tuatara, alongside aerial performances, live music, dance, and food trucks. Lantern processions and engaging installations create a magical, interactive experience site-wide.

A strong thread of storytelling weaves through this year's Carnival, with artists and performers reflecting both the natural world and the region's cultural heritage. Collaborations with local creatives, including Kāi Tahu artists, add depth beneath the visual spectacle.

Behind the scenes, much of that magic begins in North East Valley, where the Carnival's lantern studio and storage hum with quiet creativity year-round. It's here that many of the glowing creations take shape—and where extra hands are always welcome, with volunteers still needed to help bring this year's vision to life.

This year introduces a timed session format in response to community feedback. Each night will feature two 1.5-hour

sessions (5:30-7:00pm and 7:30-9:00pm), allowing visitors to enjoy the full programme without overcrowding. A low-sensory session will also be held on Saturday from 4:00-5:00pm, designed for those sensitive to noise, lights, or crowds.

The Pay-It-Forward initiative returns with a simple donation option when purchasing tickets, helping provide access for families through partner organisations. This reflects the Carnival's ongoing focus on inclusivity and community connection.

Workshops also play a key role in the lead-up to the event. In partnership with Meridian Mall, community sessions across three weekends from 23 May will guide participants in creating lanterns such as cocoons, snails, and kiwi. An adult workshop series with Tūhura - Otago Museum offers a more in-depth creative experience, including a hedgehog lantern project. All workshop-made lanterns grant free entry to the Carnival and can be carried in the lantern procession.

Tickets are priced at \$5 for children (under 3s free), \$10 for adults, and \$25 for a family pass, plus booking fees. Workshop tickets at Meridian Mall cost \$15, while museum workshop pricing includes refreshments. Due to limited capacity, pre-booking is recommended.



Artistic director Filipa Crafeskey gives a sneaky peek of the creepy-crawlies being made at the N.E.V. studio.

Tickets for all events and workshops:
www.midwintercarnival.co.nz



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Labour

THANKS to Valley Project FUNDERS

OTAGO Community Trust, Lottery Grants Board, AOTEAROA GAMING TRUST, COGS Community Organisation Grants Scheme, Community Trust FOODSTUFFS SOUTH ISLAND, Otago Regional Council, OTAGO CATCHMENT COMMUNITY INC, DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL, Southern Presbyterians, THE LION FOUNDATION, Pub Charity Limited, PREDATOR FREE NZ, City Sanctuary Predator Free Dunedin