

### MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT REIMAGINED

On certain evenings, a gently glowing den appears on the Valley floor. Inside, something quietly powerful is taking shape.

Since opening its doors in April, the new Crisis Recovery Café transforms The Valley Project's Fred Hollows room twice weekly into a grounding space with a hint of jazz-lounge vibes. Step inside and you'll find mellow lighting, ambient music, colouring and sketch pads, board games, fidget toys, and a cosy chill-out corner. It's neither clinical nor intimidating—it's intentionally quite the opposite. And there is no pressure to talk to anyone. Café guests can simply sit, savour a cup of herbal tea or three, and just be: walk in, breathe out. Come along for conversation or for quiet.

Crisis looks different for everyone. Sometimes it's not even about crisis at all, but loneliness, overwhelm, or the need for a change of scenery. Organisers from the Otago Mental Health Support Trust say the café is for people anywhere between early edges of struggle and crisis point, with a strong emphasis on coming in before things boil over. No referral or diagnosis is needed to attend, and guests are welcome to bring along a support person. While the service is designed for adults 18+, children can accompany them if needed—after all, parenting doesn't pause when life hands you hurdles.

Five trained peer support workers are always on hand, each bringing lived experience of mental distress and addiction challenges. All staff are trained in purposeful peer support through Aotearoa PPSA, with a strong focus on maintaining (Continued page #10...)



Inside the Crisis Recovery Café open Tuesday and Saturday evenings at the Valley Project community rooms.

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Love the Valley Voice? Be 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!



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# MENTAL WELLBEING ISN'T ABOUT DOING MORE

In winter, the world appears quieter, but life continues beneath the surface. The same is true for us; small rituals, human connection, gentle movement, and moments of rest help sustain us until the light returns.

## 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: marquees, tables, PA system, dishes
- 🗑️ trap hire
- 📰 newspaper advertising
- 🔑 room bookings
- 📄 laminating
- 🖨️ printing & photocopying
- 🍏 food assistance



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## 2026 VALLEY VOICE SCHEDULE

ISSUE #:	#5	#6	#7	#8
CONTENT DUE:	July 29	Sep 2	Oct 7	Nov 11
DISTRIBUTION DATE:	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](http://www.northeastvalley.org/services/community-room-bookings)), then book by emailing [reception@northeastvalley.org](mailto: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

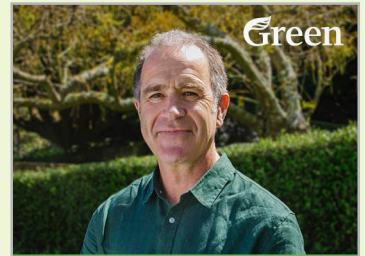
## A NOTE FROM THE VP TEAM

As winter settles into North East Valley, I'm reminded of the warmth, generosity, and sense of connection that make our community such a special place. It's been heartening to see the ways people continue to support one another through the colder months. Our recent Winter Warmer event was a wonderful example of that community spirit in action. Neighbours come together to share a meal, catch up with familiar faces, and make new connections. A heartfelt thank you to the community groups and organisations involved, and to Gardens New World and KiwiHarvest for providing the delicious kai.

The clothing drive was once again a highlight of the Winter Warmer, with generous donations of warm clothing, blankets, and shoes helping local people prepare for the colder months ahead. Beyond the practical support, the event created opportunities for conversation, laughter, and the simple reminder that looking out for one another makes our community stronger.

This winter, we're also excited to be supporting the Annual Garden Bird Survey alongside Open Valley Urban Ecosanctuary. It's a great opportunity to get outdoors, learn more about birds that share our neighbourhood, and contribute to an important citizen science project.

While winter can feel dark and quiet at times, there are plenty of ways to stay connected throughout the season at Valley Project. -- Jennie Wagner-Gorton



Green

## Scott Willis

List MP based in Ōtepoti

[scott.willis@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:scott.willis@parliament.govt.nz)

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



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[www.northeastvalley.org/community/kai-share](http://www.northeastvalley.org/community/kai-share)

## save the dates

Crop Swap	Sunday 28 June
Garden Bird Survey	28 June to 5 July
Cuppa & Connections	Tuesday 7 July
Crop Swap	Sunday 26 July
Cuppa & Connections	Tuesday 4 August
Community Karakia	Sunday 9 August
NEV Resilience Group Hui	Monday 17 August
Community Dinner	Saturday 5 September

Follow our Facebook for official event info and notices.



# EXEC MEMBERS WANTED!

The Valley Project is seeking passionate and committed Board Members to help guide our organisation and strengthen our community impact.

Bring your skills, insights, and enthusiasm to support good governance and strategic direction.

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Get in contact with our Co-Chairs Kate and James for more info:

[project@northeastvalley.org](mailto:project@northeastvalley.org)

the VALLEY project

# 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

NEV Bahá'ís

the VALLEY project

## Community Karakia

A prayer and a plate for peace.



Come together for an afternoon to:

- Share hope and gratitude for greater peace and wellbeing in our homes, communities and globally.
- Connect across cultures through shared kai.
- Build community resilience, connection and wellbeing.
- Celebrate the diverse spiritual traditions across the Valley.

Bring a plate of kai for afternoon tea and a prayer from your whānau, community, language or spiritual tradition to share. Performances invited. All welcome.

**SUNDAY 9 AUGUST, 3.00 - 4.30PM**

School Hall, NEV Normal School,  
248 North Road, North East Valley

Register your group or performance with:  
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[facebook.com/valleyproject](https://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:

the VALLEY project

givealittle

[www.givealittle.co.nz/northeastvalley](http://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 29 JULY, 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.



## BIRDS OF DUNEDIN - GET YOUR GUIDE!

This annual Garden Bird Survey citizen science project is running from 28 June to 5 July and is a simple way for people of all ages to contribute to important conservation research. By spending just one hour counting birds in your garden, local park, school grounds, or favourite green space, you'll help build a nationwide picture of how our bird populations are faring.

Several North East Valley groups have already committed to taking part this year, including Jonathan Rhodes Kindergarten, the North East Valley Normal School Nature Club, and residents of Ross Home. We'd love to see even more local households, schools, and community groups joining their neighbours in this valuable nationwide effort.

To help you identify the birds you spot, Open VUE is offering a Dunedin Backyard Bird Guide. You can download a FREE copy from our website ([www.northeastvalley.org/community/open-vue](http://www.northeastvalley.org/community/open-vue)) or stop by the office to pick up a printed version. Koha is appreciated to help cover printing costs. We have been fortunate again this year to have Phil Seddon and Yolanda Van Heezik, experts from University of Otago, offer their assistance to anyone in North East Valley wanting help in identifying birds in their backyard. Email [OpenVUE@northeastvalley.org](mailto:OpenVUE@northeastvalley.org) for more information.

Together, let's find out who's visiting our backyards this winter and contribute to one of New Zealand's largest citizen science projects.

So, grab a pen, head outside with a warm cuppa, and see who shows up. You might be surprised who's already living alongside you. -- *Jennie Wagner-Gorton*



## WINTER'S WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY TO PULL TOGETHER

As the leaves fall and our gardens settle into winter, it becomes easier to spot one of North East Valley's most troublesome invasive species: the sycamore tree.

Originally introduced as an ornamental tree, sycamore has spread throughout Dunedin and now poses a significant threat to our native ecosystems. Sycamore seedlings grow quickly, forming dense stands that shade out native plants and prevent natural regeneration. Over time, this reduces biodiversity, and leaf litter clogs our stormwater drains and pollutes our waterways.

Winter is a great time to tackle sycamore. Thousands of young seedlings can be spotted before spring growth begins. Removing seedlings now can prevent them from becoming large, seed-producing trees in the future. Every seedling removed is a small but important step towards protecting native species and creating healthier habitats for birds, insects, and other wildlife.

Open Valley Urban Ecosanctuary (Open VUE) is working with volunteers to reduce the spread of sycamore throughout the Valley, but we'd like to hear from landowners along Lindsay Creek too! Tremendous thanks to the ORC for funding this long-term project!

If you'd like to get involved or join Sycamore Removal Squad working bees, contact [OpenVUE@northeastvalley.org](mailto:OpenVUE@northeastvalley.org) for more information. Together, we can help ensure our local bush remains a thriving home for native biodiversity for generations to come. -- *Jennie Wagner-Gorton*



Squad volunteers in action at Chingford Park.

## TUNE IN TO THE QUIET PULSE OF THE VALLEY

Winter may seem quiet, but the Valley's native fauna remains surprisingly active throughout the colder months.

One of the easiest winter visitors to spot is the tūi. As nectar becomes scarce in late winter, tūi can often be seen feeding on flowering kōwhai or flax. Kererū also remain active, searching for berries and foliage, while the cheerful pīwakawaka continue darting through gardens and bush edges in search of insects.

Look a little closer and you'll discover

that winter isn't just for birds. Native wētā shelter beneath logs, bark, and leaf litter, playing an important role in our ecosystem as decomposers and seed dispersers. In damp corners of the bush, colourful fungi emerge, helping break down fallen wood and recycle nutrients back into the soil.

Even our waterways remain busy. Native freshwater species continue their life cycles beneath the surface, while aquatic insects provide food for birds and fish



throughout the season.

Winter is a wonderful time to slow down and notice the wildlife sharing our neighbourhood. Whether you're walking through Bethune's Gully, listening for birds in your garden, or exploring the Lindsay in Chingford Park, there's always something to discover.

The more we notice these winter neighbours, the more we understand the importance of protecting the habitats they call home. -- *Jennie Wagner-Gorton*

**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

**RAT SEASON IS UPON US**

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

03 473 8614  
[openvue@northeastvalley.org](mailto:openvue@northeastvalley.org)

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



**kieran's GARDEN**

## RADICAL, SLOW LIVING

At this year's 24-Hour Book Sale I picked up William Powers' *New Slow City: Living Simply in the World's Fastest City*. Here, Powers attempts 'Slow Living' in New York City, renting a tiny apartment with his wife, living a slow, simple life.

The Slow Food movement began in Italy in 1986 in direct contrast to the rise of Fast Food sweeping the globe, emphasising local food production, heritage food preparation methods, and focusing on the three principles of "good, clean and fair". Slow Living built from here, expanding the notion of 'slow' to incorporate mindful, intentional living, away from the exhausting routines of capitalist and consumerist lifestyles.

For Powers in New York this involved a minimalist attitude to belongings, and regaining a work/life balance by reducing his working hours while also reducing his expenditure. It's important to acknowledge the various privileges that allowed Powers to make this shift, not least his wife's well-paid job offering vital financial security. Yet, by exploring the city through a non-consumerist lens, Powers discovers a new side to a city he thought he knew: from free kayaking on the Hudson river, to a live music jam in a park, to volunteer-run community gardens.

It made me reflect on all the initiatives in Ōtepoti that do the same thing: radical efforts that usurp, dodge, or challenge capitalist and consumerist dogmas that govern, and shackle, so much of modern living. There are groups like Crooked Spoke or Valley Cycle Workshop supporting those in the community to fix their bikes, or The Valley Project helping neighbours share clothes, crops and seeds, and generally source community solutions to community problems. There are social enterprises like The Bowling Club, or All Saints' Fruit and Veggies, providing affordable food to whānau. And, of course, there are all the community gardens.

Gardening is the perfect way to start exploring slow living: from the actual slow bit—sitting on a bench listening to the birds, watching the plants change through the seasons—to the more radical side of moving away from consumerist practices. Seed saving is a great example. Once a plant flowers and sets seed, we have this wonderful opportunity to produce hundreds if not thousands of more plants from just one flower head. Whether it's a food crop like parsley, or an ornamental flower like echinacea, once you have it, you need never buy it again; and you'll have plenty to share. No wonder large multinational corporations seek to produce sterile seeds that can't reproduce!

And the irony of it all, is that many of these initiatives seem really quite normal—not radical at all. And that, perhaps, is a sign that we're winning. -- *Kieran Ford*

.....  
*Kieran writes a weekly email newsletter, The Kōwhai, which can be found at: [thekowhai.substack.com](http://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](http://www.kingfordgardens.co.nz)*

# ABUNDANCE, COMMUNITY, AND NEARLY 3,000KG OF FRUIT



This summer, the Ōtepoti Community Fruit Harvest reached a new milestone! With the help of an extraordinary group of volunteers and generous backyard tree owners across the city, Our Food Network rescued nearly 3,000 kilograms of beautiful, locally grown fruit—plums, apples, and pears—that would otherwise have gone to waste.

What made this season remarkable wasn't just the volume of fruit; it was the people involved. We had more volunteers than ever before (over 80, of whom 50 were new), from students to retirees looking for a meaningful way to spend time together outdoors—252 total hours of time together, to be exact. We also had a record number of trees registered, plus 20 new properties, reflecting a growing awareness that backyard abundance can be shared, not lost.

Every kilo harvested was redistributed through local community organisations and schools, pātaka kai, and food banks, ensuring that fresh, seasonal fruit reached whānau who appreciate it most.

Community Fruit Harvest Coordinator Karin Ludwig extends her deepest gratitude to all involved in the 2025/26 season, saying this incredible outcome is a true reflection of the generosity, time, and collective effort of our whole community.

Looking ahead, the demand for both rescued fruit and volunteering opportunities is expected to grow. To run the harvest again next season, and to keep pace with the increasing number of trees and pickers, we're seeking local corporate sponsors who want to be part of this joyful, practical, community-building work.

Sponsorship directly supports:

- coordination and volunteer management
- equipment and safety gear
- transport and distribution
- impact reporting for partners
- and the ability to harvest more fruit from more trees across Ōtepoti



For workplaces, it's a chance to contribute to local food resilience while offering staff a genuinely enjoyable, hands-on team experience. So if your organisation would like to explore partnership options for the 2026–27 season, we'd love to talk.

-- *Angela Howell, [ourfoodnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:ourfoodnetwork@gmail.com)*



**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. 27 June 10am	Sat. 25 July 10am	Sat. 22 Aug. 10am
Sat. 11 July 10am	Sat. 8 Aug. 10am	Sat. 12 Sep. 10am

N.E.V. COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING BEES		
Sat. 27 June 9:30am	Sun. 19 July 1pm	Sat. 8 Aug. 9:30am
Sun. 5 July 1pm	Sat. 25 July 9:30am	Sun. 16 Aug. 1pm
Sat. 11 July 9:30am	Sun. 2 Aug. 1pm	Sat. 22 Aug. 9:30am

# HEARTY WINTER FEED AT OPEN PLATE CAFÉ

**"Wow! I like your food. It is very scrummy." That was the remark of a customer we overheard as we stepped into the new café at Bank Street (next to the Inch Bar).**

The Open Plate owner, Ahmad (of Jordanian origin) is happy to share his rich culinary expertise with his diners. He has more than ten years' experience as a chef at international "6-star" luxury hotels.

His brief working experience in Napier in 2008 motivated his return to New Zealand in 2019. His journey in the South Island began at Punaikaki's Pancake Rock Café. He, his wife Nesreen, and their three children moved to Dunedin in mid-2024 for their children's education.

Ahmad makes chicken pies, chilli mince pies and croissants of various flavours. He marinates the chicken with fresh lemon juice for over three hours to make the chicken pies.

His 'Big Breakfast' is a bargain! This plate comes with grilled sausage or bacon, tomato, hashbrown, halloumi cheese, spinach, mushrooms, toasted bread, three eggs and English Breakfast tea.

Ahmad plans to cook authentic Jordanian-style upside-down chicken (Maqluba) as a weekend special starting in July.

The décor is themed around traditional tattoo art, curated by a talented customer-turned-business partner.

Open Plate is an easy location to find whether you are driving or taking the bus. The café operates from 10am to 5pm, with the exception of Fridays, when it stays open until 7pm for buffet-style dining. Operating time and prices may be subject to change in the future.

Stay updated by following *Open Plate Café* on Facebook for more information.

-- *The Food Explorers, hungry golfing pals*



## SNOW SONG (1956)

The night was bleak  
And frosted flakes  
Came softly tumbling down.  
It settled on the countryside  
And changed the smoky town.  
All was hushed and still and white,  
As from the lightened sky,  
The angels sent the whirling snow  
With naught a sound nor sigh.  
The pines from on their massive slopes  
Are veiled from root to branch,  
And the willow on the river bed  
The snow it had entranced.  
The bambies in the darkened woods  
Came prancing through the trees.  
Ne'er a sight had they seen before  
And ne'er a stifled breeze.  
Every tiny blade of grass  
And many a fallen cone  
Was covered with a white mass,  
As loud the wind did moan.

-- *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: EID-AL-ADHA, MAY 27

**Eid-al-Adha, one of the two major religious and culinary festivals in Islam, is celebrated by Muslims around the world. It is a time of joy, unity and charity, marking the end of Hajj (the sacred pilgrimage to the city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia) and honouring the devotion of Prophet Abraham to Allah.**

Adha, meaning "sacrifice", commemorates Allah's provision of a sheep for sacrifice in place of Abraham's son. While charity and the giving of meat are important parts of the festival, so too is celebration. Eid, meaning "happiness", is also a time for festive gatherings with family and friends.

The festival begins with prayers in mosques, parks and houses. An abundance of delicious food is served throughout the day, including baklava and date-filled biscuits for breakfast, and meat dishes for lunch and dinner, such as kebabs and the popular biryani, a flavourful rice dish prepared with layers of meat, fragrant spices and aromatic rice.

Qurbani meat, used during Eid, must, according to the principles of generosity that govern the celebration, be divided into three equal portions: one for self-consumption, one for neighbours and one for the poor and needy. Affluent people should be as generous as possible because many cannot afford to eat meat even on Eid days. Organisations like Islamic Relief and Human Appeal collect donations to distribute meat to food-insecure communities, including refugees and displaced persons. Qurbani is an act of devotion that brings followers closer to Allah, as the Quran asks people to help those in need.

Behind this religious celebration lies a culinary heritage that brings together traditions of meat preparation and spice blending to bring out the best of each cut. Streets are filled with the aromas of spices such as cumin seeds, coriander seeds, cloves, cinnamon sticks, cardamom, mustard seeds and nutmeg, and in rural areas they are still ground in stone mortars. -- *Lara Anderson*

## BEEF BIRYANI RECIPE

### INGREDIENTS

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 cups biryani rice    | 4 tsp mixed spices       |
| 8 Tbsp olive oil       | Salt, to taste           |
| 4 large onions, sliced | 2 cups plain yoghurt     |
| 1 kg beef, cubed       | 1 tsp saffron            |
| 1 tsp garlic paste     | Fresh coriander, chopped |
| 1 tsp ginger paste     | Mint leaves, chopped     |

### METHOD

Soak the rice in water for 30 minutes. Drain, then boil in plenty of salted water until about 70% cooked. Drain and set aside. Heat the olive oil in a large pan and fry the sliced onions until golden brown. Add the beef, garlic paste, ginger paste, mixed spices, and salt. Cook until the meat is well browned. Stir in the yoghurt and enough water to cover the meat. Simmer until the beef is tender and most of the liquid has reduced. Dissolve the saffron in a few tablespoons of warm water. In a large heavy-based pot, layer half the rice, then the meat mixture, followed by the remaining rice. Drizzle the saffron water over the top. Cover tightly with a lid and cook over low heat for 30-40 minutes to allow the flavours to combine and the rice to finish steaming. Garnish with chopped mint and coriander before serving.



# HISTORIC GARDEN CAFÉ REVIVAL

After being such an exciting addition to the NEV business hub, Adjo relocated all too soon, so to find out they were the same people chosen to reopen the Botanical Garden venue was a happy surprise. And I can't be alone in that sentiment because, since opening, a steady stream of customers has arrived daily to find a calm, light-filled space that's comfortable and invites you to linger.

Drawn to the chance of creating a café in such an attractive setting, Jonas Jessen Hansen and Caitlin Holloway are equally thrilled to be here, and it does seem to be the perfect location for a couple committed to providing tasty, healthy food. Everything they sell is made in-house, using local produce wherever possible, and they take pride in crafting meals with balanced nutrition in mind. For example, the broth on offer—made with bones from an Otago butchery—is a menu favourite and often sells out quicker than they can replenish the ingredients. Jonas and Caitlin believe in giving each of their head chefs the freedom to create flavourful New Zealand fare. Anybody who has tasted the menu at Adjo, their sister café in George Street, already knows that the fresh, seasonal produce they use makes for delicious meals. They also believe in hiring experienced baristas: the coffee alone definitely merits a visit.

As a café within a garden, we flock towards it whenever the sun shines. Caitlin and Jonas have outdoor furniture on order and look forward to customers spilling out onto the terrace, just as they've been doing for 60 years since the original tea kiosk opened in the same spot with its optimistic sun umbrella theme. In the meantime, there is a selection of cold and hot drinks, plus cabinet food ready to take away to enjoy anywhere in the beautiful gardens, and, of course, the important freezer full of ice cream.

Caitlin and Jonas have loved the interaction that comes with being part of the gardens. The gardeners quickly discovered the high quality of refreshment on offer, so if you notice boots around the door when you arrive at the café, chances are they're inside enjoying a break. Having a propagation nursery nearby means there's a great selection of indoor plants on hand, too, although it's been noticed that enthusiastic, plant-loving café customers are guilty of over-indulging the plants with water. To those kind souls, the café would like you to know that there is a knowledgeable barista overseeing their care, so there's no need to worry.

The other exciting part of running a café within public gardens is the potential for shared events that involve both of their venues, and Jonas is bursting with ideas for workshops, music, and collaboration. It's an injection of energy that's matched by new event management within the gardens staff; a great coincidence for local Valley residents keen for fun outdoors. As young parents running two successful cafés, they've become aware of the need to pace themselves, but we can look forward to community-focused events for us all to enjoy once the warmer months arrive. Until then, keep an eye on the changing seasonal menu on Aster's website, [aster.co.nz](http://aster.co.nz), and treat yourself to a pinesetta milk drink, a house-preserved lemon tonic, or an expertly brewed coffee while relaxing under the copious orange umbrella. -- Clare Heap



**inchBar**

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**July**

- 30 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.

---

- 1 Weekly Wednesday Open Mic Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 3 Drag Night! 8pm, koha entry.
- 4 Jayden TJ, multi-instrumentalist. 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 5 Celtic Jam Sessions from 3.30pm
- 7 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.
- 8 Weekly Wednesday Open Mic Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 9 Rooney from 7.30pm. Koha entry.
- 10 Variety Show: Comedy, drag, music! 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 11 Mea Culpa, folk covers & originals. 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 12 Big Jazz Apple: 4.30pm, koha entry.
- 14 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.
- 15 Weekly Wednesday Open Mic Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 17 Shannon Burnett, indie-pop. 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 18 Hip-Hop Night! Featuring local artists. 8pm, koha entry.
- 19 Big Jazz Apple: 4.30pm, koha entry.
- 21 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.
- 22 Weekly Wednesday Open Mic Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.
- 23 Poetry Night! 7pm.
- 25 Sam Charlesworth & Friends. 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 26 Big Jazz Apple: 4.30pm, koha entry.
- 28 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.
- 29 Weekly Wednesday Open Mic Comedy: 7pm, \$5 entry.

**August**

- 2 Celtic Jam Sessions from 3.30pm.
- 4 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.
- 7 Drag Night! 8pm, koha entry.
- 8 Catgut & Steel, contemporary folk. 7.30pm, koha entry.
- 9 Big Jazz Apple from 4.30pm. Koha entry.
- 11 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.
- 16 Big Jazz Apple from 4.30pm. Koha entry.
- 18 Open Mic Night: Sign-up from 7pm. FREE entry.
- 29 Sam Charlesworth & Friends. 7.30pm, koha entry.

f @ Check socials and bar blackboard for more Inch Bar events and details.



# FIRE RISK IN FOCUS: INTERVIEW WITH FIRE AND EMERGENCY COMMUNITY RISK MANAGER, JAMES KNAPP

**Over the past few years, are call-outs increasing, decreasing, or staying about the same?**

Generally the trend of structure fires is down, however, recently we have seen an uptick in fatal residential fires. These were trending downward until last year. I think it's safe to say that through legislation, building code changes, our education campaigns, and public buy-in, structures generally are getting safer and the number of structure fires is reducing. We have detection systems, we have suppression systems in buildings, evacuation systems, all of that. So, generally commercial buildings at least are becoming less prone to fires.

**What are the most common causes of fires in North Dunedin? Are there types of properties or particular streets that tend to be higher risk?**

As you would expect, where there are population centres, that increases the number of incidents. In the North Dunedin area, extending up through the Valley, things like rubbish bin fires, deliberately lit couch fires, and nuisance fires are more common.

**What should people be checking in their homes as we head into winter?**

The first thing that springs to mind is getting the chimney cleaned if you're going to use the fire over winter. We don't recommend gas heaters inside, but if you've got a gas heater, it would pay to check the hose and the regulator, and make sure that there are no leaks on the gas bottle before coupling that up. Make sure smoke alarms are working. During winter we tend to see an increase in in-house fires. Usually those are caused by a heat source too close to a combustible

or a lack of maintenance on a ducted system or heating system. HRV systems up in the ceiling need to be vacuumed out so that they don't build up dust, as the fans become stuck in the dust, the motor overheats, and that starts a fire in the ceiling space. Usually people don't have smoke alarms in their ceiling space so the fire can be quite well-developed before they actually realise that it's there.

**How does an elderly person go about getting help replacing smoke alarms?**

They could ask their whānau or friends for assistance, but if they don't have any whānau, friends, or neighbours who can help them out, we have a home fire safety service. On our website, there is a form to request a home fire safety visit and a crew will come and help.

**What do you enjoy most about serving the Dunedin community?**

Our prevention team are proud of the statistics of buildings getting safer, lead indicators like people having evacuation schemes and getting them approved, seeing homes with more smoke alarms in them, and previously a reduction in fatal avoidable residential house fires.

**What do you think has caused an increase in fatal residential house fires recently?**

We are still analysing the data, but one thing that we do know has changed relatively recently is the proliferation of lithium iron batteries, and charging of lithium devices inside. Previously a lot of the fires started in the kitchen, but we are seeing an increase in fires starting in the bedroom. I can't say for sure, but what we believe is that people are charging devices in their bedrooms

while they are sleeping.

**Would you advise against charging devices in your bedroom while sleeping?**

Yes, I would definitely advise people to only be charging batteries while they are alert, so that if anything starts happening, like it starts swelling or off-gassing, they can turn off the power supply and call us.

**Do you think people should get their electronic devices and chargers tested by an electrician?**

The most important thing is to buy a quality device and use either the charger supplied with it or one that meets the manufacturer's specifications. Don't assume a charger is suitable just because the plug fits. It must also provide the correct voltage and amperage. Even though the USB, for instance, may fit, the amps that the charger can supply may be less than the device needs, so it will heat up as a result of trying to get more current than it can pull through the charger.

It's also very important to know that while people think they know the layout of their home well, when there is smoke rising it is a lot harder to find your way out. That's why I would recommend households create an evacuation plan. You can do this step-by-step through our website, and parents should get their kids to practice evacuating with their eyes closed so that they can do it in the event of a real fire. -- Keira Spilling

**NZ Fire & Emergency resources:**  
[www.fireandemergency.nz/](http://www.fireandemergency.nz/)

*Next Valley Voice issue: outdoor fire safety!*

## ORC REMINDS COMMUNITIES TO BURN DRY FIREWOOD THIS WINTER

**Air quality becomes degraded during winter due to the use of wood burners combined with cold calm weather, and the occurrence of inversion layers. ORC is currently running its annual *Burn Dry, Breathe Easy* campaign, designed to share tips to ensure your firewood is dry for burning in winter. It also highlights the effects that burning wet wood and other items can have on air quality and the environment.**

Woodsmoke pollution can be reduced when you burn only dry wood and keep your fire hot and not smouldering. Always make sure the wood you are burning is dry. It's better for you, your home, and the environment.

**Find out more at: [ORC.GOV.T.NZ/BURNDRY](http://ORC.GOV.T.NZ/BURNDRY)**

### BURN DRY, BREATHE EASY TIPS:

- 🔥 **Stock up on firewood before Christmas** to allow it to dry out before the following winter.
- 🔥 **Stack your firewood off the ground**, out of the rain and with plenty of airflow so it dries faster.
- 🔥 **Use a wood moisture meter** to check if your firewood is dry enough to burn. Less than 25% moisture means more heat and reduced smoke.
- 🔥 **A well-built fire** of scrunched up paper/firelighters, kindling, and firewood with plenty of airflow ensures a well-heated home and less smoke.
- 🔥 **Don't burn wet or green firewood, treated wood or household rubbish** like plastics as they can release harmful toxins into the air.
- 🔥 **Reduce smoke overnight**, make sure you can still see flames when you turn your fire down.





Graham Reid, Terry Boylan, Graeme Chave Frances Ross

**Probus has enjoyed outings, coffee mornings, and excellent guest speakers so far in 2026. The AGM was held in March, where awards were presented and a successful 2025 wrapped up. Club membership increased to 42 over the year.**

**Fruit Trip to Roxburgh region and over the Hydro Dam:** Following last year's success, there was interest in a repeat. An itinerary was produced, and departure was right on time. The group stopped for coffee at the recently opened Railway Goods Shed Café in Waitahuna—well worth the visit. There was time to visit a couple of fruit stalls, followed by a relaxing lunch at Bengier Garden Café. The return trip crossed the Millers Flat Bridge, went over the dam, and included a stop at the lookout for excellent views.

**Walk through Chain Hills' recently upgraded Railway tunnel and Lunch at the Grange Cafe:** This half-day outing proved very interesting. The recently upgraded tunnel, part of a new cycleway link, is well lit and rich in history. It closed as a railway tunnel in 1914. The walk starts in Wingatui and is about 3.4km return. The group then proceeded to the Grange Café in Mosgiel for lunch and a catch-up.

**Coffee Mornings:** Always popular as a social get-together, these are currently held at Columbus Coffee in Mitre 10, which serves us well through the winter months.

**Our Annual AGM:** Held in March with good attendance. President Frances Ross presented her annual "State of the Club" report, and Acting Treasurer Graham Reid delivered the financial report. A new committee was elected for 2026/27, followed by award presentations.

The Bob Todd Trophy, donated by the Todd family after President Robert Todd passed away in office in 2004, recognises outstanding contribution to the club. Frances Ross received the trophy for 2025/26. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to three hard-working committee members: Graham Reid (Health), Terry Boylan (Venue/Raffles), and Graeme Chave (Morning Tea/Kitchen), who keep the club running smoothly.

**Guest speakers:**

**February:** Ron Mackintosh (Probus South, Toastmasters) spoke about growing up in Glasgow, his working life in New Zealand, and 30 years in radio at 4XO, More FM, and Radio Dunedin.

**March:** Paul Pope (Peninsula Community Board) presented slides on early Dunedin, including the Town Belt—its origins and value today.

**April:** Henie Murray, a pastor who emigrated from South Africa in 1985, shared engaging slides on South African society, fauna, and infrastructure, with memorable anecdotes.

If you are near to retirement, or retired and wanting some social contact, you may enjoy the Dunedin North Probus Club environment. Contact Secretary Peter Begg: [peabee@xtra.co.nz](mailto:peabee@xtra.co.nz) or 455 1256.

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(...continued from front page) a space that feels safe and non-intrusive. Training also ensures that, as guests arrive, staff are careful not to overwhelm their first moments, allowing people to settle in at their own pace.

For those feeling unsure, staff profiles are available online so visitors can familiarise themselves with who they might meet ([omhst.org.nz/about-us](http://omhst.org.nz/about-us)).

The café is part of a two-year pilot and reflects growing national momentum around mental health support. It is not designed to replace existing services, but to sit alongside them as a preventative option. Working closely with services like Life Matters and Emergency Psychiatric Services, the café helps bridge gaps, even coordinating handovers where needed. Collaboration extends further, with local police and patrols aware of how the café operates and able to guide people toward it.

Behind the scenes, the space continues to evolve. Since opening night, small changes, such as adjustments to lighting, have already been made in response to feedback from guests and staff, reflecting a commitment to staying responsive to community needs.

The café is already seeing regular attendance during its set hours of **Tuesdays 6:30pm to 10pm, and Saturdays 5:30pm to 10pm**. KiwiHarvest helps keep the pantry stocked so hot drinks are always on the ready to soothe the soul. For curious community members, look out for details on an upcoming open night where you can learn more about the Crisis Recovery Café. Expressions of interest are now open for volunteers via the OMHST website ([omhst.org.nz/cafe](http://omhst.org.nz/cafe)).

-- Krysha Brzuza

## NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA

**Neighbours Aotearoa asked Valley Voice readers, "What does 'neighbour' mean to you?" Here are some of their responses:**

**A neighbour who I see regularly** in the daily rhythms of my community. They're the people that we meet in the mall or on our streets who are familiar to us every day.

**Someone who does not live in your pocket**, yet is always happy to chat and offer support. Always with a smile! A person who helps you feel ready for any disaster, and just know you can call on at any time.

**What it could/should be:** Someone I could talk to about local problems, ask for help or give help to, meet for a cupper or a drink. None of my neighbours fit the bill.

**Neighbour means community.** It means security. It means, "I have some spare fruit from the tree. Would you like some?"

**I hope my neighbours know** that they can come over and ask us for anything, like if they need a cup of sugar to finish baking their cake and for a jump-start if they have a flat battery. I wish I was at home more and we could swap kai with our neighbours.

**Neighbour means person living close to you.** "Being neighbourly" means being respectful to others around you, offering kindness and support where you can.

**A familiar face**, and a common goal to share the area we've chosen to live.

**Take part in the Public Conversation:**  
[neighboursaotearoa.nz/public-conversation](http://neighboursaotearoa.nz/public-conversation)

## DJ AUTO THINK TANK

**Q: I'm planning to tow a trailer — what should I know before hitting the road?**

**A: In New Zealand, towing a trailer or caravan comes with important legal responsibilities and safety requirements designed to protect all road users. Whether you're towing for work, recreation, holidays, or just to burn extra dinosaurs, understanding New Zealand's towing laws and following good maintenance practices can help prevent accidents, breakdowns, and costly fines.**

Before setting off, make sure your trailer is safe, secure, and roadworthy. It's easy to forget your rego at the last moment when you're on the run and end up with a friendly reminder from the blue squad.

Check that the trailer's loaded weight does not exceed the tow rating specified by the vehicle manufacturer. If the tow bar is aftermarket, it must also be rated to handle the load. If the trailer is extra heavy (2,000kg or more when loaded), it must be fitted with an effective braking system, while heavier trailers may require breakaway brakes that activate if the trailer disconnects from the vehicle.

Load security is another key legal requirement. Loads must be restrained so they cannot shift during travel. Don't worry, farmers — you don't need to cargo-net those four sheep — but do consider how an insecure load could lead to a poorly balanced trailer, a common cause of instability at open-road speeds. A well-balanced load generally places slightly more weight toward the front of the trailer while remaining within the tow ball's recommended download limit.

Lighting and visibility are vital. Safety chains must be used and kept in good condition. Tyres should be checked for tread depth, cracking, and correct pressure before every trip, especially on caravans that may spend long periods parked. Wheel bearings, trailer brakes, suspension components, and electrical wiring should be inspected and serviced routinely. Rust and corrosion are common issues in New Zealand's coastal environments and should never be ignored.

Before setting off, carry out a simple pre-trip inspection including checking couplings, lights, tyres, mirrors, and load restraints. Safe towing is not only about complying with New Zealand legislation; it's about protecting passengers, other motorists, and yourself.

Also, every year the WOF inspection lane is flooded with boat trailers, caravans, and other trailers hoping to get the 'OK' for heavy summer use. Consider having maintenance and checks done when you're not using them to avoid that Christmas-Labour Weekend premium.

Speaking of trailers, DJ Automotive now has a few trailers available to rent, so if you find yourself in need, give us a call.

Email/text us with any questions and we'll do our best to provide answers via this publication: [dud.dj.automotive@gmail.com](mailto:dud.dj.automotive@gmail.com) or 021 331 528.



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## What today's market is really telling us

**The latest figures for the Valley suburbs show a market that is still active, but not especially easy for sellers.**

In May, there were about 35,000 online searches by people looking at homes in these suburbs. That was 6% more than the same time last year, so buyers are still out there and still watching the market closely.

At the same time, 15 new houses came onto the market during the month, which was 25% more than a year earlier. In simple terms, that means sellers have more competition. The report also suggests that the average expected sale price for houses in these suburbs was about \$676,000, which was 1% lower than the same time last year.

Perhaps the clearest sign of a slower market is the time it is taking to sell. The median selling time was 64 days, which is a little over two months and 20% longer than a year ago. So, while buyers are still active, they are taking more time, comparing more options, and being more careful before making a decision.

That is especially true in Dunedin, where buyers often pay close attention to practical things like warmth, sun, insulation, heating, access, and how much work a home might need. In our southern climate, a home that feels warm, tidy, and easy to live in can stand out much more than one that feels cold, tired, or high maintenance.

## A different market from a few years ago

**What we see in the Valley reflects a wider pattern. Around New Zealand, the property market has been fairly steady rather than strong, and in many places, prices have only been moving slightly. Overseas, many housing markets are going through a similar phase, with buyers being more cautious and borrowing costs still putting pressure on household budgets.**

That helps explain what many local homeowners are feeling. This is not a market where almost anything sells quickly if you just put up a sign and wait. Buyers today have more information, more choice, and more confidence to hold back until they feel a property is right for them.

They can compare recent sales, estimated values, suburb information, and mortgage costs before they even attend an open home. By the time they walk through the door, many have already formed a fairly clear opinion about whether the property is likely to suit them.

## Why some homes go stale

**A more traditional selling approach can still work from time to time. A home may be listed, a sign goes up, the property appears online, and the right buyer happens to come along. That still happens.**

But in a tougher market, that approach carries more risk. If a property is not presented well, not clearly explained, or not

## 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**

promoted in a way that reaches the right buyers, it can end up sitting on the market while newer listings take the attention.

Once a home has been sitting there for a while, buyers often begin to wonder what is wrong with it, even when there may be nothing wrong at all. It starts to lose that sense of freshness. And when that happens, sellers can find themselves having to reduce the price or accept weaker offers than they had hoped for.

## It's about finding the right buyers

**That is probably the key point in today's market. It is no longer just about getting a property sold. It is about identifying, targeting, and attracting the buyers who are most likely to see the full value in a home and are prepared to act accordingly.**

A more traditional campaign may still find a buyer. But a sharper, more thoughtful campaign has a better chance of finding the right buyer—the person who connects with the home, understands its strengths, and is willing to pay a premium for it.

In a market where homes are taking longer to sell and sellers have more competition, that can make a meaningful difference to the final result.

## A blend of old and new

**In fact, one of the best things about modern tools is that they can free up more time for the human side of real estate.**

Perhaps that is the main lesson from today's market. It is not about replacing people with technology, and it is not about flashy marketing for the sake of it. It is about blending the best available tools with sound judgement, local knowledge, and good old-fashioned communication.

For local homeowners, that may be the most useful takeaway. Buyers are still active in the Valley, but they are more selective, and the competition between listings is stronger than it was a year ago.

In that sort of environment, success is less about luck and more about getting the fundamentals right: thoughtful presentation, smart promotion, clear communication, and a campaign designed to connect with the right buyers.

Selling a home in 2026 is not quite the same as it was twenty years ago. The market is different, and buyers are different too. Next issue, I'll look at how the tools agents use are changing and what that actually means for local homeowners.

*Have a coffee with Pete*

**No presentations or sales pitch. Just a relaxed chat over coffee. peter@nzps.co.nz**

*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.*



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## art, craft & music

### ART CLASSES

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### 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 invites local crafters to sell their creations at our reception gift shop. 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

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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

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### 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

### 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.

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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

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All ages and stages. Contact Griffin to enquire: 0210 815 5593 ☎ golden.protoceratops@protonmail.com

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## community

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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.

### 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

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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

### GARDENING TOOLS

Give To Grow charity collects, repairs, and redistributes surplus gardening tools to help community members grow their own food. Whether donating or needing tools, contact ✉ community@northeastvalley.org

### GOT BAGS/EGG CARTONS?

38 paper bags are used weekly for the Valley Project's Kai Share programme. Sometimes we need egg cartons, too. We would appreciate any donations of these. Drop at reception at 262 North Rd.

### LEGAL ADVICE

Free legal advice at Community Law Otago, available by appt. Qualified lawyers. Practical solutions. ✉ reception@dcl.co.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 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. ☎ 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 & 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: 🌐 allsaintsdsn.org.nz/all-saints-fruit-and-veg/

Want to volunteer? Email:

✉ admin@allsaintsdsn.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 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

Torriddon 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.

### ISLINGTON EARLY

### CHILDHOOD CENTRE

Small, not-for-profit 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. 🌐 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

### 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

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/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

For 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

### 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 sidcar. 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

### 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

### 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 WITH CLASSIFIEDS?

Add or update listings:  
voice@northeastvalley.org

**\$2 per listing per issue**

Project bank account:  
**03-1726-0005606-000**  
Reference: VVDonation

# NEW NEST FOR NORTH EAST VALLEY PLAYGROUP



**The North East Valley Playgroup has at last found its new home at St Martins Anglican Church (194 North Road), and is settling in with ease and grateful hearts.**

After the poignant closure (and prompt demolition) of the Baptist Community Centre a few months back, the playgroup packed up decades of memories and set out for its next chapter. The timing, in some ways, worked in the playgroup's favour. Many long-time families were already transitioning to kindergarten, meaning the group was ready for a gentle reset.

Now based in the church's lounge, the new playgroup space is warm, carpeted, and wonderfully snug, which is perfect for little ones still mastering the art of staying upright. With room for around ten kiddies and a dozen adults, the vibe is homely and intimate.

The stocked kitchenette is a game-changer for the playgroup, a welcome shift from a large commercial kitchen. Along with puzzles, playdough, and plenty of toys to

keep curious minds busy, there are also child-sized tables for crafts and snacks. High chairs are on hand—more than enough, in fact—with a few extras ready to find a home in the wider community. A freshly installed heat pump keeps things toasty, but most importantly, there's coffee! It's a bit of a haven on a chilly morning.

Playgroup runs Wednesdays from 9am to noon, and is open to children up to school age. No membership required—just a koha to help keep morning tea flowing. Parents bring along some nourishment for their kids, and the morning unfolds in a relaxed, friendly rhythm. More families are always welcome!

The church lounge is shared with the SPACE programme (Supporting Parents Alongside Children's Education), running Mondays and Tuesdays. Both are facilitated by Rachael McCann, a registered early childhood teacher who first walked through playgroup doors 13 years ago as a new mum herself.

The All Saints community, led by Fr. Michael Wallace, has been remarkably welcoming—upgrading the footpath for prams and refreshing the facilities. Blacks Road Grocer continues to supply the playgroup with milk.

Thirty years on, this much-loved playgroup is only in its second home. It may have traded its "zooming space" for something cosier, but the friendships, the support, and the sense of belonging remains exactly the same.

*-- Krysha Brzuza*

# COURTS REFRESH

**The Ōpoho tennis courts are temporarily closed because of the major reconstruction underway.**

One of the tennis courts and the basketball/netball courts are being dug out for drain installation, then resealed—all thanks to the DCC.

We hope the work will be finished by the time this comes to press, but in any event, work is continuing apace, and we are quite excited about the improvements which will ensure the future of the courts for years to come.

For those who don't know, the courts are a project of the Lovelock Environmental Society and are open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there. *-- Jim Takas*



# HEART AND SOUL OF WINTER ON FULL DISPLAY AT WINTER WARMER

**The community gathered for a midwinter feast and clothing drive in early June for the Valley Project's most popular event, the annual Winter Warmer.**

The action started a day earlier, with many cheery volunteers arriving at the North East Valley Bowling Club to assist in the grand preparations. A sea of trestle tables and racks were set up to display the mountain of donated clothing and accessories. Julie Broderick, owner/operator of New World Gardens, arrived with a literal truck-load of food and cooking gear, and together with the many helping hands on deck, got the food-prep going for a fantastic feed the next day.

Come Saturday, the Project crew and volunteers were ready again as guests queued out the door to have a turn at sifting through clothing and to indulge in a hot, hearty 'rolling lunch' of sausage curry, mince nachos, chicken burgers, veggie soup, a medley of choice desserts, and heaps more!

In the mix as well were a variety of organisations from across the city. The Dunedin Curtain Bank and Dunedin Bedding Bank brought along plentiful supplies for keeping homes cosy. The

NEV Pukehaukea Community Resilience Group was recruiting members, passing out books and notepads, and informing locals on flood zones. Otago Mental Health Support Trust came to promote the Crisis Recovery Café that is now in operation just up the road. A Wellsouth dietitian took pleasure in providing blood-sugar pin-prick tests. And a DCC Eco Design Advisor lent essential advice on moisture management and power efficiency.

Sometimes it's easy to take community spirit for granted, but watching it all unfold with such energy and commitment is something truly special. Nearly 300 people came through the doors to a warm welcome, and seeing the smiles on faces leaving with winter woollies and full bellies was good for everyone's soul.

The day simply would not have been possible without the enthusiastic efforts of many: Julie and the Gardens New World team, whose food donations were complemented by those from KiwiHarvest; neighbours sharing their pre-loved threads; the army of dedicated volunteers; and, of course, the hard work of the Valley Project crew. Many thanks also goes to all the attendees for their support. See you next year! *-- Karl Bray*



*Photos: Hakan Oktay*

# THE TOP 5 ISSUES WE SEE AT COMMUNITY LAW

At Community Law Otago, we meet people from all walks of life across Otago who are trying to navigate problems that can feel overwhelming, confusing, or simply too expensive to deal with alone. Often, when people think about the law, they picture courtrooms, judges, and long legal battles. But many of the issues we see every day are much closer to home.

Community Law Otago is here to help make the law more accessible. Like the other 23 community law centres across the country, we provide free legal education, information, advice, and support so people can better understand their rights and options. The problems people bring to us are often everyday issues that may not make headlines, but clearly show how the law affects daily life—homes, work, finances, families, and a sense of security.

## HERE ARE FIVE OF THE MOST COMMON ISSUES WE SEE:

**1. TENANCY AND HOUSING PROBLEMS:** Housing issues are one of the most common reasons people come to Community Law. These can include repairs not being carried out, disputes over bond money, notices to leave, unhealthy homes, and confusion about tenancy rights and responsibilities.

A home is more than just a place to live. It is where people rest, study, work, and care for their families. When housing becomes unstable, everything else can feel harder.

**2. EMPLOYMENT ISSUES:** We also see many people dealing with problems at work. This might include unfair treatment, sudden dismissal, unpaid wages, pressure to resign, or confusion about employment agreements.

Work is not just about income. It is also tied to dignity, stability, and wellbeing. When something goes wrong, people are often left unsure about what is fair and what the law says.

**3. DEBT AND MONEY TROUBLES:** Debt can affect anyone. We often help people dealing with unpaid fines, loans, debt collection, or financial pressure that has become overwhelming.

Money problems can build quickly. What starts as one missed payment can turn into extra fees, stress, and constant worry. Legal advice may not make debt disappear, but it can help people understand their rights and prevent matters from getting worse.

**4. FAMILY ISSUES:** Family matters often come with some of the highest emotional stakes. These can include care of children, relationship breakdowns, parenting disputes, and family violence concerns.

These situations are rarely simple. People are often trying to make important decisions while under stress and may not know where to begin.

**5. CONSUMER PROBLEMS AND SCAMS:** Not every legal issue looks dramatic. Sometimes it begins with a faulty product, an unfair contract, misleading advertising, or an online scam. These problems can seem small at first, but they can have a real impact—especially when money is already tight.

At Community Law, we believe that understanding your rights is an important first step, and getting advice early can make all the difference.

**Book an appointment with us at [communitylawotago.com](http://communitylawotago.com). Alternatively, call 03 474 1922 or email [reception@dcl.org.nz](mailto:reception@dcl.org.nz)**

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