

CONCORD SCHOOL PRINCIPAL BIDS FAREWELL

It was with indrawn breath and gasps that staff, students, and the school community received the news that Steve Turnbull, the much-loved principal of Concord School, is resigning. The reaction reflected how integral Steve has been to the fabric of the school. Questions from the students, such as "Can he be principal of his new school and stay at Concord?" or "Will the new principal be mean?" highlighted the deep connection and affection the students have for him.

For the past 12 years, Steve has served as the teaching principal of Concord School, a role that allowed him to split his time between teaching and leading the school. Before stepping into this role, he was the deputy principal for three years, coming from teaching at Clutha Valley. Steve is now set to take on a full-time principal position at Brockville School in time for the start of term 4 2024, forward to embracing new challenges a larger full primary school will bring and being part of another community-centred school, much like Concord.

Reflecting on his time at Concord, Steve shared that the real highlights have been "working with the students, the day-to-day conversations, and their energy and enthusiasm when talking about what they are learning or what they

have been up to." His leadership has seen the completion of a \$1.3 million classroom development project, which included a commercial kitchen for teaching practical skills to the students and for community use, a new bike track, and an improved top court. The community is making use of these resources and valuing it as things like vandalism has really dropped off. Under his guidance, the school has also achieved significant improvements in literacy skills across all age groups.

Despite his professional commitments, Steve has always made time for his own family, coaching his sons Ben (19) and Ollie's (17) sports teams, and spending quality time with his wife, Rachel. Steve is Proud of the school camps, productions, and the annual Polyfest, Steve emphasised that these events embody "the community coming together to support each other and the children."

Steve leaves Concord School with fond memories and a deep sense of pride in the school's achievements, grateful for the support of the Board of Trustees, the staff, and the parents who have stood by the school through all its endeavours. The challenges of balancing teaching with being a principal, and supporting teachers in a constantly evolving educational landscape, have only strengthened his resolve to continue making a positive impact in his next role.



Above: Outgoing Concord School Principal Steve Turnbull



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GREEN ISLAND ART GROUP

Once again, our group has been extremely busy painting a variety of lovely work to be on display at our ANNUAL AFFORDABLE ART EXHIBITION, from Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th October which is held at the Meridian Mall every year.



This is our main yearly event and has become very popular with the public of Dunedin. The variety is amazing and there is always something available that 'catches your eye' for your home, office, gifts, children's rooms as well as making fantastic Christmas presents. The Medians are in Oil, Acrylic, Watercolour and Pencils adding to the variety of art.

Come along and meet with our lovely members who are all more than happy to talk about the art available and even give you information about the different artists and their work.

Any art enthusiasts who are interested in joining our group are welcome to ring Bev on 021 175 4646 for further information.

GREEN ISLAND WOMEN'S CLUB



Are you interested in joining a group of semi-retired and retired women from Green Island and surrounding areas, to make new friendships, enjoy hearing interesting speakers, and have fun at our monthly social occasions? Then come and join us at our twice monthly meetings.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Fairfield Bowling Club, Main South Road Fairfield. They start with a morning tea, and finish with a guest speaker to entertain us, concluding around 11.30pm.

Outings include lunches at a variety of different restaurants such as the Casino restaurant or the Waihola Tavern, where the bus driver took us on a brief tour around the lakeside and the growing developments in the area. We also embark on trips to the movies at the Metro cinema, or activities such as the paper flower making afternoon (pictured above) which enabled our members to show off their creativity. We travel by bus for most outings, with the bus picking members up from and returning to the Sunnyvale Sports Centre.

ANNUAL AFFORDABLE ART EXHIBITION

Fantastic variety of art available at GREAT prices by some of the most amazing Otago Artists. Call in anytime over the four days we are exhibiting and chat to our team about the art, and also learn about the artists.



GREEN ISLAND ART GROUP

THURSDAY 17TH
TO
SUNDAY 20TH OCTOBER
AT THE MERIDIAN MALL



The Informer

 **Informer Editor:** John Hayden

 **Volunteer:** Lindsay Aitchison

 informer@greenergreenisland.nz

 1500 physical copies distributed a month

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 Newsletters available online at :

www.greenergreenisland.nz/aboutnewsletter/newsletter-archive/

Articles are free for community groups/clubs and events (not for profit) in the Greater Green Island Suburbs.

Please email your articles and stories in Word less than 250 words. Images need to be high quality 300DPI.

Alternatively you can contact John to discuss to help you write a story.

Support community news by advertising with us for as little as \$40 an edition, reach over 2000 readers

FAIRFIELD TAMARIKI HELP KEEP DUNEDIN BEAUTIFUL

Fairfield School have been recognized for their efforts to beautify their community at the 2024 Keep Dunedin Beautiful Awards. With more than 62 schools represented at the ceremony, the school scooped the Dunedin Amenities Society Best School Award, for planting and maintaining the recently constructed Cockburn Street walking track and putting in place a specialized 'Predator Patrol Squad' to keep the track free of pests.

Year 7 pupil Alex Matheson was also recognized alongside his father, receiving the runners-up prize in the Jan Tucker Award for pest trapping.

Fulton Hogan - who developed the 1km path along their property boundary, creating a safe route for tamariki to walk to school - were also acknowledged for their "exceptional collaboration" with Fairfield School, winning the Spiral Consultancy Sustainable Business Award. What a fantastic effort from these community stalwarts, helping to instil a sense of respect and care for the environment in the next generation.



MAIA'S MUSING - POLYFEST



This month, our intrepid reporter Maia Hayden (11) looks forward to Polyfest 2024.

On Monday September 9th (and running until September 13th) Otago Polyfest will be held at the Edgar Centre. I am really looking forward to taking part this year with my school's (Columba College) kapa haka group. We have been preparing for the performance for a few months now, and that means a lot of early morning starts, but it will all be worth it to learn more about the Pasifika cultures in our city.

There will be some schools coming from as far away as Central Otago, which sounds very exciting. It will make it a real celebration of Māori and Pasifika cultures. Polyfest has been going for over 30 years, and it is so great to see so many schools involved. Last year, I really enjoyed the performance from Abbotsford School - they just made it look like they were having fun, but also that they enjoyed representing their cultures. It's so amazing that we have a lot of different Pasifika and Maori culture in our cool wee community. Ka rawe to mahi!

LOVE THE INFORMER? ADOPT A STREET!

We want you to adopt a street to deliver the Informer Newsletter to. The Informer is a monthly newsletter, with delivery in the first week of the month. Whether you can deliver 5 or 50 we want to hear from you. Get in touch today! Contact us on greatergreenisland.nz or email us at informer@greatergreenisland.nz

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📞 03 425 7719

📍 Green Island Police Station, 198 Main South Road

🌐 www.greatergreenisland.nz

🏠 P.O. Box 13006, Green Island, Dunedin 9062

The Greater Green Island Community Network is a registered charitable organisation aiming to foster a strong community which works together to develop its own solutions - a community which is self-reliant, responsive, resilient, and sustainable - a community where neighbourhoods are again full of people we know as our neighbours..

YOUR MONTHLY **Harcourts** MARKET REVIEW

In July, the Dunedin property market showcased its resilience and continued appeal, with the median house price holding steady at \$575,000, with very little difference from the month before. The median number of days to sell also remains consistent at 48. These figures underscore Dunedin's status as a highly desirable location, offering a unique blend of affordability and lifestyle benefits that attract a diverse range of buyers. This is consistent with the number of out-of-town enquiries we regularly receive on many of our listings.

The stability in pricing is a positive indicator, reflecting a well-balanced market where demand remains strong despite broader economic challenges.

Moreover, the steady median price is a sign of confidence in the local market, suggesting that both buyers and sellers are finding value at current levels. This stability is likely to encourage continued interest and activity, with the potential for gradual price growth as economic conditions improve."

From Ken at the Mortgage Express Finance Desk:

Earlier this year the Reserve Bank stated that the Official Cash Rate (OCR) was likely to remain unchanged until August 2025 but in a complete change of direction we have finally received the good news we've all been waiting for. The Reserve Bank has lowered the official cash rate by 0.25% from 5.5% to 5.25%. But wait there's more. The Reserve Bank Governor has suggested that we may even see two more OCR drops by the end of this year. Fingers crossed this now means that borrowers should start to see a corresponding drop in their interest rates. And in fact immediately following the news, ASB and ANZ announced they will be dropping their fixed and floating rates from next week and don't be too surprised to see others follow suit. So, now that rates are falling what does this mean for New Zealand borrowers, and the Real Estate market? Well overall this is very positive news for the property sector because as we all know lower interest rates generally leads to more lending demand. And although we may not see an immediate impact any reduction in residential mortgage rates potentially marks a turning point in the current property cycle.

GREATER GREEN ISLAND

STATS **JULY**

Average Dwelling Price

\$591,050

Number of sales

20

DUNEDIN

STATS **JULY**

Median Dwelling Price

\$575,000

Number of sales

179



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TOOTS' COLUMN

Greetings and salutations people.

Now that the weather is starting to improve, I can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. I do love it when it starts to warm up.

First of all, congratulations to all the members of the Green Island Rugby Club for their fantastic achievement. An indicator that perseverance does work. Well worth the wait.



Senior Constable Mark
"Toots" Tuten

I would like to thank the members of the Fireside Club, who invited me over the other week to give them a little talk. It was wonderful to meet you all. You are a wonderful example of what being part of the community is all about.

The subject of online fraud always seems to come up when I do these meetings. If you receive any text/email/phone call from anyone who is asking you to give personal details such as passwords, bank account details and so on, this should activate your "Spidey" senses. You know that feeling that something is not quite right and seems a bit strange. Remember, you have the power to put down the phone or decline the option of answering the phone or email. A quick phone call to wherever they purport to be from will reveal that someone is trying to scam you.

Your bank will never contact you to find out these details; they already have them on record. If it feels like a scam, it probably is. Just be cautious people.

A wee reminder that the Market Day in Green Island is coming up soon and having had my first experience last year, I can recommend it to everyone. If, for no other reason than the literal cornucopia of grazing food is fantastic. And it's a great way to meet your community.

Hope to see you there. Stay safe, people, and go you Grizzlies! - Toots

CLAWS UP - GRIZZLIES TAKE TITLE

In a fitting finale to their 140th anniversary celebrations, the Green Island Rugby Club are men's Premier Grade champions for 2024. The competition's most consistent side all season, The Grizzlies held off a determined Dunedin side 21-15 in an absorbing final to claim their first title since 1978, sending the local community into near-delirium. Awesome mahi to all involved, whether players, coaching staff or supporters - you've done the community and yourselves proud.



GREEN ISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Green Island Community Garden, under the stewardship of Marion Thomas, is a thriving example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared purpose. Marion's goal is to inspire people to grow their own vegetables, believing that gardening offers not only food security but also the joy of eating fresh, home-grown produce.

With food costs on the rise, Marion emphasizes that you don't need a large space to make a difference. Even a small garden can yield significant rewards, allowing you to enjoy the flavours of freshly picked vegetables. The community garden is a resourceful place where anyone can learn the basics of gardening. Whether it's seed sowing days, hands-on planting, or composting lessons, the garden provides everything you need to get started.

But Green Island Community Garden is about more than just gardening—it's about building and strengthening community bonds. Marion encourages people to come together, whether by helping in the garden or contributing in other ways, like sharing baking. The garden thrives on collective effort, living up to the old adage that many hands make light work. As Marion says "Do the mahi, eat the kai".

As the garden approaches its 10th anniversary, it remains a beacon of generosity and cooperation, bolstered by support from the Catholic Church and local community donations. Marion sees community gardens as increasingly essential, particularly in promoting self-sufficiency and resilience. She

advocates for a return to the practices of earlier generations, where growing and preserving your own food was a way of life.

For those new to gardening, Marion suggests starting in spring, the ideal time to get involved. Early planting of silverbeet, spinach, and brassicas helps avoid pests, and the appearance of weeds is a good sign that the soil is ready. She also offers a handy tip: use the top of a 2L juice bottle as a mini greenhouse to protect young seedlings from harsh weather and pests.

Ultimately, the Green Island Community Garden is about more than just growing food—it's about fostering a sense of community and encouraging everyone to dig in and get involved.



Above: Marion in a garden paradise



Located Behind St Peter Chanel School

Tuesdays 12PM - 2PM

Saturdays 10AM - 12PM

Contact Marion on 021 263 1221



ST. PETER CHANEL YOUNG VINNIES' GROUP

Ka pai to the St. Peter Chanel Young Vinnies' group, made up of year 5 and 6 students. Recently, these wonderful akonga prepared and cooked a huge amount of kai, ready to donate to the St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen which will then go to feed many hungry bellies around the city. A spokesperson for St. Vincent de Paul commended the group's efforts, noting that "these young people inspire everyone to work for a more just world," and thanking them for "your care and continued support, whether through the meals you prepare or other collection drives" such as collecting pre-loved winter clothing for donation. The group wishes to thank Jo Bell and Trinity Catholic College student Charlotte Harris for their support.



Pictured Above: Images of the Young Vinnies having fun and making a difference in the community!



SADDLE HILL COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

Kia ora,

While the days have, thankfully, started to lengthen as we head into spring, the recent light snowfalls have been a good reminder to be prepared for anything the weather or circumstances might throw at us. Over the last few months The Southern Coastal Community Response Group has met with Emergency Management Otago, taking part in a tabletop exercise to simulate a local emergency. Saddle Hill Community Board has also formed a Fairfield/Chain Hills/Saddle Hill emergency response group of interested parties with the skills to help in an emergency. If you're interested or want to know more, feel free to join the Facebook page (Fairfield Emergency Response) or contact Paul Weir or Scott Weatherall via the Saddle Hill Community Board.



Paul Weir, SHCB Chair

Other projects lately have included awarding the Youth Ambassador Awards to a deserving group of young people, with two major winners.

At our last meeting we were able to allocate funding towards projects such as the Fairfield School pool, Big Rock School's sound system and the Ōtokia Creek and Marsh Habitat Trust. Having just entered the new financial year, we encourage groups in the Saddle Hill Community Board area to get in touch if you have a local project that benefits the community in need of support.

Ngā mihi, Paul Weir, SHCB Chair



Are you a Green Island Business Owner?

We invite you to join the **GREEN ISLAND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION** a team of business owners dedicated to making our community better.

We support each other, aim to increase business and help with community projects.

We have been involved with our iconic Green Island Christmas Market Day for over 30 years with commitment to support local projects, our latest being the Memorial Gardens playground, stage and BBQ.

We are a down to earth group of locals who meet once a month over a relaxed breakfast or dinner, we welcome your concerns and ideas.

If meetings aren't for you, you can still join for \$30 for your first year, you will be entitled to 25% discount on advertising in the Informer Newsletter and will receive the meeting minutes via email.

Let's work together and continue to build the Green Island Community Spirit.

Contact info@greenergreenisland.nz for the next meeting date and time.

For Updates or questions please Contact or Follow us on **Facebook: Green Island Business Association.**

FAREWELL TO OUR INFORMER EDITOR JOHN

After almost 18 months in the role, Informer editor John Hayden is swapping the glamour of Greater Green Island for the bright lights of Opoho and academia. John has found this role fulfilling and "a wonderful way to engage with and promote this fabulous community which I'm blessed to have been a part of since my primary school days." As such, there is now a wonderful employment opportunity for a community-minded and creative person to join the informer team.

"It has been an absolute privilege to work with the Greater Green Island Community Network. These people go above and beyond to serve the needs of the area, and are so willing and eager to give of their time...it's really invigorating being surrounded by such a supportive, enthusiastic team, and it's impossible to thank them sufficiently for this opportunity within a few column inches."

The team will miss John's savvy and astute gift of the pen, but wish him well on his next endeavour.



John with his other passion Music

JOIN US IN STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY!

Are you passionate about people and building stronger communities? The Greater Green Island Community Network is looking for someone with skills in any of these areas such as administration, social media, event management, or mentoring.

Whether you're experienced in community development or simply have the right skills and enthusiasm, we'd love to kōrero with you about how you can contribute to our mission. This is a flexible opportunity to make a real impact and we support professional registration. If you're interested, please email ben@greenergreenisland.nz to learn more and discuss how you could be part of our dynamic team.

RUNNING IN PARADISE - BRIGHTON BACKYARD ULTRA 2024

The Brighton Backyard Ultra is back, promising a weekend of unmatched endurance and community spirit! This unique event, designed to push the limits of physical and mental endurance, serves a greater purpose this year as a fundraiser for Big Rock Primary School's Room 5 School Camp to Central Otago. With every step, participants will be helping to create unforgettable memories for local students.

The event begins and ends at the iconic Brighton Surf Life Saving Club, a fitting backdrop for this grueling test of endurance. The 6.7km course winds through the scenic surroundings of Brighton, offering athletes a blend of natural beauty and challenging terrain. Each lap is a race against the clock, with every athlete striving to outlast their competition.

The Brighton Backyard Ultra isn't just for athletes—it's an event for the entire community. Whether you're a participant pushing your limits or a supporter cheering from the sidelines, this event offers something for everyone. Witness the determination, grit, and camaraderie as athletes take on the course, all while supporting a worthy cause.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, 28th September, to Sunday, 29th September

Don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible event. For more information or to register, visit our Facebook page (Brighton's Backyard Ultra "Running in Paradise") or contact Scott Weatherall, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Big Rock Primary School.

Come be part of the Brighton Backyard Ultra 2024—a weekend of endurance, excitement, and community spirit like no other.



Above: Running in Paradise, last years winners and participants!

MAINLY MUSIC FAIRFIELD

Nestled just off of Fairfield's Main South Road in the cosy confines of the Fuel Church Hall is the headquarters of Mainly Music Fairfield. Taking place weekly on Wednesday mornings during school term time, these sessions promote music and movement for preschoolers and their caregivers, giving not only a valuable space for exercise, but also a chance for connectedness.

For the price of \$3 per session, participants can take part in a wide range of engaging activities – classics like 'The Wheels On the Bus' and 'The Parachute Song' were met with rapturous reactions when The Informer visited last month – and these 30 minutes of vigorous exercise conclude with the sharing of home-made kai, further encouraging fellowship among attendees. For those tamariki who still have energy – or become re-energized after the delicious morning tea – the surrounds of the nearby playground ensure the fun just keeps going.

Regular attendees are drawn to "the inclusive, supportive environment," and enjoy "the positive interactions and fun atmosphere," with one commenting that "my 18-month-old has been coming for two terms, and starts dancing as soon as we pull up," noting that some even come from as far afield as St. Clair to partake in the excitement.

Sessions take place at 10am on Wednesdays (during the school term) at 78 Main Road, Fairfield. For more information, contact Nicola on 021-083-78065.



Above: Having heaps of fun together at mainly music with the parachute!

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School

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www.concord.school.nz

GREEN ISLAND BOWLING CLUB

INVITES YOU



Green Island Bowling Club are having a "Have a go" day. Happening on Sunday 6th October from 11 - 2pm. BBQ lunch provided.

Come along for a fun afternoon and give it a go!!!
Contact gibc@xtra.co.nz for more information
183 Main South Road, Green Island

If wet, postponement will be posted on GIBC Facebook page
Follow us on Facebook for other upcoming events!!!

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A FUN FAMILY EVENT AND THE OPPORTUNITY
TO (RE)LEARN SOME NEW SKILLS



SATURDAY 12TH OCTOBER
12PM - 2PM
GREEN ISLAND MEMORIAL
PARK



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St John