

ILAI MANU: FLYING THE FLAG AND REVIVING TRADITION

Attending this year's Pacific Mini Games in Palau was about more than just competition for Ilai Manu- it was about honouring his Tokelauan ancestors, and fostering connections through culture.

The 40-year-old judoka proudly carried the flag for Tokelau in the opening ceremony, marching solo as the nation's only athlete.

Originally planning to attend as a wrestling coach, Ilai stepped in as a competitor when his under-20 athlete was unable to travel. "I'm not under-20, so judo was the next closest thing," he said with a smile.

Despite the last minute change in plans, Ilai came home with a bronze medal- and a heart full of gratitude.

"I had an amazing time in Palau. The Palauan's were very kind, generous and hospitable. I am very happy to come away with a medal for Tokelau. I've received an overwhelming amount of messages of support throughout my time at the Games, so I feel very blessed," he said.

What many might not know is that Ilai is also our very own Greater Green Island Youth Worker- a familiar face in the community who is passionate about empowering rangatahi through sport, storytelling, and connection to culture.

This isn't Ilai's first time representing Tokelau on the international stage. He's also competed at the 2019 and 2023 Pacific Games- often as the country's sole athlete- but his passion goes far beyond the mat. He's on a mission to revive fagatua, Tokelau's traditional wrestling style, which has fallen out of practice over the past 30 years.

"There's still knowledge with our elders, and I want to make sure it's passed on to the next generation."

Ilai has written a book titled Fagatapu Tokelau and is



Ilai Manu proudly carries the Tokelau flag with his bronze medal

currently pursuing a PhD focused on the physical and cultural benefits of fagatua for Tokelauan youth. With a small but growing number of young wrestlers joining him, he hopes they too will one day wear the Tokelau colours with pride.

From the wrestling mats of Palau to the streets of Greater Green Island, Ilai's work is a powerful reminder that representing your people isn't just about winning medals- it's about building futures.

The 2025 Pacific Mini Games were held in Koror, Palau from June 29 to July 9, bringing together around 1,500 athletes from 24 Pacific nations. The event featured a range of sports including judo, athletics, and va'a, and provided an important platform for smaller nations to compete internationally.



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KEEP AN EYE OUT –TAMARIKI ARE WALKING AND WHEELING THIS AUGUST!



This month is Active August: a winter active travel challenge for primary schools run by Dunedin City Council.

With 4,705 Dunedin students signed up, you'll see lots more students from Fairfield, Green Island and Concord walking and wheeling as they practise using active travel to school.

Walking or wheeling to school can improve independence, decision making, risk assessment and road safety skills, as well as being a great opportunity for daily exercise.

Active August creates safer environments around schools by reducing congestion at the school gate.

We love seeing tamariki and their communities trying new ways of getting to school and we're asking drivers to take extra care around schools to help keep them safe.



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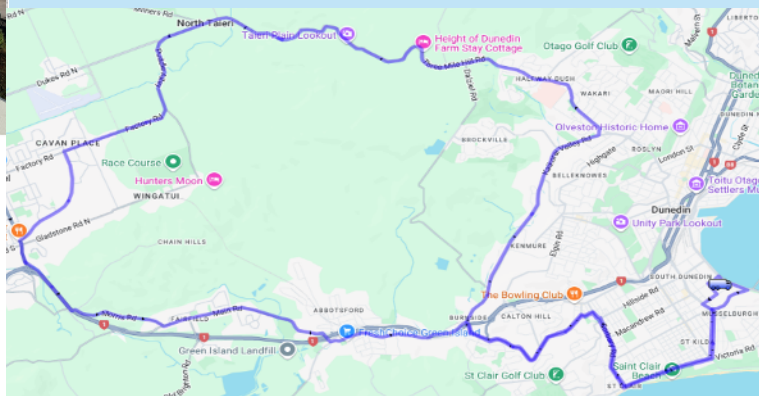
This year's fun day is to be held on Sunday 31st August. Hosted by the local transport industry to provide children with special needs a chance to get close to the big rigs they see on the roads.

The invitation is for a child with special needs and a supporting adult to have a ride in a truck from Edgar Centre Portsmouth Drive around Dunedin and the Taieri before returning to the Edgar Centre where there will be a barbecue and entertainment arranged.

There is no need to pre-register, just arrive at the Edgar Centre from 8:30am. First truck departs at 11:00am. If your child is aged 7 or under please bring their car seat or booster seat with you on the day.

Approximate times you will be able to see the trucks:

11:00am Lead truck leaves the Edgar Centre
11:05am Victoria Road
11:10am Forbury Road
11:15am Corstorphine Road
11:20am Kaikorai Valley Road
11:25am Taieri Road / Three Mile Hill
11:48am Puddle Alley and Hagart Alexander Drive
11:52am Old Motorway/Morris Road
11:59am Fairfield
12:10pm Green Island
12:13pm Stevenson's Road
12:18pm Corstorphine Road / Playfair St
12:20pm Forbury Road
12:22pm Victoria Road then Queens Drive
12:27pm Anderson's Bay Road
12:28pm Portobello Road / Portsmouth Drive
12:30pm Midland Street / Edgar Centre



The Informer



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1500 physical copies distributed a month



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Available online: www.greenergreenisland.nz/

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.

Contact Erin for help.

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

MIC CHECK! GREATER GREEN ISLAND YOUTH HIT THE AIRWAVES

Jeff Harford, Community Liason, OAR FM

Young people in the Greater Green Island area now have a voice in local media.



OAR FM's Greater Green Island Youth Podcast was launched last month by members of the local Youth Action Group.

The 16-member group is overseen by the team at the Greater Green Island Community Network (GGICN) and made possible through support from the Otago Community Trust as part of the Wheako Project, which aims to address the needs of tamariki (children) and taiohi (youth) in the area by strengthening connections across four key domains: schools, community, whānau, and the establishment of an intentional community space.

The group meets regularly at the GGICN base to brainstorm ideas, plan projects, and help shape the community spaces that all residents enjoy.

With a focus on taking action, rather than just talking about what was needed in the community, the young members use the podcast platform to highlight initiatives they are working on and to call for others to help with projects.

There is plenty of fun along the way, with humorous segments and quizzes included.

Greater Green Island Youth Podcast is broadcast fortnightly on Thursdays at 4pm on 105.4FM and 1575AM. Podcasts are available from oar.org.nz and other major platforms.

A full schedule of OAR FM programmes can be found at www.oar.org.nz.



Taking action: OAR FM's Greater Green Island Youth Podcast hosts are (L to R) Kaitiaki Norman-Pere (13), Brianna Le (22), Noah Scott (23), and Ruby-Mae Inch (13)

I WILL TRY MY BEST IN ALL THAT I DO!



**Youth
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Ground Zero is a 6-8 week program for youth who are Year 7 Students, 11-12 years old.

We focus on identifying and developing strengths, through fun challenges and activities designed to build confidence, self-esteem, leadership and relational skills; giving them the tools to make positive choices for their future!

Scan below to sign up!

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If you have any questions, feel free to contact us for more information:
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The Greater Green Island Community Network is a registered charity aiming for 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

We continue our positivity from last month, Dunedin's real estate market kept up a healthy pace through June, with steady sales activity with an added lift in buyer enquiry.

Median sale prices remained stable, with a little growth shown in several suburbs, I believe this shows continued confidence in the property market, this is backed up by deals being done and continued interest from both first home buyers and increased relocators coming from around the country to enjoy our relaxed lifestyle and more affordable housing options when compared to the larger centres.

Our team are reporting strong open home attendees, particularly for properties under the \$750,000 mark, which have consistently remained in high demand. Investors have continued to re-engage, possibly encouraged by improving rent returns and a stable quality tenant base.

Overall, June marked another solid month for Dunedin real estate – with the days growing longer and more sunshine on the horizon, it's a great time to be making your move in real estate.

Please get in touch if you need any advice.

GREATER GREEN ISLAND

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Average Dwelling Price

\$704,375
Number of sales

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STATS **JUNE**
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Number of sales

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TOOTS' COLUMN

An update from our local Green Island Community NZ Police Senior Constable Mark Tuten



Senior Police Constable
Mark "Toots" Tuten

Greetings people,

I hope you're all coping with the cold snap. Personally, I don't think it's been that cold this year, but maybe that's just me.

Touch wood, things have been pretty good in the Green Island area. You seem to have taken my advice about driving to the conditions and there haven't been any serious traffic incidents, which is great to see, well done.

I had a great time giving the ladies from the Salvation Army a wee speech about my time in the police. It is always a pleasure and a great way to connect with the community. Every time I give these speeches, I always seem to get asked to give another one to another group. How many community groups are out there?

I spent a shift looking after the students for Reorientation Week. They were beautifully behaved and appreciative of the police presence, which is a change from years gone by, so we must be doing something right. If truth be told, it does make me feel old when I see these kids partying, and I didn't recognise a single tune the whole night.

Following on from my amazing facts I have been periodically including in this column, check this one out: your brain burns 400 – 500 calories a day! I know how much effort I must put in to burn 200 calories on the rowing machine. I might just give it a rest and think more in future.

Anyway, that's about it for this month. If you've got any issues, come in and see me, I do a passable but pleasant generic instant coffee, if required.

Stay safe people.

Toots



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WHIMSICAL CLAY CREATURES TELL A PERSONAL STORY IN 'ALMOST HOME' EXHIBITION

Local artist Kylie Matheson is celebrating 20 years of creativity with her exhibition *Almost Home* opening at Gallery De Novo on 22 August 2025.



Artist Kylie Matheson at the Christchurch Art show 2025

An animal lover for as long as she can remember, Kylie's love for creatures and art finally combined in 2011, when she discovered the expressive power of clay. While she had worked in other mediums earlier in her career, nothing came as naturally to her as ceramics. Clay allows her to capture the texture, movement, and emotional depth of animals- particularly fur and feathers- in a way that feels alive.

After travelling New Zealand in her bus for seven years, Kylie returned to Dunedin in 2014 to study at Otago Polytechnic School of Art, gaining a Diploma in Ceramics. With sheer determination, she is now a full-time artist working from her home studio.

Her latest exhibition, *Almost Home*, is a deeply personal collection that pays tribute to her creative journey, the mentors who shaped her path, and the animals- both real and imagined- who continue to inspire her. The exhibition features a delightful array of characters- including bears, foxes, owls, and cheeky raccoons, every curve and texture reflects a thoughtful and deliberate process.

"Most of my inspiration comes from a look or behaviour I see in an animal- either in real life or a photo- and I try to tell a story from that," says Kylie. "This collection is very intentional. It's about people and moments in my life that mattered deeply, and trying to honour that connection through clay."

Kylie's work blends playfulness with emotional depth. While some viewers are drawn in by the whimsy of her creatures, others find themselves unexpectedly moved. "Sometimes someone will stop in front of a piece with tears in their eyes, and they don't need the story behind it- they've already felt it. That's what keeps me creating."

Many of her works also carry a sense of symbolism and personal storytelling, such as the arrow tattoo from her beloved grandfather, who inspired her love of animals from an early age. He also features in the exhibition, sculpted into a piece that shows him in his armchair, accompanied by a badger and a mole- creatures from the wonderful stories he used to tell.

Gallery De Novo co-owner Richelle Byers is thrilled to welcome Kylie back: "Her last show was incredible- We had a gallery full of wonderful Kylie creations, all full of personality, character and charm."

Kylie's recent works embrace loose textures, visible maker's marks, and a rawness that reflects the emotional honesty behind each piece. "I want people from all walks of life to connect with my work- whether it's through humour, memory, or emotion."

Almost Home is a joyful and heartfelt celebration of art, animals, and the journey in between.

The exhibition opens at Gallery De Novo, 101 Stuart Street, Dunedin on 22 August 2025.

<https://www.gallerydenovo.co.nz/>



Artwork- A gentle reminder

HUGE THANKS FOR HELPING US KEEP MOVING!

Thanks to the generous support of the Otago Community Trust and Keith Mitchell Motor Court, GGICN has been able to purchase a new vehicle to support our work with young people across the Greater Green Island community. This vehicle is already making a difference, helping our team get to local schools and programmes more easily and reliably.

We're also incredibly grateful to the Otago Masonic Charitable Trust for funding the installation of a brand-new tow-bar- expertly fitted by Mark at Green Island Auto. The tow-bar opens up new possibilities for us, allowing us to tow a trailer for events and activities and making it easier to shift equipment and supplies for community use.

A heartfelt thanks to our funders and supporters- your backing means we can keep doing what we do best: working alongside young people and building a strong, connected community.



Otago Masonic
Charitable Trust



REDEVELOPMENT WORK CONTINUES AT GREEN ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK



THE NEW ORGANICS RECEIVAL BUILDING MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE GREEN ISLAND RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK REDEVELOPMENT

With the Organics Receiving Building (pictured below) now operating for over a year, the next phase of state-of-the-art upgrades is underway at the Green Island Resource Recovery Park. This includes the development of a new **Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)**, which will sort and bale items from your yellow-lidded recycling bins for resale.

As part of the MRF project, the Dunedin City Council (DCC) is investing in advanced machinery designed by Irish firm Turmec, in partnership with Australia's The Environmental Group Limited. The equipment will use optical sorting technology to efficiently separate paper, cardboard, metals, and rigid plastics (types 1, 2, and 5), helping to recover more high-quality materials for local reuse. The facility is expected to set a new benchmark for modern, automated resource recovery in the region.

Currently, Dunedin's mixed recycling is sent to Timaru for sorting. With the new facility, processing will happen locally, reducing transport costs and cutting carbon emissions. The MRF will be capable of handling up to 8000 tonnes of recycling per year, compared to the current 5000 tonnes collected from kerbsides. This increased capacity opens the door to supporting neighbouring regions in the future.

This facility is part of the DCC's long-term redevelopment plan for the Green Island Resource Recovery Park, which was granted resource consent by Otago Regional Council earlier this

The existing recycling drop-off area, Rummage shop, and education centre will remain, and all public and commercial services will continue as usual. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2029, marking a major milestone for the city. DCC will continue to engage with neighbours and Green Island community throughout the construction and operation of the new facilities, so look out for regular updates.

The full MRF development will include:

- A composting facility for shredded food scraps and garden waste.
- Upgraded bunkers for recyclable glass sorting and storage.
- Upgraded transfer station to sort and prepare general waste for transfer to landfill.
- A construction and demolition waste sorting area.
- A kerbside collections truck park and office.
- Roads and services such as water and power to new buildings.
- Repositioned green/garden waste drop off area.



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MOSGIEL FOODBANK: MORE THAN JUST FOOD

Tucked away behind the Mosgiel Methodist Church on Wickliffe Street, the Mosgiel Community Foodbank has been quietly supporting individuals and families in need for over 30 years. Serving not only Mosgiel, but also the wider Taieri area, Green Island, Middlemarch, Brighton, and Fairfield and Abbotsford, this dedicated team works hard to ensure that no one in our community goes hungry.

The foodbank, coordinated by the ever-generous Michelle Kerr, a self-proclaimed "Farmers Wife", operates with the help of a hard-working crew of about 12 volunteers. The team is currently looking for a strong individual to assist with supermarket rescues- lifting heavy boxes and driving the van. For Michelle, who has been with the foodbank for 13 years, it's not just about handing out food parcels- it's about building relationships, offering dignity, and making sure that people feel cared for.

"Many of the people who come in are focused entirely on feeding their children," Michelle shares. "We always make sure to ask 'what about you? What do you need?' because everyone deserves to be looked after."

The Mosgiel Foodbank provides emergency food parcels, carefully tailored to each household to ensure nothing is wasted. They also recognise that essential items like toilet paper, deodorant, pet food, and laundry powder are just as critical, especially when budgets are tight. Thanks to generous donations from the community- including supermarkets New World and Woolworths, local gardener and food rescue group Kiwi Harvest, shelves and fridges are stocked with both staples and fresh produce.


A special mention goes to the community's much-loved "Jam Lady," who whips up homemade preserves with ingredients often kindly gathered from her friends and



Mosgiel Community Foodbank co-ordinator Michelle Kerr

neighbours. It's little gestures like this that remind us all- it takes a village.

The foodbank relies on the incredible generosity of the community, whether through direct donations, supermarket food rescue, or financial contributions. Businesses like Target Accounting and BNT have also stepped up to lend their support. Michelle is quick to remind donors, however, not to stretch themselves too thin- "Sometimes the people with the least are the most generous. We appreciate every little bit, but your own wellbeing matters too."



**Food or Essential Item Donations-
Please drop items off during open hours:
Monday to Friday, 10am to 11:45am,
at 2 Wickliffe Street, Mosgiel.**

The demand for food parcels is growing, especially with the rising cost of living, affecting everyone from young families to pensioners. Each month, around 100 people rely on the foodbank for support- a number that reflects both the challenges and the compassion in our community.

If you would like to support the Mosgiel Foodbank, there are many ways to get involved:

Please note, only unopened and in-date items can be accepted. Meat donations must be processed through a butcher.

Financial Donations: Contributions can be made to:

Mosgiel Foodbank / Taieri Christian Care Trust
Westpac, Mosgiel
03-1725-0011932-000

Christmas Giving: Keep an eye out in November for the "Wishing Tree" at ANZ Bank and the annual Can Drive on 1st December 2025. This is a massive community effort with over 6,000 paper donation bags distributed last year!

Website: www.mosgielfoodbank.org.nz

At its heart, the Mosgiel Foodbank is about neighbours helping neighbours- ensuring that through generosity and kindness, no one is left without. Together, we can help end food insecurity in our community.




Dunedin City Council Funding
Applications are now open for funding in the waste minimisation sector.

Funding up to \$500 is available to not-for-profit, schools, registered charitable and voluntary community groups who want to implement small waste minimisation projects, events or initiatives.

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