



The Informer

October 2025 Edition

Green Island | Concord | Abbotsford | Fairfield | Waldronville | Westwood | Ocean View | Brighton

GREATER GREEN ISLAND SPIRIT SHINES DESPITE CHALLENGES

The Spring weather threw everything it had at us- wild winds that blew the doors open, heavy rain, and even a power cut caused by a car crashing into a power pole, which left nearby Stevensons Road in Concord blocked by fire engines and emergency services! But nothing could stop approximately 1000 people from the Greater Green Island community coming together on Saturday September 13th. The Get Together still went ahead with music, food, stalls, information, and plenty of fun, proving that community spirit shines brightest when faced with challenges.

When the power went out, local school groups kept the show going with acoustic performances that filled the DCBC venue with music. Harcourts Real Estate agent Carissa Fraser's torches proved very useful, helping locals find their way and even complete our community surveys in the dark- with free slices of cake handed out as a reward for taking part. The Lions Club kept everyone fed, serving delicious bacon butties as well as hot chips from their truck powered by a trusty generator.

The stalls and activities were a real highlight. Children had a blast at the face painting and cookie decorating stations run by the Greater Green Island Youth Action Group, and also enjoyed making bracelets and keyrings with CanBead Otago. Catholic Social Services had a fun interactive challenge to build a tower out of marshmallows and toothpicks in under a minute to win a prize. For as long as the power lasted, the inflatable games area was also a popular spot.



Photos from the day... left to right: Volunteer and Greater Green Island Community Network Committee member Jan, holding torches for a survey respondent after the power outage. Firefighter with kids trying out his gear. Ladies from the Community Garden. Volunteer from Green Island School Te Awhiti with her facepaint.

St John's was on hand, alongside Emergency Management, who shared timely advice about what to do in a power cut and gave away emergency foil blankets. The Fire Service offered home visits and smoke alarm checks, and there was even a chance to try on a firefighter's kit. The Men's Shed donated a beautifully crafted wooden wheelbarrow as a prize, Riselaw Road Playcentre showcased the fun they offer local tamariki. Our Howden Street office co-tenants VOYCE Whakarongo Mai shared their important kaupapa supporting care experienced young people. The Green Island Bowling Club encouraged people to join their upcoming "Have a Go" day, while Tūhura Otago Museum wowed families with science demonstrations, microscopes, and a thermal camera. Pipes and Drums of Dunedin marched onto the stage with their classic band tunes.

Despite the challenges, the Get Together was buzzing with people. Local MP Ingrid Leary stopped by to chat, current Mayor Jules Radich connected with Greater Green Island Community Network's Ben McKenzie, and other council candidates and political party representatives mingled with residents. Local Community Constable Toots was there chatting with the community in his trademark approachable style. Greater Green Island Community Liaison Lee-Anne Michelle has received lots of positive feedback since the event, with locals praising the variety of activities and the warm, welcoming atmosphere.

The weather may have been wild, the road blocked, and the power out- but the resilience and spirit of Greater Green Island shone through. It was a day full of fun, connection, community pride and making the most of a what we have!

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ŌTOKIA CREEK AND MARSH HABITAT TRUST RESTORING OUR NATIVE TAONGA

The Otokia Creek and Marsh Habitat Trust is an eco restoration project focused on re-establishing native vegetation along the Otokia Creek in Brighton. The vision is to reforest the creek catchment from the source to the ocean, to further beautify the idyllic seaside suburb of Brighton.

Started by a group of locals in 2020, the Trust has planted 20,000 trees so far! They host regular community tree-planting days and workshops with local school children, businesses and community groups, and always welcome more helping hands.



Volunteers helping at a recent planting day.

The purpose of the mahi is to restore a healthy habitat for native birds and insects, mitigate the effects of farming runoff on water quality and provide vegetation cover to cool the water of the creek in a time of climate change. Focus on maintaining the trees through clearing grass and gorse means the project has a high growth rate and speed. Some of the trees are already over head height and in a few years we will begin to see a true forest.

Bird and insect populations are already increasing, including the recent arrival of a breeding pair of kaka, and the exciting discovery in the wetlands of a rare native spider endemic to New Zealand. The Trust regularly monitors water quality and are pleased to see that quality is improving.



Fairfield School students with Youth Workers Brianna Le and Noah Scott at Otokia Creek.

The project has several funders, including Lotto and the Otago Regional Council's EcoFund, and is supported by the landowners along the creek edge. The success of the project lies in the hands of the volunteers who plant and maintain the trees. The ecological effects of the mahi are already evident and the Trust is proud that from a small group they have expanded into a reforestation project that brings the community together.

This term, the Fairfield School Wheako Club- a group of nine Year 6 students working with the Greater Green Island Youth Trust- have been enjoying visits to Brighton Beach. Recently, the students gave back to the community by helping with native planting at Otokia Creek, supporting the work of the Habitat Trust and caring for our local environment.

TUNNEL BEACH TRACK TO REOPEN FOR SUMMER!

Good news for walkers and nature lovers! The spectacular walk down to Tunnel Beach in Dunedin is planned to reopen in time for the warmer months.

The walkway has been closed since last October, when a torrential downpour caused widespread flooding, slips, surface damage and fallen trees across Otago tracks. Tunnel Beach was hit hardest, with at least 10 major slips - some sliding all the way from the track down to the ocean.



Images of the damage to Tunnel Beach track provided by DOC



DOC Coastal Otago Operations Manager Gabe Davies said the closure was a real blow, especially as the track had only just been realigned before the storm hit. With more than 150,000 visitors a year, restoring access to this iconic spot became a top priority.

Repairs are now underway. The first phase involves clearing slips, restoring the track surface, reopening drainage, and beginning native planting to stabilise the area. This work is expected to be finished by November 2025, allowing the track to welcome visitors again over the holiday period. A second stage of improvements will follow later, adding new seating and future-proofing measures.

Some temporary closures may be needed during that work, but this first phase will mean safe access is restored for the busiest time of year.

We send a heartfelt thank you to the DOC team- their planning, skills, and hard work make it possible for our community and visitors to enjoy this breathtaking coastal gem once again.



Tunnel Beach track before damage. March 2020



FAIRFIELD
SCHOOL
FAIR

SATURDAY
18th October
11am - 2pm

ProSigns
SIGNWEITERS

OTAGO POLYFEST 2025 – A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE

The 32nd Otago Polyfest was another incredible celebration of Māori and Pacific culture, bringing colour, movement, and song to the stage. Held over five days (1–5 September) at the Edgar Centre, schools from across the region shared kapa haka, Pasifika performances, and vibrant cultural expression. The energy and spirit on stage reflected the hard work and dedication of tamariki, rangatahi, teachers, and whānau who brought each performance to life.



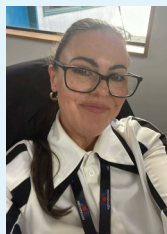
Fairfield School students performing at Polyfest 2025.

This year's festival included 48 early childhood centres, 99 primary schools, and 30 secondary school groups – a true showcase of the next generation's incredible talent, cultural pride, and confidence on stage. From its beginnings as a small school showcase, Polyfest has grown into one of Otago's most loved cultural highlights, and 2025 was no exception. The event continues to inspire unity, joy, and celebration for performers and audiences alike.



Green Island School lead wāhine Lilly Haddow performing at Polyfest 2025.

WORKBRIDGE DUNEDIN - CONNECTING PEOPLE AND EMPLOYMENT



Kia ora, my name is Stacey Tosh-McBreen and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Employment Consultant with Workbridge Dunedin. I'm also proud to call Green Island home, so it's extra special to be able to support people right here in our community.

Workbridge has been helping people into employment for more than 90 years. It began in the 1930s as a service connecting returning servicemen with jobs after the war, and has grown into a nationwide organisation that continues to support people from all walks of life into meaningful work.

Our service is free. We support job seekers with CVs, job applications, interview preparation, and confidence building. At the same time, we work closely with local employers to connect them with motivated, work-ready staff who are keen to contribute.

Workbridge Dunedin is now based at 155 Hillside Road, South Dunedin. This central location makes it easy for people across the city and surrounding areas to reach us, and we're always happy to welcome anyone interested in finding out more about how we can help. Together, we can grow opportunities in Green Island and beyond.

- If you're currently on a benefit and ready to step into work, I'd love to hear from you.
- If you're an employer looking for reliable, work-ready staff, let's talk.

Email: stacey.tosh-mcgreen@workbridge.co.nz **Phone:** 0272180399




I believe in giving 100% - and if you're ready to do the same, I'll walk alongside you every step of the way.




The Informer

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 1500 physical copies distributed a month

 Content Deadline: 15th of each month

 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.

ROCKSHOP BANDQUEST: NURTURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF MUSICIANS



Rockshop Bandquest is Aotearoa’s premier live music event for Primary and Intermediate school students, and this year marks its 15th anniversary! This year’s event for our region was held at the Taieri College Performing Arts Centre on 30/31 August, bringing together young musicians for a weekend of live music and celebration.



Concord School band- Plug In! Pictured left to right: Nono, Keesha-Maree, Amaya, Luca, Arnold (at back), Sierra and Emily- ready to rock!



Pictured above: Emily, guitarist from Plug In!
Pictured below: Arnold, bassist from Plug In!



Presented by the Wright Family Foundation and powered by NZ Rockshop, Bandquest is delivered by RQP Group- the team behind iconic youth events such as Smokefreerockquest. The kaupapa is simple yet powerful: to encourage young musicians to step into the spotlight while building not just performance skills, but also teamwork, communication, leadership, and goal-setting.

Rockshop Bandquest is perfect for students who may not yet be writing their own songs but are ready to share their passion for music. Each performance is part of a competition format that values education, inspiration, and entertainment, creating an unforgettable first step on their musical journey.

Congratulations to all the Otago school students who took part- especially from our Greater Green Island schools!

Concord School's band, Plug In! were the very first to perform on Saturday's show- a nerve-wracking spot, but they stepped up with confidence, energy, and passion! Special mention to Arnold Reddy, who received the Rock-solid Bassist Award.

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtēpoti (full immersion Māori school located in Fairfield) celebrated with Jake Arbuckle who wowed the judges and the crowd with his powerful rhythm and stage presence, earning the coveted Rocking Drummer Award with his band Te Kāhui Matamata. The kura and wider community are incredibly proud of their achievements, and it was fantastic to see local talent shining on stage.

Photo credits: Rockshop Bandquest.



Students from Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ōtēpoti perform with their band Te Kāhui Matamata.



Te Kāhui Matamata Drummer Jake.

GREATER GREEN ISLAND COMMUNITY THANKS OUR SPONSORS:



Contact us:

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- 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/GreaterGreenIsland>
- 📷 @ggicn_dunedin

4 03 425 7719

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.

LILLIPUT LIBRARIES IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Scattered around Dunedin and beyond, Lilliput Libraries are tiny treasure troves for book lovers. They started here in 2015 and now pop up on street corners, fences, and front yards all over Otago. The idea is simple: take a book that catches your eye, and if you've got one to give in return - great! If not, no worries. No membership, no due date - just a community sharing the joy of reading. Each Lilliput Library is looked after by a local guardian and often beautifully painted. Every one is different, and every one has a story. Keen to host your own? Check out the map and info at lilliput-libraries.netlify.app. It's a great way to spread some colour, connection, and a love of reading.

Lilliput libraries located in Greater Green Island:

 Concord 5 Thoreau St. 93 Mulford St.	 Westwood 566 Brighton Rd. 576 Brighton Rd
 Green Island 18A Brighton Rd. 3C Church St. 21 Edinburgh St.	 Ocean View 779 Brighton Rd.
 Abbotsford 17 John St. 41 Severn St.	 Brighton 1056 Brighton Rd. 1020 Brighton Rd. 7 Seaview Rd. 60 Scroggs Hill Rd. (Just for kids!) 2 Scroggs Hill Rd.
 Fairfield 78 Main Rd. 35 Flower St.	 Waldronville 3 Canberra Pl. 21 Delta Dr. 381 Brighton Rd.

NEW WALDRONVILLE COMMUNITY SEED LIBRARY



Check out the new Community Seed Library, located within the Community Food Stall on Viscount Road, Waldronville.

The idea is simple: take some seeds to grow in your garden, and if you're able, return some from your own plants or donate extras to keep the library thriving. It's a free, community-driven way to share the joy of gardening and make sure everyone has access to fresh, seasonal seeds.

The project was made possible with support from the Saddle Hill Community Board, and will be looked after by local resident Jaz, with help from community donations. Updates, tips, and news are shared on Facebook and Instagram @waldronville_seed_library).



Everyone is welcome to get involved- whether you're dropping off seeds, picking some up, or just curious to see how it works. Happy gardening!

Seeds also available in the Greater Green Island area at: Green Island School, Green Island Community Garden, Big Rock Primary School (Brighton).

SPEEDPRINT ON THE MOVE!

There's a new neighbour in Fairfield- Speedprint has shifted to 4 Cleveland Close after more than 40 years serving Dunedin. Locally owned and operated, the team is passionate about print and service, combining decades of experience with the latest technology to deliver top-quality results on time. Environmentally conscious and proud to be Dunedin-based, Speedprint continues to provide the same world-class service in their new home.

Their motto says it all: "You think it, we ink it."

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Phone: 03 4771238



HOME SERVICES: BRINGING THE LIBRARY TO YOUR DOOR

At Dunedin Public Libraries, we know that not everyone can easily visit our libraries or bookbuses, and that's where our dedicated Home Services team comes in. This free service ensures that everyone can still access a wide range of books and media right from the comfort of their own home.

Every four weeks, we create a tailor-made bag of library items, chosen specifically for each customer. The contents of the bags vary based on individual preferences and can include anything from regular or large-print books, CD talking books, music CDs, magazines, or even DVDs. We strive to offer a variety of materials that will delight our customers, ensuring that each delivery feels fresh and exciting.

As we're a long-term service, we get to know our customers and their preferences really well. It's always heartening for our team to hear our customers are enjoying what we send - we've even had the odd customer likening the arrival of their monthly library bag to the excitement of Christmas morning. We love hearing feedback, and always look for ways to improve!

Our amazing group of volunteer couriers also play a vital role in this service, as they are the ones who ensure that every bag is delivered safely. Thanks to their dedication, our customers still get to enjoy a wide range of library items.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this service, or if you're interested in becoming a volunteer courier, we'd love to hear from you! Email: HomeServicesDPL@dcc.govt.nz
Phone: 03 474 3681

HOME SERVICES

Dunedin Public Libraries offers a free service for people who find it difficult to visit our Libraries or Bookbuses.

Home Services provides a tailor-made library service delivered to your door every month.

If you are interested in:

- Fiction or non-fiction books
- Large or regular print books
- Magazines
- Talking books (CDs)
- Music CDs
- DVDs

For more information phone 03 474 3681 or email HomeServicesDPL@dcc.govt.nz and the friendly team will talk to you about the service and your specific needs. We are experts at helping you access and explore the Library from afar!



Harcourts LOCAL MARKET REVIEW

Hello neighbours,

The Greater Green Island area is looking bright as we head into spring. Our community continues to be one of Dunedin's most desirable spots, offering that special balance of lifestyle, affordability, and convenience. Families love the great schools and parks, while easy access to the city keeps the area well connected.

While values have softened a little compared to last year, homes here are still selling quickly – often within just three weeks. This is great news for anyone looking to sell, as limited supply means well-presented properties are attracting plenty of attention. There's more positive news supporting sellers too. With the Reserve Bank lowering the Official Cash Rate, banks have responded by trimming mortgage rates, which is helping bring more motivated buyers into the market. Faster loan approvals mean buyers are able to act quickly, and the return of pre-approvals for those with smaller deposits is widening the pool of active purchasers.

All of this points to a healthy spring market for our community. If you're thinking of selling, now is an excellent time to make your move – limited supply, strong demand, and improving lending conditions are all working in your favour.

If you'd like an update on your property's value, I'd love to provide you with a no-obligation appraisal.

GREATER GREEN ISLAND

STATS **AUGUST**
Average Dwelling Price

\$671,461

Number of sales

13

DUNEDIN

STATS **AUGUST**
Median Dwelling Price

\$605,000

Number of sales

177



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Bus fares are changing

29 September

Dunedin bus fares from 29 September

Age group	Registered Bee Card	Cash
Child under 5 years	Free (no Bee Card required)	Free
Child 5–12 years	\$1.50	\$3
Youth 13–18 years	\$1.50	\$3
Adult 19+ years	\$2.50	\$3
Community Connect	\$1.25	\$3
SuperGold 65+ years	Peak: \$2.50	\$3
	Off-Peak: Free	

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ANNUAL AFFORDABLE ART EXHIBITION

Green Island Art Group



A fantastic variety of art is available for sale at GREAT prices by some of the most amazing Otago Artists. You are welcome to call in anytime and chat with our members and see the extensive selection on sale.

OCTOBER
THURSDAY 16TH
TO SUNDAY 19TH
AT THE MERIDIAN MALL

Any queries, call Bev on 021 1754646



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HEARING SUPPORT OTAGO - TURNING UP THE VOLUME ON BETTER HEARING HEALTH

At Hearing Support Otago, we believe that hearing well means living well. We have a small shop/office in Caversham and the FREE services that we offer are personal advice and support, community talks, rest home visits, interactive training sessions, individual community visits and school programmes. We're spreading the word about the importance of hearing health and supporting those living with hearing loss across the Otago region.

Hearing loss can lead to isolation, making it harder for individuals to connect with others and take part in social life. That's why we're dedicated to breaking down barriers and helping people stay connected, informed, and supported.

Our Services Include:

- Community Outreach: Individual visits, advice, and support for those feeling isolated due to hearing difficulties.
- Community Talks: Practical tips on hearing aid use, hearing health, and supporting those with hearing loss.
- Rest Home Visits: One-on-one support, staff guidance, and ongoing connection for elderly residents.
- Dangerous Decibels Programme: A fun, hands-on educational workshop for children to learn how to protect their hearing.
- Training & Awareness Sessions: For community groups, caregivers, and anyone interested in hearing health.
- Advice and help with Hearing Aid Funding.

We sell hearing assisted devices such as amplified phones, alarm clocks and other aids to help with the hearing impaired. Whether you're looking for individual support, education, or a way to bring hearing health to your group or organisation, Hearing Support Otago is here to help.

Contact us:

Email: field.heardn@extra.co.nz

Phone: 03 487 7641

Facebook: Hearing Support Otago

or call in to our shop at 9 Playfair Street, Caversham... we would love to see you.



Saddle View Health Centre

We're Enrolling!

Our experienced team of practitioners, nurses, health professionals and admins are happy to help you and your whānau.



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- Warm, modern facilities with ample parking
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Visit our website: www.saddleview.health

Green Island Bowling Club



"HAVE A GO" DAY

Green Island Bowling Club is having a "Have a Go" day on Sunday 12th October from 11am - 2PM.

Bowls and BBQ lunch provided.

Come along for a fun afternoon and give it a go!!!

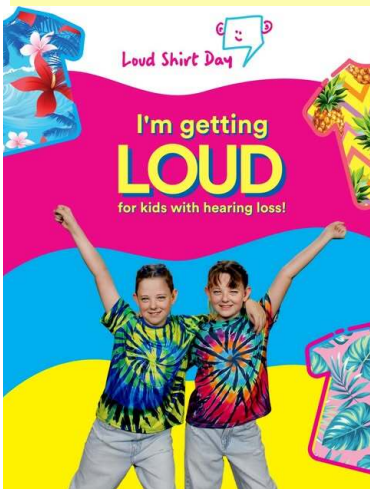
Contact gibc@extra.co.nz for more information
183 Main South Road, Green Island

If wet, postponement will be posted on GIBC Facebook page

Follow us on Facebook for other upcoming events!!!



LOUD SHIRT DAY - FRIDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2025!



Each year, workplaces, schools, families and friends throw on their loudest shirts to raise funds and awareness for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Funds raised help provide life-changing services like speech therapy, audiology, early intervention and family support – giving kids with hearing loss the tools they need to thrive.

Hello! I'm

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SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

10:00AM - 1:00PM



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