



# The Informer

June 2023 Edition

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

## CAN YOU SMELL WHAT'S COOKING?

Concord School students and teachers alike are raving about the new learning space officially opened on Friday, 25th of May. A five year project to turn an unused storage

room into a high quality learning space has just been completed along with major renovations to the satellite Sara Cohen block at the School.

Students of all ages are getting the opportunity to learn literacy, maths, and truly practical skills in a delicious way.

Everything that is cooked is shared with others. "It provides a real world hands-on space to

learn and share" says presiding board member Ben McKenzie. School principal Steve Turnbull agrees, saying "it is a high quality learning space that our tamariki deserve, and the exciting part is hearing that our tamariki are taking the initiative to cook at home."

Emily McKenzie (8) said "I was excited to be able to use the kitchen finally, I made ANZAC biscuits and we shared them around the school."

"Being able to take the kids in there and giving them practical experience then seeing their faces when they have made something is really rewarding", said Andrea Gibbs who has been responsible for taking small groups and teaching in this space.



Biscuit making, teamwork and baking.



A group of students learning essential skills.

## WHAT ANZAC DAY MEANS TO ME

By Scarlett Hancock (11- Big Rock School)

ANZAC Day is a day to remember, commemorate, & honour the people that served in war. But to me, ANZAC Day means a lot to me and my family because my Pa (Grandpa) served in the Vietnam War. He made badges for me and my brothers from his war medals that we wear along with our poppies.

Every year I go to the Brighton ANZAC service and have a photo at the war memorial.

So to me ANZAC Day is to remember, and show respect to all the men and women that went to war.



Pictured above: Kade, Scarlett, and Ryder

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## NEW EDITOR APPOINTED



Above: John in his natural habitat

With news last month of Sasha Turner's Informer tenure coming to an end, a new editor - who hopes for nothing more than to make an imprint as half as big as Sasha's - has been appointed.

After nearly two decades as an English teacher and ancient history nerd, John Hayden steps into the Sasha-sized hole, standing in awe of her "cheerful and personable presence" as

well as her meticulous record-keeping and attention to detail; he is also beyond thankful that she remains our Brighton correspondent.

A self-described "vinyl-sniffer (read: music obsessive) and song-and-dance man" with interests encompassing amateur photography, sports, and trivia nights, John has honed his writing "skills" as a regular contributor of music reviews for New Zealand's oldest daily newspaper - a role he has taken to with relish for twenty years this November.

Based in Fairfield, John looks forward to "exploring the vibrancy of our catchment area," and is hopeful of encouraging regular contributions to The Informer "from the many facets and whānau who call this region home, and whose stories are bound to enliven these pages." His years in the classroom have equipped him with a keen interest in people, and the prospect of "encouraging a community voice

and sense of ownership" is an exciting one for him.

John warmly invites our readership to contribute or contact him with stories or features which may be of interest to the community at large (he can even help out with formatting and spelling!) Please feel free to contact him at [informer@greenergreenisland.nz](mailto:informer@greenergreenisland.nz), and he'll see what he can do about sharing it with the world.

## GREEN ISLAND WOMEN'S CLUB

Are you interested in joining a group of semi-retired and retired women from the Greater Green Island area? Keen to make new friendships, enjoy hearing interesting speakers, and have fun at our monthly outings?

### THEN COME AND JOIN US

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10am at the Fairfield Bowling Club Main South Road Fairfield

Outings such as lunch or movies are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month.

Contact:

Secretary Lyn White Ph. 488 4841 or

President Rosalie Littlejohn 488 1174 or 021 256 4205

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*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**

The median value in Dunedin has remained consistent at \$570,000 for the third consecutive month. Increased buyer activity has been matched by increased choice, however listing volumes are starting to decline due to Winter.

There was a total of 127 sales in April compared with 125 the year previous. Median days on the market was 44, similar to March and considerable shorter than February which was 62 days. This points to renewed confidence in the Dunedin market, and a belief that we may have seen the worst of the financial cycle and mortgage rate rises. Recent news such as lower long-term mortgage rates, an easing in the LVR (lending to value ratio), and adjusted rules around assessing a borrower's expenditure have helped bolster activity.

However, property still remains very price sensitive, and presentation matched with the right selling strategy, or correct list price is key to getting sold. There is increased pressure on rental property supply and rents are rising as a result. Investors are starting to take interest again, so right now there is a window of opportunity for first home buyers to act with less competition. For anyone looking to sell and upgrade the relative price difference is likely the lowest it will be, so we urge you to act now.

Homes that present well in the Winter months with good sunshine hours will attract interest, and sellers will be faced with less competition from other listings.

<b>GREATER GREEN ISLAND</b> APRIL	<b>DUNEDIN APRIL</b>
<b>STATS 2023</b> DUNEDIN	<b>STATS 2023</b> DUNEDIN
<b>Average Dwelling Price</b>	<b>Median Dwelling Price</b>
<b>\$651,916</b>	<b>\$570,000</b>
<b>Number of sales</b>	<b>Number of sales</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>127</b>

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## ABBOTSFORD WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



Hello ladies. Are you looking to make new friends? Then why not join the Abbotsford Women's Institute!

We are a fun group of ladies of all ages who meet up on the 4th Thursday of every month. We have shared lunch meetings (noon start at St Margaret's Church hall) as well as a monthly coffee group and a craft group that meets weekly on a Wednesday morning through June, July and August.

We have speakers, take part in fundraising, and of course indulge in fun and games at our meetings, with small competitions among the members. There is a small sub paid each year, which includes the NZWI magazine, that we receive 4 times a year. We are part of the Mid- Otago Federation, so have competition and fun days with other WI groups.

So if you would like to make new friends, enjoy some female company, you are welcome to come along and see if its for you.

Please feel free to contact Jo Kilgour , Abbotsford WI President, via email (Joanne\_kilgour@yahoo.com), cell phone (0276327042) or check us out on Facebook - Abbotsford Women's Institute.

# COMMUNITY VOICE FOR POSITIVE CHANGE

The Greater Green Island Community Network has been actively engaged in raising issues and concerns to the Dunedin City Council. Through our written and verbal submissions for the Annual Plan, we highlighted the pressing matters that require attention for the betterment of our community.

For our sixth year we were vocal about the need for safety improvements to the Burnside underpass. This vital connection point has raised concerns regarding the safety of motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Alongside this we advocated for the connection of the proposed Tunnels bike trail to Concord, Green Island, and the coastal areas. The aim is to create a network of accessible and safe biking routes that will enhance transportation options and improve connectivity within our community.



Photo Above: These bike enthusiasts from Concord School in 2022 are some of those who will benefit from safe and easy access to the Tunnels Bike Trail from Greater Green Island

As a united community voice we can ensure that our concerns are heard and addressed by the Dunedin City Council. We have seen the community impact on projects such as the instillation of three roundabouts at the Green Island Interchange in 2018.

We encourage all residents to join us in attending community meetings, sharing feedback, and actively participating in discussions.

For further updates, to share your voice, and opportunities to get involved, stay connected with The Greater Green Island Community Network and be sure to attend upcoming community events.



Photo Above: Seasonal rainfall caught problem intersection twice in recent weeks. - Photo by Paige McLachlan

# BUSINESSES ASSOCIATION NETWORKING SUCCESS

On a warm Tuesday night in early May, the Green Island Business Association hosted a networking evening for local business owners. Everyone had the opportunity to share their work and give shout outs to other businesses, the 17 attendees then networked over wine and treats from Twirls Bakery. The connections paid off, with some attendees reporting successful job leads. The positive feedback received highlighted the value of networking nights for the Greater Green Island Business Community.

If you missed out keep an eye on the Green Island



Business Association Facebook page for future networking opportunities.

The next Green Island Business Association meeting is Friday 16th June, 8am, First Aid Solutions.



Left: Business owners Jan Tall and Narelle Stewart connect over a drink.



**BINGO**

GREEN ISLAND BOWLING CLUB  
PRESENTS  
**Bingo Night**  
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# COMMUNITY KORERO: GRIZZLIES KITCHEN

Welcome to Community Korero, a column where The Informer chats with a local identity. In the hot seat this week is executive chef and owner-operator of Grizzlies Kitchen, Paul McArthur.



Paul McArthur cuts an imposing figure around his stomping ground of Green Island, but that really has nothing on the size of his ambition. The local lad – educated at St. Peter Chanel School, and now owner-operator of Grizzlies Kitchen – has been involved in the culinary arts from a young age, since his first paid job (aged 13) as a kitchen hand at the institution that was Alice's Takeaways. Cutting his teeth in such a fast-paced environment, Paul turned professional at 17 after graduating from Otago Polytechnic's culinary school, where he soon landed a job as a head chef in Aotearoa's tourist mecca, Queenstown, catering to the oh-so-fabulous at Millbrook Resort. Fast forward to 2023, and Paul has accrued nearly three decades of executive chef experience in hotels around the motu, before striking out on his own in the world of catering late year.

When Covid crippled the hospitality industry, Paul thought outside the square, and contrived to make his social media presence count. With work drying up, he launched #paulsplates, where he would document his kitchen creations for his Facebook followers. The impact was almost instantaneous, as friends and fans alike not only smashed those react buttons, but also reached out for recipes: "(Paul's Plates) made me connect with people I'd not seen for decades, literally in some cases." #paulsplates was an unmitigated success, allowing its creator to showcase his skills ("18 months of not repeating the same recipe") while also encouraging followers to "put a restaurant spin on easily accessible supermarket

ingredients."

Such social media shenanigans provided the impetus for Paul to launch Grizzlies Kitchen in August of 2022, based in the titular team's home clubrooms at Miller Park. Spearheaded by Paul - and ably assisted by a coterie of local volunteers - the focus is firmly on "home-cooked meals, but at an elevated level," catering to everything from corporate morning teas, weddings, bereavements and even in-house personal chef services.

In spite of Queenstown's blinding lights and his heady social media success, Paul remains a Grizzly at heart, who sees Green Island as "home...an easy going place with an inviting, supportive community." His ethos is simple: "if you look after the community, they'll look after you." Food for thought, indeed.









Pictured: Paul and one of his plates.

If you or anyone you know would like to be featured in the next Community Korero column, please email [informer@greenergreenisland.nz](mailto:informer@greenergreenisland.nz) to find out more.



## Informer

### The Informer Particulars

-  **Informer Editor:** John Hayden
-  **Volunteer:** Lindsay Aitchison
-  [informer@greenergreenisland.nz](mailto:informer@greenergreenisland.nz)
-  1500 physical copies distributed a month
-  Content Deadline: 15th of each month
-  Newsletters available online at :

[www.greenergreenisland.nz/aboutnewsletter/newsletter-archive/](http://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

# LIFE THROUGH A LENS

## COMPETITION TIME!

In an effort to help orientate our new editor, The Informer is asking you to dust off your cameras, break out the tripods or get snapping on your smartphones and capture what it is



"Fairfield Frolics" - Photo by John Hayden

you adore most about our region, as part of a district-wide photography celebration.

Inspired by the splendour of local churches?

How about Green Island's

grandeur, or the wonders of Waldronville? Have you a cache of fun whānau photos from Brighton's Gala Day? Or do those ocean views make you go "ooooh?" If the answer to any of those questions is "yes" (or, even a "maybe") then we want to hear from you! Whether your gear is worth four figures, you're insta-obsessed, happened to have had your head turned on a daily walk, or just tamariki exploring the world around you, email your snaps through to [informer@greenergreenisland.nz](mailto:informer@greenergreenisland.nz) (with 'Life Through a Lens' in the subject line, along with your name, subject and a snappy title) - for a shot at glory\*

### Please note:

Images that are heavily digitally altered will not be accepted as entries.

Each person can submit a maximum of 3 entries overall

Maximum file size 10MB

Photos must be submitted as JPEG files. They can be portrait or landscape orientation.



"Concord-a-doodle-doo" - Photo by John Hayden

**Entries must be received by July 14th 2023;** the photo(s) can have been taken prior to feature going to print, but must have been taken within the confines of The Informer's circulation area – that is, Green Island, Concord, Abbotsford, Fairfield, Waldronville, Westwood, Ocean View and Brighton.

\*glory is not only relative, but fleeting - unlike the tangible thrill of seeing your work in print, or the box of chocolates we have lying around the office for the photo we feel best encapsulates life in our region...

## ARE YOU PREPARED?

### THIS ISSUE - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

One of the most unnerving experiences that we can have is that of an earthquake. New Zealand is one of the countries that is on what they call the Pacific Ring of Fire – that is, we are at the edge of the tectonic Pacific Plates which are constantly on the move. As such, New Zealand experiences between 14-15,000 earthquakes each year, of which only about 150 or so are large enough to be felt. But we do on occasions experience large earthquakes, which cause damage, and even alter the topography of the ground, as with Christchurch and Kaikoura, which caused major changes and damage.

So what do we do? If inside, drop cover and hold – do not run outside or you may risk getting hit by falling masonry and glass (especially if you are in a brick or masonry home or building). If outside, move away from buildings and powerlines, and then drop, cover and hold. Stay put until the shaking stops. Be aware of aftershocks. If the earthquake is very strong and/or long and you are near the coast or even a large body of water, move quickly to higher ground in case of a tsunami – do not wait for official warnings. Listen for radio or cellphone messages. Depending on the earthquake's location, Tsunamis may take some time to arrive; don't be lulled into a false sense of security. Wait for the all-clear to be given.



"An inspiring lunch spot" - Photo by John Hayden



"Dinner for Two" - Photo by John Hayden

**Halo Home St John**

**GREEN ISLAND YOUTH DIVISION**

The St John's Youth programme focuses on teaching young people first aid, health care, leadership and life skills - with fantastic opportunities to experience new things and of course - have fun!

Green Island Youth Division meets every Thursday during term time, 5:30-8pm (Cadets, 8-10yo) at St Margaret's Church, 201 Main South Road, Green Island.

For more information contact Bronnie  
Email: [bronnie@stjohn.org.nz](mailto:bronnie@stjohn.org.nz)  
or visit [www.youth.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.youth.stjohn.org.nz)

# TOOT'S COLUMN

## FROM THE COMMUNITY CONSTABLE'S DESK

Greetings to the Greater Green Island community.

It's been a busy old time since I first appeared in this publication.

A steady stream of people have popped into the station - some with queries, some wanting advice, and some to just say hello.



It's all been very pleasant.

I was accosted at the station by a lovely lady from the Green Island Women's Club, who asked me, at very short notice, if I could give a speech to the members. Obviously I agreed, as it was a great way to meet the community and find out what concerns they had.

After a quick introduction and a cup of tea, I gave them a quick update on who I was and then decided to turn it into a question-and-answer session.

Apart from the lovely lady who asked if she could shoot a burglar, if he was in her house (No!! Definitely not! "Ring 111," I was quick to reiterate), the main topic of concern was email scams/unwanted callers and how to deal with them.

I explained to the club that there are people out there who want access to your money, and the only way they can get to it is with their assistance.

If you receive any unwanted phone calls from unsolicited callers, hang up. If they persist in calling you, take the phone off the hook - they will get the message. Never give out your private details (passwords, date of birth, date of birth, bank details and so on). Your bank/IRD/MSD will not contact you to get these details; they have them already. So, if you do get any calls or emails from people pretending to be these companies, ring the actual companies and ask if they have been trying to contact you; if not, it's a scam.

There seemed to be a great reticence from the ladies to "not wanting to seem rude" to these callers. My advice is to be rude; they are only after your hard-earned money.

Stay safe, Toots.

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**EMAIL: [EVENTS@GREATERGREENISLAND.NZ](mailto:EVENTS@GREATERGREENISLAND.NZ)**

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