

## EGG-CELLENT EASTER FUN AS FAMILIES EXPLORE GREATER GREEN ISLAND PARKS



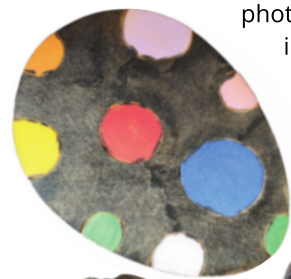
Families across Greater Green Island were out exploring local parks this Easter, as part of the Greater Green Island Community Network's annual hunt for wooden eggs to decorate.

The event has been running since the Covid lockdowns, when it was first launched as a way to safely connect families with their local parks and community, and it has grown in popularity ever since.

This year, the GGICN laser cutter was put to good use, crafting an impressive 220 MDF wooden eggs, which volunteers hid across 12 local parks for children to discover.

The hunt stretched across parks in Concord, Green Island, Abbotsford, Fairfield, Ocean View, Brighton, and Waldronville, with Fairfield Skate Park proving to be the most popular spot.

Each egg had a message attached inviting participants to decorate their find and send in a photo to go in a prize draw. The response was fantastic, with more than 50 photo entries received. We were impressed by the creativity, with children as young as 13 months getting stuck in with colouring pens and paints.



The feedback from families showed just how much the event was appreciated. Parent Katie said, "Thank you so much for this fun initiative," while Marliese shared that her children "loved both the hunting and the decorating." It was "such a cool idea" and gave parents "a few minutes of quiet colouring" after an exciting morning.

Kate said her boys "came straight home to decorate their eggs," while Jemma described it as "a great family morning hunt at the park." Linda also appreciated the inclusive nature of the event, saying, "Thank you for the great adventure - it's nice having something optional to do being vegan." One parent also praised the improved promotion and the large number of eggs this year, saying it helped make the hunt even more successful. Finding and re-hiding eggs for other children was also part of the fun!

GGICN extends a huge thank you to all the children, parents, and caregivers who took part and helped make this year's hunt such a success.

Prize winners were selected using a random number generator, and have now been contacted.



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# HOLIDAY SPORTS AFTERNOONS BRING LOCAL YOUTH TOGETHER

Young people had the opportunity to connect and stay active over the April school holidays, thanks to two free sports and games afternoons run by Greater Green Island Community Network Wheako youth workers Bri and Ilai, along with youth volunteers.

Held at Abbotsford School and Emerson Street Park in Concord, the sessions attracted around 15 young people at each event. The afternoons were designed to give local kids something fun and positive to do during the holidays, right in their own neighbourhoods.

With a mix of games and informal sports, the events created a relaxed and welcoming environment. A highlight was the involvement of Curtis from the Hoops n Homework programme, who dropped in and spontaneously ran basketball activities, helping connect with both young people and parents at the Abbotsford School session.

Overall, the afternoons were a simple but effective way to bring young people together, encourage active play, and strengthen connections within the community. Organisers hope to run more of these in the future.



## WHEAKO CLUB WRAPS UP TERM AT BRIGHTON BEACH

After a term of Monday sessions at Brighton Beach alongside GGICN Wheako youth workers, Fairfield School students in the Wheako Club finished on a high with a shared BBQ. Using camp cookers, the group enjoyed making their own hamburgers and celebrating the end of a fun and active term.

To give back to a place that's provided so much enjoyment and learning, students also took part in a large rubbish clean-up around the Brighton Beach area. The day was a great mix of teamwork, outdoor skills, and community spirit- capping off a term well spent by the coast.



# The Informer

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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.

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## LOCAL MARKET REVIEW



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The Dunedin property market remained steady through March, holding the same median sale price as February and reinforcing ongoing buyer confidence. Days to sell have tightened, from 45 to 36 while Green Island was down to 17 days, indicating increased urgency from buyers and a quicker pace of transactions. Housing supply has continued to climb, increasing from 878 to 939 properties, giving buyers more choice. Despite this, well-presented homes are still attracting strong interest and selling efficiently, with consistent demand across the GGI area supporting stable market conditions.

Get in touch for a free appraisal to see where your property sits in this market – you never know, we may just have the buyer ready to “say YES to your address!”

GREATER GREEN ISLAND	DUNEDIN
STATS <b>MARCH</b>	STATS <b>MARCH</b>
Average Dwelling Price	Median Dwelling Price
<b>\$724,687</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>
Number of sales	Number of sales
<b>16</b>	<b>189</b>

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## TOOTS' COLUMN

Greetings people.

Hope you all made the best of what I can only describe as a bitterly disappointing summer.

I don't normally do this, but I'm gonna start with some police advice. Please wear your seatbelt. The difference between wearing one, when you're involved in a crash and not wearing one are quite dramatic. It's the second most important safety feature in your car, I'll let you know the first at the end!

I've had a few people coming into the station to ask about possible scam emails/texts. If you receive any texts from people purporting to be from the police, government agency, banks etc., asking for payment or bank details, first of all block the number/email address and then delete. If you don't feel confident enough, come down to the station and I will. It's all part of the service.

I had a nice wee catch up with the students at the bus stop in Green Island the other week. It was in collaboration with the Greater Green Island Community Network, to see if there was anything we could do to make things safer whilst they are waiting for the buses in the morning. I received some positive feedback for my hot chocolate making skills.

I've got three amazing facts for you this month.

- 1) There are more trees on earth than there are planets in the Milky Way. 100 – 400 billion planets compared to 3 trillion trees.
- 2) Fruit Loops are all the same flavour no matter what colour they are.
- 3) High heeled shoes were originally designed for soldiers. Apparently, soldiers in the 10th century found they fitted better in their stirrups.

In relation to the above-mentioned advice about seatbelts; the driver is the number 1 safety feature. They make all the decisions.

Stay safe.

Toots



Senior Constable  
Mark "Toots" Tuten



*The Concord Inn carpark has an eye-catching new solar-powered sign!*

*We love the creative way owners Wal and Jane are giving vintage vehicles a new lease on life as unique "garden ornaments."*

# HOT CHOCOLATE AND CHATS AT THE BUS STOP

It was a lively and positive start to the day on 1 April, as members of the Greater Green Island Community Network (GGICN) headed to the bus stop across from Moyle's Fresh Choice Supermarket between 7am and 8.30am to connect with school students over a free hot chocolate.

With over 150 students gathering to catch their morning buses, GGICN saw it as the perfect opportunity to check in, listen, and learn more about young people's experiences.



Cost was also a factor, with students spending around \$36 a week on fares. Reliability was a key concern, including missed transfers, not knowing where the bus is without mobile data, and buses arriving early and leaving ahead of schedule.



The morning also

provided a chance to reconnect with young people who had previously engaged with GGICN programmes, strengthening those relationships and building trust. It was especially encouraging to see local youth involved in GGICN initiatives stepping up to help hand out drinks, showing a real sense of ownership and community spirit.



Students were invited to share their thoughts and ideas about catching the bus, what's working, what's not, and what could be improved.

The response was overwhelmingly positive, with 83 free hot drinks given out during the morning. There was high engagement, with heaps of students keen to chat, offer feedback, and warm their hands on a cool morning.

Conversations flowed easily, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. As one organiser noted, "It wasn't weird, just good vibes."

When discussing any concerns, one regular adult commuter said the students are "loud, but quite respectful."

This was reflected on the day, with youth being courteous and respectful as they engaged and discussed their busing experiences.

Some students are getting up at 5:45am and catching upwards of three buses to get to school each morning. Parents were highly spoken of when students were asked what happens if they miss a bus, with many saying Mum or Dad would come to the rescue.

When asked about changes to the busing experience, the two most discussed topics were capacity and reliability.

"It can be a free for all when you get on the bus," one student remarked, describing "elbows and shoving to get a seat." If you don't get a seat, you might not get on the bus and then must wait for a later service.



Adding to the positive feel of the morning was the presence of local police officer "Toots", whose friendly and approachable manner helped make the interaction even more comfortable for students.

GGICN says initiatives like this are about getting out into the community and meeting young people where they are, creating opportunities for genuine and meaningful conversations.



# YOUNG VOICES MAKING A DIFFERENCE: YOUTH ACTION GROUP CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

A group of passionate young people is helping shape the future of the Greater Green Island community, with the Youth Action Group (YAG) celebrating a successful first year since its establishment.

Open to tamariki and taiohi aged 12-18, YAG brings together rangatahi from across the Greater Green Island area who want to make a difference. Membership is by application, creating a dedicated group committed to building skills, supporting their community, and having their voices heard.

Over the past year, the group has been busy developing leadership skills, building confidence, and playing an active role in community life. From planning and running events to contributing ideas for youth-focused activities, YAG has quickly become a valuable part of the local network.



For many involved, one of the biggest highlights has been the connections made. "Meeting people - everyone is really nice," one young person shared. "Dunedin is small, but there are kids in your neighbourhood that you may not have known if you weren't involved in the group."

The support from GGICN youth workers has also stood out. Members describe them as approachable and inspiring, helping guide the group while encouraging everyone to step up, use their voice and have a go.

YAG has played an important role behind the scenes at local events, including the Green Island Market Day and Brighton Gala Day. From setting up to helping plan activities like a movie night, participants have gained hands-on experience in what it takes to bring events to life.

"It's a lot of work to put on an event, and we've learned how much effort goes in behind the scenes."



Among the proudest achievements this year are involvement in the Brighton Gala Day and a local beach clean-up, both offering the chance to contribute in meaningful and visible ways.

The experience has also helped build practical skills, from writing funding applications to organising equipment hire and working as a team to turn ideas into reality. Just as importantly, it has helped build confidence and encouraged young people to get involved in their community.

YAG has created a space where rangatahi feel connected and supported. Many say it has brought people together and shown them not to be afraid to step forward and take part.

Looking ahead, there's plenty of enthusiasm for the future, with hopes for more youth-led events and continued growth.

For those thinking about joining, the message is simple: "Just do it - you won't regret it.

Take the opportunity if it's offered to you. It's a great experience. And if you see us around, don't be scared to say hi!"

With energy, ideas, and a strong sense of community, the Youth Action Group is proving that young people in Greater Green Island are not just the future, they are making a difference right now.

Don't forget to check out the podcast on 105.4 FM and the upcoming talent show being hosted by YAG on 23rd May at Fairfield Community Hall.



## PRIZES TO BE WON!

Host: Youth Action Group

# TALENT SHOW

## MAY 23RD

Under 12: 10am - 12pm  
12+: 1pm - 3pm

Fairfield Community Hall, 10  
Playfair Street, Fairfield

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Sign up Sheet  
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# BRIGHTON PUMP TRACK REACHES FUNDRAISING GOAL

There's exciting news for the Brighton community, with the Brighton Pump Track project officially reaching its \$120,000 fundraising target.

The final milestone was achieved with two generous contributions, including \$10,000 from local supporters Teresa and Peter Dynes, and \$20,000 from Sport Otago. Earlier this year, the project also received a major boost from Otago Community Trust, with an incredible \$35,000 donation, while Aotearoa Gaming Trust contributed a further \$25,000, adding to the strong base of support.

After a four-year journey filled with ups and downs, including many sausage sizzles and firewood fundraisers along the way, the achievement marks a major step forward. Organisers have expressed their gratitude to everyone who contributed, highlighting the strong community effort behind the initiative.

With the fundraising goal now met, the focus turns to the next stage, bringing the much-anticipated pump track to life!



*Pictured above in 2025: The team behind the Brighton Pump Track Project. From left to right: Shane Turner, Becky Jane Fox, Ben McKenzie (GGICN), Kevin Coniam, Lee-Anne Michelle (GGICN) and Ben Shayler. (Paul Weir absent)*

*September 2022 had a great turnout of kids to help promote the pump track project.*



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## FAIRFIELD SCHOOL GOLF SUCCESS



*Congratulations to Levi, George, Max and Kelso from Fairfield School- this team shot 2 over par and then won via a playoff - to be crowned the Year 7/8 Dunedin Champions against several other schools at Gladfield Golf Club recently.*

## DEATH WITHOUT DEBT SEMINAR COMING TO GREEN ISLAND

If you were handed an invoice for \$10,000 tomorrow and given a month to pay it, what would you do?

Now imagine this comes at a time when you've just had to say goodbye to someone close to you. Perhaps their death was expected. Perhaps it wasn't. Maybe they had money set aside or had pre-planned their funeral - or maybe they didn't.

What if you wanted to handle everything yourself? Can you organise a funeral without a funeral director? Does it really cost \$10,000 or more to farewell a loved one? And what if you simply want a straightforward, fuss-free cremation - is it really that difficult to arrange?

These are some of the questions that will be explored in the upcoming Death Without Debt seminars, hosted by Age Concern Otago and the Greater Green Island Community Network.

The workshops will be presented by Lee-Anne Michelle, a Community Development Worker with a strong interest in this topic. Her passion comes from first-hand experience supporting people who faced financial hardship after a death, during her work as a Financial Mentor in South Otago.

Death Without Debt is a volunteer organisation with a simple aim: to ensure everyone has access to an affordable and dignified funeral process. More information about their work is available at [www.deathwithoutdebt.org.nz](http://www.deathwithoutdebt.org.nz).

Workshops will be held in Green Island and South Dunedin in May. They are open to anyone interested and will focus on funeral costs, along with practical steps you can take to reduce financial pressure during a difficult time.



### Talking Cafe

### Death Without Debt



#### Join us

Planning ahead can ease both emotional and financial stress. This workshop looks at ways to reduce — or even avoid — funeral costs for yourself or those you care about.

Find out what's possible without a funeral director, and explore realistic, lower-cost options to help prevent unnecessary debt.

Refreshments provided.  
Koha appreciated.

#### Please register for this workshop

Kristen  
Age Concern Otago  
P 03 479 3054  
E [hp@ageconcernotago.co.nz](mailto:hp@ageconcernotago.co.nz)

Tuesday, May 19  
1pm - 3pm

St Mark's Church,  
Shand Street  
Green Island  
Dunedin

Thursday, May 21  
10am - 12pm

South Dunedin  
Community Hall  
253 King Edward Street  
South Dunedin



GREATER GREEN ISLAND  
COMMUNITY NETWORK

[ageconcernotago.com](http://ageconcernotago.com)

## INGRID LEARY BACKS PETITION TO SAVE LOCAL POST OFFICES



MP Ingrid Leary listening to the concerns of local constituents at the Green Island Market Day.

The closure of local post office services in the south has stirred a quiet but growing unrest- one that is increasingly hard to ignore.

In communities like Caversham and Brighton, where post offices have long served as more than just places to send parcels, their disappearance is being felt deeply.

I recently wrote to the chief executive of New Zealand Post in March, seeking clarity on these closures and their impact. Weeks later, I am still awaiting a response- silence that many in the community feel mirrors their own experience.

For 83-year-old Ruth Sperring, who lives at the top of Corstorphine Road, the impact is immediate and personal. Once able to manage her errands locally, she now faces a complicated journey involving multiple bus routes just to post a single parcel. The trip requires travelling into town and then back out to South Dunedin- an exhausting process that turns a simple task into an all-day affair.

Ruth is not alone in her frustration. Many residents, particularly the elderly, rely on nearby postal services not just for mail, but for essential routines tied to pension week and limited opening hours.

The closures disrupt carefully balanced schedules and place additional strain on those least equipped to adapt.

At recent Green Island fairs and market days, conversations revealed a shared sense of anxiety. People spoke of inconvenience, yes- but also of isolation. The post office, once a familiar and accessible hub, is becoming another service slipping out of reach.

As decisions continue to be made, voices like Ruth's highlight what's at stake: not just efficiency or cost-saving, but the everyday dignity of communities navigating life without the services they once depended on.

Southern Young Labour has initiated a petition to save four post offices in the Taieri electorate which I will receive and take to Parliament. The fight is not over -- watch this space!



## Want to Learn Cake Decorating?

- Do your cakes just not turn out like YouTube?
- Would you rather talk to someone to get your practical hints?
- How does a sharing, knowledgeable and friendly club sound?

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✉ [dunedincakedecoratingclub@gmail.com](mailto:dunedincakedecoratingclub@gmail.com)

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# Community Funding Hui

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14 MAY

7:00 PM

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MOSGIEL

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### CONTACT US:

📞 03 425 7719

✉ [info@greenergreenisland.nz](mailto:info@greenergreenisland.nz)

📷 @ggicn\_dunedin

📘 <https://www.facebook.com/GreenerGreenIsland>



*The Greater Green Island Community Network is a registered charity committed to building a strong community that works together to develop its own solutions -*

*A community that is self-reliant, responsive, resilient and sustainable, and where neighbourhoods are once again full of people we know as our neighbours.*

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



## WHAT DOES "NEIGHBOUR" MEAN TO YOU?

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or email us at [kiaora@neighboursaotearoa.nz](mailto:kiaora@neighboursaotearoa.nz)



Neighbours Aotearoa is about connecting neighbourhoods across Aotearoa. Every year, we encourage people to take a small (or big!) step to get to know a neighbour better. Whether it's two neighbours talking for the first time or a whole street coming together for a clean-up, the size doesn't matter - it's about creating meaningful connections that spark future relationships.

In 2026, we want to acknowledge that whether you know everyone on your street or mostly just exchange nods, we're all neighbours - it's something we all share.

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