

PAUL LARSON SAYS FAREWELL TO LARSON'S PHARMACY

After 25 years at the heart of Green Island's community, Paul and Keryn Larson are moving on from Larson's Pharmacy. The business is changing hands, with new owner Steph Corby set to take over, but Paul's connection to the area remains as strong as ever.

Paul first bought the small pharmacy more than two decades ago and was immediately struck by how welcoming the Green Island community was. "Everyone was easy to get along with, and after a few months, I realised that my first impression hadn't changed," he says. "People here are just genuinely nice, and it's been a pleasure working in the area."

For Paul, the best part of the job has always been the people. Some of his favourite memories are of chatting with customers, helping them through difficult times, and being part of their lives in a meaningful way. "I saw children grow up over the years—kids who used to come in holding their parents' hands are now adults," he reflects.

Larson's Pharmacy itself has grown alongside the community. When Paul first took over, the store was just 60 square metres. In 2003, they expanded into a brand-new building, with customers joking that it was "big enough to

have a dance in." Over the years, further improvements have kept up with Green Island's steady growth, ensuring the pharmacy could continue providing excellent service.



Keryn & Paul Larson

Paul believes that good business is about more than just selling products—it's about knowledge, consistency, and genuinely caring for people. "You need to do the best job possible, have the right prices, and give people the right advice," he says. That ethos has shaped Larson's Pharmacy and will continue under its new owner, with staff staying on and the store's values remaining unchanged.

Though stepping away from the pharmacy, Paul and Keryn aren't leaving Green Island. They're shifting focus to their other business, Henrietta Soaps, which they bought in 2016 and are now looking to expand. Paul will still be a familiar face around town, picking up lunch or going for a stroll.

"I have mixed emotions about it," he admits. "I'll miss the daily chats with customers, but Green Island is home. We're not going anywhere." And with one of his children just starting pharmacy school, there may even be another Larson behind the counter in the future.



Paul outside Larson's pharmacy - April, 2000



Paul in Dispensary - Old Pharmacy - 2000



New Larson's Pharmacy being built - 2003



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UPDATE FROM MAYOR JULES RADICH

It's no secret Dunedin is a fantastic place to live, work, study and play, and it was great to see this confirmed in the latest national Quality of Life Survey. Dunedin topped the poll with 83% of residents rating their quality of life highly, while 76% felt Dunedin was a great place to live which put us second equal with Waikato and just 1% behind Christchurch. My goal is to have even more people think of Dunedin as "our favourite place"

We've certainly enjoyed a festive few months as a community. Thousands turned out for the annual Brighton Gala Day celebrations, and to welcome the Year of the Snake at our Chinese New Year events. It was also a perfect 'Dunner stunner' of a day for the inaugural George Street Market, with an impressive array of stalls, performances and activities.

Work is set to resume on the new southern region tertiary

hospital mid-year, after confirmation it will be built on the Cadbury site with all 11 floors as previously planned. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who made their voices heard – you really made a difference.



Mayor Jules Radich

Another way to help shape our city's future is to make a submission on Council's draft 9 Year Plan. Our goal is to strike a balance between continuing to invest in our favourite city while ensuring rates rises are reasonable. Your input helps, so please get involved and have your say when public consultation opens later this month.

MEET GLEN BEADLE – CONCORD SCHOOL'S NEW PRINCIPAL

Concord School has welcomed a new principal, Glen Beadle, who brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for education. Born and raised on the Taieri, Glen attended Taieri College before studying teaching at Otago University. His teaching career began in Balclutha, where he spent two years before moving to Fairfield School, where he taught for seven years. Most recently, he was the Deputy Principal at Outram School for three years before stepping into his new role at Concord.



Glen Beadle

Glen loves being in the classroom because every day is different. He enjoys working alongside students, seeing them grow, and finding the best ways to support their learning. "It's exciting that we are preparing these tamariki for jobs that don't even exist yet!" he says. As principal, he's eager to shape the school's direction, balancing new ideas with a strong focus on core skills like self-management and resilience. He is particularly passionate about making sure students get opportunities beyond traditional academics, incorporating sports, the arts, and other experiences into their education.

For Glen, being a principal is about having a wider impact. While he loved teaching, he now has the opportunity to influence how the whole school operates, ensuring that all students receive the best possible education. He values keeping what is important while embracing new ideas and approaches that benefit tamariki.


Outside of school, Glen is a dedicated family man. He and his wife, Kirstyn, have two young children, aged three and six, who keep him busy. He plays rugby for Taieri, enjoys golf and running, and loves escaping to Wanaka for a holiday when he gets the chance.

Glen is also passionate about strengthening the school's relationship with the wider community. He appreciates the strong sense of connection at Concord School and is excited to see past students returning to help with trips, families continuing to contribute, and the local community making use of the school on weekends. He sees the school as a vital part of the community and hopes to continue fostering those relationships in the years ahead.





The Informer

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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 Rachelle 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

BRIGHTON PUMP TRACK STEERING GROUP UPDATE

The Brighton Pump Track is set to become a reality, with hopes of construction starting this year and completion by the end of 2025. This exciting project aims to provide a high-quality recreational space for bikers of all ages and skill levels, promoting outdoor activity and community engagement.

A steering committee is being formed, including Kevin Coniam, Becky Fox, Paul Weir, Ben Shayler, and Shane Turner, along with a representative from the Greater Green Island Community Network (GGICN). GGICN will also launch a community consultation to gather feedback and strengthen funding applications, ensuring the project reflects the needs and desires of local residents.

If you want to get involved or for more information, contact Shane at 022 5000 392.



Brighton Pump Track
concept design with
prospective users and
Shane in the foreground

EASTER SERVICE TIMES

**Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main South Road,
Concord**

Friday 18th Good Friday - 10am

Sunday 20th April Easter Sunday - 10am

**The Lighthouse Baptist Church, 222 Main South Road,
Green Island**

Sunday 20th April - Morning Tea - 10:00am/Worship -
10:30am

**St Margaret's Presbyterian Church (Coastal Unity),
corner of Main South Road and Jenkins Street, Green
Island**

Thursday 17 April - Maundy Thursday reflective hour from
4-5pm

Friday 18 April - Good Friday service - 10am

Sunday 20 April - Easter Sunday service - 10am

St Mark's Anglican Church, 27 Shand St, Green Island

18th April - joining the Good Friday Walk with the Cross
begins at St Mary's Anglican Church 3 Whitby St,
Morningside - 9.30am

Friday 18 April Good Friday Reflections - 7pm

Sunday 27th April - 10.30am

**St Margaret's Anglican Church, 4 Seaview Road,
Brighton**

Sunday 20th April - We gather at sunrise on Brighton
Beach for a short time of prayer and praise then walk to
St Margaret's for Holy Communion followed by breakfast -
7.15am

A MASSIVE THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:



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📍 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

It has been reassuring to see that Dunedin's real estate market showcased stability and resilience in February.

The median sale price held steady at \$617,000, reflecting a consistent trend in property values. While January typically experiences a lower volume of sales and longer days on market due to the holiday period, buyer activity remained steady, particularly for properties up to around \$800,000.

The number of properties available for sale continued to increase, providing buyers with a broader selection. This uptick in listings indicates a balanced market, offering opportunities for both buyers and sellers.

Our real estate market continues to appear steady and while there are plenty of options for buyers, those who are ready to commit, and have the right people on their side will be able to secure their new home.

As always, if you need a hand in anything real estate, please do reach out.



GREATER GREEN ISLAND	DUNEDIN
STATS February	STATS February
Average Dwelling Price	Median Dwelling Price
\$668,923	\$617,000
Number of sales	Number of sales
13	171



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TOOTS' COLUMN

Greetings people, I can't believe we are nearly a quarter of the way through this year already. It is flying by, which brings me on to my next subject.



Senior Constable Mark
"Toots" Tuten

As you know, I am loathed to hector you good people with your shortcomings: but.....

We have a mantra in the police "Drive to the conditions". This means we adapt to the environment we have in front of us when we drive. Last week I attended 4 traffic crashes in the space of an hour on the Southern Motorway.

The cause of all these crashes? A change in the conditions. There was very bad sunstrike, and people didn't change the way they were driving. Just because the speed limit is 100kmh, it might be prudent in these conditions to slow down, take that wee bit of extra care to ensure that you and your loved ones make it to work, school etc. safely and in one piece. Luckily no one was seriously hurt in any of these crashes, but it could have been a lot worse.

Only one more piece of hectoring, I promise. I've been patrolling the schools in the morning to check on the issues around dropping off the kids in the morning. Whilst the majority are doing great, there are still too many people driving too fast especially near Abbotsford School. The speed limit is 30kmh for a reason. The difference between having an accident at 30kmh and having one at 50kmh is considerable, especially if it involves a child. So please slow down. I will continue to patrol the schools. I have every faith that you will do the right thing. Lecture over.

I do like to learn new things, here's one I found out this week: all the answers in the 9 times table up to x10, add up to 9!!! Never knew that. I would have been a lot easier if someone had told me that when I was at school.

Stay safe people. Toots

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COME MEET ŌTEPOTI HOUSE PLANTS & BONSAI WITH US

This is a Youth Yaps article written by some young people in your community (with a little help from Bri). This weeks Article and Photography are brought to you by: Emily McKenzie, Nono Metuakore & Brianna Le

Two students from Concord School, Emily and Nono, went to interview Nick at Ōtepoti houseplants and bonsai. They interviewed Nick about all his plants. He has about 3,000 plants indoors and about 12,000 outdoors. Nick started horticulture about 30 years ago. He started his Ōtepoti houseplants and bonsai during lockdown. Nick says it doesn't cost money to get a seed and put it in the ground and let it grow, so a business of plants isn't very hard to start up.



Emily & Nono

Emily's favourite part was photographing the venus fly traps. Emily liked learning about how the venus flytraps work – they have little hairs in their mouths, when a fly lands on it it closes and stays closed for about three to four weeks! Nono's favourite part was photographing Nick's biggest plant which is the Monstera Thai Constellation and seeing the FLUFFY cactus. Nick also has a cute little dog named Fizzy – she was very cute.



Venus flytrap plants

He has also started an annual spring plant fair on his property, there were 15 different vendors and about 600 people through that day.



Nick & Fizzy

At the fair he has trainer bonsais for people to buy and learn about bonsai trees. His oldest bonsai tree is 30 years old! Going forward he is going to do the fair at Concord School. Nick and his son built a waterfall from scratch which looked very nice. Nono and Emily enjoyed interviewing Nick and liked seeing his little doggy Fizzy and all of his plants. We recommend others to go to see him as well.

Find Nick on facebook here:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/%C5%8Ctepoti-Houseplants-and-Bonsai-100088450964833/>

NEW GGICN COMMUNITY WORKER



Lee-Anne Michelle

Hello! My name is Lee-Anne Michelle, and I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Community Development Worker at Greater Green Island Communities.

In this role, I'll be working closely within this vibrant community to help ensure that everyone's voice is heard, and that we continue to grow and

thrive together.

One of the key projects I'll be involved with is a community survey aimed at assessing how the needs and dynamics of our community have changed since the Covid-19 pandemic. This survey will be a vital tool in making sure that every community member has the opportunity to provide feedback, and that their thoughts are considered as we plan for the future.

A particular area I'm passionate about is improving support for older people and retirees in our community. I believe it's essential that we create an inclusive environment where everyone, regardless of age, has the resources and support they need to live fulfilling lives. I look forward to working alongside you all and making a positive impact in the lives of those who need it most.

I have lived in Otago for over 30 years, raised three young adults, and when I'm not at work I can be found hanging out in my garden or creating memories with my family and friends.

GAME ON: BIG ROCK'S NEW GAGA BALL

Big Rock Primary School is buzzing with excitement thanks to a brand-new Gaga Ball game setup. This fun addition to the playground is set to bring laughter and friendly competition, making playtime even more exciting.



Big Rock students with Mitre 10 Representative

A huge thank you to Mitre 10 Mega Dunedin Helping Hands, bbi Wood Products Ltd. for generously donating the plywood, and to Clarke McNab for bringing the game to life with his expert craftsmanship. Your support and hard work are truly appreciated; a real testament to the meaning of community!

We hope that the Big Rock tamariki enjoy this awesome new game!

UPCOMING COMMUNITY SURVEY 2025

The Greater Green Island Community Network is currently developing a community survey for 2025. This survey aims to gather valuable insights from local residents to help shape future initiatives and support our thriving community.

Further details will be shared soon. Stay tuned!

WILD DUNEDIN 2025: EXPLORE NATURE'S WONDERS

The Wild Dunedin Festival 2025, running from April 10 to 22, offers a variety of events celebrating our region's natural beauty.

On Saturday, April 12, join the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club for a guided walk to Sutton Salt Lake, New Zealand's only inland salt lake. This 3.5 km loop track showcases unique landscapes with schist tors and tussock grasslands. Emeritus Professor Alison Cree will provide insights into the area's significance for native lizards. The walk is easy, taking about 45 minutes to an hour. Meet at 9am at the Sunnyvale Sports Centre, to carpool (\$20 contribution) or drive directly to Kidds Road. The event is limited to 40 people; early booking is essential.

On Sunday, April 13, from 10-1pm, the Green Island Community Garden invites visitors to its Open Day. Tour the community vegetable garden and orchard, engage in rock painting for vegetable markers, and connect with fellow gardening enthusiasts. This free event is open to all.

From April 10 - 21, Orokonui Ecosanctuary offers free entry for under-18s. Open daily from 9.30-4.30pm visitors can

observe native birds like tūī, korimako, and kākā at feeding stations, with takahē feedings at 11am. Reptile enclosures housing Otago skinks, jewelled geckos, and tuatara are also accessible. An autumn scavenger hunt adds extra adventure for families. Adult entry is \$22; no booking required.

On Sunday, April 13, from 10-4pm, the Nature Dome at Forsyth Barr Stadium offers a fun-filled day for the whole family. Enjoy an artisan market, live music, and hands-on nature activities. Performances by Suzy Cato and Anika Moa, along with a screening of the movie "Moana," ensure there's something for everyone.

For a comprehensive overview of events and activities, visit the official Wild Dunedin Festival website: www.wilddunedin.nz. Whether you're a local or a visitor, the festival promises

enriching experiences that deepen our connection to nature.

Note: Event details are subject to change. Please verify information closer to the event dates.



LARSON'S PHARMACY WILL CHANGE HANDS ON 1 APRIL 2025, AFTER 25 YEARS OF OWNERSHIP BY PAUL AND KERYN LARSON,

After 25 years of dedicated service to the Green Island community, Paul and Keryn Larson are selling Larson's Pharmacy. The business will be under new ownership from April 1, 2025. The pharmacy has been a cornerstone of the community since Paul bought the small local pharmacy from Barrye Irvine and continued to develop it over the following years.

The new owner will be Steph Corby who comes from a family of pharmacists. Paul and Steph have known each other since 1996 when Paul worked for Steph's father at McNaughton's Pharmacy. At that time Paul was a relatively new pharmacist, and Steph was attending high school in Dunedin. Steph later became a pharmacist and, during her career, worked for Paul, at both the Green Island and Ranfurly pharmacies.

There will be very little change at Larson's Pharmacy, even the name will remain, as Steph is committed to maintaining the pharmacy's excellent reputation with Alana Close and Courtenay King leading the business in partnership with her. Your interaction with the pharmacy will not change as you will continue to be served by the same friendly and experienced staff.

After 1 April, Paul and Keryn will continue to operate Henrietta Soaps, their other local business just down the road, allowing them to stay connected to the community they have been very happy to be a part of. It is with both sadness and excitement that they move onto their next stage in life.

"Larson's Pharmacy has always been more than just a business to us," said Paul. "It's been a second home, an extension of our family, and we're delighted to be passing it on to someone who shares the same commitment to the community. We're confident that our customers will continue to receive the same high level of care and service they have come to expect. We will miss our customers and staff. It has been a pleasure to be part of the Greater Green Island community"

The Green Island community can look forward to the same friendly faces and exceptional service at Larson's Pharmacy, as it embarks on this new chapter. Paul and Keryn wish to thank all their loyal customers for their support over the years and invite everyone to continue to support the pharmacy under its new ownership.

Larson's

Pharmacy



DRAFT 9 year plan Have your say



We've put together our plans and budgets for the next 9 years and want to know what is important to you. Your feedback will help us finalise the 2025-34 plan.

Come and talk with Councillors and staff at our community meet-ups/ sessions.

Visit dunedin.govt.nz/9yp to find out more and have your say.

Feedback closes at noon on Wednesday, 30 April 2025.

DCBC Holiday Club

14-16th April, 9am - 3pm
For kids aged 5 to year 6
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Bible Stories



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Dunedin City Baptist Church 19 Main South Road, Concord, Dunedin

GREEN ISLAND JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB 2025



2024 Green Island Under 10's at the South Island Tournament,

The Green Island Junior Football Club (GIJFC) is preparing for an exciting 2025 season! GIJFC typically has 440 kids, 40 teams (including 12 all-girls teams), and 90 volunteers.

The youngest players (Kickits, ages 4-5) train once a week, while older players train at various locations, including Sunnyvale, Logan Park, Walton Park, and Emersons Park.

The 49th annual GIJFC 7-a-side tournament returns on May 18, 2025, at Sunnyvale. This event brings together over 100 teams from grades 6-14 for a fun, competitive day of football. GIJFC sends teams to regional and national tournaments, including the Christchurch International Cup, Alan Fraser Memorial Cup, and Football South's South Island tournaments, where GIJFC won the U10s in 2024.

The 2025 season introduces U15 and U17 boys' youth development teams, competing against teams from Central Otago, Timaru, and Invercargill. Preseason training is on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM at Walton Park. Girls' preseason training has also started on Thursdays at 6:00 PM with Coach Andrew. GIJFC is committed to developing young athletes in a supportive environment. For more club updates, visit www.gijfc.co.nz!

SUPPORT LOCAL FAMILIES WITH PLUNKET HOME HELP

Plunket Home Help is a volunteer-based service that offers support to families with children under five, assisting them in a practical way around the home. Volunteers can help with tasks such as laundry, cleaning, general tidying, washing dishes, or simply being there to listen when they need a friendly ear. It's a rewarding opportunity that allows you to make a positive impact in your community. Young families are facing



growing challenges, sometimes all they need is a helping hand to get through tough times. One volunteer shared, "Not every family has a village of support around them. It's fantastic to be that extra helping hand when most needed and to know that you're making a difference in their lives."

Does this sound like you? Plunket Home Help is looking for volunteers who are reliable, honest, practical, open-minded, respectful, empathetic, and friendly. If you can spare 1-2 hours a week, you could make a real difference for local families! If you'd like to help or know a family who could benefit, contact Josie Garner, Home Help Coordinator, at josie.garner@plunket.org.nz or 027 208 6774.

As a community, together we can help families thrive!



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EASTER SERVICES

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www.saddleview.health

Did you know?
A woman dies from ovarian cancer in NZ every 48 hours?

Join us to help raise funds to assist in the detection of cancer.



Auction & Quiz Night
Thursday 10th April, 6pm
The Village Green, Sunnyvale
SCAN FOR MORE INFO & TO RSVP

K9 MD **Harcourts**





Greater Green Island EASTER EGG HUNT

Find one of 120 wooden Easter egg cut outs
in parks around Greater Green Island

Sunday 20 April

from 10am

Find an egg
Take it home
Decorate it



Happy

Easter

If you find more than one egg have fun rehiding it for others

KEEP AN EYE ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE DETAILS



Have your
say!

A stronger future for Otago Annual Plan 2025/26

Otago Regional Council's work remains focused on building a stronger future for Otago. In developing our Draft Annual Plan, we've focused on value for money while still doing important work for our communities and the environment.

We're making some changes to planned work, including Queenstown bus services; transport proposals for Dunedin, Ōamaru, Balclutha, Central Otago and Wānaka; and river management and flood protection work.

A new environmental fund is set to support communities from this year.

To do the work we do, an overall rates increase of 7.8% is planned. You can use the rates estimator on our website to see what it means for your property.

Changes to fees and charges are also proposed.



We value your voice — tell us what you think to help shape Otago's future.

orc.govt.nz/ap2025

Feedback closes 15 April



**Otago
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