

PETS, POPCORN AND PLENTY OF FUN AT BIG ROCK PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Informer was invited along to Big Rock Primary School in Brighton to help judge the dog and baking sections at the school's annual Pet Day.



Informer Editor Erin and Community Development worker Lee-Anne spent the morning chatting with students and parents about their pets. With so many beautiful and well-behaved dogs entered, judging was no easy task.

The baking competition was just as challenging, especially when it came to taste testing! There were three sections: baking decorated with a farmyard theme, a sweet baking section judged on taste, and a savoury section, which this year had just one entry- a delicious cheese scone.

Students clearly put a lot of effort into their baking, with some wonderfully creative cakes on display. Plastic farm animals featured on top of many entries, and sheep were a popular inspiration.

Acting principal Lisa Lamb said Pet Day has been a long-standing tradition at Big Rock, running for at least 15 years, and is always a highlight on the school calendar.

While this year's event featured plenty of dogs, there were also some more unusual entries including a spider and some healthy monarch caterpillars.

Pet Day is about more than just animals. Students also enjoyed fun activities, with the bouncy castle a clear

favourite. The obstacle course and corn hole games were also popular throughout the busy day, along with pony rides, popcorn and a sausage sizzle.

Another highlight was the Homework Challenge, where students designed and made their own bird feeders, showing creativity and care for local wildlife.

Big Rock School currently has 94 pupils, with students living locally as well as travelling from further afield, including Waihola, Taieri Mouth and South Dunedin. The school continues to grow, with a steady stream of new entrants joining the bright and colourful learning environment.

The sunny weather made for a perfect day, and with proud students, happy pets and well-organised teachers, this year's Pet Day was another memorable one for the Big Rock School community.



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EMDR GROUP THERAPY SUPPORTING TRAUMA RECOVERY

A new EMDR Group Therapy programme is being offered in Green Island to support people working through traumatic experiences and related mental health challenges.

EMDR, which stands for Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing, is a recognised psychotherapy approach used to help people process traumatic memories and reduce distress linked to past events. It has been successfully used in New Zealand with ACC Sensitive Claims clients and people affected by major events such as Cyclone Gabrielle and the Christchurch mosque attacks.

The group programme is facilitated by Shantraj Bethel, a trained EMDR group facilitator and ACC provider, with assistance from counsellor Loreen Bethel.

Sessions take place at 4 Howden Street, Green Island on Monday evenings from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

Upcoming groups are scheduled for:

Term 2: 4 May – 15 June 2026

Term 3: 27 July – 31 August 2026

Term 4: 2 November – 7 December 2026



*Therapy dog Archie.
Photo: supplied.*

Some locals may already know the pair - they're our neighbours here on Howden Street. They also have a lovely, friendly therapy dog named Archie, a seven-year-old Labrador who comes along to sessions. Archie has a knack for sensing when someone might need a little extra comfort and is always happy to provide some quiet support.

Group EMDR allows participants to process trauma within a supportive group environment while maintaining privacy. Participants do not need to share personal details of their experiences with the group, instead working through the process individually with guidance from the facilitators.

The therapy can support people experiencing a range of difficulties including PTSD, anxiety, depression, panic attacks, phobias and addictions.

ACC-funded places may be available for those with an accepted Sensitive Claim, while other funding options can also be discussed.

For more information or to enquire about joining a group, contact Shantraj Bethel: 022 592 4796 or email: sbethel2015@gmail.com

We want to hear from you!

**SHARE YOUR CLUB, GROUP, OR STORY
WITH THE INFORMER NEWSLETTER!**

*The Informer loves hearing from our community.
Get in touch - your story could feature in an upcoming issue*

Please email: informer@greatergreenisland.nz

GREEN ISLAND WOMEN'S CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Green Island Women's Club (formerly the Green Island Probus Club) is inviting retired and semi-retired women to join their friendly, non-profit social group.

The club offers a welcoming space to connect, make new friends, and enjoy a range of activities in a safe and supportive environment.

Monthly meetings are held at the Fairfield Bowling Club, 84 Main Road, Fairfield. Members gather for discussion, guest speakers, and social time.

In addition to regular meetings, the club organises outings on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

These trips often include visits to local attractions, meals out, or a trip to the movies - providing plenty of opportunities for fun and companionship.



Ladies enjoying a recent social outing with the Green Island Women's Club - lunch at the Concord Inn. Photo: supplied

The club is run by a dedicated committee, including a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and six committee members.

New members are always welcome to come along and see what the club has to offer.

*Any enquiries to: Alison Milne (President)
Phone 488 4205 or 027 376 1987*

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COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING DAY AT ŌTOKIA WETLANDS



FREE Community planting day - 10:00am, Sunday 12 April Brighton Wetlands, McIntosh Rd, Brighton, Dunedin

The first community tree-planting session of 2026 is set to take place on 12 April at the Ōtokia Wetlands, as part of Wild Dunedin – New Zealand’s Festival of Nature.

Locals are invited to roll up their sleeves and help continue the restoration of the Ōtokia Creek wetlands, an area beside Brighton Beach that is home to native plants, birdlife and even a rare spider species found only in New Zealand.

Volunteers will help plant native trees while learning about the local ecosystem, wildlife and the importance of restoring the wetlands. Experienced volunteer guides and a tree expert will be on hand to show participants how to plant for successful growth.

Organisers say the event is designed to be fun, family-friendly and welcoming to all ages, offering a chance for the community to get involved in caring for the environment and practising kaitiakitanga (guardianship and protection of the sea, sky and land).

Forest planting at the site began in 2020, and participants will be able to see the young forest already taking shape - while helping it continue to grow.

Morning tea will be provided, and organisers are looking forward to welcoming both familiar faces and new volunteers on the day.

Find out more at: <https://www.wilddunedin.nz/>

STUDENT LEADERS LEARN PREDATOR MONITORING AT ŌTOKIA CREEK

Twenty-nine Enviroschools student leaders and their teachers recently spent the morning learning about predator monitoring at Ōtokia Creek and Marsh, as part of a collaborative session with the Brighton Trapping Project, City Sanctuary, and other environmental groups.



Coordinators Claudia from Brighton Trapping Project and Lizzy from City Sanctuary introduced students to the first step of strategic pest control - identifying what predators are present in different habitats.

Students learnt how to make and use their own chew cards to monitor animals, and which traps are best suited for different predators. The students also took part in water sampling, invertebrate surveys and planting activities, with support from the Otago Regional Council and the Ōtokia Creek and Marsh Habitat Trust.



As student leaders, the young participants will now take this knowledge back to their schools, helping inspire classmates and teachers to take action for the environment.

The session also provided a chance to spend time in the regenerating forest at Ōtokia Creek, an area restored through years of community planting. Locals curious to see the progress can take a walk along Macintosh Road for a glimpse over the fence at the growing native forest.



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.

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A DECADE IN CONCORD FOR DUNEDIN CITY BAPTIST CHURCH



The opening celebration of DCBC facility in February 2016. Photo: supplied.

This year marks ten years since Dunedin City Baptist Church (DCBC) moved into its expansive Concord site, celebrating a decade of growth and strong community connection.

Before relocating, DCBC was based at Hanover Street Baptist Church near the centre city New World. The congregation had outgrown that building by 1996 and eventually purchased land in Concord in 2006. However, it took several years before construction could begin due to building consents and planning.

Senior Pastor Mike Bagge says "There were a mix of people involved in getting the project off the ground, both from within the congregation and outside. The architect and project manager were from the church, while the builder was an independent contractor."

From the beginning, the church's goal was to be a positive presence in the neighbourhood. "When we moved here, we wanted to learn to be good neighbours and build relationships within the community," Mike says.

Over the years the church grounds have become a hub for a range of activities. Regular initiatives include a free community café, low-cost school holiday programmes, and groups supporting young families and men's mental health. The church has hosted community events such as Carols on the lawn and the Greater Green Island Get Together. The venue has also been used for small conferences, including university events, and previously hosted the Robocomp robotics competition.

During the Covid pandemic, the church began online services through YouTube, which continue today. This option has proved popular for people who cannot attend in person, with some even tuning in from overseas while travelling.

Over time, the church community has grown and become more diverse. When the church was based in the city centre there were many academics and professionals attending. Today the congregation reflects a broader mix of people

from different walks of life, including people from many different cultures and ethnic backgrounds.

"There are also more young adults joining. Many are questioning their beliefs and looking for a sense of belonging, purpose and meaning."

The youth group has grown significantly, with camps and events for different age groups. A popular low-cost holiday programme, run by youth leaders and overseen by Zoie Kupenga, has become a valued option for families.

Supporting the wider community remains an important focus. The church connects with local schools and families, helping provide firewood and food hampers, particularly during times like Christmas when finances can be tight.

At the entrance to the grounds there is a community pantry, maintained by the caretaker and regularly stocked by members of the congregation and wider community.

"Life has challenges, the church can help people through those hard times."

The Concord property itself has become something of a community asset. Members of the congregation helped plant the land with native trees and plants before the building was constructed, and today the grounds include fruit trees, a vegetable garden and even a few sheep and cows, which are looked after by the caretaker.

Looking ahead, the church is considering future expansion, as the congregation continues to grow. "We believe God has given us the gift of this land," Mike says. "The question for us is what it means to be good stewards of it."

For Mike, the heart of the church's work remains simple: building relationships, welcoming people, and helping them find meaning in life. *Find out more at: <https://dcbc.co.nz/>*

EASTER
AT DUNEDIN CITY BAPTIST CHURCH

GOOD FRIDAY
10AM
3RD APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY
9AM & 11AM
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FAIRFIELD MAINLY MUSIC BRINGS FAMILIES TOGETHER



For more than 20 years, Fairfield Mainly Music has been creating a welcoming space where young children and their caregivers can connect, play, and grow together.

Designed for children aged 0-5, the sessions combine music, movement, and social time in a relaxed, family-friendly setting. Developmental movement plays a big part, with fun action songs helping little ones build

confidence while having a great time. From waving stretchy fabric to steering "cars" with paper plate wheels or laughing under a colourful parachute, there's always something to spark joy.

Each session begins with a welcome song and ends with a goodbye, with plenty of well-known tunes in between that are easy for everyone to join in. Name tags help break the ice, especially helpful on those "baby brain" days, and facilitators make an effort to connect people, ensuring newcomers feel comfortable straight away. Presenters take turns leading sessions, and the playlist is refreshed regularly to keep things fun and engaging.

Coordinator Nicola, who has been involved for around six years through Fuel Church, says the group is all about community. "It's so special seeing the children grow, develop, and join in, and it's just as important for parents and caregivers to have that time to connect. Motherhood can sometimes feel quite isolating."

Janet, one of the presenters, likes to say "I'm not much of a singer, but I make up for it in enthusiasm."

Sessions run during the school term and include half an hour of music, followed by a relaxed morning tea where children enjoy fresh fruit and water while adults can share a cuppa and a bite to eat. While the session officially wraps up at 11am, there's no rush to leave, with many parents staying on to chat while the children continue to play.

It's a wholesome environment, where friendships form naturally, whether it's chatting over coffee, sharing homegrown vegetables, or even swapping eggs from backyard chickens.

Special occasions are also celebrated, with children's birthdays, and seasonal events like Easter, Christmas, and Mother's and Father's Day acknowledged with thoughtful gifts such as books and small presents.

Rain or shine, there's plenty to keep little ones entertained, with a great indoor space for running around and an outdoor playground with excellent toys to enjoy on fine days.

Grandparents, homeschool families, and anyone caring for young children are all welcome, and numbers vary each week, with around eight children attending the most recent session.

There's no need to register, families can simply turn up on the day. Sessions cost \$4 per family, with a concession card available - pay for nine sessions and get one free.

With its small group size, friendly faces, and focus on connection, Fairfield Mainly Music continues to be a special place for local families to gather, share, and grow, one song at a time.



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LOCAL MARKET REVIEW



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The Dunedin property market has remained resilient, with February recording the highest median sale price in more than two years, outperforming all preceding months over that period.

The median number of days to sell has remained steady at 45 days. However, housing supply has increased notably, with the number of available properties rising from 786 to 878 over the past month.

Sales activity in the GGI area remains consistent, with a steady level of demand, with properties moving at a reasonable pace rather than lingering on the market.

If you are thinking of selling, get in touch for a free appraisal to see where you sit in this market – you never know, we may just have the buyer ready to “say YES to your address!”

GREATER GREEN ISLAND	DUNEDIN
STATS FEBRUARY	STATS FEBRUARY
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Number of sales	Number of sales
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GIJFC 7-A-SIDE

50th ANNIVERSARY

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- 📅 Saturday 9th May
- 🕒 2:00pm
- 📍 Village Green Café, Sunnyvale



If you've been involved at any stage over the past 50 years, you are warmly invited to join this special celebration.

RSVP: gijfc50th@gmail.com

BOARDERS AND BUBBLES FAMILY SKATEJAM A HIT



Fairfield Park was buzzing recently as families turned out in force for the inaugural Boarders and Bubbles Family Skatejam. With a great turnout, the event brought together skaters of all ages for an afternoon of fun and learning.



Dunedin Skate School's Daniel Healy said the day almost didn't go ahead, with wet and windy weather early on, “only for the clouds to part” and allow around 100 kids (and parents) to enjoy skating and blowing bubbles together.

“For many it was their very first time on a board, while more experienced skaters had a great time learning from instructors,” he said. “From a near rain cancellation to a sun-drenched party on the concrete- we plan to be back next year for more action!”

Instructors said they had a blast, and it was fantastic to see young participants building confidence and giving skateboarding a go in a supportive environment. The success of the event has organisers excited for more to come.

For those keen to keep rolling, lessons are available with Dunedin Skate School at the Edgar Centre on Sundays from 2-3pm, catering for both beginner and intermediate skaters. *Find out more at: www.dunedinskateboardingschool.org.nz*



Photos: Dunedin Indoor Skatepark/ Facebook

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - BECOME A GREEN ISLAND LION

The Lions Club of Green Island is encouraging locals to consider joining as they look to welcome new members.

Current president Trev Roberts, who has been involved with the club for over 30 years, says the group has a proud history of service but is keen to see more people join.

"We've got great long-standing members, but we're always looking for new people to bring energy, enthusiasm and fresh ideas."

For Trev and his fellow Lions, the motivation is simple: giving back to the community they love. "Green Island is a great place to live, and we want to support the community where we can," he says. As the saying goes, "If you want something done, ask a busy person!"

The Green Island Lions have been very active in the local community for 55 years, with the club chartered in February 1971. The group is part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organisation with around 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries.

Locally, the club is involved in a wide range of community events and fundraising activities throughout the year. A familiar sight at many events is the Lions' extremely popular catering caravan, serving hot chips, bacon butties, burgers and hot dogs.

The caravan is a regular at the Green Island Christmas Market Day (the club used to take part in a local Santa parade in earlier years) and the Green Island Junior Football Club's Seven-a-Side Tournament.

At this year's Brighton Gala Day, the club also arranged to have the Lions Clubs Cancer Trust's new free skin cancer screening bus on site for the day.

Recent fundraising efforts include a very successful BBQ at Bunnings, with this year's funds donated to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Dunedin Hospital.

The group is involved with collecting for the Christmas foodbank drive and runs a long-standing stall at the Green



Photo: supplied.

Island Tip Rummage Shop, selling sawdust and garden products. Members also give their time in practical ways, delivering Meals on Wheels and organising local clean-up projects.

Despite the busy schedule, Trev says one of the most rewarding parts of being a Lion is the friendship and fellowship. "We have a good time while giving back."

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Village Green Café in Sunnyvale, where members catch up, discuss projects and hear from guest speakers.

It's not all work either, members enjoy social activities like bowling, fishing, visiting other clubs and attending Lions conventions.

All people are welcome to join the Lions, there is no age limit, and members simply contribute the time they can give, with family and work always coming first.

Anyone interested in becoming a Green Island Lion or finding out more is invited to get in touch by emailing: lionsclubof.greenisland@gmail.com

KAIKORAI VALLEY COLLEGE WHEAKO GROUP



Pictured above: Our Greater Green Island Youth workers Ilai (back left) and Bri (far right) with a group of KVC students. Photo: Stewart Tagg/ Kaikorai Valley College.

GGICN is excited to have launched the Wheako programme at Kaikorai Valley College, creating new opportunities for students to build confidence and develop key life skills. Bri and Ilai are facilitating two groups- one for Year 7-8 students and another for Year 9-10- with a strong focus on growing leadership capability. Through interactive sessions, students are encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, strengthen communication skills, and work effectively as part of a team.

The programme provides a supportive environment where young people can share ideas, take on challenges, and build a sense of responsibility and self-belief. Early feedback has been positive, with students already showing increased confidence and enthusiasm.



Pictured above: Concord School students measure how tall they are compared to the Sunflowers growing outside the school library! Photo: Sue Howard/ Concord School.

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Community Funding Hui

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