



# The Informer

December 2023 - January 2024 Edition

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

## FULTON HOGAN CELEBRATES TURNING 90

From humble beginnings back in 1933 when John Fulton and Bob Hogan teamed up to form their own contracting company based in Fairfield, their fledgling enterprise has come a long way.

During the last weekend in November, Fulton Hogan celebrated 90 years in business by opening the gates and allowing the community to join them.

After a brief recap of the company's history by Richard Fulton (Regional Manager) and Grant Pellowe (Operations Manager) the event was formally opened by the Fairfield School Senior Kapa haka group.

Fulton Hogan recently contributed to new uniforms for the school performance group, who kindly reciprocated with a powerful kapa haka performance watched on by around 2000 event attendees.

Following this, the community were treated to a multitude of activities, including an opportunity to view and learn more about some of Fulton Hogans key fleet, taking a 40 minute narrated return bus trip to the often unseen picturesque back blocks of Blackhead Quarry, or opting in for a truck ride into Walton Park Sand and through the recycling and cleanfill site held by the company in Fairfield.



This was, of course, on top of the myriad of bouncy castles, simulators and a large custom-built sandpit.

In celebrating its 90th birthday, Fulton Hogan recently constructed a 1 km walking track from Old Brighton Road to Howorth Road in Fairfield (ably assisted by ākonga from Fairfield School), and have shared this with the community to much acclaim.

Despite a large expansion NZ wide and into Australia, now employing more than 10000 staff, the company is proud to retain Fairfield as the home of Fulton Hogan, and thus remains a pillar of the community.



Left: Fulton Hogan's plants heavy machinery on display.

Top and Above: Ākonga from Fairfield School perform marking the occasion with their stirring performance..

Above Right: Community members enjoying the birthday celebrations.

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# COMMUNITY KORERO - SANTA CLAUS

Welcome to Community Korero, a column where The Informer chats with a local identity. Chewing the fat this month is world-renowned contortionist and all-round happy-go-lucky-kind-a-guy, Santa Claus.



Above: Santa Claus in his home

It's the most wonderful time of the year for many of us, but Jolly Ol' St. Nick (Santa Claus to his mates) is typically run off his feet - not that he minds too much. As he sat down with The Informer to discuss his December schedule, he remained in fine spirits, with a huge smile crossing his face

and deep belly laughs echoing around the office as he reflected on the naughty-nice ratio of the greater Green Island area.

"The boys and girls of the (Greater Green Island) area have been so,so,so well behaved this year," the Big Man stated. "That's probably why so much good has come to them - whether the new basketball courts at Waldronville, the stunning weather they had for the Get Together (which we couldn't attend due to a visit from the in-laws), or the new BBQ area coming soon to the Memorial Gardens." In spite of such good fortune, The Man Also Known As Kris Kringle suggests that more treats are on the way. When pressed, he turns as red as his suit as he mutters "perhaps I've said too much...but I hear Brighton in late January is just divine."

When The Informer asks what he loves most about our humble region, there's a twinkle in his eyes as he says without missing a beat "The people. Hands down. I mean, I drop off gifts all over the world, yet I've never had a more rapturous welcome than at the GI Market Day - it's enough to bring an old man like me to tears."

"As I zoom along Kaikorai Valley Road, and Rudolph, Donner, Blitzen and them catch sight of the tree farm and their brothers and sisters, it just...feels like home. One year, the Concord Inn's weather vane nearly caused an 'incident,' but I didn't panic...(I) just knew that you folks would come rushing to help if I came a cropper." It's that sense of community that Santa sincerely values, and is what keeps him coming back year after year after year as he jingles those bells and spreads Christmas cheer to all those in our wonderful region.



Above: Santa Claus visiting Green Island.

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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

Over the last week the media have been reporting on a lift in house values, although they were concentrating on data from Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. It's important to remember there will be regional differences. For instance Auckland is coming off quite a dramatic drop, and this coupled with large immigration numbers means there is plenty of room for growth. After a market correction Dunedin historically enters a long period of stable house prices, and this seems to be reflected in the statistics for October.

The median rose slightly to \$595,000, however this is still down on the same month last year which saw a median value of \$632,000. The median house price has fluctuated between \$570,000 and \$630,000 over the last 9 months, giving an average median value of \$581,000 for this period.

There were 162 sales in October compared with 157 for the same month in 2022, and median days to sell dropped a bit to 31 days. This is a reflection of more auction activity, coupled with buyers in a pre-approved finance position acting faster on available stock. The bulk of activity remains in the first home buyer sector, but we are also seeing demand for quality homes as buyers realise the market has bottomed, and they face less buying competition right now.

Mortgage brokers report increased activity from investors, gearing up and getting ready to buy as soon as they see a new government formed and get confidence from potential new Brightline and tax legislation.

If you're thinking of selling, there are buyers ready to buy and you will face less competition than in the height of Summer. It is also a good time if you are selling to upgrade to a more expensive home as that gap will only get wider in real dollar terms as the market improves.

If you're buying we would urge you to act soon, before investors re-enter the market. And remember this relevant saying. 'You marry the mortgage, but you only date the interest rate.' Interest rates are tipped to fall slowly over the coming years, so lock in your repayments now, and purchase the home for your future

## GREATER GREEN ISLAND OCTOBER

STATS **2023**

Average Dwelling Price

**\$728,909**

Number of sales

**22**

## DUNEDIN OCTOBER

STATS **2023**

Median Dwelling Price

**\$595,000**

Number of sales

**162**

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# STAGE AND BARBECUE UPDATE

The wishing well has had its last wish, and now progress is well on the way for the development of a new stage and barbecue area in the Green Island Memorial Park.

Originally planned to for October 2023, delays caused by a last minute request from the Council's Parks and Recreation team to amend the originally approved and consented locations of the barbecue and stage has pushed the start date into February 2024.



*Demolition of well and preparing area*



*Area cleared and ready for new construction of Stage*

It is hoped that the new locations advised by the Parks and Recreation team will result in more of the gardens being utilised.

This recent work is an exciting development as it marks the physical start for the park to have these facilities

for the future of the Green Island community to watch activities on the stage, and to be able to enjoy the menu of BBQ food.



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## SUMMER EVENTS

The Dunedin region has many activities that can be enjoyed over the summer period. Some suggestions include:-

**Harbour side walk or cycle** ride along the new walk / cycle way down each side of the harbour with the option of a complete circuit if you take the water taxi between Port Chalmers and Portobello.

Take a drive down the coast past **Brighton** and down to **Taieri Mouth**, and maybe a spot of fishing.

Take a drive down the harbour side to **Aramoana** and walk out along the mole looking at the local wildlife

Take a trip on the **Monarch** down the harbour and see the local wildlife

Visit **Olveston Historic home** and see the wonders of bygone time

Visit **Dunedin Botanical gardens** and see the array of plant life

Visit the **Otago Museum** and **Toitū** the Otago early settlers museum

Visit the **Chinese gardens** which replicate a garden in China

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

*Christmas Eve Service*  
St Margaret's Anglican Church  
4 Seaview Rd., Brighton  
Start time: 7pm

*Christmas Day Service*  
St Mark's Anglican Church  
27 Shand St, Green Island  
Start time: 9am

**CAROLS ON THE LAWN**  
A family friendly event! @ DCBC

**Sunday 17th December @ 11am**

Bring your family and friends, and a picnic blanket and join us for:

**CAROL SINGING**  
**FREE SAUSAGE SIZZLE**  
**LAWN GAMES**

Dunedin City Baptist Church, 19 Main South Road, Concord 4

**GREEN ISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN**

**TUESDAYS 12PM - 2PM // SATURDAYS 10AM - 12PM**

A garden run by the community for the community, where you literally reap what you sow!

We are looking for: Complete beginners; People looking for connection and friendship; Seasoned gardeners looking for volunteering opportunities

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# A GREATER GREEN ISLAND KINDA CHRISTMAS

Ahead of the festive season, The Informer went out and about, asking locals the tough questions:

1. Naughty or Nice?
2. 2023 Highlight?
3. Hopes for 2024?
4. Favourite Christmas memory?
5. Favourite Christmas song?

## Martin (Concord)

1. I've been pretty naughty I guess ...
2. Highlight was trip to Sydney with my son Aiden
3. More trips away with family
4. Trips to Brighton beach on scorching Dunedin summer days
5. Jingle Bell Rock



## Dylan and Jordan (Abbotsford)

1. Both – Nice (although mum might have something to say about that!)
2. D - Starting school  
J – Love
3. D – Hope to get lego.  
J – Starting school
4. D – Getting gear puzzle.  
J – Kindy Christmas party.
5. D – Pop Bang Crack.  
J – Jingle Bells



## THE BRIGHTON GALA DAY

Preparations for the 2024 Brighton Gala Day are in full swing! Don't miss one of the must-see family-friendly events on our calendar. On January 21st, the Brighton Domain will be full of amusements, with over 170 stalls on offer, ready to provide a dazzling array of goodies. Over 30 food and refreshment stands will ensure thirst and hunger is quenched under the Brighton sun, and the stage will be crammed with entertainment throughout the day. Best of all, admission is FREE.



Photo: Colin Weatherall gears up for one of Brighton's biggest attractions.

So come on down to Brighton Domain and enjoy the last days of your summer holiday.

**The Brighton Gala Day** is celebrating its **28th year on Sunday 21st January.**

Make sure you register early. Prices start at \$40 find a form at: <https://www.brightongaladay.co.nz/booking-a-site>

## Lindsay (Green Island)

1. That is a hard one...I would hope nice.
2. The Green Island Art Club. I enjoy the inclusivity of the group. It is a bright and friendly group.
3. Hoping for a nice and peaceful year. From a Christian viewpoint, the return of Jesus Christ.
4. We liked last Christmas - our kids and grandchildren came down. The grandchildren loved going out into the hailstorm; they found it very fascinating.
5. Silent Night



# Informer

## The Informer Particulars

- Informer Editor:** John Hayden
- Volunteer:** Lindsay Aitchison
- [informer@greenergreenisland.nz](mailto:informer@greenergreenisland.nz)
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[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

# GREATER GREEN ISLAND AREA PLAYGROUNDS

We live in an area where we are blessed with a number of child-friendly playgrounds, that have been maintained by the Dunedin City Council. Do you know where they are? Some are quite obvious such as the Green Island Memorial Park, where over the past few years much has been done by the community to extend and improve the facility, making it a friendly and child safe place. Further developments are still in the pipeline. A new stage & BBQ installation is expected to begin in the new year.

Other playgrounds, not so obvious, but just as important, include the Fairplay Street Playground in Fairfield, which has an assortment of child-safe equipment. In November 2022 a skatepark was opened with skateboards ramps and a large concrete paved area with skateboard ramps and netball hoops.



Above: Matthew Street playground's new slide

The Matthew Street upgraded Playground, which serves the Abbotsford area, has just recently had a very exciting enclosed slide installed.

Over in Waldronville is the Delta Drive playground, which recently has had new netball court with an adjustable net goal.

With these areas, there is plenty of opportunity for young children (and even some a little older) to go out in the fresh air and enjoy themselves in these amenities.

Check out the Greater Green Island Community Directory for other parks and amenities in the local area. If you spot one missing send through a message so they can get it added.



Above: The amazing amenities at Fairfield Fairplay Street Playground



Above: The new basketball court at Delta Drive playground.

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# TAMARIKI PAGE

## FAIRFIELD SCHOOL - OUT AND ABOUT

### Year 4 - Tramping the Millenium Track

We had the best time walking from Henley to John Bull Bully, then up and over the hill into Taieri mouth. Walking through our native bush is simply beautiful



Above: Fairfield year 4's

### Year 3 - Pineapple Track and Ross Creek

Unfortunately, it wasn't the best weather for seeing the amazing views of the city and Mosgiel, but we still had a great day, experiencing plenty of uphill and downhill, some rocky, gravelly and slippery tracks, as well as walking amongst the native bush.



Above: Fairfield year 3's

## GREEN ISLAND SCHOOL ZOMBIE RUN

Years 1 to 8 pupils navigated a tyre run, cargo nets, maze, graveyard, foam and a slip 'n' slide to escape their zombie pursuers. The fundraiser sold 170 tickets. Green Island school Principal Aaron Warrington thanked the "huge thank you to everyone who attended our inaugural Zombie Fun Run." Mr Warrington said "It was an amazing day, and we were very lucky with the weather. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the running of this event. It took an army of supporters". Mr Warrington hopes this will be a regular fixture to future school years.



## MAIA'S MUSINGS

As the Silly Season approaches, our fearless Fairfield reporter Maia Hayden (10) gives her tips on how to best while away those long summer days.

Christmas is coming up, and it's such an exciting time because you get to spend time with the people you love. But sometimes it might be hard to find something fun to do. Here are a few fun and affordable ways to spend the holidays, and stop you from getting too bored before going back to school.



In Fairfield, there is the skate park and playground, as well as the new walking track. I also really like playing at the Baldwin street BMX track at Walton Park. If

Above: Maia at the top of

it's a sunny summer day, you can also bike, scooter or walk down to Sunnyvale and kick a ball around. There are also heaps of other playgrounds and parks in places like Abbotsford, Green Island and Brighton. In fact, a nice trip to Brighton beach is a great idea when the sun is shining!

I have my own Bee card, and I would highly recommend having one, as it is free for children under 12 to travel on any bus in the city - you can even go all the way to Palmerston for the day if you wanted! My dad and I did that once, and climbed up Mt. Puketapu! It took us just over an hour to get up and down, and the view on the bus back to town was beautiful. Best of all, the trip only cost \$4 total!

If you want to stay in Dunedin, the bus can take you to fun (and free) places like Tūhura (Otago Museum), Toitu, the Public Art Gallery or even the library. These are great places to go if it is wet outside. They have scavenger hunts and colouring in, and you can always learn some things, too.

I love to go op-shopping, and you can always find a bargain. It's fun to buy books and toys, and you can even fill up a bag of clothes for only a couple of dollars at some places. And if you have too much stuff, you can sort out and donate some of your older things back to those less fortunate - that always makes the op shop workers smile.

Hopefully you find these ideas useful, and I hope that all readers of The Informer have a safe and happy Christmas holiday!

## FAREWELL 'TILL NEXT YEAR!

GGICN and the Informer wish all our people and whānau in the community a fantastic break over the Christmas and New Year's period. We hope everyone has some quality time and is able to take a moment to enjoy the summer along with something from our amazing country or our wonderful wee community.

# BRIGHTON GALA DAY

**21 JANUARY 2024**

**10am-5pm BRIGHTON DOMAIN**

**FREE ADMISSION**

[www.brightongaladay.co.nz](http://www.brightongaladay.co.nz)



**BRIGHTON GALA DAY 21 JANUARY 2024**

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