



# The Informer

May 2025 Edition

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

## GREEN ISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN WINS KING'S SEEDS 'COMMUNITY SPIRIT' AWARD!



From Left: Marcella, Joe, Marion, Jules, Penny - taken at the Garden's 10th birthday celebration earlier this year.

We are absolutely buzzing to share some exciting news from right here in Green Island - our very own Community Garden has been named the April recipient of the King's Seeds Community Spirit Award! Each month, King's Seeds shines a spotlight on individuals or organisations doing amazing things in their communities, gifting a \$250 seed voucher to help them keep up the great mahi. And this month, it's the Green Island Community Garden!

This is such a fantastic win for our community, as the Green Island Community Garden has been a cornerstone of connection, learning, and growth for over a decade. It's not just a place to grow veges, but it's also a space where friendships form, knowledge is shared, and everyone feels like they belong. Earlier this year, we celebrated the garden's 10th anniversary, which has really grown since its inception, thanks to Marion and Joe's dedication.

The garden would not be the amazing place it is without the support and love of Marion and Joe, who work tirelessly to ensure that the community has access to fresh produce. They're always willing to share their knowledge and love of gardening with the community, they've even extended their support within local schools, helping tamariki learn the joy

and importance of growing their own kai.

This award is not just recognition of the garden's achievements it's a celebration of the people who keep it growing. We're so proud of the whole Green Island Community Garden crew and can't wait to see how the \$250 seed voucher will help them continue to flourish. We know those seeds will not only sprout plants, but also more opportunities for education, sustainability, and whanaungatanga across our community.

Marion is thrilled about the win, especially knowing how far the support will go for the community. "It's a huge boost for our program for the next season. We have more than enough seeds for the next season, and we can share seeds with the community—at events like the Green Island Get Together. Absolutely amazing – so stoked."

Congratulations Green Island Community Garden - you really do deserve this!



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# ESSENTIAL BEAUTY OPEN FOR BUSINESS IN GREEN ISLAND



Sheree doing a facial.

After 21 years in Mosgiel, Essential Beauty has made an exciting move to Green Island, officially opening their doors on 4th March this year. The transition has been smooth, and owner Sheree and her team have been overwhelmed by the warm welcome from both locals

and fellow businesses.

“The community here is so friendly and supportive,” Sheree shares. “We’ve had a lot of our regular clients follow us from Mosgiel, but we’re also meeting so many wonderful new customers from Green Island, Brighton, and Waldronville.”

Bringing a wealth of experience, Sheree has spent 24 years in the beauty industry, and her team members add another 16 and 9 years of expertise between them. A new team member will be joining soon, ensuring even more hands-on care for clients. They offer a full range of beauty services, from eyelash and eyebrow treatments, waxing, and tanning to facials, relaxing and deep tissue massages (by appointment only) and IPL treatments for hair removal, skin rejuvenation, and pigmentation correction. Makeup services for weddings and formals are also available by appointment, and they continue to offer ear piercing and electrolysis as part of their extensive treatment list.

One of the biggest highlights of the move for Sheree has



Jess Bennett and Sheree Merrilees of Essential Beauty

been settling into the bright, fresh, and clean new premises. She loves the modern space, the ease of living and working in the same community, and even the simple joys of walking to work and feeding the ducks in the nearby stream during breaks. She’s also enjoying the variety of local cafés and restaurants, saying Green Island has truly been a wonderful place to set up shop.

Despite the change in location, Essential Beauty has kept the same phone number they’ve had for over two decades, making it easy for clients to stay in touch. They accept EFTPOS and Visa, and with their late-night opening on Wednesdays, there’s plenty of flexibility for appointments.

Essential Beauty is now well and truly settled in Green Island, and with their warm smiles and expert care, every client is made to feel welcome from the moment they walk through the door. If you haven’t stopped by yet, visit them at 221 Main South Road, call 03 489 8283, or book online at [www.essentialbeauty.co.nz](http://www.essentialbeauty.co.nz).

Green Island has gained a fantastic new business, and it’s clear that Essential Beauty is here to stay!

## THE GREEN ISLAND BBQ & STAGE – WHEN TO USE THEM



Last year saw the community celebrate the opening of our awesome new stage and BBQ area in the Green Island Memorial Gardens – what a wonderful addition this is for our community! We would love to see this being utilised more, so if you or your community group needs a space to perform, this is an incredible place to showcase your group’s skills to the community in a shared space.

The BBQ is another fantastic asset, perfect for community and whānau events – and it’s free for anyone in the community to use. Please note that the gas bottles are

removed over winter, but once the shade sail is up in the playground and we’re back into daylight saving time, a gas bottle is provided again for community use. If you have a community event you’d like to organise but don’t know where to start, feel free to contact us at [info@greatergreenisland.nz](mailto:info@greatergreenisland.nz) and we can help get you on the right track!





## The Informer


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



## INGRID'S UPDATE

I was so excited to meet one of the truly inspiring youth workers of the Wheako Project — funded via a major Otago Community Trust grant. Brianna Le works with the Greater Green Island region's young people empowering them to thrive within a supportive, inclusive community.



Ingrid with Brianna Le of Wheako Youth Project

Brianna was telling me how part of what they do is involve young people in new activities that they haven't tried before so they can have new experiences to help shape their future direction. It's inspiring to see this type of leadership and investment in our community and Brianna is a fantastic ambassador for the Project.

Another inspiring local treasure is the Wild Dunedin Festival of Nature. Held last month it's a yearly celebration of Dunedin's creatures, critters, and environment. As part of this cool event, I joined more than 630 other people breaking the record for the largest yoga class held in New Zealand.

In other news, the new Dunedin hospital is still the most discussed issue at the Labour stall at community events held this year, including the Green Island Market Day. The rebuild announcement is good news however significant issues remain including the fact that crucial pathology services remain offsite. As your local MP I will continue to track progress and advocate for the hospital we were promised. - Ingrid Leary - Taieri MP

## JUNIORS SHINE AT GREEN ISLAND BOWLING CLUB PRIZE GIVING

The Juniors made up many of the winners on the night—and from the Green Island Bowling Club's (GIBC) perspective, that's exactly how you want to see it!

Now, a Junior in lawn bowls isn't about age; it's about experience. From years 1 to 5 after becoming a full playing member of a bowling club, you're considered a Junior.

This past season, GIBC's Juniors rose to the occasion after a challenge from long-time member Stuart Alderton, who encouraged them to enter the interclub competitions (known as the Ties) and get some new names onto the Club Honours Boards.

Well, challenge accepted—and one Junior in particular, Dean Willis, seemed to take it personally, as if Stuart was speaking directly to him.

Fast forward to the 2024–2025 Season Closing and Prize Giving Night, held on Saturday 12 April: Dean Willis heard his name called seven times by Club President Sarah Ibbotson. Alongside him, other Juniors—Charles Logan, Keri Te Tamaki, John Holmes, Graeme West, and Sandra Willis—will now have their names etched on club trophies, Honours Boards, and the minds of the wider Dunedin bowls community.

These rising stars are ones to watch next season as they represent GIBC with pride once again.



Dean Willis - Green Island Bowling Club  
2024-2025 Winner

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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

March has been an active month, with many homes selling or going under contract with multiple parties interested. While the number of properties on the market in Dunedin remained at an extremely high level, those who were savvy enough to make the commitment were able to secure great homes. Dunedin's cooler months through Autumn and Winter usually start showing a slow down in the property market, however this has not been the case so far.

Our local property market was positive throughout March with the median property price in Dunedin steady at \$600,000 with the median days on market sitting at 39.

Residential sales reflected renewed buyer confidence, particularly among first-home buyers and investors.

We know the biggest bracket for property searches is in the \$500,000 - \$600,000 range also shown in the majority of sales being between \$400,000 to \$700,000 range. In the higher priced properties there were 18 sales over \$1 million, indicating sustained activity.

While we know buyers have a lot of choice across the number of properties available, we still consider it to be a balanced market. The combination of stable prices and heightened buyer interest suggests we will see a positive Winter in the sales arena, making this a great time to make your real estate move – whether you are selling or buying do get in touch.

## GREATER GREEN ISLAND

STATS **MARCH**  
Average Dwelling Price

**\$599,321**

Number of sales

**28**

## DUNEDIN

STATS **MARCH**  
Median Dwelling Price

**\$600,000**

Number of sales

**221**



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# TOOTS' COLUMN

Greetings people,

I do seem to bang on about driving issues in this column, but I would like to say, "well done". Whilst doing my rounds in the morning I have been doing a bit of laser work for speeding and I haven't had to issue a single speeding ticket. Nice one people.



Senior Constable Mark  
"Toots" Tuten

On the other hand, there are still a few issues around the driving practices around schools. Slow down, everyone wants to get their children there safely, whether they are walking or being driven there. Remember, it's 30kmh around schools. I will be checking on your progress.

I'd like to say a big "thank you", to the Green Island Women's Club for inviting me to their meeting for a wee talk about what it's like to be a police officer. A wonderful group of ladies, who are growing in numbers and are always looking for new members if you're interested. It's great to get out there and meet the community.

Another positive interaction I had today was being approached by a lady who had concerns about a member of the community who she thought was suffering and was offering to help out in any way. I was able to inform her of the situation and give her assurance that all was well, without divulging the privacy of the person involved. Great to see.

Lastly, the bane of my job, Social Media. If there are any issues you have in your community that you think need addressed, come and either see me or contact me, and we can discuss the matter. Please don't vent on chat-groups with your views about how to resolve the matter without the involvement of the police. Please let me know what's going on and I can give you some advice.

Stay safe people.

Toots

## MCDONALD'S GREEN ISLAND SET FOR MID-MAY OPENING!

Exciting news for local food lovers — McDonald's Green Island is all set to open its doors in mid-May! Construction is wrapping up, and the golden arches are almost in place. Whether you're craving a Big Mac or just keen to check out the newest local hotspot, it's exciting to see it all coming together. Fingers crossed we'll be able to grab a burger and fries in just a few days!



Exterior view of Green Island McDonalds - architect's depiction.



# YOUTH YAPS: GET YOUR GAME ON AT THE DUNEDIN FUTSAL ACADEMY

*This is a Youth Yaps article written by some young people in your community (with a little help from Bri & Noah). This weeks Article and Photography are brought to you by: Toby Rae, Nina Funnell, Brianna Le & Noah Scott*



From left: Nina, Maxi, River, Michaela, & Toby

Hi, this is Toby and Nina from Fairfield School, and a couple of weeks ago we went to go and interview the owners of the Dunedin Futsal Academy at the Sunnyvale Sports Centre. Michaela and Maxi, the owners, provided us with lots of information on how they run the academy and what they do there. We both learnt that they started in 2020 and in their first term Covid hit. They started the Dunedin Futsal Academy because there was no place for there daughter to learn some futsal skills. In South America they learn futsal at a young age to prepare for football.

We found out that there wasn't a women's futsal

league in Dunedin, I (Nina) enjoyed learning about the women's classes. The women's classes started around the middle of 2024 for women aged 14 and up. They started this because they wanted the women to have a chance to up their skills in futsal because they can't really do that in mixed futsal. The mixed sessions are for kids aged from 5-12. I (Toby) found it interesting that they only started doing futsal on Fridays. But then once they had more people, they started to expand and added Monday classes. We really enjoyed learning about the Dunedin Futsal Academy, and we also had a little kick around of the ball with Maxi, Michaela, and their son, River.



Above: River showing his skills

## GET YOUR BEE CARD READY AND BUS TO SCHOOL



School is well underway for the year, but it's never too late to start using the bus to get around. Taking the bus is an easy, affordable option to get kids to where they need to go. It's also a great way for kids to learn independence and responsibility.

How much will it cost for my child to travel on a bus? Bus

fares are free for children aged 5-12 with a registered Bee Card, and only \$1.20 for people aged 13-18 for a single trip in Dunedin. You can only use a Bee Card or cash to pay for your bus fare onboard (drivers cannot take fare payment with bank or credit cards).

Where do I get a Bee card? Bee cards are easy to purchase from [www.beecard.co.nz](http://www.beecard.co.nz) , or at an ORC customer centre on Level 2 of Philip Laing House on Rattray Street, DCC customer service centres or libraries, or the University Bookshop. Bee Cards can be purchased for \$5 with a minimum \$5 top up. You can also call 0800 ORBUSDN (0800 672 8736) for help or send them a message on their Facebook page. For more information about planning their journey, buying a Bee card, or any other questions you might have, go to [www.orc.govt.nz/orbusdn](http://www.orc.govt.nz/orbusdn).

## AUTUMN GARDENING TIPS

As Autumn creeps in, it's the perfect time to think about caring for your lawn, or even sowing a new lawn. Just because it's colder doesn't mean your garden has to be out of action, May is still a good time to plant out your garden with brussel sprouts, cabbage, onions, spinach, silverbeet, or even blueberries and blackberries!



Caring for your vegetable garden throughout the cooler months is important to ensure your garden is ready for planting in the spring (and for Autumn/Winter crops). A good way to do this is to add extra nutrients into your garden, using blood and bone or compost. You can start your own compost bin, using the food-scrap from your kitchen, and the green waste from your garden. Make sure you protect your growing seedlings from slugs and snails, so make sure you keep on top of these critters by using a snail and slug control.

As the frosts can be quite intense in Dunedin, you might want to look at investing in some frost cloth, or a growing tunnel for seedlings. If you haven't thought about having a garden, or don't know where to start: my advice is to start small, plant one or two vegetables, seek help from experienced neighbours, or a gardening store – they're always willing to share advice and the all-important how-to of gardening. Gardening doesn't have to be complicated, or scary, just make a start and you'll see results in no time.



# GGICN UPDATE - SURVEY, YOUTH, AND RETIREES

It's been a busy start to the year at GGICN, with plenty happening across our community and youth spaces.

**Talk Café:** We want to hear from those heading into retirement or already retired. Tell us what's working in the community, what's not, and what could improve life for you or your neighbours. We have some Talk Cafés coming soon alongside Age Concern to provide a space to connect.

**Community Survey:** We're launching a community survey soon to gather your thoughts. This is the third survey following ones in 2016 and 2020. These help identify what's great about our community and where GGICN should focus its efforts. Based on the last survey, we've made a submission to the DCC's nine-year plan, based directly on feedback from past consultations. These were: Making the Burnside underpass safer; Installing a public toilet at the Memorial Gardens; Ensuring the proposed bike trail through Abbotsford properly connects to Concord, Green Island, and Brighton.

**Brighton Pump Track Gaining Momentum:** The Brighton Pump Track project is progressing. Community consultation is underway for funding, and the local team, led by Shane Turner, is focused on breaking ground before the end of the year. This grassroots effort is one we're proud to support.

**Youth Work:** Our Youth Work Team is active across four local schools—Concord, Green Island, Abbotsford, and new this year, Fairfield. We're walking alongside young people who struggle to engage in traditional classrooms, and we're already seeing massive shifts in leadership, confidence and engagement. A standout moment was when a student visited the Brighton Volunteer Fire Service. Normally reserved, they came alive, asked insightful questions, and found something to connect with.



*Bri with some Green Island School youth*

**Youth Action Group Launching:** We're launching a Youth Action Group—a team of local taiohi who will design and deliver two community events this year. They'll grow in leadership, generosity, and purpose, while doing something meaningful for the place they call home. We'd love them to do this alongside adults in a collaborative way.

At GGICN, we're here to support local ideas, lift up young people, and build a stronger, more connected community. If you've got thoughts, ideas, or want to get involved—now's the time to reach out.

## GREEN ISLAND CRICKET CLUB 2024–2025 SEASON WRAP-UP



*Green Island Sewer Rats team*

The 2024-25 season has come to a close for the Green Island Cricket Club. The Premier team, Swamp Rats, finished a creditable 2nd place, behind our Taieri neighbours, who won the competition with an unbeaten campaign. During the season we made the 50 over final, losing to Taieri by 4 wickets in the final.

The Second Grade Sewer Rats regained the Junior Bing Shield we had lost last year, after previously winning 4 titles in a row. In addition to this, we also won the Second Grade T20 competition.

We had 2 teams in Third grade, with the Gators Green team finishing 2nd. They also lost the T20 final. Our Brighton/GI team struggled to field a team in the last few weeks, as injuries, and family commitments, wreaked havoc with availability.

The Gators Gold 4th grade team was designed to encourage cricketers returning to the club after high school, merging with some passionate guys who play for the love of the

game. Despite conceding some huge scores, the side enjoyed their cricket, stayed positive, and did manage one win this season.

At our prizegiving, each team nominated an MVP : Premiers -Joel Meade, Sewer Rats - Daniel Robinson, Gators Green -Rohan Singh Tomar, Brighton/GI - Mat Murray and Gators Gold - Scott Fuller. Joel Meade was awarded the SEIKO Swamp Rat of the Year.

Other highlights saw Dean Foxcroft represent NZ. Brad Kneebone, Dean Foxcroft and Jake Gibson played for the Otago Volts. Daniel Lawrence, Otago Under 19, Regan Cairns 100 Senior Games.

At the Dunedin Cricket Awards, Rohan Singh Tomar was awarded the Third Grade Batsman of the Year. Scott Fuller won the 4th Grade Bowler of the Year. Club Secretary Jeremy Scott received the Gordon McGregor Award for Services to Cricket.

The season finished with a highly successful golf day at 12 Oaks Golf Club.

We hope to field 5 teams again next year in our 95th season.

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Kā mihi, Jeremy Scott - GICC Secretary



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Abbotsford Road / Hunterville Flats      Fri: 2.30pm - 2.50pm  
North Taieri Road / Exmouth Street      Fri: 2.55pm - 4.00pm

## BRIGHTON

Bath Street / Cole Street      Tue: 10.30am - 12.30pm

## CONCORD

Emerson Street / Shopping Centre      Fri: 1.30pm - 2.15pm

## FAIRFIELD

Old Brighton Road / Sickels Street      Wed: 1.30pm - 2.45pm

## GREEN ISLAND

Main South Road / Memorial Park      Mon: 10.00am - 12.00pm

## OCEAN VIEW

Brighton Road (by Hall)      Tue: 1.45pm - 2.45pm

## WALDRONVILLE

Delta Drive / Vulcan Road      Tue: 3.00pm - 4.00pm

# GGICN EASTER EGG HUNT 2025

The 2025 GGICN Easter Egg Hunt was another resounding success, with lots of children in the community heading out to find one of the wooden easter eggs which were hidden around local parks & playgrounds. Here are some of the awesome designs that have been sent through!



*Thank you* **K9MD** **Harcourts Dunedin**

Together we helped fund canine health and welfare equipment, such as this electric treadmill for dogs.

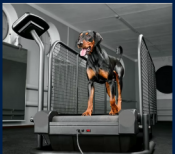
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We want to hear from you!

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

At the Informer we are excited for more content from the community. Get in touch and we might be able to include your story in our newsletter.

Please email: [informer@greatergreenisland.nz](mailto:informer@greatergreenisland.nz)



The  
Lions Club of Green Island  
invite you to a  
**PINK RIBBON  
MORNING TEA**

to help fund breast cancer education,  
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**Hosted by Marj & Kayla**

To be held at

**The Village Green Café & Bar**  
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**Saturday the 24th of May 2025**

Starting at 10am

**\$25**  
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