

# portobello news

OUR HOME BY THE OTAGO HARBOUR

DECEMBER 2023

*Sea Lion Trust*



*Portobello School*



*Quarantine Island Kāmau Taurua*



MERI KIRIHIMETE, HAPPY HOLIDAYS, AND HAVE A FANTASTIC NEW YEAR!

# Portobello Community Inc. Update

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Kia ora koutou,

Well, 2023 is speeding to a close and it's been a big year for our wee village and our wee organisation. The place is looking so different from twelve months ago, and for the better: the roadworks are gone, the Te Aka Ōtākou cycleway reaches all the way round to Port Chalmers (with the cycle ferry doing a cracking business), the Te Rauone Beach Reserve restoration is looking fantastic, and a couple of lovely new shops have opened (my kids are gonna single-handedly keep the new sweet shop in business, I reckon).

Portobello Community Inc. has had a great year as well, with the completion of the Pump Track at the Domain as our centrepiece. Working bees continue to improve the landscaping, tamariki are hooning madly around the track, and even a few hand-crafted picnic tables (thanks Richard!) will be finding their way on to the scene. We're immensely grateful to all of the volunteers for your continued efforts to make this community asset even better.

We'd also like to thank the community for coming out to our recent Comedy Night fundraiser, which was a big success. A special shout-out to volunteers Ryan (who wrangled both alcohol and comedy) and Hayley (who whipped up the delicious kai), as well as the Dunedin Comedy Club team and everyone who manned the door, kitchen, and bar.

Speaking of volunteers, it's been great to see so many new faces at our recent meetings. It's been a wonderful boost of energy, and we're hatching big plans for 2024. Meetings are the third Wednesday of every month at the Hall at 7:30 if you'd like to join us.

I'd also like to thank all of our advertisers for your continued support, especially those who have come aboard this year. Please do patronise those businesses, and let them know you saw their ads here!

Here's wishing you all a safe, sane, and joyful holiday season with friends and whānau. We'll see you on the beach!

Kā mihi,

— Michael Lascarides

## portobello community inc.

*President*

Michael Lascarides

*Treasurer*

Amy McFadzien

*Secretary*

Laura Shepard

*Newsletter Editors*

Michael Lascarides & Laura Shepard

*Committee*

Sandra Clearwater, Stacey Kokaua, Ruth Seeney,

Richard Steentjes, Dan Parker, David Large,

Laura Shepard, Ryan Adams

*The views expressed in this newsletter are those of  
the contributors and not necessarily those of  
Portobello Community Inc.*

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# Portobello Police Station

Tena Koutou everyone

Well folks this will be the last newsletter for the year. I can't believe I am doing my Christmas/New Year spiel already. I'll be working right through Christmas and into the New Year so expect to see me out and about.

Unfortunately, over the past couple of weeks we have had some not so nice people lurking in the shadows at night, in Macandrew Bay. An outboard motor appeared to interest a couple of thieves in Marion Street but fortunately they were scared off by a vigilant local and a registration number of the vehicle they were in was obtained (nice work). Enquiries are ongoing with Dunedin police following up as the vehicle was involved in some other skulduggery. A vehicle had its passenger window broken the same night in Wharfedale Street, nothing was taken as the vehicle was alarmed (nice work again). More than likely the same crew from Marion Street. If you see or hear anything suspicious, please call 111.

Simple things like locking vehicles, turning alarms on if you have them and putting anything tasty out of sight does deter these people. Don't give thieves opportunities. Getting neighbours to watch over your place if you are away for a while is a great idea also. Thefts generally do increase around this time of year so please be extra vigilant.

With the cruise ships now back and holiday period upon us it is inevitable that our roads are going to get a lot busier. Nothing changes in regard to how to drive, that's simple. The thing that changes is that there are going to be people on the roads who don't know them, are visitors to the area or another country for that matter. Please be patient with these people. You may get frustrated for whatever reason but that shouldn't mean you make poor driving decisions yourself and put you and others at risk.



Impairment will again be my focus (not my only focus mind) in relation to Road Policing over the Christmas and New Year period. There is no excuse for getting behind the wheel of a motor vehicle if you are impaired. This could be either by alcohol or drugs. If you take that risk and run that gauntlet, then the buck stops with you. Too many lives are lost each year because of impaired drivers, and one should not be so selfish to think they have the right to place other road users at risk because of their actions. Don't be that person.

Please make arrangement to get to and from work parties or drinking establishments, it's not a hard task. The booze bus will be making an appearance over this period.

Finally, some of you may have read recently about a young lad who was injured by a cyclist on the shared path on the other side of the harbour. This has been a widely talked about on social media pages in the past. In my mind it comes down to personal responsibility when riding a bike on these paths. It's not rocket science that people of all ages and abilities walk these paths, sometimes with animals. If you are an experienced rider and riding like the wind then please use the road, it's wide enough for everyone now. If you're out for a leisurely ride, then get a bell of call out with heaps of time when approaching walkers/runners. If you're a walker or runner also be aware of what is happening around you. Makes sense to me.

Until next time (2024) take care of each other and remember my door is always open for advice or just for a cuppa and a chat. Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

— Sr. Constable Aaron Smith

## Portobello School

### Peninsula Sports Day

Portobello School joined with Broad Bay and Macandrew Bay Schools for our annual Peninsula Sports day. All students gave their best with maximum effort being put in to achieve great results. It was a fantastic day.

### Marine Studies Centre visits

Senior students have had two trips down Hatchery Road this term to take part in activities run by the Marine Studies Centre. This is always an interesting trip.



### 'States of Matter' Topic

All classes have been learning about the three states of matter; solid, liquid and gas. Tamariki have been conducting experiments to learn and test how this is achieved. Some simple ones about how water changes from ice, to liquid to gas and other experiments like changing liquid cream into solid butter.

### Swimming pool

This is now up and running with many whānau purchasing keys to enjoy our heated pool. We had a minor hiccup with

the pump failing, but Pete the Pool Man was on it quickly and had it up and running again within a couple of days. The tamariki having been enjoying the pool during school time.

### ERO visit

Mike visited us again this term. He is working with staff to develop our School Profile Report and evaluation plan. His work with us is a two year process and he will be with us throughout this journey.

### Potluck dinner

We had a potluck dinner on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> of November to celebrate the year and to say thank you to all the people in our community who have helped us throughout the year. Without these people giving their time, our tamariki would not have had the rich experiences that they have. Lovey food and great company was enjoyed by all.

### Kindy visits

Since the Kindy moved into their new premises beside school earlier in the year, Room 4 students have been visiting the Kindy every Tuesday morning. It is a great way to strengthen the relationship between Kindy and School. The students enjoy reading with the Kindy whānau as well as spending time with them. We love that we are now so close to each other. Thank you to Sue and her team for welcoming us each week.

### Otago Athletics Champs

Our very own Tessa achieved a fantastic 2<sup>nd</sup> place in her long jump event at the Otago Athletics Champs recently. Congratulations Tessa!

Kā mihi,

— Tom Hobbs, Acting Principal

## Portobello Volunteer Fire Brigade

Summer is here and it looks like it's supposed to be very dry which brings its own challenges around fire safety. Please be careful when using BBQ's, braziers and bonfires this season.

### In an emergency, can we find you?

Rapid numbers are an extremely important tool for locating properties, especially in times of need. Please ensure your rapid number is always visible to responding agencies. (Keep foliage trimmed back etc.)

Fun fact : your rapid no. is the distance from the start of the road or street. i.e. Rapid No. 275 is 2.75 km from the beginning of the road.

### If we can't reach you, we can't help you.

We are often faced with access problems when responding to emergencies. Please make sure your driveways are clear enough for us to get our fire appliance to you. The recommended clearance is 4 metres wide by 4 metres high. If you are concerned, feel free to call me.

### Wildfire Prevention

The weather experts are predicting a very dry summer this year so it's time to consider measures to prevent unwanted fires on your property. Some simple things can reduce the risk of one starting in the first place. Keep grass around your property mowed, trees and foliage trimmed, and all trimmings disposed of properly i.e., do not throw branches etc. under the trees or shelter belts. Chipping of foliage is a good option. Try to maintain a "defensible space" around

your dwelling and sheds. If you are able, keeping plants watered reduces their flammability.



### Fire Season

The Otago Peninsula is still in an Open fire season, which means a permit is not required for outdoor fires, but you still need to do this safely.

If you are unsure, please go to the website [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz).

### New recruits

Portobello's 3 new recruits, Scott, Mark and Lou have now completed their 7-day practical course with flying colours. They now have the rank of firefighter and are qualified to carry out all firefighting duties. I would like to pass on my congratulations to Scott, Mark and Lou and thank them for all their enthusiastic training over the past months. Also thanks to the rest of the brigade (especially Iain) for all their help and guidance getting the recruits ready for their course.


If you are unsure, want some advice, or would like a free home fire safety visit please give either Greg or myself a call.

CFO Jamie Ramsay 027 481-3075  
DCFO Greg Dickson 0210 226-5233

Stay safe out there and if you see fire or smoke that you are unsure about, call 111.

Ngā mihi,

— Jamie Ramsay, Chief Fire Officer, Portobello Vol. Fire Brigade



**Don't let your bonfire backfire.**

Before you light a fire, check the local fire danger level at

[www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz)

**FIRE EMERGENCY**  
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- Banking and Finance
- Leases
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- Relationship Property



Robert lives on the Peninsula and has an office in central Dunedin. Local appointments are welcome.

**Phone:** 03-470-1352 **Mobile:** 027-630-6263

**Web:** [www.robertwilsonlaw.co.nz](http://www.robertwilsonlaw.co.nz)

# Otago Peninsula Museum

Another busy year at the Museum is coming to an end. Thanks to all our volunteers who help out at the Tuesday morning working bee or with the Sunday roster. We have a couple of spaces on our new roster that starts in March 2024 if anyone is keen to help out. You will only need to do two Sundays a year from 12.30-3.30. Please contact the Museum on our email address: (below) or ring Laurel on 03 478 0512. Our Museum covers the whole of the Peninsula so it does not matter where you live.



## OTAGO PENINSULA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

17 Harington Point Road, Portobello, Dunedin 9014

### William Larnach

*William was born north of Sydney in 1833.*

*At a young age he was on the staff of the Bank of New South Wales for the next 17 years, resigning*

*from the Geelong Branch in 1861. In 1857 he was the first Manager of the Bank of New South Wales in Ararat, Victoria, Australia. At the time it was a goldfield town of 20-30,000 people of all colours and creeds. His bank building was a tent and all he was equipped with was a dog, a gun and some boxes.*

*He arrived in Dunedin in 1867 to take charge of the Bank of Otago, resigning in 1873. He later entered Parliament and became Colonial Treasurer and Minister of Public Works and Railways.*

Pop along to the Museum in the holidays - we are open 12.30 - 3.30pm every Sunday. \$2 for adults and children are free. Feel free to check out heaps of exhibits outside if you come when we are closed.

We ask that the parking area outside the Museum on a Sunday is available for our visitors.



Our new book, The Otago Peninsula Then and Now, is available at the Cafe, Dairy, Medical Centre and Museum for \$30 a copy. It would make a great Christmas gift. We have just about sold out of the first 250 we had printed, so are ordering another 150. Thanks to everyone who has supported the Museum with this.

The Museum was very happy to lend some of our collection to the very successful Broad Bay Historical Exhibition recently, what an excellent exhibition it was.

Once again, we have had some great old family photos sent to us. These were regarding the Hughes family from Portobello. Their original house is still here in Portobello. We always encourage anyone living on the Peninsula to have a copy of their family history stored at the Museum. If we don't have it then we can't share it with other family members who may visit searching for information and that can be very disappointing - and not just for now but in the future.



Have a lovely Christmas with your whānau and friends and all the best for 2024 and thanks to Portobello Inc for the great newsletter that we contribute to.

Email: [theotagopeninsulamuseum@gmail.com](mailto:theotagopeninsulamuseum@gmail.com)

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## PORT TO PORT CRUISES AND WILDLIFE TOURS

### FERRY/CYCLE FERRY

PORTOBELLO TO  
BACK BEACH (PORT CHALMERS)  
QUARANTINE ISLAND

### DAILY DEPARTURE TIMES

10:00AM (PEAK SEASON)

12:35PM (PEAK SEASON)

3:15PM

6:00PM (PEAK SEASON)

*Typically returns approx 2.5 hours later*

### PRICES

ADULTS \$20

CHILDREN \$10

BICYCLES \$15

EACH WAY

Bookings ESSENTIAL

### WILDLIFE CRUISES

ALBATROSS WILDLIFE  
AND HARBOUR CRUISE

10:00AM

1:15PM

4:00PM (PEAK SEASON)

*Typically returns approx 2 hours later*

### PRICES (WITH LOCALS DISCOUNT)

ADULTS \$125

CHILDREN \$72

INFANTS \$30

### QUARANTINE ISLAND TREASURE HUNT

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Phone: 027 232 8674



## Portobello Bowling Club

Come along and give bowls a try at  
our Twilight Bowls social evening

**Thursdays 6pm**

Designed to cater for all levels.  
New members are always welcome!

Keen to become a full member?  
We have Interclub bowls, Tournaments,  
and Club Championships.

We have Darts and Snooker (full size  
billiard table) from 4pm on Tuesdays  
(Thursdays during the winter).

The Club rooms with bar and kitchen facilities  
are available for all types of functions.

For further information please contact  
Brian Cameron, Secretary  
**03 478 0816 or [pbo26@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pbo26@xtra.co.nz)**

# STOP (Save The Otago Peninsula)

It was exciting to actually see about 15 Banded kōkopu *Galaxias fasciatus* caught in Smiths Creek by a group from Otago Girls High. Their eggs or young go out to sea and return as one of the juvenile species that make up whitebait. They were the reason that the catchment revegetation project – now known as “The Future Forest” – was begun, with the aim of improving their habitat.



The earliest of the planted trees too are now flowering and spreading seed. Christmas holidays are a good time to make a visit to this community project and walk the tracks, like the 40 minute loop “Future Forest Walk”. A bonus is that you can also take your dog.

Working bees - releasing young seedlings from the exotic grass so they are not out competed - will continue over the

holiday period on Tuesday and Sunday mornings starting at 9.30am at the end of Bacon St. Contact [stopincsoc@gmail.com](mailto:stopincsoc@gmail.com) or Lala (text only) 027 875 6020 for more information about working bees, or how to contribute trees to be planted next year. Email [stopincsoc@gmail.com](mailto:stopincsoc@gmail.com) or text (only) Lala 027 8756 020

## Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group

Kia ora,

As we near the end of the year, we're continuing to work hard towards our ambitious goal of peninsula-wide possum eradication. Thanks to a lot of hard work from our team and our wonderful community of volunteers and supportive landowners, the possum numbers are already very low. Locating and targeting the remaining ones is our main focus as we spring into summer. We're using a range of tools to find them, including trail cameras, chew cards, thermal drones, and dog detection....and community reports of possum sightings! So if you see a possum, hear a possum, or even find signs of a possum, like fresh scat or bite marks on trees; please get in touch. The



males are on the move in search of a mate and we're seeing them in areas we previously thought were possum-free, so even if you haven't had possums in your backyard for ages, please keep setting your traps in case one comes wandering through.

As always, it's been wonderful working with our community to achieve eradication and continue to benefit from increased native birdlife and healthy native vegetation.

*Ngā mihi, Maggie Evans*  
[peninsula@opbg.nz](mailto:peninsula@opbg.nz) / 021 2424 944  
[predatorfreepeninsula.nz](http://predatorfreepeninsula.nz)

## NZ Penguin Initiative

Are there little penguins in your neighbourhood, or your favourite beach? Would you be interested in looking after them?

We are here to help. The New Zealand Penguin Initiative has created a network of community groups throughout NZ that are monitoring little penguins, and we're always looking for more people to join the cause. We provide free support for



monitoring, protection, and advocacy, to better understand penguin populations throughout NZ, and to improve conservation measures to protect them.

If you are interested, please get in touch either on our website [www.nzpi.nz/get-involved](http://www.nzpi.nz/get-involved) or

e-mail us: [admin@nzpi.net](mailto:admin@nzpi.net)

## NEW KERBSIDE BINS

1 JULY 2024

You'll get either a 140L food and garden waste bin

**PLUS** every household receives a 140L rubbish bin

**OR** a 23L food scraps bin

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

**FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTION**

**KEEP THESE BINS**

**FORTNIGHTLY COLLECTION**



## WHAT'S CHANGING?

From 1 July 2024, we're improving your kerbside recycling and rubbish service. These changes are to help us all reduce waste and protect the environment.

### NEW BINS

If you are on a kerbside collection route we'll deliver **two new bins** to your home before the service starts. In **March, April or May 2024**, you'll receive:



**Either** a 140L green-lidded bin for recycling food scraps and garden waste



**or** a small 23L green-lidded food scraps bin (for households on properties with 3 or more houses/units that have little or no garden). All households in the tertiary area will get this bin



**and** every household gets a 140L red bin for rubbish, replacing the DCC black bags.

### COSTS

The DCC rates cost for the full four-bin service will be confirmed by February 2024, but we expect it to be around \$320 to \$340 per year.



#### KITCHEN BENCHTOP BIN

When we deliver your two new bins, you will receive a 6L kitchen bench top bin for gathering food scraps. Inside it you'll find an information booklet about kerbside collection.

### KEEPING YOU INFORMED

For more information and updates:  
[www.dunedin.govt.nz/kerbside-changes](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/kerbside-changes)

Call (03) 477 4000

Or download the free **DCC Kerbside Collection** app



## RURAL SKIP DAYS Pop up Transfer Station

Portobello Domain | 18 February | 10am – 5pm  
These are cash only collections.

(Waste must not be left at the site outside these times)

**NO LARGE ITEMS:** i.e. engines, metals, tanks, metal drums, whiteware, demolition materials\*, or large items of vegetation\*\*

**NO UNACCEPTABLE WASTE:** i.e. hazardous waste, animal remedies, herbicides, medicines, medical waste, gas bottles, wire, asbestos or petrol tanks

**NO LIQUIDS:** i.e. liquids including oil

\* demolition materials – the maximum size of demolition material is 1m in any direction. Material is to be clean and contain no asbestos.

\*\* vegetation – no complete hedgerows or similar.

Fees apply. See website for details.

**DUNEDIN** | kaupihara  
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o  
ōtepoti

03 477 4000  
[www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz)

## NEW LISTING

**Boundaries are indicative only.**

**Harington Point** Harbour View Heights

6 Freehold sections ranging between 1488m<sup>2</sup> and 1679m<sup>2</sup>,  
3 holiday cottages, and 1 large family home

## SOLD

**Portobello** 8 Moss Street

## NEW LISTING

**Macandrew Bay** 27 Marion Street

## NEW LISTING

**Broad Bay** 2 Roebuck Rise

## NEW LISTING

**Macandrew Bay** 57 & 57a Greenacres Street

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**BAYLEYS** | Alice Munro

# Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community Inc.

Kia ora koutou,

The last few months we have seen a small number of whanau, school students and workplace groups choosing to stay overnight in the Lodge enjoying some 'island time' in a continued mixed bag of Spring weather. Members of SHE Choir Dunedin held their first retreat on the island, the W.E.E. Treat (Women's Empowerment Experience) returned, and members of the Dunedin Zen Group returned for their 7-day silent meditation intensive. Day visitors included Staff from the University of Otago Supply Chain who held a workplace end-of-year get-together and regular volunteer and Community member, Becky Parmenter, arranged and supervised a Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research workplace volunteering day. Staff helped with bush track maintenance, releasing seedlings and weeding. We also hosted special visitors Ruth Harvey, leader of the Iona Community in Scotland, and Nick Austin. A small number of Community members, including former St Martin Island Community members, Peter Matheson and Charles Clark, joined us for warm shared korero, and some mahi.

We've held a number of weekend mahi volunteer days and our monthly Welcome Day's which have been enjoyed by new visitors and regular volunteers/Community members. Mahi has included planting and caring for seedlings, releasing, weed control, monitoring predator traps and tracking tunnels, bird counts, preparing for lizard surveys, leading tours of the island, and improvements to the Keeper's Cottage and other building maintenance. Thanks to all our volunteers and Community members for their efforts on and off the island over the last few months.

We are grateful to The Sargood Bequest and Otago Peninsula Community Board for funding for jetty decking timber, Otago Regional Council ECOFund, and Rotary Club of Dunedin South for funds to help us to continue our regeneration project involving the wider community, Lottery Otago/Southland Community Fund for

contributing to funds towards the Keepers salary, Rotary Club of Dunedin for funding towards boat maintenance, and Port-To-Port Cruises and Wildlife Tours, and East Coast Charters who have provided boat transfers. Thanks also to Bill Boes for shearing the island sheep.



Would you like to join our Volunteer Database? Complete our Volunteer Form and read our Volunteer

Information Sheet for some ideas of how you could help and what to expect, available on our website.

If you'd like to visit or stay on the island, as a family group, or group of friends, or for a retreat or workshop venue, also see our website [quarantineisland.org.nz](http://quarantineisland.org.nz) for details.

You can also subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter to learn about island news, events and volunteer opportunities, or follow our Facebook page Quarantine Island Kamau Taurua (Quarantine Island) and/or Facebook Group QI/KT Community Group, or Instagram page [quarantineislandkamautaurua](https://www.instagram.com/quarantineislandkamautaurua), or contact the island Keeper (Resident Manager) on 021 082 58619 or email [quarantineisland@gmail.com](mailto:quarantineisland@gmail.com).

If you haven't visited before, we host a Community Welcome Day on the last weekend of each month. Just a short boat ride from Back Beach, Port Chalmers, or Portobello by arrangement. We organise boat transport. Details and registration forms for events are on our website or posted on our Facebook page.

There is something for everyone on Kamautaurua/Quarantine Island. From relaxing and recharging in solitude and peaceful surroundings, to learning about Island history and ecology, volunteering, and experiencing what makes the Island so special.

**Saturday 27 January 2023—Welcome Day**  
**Saturday 24 February 2023—Welcome Day**

Volunteer, relax or explore, or all three! Come for the day or stay overnight!

## Portobello Public Library

Come on in and get your holiday reading books before we close on Thursday 21 December and reopen on Thursday 18 January 2024.

Just recently we had someone come in (who always meant to but never got around to it) and they were amazed at the good quality books we have for lending.

It costs just \$5 a family to join and then 20 cents for each book taken out.

We have nonfiction and fiction plus the Consumer Magazine and the Mens Shed Magazine to take out. There are also a few free puzzles for those who like to do them.

Thanks for your support this year and also to our Librarian, Dot, and our volunteers.

# Invasive Weeds Update from SWAT

Our team recently ran a Saturday morning workshop for residents in Allans Beach Road interested in learning the best way to tackle Banana Passionfruit (BPF). We have learnt a lot in the three years we have been operating and we are keen to pass on information and tips to landowners concerned about BPF and the damage it can do. It is easier to get rid of than you would think! If you would like us to run a workshop in your street, contact us at [SWATweeds@gmail.com](mailto:SWATweeds@gmail.com).

We have also recently had several requests from residents in Portobello and Broad Bay for assistance with pest plants. Thanks for getting in touch! When you contact us, one of our team visits your property to assess the issue and discuss the control options with you. If it is something we can help with, we agree on a work programme and then come on a Friday morning in our orange vests and get started. Maybe it takes a few Fridays to get it sorted, but we keep at it until it's finished and our work does not cost you a cent (although we always appreciate morning tea ☺). We are grateful to have just received a grant from the Otago Peninsula Community Board to help fund the herbicide and



equipment we need to continue this service.

Can you do us a favour this festive season? Keep an eye out during December, January and February for the very distinctive brilliant red flowers and shamrock-looking leaves of the Chilean Flame Creeper [CFC]. It's an invasive climbing perennial fine stemmed vine. It gets up into the canopy of our native bush where it blocks light and smothers and kills trees. The vine develops a thick rhizome root mass which can extend for 10 m. It is very hardy and extremely difficult to kill once it is established. SWAT finds new vines are more easily eradicated than

established vines - so early detection is vital and now is the best time to find it as the thin stems die back in winter making it harder to spot. We're lucky it is not widespread yet, but with birds spreading the seeds, there have been bits pop up around Portobello and Broad Bay. Sharp eyes and good surveillance are key to spotting pest plants before they have a chance to spread so if you spot some CFC, please email us.

Have a great holiday season and thanks for your support!

— Cheers from SWAT

## Another Day In Paradise—from Olly's Pen

Xmas is almost here again aye – time to reconnect with whānau members and celebrate the wonders of being family. At least that's what I look forward to. I've got a daughter over in Florida so that will be a phone as a follow up to a Xmas e-card. My oldest girl is in Hastings, the next in Birkenhead, Auckland and my pōtiki daughter is in Palmerston North and is looking for a property to buy in Wellington. So I'm looking forward to catching up with all of them and the mokopuna. Theraze's son lives in London so we'll be chatting to him online as we have done in the past. One Xmas we were in Wanaka at her daughter's place and suddenly a real live Santa came striding into the house with a merry Ho! Ho! Ho! And then he proceeded to shake our hands and wish us all a merry Xmas. We were flabbergasted and I personally thought, what a lovely thing to do – it must be a local Wanaka thing – how nice. After a while, there was something familiar about him but I couldn't put my finger on it. And then Santa beamed with absolute joy and took off his beard. Lo and behold, it was her son from London. We were all delighted and absolutely taken unexpectedly by surprise. It's moments like that, that make life magical and family times so special aye. I'm practising enjoying and appreciating every day and every moment. I keep a daily diary into which I write down ten

things I am genuinely grateful for. At the end of each day I re-read what I've written down and then highlight the best event which I write down under the heading : The Best thing(for that day). Since I began this I realised how unaware I've actually been of many things – like the many plants and flowers we've planted around our home. I didn't even know their names and I didn't appreciate them or think about how colourful and beautiful they are. And suddenly I understood why plants love growing for Theraze – she's got green fingers. When she plants anything, she talks to them, she sends loving thoughts to them. She even threatens them when they don't behave well – and they grow for her. I've always associated planting things as work that's got to be done – it's a chore. Now that I'm more aware of how I affect other life forms around me and how they affect me I feel more like I'm a part of everything. Just that fact alone has made me automatically more caring and more considerate. Xmas is a great time to get in touch with that overall awareness I reckon. We are all so blessed to be living here in Otākou, in our wee houses, surrounded by so many wonderful friends and people. This is our paradise! Merry Xmas!

— Olly Ohlson

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# Te Rauone Beach and Reserve Project

We are pleased to report that significant progress has been made in recent times on the Rock Groynes, Sand Replenishment and Reserve Project at Te Rauone. We envisage that this summer many people will take advantage of the safe swimming beach, a perfect place to kayak or boat, a nice area to walk your dog or just a lovely picnic spot for family and friends.

The development of the Reserve has included the construction of the Playground, the formation of a very popular Basketball Court, 2 covered in BBQs, as well as new seating and changing rooms. In addition, there is a car park with a Māori archway which leads visitors onto this wonderful asset.

This project has taken many years to complete and while at times it has been challenging it has also been very rewarding. The local community will always be there to support the project and will be happy to assist with any further work that may be required.



Now that the major part of the project is completed the TRBCCC would like to take this opportunity of thanking the former members of the committee who initiated the early stages of the planning to what has been a successful outcome.

There are also many groups and individuals who have made significant contributions to this wonderful project and we would like to pass on our sincere appreciation to you all for your tireless efforts in bringing the Rock Groyne, Sand Replenishment and Reserve Development to where it is today.

As individuals and community members we will always be around to help out and will forever be invested in this area.

Please come and enjoy this amazing facility during the summer break.

Thank you to you all. Kind regards,

— Des Smith, TRBCCC

## The Sea Lion Trust

Summer is kicking off around Ōtepoti Dunedin, and with that comes sea lions!

Walking along beaches in the Otago and Southland area you may come across individual or groups of sea lions. This can be exciting but it is very important to keep a distance of at least 20 metres between you and the nearest sea lion for both your own and the sea lion's safety. Dogs must be controlled by leads within 20 metres of sea lions or any other coastal wildlife.

Sea lion pups and yearlings can be very inquisitive and at times can approach people out of curiosity. If this happens, back away slowly and try to be as uninteresting as you possibly can!



New Zealand  
**SEA LION TRUST**

Whilst numbers of sea lions are increasing on the New Zealand mainland, they are still an endangered species numbering less than 12,000, so it is a privilege for us to be sharing our beaches and coastline with them. If you have any concerns for a sea lion (or any other native wildlife) in danger, please contact 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468) in the first instance.

If you are keen to help out in terms of volunteering, or have any other concerns/questions, please feel free to reach out to us at [info@sealiontrust.org.nz](mailto:info@sealiontrust.org.nz) or check out our website at [www.sealiontrust.org.nz](http://www.sealiontrust.org.nz). Meri Kirihimete and enjoy your time admiring our taonga species from a distance!

# Otakou Golf Club

Dear Golfers and Friends,

The club finishes its regular season with a 4 man Ambrose competition and meal at the clubhouse in Golf Course Road on 10 December. It then takes a breath and girds its loins for the new season which for us starts on 14th January, '24. The course remains open in between times for members and the casual green fee players. And our regular Wednesday evening Twilight competition continues throughout this holiday time. Just as a reminder, Twilight starts between 4.00pm and 6.00pm.

The greens have just been cored and should be at their best in a few weeks time. We have had a team of workers out on the course, filling the cored holes, fertilising, seeding and despite the unseasonal wet summer weather; constantly watering. This is all volunteer work and to a large part we rely upon Green Fees to pay for the equipment and materials. So come on down and help us out.

We accept EFTPOS and or cash to pay for a round at the terminal at the clubhouse, or you can become a member.

It is appropriate to publically recognise our volunteers. On behalf of the Ōtakou Club, thank you all. We hope you enjoy the fruits of your labours on one of the best little courses in Otago.

When you open your Christmas stocking this year and you find a tube of golf balls waiting for you it wasn't always that easy. In days of old players became fed up with stones or round pebbles because they broke the wooden clubs that were then used. Initially, they fixed a horn or something more substantial to the



wooden shaft but that was not the real solution. So then they changed from round stone to a feather filled leather case of about the same size as the current ball in use. It would take a bucket of feathers to make one ball, and that is no bull.

After collecting a bucket of goose feathers the ball maker would cut some softened leather to size and stitch the pieces together with waxed thread outside in, and then reversed, leaving a small hole into which the boiled goose feathers were stuffed with a stuffing rod. Once the leather cover had been stuffed until it could hold no more it would then be stitched up. Not finished yet. The ball was then hammered into a consistent shape and given three coats of paint. A skilled craftsman could make about four of these a day. No wonder they were expensive at 5 shillings each, 160 years ago.

This artistry was scarcely given the credit it deserved as it was rare that one ball would last a complete round and certainly not two. And so to today; and it is still rare for the modern ball to last more than one round given the skill, or lack of, of some of our current duffers. No matter, balls are plentiful these days so be thankful for that tube of balls Christmas day. And don't you wish that you had the idea to make an object that the customer would lose in the lake, rough or gorse and come back asking for more. A ready made market of 1.2 billion per year. Makes you think.

Stay safe and enjoy the holidays.

*Hit'em Straight!*

## Volunteer Opportunities

DAY	TIME	WORK TYPE	LOCATION	GROUP	CONTACT	EMAIL
SUN and TUES	9:30 - 12	Tree releasing, trackwork	Top of Bacon St, Broad Bay	STOP	Lala	stopincsoc@gmail.com
TUES and THURS	10 - 4	Potting up, seed sowing, weeding	TSBT Nursery at 470 Tomahawk Rd, Ocean Grove	TSBT	Nicole	beachcare@zoho.com
WED	9:30 - 12:30	Prep native plants for planting	YEPT Nursery at 12 McTaggart St, Company Bay	YEPT	Louise	nursery@yeptrust.org.nz
FRI	9 - 12	Track cutting	Sandymount	OPBG	Maggie	peninsula@opbg.nz
FRI	9 - 12	Pest plant control	Various, changes each week	SWAT	Moir	SWATweeds@gmail.com
LAST SAT OF MNTH	9:30 - 3:30	Planting, weed and pest control, other	Quarantine Island (via boat transfer)	QI/KT	Claire	secretary.quarantineisland@gmail.com
TBA	tba	Planting, track cutting, other	Okia	YEPT	Ranger Ben	ranger@yeptrust.org.nz

**Do you have a few hours to spare each week and would you like to help a project on the Peninsula?**

Check this list for work that might interest you - then email the contact person for more info.

Showing up at a working bee is a great chance to meet new people, learn new skills, have some fun and feel like you are making a difference. Your energy and work would be much appreciated by any of the six groups listed here!

- **STOP** – Save The Otago Peninsula
- **TSBT** – Tomahawk Smaills BeachCare Trust
- **YEPT** – Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust
- **OPBG** – Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group
- **SWAT** – Seek Weeds and Terminate
- **QI/KT** - Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community

# Otago Peninsula Massage

## Katherine Cooke

Katherine is a very experienced therapist who has treated hundreds of people from all walks of life. She is passionate about helping people become pain free through massage therapy and will work with you to achieve your mobility goals.

### SERVICES

#### HALF HOUR

Half hour appointments are for repeat treatments of single limb or joint injuries.

#### FULL HOUR

Full hour appointments are for any back or neck pain and for multiple injury sites.

#### FIRST APPOINTMENT

Your first appointment will be for a full hour. A history will be taken, Katherine will assess and treat you within this appointment.

Email or phone today to book an appointment.

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**Bowling Club, Portobello Rd**

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**Tai Chi**

**Broad Bay**

**Broad Bay Hall, Clearwater Street**

**Wednesday: 9.30am**



**For more information**

**Margaret**

**P 03 479 3052**

**E margaret@ageconcernotago.co.nz**



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# portobello area community resources

## BOOK A LOCAL HALL

- **Coronation Hall**, Portobello  
Wayne Cameron – 4780 424
- **Scott Hall**, Harwood  
Dave Rogers – 027 696 9657
- **Hoopers Inlet Hall**  
Jackie Clearwater – 4780 508 /  
[scc@cityfirewood.nz](mailto:scc@cityfirewood.nz)
- **Broad Bay Community Centre**  
Zoë Fox – 027 285 4569 / [zoefoxnz@gmail.com](mailto:zoefoxnz@gmail.com)

## PORTOBELLO LIBRARY

The Library is open on Thursdays and Sundays, 11am–1pm. You can find the library in the Coronation Hall, Portobello. If you are wanting to join, it costs \$5.00 per family, and nothing thereafter except for 20 cents per book to take home.

## BOOK BUS

The Dunedin Public Library Book Bus visits the Peninsula every Wednesday. At Portobello School 9:45-10:15, in front of the pub 10:15-11, and at Broad Bay School at 11:15-11:45.

## PENINSULA TOY LIBRARY

Our Toy Library is open every Sunday morning from 10:30–12:30. We have a wide variety of toys, puzzles, games, dress-ups, and ride-on toys. At the Portobello Domain Pavilion, Allans Beach Road.

## BADMINTON CLUB

Badminton Club plays Sundays at 7:00pm, Coronation Hall. new members very welcome—come along and give it a try! We have club rackets for new players to use. Any enquiries phone Geoff on 0275 784 758.

## PENINSULA MEDICAL CENTRE

12 Allans Beach Road, Portobello  
4780 880

## LOCAL PHONE BOOK

478 Local Phone Books are available for purchase at the Portobello Store for \$10.

## PORTOBELLO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

All are welcome to our friendly little church on the Peninsula. 22 Harington Point Road, Portobello. Services every other Sunday at 10:00am.

- 17th December – Jane Cox – Church Svc
- 24th December – 19.00pm – Jane Cox – Xmas Carol Singing

## DEFIBRILLATOR

There are Automated External Defibrillators located outside Portobello Store (1 Harington Point Road), the Broad Bay Boating Club (683 Portobello Road), and Scott Hall, (54 Harwood Street, Harwood).



## HOT WATER URN RENTALS

We have two 20 litre Water Urns available for community use. If you wish to use these for an event, email [pbocomm.inc@gmail.com](mailto:pbocomm.inc@gmail.com). All we ask for is a donation.



## COMMUNITY POOL

The Pool is open! Pool keys are available from the Portobello Store: \$60 for the season.

## Help keep this newsletter in print— Donate to Portobello Community Inc!

The cost of printing has skyrocketed in the past couple of years, so the challenge of keeping this newsletter in your letterbox is greater than ever. Your donation helps keep all of our activities going.

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