

portobello news

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APRIL 2026

Congratulations and thanks to the organisations,
volunteers, and Peninsula community members like you
who have made the Otago Peninsula

Officially Possum-Free!

STORY ON PAGE 10



ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATION

SATURDAY 25 APRIL 9:30AM

OTAGO PENINSULA MUSEUM
PORTOBELLO

Morning tea to follow • Bring a plate

News from the Otago Peninsula Community Board

NEWS FROM THE OTAGO PENINSULA COMMUNITY BOARD

Kia ora tātou hapori. Apologies for whētero (tongue) in my profile picture in this edition, I was indicating to the marshals at the 2026 Motatapu event that I was nearly done! The last couple of months have been fairly busy for me personally as we finally get a positive run of late weather for some much-needed outdoor pursuits. After a fairly average summer, Autumn finally delivered some sunshine and I've been really happy to be out and about in the great outdoors. Apart from the challenge and some tired legs, the Motatapu event in Arrowtown really showed that if you have the environment and the willingness to create something worthwhile, well-run events really add something to your community (such as the just-completed Wild Dunedin New Zealand Festival of Nature and what it delivered for the Otago Peninsula).



2026 ANNUAL PLAN – FINAL STAGES OF ROAD SAFETY PROJECT – TE AWA ŌTĀKOU

The Dunedin City Council and Otago Regional Council Annual Plans will go out for consultation again this year. With the current government looking to have councils have rates caps and a newly elected City Council the final three stages of road widening at Ōtākou, Portobello School and From Harwood to Harington Point could be under jeopardy of being removed as a capital cost-saving. It would be a disaster for the Otago Peninsula not to get the last pieces of the roading network and as usual we will need the support of the community to retain this project in the City Councils budgets.

In the Dunedin City Council's 2026 Annual the focus will be on the Ōtākou-Harington Point section and it is important that Council hear your voice as to why this is important. The Portobello School and Desert Road sections will not be looked at until deliberations on the DCC 10 Year Plan around July this year. You can make a submission by using the online link at: <https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/council/annual-and-long-term-plans/annual-plan-2026-2027>

portobello community inc.

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

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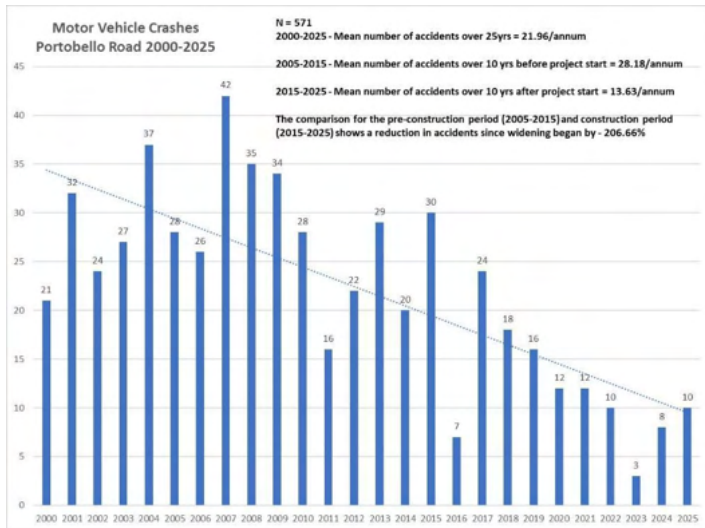
Otakou and Harington Point

Contact us at pbocomm.inc@gmail.com if interested!

Please have your say.

ROAD SAFETY DATA

There has been a lot of discussion in the media, council and the wider community about the Otago Peninsula Road Widening Project - Te Awa Ōtākou. There has been significant misinformation regarding the road safety aspect of the project. To keep the community informed I took the opportunity to review the last 25 years of crash data on



Portobello Road supplied by the NZ Police.

Across 25 years of data, Portobello Road has averaged at 21.96 motor vehicle crashes per annum. To make a comparative sample, the ten years leading up to the project start (2005-2015) and the ten years from when it began until today (2015-2025) were compared.

The data was revealing and showed that from 2005-2015 (before the widening of Portobello Road) it averaged out at 28.18 crashes a year.

From 2015-2025 (after the widening began until the completion at Portobello) it averaged out at 13.63 crashes a year. That's a decrease in accidents when comparing the two samples of 206.66%.

So, the biggest improvement in safety on Portobello Road has not been in cyclists or pedestrians but in drivers of motor vehicles of all types. When people tell you that this project has not been about safety and it's simply a cycleway, they're not giving the community the full facts. The road is statistically safer for local and visiting drivers alike, who are the biggest users of the road.

As the Dunedin City Council Annual and Long Term Plans come up for consultation, just remember that this project has kept you and your whānau safer than they were before the work began. It's time to also have the Portobello School

and Ōtākou/Harington Point communities kept safe in the same way.

2026 NEWS IN BRIEF

At the Board's recent March meeting the following groups received funding;

Coronation Hall \$2000 towards new toilets, Peninsula Choir \$1000 towards musical direction, STOP \$1000 towards eDNA testing at Smiths Creek and Broad Bay Hall \$500 towards the development of a community garden.


Harington Point Road near Portobello School will have major disruptions while the slip is finally repaired.

Congratulations to OPBG on making the Otago Peninsula Possum-Free!


FACEBOOK

Just a reminder that the Board has a Facebook account where we share notices, information and meeting dates. Please take the opportunity to use it if you can and share information to those who may not use social media. <https://www.facebook.com/pencomboard/>

— Paul Pope, Otago Peninsula Community Board Chairman
paul.peninsula@xtra.co.nz (03) 4780630 or 0274668446



Cycle The Loop
Otago Harbour
DUNEDIN NEW ZEALAND


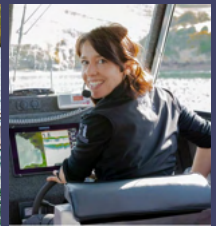



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Portobello Police Station

Tēnā koutou everyone,

As I write this it's the first week of the school holidays. The world is in a bit of an upheaval and daylight savings has just kicked in. Where to start. Well, I suppose from my point of view a really important one. With the goings on around fuel I think it is really important to be vigilant because it's times like these that unsavoury characters think we are an easy target to get their free fuel. So put gas containers away out of sight around your property, take the extra ones off your boat and just be aware desperate times call for desperate measures for some. There are things we can do to minimise the risk of becoming a victim.



There was a serious incident at Mac Bay on the walk/cycle path wee while ago. Families walking dogs, and cyclists travelling on the same path as we know is allowed and happens daily. The 1st cyclist rings their bell and the family moves aside. Unfortunately, the family didn't hear the second cyclist and as they came through the dog moved into their path causing the cyclist to go over the rock wall and onto the rocks as was low tide. Thankfully, not too much damage (broken ribs) but could have been much worse if it wasn't for their cycle helmet. I know you all have your thoughts around shared pathways, but this is what we have. Please just be mindful, both walkers and cyclists as lives can change instantly.

With that said if you're out walking now with it getting darker earlier, get yourself and your furry friend lit up, head lamps, high vis are all good things. This shows everyone using the pathway that you're there and makes it a lot safer for all.

Last week a cylinder was stolen from a property on Golf Course Road. Quiet, out of the way areas are targets for our

five finger discount operators. Keep an eye out for anything suspicious and call it in if you think something is not right.

A stolen vehicle was dumped out our way over the last couple of weeks. This means there is a possibility that our thieves will need another vehicle to get out of here – fortunately not on this occasion. Lock up your vehicles, activate alarms, use steering locks and generally try and park in an area that is well lit if you can.

I have noticed that firewood deliveries are being dumped outside many properties and are there for quite some time. Try and get it put away as soon as you can. This again is a good commodity (and not cheap) that can be targeted at this time of the year. If you are having trouble getting it put away for whatever reason, give me a call. I'm sure we can arrange a team to come and get it done.

Scammers don't take holidays. There is an increase in reports of scams targeting communities through texts, fake e-mails, and phone calls. Often pretending to be banks, government agencies and even the police. Never share your personal or banking details unless you're 100% sure who you are paying or what you are signing up for. They are getting cleverer for sure. They will target anyone, anywhere and at any time. Please be vigilant, you work too hard for your money just to give it away.

I am continually committed to keeping our community safe – on the roads, online, and everywhere in-between.

If you see suspicious behaviour or need advice or assistance, please reach out. If you can't get a hold of me, please remember 111 (for emergency) or 105 (for non-emergency)

Take care and as always, my door is open. Your support is greatly appreciated.

– Sr. Constable Aaron Smith

Portobello School News

Kia ora,

Portobello School has had a fantastic first term of 2026.

We welcomed three new students to Portobello School. Felix, Harley and Otto joined Junior Whānau on the first day of the year.



The Ministry of Education is rolling out funding for Learning Support Coordinators for all schools. We were fortunate to receive our funding from the start of this year. The funding for us equates to one day a week. An LSC

works with students to support their learning needs and with teachers to offer assistance and guidance. Kate Butterfield-Reese, our senior teacher, is taking this role.

Kate will continue to teach in the senior class, as well as taking this Learning Support Coordinator role.

The pool got a new thermal cover in the Christmas holidays. This has helped keep the heat in the pool and ultimately reduce heating costs. Thank you to the New Zealand Community Trust for their generous grant which paid for this cover.

We have had some trees removed during the Christmas holidays. A leaning pine at the bottom of the tree reserve, an oak that was at the end of its life on the art path, and some hanging macrocarpa branches at the top of the playground.

The year 7&8 students joined students from Broad Bay School for two sailing sessions. A great time was had by all. Thank you to Rebecca and Daniel at Broad Bay School for inviting us to take part in this great opportunity.

We had a whole school trip to Toitū and Lan Yuan Chinese Gardens on Monday 9th of March. It gave everyone an opportunity to visit these two great places in our city.

The year 5-8 boys and girls attended the girls and boys MultiSport event at Logan Park on the 11th and 12th of

March. This was an opportunity to experience four different sports; rugby, cricket, football and hockey.

We have added more bark chips to the lower playground with more to come. We will be topping up the upper playground as well.

The school took part in Move it March. An initiative to get more children walking and biking to school.

The year 7 & 8 students kayaked across Papanui Inlet in the last week of the term. They made bivouacs in the pine trees on the far side of the inlet, sleeping under their self made shelters. They were given a tarpaulin and some ropes to make a shelter that would keep them warm and dry.

Kā mihi,

—Tom Hobbs, Principal, Portobello School

NEW LISTING



Portobello 930 Harington Point Road
For Sale by Negotiation

FOR SALE



Portobello 648 Harington Point Road

FOR SALE



Portobello 944 Harington Point Road

FOR SALE



Portobello Lot 4, 932 Harington Point Road

SOLD




Portobello 928 Harington Point Road



Alice Munro 027 929 1174
alice.munro@bayleys.co.nz
bayleys.CO.NZ Licensed under the REA Act 2008



Abbey Cochrane 027 918 3911
abbey.cochrane@bayleys.co.nz
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Coronation Hall Society Inc
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
is on 30 June at 7pm at the Hall.



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We take reservations on weekends: www.augustinesofportobello.com



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Friday - Sunday
8:30AM-2:30PM

Portobello Bowling Club

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

Thursdays 5pm

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
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(Thursdays during the winter).

The Club rooms with bar and kitchen facilities are
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For further information please contact
Brian Cameron, Secretary
03 478 0816 or bjcameron47@gmail.com

S C BUILDING

Email: samcrossbuilding@gmail.com

Phone: 027 232 8674

Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community Inc.

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Over the past few months, with the usual mixed bag of weather, we have had a number of groups choosing to stay a night or two in St Martin Lodge. Groups of families and friends enjoying an island 'get-away', and day visitors also enjoying some 'Island-time'. Lodge guests included an Autumn Equinox Mindfulness Retreat led by Kovido Maddick and Eric Chagnon, with participants volunteering a few hours each day as part of the 5-night retreat, releasing seedlings and cleaning the Lodge. Students from Logan Park High School used rafts to journey to the Island for a one-night camp, students from Bayfield High School returned for their annual 6-night Camp, and Otago Girls High School students, University of Otago SPEX316 students, also held an overnight camp. Members of the Otago Entomology Society stayed overnight to carry out their annual bug survey, and members of the Danca Latina Dunedin held a weekend dance workshop over Easter, using the Married Quarters building. Sadly, we had a number of cancellations from regional schools who would usually stay whilst participating in NZ Marine Studies Centre programmes.

Day visitors included a local cappella group, Cap'n Spoonbill and the Hoiho, performed a number of sea shanties in the Married Quarters as part of the Dunedin Fringe Festival in March.

We hosted a special visitor, Mary Cavanagh, a former St Martin Island Community chairperson, who came to pay respects to Charles Clark and his whānau in their time of great sadness, and to honour Jon Clark, whom she knew as a young lad on the island. Mary reflected... "It was a real bonus meeting you and other members of the QI/KT community... Wonderful to experience the same kind of manaakitanga we held as our ethos manifest in eating together, working together and looking after the island. The buildings and the whenua looked like they were getting the best of care."

Over the past few months, the Island has continued to be managed by a small group of regular volunteers helping to keep things running, including regular volunteer and friend, Matthew Tait, who stayed on the Island for a month. Off the Island, the governance committee advertised for a

new Keeper/Resident Manager in February, and had a great response, as always. A sub-committee interviewed our short-listed applicants in March and we are pleased to announce that we have found a new Keeper who will begin in late May. Watch this space for further information, as we finalise this appointment at the time of writing. The committee has been working hard on fundraising for all sorts of projects, and one successful grant. Special thanks to Alexander McMillan Trust for a grant for new signs, and also Jess Penwarden for all her mahi on grant submissions, and offering her support with finding a new webhost.

On our Mahi Days, our small core group of regular volunteers have helped with cleaning in the Lodge and Keeper's Cottage, maintaining the Cottage veggie garden, and grounds and maintenance work which our resident Keeper usually does.

Other mahi included caring for native seedlings in the Reserve and in our shade house, weed control, predator control trap maintenance, and building maintenance including the Chapel.

For more details about who QI/KT Community are, how you can support our mahi by making a donation, becoming a Member, and/or volunteer, arranging a visit or stay on the island, as a family group, or group of friends, or a retreat, wedding or workshop

venue, see our website quarantineisland.org.nz

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 pontoon by arrangement. We organise boat transport. Details and booking forms for events are on our website or posted on our Facebook and Instagram pages, or you can join our volunteer database to receive emails about opportunities.

Mahi days - dates vary

See our social media pages for details, or join our Volunteer Database.

Saturdays 25th April & 30th May - Welcome Day

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



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.

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Macandrew Bay

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Friday: 1.30 pm



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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Aligned to Go Portobello



Fridays @ 10:30 am starting Feb 13th

Bowling Club, Sherwood Street

Join us to improve your strength and balance. Falls are not a natural part of ageing. Falls ARE preventable!

Aligned to Go is a new dance-based falls prevention programme to improve balance, strength, flexibility, agility, coordination and mobility.

All welcome. \$3 per session.



For more information:

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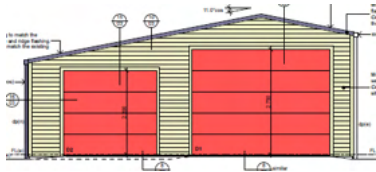
ageconcernotago.com

Portobello Fire Brigade

FIRST RESPONDER VEHICLE PROJECT.

There has been steady progress with funding applications, and we have been reasonably successful given the current financial situation. We have around 85% of our funding either in the bank or pledged and are hopeful to secure the rest in the next couple of months.

We have had another interesting donation towards our project, a golf cart and trailer. This has been made on behalf of the late Kevin Charles by his friend, Sam Neil. We have advertised it on Trade me and it's getting lots of interest. Kevin was a social member of our brigade and supported us in the past. Thanks again Sam for your part in this.



We can't emphasise enough the great support from our community and Port Otago Ltd. As soon as the funding is all secured, we will order the vehicle and proceed with the building construction.

The brigade is also going to benefit from the Memorial Golf Tournament, organised by Neil and Claire Metcalfe. This tournament is supporting Mental Health Awareness, Bereaved Families and the Portobello Volunteer Fire Brigade. Thanks Neil and Claire for including us in this wonderful cause.

PORTOBELLO BRIGADE IS LOOKING FOR MORE DAYTIME STAFF.

Are you interested in serving your community?

Are you available during the daytime? Are you interested in learning new skills and making some good friends? We are looking for people to become fire fighters, medical first responders (or both). For more details contact a brigade member or CFO Jamie Ramsay (see below).

I know we didn't have much of a summer, and now that the weather is cooling, it's time to start using the wood burner again. When was the last time you had your flue inspected and swept? Probably a good time before you are using the fire all the time.

Daylight saving finished last weekend and it's time to check your smoke alarms. Do they operate? Are they less than 10 years old? If you need any advice, feel free to contact Greg, Myself, or any brigade member.

The Otago Peninsula is in an Open fire season, which means a permit is not required to light a fire in open air, but you are responsible and still need to do this safely.

As there are several special risk zones and conservation land on the peninsula that require a permit, please use the website www.checkitsalright.nz to check your address.

If you have any fire related concerns, 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
jamie.ramsay@fireandemergency.nz
 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 Volunteer Fire Brigade.*

Portobello Library News

Library News:

We recently held our 156th AGM – a long time to be serving the community. Dot is our Librarian and Edna is the President. Dot opens the Library on a Thursday from 11-1pm and volunteers open on a Sunday 11-1pm. There are lots of new books that have been recently purchased. Come along, join up and enjoy what the Library has to offer. \$5 to join, then just 20 cents a book.

Book Review from Rosemary this newsletter is DELIRIOUS by Damien Wilkins

This is a gentle and often humorous book that draws the reader into the lives of the elderly Mary, a former

policewoman, and Pete, a librarian, as they are persuaded to move from their no-longer-suitable-for-their-age home by the sea into a nearby retirement village. Mary and Pete have lived alone together for years but their memories are filled with family and the book moves seamlessly to and from their present and remembered lives, and the many people and events within them.

This is not, however, a story of a sweet old couple, settling quietly into their twilight years. Rather, it is one that shows that people can continue to grow, learn and change even as their joints creak arthritically and their hearts beat erratically from time to time. While delirium itself may be feared and fearful, it is still possible to be giddy - delirious - with joy even in our older lives.

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group Update

POSSUM-FREE PENINSULA - A HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT

In March 2026, the Otago Peninsula was declared possum-free, becoming one of the first inhabited, landscape-scale areas in Aotearoa New Zealand to eliminate possums. Over 25,000 possums have been removed from the Peninsula since OPBG was founded in 2008, resulting in huge benefits for our local biodiversity.



This achievement reflects the contribution of many people over many years. Special thanks go to the hundreds of volunteers who gave thousands of hours of their time, local residents who hosted traps in their backyards, and the landowners who welcomed us onto their properties.

Now that the Peninsula is possum-free, it's important we all remain vigilant in case one tries to sneak back in. If you hear or see any sign of a possum, please don't hesitate to report it at: www.reportapossum.nz

Autumn Rat Control - Perfect Time for Action

As we draw closer to winter, rats are actively seeking food sources and warm shelter, often leading them closer to our

homes. This makes it an ideal time to replenish bait stations and refresh traps.

OPBG volunteers have recently undertaken monitoring at Sandymount Reserve which has revealed high rat numbers.

In response, we will be undertaking an intensive control operation this April. Our goal is to reduce rat populations before the spring, giving our native birds the best chance of successfully raising their young. We're regularly joined by tūi, korimako (bellbird), piwakawaka (fantail), and riroriro (grey warbler) during our work at the reserve, and have also been seeing

increasing numbers of mātātā (fernbird) over the last 12 months.

Get Involved

We currently have volunteer opportunities available for anyone interested in taking on a rodent or mustelid trapline. We also continue to offer discounted rat traps and toxin for Peninsula residents to use on their own properties and can give advice on where to best place these. Interested? Contact Chris at operations@opbg.nz for more information.

operations@opbg.nz

www.predatorfreepeninsula.nz

Volunteering Opportunities on the Otago Peninsula

AUTUMN 2026

DAY	TIME	WORK TYPE	LOCATION	GROUP	CONTACT	EMAIL
Last Mon of month	9:30 am (summer)	Gardening	Glenfalloch	FOG	Robyne	robyneselbie1945@gmail.com
ANY	any	Stoat and rat trapping	Sandymount, the Inlets	OPBG	Chris	operations@opbg.nz
SUN	10:30 – 1	Tree releasing, trackwork, planting	Top of Bacon St, Broad Bay	STOP	Lala	stopincsoc@gmail.com
TUES	9:30 - 12	Tree releasing, trackwork, planting	Top of Bacon St, Broad Bay	STOP	Lala	stopincsoc@gmail.com
WED	9:30 – 12:30	Preparing native plants for planting	YEPT Nursery, 12 McTaggart St, Company Bay	YEPT	Louise	nursery@yeptrust.org.nz
TUES + THURS	10 – 4	Potting up, sowing seed, weeding	TSBT Nursery, 470 Tomahawk Rd, Ocean Grove	TSBT	Nicole	beachcare@zoho.com
THURS	10 – 1:30	Repotting native plants	45 Pakihau Rd, Harington Point	The OPERA		info@theopera.co.nz
FRI	9 - 12	Controlling invasive pest plants	Various Peninsula locations	SWAT	Marcia	SWATweeds@gmail.com
SAT/SUN	9:30 – 3:30	Predator control, seedling care, bird counts	Quarantine Island (via boat transfer)	QI/KT	Cristina	volunteer.quarantineisland@gmail.com

Do you have three hours to spare each week? Would you like to help a project on the Peninsula?

If any of the activities listed above interest you, email the contact person. You don't need any skills. You will be shown what to do. It helps to be moderately fit. Adults of any age welcome. Have a go, see if you enjoy it! You'll get a warm welcome! Your mahi would be much appreciated by the eight groups listed here

- FOG Friends of Glenfalloch
- OPBG Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group
- STOP Save The Otago Peninsula Inc Soc
- YEPT Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust
- TSBT Tomahawk Smalls BeachCare Trust
- OPERA The Otago Peninsula Eco Restoration Alliance
- SWAT Seek Weeds and Terminate
- QI/KT Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community Inc

Otago Peninsula Museum

Hello to you all. Volunteers are an essential part of every community and usually do not take up too much of your time, depending on how much you want to get involved. Some people volunteer for many roles in the community. It is a very satisfying way to give back to the community and make new friends/acquaintances, particularly if you are new to the district. Without volunteers our way of life would not function very well.

At the Museum we have a couple of spaces for volunteers at our Tuesday morning working bee with the men down in The



OTAGO PENINSULA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

17 Harington Point Road, Portobello, Dunedin 9014

Barn. There are always projects on the go. We would also like a couple more volunteers to help on our Sunday roster – opening the Museum for three hours on a Sunday which you would do twice a year (that's six hours a year!). We will show you around before your Sunday duty comes around. Pop along on a Tuesday morning (we are there 9-12) to meet us or ring Laurel 4780-512 if you would like to be part of the working bee or on the roster. You can also contact us by email – theotagopeninsulamuseum@gmail.com

Our two popular books Portobello – A Brief History and Otago Peninsula Then and Now are available for \$30 from the local Dairy and Doctors Rooms in Portobello. Special thanks to these guys for your support with this. The books are also available at the Port Chalmers Museum.

Thanks to the men at The Barn we have some great new panels that we will be using on ANZAC Day to show off the information on our local soldiers who gave their lives for our country. They will then be used as a way of showing off all the photos and information we hold at the Museum.

With ANZAC Day coming up, the following is some information from our files.

The Victoria Cross

The VC was introduced on 29 January 1856 by Queen Victoria to honour acts of valour during the Crimean War.

One of our New Zealand recipients was Second Lieutenant Te Moananui-a-Kiwa Ngārimu (7 April 1919 – 27 March 1943), a soldier of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force and posthumous recipient of the Victoria Cross (VC), the highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces. He was the first Māori person to be awarded the VC while serving with New Zealand forces. He was killed in action during Operation Supercharge II, part of the Tunisian campaign of World War II.

The medal was presented to his parents by the Governor General of New Zealand, Sir Cyril Newall, at a hui at Ruatoria on 6 October 1943 attended by government leaders, diplomatic representatives and local people. The first of only

two Victoria Crosses awarded to Māori, it was displayed in Gisborne in the Tairāwhiti Museum's Price of Citizenship Gallery. He is commemorated by a scholarship promoting education of Māori and also in the World War II Hall of Memories at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. There is also a plaque honouring him in the Queen's gardens in Dunedin.

Second Lieutenant Ngārimu is buried in the Sfax War Cemetery, located near Sfax, Tunisia, currently maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. It contains a

single Commonwealth burial from World War I, 1253 Commonwealth burials from World War II, and the grave of one Greek soldier from World War II.

Here are some key statistics from WW2

NZ population at outbreak of war – 1,632,000
Men of military age – 355,000
Men and women who served overseas – 135,000
Peak number in the Home Guard – 124,000

Peak Mobilisation (1942)

Army – 127,000
Navy – 6,000
Air Force – 24,000

Casualties

Deaths – 10,130
Missing – 634
Prisoners (peak) – 8,086
Wounded – 19,345

Food shipments during war to Britain

Meat – 1,800,000 tons
Butter – 685,000 tons
Cheese – 625,000 tons
Wool – 5,400,000 bales

Shipments of meat, butter and vegetables were also shipped to the United States Forces



An invasive pest plants update from your local volunteer weed team

BANANA PASSIONFRUIT (BPF): “TASTES GOOD (DEBATABLE), BEHAVES BADLY”

Banana passionfruit continues to be a serious and fast-spreading threat across the Otago Peninsula. This vigorous climbing vine can quickly smother native trees and shrubs, blocking sunlight and preventing new growth. (See photo) Over time, dense infestations will collapse vegetation, and prevent the natural regeneration of our unique coastal bush. The fruit is also a significant year round food source for rats, enabling them to breed constantly.

One of the biggest concerns is how easily banana passionfruit spreads. Birds eat the fruit and distribute seeds over wide areas, meaning new plants can appear far from the original source. What starts as a single vine can soon become a widespread problem if left unchecked.

Encouragingly, local action is already underway. With permission from DCC, SWAT has been tackling BPF on road reserve on Allans Beach Rd. Road banks provide the perfect corridors for the spread of pest plants.

In addition to the volunteer work undertaken by SWAT, a new community project in Broad Bay has been kicked off by

STOP. Volunteers and paid staff are doing valuable work to control BPF and raise awareness. Residents who are unable to deal with it themselves are invited to make a donation to STOP to help fund this initiative. Their efforts show how coordinated community action can make a real difference on the ground.

Early control is critical. Small infestations like in the bottom photo are relatively easy to manage, but once established, the vine becomes costly and labour-intensive to remove. By acting now—removing fruit and putting in your green bins, pulling out young seedlings, cutting mature vines at the ground and pasting with herbicide, and reporting sightings—we can slow the spread and minimise long-term damage.

Community involvement is key. Landowners, volunteers, and local groups all play an important role in protecting the Peninsula. By working together, we can reduce the spread of banana passionfruit and safeguard our native biodiversity for generations to come.

If you would like advice on controlling pest plants on your property, we would love to hear from you. Contact us by email at SWATweeds@gmail.com and we'll be in touch!

— Cheers from SWAT



STOP (Save The Otago Peninsula)

Working bees on Tuesday mornings start at 9.30am at the end of Bacon St, but those on Sundays start at 10.30am to give volunteers time to catch the early buses. Releasing trees planted in previous years to give them maximum chance of survival is a task that continues during April, with planting for this season's new trees starting in May. New volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Contact details below.

If you would like to commemorate a milestone in yours or your family's life you may like to consider having a tree – or a grove of trees - planted. Each tree plus the protective cage, the fertiliser tablet, the stake, the labels and the wire pegs to fasten down the weedmats and the protective cage cost STOP \$20. As a charitable donation

you can also claim back a third on your tax. See the contact details below to ask how to donate.



A campaign has started to eradicate Banana passion fruit (BPF) from Broad Bay to protect the adjoining trees being planted in the “Future Forest” from becoming overwhelmed. However birds can fly after eating the seeds from Portobello, Pukehiki or even Harwood, so please consider removing any plants on your property. Rats also love the seed of those ripe yellow fruit, so getting rid of BPF can also help reduce their

numbers.

Contact stopincsoc@gmail.com or Lala (text only) 027 8756 020 for more information about working bees, or BPF control or how to donate trees.



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Another Day In Paradise—from Olly's Pen

Kia ora ano!

I really am a lucky dude you know. The reason I say that is because even though I've had 7 cardiac arrests, my good ole heart kept on going and wullah! Here I am - still. The miracle, as far as I'm concerned is twofold: 1. I never blacked out when I was driving & 2. I was in the hospital building for a checkup or on the way to the hospital whenever I did black out. Even when they put me in an induced coma, my heart and body cranked itself up again and I recovered. A specialist said he wasn't sure I'd come back with all of my faculties intact - but I have! When I asked how long had I been unconscious, he told me, 'three days'. So now I enjoy every day as it comes. However, unlike before - I do it now, consciously aware that everything around me is alive too - both animate and inanimate. The phrase, 'Tihei mauri ora!' literally means, 'I sneeze the sneeze of all of life in me and around me' - which refers to everything and everybody everywhere. This is the protocol followed by formal speakers on a marae - to acknowledge the principal life force in everything, in everybody, everywhere.' This is written in Elsdon Best's book, Children of the Mist volume 2, and recorded in every carved ancestral meeting house throughout the country which contains tukutuku (lattice work) - the decorative art work between carvings. Speakers

on the marae ātea i.e. the area directly in front of the ancestral meeting house, always addresses the creator first then the dead and then the visitors. At the end of their speech there is a song usually led by the women and then the speaker ends with their greetings to everyone present which includes the local iwi. This way of living is typical of village life when people lived as a tribe surrounded by a fortification or some form of boundary. Whānau was the nearest word Maori had to love and everything it entailed before the word aroha came into being. Aro is the desire for wholeness and ha refers to the breath of life. So aroha is an action word. Whānau - pronounced as in the two small words "far" & "no". Whānau isn't the tight family unit of western culture, it's the feeling of oneness as a whole unit of people who make you feel complete and whole. Hence in Maori culture, everything is based on the whānau concept of oneness.

This is what I love about being here in Otākou. Our community knows and looks after one another. We are whānau (farno)! This is our piece of paradise! Tihei mauri ora!

— Olly Ohlson

Local - the smart choice.



Lydia Dickson

027 454 5213

lydia.dickson@tallpoppy.co.nz


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portobello area community resources

BOOK A LOCAL HALL

- **Coronation Hall**, Portobello
Wayne Cameron – 4780 424
- **Portobello Domain Pavilion**
Book through the [DCC website](#).
- **Scott Hall**, Harwood
Dave Rogers – 027 696 9657
- **Hoopers Inlet Hall**
Jackie Clearwater – 4780 508
Hoopersinlethall@gmail.com
- **Broad Bay Community Centre**
See www.broadbay.co.nz for info

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.

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Thanks to the Lions Club, we now have a community pantry for sharing kai, located by the Portobello School lower parking lot. Take a little, leave a little, as you need or wish!

PENINSULA MEDICAL CENTRE

12 Allans Beach Road, Portobello
4780 880

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, 11 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.

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.

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. All we ask for is a donation.



POOL

The Portobello School community pool is closed for the season — **Please remember to return your keys to the school!**

community calendar

Saturday 25 April
Anzac Day Services
Otago Peninsula Museum, 9:30am

Wednesday 29 April
Submission deadline for DCC 10 Year Plan
See p.2 for details

Wednesday 20 May
Portobello Community Inc. Monthly Meeting
Biodiversity Hub, 7:30pm

Tuesday 30 June
Coronation Hall Society Inc. Annual General Meeting
Coronation Hall, 7pm

Sundays 12:30–3:30pm
Peninsula Museum open

Sundays 10:30am–12:30pm
Toy Library open

Thursdays and Sundays 11am–1pm
Portobello Library open