

portobello news

AND HARWOOD • ŌTAKOU • HARINGTON POINT • HOOPERS INLET • PAPANUI INLET

JUNE 2026



SYCAMORE NO MORE –

A team of trainee arboriculturists from Otago Polytechnic felled a pair of invasive sycamore trees at Okia Reserve. Read more in the SWAT update on page 12.

Photo courtesy of SWAT.

Annual General Meetings

Coronation Hall Society Inc

Monday 29 June at 7pm at Coronation Hall.

Hoopers Inlet Hall

Tuesday 30 June at 7pm at Hoopers Inlet Hall.

Otago Peninsula Museum

Monday 27 July 7pm at the Museum *Supper to follow*

Portobello Community Inc.

Wednesday 15 July 7:30pm at the Biodiversity Hub

Quarantine Island Kamau Taurua Community Inc.

Sunday 2 August 12:30pm at The Valley Project Community Rooms, 262 North Road. *Potluck lunch*



Annual General Meetings are a great way to get involved with the groups that make the Otago Peninsula a great place to live and visit



Portobello Community Inc. Update

As the slow tick of time moves to the tock part of the year, my plum tree has lost its leaves. Soon the cold winds of winter will be upon us and we will have to warm ourselves by the glow of the pocket screens.

Kepler’s second law of planetary motion states that a planet must have a higher than average velocity near perihelion (when it is closest to the Sun) and a lower than average velocity near aphelion (when it is farthest away from the Sun).

This year Aphelion falls on July 6th - This term comes from Greek roots: "apo" meaning away, and "helios" meaning sun. At Aphelion we are about 3% further away than normal from the sun. Earth’s orbital speed decreases to about 29.29 km/s, or approximately 105,400 km/h! The increased distance from the Sun reduces the gravitational force acting on Earth, allowing it to move more slowly along its orbital path. So while the winter solstice (the longest night) is on June 21, we will still be slowing down for another few weeks.

What this means is that while those cold winter days can seem like they are dragging on... they actually are! The entire planet is going slower and is further away from the sun.

Lesser mortals would implore you to try and beat winter by recommending stupid things such as:

- Going for a brisk walk
- Swimming in the harbour

- Or hanging out the washing naked before the sun comes up.

I will spout no such fallacies. What you need to do is embrace it. I recommend chicken nugget sustenance, books, and a warm fire/hot water bottle/cat. Sleeping in is recommended to avoid floating out into space. (Remember, further from the sun means less gravitational pull. Can’t be too careful)

Just be warmed by the fact that no matter what spring and summer will come back. Eventually.

Thanks to all who put in the hard work to organise another Anzac service in April. Such an event is only possible with all the effort from the entire community.

While the Coronation Hall is being upgraded we have had to pause our regular market days. However, soon we will have other events ready to go for the community. Please sign up for our email newsletter or follow us on Facebook for details.

As always, we are on the lookout for new contributors and ideas and feedback from the community. Stop by the Biodiversity Hub on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.

Regards,

—Elliot Dixon, Portobello Community Inc Chairperson

portobello community inc.

President
Elliot Dixon

Treasurer
Laura Shepard

Secretary
Michael Lascarides

Newsletter Editors
Michael Lascarides & Laura Shepard

Committee
Sandra Clearwater, Ruth Seeney,
Dan Parker, Ryan Adams, Rose Shepard

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

Kā mihi nui to the
Otago Peninsula Community Board
for their generous support
of this issue of Portobello News!

ADVERTISE WITH US

Portobello News is delivered in print to 500 letterboxes on the Peninsula, and read by another 300 people online. The cost of printing has skyrocketed recently, so your advertising support helps us keep going!

Contact us at pbocomm.inc@gmail.com for rates and information.

**Want this newsletter by email?
Join our mailing list at
portobello.org.nz/contact**

News from the Otago Peninsula Community Board

Kia ora tatou hapori. Winter has arrived and I'm tucked in by the wood burner as the wind roars up the harbour from the Southern Ocean. We may have been lulled into a sense of false security that winter would never arrive, but this evening it sure has. With any cold snap it's always a good time to take stock on supplies, clothing and whether everything outside is locked down securely. There's nothing worse than getting up in the morning and realising all of your deck furniture is gone or the kids' trampoline is upside down at your neighbours.

PAKAKE - NZ SEA LION DEATH

The recent news that another sea lion was killed on the road recently was tragic news for the Otago Peninsula. This is the third death caused by a motor vehicle in the last 3 or 4 years. It comes just as the population here has had its best breeding season.



The reality is that Pakake are here to stay on the Otago Peninsula and as residents we have a duty of care to ensure they survive and thrive. It means that we have to modify our behaviour and become more aware of their presence in our community and in our lives. Those modifications are simple:

- Slow down in the Back Bays
- Keep your eyes and ears open
- Drive safely for yourself and the animals
- Keep your distance
- Be patient

2026 ANNUAL PLAN - TE AWA ŌTĀKOU - PENINSULA CONNECTION

The Dunedin City Council have completed and ratified the 2026-2027 Annual Plan. It was a tight decision and myself and Deputy Chair Hoani Langsbury represented the Board at the public hearing. The focus in this convoluted process was to have Stage One at Ōtākou/Harington Point finally completed. Anyone who knows this section of road knows how narrow and difficult this stretch of road is, but it seems not everyone on Council believes our needs are about safety! However, I'm pleased to say that that we have secured the 2026-2027 Annual Plan funding to have this section finally completed.

2026 LONG TERM PLAN - TE AWA ŌTĀKOU - PORTOBELLO SCHOOL AND HARWOOD SECTIONS

With all that said the battle to have the final stages completed is still to be won. The Portobello School section needs completion if we are to safety and connection seriously. There is no fixed date for

submissions at this stage, but I implore you all to have your say and support the community in getting this critical piece of the roading puzzle completed.

Portobello School and the Community Board need your support to get this finished. Please make a submission to the Dunedin City Council Log Term Plan when it opens. Dates to be advised.

2026 NEWS IN BRIEF

- At the Boards recent June meeting, Portobello Community Inc received funding for its newsletter and to complete the planting at the pump track.
- Harington Point Road near Portobello School is complete and credit to Isaacs for their work and for changing the traffic control for the worksite.
- Next week we interview four finalists for the Boards scholarship.
- Congratulations to the Coronation Hall for beginning their upgrade of the hall's toilets.

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

Portobello Kindergarten,
30 Harington Point Road



Dunedin Kindergartens
Māta Mānaki Puawai Ō Ōtago

Spaces available now



Where? Overlooking the harbour and located next door to Portobello School, we are welcoming new enrolments. Choose from sessions Monday to Friday, 8.30 to 2.30.

Cost? 2-year-olds \$2.75 per hour
 3 to 5-year-olds, up to 30 hours free

Get in touch! Call Nathan on 03 478 1072 or email portobello@dk.org.nz or just drop in!

More info? Please visit the Portobello Kindergarten Facebook page or the DK website www.dk.org.nz

Dunedin Kindergartens is not-for profit and all our staff are caring and fully qualified teachers

Portobello Police Station

Tena Koutou everyone,

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. Firewood is a good commodity (and not cheap) that can be targeted by thieves at this time of the year. If you are having trouble getting yours put away for whatever reason, give me a call. I'm sure we can arrange a team to come and get it done.

Road policing is always at the forefront of my mind. With winter coming please take a bit of time in the morning to clear all of your windows of ice and dew before setting off. It only takes a few minutes and allows you to see everything around you. No good leaning out the window whilst you have a fogged or iced up front windscreen. On that note it was really disappointing to have issued 7 speeding tickets in 90 minutes two weeks ago. I had the big Road Policing boss down as well and he added 3 or 4. I take no comfort from this I assure you but when the speeds were all between 63 and 75kmph in the 40 zone. I offer no apologies. I don't want to hear I didn't realise the speed limit when you have lived here for 15 years – yes, that was communicated to me. I certainly don't have money to throw away like that. Please make good choices. Keep yourself and others safe and spend that money on something worthwhile.

It's getting dark earlier now, if cycling or walking on the pathway, light yourself (and you pooches) up like a Xmas tree (who mentioned Xmas?). Be visible and this will help to keep you safe.

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, govt agencies and even the police. Never share your personal or banking details unless



your 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.

There's a lot of talk currently about the sea lion pups and their mums on the roads and near the roads and unfortunately a couple appear to have been hit and killed by vehicles. I suppose my take on this is if you're on the back bay roads, keep the fact that they are out and about clearly in the front of your mind. Accidents do happen but can be mitigated if we are consciously aware and take extra care. If you do happen to hit one of these beautiful creatures, please report it. It's a legal requirement. I liken it to if you drive past signs advising of possible children on the road then I would expect that you slow and be extra vigilant. Same goes here. It's not that difficult, is it?

With today's world climate (not meaning weather) it is hard at times for all of us for various reasons. I get that and I am continuously reminding myself to "BREATHE". Take a step back and "BREATHE". It actually works.

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)

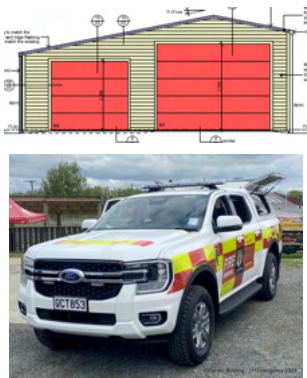
Take care and as always, my door is open. Your support is greatly appreciated.

— Sr. Constable Aaron Smith

Portobello Fire Brigade

1ST RESPONDER VEHICLE PROJECT: NEWS FLASH!

We have reached our fundraising goal of \$200,000 for the purchase of the first response vehicle and the building of a shed to house it.



I would like to personally thank our wonderful community who contributed almost half of the money. This has been from various sources, golf fundraiser, quiz nights, firewood raffles, donations from community organisations as well as personal donations, some of which were quite substantial. (Including a motorbike and golf buggy).

We have engaged a builder and the 4x4 ute has been ordered. We are expecting the project to take around 3 months if everything goes well. Once everything is operational we will



hold an open day to thank the community and let everyone have a look over our new vehicle.

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.

MIND THE HOT ASHES

Recently there have been several fires attributed to hot ashes. In one instance a house was badly damaged by fire and will be uninhabitable for some time.

Please remember to always put hot ashes in a metal container and pour water on them. Make sure burn piles are out before dark.

STAY FIRE SAFE

The brigade has had quite a few requests recently, to check smoke alarms and install new ones. We welcome any enquiries.

Do your alarms 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 to the website www.checkitsalright.nz to check your address.

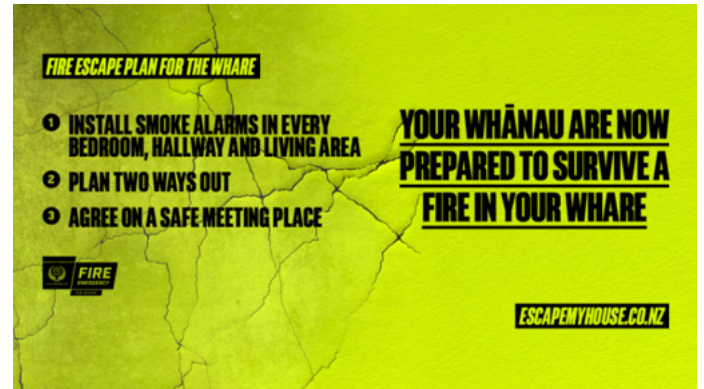
If you have any fire related concerns, want some advice, or would like a free home fire safety visit please give either Greg or myself a call:

- 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.*



NEW LISTING

Portobello 930 Harington Point Road
For Sale by Negotiation

FOR SALE

Portobello 648 Harington Point Road

FOR SALE

Portobello Lot 4, 932 Harington Point Road

FOR SALE

Portobello 944 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

Alice Munro

Abbey Cochrane 027 918 3911
abbey.cochrane@bayleys.co.nz
bayleys.co.nz Licensed under the REA Act 2008



ENJOY SEASONAL DISHES, FRESH PASTRIES, COFFEE, SANDWICHES OR CAKES - DINE IN OR TAKE AWAY.



We love welcoming you on Fridays for Locals Day - no bookings needed, just walk in!

We take reservations on weekends: www.augustinesofportobello.com



33 Hereweka Street
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
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 bjcameron47@gmail.com

SC BUILDING

Email: samcrossbuilding@gmail.com
Phone: 027 232 8674

Quarantine Island/Kamau Taurua Community Inc.

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Over the past two months, with the shorter days of autumn, we have had a reduced number of groups choosing to stay a night or two in St Martin Lodge. Groups of families and friends enjoyed a mix of weather for an island 'get-away'. Year 5 students from Macandrew Bay Primary School held an overnight camp, and P.I.L.S.A. (Pacific Island Law Students Association) held their annual retreat in early May. Students from St.Peter's College and Waitaki Boys High School stayed whilst participating in NZ Marine Studies Centre programmes. Members of the Department of Conservation National Eradication Team also held a 3-day hui on the Island. Other visitors along the shoreline have been two female sea lions, seals and Hector's dolphins! Bush and sea birds have been happy with the abundance of food in the Reserve and along the shoreline.

The exciting news is that our new Island Keeper, Jesse Siebler, arrived in late May, and is enjoying settling into Island life. Jesse's partner, Taylor, and their young daughter, Zella, are due to arrive in mid-June. It is wonderful to be welcoming Jesse, and we look forward to welcoming his whanau.

"Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi engari he toa takitini taku toa. The Māori whakatauki really resonates with me and island life. We are Jesse, Taylor and Zella and our whanau are moving to Kamautaurua from across the ditch- in Tasmania. Jesse and Taylor have spent half of the past decade island keeping as the two sole occupants. We are very excited to be the new residents on Quarantine Island. This time with our daughter. We want to share the beauties and simplicities of an island life with our family and with visitors. We also want to learn from and contribute to the community. Our daughter has a big heart for animals and nature and we are thankful for the opportunity to collaborate and share with others the importance of protecting and restoring wild places."

On our Welcome & Mahi Days, our small core group of regular volunteers have helped with grounds and building maintenance work, including repairs and cleaning in the Cottage and Lodge, splitting and stacking firewood, planting and caring for native seedlings in the Reserve and in our shade house, weed control, and predator control trap maintenance. Other

mahi has included installing a non-slip mesh covering to the jetty (which is owned by the QI/KT Community) thanks to a grant by The Sargood Bequest. New and returnee volunteers joined us, including exchange students from Japan, U.K. & Europe.

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 27th June & 25th July Welcome Day

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

Sunday 2nd August - Annual General Meeting


A potluck lunch at 12.30pm followed by our AGM at The Valley Project Community Rooms, 262 North Road.



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.
 otagopeninulamassage@gmail.com
 0274783337

Otago Peninsula Massage
0274783337
 Experienced remedial massage therapist



Falls Prevention Peninsula Classes



Improve your strength, balance, flexibility, stamina and mobility!

Steady As You Go©
Portobello Coronation Hall
Monday 10 am

Macandrew Bay Bowls Club
Friday 1.30 pm



Tai Chi
Broad Bay Community Hall
Wednesday 9.30 am



Aligned to Go
Portobello Bowls Club
Friday 10.30am

For more information:
 Margaret
 P: 03 479 3052
 E: falls@ageconcernotago.co. nz



ageconcernotago.com

Steady As You Go schedule note

With the alterations to the Portobello Coronation Hall Toilets starting very soon (see bottom of next page for details), Steady As You Go will be moving to the Portobello Bowling Club until the job is finished sometime in October 2026. There will be two sessions on a Monday morning, the first one starting at 9.30am and the second session at 10.30am. The 9.30am time is pretty full so if you haven't picked a time yet then please look at coming to the 10.30am time.

SHANE CROSS & SON

GIB STOPPING



Shane : 022 122 8332
Michael : 022 320 3440

- Renovations
- Gib Cove
- Skim Coating
- Fibrous Plastering
- New Builds
- Gib Fixing
- Bathrooms
- Kitchens
- Dustless Sanding

Over 30 years experience No Job too small!

 shanecrossplastering@gmail.com  Find us on facebook

100 years ago this month...

We solved the cattle-on-the-road problem

The Portobello Road Board will from now on be in a position to deal with the nuisance of wandering cattle at Portobello. A member reported to the board at its monthly meeting on Thursday that a local resident had offered to act as poundkeeper and also to provide an enclosure with adequate grass and water for the retention of impounded animals. He could require a remuneration of £5 per annum. Before taking action in regard to the stray cattle the board decided that the clerk should obtain legal advice as to the procedure to be followed.

*Otago Witness, 15 June 1926
 (via Papers Past)*

Portobello School News

Kia ora,

The 100% and Bravery awards were given out for Term 1 at the first assembly of the term. Congratulations to Charles who received the 100% Award, and to Kuini who was given the Bravery Award. Such well deserving students. Tino pai Charles and Kuini.

On the first Monday of the term, senior students had the opportunity to participate in a real science project looking at environmental DNA in our local waterways. As a group, they travelled to the OPERA site where they worked with members of the Environmental Protection Agency and Otago Regional Council to take water samples. Students will later have the chance to review the data and see what was found. (The chance to see some Hoiho and an Erect-crested penguin was an added bonus!)

The ANZAC service on Saturday morning (ANZAC Day) was a lovely event. Whaea Kate and myself attended, supporting Oscar, Ida and Daisy who shared poems that they had written for the service. It is a proud moment to see tamariki speaking in front of a large group of people sharing personal writing.

On Thursday 30th of April, Junior Whānau and Room three had a visit from Jenny from Enviroschools this afternoon. Jenny brought a bumblebee hive to show the and talked about the importance of bumblebees to the classes.

We have a basketball team competing in the Year 5/6 competition. They are doing well, scoring goals and having success on the court and scoreboard. We are using the school van to help with transport in this time of high fuel prices.

Our Presiding Member Emily Larkins and myself were nominated for 'Toss the Boss', a fundraising initiative raising funds for Polyfest. On the 21st of May, Emily and I abseiled down from the roof of Forsyth Barr Stadium. We raised just over \$1000 for the cause. Thank you to all who contributed.

On Wednesday 20th of May, Bob Bickerton visited the school. Bob shared his passion for traditional Māori musical instruments with us. He shared many stories about where and how these instruments were used, things like spacial occasions, call to battle and attracting animals for food were among them. It was amazing

to hear the different sounds he could get out of each instrument. We invited Broad Bay School to join us for this incredible experience.

Each Tuesday and Thursday, Mrs C leads the school in dance fitness. It is a hugely enjoyable time together as a kura and a great way to increase the heart rate.



On Friday 15th of May, we all dressed up in pink for Pink Shirt Day. raised \$69.80. This money was matched by AIA Vitality, so a total of \$139.60 was raised by Portobello School. A fine effort for a school of our size. Thank you to all who

contributed.

Jacob Thompson, a 2nd year college teacher has spent time in Room 3 with Mrs Agnew. He fitted into the class well and the tamariki have responded to him positively.

Thursday and Friday the 28th and 29th of May, the whole school had their annual noho at Ōtākou Marae.

We started with a powhiri with Joseph representing us as our kaikorero with Charles presenting our koha. Ethan represented the Tangata Whenua as their kiakorero with Tama supporting him. It is such a proud moment to see our students, both past and present, stepping into these roles of responsibility.

Next we had Kai Whakanoa, this lifts the tapu of the powhiri.

From there, we broke into whānau groups for a series of four different activities. These were: making seed bombs, creating clay art from locally sourced clay, traditional Māori games (including Ki-o-rahi) and creating art with stamps.

At the end of the day, we had a delicious dinner, then some activities before heading to bed.

The next morning the school went on a hokoī to Te Umu Kuri, Wellers Rock, to learn some of the history there, before having some morning tea back at the Marae, before heading back to school.

Kā mihi,

—Tom Hobbs, Principal, Portobello School

The Portobello Coronation Hall Society

is holding it's AGM on
Monday 29th June 7pm
at the Hall.

We would love to see more members
of the community join us to help
manage this iconic hall.

Come along and be part of the team.

Minimal time and effort required.

Hall closure notice:

*The Portobello Coronation Hall Society committee have successfully raised all funding for the new toilet construction and library extension. This work will be taking place from 22 June 2026 until approx. end of October. **The hall will be closed to the public during this time.** Any queries please to Wayne Cameron (custodian) on 0274 780 424.*

Portobello Library News

The Library is open 11am till 1pm Thursdays and Sundays. Pop along and join up (\$5 a household – paid only on joining) and meet our regular Librarian, Dot. Dot buys our books so if there is anything you would like to read that is not in the Library, she can look into buying it.

The Library will be closed on Thursday 25 June and Sunday 28 June and will reopen thereafter (same hours and days) while the Hall renovations are taking place. You will need to go through the Hall Kitchen to get to the Library.

BOOK REVIEW: PREY BY VANDA SIMON

(Thanks to Rosemary)

“The rain pelted against her coat...cold needles hitting the side of her face...brooding dark skies emphasised the harshness of the grey stone, and the church...took on a menacing stance, its Gothic bulk towering over the Octagon before it.”

The opening of Symon's sixth and latest novel in her Sam Shephard series sets the scene vividly, this time in the centre of Dunedin, beside St Paul's Cathedral, on one of our dreary, drizzly winter

days - but then jumps to a much brighter time, 25 years later. Detective Sam Shephard has just returned to work after a six-month maternity break and has been assigned a cold case, the murder of one of the Cathedral's priests on that dark and dreary night, 25 years previously. So, once again we know that we will be able to walk (or run) with Sam as she travels around this city of ours, see things that most of us will never have to witness and can comfortably expect all to be sorted by the end.

Sam is as feisty as she has been throughout the series but the birth of her daughter has made her a much softer and more relaxed person. Her

relationships with colleagues in the police station are (mostly) good, especially with Paul, her live-in partner and equally devoted parent to their daughter. The relationship with her immediate DI boss, however, is more frosty and occasionally explosive, which potentially complicates her cold case because of his involvement as a young constable in the original investigation and, even more, his (much) later marriage to the daughter of the murdered priest.

Although Sam suspects that she has been assigned the case by her DI mainly to keep her busy and out of his way, and is certainly not expected to succeed in solving it when those involved at the time were unable to do so, she, of course, decides to do all she can to prove him wrong. Her investigation is thorough and probing and manages to uncover secrets that had been kept hidden for years until eventually the truth of what happened on that night is revealed.

The novel is fast-paced, its mostly short chapters ending with cliff-hanging moments that encourage immediate continuation to the next. It's often funny with home and work life situations familiar to many, even to those who are neither parents nor police. It explores with sensitivity the impact of a sudden and unexplained death on family members, of the damage done by 'othering' people who are a little bit different, and of the way in which untold secrets can wreak lives. Symon has matured this Sam, making her a much more rounded and sympathetic person, one balancing breast-feeding, motherhood pressures with work ones - and succeeding at both, with a little help from her friends and family.

(What's the significance of the title? I couldn't see - until I said it out loud.)

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group Update

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

With possums gone, our multi-species programme targeting the full suite of remaining introduced mammalian predators on the Peninsula is well underway.

Anyone driving around the back bays or walking out to Allans Beach or the Pyramids may have seen our wooden trap boxes on the side of the road or track. These are primarily targeting mustelids, hedgehogs, and rats to protect vulnerable birds and lizards in these areas. Traps are serviced by our dedicated volunteers and are usually baited with rabbit meat, eggs, or salmon oil, although one pair of volunteers have caught 10 stoats in the last year using roast chicken.

Recently we increased the number of traps we have at Allans Beach after receiving reports of a stoat attacking a blue penguin. Fortunately, some bystanders were able to take the penguin to the Dunedin Wildlife Hospital and it's expected to make a full recovery, but it is a sobering reminder of the threats faced by our native taonga species and the importance of the work that we do to protect them.

At Sandymount, we're deploying toxin targeting rats and mice to knock down their numbers before native birds begin nesting in spring. We're focusing on areas of native bush with highest bird numbers and complementing the toxin work with kill traps for rats,

mustelids, and hedgehogs. It's important we target all species concurrently as if we reduce rat and mouse numbers without addressing mustelids then mustelids may switch to eating more birds and lizards.



BACKYARD TRAPPING

For residents living on the Peninsula between Macandrew Bay and Taiaroa Head, we can provide backyard rat traps for a small supporters' fee. We can also provide advice and assistance on setting these up and provide complimentary peanut butter to bait the traps

with. Contact Chris at operations@opbg.nz for more information.

REPORT ANY POSSUM SIGHTINGS

Although we're confident the Peninsula is now possum free, we still ask residents to keep their eyes and ears open and report anything suspicious they see or hear, either by emailing us or via www.reportapossum.nz

Thanks to our current funders for your support: Otago Regional Council, Otago Catchment Communities, Grassroots Trust, Community Matters

operations@opbg.nz

www.predatorfreepeninsula.nz

Otago Peninsula Museum

Thank you to Portobello Inc for running a very moving ANZAC Day service and to all those who turned up to the Museum.

Please do not drop anything off at the Museum until you have talked to one of our Committee or called in on a Tuesday morning. Do not presume we may want it – all artefacts must be Peninsula connected and also we may already have it.

Are there any volunteers out there? We would really like to have another couple of volunteers to help out in the Barn area on a Tuesday morning (9am–12pm). The men that do this really enjoy their morning spent pottering with all sorts of things—engineering, painting, restoring, electrical, carpentry. In fact, there are 101 jobs (5 pages according to Richard) to do, with some being short term and some long term. Also we would like to encourage a couple of people to help with the Sunday roster. This involves just 2 Sundays (12.30-3.30pm) over a year (6 hours of your time).

We would sincerely like to thank Sophie who has now left the roster. Sophie joined us as a secondary school pupil, then continued her studies at Otago University and has now gone on to pursue her career away from Dunedin. We wish her all the best. As a young person Sophie really enjoyed volunteering at the Museum. If you would like to be involved then ring Laurel 4780-512 or email the Museum at: theotagopeninsulamuseum@gmail.com We would love to hear from you.



**OTAGO PENINSULA MUSEUM
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.**

17 Harington Point Road, Portobello, Dunedin 9014



Please come along to the AGM on 27 July at 7pm and hear what we have been up to over the past year. We would really like to have a couple more people join our Committee. We just have a short monthly meeting and we don't have to do any fundraising—yeah. We can apply to Te Papa for up to \$2,000 a year for any projects.

BOATSHED

We have a boatshed at the Museum that was saved from the Broad Bay area when the road was widened. In it we have all our local nautical history such as several yachts, the early harbour ferries, local yachting,

Hoopers Inlet Boating Club, and info and artifacts from the ship Tyrone that ran aground at Wahine Point just south of Taiaroa Head in 1913. Here are some photos from the Portobello Yacht Club in the 1960s with yachts filling Latham Bay with colour. Note the little shed on the wharf which is still in use today (rented from the Boat Club by the Port to Port ferry service).

A reminder about our two popular books Portobello – A Brief History and Otago Peninsula Then and Now. Both available from the Portobello Shop and the Doctors Rooms (thanks guys) for \$30 each. Also available at the Museum.

The Museum is open Sundays 12.30 till 3.30pm and Tuesdays 9-12 (our working bee morning). Adults \$2, children free. Feel free to wander around the grounds at any time though to view the outside exhibits.

Volunteering Opportunities on the Otago Peninsula

WINTER 2026

DAY	TIME	WORK TYPE	LOCATION	GROUP	CONTACT	EMAIL
Last Mon of month	1:30 pm (winter)	Gardening	Glenfalloch	FOG	Robyne	robyneselbie1945@gmail.com
ANY	any	Stoat and rat trapping	Various Peninsula locations	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	10:00 – 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	Planting native plants	45 Pakihau Rd, Harington Point	The OPERA	Connal	connal@wildlife.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 will 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

SWAT Update: A Sycamore adventure!

If you're a regular reader, you might be relieved that, for once, there's a story that DOES NOT mention Banana passionfruit or Chilean flame creeper! Instead, today's topic is the Sycamore tree.



Sycamore is not native to New Zealand; it's a European import. Although it grows rapidly into a beautiful specimen tree, it

produces masses of long-lived, winged seeds that "helicopter" considerable distances on windy days. These seeds readily establish themselves in native bush and alongside roadside verges, where they can form dense stands of pure sycamore that outcompete native trees.

The Otago Regional Council has designated sycamore as a site-led pest plant on the Otago Peninsula. We knew of the existence of two huge sycamores close to Okia Reserve and knew too that without some kind of intervention they would inevitably spread into the Reserve. So with the support of the landowner - and thanks to some gratefully received funding from the ORC site-led programme - we engaged a team of trainee arboriculturists from Otago Polytechnic, led by their head lecturer Ben Fentiman to remove the two trees. This work was carried out on 4 May. *(Photo at right and front cover.)*

To safely fell the trees, the crew first removed the upper branches on one side, along with one of the four main trunks, allowing the remainder of each tree to be brought down in a controlled manner. The project provided an excellent practical training exercise for the students, who did an outstanding job and left the site in excellent condition.

If you would like advice or help 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)

Planting for this year has now started at "The Future Forest" in the Smiths Creek Catchment at Broad Bay on 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.. New volunteers always needed and welcomed. Please register, in order to be notified of any cancellations. All tools and equipment supplied. If you can walk uphill across a paddock then you should be able to plant some trees. Contact details below.

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. If you wish to volunteer for this and have a reasonable level of fitness, other times can probably be arranged.

Contact stopincoc@gmail.com or Lala 027 8756 020 (text only) for more information about working bees, or volunteering at other times.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ADVENTURES!

See our options online for July school holidays!

INCLUDING the famous

QUARANTINE ISLAND TREASURE HUNT

ADULTS \$35
CHILDREN \$23
INCLUDES MAPS AND TREATS

PORTOBELLO DEPARTURE
1:15 PM

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

HOLIDAY

www.porttoport.co.nz | [020 416 24250](tel:02041624250)



**Less People.
More Wildlife.**



WILD ONE TOUR
 Small group guided tours (10 max)
 to the wild side of the Otago Peninsula
 4 Hours in duration - Leaving from
 The Octagon, Central Dunedin
 Contact us for an Otago Peninsula pick up
www.ClearwaterWildlife.co.nz - 03 477 8899



Another Day In Paradise—from Olly's Pen

Kia ora! As I write this from my upstairs office, I can see out over the harbour at the hillside that runs along to Port Chalmers - out to Aramoana and ultimately out to the vast ocean opposite Taiaroa heads. The sun is shining brightly sending serpent-like shapes snaking over the surface of the water to who knows where. Some nights I've sat up and enjoyed the beauty of the moon's reflection. Then when a small wave rippled across the water, I swear I could see Casper - the friendly ghost. It's amazing what the imagination comes up with aye - well the one inside the brain in my head anyway. So, I got to thinking... what the heck is imagination. I learned that whakaaro are thoughts that come and go - like tourists. Even though mahara are thoughts too they are like people who love to stay at home. You and I receive and transmit whakaaro every day. However, once we remember information and experiences - those whakaaro have become mahara i.e. memories. Imagination is made up of memories which can be recalled. They are thoughts remembered. So where do thoughts come from and where do they go after we're gone? I'm going to leave it there for you to work out i.e. to think through...in the meantime here's a story I was told many times as a child. It may help you. Sky Father and Earth Mother were produced by the divine creator known to the ancient Maori as IO (pure energy referred to as a void which is described by wise

elders as the invisible Great Nothing out of which Everything comes). Sky Father and Earth Mother were in a close and loving embrace and their many children began to push them apart but to no avail until Tane the creative one arrived. He succeeded by placing his back on Earth Mother and using his legs to push Sky Father away. Sky Father immediately wrapped a protective cloak around Earth Mother, all of their children including everything created by Tane both animate and inanimate. The Maori word for imagination is pohewa. Formal speakers on marae generally open with the words, "Tihei mauri ora!, which means I acknowledge the sneeze of conscious awareness and then proceed by openly paying respects to the Creator first of all, then to the people who have passed on, then to the marae, the locals and lastly to manuhiri generally rounding off with ... tenā tātou katoa - meaning acknowledgements and salutations to us.

I can't imagine being anywhere else but out here on the peninsula. Our community knows and looks after one another. We are whānau (pronounced phonetically as farno) in our piece of paradise!

Tenā tātou katoa.

— Olly Ohlson

Local - the smart choice.



Lydia Dickson

027 454 5213

lydia.dickson@tallpoppy.co.nz


**Tall
Poppy**
REAL ESTATE

**'Proud supporters of the
Otago Peninsula
Community'**

LEADING



ELECTRICAL

• DUNEDIN •

NZ

**'We are your One Stop Shop
for everything Electrical'**

0275505022

enquiries@leadingelectricaldunedin.co.nz

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

Thurs 25 June & Sunday 28 June
Portobello Library closed
for renovations

Saturdays 27 June & 25 July
Welcome Days
Quarantine Island Kamau Taurua

Monday 29 June
Coronation Hall Society Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Coronation Hall, 7pm

Tuesday 30 June
Hoopers Inlet Hall
Annual General Meeting
Hoopers Inlet Hall, 7pm

Wednesday 15 July
Portobello Community Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Biodiversity Hub, 7:30

Monday 27 July
Otago Peninsula Museum
Annual General Meeting
At the Museum, 7pm (Supper to follow)

Sunday 2 August
Quarantine Island Kamau
Taurua Community Annual
General Meeting
Valley Project Community Rooms,
12:30pm

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

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

Thursdays and Sundays 11am–1pm
Portobello Library open