portobello news

AND HARWOOD • ŌTAKOU • HARINGTON POINT • HOOPERS INLET • PAPANUI INLET OCTOBER 2026





NEARING COMPLETION — THE SHED FOR THE PORTOBELLO FIRE BRIGADE'S NEW FIRST RESPONDER VEHICLE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, WITH THE VEHICLE SOON TO FOLLOW.
READ MORE ON PAGE 4.

News from the Otago Peninsula Community Board

Kia ora tātou hapori.

You know that spring has arrived around the Otago Peninsula when around the native bush areas white patches of flowers appear in the tree canopy. The flowering of the native puawānanga (Clematis paniculata) marks the beginning of spring in the south. Meaning "flower of the skies" puawānanga is a reminder that better conditions and longer days are just around the corner for the community and our whānau. Not that we haven't had a few reminders that winter hasn't quite departed the scene.



Bus Changes - The 1st of October has seen the Otago Regional Council role out changes across the network that includes the Otago Peninsula. Judging from what I've received from social media the changes have caused a degree of discomfort and concern over school services. Let's be quite honest, social media is not always the best place to vent about services, and I would urge people to either make direct contact with the ORC or send your concerns to one of your Board members to escalate your issues for you. As a Board we have been highly successful in advocating for changes, so make the most of our skills.



NEWS IN BRIEF

- The Portobello Boardwalk – The Board has been advised that a contractor has been selected, and work is due to start in January 2027. The later start is to secure suitably treated timber for the project.

•The Macandrew Bay Beach wastewater upgrade has finally been completed

•Marion Street Wastewater upgrade is underway, and we will see some disruptions to road users as the work is undertaken.

•Next Board Meeting 20th October 10.00 am Portobello Bowling Club

•Hereweka Harbour Cone Management Plan Consultation closes 10 November 2026

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 Community Inc. Update

Hi All,

Welcome to another exciting newsletter.

I said it would happen, and here it is. The sun is shining, the birds are singing (yes, I know, I've previously stated that birds aren't real, but the recordings sound lovely this time of year), and the days are getting longer and warmer. We all survived the dark, bleak winter, and now we look forward to a glorious summer.

Things have been fairly quiet across Portobello Community Inc. lately, but don't let that fool you. We're gearing up to get a whole lot more action going around our wonderful area in the coming months.

A big thanks to Dan for getting all the fruit trees in over by the basketball courts at the domain. Give it a few years and they'll be keeping our bellies full and round. Dan has also finished the sign for the pump track. Can't wait to see it up and installed.

The big news: Car Boot Sale!

We'll be running a car boot sale at the Portobello Domain on Saturday 14th November, from 9am till 12pm. (See ad this page.)

This is going to do two things. Number one, everyone's invited to come down and get rid of all the stuff they don't need. That exercise bike you've been using as a clothes rack since 2019? Someone out there wants it. Your trash is someone else's treasure. Number two, it'll be a great fundraiser for Portobello Inc. We've been a bit short on funds lately, not being able to run the regular market days, so every bit of support really helps.

So clear out the garage, load up the boot, and come down for a morning of bargains and catching up with your neighbours. Really looking forward to seeing everyone out and about.

As always, if you want to take a more active part in our community, get in touch or head down to the Biodiversity Hub every third Wednesday at 7:30pm. Many hands make light work.

So all in all, there's plenty to look forward to in our great corner of the world.

—Elliot Dixon, El Presidento for life, Portobello Community Inc.

portobello community inc.

President
Elliot Dixon

Treasurer
Laura Shepard

Secretary
Michael Lascarides

Newsletter Editors
Michael Lascarides & Laura Shepard

Committee
Sandra Clearwater, Rose Shepard, Dan Parker, Patrick Mathewson

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

Join us for a



Saturday 14 November
9am–12pm
Portobello Domain
11 Allans Beach Rd
Rain date Sunday 15 November
$20/space (benefit Portobello Community Inc.)
No pre-registration - just show up!
Vendors set up 8am–9am (gates will close at 9)
No tables provided, bring yer own!

Eight Years of Sootychaser: Harbour Ferry and Wildlife Cruises

September 2026 marks eight years since Sootychaser was built, launched and began her first harbour ferry trips on Otago Harbour.

It is hard to believe how much has changed since those first trips in September 2018.

When Sootychaser first hit the salt water of Otago Harbour, Port To Port was finding its way, still developing into what some locals now describe as an integral part of Port Chalmers and Otago Harbour.

Our first year was relatively quiet as we worked on getting our name out there and introducing people to what we were doing.



Then came our second year and COVID. Tourism changed almost overnight. Cruise ships disappeared, visitors stopped coming and, like many small tourism businesses, we had to adapt, after we only just got going!

But Sootychaser kept going through COVID, and so did Port To Port. Rachel was always determined to push through because the business was about more than simply creating an income for herself and her son. It was her dream. And whether it made money or not, she was determined to make it work.

One of the biggest changes came with the opening of the Otago Harbour Cycleway. The Port To Port Cycle Ferry became an important part of the cycle route, giving cyclists the opportunity to cross the harbour by boat and continue their journey around the Otago Peninsula, truly making it the Otago Harbour Loop

As tourism returned, so did the cruise ships, and wildlife cruises again became an increasingly important part of the business. Cruise-ship passengers are now one of our biggest customer groups, their business carries us through the quieter months of winter and allows us to operate all year round.

2026 marks another milestone of having another vessel available to us has also allowed us to expand what we can offer. It means we can run more wildlife cruises when demand is high and accommodate more visitors on our popular wildlife cruises.

Something I often hear from locals is that they try to avoid joining the ferry on a cruise-ship day because they believe the boat will be full of cruise ship visitors.

It's true that on a cruise ship day we are busier. This means we can operate more ferry trips as we are out and about and crossing over more frequently. But our Cycle Ferry is generally not used by cruise-ship passengers, so the ferry experience remains very much a local one. On cruise-ship days, our wildlife cruises cater for many of those visitors, while the ferry continues to provide its regular service.

Passengers may pass each other on the wharf as the cruise passengers start and finish their wildlife cruise at Port Chalmers, and locals join the boat to go to Portobello for lunch, coffee or to cycle the loop.

So if you've been thinking about taking the ferry, don't necessarily write off a day just because there is a cruise ship in port!

Eight years on...

Eight years of Sootychaser has meant a lot of change. From that first quiet few weeks sitting empty at the wharf in rainy November of 2018, through COVID, the opening of the cycleway, the return of cruise ships and the growth of our wildlife cruises.

The core values are the same- Personal, Passionate, Professional, Quality of product, Education and Expertise. Sootychaser was built to get people out onto Otago Harbour, and eight years later, that's still exactly what we're doing.

Happy 8th birthday, Sootychaser!

—Rachel McGregor

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

Portobello Fire Brigade

1ST RESPONDER VEHICLE PROJECT UPDATE.

Good progress has been made on the shed for our new 1st Responder vehicle. As with all building projects there have been some challenges, such as soft ground conditions that required extra foundation work. Our builder Al Reid is doing a great job and has found good solutions to keep the project moving.

We are also finalising some contract details with the vehicle and hope to have everything on track shortly.

DAYLIGHT SAVING – CHECK YOUR SMOKE ALARMS

"When you sleep, you lose your sense of smell"

Yes it's that time again, - Time to check all your smoke alarms.

Please check the following:

Do your alarms operate?

Are they less than 10 years old?

PREPARATION FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

The forecasted El Nino weather patterns for our area are expected to bring heightened dryness, below-normal rainfall, rapid soil moisture decline, and an elevated wildfire risk.

With this in mind, it is a good time to check your properties for potential fire risks shown in the diagram below.

We welcome any enquiries and can come and see you at a time that suits. 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.

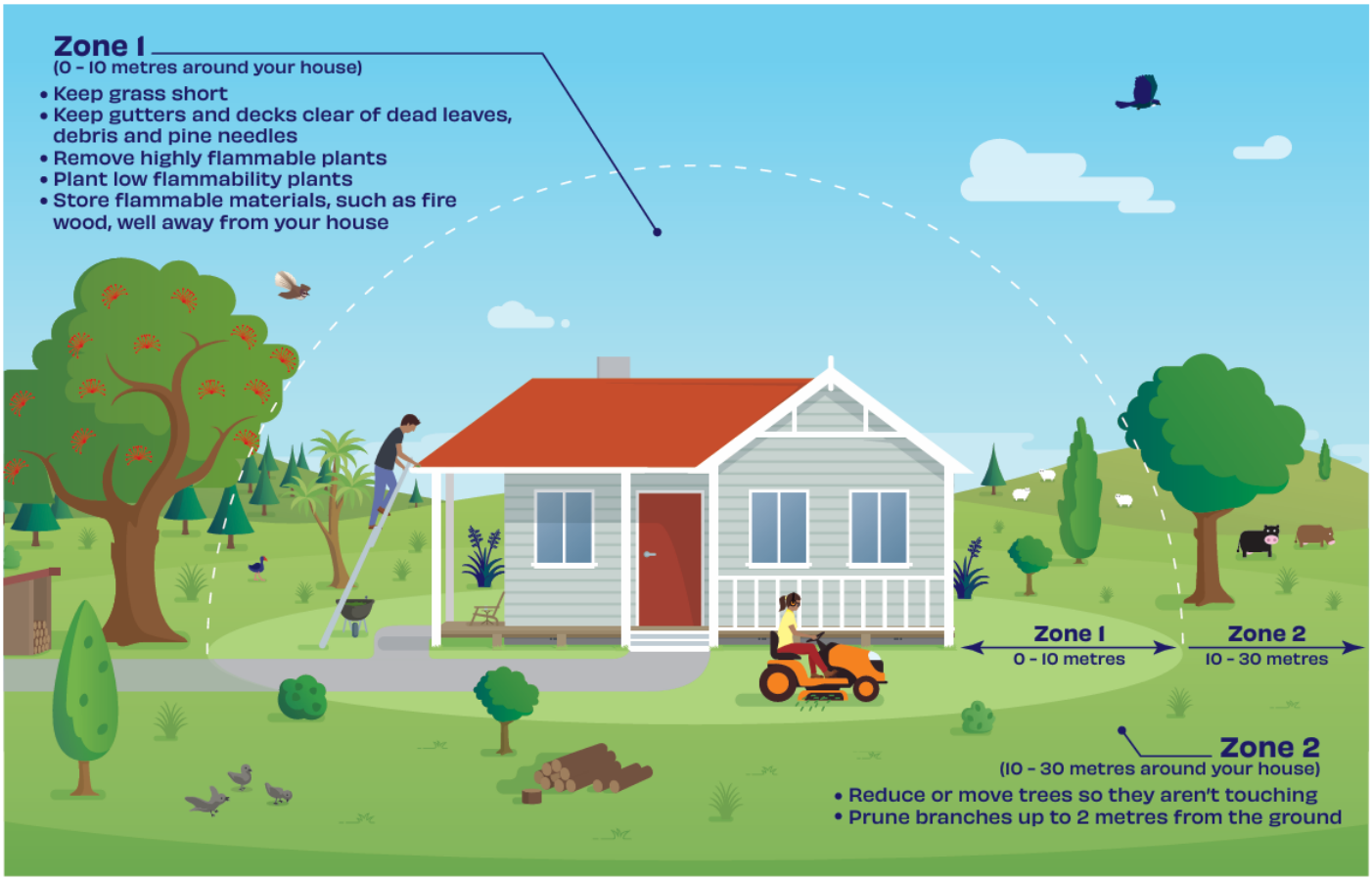
If you have any fire related concerns, want some advice, or would like a free home fire safety visit please give either Greg or myself a call:

- 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 Gallery

Saturdays and Sundays
10am to 4pm
(or by arrangement)



1730 Highcliff Rd, Portobello 9014
Situated on the corner,
two doors down from Cove Cafe



Support local artisans!

Everything in the gallery is unique, handmade, and covers an affordable range.

• paintings • cards • prints • wood turning
• ceramics • jewellery • photographs • drawings

Christmas gifts? Be tempted by the variety.
Expecting visitors? Bring them in to look.
Your support is appreciated.

Phone 021 1430122
portobellogallery.nz
virginiamarriott@yahoo.com

Tall Poppy
REAL ESTATE

Local knowledge. Genuine commitment.

Sell with Lydia

With deep roots in Dunedin and a genuine commitment to the people she works with, Lydia brings local knowledge, clear communication and a proactive approach to every property journey. Whether you're thinking of selling, curious about your property's value, or simply want to understand today's market, Lydia is here to offer honest advice and make the process feel straightforward.

Think it might be time to make a move?
Let's start with a conversation.



Lydia Dickson
lydia.dickson@tallpoppy.co.nz
027 454 5213

STOP (Save The Otago Peninsula)

Thank you to all the regular volunteers who have now finished the planting of native trees at "The Future Forest" over winter. This includes some groups of ngaio on the steep slopes below the Bacon Track, funded by the Hereweka Harbour Cone Trust. Because of so many cancellations due to rain this took a little longer than usual but everything is growing apace! Unfortunately this growth includes not only the native trees planted over the years but also the grass, the Chilean flame creeper, the Bomarea, and the Banana passion fruit (BPF) that threaten to smother them. Releasing from the exotic grass and weeds that compete for nutrition and can block out the light is an important part of maintenance that leads to an enviably high survival rate for our plantings on all the areas where STOP is involved in planting (not just Smiths Creek Catchment, although that is where there are regular working bees each week).

Those working bees at Smiths Creek at the end of Bacon St on Tuesday mornings start at 9.30am, but those on Sundays start at 10.30am to give volunteers time to catch the early buses. New volunteers are 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 release some trees.

Another working bee starting at 9.30am on a Department of Conservation site at Grassy Point is looking for more volunteers. Contact details below.

The walking tracks to the top of Hereweka Harbour Cone will remain closed until the end of October, but the loop tracks within the fenced 'Future Forest" at the end of Bacon St remain open year round, 7 days a week, as an alternative . Currently so many trees that have been planted over the years on what was paddock are now flowering and attracting a myriad of birds and insects.

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



Portobello 930 Harington Point Road
For Sale by Negotiation



Portobello 648 Harington Point Road



Portobello Lot 4, 932 Harington Point Road



Portobello 944 Harington Point Road



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
bayleys.co.nz Licensed under the REA Act 2008

BAYLEYS



A Night of theatre at Portobello Coronation Hall

Saturday 28 November at 7.30pm

Actor and local Peter Hayden plays the irreverent and irrepressible Dickie Hart in End of the Summertime. A solo show from the country's favourite playwright, Roger Hall.

Thirty years ago, Roger Hall introduced New Zealand to cow cocky and rugby fanatic Dickie Hart on his trip to the World Cup in South Africa. C'mon Black was a smash hit, playing to sell-out crowds up and down the country.

Now, in End of Summertime, Roger tells this much-loved curmudgeon's latest story. Dickie, long retired but still rugby-mad, has been dragged reluctantly to Auckland by wife Glenda to be nearer the grandchildren.

From an apartment with a side view of the sea where he's pretty sure it's the beginning of the end, Dickie tries valiantly and hilariously to navigate life in that big bad city we love to hate.

"Auckland! It's crowded, expensive. Traffic's terrible. All everyone thinks about is money. And they don't even have a decent footie team."

But by crikey – Dickie gives it heaps. Because even this crusty old bloke can realise he still has a lot to learn about the world. And Auckland. And himself.

End of Summertime has played to full houses in Dunedin earlier this year and Peter wanted to do the final performance of the Otago-Southland tour in Portobello.

What a great way to celebrate the refurbishment of Coronation Hall with Roger Hall's comedic writing and Peter Hayden's charming performance in this highly entertaining solo show.

Reviews:

' ... warmly amusing, emotionally affecting, and eminently relatable ... veteran actor Peter Hayden uses all of his considerable skill and charm to hold the audience in the palm of his hand.' Brenda Harwood The Star

'Peter Hayden got the farmer just right - the show was 10/10.' Jamie Mackay, The Country, Newstalk ZB

'Amusement, laughter, gasps and 'oof's at the slings and arrows launched by life.' John Smythe, Theatreview

Don't miss it – Saturday 28 November 7.30pm

$35 General Admission - $30 Community Card or Gold Card

Book on Humanitix: End of Summertime – Portobello



100 years ago this month...

We complained about the buses, we defended the buses.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir,—In to-night's 'Star' a letter appears over the name of "Constant Traveller." As myself and household travel very frequently by the buses, I would like to reply to same. I think the vast majority of Peninsula residents will admit that the motor company is giving a very efficient service, and filling the needs of residents as well as could reasonably be expected; but every district has its small minority of growlers, who will certainly require a small heaven of their own in the 'Sweet Bye and Bye.' As regards speeding, it is quite a common thing to hear passengers remarking how slow the buses are travelling, and generally loud enough for the driver to hear. I believe the drivers have written instructions on the matter, and know that it undoubtedly means the loss of their job if they get reckless. Your correspondent mentions a recent accident on the road, but quite forgets to mention that it happened on the morning of the recent snowstorm, and I suppose the worst morning for driving there has been for years. As far as overcrowding is concerned, I would recommend your correspondent to read an article in your issue to-night 'Following The Last Car.' Would your correspondent care to be waiting at Anderson's Bay road and walk to Portobello because the last bus had all the seats taken? I travel very often myself on the buses, and have always had the greatest courtesy and consideration from all the drivers, and most residents will agree with me that the service does well under what are often very trying circumstances. I have no personal interest in the company, but am simply

SATISFIED

October 11.

Evening Star, 13 October 1926
(via Papers Past)



Steady As You Go schedule note

With the alterations to the Portobello Coronation Hall Toilets ongoing, **Steady As You Go will be moving to the Portobello Bowling Club until the job is finished.** 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.



Hereweka Harbour Cone Trust News

The process with the submissions on Hereweka's future plan started one year ago. The Portobello community has been invited to participate in Stage 2 of the Hereweka Harbour Cone Management Plan review by providing feedback on the Draft Hereweka Harbour Cone Management Plan 2026.

Submissions are open until 5pm on Tuesday, 10 November 2026.

The DCC Parks & Recreation team would particularly welcome your views on whether the draft plan addresses the issues, challenges and opportunities identified through the earlier engagement, and provides clear guidance for the property's future use, protection and management.

If you would like to provide feedback, please let them know which parts of the Draft Plan you support and any changes you consider necessary. You can read the draft plan and Statement of Proposal, and access the online submission form, here:

https://www.dunedin.govt.nz/community-facilities/parks-and-reserves/management-plan-reviews

Submission forms can also be emailed to parksconsulting@dcc.govt.nz or delivered to a DCC service centre or library.

Following consultation, submitters will have an opportunity to speak to their submissions at a hearing, with dates advised directly. Submissions and hearing feedback will inform the final plan presented to Council for consideration.

It has been a long and complicated process and we thank all of you who have made a submission and for your patience in waiting a year for any progress. It must have taken many hours of work and shows your interest in the future of Hereweka.

Find out more at these public drop-in sessions:

- Tuesday 27 October 3-5pm – Broad Bay Community Hall
- Wednesday 4 November 10am-12pm – Portobello Bowling Club



A Trustee will be attending each of the meetings to assist in answering questions regarding operations on Hereweka but these meetings are run by the DCC as they are the property owners.

Hereweka Trust AGM

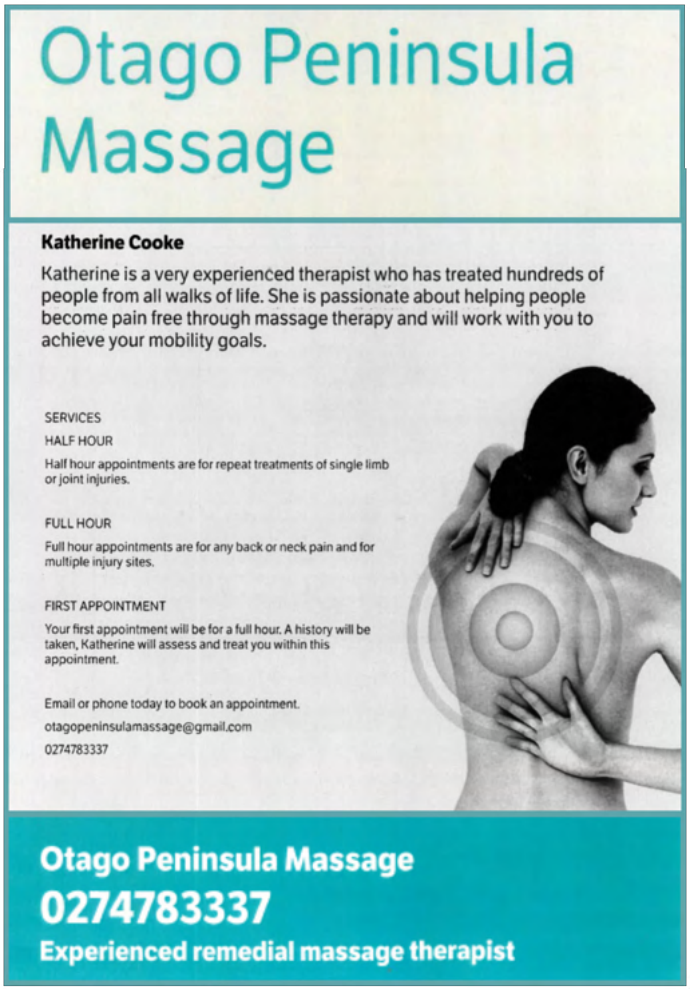
You are all welcome to attend the AGM which is being held on Monday 2nd November 2026 7pm at the Broad Bay Community Hall, Clearwater Street. The official meeting is relatively short and will be followed by a presentation about recent Trust activities.

Hereweka Friends

The Trust knows how important it is to keep you informed and engaged on what's happening on Hereweka.

Subscribe to Hereweka Friends and you'll receive an email newsletter to update you on Trust news, as well as tell stories about the people, the plants and the wildlife that live and work on Hereweka. We are planning for a newsletter every two months so - no worries your inbox won't get bombarded by us.

Email Friends@hereweka.org.nz to subscribe and let us know if you also want hands-on involvement with the mahi on Hereweka.



Portobello School News

Kia ora koutou,

Below is what the tamariki at Portobello School have been up to in the second half of Term 3.

On Tuesday 18th of August a team of runners competed in the Ariki Cup interschool cross country. Congratulations to all runners. It was challenging conditions as the temperature and wind was difficult to run in. Special mentions to Lily who was the 8th year 6 girl home, and Billy who was the 11th year 6 boy across the finish line. Well done to our whole team. Lily also came 17th in the Otago Cross Country Champs.

The OMAthalon took place on Thursday 20th of August with three teams heading to the Edgar Centre to take part. It was a really enjoyable event and all of our competitors walked away happy with their efforts.

I attended the Keep Dunedin Beautiful Awards at the Dunedin Art Gallery last Friday. Portobello School took home a 'Highly Commended' award in the schools section. Thank you to Mrs Agnew who drives our enviro journey.

On Friday 28th of August we had our first ever combined Portobello/Broad Bay Schools cross country. The weather certainly played its part, putting on a perfect day for cross country. It was another great opportunity to bring the two schools together.

On Tuesday 1st of September, our year 7 & 8 seniors took on the climbing walls at Resistance Indoor Climbing gym. As part of our Whakatuputupu kā Rakatahi Senior programme, we plan events for our senior students. This term, we went climbing at Resistance. Everyone had a great time with some having their first adventure there, and others working on developing their techniques. It was great to check out the new premises. They're awesome. Thanks to Resistance for looking after us.

On Tuesday 8th of September the whole school performed on stage at PolyFest. Our tamariki performed brilliantly. Kā mihi nui ki a koutou to all tamariki who took park. We are all very proud of you. I could feel the emotion as our leaders performed on their own, with special mention to Vera and Druss who took on these roles for the first time for our kura.

All classes are preparing for a wearable arts show in week 3 of Term 4. Many hours of work are being put in to create pieces that reflect a part of each child's cultural heritage.

We have had a very busy term with some of the highlights being: An Enviroschools visit, and Enviro Hui with senior students, the Peninsula Schools Art exhibition at Bayfield High School, the Cook Island Drumming group visit (a personal favourite!), the snorkeling sessions for Rooms 3 and 4 at Dive Otago, Parent Teacher meetings, a ski weekend, a combined Portobello Broad Bay School cross country, Ariki Cup and Otago Cross Country Champs (Lily), OMAthalon, Keep Dunedin Beautiful Awards, Māori Language week, Year 5/6 parent drop-in sessions, PolyFest (another favourite) and basketball teams competing at the Edgar Centre.

Looking forward to a great Term 4.

Kā mihi,

—Tom Hobbs, Principal, Portobello School

Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group Update

Spring is well and truly here, and to celebrate its arrival we recently held a planting day as part of the Sustainable Otago Peninsula initiative. Volunteers planted approximately 150 native trees on a private QEII-covenanted block near Portobello. Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who came along.

Now that possums have been removed from the Peninsula and birdlife is increasing, making sure our birds have enough food is more important than ever. Planting native trees and shrubs is the best way to do this. Kōwhai, harakeke (flax) and tī kōuka (cabbage tree) are all great options for your backyard, and birds and insects love them.

Our Backyard Trapping Programme controls rodents in Peninsula backyards to protect our native birds, lizards and insects. More than 50 Peninsula properties have already joined, and we are thrilled to have been selected to receive funding from Predator Free New Zealand, in partnership with Simplicity Foundation. This will allow us to continue the programme for another year, providing discounted traps and/or toxin and bait stations to another 50 properties between Macandrew Bay and Taiaroa Head. If you're interested in joining, please get in touch at operations@opbg.nz.

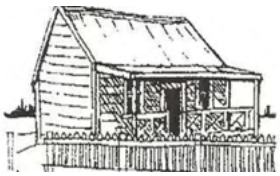
Finally, we continue to ask residents to keep their eyes and ears open for any possums that may have snuck back onto the Peninsula since it was officially declared possum free. If you think you've seen or heard one, please report it as soon as possible at reportapossum.nz.

operations@opbg.nz
www.predatorfreepeninsula.nz

Otago Peninsula Museum

Thankfully the lawns at the Museum were cut recently. With all this wet weather that's been thrown at us they were getting quite long. Now hopefully they will start to dry out.

We took a pile of coloured paper up to the Kindergarten recently for the children to use and while there, Jenelle showed us around, what was once the old Portobello School house.



OTAGO PENINSULA MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

17 Harington Point Road, Portobello, Dunedin 9014

Kelly and Jamie from the Portobello Fire Brigade popped in for a visit to advise us on smoke alarms.

The Taurite Tū exercise group from the Marae recently came and visited the Museum and enjoyed a good look around then had their morning tea in our smoko room.

We could do with another couple of helpers for our Tuesday morning working bees. No experience necessary, there are plenty of jobs to help others with down in the barn area. Pop along on a Tuesday between 9 and 12. If you are retired and want to do some volunteer work we would love to meet you.

The following is a fascinating connection to Portobello that we have just discovered by reading the book found at the Museum called The Ironmasters, The first hundred years of H.E. Shacklock.

THE SHACKLOCK FAMILY – THE PORTOBELLO CONNECTION

Henry Shacklock arrived on the ship Bombay and disembarked at Port Chalmers on 11 September 1862. He found work clearing bush near Portobello, a farming settlement in those days.

In 1863 his fiance, Elizabeth Bradley, arrived in Port Chalmers on the ship Matoaka. Henry and Elizabeth were married in the home of the Reverend Johnstone in Port Chalmers. It was a simple ceremony with the witnesses being the Reverend's wife and William Geary, a settler of Portobello.

Henry Shacklock was an ironmonger by trade and with NZ being a new colony he established the Dunedin firm of H.E. Shacklock which made coal ranges for the houses being built for settlers from the 1870s right up to the 1930s. These ranges were built to suit NZ coal which heated the water, warmed the houses, dried the clothes, burnt the porridge and baked the scones. But the coal range did more than this, it also provided tasks for most family members – be it chopping the kindling, lighting the fire, filling the coal bucket or cleaning the flue – all part of family life.

Henry and Elizabeth had four sons and they were shareholders in the business from 1900 when Henry retired.

One son, Percival, who was also the business Secretary had a poultry farm in Seaton Road, Portobello where he had 1,000 white leghorn pullets and 370 other birds. One year he hatched 3,000 chickens. Percy owned this poultry farm in the 1920s and it was on the left side up the top part of Seaton Road.

The NZ Poultry Association held their 10th Annual Conference in Dunedin and Percy motored delegates down to his farm in Portobello.

He died in 1942 and is buried in Ōamaru, having been taken there by train.

The Museum is open Sundays 12.30-3.30pm and entry is just $2 with children free. We are doing some changes (as always) in the main building at the moment but there is always something you will find interesting to see and read.



Many thanks to Ken McKenzie for helping the men down in the barn install a gantry for lifting heavy machinery. We very much appreciate your free time you gave to this venture.

If you would be interested in supporting us then become a member of the Museum, it is $20 a year. Get in touch theotagopeninsulamuseum@gmail.com

BIRD COUNTING REPORT

The annual bird count for the Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group is underway again. This is done twice in the months of September, October and November.

We have been doing the Hereweka Track count for many years. We can count birds up to 100 metres away. It is very varied as we start at Hoopers Inlet so count the birds in the inlet, then walk up the road counting birds in the paddocks and then into the bush before coming out on the Hereweka Saddle overlooking Portobello then onto the top of the steep track at the top of the gum trees. All transient bird counts are done in a 1 kilometer distance. You can always depend on seeing Pūkeko in the paddocks, Bellbirds and Tūī in the forest and on the saddle there is always a Grey Warbler singing away and occasionally the Skylark chatting away while flitting about way up high. The Black Backed Gulls seem to use the saddle to fly back and forth from the inlet to the harbour.

Here is a list of our first bird count in September – Bellbird (12), Black Backed Gull (5), Blackbird (7), Chaffinch (4), Dunnock (4), Fantail (2), Grey Warbler (7), Harrier Hawk (2), House Sparrow (2), Kererū (4), Kingfisher (2), Paradise Duck (8), Pied Stilt (12), Pūkeko (12), Song Thrush (2), Spur Winged Plover (3), Starling (3), Tūī (6). Numbers and birds vary every count

— Laurel and Brenda

SWAT YOUR BARBERRY NOW!

That orange headline says it all!

The Darwins Barberry flowering season will end soon. So we're asking you to report to our email address any bright orange flowering bushes you see on the Peninsula, particularly on the road edges.

And if you have some growing in your garden hedge at home, earn some SWAT brownie points by cutting your Barberry off at the base and pasting it with a little herbicide gel - or ask us to do it for you. Every bush or tree knocked over gets us closer to our goal of eradication.



Here's group leader Moira dwarfed by a Darwin's Barberry tree last Friday so you can see what happens if it's allowed to get away!



And here's a recent photo of the SWAT group dressed appropriately in orange and ready to tackle some Barberry at Pukehiki!

If you would like to know more about what we do, you are welcome to come out with us on a Friday morning.

Or if you would like advice or help controlling pest plants on your property, we would love to hear from you. Contact Marcia at SWATweeds@gmail.com and we'll be in touch!

Volunteering Opportunities on the Otago Peninsula

SPRING 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	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	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	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 Smaills BeachCare Trust
OPERA	The Otago Peninsula Eco Restoration Alliance
SWAT	Seek Weeds and Terminate

CLEARWATER
WILDLIFE TOURS



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 anō! I promised to tell you about the wisdom messages Māori story tellers used to pass on important knowledge and information. Story tellers used two techniques -pūrākau and pakiwaitara. Pūrākau stories were pictorially represented as designs, paintings, carvings or lattice works known as tukutuku. Pakiwaitara however were oral stories told, poeticised, sung, danced, dramatized and could include all or some of the methods listed here, depending on the story teller's competence and abilities.

So, let's start with the story of Māui and the sun.

Our story begins when the sun used to race across the sky. People began calling out to him to slow down but the more they yelled, cursed and screamed at him the faster he would go. People wanted more daylight so they could prepare their food, wash their clothes and do their many chores around their homes and villages. They were all very angry with him; and he knew it. But he wasn't going to listen to them. He was the sun God. No mere human was going to tell him what to do. The humans kept calling him Rā. He had a sacred name. He was Tamanuiterā. How dare they shorten his name. He didn't like that. Who did they think they were? Finally, Maui said to his brothers,"Okay, I'm going to teach Rā a lesson". His brothers told him he was crazy to even consider such a thing. That he would be fried to a crisp if he ever got close to the sun, let alone punish him.

So how was he going to punish him? They knew he was half man and half God. And they'd already seen what he was capable of. Even so, to take on the sun? He sat them down and outlined what he had in mind. They gathered flax and Māui showed them how to weave them into super strong ropes. Then he placed a magic spell on the ropes so they would not burn and they spun them into separate nets. The four brothers had one each – four sections in total. They then set off for the sun's lair.

Once there, Māui positioned them behind huge rocks; one in the north, one in the south, another to the east and the other to the west. Māui positioned himself right in front of the lair so he would be facing Rā when he rose. As the sun began to rise Māui gave the signal to throw their nets over him. All four nets spread out and completely covered Rā as he slowly rose into the sky. Then Māui pulled the lead rope which he held in his grasp and all of them locked into one great big sun trap. Rā realised what was happening and smiled and laughed out loud, " Oh you foolish humans. Who do you think you are? I am Tamanuiterā, the Sun God. You dare to come here and throw a mere flax net over me" He taunted. "But Māui held his lead rope firmly. "I am Māuitikitikiataranga – half human, half God. This net will remain over you forever to remind you to go slowly across the sky. Go too fast and it will automatically tighten. The more you struggle the tighter it will get".

Rā struggled and ranted and raved but to no avail, the net did get tighter. No matter how much he struggled he couldn't throw it off. Māui took out his great grandmother's magic jawbone and struck the Sun God with one blow, chanting while he did so. Ever since that day, the sun has been crossing the sky slowly. And if you look closely when the sky is only slightly cloudy you might be lucky enough to see the ropes still hanging down from the sun. (to be continued!)

— *Olly Ohlson*



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**



Need an Electrician on the Peninsula?

Local people. Real solutions.

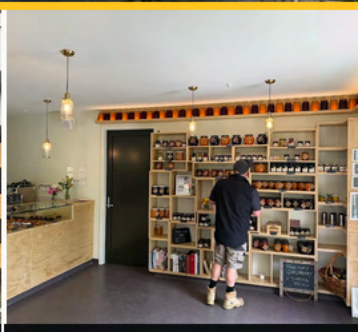
Proud supporters of the Otago Peninsula community











NEW BUILDS | SOLAR | EV CHARGING | COMMERCIAL

Leading.nz

LEADING ELECTRICAL DUNEDIN

From Allans Beach to Aramoana and everywhere in between.

027 550 5022

Call, text or email — we'd love to hear from you!

info@leading.nz | leading.nz

ELECTRICAL • ENERGY • INFRASTRUCTURE

DUNEDIN / OTAGO / NEW ZEALAND

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!** See you again in late November.

community calendar

Hereweka Harbour Cone Draft Plan Drop-in Sessions
Tuesday 27 October
Broad Bay Community Hall, 3–5pm
Wednesday 4 November
Portobello Bowling Club, 10am–12pm

Monday 2 November
Hereweka Trust Annual General Meeting
Broad Bay Community Hall, 7pm

Saturday 14 November
Car Boot Sale (benefits Portobello Community Inc.)
Portobello Domain, 9–12. Setup from 8am. Rain date Sun 15 Nov.

Wednesday 18 November
Portobello Community Inc. Monthly Meeting
Biodiversity Hub, 7:30pm

Saturday 28 November
"The End of Summertime" feat. Peter Hayden
Coronation Hall, 7:30pm

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

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

Thursdays and Sundays 11am-1pm
Portobello Library open