

# DCC may go into bat for university

GRANT MILLER

THE Dunedin City Council may help lobby for more government funding for the financially strapped University of Otago.

The university is running a deficit this year – it is poised to be in the red again next year – and has called for voluntary redundancies.

A notice of motion to go before the council next week asks that it recognise “the vital and critical role the University of Otago plays in the wider wellbeing of Dunedin City”.

If approved, the council would



David Benson-Pope

offer its support, in “lobbying for greater government funding of New Zealand’s first university”.

It would also direct the council’s chief executive to determine what, if any, assistance needed to be provided to the university.

The notice was put up by Cr David Benson-Pope, seconded by Cr Carmen Houlihan.

Protect Otago Action Group representative Olivier Jutel said the Government needed to get serious about funding universities adequately.

Support for this message was appreciated, Dr Jutel said. But he also signalled the council might not be looking to do quite enough.

“There needs to be a call to halt the restructuring,” he said.

Dr Jutel said the group had tried to engage with Dunedin Mayor Jules Radich.

“We’ve not had a chance to speak with the mayor directly.”

A “Save Tertiary Education Kōrero” is to be held today at Age

Concern Otago in Dunedin, from 1pm.

The action group will be joined at the public forum by Green Party co-leaders Marama Davidson and James Shaw, Otago University Students’ Association president Quintin Jane and representatives of the Tertiary Education Union.

“The success of Dunedin depends on the strength of our education sector,” Dr Jutel said. “We all have a stake in avoiding the irreparable damage these significant staff cuts would cause.”

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# Gull reduction steps gain SPCA approval

HAMISH MACLEAN

SABOTAGING black-backed gull eggs with oil and spraying dye on the parents in a bid to control Dunedin’s exploding population has won approval from the SPCA.

The Dunedin City Council’s plan to lower the number of the native birds in the city from 10,000 to about 5000 over the next five years relies on dispersal techniques and interrupting breeding of the abundant birds.

The council plans to cover freshly laid eggs in oil to stop them from hatching at two major urban nesting sites and encourage Te Rūnaka o Ōtakou to harvest eggs at sites yet to be determined in order to avoid poisoning the native species, which could pose problems for Dunedin Airport after the Green Island landfill stops accepting food waste.

SPCA science officer Dr Alison Vaughan said when human activities had the potential to negatively impact the welfare of wild animals, there was a duty to ensure the activities were done in a manner that minimised the injury, pain, or distress to animals.

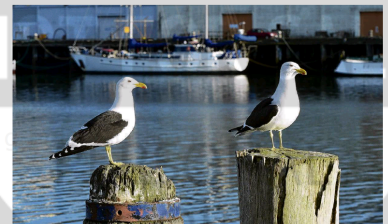
“We are glad to see the council conducting a robust assessment and planning ongoing monitoring of their management plan to help ensure the goals are met.”

“We also support the council taking steps to enable the use of more humane, non-lethal methods of population control, such as dispersal and egg removal.”

“We encourage the council to avoid the use of less humane methods of pest management, such as use of poisons to kill birds,” Dr Vaughan said.

The council’s draft southern black-backed gull management plan, part of its application to continue operations at the Green Island landfill, said poisoning the birds with alpha-chloroethane baits at nesting sites would not be considered this year while alternative methods were used.

It could be considered next year, but culling the birds was not expected to be necessary, the



Target... The DCC’s plan to reduce black-backed gull numbers relies on dispersal techniques and interrupting breeding. PHOTO: STEPHEN JAQUIRY

plan said.

Creating a black-backed gull management plan to manage food availability at Green Island was a condition of consent for the planned Smooth Hill landfill after fears were raised the risk of bird strike could increase with a new landfill close to the airport and the closure of Green Island, known habitat for thousands of gulls.

By January 2028, Dunedin’s estimated population of 10,000 black-backed gulls would be halved, the plan said.

Fewer than 100 birds would be frequenting the Green Island landfill.

More than 500 eggs would be oiled or harvested.

Oiling eggs shortly after they were produced would stop a “gaseous exchange” through the eggshell, preventing chicks from hatching.

Walton Park sand quarry, in Fairfield, where oiling would occur, had 62 nests, the plan said.

Logan Point Quarry, in Logan Park, the other site where oiling would occur, had 30 nests.

The new Dunedin hospital construction site, in the city centre, was the other main breeding site in the city, the plan said.

It had 10 nests.

It was also suspected gulls were breeding at the mouth of the Leith, where 60 gulls were

seen.

Lake Waitahuna River, about 40km west-southwest, is a major breeding site with 400 breeding gulls, but along with those at Lee Stream and Lake Mahinerangi, it was assumed those birds did not interact with coastal birds and did not rely on the landfill as a food source.

The plan also said that colour-marking would be used to monitor the birds as they were dispersed from the Green Island landfill.

Staff would turn sprinklers on and mist the birds for a couple of hours each day to get them accustomed to being covered in water droplets.

Then, a small amount of coloured dye would be added to the solution to colour-mark the birds and assist with monitoring them.

GPS trackers would also be used on 10 birds, for more detailed data.

From this month through August a team of trained wildlife staff would use a range of tools – from a gas cannon, starter pistol and pyrotechnics to kites, balloons and arm-waving – to disperse the birds from the area, the plan said.

After rapid population growth after European arrival in New Zealand, the native birds were “widespread and super-abundant” and therefore not protected.

hamish.maclean@odt.co.nz

## Illuminating delight



Fairies Paige Symister (19, left) and Eve Eyles (18) are lit up by glowing white unicorns at the Dunedin Midwinter Festival at First Church in Dunedin last night. The festival continues tonight from 6pm to 9pm.

VIDEO: www.odt.co.nz/tv PHOTO: LINDA ROBERTSON

## UPVC WINDOWS AND DOORS



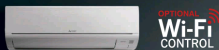
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## DCC NOTICEBOARD

DCC CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL CENTRE | Hours: 8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday | 9am to 5pm Saturday | 50 The Octagon, Dunedin 9016  
PO Box 5045, Dunedin 9054 | Phone 03 477 4000 | www.dunedin.govt.nz

### Power Pole Maintenance and Crane Work – Wingatui Road

Wingatui Road, between Gladstone Road North and Ben Lomond Drive, will be closed on Wednesday, 27 June, 9am to 3.30pm, for the above works. Resident access available from each end up to the closure point. Detours will be in place.

### Event NZ Careers Expo – Harrop Street

Harrop Street, between Moray Place and the Octagon, will be closed to through traffic from 7am on Tuesday, 27 June until 5pm on Wednesday, 28 June for the above event.

### Power Pole Maintenance – multiple streets

Murray Street, between Nairn and Lorne Streets, will be closed on Wednesday, 28 June, 8.30am to 4pm, for the above works. Nairn Street and Ross Street will be operating as a one way travelling from Murray Street towards Stirling Crescent during this timeframe.

189 Centre Road, between Highcliff and Tomahawk Roads, will be closed on Wednesday 28 June, 8am to 5pm for the above works. Limited resident access available.

### Event – 2023 Emerson’s Dunedin Marathon

The Council is considering closing Portobello Road, between Shore and Marine Streets, from 8.45am until 1pm, Fryatt and Wickliffe Streets, full length, from 8.45am until 1pm, Kitchener and Birch Streets, full length, from 9am until 1pm, Anzac Avenue, between Union Street East and Butts Road, from 9am until 1pm, and Logan Park Drive, full length, from 9am until 1pm, on Sunday, 10 September for the above event.

This will be considered at a meeting of The Dunedin City Council on Tuesday, 25 July at 10am. Please provide any feedback on the proposal by emailing [tmp@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:tmp@dcc.govt.nz) before 5pm on Wednesday, 28 June.

### Graduation parades – August and September

The Council is considering closing the below streets for the August graduation parade event on Saturday, 19 August September:

Moray Place, between lower Stuart and Burlington Streets, 11am to 11.30am, Moray Place, between George and Upper Stuart Streets, and Filleul Street, between Moray Place and St Andrew Street, 11.10am to 12.30pm, Moray Place, between Burlington and Princes Streets, Princes Street, between Moray Place and the Octagon, the Octagon Central Carriageway, and George Street, between the Octagon and Moray Place, 11.20am to 11.45am. Roads will be reopened as the Parade clears.

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SELL/DISPOSE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES/SEIZURE OF PROPERTY

To the last registered owner

Pursuant to section 356 of the Local Government Act 1974, the Dunedin City Council has classified the vehicles listed below as abandoned and has impounded them.

Be advised that unless you claim your vehicle within 10 days from the date of this Notice, the Dunedin City Council will sell or dispose of them.

Reference #	Vehicle ID #	Make/model	Colour	Towed from	Last known registered person
ABV 2209	DVL345	Toyota Sprinter	White	Cumberland Street under bridge	66B Vogel Street
ABV 2189	NCH680	Mitsubishi Galant	Sliver	19 Willow Bank	19 Willow Bank

To claim your vehicle, contact the Dunedin City Council on 03 477 4000.

The Council is considering closing the below streets for the September graduation parade event on Friday, 15 September:

Moray Place, between lower Stuart and Burlington Streets, 10.30am to 11am, Moray Place, between George and Upper Stuart Streets, and Filleul Street, between Moray Place and St Andrew Street, 10.40am to 12pm, Moray Place, between Burlington and Princes Streets, Princes Street, between Moray Place and the Octagon, the Octagon Central Carriageway, and George Street, between the Octagon and Moray Place, 10.50am to 11.15am. Roads will be reopened as the Parade clears.

These closures will be considered at a meeting of The Dunedin City Council on Tuesday, 25 July at 10am. Please provide any feedback on the proposal by emailing [tmp@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:tmp@dcc.govt.nz) before 5pm on Wednesday, 28 June.

## ALCOHOL LICENCE APPLICATIONS

On-13-2019 - Dudscoops Limited, Alto Cafe, 32 Malier Street, Dun. First notice. Closes Monday, 17 July.  
On-16-2023 - Beautiful Life Limited, Home Edition, 345 George Street, Dunedin. First notice. Closes Monday, 17 July.

Visit [www.dunedin.govt.nz/alcohol-applications](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz/alcohol-applications) for full details of the applications.

## MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

The following meetings will be held during the month of July 2023.

Please check the Dunedin City Council website [www.dunedin.govt.nz](http://www.dunedin.govt.nz) for the livestream links for viewing and any changes to advertised meetings.

### Thursday, 6 July

9:30am District Licensing Committee, Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon

### Friday, 7 July

9:30am District Licensing Committee, Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon

### Tuesday, 11 July

9:30am Hearings Committee, Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon – to consider parking changes

### Tuesday, 18 July

9:30am Grants Subcommittee, Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon

### Wednesday, 19 July

9:30am Grants Subcommittee, Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon

### Tuesday, 25 July

10:00am Council, Council Chamber, Dunedin Public Art Gallery, The Octagon

A public forum may be held at the start of each Council, Standing Committee and Community Board meeting. Registrations for public forum close 24 hours before the meeting starting time. If you wish to speak, please contact Governance Support on 03 477 4000 or [governance.support@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:governance.support@dcc.govt.nz)