

The Lowdown



He Panui o Kaituna

South Dunedin Community Newsletter

Issue 6 Mahuru/September 2017

Grow your own, meet your neighbours. Nice.

It was a typical Dunedin spring day. You know the one; when the weather can't decide if it will rain or shine, freeze or bake. But we are used to days such as this, and if you wrap up and carry on with your plans there's always a good chance that you will get a nice break in the weather.

So it proved on Sunday, 17 September, when spring planting activities were planned for various community gardens around South Dunedin.



Locals at Bathgate Park School community garden spring planting.

Community gardens have many benefits. Quite apart from providing a supply of fresh, locally grown produce that can reduce your grocery bill, they bring people together. You meet people you didn't know lived near you, and for those who you do know, you get to know them better.

While we were getting our hands dirty weeding, composting, planting and watering we chatted about all sorts of things. It really is a great way to build community connectedness, therefore strengthening those communities.

A South Dunedin Community Garden network group has been meeting to plan how to support and encourage the various garden projects in the area. The group believes that there is great potential for community gardens to make valuable contributions to social well-being.

There are four in the immediate area; Bathgate Park School, Catholic Social Services, Musselburgh School and a new one being established at An-Nur school in Macandrew Road.

Kate Bateman is chairperson of the Friends of Bathgate Park School, and she has been a regular volunteer at the garden for around five years. She says that working in the garden has paid off in all sorts of ways. "It provides social connections, gives me a change of environment, helps to reduce my food costs and you also learn a lot in the process."

Gardening days at Bathgate Park School are every second Sunday afternoon at around 1pm. The next day will fall on 1 October.

Kate says that they could do with more volunteers, as "It's quite a big garden and we can be much more productive with a few more regular helpers."

So get stuck in, people. You know you want to.



Bathgate Park teacher Peter Buchanan and keen gardener Kate Bateman water a newly planted bed of vegetables.

What's on in South D? Your community calendar

Regular happenings....

Every Rahina/Monday:

Mama and pepe Pacific playgroup,
9.30am - 12.30pm, @ the Early Years Hub, 158
Oxford St. Ph Sellina 0212657762

pm **Dunedin Korean Playgroup**
9.30am - 2.30pm @ the Early Years Hub

English for Immigrants

1.30pm - 3.30pm, run by English language
Partners, @ the Early Years Hub, ph 477 7261

Steady As You Go gentle exercise falls
prevention classes 1.30 -2.30pm @ South Dunedin
Baptist Church, \$2-\$3

Rock Solid High School Boys' Club, 7 - 9pm @
Bayfield High School gym, free. Call James on
021 076 7929

Every Ratu/Tuesday:

Steady As You Go gentle exercise falls
prevention classes, 9.15 -10.15 am and again
10.30 – 11.30 am @ South Dunedin Baptist
Church \$2-\$3 / class

The Breast Room in the House, 10:00 am –
12:00 pm, @ the Early Years Hub. The place for
mums to get breastfeeding information, help and
support. Just call in. For more information contact
Bushie on 0212604678

or email breastroom@gmail.com

Koru International Playgroup, 10:00 am – 12:00
pm @The Hub. A weekly play group for babies to 6
year-old and their families. For more information,
please email Zumi at koruplaygroup@hotmail.com

or just come and visit us.

Every Raapa/Wednesday:

Music and Movement, 10.45 - 11.15 @ the Hub
Creators @ Home Kowhai Playgroup. Resource
making, baking and crafts @ the Hub.
Ph 027 571 0322

Coffee and Chat, 1.30 - 2.30pm, South Dunedin
Baptist Church, \$1.00. Guest speakers and
activities.

Every Rapare/Thursday:

B4 School Check, 9am - 12pm @ the Hub,
ph 0800 247224 to make appointment

The Breast Room in the House, 10:00 am –
12:00 pm, @ the Hub

Sidey lunch, 11.30am @ Sidey Hall, Thorn St,
Caversham. Free

South Dunedin Seniors Club, 2pm - 3.30pm.
Entertainment and Afternoon Tea \$3.50.

South Dunedin Community Hall, 255 King Edward
Street.

Every Ramere/Friday:

Wild Things Kotuku Multi Ethnic Playgroup
9.30am - 12.30pm, @ the Hub

Ph 021 133 6903 or 477 2944

Craft group, @ Stepping Stones, 186
Macandrew Rd, 10am—12pm. Free

Dunedin Korean Playgroup
9.30am - 2.30pm @ the Hub

Steady As You Go gentle exercise falls
prevention classes, 1 – 2 pm @ South Dunedin
Baptist Church, \$2-\$3

September / Mahuru

23 2017 General Election polling day

27 Otepoti Dunedin Babywearing Library
meet, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, at the Hub. Free

October / Whiringa-ā-nuku

2 South Dunedin Business Association
meeting, 5:45 pm @ CCT, 278 King Edward
St.

4 Conscious Parenting, 10am - 1pm @ the
Early Years Hub

14 Vogel Street Party, 3pm to late, Vogel
Street precinct

25 Otepoti Dunedin Babywearing Library
meet, 10:00 am – 11:30 am, at the Hub. Free

The Lowdown is produced and distributed by
volunteers and relies on contributions from the
public. If you have anything to include, be it a
contribution, or items for the calendar, please email
us at newsletter@southdunedin.org.nz, or contact
Nick Orbell at the Dunedin City Council. Special
thanks to ConnectSouth for printing The Lowdown.
Remember to check out the Proud to be South D
facebook page,

<https://www.facebook.com/proudtobesouthd/>
as well as the <http://southdunedin.org.nz/> website,
for more news about developments in our
community.

Deadline for next edition is 13 October

Newsletter delivery people

We require a team of individuals who can deliver
the Lowdown to homes once a month.

**If you can help, please contact us at the email
address above.**

New life brings challenges and opportunities

The war in Syria is devastating and moving from that desolation to New Zealand, via Thailand, is what Mohammed and Lama and their 7 year old son, Jawad have done. They have shown courage and persistence in the face of bureaucracy and delays and are glad to at last be in a place which is beautiful and clean and most of all, peaceful, and where the people are 'lovely'.

Both Mohammed and Lama's families came originally from Palestine, but were forced to flee after 1948, when the State of Israel was declared. Lama's family went to Syria, while Mohammed's started off in Saudi Arabia, where they lived for Mohammed's first 20 years. They moved around a lot after that and ended up in Syria too.



A typical United Nations refugee camp in Jordan. Source: <http://me-confidential.com/7138-unhcr-calls-for-syrian-refugees-protection-wb-helps-jordan-cope-with-growing-influx.html>

Every big city in Syria has a refugee camp in it, Mohammed says, and while they usually started with tent accommodation, most people in the camps were able to live in houses eventually. The refugees can have money, move around freely and in fact have the same rights as Syrian people. But the war made life dangerous and very difficult.

So Mohammed and Lama went to Thailand, where they stayed for 4 years awaiting UNHCR placement. They really liked the Thai people, although Bangkok was very

hot and busy. Eventually they were offered a place in New Zealand and happily accepted it.

Mohammed and Lama are really enjoying the people they are meeting in Dunedin. 'People are very friendly here' says Lama. They do want Dunedin people to understand that while refugees' English may not be so good yet, they have often had a University education in their own country and bring their skills, experience and intelligence to the community here. At the moment they are busy improving their English and learning how things work in New Zealand, but they are very keen to find work and to contribute to the wider community 'just like normal people'.

They are also keen to be part of a community garden project, as vegetables are integral to their way of cooking and, as we all know, vegies are very expensive, especially through the winter. They would love to grow their own, in the company of people who share a delight in growing things together. There are currently four community gardens in South Dunedin – at Musselburgh School, Marlow St; Mercy Community Garden at 42 Macandrew Rd; the An-Nur Community Garden in Macandrew Rd, which is specially designed for refugees and new migrants – and neighbours; and at Bathgate Park School at 213 Macandrew Rd.

Missing their family is their biggest sadness. Because of the trouble in Syria, their families are spread out over almost the whole world – from Saudi Arabia and the Emirates to Georgia, Denmark and Germany. They also have friends spread throughout the USA, Canada and Britain. They would really love, though, to have at least one member of their family join them here if that was possible.

The thing they would like to see in South Dunedin – and Dunedin generally – is a better public transport system. They are dependent on buses and the infrequency of buses is a real problem for them and others in their situation. They are pleased with the new timetable but would like to see even greater improvement.

Salaam - Arabic for 'peace' (right)



Pop-Up Hub pops ...up

The South Dunedin Community Pop Up facility being established in the Cargill Enterprises building at 199 Hillside Road was officially opened by the Mayor of Dunedin Dave Cull on Friday 8 September.

The Pop Up will include community spaces and offer free Gig wifi, free public access to the Internet, Council Service Centre functions and a fully functional branch of the Dunedin Public Libraries. The Pop Up will be open a total of 25 hours each week as follows:

- Tuesday 11.00am – 4.00pm
- Wednesday 11.00am – 5.30pm
- Thursday 11.00am – 4.00pm
- Friday 11.00am – 5.30pm
- Saturday 10.00am – 12.00pm

There are meeting rooms available for community groups to use, but you need to book.

You can book your activity for a day, a week, or every week - talk to the Pop Up staff or Nick Orbell, ph 4744000, or email nick.orbell@dcc.govt.nz.