

Duntroon Digest July 2026

The shortest day is behind us, and we are looking forward to Spring now. If you travel through Duntroon in the morning at about 7.30 onwards you will see the mobile coffee van The Buzz lit up and operating. Two lovely ladies named Charlotte and Lindsey are there braving the frosty mornings Monday to Friday to sell us our morning coffees; they are much appreciated by the local patrons.

Across the road from The Buzz there is another hive of activity as Ben Warren Building is busy making repairs to the historic Gaol. A nice young man named Harold was removing rotten weatherboards the other day and these will be replaced along with other essential repairs in preparation for the repainting in August, weather permitting.

Meridian Energy has been very supportive of many projects within the Duntroon township over the years, and this year is no exception. The community received funding for the revitalization of the historic Gaol and Veggie Share Shed additional to funding new compost bins and garden beds at the school and community gardens.

On the 23rd of June the Duntroon Photography Group headed south to Dunedin. A winter day was an ideal time to visit the warm and stately Olveston homestead. The guided tour was a challenge for photographers as no flashes were allowed. Still, with the right settings members captured the opulence and wealth from another time and world.

Then, it was off to the Tuhura Otago Museum for lunch and a viewing of the Tuhura Photography Exhibition. So many wonderful images on display that the group came away inspired. Inspired to try new angles, while some were inspired to buy new cameras. The next outing will be when the snow falls.

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Charitable Trust is looking forward to hosting two UNESCO Global Geopark assessors in August and showing them the newly refurbished Museum of the Vanished World and other collaborative projects across the Geopark. So many people have gone beyond the call of duty to make the Museum, and other initiatives happen, and they are looking forward to receiving the evaluators' feedback.

In the meantime, as the school holidays are here, the refurbished Museum of the Vanished World is the perfect place to take the children on a cold winter day. The dig room is still there to keep them entertained for ages as well as new exhibits and touch screens. Please be aware that the Museum is closed on Mondays over winter." Stay warm.

