



Office of the Mayor

11 February 2026

Otago Rally – Mayor’s Welcome

Tēnā koutou

On behalf of Ōtepoti Dunedin and the Dunedin City Council, I am delighted to extend a warm southern welcome to all the fans, volunteers, officials and competing teams of the Otago Rally.

In 2026 the event celebrates its 50th anniversary in our city. This milestone reflects the event’s enduring success and significance - both locally and nationally. Over the decades, the Otago Rally has become one of the premier motorsport fixtures in Aotearoa New Zealand, attracting competitors, teams, officials, and spectators from across the country and abroad. International competitors have consistently described the event as one of the best in the world.

For many years, the Dunedin City Council has supported the Otago Rally, which brings thousands of visitors to the city. As well as hosting this world-class competition, we also relish the opportunity to showcase our beautiful city, wonderful scenic hinterland, friendly community and volunteers and our relaxed way of life.

As New Zealand’s heritage capital, Dunedin has much to offer visitors keen on cultural and built heritage. In addition to our significant collection of commercial, residential and industrial Victorian, Edwardian and early 20th-century buildings, our city includes places of cultural significance for tangata whenua, archaeological sites, historic monuments, parks, gardens, museums, collections and artefacts.

I encourage visitors to the Rally to stay a bit longer and appreciate all that Dunedin has to offer, whether this be the eco-tourism of the Otago Peninsula, the many unique shops, galleries and museums, or the fantastic restaurants and cafes. Take a walk around the University of Otago, Ōtākou Whakaihu Waka, where the careers of so many New Zealanders have been formed. To the competitors, I wish you the very best of luck and great enjoyment. To the fans, you’re in for some spectacular and exciting competition.

The Dunedin City Council also appreciates the continued energy and innovation organisers bring to this event every year. For example, we acknowledge and support their efforts to fully offset the carbon footprint of competitors.

To all the volunteers and officials, please accept our city’s heartfelt appreciation for all that you do. Enjoy a wonderful time in Dunedin.

Nāku noa, nā

Sophie Barker
MAYOR OF DUNEDIN
TE KOROMATUA O ŌTEPOTI