

# Otago Harbour

## In the pipeline

Plans are afoot at Port Otago to increase the size of the Port to make it the only deep water port in the South Island. Although plans are still in the initial stages, the development has the potential to add millions of dollars to the local economy, as well as increased employment at the Port. It would enable container ships up to 50% larger than those currently able to dock to come into the Port.

## Digging deeper...

'Digging deeper' is exactly what happened to the Otago Harbour from the time of Scottish settlement in order to establish a harbour suitable for shipping. Initially, ships with a draught of greater than 21 feet (approximately 7m) could not get past Harington Point, so increasing the depth of the harbour became all important. Victoria Channel was formally opened in 1881 to allow ships right up to the Steamer Basin in the upper harbour.

There must be a reason that so many of Dunedin's houses are perched on the side of a rather steep hill above the centre of town. Yes, it makes getting to the shops easier, and sun is plentiful, but the real reason we are so fond of this type of real estate is the view. And what Dunedin view would be complete without the Otago Harbour?

Not only is our harbour beautiful, it is also functional. It has been a shipping hub since Scottish settlement, and constant improvements have ensured it has remained an important part of Dunedin.

From the 1860s onwards the Otago Harbour was reclaimed for land using goldminer's labour to take material from the top of Bell Hill to fill in the foreshore. The reclaimed area begins on the harbour side of the bottom of Bell Hill (present day Crawford Street) and carries on around to Bayfield Park.

Kamautaurua (Quarantine Island) and Rangiriri (Goat Island) are two special harbour landmarks. Together they almost form a land bridge between Portobello on the Peninsula and Port Chalmers. The Victoria Channel passes through the narrow gap between the islands, allowing large ships to access the upper harbour.



Quarantine Island



Containers awaiting their next move at Port Otago

