

# Port Chalmers

**Hey guess what?**

Port Chalmers was the final port of departure for Captain Scott's Terra Nova on its way to Antarctica in 1910.

**Who's who**

The first mayor of Port Chalmers was Daniel Rolfe, a 35 year old law clerk who had arrived from London in 1861.

**?! What the...?!**

In January 1860 William Cuthbert and William Campbell of Port Chalmers were charged with making spirits from the tops of cabbage trees.

**Digging deeper...**

Provincial Geologist James Hector identified Port Chalmers breccia as a suitable building stone in his first report in 1862. It was used for the Beach Street wall and the Masonic Hall built in Wickliffe Terrace in 1863-4 for Lodge Marine No.942.

**Take Anzac Avenue and head past Logan Park, along State Highway 88 with the Ravensbourne hills on your left and the harbour on your right, and you're on your way to Port Chalmers.**

This rather trendy deepwater port township, known to Kāi Tahu as Koputai, sits on a small hilly peninsula. The name Port Chalmers was chosen in memory of the Reverend Dr Thomas Chalmers, one of the leaders of the Free Church of Scotland.

Early in 1848, before the 'first ships' arrived, Port Chalmers was already established as a small community. By 1855, its 30 electors gave it a member on the Provincial Council, and it achieved Borough status in 1865. The following year, a traveller described its inhabitants as consisting 'chiefly of sailors, ships chandlers, boatmen, barmen and bar maidens'. While nearby Carey's Bay became a fishing port with a still-busy marina, by the early 20th century ship servicing and building industries had developed in Port Chalmers. It was selected as the South Island's first container terminal in 1971 and today is the gateway to Dunedin for cruise ship passengers.

Despite its amalgamation into the larger Dunedin City in 1989, 'Port' as many know it, has maintained its distinct identity. It boasts a design store, cafes, galleries, and a maritime museum. Its municipal chambers building is registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, and the town is as well known for its resident musicians and artists as it is for its mariners and waterside workers.



The Port Chalmers Municipal Chambers in Beach Street, designed by P F M Burrows in 1888



The Port Chalmers Museum, dwarfed by a visiting cruise ship

