

Twilight train trip

DUNEDIN residents will have a chance to enjoy a twilight rail excursion on September 22 when "Get the Train" charters the Taieri Gorge Railway excursion train to Waitati and back. The twilight excursion will run to Waitati from Dunedin, from 5.45pm to 8.40pm, allowing a 45-minute stopover in Waitati — enough time to buy a coffee and walk around the village before returning to Dunedin at 7.30pm. The return fare is \$10. Bookings are not required.

Feathered friends on film

DUNEDIN film-maker Scott Mouat's documentary *The Unnatural History of the Kakapo* will receive limited screenings around New Zealand for Conservation Week.

The film, which documents the characters — human and feathered — of the Kakapo Recovery Programme, will be screened at Dunedin's Rialto cinema next Monday, September 20, at 6pm.

The multiple award-winning film is a finalist in the Best Festival Documentary section of the Qantas Film and Television Awards, to be announced this Saturday, September 18.

Another Dunedin documentary *Dedicated to Science*, created by a team led by Paul Troitman, is a finalist in the Best Popular Documentary section of the awards.

Road engineer rapt with Raptor-wrapped pole

By BRUCE MUNRO

A LONELY but potentially lethal power pole on a rural Dunedin road is the test site for crash injury-reduction technology.

The larger-than-normal wooden pole on the corner of Stedman and Wingatui Rds, near the Taieri airfield, has been fitted with a large plastic "girdle" designed to soften the impact if a vehicle fails to take the corner and hits the pole.

The New Zealand-developed Raptor is a world first for devices designed specifically to reduce the impact of vehicles colliding with poles and trees.

The Taieri Raptor is the third to be installed in New Zealand and the first in the South Island.

City council roading projects engineer Evan Matheson said the power pole provided an ideal opportunity to test the device.

Only one accident has been recorded at the site but installing the Raptor was a proactive move to mitigate the danger posed by the pole, he said.

Relocating the pole, which has a transformer and is the entry point for underground power cables, would have



It's a wrap: Roothing engineer Evan Matheson says the South Island-first Raptor safety device on this power pole at the corner of Stedman and Wingatui Rds is a potentially good solution to an immovable problem.

PHOTO: BRUCE MUNRO

been a "costly exercise", Mr Matheson said.

"So the installation of a Raptor provided us with an economic, quick and highly effective solution".

It cost about \$5500.

The device looks like a metro-high, double-ended, black PVC water tank. Inside, instead of water, are plastic cartridges which deform when hit, lessening the impact on the vehicle and

its occupants.

"Run-off-road" accidents account for a third of all road crashes in New Zealand.

The device has been successfully tested at speeds of up to 80kmh.

\$10,000 for Night Shelter

THE Dunedin Night Shelter Trust is humbled by the generosity of Dunedin people.

The trust raised more than \$10,000 in its recent annual street day appeal.

Dunedin Night Shelter Trust co-ordinator Frances O'Connell said this year's total was an increase on last year's appeal, which raised \$6800.

More than 70 people volunteered their time for the four days of the appeal.

"We are delighted. We are humbled that people would give up their money and their time."

Ms O'Connell said the money raised would go towards the running costs of the Manor PI shelter, which provides short-term emergency accommodation seven nights a week.

Pakistan flood fund-raiser

ON Saturday, Dentistry On Musselburgh is hosting a fund-raising clinic for the Pakistan Flood Appeal.

Drs Seleema Reeves and Sarah Ting will provide check-ups, X-rays and cleaning, waiving the usual fees, which range from \$100 to \$200, in return for a direct equivalent donation to the appeal. The clinic, which is being held in association with Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, will run from 8.30am to 5pm, at 84 Musselburgh Rise.

To make an appointment, call 455-0621.

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