



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **March for Science -- Dunedin Rally Earth Day, 22 April 2017**

On Saturday, 22 April 2017 (also Earth Day), Dunedin will be one of the first in the world to march, joining the global scientific community in support of politically independent scientific research, and scientifically informed public policy. Dunedin's rally expands on the global initiative by embracing **all** areas of intellectual endeavour, showcasing the variety of ways science and knowledge contribute to society, and providing a platform for educators, researchers, and business leaders to engage with the local community.

Our event, to be held at the Otago Museum Reserve from 11am to 2pm and MC'd by City Councillor Aaron Hawkins, will be a unification of the "town-gown" alliance, featuring local band Koputai Peoples Party, speakers including Labour MP Dr David Clark; notable biochemist Prof Peter Dearden; pioneering conservationist and chairman of the Wise Response Society Sir Alan Mark; Parkinson's researcher Dr Louise Parr-Brownlie; evolutionary geneticist Prof Hamish Spencer; and Green Party co-leader Metiria Turei, and special science demonstrations from the Otago Museum. We encourage attendees to design science posters, wear science hats, or dress up as a scientist or science critter, and there will be a contest for best costume, hat, and poster. Local organizations will also share the many interesting ways they contribute to the local community, the Otago region, and the world through their generation, use and distribution of science and knowledge. There will also be mobile food providers and a sausage sizzle or two! So make this rally part of your school holiday and Wild Dunedin plans!

In preparation for the rally, there will be a poster- and placard-making workshop in the Octagon on 18 April, so come along and get fired up for the rally by making a sign to show your support! For more information or to contact the organisers, see the Dunedin Rally's Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Marchforsciencedunedin](http://www.facebook.com/Marchforsciencedunedin). In case of bad weather, the venue will be The Link (attached to University of Otago main library and across from the Otago Museum).