

And the wall came down ... Check out the photos below



The beginning of a long needed transformation: the Leith is undergoing flood protection. Our idyllic bank is, for now, a construction zone - complete with the roar of machinery and thudding of wrecking balls. Once the transformation is complete, students will again be able to relax on the banks and gaze across the Leith at the Clocktower.



Above: the Leith retaining wall being demolished for the Leith flood protection scheme. The Otago Regional Council (ORC) says, "The Water of Leith poses a significant flood hazard to much of central Dunedin. In a large event, floodwater will spill from the channel to inundate large areas of the Dunedin central business district, flooding buildings, disrupting transport routes, and affecting essential services."



A recent flood.



Three young ladies preparing to cross Cumberland Street during a flood, 1920s.



Children play in the flood on Castle Street, 1920s.



A flood in the 1920s caused inroads under the foundations of the Union Street bridge on campus. In the background is the Home Science building. The nearby Staff Club (which originally housed the Dental School) was also damaged, with some of its foundation almost washed away. This flooding was the reason for the steep concrete walls subsequently built on each side of the Leith.

Reconstruction of the Leith on campus will be completed by July. We'll send you photos of the new-look Leith bank... Here's a peek at some of the plans...



Photos courtesy of Otago Regional Council