

Plans for Clyde's New Museum on Hold

The Vincent Community Board has decided not to grant funds to develop concept plans for a new purpose-built museum at the Briar Herb Museum complex in Fraser St.

The board was asked by council staff working on the project to approve a payment of \$95,000 to develop concept plans for the museum but members are reluctant to spend this amount of money until they are sure the project will go ahead.

They are waiting to see the regional museum strategy report that has been compiled by the council's chief adviser, Saskia Righarts, which could have a bearing on the future of the Clyde proposal. A copy of the proposed strategy has been sent to all Central Otago museums for comment before it is finalised and made public.

Ten companies submitted concept plans proposals and three were shortlisted. Their proposals will be kept on file in the meantime.

The proposal for the new museum is estimated to cost about \$5 million dollars.

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New Fire Truck Poses Steep Learning Curve

It is not exactly brand new, but the fire truck recently acquired by the Clyde Volunteer Fire Brigade is being treated with great respect by members of the brigade.

"While we are sad to see the old one go, the crew are very excited by the new one," says Chief Fire Officer, Steve Gee.

The 11-year-old appliance was inherited from the Alexandra Volunteer Brigade and replaces one used by Clyde for the past 27 years. It is the sixth fire appliance the station has had since its formation in 1906.

"The crew love it," says Fire Chief Steve Gee. "It's comfortable, accessible and has lots of storage space but it's completely different from our old model."

It is so different that the old machine has been kept on stand-by while the crew learn about the electronic systems, how to drive it and how to operate the pumps.

It is not the only new technology the station has taken up: an AMS paging system (Availability Management System) tells the fire chief and his deputy, John Haig, how many volunteers are available at the time of a call-out and who they are. That means they know if they have enough volunteers to cover the response and if they need extra help.

(More about how to become a volunteer in our next issue).



Fire Chief Steve Gee (on left) with Emily Hecht-Wendt, Ian Kerrisk (driver), and Stacy Haig with their new fire appliance.

Talking It Over with Russell Garbutt

Vincent Community Board Member

It is disappointing that the Electricity Authority has decided that the pricing structure used by Aurora Energy is "fair". I'm not surprised by this announcement. Both the Commerce Commission and the Electricity Authority have for many years adopted the position of sitting on the sidelines and doing little or nothing for the benefit of consumers. Indeed, they seem intent on supporting Aurora in the continuation of roting Central Otago consumers in favour of their Dunedin owners, the Dunedin City Council. It's equally disappointing that government ministers are determined to stand back from fixing something that is inherently wrong. The basic ownership model is flawed and until changed, nothing will improve. It is crazy that the Government's much vaunted winter heating supplement will be completely overcome by the massive line charge increases about to be inflicted on us by Aurora.

I'd urge all residents to start preparing for submissions to the Long Term Plan so that the council and community board members can make quality decisions. Rates were held last year due to Covid-19, but there is always pressure for them to rise.

It is only through the various submission processes that councils have a real mandate to impose rates – if you don't speak up, then how can you be heard?

As usual, if there is anything I can assist with, ring me on 020 4039 0424.



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Urgent Plea to Clyde Property Owners.

District Council Parks and Reserve staff are asking people to cut down any vegetation that might be hanging over property boundaries.

Branches from trees and shrubs are forcing pedestrians onto the road — a struggle for people using mobility scooters, have impaired eyesight or who are pushing prams.

Sunderland St residents are also being asked not to pile their grass clippings at the base of trees planted on the street. It might seem helpful but the clippings can harm them if the roots are smothered.

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More Fabulous Fun Days Ahead

A family fun day organised by the Clyde and Districts Lion Club exceeded all expectations and will be repeated next year.

The gathering of about 250, including many children, took place at the end of January on the Railway Station reserve. Promote Dunstan helped by making funds available for the musicians, Kathy Stanton and Matt LaHood, who performed on the station platform. Children enjoyed a range of activities including old-time games and races and a visit from the Clyde Volunteer Fire Brigade.

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Community Funding Available

The Otago Masonic Charitable Trust is calling for community organisations to apply for this year's round of grants.

Applicants can contact Rory Butler 021 0905 7907 (randcbutler@inspire.net.nz) for details. Applications close March 31.

Past recipients in Clyde have been the Volunteer Fire Brigade for the purchase of head lamps and the Clyde Historical Museums for a new computer.



Julie Davie lines children up for a race

Pressure on Dunstan Hospital Beds

A predicted increase in the population of Central Otago and the Lakes District is likely to put more pressure on services and beds provided at Dunstan Hospital.

The hospital has 24 beds but a recent Southern District Health Board meeting was told that it regularly has more than 30 in-patients and routinely has to move patients elsewhere.

Hospital Chief Executive Kathy de Luc says there are always peaks and troughs in the demand for hospital beds but there is a need to develop a long-term plan.

"That has been recognised by the board which has already made some additional funding available. But the demand is increasing faster than expected," she says. "The key thing for us is making sure we provide the best service to keep people out of hospital by trying to minimise sickness."



Discussions on achieving that service is already exploring how primary health care by health workers in the region's towns could reduce the level of illness needing hospital care. Networking with other providers such as GPs, St John, home care providers and aged residential care is also being examined.

"The district health board is listening to us but we are not yet where I would like it to be in terms of the long-plan," she says.

Mrs De Luc says there is more that can be done such as increasing the number of out-patient clinics where specialists come to Dunstan Hospital or to other centres which would minimise waiting and reduce journeys to Dunedin.

Dunstan Hospital covers an area from Wanaka and Hawea to Cromwell and Alexandra with some services provided to Queenstown and Roxburgh.

New Owners of Clyde Heritage Church

The new owners of Clyde's heritage church, St Michael's and All Angels, are keen to keep community involvement in the church.

Five tenders were made for the property with the successful offer coming from Peter and Anna Weir from Rotorua.

Peter has strong connections with Clyde: his family owned an orchard in the Cromwell Gorge until it was flooded for the Clyde Dam and his parents, Alan and Maureen Weir later ran a contracting business in the town.

Peter and Anna plan to build a holiday home on the site but have no intention of tampering with the 1877 church which they want to protect.

The St Michael's Clyde Charitable Trust which also made an offer on the property has discussed the future of the church with the couple and further discussions are likely.



The Anglican Bishop, Rt Rev Steve Benford conducts a special service to deconsecrate St Michael's Church shortly after its sale by tender in January. The service was attended by about 40 people.

Covid Precautions in Place for Clyde Festival

Taking precautions against Covid-19 is a new task for the Clyde Wine and Food Harvest Festival committee.

Last year's festival was cancelled due to the pandemic and festival convener Louise Joyce says the committee has taken public health advice as how best to protect the public.

"A lot more is required at a big event than just putting up signage and making hand sanitisers available," she says. "We have dedicated one of our members, Mandy Eade, to take charge of our covid response before and during the festival."

The big shadow lying over the festival is whether or not more covid cases will develop and keep the country at Level 2 which will mean a second cancellation.

"At least 3000 people attend the festival so it's a bit of a nerve-racking time which will get worse as we approach the festival date," Ms Joyce says.

The festival is scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 4 starting at 10.30am until 4.30pm in Clyde's historic precinct.



Festival committee member Mandy Eade displays one of the special QR codes.



Crew and cast hover between takes in Clyde's historic precinct during the filming of a six-part television series, *Under The Vines*. The romantic comedy is set on a local vineyard and follows two city slickers (The Crown star Charles Edwards and *Wanted* actress Rebecca Gibney) who inherit a failing vineyard. Neither of them has ever done a hard day's work and they despise one another.

Comedy Play Coming Soon

Tickets are now on sale for Clyde Theatre Group's second attempt to stage its new production *The Pink Hammer* after the Covid-19 lockdown last year forced the group to postpone the play.

The kiwi comedy is about four women who turn up to a "pink hammer" workshop hoping to learn carpentry skills from a pioneering female furniture maker. Instead they get an unemployed, disgruntled builder who is not impressed by having to teach four women.

The Pink Hammer opens on March 30 at Clyde's Community Hall. To book go to <https://tickets.clydetheatregroup.co.nz/>

