

# Dunstan News

February/March 2020

Volume 8 Number 1

## Big Attendance for Proposed Rezoning of Clyde Outskirts

More than 50 people turned up at the Clyde Bowling Club in mid-February to look at and discuss with the developers their proposal for re-zoning vacant land on the Mutton-town Rd at the end of the Sunderland Estate.

The developers Mark Laing and Pat Houlahan, with Colin Foster who has shares in one block of land, are seeking a private plan change to rezone their land from rural residential to residential sections which could be as small as 250 square metres.



The proposed re-zoning area is shaded

Draft plans of the proposals were on hand but were not able to be taken away for closer inspection. It was explained they would be available when publicly notified by the District Council.

People were told that up to 150 houses could be built if the re-zoning is approved and consent given for a residential subdivision. A number of people spoken to by the *Dunstan News* were in favour of a subdivision saying that to make more housing available would be "great for Clyde" and that it "would be good for the whole area".

Clyde based brick and blocklayer, James Rabbett says the project "has got to be done. I employ six people and we have to drive to Queenstown to get work", he says. "We are spending money in Queenstown which we could be spending

in Clyde."

However, long term residents Dave and Pat Tyrrell are concerned that eventually Clyde will consist of wall-to-wall housing. "We can't stop progress," Dave says, "but we are concerned that Clyde will lose its unique character."

The 2006 Clyde Community Plan noted that the community, keen to preserve the special character of the area, wanted residential growth to stay within the existing urban boundaries. This was reinforced in the second community plan in 2010 after a survey of Clyde residents showed concern about development sprawl.

Both community plans noted interest in having a rest home or retirement village near the hospital and this was echoed in written comments made by people at the meeting.

The application to re-zone the land will now be considered by the district council and the public will be able to make submissions.



Clyde residents at the re-zoning meeting

## Talking It over with Russell Garbutt

It is not pleasant to sit around the Community Board table to approve rating increases you know will impact on householders. If it were a case of lavish spending or funding projects that would be "nice to have" rather than "need to have" then I think many would not have voted for the proposed increases. But that wasn't the case. The drive to reduce spending was genuine. Perhaps the biggest thing to annoy me about a rate increase is central government which forces councils to undertake new things or comply with a whole lot of new rules but doesn't fund what they demand local authorities to do.



I am also aware of impending increases in Aurora's charges. These will be much higher than rates increases and has come about because the company, owned by another local authority, the Dunedin City Council, used the money it was paid to maintain the network for other things. I'm hard-pressed to disagree with any sort of argument against those who say this action was fraudulent. We have been fleeced or done over like a dog's dinner. Thankfully others are now seeing the impact of what has been going on and hopefully our community can make its voice heard by the Commerce Commission in a few months.

I went to the session where Mark Laing and his associates explained what they want to do with their land on Muttontown Road. The District Council is undertaking a spatial plan for the Alexandra basin which will determine the content of the district plan but it is another example of the tension that exists between the need for growth and the resistance to change. One thing for sure, the exit onto State Highway 8 would need to be changed if this private development goes ahead.

As always, if you need to raise an issue, and so many of you do — I'm only a phone call away. 449 2254 or 020 4039 0424



## Lions Convention in Clyde

The Clyde and Districts Lions Club is hosting an area convention at Clyde Primary School and is expecting up to 120 people from Southland, Central and South Otago over two days on March 21 and March 22.

Saturday's programme features motivational speakers with a dinner, dance and silent auction in the evening while on Sunday a commemoration service will be held honouring Lions members who have died over the past year.

The convention is focusing on child cancer and funds raised during the weekend will be donated to this cause.



**An open day is being planned at St Michael's Church** in Matau St on Sunday, March 22 from 1pm – 4pm by the Friends of St Michael's committee which hopes to keep the church as a community asset rather than be sold on the open market.

**The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Clyde Wine and Food Festival** will be held on Easter Sunday, April 12. Sunderland St from the historic precinct to the dam end and Lodge Lane will be closed from 7am until 6pm (although it usually reopens earlier).

**Rubbish disposal charges** will increase at the four Central Otago District Council transfer stations from March 1. The council says the increase is because of rising costs in maintenance, operation and the Carbon Tax/Emission Trading Scheme.

## Dunstan Information Panels

A long-term project by Promote Dunstan has almost reached its end with the installation of two information panels at Drybread and Matakanui this February.

The project began in 2015, five years after Promote Dunstan published its Self-Drive Heritage brochure featuring places of historic interest in the Dunstan area.

Eleven panels are complete. Just one panel, the Becks panel, remains to be written. Any information about Becks, its origins and people would be gratefully received. ([lojo.rico@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lojo.rico@xtra.co.nz))

The brochure is in constant demand and copies are available at i-sites and at the above email address.



The Drybread information panel in front of the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century hotel in Drybread Road.

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## Signage in the Historic Precinct Under Scrutiny

The recent addition of a large modern sign on the former Dunstan Hotel building in the historic precinct has left some people wondering if there is enough protection of Clyde's heritage landscape.

Newcomer to town, Cycle Surgery, received permission from the Central Otago District Council to erect a large advertising sign on its building, but some people complained that the sign's modern black plastic finish with modern signwriting does not fit with the heritage values of the town.

Other businesses in the historic precinct such as Touch Yarns, Hazlett Home, Hartley Arms, Olivers and Dunstan House have gone to some lengths to preserve 19<sup>th</sup> century styles by hanging wooden shingles. Owners of the rejuvenated and newly opened hotel, The Lord Clyde, next door to Cycle Surgery, have also opted for signage in keeping with the early gold mining era.

The Central Otago District Council, which does not have a dedicated heritage advisor on its staff, referred the sign to Heritage New Zealand which decided the sign had no significant impact on the heritage fabric of the building.

But, as one disgruntled resident said, Heritage NZ and the district council are missing the point because it is not just about one building, but how it effects the appearance of the whole historic precinct.



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A reprint of the book, *Take Me To The Nevis*, is now available after selling out within two weeks of its launch late last year. Copies can be found at Clutha River Cruises in the historic precinct, Central Stories Museum in Alexandra or contact [lojo.rico@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lojo.rico@xtra.co.nz).



## Rare Sightings of Native Bird in Clyde

A flock of five kereru (New Zealand pigeon) has been busy visiting gardens in Clyde this summer feasting on wild plums and probably on buds, leaves and flowers of both native and exotic species.

An occasional single bird was spotted in Alexandra and Clyde last summer but this is the first time a flock has been reported. It is most unusual because these birds live in native forests, not in the desert-like conditions of Central Otago.

It is suggested they might have flown here from Waikaia Forest where bird populations are increasing after the area received its first ever aerial drop of 1080 poison in 2014. They are known to travel long distances in their quest for seasonal food and it is possible that their home is the forested areas north of Wanaka. We hope these beautiful big birds are enjoying their Clyde holiday and continue to bring pleasure to Clyde's residents.



A kereru enjoying the plums in a central Clyde backyard.

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## Kathleen Hughes

It is with sadness that we record the death of one of Clyde's identities, Kath Hughes. Kath died aged 100 at Ripponburn Rest Home in January.

She was featured in the *Dunstan News* as one of Clyde's identities in March 2016 and spoke of her love of living in the community for the past 50 years. Fiercely independent, she lived alone in her own home but advanced macular disease which was destroying her eyesight forced her to move to the rest home a couple of years ago. Kath's funeral was held at St Michael and All Angels Church.



## Cemetery Wall Collapses

The heavy and consistent rain early in February left its mark at Clyde Cemetery bringing down a section of the schist stone wall surrounding the graveyard.

Rain in July 2013 caused a similar collapse of the wall which was built more than 100 years ago. It was repaired by the District Council which has been notified about the latest fall.





## **A Special Invitation to the Wives and Partners of the men of Clyde \***



(\* You can bring him too, or he can come by himself)

Does your husband/partner ...

- Need to get out more?
- Need to mix more with other guys?
- Want to do something meaningful for others ?
- Need to improve his memory?
- Enjoy charitable activities?
- Enjoy a bit of ceremony?

If so then he could well enjoy becoming a freemason.

Many hundreds of men have belonged to Lodge Dunstan in Clyde since it began back in 1867.

Lodge Dunstan is holding another

### **Open Night**

You are cordially invited to find out why so many men gain great pleasure and personal satisfaction from contributing to society by becoming a Freemason.

Where: At the lodge rooms in the centre of Clyde

When : Thursday, 27th February at 7.30pm—8.30pm

PTO to see what we get up to....

\* You don't have to live in Clyde! Most of our members don't!

## **What do Freemasons do?**

(apart from hold strange meetings that is ...)

We are concerned with the three Fs of Freemasonry.

**F**un, **F**riendship and **F**ellowship

But we also have, as our prime focus, **C**harity.

Through the Otago Masonic Charitable Trust, every year we make many thousands of dollars available to local groups for help them with things that they might otherwise not be able to afford.

E.g. Last year we paid for \$1800 worth of headlamps for our Clyde volunteer firefighters. This was just one of about \$20,000 paid out to local groups.

We also offer Scholastic Awards to young people every year.

We have been involved in supporting Oncology and Research Immunotherapy in the medical arena.

We are the largest philanthropic organisation in New Zealand.

Freemasonry has been going, in its current form, for roughly 500 years and it was going for many hundreds of years before that.

We all thoroughly enjoy our Freemasonry.  
Come to find out more about us.  
All questions are most welcome.

For further information contact Rory Butler 03 448 9049