

Dunstan News

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Dunstan Hospital Under Increasing Pressure.

The demand for beds at Dunstan Hospital recently forced staff to divert some patients to Queenstown in what hospital General Manager Karyn Penno describes as a "very, very busy period".

The overcrowding has been caused by the acceleration in the region's population and a level of funding which now cannot cope with it.

"This means that at some point in the future we're going to need more in-patient capacity," Ms Penno says. "We're currently in conversation with the District Health Board on how to deal with the population growth which is happening much faster than anticipated."

The hospital is funded for 20 beds although several more, including high dependency beds and assessment unit short term stretchers, are available bringing the total to 31.

The hospital has until now managed to juggle the funding to cover the times when there are more than 20 patients by off-setting it against the times when the funded bed occupancy is under capacity. But, these days, the number of times it is under capacity is fewer and fewer, while the times when it is over is becoming more and more.

The hospital is coping, just, but things are likely to change soon when winter kicks in. Staff are currently planning a strategy to manage winter admissions.



Karyn Penno

Clyde Lilliput Libraries

The popularity of the little libraries in Clyde is spreading.

The Clyde and Districts Lions Club is now looking at installing six in Alexandra after receiving requests from residents there. The three Clyde libraries are attracting interest from many people who are taking and adding new books to the collections which can be found at Clyde School, 81 and 135 Hazlett St.

Photographs of the libraries and where they can be found are on the Central App under "Things To Do".

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New Heritage Panel for Lauder



Enthusiastic Lauder residents admire the new Heritage Trail information panel recently installed by Promote Dunstan. The Lauder sign is the ninth in a series of 12 placed throughout the district to enhance the experience of those following the "Dunstan Heritage Self-Drive Trail" brochure.

Graphic artist and designer of the panels, Maxine Williams, is on the left of the photograph.

Talking It Over ...with Russell Garbutt Earnsclough-Clyde Community Board Member

It was wonderful to see the big turnout of people who came to the Dawn Service at the Clyde Lookout on Anzac Day. Many had walked up the lookout track on a chilly morning to see the dawn break.

It was a moving and emotional time and I was honoured to read out the names of our local men who had died in World War 1. Later that morning I was equally honoured to lay the wreath on behalf of the Vincent Community Board at the Clyde War Memorial. It is so important for people of all ages to spend part of this day to remember and appreciate all those who served to ensure our freedom.

Anzac Day is also a great time to appreciate autumn. I cycled down the river track that afternoon with my grandsons and we came across a young family who had come from Dunedin for the day just to be among the autumn gold. It underlined for me the real pleasures of living in a special part of the country.

There are many positive things happening with the Clyde Museum lately - more of that later. As always, I am delighted to hear from anyone on anything. Give me a buzz on 449 2254 or 020 4039 0424.



New Owners Grateful for Helping Hand

The new owner of Clyde's Four Square never thought owning a grocery shop was achievable but he was wrong – thanks to his former boss.

Brent Omond spent just over 10 years working at New World in Alexandra and its owner-operator, Kevin Ryan, helped him achieve his dream.

"He put me through various courses to enable me to get to the level to be given approval by Foodstuffs (owners of the New World, Four Square and PAC'nSAVE franchises) to run my own business," says Brent. "You can't just walk off the street and become a Four Square owner."

With Brent's background, it was no surprise he was interested in the grocery business. He comes from Millers Flat where, years ago, his Mum managed Fagan's Four Square, and Brent helped out after school.

Brent and his wife, Sharon, run the business together and describe their new life as a great change for the better. They are still working out a balance between work and free time to spend with their young family of three energetic boys.



Proud new owners of Clyde Four Square, Sharon and Brent Omond with their children (l to r) Joel (11), Ethan (9) and Austin (7).

Car Rally Fundraiser

The Clyde and District Lions Club raised \$250 from participants in a car rally held last month to promote diabetes awareness.

Organiser Norman Peeks says 20 classic and modern vehicles and 42 people took part and all made it to the finish line. A barbecue and prize-giving were held at Lake Dunstan.

The 10 Year Plan – Huge Response On Clyde Issues

A publicity campaign by the Central Otago District Council to generate feedback on its draft 10-Year Plan appears to have exceeded expectations with a record number of more than 450 submissions received.

The wastewater-sewage scheme and a proposal to upgrade the heritage precinct are two of the four key issues that directly involves Clyde and inspired about 340 people to submit on the former and 330 on the latter.

"It was a great shame that Clyde voted against a reticulated sewage system some years ago, but now it's time to bite that bullet," says Russell Garbutt, community board member for Clyde-Earnscliffe. "The three-stage plan seems logical and fair."

The sewage scheme is estimated to cost \$28.3 million, although inflation is likely to add about \$7.5 million. An upgrade of the heritage precinct comes in at \$830,000, although there could be changes to the options proposed by the Council.

"The plan for the heritage precinct has gone through some excellent consultation," says Mr Garbutt, "and the development of the carparking and extension of Miner's Lane is a good way of providing parking within walking distance from the already congested areas of Holloway and Sunderland Streets."

Two "drop-in" sessions in Clyde to discuss the projects presented in the 10 Year Plan attracted a big turnout from residents and cribbies eager to discuss the proposals.

Submissions on the plan have now closed and nearly 100 people throughout the region have indicated they want to speak in support of their submissions. Mr Garbutt says he is looking forward to seeing the result of this consultation process and "hopefully, support for these really big Clyde projects."



Pictures from the Past – Clyde Choir 1960

Help us fill in the incomplete or unknown names. (L-R) Back Row Dave Love, Peter Love, Ewan Sutherland, McKenzie, E. Breach, McEloy, Jenkins, Williamson, Don Anderson, Greer, Alan Anderson. Middle Row: Mrs Davidson, Atfield, Wilson, Sanders, Bodkin, Joy Love, E. Love, Mrs Cook, ?(sister from the hospital). Front Row: Mrs Annan, Dutch lady??, L.McMurray, Laing, Waldron, Anderson, Robertson, Goodall, E. Annan, P.Breach.



Unusual Fundraiser

Lodge Dunstan has a novel fundraiser for the public to view over Queen's Birthday weekend in the lodge building in Clyde.

Twenty jigsaw puzzles containing a total of 80,000 pieces have been laid out on the floor of the lodge room to form a colourful display almost six metres long. The jigsaws were produced annually by Heye, a German company and Lodge Master Rory Butler has been doing them since 1993.

"Each jigsaw takes about six weeks to complete and the pieces are laid out on six large pieces of cardboard which can be

stacked and stowed if the dining room table is needed," he says. "I have a 12,000 piece one that I got in New York several years ago but it's still in its box until I get time."

The lodge rooms will be open to the public between 10am and 3pm on Saturday June 2 through to Monday. Admission is a gold coin.

The money raised will go towards St John first responder kits which are used by frontline teams in emergencies. Each kit costs about \$3000 and need regular replacement.

Clyde Dog Park Survey



Leanne Downie of Clyde and Deanna Speight of Dunstan Rd in the Dog Park.

A survey being conducted by Springvale resident, Crystal Currie to upgrade Clyde's dog park is growing.

An area of nearly 3ha between the Dunstan Golf Course and Dunstan Hospital has been designated by the Central Otago District Council as a dog exercise area and Ms Currie wants improvements such as better fencing, seating, rubbish bins, trees planted and signage.

Ms Currie is taking the results of the survey to the council. If you would like to take part seek Clyde Fenced Dog Park on Facebook.

New Lodge Dunstan Master

A new Master was recently installed at a ceremony in Clyde's Masonic Lodge building.

Rory Butler will serve a one-year term and succeeds John Hanning, curator of Clyde Historical Museums. The Master's duty is to govern the Lodge for his term in office and to ensure that a stimulating programme of events are held as well as to encourage members to seek new Freemasons.



VWBro Malcolm Moore, WBro Rory Butler and WBro Alistair Cowan after the installation ceremony.