

Major Work on Clyde Heritage Precinct Underway.

Once described as the town that went to sleep in winter, Clyde, right now, is a hive of construction activity and will remain so for some months as the Central Otago District Council has started work on a second major project.

Work on the town's water and sewage scheme has been joined by the promised upgrade of the heritage precinct and the river recreation reserve which aims to improve parking, public spaces, footpaths and accessibility.

Construction of a one-way road extending from the recreation reserve to above the Clyde Bridge and an upgraded walking track has already begun. At the same time, vegetation and trees — mainly rotten poplars — have been cleared to provide more parking which the council hopes will relieve the pressure on parking space in the town.

Contractors have also started in the town centre. Details were given by council staff to Clyde business owners at a meeting in early June and are on the council website.

Lodge Lane will be closed to traffic and parking — including the gravel section behind Lodge Dunstan — for up to two months.

The women's toilet is to be demolished and the men's toilet will operate as a unisex toilet until new toilets are built behind the Lodge about September or October. Portaloos will be provided during construction.

The council also intends to conduct a vibration survey in the historic precinct by photographing the condition of heritage buildings internally and externally.

The council has received \$247,500 from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund towards the cost of the upgrade and has applied for more funding.

Lodge Dunstan Sells Land for Development

The CODC has managed to buy a section of land in Lodge Lane which is essential to its upgrade.

Agreement has been reached with Lodge Dunstan which has sold its land at the rear of the lodge currently being used as a carpark.

The lodge is forming a charitable trust to administer the money from the sale and income from investments will be used for charitable purposes in Clyde and its surrounds.



The former carpark in Lodge Lane will become the town square

Talking It over With Russell Garbutt Community Board Member



The Long Term Plan process is now largely over with many submissions and the trick now is to make things happen. Engagement with the community is vital and I must say a submission is most effectively reinforced if the submitter talks in support of their submission because there are also things which aren't specifically being consulted on which can be brought to the attention of community boards or the council.

In the background is the government's determination to push through the Three Waters Reform Programme which will mean huge changes to the management of our water and to local government. We've just seen District Health Boards vanish, to the surprise of most people, and a separate health entity to be governed by Maori. Personally, I would not be surprised to see similar happenings in changes to water and local governance. The feedback I've been receiving is that our local community wants a say in things that affect them, but there are people both nationally and locally who want to see local representation go. I know from experience that many things locals have advocated would simply not appear on the radar of, say, a water entity based in Christchurch or a local body based in Queenstown or Dunedin. The cynic in me says that the things that are important to us would be low priority in more populous areas.

As always, anything that I can help with, please don't hesitate to contact me on 449 2254 or 020 4039 0424.

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Change of Plan for Central Clyde Upgrade.

The planned zig-zag walkway from the bottom of Miners Lane up to the historic precinct through Sausage Alley and a viewing platform has been shelved after negotiations between a property owner and the council broke down.

The pathway from the river recreation reserve was featured in the original Heritage Precinct Plan presented to the public in 2018 and was to have been built up a steep bank to the main street using Sausage Alley as a passageway.

Sausage Alley owner Tony Tohill who owns and operates Clyde Processing in the alley was not impressed by negotiations with the council.

"The council made an unrealistic offer for my business and then it decided it only wanted the alley," he says. "I was only allowed access to the alley for as long as I ran my business but, who would want to buy the property if they weren't allowed to use the alley?"

Although the council was unable to buy Sausage Alley, Roding Manager James McCallum says the council is "really excited about the upgrade to the historic walkway down from Matau St to the riverside that is currently underway".

The replacement walkway, which includes seating, is expected to be completed by the end of June.



Clyde's Sausage Alley

Line dancing — Healthy and Fun

A line dancing social in the Clyde School Hall recently attracted more than 100 people from as far away as Nelson and other parts of the South Island.

The annual event is organised by Cherie and the Step-in-Time group of Alexandra.

Cherie takes about four different groups in the Alexandra-Clyde area from beginner to the high intermediate stage. Some of the women have been dancing for 20 years.

Line dancing keeps the body active and the mind alert improving posture, flexibility and easing anxiety. It also builds social bonds and, most importantly, is a lot of fun.



Line dancers learn new steps, turns and twists while having fun and enjoying the music. At the same time they are receiving a physical and aerobic workout.

New Scheme to Record Clyde's Heritage Structures

A church in Clyde has become the first of the town's many heritage buildings to be recorded in a heritage sites review — a new venture being carried out by the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust.

Three recently trained volunteers under the guidance of trust co-ordinator, Terry Davis, mapped, measured and photographed both the interior and exterior of St Mungo's Presbyterian Union Church.

They will be joined by several archaeology students from Otago University and will spend a week exploring and recording other heritage buildings and structures in Clyde from the end of June.

The exercise, funded by Central Lakes Trust, is part of an overall survey of Central Otago's historic sites and the results will be uploaded to ArchSite, an online database that contains information about recorded archaeological sites in New Zealand.

Many of Clyde's heritage sites are not recorded and the project aims to correct that by making a permanent record in case anything should happen to them. No excavation is involved and owners must give consent before the recorders work on their properties.

Word of Warning to Clyde Residents.....

It appears there are dog thieves at work around the district and dog owners are advised to keep their pets secure — particularly sought after breeds which might be used for breeding or dog fighting. Four dogs were taken and two have been located, the other pair are still missing.

Clyde Friendship Group meets on the first Thursday monthly at St Mungos Church lounge, corner of Sunderland and Fraser Sts, at 2pm. Phone Betty: 4492210.



The new road and walkway track from Miner's Lane

Big Broadway Hit Comes to Clyde

Singers from several parts of the region have come together to perform one of Broadway's big shows in the Clyde Memorial Hall in July.

The musical *Jesus Christ Superstar* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice has never been performed in Central Otago. It is an ambitious undertaking, but the musical director, Bruce Potter, says the cast of 19 has been rehearsing for some time.

The show is being staged in the hall by a local group, Waiata Theatre Productions. Performances will be held on Thursday to Saturday nights with matinees on weekends from July 9 to July 25. Bookings can be made through iTICKET www.iticket.co.nz and tickets cost \$35.



Volunteers and committee members at Clyde Historic Museum in Blyth St spent a few hours recently getting stuck into a major clean-out of unwanted bits and pieces. Some items will be sold off in a garage sale that the museum will hold sometime soon. (L-R) John Hanning, Chris Cockcroft, Grant Campbell, Linda McLeay, Liz Herrick and Andy Ritchie.

Well Worth the Wait

Senior firefighter, Barry Nevill had a wait a year for his honour to be awarded thanks to Covid-19 getting in the way, but family, friends and colleagues were able to celebrate with him when it was finally presented.

There was "a bit of a do" at Clyde Volunteer Fire Station in June to mark the occasion of his gold star award marking 25 years as a volunteer.

He is particularly skilled in driving the fire truck and pump operation but over the years he has thrown himself heart and soul into other aspects of the fire service. He has represented Clyde as a member of Clyde's successful waterway competition team at regional and national events and for the past five years he has helped raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation by competing in the gruelling Auckland Sky Tower climb.

Barry is the 12th member of the Clyde brigade to receive a gold star since the brigade began in 1906.



Gold Star recipient, Barry Nevill is flanked his wife Janine and Chief Fire Officer, Steve Gee after receiving his honour at a function in Clyde recently.