

Arts Trail A Huge Success

Local artists exhibiting their works on the Rail Trail are well represented in Clyde with eight locations showing paintings, glasswork, jewellery, ceramics and photography by 12 artists.

The arts trail, organised by the Central Otago District Arts Trust, stretches from Clyde to Middlemarch and involves 41 artists located in 34 shops, bars, restaurants, galleries and cafes on or near the rail trail.

Arts trust co-ordinator, Maxine Williams says there were more sales of art works this year compared to last with sales particularly good in Clyde.

Now in its second year, Maxine says the Arts Trail is growing in strength and another arts trail will be held next year.

Earnsclough Country Fair

The annual fair, held in November for the past three years, has proved so popular that the Earnsclough Community Society is holding an autumn fair and invites everyone to come along to sample the food and browse the stalls on Sunday, May 1.

A large number of stalls (including some you don't see at local markets) will be set up in the hall so no worries if it is wet or cold. On the menu are barbecued sausages, cheese rolls and Devonshire teas. The fair starts at 10am and ends about 3pm.

High Calibre Performers at Clyde

For some time Clyde residents have known about the high calibre of actors and actresses appearing in productions by the Clyde Theatre Group. That was officially confirmed (again) at this year's Otago Southland Theatre Awards.

For the second consecutive year, the Clyde Group won both the best leading male and female in a play or revue. This year it was Kelly Keenan and Claire Mulholland, who appeared in *The Vicar of Dibley*.

Last year's winners were Mariane Maslin and Bruce McPherson for their roles in *Calendar Girls*. That's an amazing record when you consider this year there were nominees from 13 theatre shows throughout Otago and Southland, including Dunedin and Invercargill.

Good on yer Clyde!



Visitors from Wellington, John Toft, President of Watercolour New Zealand and Janine Jefferies inspect a painting by Cromwell artist, Rachel Hirabayashi, in Olivers restaurant.

The Trust's next project is bringing the "Top Art" nation-wide exhibition to Alexandra. This is a collection of portfolios from NCEA Level 3 art students who achieved excellence in visual arts in 2015.

It is the first time this exhibition has come to Alexandra and can be seen at Alexandra Community House from May 2

Clever Planning Pulls It Off

Clyde Theatre Group deserves an award for proving it can rise to a challenge.

The group's major annual production, held earlier this month, was the English comedy, *Noises Off*, and the set required a two-storey building which had to be turned around during the play.

Most productions use a revolving stage, but that was impossible on the Memorial Hall's small stage area. However, clever planning and construction skills by Jim McDonough (Jim's Home & Building Maintenance) produced an amazing set which was a triumph.

It is a toss-up as to who was more exhausted at the end of the play: the cast of nine under the direction of Joy Ramsay, racing up and down stairs, in and out of doors or chasing around the set – or the audience who at times, were left quite breathless with laughter.



New Premises for Cycling Business

Clyde's latest new building, under construction in front of the Clyde cinema, is to be leased by the cycling business, Bike It Now.

Bike It Now co-director, Duncan Randle, says they will continue to use half of what they already occupy in their premises next door, but the new building will allow the business to expand.

Builder and property developer Mark Laing always planned to build on that site but the interior has been designed to meet the needs of Bike It Now.

The company expects to move in late winter or early spring in time for the Rail Trail season.



Wine and Food Harvest Festival

It was another great day for Clyde as about four thousand people gathered in the heritage precinct to celebrate the area's grape harvest and the marvellous wine the growers produce.

Festival Convener, Louise Joyce, says it ranked as one of their best.

"There was a great atmosphere, few glitches and people enjoyed themselves," she says. "Even so, I have a list of about 30 details that need attention for next year."

"We greatly appreciate the support of the Alexandra Police, the Alexandra Bridge Club and businesses in the street. A big thank you also to residents who supply us with extra electricity and put up with the disruption. Without that support, Promote Dunstan would not be able to hold the festival in such a unique surrounding."



Forgotten Your Wine?

Some people with poor memories left the Wine and Food Harvest Festival without picking up their bottle of wine from the Alexandra Bridge Club. If you still have your bottle number then ring Rory Butler on 03 448 9049 to arrange for collection.

Keep Your Mind Sharp and Play

Bridge

Bridge lessons are being offered to people interested in learning this challenging but fun card game. The Alexandra Bridge Club, based in Sunderland St, Clyde, is holding classes every Tuesday until July 12 and welcomes any beginners or people who would like to refresh their game.

The cost is \$40 which includes course material and, for beginners, current club membership. Come along at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. Phone Jean on 448 8991 to book.

Shakespeare Readings Prove Popular

It was probably one of the biggest gatherings in recent years at St Michael's and All Angels Church in Clyde when about 50 people filled the pews last month for a tribute to William Shakespeare.

Directed by Rozena Hallum, "Now That April's Here", celebrated the bard's birth and commemorated his death in April,



Rozena Hallum and Juliet Clark raise their glasses in tribute to the Bard.

Memorable Experience Playing in Auckland

Two teams from the Clyde Bowling Club might not have been placed in the national finals but members certainly enjoyed the experience playing at the Hillsborough greens in Auckland last month.

The men's and women's teams did not qualify for the second day's play but certainly did not disgrace themselves. Both teams achieved some wins and losses.

Fundraising to help the teams get to Auckland raised more money than was needed and the surplus will be spent on club facilities.

150 Years Ago

"We remind owners of dogs that it is necessary to register them before the 1st of April, after which date the police have orders to destroy all unregistered dogs. The quantity of curs about our streets are become (sic) a perfect nuisance. Persons on horseback or driving (horse drawn) vehicles are constantly liable to accident through the barking of these brutes, and the sooner they are thinned out the better.



Rozena Hallum, Michael Metzger, Juliet Clark and Kelly Keenan perform in the church.

400 years ago. Familiar speeches from Shakespeare's plays were performed as well as a musical interlude to an appreciative audience.

Reverend Helen Metzger was thrilled with the response by the public while Reverend Lois Hurd-McKee said people were delighted to enjoy something a little different and they wanted more.

And more is to come: the Shakespearean tribute is the first of a number of cultural events proposed by the Anglican ministers who are looking after the heritage building for the Anglican diocese.

The next event at St Michael's ... Saturday, April 30 :

10am-3pm. John Franklin, Spiritual Director and Academic Supervisor, Dunedin) will present 'Poem and Prayer', where people can share their thoughts and offer insights on four poems. Please register with Rev Lois Hurd-McKee (4492 328 or email : lois.mckee@xtra.co.nz] Bring your lunch and koha to assist with expenses.

Dunstan Times,