

Restored Gun Fired in First Local Anzac Day Celebrations.

A trio of local men was responsible for the 25 pounder gun making its first appearance at April's Anzac service in Clyde.



The gun is a familiar sight outside the District Club in Alexandra until it disappeared for several months of restoration by Brian Donaldson, Alan Pratley and John Tilleyshort.

The gun was built in 1944 with a range of 12.4 km. It was fired at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in Christchurch but, when it was decommissioned, moving parts were removed and other parts were welded together. The barrel was jammed by a hunk of metal.

L to R – Alan Pratley, Brian Donaldson and John Tilleyshort

After months of work and searching for replacement parts such as the firing mechanism, the gun fired its first salvo in Alexandra on Armistice Day in November last year.

The men are now looking for their next project and are eying up the 105 Pack Howitzer sitting in the little reserve around Clyde's war memorial.

Surprise packages arrive

Local alpaca owners, Julie and Lew Davie were expecting one of their females, Camilla, to give birth in March - but nothing happened. Then at the end of last month, returning from a trip to the supermarket, Julie spotted a new addition in the paddock. But three days later, she was most surprised to discover a second cria (baby alpaca), the offspring of Rocabella.

Both births happened during several days of hard frosts but the babies were more than able to cope. Alpacas are cold-hardy; they graze all year round at an altitude of 3500 - 5000m above sea level on the Andes mountains in South America. They are bred for their fibre which is similar to wool.

The mother carries her baby for just over 11 months before birth and the cria is on its feet within 30 to 90 minutes.

Both cria, Autumn (male) and Winter (female) are doing well and have



covers on to help with the winter cold, although Julie says that's probably due to her worry rather than their need.



Funding Increase for Dunstan Hospital



Great news for Dunstan Hospital!

Hospital staff and Central Otago Health Services are delighted to receive an increase in funding for the 2016-2017 year by the Southern District Health Board.

The increase puts the hospital a little bit ahead of where it was before funding was slashed last year. In addition, the Health Board has formally recognised the population in Central Otago is growing by 2.53% per year.

Some of the changes that were made last year in response to the funding cuts were good ideas that will stay, but the hospital says the community can be assured that the patient care they have always received will continue.

Queens Birthday Honour

Congratulations, Dr Garry Nixon.

The Dunstan Hospital medical officer has been made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to health.

Dr Nixon, a specialist in rural hospital health services, has been at the hospital since 1992. He introduced several speciality training modules to benefit rural patients and one of those has been recognised as a world-class programme of special benefit in remote areas.

Dr Nixon is a distinguished fellow of the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners. He's a director of the Dunedin School of Medicine's postgraduate rural medical programmes and also serves as a researcher, teacher and lecturer at Otago University.



Dr. Garry Nixon

Wondering what was going on in the Alexandra Bridge Club building on Saturday, June 11? A production crew was taping a television commercial for Mainland Cheese. The company must like Clyde: there was a two-day shoot in November, 2007, which closed off part of the historic precinct to traffic. It was also held during unseasonal hot weather which started to melt some of the cheese used for the commercial.

Praise for Heavy Vehicle Ban in Clyde

The Central Otago District Council ban on heavy trucks from some streets in Clyde's historic precinct has been welcomed by businesses.

The restriction applies to vehicles weighing more than 11,000kg which means heavy trucks and trucks with trailers will not be able to use Clyde as a detour.

Business owners and staff spoken to by the *Dunstan News* were unanimous in their approval.

Hartley Arms Backpackers owner, Leanne Downie: "It's a great idea for safety reasons. The road is narrow and, with cars parked on both sides, it turned into a one-lane road for a long stretch. There wasn't room for big trucks anymore."

David Ritchie, owner of Olivers: "Over summer so many people are cycling or walking around the historic precinct. It'll mean a safer environment enjoyed by all."

Apart from the safety issue, the ban will help protect the heritage stone buildings.

Lisa Robertson, manger of Olivers cafe, said she could feel the building shake as heavy trucks went by and so did Maree Davidson, of Dunstan House. Leanne Downie said Hartley Arms was particularly vulnerable to vibrations because the building now sits below the ground level after years of gradual build-up of footpath and road seal.

The restrictions take effect on July 1.

Clyde Mid-Winter Market

The annual mid-winter market fundraiser for the Clyde Playcentre will be held on Sunday, July 3 at the Clyde Memorial Hall.

Market organiser, Marjan Lousberg is taking bookings for stalls but if you want to be inside the hall, the advice is to get in sooner rather later because space is limited.

This market has grown in popularity over the years and attracts a large crowd of people. Marjan promises lots of food including a spit-roast lamb and BBQ, a cake stall, coffee cart, raffles and kid's entertainment.

The market runs from 10am-2pm. Stalls are \$20 and there are tables to rent for an extra \$5 if you haven't got one.

Email Marjan at midwintermarkets@gmail.com

Missed a copy? The 4 Square, The Dairy and Challenge have spares!

Got News? Upcoming events? Contact Louise at 449 2119 or email lojo.rico@xtra.co.nz



Barbara Wallace (left) with Clyde Dairy manager, Pat Jenkins.

dairy and working to re-establish the standard of their fish and chips. They also want to improve the take-away menu and have already produced new burgers.

Barbara is promising fresh baking every day.

The dairy's winter hours are from 8am to 7.30pm.

Local Historian in TV Documentary

Clyde Historical Museum's curator John Hanning will be sharing his knowledge on television about an event that sent ripples of shock and horror throughout the Dunstan goldfield.

John was interviewed recently by an Auckland documentary crew about the 1870 robbery of gold bullion and banknotes which had been stored in the prison cell in Clyde.

The gold escort from the Arrow and Cromwell diggings stopped overnight in Clyde and the temptation was too much for a shoe-maker from the Arrow (Arrowtown) and a Clyde police constable.

The crew, from Top Shelf Productions, was filming at Cromwell as part of a series called *Heritage Rescue*. After learning about the robbery they decided to hi-tail it to Clyde to interview John for the programme.

If you want to hear what happened, and if the gold was recovered, tune into Choice TV on Freeview or Sky, Channel 24 on Sunday, August 7 for the first episode of the series.

Clyde Dairy Reopens

The Clyde Dairy in Sutherland St is again open for business.

The new owner lives in Tauranga but the shop's manager, Pat Jenkins, is a familiar face to many Clyde people.

Pat has worked at the dairy under three previous owners but, this time, she is running it with the help of baker, Barbara Wallace.

"It's great to be back here again," Pat says, "and it's great to hear the comments from people who are pleased the dairy is open again."

The pair is busy restocking the dairy and working to re-establish the standard of their fish and chips. They also want to improve the take-away menu and have already produced new burgers.

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150 Years Ago ...

The Bachelors of the Dunstan district gave a grand ball to the Benedicts at the Victoria Theatre. The affair was a most unqualified success and exceeded anything of the sort given on this goldfield. About 80 couples were present, dancing being kept up to a late hour. Visitors came from all quarters, some even from St Bathans. The township of Clyde has not been so full of people for many a long month. (Otago Daily Times, 25/7/1866.)



No, not Spring yet! See story on back page.