

Gold Star Gathering

A special gathering took place in Clyde recently when 165 members of the Fire Brigade Gold Star Association assembled for their annual picnic – a tradition that stretches back more than 50 years.

The get-together is for members who are either serving or are retired fire service personnel and are recipients of the gold star awarded after 25 years in the New Zealand Fire Service.

Ross Bryant, president of the Otago-Southland Gold Star Association, says the occasion is a way of keeping in touch.

The group meets twice a year at venues around Otago and Southland.



Ross Bryant (Ravenbourne), John Grenfell and Paul Keenan (Clyde) tally up the registrations for the gathering in Clyde

Country Fair at Earnsclough

Organisers of next month's country fair are calling for stallholders who might be interested in going. The annual fair is held in Earnsclough Hall and there are spaces for just a few more stalls.

The fair will be held at the hall on Sunday, April 30, from 10am to 2pm. If you are interested, contact Angela McNaughton (449 3237).

Clyde Theatre Group

The group's next production is a comedy with some singing, *Cinderella Meets the Mother-In-Law*, directed by Janice Millis, from 1-7 April.



Alexandra artist, Barry Potter is painting the giant mural which will cover one side of the Daphne Hull underpass under the highway near Clyde's southern entrance.

Painting the 27m long wall will take about 450 hours and he says it is the biggest work he had ever done.

"I mostly do my work on canvas but I'm finding it quite a lot of fun painting on a such a large scale. It's unusual in that you'll never be able to see the entire mural at once. It has to be viewed in parts, a bit like what you see riding on the Rail Trail."

Also unusual is that he has only a few metres to be able to step back and look at what he has done. But he is receiving plenty of encouragement from cyclists and pedestrians who stop to look and chat.

Barry came to New Zealand from South Africa 29 years ago, first to Auckland and then to Central Otago which he describes as "the best thing I ever did." He has illustrated more than 120 children's books and has written five. His is writing and illustrating a novel for teenagers, and, as the father of three teenage boys, is something he knows about.

The \$20,000 mural is being paid for by Promote Dunstan as one of its community projects.



Mural on Underpass Wall Is Under Way



"Well, it was this big." Keen angler Graham "Ding" Bell describes his recent catch. Oh really? Turn the page to see.

Fire Risk Warnings

Autumn is now officially on us but that does not mean to say the fire risk has gone away: a total fire ban is still in force for Central Otago.

Clyde Volunteer Fire Brigade's chief, Richard Davidson, says the risk is extreme and ongoing nor-westerly winds are drying out the country which increases the fire danger.

Gas barbecues are allowed, but lighting fires in the open and setting off fireworks are prohibited.

Here is the link to our Rural Fire Authority website: www.otagoruralfire.org.nz



Preparations are well underway for the 16th annual wine and food festival, held in Clyde's historic precinct area on Easter Sunday (April 16).

This year, 21 wine producers in the Alexandra basin have signed up to come and 24 food stalls selling a variety of food ranging from gourmet sandwiches, waffles to seafood, Spanish, Mexican and Turkish dishes and gourmet hamburgers.

Lodge Lane and part of Sunderland St will be closed from 7am and will reopen by 6pm, probably earlier. Dunstan Hotel will be closed this year, but will sell beer, cider and food in front of the hotel.

Entertainment this year will be provided by @Large, Les Richardson's Jazz Quartet, The Valley Blue Grass Band, Kylie Price and The Gator Boys.

For more details go to the Promote Dunstan website, promotedunstan.org.nz or The Central App, which can be downloaded to mobile phones.



Talking It Over With Russell Garbutt.

Vincent Community Board member for Clyde & Earnsclough.

It has been a very busy time since Christmas with both board business and business associated with the various groups I've been appointed to.

The Clyde Recreation Reserve Committee has received confirmation that the costs of underpinning the electrical supply to the camping ground will be met by Aurora/Delta which is welcome news since many of the power poles in and around the reserve are deemed unfit for purpose.

The Clyde museum group has a number of major issues to grapple with not the least of which is the condition of the Briar Herb Museum buildings. I have looked at the lower museum (in Blyth St) and read the report of Judith Taylor of Te Papa. It gives the group much to ponder including formulating a collection policy and how and where to display the museums contents.

I am currently working on a project which, if it comes to fruition, should be a bit of a game changer for some of our community. More to come on that later in the year.

In the meantime, anything that you want raised or if you just want to chew over some issues, give me a call on 03 449 2254 or 020 4039 0424.



Doll Exhibition in Clyde Church

Clyde artist and sculptress Prue Miller is returning to the church she served in as a priest for 10 years but, this time, to exhibit of more than 20 of her superbly-crafted dolls in St Michael's All Angels Church.

Prue, who holds a Bachelor of Theology degree, also graduated from the Elam School of Fine Arts, specialising in sculpture. She has some fine examples of wood sculpture in her studio but preferred to work with polymer clay and porcelain to create the exquisite detailed faces, hands and feet of her subjects which range from young children to adults. She also makes the costumes which, on their own, are works of art.

The exhibition opens with a programme of entertainment from the St Michael's Play-ers and Beau Meehan on **Thursday, March 23 at 5pm** at St Michael's in Clyde, followed by light refreshments. It is then open from 11am-4pm from March 24-26.



Prue Miller with one of her favourite dolls, Tamati, "my Maori toddler" which is one of the more than 20 dolls she has made and dressed. They will be exhibited at St Michael's and All Angels Church.

New Master For Lodge Dunstan

Lodge Dunstan has installed a new master, John Hanning, for 2017.

John is no stranger to Clyde: members of both sides of his family settled here in 1865. Although John moved away with his parents as a youngster, he retained his links with the town and, in later life, moved back to the town where he is now the curator of the Clyde Historical Museums.



John Hanning

He joined the Lodge in 2010 and, as master, will lead the Lodge into its 150th year celebrations. These will be in November and visitors are expected from far and wide.

If you are interested in joining Lodge Dunstan, ring John on 021 151 8340.

Clyde Traffic Under Discussion

The Central Otago District Council recently called a meeting to identify the transport problems within Clyde's business precinct.

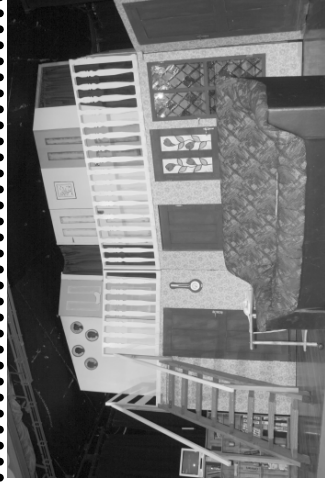
It comes after concerns were raised about the increased traffic in the precinct and the potential for accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists.

Participants at the meeting included landowners, businesses and long-term residents.

The information from the meeting will help the council develop options and preparation for the council's long-term plan.

If you think you have missed an issue of the *Dunstan News* this year you have not. This is our first for the year and we hope to have another next month.

A complicated set wins Best Set Award



The One That Did NOT Get Away

Graham Bell has been fishing since primary school and this is the biggest fish he has ever caught. The rainbow trout weighed in at 13 and a half pounds and was taken just above the Clyde dam in early January. It took about 15 minutes to land and he is mighty proud of it. "I was quite happy with it," he says. A brief pause, "No, I was beside myself really."

The fish was smoked and thoroughly enjoyed.



Theatre Awards for Group

Clyde Theatre Group picked up two awards for its production of *Noises Off* at the recent Otago Southland Theatre Awards (OSTA) ceremony in Dunedin.

Best Leading Female in a revue or play was won by Catherine Brown who was making her third appearance on stage since secondary school. The award for the Best Set Design was won by Jim McDonough.