

Earnsclough Hall Fair



A steady stream of people filled Earnsclough Hall for the Country Fair on May 1, eager to buy from a wide selection of food, plants, clothing, white elephant stalls, knitwear and crafts of all description. The tasty Devonshire teas proved so popular that the 70 scones baked by committee member Jane Robinson ran out and she had to make more. Earnsclough Community Society president and fair organiser, Angela McNaughton said more than \$800 was raised which will benefit the hall. The next fair will be held in November.

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Clyde ANZAC Service

Walter Beveridge (76) came from Alexandra for the service. He says the Clyde service starts off his day of commemoration.



Wreaths and poppies laid at the memorial in Clyde.



Micro-Chip Proves its Worth

The benefit of micro-chipping cats and dogs paid off for the owner of a friendly cat who visited a few people in Clyde recently.

The SPCA was contacted and, thanks to a micro-chip implant, Gage, a one year-old black cat, was reunited with his owner, Nicole Butler. But her address was a surprise because Nicole lives in Fernhill, Queenstown!

But Gage has a history of travelling. He was picked up in Frankton some weeks before his journey to Clyde. It is thought that he might have hopped into the back of a



sound-proof delivery truck which stopped in Clyde where he made a quick exit. Certainly, anyone travelling in a car with him, would not fail to hear the wailing and howling he performed during the entire car trip back Queens-town. Nicole is hoping the Clyde trip might convince him that visiting people in her neighbourhood where he is well known, is a better option.

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A Reminder ... Nominations close at noon on Friday, May 20 for the election of five parent representatives to the Clyde Primary School Board of Trustees. The voting roll and a list of candidates will be available during school hours. (Phone 4492 761)

Art Works Presented to Museum

Two pen and ink drawings of Clyde's heritage buildings were presented last month to the Clyde Historical Museum by Promote Dunstan.

The drawings are of Dunstan House and the Hartley Arms Hotel by Central Otago artist, the late Doug Ayson, a prolific and versatile artist. They were part of an exhibition of his art at Central Stories Art Gallery in August last year.

Promote Dunstan members felt the drawings were of value to the Clyde community and would also be appreciated by visitors to the museum.

The presentation was made at a morning tea to thank museum committee members and volunteers who ensure the museum is open during the tourist season.

The museums' committee now has three museums in its care - Blythe St, Briar Herb and the Clyde Railway Station. The Briar Herb Museum has been closed for some months because of concerns about safety and the fragility of some exhibits.

Clair Higginson, chair of the committee, says there have been discussions about the future of the museums and it may well be that Briar Herb and Blyth St come together under one roof.

"It might be a 10-year plan, Ms Higginson says, "but even that might be a little too ambitious."

The first step is to make an inventory of the exhibits in the Briar Herb Museum. That would be followed by a report and an estimate on costs to repair the buildings. A public meeting will also be called.

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Urgent Need for "Buddies" in Clyde

The Central Otago Family Works Buddy Programme has a desperate need for adults in Clyde to volunteer their services as grandparents.

Co-ordinator, Jan Bird says there are some children, aged between four and 12 from Clyde Primary School, who need an extra adult in their lives. Training will be given in June. If you can help, male and females or couples, ring (freephone) 0508 283 236 or email buddyco@psotago.org.nz



Museum curator John Hanning and Promote Dunstan president Rory Butler display the two pictures.

Clyde Identities

John Hanning moved to Clyde in 2009. Well, he's hardly a Clyde identity I hear you say. But he is by no means a 'newcomer'. Both sides of his family came here in 1865-66, a few years after the Dunstan gold rush. His parents were born in Clyde and John was born in Cromwell in 1942.

John's early years were spent in Clyde at his parents' orchard until they decided to move to Christchurch when he was about five.

Just over 60 years later, John has come back to his roots after living in Australia's gold coast and he explains why.

"Having quite a long family history, not just in Clyde but in other areas of Central Otago gave me a sense of identity, of being home. It was the place where I belonged."

After his family shifted to Christchurch, John returned during school holidays staying with his grandparents. The Hannings (Charlie and Mary) lived in Hazlett's house and the Davidsons (Joseph and Sarah) in what is now Olivers. The Davidsons bought Olivers in 1925 and converted the large store into two shops – a grocery, which they ran, and a drapery which was rented out. They also rebuilt the front of the house which John remembers as "a big, cold, draughty house!" But John has an even earlier connection. A son of Benjamin Naylor (Old Ben), who built the store in 1870, married a sister of John's grandmother.

John discovered recently that the grandfather of an aunt was Edward Ryan, owner of the Bendigo Hotel in Clyde in the 1860s. A letter that he found in the Clyde Historical Museum files is addressed to his great, great uncle about his appointment as Clyde's post master in the 1870s. As a friend of John's remarked, "Mention anyone in the area and John's related to them".

A strong family association with Lodge Dunstan was instrumental in John joining. His great, great grandfather ensured the lodge was built on its present site while his grandfather (Joseph) was a Master of the Lodge.

John is, more often than not, found at the Clyde Historical Museum in Blyth St. "I started researching things, then I helped out, then became a committee member and one thing led to another, and I am now the museum curator."

Quite a lot has changed since John was a young lad in Clyde. "It had a population of about 300 and I particularly loved the bare and barren hills. Now there is a huge growth of gorse and briar. Up the walking track where the reservoir is, there used to be a dam fed by a spring. As boys we'd go there to catch fish and frogs".

After John left Clyde, he worked and married in Christchurch, had children and was transferred to Auckland as the national sales manager for Fletchers. He then spent eight years on Australia's Gold Coast and after retiring in 2007 it was a toss-up – back to Auckland or to Perth where his sister and brother live. As John explains :

"History is important. If you don't know where you came from, how do you know who you are. If I hadn't had that feeling I would have gone back to Auckland or to Perth. I came back to Clyde."

Anzac Day in Clyde

A beautiful, crisp autumn morning brought about 500 people to the Anzac Service at Clyde's war memorial on April 25.

It also marked the centenary of the first commemorative services held and the erection of a wooden cross, the world's first permanent memorial to the Anzacs near Masterton.

The parade from Clyde School to the memorial included servicemen, air training cadets, police, members of the Clyde Volunteer Fire Brigade and school pupils, led by the Alexandra Pipe Band.

The service was a little different this year. Pilot Nigel Forester flew his bi-plane along the Clutha River and two shells fired from a 25 pounder gun eerily reverberated around the hills. It was just one gun but the noise gave just an inkling of what the bombardment by many guns would have been endured by the Anzacs as they waded ashore at Gallipoli, a hundred and one years ago.

Clyde Cyclist Aims to Be "Best in the World"

A promising young Clyde cyclist was nearly speechless after receiving a surprise donation towards her fundraising efforts to represent New Zealand overseas.

Nicole Shields (16) has been selected as a member of the team competing in World Junior Track Cycling Championships in Switzerland and at an international meet in Melbourne later this year.

The donation of \$1000 was made by The Four Marketeers, four women who organise the Alexandra Summer Markets.

Her interest in cycling began when her grandparents took her to Invercargill's velodrome. About four years ago she began taking cycling seriously, acquiring a coach, Simon Smith, of Alexandra.

She has already represented her country in Australia, winning a second in 2014 and a first place last year. In February she won the individual pursuit for her age group in the New Zealand nationals which secured her a place on the team for Switzerland.

Nicole needs to raise about \$12,000 to cover the trip to the Melbourne meet in late June, training in Cambridge and two and a half weeks in Switzerland in late July.

"I'm looking forward to it but I've still got a lot of hard training to put in before then, but it'll be worth it," she says. "I just want to be the best in the world".

(If you would like to help Nicole, email lojo.rico@xtra.co.nz or phone 4492 119)

Knitting Group Wanted... With the winter months almost upon us, a *Dunstan News* reader wonders if anyone is interested in starting a group to teach people how to knit. If you would like to help out, please contact Leanne on 4492700.



Clyde Volunteer Fire Brigade Members



Tracy Cruickshank member of the Four Marketeers, presents a cheque for \$1000 to cyclist, Nicole Shields.