

## Clyde Theatre's Travelling Road Show

Clyde Theatre Group is taking to the road for the first time to bring theatre to the people. The group is performing two one act plays in the Earnsclough and Ophir community halls as well as the Clyde Memorial hall.

A travelling theatre show had been talked about in the past, but the opportunity came with these two plays because the props were able to be transported by a trailer.

*Last Panto in Little Grimley*, by David Tris-tram, finds Gordon, Margaret, Joyce and Bernard who run the village amateur dramatic society, tackle the Christmas pantomime with riotous results.

*The Rack* by Louise Nielson is where you meet Mary, a maker of exotic costumes for hire, her daughter Charlotte, a single mother, a friend who has suffered an emotional upheaval and Helena who brings more drama to the action. The show opens at Ophir on Friday, November 25 at 7.30pm, Clyde on the 26th at 7.30pm and a matinee at 2pm at Earnsclough. Tickets are \$20 from the Alexandra i/site.

## Busy Times Ahead For Historic Clyde Church

The Friends of St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church in Clyde are planning a third performance in the church by the newly named St Michael Players. The group presented a homage to Shakespeare in April and followed that with a Renaissance romp in September.

The Player's next show is *Christmas Around the World* with Christmas stories and music presented on Sunday, December 11, at 5.30pm followed by refreshments in the garden.

A plant table with an honesty box is also to be set up outside the church to raise funds for the building's upkeep and, from November 30, the church will open to visitors on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 4pm. If anyone would like to assist with these projects either by donating plants or being on site to welcome visitors, please phone Lois at 449 2328.

Bishop Kelvin Wright of the Dunedin diocese will hold a day of reflection for people wanting a quiet day of peace, prayer and contemplative literature on December 10 from 10am to 3pm.

**Looking to buy wine for Christmas?** Well look no further than wines just released by wine producers in the Clyde-Alexandra area. Here's how wine expert, Sam Kim, described the wines at the recent tastings in Clyde.

- Pinot Gris - great acidity, buy two, drink one and save one.
- Riesling - lovely depth of flavours.
- Rosé - charming and delightful, drink for breakfast.
- Pinot Noir - not big but elegant, flows beautifully and ages well.



## Volunteers Needed to Combat Weed Explosion

A warm Sunday afternoon and a lone figure toils on the gentle slope just above the start of the Clyde end of the millennium track by the Clutha bridge.

Lynne Stewart is on a dig – not an archaeological one, but an enviro-dig to contain the explosion of weeds and grasses that have shot up during the unusually wet spring Central Otago is experiencing.

Lynne, a member of the community Project Gold Plantings, is working on a large swathe of public land by the track desperately trying to rescue small native plants from being smothered by the waist-high weeds. Larger shrubs are also being engulfed.

"I'm discovering little plants, that even with protective plastic around them are completely hidden," she says. "We planted many native plants here. Their flowers will provide nectar to native birds such as the tui and bellbird (korimako)."

But Lynne needs help and is calling a series of working bees for volunteers to help weed the immediate area around each native plant.

Anyone who can help are asked to meet by the bridge on Thursdays for a weed bee from 9am to 12pm. Even an hour's work would be appreciated. Bring something to drink, a hat, gardening gloves and a smile!

## Meet "Colin" Our New Man at Clyde Railway Station

A relic from the past - "Colin" takes pride of place at the Clyde Station Museum. He's dressed in the station master's uniform kindly loaned by the Clyde Historical Museum. The mannequin and stand was funded by Promote Dunstan and is on display behind a protective panel of perspex at the Railway Museum.

Meanwhile, the Clyde Historical Museum in Blyth St is now open between the hours of 2pm and 4pm. The scheduled opening had to be delayed to give the new varnish on the foyer floor time to cure.

Missed your copy? Pick me up at the Four Square or the Clyde Service Station. Got any news? Phone 449 2119



Lynne tackles a giant thistle



**Introducing New Local Board Member Russell Garbutt**

*Community support received during his wife's terminal illness prompted Russell Garbutt to stand as a candidate in the recent local body elections. He contested and won a seat on the Vincent Community Board representing the Earnsclough-Manuherikia ward.*

Russell lives in Clyde and was touched by the support he was given by friends and neighbours, Dunstan Hospital and the hospice at Cromwell.

"The community has been extremely good to me; hopefully, I can do something for the community," he says. "Maybe it's the size of Clyde which is small enough for people to know and care for each other."

And in return, Russell intends to support the community. He believes there is a keen interest by people who want to know what's going on and want to feel that they are involved in decision-making.

"I will definitely pursue that and I hope to act as a conduit between Clyde and Earnsclough to the board," he says. "I am happy to talk to anybody at any time."

He has some concerns about Clyde and its recent growth spurt because of looming issues about sewage and sections which are in short supply.

"My impression is that Clyde people are largely supportive of what's gone on in the village," he says. "Businesses serving people on the rail trail are bringing job opportunities to the community, but there might be a problem in future as to where to house those workers."

Russell, who comes from Dunedin, spent his working life in television as a technician. After time overseas, he came back to work in light entertainment as a technical producer and finally graduated to management. He was the last manager of Dunedin TV before the establishment was downsized. He then became the manager of Otago University's media production unit. A holiday in Clyde led him to buy a section in 2000 and eventually to build a home.

Russell hopes Clyde will never become a Queenstown or Wanaka but is able to retain its niche as a relatively quiet place. The protection of the land between Alexandra and Clyde is important and he hopes Clyde will never end up as a suburb of Alexandra.

"It has its own character and charm and I hope it won't change too much," he says. "The only change I would like to see is no wilding pines, gorse or lagrosyphon (weed) in Lake Dunstan."

**To contact Russell:** phone 4492 2254/ 020 4039 0424 or email: [russand-bev@clear.net.nz](mailto:russand-bev@clear.net.nz)

**Did You Know** that nearly 70 percent (1880 people) of the eligible voters in the Earnsclough-Manuherikia ward voted in the election? It was the highest return of all Central Otago wards.



**New Clyde Business Turns Back the Clock**

Clyde has a manufacturing jewellery business in town for the first time in 144 years. Roy de Cort opened his shop and workplace in the retail block on Holloway St late last month, following in the footsteps of Robert Barlow, who operated his manufacturing jewellery and watch-making business in the main street from 1863 to 1872.

A manufacturing jeweller not only sells jewellery but also designs and makes jewellery, makes pieces to order as well as making repairs.

"It grates me a little that the word 'jeweller' has been kidnapped," he says. "Very few jewellery shops today actually have a jeweller there. They are retailers and they have to send their repair work to someone like me."

Roy's family emigrated from Britain when he was nine and, after an initial apprenticeship as a tool maker, he followed his artistic instincts. He was lucky enough to be taken on as an apprentice in the workshop of a manufacturing jeweller doing repairs and one-off specials. He graduated to designing jewellery and, today, his speciality is pieces in the art deco style.

Roy was in charge of the manufacturing branch of Pascoe's, the big jewellery firm in Auckland, for some years but this trade is now steadily declining in New Zealand. There are fewer manufacturing jewellers than there were 30 years ago because, he says, so much jewellery is coming into the country from overseas. He is unhappy he cannot pass on his skills to an apprentice but he cannot afford to take one on.



He moved to Queenstown in 2000 and met his wife-to-be, Maria, then a reporter with the *Central Otago News*. The couple now live in Clyde with their five-year-old daughter.

He describes his job as "really cool", feels comfortable in Clyde and with what he is doing. An unexpected bonus after spending 30 years tucked away in a workshop is making contact with people.

"It really increases the job satisfaction," he says.

While on the subject of new businesses ... Melanie and Rex Eade, who used to run the Hartley Homestead B & B, have opened an art gallery and shop next to Bike It Now which has moved into the recently completed building alongside their previous premises.

**Information Kiosk:** If you or your organisation would like to display a notice about events or projects, drop in a poster or information sheet to Leanne in Hartley Arms opposite the Lodge Dunstan.



Louise Taylor (right) stocks up with plants from Dorice Malls at the Earnsclough Community Society fair on November 13. The fair raised just over \$1000.