

Dunstan News

Dec 20 Jan 21

Volume 8 Number 4



Prominent Clyde Businesses for Sale

The Smythe family who operate Clyde Cinema has decided it is time to move on, and have put the lease for the cinema on the market.

Karen Smythe has thanked everyone for their support and says they have loved every minute of the eight years they have run the cinema.

The family has moved to Oamaru although son Sam will be running movies for a few more weeks.

However the family will continue to be involved in movies: it is reopening the Limelight cinema complex in Oamaru which is being refurbished.

Also for sale by tender is Dunstan Motors which includes the Challenge Service Station and the Post Office box service. It sits on a substantial area of land in the historic precinct and its possible closure is likely to affect many residents.



Christmas Carols at St Michael's Church, Clyde

It is always a joyful occasion to be in a group of people singing those wonderful traditional favourite Christmas carols. The Friends of St Michael's Clyde Charitable Trust invite you all to join in an evening of singing with Clyde school children and musician Joe Stevens. It takes place on:

**DECEMBER 22 at 7pm at St Michael's
(next to the Post Office Restaurant)**

A gold coin donation will be gratefully received – proceeds go to the Friends of St Michael's charitable trust. Truffles and mulled wine available.

Promote Dunstan sends Christmas greetings to all its readers and sincere thanks to our wonderful volunteers who deliver the *Dunstan News* to your letter boxes.



Talking It Over with Russell Garbutt Vincent Community Board Member

I was pleased to see the recent announcement by Mark Laing and Pat Houlahan regarding their plans for a retirement village on land adjacent to the hospital. I have heard strong comments of support and really hope that no barriers are put up to bring what is widely recognised as a much-needed facility to this area. So many valued members of our community have had to shift out of the district simply because there wasn't suitable housing available.



Talks continue on Aurora's plans to smack Central Otago with HUGE increases in power prices. I recently attended three meetings with the Commerce Commission and, in my view, the only way that we in Central Otago can have faith in electricity distribution will be if ownership of the network is removed from the Dunedin City Council. The current model of ownership is basically flawed and must be changed. This can only happen at a national political level — and I don't see any support for that from the Government.

May I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. It's been a year to remember with Covid and many other things, but here's hoping 2021 will be a cracker. If I can assist with anything, ring me on 020 4039 0424.

Farewell to Community Leader

It is with sadness that we farewell Clair Higginson and partner, Kaye Chamberlain who are embarking on new adventures in Christchurch. For nearly 20 years Clair has played a prominent role in many groups — Promote Dunstan, Clyde Theatre Group, Clyde Historical Museums, Mad4CO, Vallance Cottage, Central Cinema, WasteBusters and Reap. She was a member of the Clyde, Earnscliffe, Manuharika Community Board and was chair of the Vincent Community Board. Her services to community organisations and causes is deeply appreciated and she will be missed.

Clair (left) who was chair of the Clyde Historic Museums committee and Carole Randall look through a day book (a record of sales of the day) from the Victoria Store (now Olivers).



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Clyde Museum in Blyth St recently opened a new exhibition about the local fruit-growing industry which rapidly overtook goldmining to become Central Otago's prime industry. The display features many photographs and covers the period from early last century until the present day.

Plans are underway for new displays as well as revamping permanent displays. If you are interested in Clyde's history and would like to help at the museum, phone Carol at 4492557.

Praise for Hospital staff During the Covid Lockdown

It has been a busier and more challenging year than usual for Dunstan Hospital but, as its Chief Executive Kathy de Luc frequently points out in the *Dunstan News* interview, the key element in coping with the Covid crisis was the dedication and professionalism of the staff.

"I am incredibly proud of how our staff reacted," she says. "There was a huge level of uncertainty at the hospital and in their home life. We had to prepare and have all our plans in place and protocols for dealing with everything from hospital cleaning to screening of visitors."

Mrs de Luc was determined the staff would have the best advice about Covid with continual updates either face-to-face or by doing it remotely using Zoom.

"Covid will be with us next year," she says. "Hopefully we won't go back to a covid situation, but we are prepared."

To celebrate what was achieved this year, the hospital is holding a well-being week for the 180 full and part-time staff. It includes fun activities such as a relay with contestants dressed in PPE gear (personal protective equipment), which was previously used in Covid practice sessions.



Dunstan Hospital CEO Kathy De Luc with two of the 14 Christmas trees with themes dreamed up by hospital departments on display in the foyer.

Holiday Hospital Services

Dunstan Hospital operates an urgent after-hours GP service from 6pm to 8am for Central Otago at the back of the hospital (follow the red signs). For urgent help phone your doctor and you will be automatically directed to the after-hours service. If you do not have a local doctor, ring 08000 611 116.

The hospital does NOT have an emergency department and does NOT accept "walk-ins". Ring the above number.

The hospital does not offer a disability equipment hire service. The nearest option is Queenstown. Mobility scooters can be hired from Lodge Manuherikia-Kilwinning in Alex.

Clyde's library is reminding residents and holidaymakers that the town has a small, but fabulous, library — not only books, but audiobooks, DVD's and puzzles for kids. The selection covers kid's, adult fiction and non-fiction books as well as magazines.

The library is in Clyde Community Hall, Fraser St, and is open Tuesday 9am-1pm and Friday 1pm-5pm. Free on-line services (clyde.library@codc.govt.nz) are available and you can check out Pressreader* for magazines and newspapers, Apps for Audio/eBooks and Beamafilm* for documentaries and independent features. *Google these library features.

The recent Haunts and Jaunts tour organised by the Historic Clyde group is likely to be back for some evening tours over summer. The recent tour received great feedback and requests for extra tours. For further information, email clydevillage@xtra.co.nz

Summer holiday markets will be held at St Mungos Church (opposite the 4 Square shop) on Sunday, December 27, and Sunday, January 3, between 10am and 2pm. Come along and support one of Clyde's heritage buildings.

Clyde School Principal Retires

Walk the streets of Clyde with Doug White and do not be surprised by the number of people who wave and greet him. Highly respected and popular, the principal of Clyde School is a well-deserved star. But he's gearing up for big changes now that he is retiring after 15 years as principal.

Doug has left his mark on the school and a community he loves. It is reminiscent of his own upbringing in the small rural centre of Taitapu near Christchurch and it was this affinity with rural schools and communities that influenced his teaching career. After receiving a geography degree from Canterbury University and a teaching degree from Christchurch Teachers College he taught at South Hornby Primary then 15 years at Omarama Primary.



"It was an ideal time to go to Omarama because the World Gliding Championships were about to be held there," he says. "I took up gliding when I was 16 years old and I was accepted by the Air Force as a pilot but my eyesight wasn't good enough so I became a keen glider pilot."

It was not just gliding that was the attraction. The 60-pupil high country school gave him the chance to develop outdoor education programmes which he encouraged when he arrived in Clyde in 2005 as principal with wife Christine and their three children.

"There are wonderful things you can do with kids and when I came here I wanted to make the environment an outdoor education learning source," he says.

And he did. He created an atmosphere which was encouraging, progressive, caring and friendly. He is most proud of a survey by the New Zealand Council of Education Research which found Clyde was the best moderate-size school in New Zealand where teachers most enjoyed working.

He says the school will be left in good hands with the new principal, Stephanie Kitto, who has previously taught at Clyde and has family links to the community.

Clyde, he thinks, is riding a wave of vitality and he feels a sense of optimism which he believes was brought about by the development of Olivers. But he is a bit worried about the future. The school roll is 164 pupils; the capacity is about 170, and he believes it will be a challenge to "keep the school's family feel as it grows."

Doug will miss the laughter, fun and friendship at Clyde School as well as the 10 fulltime and parttime teachers, four teacher aids and, of course, the pupils. Retirement, though, is not a matter of doing nothing. He is an instructor at the local gliding club and is eagerly awaiting his new E-Bike to explore the old and new cycle tracks. And it is also likely he will be back in a teaching role at the school.

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Clyde Friendship Group meets on the first Thursday monthly at St Mungos Church lounge corner of Sunderland and Fraser Sts at 2pm. Phone Betty: 4492210.

Interested in joining Promote

Dunstan? Email the secretary, Louise, lojo.rico@xtra.co.nz or phone 4492119.



Published by Promote Dunstan Inc

news@promotedunstan.org.nz