Ophir Info

November 2021

The Tatler

Val Butcher (Motor Mouth)

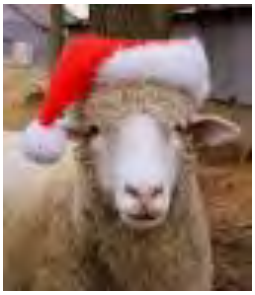
The big advent for November was the cleaning of the hall after the builders had done their thing and we were allowed in again. We now have toilets with an adjoining hall instead of a hall with adjoining toilets. It was all quite overwhelming. The transformation from tatty to well-appointed was amazing. Our Welfare Committee and Hall Committee have done a wonderful job of overseeing it all.

The residents of Ophir also did their bit with, at my count 22 turning up for the big clean. This may not be accurate as nobody kept still long enough - they were all on full steam ahead. It was like counting ants in an ants nest. We were well entertained by a stage coach rolling through passengers and driver on board It was a great find in in the ceiling. The coach not the passengers and driver. They did a great impression of the real thing and added a good deal of hilarity to the scene. The hard work was worth while as we finished off with a sausage sizzle, a few beers and some social chit chat as you do in Ophir AND a spotless hall.

The Elderberries enjoyed a very nice lunch at Blacks Hotel with our new publicans and as I was one of them I can recommend the dumplings. I won't mention that I tipped brown sauce down the front of my spotless white blouse Oh no! did I mention that ?

The stock in the old Barn is dwindling fast if you are keen to acquire something you have seen there, hurry as Sandra Robinson will be closing for good when it has all gone. We will miss being able to pop in and buy those lovely bits and bobs we love to live with. That is bobs not Bobs and not plural. Well I hope not anyway. We will still have Sandra, she is not going, just the shop.

The gin club have kept a low profile this month as most of them were in Oamaru for a few days. There was a slight drift towards Matakanui on the way back but it was not because they got lost. They also were kept busy cutting out felt strawberries as hat decorations for little children (no that can't be true) at a later session which slowed the drinking a little. I did hear a rumour it was re-hab and after seeing some of the cut outs it does not surprise me. Some of them even thought the little cabin on 41 Swindon St, Cheryl and Tigers place, had moved around (really?)

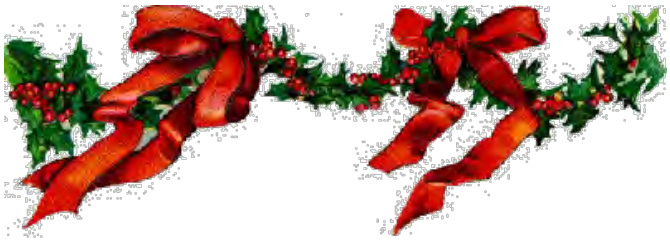


HAVE A HAPPY AND VERY SAFE XMAS
AND SHOULD YOU BE TRAVELLING OVER THE HOLIDAYS THE TOP DESTINATION THIS YEAR HAS TO BE OPHIR.

Val

Christmas Pot Luck Barbeque

Ophir Welfare Committee



To be held in the Ophir Post Office Garden
or Ophir Peace Memorial Hall
if the weather is inclement

Sunday 12 December
4:00pm

This will be the first function in the hall since Easter 2021 so come one and all and celebrate

Summer Poolside: Ophir Community Pool

Ophir Pool Committee

We are still figuring out what we need to do under Orange Traffic Light level in order to open the pool for the season.

As you will know, like the hall, the pool is a council asset and must be operated under local government requirements. Basically if we do not use My Vaccine Pass for entry into the pool we will not be able to open the pool to the community. To operate using My Vaccine Pass someone needs to be on site to verify the vaccination status of pool users OR we can become a membership-based service where vaccination status information is verified on payment of membership fees. This applies to all people over the age of 12 years.

We are considering installing a coded gate lock and linking it to your annual community subscription i.e. once you have paid your $50 subscription and we have verified your vaccination status you will be given the code. We would remain an "honesty" system in that we would require you to abide by the Covid measures and that you would not take any unvaccinated people into the pool with you.

We will definitely not be opening the pool this coming weekend as previously reported and will keep you posted with developments and the opening date.

Bring on Traffic Light Green!

Ophir Peace Memorial Hall Working Bee

Ophir Welfare Committee

The OWC would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all of you that showed up for the hall cleaning working bee, with a special shout out to the high number of "cribbies" - some making a special trip to Ophir in order to help.

It was great to have so many willing helpers, not only giving the hall a good clean from top to bottom, removing high rise bird nests etc. but also uncovering many treasures stashed in the most unlikely places, movie posters and a Zig Zag ciggie paper pack from the projection room giving a window into the character of the projectionist. Gary Stewart will try to restore them, well at least get the wrinkles out, and frame them up.

Gary Stewart and Grant Taylor don masks and head lamps to clean out the projection room

Gary did a quick goggle search - "Rob Roy" was a silent movie (made in 1922) – no other information could be found to place the date or origin of the posters.

A "stage coach" was found in the loft. Some thought maybe a prop from when the Gold Fields Cavalcade ended in Ophir in 1999. However Sam Leask, who speaks with some authority regarding the history of Ophir but whose memory can be patchy, says it definitely pre-dated the cavalcade.

He vaguely recollects a celebration some many years ago, possibly tied in with the post office when the frieze was painted (which originally went all the way around the hall and was repainted at some point in time by his mother Betty Leask and Lena MacDonald) and the stage coach made. The coach was in the foyer of the hall for some time after the celebration and then stored to allow for another function to take place.

Gay McCaughan and Irene Leask take a ride in the stage coach watched on by John Shanks

If there is anyone out there that can tell us more about these finds and the stories behind them please let us know. We need to preserve the history of Ophir.

Sam Leask wearing his window cleaning hat

Ross McCaughan, Judy Clarke and Steph Price scrubbing floors

The 'volunteer army' of willing cleaners

And just in time for Christmas the

Road calming project completed

Ophir Welfare Committee

Fulton Hogan have now completed this project with coloured strips between the concrete kerb build-outs. Question mark as to whether they add to slowing the traffic however they do make it look tidy.

Production Crew Needed

Claire Mulholland, Clyde Theatre Group

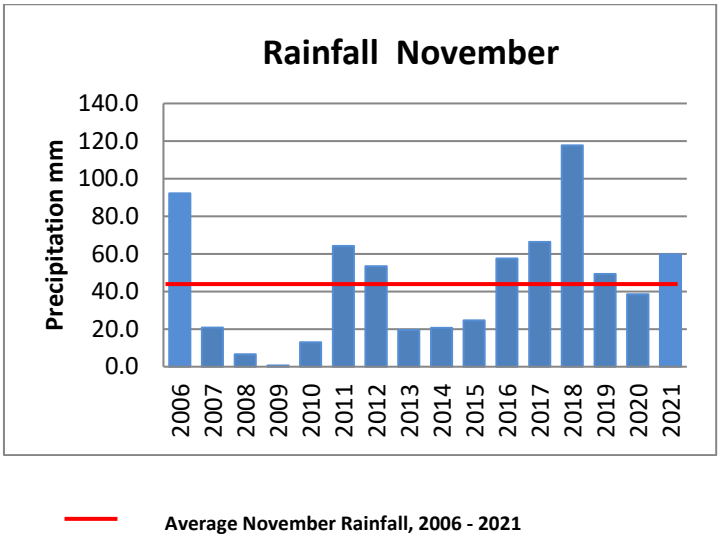
While the date for auditions has been and gone please contact the Theatre Group if you would like to help out with lighting, sound, set, props, wardrobe and makeup etc. or to join the group: clydetheatre@gmail.com

The Weather

Sam Leask

Another month with above average rainfall for the month which with no drying winds is great for stock feed coming into summer. The valley is starting to resemble Northern Southland with what looks like a record breaking number of bales on the Marshall property from the first cut ... and in such neat rows!

The average daytime temperature was about the same as this time last year .. average night-time temperatures about 1°C colder.

Data for November 2021:

Maximum Temp:	27.2°C	Monday 29th
Minimum Temp:	-2.4°C	Thursday 4th
Rain/Precipitation:	59.7 mm