

INSIDE

Diary.....D2
 Books.....D2
 Movies.....D4
 Puzzles.....D4
 TVs.....D5

The Southland Times Unwind!

WRITTEN JUST FOR ... Miley Cyrus D3



Nanny McPhee is back



IT'S been five years since Emma Thompson first transformed herself into the wart-ridden, dumpy Nanny McPhee, striking fear into the hearts of naughty children.

Now, the 50-year-old actress and writer of the popular children's film has penned another adventure for the cross between Mary Poppins and Supernanny, this time set in the 1940s English countryside.

American actress Maggie Gyllenhaal plays Mrs Green, whose husband is away fighting, children are at war and brother-in-law wants to sell the family farm from under her. She desperately needs the help of Nanny McPhee.

Thompson, also executive producer, brought her own daughter Gaia on set and persuaded famous names to appear in the film, including Ralph Fiennes, Dame Maggie Smith, Bill Bailey, Rhys Ifans and Ewan McGregor.

Q: Where did you get your inspiration for the sequel?
 A: For the first film, I extrapolated the characters of Nurse Matilda and Aunt Adelaide (from Christianna Brand's *Nurse Matilda* books) and built a story around those two things.

This time I had nothing to go on, so I thought, I need an absent parent. My draft for the first story had both parents alive and loads and loads of children and I couldn't make it work, so I killed off one of the parents and thought, Aha, I've got the key.

This time, I thought I'd like it to be the father who's absent, as single working mothers seem to have a particularly hard time. So it's very contemporary that aspect of the story, that thing of never having enough time, even to have breakfast sitting down. I like the moment when Nanny McPhee says - You should have a little time to yourself - and Mrs Green literally can't believe her ears.

We actually shot (Maggie) having a bath and just not being able to believe it.

Continued, Page D2

Death of a scarfie icon



MATE Mark Wilson

EACH and every year a pilgrimage of sorts occurs in the deep south and from many areas of the country. Parents pack off their children to go and become adults, while they're at it grabbing a degree or two from the long established home of the Scarfie and great southern proving ground Otago University (not to forget Polytech and T-Col). Times have changed and no-one would deny some change has been required, while other changes have in my mind been for the worse within this great institution.

I have listened with envy to stories from my father's generation, some of whom are now quite involved in the running of the university, and I can see that the time they spent there was special and still fresh in their mind. I would also note two key things: not once have I heard anyone lamenting about a lecture or a test and secondly, I couldn't help but think that if we got up to half of what they did I would be writing this from behind bars.

But it was all good-natured imaginative fun that in their time was a little more acceptable than it would be now. Dunedin is magnificent for students - derelict but character-laden flats, student bars, scores of social events and a reasonably loose chain that over the years has seen the Dunedin student become somewhat of a cultural icon across the land.

There has been infamy of late with the Undy 500 riots, but it would be fair to say that controversy of some sorts publicly or behind the closed doors of the varsity has never been far away from this unique group of fledgling adults.

At the centre of this culture, particularly during the past 30 to 40 years, has been the Gardens Sports Tavern, affectingly known by most simply as Gardies, the quintessential student watering hole.

Always famous in its own right, it gained national notoriety mainly through the love affair that one Marc Ellis shared with the venue.

However, this is now to be no more because it was recently announced that Gardies is to close. Like the Bowler last year, Otago University has jumped at the chance to buy and close another student bar.

The university has made no secret it wishes to stamp out the student drinking culture once and for all, with recent events such as the Undy 500 riots and high-profiled student drunkenness putting a so-called blight on the town's good reputation.

I say be careful Dunedin - with more than 20,000 students propping up your town you don't want to take away the one thing that separates you from every other tertiary centre in the country, and I'm telling you it's not education.

You can get a degree anywhere but you can't be a Scarfie. While like any responsible organisation, the university and other tertiary institutions cannot be seen to condone binge drinking, they need to have some leeway to allow this unique, often alcohol-fuelled social experiment and development phase in young adults' lives to continue because it is this that sets Otago apart from the pack and gives it an edge when it comes to student recruitment.

Not to be forgotten, those making the decisions now have already had their fun and a lot of it by the sounds of things, so it's a bit harsh to ruin it for the future generations. So it is with a heavy heart that I say a sad and final goodbye to the bar that has made the past 10 or 11 years of my life that little-bit-more enjoyable.

To Pete and long-time staff such as Johnny Miller, it will never be the same without you.

Hopefully, I make it back in time to share one last jug of Speight's with the students of Otago before the closing bell sounds for the last time and another lecture theatre pops up to mould young minds in a different way.

A cross between Mary Poppins and Supernanny: Emma Thompson as Nanny McPhee.

Get big impact for little or no cost!

We need you!

We have already raised \$1.5 million of our \$1.7 million project. Help us raise the rest!

Can you help us build a great Community Resource?

Weddings

Wedding services, photographers, venues, and other related businesses.

WaterForce

New premises opening Friday, 6 March

Services include: Pumps & Filters, Annandale Contracting, and more.

2009 Southland Dairy Industry Awards

Strong entries attracted to this years dairy awards

Awards for: Best Dairy Farm, Best Dairy Processor, etc.

This is what you have said about us:

I very much appreciate your knowledge in regards to this event as this was my first time organising a feature, and you helped me understand the whole process without any fuss, it's been great working with you.

Peta McMillan
YMCA Events Coordinator

Let our friendly team help promote your business or special event with an advertising feature.

Call us to discuss your advertising options and let us help you achieve your goals.

Phone Anna Bekhuis on 2111 075.