



# Omarama Gazette

April 2021



## \$2m expansion sign of faith in future

Faith in Omarama and optimism about the town's future, despite present challenges, is the motivation behind the substantial extension to Omarama's Sierra Motel and Apartments complex, the developer says.

When complete the \$2million expansion will add 13 self-contained units and two one-bedroom units to the accommodation business's existing 14 units.

Developer Steve Darling, of Twizel and Rakiraki, Fiji, said he was taking a "long-term view" of the post-Covid-19 situation and this was a sign of his faith in the future of Omarama.

"It's a perfect time for me to do it," Steve said.

"I have a fair bit of confidence in the area.

"I wouldn't be spending the millions we are if I didn't know it's got a great future.

"There's no point in letting the situation get you down, you just have to get on with it."

Steve was born in Christchurch but "bred" in Otematata and Twizel. His family moved to Otematata in 1961 at the close of the Benmore Dam construction era.

These days he and wife Gail spend their time between their property in Fiji, and Christchurch and Twizel.

Steve is managing his New Zealand projects from Fiji where he has been throughout the Covid-19 crisis.

The main tourism market there was American and with few travellers he was managing an upgrade of the resort there "while it's quiet" so he could continue to employ staff.

His next project here is a 31-unit two-storey complex in Twizel, and construction of that will start at the end of the year. He anticipates this will take 16 months to complete.

The Darlings also own the empty block of land between Boots and Jandals Hotel

## *Expansion sign of faith in future, continued*

Omarama and Merino Country Café.

The couple were still weighing their options for the development of that block. Steve feels that what Omarama “desperately needs” is a “little retail centre” but he is still unsure about the feasibility of this.

“Retail is not really my game, it’s quite involved.”

Colin and Sue Harvey would continue to manage the Sierra Motels which had been “very well patronised” throughout by the cycle guides and Kiwi travellers, he said. Twizel builders Dave White and Ian Trainor are managing the build on the ground. The new “upmarket” units would be self-contained with their own washing machines, dryers television, air conditioning and so on, suited to couples, and they would be able to take small bus groups.

Steve said the plan was to have the build finished by Labour Weekend and open for



# 'Yellow helmets' making their mark

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade's two new 'yellow helmets' have already made their mark in the community.

After six months as trainees and having successfully completed the recruits course, firefighters Jess Chapman and Tania Innes can now don the yellow fire fighter's helmet when heading out on a call.

For Jess, her initiation into the service was a baptism of fire, literally.

For Tania, it was a chance encounter which led her to make the commitment.

Jess joined not long after Covid-19 lockdown lifted, in July.

"I had Greg [Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Greg Harper] for the last four years telling me to join.

"I've really enjoyed it. It's something I wouldn't have done if I wasn't encouraged to do it. Now I'm absolutely loving it."

Jess is Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park manager.

Tania was driving home to Dunstan Downs Station when she came across a motor vehicle accident and stopped to help.

"I could see people [bystanders] responding but not knowing what to do."

Omarama Brigade first responder Liz Komen was at the scene and soon had her "filling out forms".

Later, while telling mother-in-law Geva Innes, who has been a brigade first responder for 23 years, she decided she might quite like to give it a go.

However, with there being no first responder courses scheduled she signed on as firefighter.

She and Jess trained on Monday nights as well as at the regular Wednesday night practice sessions.

*New Omarama Volunteer fire Brigade firefighters Tania Innes (left) and Jess Chapman don their yellow helmets of duty*



## *'Yellow helmets' making their mark , continued*

Fire fighter Jack Zorab's input to make sure they were equipped with all the skills needed for the tough recruit's course in Christchurch, was invaluable, Jess said.

But Jess arrived at the course already having some considerable, though unanticipated, experience under her belt.

Her "initiation" to the job was the Pukaki Fire – which was at the time was New Zealand's biggest wildfire – followed a month later by the much larger and devastating Ohau blaze.

The alert sounded that October morning at 3.30am and Jess was in that first crew to arrive at the scene. It wasn't until 9pm that night she packed up to come home.

"I got told after Lake Pukaki I'd never go to a fire that size again in my life."

"It [Ohau] was pretty surreal."

Despite having little experience she "was able to help the others ...was another pair of hands".

"Watching the others carry out some of the tasks, it makes sense why we do some of the drills and also [makes sense of] the pace at which some things need to be done."

Not content with the regular training schedule Jess also signed up for the Omarama team entry in the grueling United Fire Brigades' Association South Island Firefighter Combat Challenge, in Christchurch, last month. The team of four included – Jacob Cook, Charlotte Derosa and Jack Zorab. (See video below)

"It's bloody hard work."

In the team's relay event Jess was on the Keiser Force machine which simulates the chopping action required for forcible entry and in the tandem event each of the team tackled each of the tasks.

Back in her day job it's now routine.

When the fire siren goes it's also the call for staff at the park to head for the office as Jess rushes to the job.

Tania's work commitments mean she can be fairly flexible timewise – she's farmer, mother, self-employed accountant and a volunteer with other community groups.

It was great being involved and being part of the fire brigade "family".

Being out on farm meant it was all too easy to not get involved in the community she said.

And there was such a sense of achievement having completed the recruit's course, especially the more challenging aspects.

"I loved it. It was daunting to begin with. They walked you into it quite slowly and took you back to the start, retaught everything you thought you might know ...reinforcing all you learnt."

She particularly enjoyed training in breathing apparatus use and for search and rescue in the especially-designed realistic training buildings and simulators.

The buildings, modelled on an apartment block featured tunnels and ladders and taught skills like how to move backwards down steps and around obstacles while fully kitted out.

Tania still plans to complete the first responder training and is off to a Motor Vehicle Accident course in Invercargill next.

"I want to learn how to be a pumpy first, [Omarama's main appliance is a pump rescue tender]. I quite like the idea of driving the truck."

And Jess plans to "just enjoy being a fire fighter for a wee while".



# Removal of rubbish costs \$2K plus so far

The council investigation into green and general waste dumping at the Omarama Stream reserve is ongoing.

However, it has removed the general refuse – which it described as being “from a refurbishment” - at a cost of \$2,232.88 plus GST, council recreation manager Erik van der Spek said. He provided no breakdown of the cost.

The dumping was brought to the attention of the Ahuriri Community Board in a report to its meeting last month. The board was told officers were seeking information “from the local community on where this might have come from”.

There had been “some promising leads”, interim Assets Operations manager Joshua Rendell told the board.

The rubbish would be removed and the costs recovered from the owner of the material, he said.

In discussion, with Omarama residents who attended the meeting, the board was told, traditionally green waste was heaped in the vicinity for a permitted burn mid-year.

In an email, last week Mr van der Spek told the Omarama Gazette the council’s regulatory department was yet to complete its investigation.

“If anyone in the community has further information, please ask them to contact the Regulatory Department on 03 433 0300.”

*Photos: Before and after the household refurbishment waste was removed from the green waste pile at the Omarama Stream Reserve recently*



# Build up to SI/NZ dog trials continues

Omarama Collie Dog Club triallist Scott Hunter is continuing his build up ahead of the upcoming South Island and New Zealand Championship dog trials

Scott has already qualified three dogs - heading dogs Lucy and Rangi, and huntaway Hood - for the championships.

For nine-year-old Rangi it will be a return to the Greenvale trial grounds where he placed fourth in the Long Head in the island run offs in 2015.

So far this season Scott has campaigned dogs at 12 trials through Canterbury, North Otago and Southland and has recently judged in North Canterbury.

He and his team "had a bit of luck at the start" and qualified early in the season.

Lucy had a couple of wins at Oxford and Loburn, Rangi won at the Southland Centre championships. And Hood – an up-and-coming two-year-old Huntaway has had four wins this season.

Scott, who is Longslip Station stock manager, has had to pass on attending the North Island Championships in Masterton later this month because of work commitments.

In his trialling career Scott has placed in four South Island championships.

Last year's Covid-19 hit championships at Masterton and Greenvale had been cancelled but the locations had "rolled over" into this year.

He said many triallists had made a point of going to as many trials as possible early in the season in case of cancellations this year.

The Omarama Club would have a strong showing at the championships with Rick and Ed Aubrey, and Ginger Anderson each qualifying dogs, and there were a "couple of young guys" close to qualifying, Scott said.

"Our [local] trial was pretty strong, and with young competitors coming through, the club is in pretty good stead," Scott said.

Success often came down to "a bit of luck on the day", the draw of the sheep and "if the dogs play ball".

There were 270 competing in the national competitions.

This year's event will be hosted by Southland Centre at Greenvale, inland from Gore, commencing Monday May 17, 2021 and held over five days.



# Tackling the heart and 'sole' of that 'to do' list

If there's ever a pair who are going to make chores look like fun it has to be these two.

"Best mates forever" Heather Smith and Katrina Sole have combined their skills to launch a new business in town.

Omarama-based SoleSmith Home services will tackle anything, Heather said.

The services they offer are longer than everyone's 'To Do' lists.

Lawns, gardening, windows, walking the dog, pet minding, washing the car, stacking wood, cleaning out the crib for the winter shutdown, and spring cleaning when that time comes around.

Heather and Katrina came up with the idea to set up the business after "too many wines" and looking into who else might be offering the service in Omarama. Not only was there no-one advertising their services here but they were not able to find anyone close by who would come to Omarama to tackle tasks. They had always wanted to start their own business and seeing the gap thought it would be good timing.

Both Heather and Katrina have been locals "forever" and both have management experience in the hospitality industry. Heather is a keen gardener.

"We thought we'd build it around the things we enjoy doing," Heather said.

"We're locals, we know everyone, we know what people want .

"We can help newcomers, seniors, people that are busy.

"We love what we do and take pride in it."

Plus, with local knowledge the two women can call on a variety of external contacts to plug the gaps in their own skills.

If there was a job people thought SoleSmith might be able to help with, they could call to talk it through or ask for a quote.

The new business will service from Twizel to Kurow.

Contact:

Katrina Sole 022 020 8098, Heather Smith 027 330 0249

email: [solesmith2021@gmail.com](mailto:solesmith2021@gmail.com)





# Honours awarded after challenging year

The Covid-delayed 2020 Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade Honours night last month proved to be a significant occasion on many levels.

2020 saw brigade volunteers face the unique challenges of first the Covid-19 outbreak, then the Pukaki fire, closely followed by the Lake Ohau Village blaze – the Omarama brigade was first to arrive at that scene.

“It has been an interesting year, to say the least. Between Covid, the Pukaki and Ohau fires you have all put in a tremendous effort for which I would like to thank you, and for your support on many levels,” chief fire officer Greg Harper said.

Leading into the evening event long-serving volunteer Jimmy Courtney was bestowed a Long Service Good Conduct Medal.

The medal is issued by the crown on the recommendation of Fire and Emergency New Zealand after 14 years’ service.

The award was introduced by FENZ Central/North Otago area manager Keith McIntosh and presented by Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher.

Jimmy’s father and founding and life member of the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade, Lindis Courtney, (96) was present for the occasion.

In another special family moment Sally Galvin, formerly of Otematata, was present for the awarding of the five-year medal to son, Paddy. Paddy’s late father, Mike, was a chief fire officer of the Otematata Brigade.

Paddy qualified for the medal in 1994 but in an oversight had never received it, Greg said.

Greg also congratulated those who had completed training throughout the challenging year; Zane Lord and Jack Zorab who had completed station officer training; Jacob Cook became a qualified firefighter; and Tania Innes and Jess Chapman completed their recruit’s course.

## **Otago-Southland Provincial Fire Brigades Association president Mark Donald presented the United Fire Brigades Association awards which were:**

Jack Zorab 3yr cert and 5yr medal

Paddy Galvin 5 yr medal

Liz Komen silver bar 7 yrs

Georgie Robertson silver bar 7yrs

Geva Innes silver bar 7 yrs

Peter Trusler silver bar 9yrs

Greg Harper silver bar 23 yrs

## **Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade awards were:**

Fire Fighter of the Year, the Howard Williams Trophy: Jacob Cook

First responder of the Year, the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade Trophy: Geva Innes

Best attendance to call outs, the G.J. Honderlink Trophy; Maurice Cowie and Charlotte Derosa

And the award for ‘embracing learning opportunities’ :) went to Aaron Ferguson.





*Otago-Southland Provincial Fire Brigades Association president Mark Donald presents Omarama's First Responder of the Year, Geva Innes, with her seven year silver bar; Peter Trusler (right); Firefighter of the Year Zane Lord is congratulated by Station Officer Maurice Cowie; Paddy Galvin and mother Sally (centre) mark the occasion with friends Aaron Ferguson (left); Jimmy Courtney shares a moment with father Lindis Courtney (96) after being presented with the Long Service Good Conduct Medal.*



# Dunedin Writers & Readers Festival

Thursday 6 May –  
Sunday 9 May 2021

   @dnwritersfest



ŌTĒPOTI – HE PUNA AUHA  
DUNEDIN UNESCO  
CITY OF LITERATURE

 creative **nz**  
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND | TĪKATONGA

 **DUNEDIN** | kaunihera  
CITY COUNCIL | Ōtēpoti

 **OTAGO**  
Community Trust

Tickets and more information at  
[dunedinwritersfestival.co.nz](https://dunedinwritersfestival.co.nz)

# ANZAC DAY

*Lest We Forget*



**25 April**

## **Upper Waitaki Services**

6.20am: Parade forms up on Hakataramea main street and will march to the Cenotaph.

8.15am: A wreath will be laid at the Kurow Cemetery Gate.

8.45am: Poppies will be laid at the Otekaieke Memorial Gate.

9.15am: A wreath will be laid at the Duntroon Cenotaph.

**10.50am: Parade forms up at the  
Omarama Memorial Hall.**

**11.00am: A service will be held at the  
Omarama Memorial Rock.**

*Wreaths will be laid at all services.*

*Medals and hats may be worn at all services.*

*Medals of deceased Service Personnel may be worn by family members on their right-hand lapel.*



# The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

**Kurow Medical Centre** Omarama Clinic at the Omarama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 5pm. To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 (Monday to Thursdays).  
[www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

**St Thomas' Omarama Church**  
**Community:** Services and communion are held on a regular basis, usually monthly at 10.30am on the Friday of the second weekend of the month at the home of a parishioner. Kay Verheul 03 438 9538.

**The Omarama Community Library** is open 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

**The Omarama Golf Club** Saturdays, cards in 12 midday, tee-off 12.30pm. Club captain James Moynihan phone: 027 215 8266; email [jwmoynihan@2yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jwmoynihan@2yahoo.co.nz).  
[www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

**Omarama Playgroup** meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Omarama Community Centre. For more information phone president Tarryn Benton 027 201 7065 or secretary Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536 [aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)

**The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club** meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the 'Top Pub' - the Blue and Gold pub, in Kurow. All welcome. Join the Facebook group.

**Bridge Club** - The Omarama Bridge Club meets on a regular basis and would welcome new members. If you are interested please phone Sylvia Anderson 438 9784 or Ann Patterson 438 9493.

**The Omarama Model Aircraft Club** meets on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at its flying ground at the Omarama airfield. All welcome - Contact Don Selbie on 027 435 5516.

**FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade** meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. New members welcome.

**Plunket Line:** 0800 933 922

**Omarama Plunket Committee:** Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536

**Car Seat Rentals:** Christine, phone: 03 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

**In case of emergency:** to prevent any confusion about the location of Lake Ohau Alpine Village in an emergency, the following points should be noted:  
When phoning 111, advise that Lake Ohau is in South Island and the nearest cross road is State Highway 8 and Lake Ohau Road. Also mention that Lake Ohau Alpine Village is on the shore of Lake Ohau, and is 20 mins (40 km) from both Twizel and Omarama. This will assist the operator to find the required information to enter location in the system and allowing the call to progress to the next screen in the system.

**To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website.**

**[www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/  
omaramagazette.nz](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/omaramagazette.nz)**

**To receive email alerts between monthly editions of the Omarama Gazette sign up to our 'Local List'. Email**

**[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

**and put 'Local List' in the subject line.**

**Thank you to all who share your stories and contribute in other way to the Gazette. We all really appreciate what you do.**

**The May issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, May 5, 2021.**

**Please submit copy  
by Friday, April 30, 2021**

**Advertising pays for  
production and distribution.**

**To find out about publication and close-off dates,  
and how much it costs to place your advertisement,  
please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or  
email [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

# The Community Reports

## Upper Waitaki Police News



*Hi everyone,*

It's been a few months since my last report mainly because I haven't had much to report...(touch wood).

I have been to a few crashes however, in fact in 10 days I attended four crashes, almost like going back to pre-Covid times. The main causes were inattention for one, fatigue for another and just plain carelessness for the others - they weren't driving to the conditions or their experience.

I also recently attended a minor crash in which a tractor was holding up a caravan and behind that a car. As the road began to straighten out the car immediately

pulled out to pass the caravan.

A fraction of a second later the caravan indicated and also began to pull out to pass the slower tractor.

At this point the car was still behind the caravan and could see what the driver's intentions were, however he continued in his passing manoeuvre. The caravan could also see that the car behind him was not going to yield, but also continued to pass the tractor.

Basically neither driver was going to give in to the other. As a result, both vehicles now side by side collided, very slightly. In fact, one screw on the side of the caravan scratched the car.

However, this poor judgement by both drivers created an incident in which at one point there were three vehicles abreast of each other. All because both male drivers (both aged 50+) were too stubborn to give way as they thought they were in the right.

Both drivers were issued a Written Traffic Warning for their careless actions, and are very lucky to not be going to Court.

This is a stupid example of what can only be described as road rage, where two law-abiding, normally respectable, adult men had a brain fart and carried on like a couple of kids in a sandpit.

Except instead of sand in their eyes they could have killed themselves, their passenger or someone else.

Regardless as to whether or not you believe you're in the right, if you can avoid a crash but knowingly continue your actions and as a result do crash, then you're guilty of careless driving as well.

Not to mention just plain stupid if you could have avoided crashing altogether.

*- continued over*



# Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*Hello to you all,*

It is time to check our smoke alarms again. Please give us a call if you find this difficult we are only too happy to come and check your alarms.

We are still in a restricted fire season please check before you light and remember you must have permit. [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz)

You should have had your chimney swept for the coming winter season. If not try to get one booked. Try and make sure your

wood is nice and dry.

Well done to Tania and Jessie great to have you both able ride the truck.

To Zane and Jack for all your work towards your Station Officer accreditation, well done also. It will be great when we can sign you off in the next few weeks.

*Stay Safe, Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper*

**FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has**

---

## *Upper Waitaki Police news continued*

Talking of stupid, I was recently on patrol near Twizel when I got a phone call from a local lass informing me that she had just been passed by three speeding motorbikes in the 50kph zone in Kurow. She gave me a brief description and I promised to keep an eye out should they come my way. Not long after, I see three motorbikes matching the description, heading north on SH8. I did a U-turn and noted that the two lead bikes had taken off, the third bike who had seen me beginning to turn was going nice and slow at 100kph. Noting that the two lead bikes were rapidly accelerating away I gave chase. Although they were modern powerful road bikes they obviously hadn't heard of the speed the Omarama Cop has available, which is 299,250 km/s. Yep that's the speed of radio waves! I called up me mate in Twizel who sat at the road works near Lake Ruataniwha and managed to stop the lead bike, while I dealt with the other rider who had been held up by slower traffic.

The lead rider was clocked at 219kph when he became aware of my presence and took off. The rider I dealt with was caught at 143kph. He was smart enough to pull over. My man was issued a \$610 fine and suspended from driving for 28 days. The gent who tried to get away is going to Court to explain his actions to the Judge.

*That's it from me, stay safe.*

*Bean*

**Senior Constable Nayland Smith**

**Sole charge Constable / Omarama / PO Box 101, Omarama 9448.**

**Phone: (03) 4389559 / Ext: 34580 / <mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz>**

# Ōhau Conservation Trust

*By Viv Smith-Campbell  
Chairperson, The Ōhau Conservation Trust*

Restoration planting sessions at Lake Ōhau

Autumn is the time for planting at Lake Ōhau, and the Ōhau Conservation Trust is asking for volunteers to help us put in some new native plants, to replace those we lost in last year's wildfire.

Starting at 10am, Saturday 24 April (ANZAC weekend), we've got around 200 plants to go into an area we call "Poverty Point" – a small beech remnant on the lakeshore, just up Lake Ōhau road from the Village. The Trust volunteers had done extensive planting here in the past and here is a photo of what it looked like after the fire. We're keen to refill those empty wire plant protectors! (The bracken has grown up so the area looks quite different now).

Volunteers will need good footwear, gardening gloves, clothes you don't mind getting soot on, a spade or shovel (if you have one), warm clothes/raincoat (weather can be changeable) and a smile and willingness to help! Bring a hot drink and some lunch and enjoy being at the lake for a few hours.

Please follow instructions for parking your vehicle on the day.

Details about the planting session will be on the Trust's website

We'll only cancelled the planting session if there is extreme weather (if we do, we'll put a notice on the Trust website on the morning of 24 April).

We've got other sessions planned for May and we'll add information about these to our website as the dates and locations are confirmed. We'll also put information in the May edition of the Gazette.

We really appreciate the support the Trust has received for our work to help restore some nature at Lake Ōhau.

*Photo - Poverty Point plant protectors after the 4 October 2020 fire. Photo: supplied*



# Omarama Community Library



*By Ruth Grundy*

After several unforeseen setbacks the Omarama Library refit is now good to go and the new room will be operational from 9am, Wednesday, May 12.

New Waitaki Libraries manager Jenny Bean, who replaced Philip van Zijl who retired last month, apologised for the delay.

The refit was initially planned for early March.

There had been “a lot to juggle” what with staff leaving and changing roles.

As well the bespoke cabinet required to store some of the new equipment had taken longer to build than anticipated, Jenny said.

There would be new shelving - two mobile units - and new IT equipment to be set up.

Three Waitaki Libraries staff would manage the change beginning Monday, May 10.

**Up to three volunteers would be needed on Tuesday afternoon to help with the shift.**

**Those able to help should contact Yvonne Jones 027 476 7473.**

Five years on from its grand opening in the Omarama Community Centre the Omarama branch of Waitaki District Libraries will move to the centre's meeting room and get a bit of a face-lift.

Two Oamaru Libraries staff, Jean Rivett and Lisa Potaka Ross, were now dedicated to working with the branch libraries and would be available to work more closely with volunteers. The librarians' plans include working more closely with Playgroup and offering some technology/internet training to the community.

**The Omarama Community Library  
is open 9am to 10am,  
Wednesdays and Saturdays  
at the  
Omarama Community Centre  
omaramalibrary@gmail.com**



# Omarama Residents' Association

## From the March meeting

*By Yvonne Jones*

There were nine people present

The committee has agreed to advertise for a cleaner for the hall.

The Term Deposit money will be invested in the Waitaki District Council Rates Account which will gain interest. This will show on the March Accounts. The original Hall Loan from the WDC was not interest free so the balance will also be paid off from the Term Deposit money. A group from Mt Aspiring College used the Courts for four hours and were really happy with the Sports Complex.

When the centre's block wall is replaced the garden will be removed as it was mostly rubble.

In relation to the monies received in grants from the Ahuriri Community Board it was:

- \$200 for a spider swing and attachments
- \$250 for two Hockey Goals be constructed -
- \$6, 900 towards the History Wall

Replacing the Community Centre's block wall will proceed once the funding is through.

The Library move is set for May 10 and 11. Disappointment was expressed that this has taken so long after it was promised to be done end March at the latest.

Ross Menzies has looked at the proposed Health and Safety Document which Hall curator Michelle Kitchen presented last month and advised it was more than was required. Michelle will complete the document which will be put up on the notice board in the Hall.

Any contractors who work at the Community Centre will need to produce their own Health and Safety Policy. The volunteers who are at the Hall for whatever reasons are outside of the Act.

The sunshade over the sandpit has become a target for climbing, There has been a small amount of vandalism in the toilets.

The kitchen tap appears to be an on going problem with the complexities for using it. A stand-ard mixer tap is to be added for simplicity

New charges for the Community Hall and Meeting Rooms (see over) were approved

---

### **THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX**

Could all those who want to contact the association by mail, send accounts to be paid, or have correspondence considered at the monthly meetings ensure it is addressed to:

**The Secretary, P O Box 93, Omarama 9448.**

**The association's email address is [omarama.committee@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.committee@gmail.com)**

The next meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association

**is 7.30pm April 15, 2021**

at the Omarama Community Centre

An invitation is extended to all

Contacts: Tony Chapman, chairperson, 027 242 8605.

Yvonne Jones, secretary, 027 476 7473.

# New Hall hire rates

## OMARAMA HALL HIRE –Casual Rates

Memorial Hall - \$5pp per day

Commercial Kitchen - \$150 per day (FOC for tea & coffee)

Meeting Room - \$40 first 4hrs, over 4 hrs \$60 per day

## OMARAMA HALL RATING AREA RESIDENTS & ALL NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS\*

Memorial Hall \$3pp per day

Commercial Kitchen \$100 per day (FOC for tea & coffee)

Meeting Room \$20 up to 2 Hrs, \$30 up to 4 hrs, over 4 hrs \$50 per day

### **NOTE:**

\*Omarama Hall "Rating area residents" must also be "not for profit" for the discounted rate.

Special events & long term hire by negotiation with the committee.

---

## OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more information about hall hire and availability please contact Michelle Kitchen 027 280 54446 or email [hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz)





## VAN UPGRADE MAKES GROUP TRAVEL POSSIBLE

Omarama School year 7 and 8 pupils will be able to travel in style with the arrival of a new school van which can seat all 12 comfortably.

A generous donation of \$25,000 from Meridian Energy, together with a trade in of the old van and support from the North Otago Motor Group meant the school could upgrade to the late model 2015 Toyota HiAce, school principal Michelle Green said. Last week, year 7 and 8 pupils made the first trip as a group to technology classes in Twizel.

The fact they could all fit together in one van, and the larger luggage carrying capacity, opened up “a whole lot more possibilities”.

The school placed an emphasis on education outside the classroom and with the help of parent volunteers the van would not only be used for camps but would make travel for other experiences possible, Michelle said.



# Ahuriri Catchment Community Group

About 30 people gathered at the Wrinkly Rams last week to hear from Beef and Lamb New Zealand South Island environment policy manager Lauren Phillips – a specialist in the Government's Essential Fresh Water policy.

Most people did not really want to involve themselves in policy changes, but just like cleaning toilets it was one of life's unpleasant necessities, she said.

Ms Phillips gave the group an outline of how various pieces of Government policy “fits together” and how National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards worked under the umbrella of the Resource Management Act, and were administered by regional and district councils.

The new NPS for Freshwater Management 2020 had made a fundamental change to how freshwater was managed in New Zealand, she said.

More than just reducing excess nitrogen, phosphorus and E.coli all water users were now required to give the “health of the water in the environment” - Te Mana o te Wai – priority.

Secondary to this was the essential needs of people, followed by other uses.

The lynchpins of the legislation for farmers hinged on excluding stock from waterways, and tightening winter grazing rules.

The consequence of prioritising the health of waterways in this way could be that some would find they had less available water, she said.

Both those managing domestic water supplies and farmers needed to clarify and secure their water takes. There would inevitably be competition for water.

Although sheep and beef farmers and those who farmed extensively, as opposed to intensively, were affected to a lesser degree by the legislation than dairy, deer and pig farmers Ms Phillips recommended Omarama's high country farmers look carefully at their present systems and water takes, especially for stock water, and consider formalising any informal arrangements and securing supply.

“If your stock can't drink from waterways you will need to think about how to get them stock water.

“Start looking now at what you are going to do.

“Formalise a permitted take... do the maths, take into account the peak season.

“Are you taking water from a wetland because you won't be able to... diversify your water sources if you can.”

There would always be competition for water and those “with deep pockets will be better off.”

Farmers must make sure they had their farm environment plans in place “to cover you”.

“Paperwork is your friend even if you hate it.

“Use that plan and have a backup plan.”

Farmers were “in for a bit of pain”.

“But the future is looking pretty bright,” Ms Phillips said.

The presentation was arranged by the newly formed Ahuriri Catchment Community Group.

ACCG chairperson Trent Spittle said the group was open to all in the community who wanted to work to protect the “unique area”.

The group wanted to hold events like this to educate and upskill, and was also planning a community riparian planting project along the Omarama Stream, with support from the Waitaki District Council and Environment Canterbury.





**GRANTS & AWARDS**

**WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# *Apply for the* **SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND**

Grants to help subsidise rural travel to local sport competitions for junior sports teams aged between 5-19 years.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN  
15 MARCH 2021**

**Applications close 16 April 2021**

**Could some extra funds make it easier for your kids' team to get to competitions around the Waitaki district?**

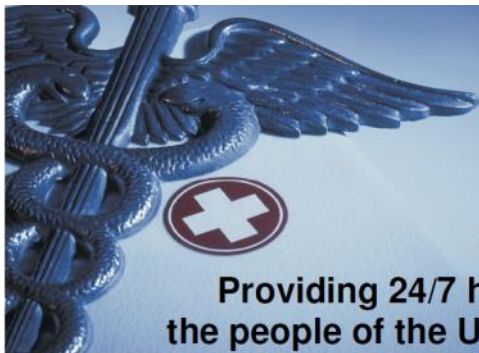
More information, including application forms, can be found at [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz), Council offices and at Waitaki District Libraries.

[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)



**Waitaki**

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHĒRA A ROHE O WAITAKI



# Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow  
P: 03 4360760 F: 03 4360780

E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](https://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

**Providing 24/7 health care and support to  
the people of the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie**

**Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinic  
in Twizel Mackenzie Health Centre and  
Outreach Clinic at Omarama Community Hall  
are proud to offer our registered and casual patients the following services:**

- \* Ultrasound performed by a qualified clinician (great for minor fractures, gall stones, kidney stones, heart and lung problems, foreign bodies, blood clots, detecting early pregnancy and much more!)
- \* Minor surgery \* Vasectomies
- \* Mole checks and removal \* Steroid injections \* Venesection
- \* Aviation, workplace and driving medicals \* Botox for Wrinkle reduction
- \* Workplace health screening \* Counselling
- \* Spirometry to diagnose asthma and COPD
- \* Hearing and sight tests for adults and children \* Ear syringing
- \* Liquid nitrogen for warts, verruca's, and skin lesions
- \* Cardiovascular risk assessment and diabetic checks (funded for eligible patients)
- \* Travel advice and vaccination
- \* Cervical smears (funded for eligible patients)
- \* Seasonal flu shots and shingles vaccine (funded for eligible patients)
- \* Childhood Immunisation \* Before school checks
- \* Postnatal and six-week baby health check

**And much more!**

**GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$41.00  
Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

We also offer the following services from external Health Care Providers:

- \* Podiatry and Ear Health (Kurow only)
- \* Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Massage (Kurow and Twizel)

## **Open**

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm. Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 5pm.

Twizel: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 12pm

Please note: We provide 24/7 on call after hours cover by our doctors and PRIME nurses for all our registered and casual patients!

**If you require further information or an appointment, please contact us on:**

**For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503 - Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner**

*Look us up on our website or Facebook page for more information.*

# Omarama Golf Club

The Omarama Golf Club's annual Easter Tournament was dubbed a great success yet again by visiting players.

In all, 65 golfers, from as far away as Templeton, Waimate and Maniototo, took to the course on a stunning autumn afternoon.

Players also celebrated the ability to get out and about after last year's tournament was cancelled because of the Covid-19 situation.

## Omarama Golf Club Easter Tournament

### Results:

Overall Winner:	Ken Wigley (Ben Ohau) 40 stablefords
Senior Men Winner	Wayne Burt (Templeton) 37 Stablefords
	Craig Booth (Waimate) 36 stablefords
	John Kreft (Maniototo) 36 stablefords
Junior Men Winner	Ken Wigley (as above)
	Neil Cunningham (Ben Ohau) 38 stablefords
	Phil Kennard (Omarama) 37 stablefords
Ladies Winner	Diane Jellyman (North Otago) 38 stablefords
	Christine Bowman (Omarama) 36 stablefords
	Kura Ritchie (Ben Ohau) 36 stablefords

## Omarama Golf Club

Saturdays; cards in 12 midday, tee-off 12.30pm.

Club captain; James Moynihan phone: 027 215 8266

email [jwmoynihian@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jwmoynihian@yahoo.co.nz). [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

*Omarama Golf Club Easter Tournament 2021: (clockwise from top left) overall winner Ken Wigley (Ben Ohau); Wayne Burt (Templeton); gathered in the clubhouse; those essential workers, and Diane Jellyman (North Otago). Photos: Paul and Christine Bowman*









# Omarama Collie Dog Club

Triallists young and old came from throughout the South Island to compete at the Omarama Collie Dog Club trials at Dalrachney Station last month.

And it would be fair to say it was a young' un that managed to pull a hat trick and give the oldies a bit of a lesson – although every dog does have its day.

North Canterbury triallist Ned George (23) placed first, second and third with his huntaways Base, Kaha and Pitch in the straight hunt event, and second and third with Pitch and Kaha in the zigzag hunt.

Club secretary Carla Hunter said it was a successful trial “with great entries and good sheep”.

“The weather played ball although it was a very chilly start on Monday morning, and well done to Ned George who had a very successful day.”

Judges were Jack Brennan, of Oamaru on the long head, Hamish Cameron of Waimate, on the short head, Boyd Tisdall, of Middlemarch, zig-zag hunt and Russell Smillie, of Hakataramea on the straight hunt.

The trials are hosted by the Aubrey family and held on the grounds at Dalrachney Station. Dalrachney also provided the Half-bred ewe lambs and two-tooths for the competition.

## Omarama Collie Dog Club trials March 7 and 8, 2021

### Results:

#### Event I - Long Head

Judge: Jack Brennan

H Ingles and Lou, 95, 1; S Hunter and Rangī, 94, 2; B Manson and Billy, 93, 3; I M Anderson and Jet, 92.5, 4; L Smith and Guide, 92 5.

1st Intermediate: L Smith, Guide, 92

1st Maiden: K Chittock, Tilly, 86

#### Event II – Short Head and Yard

Judge: Hamish Cameron

G Reed and Jess, 93 1; N Hore and Frank, 91,5 2; K Chittock and Lugs, 91, 3; M Evans and Dawn, 89, 4; L Smith and Guide, 88.5, 5;

1st Intermediate: G Reed, Jess, 93

1st Maiden: L Bayne, Pru, 83

#### Event III – Zig Zag Hunt

Judge: Boyd Tisdall

M Clark and Coke, 96, 1; N George and Pitch, 95, 2; N George and Kaha, 94.5, 3; T Rowland and Thomas, 94, 4; B Harris Slope, 93, 5.

1st Intermediate: N George, Kaha, 94.5

1st Maiden: M Baynes, Archie, 92

#### Event IV – Straight Hunt

Judge: Russell Smillie

N George and Base, 98, 1; N George and Kaha, 97.2, 2; N George and Pitch, 97, 3; M Benton and Maia, 96.5, 4; P Emmerson and Rua, 96.1, 5.

1st Intermediate: N George, Kaha, 97.2

1st Maiden: H Kopa, Tap, 93

*PHOTOS AT RIGHT: (Top) Oamaru Collie Club member Angus Ferguson (87) and Jess; (centre) Omarama Collie Dog Club member Ginger Anderson and Boss; (Bottom) Carla Hunter (secretary), Sylvia Anderson, Andrea Aubrey, Tarryn Benton, Sarah Waldie (catering convenor), and Kim Doree make sure things run like clockwork indoors.*





# TWIZEL MEDICAL CENTRE

Community Owned, Community Focussed,  
Community Operated

Twizel Medical Centre is your local Ministry of Health funded, enrolling practice. Contracted by SCDHB for General Practice, District Nursing and 24/7 Urgent Care, contracted by St John for PRIME (Primary Emergency Response) Services across the greater MacKenzie area.

**Hours:** Monday to Friday 08:30 - 5:00 pm with extended hours over the summer months

**Urgent and emergency care 24/7**

**Our Team:** NP Gemma, GPs Drs Peter and George, Admin/Receptionists Donna, Jacqui, Annie and Sue, Nurses Paula, Ann, Zoe, Holly and District Nurses Libby and Jess are passionate about our community accessing a high quality service.

**Twizel Medical Centre has charitable status so any surpluses are reinvested to ensure our community has access to sustainable general and urgent care services.**

**15 MacKenzie Drive, Phone: (03) 4350777**



# TWIZEL MEDICAL CENTRE

Introduction to Nina Boyes, Administration Manager, Twizel Medical Centre

*"The dictionary defines caring as 'displaying kindness and concern for others'. Since moving to the Mackenzie Basin in early 2019 I have discovered that Twizel is a very caring place. From the woman a few streets over who offered to teach me how to knit then arrived with needles and wool, to the lady from around the corner who showed up at our door offering strawberry plants for our new garden, to the 'flash as' medical centre that made our family feel so welcome and reassured when we moved to town as first time parents - these experiences are why I'm very excited to have been appointed as the new Administration Manager at Twizel Medical Centre; it means I can now work within and for this caring community.*

*With 12 years' experience across the NZ education sector, 5 years in Training and Systems management in the West Australian mining industry and having worked in the Wakatipu basin as an award winning property manager I am well placed to deal with the complexities of managing the "behind the scenes" side of our busy and growing medical practice.*

*I look forward to supporting our wonderful clinical team as they work to ensure that the people of the Mackenzie experience 'legendary' care when visiting our health hub. "*  
- Nina.

## SITUATION VACANT

Twizel Medical Centre is a well-established and growing local community organization. We are currently seeking a friendly front line services star to join our busy reception team for 10 hours per week on a casual contract.

You will be an experienced administrator with an eye for detail, excellent communication skills and a desire to go the extra mile to ensure high levels of customer care and satisfaction.

In addition to being a team player, you will be a self-starter who can prioritise workflows and trouble shoot under pressure. Daily tasks will include greeting patients, screening patients for triage as required, managing patient appointments, liaising with clinical staff, processing of payments and invoicing, accounts reconciliation as well as general office duties.

Experience with Xero or a similar invoicing system is desirable.

In addition to 10 hours per week this casual role may also include further hours for leave cover and special projects.

**Applications close at 5pm on Friday 9th April.**

**All enquiries and applications to [manager@twizelmed.co.nz](mailto:manager@twizelmed.co.nz)**



# OAMARU OPERA HOUSE PRESENTS...

## a blockbuster weekend, April 9 to 12!

April 9 - Carnivorous Plant Society: NZ's favourite psychedelic jazz band take you on a journey from the streets of Mexico to the mountains of Asia then straight to the depths of hell, performing in front of original animations that will ignite your imagination.

April 10 - Wild Dogs Under My Skirt: a celebration of what it is to be a Samoan woman and a deeply personal view of the Pacific Islander life in Aotearoa New Zealand. A hit in New York, this award-winning and acclaimed show is one of the best you'll see this year.

April 11 - Beethoven: Virtuoso: Celebrate Beethoven's 250th anniversary with the New Zealand String Quartet, an unforgettable programme by internationally celebrated performers.

April 12 - Owls Do Cry: Janet Frame's classic novel Owls Do Cry comes to life in an exhilarating multimedia visual experience, filled with fierce heart and visual splendour.

Visit [oamaruoperahouse.co.nz](http://oamaruoperahouse.co.nz) for more details

---

The next meeting of ECan's

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee meeting

is Friday, April 16, 2021

MacKenzie Country Hotel, Twizel

Minutes and agendas are posted at:

<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/upper-waitaki-water-zone/>

# [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)

## For advertising rates and guidelines

phone 021 294 8002

or email [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

# Justices of the Peace

**JPs are available by appointment to:**

- \* Witness documents such as applications for citizenship
- \* Certify copies
- \* Take declarations, affidavits and affirmations

**The service is free of charge**

**To make your visit quick and easy:**

- \* Do not sign anything beforehand
- \* Do take photo identification
- \* Remember to take the original as well as the copy to be certified
- \* Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



**Georgie Robertson**  
Omarama

03 438 9554 027 4861525



**Vicky Munro**  
Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



**Alona Shaw**  
Omarama

027 773 4214



## Notary Public Services Affidavits and Declarations

David Stone, Lake Ohau

03 438 9653, 027 490 9118, david@stone.org.nz



**When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis be it financial, climatic or personal the Rural Support Trust is ready to assist. Services are free and confidential.**

**0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)**

# Upper Waitaki Young Farmers

*By Tom Adkins*

In the last month the Upper Waitaki Young Farmers club ran the Kurow Bark Up fundraiser held at the Kurow Hotel. This was a great night with just under 20 dog entries and six team entries. A huge thank you to our sponsors who donated prizes and items to be auctioned off, it was a very successful night.

Coming up for April we are having a clay bird shoot for our members to get their eye in for opening weekend.

Our April meeting, due to the Easter weekend is being held at 7.30pm, Monday April 12 at the Kurow Hotel, new members always welcome.

Facebook.com/UpperWaitakiYFC

---

## The Waitaki Newcomers Network

Contact: Christine Dorsey

027 242 8643.

waitaki@newcomers.co.nz

Abacus House,

102 Thames Street,

Oamaru

03 434 7544.

[www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz)

---

**'The Community Reports' is  
dedicated to news  
from clubs, groups and sports teams.  
Contributions are welcome.  
[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

---

**LOOKING FOR  
FUNDING FOR  
A COMMUNITY  
PROJECT?**



# Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

At Meridian, we're committed to doing good things with our energy. That means good for people, and good for the environment.

We're proud to back local projects in the communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with our Power Up fund.

With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund. Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff, we're working together to build strong, sustainable communities.

Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects from Aoraki Mount Cook to Waitaki Bridge, including Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio and Glenavy.

## How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on 25th April 2021.

For more information and to apply:

- visit [meridian.co.nz/powerup](https://meridian.co.nz/powerup)
- email [community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz)
- call 03 357 9732





# Getting BACK TO THE FUTURE

LONG TERM PLAN  
*Waitaki 2021-2031*

**What we will be seeking  
your feedback on:**

**WE WANT  
TO HEAR  
FROM YOU!**

**Consultation opens in  
late April and continues  
into May.**

**We will advertise the  
consultation details on  
Facebook, radio and our  
website.**

Copies of the Consultation Document and feedback form will be available online and from Council offices and Waitaki District Libraries.

## **Council's Strategic Direction**

What do you think we should be doing to achieve our community outcomes and strategic priorities?

## **COVID-19 Recovery**

What else can we do to support our community?

## **Climate Change**

What should we be focusing on?

## **Waste management**

What waste minimisation and education activities would you like to see Council doing?

## **Indoor Sports and Events Centre**

Which option do you prefer?

## **Rates affordability**

Should we look at smoothing the rates increases over two or three years?

**...and anything else  
you'd like to tell us**

# Waitaki District Council

## Change of rates definition could affect Airbnbs

The Waitaki District Council wants to get feedback on proposed changes to its Revenue and Financing Policy.

The policy is reviewed every three years.

Several changes to the funding mix and rating tools used to fund council activities have been put forward.

Although the council believes the overall impact of the proposed changes is minor, it will have a larger impact on some ratepayers than others, the report to the meeting last week said.

It intends to contact those ratepayers directly so that they are aware of the proposed changes.

Specifically, it is reviewing the definition of 'Separately Used and Inhabited Parts' (SUIP), the amount the Oamaru business rate contributes to activities; the boundary for the Oamaru and Weston Amenity Rates, and the boundary for the Omarama amenity rate; hall rates; the reinstatement of the rates penalty; and a review of the exemption for the forestry roading rate.

The SUIP is used to determine if a ratepayer should pay one or more Uniform Annual General Charge, Ward Services Charge and Public Hall Rate.

Examples of two SUIPs on the same block of land would be a home with a flat attached, two or more houses on the same section, flats or apartments on one section or residential accommodation rented individually per room for example an Airbnb.

The council wants to change the definition an SUIP so, where formerly "kitchen facilities" has been used, this has been replaced with "cooking facilities".

If a second SUIP is used exclusively by family it can be excluded from the rate. This will require an annual declaration.

The council has developed a measure based on gross floor area for commercial properties and businesses.

The Omarama Gazette has asked for more information about the change to the Omarama Amenity Rate boundary but this was not available before publication.

**Consultation opens on Friday and close midday Sunday, May 9, 2021.**

Finding Information

To view a copy of the draft policy and make a submission go to [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)

You can also get this information from:

- offices in Oamaru and Palmerston
- libraries in Oamaru and throughout the Waitaki District

If you have any questions about this policy review please call 03 433 0300 or email [consult@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:consult@waitaki.govt.nz).

---

Phone: 03 433 0300

Automated options after hours

E-mail: [service@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:service@waitaki.govt.nz)

**[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)**

# Ahuriri Community Board news

## Further discussions to resolve traffic issues

Omarama's town centre traffic issues will be the subject of an upcoming workshop between Ahuriri Community Board members and Waitaki District Council staff. Members of the Omarama Community attended last month's meeting of the board in Omarama to hear from Waitaki District Council roading manager Mike Harrison about plans the council might have to address concerns.

The Omarama Residents' Association together with the community have wanted safety concerns regarding traffic flow and the mix of pedestrian, cycle and vehicle traffic addressed as a matter of urgency now for some years.

The council concept masterplan for the town did not address the issue.

To complicate matters, management of the junction of the two state highways – 8 and 83 - lies with Waka Kotahi /New Zealand Transport Agency.

The council owns the area in front of the shops which includes parking.

Mr Harrison said NZTA had looked at the problems at the intersection.

"To be fair they were probably not looking at it too hard."

The council could work with NZTA on the problem but NZTA "don't have the money" and are planning no further work at present, he said.

Councils, including Waitaki, are "going to the minister" to see what could be done about the agency's funding.

Mr Harrison said the council roading team had looked at the problem.

So far, "the vision" had been "vehicle centric".

But there was a need to look at other modes - walking and cycling and "see what we come up with".

"I've spent time looking at the problem and there are ways we can improve what is there that doesn't have to cost a lot. Especially when it comes to safety, it's not something I want to put up with."

Omarama resident Judy Piner said the layout at the intersection also made it awkward for pedestrians who might want to walk around the pub as there was not much room between the fence and the road.

Pedestrians might feel they were intruding on pub patrons and they could be forced onto the road, Mrs Piner said.

Ahuriri Community Board chairperson Vicky Munro said there were issues with the traffic mix and within the shopping centre.

"At one stage there were children coming through but that was fixed with the easement through Park Lane," she said.

Mr Harrison said the most successful way to direct pedestrian traffic was to build pathways "where people actually walk".

Mrs Munro said there were also issues where the Alps 2 Ocean Trail ended abruptly at the end of SH8 and it was not clear to cyclists where they should go.

In Finance and Corporate Development group manager Paul Hope's financial update to the board he pointed to the balance of the Ahuriri Ward Services rate which sat at \$479,634 in December.

Mr Hope said the board needed to put forward projects and proposals and make submissions to have them included in this year's Long-Term Plan.

"It is an accumulated surplus that will cover operational costs,"

And it could be used on a project like this, he said.

Mrs Munro said each town within the ward had different needs and "we want to support them all."

The fund could be used as a “good starting point for some projects or it could be seed funding”, Mr Hope said.  
Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher recommended a workshop be held to look at potential projects.  
Mr Harrison said he was still “keen to hear from locals” about concerns.

## Sandpit cover payment settled

An attempt to resolve an outstanding payment from the Ahuriri Community Board to the Omarama Playgroup has highlighted issues board members have getting items on to agendas for meetings.

In total the board has six meetings scheduled for this year and it may only make decisions - for example approve payments - at a public meeting.

For its March meeting, along with council officer memorandum reports there was one decision report which made it to the agenda. That was regarding the Omarama Residents' Association request for funding for the replacement of the block wall, and payment of \$5405 was approved for this project from the board's Community Grants fund.

However, the board asked for two further items to go on the agenda as late items so decisions could be made and not have to be deferred to its May meeting.

The first was for payment outstanding since October 2018 to the Omarama Playgroup for a replacement cover for the Omarama playground sandpit. This additional agenda item did make it to the table in time for the meeting.

The second item, which the Omarama Gazette understands concerned a grant of \$1,000 for seed funding for the newly-formed Ahuriri Catchment Community Group did not.

The board insisted the sand pit cover payment be brought to the meeting so it could be resolved “effectively for all parties” and to “maintain faith with earlier promises to the community”.

In October 2018 it had agreed to pay for the cover but for a lesser amount. Because the playgroup had been under the impression the board was happy to pay whole cost of the cover it had subsequently presented an invoice for the higher amount. However, no payments were made.

At its meeting the board agreed to to pay the new total , \$1308.13, because the Playgroup paid the invoice “in good faith believing the board would cover costs”.

To complicate matters, because of the delay the board was no longer able to pay the amount from one of its own funds and so had to recommend to the council that it be paid from its Ahuriri Playground Grant Reserve fund.

This was approved by the council at its meeting last week.

Ahuriri Community Board chairperson Vicky Munro asked Finance and Corporate Development group manager Paul Hope to ensure, once approved, the payment was made promptly to the playgroup. “This has got lost on the way and so we need to make sure it is paid this time,” she said.

As well as frustration over getting items onto the board meeting agendas there was also a request made to get earlier access to the minutes of previous meetings.

In the case of the March meeting, the previous meeting had been in December 2020. Ahuriri Ward Councillor Ross McRobie said it could be difficult to determine which matters needed following up when minutes were sent to the board only about 10 days before its next meeting.

Mrs Munro has asked the board see at least a “cheat sheet” of decisions made so it can keep on top of the action points.



**Keen to know what your  
property in  
The Waitaki Valley is worth?**

**Call me now to book your  
free appraisal. Im your local  
Sales Consultant based in  
Otematata.**

**Ross McRobie**

**M 027 432 9892 P 03 434 3347**

**E [ross.mcrobie@pb.co.nz](mailto:ross.mcrobie@pb.co.nz)**

Property Brokers Oamaru  
225 Thames Street, Oamaru  
**P 03 434 3347**



[pb.co.nz](http://pb.co.nz)

Property Brokers Ltd. Licensed REAA 2008

**Property  
Brokers**

# The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is 3.15pm Monday, May 10, 2021 at the Otematata Community Centre

Minutes and agendas can be found here

<http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx>



## Staying Safe

a refresher course for older drivers



This FREE classroom based course will help you re-familiarise yourself with traffic rules and safe driving practices. It will also increase your knowledge about other transport options and help you remain independent for longer.

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021

St. John's Rooms, Kurow

10:00 am – 2:30 pm

Light lunch included. Gold coin appreciated.

Contact Jody Macdonald for more  
information, or to reserve a space.

027 353 2874

# The Directory

**For advertising rates  
and guidelines**

**phone**  
**021 294 8002**  
**or email**  
**omaramagazette@gmail.com**

## COMPUTER FIX - COMPUTER SUPPLY

SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS - SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED

### PHOENIX I.T. LTD

[WWW.PHOENIXIT.CO.NZ](http://WWW.PHOENIXIT.CO.NZ)

PHONE 021444468

18 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
COMPETITIVE PRICING ON ALL THINGS TECH  
DOMESTIC AND BUSINESS INFO TECH SUPPORT  
SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS (PSPLA & NZSA APPROVED)  
WEBSITES, REMOTE SUPPORT, NETWORKS, WIFI  
MANAGED PRINT SERVICES - BROTHER NZ TECHNICIAN



[ducksgoquack@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ducksgoquack@xtra.co.nz)

*BigSky*  
Bed&Breakfast

Kay & Hank Verheul  
10 Ahuriri Drive, Omarama, New Zealand

Phone +64 3 438 9538  
Mobile 027 489 5149

Email [kay@bigskybnb.co.nz](mailto:kay@bigskybnb.co.nz)  
[www.bigskybnb.co.nz](http://www.bigskybnb.co.nz)

 **Coralie Reid**  
**ONE AGENCY**  
THE PROPERTY SPECIALISTS

021 919 089  
[coralie.reid@oatps.nz](mailto:coralie.reid@oatps.nz)



Licensed RE/MAX 2008

[www.coraliereid.nz](http://www.coraliereid.nz)

**Scarlett**  
hydraulic technology

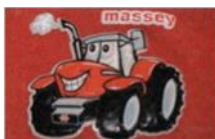
**For all your hydraulic requirements**

Sales, service, design,  
hose fittings & spare parts  
**97 Racecourse Rd, Washdyke.**  
**Phone 03 688 2902**  
**[www.scarlett-hydraulics.co.nz](http://www.scarlett-hydraulics.co.nz)**

*BigSky*  
**MOTEL**

Your Hosts Kay & Hank Verheul

52 Ahuriri Drive Omarama  
**03 4389 538**  
[bigsky.kiwi.nz](http://bigsky.kiwi.nz)



**David O'Neill Contracting Ltd**  
**Omarama**

Home 03 438 9883  
Cell 027 433 5523 Fax 03 438 9891  
[davidoneillcontracting@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davidoneillcontracting@xtra.co.nz)

# Omarama Storage



- Secure Lockup Storage
- 3.6m h x 3m w entry
- Short & Long term

Don't let the weather deteriorate your caravan, boat or motorhome over winter. Spaces available now.  
Contact Bridget – [bridgesp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bridgesp@xtra.co.nz)  
or Ph /txt 021572798



**Campbells Butchery**  
quality meats and  
smallgoods available at

**Otematata On the Spot  
Mackenzie Four Square**

*For private processing of your cattle and sheep  
contact Steve on 03 434 8780 Ext 4*



## MINI EXCAVATOR DRY HIRE

- New Machine
- 301.8 Digger
- Tilt Bucket
- Trench Bucket
- Digging Bucket



For more information:  
**Grant Murdoch**  
Ph: 027 430 7678  
Email: [grant@omaramahire.co.nz](mailto:grant@omaramahire.co.nz)

South Canterbury  
**Kindergartens**  
the first choice for your child's future

**ENROLMENTS  
NOW OPEN**

## Twizel Kindergarten



You get 30 free hours if your  
child is 3 or 4 years old like me.

The teachers are all  
qualified and registered.



There are spaces here for  
children aged 2-5 years.

We are a not for profit organisation and  
registered charity which means all the money  
received goes back to support your child's learning.



**Contact Head Teacher Carol Sinclair**

**Phone 03 435 0433**

**or call in to the kindergarten**

**135 Mackenzie Drive, Twizel**



## Rick's Rock Walls

*'Built To Stand the Test of Time'*

Richard O'Leary

021 101 1394 or 03 614 3893

info@ricksrockwalls.co.nz

[www.ricksrockwalls.co.nz](http://www.ricksrockwalls.co.nz)



**rockgas™**  
**Mackenzie**

One stop shop for Gas. Locals Supplying Locals  
45kg gas bottles regularly delivered

Otematata-weekly  
Omarama - weekly  
Twizel and Tekapo -2x weekly

Kurow – fortnightly  
Oamaru- daily Mon-Fri  
And all areas in between.

Down load the App

Ph 0800 433 4574

Order online - Rockgas.co.nz or www.hiflo.co.nz



Need Gas installed check out [www.hiflo.co.nz](http://www.hiflo.co.nz) or phone 03 433 0011 or  
info@hiflo.co.nz we have an experienced team in Oamaru and Twizel.

# ON-SITE SERVICING AND REPAIRS ON ALL HEAVY DIESEL MACHINERY

- Preventative maintenance
- Breakdown call outs
- Oamaru based workshop, competitive rates
- Diagnostic computer for leading brands
- Servicing North Otago, Waitaki Valley and Lower South Canterbury



**TOTAL**  
LUBRICANTS



*Office* **03 434 1121**  
*Aaron* **027 501 6470**

[aaron@earthworksmechanical.co.nz](mailto:aaron@earthworksmechanical.co.nz)



## **2.5T Digger, Tipper Truck, Kubota Tractor**

**For All Your:  
Landscaping  
Mowing  
Retaining Walls  
Building Lawns  
Boring Holes  
Driveways  
Topsoil  
Cartage  
Wood Chipping  
and More!**



**Call Travis 021 710 305**

## **NEW WOOD CHIPPER**

**Recycle your Prunings into Woodchips for the Garden!**

**Call Travis 021 710 305**





## NO OBLIGATION MARKET APPRAISAL

I live and work from Omarama and have waiting buyers for most types of property in our area.

Having been in the Real Estate Industry since 1984 within the Central Otago, Waitaki and Mackenzie districts I can offer today's technology with the benefit of experience to get you a great result.

Call me anytime for a Real Estate chat.

Gary Sutherland

AREINZ

027 432 6615

[gary@twizelre.com](mailto:gary@twizelre.com)

Licensed Real Estate Agent REAA 2008



### **Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park**

1 Omarama Avenue  
Omarama 9448  
P: +64 3 438 9875  
Reservations: 0800 662 726  
[omaramatop10.co.nz](http://omaramatop10.co.nz)



Bring the whole family these holidays.  
Make memories for life with the people  
that matter most

Book a luxurious studio unit  
cabin or motel, or come camping  
and explore our big backyard.

[www.top10.co.nz/omarama-top-10-holiday-park](http://www.top10.co.nz/omarama-top-10-holiday-park)

**Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park**





# DESIGNED TO MAKE A LASTING IMPRESSION

Architecturally inspired, this stunning Contemporary 2 & 3 bedroom range of prefab homes signifies all that's on-trend, right now! Featuring Abodo cladding, designer kitchens, walk-in robes, ensuites, laundry and high-quality fit-out throughout. This eye-catching range designed in collaboration with prefab off-site specialists PXA Architects and is sure to impress.

Like all our ranges the Contemporary is fully customisable to maximise your sites' orientation, magnificent views, and all that you desire in a new home layout. Sit back and relax with family and friends a 3 bedroom 110m2 Contemporary prefab home is priced from \$300,000 gst inclusive.

Download a plan catalogue including pricing today, visit [laing.co.nz](http://laing.co.nz)

To find out more, call Peter Crampton or Grant Laing **03 349 4977**



Our next showhome is under construction  
15 Hanworth Avenue,  
Sockburn, Christchurch

[www.laing.co.nz](http://www.laing.co.nz)

**Laing**

# M S & M E McCabe CONTRACTING

Servicing the North Otago area for over 70 years, with proven experience



## **Hyundai 20 tonne digger and truck with a 4-axle trailer**

\*farm drainage and irrigation \*stump and tree removal  
\*root raking \*rock protection for rivers  
\*driveways, farm tracks and dairy lanes \*building demolition, building site prep  
\*landscaping \*gravel and rock cartage

## **New Holland 255HP tractor with:**

\* mulcher for gorse and scrub-clearing \* scraper for earthmoving  
\*mole plough for tree lane ripping  
\*power cable and water pipe up to 110mm outside diameter



**CONTACT CRAIG**  
**0272 284 195**



TWIZEL FREE KINDERGARTEN  
are delighted to present an evening of  
practical parenting guidance with

## DIANE LEVY

Family Therapist, Counsellor, Parenting Coach

### "BUILDING EMPATHY AND RESILIENCE IN OUR CHILDREN"

With highly practical, what-to-do strategies for parents of tots, teens  
and everyone in between, Diane will reveal effective steps for:

- How to handle your Children's Angry and Upset Feelings
- Getting your Children to Do As They Are Told

WEDNESDAY 14TH APRIL

7:15pm to 10pm

Twizel Event Centre

Diane's books  
will be available for  
sale on the night.

\$30 per ticket

Tickets available from:

- Twizel Free Kindergarten (Cash Only)
- Twizel Four Square (Cash Only)

Or email: [twizelkindyfundraiser@outlook.com](mailto:twizelkindyfundraiser@outlook.com) to purchase via  
direct debit

For more information phone Jemma 0212753662



### FOR ALL YOUR EXCAVATING NEEDS

*We have a 5.7 tonne  
excavator, an 8 tonne  
tip-truck and 1.7 tonne  
digger with augers for dry hire.*

- Excavation •Earthmoving
- Sitework •Demolition
- Collection of debris
- Screened topsoil and  
Builders mix available

**Phil Honeywill : 027 465 8372**

**[honeywillphil@gmail.com](mailto:honeywillphil@gmail.com)**

## T & J Golder Ltd



Operating locally, specialists in  
agricultural chemical application and for all  
your small digger requirements

Call: Travis 021 710 305, Jo 027 458 4828 Email: [travis.joanne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:travis.joanne@xtra.co.nz)



**Fishing • Camping • Gardening • Gifts  
Cycling • Games • Toys • Homeware**

Just up the road in Twizel!

A bit of  
everything.



**[www.jakes.co.nz](http://www.jakes.co.nz)**

**03 435 0881**

**Jake's  
HARDWARE**

# Karan MacDiarmid

---

With more than 9 years Real Estate experience and an amazing team supporting her, Karan is the obvious choice for all your real estate needs.

Call now for more information about how Karan can help you.

0275 177 959  
karanm.twizel@ljh.co.nz



**Closed Monday and Tuesday**

**Open Wednesday to Saturday 8.30am to 8.30pm**

**Sunday 8.30am to 4pm**

**Phone: Tanya 027 673 1381**





# The View from the Chook House



*"It's the leaving  
and the time has come to say farewell, good friends."*  
This will be the final 'View from the Chook House' for now.  
Look for a brand new segment next month

---

**The weather that was  
@ 44°29'30.1"S 169°58'20.3"E**

**March 2021**

**Highest temperature: March 14, 27.5C**

**Lowest temperature: March 17, 1.5C**

**Most rainfall: March 5, 13.7mm**

**Total rainfall for March: 36.1mm**

# The Garden Diary - As high as an elephant's eye

'Tis the season for giving and reaping and squirreling, gathering in before hunkering down. And cooking and baking using all those recipes tucked in the back of the book, saved for a 'glut'. To quote that old song:

*"There's a bright golden haze on the meadow, there's a bright golden haze on the meadow,*

*The corn is as high as an elephant's eye, An' it looks like it's climbin' clear up to the sky."* - Now try get that out of your head.

I may have lost all hope of stone fruit and pears this year but the garden is, as it always does, making up for it in other ways.

The freezer is stuffed full of corn – sweet Honey and Pearl cobs still sheathed in its leafy papery green wrap and just perfect to shove in the microwave, as is – no plastic required.

I'm not a preserver. I am envious of jars of glowing and honeyed fruits sliced and packed to perfection and stowed on pantry shelves but experience tells me I'll never open one for fear of wasting any - instead they'll age and mature until they're past even the fine wine stage and go to waste anyway.

The apples have been crisp and fresh and sweet – plenty to store in the spare fridge to use through winter, and some to give away. The windfalls are for the chooks and the birds and a friend's horses and most likely some will be stolen by those sly unmentionable vermin we all pretend we haven't got. The chooks repay the gift by speedily snapping up any codling moth

I have seven espaliered heritage apple varieties which blossom and fruit at different times. Not that I planned it but it has worked out perfectly because it usually means a couple of varieties escape the late frosts – we'll always have apples.

One variety melts into a perfect puree for sauces.

One is for drying, though as the nights cool down I slice them in half, sprinkle with chilli flakes and garlic and pop them under pork chops, in a tray bake to have with brown sugar kumara mash and greens.

The past few seasons Jack Frost knocked out the zucchini before they had even set fruit. This year they've made it through until this past week. The sun rose on blackened leaves and, now, what do I spy emerging from the shadows all dark green and slytherin? - the marrows. I could have sworn I'd picked all the zuch's. Although I hang out for late summer and the caramelised sauté of garden-fresh onions, zucchinis and tomatoes my absolute indulgence is Chocolate Zucchini cake. Tho' that might be for the cream cheese icing on top rather than the veggie intake? I use Alison Holsts' recipe – tried and true but, this year, inspired by Pip Cameron's of What's for Smoko I turned the mixture into jumbo muffin pans. And her tip about grating excess zucchini into those same muffin pans to freeze and bag up to use later is simply brilliant.

This is my 35th autumn in Omarama, my favourite time of the year. And it's my sixth season of the Garden Diary. Time for change. From next month a new segment will take its place. I hope you will find it fun and hope you will contribute

- Ruth Grundy

(I garden a small space under a big sky in Omarama)



# The Last Page is Classifieds

## BREEN CONSTRUCTION

Building since 1939 - available for your all of your construction projects in the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie districts. Contact our Area Manager Jason Pryde on 021 340 694 or email [jason.pryde@breen.co.nz](mailto:jason.pryde@breen.co.nz) [www.breen.co.nz](http://www.breen.co.nz)

---

## HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Looking for a holiday house/rental from April 25 to July 31, 2021 for a family of four on a work placement. Must be fully furnished. Ideally fully fenced (we have two children under three), with WiFi connection and in the Omarama area. Can provide excellent references. Please phone Lacey 027 321 2163.

---

## OMARAMA MEMORIAL HALL & COMMUNITY CENTRE

Experienced cleaner required (self-employed)

2hrs once a month and as required

Pay rate by negotiation

Please apply in writing including a reference & experience to [hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz)

## The Omarama Gazette

**Omarama's news delivered to your inbox**

the first Wednesday of each month

To subscribe email:

**[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

Copyright © 2016 -2019 Omarama Gazette, All rights reserved.