



# Ōmārama Gazette

April 2023

## Support at home when you need it

*By Ruth Grundy*

Ōmārama-based Sonya Trusler has been appointed as a Royal District Nursing Service support worker for the Ahuriri and upper Waitaki area.

And the organisation, which operates throughout Otago, is looking for more support workers to meet the emerging need.

Sonya has been in the role for just over a month, although working in the care sector is not something that is new to her.

She also works for Healthcare NZ, and prior to moving to Ōmārama worked for McGlynn homes in Oamaru, in all gaining seven years' experience in the aged care and disabilities sectors. "I really enjoy it."

She said she was particularly excited about this opportunity because the RDNS emphasis was very much on caring for people of all age groups in their own homes. And she wants to encourage others to put their hands up for the job.

The important point to know was that you did not have to be a nurse to apply, Sonya said.

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*Sonya Trusler has been appointed as RDNZ support worker for the area*



# *Support at home when you need it - continued*

"You have to have compassion and enjoy helping people. You are trained to do the job you do."

The work can be as varied as helping people shower or with dressings or helping with housework. No two posts were the same. If a doctor or the hospital sees a need, they will refer the person to the service for support.

"The more support workers we get, the more clients we can take on," Sonya said.

It is not just elderly care. Support is provided for all ages.

It can be for those who need extra help after surgery, or help with physio, or for people or families that need an extra hand, she said.

Every case and every need was different and RDNS work to meet those needs with the ultimate goal of helping people to have independence in their home.

"We're not there to do everything for clients but to support them."

Ōmārama had an aging population and the need for this service had been recognised, even although the community was well-used to looking out for each other, she said. "Being a small community we all know our neighbours and know when something is different and people need help."

Sonya is also an Ōmārama Fire Brigade First Response and operational support volunteer.

Once the referral is made to RDNS the first likely point of contact in this area is clinical nurse manager Rebecca McCrorie, a registered nurse

Rebecca covers the Waitaki Valley, Oamaru, and as far south as North Dunedin, and "everyone in between", which includes a lot of the "little small towns", Rebecca said.

Her role is to receive the referrals and then meet with clients to assess their needs .

Clients are referred from the ACC, Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand, the Ministry of Health, and can include those with long term chronic needs.

The role is "very client-based", Rebecca said.

Although referrals generally come from doctors or the hospital, people who need extra support can make *direct contact and they would be directed to the right place*, Rebecca said.

Rebecca said the agency "would love" more support workers and the need was especially great in the Kurow area.

The focus in healthcare now is to help people "age well at home", and so we are doing our best to support that, Rebecca said.

## ABOUT RDNS NEW ZEALAND - HOME HELP SPECIALISTS

The Royal District Nursing Service is a not-for-profit organisation which provides a range of home nursing and home support services to people of all ages and cultures in the comfort and security of their own homes.

It services clients throughout Southland, Otago and Auckland districts with offices located in Invercargill, Alexandra, Dunedin and Auckland.

The range of Government-funded and private services includes: domestic assistance, personal care, respite care, restorative support and social support.

RDNS accepts referrals from a range of health and home support professionals, including general practitioners, hospitals and other healthcare and support workers.

Once referred a tailored service plan is developed with the client to meet individual needs.

The RDNS has a 'Restorative Model of Care' designed to encourage the client to have a say in their support services and to have an active role in deciding how the organisation can best provide care and support to them.

# Positive signs of progress with review

*By Ruth Grundy*

After a long wait – progress has been described as ‘glacial’ – parties appear to be making headway in coming to a new understanding about when the Ōmārama Fire First Response should be turned out to medical emergencies.

As well, Hato Hone St John has given an assurance more Ōmārama volunteers will be trained as first responders before the end of the year.

The Ōmārama First Response unit wants to be sent to all medical 111 emergency calls regardless of how serious they are because the nearest St John Ambulance and other medical assistance is at least 30km or 20 minutes away.

However, it has battled since August 2021 to have this response model formally recognised by St John and Fire and Emergency New Zealand in their interagency Memorandum of Understanding which governs the day-to-day relationship.

A public meeting was held in August 2022, which more than 200 attended, and the community made it clear to both agencies it wanted the Ōmārama First Response to be called to all medical emergencies regardless of acuity.

St John and Fenz promised to consider this 'local agreement' in their review of the MOU which started in November last year.

And until the review they would send the Ōmārama First Response to medical calls as per its ‘enhanced trial’ of the model – that is, it would be turned out to all medical calls not just life-threatening calls.

While it is not yet 'signed, sealed and delivered', this week the Ōmārama Gazette received a positive response to questions put to the parties about progress.

Fenz acting national manager, response capability, Aaron Waterreus said, while recent weather events had caused some delays,

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*There have been positive signs of progress in the review of the medical 111 call out model for Ōmārama. Photo: Jack Zorab*



## *Positive signs of progress with review - continued*

“stakeholders and interested parties” have had the opportunity to give feedback to the MOU review and they were “back on track now”.

“This feedback is currently being worked through in a series of meetings between Hato Hone St John and Fire and Emergency.

“We hope to be at a point to have a draft document out to our key stakeholders for review and comments in May,” Mr Waterreus said.

The MOU also lays out the training specifications for first responders.

In the past few months more people have volunteered to train as first responders for the Ōmārama Brigade. They do not want to be firefighters.

The Ōmārama and Districts Community Co-Response Trust has offered to arrange this and find the funds, if necessary.

Some long-time first response volunteers are hoping to step back and new recruits are needed. Plus, there is a high ratio of medical calls to fire calls in this area.

Mr Waterreus said despite the legal status of the MOU being “due for review” there was no expiry date and so it continued to “work as it should”.

“Issues such as courses for medical first responder training have recently been worked through with Hato Hone St John, and a number of courses have been scheduled, with several more about to be announced,” he said.

In a separate email St John spokeswoman Amy Milne said first responder training was “set for later this year”.

“We’re expecting to finalise the dates by the end of this week. Once we have, Fire and Emergency NZ will then communicate those dates with the Ōmārama Brigade,” she said.

So far this year, from July 2022 to March 2023, the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade has attended a total of 104 calls.

Of these, 48 were to a medical emergency and 46 were to a fire call.

There were also 10 motor vehicle accidents to which both Fire and First Response crews are turned out.

The First Response teams were on scene at those medical emergencies for anywhere from 30 minutes to two-and-a-half hours. The average time spent on scene is one-and-a-half hours.

Last year for the full year – July 2021 to June 2022 - Brigade volunteers went to a total of 95 calls.

Last month, the Ōmārama And Districts Community Co-Response Trust chairman Lindsay Purvis and Fenz Ōmārama chief Fire Officer Greg Harper sent a letter to Fenz chief executive Kerry Gregory expressing frustration at the length of time taken to review the MOU and asking him to intervene and make the required changes. His office has acknowledged receipt of the email and promised a reply once they have had time to look into the matter.

At the same time a petition with 796 signatures which asks the House of Representatives to urge Fenz and St John to make the required changes has been handed to Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean to present to Parliament.

The Trust has been told prominent rural agencies such as the Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network (formerly the New Zealand Rural General Practice Network), Rural Women New Zealand and the Rural Support Trust are prepared to submit in support of the petition.



# Anzac Day service returns to Hall

Anzac Day services this year will return to the Omarama Memorial Hall.

For the past 12 years the service has been held at the Memorial Rock which was installed outside the Omarama Police Station in 2010 as a site for an outdoor gathering in the centre of town.

Last year, with the permission of the Upper Waitaki Returned and Services Association the eight tonne Rock with its commemorative plaques and the flagpole were moved and now rest at the front of the Hall and Community Centre.

The move was made because of concerns about safety because large numbers were gathering close to the main road, and because of traffic noise.

It also means the Hall can be used for the service in inclement weather. The last Anzac Day service at the Hall was in the 1970s.

This year's service will be at the usual time of 11am on Anzac day and will be followed by refreshments at the Hall.



# Please wear a poppy - by Don Crawford

*"Please wear a poppy," the lady said  
And held one forth, but I shook my head.  
Then I stopped and watched as she offered them there,  
And her face was old and lined with care;  
But beneath the scars the years had made  
There remained a smile that refused to fade.*

*A boy came whistling down the street,  
Bouncing along on care-free feet.  
His smile was full of joy and fun,  
"Lady," said he, "may I have one?"  
When she'd pinned it on he turned to say,  
"Why do we wear a poppy today?"*

*The lady smiled in her wistful way  
And answered, "This is Remembrance Day,  
And the poppy there is the symbol for  
The gallant men who died in war.  
And because they did, you and I are free -  
That's why we wear a poppy, you see."*

*"I had a boy about your size,  
With golden hair and big blue eyes.  
He loved to play and jump and shout,  
Free as a bird he would race about.  
As the years went by he learned and grew  
and became a man - as you will, too."*

*"He was fine and strong, with a boyish smile,  
But he'd seemed with us such a little while  
When war broke out and he went away.  
I still remember his face that day  
When he smiled at me and said, Goodbye,  
I'll be back soon, Mom, so please don't cry."*

*"But the war went on and he had to stay,  
And all I could do was wait and pray.  
His letters told of the awful fight,  
(I can see it still in my dreams at night),  
With the tanks and guns and cruel barbed wire,  
And the mines and bullets, the bombs and fire."*

*"Till at last, at last, the war was won -  
And that's why we wear a poppy son."  
The small boy turned as if to go,  
Then said, "Thanks, lady, I'm glad to know.  
That sure did sound like an awful fight,  
But your son - did he come back all right?"*

*A tear rolled down each faded cheek;  
She shook her head, but didn't speak.  
I slunk away in a sort of shame,  
And if you were me you'd have done the same;  
For our thanks, in giving, if oft delayed,  
Thought our freedom was bought - and thousands paid!*

*And so when we see a poppy worn,  
Let us reflect on the burden borne,  
By those who gave their very all  
When asked to answer their country's call  
That we at home in peace might live.  
Then wear a poppy! Remember - and give!*

# 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.

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

*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.*



# ICYMI Hotel ownership changes hands

Growing optimism in the tourism sector with the return of international visitors is behind the Distinction Group's recent purchase of Ōmārama's Heritage Gateway and Countrytime hotels, owner Geoff Thomson says.

Last month, commercial real estate firm JLL announced the Ōmārama hotels plus the Mackenzie Country Hotel, Twizel, had been bought by the Distinction Group from the Mt Cook Hotel Collection.

Mr Thomson said the return of international visitors and a "growing influence on activity up and down the country" was key to the decision to add "three well-positioned assets" to its South Island portfolio.

The Distinction Group will begin operating in Ōmārama on August 1.

The company owns 16 hotels in the North and South islands including in Fox Glacier and Wanaka, and the Luxmore Hotel and Te Anau Hotel and Villas, in Te Anau

Mount Cook Hotel Collection managing director Hamish Hepburn told Stuff he was delighted for the future of the hotels.

The Godley Hotel Lake Tekapo remains in the ownership of the Mount Cook Collection.

The Heritage Gateway Hotel in Ōmārama with 98 rooms, would trade under the Distinction brand. Countrytime Hotel Ōmārama (48 rooms) would trade under the group's 3-star Discovery brand, Mr Thomson said.

*Omarama's Countrytime and Heritage Gateway Hotels will change hands on August 1. Photo: Supplied.*





# Jeannette retires from front of house

## IT JUST WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU

Receptionist Jeanette de Ridder (78), officially checked in her last guest last month after more than 20 years of service at the Heritage Gateway Hotel Ōmārama.

Jeannette and husband Rudi moved to Omarama from Cromwell in 1978 where they began work at newly-built Stagecoach Inn, now the Countrytime.

Rudi was the first chef to manage the kitchen.

In 2000, once her stint at the Stagecoach was over Jeannette started with the Ōmārama Motor Lodge, now the Heritage.

Since then, beginning in the restaurant, she has filled almost every role at the hotels including working in the laundry, and she was head housekeeper for many years.

While she might not have ever become manager she has “sorted out” at least seven in her time, present general manager Megan Talarico says, laughing.

“We’ve had a lot of laughs... we will really miss her.”

Jeannette will “really miss the place” and her tight-knit work family, having made many close friends over the years, she says.

She has not yet planned out all her free time but, aside from her gardening, she wants to spend more time with her grandchildren, and she has a new great grandchild to get to know.

She's promised to visit often but just a heads-up, there could be a few spot checks to see everyone is following instructions. :)



# The Noticeboard

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

*The Ōmārama Gazette has a focus on our 'Noticeboard' section and community group with contributions welcome. Let us all know what you are up to, and any little snippets such as congratulations or farewells.*

**Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Brian Craig**, who died in February. Brian was involved in the stock trade for the majority of his life and would be recognised by many at the sales yards. Brian and Liz are originally from Weston, Oamaru and have a cottage on Black Peak Rd. They have been enjoying Ōmārama summers for decades. Our condolences go out to Brian's wife of 52 years, Liz, Brian's son Colin and daughter Fiona, their partners and grandchildren.

## Is this yours?

A 2m trestle table has been left at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall - we're not sure when it was left there.

If it is yours, please contact Ruth 021 294 8002 and I can arrange for it to be returned to you.

**Congratulations to Michael Jackson** who celebrated his 60th birthday earlier this week.

**Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic** at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 12.30pm. 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)

**The Ōmārama Community Library** is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

**The Ōmārama MenzShed Group** meets each Saturday at 10am and at other times too. For further information please contact Malcolm Cameron 022 476 2225

## St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:

chairperson: Ven Dr Michael Godfrey, phone 022 342 9977 or email [Dylanfreak@gmail.com](mailto:Dylanfreak@gmail.com); committee secretary (Presbyterian): Rev Lee Kearon, phone: 021 250 1060 or email: [lee.kearon@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com)

**The Ōmārama Golf Club** Saturdays cards in 12.30pm, tee-off 1pm. Club captain Adrian Tuffley phone: 027 347 8276 [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

**The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group** meets once a month. For time and place contact facilitator Nicola McKerchar. Phone: 022 612 7570; email: [committee@ahuriricatchment.com](mailto:committee@ahuriricatchment.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.

**Ōmārama Playgroup** meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Ōmārama Community Centre. For more information phone president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 [rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com) or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016 [tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz](mailto:tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz)

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

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

**A gentle exercises and social afternoon group** meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises.

The exercises are run with the guidance of personal trainer Lauren Maree. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

**Waitaki Newcomers Network:** For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to E: [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz) W: [www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz) F: [facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/](https://facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/)

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Ōmārama Plunket Committee: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536  
[aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)

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

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

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

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**The May Issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, May 3, 2023.**

Please submit copy  
by Thursday, April 27 2023

# The Community Reports

## Upper Waitaki Police News



Hi all,

Well, it's been a while since my last check in.

As many of you will know, me and the family have had a bit going on in the last few months. Ange has been away getting help with a medical condition, she's now back home and doing really well. With Ange being away I took an extended period of leave so that I could look after the house and kids, although the kids may argue that, that was the other way around a fair amount of the time! Fortunately, in February I received extra

leave having completed 21 years long service and good conduct, so the extra days off helped as well. I'd be lying if I said it's been easy, but what has made it endurable is the amazing support the family and I have received from everyone. It really has helped us all get back to normal.

Of course, like any small town there are always people with nothing better to do than try and make themselves sound important by spreading rumours. As a cop in a small town, being the subject of rumour and speculation is nothing new for me and to be honest I couldn't care less, but when these rumours start affecting my family especially my kids, then it's going to go down with me like a cup of cold sick.

We have nothing to hide, and I'm happy to share the real story. If you would like to know more then please call for a chat.

I would like to assure you all that, despite rumours, I have **not** taken another job, I have **not** been suspended (Really, good ol rumour mill, gotta laugh!!) and we are **not** leaving Ōmārama.

So, just to clarify. I am back at work and have started to answer some of the 185 emails sitting in my inbox...I was thinking of just deleting them all, but apparently that's not the done thing!

My key focus for the next month is going to be Drink Driving and speeding past the skool...skill...scool...that place where ewe learn.

I know the majority of you get the message about drink driving and don't do it, but I also know some people are slow learners. If I don't catch you, one of my mates will so paleeeaaase don't do it!

School Speeds – Probably more than any other speed zone, I expect that vehicles entering a school zone will slow down to the posted speed limit prior to entering and leaving it. Anyone exceeding the posted speed limit (within school hours) by more than a couple of kilometres are highly likely to be issued with a fine.

Speedsters past the school has always been a concern for me.

I need a project and this is going to be it.

My goal is to have the southern end 70kph sign moved across the bridge as I've noticed as soon as motorists see it, they begin to speed up which is usually right



outside the school. I'd also like to see those 40kph flashing school signs installed. I will keep you updated with my progress.

Lastly winter is here, so start casting your mind to starting your car up early to properly defrost your windscreen.

Typing this made me recall when I first arrived here and seeing a certain local driving past me with his head hanging out the driver's side window because the windscreen was still iced up.

Although it was pretty funny to see, that's not what we consider safe...don't do that! Thaw it out so you can see properly before you leave!

Watch those shaded spots, bridges and especially the cutting between Ben Omar and Quailburn Rd, this was especially bad last year and from what the "oldies" in town are saying this winter may be just as bad if not worse.

Anyway, that's enough from me, thanks again for all of the support, we love this place (and people) and ain't going anywhere.

*That's it from me.*

*Stay safe,*

*Bean*

Senior Constable Nayland Smith

Sole charge Constable / Omarama / Po Box 101, Omarama 9448.

Phone: (03) 438 9559 / Ext: 34580 / <mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz>

*Speeding in the school zone has sure given the man a few grey hairs over the years*

*This photo from the Otago Daily Times story in October 2012*



School zone speeding crackdown looms | Otago Daily Times Online News

# Ōmārama MenzShed

The Ōmārama MenzShed meets  
at 10am each Saturday  
and at other times, too.

**For further information contact:  
Malcolm Cameron 022 476 2225**

## 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 support and fund local projects in the communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with Power Up. Together we're working to build strong, sustainable communities.

### How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until 23 April 2023.

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 04 803 2507

**Do you know of a community project that's working to reduce carbon emissions? Visit [meridian.co.nz](https://meridian.co.nz) and search "Decarb fund" for more information.**



## 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

# Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*Kia ora*

Another month has slipped by and now we are getting the odd frost.

Time to light the fire, so I hope the chimney has been swept. If not please get it done as soon as you can. Make sure you are burning dry wood and dispose of your ashes safely in a metal bucket with a lid.

Easter is upon us so the roads will be busy. Please drive carefully.

We have just moved into an open fire season but please check the web site [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz) before you light any fires, also check the weather forecast.

It is also the end of daylight saving so a good time to check your smoke alarms and as usual if you have any problems please don't hesitate to give us a we call. We are only too happy to come and assist if required.

**Please note, if you require any form of emergency medical assistance the correct procedure is to dial 111 and ask for an ambulance.**

Your support for our team is appreciated.

*Stay Safe*

*Greg Harper and the team at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade*

Greg Harper  
Chief Fire Officer  
021 293 1171  
[greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz)  
Facebook: /Omaramafirebrigade

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## Ōmārama Community Garden

We are a group of gardeners who work together to create something for everyone in our community.

The gardens are under construction behind the Omarama Community Centre and anyone is welcome to pop along and have a look, and also to put in any plants they may have ready to go in now.

Join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/742877880594146>

**Contact Heather Smith, 027 330 0249**

# Ōmārama Golf Club



## OMARAMA GOLF CLUB

### EASTER TOURNAMENT

#### ALL WELCOME

Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Report 12.00 p.m. for 12.30 p.m. tee off

(Evening meal supplied)

#### Stableford prizes

Entry fee: \$45.00 (Includes 2's)

On-course BBQ - Great Prizes - Raffles - Great company

Entries (including club/player ID) to:

Christine Bowman (Secretary) email [secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz)  
or Txt Adrian 0273478276

Entries to be received by Wednesday 5th April 2023

PLEASE NOTE: **NO** Eftpos available

If you wish to pay your entry fee online please contact Christine for instructions

Self-contained camper van parking available



# Age Concern

Come along to the Age Concern Otago coffee afternoon 1pm to 3pm. Come along and meet Charles Wood, the Community Educator for Alzheimers North Otago, who will speak at 1.30pm, on Tuesday 11 April 11, at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

Charles will discuss his role, information about dementia and dementia prevention as well as what support is available for carers.

*Kathryn Bennett, Waitaki Coordinator*

03 434 7008

027 4347 089

[NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz](mailto:NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz)

Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm

**Age Concern Coffee afternoons are  
on the second Tuesday of each month  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.  
The next coffee afternoon is 1pm to 3pm,  
Tuesday, April 11, 2023**

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## Ōmārama Playgroup

Ōmārama Playgroup meets at 9.30am each  
Wednesday during the primary school term  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

For more information contact:

president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 [rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com)

or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016 [tomandtmarsh@mchoney.co.nz](mailto:tomandtmarsh@mchoney.co.nz)

Plunket: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 536 [aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)

# - from the Waitaki Valley Health Trust

## Community Health and Wellness Centre for the Waitaki Community

The Waitaki Valley Health Trust has historically been responsible for providing medical services to the mid and upper Waitaki (Ahuriri Ward).

With the purchase of the Kurow-based general practice by the Gardners in 2016, the Trust has thankfully been relieved of overseeing the running of a busy and widespread practice. We have essentially become landlords, running the existing premises, on land owned by the Department of Conservation and vested in the care of Waitaki District Council.

The Trust strongly believes there is an urgent need for a replacement Community Health and Wellness Centre to replace the aged, inadequate general practice buildings. Safety, and in particular privacy of access, within a small community is seen as a priority in this concept. We are committed to broadening the scope of the facility and providing a modern purpose-built, future-proofed building that will meet the needs of the general practice and the wider community for many years to come. This in line with Trust's aims:

'The Trust exists to facilitate and enable the ongoing provision of health and wellness in the wider Waitaki Valley Community'. The key role in this mission is to secure the provision of a multipurpose physical environment to cover the breadth of services necessary to promote Health and Wellbeing, and to dispense health care. The medical practice build will be the major, but not only, component, with allied health services, including physiotherapy, counselling, podiatry, ear nurse, district nursing and particularly a community meeting room also being accommodated.'

The Trust is a charitable organisation. As such it is not required to meet commercial imperatives. Inherent in the facilitation of accessible health care is the requirement to keep client cost of access to the minimum whilst also providing for the ongoing upkeep of the planned facility. Collaboration with local Iwi – the Moeraki Runaka - is seen as a core and fundamental to this mission.

To be blunt, the existing facility is marginal at best, certainly not fit-for-purpose. It is a collection of old 1960's Catchment Commission buildings. Over time these were joined by a roofing structure and closed in (the current waiting room!). Disability and ambulance access is poor with consulting rooms and offices on different levels. Practice staff struggle with insufficient rooms and space; poor insulation and lack of adequate heating and cooling; constant maintenance issues (leaking roof, blocked drainage etc) which the Trust endeavours to fix in a timely fashion, always at significant cost. The walls are thin and not suitable for the confidentiality required in health care. Major upgrades are needed (more heat pumps, insulation, double glazing). Quite simply the 60-plus year old existing building does not meet the current building codes and is well past its used-by date.

We see this as an overdue, essential service that would supply:

- An attractive siting for the incumbent, and future, general practice staff plus separate rooms for resident and visiting allied health services – physiotherapy, podiatry, audiology, District Nurse, secondary care specialists.
- Advanced Emergency facilities – including resuscitation, holding and ease of transfer capabilities including; adjacent helipad

- Positioning close to Civil Defence services.
- Kurow-based, as central to the Ahuriri Ward stretching from Duntroon to Ohau and also the Hakataramea Valley; half way between existing centres in Twizel and Oamaru; 1.5hours from Timaru.
- A significant 'combination space' set aside for:
  - 1.A rehab gym for physiotherapy/yoga/pilates
  - 2.Community gatherings/meetings
  - 3.Gathering place for rest and relaxation for elderly.
- Advanced heating/cooling and communication, IT services.
- A double access to allow separate entrances for patients and the public, and for staff.

After a due diligence process, the Trust has identified an ideal site for a replacement facility incorporating the above. This was arrived after identifying four potential sites and analysing the virtues and negatives of each. At this point the input of the wider Ahuriri Ward community is sought to for the Trust proceed with this project.

THEREFORE, we anticipate in the near future:

- Presentation to the Ahuriri Community Board for their interaction with the WDC
- The use of villages gazettes in Duntroon, Kurow, Otematata, Omarama to advertise a series of interactive community meetings in each village so that the community can hear the plans, ask questions, and offer suggestions,

Please watch this space for announcements regarding this process over coming weeks and months.

Finally we are extremely lucky to have the current health personnel in the Gardner practice. We are in consultation with them at each step in the project process.

Jim Jerram  
(Chair, Waitaki Valley Health Trust)

**'The Community Reports' is  
dedicated to news  
from clubs, groups and sports teams.**

**Contributions are welcome.  
omaramagazette@gmail.com**



# 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 12.30pm.

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

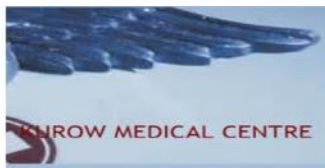
Please note: We provide 24/7 on call after hours cover by our doctors and PRIME nurses for all our registered and casual patients!

**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.*





## **KUROW MEDICAL CENTRE AND MACKENZIE HEALTH CENTRE**

### **Flu Vaccination Notice 2023**

Flu shots are **now available** to anyone regardless of eligibility or not. We now have plenty in stock and urge all patients to get their flu shot if they have not already done so. With COVID-19 now rife in NZ it is particularly important to protect yourselves and your community.

It is especially important, and **free** for:

- Pregnant women
- Anyone over the age of 65 years
- Māori and Pacifica peoples aged 55 to 64 years.
- Adults and children with certain chronic conditions who may develop complications from the flu.
- Tamariki aged 4 years and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness (including measles) or have a history of significant respiratory illness.

If you do not have an eligible condition, you can still benefit from the flu shot which is available at a nominal fee.

Please contact us to book an appointment or for any questions you may have on:

Kurow clinic: **03 436 0760**

Twizel clinic: **03 976 0503**

**COVID Boosters available to book from 1<sup>st</sup> April**  
**please call for more information or to book.**

**Stay safe and well everyone!**

Tim and Juliet Gardner

Scan the code below with your phone to find out more information on Flu and the vaccine.



# Waitaki Newcomers Network

For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)

Contact: Paula Eatherley  
Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support Coordinator  
[waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)  
[coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz)  
027 325 6151 (business hours)

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

## Support Worker Wanted



We are looking for a Support Worker in Waitaki Valley

You will be helping people in your community to live independent lives in their own homes. This involves personal care, meal preparation, home help and community activities.

### What is in it for you?

- Great hourly rates starting from \$22.49 to \$28.25
- We offer flexible hours to fit around your life (we are offering casual contracts)
- The opportunity to gain an NZQA qualification
- Tools for the job; uniform, work cellphone with a real-time roster, PPE equipment

### What is needed to be successful for the role?

- A caring and empathetic nature
- Excellent time management skills
- Minimum of a restricted drivers license & your own reliable vehicle
- Eligibility to legally live and work in NZ.

*RDNS NZ is a leading not-for-profit provider of home-based healthcare solutions in Otago and Southland*

**For more information, call Claire on 027 808 1890 or email [hr@rdns.org.nz](mailto:hr@rdns.org.nz)**

# Ōmārama Community Library

Have you popped in lately? The Ōmārama Community Library has a newly-refreshed children's section, plus more new titles just in time for holidays and winter reading.

As the nights draw in and Jack Frost nips at your toes you maybe wondering just how cosy your place actually is and how much it costs to keep it that way.

The Ōmārama Community Library has just the thing to help with that – the Healthy Homes Toolkit.

The kit is easy to use and can be borrowed just like a book...what's more the results can be fascinating even if you're not a geek and finding out where the heat goes in your home could save you money. It is free to borrow.

If you think you may need help to use the kit our Omarama Library volunteers can arrange this for you.

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The Ōmārama Community Library  
is open 9.30am to 11am,  
Wednesdays and Saturdays,  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.  
[omaramalibrary@gmail.com](mailto:omaramalibrary@gmail.com)

Contacts: Georgie 027 486 1525 or Yvonne 027 476 7473



# Ōmārama Collie Dog Club

There was snow on the tops last month as Ōmārama Collie Dog Club marshals, liberators and other volunteers, rounded up stock and took up their places for the start of the 108th annual trial.

Club secretary Carla Hunter said they were expecting about 90 competitors to campaign dogs over the two-day event. Judges were Clayton Rowlands on Event I, Alan Stewart on Event II, Brian Sparrow on Event III and Andrew Law on Event IV. Andrea Aubrey and Sarah Waldie were this year's catering convenors. The trials are hosted by the Aubrey family and held on the grounds at Dalrachney Station. And Dalrachney provide the half-bred ewe lambs and two-tooths for the competition.

## OMARAMA COLLIE DOG TRIAL CLUB

Trials, March 5 and 6, 2023

### RESULTS:

#### Event I - Long Head

L Smith and Guide 97, 1; L Smith and Code 96, 2; L Smith and Ted 95.5, 3; A Stewart and Breeze 94, 4; J Caley Ed 93.5, 5.

1st Intermediate L Smith and Code 96. 1st Maiden T Wall and Bruce 88

#### Event II – Short Head and Yard

N Hore and Frank 96, 1; S Hunter and Lucy 95.5, 2; L Smith and Guide 95, 3; M Simpson and Bill 94, 4; E Stringer and Mark 93.5, 5.

1st Intermediate E Aubrey and Jim 91.8. 1st Maiden L Duncan and Quinn 88

#### Event III – Zig Zag Hunt

R Calder and Ned 98, 1; J Broket and Duke 97, 2; I Clarke and Ash 96.5, 3; M Bloxham and Wag 96, 4; R Aubrey and Burt 95, 5.

1st Intermediate J Broket and Duke 97. 1st Maiden M Bloxham and Wag 96.

#### Event IV – Straight Hunt

L Sherwood and Doug 97, 1; A McNab and Kahn 96, 2; L Sherwood and Kate 95.5, 3; H Smillie and Base 95, 4; A Fraser and Greta 94.5, 5.

1st Intermediate L Sherwood and Doug 97. 1st Maiden L Sherwood and Doug 97.

*Photos: (from the top) Snow on the tops at Dalrachney Station; Collie Dog Club president Todd Burke takes out the judges lunches, lunch is served indoors for competitors and supporters, Judges and marshals watch the action on Event I, there's plenty of help on hand in the club rooms.*

View the YouTube clip: <https://youtu.be/el1p3nR7Rns>





# Ōmārama School

*Tena Koutou Katoa*

*Nga mihi nui, ki a tatou katoa – Warm greetings to you all*

We are thrilled to announce the appointment of Bailey Smith as the 0.6 teacher in the junior classroom. Bailey was born and bred in Fairlie and now lives close by on the Benmore Station with her partner. In addition to her teaching qualification and experience, she also has a Bachelor of Commerce from Lincoln University. Bailey is currently teaching in early childhood education and before that taught ages 7 to 10 years. Bailey also has many years experience as a Senior Lifeguard and has a National Pool Lifeguard qualification. Bailey is a keen runner and enjoys water sports, being outdoors on the farm, snow skiing, baking and spending time with family and friends. She describes herself as enthusiastic, effective, passionate, reliable, organised and committed. We are sure she will be a great addition to the team. Bailey will join us in Term 2. Last week she visited and met as many of the families as possible and she will be visiting again this week.

Well done to our fantastic swimmers who competed in the swimming champs last week, they did amazingly well. Also, our Soccer stars, we are so very proud of you all. A huge thank you to the parents who supported and transported the children, without your help and support we cannot attend these wonderful sporting events.

*Geraldine Sumner*

**Acting principal**

## **Message from the Limited Statutory Manager**

*Tena koutou*

As we are drawing near to the end of term, I wanted to update you on the fact that Geraldine Sumner is returning in Term 2 as Acting Principal.

We are very grateful for the role that Mrs Sumner has played in the school in Term 1 and thrilled that she is returning for Term 2.

She has had an extremely positive impact on the school, including introducing Positive Behaviour for Learning PB4L, as well as updating systems, processes and policies. She has also played a key role in the Board's strategic planning and annual planning. The school is in a strong position for the future.

I would also like to thank Jemma Gloag for all the work she does as Presiding Member. Jemma works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure good governance for the school.

We are currently advertising the principal role and we will update you once we have any news.

*Kind regards*

*Madeleine Hawkesby*

*Limited Statutory Manager*

## **SITUATION VACANT**

We have an opening for a cleaner, this is 10 hours per week at \$23.70 per hour.

Time is flexible any time after 3pm and before 8am.

This is a permanent position with extra hours available during the school holidays.

**Term One ends Thursday, April 6.**

**Term Two begins Thursday, April 27**

# Lake Ōhau Conservation Trust

*Come planting with us...*

*...on Easter Sunday April 9, 2023*

This is when we start our planting days of an area in Avoca Forest to acknowledge and thank the firefighters who came to fight the Lake Ōhau wildfire. Avoca Forest is our legacy restoration project to create a native forest on the site of a plantation forest burnt in October 2020. Please come along to help and show your appreciation of our wonderful firefighters.

**When:** Planting sessions are on April 9 (Easter Sunday), May 7 and May 21. Planting will be between 10am and around 3.30pm, with a break for lunch. Come along when it suits and stay as long as it suits

**Where:** Meet at 80 Ohau Drive, in Lake Ōhau Alpine Village (there will be signs out to show you where to come)

**What:** Bring a spade/shovel if you have one and your gardening gloves. Be prepared for all weathers – warm clothes and a sun hat! Wear sturdy shoes. Remember to bring some lunch and a hot/cold drink. Thanks to Mackenzie and Twizel Four Square store's there will be a BBQ sausage for everyone attending

Please contact the Trust ([ohauconservationtrust@gmail.com](mailto:ohauconservationtrust@gmail.com)) with any queries. If a planting session is cancelled because of weather – it will be posted on the Trust's website (<https://ohauconservationtrust.nz/>) and Facebook page.

## Lake Ōhau giving to Hawke's Bay recovery

Recently a small group of Lake Ōhau residents discussed the tragedy that unfolded in Hawke's Bay and Gisborne. We noticed the same "trying to put on a brave face, stunned mullet trauma" on the faces of survivors that we experienced after the Ōhau fire of October 2020.

As a result, a Givealittle page has been set up for Lake Ōhau residents, property owners and their family and friends and anyone else who would like to contribute, to collectively donate to Hawke's Bay people and communities.

Link - <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/lake-ohau-giving-to-hawkes-bay-recovery>

Two groups to support have been chosen who represent the needs of urban and rural people:

- Half the funds raised will go to the Puketapu Community Cyclone Relief Fund where the focus is on getting the money straight back out directly to the families that have been affected. Many people in Puketapu have lost not only their homes and all their possessions, but also their livelihoods.
- The other half will go to Mandy Bell of Criffel Station in Wānaka who is coordinating a group of farm fencers from Otago and Canterbury who are donating their labour to assist farmers in Hawke's Bay whose properties have been devastated by the floods. Funds raised will be used for airfares, baggage and some materials.

The target is to raise \$5000.00 in a month.

Just as people supported Lake Ōhau recovery from disaster, we encourage you to support Hawke's Bay people and communities in their recovery.

*Tony Ryan and Michelle Paterson*  
*Lake Ōhau*

# Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the  
Ōmārama Residents' Association will be  
**7pm, Thursday, April 20, 2023**  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre  
An invitation is extended to all

## Contacts:

**Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630**  
**Yvonne Jones, secretary, 027 476 7473**

(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Yvonne)

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## 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, Ōmārama 9448.**  
**The association's email address is [omarama.committee@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.committee@gmail.com)**

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## ŌMĀRAMA 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 5446  
or email [hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz)



# Care in the community

## Omarama Community Care Group

### NOW AVAILABLE...

Thanks to generous donations our group now has free emergency food supplies

- all the staples you may need to get you and your family through.

Be assured all requests and referrals are taken in confidence.

Please contact Ruth 021 294 8002.

### Royal District Nursing Service New Zealand

is now operating in the Ahuriri and Waitaki valleys.

RDNS is a local home help specialist.

The organisation offers a range of home nursing and home support services to people of all ages and cultures in the comfort and security of their own homes.

Whether you need complex nursing care at home, support while recovering from an injury or just a bit of help with housework and grocery shopping, RDNS can support you. It accepts referrals from a range of health and home support professionals, including general practitioners, hospitals and other healthcare and support workers.

**The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade** has a fold-up mobility scooter thanks to a generous donation. This along with a wheelchair are available for loan. To find out about these contact Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper 021 293 1171 or any fire brigade member.

### Covid Care

If you are unlucky enough to catch Covid-19 here is the link to the up-to-date regulations and advice.

Unite against Covid-19: <https://covid19.govt.nz/testing-and-isolation/if-you-have-covid-19/>

Ministry of Health Covid-19 Health Hub: <https://covid19.health.nz/advice/>

Please do make contact if either yourself or a friend or neighbour need anything.

We have - free RATS, free sanitiser, masks, gowns and face shields if you are caring for someone with Covid and need protection. Only a phone call away: Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002

### Age Concern (for people 65 and older).

Kathryn Bennett is the coordinator for Age Concern Waitaki, based in Oamaru. Monthly coffee afternoons are held at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

Kathryn's contact details are:

03 434 7008

027 4347 089

[NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz](mailto:NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz)

Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm

*-continued over*



## Twizel Community Care Centre news

### A warm welcome to Vicky

Vicky is the new Office Manager at the Twizel Care Centre, replacing Kristin who has moved to Oamaru.



**The Twizel-Tekapo Community Vehicle Trust** has great news with the purchase of a new Kia Seltos to add to their fleet. Available for bookings Monday to Friday through the Community Care Centre Phone 03 4350687. New volunteer drivers are always appreciated. The car can be booked and used by anyone in Ōmārama to get you to nearby towns or cities for medical appointments or shopping visits – e.g to Twizel and back or Kurow and includes trips to Oamaru, Dunedin or Christchurch etc. There is a minimal charge depending on the destination.

**If you need any of the services listed below** please contact the Twizel Community Care Centre, Mount Cook St, Twizel, Phone: 03 435 0687 Email: [twizelcare@xtra.co.nz](mailto:twizelcare@xtra.co.nz) Open: Monday to Friday 9.00am - 2.00pm

- Work and Income – assistance with applying for benefits, helping with queries regarding superannuation, and any other financial assistance you may receive. Printing and scanning of documents.
- Inland Revenue – queries regarding anything IRD related, access to forms
- Twizel-Tekapo Community Car bookings – this is a community car that picks you up from your house and takes you wherever you need to go such as town here in Twizel or Timaru for an appointment, whatever you need. There is a cost involved depending on destinations.
- Home Delivered Meals – We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for \$8 and small snack meals for \$4. We can deliver to your home.
- Printing/scanning services
- Assistance with finding jobs in the area.
- Foodbank – donations, and supply people with food parcels when in need
- Any other government services – ACC, Department of Corrections, etc
- Arowhenua Health Clinic – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Computer/cellphone assistance – needing help with something on your computer or cellphone
- Rat tests/Mask supply free of charge
- Assistance with filling in any forms or paperwork.
- Offer room hire to community groups and businesses.

**Jobs:** If you are looking for jobs a great place to start is the Jobs in the Mackenzie Facebook page. Leaine Rush runs that Facebook page. [leaine.rush@mackenzie.govt.nz](mailto:leaine.rush@mackenzie.govt.nz)

# Noticeboard

## WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

### SPORT TRAVEL FUND

The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is designed to help subsidise rural travel for junior teams aged between 5-19 years. It helps school and club sports teams participate in local sporting competitions. This round of funding opened on Monday 20 March and closed on Friday 23 April.

### HERITAGE FUND

If you are the owner of a Heritage Building or land upon which an historic site is located, you may qualify for Heritage Funding. The latest round is open now and closes Monday 15 May.

### BIODIVERSITY FUND

Fund opens 1 April – closes 25 August 2023.

Find more information and application forms on the 'Community Grants and Awards' page of our website.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the Otematata Residents Association Inc (ORAI) who broke ground in March for the upgrade of the Otematata playground.

### 2023-24 ANNUAL PLAN

**The 2023-24 Annual Plan consultation is open from Friday 31 March 2023 - Sunday 30 April 2023.**

Check our website and Facebook page for details:  
[www.waitaki.govt.nz/2023-24AnnualPlan](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/2023-24AnnualPlan)

### WAITAKI WEEKLY

Did you know Waitaki District Council has a e-newsletter that goes out every Friday called the Waitaki Weekly? We'd love for you to subscribe and stay up to date with all of our goings on. Subscribe now on the our website:  
[www.waitaki.govt.nz/WaitakiWeekly](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/WaitakiWeekly)

Waitaki District Council

Scan for more  
info and online  
feedback form



# 2023-24 Annual Plan

## 2023-24 Mahere ā-Tau

We've put together a summary of the community outcomes we want to achieve, alongside our finances, programme of activities, and rates requirements for the upcoming 2023-24 financial year.

**Public engagement on our Annual Plan is OPEN NOW and we want to hear your thoughts on the challenges we're facing and what we plan to work on, including:**

- The Waitaki Event Centre
- Unfunding depreciation
- Preparing for emergencies
- Maheno water supply
- Our Significance & Engagement Policy
- Coastal erosion



**Have your  
say by  
Sunday 30  
April 2023!**

Our Engagement Document, feedback form and supporting documents are online at:

**[www.waitaki.govt.nz/annualplan2023-24](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/annualplan2023-24)**

Printed copies are available at Council offices in Ōamaru and Palmerston, district libraries and Kurow Information Centre.

*Check our website and Facebook page for details of our Community drop-in events.*

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



**Waitaki**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI



# Ahuriri Community Board

*From Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King*

- I hope as many of you as possible took the time to complete a submission on the Waitaki District Council proposed draft 'Interim Speed Management Plan', in particular in relation to the proposed changes around Ōmārama School. Consultation on this has closed. The council will hear verbal submissions in May and adopt the plan at its meeting in June.

- just reminder that if you would like to report an issue the best way is to use the council's Snap Send Solve app. The Snap Send Solve app works by identifying the location the photo is taken using your phone's GPS data. It sends an email to the Council from your email address, including the incident type, notes, address of incident, photo, and contact details. The report is then sent to the relevant Council department to resolve. There is an Apple and an Android version of the app. [NB This app may incur internet data charges or may come out of your data package allowance. Requests can still be lodged by filling out an online service request form, emailing [service@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:service@waitaki.govt.nz), phoning 03 433 0300 or visiting the council office.]

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## Consultation on annual plan underway

Now is the time to have your say about the proposed increases in rates, fees and charges to be paid to the Waitaki District Council in the 2023/24 year.

The council's proposed annual plan - its budget for next year - is open for consultation now until April 30. In all, the council is forecasting rates to increase an average of 8.06% for the 2023-2024 year. - *Copies of the consultation document are at the Library.*

The big-ticket item is the building of the Waitaki Events Centre in Oamaru. As well, the council wants to focus is on 'preparing for emergencies', taking on the Maheno water supply, reviewing its policy about when and how it communicates with the community about its plans – the significance and engagement policy – and coastal erosion, particularly its effect on old landfills, plus roading. It also wants to 'unfund' depreciation – that is to not set aside and save the full portion of funds which would be needed to pay for the replacement of some water and property assets because the assets have been revalued and the value has gone up. It says this would mean a savings to the ratepayer 1.8% for 2023-24.

Page 13 of the document says the council expects to receive \$14.8 million in Government 'Better off' funding which it will spend on 'community well being' projects including "Waitaki Placemaking" which is part of its Economic Development Strategy. It says this will mean it can invest in the Oamaru CBD as well as Palmerston, Ōmārama and Otematata town centres. It asks for any comment about this at the end of the feedback form which is at the end of the document.

The council has given some examples of what the proposed rates increase will mean. It has estimated rates on a residential Ōmārama property of \$390,000 will go up by \$143 from \$2380 to \$2523, or \$6.91 a day from July 1. (see page 15) It has also estimated the effect on average commercial and agricultural properties in the Waitaki, also on page 15.

*-continued over*

## *Consultation on annual plan underway - continued*

However, to make sense of how much additional fees and charges – like building and licensing charges - will increase for the next financial year you will need to check the fine print - and it really is fine print. These are listed in a separate document which can be found if you scroll down from the link to the annual plan. The proposed -2023-24-fees-and-charges will come into force on July 1.

In this, on page 10, the council proposes to put up the cost for solid waste disposal by 15.38% or \$20 from \$130 to \$150 per cubic metre because of an increase in contractors' fees in the 2022/23 financial year.

The cost to dispose of green waste will rise from \$60 to \$70 per cubic metre for the same reason. These charges were also increased in the 2022/23 year.

Also on page 10 a new charge for commercial users of the A2O trail of \$5 per day per client is proposed.

In another example, on page 20 the council propose to raise the cost to register a non-working dog by \$17 to \$87 a year.

There are various ways you can have your say and these are detailed on page 18 of the Annual Plan engagement document.

Hearings of the submissions to the annual plan will take place on May 15 and 16, and the final plan will be formally adopted by the council at its meeting of June 27.

A separate consultation on the new Council Controlled Organisation – the Economic Development Agency - opens tomorrow Thursday April 6 and continues until May 7. This new agency would support economic development and incorporate tourism management and promotion.



THE MIXED MEDIA BUTTERFLY COLLECTION

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**A GATHERING OF WINGS**  
BY WAIMATE ARTIST LYN HEWITSON

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Art Exhibition at Feliz & Sage ArtSpace  
18 Bledisloe Street, Kurow 9435  
April 1st to 30th, 2023

  
WAITAKI VALLEY  
WINE OF NEW ZEALAND  
Auckland's gateway to the opening morning



# Within Reach

THE HEART OF THE UPPER WAITAKI

## EMMA NOWELL art

Emma Nowell is the third 'Within Reach' artist to exhibit in the community space window of the Kurow Museum and Information Centre. She will be exhibiting a watercolour painting of the old Kurow Railway scene around the time of 1927. With a passion for art and local history, the old photograph sparked an idea of bringing it to life with colour using paint.



Emma is a predominantly self-taught emerging artist living in Kurow, North Otago. She is living on a sheep, beef and deer farm above Lake Waitaki where she lives and breathes her creative world. She loves the seasons, the colours and the busy farm life living here brings and all these aspects contribute to her inspiration for her art.

Emma has always had a passion for art since she was young, always creating, drawing and making things. This led to art and design at high school and then went on to obtain a Landscape Architecture degree. Moving to Kurow with a young family, art and design took precedence over the landscape design and here she began to hone in on her skills and begin to build a portfolio.

Currently she has no set medium and loves to explore all possible avenues with her art. Last year the highlight was converting the old shearers quarters on the farm into a new art studio, a space to truly delve in to creating. At the moment Emma continues to build her portfolio to one day open up her studio for people to view and enjoy the work she has created.

Submissions are still being accepted to be a part of 'Within Reach' The Heart of The Upper Waitaki.



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### RSA POPPY DAY APPEAL 2023

Poppy Day is Friday, April 21.

Poppies are available now from Ōmārama businesses for a gold coin donation.

Donations collected on Poppy Day help improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for New Zealand's veterans of all ages.

Photo: Jess Bottle, Four Square Ōmārama.







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  - Kurow 9.30am-10.30am** outside the Waitaki Hotel (Our sincere thanks to Brent, Kirsty, Andrew and the team at the Waitaki Hotel)
  - Otematata 11.15-12.15** next to The Hungry Hydro and Real Fruit Ice Cream Co on the Main Road (2767 Otematata Kurow Road )
  - Omarama– 1-2pm** next to the Vets at 13 Chain Hills Highway  
(Our sincere thanks to the Lamings)
  - Twizel– 3.30-5.30pm** at the trailer park next to the Medical Centre at 15 MacKenzie Drive

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# Predator Free Mackenzie Community Trapper Event

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 6-8pm

Predator Free Mackenzie aims to have a trap in every 5 backyards in Twizel township.

## Predator Free 2050 Vision:

*'Imagine an Aotearoa New Zealand where our native species are safe from extinction and thriving alongside us. We all want our unique species of birds, frogs, lizards and plants to flourish. That's why Predator Free 2050 is working towards eradication of our three most damaging predators (rats, stoats, and possums) – and everyone has a role to play.'*

Please come along to equip yourself with knowledge and connections to help you get started.

- Learn more about trapping mammalian predators, different types of lures available and the benefits of trapping in urban environment.
- There will be displays and information on several traps and demonstrations on how to safely use them.
- Learn about different trapping groups in the community and get connected.
- We will also give you an introduction to TrapNZ and help you getting set up.
- Find out if you are eligible for a free trap and take one home with you.

By working together at backyard trapping we can help create safe habitat for birds, skinks and other cool native critters to live and survive in our gardens.

Join us on 20<sup>th</sup> April from 6-8pm at the Event Centre. Please RSVP to [predatorfreemackenzie@gmail.com](mailto:predatorfreemackenzie@gmail.com)

Join our Facebook page for updates and information.

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

**March 2023**

**Highest temperature: March 2, 28.4 C**

**Lowest temperature: March 30, 2.4 C**

**Most rainfall: March 20, 29.2 mm**

**Total rainfall for March: 88.6 mm**

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