



# **Omarama Gazette**

## **Christmas 2020**



**Goodwill to all**

# A Christmas letter home...

Dear friends,

We have all wondered what Christmas 2020 would bring.

Although we in New Zealand are allowed to gather, if we're careful, we know so many of you who would normally be with us are not as free and won't be able to make it 'home' to Omarama this year. Our thoughts are with you all.

I asked a few of you if you would like to write a Christmas letter to your friends and whanau here and let us know a little of what life has been like where you are.

I'm so sorry, it turned out to be a tough ask.

We - should I say, I - have become complacent here, somewhat cocooned in our New Zealand 'bubble', and have forgotten just how difficult it can be.

*"Thanks, but I'll pass on this one. I envy you all in NZ. Totally opposite here with Covid and nasty politics."*

*"Yes, vaccinations have started here but there is a backlog of people to work through (front line health workers then the elderly and clinically vulnerable) before most of us are eligible for it. Then the process is two stage with the two doses a month apart. So there is some way to go yet."*

*Much of the country is out of lockdown for now though with significant restrictions..*

*But with the Christmas shopping followed by Xmas itself many of us are expecting there will be another spike of infections followed by a further lockdown in the New Year. I shall try to avoid all the usual activity."*

Please know that we care.

This comes to you with our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas, and our New Year resolution to stay close whatever the distance.

*Kāti rā  
Kia hora te marino,  
kia whakapapa pounamu te moana,  
kia tere te kārohirohi i mua i tō huarahi.  
Tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou  
Kia Kaha!*

*May there be pervasive calm,  
May the sea glisten like greenstone  
and may the shimmer of light guide you on your way.  
Greetings one and all, be strong.*

In the pages that follow are three Christmas letters home from our extended Omarama family.



# A Christmas letter home...

## - from Biella, Italy

To my dear friends in Omarama,

It is with a slightly heavy heart but a strong sense of hope that I am writing this letter to you from my Italian home.

Due to the peculiar circumstances we all are dealing with at present, I will unfortunately not be able to spend the holiday season at Otamatapaio, my home away home, here in Omarama amongst you all, for the first time in thirty years I am not able to come to Otamatapaio.

While the whole world has been dealing with a complex health crisis, Italy has been especially affected, and every one of us has been left a little shaken by the gravity and unpredictability of this year's events. I do want to reassure you however that I have great faith in our ability to recover and learn from this in order to carry on our path even stronger than before.

As you undoubtedly know, New Zealand has always been of prime importance to Reda as a company, and Omarama especially has come to mean a lot to my family. And while we will not get to share this special time of year together, I really want to wish all my dear friends and acquaintances whom I have been following on social media, and everyone in the local community, a very merry Christmas and my best wishes for the coming year.

*Warmest regards,  
Francesco Botto Poala  
Chief Operating Officer  
Reda*





# A Christmas letter home...

## - *from Muntagin, Western Australia*

As we all know 2020 has been a very weird year...

After returning to Aus in December 2019 after what I thought was a year that couldn't get much worse, who could have guessed what 2020 held in store for us all.

As some will know, after having three months in Aus in the 2017 winter, we had set off in May 2018 to spend a couple of years travelling and working in Australia, but tragedy intervened with Murray becoming ill in March 2019 and us returning to NZ, and him passing a few short months later.

It was a tough call to come back to Aus, but Murray had insisted that I carry on with our dream of travelling the entire country, so Lucy ( our Jack Russell) and I headed back to Queensland in December to house sit for friends on Bribie Island - an hour north of Brisbane for most of January. I then went further north to Hervey Bay and Bundaberg for look around for a couple of weeks and to fill in some time before another house sit in Burringbar in northern NSW - inland from Byron Bay in the Tweed Valley, which is a very attractive part of the country.

This took me until the end of February and I was about to accept a three to six month position managing a motel in Mt Isa in western Queensland, when I received a call from some very old friends in WA asking me to come over and help with seeding - the planting of their crops. At this time Covid was only just rearing its head, and these guys were having to go to the UK for urgent family business, and as I had done the harvest for them in 2018 and worked for them many years ago I could slot straight into the job. So instead of an 1800 km trip to western Queensland, I set off on the 4500km journey to WA, going via SA and Adelaide to spend a few days with friends, and then up to Lake Bonney on the Murray River with other friends who we had travelled with up thru the centre to Darwin in the winter of 2017.

I still wasn't paying much attention to the Covid situation as I left South Australia for the long drive over the Nullarbor, but in hindsight my timing was fairly tight, as



three days after crossing into WA the border was closed, and it has only just reopened in the last few days. I then spent a few days in Esperance and left there the day before it went into regional lockdown. As we now know it all happened very quickly, but looking back I don't think I missed any warnings or anything. It all happened so fast it took a lot of people by surprise.

With the national and international border closures my friends were unable to go to the UK but they still wanted me to stay on and with WA being in regional lockdown - split into 5 regions and travel forbidden between the regions, I couldn't go anywhere anyway. So I spent my lockdown sitting on a 500hp tractor seeding (drilling) around 2500 ha.

Towards the end of June the border restrictions were starting to ease, and friends from Brisbane suggested that we meet up in Darwin, so after catching up with relations and friends in Perth and a quick trip down to Margaret River, I headed north, retracing our steps from our trip down from Darwin in October 2018. The west coast of WA is spectacular and places like Kalbarri, Carnarvon, Exmouth and Broome are well worth visiting - not to mention the amazing Karijini National Park near Tom Price - a very attractive mining town.

We crossed into the NT a day after the border opened, tho I did have to complete a border pass, and travelled on to Katherine and then into Darwin, to catch up with the guys who had travelled up from Brisbane. This was my fourth time in Darwin - I love the NT and the plan was to spend a few weeks there before moving on to western Queensland, where apart from a couple of brief stops while flying over it, I have not been to.

But Covid reared it's ugly head again with the outbreaks in Melbourne and Sydney and the interstate borders shut again. So a couple of weeks in Darwin turned into six or seven, while I waited to see where and when I could go. The temperatures were starting to warm up, and the humidity increasing, and an early wet season threatening, so I made a reluctant decision to head back to the west, where I had the offer of a job for harvest. Tho' the WA border was 'hard closed' I was able to apply for, and get an exemption to travel across the border as agricultural worker are classified as essential workers. But I did have to have to quarantine in Kununurra for 14 days. So in mid-September I crossed back into WA and went into quarantine in a caravan park and had a Covid test. It was getting very warm by then - 36c to 38C most days and the humidity was building. I had taken advice from an online page and brought a paddling pool, which was a saviour for both Lucy and I.

So here I am ..... in Muntagin about 350 km due east of Perth, driving a header, about two thirds of the way thru 10000ha of crop. It's been a difficult harvest with rain and thunder storms holding us up at the moment, but long days when we're going. It doesn't look as tho' we'll be finished before the 25th so I know what I'll be doing for Christmas .

Where to from here you ask ..... well it's been a tough year for me..... grief catches you out at the most unexpected moments, and I'm sure that if Covid and its border restrictions hadn't been around I would have probably given up and be home by now. I still haven't explored western and inland Queensland, but I plan to be home this year - home to Omarama. It's a great little town that I hold close to me and have some fantastic supportive friends.

*I hope you all have a great and happy Christmas and New Year.*  
Guy Sanders



## COMING EVENTS-DECEMBER 2020

*Social Club Bar Tab Draw- Every Tuesday 6.00pm sharp*

*Friday at 6.30pm Meat Raffles – Fundraiser for the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade.*

*Ice Cold Heineken now available on Tap*

*Social Club - Christmas BBQ Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December starting at 3.00pm few games, few cold beverages, BBQ dinner*

*We have a new Gaming Room with another two machines arriving soon, unfortunately we can't get carpet to finish it off till next year, but its looking amazing.*

*Our new covered in deck area in the beer garden with the addition of heaters, lights and a TV, has been a big hit with our customers, this area is now a Smoke Free Area.*

*Check out our new bottle store, (currently under construction) a new range of products will be available early to mid-December, please let us know if you would like us to stock an item for you*

*Don't forget to grab your spud in the bucket \$5.00 entry drawn mid Feb 2021 with great prizes and a BBQ to follow.*

*Christmas Ham Draw – four to be won just purchase 6 alcoholic beverages and go into the draw, which is the next 4 Tuesdays straight after the Social club Bar Tab Draw.*

*Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December Biscuits Bark up (fundraiser for the Omarama Rodeo Club)*

*(live music) "Machete Betty"*

*We will be closed Christmas Day 25<sup>th</sup> December*

*31<sup>st</sup> December Bring in the New Year with style at Boots and Jandals 9.00pm till Late Live Music "Heavy Feathers"*

*1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 Live Music in the Beer Garden*

*1.00pm till 5.00pm*



*Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, thank you for your continued custom.*

*FROM THE TEAM AT BOOTS AND JANDALS*

# A Christmas letter home...

## - from California, United States of America

**Hi, from sunny California.**

Although now we are having foggy cold mornings and praying for some rain. Northern California counts on heavy rain during November continuing to April that deposits snow in our mountains. Since we do not get any rain in late spring and summer, most of our water comes from the melting snow. But this year the rains have not come yet. It gets down to 0C degrees at night but gets back up to 20C each day and somehow the rains are avoiding us. Napa only has 5% of the normal rain for this time of year. It will be a very dry summer if things do not change. Besides that the virus is spreading rapidly, California now has a curfew from 10 pm until 5 am for at least the next month. And the government is pleading for all the citizens not to visit and celebrate the holidays with their families and friends. How I am missing visiting your beautiful town and sharing a beer in the pub. It will only be the second time since 1995 that I am not able to spend your summers in Omarama, chasing all the trout and remembering to keep to the left side of the road.

Many days I regret leaving New Zealand in late March right before they shut down the airport and highways. But then Denise would probably become very tired of me holed up in her lovely cottage and my three kittens would probably file for "child abandonment" if I stayed over for a year.

Our government is promising to give me the vaccine by April since I am over 65 and in a high risk group but that will be too late for trout fishing and our grape vines will need some loving tender care by April providing we get some much needed rain. Please think of me while you are enjoying a brew in the pub and I am holed up in my home going stir crazy.

*Take care*

*Frank, Frank G. Monaghan*





# Here comes Santa Claus ...

Here comes Santa Claus, ...Bells are ringing, children singing,  
All is merry and bright at the Omarama Playgroup Christmas party 2020  
at the Pink Glider Café.

*To enjoy a video go to the Omarama Gazette Facebook page.*







# Santa makes history :)

This year Santa made history at the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade's Christmas party. Can you guess why?

We've never seen so many blokes queue up for a cuddle.

Some (most) were a little taller than Santa and all had much hairier legs.

And we're not at all sure that Santa is supposed to play favourites, but the chief has obviously been very, very good this year!

Merry Christmas everyone and especially to the littlest volunteers, (and Copper).

*To enjoy more photos go to the Omarama Gazette Facebook page.*









# School end-of-year assembly 2020

It was a day of goodbyes. Who will forget 2020?!

And a day to look forward to great new beginnings.

Farewell to our year 8s – we all are so very proud of you! This was your day...

Go well; Toby Bochel, Sadie Mason, Ebony Scobie and Cam Smith.

Congratulations to you all on completing an extraordinary year!

And farewell Mr (Bevan) Newlands and Mrs (Melissa) McLellan.





## A Tribute to our Sunshine Girl

In memory of Eliza-Jayne Coetzee, who died October 4, 2019  
A place to sit and remember Omarama's Sunshine Girl at school was 'opened' by Eliza's mum, Tania, and friends; Cam Smith, Ebony Scobie and Toby Bochel at the end-of-year assembly  
The chair was an idea of her friends, fellow Omarama School pupils, and was crafted by Luke Denton. (Mrs D's husband).





# From the 2020 album ...

From the album, Omarama 2020

*(With thanks to all who contributed photos)*

These likely lads below begin our community album for 2020.

In 2020 we marked 50 years of Wajax – the competition using the portable pump, an integral part of a rural firefighter's equipment – and which began in Omarama.

In this year like no other, we owe a debt of gratitude to these young men and the others of their time for their vision. Tho' possibly they were just intent on having a bit of fun.

By February organisation was well in hand for the Wajax comps and our team began practicing for the event. Ultimately, by the end of the year that practice has been put to good use on more than one occasion.

And after several years of intensive fundraising the Omarama Community Sports Courts were opened. Scarcely, a day goes past when it is not being put to good use. This year an Aussie took out the hotly contested hot potato - the Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama Spud in the Bucket competition. Let's admit it, it had to happen eventually.

We begin to hear of the new Coronavirus which will change our lives, as the cancellation by China of all tours out of that country cause wide-spread cancellation of







# From the 2020 album ... *continued*

bookings here. The invisible and insidious cloud which will soon to blanket the world begins to creep over the country.

In March

The Omarama Collie Dog Club has a new president and young volunteer.

An Omarama identity, Glide Omarama, closes its doors.

There are more job losses as the fallout from the virus hits home.

The Maadi Cup is among the many events cancelled. We are disappointed but stoic.

We're doing the right thing, lives are on the line.

And then...

Overnight, we were introduced Covid-19 alert levels.

We stocked up on loo paper and faced up to life without takeaways.

Everything closed. We stayed home.

We were apart but not alone.

The community wrapped itself around its vulnerable.

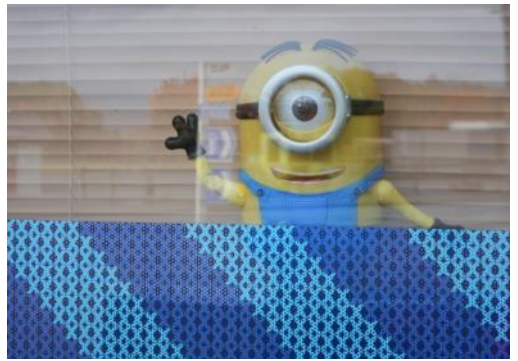
Some heroes don't wear capes - Thank you

The Daily Wire replaced the Omarama Gazette for a while and our Coronavirus diary began. Mostly the contributions came from our pets which suddenly became the centre of our world – Omarama's dogs have never been so fit!

We stepped outside at 7pm each Wednesday night at the weekly siren call to arms









# From the 2020 album ... *continued*

and with our background orchestra of pots and pans, toots and whistles we made a big noise about it!

The international 'bear hunt' for bored children took on a uniquely Omarama twist. We mastered, or didn't, working and schooling and zooming from home.

#StandAtDawn On Anzac Day our town gathered in the streets below Ladybird Hill to hear the Last Post ring out and as the flag was lowered we remembered at home.

As restrictions lifted we nervously opened the door to a changed world.

School reopened with new principal Bevan Newlands.

There was no time for complacency as work and play began again in earnest

Firefighters battled smoke and ice to control a chimney fire at Wrinkly Rams.

Then it was a ground-breaking moment as work began on the Sailors Cutting to Benmore section of the Alps 2 Ocean cycle trail.

Our juniors were able to go out a huntin' and a fishin' once again.

And our Ripper rugby stars and coach excelled themselves in what was to become an award-winning season.

Others got on quietly serving our community behind the scenes.

Covid closed our hotels with more out of work.

Then disaster struck Ohau and we were overwhelmed by its ferocity. It was beyond







# From the 2020 album ... *continued*

comprehension. Our close friends and neighbours were safe but lost all.

We began to put our world back together again.

The good news stories started coming.

Just like our junior hockey team learned – you fall down seven times and get up eight.

We celebrate a Covid-19 Melbourne Cup in Omarama, and at long last the trail section is complete opening up beautiful new views of our place to us and the world.

We end our year celebrating the day with Omarama Legend, 'Wingy'.

It was 'Many Happy Returns' to our laird of Boots and Jandals Hotel's infamous table at the 'Dunny Door' from your Omarama friends and whanau.

Could this be our theme song for 2020?

"So no one told you life was gonna be this way

Your job's a joke, you're broke

Your love life's DOA

It's like you're always stuck in second gear

When it hasn't been your day, your week, your month

Or even your year,

But we'll be there for you."

*Kia Kaha dear friends*

*Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021*







# The Noticeboard



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

**The Gliding New Zealand Multi-Class National Championships** will be at Omarama Airfield, January 1 to January 10.

**Kurow Medical Centre Omarama Clinic** at the Omarama Community Centre, is open Tuesdays, 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm 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)

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

The library will be closed Boxing Day and Wednesday, December 30, 2020

**St Thomas' Omarama 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. Contact: Kay Verheul 03 438 9538.

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

**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.

**Omarama Playgroup** meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Omarama Community Centre. For more information phone president Andrea Aubrey, 03 438 9863; vice president Ruby Milestone, 03 438 9401, secretary Carla Hunter, 03 976 0504

**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.

**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.

Learn to play Bridge Otematata, 7pm Thursdays at the Otematata District Club. We have several persons learning at the present time. people can just sit in and watch to begin with if they prefer. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764 or just arrive. Non members of the club will need to be signed in by an existing member.

**Plunket Line: 0800 933 922**

Omarama Plunket Committee: phone Petrina Paton 027 345 6192

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

If you find anything amiss in the Omarama Gazette  
please contact Ruth Grundy, 021 294 8002 or email [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)  
and I will do my very best to put it right.

To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our  
Facebook page and website and Instagram.  
[www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/)  
[omaramagazette.nz](http://omaramagazette.nz)  
<https://www.instagram.com/omaramagazette/>

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.

**The February issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, February 3, 2021.**

**Please submit copy  
by Friday, January 29.**

**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)

# Merry Christmas from Kurow Medical Centre and Mackenzie Health Centre!



## **Kurow Medical Centre, Mackenzie Health Centre and Omarama Hall**

### **Opening and closing dates for Christmas and New Year 2020/21**

Monday 21 Dec	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Tuesday 22 Dec	OPEN in Kurow, Twizel and Omarama
Wednesday 23 Dec	OPEN in Kurow, Twizel
Thursday 24 Dec	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Friday 25 Dec	CLOSED
Saturday 26 Dec	CLOSED
Monday 28 Dec	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 Dec	OPEN in Kurow, Twizel and Omarama
Wednesday 30 Jan	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Thursday 31 Jan	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Friday 01 Jan	CLOSED
Saturday 02 Jan	CLOSED

**24/7 ON CALL COVER WILL BE PROVIDED AS USUAL TO ALL OUR REGISTERED AND CASUAL PATIENTS BY OUR DOCTORS AND PRIME TRAINED NURSES**

**Call 03 4360 760 Kurow or 03 976 0566**

**Dr Tim, Juliet and all the staff at Kurow Medical Centre & Mackenzie Health Centre would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Year!**



# The Community Reports

## The Upper Waitaki Police News



Well that's it, another year done 'n' dusted. I don't have a lot more to report since my last article so I thought I'd summarise the incidents that will make 2020 more memorable than most.

COVID 19 – Lockdown was a trying time for me in a policing perspective. It's hard to police something like that without upsetting people. In all honesty we were lucky that the majority of the country was invested. What I did like was the way the community rallied around those that were alone or elderly. I'd also have to say that without the com-

munity's cooperation my job would've been a lot harder. Bloody glad that we didn't have to go back into a second lockdown all the same, and those COVID 19 adverts, I know they're important but to actually pay someone to work out what the most annoying sound is on earth and then use that sound as the prelude to a COVID 19 safety message is either brilliant or mad....hmmmm I better say no more or I'll get myself into trouble again.

Lake Pukaki and Lake Ohau fires. When I helped with the Lake Pukaki fire I took some videos thinking that it was likely a once in a lifetime event and I'd never see anything like that again. Needless to say that when I arrived at Ohau village I was well and truly wrong. Words can't express the apocalyptic views that greeted me. Once again the Omarama fire brigade impressed me with the way in which they handled themselves. The professionalism and expertise they exhibited even under fairly stressful conditions was amazing. I know it's wrong for me to only pick out the Omarama Brigade but they were the ones I saw in action as I stayed with them so they could save my butt if things turned pear shaped, which when we had fire coming at us from both sides and nowhere for us to go I was pretty happy about! I know all of the attending brigades from around the area did an outstanding job and congratulate them as well.

There was also a couple of Ohau village locals who went above and beyond. I'm hoping that their brave efforts will be recognised appropriately in the new year. I'd also congratulate the Ohau community who evacuated so quickly and effectively. The pre-planning for such an event no doubt saved lives that night.

Those 3 incidents would be the ones that stick in my mind for 2020....hopefully that's it. I'd also like to acknowledge the support that I've received over the last 12 months from within the community. Sometimes policing can be tough, and your messages and support were/are very much appreciated.

Anyhoo that's it from me, Ange, and the kids, wish all of you a safe Xmas, look out for each other and roll on 2021!

*Constable Nayland Smith, Omarama Police.  
021 191 4808 or email [nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)*

# FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Howdy everyone,

To our community

On behalf of the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year.

Thanks for your support at our big calls, at our Golf Tournament and at the raffles at Boots and Jandals Hotel.

Remember we are available 24 hrs a day dial 111 and ask for the service you require.

*- Stay Safe, Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper*

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

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## On behalf of the Oamaru Combined Churches Foodbank

I would like to thank Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Duntroon and surrounding areas for your generous donations of food.

We were overwhelmed with the support we received and our shelves are now very well stocked.

Your donations are very much appreciated and enable us to continue our work in the community.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas.

Kind regards,

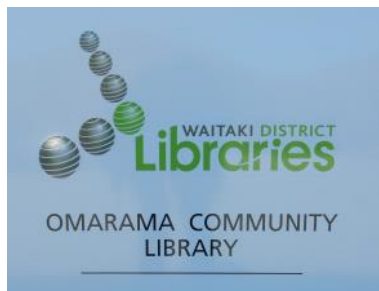
Jill Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer.

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



# Omarama Community Library



The library will be open as usual over the holiday break  
EXCEPT Boxing Day and December 30 when it will be closed.

The Omarama Community Library is open 9am to 10am,

Wednesdays and Saturdays,  
at the Omarama Community Centre.

Contact Yvonne : 027 476 7473

## A happy ending

Do you remember this? In December 2017 - three years ago - Sharon Rogers placed this in the Omarama Gazette's classifieds.

*"Missing – Taken?"*

*Would the person who removed the cast iron 'boot last' – similar to the ones pictured here -from the garage at 12 Black Peak Rd, Omarama, please return it.*

*It is of huge sentimental value, my Dad gave it to me years ago.*

*Please put it back over the fence, no questions asked."*

Last week Sharon, who had resigned herself to the fact the boot last had gone for good, was overcome when she discovered it had been returned.

She is so very grateful the person responsible had a change of heart.

## Veterinary Centre Omarama Christmas Hours



Wednesday	23 <sup>rd</sup>	December	8.30am – 5pm	Wednesday	30 <sup>th</sup>	December	8.30am – 5pm
Thursday	24 <sup>th</sup>	December	8.30am – 5pm	Thursday	31 <sup>st</sup>	January	8.30am – 5pm
Friday	25 <sup>th</sup>	December	CLOSED	Friday	1 <sup>st</sup>	January	CLOSED
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup>	December	CLOSED	Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	January	CLOSED
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup>	December	CLOSED	Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	January	CLOSED
Monday	28 <sup>th</sup>	December	CLOSED	Monday	4 <sup>th</sup>	January	CLOSED
Tuesday	29 <sup>th</sup>	December	8.30am – 5pm	Tuesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	January	8.30am – 5pm



24 HOUR EMERGENCY ANIMAL CARE  
AVAILABLE ON  
0800 VET 111





# **OMARAMA GOLF CLUB**

## **NEW YEARS TOURNAMENT**

### **ALL WELCOME**

**Saturday, 4<sup>TH</sup> January 2020**

**Report: 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. tee off**

**Or optional**

**8.00 a.m. for 8.30 a.m. tee off (dependent on numbers only. Please advise if this is your preference)**

### **Stableford prizes**

**Entry fee: \$40.00 - Two's \$2.00**

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

**Evening clubhouse meal to follow golf**

**Entries (including club/player ID) to:**

**Adrian Tuffley (Club Captain): text/phone 0273478276 or**

**Christine Bowman (Secretary) email [secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz)**

**Entries to be received by 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

**PLEASE NOTE: Cash only at the bar**



# Omarama Golf Club

*By Christine Bowman.*

The last report for 2020 but we are not resting yet. Plans are well underway for our annual New Year Tournament on the 2nd January 2021. Now we need the weather gods to deliver a warm, windless day!! Poster is below if you or your friends would like to enter. It's filling up fast, so it will be a great day.

Our annual AGM was held last weekend and the following is our new committee:

President	Greg Harper
Vic President	Paul Bowman
Secretary	Christine Bowman
Treasurer	Adrienne Harper
Club Captain	James Moynihan
Course Convenor	Johnny Anderson
Committee Members	Ant Ford, Peter Trusler and Aaron Ferguson

We wish to acknowledge Adrian Tuffley for the great job he has done as Club Captain over the last several years. Without his efforts the club wouldn't be in such a strong position we are now.

The Runholders tournament was held the first week of December, with the normal friendly rivalry to win the three-person ambrose tournament. Dalrachney Station came out this year's winner, the team being Ed Audrey, Andy Moore and Carla Hunter (pic below). A big thank you to Peter Walsh & Associates for sponsoring the event.



# 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](mailto: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)**





# Omarama Combined Church St Thomas's

Welcomes all  
to the  
Christmas Carol Service

7pm, Christmas Eve  
at the  
Omarama Memorial Hall

35 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama

A service for the whole Family.

Joy to the world  
Peace on earth  
Goodwill to all



# ***VERY SOCIAL***



When – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>.

Where – Otematata Sports domain

Time – 3:00pm

Grades – Social Mixed and MDK (Mum, Dad, & the Kids under 12yrs)

Cost \$25.00 per team - register on the day or via text.

Administrator – Nick Chapman, Ph or Text-021355681



# Otematata Golf Club

## In Breaking News...

The Otematata Golf Club is to take up the Cancer Society's challenge and will hold a 72-hole longest day relay, to raise money for cancer support, on Saturday, January 16.

We shall have teams of four, each member will tee off at different times, probably starting at 6am then 9am, 12noon and 2pm. Each person of the team will play 18 holes.

All participants will get as many sponsors as they can, although there will be a main sponsorship pool.

Entry will be free, no prizes for first home, all funds will go to cancer.

Details are to be finalised but there is likely to be a raffle and a sausage sizzle with sale of sausages in bread etc. Maybe all team members will complete in last couple of holes to enable a group celebration at completion of massive task.

If there are any persons who would like to enter please email [ethel.gray@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ethel.gray@xtra.co.nz)  
Funds may be deposited to SBS Bank account number 03-1355-0737778-00 stating 7-longest day as reference.

Tea and coffee and some nibbles will be available on the day.

The stipulation is for the 72 holes to be played in one day any time between December 1 to January 31.

- *Ethel Gray*



# Old 4 New

Coastguard Lifejacket Upgrade



For a limited time trade in your old lifejacket for a great discount on a range of new, modern fit-for-purpose lifejackets.

For details visit [www.old4new.nz](http://www.old4new.nz)

"Otematata"

Location

The Green, 2736 Otematata-Kurwao Rd

Date

Mon 21 Dec 20

Time

10am-3pm

WEAR A LIFEJACKET

IT NEVER RUINED A DAY ON THE WATER

**COASTGUARD**  
THE CHARITY SAVING LIVES AT SEA

Proudly supported by

**MARITIME**  
NEW ZEALAND

Giltrap



**Hutchwilco**

**BOATING & OUTDOORS**



# ONE POO CAN CLOSE THE LAKE



**POO IN  
THE LOO**



**SWIM  
NAPPIES  
FOR NIPPERS**



**SCOOP UP  
THE POOP**

## **POO IMPACTS WATER QUALITY IN OUR LAKES**

Just a small amount of human or dog poo can shut down a whole swimming area for days — don't ruin everyone else's holiday.

[ecan.govt.nz/usealoo](http://ecan.govt.nz/usealoo)



# *Waitaki Lakes* HOLIDAY BIKE TRAIL

**TUES 5 – SUN 17 JAN, 2021**

**OTEMATATA WETLANDS  
WALKWAY**

win  
prizes!



Entry forms will be available from  
Otematata On The Spot or print  
your own from [Waitaki.govt.nz](http://Waitaki.govt.nz)



**Waitaki**

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI

# *the* **PINK GLIDER** *cafe*

**Closed Monday and Tuesday**  
**Open Wednesday to Saturday 8.30am to 8pm**  
**Sunday 8.30am to 4pm**

**CLOSED:** Christmas day, Boxing day, New Year's day

**Phone:** Tanya 027 673 1381



*wishing you a very*  
**WAITAKI Christmas & Happy NEW YEAR**  
*from WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL*

## **CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY SERVICES**

We'll be taking a break over Christmas and closing our office doors in Oamaru and Palmerston.

### **Oamaru & Palmerston Council Offices:**

Close at 12 noon on Thurs 24 December 2020.

Re-open on Mon 11 January 2021

(Phone enquiries only from Tues 5 January)

**Waitaki Aquatic Centre**  
**Waitaki District Libraries**  
**Waitaki Museum & Archives**  
**Landfills and Recovery Parks**

} Will be open  
but with limited  
hours over this  
period

All information, including after-hours contact details,  
can be found at **[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)**



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



**Waitaki**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri o Waitaki





DAVID O'NEILL  
CONTRACTING LTD

*Dave, Prue, Samantha, Jack and the team would like to wish all  
our clients and community a very*

*Merry Christmas with family and friends*

*We hope you have a happy and safe New Year over the holidays.*

*We thank you for all your support and business throughout 2020*



# **Omarama Four Square**

**Open: 8am to 8pm Mon to Fri  
8am to 7pm Sat/Sun  
(Closed Christmas Day)**

**For all your grocery needs,  
including  
Hot Chickens, Pizzas,  
Fresh Produce,  
Butchery & Bakery goods  
(So not to miss out! – orders taken for Hot  
Chickens, Fresh Bakery & Pizzas)**

**Plus don't forget to see us for  
your last minute  
Christmas goodies,  
toys, wrap & bows.**

**Pre-orders are now also being taken for your  
Christmas milk, cream, fruit and salads.**

**Blair, Alona and our team  
wish you and your family  
a happy and safe holiday season**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS  
EVERYONE !**



# All I needed to know about 2020 ...

## All I needed to know about 2020 I learnt from my puppy

1. Start every morning with a hug, a big long stretch and a run (walk).
2. Give it everything you've got and then rest. Naps are necessary.
3. Always welcome your people home with exuberance. You've missed them and you don't know where they've had to go in their day.
4. Sometimes there are no answers, it makes no sense - you shake it off and start again.
5. You maybe cute (?) and just want to play but not everyone wants to play right now, and not everyone likes dogs, and that's okay.
6. It's really, really, really hard to learn to sit and stay and wait.
7. Who cares about tomorrow, let's enjoy now.
8. If you have a bad day, got stung by a bee or baled up by the chooks, learn the lesson and move on.
9. You maybe short but you can take on the world for those you care about.
10. The best way to deal with a face mask is not to eat it – that means a trip to the vet!

Love your people because they matter most. Keep faith, always hope and spread unconditional love ...with boundless, bounding JOY!



There's one more thing... I say it every year - it's still true Thank you for your contributions, thank you for sharing. It is a privilege to put the Gazette together and I enjoy every moment. Truly, I could not do this without you.

We live in a truly beautiful part of the world and among a community that cares. Let's celebrate our place. A world of good wishes to you all ...The Gazette is back February 3, 2021.

- Ruth Grundy, editor.

**The Omarama Gazette**  
**Omarama's news delivered to your inbox**  
the first Wednesday of each month  
To subscribe email: