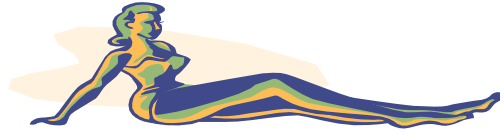


# **-OMARAMA GAZETTE –**

*This June 2013 issue is sponsored by*

## **Valley Beauty- Otematata**

Articles to e-mail address [booiman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:booiman@xtra.co.nz) (or to have your name added to the address list)  
Next cut-off 30 June 2013. **Gazette out 1 July 2013.**



### ***Valley Beauty***

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## St Thomas' Church

### June Church Notices



### .Combined Churches Service

**Sunday 23rd at 3pm**

Seriously good fun winter social bowls

5th June, 10 am at Church

Enjoy a cuppa & cake afterwards.

Clergy Contacts

Rev Ken Light, Anglican Vicar for Waitaki Oamaru Parish 03 437 0064

### Ahuriri Community Board Report

- Next Meeting Monday 10th June at Kurow Community Hall at 3.15pm.
- Public forum at start of meeting. All welcome.

Cathy Ferguson, chairperson

#### ASURE SIERRA MOTELS & TACKLE SHOP OMARAMA AVE, OMARAMA.

Winter fishing licences now available (1st April until 30th September) \$72 Adult , \$14.00 Junior .

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## **Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade**

The Brigade has had a quite a busy month with eight calls, which included one to Twizel, two medical calls, one motor vehicle accident, one to Sailors Cutting to assist a family after their boat overturned and three to Otematata.

On June 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a Pot Luck dinner at the station to farewell the Spence family who are heading overseas. Start time is 5pm everyone is most welcome to come along. Please bring a hot or cold dish to share. Numbers are required by Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> June so please ring Lynda on 4389661.

**Howard Williams**  
**Chief Fire Officer**

## **Ahuriri Issues: - 31 May 2013**

### **Settlement Road - Kurow**

Calum Reid made an impassioned plea to Council during the submission hearings for the Draft Annual Plan, to have Settlement Road upgraded to tarseal. The purpose of his submission was to highlight the very dangerous situation regarding traffic sharing the road with young children walking and riding their bikes to school. The gravel road is causing a lot of dust being thrown up which lessens visibility.

I am sure the Kurow school parents and teachers share his concerns and it would be a really strong message if they were to help Calum by forming a working group to look at the solutions. A group of concerned ratepayers approached the Community Board a year ago voicing their concerns, but budgetary constraints stopped any further progress. I am happy to push this forward in conjunction with the Board as well.

### **Otematata Golf Club Irrigation**

I am sure most of you know that the Otematata ratepayers currently subsidize the golf course's water rate. The Club has submitted to Council that they would like this subsidy rolled over for another year, because they are concerned that a higher water supply bill will make their subs unaffordable to many members.

I have received very mixed replies to my questions of locals as to what they think. I know that the golf course is a great asset to Otematata and another important amenity to the town and to the people who enjoy holidaying in Otematata, so I would be interested to hear more views as to what you think. Please call me on 4389755, if you have a view.

### **Ohau and Omarama Water Upgrades**

After questioning Council officers as to why this seems to be a project moving along at a "glacial" pace, they advised that there is a problem getting drilling crews on site, due to the large workloads they have with new irrigation projects and Chch earthquake work. All I can comment on here, is please don't hold your breath!

### **Boat Ramps/Fees**

The Timaru Yacht and Power Boat club asked Council to be more transparent as to the amount of funds that have been raised and what is planned for future upgrades. Our property department has been undermanned and is facing a number of challenges to get to grips with projects that require urgent attention, but have given me an undertaking that they will produce a report in the near future.

### **NZTA Roding Subsidy to Council**

Council is currently submitting to NZTA to alter its road funding programme, from purely a population based system to one more reflective of export receipt funding. Currently Councils that have a large rural roading network, are faced with huge burdens to keep these roads up to standard and given these roads provide the vast bulk of the nation's wealth by enabling primary produce to get to market, we feel that more central government input is needed to help offset the huge burden our rural ratepayers are face.

**Craig Dawson**

**Councillor - Ahuriri**

## MCGARTLAND PLUMBING

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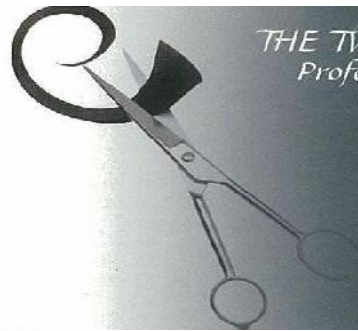
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## Oamaru First Aid Training - Tuesday 18th June

-We are pleased to advise we are training in Oamaru on **Tuesday 18th June @ NZ Blind Foundation, 6 Steward Street.**

A full range of courses available:

- **Full Workplace First Aid (8.30am-4.30pm)**

-**Refresher First Aid (8.30am-12.30pm)**

-**Basic First Aid & CPR (8.30am-12.30pm)**

Should you require a booking, please feel free to contact me in the first instance.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

**Garry Hogg**  
Meditrain SC

If we can get enough numbers, the instructor will come up and take the course here in Omarama. The training is free for those who belong to either the brigade or rural fire, but I am sure if someone is interested, they could pay and come along and get their first aid certificate, especially if they need it for work. We need to know before the end of the month if anyone else is interested. It will be a good opportunity for someone to get this certificate; if we can't get enough then training will take place as listed below.



Michael Blackstock

## UPPER WAITAKI RSA

On behalf of the Upper Waitaki RSA, I would like to thank all the businesses in Omarama who helped us with our 2013 Annual Poppy Collection. Your support is very much appreciated and we do pass on to our members to support those businesses who support us. Remember that the money collected here, remains here to be spent within our community, helping our veterans, their families and the community. If you have any inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact us. You can write to us at PO Box 57, Kurow 9446 or email me at [r.j.riverside@xnet.co.nz](mailto:r.j.riverside@xnet.co.nz) or phone 0211095297/ 4389481. Michael Blackstock (President).

## **Omarama Business Group**

The Omarama Business Group meetings are held on the first week of each month and are open to all those who have a business interest; farming, retail, hospitality, tourism and any other. If you have a business idea or would like to be informed about what is happening in the district, come along. The breakfast meetings are held at the Heritage or Country Time. This month it is at the Heritage on Tuesday at 8am. Breakfast is \$10.

*Why would you want to do this? You learn about council, community and other important issues that affect the local area and enjoy a social get together. For more information contact Jan at; [info@hottubsomarama.co.nz](mailto:info@hottubsomarama.co.nz)*

.....

## **Omarama and Benmore Districts Memorial Seat**

Fundraising has started to place a seat beside the RSA Memorial Rock in Omarama. Families will be able to put a brass plaque on the seat in remembrance of those men and women who served in the armed forces. Council has been approached and a suitable seat sourced. We will report back once the seat has been approved by council. The plaques will be standardized and information on where to order them can be obtained from Michael Blackstock. We see this as a summer project and fundraising ideas and donations can be forwarded to Michael Blackstock and Sally Fodie.

*It is a way to honor those who gave service and were lucky enough to return to the district.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Totara Peak Gallery Winter Closure**

**In accordance with tradition – the gallery will be closed from Tuesday 4th of June and will be back in full time business on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September.** However we may be open some weekends in August. Email us at [fodie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fodie@xtra.co.nz) if you want to check on our hours in August. Thank you to all that have supported us. We look forward to seeing you again next season. Keep warm- Sally, Tony, Jill and Anne.

***CONGRATULATIONS TO JEMMA AND RICHARD WITH  
THE BIRTH OF BABY ANGUS!!!!***



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# GENTLE EXERCISE PROGRAMME

## Thursdays

1.30-2.30pm - commencing 2 May  
(session will run for 30 minutes followed by afternoon tea)

**Otematata District Club**  
Sefton Lane

## Gold coin donation

*This new programme is targeted towards members of the community who would like to build muscle strength, improve balance, and increase fitness. The aim is to reduce the occurrence of falls and maintain independence.*

*Sessions will be run by two experienced professionals in a relaxed and social environment. All ages and abilities are welcome!*

**For more information, please contact Ethel on 03 438 7764 or Eleanor on 03 438 7875.**



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## Omarama Memorial Hall reroofing

The hall reroof will be done soon (this coming week) and there will be a large quantity of good quality galvanised corrugate roofing iron available.

Approx 300m2 in 2.4m sheets.

Anyone interested please contact me. Thanks.

### **Hank Verheul Builder**

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Hank Cell 027 221 5192  
Email : [hankay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hankay@xtra.co.nz)

## RADIO NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL BACK ON THE AIR IN OMARAMA

After a bit of minor tweeking RNZ went life in Omarama on the 28th of May 2013. Funding was granted through Meridian to get the transmitter fixed, and moved to the top of Cloud Hill. This has given the people of Omarama, and surround, a choice of radio station. Great!

Many thanks goes to Meridian for their funding, and to Stephen Grundy for his work fixing the transmitter. (Also thanks to all other people involved in getting RNZ going again-Ed)

## Tune in to 97.3 FM

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## ANZAC Teddies

Winner of the four ANZAC Teddies was Mrs Joy Ramsay of Oamaru. It was drawn by Constable Craig Bennett and witnessed by Rhonda Curry. When I contacted Mrs Ramsay, she was delighted to have won, never expected to win anything but she went on to say that she had only taken a ticket as a donation and she wished the Upper Waitaki RSA to keep the Teddy Bears. She hoped that the Bears could be used for more fundraising. She said that she was at that stage of her life where she is giving away her possessions and wasn't interested in obtaining more

Teddy Bears. I thanked her most graciously on behalf of the Association for her kind gesture. I said the Teddies, which I brought back from Australia after seeing them in the Nerang RSL on the Gold Coast, were acting like real Aussie Bears in the way they had "boomeranged back to us"



Regards

**Michael Blackstock Tel. 03-4389481**

**Email: [r.j.riverside@xnet.co.nz](mailto:r.j.riverside@xnet.co.nz)**

14 May 2013



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

---

### **Predator numbers climb past 11,000**

Over 11,000 predators have been caught in the Tasman riverbed near Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park in the last seven years.

This figure has been recently collated by Twizel *Te Manahuna* Department of Conservation staff, and it comes from 1400 traps operated in the riverbed and on the lower slopes of the surrounding mountains. Since 2005 a large scale predator control project has been running to protect riverbed wildlife. Native species that benefit from this predator control include beetles, wētū, grasshoppers, lizards and riverbed birds.

### **Tasman riverbed predators**

<b>Predator</b>	<b>Number caught since 2005</b>
Hedgehogs	5,813
Wild cats	1,559
Stoats	2,594
Weasels	139
Ferrets	652
Possums	481

# Chicago – Toronto – New York

As daylight arrived so did the scenery from Green River with the monument style rock formation to Grand Junction in Colorado which was our first stop. Then on to Glenwoods Springs and through the Fraser Canyon with the tiered road on the otherside and as Fraser Canyon is renowned for fishing you could see the anglers chasing the Rainbow, Browns and Cutthroats while the train made it's way to Fraser Winter Park in the Rockies before going through the Moffat Tunnel at the top.



The tunnel was opened in 1928, is 6.2 miles long and cuts off 176 miles from the old line. Once through, it's the 'Big 10 Curve', coming down into Denver for a station stop. By the time we left Denver, night was falling so it's get your lazi-boy styled seat into your favourite position and close the eyelids while the train travels through Nebraska and into Iowa. By mid-morning we crossed into Illinois and arrived in downtown Chicago at the Union Station at 15.30hrs. Getting my bearings again from 2 years ago we put our backpacks on and walked to the Hotel Palmer/Hilton, registered in and then away for a look around the "Loop" and finding my favourite CD shop. Back to the hotel, showered and then found a quiet little restaurant nearby for a good meal before retiring at 21.30hrs.

After a great nights sleep it was time to stretch the legs with a walk around Lake Michigan shoreline and then into the city centre missing the thunderstorms that were passing overhead. We did some window shopping, as we knew that we would be coming back through Chicago shortly, before going back to the hotel to collect our bags and walked to the station again. We had tea in the station and watched the monitor board for our train as when boarding was announced the lady in charge of boarding really put on a comical show of authority. Once on board the Amtrak train T48 (Lake Shore Ltd) departure was right on time at 21.30 from platform 23 to Buffalo.

We arrived on time 08.58hrs and had to wait to 15.10hrs for our ongoing train so we enquired about getting into town which we did, have a bite to eat and back to the station to validate the Canadian section of the rail pass and hop on Amtrak train T63 (Maple Leaf). At Customs on the border we had to take all our belongs off the train and walk through the procedure while the train was inspected and then we were allowed back on train Amtrak 7098. We pulled in to Toronto an hour late at 17.40hrs and taxied to the Primrose Hotel (visited in 2001) and with a couple of cold ones and a good meal we retired at 20.30hrs.

After a good sleep we were off to the Metro for a 1 day pass, found the Eaton Shopping Centre where I bought a mini docking system for my i-pod, recharged my camera battery and checked out the downtown with the CN Tower and other land marks before I found a laundrette close by the hotel. I did the laundry while somebody else went to visit the old part of Toronto and Chinatown and then I booked us to the falls tomorrow. The usual pre-dinner drinks, then dinner, before saying goodnight.

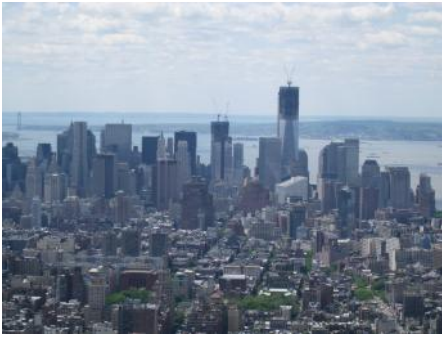
In the morning we lined up for the bus but no, we were walked round the corner to this company's place and there two others there waiting for the trip. We then were taken by mini-bus to meet a grand touring bus and there the confusion really started but in the end we finally got under way.



At Niagara Falls we were given time at the top to view the splendour before being escorted to the 'Lady of the Mist' and boated around the base of both the falls, The American Falls and The Horse Shoe Falls (Canada). After the boating we had free time till 15.00hrs before travelling to "Niagara on the Lake" which is of the olden life style as the buses weren't allowed on the streets and things were Ye quaint old English. We spent an hour there before going to a winery to be shown, explained and tasted "Ice Wine" which unfortunately they don't post and our bags wouldn't warrant them. Back to the hotel at 19.30hrs, wet the whistle and have tea, then noticing an extra charge on the account, I left a note on the chit to that effect, which was deducted the next morning.

We settled our true account, and down to the Union Station via the subway to board our next train, Amtrak 7097, to the border leaving at 08.20hrs. At the Canadian side they picked up passengers then crossed the border and backed into a siding for customs formalities on the American side. The usual, asked if any fruit or foodstuffs and then took our passports to their office while everybody stayed on the train, then they returned to both of us and asked if we would follow them at the same time as the officer re-flicked through our passports and found our entry stamp which they must have missed in the office as the stamp was a lot further on in our passports. Blame San Francisco airport staff. On the other side of the coach there was a fellow who looked like a fakir and in front of him was a lady who looked Nigerian and both had no understanding of the English language (or so we thought) and both had reference papers which further confused the customs people. After a lot of backwards and forwards the train was cleared but as per schedule the stop was for two hours so we could walk around outside. We looked across at our fakir friend and here he was into peeling oranges and having a sandwich which he got out of his bag and looking out the window there was another fellow sitting on the platform enjoying his home made sandwiches and drink. Why didn't we bring our own???. Anyway 10.30hrs arrived and Amtrak train T64 (Maple Leaf) pulled out of the siding and we were on our way to New York – New York. The train travelled to our switching at Buffalo-Depew and headed to Albany-Rensselaer before switching and we followed the Hudson River all the way to New York with some beautiful scenery till darkness set in. Through the tunnel and into Penn station, right under Madison Square Gardens which allowed us to just grab our backpacks, come out of the station and walk across the road to confirm our booking at the Pennsylvania Hotel at 21.50hrs.

Next morning I tried lying in but the night's sleep wasn't the best so up and let's go visiting. Just round the corner was the Empire State Building (ESB) so we joined the queue, got our tickets, through security and up to the 80<sup>th</sup> floor. Funny but last time I was here it went to 86 and a fellow in the lift was of the same opinion. Being crowded you could wait for the smaller lift to take you that extra 6 storeys or walk which we done and onto the (caged) observation deck. Only thing different for me was the Twin Towers were there in 1995 and the madding crowd wasn't there. When back to the 80 floor we realised why, souvenir shop there to empty your wallet, but no thanks . Once back on terra firma we went to look at Time Square and do some shopping as we had seen Timberland footwear sales advertised in the hotel brochure, so 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue footpath got a pounding and we both came away with bargains. At the hotel we booked a tour for next day before purchasing some salubrious liquidation for back in the room, and headed to a restaurant next to the hotel for dinner which was a lovely roast and the pre-tipping charges did nothing to entice us back.



Next morning we left the hotel on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> streets and walked to 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue at 44<sup>th</sup> street and at Pier 84 we boarded the yellow New York Water Taxi and sailed down the Hudson River passing the Statue of Liberty and arriving at Battery Park. From there we walked to the 911 Memorial, went through another lot of security, and looked around at the water fountains which were once the north and south towers and viewed the construction of the new World Trade Centres. Back to pick up the next water taxi and round to

South Street Seaport, Pier 17, the financial district and pick up other passengers before moving over to Dumbo at the Fulton Ferry Landing on Brooklyn. From there you could see BMW, ( the Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg bridges) and admire the splendour of Manhattan Island from the East River before cruising once again round the Statue of Liberty for some lovely photographs. We knew before booking that an actual visit was out due to maintenance but the guides on the taxi were very informative with all the highlights and any questions. We made our way back up the Hudson and alighted at Pier 84 which is right beside the 'Intrepid' (sea, air and space museum) and alongside the Concorde (which brought back memories of flying into J.F.K. in 1995 – but that's another story). There they were preparing room for the space shuttle which was to arrive a month later so looks like we'll have to return someday. While there we marvelled at the street lights that catered for cyclist and pedestrians and how they had everything in place for them.



We walked down 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue with fellow cyclist etc and came across a place I'd been looking for, McQuaid's which brought back a great couple of night in an Irish Pub. Even the same barman was there although I had a feeling that during my absence (17 years) he'd done some damage to himself. We then purchased a Metro Card and jumped on the underground and off down to Chinatown

where we walked around to get the feel of the place before returning to a Kmart that we'd spied earlier on. That night we dined in a shop on 32<sup>nd</sup> which had bain- maries and you serve yourself into plastic containers and you pay by the weight and you can takeaway or eat in which we did the latter. Then back across the road to the hotel for an early night.



The following morning we were on the subway with our Metro ticket again and heading to Central Park which by park standards is a very big one. My attractions were Strawberry Fields and the mosaic tribute of 'Imagine' to John Lennon although it was interesting to just watch the New Yorkers walking, running and cycling around the park. Back on the subway to the finance centre to stand outside the stock exchange and have a look around Wall Street before heading back to Chamber Station in Chinatown on the subway. A couple of purchases later, we had to lace our Metro Card up to get through the turnstile but

then it wouldn't allow me to go through. Straight to the man behind the counter and after some discussion he opened the emergency gate and let us onto the platform and head back to the hotel. Tea this evening was of the same style, but another place on 33<sup>rd</sup> which was enjoyable. Beats having burgers and fries.

By the next morning we had New Yorked ourselves out so off to the post office to sent some cards and then do a reconnaissance of the boarding procedure at Penn Station before more window shopping and as the rain was threatening we had an afternoon nap at the hotel. Later on we went back to Kmart for small toiletries and a couple of other little bargains, then tea was back at 32<sup>nd</sup> street before an early night as we were on the rails again tomorrow.



Breakfast at 33<sup>rd</sup> street, pack our bags and sign out before crossing the road to board Amtrak train T95 (Northeast Corridor) which was on time 10.35hrs and heading to Washington DC. – Keith Pullan

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