



-Omarama Gazette -

May 2016

sponsored by
BigSky Bed and Breakfast and Hank Verheul Builder



Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade station officer Maurice Cowie with chief fire officer Howard Williams (left) and deputy chief fire officer Terry Walsh (right) are preparing for celebrations to mark the brigade's jubilee at Queens Birthday Weekend.

Celebrating 50 years

More than 50 years of dedication, dogged determination, some considerable battles with bureaucracy and a little wily cunning has made the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade what it is today.

This year it celebrates its jubilee - 50 years since it was formed. However, the story starts earlier than that and the road has not been at all straightforward. Present station officer Maurice Cowie, who joined the brigade 45 years ago, tells the story of how his brother Graeme (now 77 and living in Timaru) saw a need for a fire

service in town and decided to sort it. Graeme was a part-time engineer for WA (Alan) Blackie, in Waimate, and had three years in its fire-brigade. He moved to Omarama in the early 60s to help build the stockyards and the service station - 'Blackie's Garage', on the corner of SHWY83 and Sutherlands Rd. In Omarama, the memory of the loss by fire, in 1957, of the original wooden memorial hall was still fresh. And there had been several other significant fires since then. Graeme mentioned setting up a fire brigade to a few locals "but the local council and local fire authority didn't want to know," Maurice said. So, in 1966, he and six other locals formed what was known as a 'fire party' under the Waitaki Catchment Board, and held their first meetings at the garage tea rooms.

Continued at back...

The Sponsor's Say

BigSky Bed & Breakfast

Hank Verheul Builder



Kay and Hank Verheul believe their formula for a relaxing break is pretty much perfect - the right design, right ambience, and right here under Omarama's big sky.

In 2009, and after careful research, Hank, a registered Master Builder, built the couple's home and two luxury, self-contained bed and breakfast units here in Omarama, their family's favourite holiday spot. Now they share their "piece of paradise" with guests from all over the world.

Kay says it's just perfect for couples who want a bit of a break from family life and to lose themselves in luxury. They can unwind in a mountain spring spa at nearby Hot Tubs Omarama, relax over dinner at one of the many eateries and rekindle romance.

The energetic can take in the many walks, tramps and bike trails which wind in and around the lakes. Or perhaps take to the skies to enjoy the breathtaking scenery from above - the airfield and glider flights are only a short walk away. For travellers it is a handy base for day trips to Central Otago, Mt Cook, the Mackenzie Country and Waitaki Valley.

Kay and Hank work to make sure their guests have that "really good" experience of time-honoured Kiwi hospitality. They want their guests to enjoy that sanctuary of "top hotel quality without the crowds".

And for them it is more than just business, it's about "spending time", Kay says. Guests become friends, leave happy and not only come back often but tell their friends to visit too. "We meet such interesting people." Everyone has got their own story and we have "great breakfast conversations".

It is a hearty, high country breakfast, too.

**Kay and Hank Verheul
BigSky Bed and Breakfast,
10 Ahuriri Drive, Omarama
+64 3 4389 538
<http://www.bigskybnb.co.nz/>**



Top dogs put to the test in Omarama



Tux South Island and New Zealand Championship trials publicity officer Dave (Gundy) Anderson is looking forward to the event which will be hosted in Omarama and starts at the end of this month.

Preparations are in hand for what promises to be an entertaining display of skills as the country's top triallists and their dogs try their best to outwit their ovine opponents.

The New Zealand Sheep Dog Trial Association (NZSDTA) Tux South Island and New Zealand Championship trials begins at the Omarama Collie Dog Club trial grounds at Omarama Station, on May 30.

Publicity officer Dave Anderson (Gundy) said about 300 North and south Island competitors had entered, some competing with more than one dog. The public was welcome to attend throughout the five-day event, he said. The run-offs for the New Zealand titles on the Friday and Saturday would be a great show for spectators.

To qualify for entry dogs must have gained six qualification points in 2016 at trials throughout the country.

The logistics of organising such an event are not insignificant.

"There will be a large central marquee where the Wrinkly Rams Cafe would be serving their usual great food. Both hot and cold beverages would be available with a bar also operating." Refrigeration, portaloos and heating had to be brought to the site.

Not only did competitors and supporters have to be catered for but the animals too. Omarama Station and Ben Omar are supplying the sheep. Sheep which are used only once during the trials with three sheep being used per run.

Two North Island and two South Island judges will judge for the championships. They are: Event I; Neil Evans, Event II; Selwyn Dorward, Event III, Colin Bayliss, Event IV; John Caley.

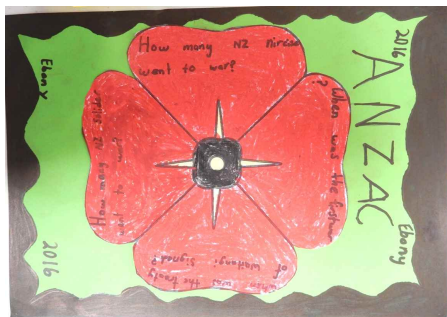
Omarama and surrounding towns from Oamaru to Twizel could expect a boost as visitors to the trials took the opportunity to take in the sights, shopping, and enjoy our local hospitality, Gundy said.



Honouring our Anzacs

Omarama School pupils held special community concert to commemorate Anzac Day at the Omarama Memorial Hall at the end of term. The pupils showcased what they had learnt in class about the day of remembrance through song, recitations and artwork. Their work contributed to the Serve for New Zealand volunteer scheme – a scheme set up to honour the Anzac spirit and give back to the community. About 60 people - families, friends and special guests – attended the concert. Some of the artwork is on display at various businesses.

Photos (clockwise from top left) A display of painted tiles and sketches, Omarama School, some of the audience, special guest granddad Neville Orford, of Timaru, Soldier's hat by Gemma Paterson, Poppy by Ebony Scobie.



Omarama School
ANZAC Commemorative Concert
Wednesday 13th April 2016

Ushers: Max Inkersell, Toby Bochel, Jake O'Sullivan,
Nesara Wewalage, Cameron Smith, Eliza-Jayne Coetzee, Jack O'Neill

Introduction and Master of Ceremonies
Travis Courtney

This our tribute to the fallen soldiers known as ANZACS
Please stand for the National Anthem.

Dawn Service- Jessica Smith, Dominic Walsh

Junior school singing
"It's a Long way to Tipperary"
"Pack Up Your Troubles"

Chunuk Bair

Gemma Patterson

The Fighting at Gallipoli

Ebony Scobie

The ANZAC Memorial

Minduli Wewalage

"In Flanders Fields"

Samantha O'Neill

C J Dennis

Archie Thomas

The Soldiers

Lillie Walsh, Madison Innes,
Elise Mathias

Senior Room singing
"Maori Battalion"

Junior Children's Stories

Kobie Sole, Sonny Ennis, Billy Ennis,
Yvie Moore, Ruhansi Amarasinghe,
Pippa Anderson

Our Omarama Memorial

Laura Patterson, Hannah Parsons,
Tara Parsons, Balin Sole

"Without the Great War"
"The Ode"

Kassidy Crosland
Charlie Mathias

Last Post





Anzac Day 2016 in Omarama



Yes we will remember them

Those from the heartland gathered in numbers at community memorials throughout the Upper Waitaki to remember the youth of a generation who were sacrificed on foreign soils.

In Omarama between 200 and 300 residents and visitors gathered at the Memorial Rock to remember not only those from the district who lost their lives in war but also acknowledge those who served and the work those still serving.



Members of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment 2/1 Battalion Delta Company Burnham, led the march to the Rock and took part in the service.

Upper Waitaki Returned and Services Association president Michael Blackstock told the crowd the newly corrected figures of those who served in WW1 while “somewhat more believable, was no less ghastly,” and “unsustainable for a country of little over a million.” Memories and emotion “still ran deep” within the community, he said.



Sergeant Togia said the New Zealand Defence Force continued the “tradition of comradeship” and service forged by the Anzacs. Rather than combat, it engaged with old foes in battles on the sports field. Or it served in ways like offering aid to Pacific neighbours.

“We remember those who came before...take the lessons...use them to create a better world.”

After the laying of wreaths on the Memorial Rock, Upper Waitaki RSA vice-president Kieran Welsh, of Kurow recited the Ode. Bugler John Sturgeon, of Kurow, played the Last Post and Reveille at the close of proceedings. The members of a unit of The Brigade of Gurkhas, who were also expected to attend, had a last minute change of plans.

Photos (left, top) Members of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment 2/1 Battalion Delta Company Burnham, led the march to the Rock and took part in the service. (Centre) Upper Waitaki Returned and Services president Michael Blackstock, of Omarama, and vice-president Kieran Welsh, of Kurow, lead the commemorations. (Below) The flag is lowered as bugler John Sturgeon, of Kurow, plays the Last Post. (Right, top) Wreaths were laid on the Memorial during the service. (Centre) Between 200 and 300 people gathered for the service (Below) After the Anzac commemorations, at the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade Station, Sgt Togia presented Omarama resident John Rogers with the New Zealand Defence Force Service Medal for the years spent as a service member in compulsory military service training



A video taken at the event can be viewed on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page.

A Night to Honour our Rural Fire Volunteers

Family, friends and dignitaries paid tribute to the work of Omarama's Rural Fire volunteers at a dinner and awards ceremony last month.

Omarama Rural Fire controller Mark Paulson said, although no-one did the job "to get a t-shirt", it was good that service was acknowledged.

It was important to recognise the contribution of each volunteer "whether they give "one day, one hour or 25 years", he said.

In that spirit he thanked the Omarama Pre-school Van group who catered for the event.



People joined the Rural Fire team and then moved on for different reasons. Organisers had tried to find all those who had served and to find out how long each had served for so it could be acknowledged but he knew there were still some to be recognised and this would happen in due course.

He paid special tribute to The Hat who always went "over and above".

"We couldn't do our job without people like that," he said.

Otago Rural Fire Authority principal rural fire officer Stephanie Rotarangi and Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher presented the awards.

Mr Kircher, on behalf of the council and the community, thanked volunteers for all the work they did. It was appreciated, he said.

Omarama Rural Fire has 11 members.



The Awards

Michael Blackstock

Medal for first three years of service

Myster President Surr, The Hat
(awarded in absentia)

Medal for first three years of service

Hank Verheul

Medal for first three years of service

Elisabeth Rietveld

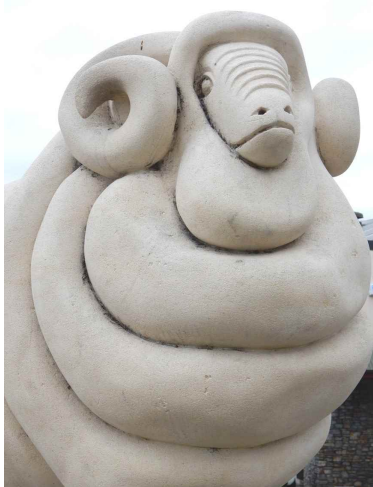
Medal for first three years of service

Tim Robertson
Medal for first three years of service
 Jimmy Courtney
Medal for first three years of service
 Elizabeth Komen
Three silver bars representing nine years of additional service
 Mark Paulson
Medal and two bars representing nine years of service
 Craig Dawson
Medal and two bars representing nine years of service
 Steve Dolan (awarded in absentia)
Medal and three bars representing 12 years of service
 Jan Perriam
Medal and four bars representing 15 years of service



Photos: (Opposite top to bottom)
 Omarama Rural Fire controller Mark Paulson and volunteer Lis Rietveld.
 Georgie and Tim Robertson
 Kay and Hank Verheul
(This page top to bottom)
 Liz Rietveld and Jevon Zeestraten,
 Lex and Jan Perriam, Jimmy Courtney
 with sons Toby and Travis, Craig Dawson,
 Liz Komen and John Rogers,
 Michael Blackstock





The Noticeboard

The Valley Variety Show is happening again. There are opportunities for sponsorship - money is needed for photocopying, advertising, supper and spot prizes. Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Please phone Kay (03) 438 9538 (*see below for more about the show*)

Boots and Jandals Hotel is hosting a pink ribbon brunch on May 10. (*See below for more details.*)

Omarama i-Site update: Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill said progress was being made to set-up a permanent, stand-alone site in town and more details

would be available by the end of the month.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of New Zealand (AOPA) will once again hold its mid-winter Fly-in in Omarama, June 10 to 12, at the Countrytime Hotel.

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade will hold it's jubilee celebrations at Queens Birthday weekend. Email Georgie at huntly@xtra.co.nz

The Ohau Conservation Trust Eileen McMillan Memorial Lecture and fundraising meal will be at 6.30pm, Sunday, June 5, at Lake Ohau Lodge. (*See below for more details.*)

Introducing The Veggie Man: The Omarama Gazette has a new columnist - do you recognise him?

Several groups are holding their annual meetings this month. Their details are below.

Short notice - Playgroup meets 9.30am today, May 4, for the first time this term and Friends of Omarama School meets at 2pm today. All are welcome.

Omarama Library update: Omarama Gazette understands all is on track for a June opening. Shelving - ex-Otago University - has arrived and is at present being installed.

Oamaru Library event: Tomorrow, Thursday, May 5 at 6pm, University of Otago Prof David will outline some of the thinking about the nature of time from both a philosophical and physics perspective.

In the news: Our river - the Ahuriri, has made it to a 'Top destinations for the super-rich list'. The Ahuriri River was listed as a top-rated fly-fishing spot. Read the full report on the New Zealand Herald website: NZ river hooks spot in super-rich top 10

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/travel/news/article.cfm?c_id=7&objectid=11623082

The Plunket Nurse, Liz Watson, will be at the Plunket Rooms at the Omarama Community Centre on Wednesday morning, June 15.
Phone 021 244 9647. Home visits are by arrangement.

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Lisa Crawford, phone 021 126 3113

Car Seat Rentals: Christine, Phone: 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

If you find anything amiss in The Omarama Gazette please contact Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002, email omaramagazette@gmail.co.nz and I will do my very best to put it right.

By-the-by - The Omarama Gazette has 'gone live' on Facebook.

Check out our page by plunking Omarama Gazette into the search bar on your Facebook page...something should happen! You can also search for this link: www.facebook.com/omaramagazette. We still have 'our L-plates', but see what you think. You do not have to 'like' the page to see the posts. A Facebook page means the Gazette can send messages out more quickly, more easily share photos, and short videos can be posted. At present, it will not be used for Omarama Gazette advertising. Comments are welcome and may be published elsewhere. Always remember real people created this page for real people to read. When in doubt be kind. Better yet, don't hit 'post'. The page is moderated and moderating decisions are subjective but we will make them as carefully and consistently as we can. Please do not post content which is not your own unless you have got the all clear from the copyright holder. If you have any questions concerning its operation, please email omaramagazette@gmail.com.

Sign up to the 'Local List'. to receive email alerts between monthly editions of the Omarama Gazette email omaramagazette@gmail.com and put 'Local List' in the subject line.

For a copy of the costs to advertise, and publication and close-off dates for the Omarama Gazette for 2016 please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or email omaramagazette@gmail.com

Contact Ruth Grundy, 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766
Email: omaramagazette@gmail.com

**The Omarama Gazette is run on a volunteer basis
with support from businesses to meet costs.**
www.discoveromarama.co.nz

The Community Reports



Upper Waitaki Returned and Services Association

Michael Blackstock, president

Ella Phillips is this year's winner of the Upper Waitaki RSA Writing Competition (Primary Section). Ella (11) attends the Waitaki Valley School and is in Year 7. She won \$50 for first prize, a \$50 book prize and the Dawson Trophy. She was presented with her prize by Sgt P.C. Togia of the 2/1

Battalion Delta Company Burnham. In recognition of the centenary of RNZRSA, the school will also receive a book prize for their library. Second prize went also to Waitaki Valley School to K Herbst (10) and M Matthews (12), of Duntroon School. The entries were judged by Roberta Dight, a visiting Captain in the CD Royal Canadian Air Force. There were no entries for the secondary school section. Sgt Togia and his men also assisted the Upper Waitaki RSA with our 2016 ANZAC Services, with Sgt Togia doing the speeches at the Haka Dawn Service and the Omarama Service and presenting a NZDSM to John Rogers. The numbers were down at the earlier three services on the day, Hakataramea dawn service, Kurow and Otekaieke Memorial Gates and Duntroon service but remained roughly the same for Omarama. The annual poppy collection for Omarama and Otematata once all counted was much on par from last year and a very pleasing result, thanks to the generosity of locals and travelling public. Thank you to all the Omarama businesses who allowed me to place a poppy box at their business this year, thank you to Howard Williams and the Omarama Fire Brigade for allowing us the use once again of the Brigade building for lunch. Thank you to Lindsay and Bev Purvis and the staff at the Omarama Merino Country Cafe for supplying the beautiful lunch. Thank you to all the ladies who helped volunteer to serve the lunch and clean up afterwards. Congratulations to John Rogers on being officially presented by Sgt Togia with his New Zealand Defence Service Medal.

Raffle winners:

Winner on Saturday night - raffle for \$100.00 was Dave Smith of Omarama.

Winner on ANZAC Day - raffle for \$100.00 was Jim Morris of Omarama, big thanks also to Jim for donating his prize to the Annual Poppy Fund collection. Remember all money collected here, stays within our community, not one cent leaves our area and this goes to helping our service people and widows of veterans.

Winner of the Big Hamper Basket drawn at the ANZAC Omarama Luncheon was Russell Hayman of Omarama, 2nd prize went to Anna Houlihan of Oamaru and third prize went to Mark Paulson of Omarama.

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you to the community for all your support. It relates well to the RSA Motto "People helping people".

Lake Ohau Village and Ohau Conservation Trust

Malcolm McMillan, Lake Ohau Village Residents and Ratepayers Association chairman.

The Ohau Conservation Trust Eileen McMillan Memorial Lecture and fund-raising meal will be at 6.30pm, Sunday June 5, at Lake Ohau Lodge. Owners Mike and Louise Neilson are again very generously hosting the event and donating half of the proceeds from the meal to the trust. We are very grateful for this continued and generous support. This year's lecture will be given by a member(s) of the Lake Ohau Scientific Drilling Project Team who are undertaking the sediment drilling research in Lake Ohau. You may have heard/seen some of the media coverage of the drilling they undertook earlier this year to establish a new 17,000 year history of the Southern New Zealand climate. We are going to be privileged to hear about and see some of the first results that they have found, now that they have started analysing the sediment cores they retrieved from the lake bottom.

Annual Meeting: The Lake Ohau Village Residents and Ratepayers Association will have its annual meeting at 3.30pm, Sunday June 5 (Queens Birthday Weekend) at Lake Ohau Lodge. Contact: secretary Rachel Baker; email rwbaker@actrix.co.nz or post to 52 Irvine Road, The Cove, 2RD, Dunedin 9077.

Lead-only Dog Signs: The Waitaki District Council are installing these so there will be no excuse for dogs not on leads in areas where this is a requirement. Also could I please remind dog owners of the requirement to remove dog faeces.

Accommodation Required: Mike and Louise at the Lodge are requiring extra accommodation for their staff this winter. Please email louise@ohau.co.nz or phone (03) 438 9885.

Drinking/Domestic Water: A reminder to boil all Village water before use. Following an enquiry, the council has recently informed me that there has been no progress on the actual upgrade for the Village water supply as they are currently still working on the Omarama, Otematata, Herbert and Hampden supplies. Between now and July 1 they will prepare a Water Safety Supply Plan which will identify risks to the Village supply. Timing of the Village upgrade will depend on progress on the above supplies. They also point out that any historic on-demand water connections are required to be converted to a restricted supply as part of any building application. This is what all existing water connections to houses in the Village should be. As I understand it this means there must be a restrictor at the junction between the main supply and all lateral house supplies to limit water intake to 600 litres per day.

Frugal Country and Hard On The Boots. A History of the Ohau Valley- Copies of Eileen's acclaimed book are still available at \$170-00 plus post & packaging, Please contact me by email malcolm.mcmillan@xtra.co.nz if you would like a copy.

'The Community Reports' continues over ...



Meridian Waitaki Community Fund

Meridian recognises the importance of local communities to our hydro and wind operations.

The Meridian Waitaki Community Fund gives your community a say on what local initiatives are supported and funded by Meridian. The Fund, managed by a panel of community members and Meridian staff, is about working together to build strong communities.

The Meridian Waitaki Community Fund is for the communities around the Waitaki Hydro Scheme from Aoraki Mount Cook to Waitaki Bridge, including Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio, and Glenavy.

TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

The next closing date for Meridian Waitaki Community Fund applications is 26 May, 2016.

For more information on the Meridian Waitaki Community Fund, or to submit an application online, please visit **meridian.co.nz** or email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz

You can also call us on 03 357 9732.

The Community Reports *continues* ...



Omarama Inc

Omarama Residents and Ratepayers Association
Craig Dawson, secretary.

From feedback received from the community and the Omarama Residents Assoc committee, I can confirm that I will be submitting on the following items;

1. Proposed action for freedom campers: Request Council to set up a joint action/discussion group, (which would include LTNZ, Regional Councils, D.O.C and Local Govt commission) to lobby Government to introduce a levy to be charged to travellers entering NZ. This levy would then be used to fund policing and extra infrastructure to cope with

the huge influx of freedom campers.

2. Information Centres: Enquire what is proposed for Omarama, with the removal of the site from Omarama Hot Tubs.

3. Endorse dump station installation. We have had numerous requests for an independent site.

4. Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail: Need for more toilets on the trail along with better surface in the Omarama section.

5. Falstone Creek Waste Water Management System: Good idea, we need to remove the unsightly and intrusive movie set that is obstructing access to the lake.

6. Sailors Cutting Waste Water Management System: Endorse this initiative.

My appointment has been set down for Wednesday 11th May at 10.40am.

Should you want me to add anything else, let me know before next week

Craig Dawson, secretary 0274389132. Ross Gold, chairman.

Next meeting is 7.30pm, Thursday, May 12 at the Omarama Community Centre.

Omarama Playgroup - Liz Croft, president

During term one we have enjoyed the beautiful weather for outside play with water, bubbles, riding bikes, busy sandpit digging/building and our great play ground. We've also had some neat art created with our fantastic art and craft supplies. Our outing to Ladybird Hill was enjoyed by all, children in the play ground and adults with a cuppa!

We would like to welcome any new families in the district. Playgroup is held at the Omarama Community Centre hall on a Wednesday morning 9.30am to 11.30am during school term. Please come along introduce yourself and let your children create, explore, interact and play.

Term two starts May 4 and ends July 6.

Any questions please call Liz Croft president 438 9780, Petrina Paton vice-president 438 9540, Jemma Gloag treasurer 438 9626, Jess Toole secretary 438 9430.

'The Community Reports' continues over ...

“Get Well, Keep Well” with the Kurow Medical Centre

Influenza

As winter approaches it's time to hunker down for the cooler months. This is also a gentle reminder that with this comes the season of ills and chills, some can be managed by seeking good health measures like exercise in the fresh air and making sure you have a good intake of nutrients.

It's also the season where many people chose to have the influenza vaccine. Here's some extra information about the vaccine so that you can make an informed choice about getting this done this year.

Each year the Immunisation Advisory Centre monitor the northern hemispheres predominant influenza strains from their winter (Nov-Jan) and use that strain as the basis to our southern hemisphere vaccine. With world travel patterns, it seems to be the best way to target the most predominant strains that may come our way.

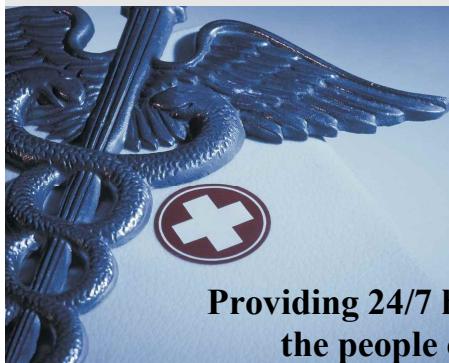
Each strain targets people in different ways, and nobody is exempt from possibly coming in contact with it. The influenza virus can infect a very fit healthy person and a very compromised person too. In most cases it will require hospitalisation and is very serious.

We hear, “Oh, I got sick after having that last time”. We have introduced a vaccine to your body and therefore your body fights really hard to create antibodies against this new intruder. This puts strain on our system. If our systems are not robust at the time, you may get symptoms of a cold. It won't be “the flu”. For some, you won't even notice that you have had it. Many of you will be eligible for this vaccine for free.

In the meantime, if you are unwell, stay away from work. Always cover your mouth with your arm and wash your hands often.

For more information on this vaccine go to www.immune.org

- the team at Kurow Medical Centre



Kurow Medical Centre

**8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 034360760 F: 034360780**

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

**W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre**

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

The Community Reports *continues ...*

Friends of Omarama School

Lisa Anderson, FOS chairwoman

Hi All,

On behalf of the new FOS committee, we would like to remind everyone about our monthly meetings, and how we go about them.

Draft agendas are available prior to meetings, along with previous meeting minutes and treasurer reports. If anyone has something they wish to add to General Business, please do so - as we welcome any ideas, offers of help, and constructive criticism, to the agenda.

Our next meeting is to be on Wednesday 2pm, May 4. For anyone who wishes to have their name added to the committee please let us know - we welcome anyone who is keen join Friends of Omarama School. Meetings are open for anyone who would like to attend.

Since last month we have catered for a car rally which raised over \$2000 and sold 1st Aid Kits - which was great success, raising over \$800 for the school.

A MASSIVE thank you to the entire community who supported this initiative
Kind regards,

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Omarama Friends of the School (FOS) we'd like to say a HUGE thank you to our great wee community for the support you have shown with our recent 1st Aid Kit Fundraiser.

We raised over \$800!

With new Health & Safety Laws meaning we are having to take more self responsibility, it was great that we could help by providing something that was of use to so many of you.



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

Omarama Rodeo Club



Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm Friday, May 13

Boots and Jandals Hotel
Omarama

President: Jamie
Brice

New Members Welcome



Breastfeeding Works!

Having a baby? Already breastfeeding a baby of any age? Then contacting a Volunteer breastfeeding counsellor will be positive for you.

These counsellors are mums, who have been trained to support breastfeeding mothers. "Breastfeeding Works!" counsellors are able to help you with the ups and downs of breastfeeding. No question is too small! There are three local Breastfeeding Works counsellors local to Twizel and Omarama. We are just a phone call away. Sarah 021 326 909, Liko 0272 497 555 or Deidre 0276868879

The logo for Rural Support features a stylized green tree with a red trunk and a green canopy, positioned above the text "RuralSupport" in a green, sans-serif font. The word "Rural" is in a smaller font size than "Support".

RuralSupport

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)



VALLEY VARIETY SHOW

Mark this date on your calendar

1st July 2016 7pm start

Great acts from Twizel to Oamaru with a huge variety
and lots of fun

Supper provided

So bring the family for a great night's entertainment

**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, June 1, 2016.
Please submit copy by Friday, May 27**



ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

(on fourth Sunday of each month at 3pm)

All Welcome

Clergy Contacts:

Rev Ken Light, Anglican Vicar for Waitaki.
Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)

03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773

Small soarers take to the big sky



Model flier Ken Rose puts together his Schwetzer TG2 which weighs 19kg and has a 6.34m wing span.

More than 40 replica gliders and their model tow planes took to the big skies at the Omarama Airfield at Anzac weekend.

The several hundred spectators who visited throughout the weekend were treated to skilful displays of aerial acrobatics on a miniature scale. The biggest of the models was built to $\frac{1}{2}$ -scale of its full-size equivalent. Some of the gliders, which included vintage and high-performance gliders had wing spans of about 7m.

Neal Blackie explains the intricacies of his model aircraft, a replica of White Knight – developed by Scaled Composites for Richard Branson's Virgin Galactic space programme.



About 30 model glider pilots plus their support crews from throughout New Zealand and as far a field as Australia gathered for the three-day event to enjoy the airspace usually reserved for the big guys.

North Island model flier Colin Taylor said Omarama was “Mecca” for enthusiasts.

“The best place to fly...one of the best sites in the world.”

He had travelled with brothers Ken and Graeme Rose managing to slot themselves and their six gliders into a small van for the long-haul trip.

Model fliers attend about four or five such events through the year in various parts of the country. They were a special breed, he said. “You can tell the age of the boy by the size of the toy.” They were often questioned as to how much they spent on their hobby. The agreed-on and accepted standard response, especially to partners, was: “nothing costs more than \$2”, he said. “We are very good liars.”

One of the attractions of the display on the ground was the work of Christchurch model builder Neal Blackie – White Knight – a model of Richard Branson’s jet-powered carrier aircraft developed by Scaled Composites and designed to lift a spacecraft to a release altitude 50,000ft. Phase one of his build was complete and the first round of tests had begun, Neal said.

The Aerotow organisers said the club had great support from the Omarama Airfield management, GlideOmarama and the other soaring clubs. Feedback from visitors had been so positive it was likely the Omarama Anzac Aerotow would become an annual event, they said.

Video from the event has been posted on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page. www.facebook.com/omaramagazette

For those interested in model flying: www.modelflyingnz.org

Tow plane builder Alec Taylor readies his 42% Pawnee for take-off.





The School News

Over the Gate

Tena Koutou

The building is near completion and as I write this, the finishing touches are being added. The staff and children alike are eager to get into the new space. It is not far way now. Both teaching spaces and the library are looking great.

The school families have been involved in many fundraising ventures from catering for the car rally that came into town to the pub quiz that was run during the Maadi Cup. The generosity of the community has blown me away. I thank you all for supporting Omarama School.

Before the holidays were upon us Bevan Newlands and some of the senior students set the crosses up at the commemorative rock. The whole school then walked down and put the remaining crosses in the ground. It is a stark reminder of those who lost their lives in war.

Our community ANZAC concert was a resounding success. All credit must go to the students. They presented a snap shot of their learning about the ANZACs. Through poems, songs, stories and the reciting of the Ode we came together as a community to remember those who had given their lives so we could live in peace. I hope to make this an annual event and encourage more of the community to come and share our learning.

You may have noticed that some of the businesses are displaying the student's artwork. We have a display at the Heritage Hotel and the feedback from the visitors has been very positive. Thank you to the businesses for displaying the artwork in and around the township too.

This week is the start of Term 2. There are some exciting things planned. Our focus is on The Arts. Drama, dance, music and visual art will be taught and there will be a presentation in conjunction with the Community concert. I have also organised a circus group, a magician and possibly a balloon artist to visit us. After all this has taken place we will be on the mountain skiing! This is part of our EOTC programme.

What a beautiful place we live in. I have watched the Autumn colours intensify as we start to feel the change in temperature especially in the mornings. The colours at this time of year are awesome. Those with cameras will be capturing amazing scenes around the area.

Keep warm, keep safe and enjoy this beautiful part of the country we live in.
Hei kona ra

- Sue Fleming, Omarama School principal



The Omarama Civil Defence Group - update

In the past month further progress has been made toward re-establishing a Omarama Civil Defence Community Response Group, Ahuriri Community Board member Michael Blackstock says.

Response to the plans to reconvene has been positive with several people putting their hands up to assist in some way, he said.

In March and April Waitaki District Council representatives met with community response groups to discuss how the council could support them so their communities were prepared for a civil defence event.

The outcomes of the meetings and other feedback will be presented to the council at a workshop on May 18.

Waitaki District Council Emergency Management manager Jane Lodge distributed a FAQs document to those at the meetings to address common concerns and asked for feedback by Thursday, May 5.

Those with queries can contact Michael Blackstock 03 438 9481, Omarama Civil Defence co-ordinator Jan Perriam, 03 438 9547, 022 3144291. or Jane Lodge 0800 108 081.



Waitaki District Council news

Omarama water services: Contracting company SouthRoads will take up the Waitaki District Council contract for water services in Omarama from July 1. Council water services and waste manager Martin Pacey said some of the details of the contract were still to be worked through with SouthRoads importantly, how Omarama would be serviced. However, he expected there to be little noticeable change to present practice. He would be able to give more details by the end of the month. Palmerston's contract had also changed. At present, the contract is held by Whitestone Contracting.

Proposed Omarama Campervan Dump Station: Waitaki District Council recreation manager Erik Vanderspek said he had received "comment from one person", about its proposed site for a campervan dump station at the intersection of Ahuriri Drive and Chain Hills Rd, State Highway 83. Last month, in the Omarama Gazette, he requested feedback on the proposal. At the request of the Gazette, in an email, he detailed his response to the individual's questions and responded to one further question asked by the Gazette on behalf of other residents.

"What will be seen from the state highway are some low mounds with tussocks, a gravel area, some posts and a gravel area. While campervans are dumping you would also see those vehicles. We are not providing overnight parking. The site has been chosen to minimise impact on the sewage treatment plant and our treatment guys are happy with what is proposed. If people have concerns they need to contact Council. We have received comment from one person who we believe was comfortable with what we have outlined here."

The draft 2016/17 Annual Plan: The council has received about 70 submissions to its annual plan. Those who chose to speak in support of their submissions will be heard by the council from Wednesday, May 11. The public may attend and listen. Final decisions will be made on June 8 and The 2016/17 Annual Plan will be formally adopted on Wednesday, June 22.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury news

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum is working through a series of actions in its newly published Canterbury Visitor Strategy 2016 aimed at boosting tourism throughout Canterbury. The Strategy is available on the regional council website at <http://ecan.govt.nz/about-us/your-region/Pages/mayoral-forum.aspx>. The visitor strategy is a companion action plan to the Canterbury Regional Economic Development Strategy.

The next meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone committee is 9.30am, May 20 at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel

www.ecan.govt.nz



COMING EVENTS-MAY

Join our social club \$5.00 per member

Investec Super Rugby Competition – Ongoing Friday and Saturday nights

Monteith's Competition Win a Free Crusaders Jersey – Three to be won - just come on in to the bar purchase six Monteith's beverages and be into the draw for a Game, Away or Training Jersey.

Live Entertainment - LIVE WIRE Saturday 21st May come along for a boogie and great night out.

Check out our New Seasons Lunch and Dinner Menu
Hearty Home Cooking COMING VERY SOON!!!

CHEERS FROM THE TEAM AT BOOTS AND JANDALS

The logo for Pink Ribbon Breakfast features a pink ribbon tied in a bow, with the text "PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST" in bold, pink, sans-serif capital letters to its right. Below this, in smaller text, is "THE NEW ZEALAND BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION".
Three pink ribbons are shown, each tied in a bow, arranged horizontally.

BOOTS AND JANDALS HOTEL IS HOSTING A PINK RIBBON BRUNCH TUESDAY 10TH MAY 2016 AT 11.00AM

Eight women a day are diagnosed with breast cancer in New Zealand. This year the money raised from my breakfast will be used to fund vital research projects and medical grants to help improve the survivorship of breast cancer in New Zealand.
Please consider making a donation today. I cannot do this alone but with your help we can make a difference.
Minimum \$20.00 donation is asked for on arrival this will get you a glass of pink bubbles, juice or a coffee and a choice from our brunch menu.
Our special guest speaker will have a bit of a chat, and then brunch will be served. If you have a story you wish to share on the day, please contact me so we can arrange it.

If you are unable to attend you can still donate by searching my pink ribbon page at <https://pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz/login> under Julie Dyson.

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU HERE.

SPEIGHT'S



The Oasis Cafe - Bar - Grill

SPEIGHT'S



NEW WINTER HOURS

Monday	7.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
Tuesday	7.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
Wednesday	7.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
Thursday	7.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
Friday	7.30 a.m.-8.00 p.m.
Saturday	7.30 a.m.-8.00 p.m.
Sunday	7.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.

Any dinner bookings would be much appreciated

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knitwear, pants, trousers, jeans, skirts, shirts and super
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New Winter Boots from Arcopedico!



Menswear - Breakaway - super new brushed shirts,
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WILD MAY MADNESS

Friday 6 May - Duck Calling Competition and other fun

Show us your finest duck call, shoot the balloons for spot prizes, be the fastest to get dressed into hunting gear and the most creative cammo makeup. Fun starts from 8pm.

Saturday 7 May - Duck shooters breakfast from 5:30am

Fully cooked breakfast for only \$17.50 - Bookings essential - 03 4387899

Live Band - Mini Merkin from 8:30pm

After you have been out duck shooting, come and enjoy our live band.

Sunday 8 May - Mothers Day Buffet Dinner

A delicious selection of mains and desserts plus a free glass of wine for Mum! Bookings are essential - call 03 4387899

Saturday 14 May - Vice Versa Party

Come dressed as your favourite rock or movies star - but there is one catch... It must be of the opposite sex!! DJ, Karaoke and prizes - Come have fun!

Saturday 21 May - Jody Direen Concert - NO COVERCHARGE!!

Come and catch Jody live on stage before she heads away overseas to record her new album! The show kicks off at 9:30PM and it's free!! R18 R C O A B

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 12NOON - COME TRY OUR ALL DAY SUNDAY ROAST!

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Mondays - closed

Tuesdays- maybe closed- ring 03 4389757

Wednesday through to Saturday

open 9am to 5pm

Sundays 9am to 4pm

Winter- shut down after Queens Birthday

7th of June - until September

I will post our hours for Spring nearer the time.

**If we decide to open for weekends it will be posted on
our Omarama Facebook page.**

Thank you for all your support over the past season-

Sally, Tony & Jill



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

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We still have in stock a good selection of lures and flies for local rivers and lakes.

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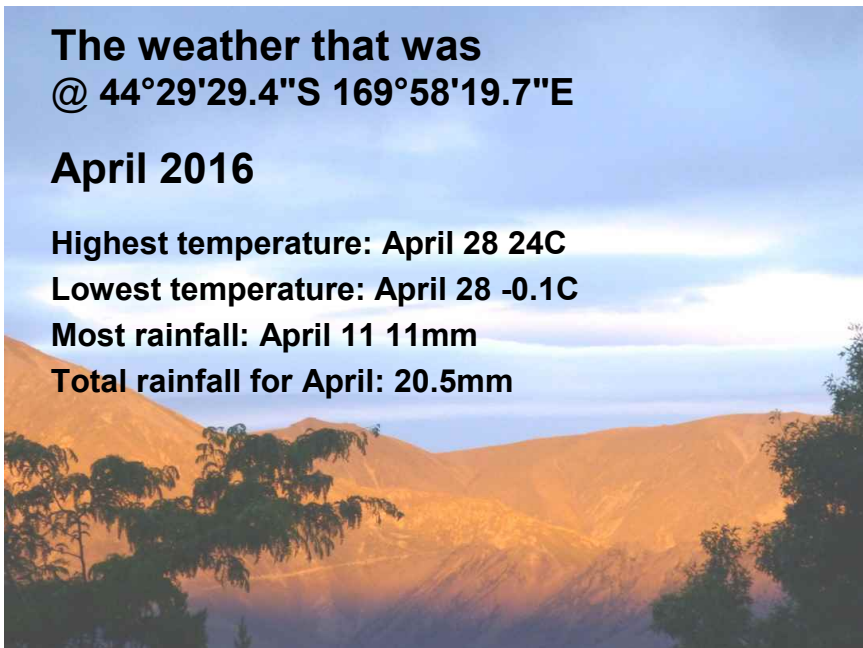
April 2016

Highest temperature: April 28 24C

Lowest temperature: April 28 -0.1C

Most rainfall: April 11 11mm

Total rainfall for April: 20.5mm



The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions with...



Mike and Lorraine King

Lorraine is a herbalist, loves growing things. She also helps clean the public toilets.

Mike is Glenburn-Otamatapaio irrigation operations manager and Omarama SAR chairman.

1. What is the best advice you have ever been given?

Go on your gut instinct.

2. What was your best impulse buy?

The trip to Mongolia and living alongside nomadic herdsman - Mike

Always china - a little milk jug with the DB Brewery logo. It was something with a bit of history for 50c from the Omarama Resource Recovery gift shop. - Lorraine

3. Best day outside the office?

A autumn picnic gathering walnuts - Lorraine

Getting lost in the Gobi Desert for 10 hours - good because we got out alive! It was 52C outside the truck. There was just blue sky and white sand. We ran into a herdsman and asked directions. He said; 'Just follow your tracks back', and that's what we did. - Mike

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?

We came back. It's the settled weather and the lovely community.

5. What is one thing that would make the world a better place?

Good manners - a please, a thank you and a smile. Putting the hospitable back in hospitality.

The View from the Chook House



Winter
is
coming!

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade Celebrates 50 years *continued from page 1*

Years of battling various authorities and quibbling over population size ensued. Omarama did not meet the threshold required to be officially recognised by the fire service council and receive funding. "It would appear everyone acknowledges the existence of the brigade when there is a fire or fire risk but no-one is prepared to help financially or otherwise," founding member Lindis Courtney noted in an early record book.

Lindis records early members lobbied officials not only for fire-fighting capability but also for rescue and first aid resources. Their reasons seem remarkably familiar. There was a continual threat of grass fires because of the dry climate, the glider club operated nearby, there was a seasonal influx of tourists to the camping ground, there were rough tracks and tracts of isolated country to service, communication with the closest services, like Otematata, was not always reliable, nor did they have the vehicles needed which suited the conditions.

The brigade would not receive official recognition until September 1967.

Graeme was appointed as the new brigade's first fire chief.

Matters might have taken some years to untangle but the community and the wannabe firemen did not let the red tape tie them down.

They had approached the New Zealand Forest Service which had a headquarters in town and a 1200 litre water tank on a purpose-built trailer with a Mark I Wajax pump. It was happy to let the men train with it and use its premises.

A couple of years on and they raised \$500 through donations, bottle drives and raffles to buy the St Andrews brigade's retired 1935 Ford V8 fire engine. "It went like stink but once started wouldn't stop because it had mechanical brakes, and it boiled its head off. It was an accident waiting to happen," Maurice said.

About 1969 the Brigade approached the Council to ask for land and materials to put up a building. Newspaper clippings from the time show the quarter acre section, where the fire station is now, was initially offered for sale for a pricey \$650. There must have been some intensive negotiations because the recollection is it was eventually sold to them for \$1.

The council told them to work out what materials were needed to build the station and to put their order in. It would be sent up from Oamaru to Omarama on two trucks. "Graeme's thought was, they may as well make sure both trucks were full, so he doubled the order (to the agreed amount of \$1500).

"That's how we ended up with such a big fire station."

It has been extended twice since then. The latest renovations were completed in 2014 and included earthquake strengthening and extensions fit to house a heavy rescue unit appliance. This \$600,000 upgrade was paid for

by the New Zealand Fire Service but until then “everything was funded by the community and built by voluntary labour”, he said.

When Maurice arrived in Omarama they had just poured the concrete for that first building. He had often visited Graeme for school holidays and remembers helping fight fires. On leaving school he completed an apprenticeship as a mechanic and then shifted to Omarama to work for Graeme who was by then leasing the garage from Blackie. Maurice officially joined the brigade in April 1971, over time working his way up the ranks to deputy chief fire officer. He is employed by the Patterson-Parsons family. The first major fire the brigade battled was the blaze which destroyed the Walker family homestead at Ben Avon Station.

“By the time we got there, there were just a few rounds of ammo going off in the outside shed.”

For the first decade, the brigade attended an average of three to four calls a year.

Membership slowly built to just shy of 20. Then the brigade went for 13 months without a callout morale dropped and membership fell to eight. Nowadays, there are 17 members and more than 80 calls a year, mostly vehicle accidents and medical call outs, he said.

Initially, the Otematata and Twizel brigades gave the Omarama volunteers a lot of assistance. At the time, the Otematata brigade was an ‘industrial’ brigade set up to service the hydro development. It would supply Omarama with hoses and so on which it could not have afforded otherwise. Omarama resisted attempts to get it to amalgamate with the Kurow Brigade for fear they might “get all the hand-me-downs”.

Comradeship was a major draw-card for volunteers. Many had young families and life revolved around the brigade. It became a real “family affair”. Government employees made up 85% of the membership, “so time and availability” was not an issue”.

Much has changed, the administration side had “gone crazy” and people found it more difficult to fit volunteering around job demands.

But an innovative spirit remains a characteristic of the Omarama brigade. In 1971, it introduced the Wajax pump competition to brigades south of the Waitaki. The first competition was between the Omarama, Stewart Island, Glenorchy and Hawea volunteer brigades which were all using similar Forest Service equipment to fight urban fires.

It was one of the first brigades to accept women fire-fighters, notably Eunice Marett (nee Blair) and Beverley Perriam.

In 1997, it was one of the first rural brigades to set up a co-response team (now known as first response) to provide emergency medical assistance to provided emergency medical assistance because help from a doctor or St John was 30 minutes away.

Remarkably, in its 50-year history no-one had been hurt in the line of duty. “But we got away with a helluva lot.”

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade Celebrates 50 years *continued from overleaf*

There had been some traumatic times and it was always more difficult when an incident which involved someone you knew.

At those times you leaned on the team, went back to the fire station and had a 'debrief' over a few beers. Assistance was offered by Victim Support. But it was talking over the experiences with mates who had been through the same thing which was most helpful, Maurice said.

Today, the fire service does formally acknowledge the part families play and is beginning to recognise the contribution of employers, he said.

When a volunteer reaches 25 years-of-service their partner's contribution is acknowledged with a gold star brooch.

Maurice has almost a full collection of fire service awards. In five years, when he reaches 50 years of service, he will have earned the double gold star. But he says a significant honour came from outside the fire service when, in 2009, he was presented with a Waitaki District Council Citizen's Award.

Volunteering plays a significant part in the lives of each of the Cowies. Small communities rely on volunteers, he said. "If just one member of each family was to volunteer in some way then there will always be plenty of volunteers....and Omarama is very good at that".

Ladybird Hill vintage 2016



Brilliant autumn weather capped off a great season as workers completed the harvest at Ladybird Hill's vineyard, last week.

Owner Rodger Smaill said, despite a cool start, it had been a good year "with a bit of everything - moisture, sun and hot weather.

The vineyard grows pinot noir and pinot gris grapes which are sent to the Kurow Winery for processing.

Jess Smaill (12) empties the buckets of grapes collected by the pickers at the Ladybird Hill vineyard.

Introducing: The Veggie Man

Nev's tips for the home gardener.

Today, the Omarama Gazette introduces a new column. Former market gardeners Neville and Cathy Ferguson will write a seasonal column filled with tips about what you could be doing in your Omarama veggie garden. Cathy will include a simple seasonal recipe for turning that fresh produce into delicious food for the family. Neville and Cathy owned market gardens in Outram before buying Asure Sierra Motel. One of the first things Neville did on arrival in Omarama, alongside developing the motels, was to build a substantial raised vegetable garden, and create plots for currants and berry fruit.



Here are his tips for autumn.

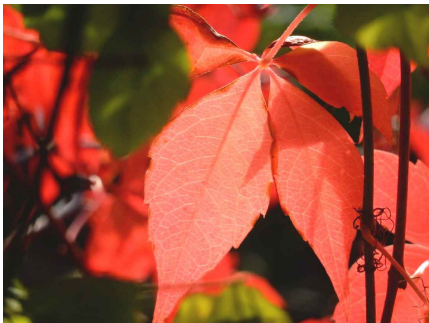
1. Dig your main crop potatoes before the frosts get too severe and store them in bags or sacks in a dry, dark area. Treat for non-sprouting.
2. Pumpkins should have been picked and stored in dry, warm area otherwise they will deteriorate. Store them in a single layer.
3. Broad beans and peas can be planted now, but is better to plant in early spring. Wait until early spring to plant cauliflower, broccoli and cabbage.
4. Lettuce, silverbeet, celery, cauli and broccoli are affected by frost so eat what you have left in the garden. Cauli and broccoli both freeze well.
5. Cabbage, brussels sprouts and leeks will winter well (if it isn't a winter like last year).
6. Beetroot, carrots and parsnips can stay in the ground over winter.
7. In June/July prune raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, gooseberries and any other berry fruit. Clean and weed strawberry plants.

Leek and Potato Soup

4 leeks, prepared	2tb butter
4 medium potatoes	2 cups chicken stock or water
bouquet garni	salt to taste
freshly ground black pepper	2 cups milk
2tb chopped parsley or chives	

Slice leeks finely and sauté in butter until soft. Peel potatoes and cut into thin slices. Add to the leeks with the stock, bouquet garni, salt and pepper. Simmer gently until vegetables are tender. Remove bouquet garni. Put the soup through blender. Return to saucepan and add the milk. Reheat gently. Pour into bowls and garnish with parsley or chives. Serves 6.

The Garden Diary - The Leaving



It's been 31 turns around the sun since I first watched autumn fall on Omarama. The magic only gets better.

The first signs the season is softly turning go almost unnoticed. There is a whisper of thistledown. As your back is turned, white windflowers stretch up from their unassuming ground cover and unfurl their downy buds into satiny petals that glimmer in the lengthening light.

Then, slowly streaming into your

consciousness is the realisation the cicadas have shut down their summer dance party and are tuning-up to play the long, low notes of autumn blues. It seems all too soon to say goodbye to summer but the equinox winds bluster in with their reality check. Then there is the hush.

The sun sets early and rises late wrapped in mists and ice. The leaves take their cue from the waning light. That alchemist, chlorophyll, stops squandering energy trying to capture the elusive light it needs to turn water and carbon dioxide into oxygen and glucose (life for all), withdraws its green cloak worn through long sunlit days and hunkers down. The year has come full circle. The plant will rest now and live off its stored reserves until spring. But then, wow! What was hidden under that green becomes a cascade of gold and red and purple leaves which tango across the lawn. Oh, how that frustrates a tidy gardener.

It would seem a waste not to somehow put all that hard work of summer days to good use. One of my favourite autumn chores is raking leaves - truly, I love it. Great loads of crunchy leaves, provided they are not diseased, get bagged up in an old wool pack. Sometimes I add blood and bone and other treats, damp them down and leave them for up to two years. Sometimes I even remember where I left the bag. It is like unwrapping a gift. The smallest of critters have spent that time munching away, transforming those leaves into something earthy and elemental; a fine, fluffy base for potting mix or a great mulch especially made for acid-loving plants, returning goodness to the soil from which it came.

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

Our first people named this place Omarama, place of light.

Ti he mauri ora

Ki te whei-ao

Kite ao marama

Behold the breath of life

Behold the unfolding world of light

Behold the place of light