



# **-Omarama Gazette -**

## **June 2016**

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### **Backing the dog trials for generations**



Let's make new the cliché. Behind every successful dog trialist is a great support crew. Behind every successful dog trials is a hard-working team.

That Ben Omar's Anderson family name is synonymous with dog trialing not only in Omarama, but in New Zealand, goes without saying. Ginger's success has made the headlines many times in the past 51 years since, at age 19, he first qualified a dog for a national championship.

But what rarely makes the headlines is, between them, Ginger and Sylvia Anderson, of Ben Omar Station, have given a lifetime of service to Omarama's Collie Dog Club. Ginger has been president, secretary, is a life member and patron of the club. Sylvia quietly retired as secretary only two years ago after almost 20 years of service and, if asked, downplays her contribution.

But let's face it, we know a secretary's job is to think of everything. And because it is small club and not slow to put its hand up to host major events that person tends to have to wear a lot of hats.

This week's Tux South Island and New Zealand dog trial championships are the third to be hosted by the Omarama club.

"[Because] It's the best venue in New Zealand, not that I'm biased," Ginger says.

In 1915, the Anderson family, along with the Aubreys, McAughtries and Waldrons played a pivotal role in forming the Omarama club at its present grounds.

*...continued at back*

# 50

## Omarama congratulates and thanks our Volunteer Fire Brigade on 50 years of service and dedication.

**Fire! Fire!**

As a child in Omarama those words were terrifying. In the mid-fifties the Omarama Hall burned down. It was situated where the Merino Cafe now stands. I remember the intensity of the blaze of the old wooden building and the men desperately rolling drums of fuel out of a large wooden shed between the Hall and the hotel. A bucket chain from a near by stream cooled the shed wall and saved the shed igniting. If the shed had ignited the hotel would have been next.

Fire! Fire! Woke me just a couple of years later when Collins Shop and home burst into flames - it was situated where the Mobil garage and Oasis Cafe now are. Sadie and

Arthur Collins and their two Children escaped but their home and business was gone.

I was thirteen when I heard those words yelled by my father yet again and the terror was ours this time. A petrol generator had caught fire in a shed near our house at Totara Peak Station. There was no help. No fire brigade no phone. My father and mother fought to save the house and the land. I remember seeing the light shades fall from the ceiling as it was engulfed with flames. We left the ashes and drove to Omarama for help in the middle of the night. I still live in terror of fire.

A short time later the homestead at Ben Avon burnt to the ground. Thanks the Fred Hondelink and others the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade was formed.

*... continued over*

To all the  
volunteers  
Thank you so  
much for being  
there for our  
community!  
You have saved  
so many lives!  
-Jessica Smith ♥

Thank you! Archie Thomas

You all are all part of  
a great team and Omarama  
should, and is very proud to  
have you all in our midst  
THE HALL  
MPS.

*...continued*

**Fifty years have passed.**

**Never underestimate the job the wonderful men and women of the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade have done and continue to do. Dedicated volunteers - we cannot thank you enough.**

**Congratulations and celebrations for fifty years of service.**

**Sally Fodie.**

*Your ongoing support and volunteering of your own personal time to help others is hugely generous and valued within the area. On behalf of Vetlife.*

The Wrinkly Rams would like to congratulate the Omarama Fire Brigade on 50 years.

Thank you so much to all the past and present members for your fantastic, professional and selfless service you provide to local and wider communities. Nice to know we are in such good hands.

**Huge thanks to the many volunteers over the past 50 years, and their families for their patience. Your contribution in keeping our community safe is commendable. Best wishes for the next fifty. Longslip Station.**

*50 years! Congratulations Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade.*

*Your contribution to our community is priceless.*

*Thanks from Cyclejourneys and The Cook Connection.*

Congratulations to all the volunteers, both present and past, of Omarama Fire Brigade for serving your community for 50 years. A fine achievement showing dedication and commitment. Waitaki District Council.

**Congratulations guys and girls! You do a great job in so many different ways and all of us at Glide Omarama are proud to support you.**

*Wonderful community people providing a wonderful community service!*

*Congratulations everyone! Four Square Omarama.*

Congratulations on achieving 50 years! We thank you for all the time and effort you invest in to our town. The brigade is the backbone of Omarama. Craig & Glenys Dawson (Glencraigs).

**A journey begins not with the first step but with the desire to go where you have never gone. Thanks to all, who are and have gone on the journey being part of the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade, we appreciate your desire and dedication. Pam & Brian Ahuriri Motels.**

# 50

**...continued**

*Great work Omarama Fire Brigade! It just shows what can be achieved when smaller communities work together. The Veterinary centre is proud to support the Omarama Fire Brigade and our very own brigade member- Stephanie Bain.*

Congratulations to all members, both past and present, for your contribution to our community. We truly appreciate it and wish you all the best for the future. From all staff at The Oasis.

**Congratulations to all the volunteers over the last 50 years for all your time and effort Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park.**

**Congratulations Omarama Fire Brigade. Omarama school community appreciate the work that you do in our community and the surrounding area.**

**The Omarama Golf club would like to congratulate the Omarama Fire Brigade on their 50th birthday.**

*A big thank you to all past and present members for providing a high level of service to the Omarama, and surrounding area. Countrytime and Heritage Gateway hotels.*

On behalf of the Omarama Residents' Association Inc I wish to congratulate the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade on the occasion of their 50th Jubilee. The many hours put in over the years by all the Fire Brigade personnel is really appreciated by the community and it is comforting to know you are only a phone call away. Best wishes for a successful weekend of celebrations and all the best for the future. Ross Gold, chairperson Omarama Residents' Association Inc.

**Congratulations to the Fire Brigade. Thanks for your hard work and thanks for your brilliant work. Challenge Omarama.**

*To All of you Thank you  
so much for your dedication  
to our community it is great  
to know you are here to keep  
us safe. The Leopold Family*  
*To all past and present  
Volunteers Thank you  
for all your time  
keeping every one  
safe. Cordyenne & Kevin*  
*Thankyou for always  
being there  
Joe Piner*

**Congratulations and thank you. You are real community asset. Asure Sierra Motel.**

*Lindsay and Bev, and all the staff at Merino Country Café congratulate the Omarama Fire Brigade on 50 years of dedicated service to ours and the wider community.*

Huge thanks to all Members of Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade. Your Valuable Time and Dedication to keeping Omarama and surrounding areas safe is very much appreciated. Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama.

**Congrats on 50 years' service for the community, it's been a privilege to work alongside such a professional and well trained crew, thanks for all your help over the years. Bean - Omarama Police.**

*Congratulations and thank you from the management and staff at Waterforce.*

Congratulations on your 50th jubilee. We would like to say a big thank you for all your volunteer work that you have all put in over the years. Don't think words can thank any volunteer fire brigade enough, it's good to know that we have such a great fire brigade to rely on. David O'Neill Contracting Ltd. Prue, Dave, Samantha & Jack and staff.

**Mobil Omarama. Congratulations to the Fire Brigade on 50 years of service and dedication to our township. On behalf of the staff at Mobil, we wish to thank the Omarama community for their support and understanding when our management and staff are away from work due to fire brigade call-outs. Many thanks.**

*Congrats to all members -past and present. You do an AWESOME job. Can't thank you enough!! - Pam Harding*

It's always good to know you guys have our backs. Thank you for your dedication to Omarama through the years. The Grundy family.

**The Omarama Collie Dog Club would like to extend congratulations and thanks to the Omarama Volunteer Firebrigade on the occasion of its jubilee.**

*Congratulations to the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade for reaching 50 years of dedicated service to the Omarama Community - Graeme and Wini Westgarth*

**... continued over**



# 50

## **... 50th congratulations continued.**

Congratulations, you do a magnificent job. The whole area is very proud of you. - Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan on behalf of Cr June Slee and the Ahuriri Community Board.

*May 7 years ago it rained and rained and rained the Omarama Stream flooded and so did our lovely new complex, the group who came to help us was the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade; sand bags at the front and back entrance and as it receded they came in and pumped out the water surrounding the hot and cold water storage tanks, I have never forgotten their "just get stuck in and do it attitude". They sympathised with us but didn't overdo it, since then we have had a few incidents where their skills have been needed, putting out fires, supporting First Response crew, how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated bunch of individuals who work together for the safety of this community and I am always amazed at how fast they get away from the Station after that siren goes. All of the crew at Hot Tubs Omarama would like to wish them a very hearty congratulations for 50 years of putting their own activities on hold to answer that siren call for help.*

Wonderful  
People doing  
a great  
job  
Salient Bay  
LD

Well done  
Lindsay P. guys

The New Zealand  
Fire Service officially  
acknowledges the  
following Employers of  
Volunteer Firefighters:



- Aoraki Salmon
- Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama
- Dunstan Downs
- Glide Omarama
- Heritage Gateway Hotel
- Longslip Station
- Meridian
- Merino Lodge
- Mobil Omarama
- Omarama Station
- The Oasis Cafe - Bar - Grill
- Twinburn Limited
- Veterinary Centre Omarama
- West Coast DHB



Through the invaluable support of employers Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade and other volunteer fire brigades throughout New Zealand can continue to protect our communities.

**Thank you**

## It's official and you're invited

An official ceremony to mark the re-opening of Omarama's community library will take place at the Omarama Community Centre 2pm, Wednesday, June 1. Waitaki mayor Gary Kircher will cut the ribbon and Waitaha Trust chairwoman Anne Te Maiharoa-Dodds will give the karakia.

Earlier this year community representatives, met with Waitaki District Council staff to discuss relocating the library from the Omarama Primary School to the Community Centre. "We agreed that two rooms in the refurbished community hall would be ideal for the library and we've been very fortunate to have shelving donated and a new computer system has been set up," Waitaki District Libraries manager Philip van Zijl said.

"Council staff and volunteers have worked hard to have everything ready for the opening."

The library will be run by volunteers and more than 10 people have offered to help, he said. Opening hours will be on Wednesdays, 11.30am to 1.30pm, and Saturdays 10am to 12pm. "These times could be adjusted in future, according to demand," Mr van Zijl said.

An afternoon tea will be served after the official ceremony.



## Craig puts his hand up for a second term

Omarama business owner Craig Dawson has signalled he will once again stand for councillor at this year's local elections in October.

Craig, who with wife Glenys, own GlenCraigs Clothing, first stood for local body politics in 2006 and served as an Ahuriri Community Board member for four years before a three-year stint as Ahuriri Ward councillor on the Waitaki District Council.

He stood down from that role in 2013, citing poor remuneration for travel expenses, the extensive travel and the problems of juggling business and council demands.

"Those problems are still there," he said.

"[But] It has been good to have three years off.

"I've missed being involved in the area. It will be good to get back in and tackle the big issues again."

Craig is secretary of the Omarama Residents' Association.

Present Ahuriri Ward councillor Dr June Slee will not be seeking re-election.

Dr Slee told the Otago Daily Times, while it had been a difficult decision to step away from politics, she wanted to spend more time travelling and writing. Nominations open for candidates on July 15 and close August 12.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/383453/bucket-list-beckons-retiring-councillor>

## What's stat?

We knew we were busy. Now there are the stats to prove it.

Last month, Statistics New Zealand released its accommodation survey for March this year. It shows 12.3% more beds were made-up throughout the country compared with March 2015.

Although figures for March were boosted by an early Easter, they were the highest recorded for any March month since records began, Statistics New Zealand business indicators senior manager Neil Kelly said. Guest nights were up for all regions, across all accommodation types from hotels to holiday parks, and for all visitors, domestic and international.

And all those visitors were flashing the plastic. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) released its index of visitor spending for March 2016 which it bases on electronic card transactions. Here's how MBIE says; 'I need to buy another suitcase, I've bought too many shoes'.

"The average international index for the 12 months ending March 2016 was 118, i.e. 18% the average spend in 2008. This index continues its increase from December 2013. International visitor spending in March 2016 (an index of 153) was greater than compared with March 2015 (an index of 139), indicating strong nationwide performance for March 2016."

To sum up, the figures show interna-

tional spending across the country is up 14% on last year.

MBIE has gone on to predict tourism spend will grow 65% to \$16 billion by 2022.

In a statement issued by the Waitaki District Council, 2 Ocean joint committee chairman and Ohau Lodge owner Mike Neilson said people cycling the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail were playing their part in the increase of tourism in this region.

"Alps 2 Ocean guest nights at Lake Ohau Lodge have risen by 19% to almost 2,000 and now account for nearly 16% of our summer business," Mr Neilson said.

"Our total guest nights for the summer rose by 22%."

In the same statement, Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill said the tourism industry was quite buoyant, with more people coming into the district.

"We have more people doing more things, and the economic impact of that is starting to show," Mr Gaskill said.

"Alps 2 Ocean is a big part of that, contributing to the increased number of visitor nights and retail spending, and is steadily becoming a central piece of our regional identity."





## Changes to water services cause concern

A change to how water services in the Ahuriri ward are managed on a day-to-day basis has come as a surprise to its Community Board.

From July 1 contracting company SouthRoads will take up the Waitaki District Council maintenance contract for water, wastewater and stormwater reticulation (pipes, connections, manholes and so on) in the Ahuriri area – which includes Kurow, Otematata, Omarama and Ohau. It has sub-contracted some of the wastewater works to SJ Allen Contracting. SouthRoads replaces Whitestone Contracting who did not tender for the new contract. Whitestone Contracting employed one person to be stationed in Omarama to service the surrounding area.

In a statement, the council said because of the small workload in the Ahuriri area, it was unaffordable for contractors to base staff here and SouthRoads would run its maintenance service from its Oamaru depot.

“This will not impact on the quality or timeliness of work done – there will continue to be a two-day deadline for the contractor to respond to any non-urgent maintenance work.”

There could be “a slight delay” before work started on a job because staff would not be “immediately on hand”.

“The only change we have made to the contract conditions is that we will allow the new contractor two hours instead of one hour to respond to urgent issues – such as water main bursts.

“These issues only happen on rare occasions and can be dealt with in the first instance by local plumbers, if required (for example, they can turn off the main until the contractor arrives to fix the main).”

Ahuriri Community Board Chairman Graham Sullivan said, although the board was aware the contract had changed hands, it had been told nothing about how the contract was to work and that was of concern.

It was “disappointing” there would be no-one in the Ahuriri to look after water, he said.

Board member and Omarama resident Michael Blackstock said he was disappointed Whitestone Contracting had not put in a tender to continue with the contract. “We will have to wait and see how this plays out.”

It could have major repercussions if, for example, there was a disruption to the water supply during the busy tourist season and to visitors who were expecting “first class service” during their stay.

As well, in the case of Omarama and Lake Ohau the nearest plumbers were in Twizel and Otematata.

“If the mains burst how long do we have before the tanks on the hill run out of water,” he said.

The council advises anyone with an issue with water, wastewater or stormwater reticulation, to call its customer contact team on 0800 108 081.

It would make sure the contractor was alerted and the issue dealt with as quickly as possible.

## Sunny and warm start to duck shooting season



*Shooters and supporters (from left) Todd and Michelle Hancox, Jason Rogers and Katrina Sole enjoy a cold one after what was a warm day for the opening of the duck shooting season.*

Duck shooting season opened warm and bright this year.

Omarama shooter Jason Rogers said it was “one of the warmest openings ever”. “We should be ice skating.”

However, he also said it was one of the best opening shoots he had experienced. Jason and friends bagged 29 birds before retiring for the day.

They also took part in Fish and Game New Zealand’s Mallard duck research programme.

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## Up, up and away

Anyone looking skyward just after noon on May 17 could not have missed this floating across the big sky.

Nasa launched its scientific super pressure balloon from Wanaka Airport at 11.45.

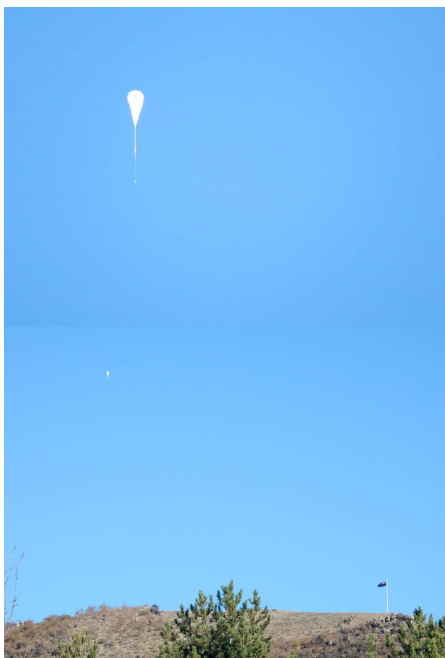
It was not fully inflated but estimated to be at about 12,000m when it passed over Omarama at 12.30pm.

As it rose, carrying its scientific payload and travelling at about 300m per minute, the lower atmospheric pressure caused the balloon to fully inflate.

The balloon climbed to its predestined height of about 33.5km within the predicted two to three days.

The goal is for the balloon to remain airborne for 100 days. After the mission is complete flight operators will find a safe place to bring the balloon down and recover the load.

Nasa believes the balloon will circumnavigate the globe about the southern hemisphere’s mid-latitudes once every one to three weeks, depending on wind speeds in the stratosphere.





## The Noticeboard

**Today, Wednesday June 1,** The Omarama branch of Waitaki District Libraries re-opens at the Omarama Community centre. The opening ceremony is at 2pm.

**The Tux South** Island and New Zealand dog trial championships are on at the Omarama Collie Dog Club grounds, Omarama Station, until Saturday, June 4.

**Tonight, Wednesday, June 1,** there is a social evening and auction at 6pm at the main marquee. A courtesy coach, run by Friends of Omarama School will be available.

**The Omarama School** pool needs you! Omarama School Board of Trustees has decided the school pool needs a major facelift. It is looking for a group of motivated people to form a sub-committee can apply for grants and oversee renovations.

Please contact: Board chairwoman Jan Thomas 9703 or Bean (Constable Nayland Smith) 021 191 4808 for further information.

**The Valley Variety** Show organisers require the loan of a good quality piano for the show on July 1. Please phone Kay Verheul 03 438 9538. Tickets for the show are now on sale. (*See below for further details.*)

**The official welcome** and celebrations to mark the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade jubilee begin at 3pm, Saturday, June 4.

**The Ohau Conservation** Trust Eileen McMillan Memorial Lecture and fundraising meal will be at 6.30pm, Sunday, June 5, at Lake Ohau Lodge.

**The Lake Ohau** Village Residents and Ratepayers Association has its annual meeting at 3.30pm, also on Sunday and at Lake Ohau Lodge.

**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

# The Noticeboard continued

**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.

**If you find** anything amiss in The Omarama Gazette please contact Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002, email [omaramagazette@gmail.co.nz](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette)., 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. The page is moderated. 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 [email@gmail.com](mailto:email@gmail.com)

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**Contact Ruth Grundy, 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766**  
**Email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

**The Omarama Gazette is run on a volunteer basis  
with support from businesses to meet costs.**  
**[www.discoveromarama.co.nz](http://www.discoveromarama.co.nz)**

# The Community Reports



## **Omarama branch of the Waitaki District Libraries**

*By Anna Howard, volunteer librarian.*

When it re-opens in the Omarama Community Centre, the Omarama branch will be the first community library in the Waitaki District to be included in the Waitaki District Library Management System, Koha. This means that Omarama borrowers will be able to access the Waitaki District

Library catalogue and see all of the books and resources available in the Waitaki District Library collection. Advantages include a wider range of available material, and the ability to place a reserve on a particular item.

To access and use the full library system, borrowers now need to enrol with Waitaki District Library, in Omarama. If you have already enrolled in Oamaru and have used the library service recently, you won't need to enrol again but please bring your existing library card or library number with you.

Most of you will have received a library membership form in your mailbox recently. For those who haven't, apologies - we ran out, but more are on the way. They will also be available at the opening today, Wednesday June 1, at 2pm, along with information packs detailing the available resources.

Completed forms can be returned at any time. For speedier enrolment please ensure that you bring ID and proof of residential address. You do not need to live in Waitaki to enrol in the library, but you do need a residential address within New Zealand.

At this stage, the library opening hours are: Wednesdays 11.30am to 1.30pm and Saturdays 10am to 12pm. These hours are on a trial basis to see what best suits the community. The library will be staffed by two volunteers when open. No qualifications are required if you want to volunteer. Training is provided, and if you are not comfortable using the library computer system, there are paper-based alternatives. You don't need to be a techno-whizz at all.

A big thank you to Michael Blackstock who has equipped us with a bag of milo, tea, coffee, Splenda, and a tin of Anzac biscuits, which we will store in the library for use by librarians /patrons, as and when required.

If you have any questions or want to volunteer, please contact:

Georgie Robertson: 027-486-1525 or [huntly@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huntly@xtra.co.nz),

Anna Howard: 021-132-5586

Join us for tea and cake at the opening! Looking forward to seeing you all there :)



# Omarama Play Group

*By Liz Croft*

We have started term two with an exciting new piece of play ground equipment! A spring see saw that seats four children.

It has added an extra element to our play ground & feels like it was made to fit in the space. I would like to thank Jemma Gloag who organised the release of some funding from the Ahuriri community board and all the play group families and local volunteers who help with our annual ladies night to fund raise and buy these extra pieces of equipment.

A huge thank you to Andy Moore, Danny Brown, Craig Morgan, Richard Gloag and Simon Croft who dug a large hole, mixed concrete and installed the see saw perfectly level. Their time, materials and use of tools were very much appreciated. Also to Jess, Becky, Jemma and Emma for re setting up the play group room and completing the extra repair jobs on the sand pit and painting easels. Well done ladies. I would also like to mention the amazing job Becky Martin is doing organising activities and keeping play group on track. It has made being on duty so much easier. Term two has a focus on hibernation, the children have been creating great art work with autumn leaves, decorating animal masks, making pizzas and seem to enjoy a story or two at the end of the session. Any questions please call; Liz Croft president 4389780, Petrina Paton vice-president 4389540, Jemma Gloag treasurer 4389626, Jess Toole secretary 4389430

*Photos: (left) Craig Morgan and Andy Moore clean up after the build.*

*(Right) Robbie, Jacob, Jack, Angus and Nelle test the new see-saw.*



## Upper Waitaki Police news



Hi everyone, nothing of note to report but with winter all of a sudden arriving so does winter driving conditions, couple of things to remember: Look out for shaded areas caused by high banks and tall trees where roads freeze sooner and ice may not thaw during the day. Bridges can also stay slippery longer than other road surfaces, so slow down before crossing.

With the above examples in mind don't forget the cutting near Ben Omar Rd which is always treacherous and has even caught the odd local

out, as well as the Ahuriri Bridge which was pretty bad last year, so be careful. Double the two-second rule, leave a safe distance between you and the car you're following. Slow down, 5 minutes late is a lot better than not getting there at all. It's recommended that you have at least 3mm of tread for winter driving to better stop on wet roads. Make sure your windows are demisted before leaving home as well. I don't want to see your head sticking out the side window, (you know who you are :).

Not a lot else to report, stay safe. Bean.

**Constable Nayland Smith**

03 4389559 email: [Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)

## Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



This is a short catch-up prior to the Brigade celebrating 50 years' service to this community and the travelling public.

We are busy making sure the appliances, station and grounds are all in order to be ready for the influx of passed members and dignitaries on the 3rd of June.

We have a roll of 17 members with another two going through the process of joining the brigade.

Since the first of July 2015 we have had 91 calls and still have over a month to go to the end of our reporting year so it is shaping up to be a record year for the brigade.

On a fire prevention note we are into the cold season so check where you are disposing of your ashes and, if you haven't already done it, a chimney clean maybe in order. -Howard Williams, Chief Fire Officer, Omarama.

***The Community Reports' continues over ...***

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

Winter has finally decided to make an appearance after a warm dry autumn. Time to keep yourself well from the inside out, and it's more than just having good immunity and fighting off the colds.

We all know how important it is to exercise, and be outdoors, and yes it can be a struggle to get out into the harsh winter weather some days. However, a lot of the time, if we just don a jacket and hat, there is so much around us to enjoy when being outside.

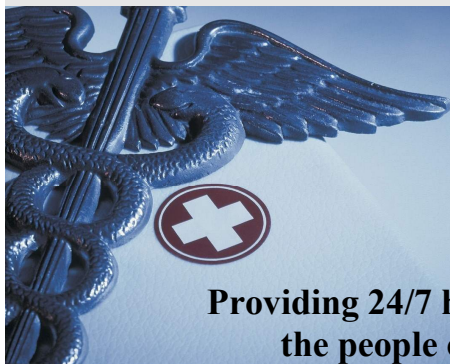
The Waitaki Valley and the Mackenzie Basin shower us in beauty and fresh air, so we should all get out and just be. Just breathe. Just absorb it all. It's good for our soul as well as sneaking in as much vitamin D and energy conversion from exercise as we can.

Take a friend, your children, neighbour or family pet, and go exploring. You will reap the benefits, and winter will pass you by without too much trouble. Walk part of the Alps to Ocean, zip up the Kurow Hill or out to the island, take a wander down a long less travelled road with a great view.

Add to this some good nutrition from homemade soups, make your own healthy hearty stews and refuel with the nutrients that are still in the garden. They are ready for harvest at this time of year for a reason.

If you feel under the weather, make sure you flush yourself out with lots of water, rest up as much as you can, keep your house warm and dry, and try to keep away from others if you are feeling really unwell. Limit the spread of germs by good hand washing and sneezing into disposable tissues. Most importantly, let some fresh air work its magic from the inside.

*- the team at Kurow Medical Centre*



## **Kurow Medical Centre**

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

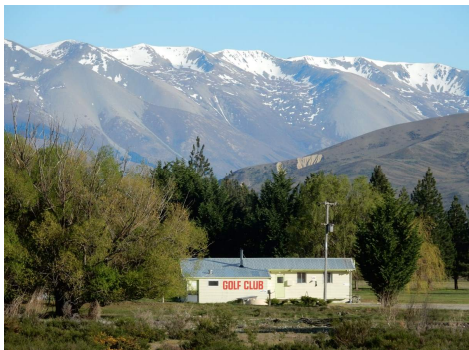
**E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)**

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

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

# The Community Reports *continues ...*

## The Omarama Golf Club



*By Paul Bowman*

### Easter Tournament

Another great day's golfing was enjoyed by the 40 competitors in our annual Easter Tournament. A big thanks to everyone who supported the event, both competitors and sponsors.

We had non golfers right through to low handicappers, there was

something for everyone!!

Winner over the field: Ron McPhail, of Omarama. 72 – 8 – 44 Stablefords

Junior: Paul Radburn

Senior : Graham Fahey

Ladies: Maureen Saxton

Thanks to the ladies who provided the on-course BBQ and the excellent meal.

Remember Saturdays 12.30pm tee off, all welcome and the fire will be going in the club house./.

A warm welcome to our new members Kevin Wallis and David Grant.

This month we would like to thank the following sponsors:

Oasthouse Liquor Land Oamaru

Brosnan Refrigeration Oamaru

Southern Electrical Dunedin

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

# The Omarama Civil Defence Group – update



Equipment is to be installed at the Omarama Community Centre with the view to it being the Omarama Civil Defence Community Response Group headquarters once other formalities have been completed.

The co-ordinators, Jan Perriam and Michael Blackstock, told the Omarama Residents Association last week, matters were underway and a radio and regulation first aid kit were about to be installed at the Centre.

Response from volunteers had been positive however, more people would be appreciated, Jan said.

**People who want to help can contact:**

**Ahuriri Community Board member Michael Blackstock 03 438 9481 or Omarama Civil Defence co-ordinator Jan Perriam, 03 438 9547.**



## 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



**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)**



## Keeping you posted on the dog trials

The Tux South Island and New Zealand dog trial championships which began on Monday, May 30 are expected to continue until the end of the week.

Most final results should be known by Friday.

The Omarama Gazette will have coverage of the week's events on its Facebook page [www.facebook.com/omaramagazette](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette) and in the July issue of the Gazette.



**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, July 6, 2016.  
Please submit copy by Friday, July 1.**



### **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



## The School News Over the Gate

Kia ora Readers,

The school is enjoying the Arts Programme that has been planned for Term 2. We welcomed the Circus Challenge to our school on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May. Clinton wasted no time in capturing the student's imagination with his lively performance. He is a juggler, a unicycle rider and a comedian. Of course Clinton had the teachers up too. We were expected to complete some challenges as

the students looked on. Clinton's message was to have a go at everything and if it does not work out or you feel that you have failed to try again. The workshop that followed the performance took the children out of their comfort zone. They had to spin a disc on a stick, keep it going and lie down still holding the spinning disc. I was amazed at how many children managed to do it. He also had them holding two sticks and balancing another. You had to flick this one into the air and catch it again. It was quite difficult to do but again the children accepted the challenge and tried to master it.

On Friday of last week, we bundled everyone into vehicles and went down to Kurow. Upper Waitaki School hosted the Technology Challenge. Mr Newlands and Mrs McGregor prepared the senior room with the tasks and Mrs McKenzie let the juniors practise their activities ready for the big day.

Suzie Smith, Hannah Parsons and Kassidy Crosland came first in their event (Ski Slope) and Hannah Parsons, Tara Parsons and Cameron Smith raced their boats in the finals at the pool. This activity was called the home challenge. Everyone had to make a boat and bring it to school to be judged.

The best of the boats were taken down to the Technical Challenge.

Thank you to those who assisted with transport. It was a great day out.

We are finally in the new classrooms. There has been a buzz of excitement. New furniture has arrived for the Junior room. The seniors are using their desks from the other block until we can see how the space will work for us. It is definitely warmer and quieter.

I looked out through the window on Tuesday to an amazing backdrop. It truly took my breath away. The snow glistened in the afternoon sunlight. It was truly spectacular.

Next month we will be learning about Matariki, writing speeches and getting ready for the Valley Variety Show.

Ka kete ano

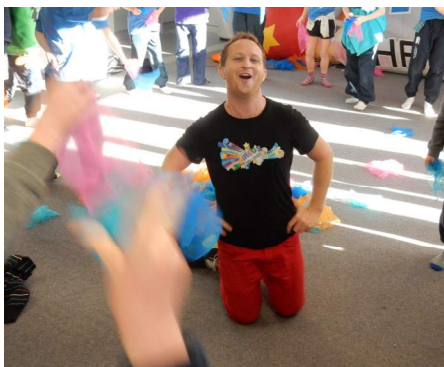
- Sue Fleming, Omarama School principal

# Clinton captivates the school

They were working hard but having so much fun they didn't notice. Isn't that how every day should be?!

Clinton Woodvine, of Circus Challenge, visited Omarama School and challenged his captive audience of pre-schoolers, pupils and staff to try new tricks, drop the ball and bounce back. The philosophy is "circus gives everyone a place to take risks", he said. But nothing quite so grave was on anyone's minds. Faces reflected deep concentration. Eyes sparkled as everyone, yes, everyone, tried their hands at juggling, making those 'fire sticks' dance and spinning those (plastic) plates.

"Motivational posters are lovely but this is about putting it into practice," Clinton said. A video of one of Clinton's challenges can be viewed on Omarama Gazette's Facebook page.



## Omarama School Board of Trustee election results

At the close of nominations, as the number of valid nominations was equal to the number of vacancies required to be filled, I hereby declare the following duly elected:

**Anderson, David  
Kerr, James  
Thomas, Jan**

*Charlotte Cook  
Returning Officer*

# Waitaki District Council news



## The draft 2016/17 annual plan

The council received about 70 submissions to its annual plan. Those who chose to speak in support of their submissions were heard by the council last month.

At the hearings Ahuriri Community Board member Michael Blackstock asked for a year-round liquor ban in Omarama and Otematata.

At present, bans have been applied for

and cover only each Labour Weekend, Easter, Christmas and New Year. Craig Dawson spoke on behalf of the Omarama Residents and Ratepayers association and asked that the council set up and lead a group of concerned bodies to lobby the Government to introduce a levy on all visitors entering New Zealand. A fund set up from the levy could then be used to pay for improved facilities to cope with the increased numbers of visitors. Hot Tubs Omarama's formal contract with Tourism Waitaki to run an information centre had ended on March 31. Craig told the council there was a need for a stand-alone information centre to be set up as soon as possible. He endorsed the installation of a dump station. This was put on hold by councillors at a meeting the previous day because more money is needed to pay for unplanned costs. The councillors will make their final decisions at a meeting on June 8 and the 2016/17 annual plan will be formally adopted on Wednesday, June 22.

**The next meeting** of the Ahuriri Community Board will be at the Kurow Memorial Hall, 3.15pm Monday, June 13.

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

## Did you know?

An inventive fundraiser has not only benefited bookworms through the years but also Omarama's First Response Unit.

The long-standing practice of dropping pre-loved books in a shopping trolley outside Four Square Omarama for others to pick-up in return for a gold-coin donation has been "very popular", especially with visitors. There is always a good turn-over of books and over the years a significant amount has been raised, one of the coordinators says.

This money is used to support Omarama's First Response Unit.

There are two ways to help: Drop pre-loved books into the shopping trolley and buy a second-hand book for a gold coin donation.

## Environment Canterbury news

May's meeting of Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee discussed what needs to be done to manage freedom camping in the region.

The Mackenzie and Waitaki district councils are reviewing their policies about freedom camping and as part of that are asking the zone committee what it thinks. That feedback will be presented to the councils.

The committee has already been weighing up the potential impact of visitors on the recreational use of streams and rivers in the upper Waitaki. It championed a "Love your Lakes" education campaign which ran through the 2015/16 summer period and encouraged people to use public toilets and take their rubbish with them.

The committee also discussed whether or not to put up road signage at three entrances to the upper Waitaki to further publicise its campaign.

**The next meeting** of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for June 17.

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

---

## Everybody knows somebody

Thanks to fundraisers like this there is hope.

More than 30 gathered at Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama for a Pink Ribbon brunch, hosted by Julie and Bruce Dyson. The \$1402 raised will go towards funding scientific research into improving women and men's chances of surviving breast cancer. It goes without saying the theme was 'pink', and the brunch superb. Breast cancer survivor Georgie Robertson led us through her courageous journey from the disbelief of discovery, the difficult days of treatment, to the triumph of survival. More stories and hugs were shared.





# The Directory

## Wanted: Accommodation

for 1 lady and 1 well-trained dog.  
Required as soon as possible.  
Please contact Jan at the Hot Tubs  
438 9703

## Brosnan Refrigeration Ltd

Blair Brosnan  
0800 BROSAN - 0277555705



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Email hankay@xtra.co.nz  
www.bigskybnb.co.nz

## Omarama Gazette

omaramagazette@gmail.com

Ruth Grundy

03 438 9766

021 294 8002

Supplymoore's hours will be a  
little irregular over the winter months

We still have loads of DRY FIREWOOD, pea straw, mulches  
and other growing media for your garden.



Please call to arrange

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Thank you for your support and keep warm over winter.  
We will be back to regular opening hours in spring.

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**SPEIGHT'S**



**The Oasis Cafe - Bar - Grill**

**SPEIGHT'S**



## JUNE HOURS

Monday	7.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Tuesday	7.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Wednesday	7.30 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Thursday	7.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.
Friday	7.30 a.m.-7.00 p.m.
Saturday	7.30 a.m.-7.00 p.m.
Sunday	7.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.

**Any dinner bookings would be much appreciated**

# Plunket Mothers Midwinter Night Out!



**Friday 1st July 2016  
7pm at the Kurow Winery**

**Tickets  
\$40 pp**

*(includes a 3 course  
platter style meal.)*

Text Christine to confirm your attendance 021 948 311  
Tickets also available from Carron at the Kurow Museum.

Come along and enjoy a well deserved night off and catch up with other  
Plunket mothers in the Kurow area.

*We promise a night of great company, food and wine plus an AMAZING  
selection of spot prizes. Every ticket has a chance of winning!*

Proudly supported by:

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

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NOW OPEN**

# Twizel Kindergarten



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

The teachers are all qualified and registered.



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

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



**Contact Head Teacher Carol Sinclair**

**Phone 03 435 0433**

**or call in to the kindergarten**

**135 Mackenzie Drive, Twizel**



[www.kikbuttlife.com](http://www.kikbuttlife.com)



# RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK ATTENDANT

*Are you looking for part-time work or simply want to earn some additional income?*

Delta is seeking a responsible and reliable person to operate our resource recovery parks located at Omarama and Otemata.

The hours of work are part-time and will be as per the opening hours of both facilities, as set by the Waitaki District Council. Currently this will be:

- Omarama: Wednesday 9am to 12pm; and Sunday 9am to 12pm
- Otemata: Wednesday 1pm to 4pm; and Sunday 1pm to 4pm

There will also be work on Saturdays for part of the year (from Labour weekend through to Easter).

This role is a fixed-term position from 26th June to 31st October 2016, with the potential for permanent employment if Delta's contract with the Waitaki District Council is extended.

The person will have excellent customer service skills and ideally had some experience with cash handling. Other duties will be required such as keeping up aesthetics (picking up litter and vegetation maintenance).

This role may suit a retired or semi-retired person.



APPLY ONLINE AT  
[WWW.THINKDELTA.CO.NZ/CAREERS](http://WWW.THINKDELTA.CO.NZ/CAREERS)



## COMING EVENTS - JUNE

Join our social club \$5.00 per member

Starting 7th June SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS. Be at the Hotel Bar at 6.00pm every Tuesday and go into the draw for a \$30.00 bar tab, if the drawn member is not present, the tab will Jack Pot to the following week.

Investec Super Rugby Competition – Ongoing Friday and Saturday nights

Wales vs All Blacks Test series played Live

Monteith's Competition Win a \$300 Hunting and Fishing Voucher drawn 25th June – just come on in to the bar purchase six Monteith's beverages fill in your entry form and be in the draw.

\$10.00 Monteith's Jugs for the Whole month of June, excludes cider.

## OUR NEW MENU IS OUT

Check out our New Seasons Lunch and Dinner Menu Hearty

Country Cooking!!!!

CHEERS FROM THE TEAM AT BOOTS AND JANDALS

## Pretty Nails, Fun, And Freebies!

Jamberry Nail pamper session



Have you heard about Jamberry but never tried it?

Have you tried it but couldn't quite figure out the application?

Are you wondering what the heck this Jamberry thing is that we're talking about?

Are you the type that NEVER does her nails (because it's just not worth the time!)?

Are you the type that ALWAYS has her nails done because it's the perfect accessory?

Have you ever wondered what this gel nail craze thing was about?

If you answered "yes" to ANY of these questions, then this event is for you!

Come along for a FREE evening of pretty nails, fun and FREEBIES, and find out what it's all about. Free mini manicures for everyone, with no obligation to buy!

**Friday 10th June, 7pm**  
**Omarama Golf Club**

Please register your interest by txt to Kim on 0277424649 or  
email [kimberley\\_anne@hotmail.com](mailto:kimberley_anne@hotmail.com)  
[kimmyanne.jamberrynails.co.nz](http://kimmyanne.jamberrynails.co.nz)



## **TACKLESHOP AT ASURE SIERRA MOTEL-**

### **Omarama**



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

**Winter fishing licence now on sale**

**April 1 to September 30**

**Good value for 6 months**

**Duck shooting licences now on sale**

**OPENING HOURS: 7.30 AM TO 7.30 PM**

**The weather that was  
@ 44°29'29.4"S 169°58'19.7"E**

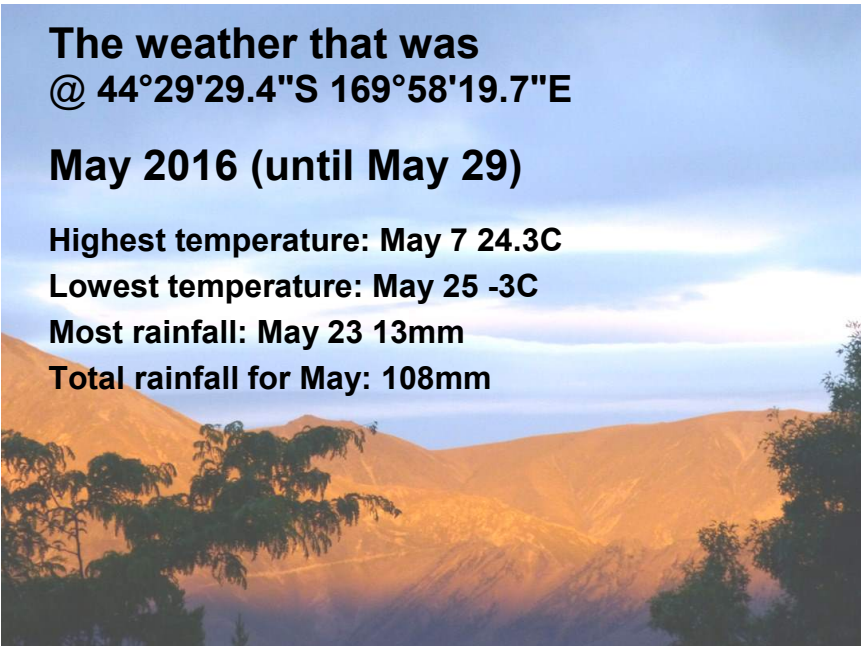
**May 2016 (until May 29)**

**Highest temperature: May 7 24.3C**

**Lowest temperature: May 25 -3C**

**Most rainfall: May 23 13mm**

**Total rainfall for May: 108mm**







## The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions with...

**Howard and Denise Williams**

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

*Don't sweat the small stuff.*

**2. What was your best impulse buy?**

*This place! The 'life sentence' block – two alpaca, two cattle beast, eight chooks and a rooster.*

**3. Best day outside the office?**

*Outside, a good walk and inside, solving a jigsaw puzzle – Denise.  
Going on a hunting trip with good mates, especially to the coast - Howard*

**4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?**

*Because of the way the community pulls together.  
It's just an awesome place and it's home.*

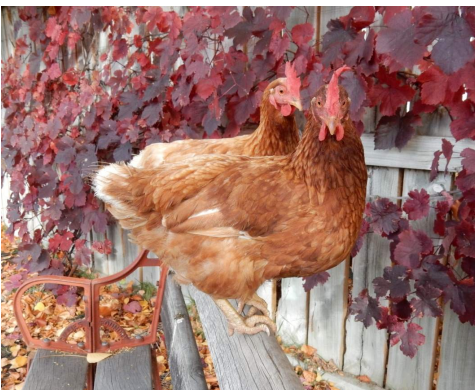
**5. What is one thing that would make the world a better place?**

*To respect each other and value the differences.*

Howard is Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer. He has been in the fire brigade for 32 years and has been fire chief for 14 years. He says it is unlikely he will still be in that role for the centenary.

---

## The view from the chook house



We really don't understand  
the fuss over dogs  
rounding up sheep.  
We herd cats  
all the time.



***... continued from page one***

Sylvia, as a young dental nurse, married into the dog trialing world. Ginger could scarcely have escaped it.

His grandfather John brought dogs out from Scotland to work the huge Benmore run where he was head shepherd. After the break up of Benmore John established Riverina in 1921 and Ben Omar in 1923. He and Ginger's father Ian were keen trialists and travelled throughout New Zealand to compete. John, who died in 1938, was a prime mover in establishing the first New Zealand championships in 1936. Until then major trials were island-only competitions. Ginger and Sylvia's son Johnny is the fourth generation on Ben Omar and also a successful trialist.

Unsurprisingly, Ginger began trialing as a school boy. He was one of nine pupils at Omarama School, the roll had crept up to 11 by the time he left.

"Omarama was very, very rural," he says. Largely a sheep and beef farming area there were many more 'married couples' on farms and Omarama was able to field two rugby teams.

He left school in 1962, won his first open in the North Otago championship in 1965, and, as well as all the other titles, has been New Zealand champion dog trialist three times since.

Ginger will campaign Boss, Don and Glen in the heading events at these championships. Two have Anderson blood – descended from the Anderson breed developed by grandfather John from those original Scottish imports. Mostly black and white and smooth-haired, the good ones are "born to be champs".

Sylvia took over from Jenny Williamson as secretary of Omarama's dog trial club in 1995. Jenny had been secretary for about 10 years. Omarama hosted its first New Zealand's in 1996, the second in 2006. There would always be a working bee ahead of any trials with "girls in the kitchen, boys stocking the bar," she says. For many years friend Nancy Munro would help in the office filling out cards and taking entries.

The world of dog trialing is "very social...you have a lot of fun" and the friendships just "pick up where we left off".

What she doesn't say is a long-serving secretary is an indispensable resource when presidents (elected every two years) and committee members come and go. From portalooes to programmes they deal with it all. Minute books become historical records. Phone calls, letters, emails and all those illegible messages scrawled on scraps of paper pass through their hands. Every coin, note and, nowadays, electronic transaction must be collected, distributed and accounted for. Trialists must be registered, names recorded, judging sheets deciphered, points totted up, officials notified, prizes selected, engraved, polished and awarded to the right person. Often also overseeing kitchen, bar and office, they are the first to arrive and the last to leave.

And, for the past few months, this couple have once again rolled up their sleeves and got stuck-in with the rest of the championships committee –

Simon Inkersell, Greg Metherell, Lisa Anderson, Rick Aubrey, Paul Collins, Ed Aubrey and Scott Hunter - to prepare for this week's event.

In Omarama, the sport and competition is growing. There are more young people coming through and they tend to be "far better handlers", Ginger says. There will be a "good showing" from Omarama trialists this week, with three qualifying to campaign 10 dogs across the events. Ginger is joined by Edward Aubrey, of Dalrachney Station, and Scott Hunter who works at Longslip Station. But on the day, no matter how they have performed through the season, competitors start at level pegging. It's just the "luck of the draw with the sheep".

"If you're not a good sport you won't be a dog trialist for very long."

---



# VALLEY VARIETY SHOW

**7pm Friday, July 1**

**Omarama Community Centre**

**Tickets \$20.00 per adult \$2.00 per child**

Available from:

**Glencraig's Clothing Omarama 438 9816**

**Four Square Omarama 438 9895**

**Hot Tubs Omarama 438 9703**

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**Twizel Information Centre 435 3124**

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night's entertainment  
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## The Garden Diary

I found treasure. The glimpse of plump crimson seeds through a slash in the lime-green, star-shaped pod was startling. I thought all my peony roses were sterile. I knew the bumble bees had been busy on this one. It is so delightfully gaudy with its single fuchsia-pink petals. The bees would crash land on its satiny petals and slide down deep into the thick golden stamen. It must have done the trick. The hot summer sun



warmed those pods golden brown, the crimson seeds baked until they were glossy mahogany and then burst through the seams.

We humans often think we are the most ingenious life-forms on the planet but I'm not so sure. Even before my first botany lesson I was intrigued by plants, and seeds never cease to amaze. Botany was the first lesson in third-form science. It seemed the class was set up to be sleep-inducing. Directly after lunch, we sat at desks under sunny windows. Still clumsy with our fountain pens, we smudged our way through note-taking as the teacher, in a dry drone, read the day's lesson from a textbook. But I was riveted. That story about the Augustinian friar, Gregor Mendel, who became fixated with the lascivious habits of peas and started taking notes, wow! No? His discoveries became known as Mendel's Laws and he was bestowed the title 'Founder of the Science of Genetics'. Posthumously, of course, ain't it always the way? Anywho, he knew a bit about seeds.

Seeds can be as light and powdery as dust, chunky and intricately carved as wooden beads, there are hairy seeds, prickly seeds and most fun, helicopter seeds. But there is more to seeds than just their good looks.

Enclosed within each is code more complex than any ever invented. Utterly ingenious, it encapsulates the experience of generations within its heart and uses that to map its future. A plant will emerge from a seed as recognisable as its parent and yet unique. An apple will never be a banana. There are two important things a seed has to do with its time. It needs to move and find a home of its own (dispersal) and it needs to schedule its debut perfectly (breaking dormancy). Get it wrong and it's; 'goodbye, cruel world'. I do so admire the technique those conifers, which shall not be named, use to achieve domination. The cones will stay tightly shut until, just as if Indiana Jones had passed by, the exact amount of moisture and warmth hits the button. The compartments of the wooden cache snap open and the seed with its one wing launches itself out to just beyond the shade of its parent.

I might have been wise to leave the peony seeds where they were since they know best. But. So, 'the book' says sprout them in damp potting mix, refrigerate for 8 weeks, remove, wait 30-60 days, and then, voila! Or not. I wonder what colour they will be?

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