



-Omarama Gazette -

July 2016

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The Anderson Family of Ben Omar**

Omarama pair shine on stage



Omarama's Dominic (10) and Lillie Walsh (8) are rising junior stars in the performing arts world.

Both excelled at the recent Oamaru Performing Arts Society's festival at the Oamaru Opera House.

Lillie was first overall in the 'novice four-step highland dance', and was fifth in her speech class.

Dom won the 'improvisation' and 'character recital in costume' in the

speech/drama classes and was highly placed in other classes.

To put that in perspective, the three-day event drew 284 performers from throughout the South Island to compete in dance, drama and music contests. Lillie began Highland dancing two years ago, travelling to Oamaru once a week for lessons with Oamaru teacher Jenny Kinzett.

She says it was stories of her "Nana's" success which were her inspiration. Although her grandmother died before she was born, the family have memories of a box filled with medals she won during her time as a highland dancer.

At the festival, Lillie performed the four and six step Highland dance, the Irish jig and the sword dance which is her favourite.

She says she doesn't usually feel nervous because she is so busy "trying to remember the steps and not get mixed up".

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Successful event capped by Ginger's win

Last month's Tux New Zealand and South Island dog trial championships in Omarama have been declared a resounding success by organisers.

In what proved to be an exciting finish in the last run on the final day Omarama's long-time trialist Ginger Anderson (70) and Don pipped fellow North Otago Centre entrant Lloyd Smith and Check, of Palmerston, by .75 of a point to take out the New Zealand short head and yard title. This was the fourth national title Ginger has won.

Omarama ex-pat Tim Stevenson and Cruze, now of Taihape, won the straight hunt. Tim's parents Red and Bronwyn Stevenson owned Mobil Omarama in the 1980s.

Ginger, who has been competing for 51 years, was presented with a life membership of the New Zealand Association at its annual meeting during the championships.

The Omarama Collie Dog Club had three of its present members and many former members qualify dogs across the events.

More than 300 competitors and their supporters gathered throughout the week-long trials not only to enjoy the competition but also the camaraderie which is said to be typical of the trials.

A pop-up village and practice grounds were set up near the sheep sale yards at the Omarama Collie Dog Club rooms on Omarama Station.

There were fears the weather may not play the game but cold, clear days were enjoyed for the most part.

The whole event was a success and at the social gathering on Wednesday evening the marquee was "heaving, oozing at the sides," with people enjoying the occasion, Omarama Collie Dog Club secretary Lisa Anderson said.



Fighting fires a family affair

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade jubilee at Queen's Birthday weekend was an opportunity for many reunions.

But the Courtney family get-together was extra special, 11 of their number were included in the approximately 150 who attended the celebrations.

Their links with the fire brigade stretch across and down the generations.

They have filled all roles, fire chiefs, deputy fire chiefs, fire-fighters, admin, and staunch supporters.

Lindis Courtney (91, of Waimate) was the oldest ex-member present.

He was the brigade's secretary from 1966 to 1968 and has clear memories of the paper wars and bureaucratic battles he took part in trying to acquire the land where the station is now.

He and his wife of 61 years, Hazel, brought up their children in Omarama, each with strong loyalties to the brigade.

Daughters Sharon Rogers, Pam Urquhart and Donna Courtney, son Jimmy Courtney, and grandchildren Phillip, Jason and Aaron Rogers, Harry Urquhart and Summer McDougall, Bianca Courtney, and Travis and Toby Courtney have each had their part to play whether it be as fire-fighters or as active support. His sons-in-law, John Rogers and Dave Urquhart, rose through the ranks of volunteer fire-fighting to be chief fire officer and deputy chief fire officer respectively and are honorary life members. John is also a gold star member. Grand-son-in law Nick McDougall was also a member for a short time.

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Jubilee celebrated in style

Promise of new fire appliance next year

The good wishes extended to Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade on the occasion of its jubilee came with the promise of a new fire appliance. More than 150 firefighters, supporters, friends and dignitaries gathered in Omarama at Queens Birthday Weekend to celebrate the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade's 50th anniversary.

At Saturday's afternoon tea, life honorary memberships were presented to the brigade's first fire chief, Graeme Cowie, of Timaru, and Lindis Courtney, who was one-time secretary and now, at 91 and living in Waimate, was the oldest ex-member present.

Formal acknowledgement of the brigade's history and service was made after the anniversary dinner at the Omarama Community Centre.

New Zealand Fire Service Commission board chairman Paul Swain led the list of dignitaries extending congratulations to the brigade.

It was the "strength of small communities", the willingness of fire-fighters to be available day and night, and the support of their families which allowed brigades like Omarama's to function well.

"You can be justifiably proud of your achievement and the difference you have made.

'You can measure your success in lives saved and properties saved," Mr Swain said.

He also announced the brigade could expect its present appliance to be upgraded to a IVECO type II rescue tender by the middle of 2017. This would fill a request made at the opening of the upgraded station in December 2014, he said.

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade's first fire chief, Graeme Cowie, and its youngest member, Jaden Jenkins, cut the cake which was made by Tania McAughtrie.

The Friends of Omarama School catered for the anniversary dinner.



A great turnout for a night full of fun

Talent stepped out of the valley and into the limelight to entertain a full house at Omarama's Community Centre on Friday night. This was Omarama's 2016 Valley Variety Show. There was rhyme, rhythm and song, as the diverse cast treated their audience to relaxed and heart-warming performances. The Waitaki Valley Singers led into what was a full evening's programme with *On a Wonderful Day like Today* and *The Rose*, and sang out the concluding notes to the evening with another set peppered with Broadway hits. Pianists Sally Galvin, of Otematata and Jane Naish, of Oamaru, accompanied the group. Members also delighted the audience with individual performances. The Mackenzie Warblers had toes tapping and the audience humming along to more popular tunes during their two sets. The show line-up included Omarama's high country poets Jim Morris and the Hat, and Twizel comedians and thespians Bruce and Jan Cowan, and Colin Mc Kinney. Omarama School gave several performances and the senior class had the crowd rocking with its rendition of the Four Chord Song. The piano quartet which is High Country Notes – Sally Galvin, Wendy Eckhardt, Jane Naish and Kath Dawson, piper Ross Gold, folk singers Jemma Gloag and Anna Rowley (on guitar), and dancers - ballet, tap and highland – added their talents to the mix. Highland dancer Lillie Walsh stepped out a sword dance and Irish Jig with skill. The show was organised by Kay Verheul and the Omarama Residents and Ratepayers Association committee to raise funds to go toward a modern heating system for the hall. Almost \$2000 was raised.



Celebrating 50 years in style



This was Omarama's Valley Variety Show 2016



Shooting to the top of the worlds



Omarama shooter Charles Innes, aka The Lindis Ranger, with prizes won at New Zealand competitions. Photo: Supplied

One of Omarama's own has made it to the top 10 in the world of cowboy action shooting.

Charles Innes, aka the Lindis Ranger, of Dunstan Downs, aka has been placed in the top 10 of the Duelist category at the End of Trail world championship of cowboy action shooting. His team-mate and fellow New Zealander Jacob Finlayson, aka Lightning Jack, of Gore, also placed in the top 10 of his category and was placed 16th overall in the championships. The championships, which ran from June 16 to June 26, were in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Charles' wife Tania says the sport had such a big following in the United States. He had gone to the competitions hoping he might make the top 50.

"He'll be just rapt with that [his final result]." Charles, who only took up the sport three years ago, has two South Islands and one

New Zealand championship under his belt.

In Cowboy Action Shooting shooters take part in a competition in which they have to shoot two pistols, a lever-action or pump-action rifle, and a shotgun, moving through 12 different sequences. Speed and accuracy are critical to the result.

To set the mood, targets mimic scenes from the old west and shooters must dress the part. Charles crafts all his own leatherwork gun holsters and belts and makes them for other competitors as well.

Cowboy Action Shooting, a sport created in California in 1982, is run under international rules set by The Single Action Shooting Society of the US.

Charles travelled to the US with Lightning Jack, his father Ron "Tuscon the Terrible" Finlayson and Robert Andrews, aka Night Shooter.

The group left for the US on June 9 and were able to take part in competitions in Cortez, Colorado ahead of the world championships. Charles won the cowboy clay competition at that competition, was third in the duelist and 22nd overall.

Charles' trip to the world championships would not have been possible without support from Mobil Omarama, Peter Walsh and Associates (Timaru), Martin Wakefield Accountancy Timaru, Adrian Cox Shearing (Pleasant Point), Dunstan Downs Dinner Bed and Breakfast and Lincoln Accountancy (Christchurch), Tania says.

Just imagine the stories it could tell



Omarama Collie Dog Club barman Lindsay Purvis (right) compares notes with Paul Greaves, of Arrowtown, at the bar in the marquee at the South Island and New Zealand championship dog trials in Omarama, last month.

Like every good barman Lindsay Purvis is perfectly discreet about sights seen and exchanges overheard during his years of service at the Omarama Collie Dog Club bar.

But he does let slip about some of the sights the old bar has seen. If only it could talk.

Before it 'retired' and took pride of place in the Omarama Collie Dog Club rooms, the clean and marble-green formica-topped bar, studded every foot or so along its length with gleaming stainless-steel ashtrays (mandatory back in the day), put in many a good year of service at the

Omarama Hotel. Since it moved to the Collie Dog Club rooms the old bar has seen "a bit of action", Lindsay says. Like the time "dancing girls" decided to give an "impromptu" performance. "There've been a few rugby scrums put down in front of it...many robust debates, there've been some very jubilant guys when their dogs did do well unexpectedly ... a lot of young guys elated because they've won their first maiden. I wouldn't like to guess how many gallons of alcohol have gone over this bar over the years."

Lindsay served his 'apprenticeship' under no less than that famed 'Bard of Ynak' – the late Bill McKerrow, of Waianakarua, who ran the Oamaru Collie Dog Trial Club bar for more than 30 years. Bill was honoured for his service with a life membership of that club. He would joke that was despite never once running a dog. Bill, a neighbour of Lindsay's at the time, drafted him into service

Lindsay says it seemed only natural then, when he moved to Omarama, to put up his hand to help at the Omarama Collie Dog Club bar. He served at his first Omarama trials in 1994, and this will be the third New Zealand championships he can add to his CV. Back then, Lindsay and wife Bev decided to swap life on the farm on the coast for the "life of shopkeepers" in the heartland. They are owners of Merino Country Café and Gifts.

Lindsay says, when he was on the farm he did have a 'bit of a go' running dogs at trials but without too much luck.

Over the years he says he has seen the Omarama club grow and change. The "young guys now" were "just kids running around" when he began and here they are stepping up to run the club, and "it's their children running around". He was certain that generation, too, would grow to be successful trialists. "[But I] don't know if I'll still be running the bar then."

Tony puts his name in the hat



Omarama businessman Tony Chapman is to put his name forward as a candidate for election to the Waitaki District Council's Ahuriri Community Board.

Tony, who with his wife Amanda, runs Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park said he thought it was important people did come forward to represent the town.

"I feel Omarama needs a voice."

Although Tony is new to Omarama – he and Amanda moved here from Mosgiel after buying the business in January, his family farmed near Kurow for 155 years until the farm was sold in 2013.

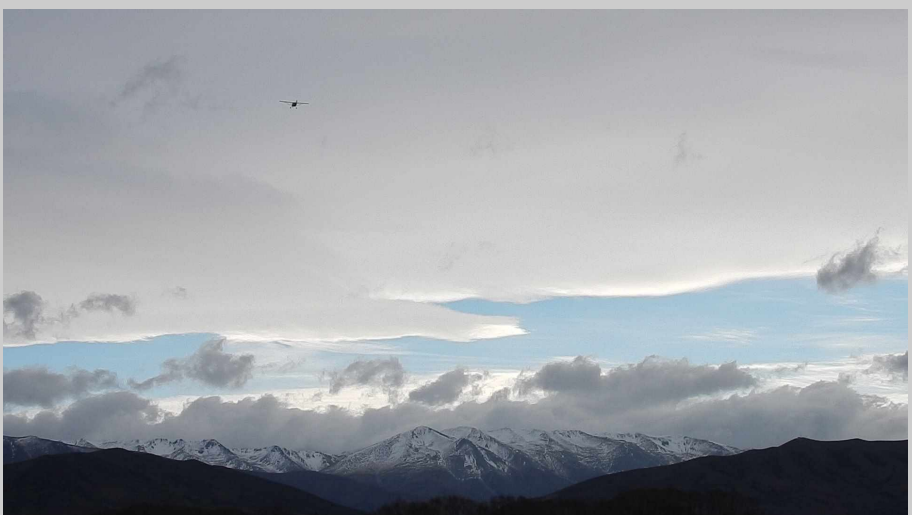
Nominations for local government open next week on July 15.

Omarama ratepayers are part of the Ahuriri Ward. This ward is represented by one councillor. As well, the Ahuriri Community Board represents and advises the council on community views. There are five members elected to this board at election time.

At present, the board is Graham Sullivan (chairperson), Brent Cowles and Vicky Munro, all of Otematata, Callum Reid, of Kurow and Michael Blackstock, of Omarama.

After a nine years stint on the board Michael has confirmed he will stand down at the end of this term.

Craig Dawson, partner in GlenCraig's Clothing Omarama, has indicated he will put his name forward for election as Ahuriri Ward Councillor.



Flying in for mid-winter fun



About 45 aircraft and more than 100 people from throughout New Zealand arrived in Omarama last month to spread their wings and enjoy some mid-winter fun in the big sky.

The Countrytime Hotel and Omarama Airfield once again played host to the annual Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association midwinter fly-in.

The fly-in was postponed for a week because weather conditions were unfavourable.

Countrytime Hotel duty manager Jack Zorab said 78 guests from the group stayed Friday and Saturday nights.

The Omarama Airfield is the base for the group's winter fly-in most years. However, the timing of the visit can be unpredictable as it is weather dependent, Jack says.

The location of the hotel, immediately adjacent to the airfield, means visits from charter planes and the gliding fraternity are frequent throughout the year.

"It's a great location for pilots.

"They often pop-in for a drink and a walk into town."

During its fly-in group enjoyed flying excursions throughout the region including to the coast and Timaru, the Maniototo and Central Otago, and the Mackenzie Basin and Mt Cook.



The Noticeboard



The organisers of the Valley Variety show would like to thank all those who sponsored the show. The major sponsors were Glide Omarama, Brackens Print Oamaru, and Big Sky Bed and Breakfast. Other sponsors who donated spot prizes and to the raffles, and to offset running costs were The Upper Waitaki RSA, Asure Sierra Motels, Omarama Station, Verheul Builders, The Veterinary Centre Oamaru, Wrinkly Rams, Totara Peak Gallery, GlenCraigs Clothing, Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama, Mobil Omarama, Hot Tubs Omarama, Total Interiors, Four Square Omarama, Heritage Gateway Hotel, Merino Country Café, Supplymoore and Buscot Station. The sound system was by Soundplus Ltd, Oamaru.

Omarama Rural Fire has its annual meeting 7pm Monday, August 1, at the Omarama Fire station. New members are welcome.

The Waitaki District Council Alps-2-Ocean have installed two new bike stands in the town centre - one beside the telephone boxes and the other adjacent to the public toilets.

The Waitaki District Council has begun consulting on its draft Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw. (*see more details below*)

The Omarama Model Aircraft Club meets 9.30am to 12 noon Wednesdays and Sundays at its fly-ground at the Omarama airfield. All welcome. Contact Graham McLean 03 438 9832

Let's talk about sport - Tell us about the good times and the bad.

The Omarama Gazette would love to publish the results of your weekend games each Monday on our Facebook page as well as monthly round-ups in the Gazette. Kirsten Mathias has kindly agreed to be our rugby commentator and you can read all about the action on the Facebook page each Monday. www.facebook.com/omaramagazette

If you would like your team to be involved please contact, or send results and photos to omaramagazette@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Jemma Gloag, Nic Blanchard and John Mathias who took out the top prizes in the recent Otago Merino Association's Fine Pix photography competition.

<http://www.odt.co.nz/news/business/385782/fine-pix-contest-winners>

The Plunket Nurse, Liz Watson, will be at the Plunket Rooms at the Omarama Community Centre on Wednesday morning, September 17. 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.

The Omarama Gazette has a Facebook page.

Check it out 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. 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. The page is moderated. 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 next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, August 3, 2016.**

Please submit copy by Friday, July 29.

The Community Reports

The Omarama Community Library



Well, one month on from the official opening, and the Omarama Community library is up and running in its new location. If you haven't already visited, come on down to the Community Centre either on Wednesday 11.30am to 1.30pm or Saturdays 10am to 12 noon. Any changes to these hours will be posted on the Library Hours whiteboard in the library window, notified by email through the Omarama Gazette's

'Local List' and posted on its Facebook page www.facebook.com/

We have a small, but perfectly formed, collection of reading material comprising a wide range of fiction, some new large print, a good mix of non-fiction, and a great selection of children's books. There are also a handful of jigsaws and audio books - there's even a jigsaw on the go and anyone is welcome to come and help complete it. And you can now make the most of your e-reader. These electronic books are available from the library, through the website or your email link. If we don't have what you're after, you can make a suggestion to our team to get a copy on the shelves. No promises, but it never hurts to ask. You can also place a reservation yourself on the Waitaki District Library catalogue and have it delivered to Omarama. This is because Omarama is the first community library in the Waitaki to be on the online library catalogue - how cool is that?! Our team of wonderful volunteers would love to see you soon.

- By Anna Howard, volunteer librarian.

Omarama Residents and Ratepayers' Association

The bi-annual Variety Concert organised by Kay Verheul was held again on July 1, in our Memorial Hall. Initial indications are that the income from sponsors, donations, ticket sales and raffles was \$2382. Costs for the sound system, piano tuning, supper etc. totalled about \$650 (some items to be finalized this week) - leaving approximately \$1700 profit.

This is going to be used towards the one-third deposit paid by Omarama Inc for the two heat pumps and coin meter which have just been installed in the Hall itself. Total cost of these is \$14,700 net approx.

Omarama Residents and Ratepayers' Association

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We are excited that last week Meridian Energy approved our application for a grant from the Waitaki Community Fund for two-thirds of the project cost – being \$9632.37 towards the total.

The remaining shortfall of about \$3700 will come from existing Omarama Inc funds – achieved through previous fundraising and hall / meeting room hire revenue - which means the total cost has been covered in full.

So to achieve this at no further costs to ratepayers is very exciting!

- By Glenys Dawson, treasurer

Friends of Omarama School



Friends of Omarama School (FOS) has been busy with catering recently during the rowing regatta and latterly for the Fire Brigade celebrations, and it also provided a sober-driving service for the New Zealand Dog Trial

Championships - a very entertaining exercise for Sue!

We appreciate the support that different organisations show the FOS and, in turn, I'd like to thank the friends and parents of our wee school who give up their time to help out with these fundraising activities. These three projects combined raised over \$3000.

We currently have swedes for sale courtesy of Wendy and Richard Parsons - you'll find them at businesses near you. Please support and 'buy local'!

The next project we have coming up is catering for the cross country.

Just a reminder that we hold meetings generally on the first Wednesday of the month. If you'd like to be included, please contact the school or any of the committee - we'd love to see you. Kind regards, Lisa Anderson and the FOS committee.

- By Lisa Anderson, FOS chairwoman



Omarama Search and Rescue



Can you do the hard yards?

Do you want to become part of the Omarama Search and Rescue group? There is good information on the New Zealand Land Search and Rescue website about what is involved. Have a look and if you think this is you, contact Omarama Sar chairman Mike King on 027 4342760

To summarise:

What is expected of a Landsar volunteer?

Commitment, training, fitness, some of the right equipment, you must have transport, and you must okay it with your employer.

What is it like to save a life?

There's a particular camaraderie that belongs only to those who've shared in a challenge to save the life of a fellow human being. It's an experience that Search and Rescue volunteers know and value. You'll find yourself stretched, sometimes physically, sometimes mentally. You may find a powerful new meaning to your life as an active contributor in your local community.

What training is provided?

Landsar provides land search and rescue services by maintaining a trained volunteer organisation. Comprehensive training is given to each volunteer on search methods and tracking techniques, bush-craft and outdoor skills, map and compass navigation, survival skills, river crossing and water travel, first aid, communications and technology, helicopter operations and safety issues, ropes and weather patterns and effects.

Training is conducted both at the local group level and at the national level by professional tutors such as those from The Search and Rescue Institute New Zealand (SARINZ), Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP) and Triple One Care. The LandSAR Field guide is a useful manual for new members.

<http://www.landsar.org.nz/become-a-volunteer/>

Upper Waitaki Police news



Phone scams

Police are continuing to receive reports from people, including Omarama residents, who have been targeted by scammers who claim to be calling from government departments. Callers are said to be very rude and aggressive.

In the latest incidents they do not appear to be demanding money, but they are still threatening their victims.

Members of the public should be aware that New Zealand government

agencies such as Immigration or Inland Revenue will never call, email or text demanding payment or threatening deportation.

Police advice for anyone who thinks they may be on the receiving end of one of these calls is as follows:

- Hang up immediately.
- If it doesn't seem right, be cautious, double-check details first.
- Look after your personal details in the same way you would your wallet and other possessions. Your personal details are also very valuable to scammers, as they will use your details to take out loans or run up debts if they can.
- Be aware of common scams. For example, banks, Immigration New Zealand or Inland Revenue never email, call or text customers to ask for money to be sent using money transfer services.

If you receive a request like that, it's a scam.

If you have been targeted by a scam, report it immediately by visiting Consumer Protection's Scamwatch website at www.consumerprotection.govt.nz/get-guidance/scams-and-online-safety/scams.

Constable Nayland Smith 03 4389559 email: Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz



When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis — be it financial, climatic or personal — the Rural Support

Trust is ready to assist.

Services are free and confidential.

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

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

Whooping Cough, Pertussis and the Boostrix Vaccine

You may have heard a bit about whooping cough (pertussis) in the news of late, in particular an outbreak in Wanaka last year. Vaccination is a hot topic, but the following should be considered.

Are you someone likely to be visiting a new baby soon? A new grand-baby, neighbour, little nephew or cousin? These little folks, prior to the age of six weeks old, when they receive their first vaccinations, are most at risk of catching whooping cough.

The illness presents as an almost insignificant cough and cold for up to 3 weeks, in which time it is spread unawares to those around you, the only clue of it is if you have been with a known contact.

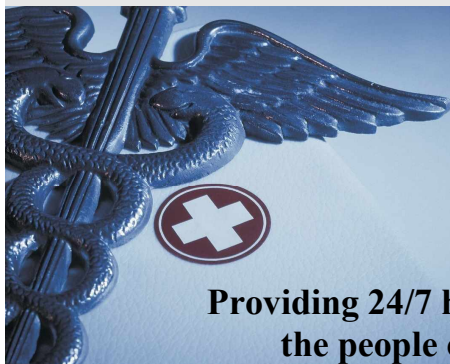
For a newborn this disease has critical complications and hospital admissions are likely, so the best way to prevent unknown transmission is by making more members of our family and wider community immune to it with a vaccination called Boostrix. Many parents are making the choice to limit visitors due to the prevalence of this disease.

This vaccination cost \$45 and gives immunity for approximately five years according to studies. Pregnant women are offered this during pregnancy for free. The vaccine also contains diptheria and tetanus, so you can give yourself a booster for those illnesses while you are there. It is recommended that anyone from the age of 22, or if it has been 10 years since your last boostrix, and who is around babies should have this done.

It is a serious vaccination to consider and we have plenty in stock, but it always pays to ring for an appointment and check we have it in supply.

Think about it as protection for yourself against these three diseases, but also the best baby gift you can give to those little babies in your lives.

- the team at Kurow Medical Centre



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 034360760 F: 034360780

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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* ...

The Omarama Golf Club



What's happening at the golf club, not a lot!! Come on summer!! We have had between four and six fronting for Saturday tee offs, conditions have been testing, with some of the course frozen and other parts thawed out and soft under foot. A couple of weekends have been affected by weather and of course "duck shooting"!!

If anyone wants to play on Saturday, tee off is 12.30, please check with our

club captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276 as if the numbers are insufficient we may not play.

- By Paul Bowman

The Omarama School Board of Trustees

As a result of recent Boards of Trustees elections Jan Thomas (chairperson), David (Gundy) Anderson and James Kerr have been elected as the Omarama School Board.

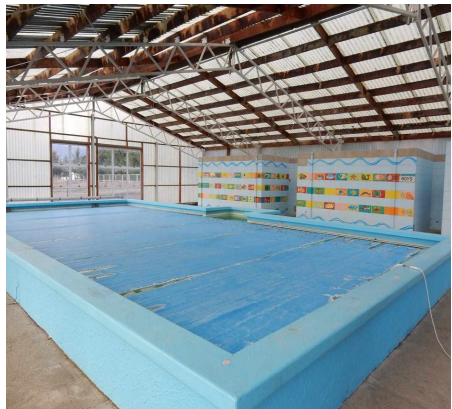
It's showing its age so let's get straight to the point.

Bluntly, the Omarama School pool is still what it used to be.

The Omarama School Board of Trustees is looking for a group of people to form a sub-committee to apply for grants and oversee a project which would give the pool a bit of a facelift and bring it into the 21st Century.

"The pool is a community asset, not only for our children but for the entire community however it's showing its age and needs modernising," board spokesman Constable Nayland (Bean) Smith says. Forming a committee to

undertake the project is the first step. This committee will be separate from but under the oversight of the board. "[This way] the board can concentrate on school matters and the current renovations," Bean says. Funds raised will be spent on wide-ranging but practical renovations like replacing aging cladding, upgrading plumbing, upgrading changing room facilities and repainting. Please contact: Bean (Constable Nayland Smith) 021 191 4808 for further information.



Discovering Matariki

In June, Omarama School's senior class studied the Maori New Year – Matariki. They were asked to present what they learnt in various ways including writing a news feature. The celebrations may be over for another year but here is a look at what it means through their eyes.

Matariki is about the seven stars in the Maori New Year. (Balin)

It is special to New Zealand. (Ebony-May)

It is part of Maori culture. (Elise)

The seven stars become clear just before dawn in May or June. (Eliza Jayne)

I have heard that the Matariki stars are bigger than the sun and they all have special names. (Minduli)

The names of the beautiful seven stars are; Toheti, Tupu-a-nuku, Tupu-a-rangi, Ururangi, Waiti, Waita, Waipuna-a-rangi. (Archie)

One star remains nameless. This star is for children to put their name to so they don't feel lonely. (Samantha)

A child can put his or her name on this star just before going to bed.

In this way the child can have company among the stars. (Jack)

If you look through a telescope you will see lots of stars. It can be cold very early in the morning at Matariki, so you might want to grab a coat. (Tara)

There are lots of stories about Matariki. (Laura)

There are stories about the seven stars. There are also myths about the seven fish and the seven houses and seven sisters. (Suzie)

In one story, a mother fish told her seven babies to be careful or else the giant would catch them in his net. But the little fish forgot what their mother told them. Disaster struck. The giant caught them in his net. A god felt sorry for them and turned them into seven stars. (Gemma)

The Maori New Year is one of the most special days of the year. (Max)

Many tribes have really big feasts and parties. (Toby)

People can celebrate Matariki by lighting lanterns and letting them go. (Travis)

They also make kites and masks. (Minduli)

It is a time to spend with your family eating kai, having a celebration. (Dom)

When people come together to celebrate they hum a sad song to remember people who have died. (Gemma)

The perfect Matariki would be looking at the stars with my family and a little fire. (Hannah)

Matariki marks the start of planting crops in some places. (Charlie)

If you see the stars it means good luck. If you can't see the stars it is bad luck. (Lillie)

If you see the stars clearly it means it will be a good year for harvesting. (Dom)

In conclusion, if you celebrate Matariki you are respecting the seven stars and the Maori people. (Nesara)

Photos: Omarama School senior pupils display their art work depicting the Matariki legends and diligently work at writing.



The School News



Over the Gate

Tena Koutou Readers

Term 2 has been a busy time for us all. Parent interviews have been completed, the school has been involved in the Omarama Community Concert and our school had a Self Defence Course for our Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6 and Y8 girls. Sandra Stewart was responsible for the programme and from all accounts the girls learnt a great deal about protecting themselves.

The Junior class had a Book Character Day on Friday 24th June. The staff and

students dressed up and enjoyed their day as a book character.

Congratulations to our school speech finalists. Two students represented Omarama in Oamaru at the North Otago Speech finals. They were Jessica Smith and Samantha O'Neill. They did very well and presented their speeches to a large group of people at Waitaki Boys High School. Both girls said it was very nerve racking but that they enjoyed the experience.

Our learning has centred around Matariki. This is a celebration that takes place around the world. It is called Matariki in NZ because Maori celebrate Naku noa na

- Sue Fleming, Omarama School principal

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



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

A little about our airfield



The Omarama Airfield Ltd is a Waitaki District Council Council Controlled Organisation.

The council and the Omarama Soaring Centre – a consortium of the active clubs using the airfield, each have a 50% shareholding. Two directors are appointed by each shareholder.

At present the council appointees are Bill Gordon (chairman) and Richard

Subtil, who was recently appointed. The Omarama Soaring Centre's long-serving director is Terry Jones, of Balclutha, and it recently appointed Clive Geddes, of Queenstown.

The day to day management of the airfield is carried out by Ron McPhail.

The airfield income is from leases, (the airfield retains ownership of all ground) and from a 5% levy on all earnings of commercial operators licensed to use the airfield.

The airfield is open to all aviation and other commercial operations and casual visitors are welcome.

There was a "fly in" by members of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association last month.

It is New Zealand's premier gliding airfield and has many overseas visitors coming here specifically for gliding.

National competitions are held here every second year as well as regional and other local fixtures.

The principal operator is Glide Omarama which is also internationally recognised for its expertise in instructing advanced soaring.

- Bill Gordon, Omarama Airfield chairman.



ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

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Clergy Contacts:

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Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)
03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773

Waitaki District Council news in brief



The council has adopted its 2016-2017 annual plan and ratepayers will incur a 0.41% rates rise. There were 81 submissions made during the consultation period. Some things differed from the original plan and included funds of \$56,000 allocated to introducing the proposed freedom camping bylaw and an extra \$150,000 for rural roads.

Waitaki residents have until July 25 to put forward their views and suggestions about a new freedom camping bylaw. (*See more below*).

The Waitaki District Plan is the community's rulebook that controls the way land is used and developed within the district. It is being reviewed and now is the time to have your say. If you want to be involved in the review and receive regular updates throughout the review process then register your interest by going to <http://bit.ly/Districtplan> or emailing district-plan@waitaki.govt.nz.

The Citizens Awards will be announced at a function on August 8.

Nominations for local government open July 15. Omarama ratepayers are part of the Ahuriri Ward of the Waitaki District Council. This ward is represented by one councillor. As well, the Ahuriri Community Board represents and advises the council on community views. There are five members elected to this board at election time. After nine years on the board Omarama resident Michael Blackstock has confirmed he will stand down at the end of this term. Local government elections are October 8. There is more information on the Local Government New Zealand website or the council website below.

The next meeting of the Ahuriri Community Board will be at the Kurow Memorial Hall, 3.15pm Monday, July 18.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury news

The next meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is 9.30am July 15, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

www.ecan.govt.nz

Now is the time to talk about this

Waitaki residents have until July 25 to put forward their views and suggestions about a new freedom camping bylaw.

The Waitaki District Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw sets out standards for camping in the district and identifies places where it is banned or restricted.

The bylaw will apply to all who choose to freedom camp in the district, not just overseas visitors.

The story so far...

Statistics confirm numbers of freedom campers; those camping in cars and tents, and campervans which are not self-contained, have increased markedly in past seasons with many more camping at traditional freedom camping sites and leaving them littered with rubbish and human waste. Councils – regional and local body, and other public landowners throughout New Zealand have been forced rethink their approach to regulating this type of camping and are pushing for consistent rules across the country.

The Mackenzie District Council is tightening its rules limiting freedom

...continued over

Freedom Camping



Waitaki District Council is proposing to introduce a Responsible Freedom Camping bylaw to effectively deal with issues caused by freedom camping.

Read the supporting information (www.waitaki.govt.nz, at Waitaki

district libraries and Council offices in Oamaru and Palmerston) then make a submission.

Join us on Facebook (Waitaki District Council) from **7.30pm to 9pm Wednesday 6 July**. We'll be having a 'live' chat with anyone that wants to raise issues or ask a question.

Make your submission by 5pm Monday 25 July



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAHUNIHERA Á ROHE O WAITAKI

Phone 03 433 0300 Email service@waitaki.govt.nz Web www.waitaki.govt.nz
Office 20 Thames Street, Private Bag 50058, Oamaru 9444

...continued from previous page

Now is the time to talk about this

camping to self-contained vehicles, restricting stays to three nights and banning it at some times, and in some locations. People will be fined \$200 for any breach. Some fear this will push irresponsible campers, who are travelling on SH8, into the Waitaki District.

A special sub-committee of the Waitaki District Council, headed by councillor Melanie Tavendale, was formed in May to consider its new bylaw.

What you need to know...

Its proposed bylaw will:

- restrict freedom camping to self-contained vehicles, which have systems able to contain black (toilet) and grey (washing) water for three days minimum.
- impose a maximum stay of three nights a month at the same site.
- insist campsites are kept clean, campers use the facilities, and follow directions from enforcement officers.
- ban camping at specified locations.
- Camping will not be allowed on the street directly outside a residential dwelling.

As well, the council will use signs and information brochures to show where freedom camping is prohibited or restricted, and make sure camping apps are updated to show sites with the new restrictions.

The bylaw applies to council land only. In Omarama, freedom camping will be banned from the Omarama Community Centre car park, the public toilet carpark, and at both cemeteries, and council parks and reserves which includes Park Lane Reserve, St Cuthbert Place Reserve and the Omarama Recreation Reserve. It will not apply to land which is owned by the Conservation Department, Land Information New Zealand, the New Zealand Transport Agency or Ngai Tahu - such as the popular camping spots at the Ahuriri River and the Dalrachney rest areas.

In the council's 2016-17 annual plan it set aside \$56,000 to meet the initial costs to educate people and police the bylaw. It plans to keep working with other agencies to try to get a consistent set of standards across the region.

Cr Tavendale is hosting a chat session about the bylaw from 7.30pm to 9pm, Wednesday, July 6, on the Waitaki District Council Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/WaitakiDistrictCouncil/>

The public consultation closes 5pm, Monday 25 July.

Information about the bylaw and how to make a submission is at www.waitaki.govt.nz, Council offices in Oamaru and Palmerston and district libraries.

Submissions will be heard Monday, August 8 and Wednesday, August 10. It is hoped the rules can be in place before the start of the season.

The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

QUINOA FLAKES

Quinoa is amazing—it is gluten free and vegan and contains every amino acid. It is particularly rich in lysine, which promotes healthy tissue growth throughout the body.

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Cook like rice! Great alternative to rice or potatoes. Wonderful in salads.

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Include in baked protein or nut bars!

SUGGESTED (PRACTICAL) RECIPES!

<http://www.simplyquinoa.com>

<http://www.taste.com.au/recipes/>

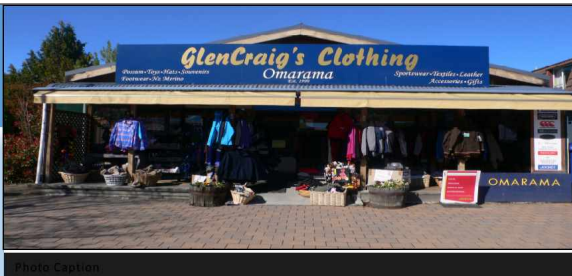


Photo Caption

GLENCRAIGS Wholesale Pantry

We are pleased to announce we are expanding our basic range of Lotus / Massel / Orgran / Freedom Foods etc. to include Ceres organic products from July.

So if you require tummy friendly, gluten free, dairy free, allergy free foods you can now buy lots more of them here in Omarama, and at great prices.

Our reduced pricing will mean we can turn over our product quickly so it's always fresh!

And for most products you can now just pick up little amounts or individual items from our shelf, when you want, rather than having to plan ahead and buy in bulk.

However, we will still be able to order bulk items with our monthly orders should you require.

So please let me know any thoughts on how we can improve the selection and shelf stocking options for you.

Glenys & Craig

Ph 03 4389 816 or email glencraigs@xtra.co.nz with any enquiries, suggestions, requests or orders!

NEW PRODUCT DUE IN SOON!



NOTIFICATION OF INTENTION TO REVIEW

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan

The Director-General of Conservation gives public notice of his intention to review the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan. This is in accordance with Section 47(1) of the National Parks Act 1980. The review will be undertaken together with Treaty Partner Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board.

The Director-General invites written suggestions for the plan review from all interested persons and organisations. This may include comments on what is important for you or your organisation about the Park and how this should be reflected in the review of the Plan. Please provide your written suggestions by 28th October 2016. The Department will be running a series of public meetings prior to drafting the new Plan, starting in July 2016. Details of these meetings and further updates and information on the review will be available on the Department website

www.doc.govt.nz/aoraki-mt-cook-plan-review

To send your suggestions, obtain information about the review and register your interest, contact:

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan review

Telephone number: (03) 371 3700

aorakinp@doc.govt.nz

Andy Roberts

**Director, Operations, Eastern South
Island Kaihautū Matarautaki**

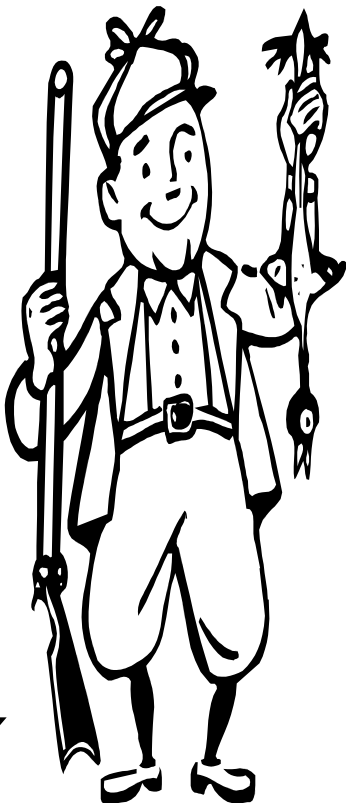


Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

HUNT

ILLBILLY



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Teams of 2-4 people

Entry Fee: \$40

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Teams **must** report back by 3pm
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High Country FM hits the airwaves



Sounding out: Bruce Raines (right), based near Timaru and Dave Moffat, of Waimate, attend to the installation of HighCountry FM.

Those tuning into Omarama in the past few weeks may have found a new sound on the airwaves. South Cantabrian Bruce Raines has begun broadcasting his High Country FM radio station across the town on the 104.5 frequency.

At present the station was in the “testing phase” and had encountered a few “teething problems” which were being addressed, Bruce said.

Once fully operation Bruce hoped the station could be run remotely and would continue to broadcast popular tracks “from the 70s, 80s and 90s” interspersed with community content.

His aim was to run it as a not-for-profit enterprise but he hoped to

recover running costs.

At present it is broadcasting from Mobile Omarama, thanks to the generosity of Terry and Michelle Walsh, he said. He plans to move the transmitter to the Buscot once he has funds available. This would enable broadcasts further afield into Twizel and Otematata. Bruce has also installed a webcam which, in time, will be able to be viewed at the HighCountry FM webpage.

Bruce, runs Get Wireless Rural Broadband throughout South Canterbury, from his home near Timaru. He became familiar with the area when he worked as a courier driver. He said radio was something he had always had an interest in and so when a frequency came up for auction he bid for it. His aim was to run a community station so those who wanted to be “involved could be involved”. He enjoyed finding solutions to problems and helping others and this had led him in various directions.

It is what motivated him to set up his broadband business and put together his book ‘You Know You’re from Christchurch When’ which helped provide some light-hearted relief after the Christchurch earthquakes, he said.

It's All About Us

Omarama's news delivered to your inbox
the first Wednesday of each month

To subscribe email:

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...Continued from front

Fire Fighting a family affair



Pam and Dave, while living in Fox Glacier, raised funds for a defibrillator for the fire brigade there, and Dave, Jason and Aaron were also members at that brigade for a time.

Lindis said he could not be sure what inspired each of them but in a small community there was the realisation “it’s a job and somebody’s got to do it”. “There is an element of tragedy in any fire even if it’s only the loss of a building. “In small communities most people are known to you.”

Jimmy says it just seemed natural to take part.

“As kids they had to play the part of crash test dummies at practices.

“[And] back in the day wives would rally around and make sandwiches and bake to support crews out on the job,” he says.

Lindis told the gathering he had made a point of writing up the minutes immediately after the meetings and was pleased, with the help of Donna, to have located those early minute books in the archive of the Hocken Library. He understood these could be returned to Omarama in due course.

“I remember with respect all those I came in contact with [while secretary] except the government ministers with whom I had to deal.”

At the jubilee Lindis and Omarama’s first fire chief and founding member Graeme Cowie were presented with Life Honorary memberships.

Omarama pair shine *...continued*

Dom’s star turn was in speech and drama where he reportedly captivated the house – a full Ink Box theatre – with his improvisation about a magic room and his portrayal of the slow and agonised suffering of the poisoned grumpy grandmother from George’s Marvellous Medicine, by Roald Dahl. “He didn’t hold back,” mother Michelle says, laughing. Dom says he had a bit of a tense moment coming up with an idea for the improvisation but once he resolved that the nerves disappeared.

Lillie and Dom study speech and drama with Anna Keno of Giant Leaps, also in Oamaru. The frequent travel to take part in activities like this does require commitment. But it is worth it because it builds their confidence and instils life-long skills, Michelle says.

“It’s also a great way for them to meet others and make more friends outside of a small rural community.”

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**The weather that was
@ 44°29'29.4"S 169°58'19.7"E
June 2016**

Highest temperature: June 25 18.4C

Lowest temperature: June 8 -5.7C

Most rainfall: June 12 8mm

Total rainfall for June: 26mm

The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions with...



David and Prue O'Neill

David O'Neill Contracting

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

*Always respect your elders
- important now we are the oldies.
Always tell the truth.*

2. What was your best impulse buy?

*Always a tractor - David
A holiday - Prue*

3. Best day outside the office?

Great family time; riding the motorbikes, fishing trips, the campervan holiday to Golden Bay.

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?

Just look out there, the vastness, the clean fresh air.

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

More grass!

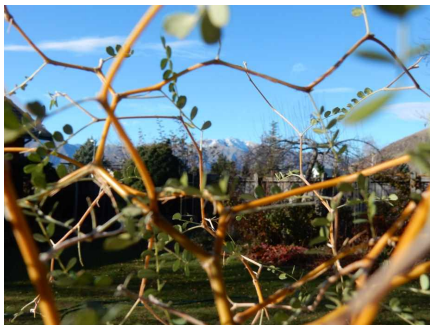
Peace - people being kind to each other in the little ways.

The view from the chook house



What does she mean she won't enter us in the show because we're just ordinary chooks?!

The Oamaru Poultry, Pigeon and Canary Society show is on at the Drill Hall Oamaru from Friday July 22 to Saturday July 23.



The Garden Diary

The three friends of winter

This journal entry is more philosophy than plants. But then it seems to me many gardeners are philosophers. And in winters like ours, there is nothing better than to cosy up to the fire with a hot chocolate and philosophise preferably with classical music turned up loudly so no-one can hear.

I have heard it said there is 'a permanence about gardening that transcends the change of seasons'. When I learnt about the 'three friends of winter' I was intrigued. It is a concept elegantly enshrined in Chinese philosophy and art and borne out of gardening. Their gardeners observed the pine (松), bamboo (竹) and plum (梅) did not succumb to winter's harsh blasts but often thrived. For them, these three friends of winter - sho chiku bai – came to symbolise steadfastness, perseverance and resilience, qualities highly regarded by Confucianism, and most of the rest of us.

Here in our high country, although the temptation is to moan and whinge, a lot, we do not have winters as severe as many parts of China. Still, at times, the garden can look pretty grim and feels devoid of hope. So what could we choose as our three friends of winter?

Just like our Chinese friends' gardens virtually no 'show ponies' of the plant world have the resilience to survive the winter dry and cold of this aged and stony basin. Even the pretties that grow close to the snowline, like beech and mountain daisy, look decidedly despondent and homesick planted out on this thirsty grassland. But the same extremes which carved out this landscape mould and shape the plants that do thrive here.

Respectfully, I would like nominate as our candidates for three friends of winter; the snow totara (*Podocarpus nivalis*), snow tussock *wī kura* (*Chionochloa rigida*) and the prostrate or dwarf kowhai (*Sophora prostrata*). Each shrubby snow totara is unique, shaped as it is by the extremes. Our tawny snow tussock grassland comes into its own in winter as great swathes of it light up and glow in the low light. The prostrate Kowhai inches slowly, year by year, outward from its roots tucked tightly into fractured rock, and spreads its golden angular lattice up and over its bed of shale. Its early flowers challenge winter's domination and signals its end. This slow-growing treasure puts me in mind of one of Confucius' thoughts. I imagine he said this out loud, talking to himself after stumbling in the garden. "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

Our three friends of winter: Totara, *wī Kura* and Kowhai; steadfastness, perseverance, and resilience, what do you think?

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