



-Omarama Gazette -

August 2016

Sponsored by
Ali Brosnan Family Hair Care



Changing places, changing faces

There's a lot happening in Omarama in what is supposed to be our business 'down time'. There are changing places and changing faces. This month the Omarama Gazette has gathered together a few of the movers and shakers and tells their stories.

Café and gift shop Wrinkly Rams is extending and is in full-on reno mode. Irrigation company Waterforce is open and ready for business. Motels have changed hands in time for the next and busier season. We say goodbye (sort of) to Pam and Brian and welcome Teresa and Aaron to Ahuriri Motels.

Next month there will be new faces at the front desk of Asure Sierra Motels. Yes, Cathy and Neville Ferguson have sold the motels to a Christchurch family. More about that change in the September issue. And building is scheduled to begin on Omarama's campervan dump station.

However, we have yet to hear anything more about the future of the information centre.

Of course, this is Omarama and rumours of more changes abound. Change is certain, so watch this space.

The Sponsor's Say - Ali Brosnan Family Hair Care



Ali Brosnan, Oamaru's only qualified barber, enjoys a chat with a regular client.

To say Ali the barber is a North Otago institution would be an understatement. To say he is a legend on the Omarama golf course is... ah yes, his handicap is the stuff of legends.

It's more than 40 years since Ali and wife Barbara set up shop in Thames St, Oamaru. Today his family hair care salon is home to Oamaru's only qualified barber – himself, and four other hair stylists. These ladies are experts, (Congratulations Philippa on your recent success!) not only in fashion styling but in the latest Wella hair. The salon is designed to suit the family,

mixing good old fashioned service with creative-to-the-minute styling. It's a great place for blokes to go for a bit of a tidy-up, some respite from the shed and to catch a great yarn or two, while the ladies can be assured of leaving glam and appropriate not just for everyday but also for that ball, wedding, or formal occasion. Even toddlers are given the time and patience needed to charm them into a trim.

Because Ali's opens for appointments at 7.30am it's perfect for that grooming first thing ahead of that important job interview or meeting. In addition, the salon also stocks an extensive range of haircare products.

Ali and Barbara are no strangers to Omarama. The best day "outside the office" for Ali is either the golf course or the lake – a tricky decision some days. They have been holidaying here for the best part of 25 years and built their holiday house 14 years ago. Ali is a keen sportsman. He played and coached rugby, played badminton then squash for 30 years and now is passionate about golf. Omarama Golf Club is that club away from the home club and Ali's commitment to community is such he's not only a member but sponsor also.

Ali Brosnan is situated at 37 (lower) Thames St, Oamaru opposite the Waitaki District Council. Phone 03-434 8678, or if you are in town, call in. www.alibrosnan.co.nz www.facebook.com/Ali-Brosnan-Family-Hair-Care

Right: Barbara Pitches is a senior stylist and is experienced in perming, colouring, blow-waving, styling and cutting.



Wrinkly Rams opens out to welcome more patrons

Work is well underway on extensions which will see the Wrinkly Rams café and gift shop significantly increase its space to cater for the expected growth in visitor numbers.

Despite the below-freezing temperatures Bill Adams and his team began work on the project mid-July. "Bill built the original building and we are very pleased to have his amazing talent and skills for this build. The excavation work is being done by another local, Kevin Grant, who also was part of the original build and it has been good to have him back," owner James Kerr says. The Kerr family; James, Trish, Kathy, Jackson, Jessica and Harry, opened the Wrinkly Rams about 13 years ago. James and Trish formerly ran a shearing contracting business based in Kurow. The Wrinkly Rams complex includes a sheep shearing tourist attraction and art gallery. "The add-on is to give us more dining space to better cater for tour groups."

The kitchen is also being extended and another toilet block added. Outdoors a dedicated barbeque area will be built. The extensions had been planned for some time but the predicted upswing in tourist numbers was motivation to get underway, James says. In previous summers they had regularly set up a marquee to cater for extra numbers. The building work is expected to take about three months. "We hope to be open for evening dining later in the year." James says they would like to thank the public for their support in the meantime.

Photo: Wrinkly Rams owner James Kerr (left) checks in with the construction crew (from left) Kevin Grant, Levi Munn, Logan Adams and Bill Adams





Waterforce is open and ready for business

Irrigation company Waterforce has officially opened a base in Omarama. Last week it celebrated and opened its doors to the community and district. Waterforce Cromwell-Omarama branch manager Grant Kitto says the company made the decision to set up in the town because "there is good growth in the area" and he has "faith it will continue to expand". The Omarama store which will operate as a "satellite" will be run by store supervisor Jimmy Courtney and will focus on servicing the Upper Waitaki. "Customers here are probably under-serviced by irrigation companies," Grant says.

Waterforce already has branches in Oamaru, Timaru and Cromwell and these will support the Omarama branch. As business grows so will "stock holding and local capability", he says. Waterforce's aim is to build a "critical mass of service bases" in the region. "Service is crucial to our business." The Omarama site has many advantages with good street frontage and it being at the junction of the highways, "a central hub".

Established in 2002, WaterForce is a New Zealand-owned company that supplies, installs and services water management and irrigation products, water treatment equipment, effluent systems and monitoring devices.

Photos: (below) Waterforce Cromwell/Omarama branch manager Grant Kitto , general manager Ron McFetridge and Waterforce's Omarama store supervisor Jimmy Courtney welcome guests to the opening of Omarama branch on Thursday. (Left) Waterforce irrigation designer Andrew Green and Mike King, of Omarama. Waterforce Otago/Southland Scadafarm engineer Eugene Bennett and Peter Woolley, of Twizel. Annabelle Subtil, Omarama Station, and Waterforce Cromwell/Omarama branch manager Grant Kitto. Cromwell service manager Ivan Murdoch , Simon Williamson, of Glenbrook Station, and designer Kurt Brocklebank, of Oamaru. Jason Rogers, of Chain Hills, and Merv McCabe, Little Ben, Omarama. Lorraine King, of Omarama, and Marcia Green, of Glenbrook Station, Omarama. John Anderson, of Ben Omar, and Richard Gloag, Buscot Station, Omarama and Martin Murray of Mary Burn Station, Tekapo. Waterforce Oamaru staff Mike Bentley, Sheryl Wylie and Ken Hinton.



Water ski-ing the torch from the Waitaki

Last month, in temperatures barely above zero, Omarama's Senior Constable Nayland (Bean) Smith water-skied, in uniform, across Lake Benmore's mirrored surface while carrying a special tribute to women in the police force. Temperatures had been a good deal warmer when he first opted to take part in activities to celebrate 75 years of women in the police.

For his tribute he water skied from Sailors Cutting to Pumpkin Point. Fellow officer Blair Corlet skippered the boat across the Ahuriri Arm.

Almost 35,000 people checked out the photos and video of Bean's exploits on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page with good wishes sent via facebook from as far away as the Edinburgh Police Division in Scotland.

The special torch/baton spent three days in the Waitaki district during which time it travelled throughout using various forms of transport which highlighted staff interests outside the force.

The torch was driven up the Waitaki by John Currie, of Kurow, in his Jaguar XJS. Bean said it had been a "pleasure" to take part and he looked forward to the next officer in Omarama being a woman. Five women from the Oamaru police – Sue Pennycook, Sandy Agnew, Helen Jones, Ruth Perham and Lois Wouters escorted the baton on its Waitaki journey which ended at Lake Ruataniwha where they rowed it across (with Senior Constable Bruce Dow as coxswain) for the hand-over to South Canterbury. **...continued over**



Bean comes in for a cold landing. (This photo is by Sue Pennycook.)



Pam and Brian hand over the keys

Omarama's Ahuriri Motels is now under new management.

Last week Pam Young and Brian Hammond handed over the keys of the complex to Aaron Ferguson, Teresa Gallagher, Ella(9) and Brydie(3) who have moved from Papakaio to this, their new business and home.

Brydie says her room will be pink. Ella is attending Omarama School.

Aaron and Teresa have been sharemilking at Papakaio.

Teresa says the couple always wanted to move into the motel business but the present state of dairy farming "pushed us a bit sooner than we planned".

They will not miss a muddy, cold calving season in the least and are "looking forward to a busy summer", she says.

It was almost three years to the day since Pam and Brian took over the motels that they were handing over to Teresa and Aaron, Pam says.

They moved from Geraldine and their respective roles in a dentist surgery and car sales to take up management. "We've really enjoyed the time with the motels, backpackers and camping ground. We've loved the setting... peaceful and quiet even when town is frantic."

The couple, who are members of the Omarama Business Group, have overseen changes at the motels during their tenure and enjoyed being part of the growing development of the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail. Pam says their first step is to take a break and then return to Omarama for summer, "a summer on the other side".



The Noticeboard



Omarama School hosts the annual inter-school cross country tomorrow, Thursday, August 4, beginning at 10am at the Omarama Saleyards.

Congratulations to Sam Forsyth who is the Kurow Rugby Club representative on the North Otago Squad which has begun its Canadian tour.

Congratulations Bean! Omarama's policeman was conferred a medal for 14 years service and good conduct in the recent Oamaru police awards. He is also now to be known as Senior Constable Nayland Smith...guess we can still call him Bean.

Have you seen? Neil Johnston has lost a drone fitted with a memory card of holiday photos somewhere near the creek at the parking area at the Clay Cliffs. If you have

any information please contact Neil, nj6@hotmail.com.au, or Hot Tubs Omarama 03 438 9703.

Friends of Omarama School are hosting a Casino Night 7pm Saturday, August 27. *(see more details below)*

There is no St Thomas Combined Church Service this month *(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

Omarama Playgroup meets at 9.30am each Wednesday at the Omarama Community Centre.

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

The Omarama Golf Club, Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm, all welcome. Please check with our Club Captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276 as if the numbers are insufficient we may not play.

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

Clarification - The Waitaki District Council's two new bike stands in the town centre - one beside the telephone boxes and the other adjacent to the public toilets were funded solely by the council and not by Alps 2 Ocean.

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.

Here's a bit of a skite. Last month's issue of the Omarama Gazette was opened by almost 1000 people who love our place - residents, holiday home owners, ex-pats and others from throughout New Zealand and the world. Our Facebook page was visited by more than 160,000 people.

A big thank you to all of you who share your stories and contribute in other ways, people really appreciate what you do.

The link to the Omarama Gazette's facebook page is : www.facebook.com/omaramagazette Check it out for regular updates and other little extras not included in the Gazette. 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.

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

**The Omarama Gazette is
run on a volunteer basis.**

**Advertising pays for
production and distribution costs.**

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

**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, September 7, 2016.
Please submit copy by Friday, September 2.**

OMARAMA RESIDENTS & RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 7:30pm 18th August 2016

To all residents and ratepayers of Omarama, please note that the committee are intending to change the constitution as follows;

1. Change of annual balance date from the 31st July to the 30th June. This brings us into line with the Waitaki District Council's balance date, which in turn, makes it easier to reconcile accounts between our two organisations.

This will mean changing clause 15C to read "The Financial Year shall run from the 1st day of July to the 30th day of June".

2. Change clause 8E – to read "Committee meetings shall be held monthly, February to November inclusive at a day and time determined at the preceding meeting, or by written, telephoned or emailed message to committee members. At least 10 days notice of meetings shall be given".

This will be deleting the words "10am on the last Saturday of the month", which is not in line with our current practice of holding meetings on the Thursday evening.

Should you have any questions or concerns relating to these changes, please contact Craig Dawson (Secretary) on 4389755 or email craig.dawson@xtra.co.nz

ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES Special Notice



There will be no service in Omarama in August as there is a farewell function for Rev Ken Light in North Oamaru.

Regular services resume September at 3pm on the fourth Sunday of each month

Waitaki Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)

03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773



meridian

Meridian Waitaki Community Fund

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

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

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

TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

The next closing date for Meridian Waitaki Community Fund applications is 27 September, 2016.

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

You can also call us on 03 357 9732.

Water ski-ing the torch... *continued*

Two police relays took place, a North and a South Island run. One left Bluff and the other left Cape Reinga on June 24 and both halves of the torch arrived in Wellington on Monday for a parade. About 800 police officers and staff from across the country, retired staff, the Police Pipe Band, women dressed in replica uniforms from across the decades, police dogs, puppies, and old style police cars took part in the parade. The two halves of the torch were carried in the by one of the first women police officers in New Zealand, Marie Storey, who joined in 1943, and one of the newest women recruits. The artwork of the design of the torch was based on the New Zealand Police whakataukī and tohu - "E tū ki te kei o te waka, kia pākia koe e ngā ngaru o te wā". This translates as: "Stand at the stern of the canoe and feel the spray of the future biting at your face." The torch is to be displayed as a taonga for future generations of women in police.

Photos: (Previous page) Bean receives the torch at Sailors Cutting. Five women from the Oamaru police – Sue Pennycook, Sandy Agnew, Helen Jones, Ruth Perham and Lois Wouters escorted the torch on its Waitaki journey. (This page) The torch was driven up the valley by John Currie, of Kurow, in his Jaguar XJS.



A word with Sir John Kirwan

Wellspan invites you to an evening with our Ambassador, Sir John Kirwan.

He will share his experiences and insights, with a focus on resilience and courage in the rural community.

When: 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Wednesday 12 August

Where: The Auditorium, Waitaki Boys' High School
100 Main Street, Danvers

RSVP: via phone to 08 382 8708 or via email at events@wellspan.co.nz





The Community Reports

Omarama Residents' Association Incorporated

At the July meeting, formal thanks were extended to Meridian Energy which contributed \$9632,37 from its community fund towards a new heating system for the Memorial Hall. The system allows for heating and cooling which will enable our residents and visitors to gain much greater utilisation of our facility.

The following items are missing from the Community Centre kitchen: three commercial oven trays, one large stainless steel bowl, about 25 Arcoroc smoke coloured mugs and three large teapots. If you know of their whereabouts could you please return them or contact an Omarama Inc committee member. People are reminded they may not borrow items from Community Centre as they need to be available for use by all, and when the hall is hired out. There is a cost to the community when replacements have to be made.

A curator – The Hat - has been appointed who will collate an inventory of chattels and check this off after each hire of the centre. The curator's role will also be to check for any damage done during a hire period and make sure that the centre is left in a clean and tidy state.

The next meeting, 7.30pm Thursday, August 18 will also be a special general meeting. This is required because the committee wants to change the constitution to bring the annual balance date into line with the Waitaki District Council's balance date, which in turn, makes it easier to reconcile accounts between our two organisations.

Craig Dawson, secretary. 027 4389132. Ross Gold, chairman, 027 4434149



Omarama's Community Library

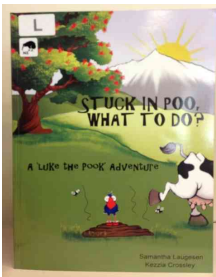


Waitaki Districts Libraries librarian Julia de Ruiter is visiting the library 11am to 4pm Wednesday August 10, to carry out some informal training. If you have a question for her, or a topic you particularly want to cover, please let me know prior so she can prepare if necessary. Look forward to seeing you there! We have a lot of gaps on the roster still, so if you haven't swung by to sign up for a session or two, don't be shy! The basics are really easy;

open doors, write numbers on a sheet. Or you can be as flash as you like if you are a computer whizz. It's up to you. You can also buddy up with someone else too, if you feel happier :) Cheers, Anna

Two books which might take your fancy...

Stuck in poo, what to do?

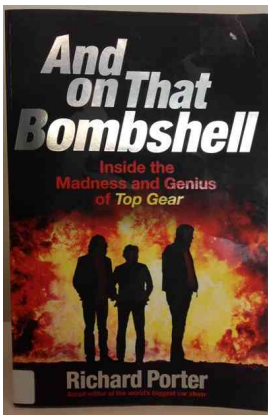


By Samantha Laugesen and Kezzia Crossley

A fun kiwi tale about a cheeky pukeko, stolen Red Band gumboots and cow poo. What could be better?! A modern fable with more than enough poo to make the littlies giggle with a twist at the end to make the adults giggle too! On a more serious note it could also be a good conversation starter on personal boundaries and sharing. But to be honest, it's more fun to run round the house shouting "Stuck in poo, what to do?"!

And on that bombshell:

inside the madness and genius of Top Gear By Richard Porter



Not surprisingly, a frank, funny, and occasionally self-indulgent look at 'behind the scenes' of Top Gear by the long time script writer. Well written, witty and entertaining, there's still a huge streak of wistful nostalgia through the book. Porter is big enough to admit that some of the best moments of the show were spontaneous and unscripted (Spoiler alert! If you only read one part, make it the bit when Michael Schumaker pretends to be The Stig). It seems exquisitely ironic then, that the show crashed and burned due to a highly spontaneous and unscripted action on the part of Jeremy Clarkson. If you want to know how it all unravelled, this is the book for you.

- By Anna Howard, volunteer librarian.

Omarama's Justices of the Peace

Omarama has two JPs who are available by appointment to:

- * Witness documents such as applications for citizenship
- * Certified copies
- * Take declarations, affidavits and affirmations

The service is free of charge



Bill Gordon 03 438 9433, 027 4350744

To make your visit quick and easy:

- * Do not sign anything beforehand
- * Do take photo identification
- * Remember to take the original as well as the copy to be certified
- * Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



Georgie Robertson 4389 554, 027 4861525

The Omarama Gazette

Omarama's news delivered to your inbox

the first Wednesday of each month

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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.

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Possum Control — Poison Warning CUTHBERT RANGE NORTH 2016

Excell Biosecurity wishes to advise that a ground-based possum control operation will be taking place to prevent the spread of TB. This operation is being conducted as part of the TBfree New Zealand programme.

Areas covered: The operation covers 19,551 ha in the Upper Waitaki Valley and encompasses the Cuthbert Range, Ewe Range, Omarama Township and surrounding pastoral land. From Sailors Cutting the boundary heads south-west over Mt Horrible and Baldy Knob to the Ewe Range, north-west along the Ewe Range to Broken Hut Road, across to SH8 and the Ahuriri River, down the river to Lake Benmore, and along the true right shoreline back to Sailors Cutting.

Operation date (approximately): 18 July 2016-31 October 2016.

Poisoning methods, poison used and nature of poison: Possum habitats will be targeted using Foratox Cyanide capsules placed in a non-toxic peanut paste inside biodegradable blue bait bags. Bags will be attached to trees and suitable habitat.

Trapping methods will be used in high public use areas and/or near dwellings.

The public is warned to take care in these areas and not to remove carcasses or baits. Baits are dangerous to people and dogs.

General warning

- Do not touch poison baits/bait stations/traps
- Do not touch poisoned possum carcasses
- Keep pets under supervision; do not let dogs eat poisoned carcasses
- Do not leave children unattended
- Follow the advice on the poison warning signs

If you suspect poisoning

- Contact your local hospital or dial 111
- Call National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON — 0800 784788
- In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact a local veterinarian

For further information (including maps of the operational area), contact the operator Excell Biosecurity (Project Manager) - Gavin Udy 021 687 164.

“Best Hillbilly Hunt ever”

Team Ribbonwood was declared this year’s overall winners of the Hillbilly Hunt fundraiser for the Omarama Rodeo Club.

There was a “great turnout” with the highest number ever registering for both the quiz night and the weekend hunt, organiser Wendy Parsons says.

More than \$1600 was raised.

The weekend activities began with registration and a quiz night on Friday.

People came from Oamaru, Tekapo and Central Otago to take part.

The 15 teams of four were given the task of hunting down pigs, rabbits, hares, game and the ugliest stag – to bring to the weigh-in on the Sunday.

The children were also assigned pest control duties – they had to find the fattest mouse and the heaviest rabbit.

Seemingly mice were hard to find as only five teams returned with a small rodent.

The hunt was judged by Omarama Rodeo Club member Todd Hancox and Kane Murdoch, of Fairlie.

The ‘trophy game’ display after the weigh-in was ‘stag - gering’. Many commented on the large numbers of hares and comparatively few rabbits bagged.

Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama was the base for the weekend activities which concluded with a roast dinner on Sunday evening.

The Omarama Rodeo Club traditionally holds its event on December 28.

Photos: The weigh-in was judged by Omarama Rodeo Club member Todd Hancox and Kane Murdoch, of Fairlie. Team Ribbonwood were winners. (Photo by Wendy Parsons.)



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

Over and under-dosing with children's pain medications

Did you know that one of the leading causes of hospital admissions for children in New Zealand is overdosing of paracetamol through incorrect administration?

Possibly many of us are in a habit of under-dosing also, therefore not giving a child the amount they require to keep their pain or fever under control.

For children the correct doses for most medications are based on their weight but today the focus is on analgesia, or pain medications.

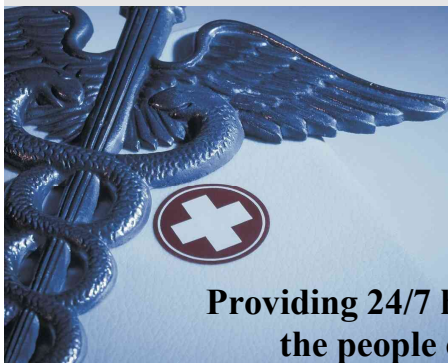
Paracetamol comes with other names, Pamol, Paracare, Panadol and may have been bought at a pharmacy or prescribed by your GP. It also comes in two doses 125mg/5ml (weaker) and 250mg/5ml (stronger). It is not safe to assume that strawberry or orange means they are different either.

We would like to encourage all parents to do the following when administering paracetamol, so as to avoid over or under dosing your precious children.

- Check when it was last given or prescribed as your child will have grown and may be ready for a new dose. Also check the expiry date.
- Check you are giving the right bottle to the right child. If you have several children, always get the same strength so that there is less chance of an error.
- Ring and ask your nurse or pharmacist anytime to calculate the current dose for your child based on their weight.
- Use a correct measuring device.

Ibuprofen is similar, with other names such as Fenpaed or Nurofen. The doses for this will vary based on weight but the strength is always the same. During periods of sickness it is best given at regular intervals to maintain a therapeutic level in the body. This is best done safely and correctly, so if in doubt, just call us.

- the team at Kurow Medical Centre



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 034360760 F: 034360780

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

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

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

The School News



Over the Gate

Tena Koutou readers

Term three has started and we will be involved in skiing on Fridays for most of the term.

Omarama School will be hosting the Annual Cross Country on Thursday August 4. This will take place at the Omarama Sale Yards.

Please note the children are running in year groups.

Timetable: 10:00am - Staff briefing

10:15am – Runners briefing

followed by course walk through. Years 1 to 3 will run a 1200 course, Years 4 to 6, 2000m, and years 7 and 8, 2500m.

A **big thank you** to the FOS for organising the working bee on the last day of term two. It was a fantastic turn out and the school grounds are looking great. I want to acknowledge the Omarama Collie Dog Club for the sawdust and Kevin Grant for delivering it to the adventure playground. The trampoline and the Wendy house were moved to the front area of the playground and seating has been placed near the tennis court for the children to use at lunchtime to eat their lunch.

Naku noa na

- Sue Fleming, Omarama School principal



Breastfeeding Works!

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

These counsellors are mums, who have been trained to support breastfeeding mothers. "Breastfeeding Works!" counsellors are able to help you with the ups and downs of breastfeeding. No question is too small! There are three local Breastfeeding Works counsellors local to Twizel and Omarama. We are just a phone call away.

Sarah 021 326 909, Liko 0272 497 555 or Deidre 0276868879

The Friends of Omarama School

The FOS organised a working bee at the school on the last Friday of the term, with the aim of tidying up the school grounds post building alterations, and a general tidy up of gardens before spring.

We had the added bonus of the leftover sawdust kindly donated by the Collie Club, which the children helped spread in the playground area.

A huge thanks to Kevin Grant for bringing the sawdust around. Thanks to all those who managed to turn up - and to the children who helped as well - great to see them taking pride in their school.

We have the Interschools cross country this week, where the FOS will be running the food tent - come along and support the children, and while you're there come and grab a 'sausage in bread'!!

Many thanks,

- By Lisa Anderson, chairperson

Photos by Lisa Anderson



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



'FEELING LUCKY'

*Join us for a fun Evening of Games,
then use your funny money to bid
at End of Evening Auction.*

Saturday, 27th August

7pm till late

Omarama Community Centre

Admission: \$15

1st drink free, continuous hor d'oeuvres
and some funny money to get you started

Omarama School
Fundraiser



Hors d'oeuvres

Cash Bar



Casino Games

Raffles

Auction



Pick Up - Drop Off
Local Courtesy Coach

Eft-Pos



More Info - Wendy
03 4389 568

Waitaki District Council news in brief



Phone survey: The council is conducting a phone survey of 400 randomly-selected residents who will be asked what they think about council services. The survey will be conducted over two weeks. Results will be published on the council website later in the year.

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 can register your interest online or emailing district-plan@waitaki.govt.nz. The plan covers issues as various as preservation of heritage buildings, the colour of buildings, subdivision in rural areas and protected trees. To find the guidelines and how to nominate a tree which you think should be protected go to www.waitaki.govt.nz/districtplanreview. Nominations close 30 September 2016.

Freedom camping – 38 submissions were made to the council on the proposed Waitaki District Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw. Verbal submissions will be heard on August 10. The bylaw is expected to be voted on by the council next month.

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

The word from Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan

The board has agreed to go ahead with the development of a third bore into the present aquifer for the Omarama water supply drinking water upgrade. It is expected to produce water of a quality which does not require treatment and the combined capacity of the three bores will be plentiful enough to meet future needs.

The board has recommended to the council that it approves the extension of a temporary liquor ban in Otematata and Omarama from Labour weekend to Queens Birthday weekend because of increasing problems for the police and communities between the times of the existing liquor bans. It is expected to be voted on at the Council meeting today (Wednesday, August 3). A permanent liquor ban is being investigated.

The two sets built for the Kingdom Come movie at the Falstone camping reserve and Elephant Rocks are to be completely dismantled.

Read the minutes of the meeting Monday, July 18 online.

The next meeting of the Ahuriri Community Board will be at the Lakes Centre, Otematata 3.15pm, Monday, August 29.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

No decision yet on information centre

There is still no indication when a new information centre site will be set up in Omarama despite the approach of the new tourist season.

Tourism Waitaki's contract with Hot Tubs Omarama to provide the service officially expired March 31 and has continued on a 'month-by-month' basis since then. Omarama is at the junction of two busy tourist routes – Christchurch to Queenstown and Omarama to Oamaru.

In April, Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill said it was working within Tourism Waitaki and with people in Omarama to set up a new, permanent stand-alone site for the centre. He said he was "fully dedicated to making sure there is an information centre presence in Omarama" and hoped it could be set-up "by winter". In May, Mr Gaskill told Omarama Gazette "progress was being made".

Last week, Mr Gaskill told the Omarama Gazette matters were "still in the planning stages". Various locations had been considered but so far none had been found that were suitable. He would not say who had been approached or what sites had been considered.

"We are looking for one that suits our needs and is appropriate to provide services as deemed necessary." In the meantime, there would be no "degradation in the service" being provided, Mr Gaskill said.

Tourism Waitaki is a Waitaki District Council council-controlled organisation.

Campervan dump station build about to begin

Work is about to begin on Omarama's new campervan dump station.

Waitaki District Council recreation manager Erik van der Spek said work was expected to begin on the project within the next couple of weeks. "Hopefully, next week. [Week beginning Monday, August 1]." The dump station is planned for the Waitaki District Council recreation reserve at the intersection of Ahuriri Dr and Chain Hills Highway. The council gave the final go-ahead for \$20,000 to be spent on the dump station after this year's annual plan hearings. The total cost is expected to be \$35,000. The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association was approached and has agreed to contribute the balance of \$15,000 plus tanks and signs, Mr van der Spek said.

In April, the council asked Omarama residents what they thought about the proposed site. It chose the site because it is close to the sewer and water mains, on a state highway and easy to find, and was not adjacent to any residential properties. In May, Mr van der Spek said, in an email, the site would minimise impact on the sewage treatment plant.

"What will be seen from the state highway are some low mounds with tussocks, a gravel area, some posts and a gravel area. While campervans are dumping you would also see those vehicles. We are not providing overnight parking."

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee



Barry Shawyer, Chair of the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

Progress being made towards water-use compliance

In recent weeks you may have read about some water consent holders not complying with the conditions of their consents.

These few cases make the majority of others who are working hard to protect our environment look bad.

Their actions also undermine the goodwill that has been built up between the zone committee, community members and Environment Canterbury through the collaborative Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee has made recommendations to Environment Canterbury suggesting that it takes a firmer stance compliance approach.

We are starting to see this happen and we will continue to encourage this approach to help ensure the community's priorities for water quality are delivered.

Funding for Benmore Station project helps protect biodiversity values

Brothers Andrew and Bill Sutherland recently completed 2260m of stock proof fencing to protect biodiversity values on the mixed sheep and beef farm they own with their wives Kate and Deirdre.

The project at Benmore Station received close to \$24,000 in Immediate Steps biodiversity funding from the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee to help with the work.

The high country station's 22 ha Barkleys Wetland feeds into the Waitapo Creek and plays an important role in nutrient filtering, wildlife and plant habitats, and sediment control.

The wetland is also home to mature red tussock communities which provide habitat for native birds including Marsh Crake, waterfowl, swans and teal.

The fencing will help keep stock out of the wetland and waterway and willows are also being controlled to help protect the habitat.

Canterbury's ten zone committees decide the priorities for each zone and distribute the funding.

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee has allocated more than \$300,000 so far and there is still significant funding available so if you have a project that would benefit visit www.ecan.govt.nz/biodiversity.



Wetlands play an important role in nutrient filtering and sediment control.

Waitaki Lakes maintain good water quality

The latest monitoring results for the Waitaki lakes show the lakes are maintaining good water quality.

Lakes Tekapo, Pukaki and Ohau all show they are maintaining their low nutrient status and nutrient levels at Lake Benmore are being maintained below (better than) its proposed limits (Plan Change 5), which is encouraging for this vulnerable lake system.

The Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore is more enriched than other parts of the lake, but there is no indication that it is getting worse.

Latest Waitaki lakes TLI Values



The TLI (Trophic Level Index) is an indicator of ecological health of the lake which is calculated from annual average nitrogen, phosphorus and chlorophyll concentrations.

The 'PCS' value refers to the limits for each lake proposed in Plan Change 5 to the Land and Water Regional Plan.

The CWMS Targets

The targets set broad environmental, cultural, social and economic goals to be progressed in parallel.

1. Ecosystem health/biodiversity
2. Natural character of braided rivers
3. Kaitiaki tangi
4. Drinking water
5. Recreational and amenity opportunities
6. Water-use efficiency
7. Irrigated land areas
8. Energy security and efficiency
9. Regional and national economies
10. Environmental limits

Brought to you by the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee working with:



The next meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled (unconfirmed) for 9.30am August 19, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

Environment Canterbury news in brief

Will someone from the Waitaki stand?

The 2016 local body elections will be the first chance Environment Canterbury ratepayers have had to choose their own representatives for their regional council since 2007. In 2010, the Government sacked that council and appointed commissioners to take its place. This year it introduced the Environment Canterbury (Transitional Governance Arrangements) Act which sets out the steps which must be taken to restore a fully elected council. This year seven councillors can be elected - four from Christchurch, and one each from north, central and south Canterbury. There will also be up to six government-appointed members. Two of the members will be nominated by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, the South Island iwi. The new council will retain some of the powers given to it under the Environment Canterbury (Temporary Commissioners and Improved Water Management) Act 2010. Nominations are open. Voting begins September 16 and closes on October 8.

How ECan manages pests is under review

ECan says it has received useful feedback after it issued a discussion document about how it could manage pests in the region in the future. In the past it has focused on the management of pests that affect production land, such as broom, gorse, rabbits, Bennett's wallaby and nassella tussock. It wants to focus more on preventing new pests entering the region and education, and place more responsibility on individual landowners to manage pests on their properties. The review will also make sure ECan's plan is aligned with neighbouring regions. The expiry date for the present Regional Pest Management Plan is to be extended to June 2017.

People are reminded to abide by ECan's winter fire ban rules

A district council permit to burn green waste in a rural area does not exclude you from the winter fire ban if your property is in ECan's clean air zone where you are only allowed to burn between September 1 and April 30. ECan also has a year-round ban on outdoor burning on all properties in towns and cities. For more information on outdoor burning phone: 0800 324 676.

ECan plans to more strictly enforce penalties for water-take consent breaches. It is almost at the end of a five-year process to ensure that all water take consent holders have water meters installed. From now, it says it will take action, including prosecution if necessary, against low flow breaches during times of water restriction and then deal with breaches exceeding consented volumes. Abatement and infringement notices will be published on its website.

The next meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled (unconfirmed) for 9.30am August 19, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

www.ecan.govt.nz

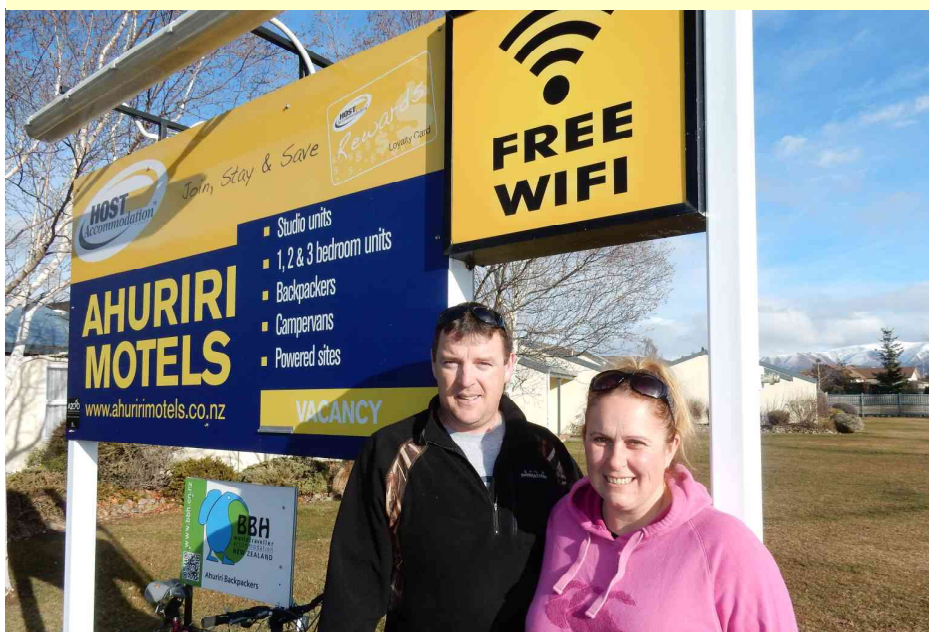


Wahoo! Semi-retirement.

Brian and I are really pleased to hand over the running of Ahuriri Motels to Teresa and Aaron. They have the kind of enthusiasm and motivation that Ahuriri Motels , backpacker complex and camping ground requires and we are sure they will do well.

The diversity of the business was what challenged and excited us to take on Ahuriri three years ago. We have worked hard, as you do, made many improvements and generally raised the standard of accommodation whilst at the same time watching tourism grow along with the, on-our-doorstep, Alps 2 Ocean cycle trail. We loved hearing all those bikers tales. Where to from here? A holiday is first on our list, then to enjoy an Omarama summer, with a splattering of casual work maybe, so as not to get too bored! Our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us over the past three years. Omarama is a 'gem' of a town that we have enjoyed being a part of. We wish Teresa and Aaron all the best in their new venture.

- Pam and Brian



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The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

Wholesome inexpensive food on the run!

Try these:

Ceres Organic Trail mix

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Munchy Muesli Clusters

Coconut Smile Chips

Choc Lamington Bars

Organic Choc 70% or 85%

Wallaby Bites

Bitter Almond Chocolate

Kale Corn Chips

Fresh Nuts & Raisins

Tamari Pumpkin Seeds

Carob Coconut Bars....



GLENCRAIGS Wholesale Pantry

Thank you everyone—Our first month of carrying this stock instore has had a very positive response.

So if you require organics, 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..

BULK NUTS!!

We now have new stocks (ORGANIC) of cashews (only \$24 kg), almonds (\$36 kg) raisins (\$12 kg) and locally grown shelled spray free walnuts! (\$18 for 500g). Also bulk raw chickpeas..



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

Thanks from Glenys & Craig. Please email glencraigs@xtra.co.nz with enquiries, suggestions, requests or orders! Ph 03 4389 816



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The Omarama Memorial Hall gets a heating upgrade

Thanks to fund-raising efforts and a generous donation the Omarama Residents' Association has been able to buy and install a new system to allow heating and cooling of the Memorial Hall in the Community Centre. Last month the Meridian Energy Community Fund informed the association it approved its request for \$9632.37 to make up the amount needed to pay for the system. Omarama Inc had already raised \$14,700 through hall and meeting room hire, and fundraising, some of which came from the proceeds of the Valley Variety Concert in July. Omarama Inc chairman Ross Gold says the new system will mean those using the will be comfortable in any temperature. Brosnan Refrigeration's Blair Brosnan was able to install the system just two days ahead of the Variety Concert. There were some issues that night but Ross is confident these were just teething problems. On the night, the coldest this year, his temperature gauge read (minus) -9C. In hindsight



the heaters should have been turned on earlier and one was not on the correct setting, he says. As well performers were going backwards and forwards behind the stage and leaving doors to the outside open for a large part of the time, he says. Two heat pumps and a coin meter were in-



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July 2016**

Highest temperature: July 4, 16.4C

Lowest temperature: July 2, -5.5C

Most rainfall: July 13, 31mm

Total rainfall for July: 84.5mm

The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions with...



Ross and Carole Gold

Ross and Carole first started spending holidays in Omarama almost 20 years ago and now divide their time between their homes here and in Mosgiel.

Ross is chairman of the Omarama Residents' Association

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

"Be truthful, lies have a habit of catching up on you." Carole

"Never be frightened to step outside your comfort zone to achieve greater outcomes." Ross

2. What was your best impulse buy?

"My VW convertible." Carole.

"My Honda ST 1300 motorcycle." Ross

3. Best day outside the office?

"Camping in a tent, a North island holiday." Carole

"Cruising the Murray River with friends with a beer in hand." Ross

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?

"No crowds, relaxing." Carole

"Great weather, wonderful scenery, close to many lakes." Ross

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

"For people to take the blinkers off and think of others and the consequences." Carole

"If everyone knew the road rules and drove on the left hand side of the road." Ross

The View from the Chook House



You are going to do
what
with my egg?!



The Garden Diary - one perfect peach

In deep mid-winter, it's difficult to recall that intense heat of mid-summer, its lazy, drowsy, cicada-loud days which stretch into warm, moonlit evenings. We've passed the shortest day and begun to climb by minutes back to the zenith. Summer's turn will come again. Right now, it is bliss to sit by the fire and browse catalogues. Us gardeners are

a hopelessly hopeful lot. We see sunny meadows in dried and dusty seed pods. Those bare, twiggy stems will one day bear a swing or hammock. The branches will bend low under the autumn fruit. The thought makes me greedy for (even more) fruit trees. I opt for bare-rooted trees and ask for them to be delivered mid to late August then there is a chance I won't have to use the crowbar to get them in. I like to dig a spacious hole and loosen the soil on the sides so new roots easily grow outwards. I plant, not too deeply, with the roots over a mound of compost, firm in the soil, and pull over a mulch blanket. Older gardeners would bury a dead rabbit or possum under the tree to get it off to a good start. Not saying, but maybe, just maybe, I have a small orchard as a memorial to road kill.

Fruit trees don't need much care in our clean and dry environment. They know how to do it. Look at those sprung from pips and cores thrown by the roadside, always laden in autumn. Staking should be an exercise in support not control. Some gentle wind rock is needed to strengthen root systems and trunks. I water them deeply, not frequently, to encourage roots to find their own water source. Pruning is another chore best kept simple, tho' asking Auntie Google is a great way to procrastinate. I like the tip – never let a fruit tree grow taller than your ladder. An open shape is good. It lets sunshine in and the breezes blow through. This prevents disease and sweetens fruit. Do I spray? Thankfully, because I'm much too lazy and hopeless at keeping to a regimen, I've never really had to. Apart from that nocturnal semi-arboreal marsupial, the biggest threat to a crop here is a late frost. But there's more than one way to skin a possum. I grow early, mid and late season varieties. Usually one escapes unscathed – yep, fruit tree and possum. But this year, Mother Nature played her ace and all the trees were jam-packed. That kept me out of the shops and in the kitchen. I grow 'heritage' varieties – that's me being pretentious because I don't want to let on I'm old enough to know when they were orchard staples. To me, they still taste the best. My favourite, with a romantic French name, *Pêche de Vigne* – peach of the vineyard – is a burgundy stunner with a downy grey coat. Even its sharp pink blossom has a russety, tawny tone. It is a peach you know well. Just peachy, there's no other word to describe its scent. I felt so spoilt this season when each day I enjoyed one poached for breakfast. With apologies to WB Yeats; I taste summer in the deep heart's core.

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