



-Omarama Gazette -

September 2016

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Total Interiors

Helping others take to the skies



One can't be sure when the love of soaring first slipped under her skin. But it was inevitable it would draw Lis Rietveld to Omarama's big skies. And now she is helping other young people realise their gliding dreams.

The Youth Glide Omarama co-ordinator has been gliding since she was a teenager. She says she has always been captivated by the hawk - she has one tattooed on her foot - the way it rolls and rides the waves of air

currents and thermals – gliding replicates that. “It’s about breaking the chains of gravity.”

Born and raised near Dunedin she joined its Air Training Corps 42 squadron for the opportunities it gives young people to fly and got her first taste of gliding when she was 14. Now she is on well on her way to a qualified glider pilot's licence. But her own progress has been put to one side for now as she focuses on serving a mortgage. Instead, she helps other young people through the youth glide programme.

Youth Glide Omarama, under the umbrella of Youth Glide New Zealand, was the country's first Youth Glide movement and is for those aged 13 to 25.

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TOTAL INTERIORS

"LOVE THE SPACE YOU LIVE IN"



Word is spreading that established interior designer Karen Ward has recently set up shop in Omarama. Karen has worked in the interior design field for more than 25 years but only recently realised her dream to open a workshop and showroom. She's often to be found at her sewing machine because it is also where she creates unique linen (Linen by Design) and cushions. Opening the shop has been exciting. People often pop in for a browse and a chat and to talk over ideas and possibilities, she says. On display are furnishing fabrics, giftware, new and vintage furniture, and collectibles. And "lovely, new stock" is arriving for the season opening next month (more about that in October's Omarama Gazette). Omarama's central location means Karen is ideally placed to help clients throughout the Mackenzie Country and North Otago. "I really enjoy helping people to achieve the look they want, and passionate about making sure people get really good service, and, of course, particular about making sure people get a good result." The reward for going that extra mile is people keep coming back, she says. Karen is available for consultation and by appointment year round. Total Interiors shop and showroom are open Labour Weekend to Easter.

TOTAL INTERIORS
 22 Cirrus Place
 Omarama (down Airport Rd)
 phone 0800 808 600
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total.interiors@xtra.co.nz
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Website
www.totalinteriors.co.nz



Stepping onto the Fire Service ladder



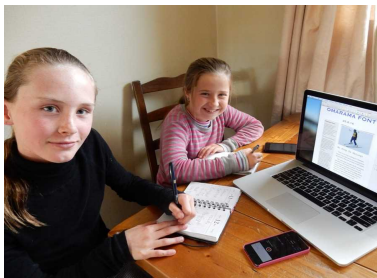
Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade recruits Jaden Jenkins and Tania Coetzee have taken the first step onto the ladder to become fully qualified fire-fighters. The pair have just returned from a New Zealand Fire Service seven-day recruit course in Dunedin where they earned their yellow helmets. The comprehensive course which “assessed and fine tuned” their knowledge to NZFS standard had given

them the confidence needed to tackle a call out, Tania says.

“If there’s a crisis we know we can handle it.” In what was a “tough” course they learnt about climbing ladders, search and rescue, the nature of burning rooms, using breathing apparatus among the other essentials. “It gave me a whole new respect for what fire fighters do. It was great fun, the instructors were really hard on us but really good.” At the end of the course successful recruits swap their green helmets for yellow. Not everyone gets to go home with one. Jaden and Tania work for Michelle and Terry Walsh at the Oasis Café, Bar and Grill. Terry is the Omarama brigade’s fire chief which is why they first became interested in volunteering.

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade is looking for new recruits and holds its practices at 7pm Wednesdays at the Fire Station. All are welcome.

‘Omarama Font’ launched



The Omarama Gazette will face stiff competition in the media market place after revelations a new masthead has entered the fray.

A new community newsletter ‘Omarama Font’ was launched last week and is the product of the talent and hard-work of marketing hot shots and potential Pulitzer Prize winners Jessica Smith (11) and Eliza-Jayne Coetzee (10).

In an interview, the girls told the Omarama Gazette they had come up with the idea while working on a report about the Amazon River. “We both said; ‘I’d love to own a newspaper’, at exactly the same time,” they both said, at exactly the same time. They googled newspaper names and in the end settled on one of their own creation, then set about chasing stories and photos for their first edition. They said they had learned a lot about writing from Omarama School Principal Sue Fleming. They were spending as much time as possible after school working on the newsletter. “We’re sponsored by GlenCraigs, they’re helping us with pens.”

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Why I'm a Rural Firefighter

- Copy and photo by Jack Zorab

A little over a year ago I saw a post in the Omarama Gazette asking for volunteers to join the Omarama Rural Fire Service. I'd been thinking about doing something similar for a while because I felt bad that Omarama had given me an awesome place to live and I'd given nothing back. A couple of weeks later I was sat in the station (a nice big shed) at my first training listening to them all reviewing the year gone by at the AGM. Most of it went over my head but I heard words like 'smokechaser' and 'tanker' and 'beer' so I knew I'd keep coming back. Over the next few months I got given my boots, helmet and a nice shiny set of overalls and we went off and practised radio procedures, pump operation and all things fire fighting related. We get our call outs via text message and by Christmas Eve when my first text came through I was bursting to get my overalls nice and dirty. "111 - VEG FIRE. OTE-MATATA NEAR MCKEOWN PETROL STATION" was the message that came through. My first fire.... at a petrol station.... Luckily the fire was on the opposite side of the road and nothing went bang but I'll admit to getting a bit of a rush and I'd finally got my shiny overalls filthy. Since then there's been false alarms, rubbish pits alight, paddock fires and even a burning tractor (damn birds' nests). Everytime though I get to play fireman among some of the best views in the world.

Now I take my hat off to the brigade boys and girls because they train hard every single week and have a huge number of call outs, some of which require a lot of guts to deal with, but unfortunately I can't commit to so much time training and I quite often can't leave work at the beep of a pager (plus I'm not that fit!).

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Cathy and Neville say goodbye



After 12 years in the motel business and many more working 24/7 Cathy and Neville Ferguson are looking forward to “semi-retirement”.

The couple, who were market gardeners in Outram, took over Omarama’s Asure Sierra Motels on October 1, 2004, “almost 12 years to the day” when they will move back to their Outram home. They had been looking for a change from market gardening when they decided on Omarama and the motels. “The children did not want to take over the business so we saw this as an opportunity for a change and Nev always wanted to give the motel

business a try.” A friend (the late Murray Taylor) who knew of their plans told them the motels were for sale and “the rest is history”, Nev says

You might have been able to take the man out of the market garden but obviously, it did not completely quell the urge to dig. Duly a large plot was ploughed up beside the motel and comprehensive a-z of vegetables and berry fruit planted out. It has not only been veges the couple have shared with the town over the years. - continued over

Ken, Jo and Paddi ready to give a warm reception



If it's true cats have staff then hopefully Ken and Jo got Paddi's seal of approval before they agreed to manage Omarama's Asure Sierra Motels and Tackle shop.

Jo and Ken Walker are moving from Beechwood Motel Dunedin to take up the management position for new owners Lisa and Kelvin Reid, of Christchurch.

Originally from rural Hawke's Bay in the Taranaki District, Jo and Ken say

they are looking forward to moving to another rural area. They have spent the past three years in the motel business and say they have enjoyed meeting new people and made lifelong friends.

“We enjoy the fact we can work together without killing each other,” Jo says, laughing.

Their journey to the south began when they bought a fifth wheeler caravan with the idea of going travelling.

- continued over

Omarama Font launched - *continued*

They have about 10 subscribers.

There have been some initial hurdles – mostly negotiating the logistics of layout and printing and they had found proof-reading painstaking. It was a lot of work but “it’s fun”. The Omarama Gazette has managed to negotiate a deal whereby Omarama Font will supply the Gazette with breaking news as it happens on a regular basis. To contact Jessica and Eliza-Jane with tip-offs or to subscribe email omaramagazette@gmail.com and your details will be passed on. (Promise)

Cathy and Neville say goodbye - *continued*

Cathy spent six years as a member of the Ahuriri Community Board, three of those as its chairperson. She has been member and president of the Omarama Golf Club, member and secretary of the Omarama Hall Committee – now Residents’ Association, and member of the business and bridge groups. Omarama had grown and seeing the development of the Community Centre was a highlight, she says.

The couple say they have enjoyed their time as moteliers and formed close friendships with some of the regulars. The downside has been the quiet winter seasons and it would be good if more could be done to grow business in the town through winter. “The area has a lot to offer in winter,” Cathy says. They say they will miss the climate and scenery but not “cleaning dirty kitchens”.

They move back to Outram mid-September and to “semi-retirement”. They hope to spend more time with family, travel a bit and otherwise work on their bucket lists, Cathy says.

Ken, Jo and Paddi - *continued*

“Then we got this assignment in Dunedin, three months turned into six months, and then we met Lisa and Kelvin.”

The couple say they have fallen in love with the South Island’s scenery and quiet roads and with their only ties a grown-up daughter still in the Tararua they are free to see more.

Jo is also confident Paddi, despite not being invited to view the motels, will be completely content with her new assignment. “She’s a motel cat.”

Ken, Jo and Paddi take over on September 16.

A change of lifestyle for the Inkersells



The Inkersell family is about to swap life in high country of the Southern Alps for the rolling downlands of North Otago.

Simon and Liko, Max and Logan have been managers of Lake Ohau Station for the past nine years. Next month the family will swap life on a high country station for a lifestyle block at Windsor.

They moved to Lake Ohau Station from Te Anau when Max was four months old. Max is now nine and Logan is six. During that time their focus has been on managing the 8322ha high country property on the shores of Lake Ohau, and, with increasing numbers of visitors to the area, building and establishing Lake Ohau Quarters. It has been "an amazing place to bring up kids, the scenery, the people we've met and worked with," Liko said.

There were challenges, distance did force compromises, Simon said.

"There's a different logistics in the high country, everything you do... groceries, food, materials and equipment needed for the property ...once you leave the main road it puts a whole new spin on it."

Both Max and Logan did pre-school by correspondence and Max also did 18 months Correspondence School until the opportunity came to share transport so both could attend Omarama School. A trip from the homestead to the school bus stop is 30km one way.

During their time Simon and Liko have been fully involved in the community. Liko has been president of Omarama Playgroup and treasurer of Plunket, and assisted the Omarama Collie Dog Club where Simon has been president for two years. They were two busy years for the club which celebrated its centenary and hosted the New Zealand championships.

"In reality, the president really just the front man for everyone else behind the scenes doing all the work."

They have also been active members of the Otago Merino Association.

"It's a positive group, everybody is there for a reason, to help make a difference, and they support a positive cause by fundraising to fight child cancer," Simon says.

They said they will leave with memories of playgroup Christmas parties, cricket games at Omarama Station, taking on the Multi-sport adventure race the Spring Challenge, basket ball, ski-ing – "great fun times".

"We owe a huge thanks to the community for making us a part of it even though we're a long way up a gully," Liko said.

The couple says they have no firm plans at the moment but are looking forward to "a bit of a break". Simon will continue in casual work.

Otamatapaio is home away from home



Shearing is underway in Omarama which means Fabrizio Botto Poala will be lending a hand at Otamatapaio Station.

This past month Peter Lyon Shearing has been at the Station - a Reda, of Italy, farm.

It is the Botto Poala family's home away from home, Fabrizio says.

The family come from Biella, Italy and have been Omarama locals since

1994. "We love it, every time we come here. We feel this is our second home even if we are foreign." He laughs and adds the family are also "very good consumers" of New Zealand food and wine.

This year, like every year, Fabrizio arrives for one of his many visits from his other home and this time it is to help with shearing. He continues the long-held family tradition of a hands-on approach to all parts of the process which contribute to his family's – Reda's - businesses...called "vertical integration" in business speak. The company also owns Rugged Ridges and Glenburn stations in the Waitaki Valley.

Reda's wool processing and textile centre still makes everything in Valle Mosso near Biella where the company was set up almost 150 years ago but nowadays it has connections throughout the world. It recently signed-off a \$45 million- five-year contract with the New Zealand Merino Company to source fine wool from NZM growers.

And there was more than one superstar in the shed for this year's shearing. Stars of the small screen and of the Shearing Sports New Zealand circuit were hard at work making sure the wool harvest was carried out with precision and to the quality demanded by fine textile customers.

Wool Classer Tia Potae says working with Fabrizio and knowing more about where the wool will go makes the job seem all the more worthwhile.

On this trip the gang will shear about 1100 two-tooths a day for two days, Otamatapaio Station manager Sam Radford says.

<http://www.reda1865.com/>

<http://www.reda1865.com/rewoolution/en/>

For more photos and a video go to www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/

Everyone's a winner

The Friends of Omarama School
Casino Night Fundraiser.
(see over for more details and for more
photos and a video go to
www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/)



The Noticeboard



Introducing this month – the Last Page is Classifieds. Go to the last page for all the details.

The annual meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association will be at 7.30pm, Thursday, September 15, at the Omarama Community Centre. All welcome.

Situation vacant. The position as volunteer hall curator is once again open to any who would like to apply. Please see Craig Dawson 027 4389132 or Ross Gold 027 4434149 for details of what this role entails.

The Plunket Nurse, Liz Watson, will be at the Plunket Rooms at the Omarama Community Centre on Wednesday morning, September 14. 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

Conservation week is September 10 to 18. The Department of Conservation is planning a re-vegetation day at Wai O Toura (Gards Road Scenic reserve between Otekaieke and Duntroon on Wednesday, September 14. To register to attend contact Andy Powazynski 027 217 8912 or email: apowazynski@doc.govt.nz

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers is hosting a Shepherds Challenge and Bark-Up Saturday, September 24. Registration is 11am, sign posted from Hakataramea Valley Road turn off. Contact Kerry– 027 468 0164 for more info.

Daylight Saving begins Sunday, September 25 when 2.00am becomes 3.00am.

Waitaki Valley Medical Trust chairman John Abelen has advised, while it hopes to retain the services of Dr Annie Fyfe, the trust is required to advertise for a new doctor for the practice because the agreed two-year term is coming to a close. To read more go to <http://www.kurow.org.nz/news-Kurow-Waitaki-Valley.html>

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.

The Omarama Community Library at the Omarama Community centre is open 11.30pm to 1.30pm Wednesdays and 10am to 12 noon Saturdays . 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/omaramagazette/

Contact: Anna Howard 021 1325586 or Georgie Robertson 027 4861525

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. New members welcome.

The Omarama Golf Club, Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm, all welcome. When daylight saving begins tee-off will move to 1 o'clock, all welcome.

A big thank you to all of you who share your stories and contribute in other ways to the Omarama Gazette. People really appreciate what you do.

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 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.

**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, October 5, 2016.
Please submit copy by
Friday, September 30.**



FIRST AID COURSE 10TH November 2016

At Omarama Memorial Hall

Workplace First Aid Course

NZQA Unit Standards 6401 6402

9am Start time till 3pm Re-Certification

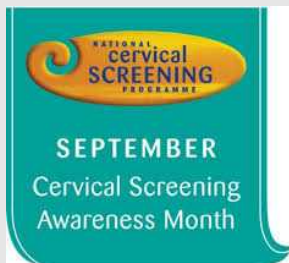
9am start time full day course

Book Online at www.wpfirstaid.co.nz

Contact us at office@wpfirstaid.co.nz or 034543040



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



September is a month for many things...fresh growth, new beginnings, brightness and sunshine. It's also the national awareness month for a very important women's health topic: Cervical Screening.

They say it's one of the best “not nice” things you can do, and we think they are pretty right. It's a very simple screening process recommended in New Zealand from the age of 20 to 70 years.

Set at strategic intervals of three years, allowing screening to detect the changes that may be occurring in the tiny cells on a women's cervix.

Left undetected the altered cells then move deeper and deeper into the layers of the healthy cervix leading to cancer.

Here at Kurow we are very passionate about our community's health, and this area is a huge focus of ours. We aim to make sure that every women is aware of the need for this screening, that they can access the service easily with three female staff (our GP Annie, and nurses Mischa and Jane) available at various times to offer this. We focus on providing support, information, compassion and understanding throughout the consultation process. This month there is great incentives to getting this done with wonderful prizes up for grabs from us here and the SDHB, through random draws for those women who have been screened.

So why not make a morning of it, grab a mate and go for coffee afterwards. Ask your mother, daughter, friends or family if they are up-to-date and if you can support them in getting this done, together.

Contact us today to see if you are due or to make an appointment.

- the team at Kurow Medical Centre



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 034360760 F: 034360780

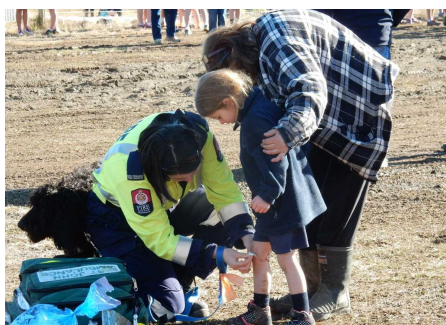
E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre

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

Omarama hosts interschools cross country

Last month, about 200 children from Omarama, Waitaki Valley, Duntroon and Twizel primary schools competed in the annual interschool cross country, hosted by Omarama.

Omarama School principal Sue Fleming thanked all those who travelled to take part, Omarama Station and Saleyards, the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade First Response, Sport Waitaki regional coordinator Kate Holland, Friends of Omarama School (who ran the food tent) and the school community, for helping to stage the event.





Breastfeeding Works!

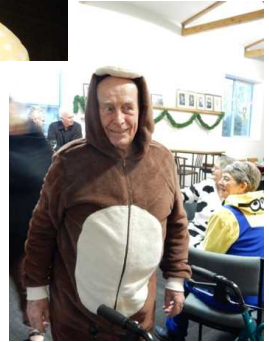
Having a baby? Already breastfeeding a baby of any age? Then contacting a Volunteer breastfeeding counsellor will be positive for you.

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

Shakin' that tail feather

The Omarama emergency services volunteers' shake a little tail feather at their mid-winter xmas party. Dress code? All in number onesies please. Just a wee tip: never mess with the chicken. That big guy rules the roost.





The Community Reports

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



In breaking news... the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade has a new fire chief.

Last month, long-serving fire chief Howard Williams retired from the role and the hat was officially handed to deputy chief fire officer Terry Walsh.

Howard will step back into the role of operations support after 14 years in the top job.

He says it was rewarding to have brigade numbers double to 18 during the time he had been in the job with still more young people coming through. A highlight was seeing the complete refurbishment of the fire station, completed in 2014, and the establishment of the brigade's first response unit. As well, he could not understate the importance of the camaraderie through the years. "We're all one big family."

He joined the volunteer fire service in 1984 and says, although the finer details of new organisation, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, were still to be ironed out he hoped the merger of urban and rural fire services would remove costly duplication.

Terry joined the service in Clyde 14 years ago. Born in Twizel, Terry grew up with the fire service an important part of his childhood as his father Mick was a volunteer fire-fighter.

"The way families socialised was something I'll never forget, it was great times. As kids joining the fire service was something we always wanted to do.

"It will be a challenge keeping the standard set by Howard. Where we are at is amazing. We're tight-knit, professional, I hope to maintain it and better it and leave the kind of legacy that he has."

Terry, like other employers in area has 'co-opted' many of his staff into the fire brigade. "It's in the fine print of their employment contract," he laughs. "It's a big part of our lives, they see what fun we are having."

However, says he is just as thankful for the staff who are left to hold the fort when there is a callout.

The brigade is always looking for new recruits - any age and any gender, he says. It meets 7pm each Wednesday at the fire station and all are welcome. No deputy chief has been appointed at this stage.

Omarama's Community Library

Your library – the answers to common questions

If I join Omarama does it affect my existing Oamaru library membership?

No. You can use your card for any library in the Waitaki Valley including Palmerston, Kurow, Hampden, Otematata or Oamaru. We can transfer your existing membership so that Omarama is your home library but books can be transferred or borrowed from any library in the Waitaki District.

I read E-books – is there any point me joining the library?

Yes – the Waitaki Libraries scheme has over 500 E-books which as a member you can access for free.

I am 11 years old – can I join?

Yes, your membership up to the age of 13 is with the permission of your parent(s) or guardian, and they will need to join as your guarantor. You will have your own membership card that you can use on your own.

Do I have to be a permanent local resident?

No, you can join as long as you have a local contact address and a NZ resident as a guarantor. We welcome crib owners or longer term visitors / workers.

What if the book I want isn't up here in Omarama?

As long as it is available in any of the Waitaki libraries we can order it for you and it will arrive with the courier each Friday, You will receive an email confirming it is on its way and the item can then be collected on Saturday.

Are there only fiction books available?

We also have audio books, and a substantial non-fiction area including lots of books about the greater Waitaki and Omarama area, along with Large Print books. The latest Community newspapers are sent up weekly. We also have jigsaw puzzles which can be borrowed for no charge. There is a delightful range of brand new children's books as well.

Does it cost anything to borrow books?

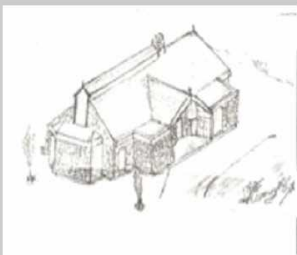
Membership is free, costs and fines only apply for late returns, or lost / damaged books

Can I donate books to the Library?

Yes please! Any donated books are sent to Oamaru for cataloguing and returned the following week. If any are deemed to be either too out of date or not suitable they are sent back to us to enable us to sell either at the library or in the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade fundraising trolley outside Four Square Omarama.

Contacts: Anna Howard: 021-132-5586, Georgie Robertson: huntly@xtra.co.nz





ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

(on fourth Sunday of each month at 3pm)

All Welcome

Clergy Contacts:

Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)

03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church

03 436 0773



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)

Omarama's Justices of the Peace

Omarama has two JPs who are available by appointment to:

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

The service is free of charge

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



Bill Gordon 03 438 9433, 027 4350744



Georgie Robertson 4389 554, 027 4861525

Omarama Collie Dog Club



The Omarama Collie Dog Club held its annual meeting last month and elected the following office bearers.

President: Ed Aubrey

Vice President (senior):

Lachie Wettenall

Vice President (junior):

Scott Hunter

Secretary/ treasurer: Prue O' Neill

The Omarama Collie Club grounds are relocating to Dalrachney.

There will be some work involved in the shift including fencing and scrub clearing and we hope to have the majority done before Christmas.

We aim to have a couple of working- bees/ social gatherings.

It will be great to show everyone the new grounds, hear everyone's thoughts and lend a hand in the setting up of the new Omarama Collie Dog Club grounds.

Cheers, Ed

By Ed Aubrey, president

The Omarama Golf Club



There have been a regular four or five people playing each Saturday, sometimes in very wintry golf conditions. The log fire in the club house has been very welcome at the end of the day!!

A couple of Saturdays had to be called off due to snow.

The course has survived the winter well and should be in good shape for the summer.

The trees on the west side of No. 3 green have been topped, this now lets the sun in and stops it being frozen all day, a big improvement. A big thank you to the Omarama Holiday Park for providing the tree topper, it's much appreciated by the club.

Remember 12.30 is Tee off-time on Saturdays for the winter, once daylight saving starts tee off will move to 1 o'clock, all welcome. The regular players have handicaps ranging from 6 to 30s so don't feel you have to be expert to play.

Remember there is twilight golf over the summer, 9 holes on a Wednesday night come and join us.

By Paul Bowman

Omarama Search and Rescue

Omarama Search and Rescue has received \$8000 from Meridian Energy's Waitaki Community Fund to buy mapping software and radio communications equipment. Donations like this, including significant contributions from Placemakers, Redpaths, and Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama are being used to build and fit out the new Search and Rescue headquarters next to the Omarama Police Station. Senior Constable Nayland Smith (Bean) says work on the upgrade is progressing well and he expects it to be fully operational by early next month. The new communications equipment was essential because the majority of areas the organisation provides services to have little or no cell phone coverage and radio coverage is also limited.

"The new handsets for our radios will send a signal back to the incident management team showing on the mapping software the exact location of the search and rescue member, in real time.

"This will ensure that an area is correctly searched and it's also safer for our volunteers, as we'll know exactly where they are at any given time," Bean says.



Omarama Residents' Association

A special general meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association was held last month make adjustments to the constitution. It was agreed to change the annual balance date to June 30 to bring it into line with the Waitaki District Council balance date, and that meetings should be held monthly February to November inclusive and at least 10 days notice of meetings would be given. The position as volunteer hall curator is once again open to any who would like to apply. Please see Craig Dawson or Ross Gold for details of what this role entails.

New oven trays have been purchased for the convection oven and are to be etched to make sure they can be clearly identified as belonging to the hall. Committee member Cathy Ferguson was farewelled and thanked for her service to the community and Ross wished her and husband Neville all the best for the future.

Craig advised the committee that the Waitaki Vehicle Trust is about to purchase another vehicle which will be based in Otematata.

The annual meeting will be 7.30pm Thursday, September 15.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend and be part of running the centre which is increasingly becoming the hub of community events.

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

The Friends of Omarama School

August has been a busy month for the FOS, with catering for the Inter-schools Cross Country, and the very entertaining Casino Night.

Whilst the Cross Country was down in numbers, it was a great day out, with the children having a fun time, as well as plenty of sausages and baking being sold, raising over \$600. We'd like to acknowledge Farmlands from Kurow who kindly lent us their marquee to host the BBQ. It was a brilliant set-up, and to be allowed to use it was greatly appreciated.

The Casino Night was an initiative driven by Wendy Parsons, and what a hilarious night it turned out to be. Plenty of laughs were had, as well as some great prizes won. We were blown away by the generosity, not only by businesses who were willing to sponsor the evening, but also by those who came along on the night with their playing and bidding, as well as those who helped with running of the night. The total amount raised is still to be confirmed, but was over \$6000. A massive thanks to you all.

Our last big event for the year is the upcoming "That Dam Race" in early December. We will be on the look out for people who would like to volunteer as marshals for the bike race. If you helped out last year and would like to do so again, or, if you're new to this and would love to join us, we'd love to hear from you. Many thanks

- By Lisa Anderson, chairperson

Thank You for supporting our Casino Fundraising Night
by way of Sponsorship, Helping Hands and Punters.

A small but very spirited and generous crowd enjoyed
the evening of gaming with loads of fun and laughter.



With your
help we
raised...

\$8220

for
Omarama
School





Omarama School Board of Trustees

- By Jan Thomas, Omarama Board of Trustees Chairperson

Sadly our lovely principal Sue Fleming has had to resign from her role as principal teacher at Omarama School for health reasons.

Sue joined us at the start of the year and as well as dealing with the completion of our major classroom renovations she also organised an Anzac Day Concert for the community as well as leading the school.

Sue has always said it is about the children and this has shone through clearly as Sue has put their learning and social skills first we have seen improvement in so many areas of children's learning

Sue's expertise in teaching has helped our staff and students increase their confidence in their ability to achieve.

We are very sad to say goodbye and we wish Sue a speedy recovery.

Moving forward, the board and staff identified the main need was for a teacher for the senior class, so an advertisement has been placed for this and in the meantime we have the rest of this term covered by Bevan Newlands and Janet Mc Gregor who have been working as principal release teachers for the year, so the children are comfortable with them.

Helen Blick retired principal from Kurow/Otematata is also coming up to help, and Kim Mackenzie the Junior class teacher is acting principal.

The board and staff are very aware that this means lots of changes for the children but I guess that is the way of the world these days and it is important that we manage and adapt to change with a positive outlook.

On another front we would like to express our gratitude and amazement at the work that went in to the Casino night, big THANKS to Friends of the School and in particular Wendy Parsons. You are a whizz with oodles of talent. Thanks to Julie Grant and team for the food.

AND big thanks to the community for coming along enmasse and supporting the School.

End of an era for community board member



Omarama's Michael Blackstock has relinquished his seat at the Ahuriri Community Board table after nine years of service. Businessman Tony Chapman has been elected unopposed.

Michael, who took up the role in 2007, says the time was right for change. He was prompted to stand by Omarama businessman Craig Dawson, who was the Ahuriri Ward councillor at the time. In 2007, the relationship between the board and the council was "not what it could have been", Michael said. That 2007 election

saw many new faces come onto the board. It was the first term for former member Cathy Ferguson and for present chairman Graham Sullivan, he said. There had been many "little successes" through his nine years in office. "Getting the [Omarama's] community centre up and finished had to be one of the biggest achievements. It was the support of the council who gifted the money from the sale of the medical centre which allowed that to come about. "Being able to get the councillors to walk through the small communities and see first hand what the issues were rather than just read about it had helped improve the relationships with the community."

One issue he would have liked to have resolved was the road drainage in Omarama. Despite work some areas still flooded when there was rain. "I'm disappointed for ratepayers on that score; it's probably not something people in Oamaru would stand for."

He valued the friendships he had made through the board and council, with other communities and townships. "We always tried to act as a team, always tried to make sure all communities were included and no town was left behind. If we leave one community behind it drags everyone down."

If there was one thing he would change it would be to make the board role a fixed term one. "I hope fresh faces continue to serve on the board. Ideas get stale, you get lazy, you need to bring fresh people on with fresh drive and fresh perspective."

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

Waitaki District Council news in brief

The Waitaki District Council has employed the services of a consultant to study the district's visitor accommodation. The study which is expected to be completed by the end of the year will be funded from the council's economic development discretionary fund.

Ecologist and environmental planner Max Crowe has been appointed to the role of biodiversity co-ordinator for the Waitaki District Council. Max will implement the council's biodiversity strategy and administer a \$30,000 annual contestable fund.

Freedom camping. The council is expected to adopt an amended draft freedom camping bylaw next week, September 14. The changes and clarifications were made as a result of feedback on the draft Waitaki District Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw. A change has been made which allows freedom camping directly outside a dwelling provided the camper has the consent of the property owner or occupier. The clarifications made were to bring the bylaw into line with the Freedom Camping Act 2011.

The camping season for Waitaki camping grounds opens on Saturday, September 17. The opening time for the camping ground gates at Sailors Cutting and Falstone Creek will be 8am. <http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-facilities/camping/Documents/Waitaki%20lakes%20camping%20brochure.pdf>

The word from Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan

As a result of the 2016 election little will change for the board. All five nominees were elected with only one change from the previous board.

Omarama's Tony Chapman takes up the position left vacant by Michael Blackstock, also of Omarama. The meeting of the board at the end of last month provided an opportunity for all to get together and meet with new Ahuriri Ward councillor Omarama businessman Craig Dawson who was also elected unopposed. Kurow's Dr June Slee stood down at the end of this term.

"I think it will be a good board. There are still a few issues but we'll work to sort those. I'd like to thank Michael very much for what he has done. He has worked hard for the area."

Although the contract with Delta for's recycle recovery parks ends in November Graham expects all to be "business as usual".

"The three recovery parks must be kept open. The board is looking at other options, it will have to go out to consultation...there are good options."

The new contract for water services with SouthRoads passed its first test last month when there was a significant pipe burst in Omarama. "The new contractors responded well within the two hours required of them. It was fixed immediately. Councillors and staff were very pleased. They were very efficient." To receive prompt service if there is an issue it is important to phone the council on 03 433 0300 or email waitaki@govt.nz appropriate contractor will be notified.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury news in brief

The clearing of willows at the confluence of the Willowburn Stream and Ahuriri River is underway. On Friday August 5, in a press statement, Environment Canterbury said the work beside the Department of Conservation campsite would begin August 9. Operators using chainsaws and a 20t digger will clear willows dropping debris into the stream and surrounds.

ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee, working with land owners, DoC, Rūnanga and Alps to Ocean, is undertaking the project improve water quality. The zone committee has contacted local firewood merchants to make sure the wood is used to help provide heating for Omarama residents. Further willow removal will occur over the next two or three years through spraying and removing the trunk and branches.

ECan Chief Executive Bill Bayfield has announced 100% of water consent holders in its region are now fully compliant or have abatement notices in place to become fully compliant with the Water Measuring National Regulations.

ECan also announced that Plan Change 3 to the Waitaki Catchment Water Allocation Regional Plan will be made operative from September 8. The regional council accepted the recommendations of Independent Hearing Commissioners on the Plan Change in June. No appeals were received.

The next meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am September 16, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

www.ecan.govt.nz



Introducing a new operative



Meet Terry Crane.

Terry, who lives in Kurow, is Delta's new Omarama and Otematata Transfer Station operative.

He took over from long-serving operative The Hat who retired for health reasons at the end of July.

Terry will man the Omarama Resource Recovery Park, which is open Wednesday and Sunday 9am to 12pm (and Saturday only from Labour Week-end to Easter 9am to 12pm).

He also operates the Otematata Resource Recovery Park which is open Wednesday and Sunday 1pm to 4pm (and Saturday only from Labour Week-end to Easter 1pm to 4pm).

The 2016 elections in Omarama

Local government

Environment Canterbury representatives

South Canterbury farmer Peter Scott was elected unopposed to the council of Environment Canterbury.

Waitaki District Council representatives

Omarama businessmen Craig Dawson and Tony Chapman were elected unopposed to the Waitaki District Council and Ahuriri Community Board respectively.

Two nominations have been received for mayor, incumbent Gary Kircher and Palmerston business man Stephen Wesselingh.

Voting documents for the postal ballot will be delivered to households this month. Electors can post the documents back to electoral officers as soon as they have voted. October 8 is polling day. Voting documents must be at the council before voting closes at 12 noon. Preliminary results (ie once all 'ordinary' votes are counted) will be available as soon as possible afterwards. Official results (including all valid ordinary and special votes) will be declared from October 13.

Waitaki Power Trust

As well, in separate elections Herb Tonkin, John Clements and Helen Brookes have been elected to the Waitaki Power Trust.

The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

NUTS & NUT BUTTERS

We now have 300g and 700g jars of organic peanut butter—no sugar or other additives.. **Ceres have put out a great (short) article on the benefits of eating nuts and nut butters.**

<https://www.ceres.co.nz/are-nut-butters-good-for-you/>



Photo: Caption

EASY ALMOND GINGER NUT BISCUITS!

125g pkt almond meal (or blend whole almonds until fine)

1 tsp soda

2T ground ginger

1T vinegar,

4T date syrup (dates blended with water) or maple syrup,

Pinch of salt

METHOD:

Blend together . Flatten tea-spoons on tray and bake for 10-15 mins 180.

Leave on tray to slightly cool (apart from eating the “sample” one(s) of course..)

Dairy, Refined Sugar and Gluten Free.

NOTE: I love these biscuits straight from the freezer!

GLENCRAIGS Wholesale Pantry Omarama

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- Ethical and environmentally sustainable practices of farm management and food production



The argument that organic food is not necessarily more nutritious than non-organic misses all of the above points. Plus, I personally think there is the flavour—no metallic or hidden after-taste or effects from additives, plus guaranteed no animal cruelty! Buying Organics may also seem expensive, however these products are primarily non-processed and seeds nuts and fruits go a long way. Whole foods also satisfy the body and will make you feel full for a lot longer as they digest more slowly. You may even notice you will eat less—so as well as helping the environment you are also helping your body!

GLENCRAIGS 03 4389 816 Email glencraigs@xtra.co.nz

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

August 2016

Highest temperature: August 29, 18.8C

Lowest temperature: August 11, -7.5C

Most rainfall: August 3 and 24, 5mm

Total rainfall for August: 16mm

Total rainfall for August 2015: 41mm

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Welcoming new and existing clients every second week, Monday to Friday, by appointment only.

I am a qualified senior stylist and have been in the hairdressing industry for 10 years.

I would like to thank my parents Grant and Sharlene Murdoch for letting me renovate half of Dad's garage (Thanks Dad), Shane Emslie and all those who helped me set up the salon.

To make an appointment:
phone/txt Shell on 0275401001
or message me on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/revivehairdesignkurow/

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SPEIGHT'S

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Helping others take to the skies *continued*

Set up 2006, by the Otago Gliding Club, Glide Omarama, ATC 42nd Squadron and later the Southland Gliding club, it has introduced more than 200 students to gliding.

The movement and Lis's efforts centres around development camps which bring young glider pilots together to fly, develop skills and train in a fun atmosphere. The Omarama Soaring Centre hosts a 10-day camp each December. "It's a lot of fun, a very social atmosphere." Omarama's famous thermals, ridges and waves provide the perfect learning environment. Participants can build up their flying experience, earn their certificates, fly solo and cross country, and work toward their Qualified Glider Pilot's Licence. Last year the young pilots made 300 flights over 10 days and enjoyed 261 hours of gliding.

There are other learning opportunities through the year but many visit and fly whenever they get the chance, Lis says. A high percentage of members have gone on to take up flying as a career.

It was important to acknowledge the input and volunteer hours put in by the pilots and instructors, without which it would not be possible, especially from Glide Omarama and others who support the group, Lis says. Former All Black captain Richie McCaw, patron of Youth Glide Canterbury, is especially supportive, Lis says. "He's very strong on getting people through, especially through Omarama."

Funding is available from the Glide New Zealand umbrella trust but members are expected to do their own "hard fundraising". "They are young enough, I've told them, you don't put your hands out to your parents." And there is give and take in this supportive environment. YouthGlide are always on hand to help with any big gliding event.

There are also opportunities to earn scholarships.

In 2007, Lis received the Lucy Wills scholarship, awarded by Gavin Wills in memory of his late daughter, also a keen glider pilot. He has been support and mentor to many who have gone through the programmes, Lis says. These days she is Vetlife's Twizel clinic manager and sales rep, but worked for Gavin through summer holidays while studying for her agricultural science degree.

To find out more:

Gliding New Zealand – www.gliding.co.nz

YouthGlide New Zealand – www.youthglide.org.nz

www.facebook.com/YouthGlideNewZealand

YouthGlide Omarama

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/823520134364913/>

Photos: right, by Jill McCaw, far right, by Jack Zorab



Why I'm a rural firefighter *continued*

With Rural Fire though, if I'm not able to make the initial call, I could still end up being needed hours or even days afterwards depending on how big the fire is. It means I have time to organise some cover or swap a shift and get out there for a bit of excitement (or with a rake to mop up afterwards). The best bit is you're alongside a good bunch of buggers who are awesome at passing on their knowledge and letting you get stuck in.

What's next? Well I've recently come back from a weekend away in Dunedin where we got to burn stuff and then put it out and learn all about fire fighting techniques and that's the minimum level of training needed, so now I can just keep coming along to the training nights and responding to calls which keeps me current. The trouble is I always want more and Rural is great for that. I could become a crew leader, learn about working with helicopters and monsoon buckets, sign up for overseas deployment to 'Straya when they get into a spot of bother and loads of other cool stuff. You've got to be prepared to put in some hours to make sure you keep up with training and, like everything else in the modern world, it's all about working with health and safety rules, but then I'd rather do that than turn up to a call unprepared and have to get someone else to come and save me, how embarrassing!

So that's why I'm a Rural Firefighter, because I'm a big kid who likes a bit of excitement, but then if we're honest, who doesn't? If you fancy giving it a go or have a family you're keen to spend less time with then get in touch with Lis (0273303068) or speak to another member and come join the fun!



The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions with...



Jack Zorab, Countrytime Hotel duty manager and Omarama Rural Fire volunteer.

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

Possibly not best repeated but the second best piece of advice was; 'Do what you feel is right'.

2. What was your best impulse buy?

A return flight home to the High Wycombe, UK, earlier this year. I booked it on the Monday night and flew out on Tuesday.

3. Best day outside the office?

Visiting Mt Cook, running up the Hooker track, the Tasman Lake, Mueller Hut, I've often driven up there and come straight back.

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?

There's enough space, the views, the quiet, with people that care about each other.

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

Hugs.

The View from the Chook House



Spring?

And with the new season come new siblings.

You would not be impressed either.



The Garden Diary

The Greening

At this time of the year I get so impatient for spring.

Any break in the weather and I'm out there hovering, pulling back leafy mulch, willing snubby bulbs to push their way up, and peering intently at all the tight lacquered buds on twigs for

signs of new life. Gardeners on the coast skite about their first snowdrops and jonquils – so cruel. Then, almost overnight, our sepia-toned tundra gets a whiff of spring's fragrances and inhales deeply, drawing the warmth through the valley, lighting everything green as it goes. Knowing my impatience a wise farmer once told me soil in our high country valleys would not be warm enough to break seed dormancy or encourage growth until the willows began to turn green. "You're wasting your time sowing those now." He was right. Sigh. I still do it!

But just what is it that plants know? How do they know when it's safe to end their winter hibernation? Their duty is to grow, flower and set seed - mission accomplished. And in our neck of the woods it's essential they get all their 'to do' list done before a summer drought or the next cold spell because a seed can survive extremes where plants will not. And they are so organised. They take the basics; water, carbon dioxide and minerals, catch some sunlight then, under the management of a few hormones, dispatch assignments to their extremities detailing what must done.

Memo to seed – roots go down, shoots push up. Gravity does not rule. Communiqué to climbing tendril – reconnoitre for support; circle, touch, grasp and twine. Yes, they really do do that. And they can tell time. It's called photoperiodism, not clock watching. They will count down the night-time hours (not daylight hours) until they know days are long enough and it is safe to burst bud. Some, like tulips and peonies, need to have their winter rest and won't flower unless they get it. An apple is another that gauges temperature. It needs 1000 to 1400 hours at 7C before it will flower and shoot. A warm autumn does mess with spring because blossoming buds will only form when days get colder.

A plant can warn its clan when it comes under attack so others have time to prepare. Some plants fend off encroaching neighbours with a spot of chemical warfare exuding toxins through their roots or leaf mulch – all very Game of Thrones. It's probably unsurprising survival has dictated plants become intricately connected to their environment so they can react quickly and effectively but what is intriguing is some scientists say there is evidence plants might be able to predict and plan for future events. Just what else do they know?

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

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