



-Omarama Gazette -

November 2016

Sponsored by
WaterForce

Our guests are arriving, are we ready?



It's no secret visitor numbers to the region have risen markedly in the past 12 months and MBIE, in its New Zealand Tourism 2016 to 2022 forecast, predicts, with a couple of provisos, these numbers will continue to grow strongly before they level off.

In Omarama, businesses have not only noticed an increase in the numbers of visitors but also a fundamental change in their mode of

travel, from arranged group tours to more independent travellers, many using campervans. And the numbers of these visitors is growing noticeably. The Omarama Gazette put several questions about the trends to business owners and also asked how information services should be provided in the town. (The way information services are to be provided in town is under review by Tourism Waitaki. It is important to note Hot Tubs Omarama are continuing to provide i-site service as an interim measure until decisions are made.)

It's difficult to drill down for Omarama statistics. Much evidence is anecdotal but compelling.

Although Tony and Amanda Chapman have only owned Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park since February they have noticed the upturn in campervan traffic and believe it is more than seasonal. **...continued at back**

The Sponsor's Say - **WaterForce** *wise with water*



In this part of the world we know the importance of getting things right with water. It's the reason why WaterForce set up shop in Omarama. They're right here to give on-the-spot assistance and it's backed with local knowledge.

WaterForce Omarama store supervisor Jimmy Courtney says, 'nine out of 10 people come into the store knowing what they want, and we work with them to make it happen.

If it's parts they're after and we don't have it in stock we can have it here by the very next day.'

WaterForce's main focus, of course, is to supply to the farmer. There are parts for pivots and k-lines, fittings of all types; brass and plastic ball valves galvanised fittings - if it's for irrigation, they have it or they can get it.

For the dairy shed there are wash-down hoses, nozzles and more.

But Waterforce also supplies quality products, suited to high country conditions, for landscaping and turf care - there are sprinklers, landscape and turf grade alkanthene, UV protected and warranted garden hoses, and timers. The very latest - a wifi-enabled irrigation controller - will let you control your irrigation system from your desk in the city, any city.

Importantly, WaterForce can work with you to get what you need to fit your garden plan.

Jimmy says people are more than welcome to come in for a nosey.

'It's a good idea to check out what we've got so when you need it you know what we have here.'

The store is open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday. But because life doesn't just happen between eight and five there is an on-call system.

WaterForce

0800 4 FORCE (436723)

Jimmy Courtney
Omarama Store Supervisor
21 Chain Hills Hwy
Omarama

15 Rogers St
Cromwell
P O Box Cromwell, 9342
www.waterforce.co.nz



Conquering the learning curves

Eight young glider pilots aged 14 to 25 from Omarama, Dunedin, Twizel, North Canterbury and Hungary set themselves new challenges at a Youth Glide Omarama get together last weekend.

It was organised by Youth Glide Omarama co-ordinator Lis Rietveld, with input and volunteer hours put in by pilots and instructors of Glide Omarama. Participants build up their flying experience and can work toward a Qualified Glider Pilot's

While some of the young pilots had flown gliders or fixed wing aircraft previously, for a couple it was their first time at the controls.

Phoebe Preston-Marshall, of Twizel, said it was her brother, Tim, also at the get together, who inspired her to have a go when he spoke of how great the experience was. Her first flight at the weekend was "pretty cool" and she said she would definitely be continuing with instruction. Tim was also instrumental in getting friends Mack Mills and Caleb Wilson into gliding. Regina Kormanyos is on a working holiday at Kahu Café and is from Szeged, Hungary where she was introduced to gliding. It was Glide Omarama pilot Milan Kmetovics, who comes from her home town who convinced her to make the trip and to gain experience, specifically with tow-planes.

Daniel Clements and Campbell Craig, of Dunedin, are members of Air Training Corps 42 squadron and came to Omarama to gain experience in flying gliders. Sam Patterson, of Longslip Station, Omarama, who has flying experience said he also joined to learn about flying gliders.

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.

- photo by Lis Rietveld



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/623520134364913/>

Welcome to Poppa Lex

Lex and Jan would like to dedicate this story to Men's Health Awareness <https://nz.movember.com/>

Stories and adventures unfold in Grannie Jan and Poppa Lex's crazy garden made with love and seasoned with memories.

Lex and Jan Perriam planned out their pocket-sized Omarama garden 17 years ago.

And quite fittingly, it's grown just like grandad's pocket and grandma's pinny - full of interesting bits and bobs.

When they first moved in it was a bare section.

"We did do a plan, which was quite bizarre," Jan says.

From there the long walk through the tiny patch evolved.

First and foremost the garden pays homage to the couple's love of Ohau's lake, bush and mountains.

For Lex, that love affair began 41 years ago with his work with the New Zealand Forest Service, then later as an independent guide.

The couple - aka Peas and Jandals - and their extended family went on to spend many years holidaying and hosting visitors at what was the Forest Service's Lake Ohau Base at Huxley Gorge Station.

The garden evokes long walks on bush tracks, around each bend there is a new view.

"It [evolved] using what we had, whatever was at hand." Jan says.

Nostalgic and whimsical bits and bobs, hang, adorn, and underpin every corner and hide taniwha and other monsters.

The entire back wall features a mural by local artist Kevin Webb, a colourful backdrop of riverside lupins.



and Grannie Jan's crazy garden

Everything has a story which is fitting because this is the home of one of Omarama's best yarn spinners. It can take hours to make this journey. The beauty of it is most pieces also have a function.

Few visitors who are greeted at the gate by the old Bedford tow truck, one of only two brought in from the UK, and well settled in its garden of natives, would realise it conceals a barbecue at the back.

An old long drop is now Jan's toolshed, Lex turned a wooden dinghy into an archway adorned with oars and ropes, the old VW shines at night in a light and music extravaganza, and the maimai? That's for "time-out" the place to go to hide away from the world.

Old chairs are the next project, waiting to be painted in jelly bean colours to surprise the grandchildren on their next visit"

"The [12] grandkids love coming here... to Grannie Jan and Poppa 's crazy garden."

The garden is "cottagey" and does its own thing, but there are not just foxgloves, hollyhocks and lupins but also native broom, prostrate kowhai, tussock, and flax.

Jan's trees, planted as part of that plan have reached maturity. Robinia mop tops line the drive, jewel-toned Japanese maples are settled in along the walks and Robinia lace lady reaches her contorted branches over the whole, like some ancient from a fairy tale.

The maples are a tribute to Jan's father, Bert Horrell, of Gore who inspired her love of gardening.

Jan's favourite description of their garden is it is "always evolving, always changing".

One thing is certain it will continue to be a reflection of Lex and Jan's life together – great yarns, making memories and jam-packed with love.



Getting to know the neighbours

Last week's fire brigade practice in Omarama was no ordinary one. It was the first time the Omarama Volunteer Rural Fire Brigade and Rural Fire volunteers joined forces ahead of next year's amalgamation of the NZ Fire Service and National Rural Fire Authority into one identity - Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

While details of the merger are still to be worked out at national level, Omarama Rural Fire training officer Jack Zorab said their crews planned a series of training sessions together beginning with the familiarisation of gear.

The practice began with a quick run through at the station which continued at Doc's Ahuriri camping ground and involved Rural Fire volunteers pumping water from the creek to supply their 'urban' counterparts with water to put out a simulated shed fire.

Both brigades are looking for more volunteers.

The Omarama Rural Fire Brigade meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday each month at the Omarama Rural Fire Station, Sutherlands Rd. The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month.





Omarama, New Zealand's fine wool capital, hosts NZ Merino open day

A who's who of national and international merino wool representatives gathered in Omarama last week for New Zealand Merino's open day and annual meeting. About 100 growers attended along with manufacturers, retailers, researchers and specialists.

NZM chairwoman Ruth Richardson brought the meeting to order with a competent dog whistle. She noted progress made and various changes within the organisation including a change of directors with Ben Aubrey, of Glencairn Station, stepping down and Bill Sutherland of Benmore Station newly appointed to the role. Bill welcomed all to "Omarama, the fine wool capital of New Zealand". Speakers included Reda's Francesco Botto Poala and Ice-breaker chief operating officer Nicola Simpson.

Following lunch - prepared by Fine Fare Kitchen from merino meat cuts, the group travelled to Quailburn Station for an on-farm discussion of production science and later returned for their annual meeting which was not open to media.

Spokeswoman Gretchen Foster said it was "wonderful" to have such a facility in Omarama to host the event.

Photos: Former New Zealand Merino Company director Ben Aubrey and newly-appointed director Bill Sutherland; Cousins Fabrizio and Francesco Botto Poala, of Otamatapaio Station, a Reda of Italy farm.



The argument between the ego and older ego on an alps to Omarama journey

by Jan Thomas, *photo by Jack Zorab*

The Alps 2 Ocean marketing team held its annual summit over two days at the Countrytime Hotel in Omarama last week. The summit was attended by more than 120 industry representatives, Waitaki and Mackenzie District Council staff and Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean. As part of the event a group cycled part of the trail (section four) from Lake Ohau Lodge to the Wrinkly Rams where they gathered for lunch.

Omarama 'representatives' who took part in the bike ride were Jan Thomas, Arda Booman, Jack Zorab and Charlotte Derosa. Below Jan writes, 'stream of consciousness-style', of her experience, photos by Jack Zorab, (Ian Elliott from Tourism Developments NZ, joined Jack and Charlotte for the pic at 900m) - Ed.

"Alps2Ocean, the section from Ohau to Omarama you can't do it, you're too old, you will fall off the side, you could knock someone else over, you are not fit for this and the weather is lousy, on and on went my old woman self for most of Thursday night, and I would have bowed to that insistent voice if it hadn't been for Arda coming over from Luggate to ride with me.

Of course it started raining as we left Ohau Lodge but it was cool to be out on the trail with 42 hardy souls, laughing, joking and enjoying the adventure. I even heard myself saying I would do it again on a fine day! Was that the old woman talking?

I did have a secret weapon an E Bike (courtesy of Cycle Journeys) and it became apparent even to the old woman self who was still getting a word or two in in my young woman head that this was the way to go.

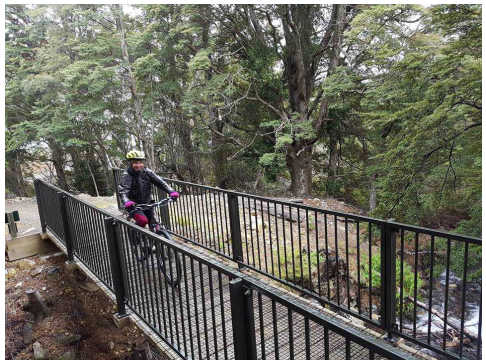
It is very good for an old woman's soul to cruise past some younger model and particularly the male of the species who are down to 1/1 in the gears and puffing up the hills when all I had to do was click up and pedal a bit whilst avoiding the rocks and dodgy bits of the trail. Yes, the old girl was fair crowing when she got to the top.

Then the young woman took over for the downhill run. Whooooohoooo hang on and just keep pedalling, Awesome.

Lakes Coffee cart provided a divine caffeine fix when we rocked in to Quailburn in 7th place, not that it was a race but the old woman self took note.

AND then we started off down Quailburn Rd, 15kms to The Wrinkly Rams and a buffet lunch and a wee massage courtesy of Oak Villa Spa from Oamaru, BUT no power in the E Bike, well, the old girl brain had a field day for 15 kms.

If you are older and you wanted to ride the trail but thought you were past it think again the E Bikes are just so good, my no power was easily fixed just not by me and not until I had finished.



The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: omaramagazette@gmail.com

Congratulations to Clint McAughtrie, on your recent win in the bull ride at the Winchester Rodeo.

There will be a working bee at the new grounds of the Omarama Collie Dog Club at Dalrachney Station starting at mid-day Friday, November 25. All are welcome to come and have a look at the new grounds.

- *president Ed Aubrey.*

The Rotary Club of Waimate have been exploring the opportunities of assessing whether there is a place for a Rotary satellite club in Omarama and district. A number

residents and business people have been approached, with positive thoughts re moving to the next stage of having a discussion group meet in the near future (date, place and time not yet confirmed). Rotary is a positive means of installing enthusiasm, and positive thinking within a community. If you would like to know more or be part of the initial feasibility group please contact Colin Dore, Assistant Governor, Rotary District 9980, email sondzela@xtra.co.nz or mob 027 689 6020.

The South Island Regional Gliding championships will be at the Omarama Airfield from November 12 to November 19

The Omarama Playgroup mothers would like to invite any ladies in the area to join them at 6.30 pm Friday December 9 for a delicious three-course dinner at Lake Ohau Lodge \$46 Per person. Please Phone Petrina 0273456192

The Omarama Playgroup meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Omarama Community Centre. For more information phone Petrina Paton 0273456192

The Omarama Airfield directors are hosting a series of meetings to get feedback which will be used to draw up a long term plan, The next meeting is 7pm Friday, November 18 at the Terminal. All are welcome. (*See more below*)

David Klein, the science storyteller - is bringing his one man show - Tour de Science - to the Omarama Community Centre next month. (*See below for more details*)

The Omarama Residents' Association's next meeting will be 7.30pm Thursday November 10, at the Omarama Community Centre. Craig Dawson, secretary. 027 4389132. Ross Gold, chairman, 027 4434149

The Plunket Nurse is Liz Watson, phone 021 244 9647. Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Lisa Crawford, phone 021 126 3113

Car Seat Rentals: Christine, Phone: 03 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

Breastfeeding Works: Claire Hargest-Slade 03 684 3625, 021 493 863
clairhs@me.com

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 021 132 5586 or Georgie Robertson 027 486 1525

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.

Omarama Rural Fire meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday each month at the Omarama Rural Fire Station, Sutherlands Rd. New volunteers are welcome. Phone Lis 027 330 3068

The Omarama Golf Club, Saturdays tee-off 1pm, all welcome. Twilight 9-hole golf Wednesday tee-off 6pm. Club captain Adrian Tuffley 027 347 8276. <http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/>

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

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For a copy of the costs to advertise, and publication and close-off
dates

please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or
email omaramagazette@gmail.com

**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, December 7, 2016.**

**Please submit copy by
Friday, December 2.**

Omarama Airfield Ltd

The Omarama Airfield Company is holding a series of workshops at the airfield over six months to share information ahead of drawing up its long term plan. The first of those meetings took place last month.

Chairman Bill Gordon said it was good to see Omarama people at the meeting and to be able to let them know what was happening. He encourages people to come along to future meetings.

Airfield director Clive Geddes, who coordinated the meeting, said the first meeting was very positive.

He was pleased people "took an interest" and gave up time on a Saturday afternoon to come along.

He said it was clear people saw the airfield as an asset and there were some good ideas put forward about how it could be used. The next meeting is 7pm Friday, November 18 at the terminal and all are welcome.



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

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

NEW MEDICAL SERVICE FOR OMARAMA, Extended hours for Kurow Medical Centre

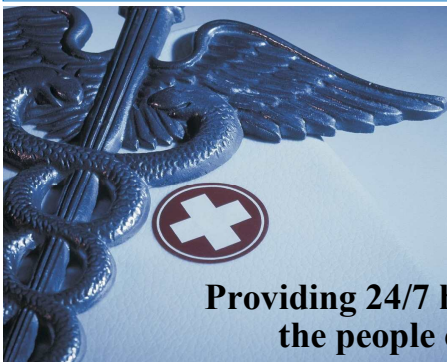
The Kurow Medical Centre has announced it will hold weekly clinics in Omarama following the announcement former Twizel GP Dr Tim Gardner will join its team on Monday,

November 14. Dr Gardner joins Dr Annie Fyfe who has worked in Kurow for the past two years. Kurow Medical Centre practice manager Jules Elliot said not only were they “thrilled” to announce Dr Gardner would be joining Kurow Medical but it would also extend its services to include a clinic day in Omarama on Mondays.

Mrs Elliot said from Monday, November 14 the Kurow Medical Centre would be open 8.30am to 5.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and CLOSED on Fridays.

PRIME cover is available at all times.

Bookings for the Omarama clinic should be made through the Kurow Medical Centre ph 436 0760.



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 034360760 F: 034360780

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

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

The Community Reports

Upper Waitaki Police news



Bean says: People were generally well-behaved at Labour Weekend . About 100 "youths" stayed at Loch Laird. It was "a bit disappointing" two had to be processed for drunk driving.

Having the liquor ban in place was a useful tool.

Two Christchurch women were arrested for theft - a petrol drive off on two consecutive days. Once again radio communications meant Twizel police were able to provide swift assistance.

Two Central Otago men, who had taken an unknown substance at the Omarama Bike Park, were taken into custody for their own safety, one was taken to Dunedin Hospital for assessment.

*-Senior Constable Nayland Smith Phone: 03 438 9559
email: Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz*

ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

Special Notice



In August Rev Ken Light retired from the North Oamaru Parish. He has kindly offered to continue taking our service here in Omarama **3pm on 4th Sunday of the month** until a new vicar is appointed in Oamaru. His contact is **027 2111501**. All welcome.

There will be a Christmas Eve service again this year.
Time to be decided. Please come and join us.

Any enquiries, please phone Kay 4389538 or 027 489 5149
Waitaki Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)
03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



The Omarama Fire brigade has had a quiet month so far, we have had only two calls for October . We are sad to lose one of our newest fire fighters Kat Brand who is moving to the North Island and we would all like to wish her well for the future. We are recruiting now and if anyone would like to join, please feel free to contact me at any time. Stay Safe and remember - Smoke alarms save Lives.

Chief fire officer Terry Walsh



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

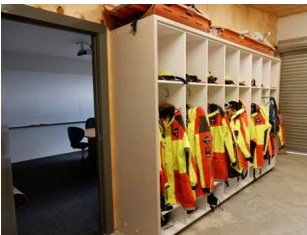
Omarama Land Search and Rescue

Look at that , it's done, well almost - still the carpet tiles to go in, at the last viewing.

So the official opening of the Omarama Land Search and Rescue new operations centre is planned for later this month. The 'before shot' of the building (ex New Zealand Forest Service) is courtesy of Lex Perriam.

Omarama Landsar would like to thank the following business and individuals for their support and sponsorship:

Fonterra grassroots funds; Place-makers; Meridian Energy; North Otago Boar and Stag Muster; Resene Paints Oamaru; Boots and Jandals Hotel; Placemakers Oamaru; James Hardie; Warnock Architecture; Lindsay Purvis; Ladybird Hill; Mark Paulson; Mike Komen; Simpsons Flooring Xtra Oamaru; Wendy and Richard Parsons; Omarama School Mufti Day; Wingy; Lakes Electrical.



Omarama Golf Club

As we all know it feels like spring some days, then summer and others not sure!! But one thing is for sure, the grass is growing so club members have been busy mowing spraying and carrying out spring maintenance and our course is looking great. It has been great to see so many golfers out on the course including regulars, tourists or visitors from other clubs.

The first week of November we have a contractor coming in to core our greens; this is thanks to some fundraising and a donation from NZ Community Trust which has made this possible, a big thank you.

We held our Labour weekend tournament and it was great to see 26 competitors including four ladies turning out

The results were:

Ladies:

1st Angela Mowbray

Men 0 – 13 Handicap

1st Roger McCallum

2nd Mike Bernie

3rd Adrian Tuffley

Men 14 and above handicap

1st Jamie Toms (outstanding 45 stablefords – winner overall)

2nd Terry Conlan

3rd Brent Fokkens

A big thank you to our tournament sponsors, Tony and Judy Sheppard (New World Ashburton), Peter Casserly, Ginger and Johnny Anderson. Also a big thank you for all the committee, club members and partners who helped on the day either preparing food, running the BBQ , serving in the bar or general help. Many hands make light work THANKS.

Reminder Saturday club day tee-off 1 p.m. and twilight 9 hole golf

Wednesday tee-off 6.00 p.m.

- By Paul Bowman





Omarama School Board of Trustees

Kia Ora Omarama Community

The new board consisting of James Kerr, Gundy Anderson, Jan Thomas and acting principal Kim McKenzie and staff rep Kris Lindsay of trustees have been busy getting our heads around governance of the school, attending training and sussing out the various policies and procedures which guide our actions within the school.

The board would like to thank all the staff for their hard work and commitment to the school, in particular acting principal Kim McKenzie for really stepping up to the role of principal.

At the end of term three we surveyed the parents as to what they felt the school needed in a principal and we have had a planning workshop with Gary Tenbeth from the Faculty of Education at Auckland University. One of the outcomes of that workshop was the decision to delay the start date of the new principal until term two, this gives the board time to develop selection criteria, a robust interview process and greater stability of staffing for the children.

- By Jan Thomas, Omarama School Board of Trustees chairperson.

Later this month Omarama School will go on camp to Lakeland Park, Queenstown. In October they were busy fundraising for it. A successful sausage sizzle and cake stall was held as well as a Halloween party where pupils turned out in a spooktacular array of costumes and enjoyed a shared lunch.

- Halloween photos by Prue O'Neill.





Waitaki District Council news in brief

Local Body elections are over for another three years and the last of the inaugural meetings - that of the Ahuriri Community Board - was held yesterday, Tuesday, November 1, at the Omarama Community Centre.

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher, Councillor Craig Dawson and chief executive Michael Ross attended. Brent Cowles, and Vicky Munro of Otematata, Callum Reid, of Kurow, Graham Sullivan, of Waimate and Tony Chapman, of Omarama have been elected to the board. Graham Sullivan was elected chairman at the meeting following the taking of declarations.

The next Ahuriri Community board meeting is at 3.15, Monday December 12.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Below: New Ahuriri Community Board member Tony Chapman signs the declaration before taking office.



From Waitaki district Ahuriri ward councillor Craig Dawson

Ahuriri Issues – November 2016 - Start of the New Council Term

It's great to be back on the fray again after a three year break.

The Council team is a strong one and should work well with the challenges ahead under the leadership of Mayor Gary Kircher.

Omarama

1. Town water supply: Most of you will be aware that there is a third bore being put in place to cater for the peak flow during the summer season. I am hopeful this will be sufficient, but aim to catch up on the details.
2. Omarama Airport: I see huge potential for growth for one of Omarama's key assets. Occupying 90 hectares, there is a significant number of opportunities to operate more businesses from there, , ie agriculture, powered flights, contractors etc. The Omarama Airport company has been holding visioning sessions with the public and members to glean ideas for more revenue streams.
3. Alps 2 Ocean: Currently 51% of the trail is off road, with a number of projects underway to push on and get it completed.

Kurow

1. Waitaki Car Trust: A second vehicle has been purchased and, if the current use of the first one is anything to go by, it will be well utilised.
2. It is great to see new building and business projects happening in Kurow and I am looking forward to catching up with some of the locals and their projects.

Otematata

1. It is great to see some new developments in Otematata. The Wetlands Walkway is coming along well. Graham Sullivan (Community Board Chair) showed me the new tracks and plantings which have taken place since I was last on Council. Huge credit to the dedicated locals who have beavered away with this huge project.
2. Otematata's water supply seems to be operating well at present.
3. I see further business opportunities for Otematata by freeing up land on state highway 83. I am looking forward to working with the Community Board to push on with this.

Ohau

I see that the water system upgrade has not as yet started. I will be having a look at progress so far to see what can be done to hasten this project.

Much more later, as I get updated on all things Ahuriri.

- Craig Dawson - Councillor

Environment Canterbury news in brief

The next meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, November 18.

www.ecan.govt.nz

The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

Zingy Ginger Biscuits

(lots of variations & super easy...)

2 C rolled oats

2 C cornflakes / ancient grain flakes / crunchy rice flakes or similar

½ C rice flour

1 tsp BP

2-3 Tablespoons ginger powder

¾ C maple syrup OR honey and / or stevia to taste

BLITZ tog. in a food processor.

Add about 2-3T of water to make the mixture sufficiently moist to squeeze into balls in your hand.

OPTIONAL ADD-INS

1 Cup of raisins or cranberries

OR 1 Cup choc chips

OR 1 Cup chopped nuts/peanuts

For an extra healthy version I added 2T of chia seeds as well.

Flatten with hand onto a tray (they don't spread much)

Bake 10-15 mins until just golden.. Cool on the tray so they harden

(These are reasonably hard & crunchy but GREAT for dunking..)

NB: If you can't take rolled oats try quinoa or rice flakes for this recipe.



Check out our great prices!!



GLENCRAIGS Wholesale Pantry Omarama

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COMING EVENTS - NOVEMBER 2016

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Saturday November 5th we have playing at the Hotel from 9.00pm Bevan Gardiner and James Davey a very talented duo - it's a must see event, come with your dancing shoes on.

Tuesday November 8th Christchurch Casino New Zealand Trotting Cup sweep stake come in a have a wee bet on the horses, the race starts at 5.15pm.

Saturday November 26th we have Country Singer Casey Clydesdale performing from 8.30pm till 12.30am

COMING SOON

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The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions...



**Introducing -
Mr and Mrs Lord
Steph and Zane,
and flower girl Choc**

- 1. What is the best advice you have ever been given?**
-Happy wife happy life
- 2. What was your best impulse buy?**
- their home two-and-a-half years ago

3. Best day outside the office?

- Road trips, Their trip to the West Coast and tramping

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?

- Just look at it, this is home

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

Donald Trump not being elected US President. "Stop the wars - just why?"

Steph is a receptionist and nurse at Veterinary Centre Omarama and Zane is a dairy farm worker at Little Ben.

The View from the Chook House



We have this idea for a
new venture.

We're calling it the Trump
hair farm.



The Garden Diary

There are daisies at our front gate.
They grew from a slip from a friend's garden.
At the backdoor - which is badly in need of a paint -
there are forget-me-nots. Ironically, the name of the
person who gave me those has slipped my mind.
The oldest tree here is a 30-year-old Norway Maple...
not really the best choice or in the right position but we
chose and planted it together. A common clematis
montana threads its way through the branches and
reaches for the sky. An unwise decision, in the eyes
of some, to put that there. Any 'painterly effects' are
more Jackson Pollock than Claude Monet. There are

colours that clash but the bees and I close our eyes to the gaudiness and enjoy the party.

This is the season of garden visits, gardens are at their lush and bountiful best, packed with show-offy blooms and perfume to send you into a swoon. We are spoilt for choice with festivals, shows and tours. And as they say - you are not a real gardener unless you return home from those with bootloads of plants and not the least idea of where you are going to put any of them. It is the time for all gardeners to go forth and enjoy!

Gardening and sharing have held hands since the beginning of time. Visiting other gardeners and glimpsing a little of their world is a privilege and just the best of times. I learn so much. I meet new people and new plants, I get to see things from a whole new perspective. Sometimes, I feel so envious I just can't breathe, (another swoon coming on). I come home brimming with fresh ideas, richer for the experience and also a little poorer if there are plants for sale. Hohum!

When people say they would like to visit my garden I think I probably do a rather good impression of a possum caught in the headlights. Of course they are welcome, I just fear it won't measure up. I do have some things which I think are rather special and others of which I feel undeservedly proud. But then anything approaching immaculate has always eluded me. My garden is rather ordinary, and often neglected.

This year, I know I haven't sown my sunflower seeds in time to have them dazzling in the autumn light. But because I never got around to lopping off last season's drooping heads their seeds fed hungry birds in winter. And, the other day as I combed out a blond tussock, underneath its tousled strands were sunflower seedlings, robust and ready to stretch to the sky.

Sometimes the garden teems with sucky monsters - aphids, spittle bug and the like, but then there are bumble bees and honey bees and ladybirds and preying mantis and butterflies and frogs and this is their home too.

Sometimes I like to work in my garden, to heft and swing and chop and climb and reach and bleed and sweat and yes, cry. Sometimes it is a place for great company, laughter, cake and wine. Sometimes it is a place of rest and solace and quiet introspection. There's always a welcome and it will always be a work in progress. *Ruth Grundy (I garden a small space under a big sky in Omarama)*

The guests are arriving, are we ready? ...continued from page 1

Each month, the Chapman's receive fortnightly updates of the numbers of campervans passing their gate from tech company GeoZone (see bar chart overleaf). October figures were not available at going to print but by the last fortnight of September numbers had built to 794.

Since 2014, GeoZone has been collecting data from its free iPhone/Android app 'CamperMate' installed in the vans of about 16 campervan companies. Its sales manager Lily Caldwell says the statistics produced are an indication only, not an actual picture of the total amount of campervan traffic because not every campervan company uses the app and not every user chooses to have the notifications turned on. GeoZone was not able to provide specific statistics for Omarama but it did provide a map of the pattern of traffic routes (see over).

Unsurprisingly, the map shows most who travel through our town are heading along that golden highway fixated on getting to Queenstown or Christchurch.

Tony says there is a compelling argument for creating "plenty of reasons" for these visitors to want to stop and spend more time in Omarama and the Waitaki.

"The first question visitors ask is; 'what can we do in town for the afternoon'."

"People should want to come here and ... set up businesses [to meet visitor needs].

"The simplest of things can work."

He says a staffed information centre of some kind in Omarama is required.

He is unsure of what funding is available to run a site. "There is no easy answer."

As well, rental campervans are now equipped with the latest technology programmed with information for visitors and "we need to look at how to be part of that".

The Chapman's experience is also playing out at neighbouring business, Omarama Service Station, owned by Terry and Michelle Walsh. Terry says the increase in campervan traffic in the past 18 to 24 months has been "phenomenal". For him it was telling that campervan rental companies wanted their vans recovered and repaired urgently because demand was such they needed to get them back on the road again as soon as possible. He says the Doc camping ground at the Ahuriri River is key to encouraging longer visits. The newly-installed campervan dump station is also a plus. Oamaru is the "next big drawcard" in the district and Omarama and the other small towns needed to "piggyback off" its success. "We haven't got the infrastructure here." A staffed information centre is important.

"You can't beat the personal interaction ... can't beat local knowledge."

Long-time Omarama business man Lindsay Purvis, who together with wife Bev, have owned Merino Country Cafe and Gifts for the past 23 years, says there is “no doubt there’s been a [recent] swing to camper-vans”.

It used to be it was busloads of middle to senior – aged tourists, he says. There is a new generation beginning to travel – more technologically aware and informed by social media. While there are still some who feel happier travelling in groups on arranged tours independent travel was attractive to Germans and Australians, and “the Chinese are on their way”. The discussion about how to “hold” people in Omarama is “age-old”.

“Many ask; what do we do in Omarama – it’s hard to answer.”

He has also noticed State Highway 83 is “busier and busier” with visitor traffic.

Increased pressure on facilities is a given and he believes an entry levy on visitors to build up a national contestable fund is the answer to funding better infrastructure, and it would not deter people from coming here. He says recent trends have caused him to rethink his ideas and he now believes some kind of information centre presence is needed in the centre of town.

Hot Tubs Omarama owners Jan and Lance Thomas say they have seen a definite increase in campervan traffic.

These travellers needed “plug-in facilities”, they are looking for “simple luxuries”, like showering facilities, good parking. “It is about making things well-signposted and easy.” Jan says.

Waitaki District councillor Craig Dawson says setting up the campervan dump station in town was a positive move. The Doc camping ground at the Ahuriri River is “the biggest attraction”.

“I’m not for building a lot of entertainment ... more about letting people enjoy the natural environment.”

Craig says it is disappointing the matter of an information centre is still not resolved when Tourism Waitaki had promised it would be settled before winter. He would like to see some proposals so options could be weighed up. He does not want to “load the ratepayer up” and wants to see what a new proposal would cost along with the evidence it will “be effective”.

In his opinion, ideally, it would be a staffed information centre positioned in a clearly visible site on SH8.

He says he is not happy with the delay over the decision and will be asking questions of Tourism Waitaki.

In reply to questions from the Omarama Gazette, put to him by email on Monday, Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill said he had “nothing to report”.

...continued over

...continued

Omarama's information centre - developments since March

March 31, 2016 The contract between Tourism Waitaki and Hot Tubs Omarama for information centre services officially ended. Hot Tubs owner Jan Thomas has continued to provide services on a month-by-month basis in the interim. At the time, Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill told the Omarama Gazette it was looking for a "permanent, stand-alone site" to be set up before winter.

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

In September, Mr Gaskill met with 15 members of the Omarama Business Group. He told them Tourism Waitaki acknowledged the importance of Omarama's position on the main tourist route in its strategic plan. He said the matter of a new facility had been 18 months in the consideration and it was trying to find suitable space or land to set up a "stand alone" information centre. Consensus from the group was the site must be staffed but it would put undue pressure on a business to try to run information services alongside their own business in the busy times. Questions were asked about what kind of funding was available. Various options for a suitable site were put forward by the group including a site in the town centre and adjacent to Hot Tubs Omarama, in its carpark.

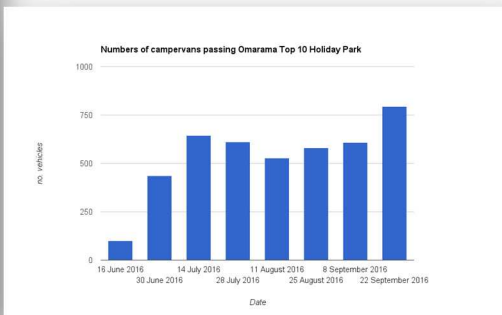
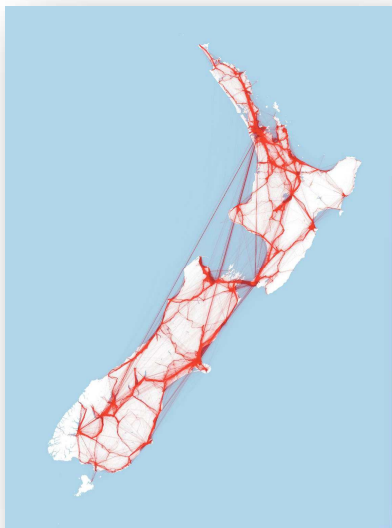
This week Hot Tubs owner Jan Thomas told the Omarama Gazette she understood the plan was for some form of staffed information centre to remain on the Hot Tubs Omarama property.

On Monday the Omarama Gazette put the following questions to Mr Gaskill in an email.

1. Where will the information centre be sited?
2. What form will it take and will it be manned?
3. How will it be funded?

Mr Gaskill response was; "There is nothing to report".

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