

-Omarama Gazette -

December 2016

Sponsored by Mobil Omarama

A summer to remember

The Kiwi song which is fast becoming the one to play on every road trip this summer has strong ties to Omarama.

Last month, Waimate country music singer-songwriter Kaylee Bell released her latest single 'Getting Closer', along with a music video which featured fashion styled by Omarama's Kate Wilson.

As well, the video, which has had more than 70,000 views and counting, prominently features Omarama landscapes.

When it was released Kaylee said her dream was for this to be the song to play this summer - the ultimate road trip song - and that is fast becoming reality.

That song, described as 'country-pop infused' has already made it to the top 15 in both the New Zealand charts and Australian Country Music charts. Kate grew up in Otematata, went to boarding school in Dunedin and then on to Lincoln University where she graduated with an Agricultural Science Degree.

These days, she is most often found outdoors in her day job helping with the wool harvest or driving tractors.





The Sponsor's Say - Mobil Omarama









Terry and Michelle Walsh have some great news. They are the proud new owners of Mobil Twizel. Formerly Z Twizel, the business officially changed hands and was re-branded last month.

In June, the New Zealand Commerce Commission approved Z Energy's bid to purchase Caltex owner Chevron. As part of that deal it required Z to sell 19 service stations and one truck stop in specified geographical areas.

Z Twizel was one of those and Mobil's was the successful tender. The franchise passed to Terry and Michelle on November 16.

Terry says staff at Mobil Twizel will continue to provide enthusiastic and helpful service to locals and visitors alike. It will also continue to take Z Card in addition to Mobilcard – which is great for the area, he says.

Mobil Omarama continues to operate from its two workshops where Terry, Harry and Wayne provide the technical expertise.

In the café, shop and on the forecourt Josh, Lynda, Raj and Graeme efficiently multi-task as forecourt attendants and baristas - anything to make your journey that much more enjoyable.

And for Christmas Terry and Michelle want to invite all their customers, clients old and new, to come along to their annual shout on December 23.

"We would love to see you all here again this year. "If you are not a customer yet – come along and meet our friendly team, have a Christmas drink and say, 'Gidday' – it will be great to see you there!"

Christmas Day Hours

Mobil Omarama 8am to 2.30pm Mobil Twizel 8am to 8pm

Mobil Omarama P/F: 03 438 9834 E: Omarama.mobil@xtra.co.nz



A summer to remember continued...

But she spends her down-time making her way in the fashion world and building a business through her media/marketing brand 'The Backroad Blog'. Kate started her fashion blog about two years ago as her "creative outlet". It combines fashion with photography, styling inspiration and fashion marketing avenues.

She often uses the Omarama landscape to showcase the clothing labels and as a backdrop to her style stories. "It's a good point of difference [to other, mostly urban, fashion bloggers]". Her two occupations fit together neatly.

The fashion dream drives the will to see the world and the seasonal agricultural jobs finance further travel. "I'm always chasing summer."

She has already travelled to Canada, the United States and Australia.

Combining fashion blogging with travel – destinations – is also a winner, producing well-liked content for the blog.

Kate and Kaylee met through friends. Kaylee had seen some of Kate's work for an earlier music video and "reached out".

"It was cool, we got on straight away."

Prior to filming this video, which took two long days, the pair spent time together going over concepts and looking at other photo shoots of road trips to get ideas. Holly and Josh Wallace of Storyworks in Queenstown managed production and filming.

On the filming days there was a hotel room solely dedicated to the garments and accessories selected by Kate for the models and Kaylee to wear on their summer road trip in that Chrysler Valiant, down the long, dusty backroads of the high country. Kate made sure Kaylee and the girls always looked good – clothes ready and pressed, sitting just so, the right earrings and so on.

The canals, Lake Pukaki, the Clay Cliffs and Henburn Rd, feature prominently as background.

That imagery from the shoot has also been used extensively in Kaylee's promotional material – The Clay Cliffs are on the "Getting Closer" single cover. As a next step, Kate hopes to put her studies to further use.

"Styling this video also made me realise I want to do more of this."

More travel is on the cards but "I always enjoy my time spent at home". *Photos: supplied*

Front: Kate Wilson models for her blog These pages: Filming with Kaylee Bell and Kaylee's cover for her new single.





Getting a bird's eye view

Some unusual low-flying helicopter manoeuvres taking place in Omarama skies at present are designed to collect detailed data from deep beneath ground.

Thomson Aviation, of Australia, have been commissioned by New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals to carry out airborne geophysical surveys of parts of New Zealand to gather comprehensive geological information.

Its team - Thomson Aviation technician Tim Hetherington, of Griffith East, New South Wales, Australia, helicopter pilots Paul Booth, of Roxburgh, Greg Gamble, of Te Anau, and field operator Mike Anderson, of Dunedin are based in Omarama at present while they carry out survey work in this area. To carry out the work, two of Herbert-based Central South Island Helicopters have been especially fitted with a magnetometer housed within a boom beneath the craft.

The magnetometer measures natural variations in the earth's magnetic field and naturally occurring radiation levels.

The boom protects the magnetometer from interference from the helicopter. The data is read by a spectrometer housed in the helicopter.

Mike's role is to collect, check and process the data.

Ultimately, the information is put together with water and soil sampling and then used to map areas where the geology indicates there is potential for further exploration for minerals.

Tim says Thomson tendered for the work and it was awarded four areas -Marlborough, Otago, Southland and Queenstown Lakes (Manapouri to Wanaka).

While the Southland survey and was largely carried out using a fixed-wing aircraft, work in this area requires helicopters because of the "mountainous" nature of the terrain.

The boom must be flown 35 metres above ground level along a specified grid of 200 metre spacing.

"We need to fly it to that to the best of our ability to [fulfil] the contract specifications."

Experienced agricultural pilots are the best at this, Tim says.

There were multiple hazards, such as working around stock, wires, birds, other helicopters, conditions which ag pilots are well used to, he says.

The work schedule had been a little erratic recently because of the weather. They were unable to survey if it was too windy or cloudy.

The wind blew the helicopters off the critical survey line, and low cloud made flying too dangerous.

The team were making full use of the down-time, to review what had been collected and get everything prepared for the next trip – "drink coffee and enjoy great meals at the pub".

"The country we see is just incredible," Paul says

"Yesterday we were in the Dingle seeing country not seen before, amazing country most people will never, ever see."

of what's below ground

"The beauty of it all...it's untouched," Mike, a keen photographer, says. It is hoped the Otago survey will be complete by early next year, Tim says. Survey flights are only allowed during daylight hours and are subject to the rules/regulations of the Civil Aviation Authority. Usually flights last about three hours, but aircraft will pass quickly (they will not spend long over any one place). More than one craft may be in the air at a time, working on different parts of the survey area.

The surveys are part of an \$8 million government investment in new data,

announced in last year's budget. Of this, \$6 million is tagged for aeromagnetic surveys of Nelson, Marlborough,Southland and Otago to be completed in 2017.

To read more:

http://www.thomsonaviation.com.au/ http://www.nzpam.govt.nz/cms

(See public notice at back)





Omarama Collie Dog Club's

The new Omarama Collie Dog Club grounds at Dalrachney Station are fast taking shape.

Omarama contractors Kevin Grant and David O'Neill moved a bridge from Ben Avon Station and placed it across Longslip Creek to give better access to the grounds.

As well, last month about a dozen volunteers took part in a working bee at the new site securing the bridge, scrub cutting and mulching. Duntroon fencing contractor Alf Rapsey has been setting up the yarding and pens.

All four courses are set around a wide, grassy amphitheatre and all visible to spectators.

Club president Edward Aubrey says it plans to use a marquee as a club rooms in the meantime so it can determine the best position for a permanent club rooms.

Access to the grounds is from SH8, the Omarama-Lindis Pass Rd. The club celebrated its centenary in 2015 and held its last trials at the Omarama Station grounds earlier this year.

At the end of May, it also hosted the South Island and New Zealand championship trials for the third time.

It hosted the event in 1996, when Ed's father Rick Aubrey was president, and again in 2006.

The Aubrey family has been involved with the club since its inception, with interest in the sport passing down from Rick's grandfather, Bill, to his father, Jack, and now Ed.

The Aubreys were one of four families who played major roles in setting-up the club, the others being the Andersons, McAughtries and Waldron families. Dalrachney Station, in the Lindis Pass, has been farmed by the Aubrey family for generations.

Rick and Terre, now live in Wanaka, with Ed and Andrea running the property.



new grounds take shape

PHOTOS:

Omarama Collie Dog Club president Edward Aubrey, of Dalrachney, and vice-president Lachlan Wettenhall, of Glencairn, stand in the centre of the new grounds from which all four courses are visible.

Volunteers arrive for a working bee and begin clearing the site selected for the zig-zag hunt course.





A garden of rare and unusual treasures

Noeline and John Gillies' Omarama Garden is filled with rare and unusual treasures.

Half barrels filled to overflowing with trilliums- yes trilliums - greet you at the gate, and bearded irises – those renowned sun-bakers, lift their whiskery faces to the sky and paint the backdrop lavender and lemon.

But none of that quite prepares you for what lies beyond.

It was 1984 when the couple first began travelling from southern parts, to holiday in Omarama, to relax in a more conducive climate and away from the stresses of busy teaching careers, John in science and Noeline in art.

These careers were to take them both into administrative posts before a subsequent change in direction saw them move north to Rangiora, set up home and garden, and a private art school.

Noeline took up to 60 classes – 10 per class – a week in pottery, painting, and drawing. In his understated way, John describes his role as "janitor". His job, to sweep floors and wash brushes. They also ran professional development courses for teachers. It was all "great fun", Noeline says.

It was "between the earthquakes" they moved permanently from Rangiora to Omarama, a new home, and new garden a world apart from their rambling Canterbury property. With them came more than 600 potted plants.

Their "half acre" at Rangiora with expansive lawns brimmed with hundreds of roses, camellias and rhododendrons, matched by the accompanying work load. At pruning time John estimated he took at least three-trailer loads of clippings away as green waste.



Their Omarama garden shares some features with their former residence formal plantings like roses bounded by box hedges, and rhododendrons weighed low with heavy blooms, a rambling clematis, specimen trees and somewhat smaller but still spacious lawns, plenty of room for a rambunctious little terrier like their Meg to stretch her legs and enjoy a game of fetch.

The view from the sunny terrace looks out across the small offshoot of the Omarama Stream which flows through the property. An arching bridge takes you to the wooden gate and beyond. It is on this far bank the lid of the treasure chest is lifted. Alpine gems of all kinds – gentians in sapphire blue and diamond white, primula and fritillaries in ruby red and emerald green, amethyst anemones glitter and glow as they spill from troughs and down the bank. They revel in perfect conditions, sharp, gravelly soil, freezing winters and baking summers.

Noeline says they have delighted in the challenge of finding what will thrive in conditions here and have been wonderfully surprised by the results. They've always been collectors and so many rare and unusual alpines now call this home. But there are significant differences gardening here to their previous gardens.

"Gardening is a challenge here, you've got to work at a garden here."



Seasonal work is well underway throughout the district. Omarama's David O'Neill contracting team - Kate, Batman (Dan), Phil, Owen, Derek and Mark made the most of the fine weather late last month - baling at Chain Hills. Prue O'Neill says, although things got off to a slow start because of the rain, it is proving to be "a pretty good season". Last month's rain encouraged plenty of growth. However, conditions are drying out "quite quickly" now, she says.







In late news...

Omarama Information Centre decision finalised Hot Tubs Omarama owner Jan Thomas has advised the Omarama Information Centre is to remain within the Hot Tubs complex and is to be operated by Tourism Waitaki. "All the details of hours etc are yet to be finalised, but we are pleased with the outcome," Jan says.

Tourism Waitaki discusses strategy

Last month, Tourism Waitaki held a series of meetings around the district to give people a chance to have a say on what its tourism strategy should consider.

Two meetings were held in each of Palmerston, Oamaru and Kurow.

About 20 attended the Kurow meetings including the Ahuriri Community Board members and Ahuriri Ward councillor Craig Dawson.

Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill began the early evening session by acknowledging the organisation needed to improve its communication with operators in the district.

He said, from feedback already gathered, most operators were facing similar challenges.

"How to manage the peaks in summer and slow winters".

For its part Tourism Waitaki was working to improve issues which had already been raised like moving more of the Alps 2 Ocean Trail off- road, improving signage and looking at how new technologies could be used to improve visitor experiences.

An important goal was to get visitors to stay longer in the district and spend more. About 50% of purchases were made on a mobile device, he said.

Domestic travellers were "by far the biggest traffic" in the district as a whole. The "baby-boomer" generation had different expectations and these needed to be explored.

Waitaki had an advantage in that it was "sandwiched between" two wellknown tourism destinations, Otago and Canterbury. Tourists had to travel through the district to get from one to the other. So the aim was to make it more than just a "pie and fuel stop".

The "human capital capacity" also needed exploring to make sure "we have people in the right places to do what is needed".

"Expansion of accommodation and infrastructure is a recognised issue." The district had many "localised" attractions and more could be done to put these "in front of people".

"You never know what's going to be huge...we [the Waitaki district]are fantastic, it shouldn't come as a surprise."

Mr Gaskill said the feedback from the meetings would be evaluated and further discussions held before any plans were formulated.

The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: <u>omaramagazette@gmail.com</u>

The Kurow Medical Centre runs a weekly Omarama Clinic with Dr Tim Gardner on Mondays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Contact Kurow Medical Centre, ph 034360760, for appointments.

The Omarama Community Library begins it's new hours this week (see more below) with a festive theme. All who can operate scissors and a stapler safely are invited to join in paper chain-making sessions beginning Saturday.

The Youth Soaring Development Camp

begins Thursday, December 8 and runs until Saturday, December 17 at the Omarama Airfield.

The Omarama Playgroup mothers are holding a dinner at Lake Ohau Lodge, 6.30 pm Friday, December 9, Please Phone Petrina 027 345 6192 *(see more below)*

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 third and final meeting is 7pm Tuesday, December 13, at the terminal. All are welcome. **(See more below)**

The Omarama Residents' Association's final meeting for the year will be 7.30pm Thursday December 15, at the Omarama Community Centre. Craig Dawson, secretary. 027 4389132. Ross Gold, chairman, 027 4434149

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's hours are 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, and 7pm to 8pm Tuesdays. 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 <u>www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/</u> 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 9hole golf Wednesday tee-off 6pm. Club captain Adrian Tuffley 027 347 8276. <u>http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/</u>

The final Omarama Gazette for 2016 will be the Christmas issue, Friday December 16. Close-off for this will be Tuesday, December 13. This issue is for all who wish to post their Christmas hours and services, and extend greetings to clients and customers.

The first Omarama Gazette for 2017 will be the February Issue, published Wednesday February 1.

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. To read more, enjoy more photos and view videos check out our Facebook page and website

www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/ omaramagazette.nz

Advertising pays for production and distribution.

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

The Christmas issue of the Omarama Gazette is Friday, December 16, 2016. Please submit copy by Tuesday, December 12.

Omarama Airfield Ltd

The Omarama Airfield Company is holding a series of workshops at the airfield to share information ahead of drawing up its long term plan.

The second of those meetings took place last month.

Chairman Bill Gordon said about 30 people attended.

It was held during the South Island regional gliding championships and so most of those who attended were glider pilots., he says.

He encourages people to come along to future meetings to hear of plans and have their say.

The third and final meeting will be held during the Youth Soaring Development Camp and is at 7pm Tuesday, December 13 at the terminal. 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

Omarama Gazette 2017 Calendars

Omarama Gazette





Two designs available

\$20 each

Proceeds from the sale of each calendar will go to the Omarama Community Centre sports facilities fund

To order, phone: (03) 438 9766 021 294 8002 or email omaramagazette@gmail.com

The Community Reports Upper Waitaki Police news



Hi everyone, the last month has resulted in me dealing with another 2 males for driving with excess breath alcohol, thankfully neither were locals, but still pretty disappointing. So yes I am out there and stopping cars, this will be a more regular occurrence over December-January so be warned. I have attended a couple of minor vehicle crashes, two of these were due to driver inattention, the third was an off-road motorcycle crash where the rider was

thrown from his bike due to the ruts in the track catching him out. Thankfully all were minor or non-injury.

I'm not sure how many driving complaints I have attended but it's been quite a few. Don't be afraid to report any bad driving behaviour you witness, simply dial *555 and report it, police treat these calls with importance and we will do everything we can to attend and educate the offending driver or if necessary take appropriate enforcement action.

I was informed by one of our lovely local ladies that she has had a couple of dodgy phone calls in the last few weeks, in which people have asked her to make donations to a child abuse fund, these did not appear to be from a legitimate charity and when questioned the people hung up. Be aware these low life bottom feeding parasitical losers are still out there trying to rip innocent people off. Police advice when receiving any call which could be demanding a payment:

Seek validation of who the caller actually is. Always ask for a full name and the company or agency details.

Validate the phone number of the caller and ask that they call you from a landline if they are using a mobile phone.

Ignore calls from unknown mobile numbers.

Don't share your personal details until you are convinced the caller is legitimate.

If you are threatened, simply hang up – the IRD or any other government agency, Police or a crown entity will not threaten someone.

Don't trust anyone who calls you and asks for your financial related information such as your account details and password – again simply hang up, call them on their published contact 0800 number or arrange a meeting at the relevant agency branch.

When you do receive a call resulting in any threatening remarks, report it to Police.

In Omarama report it to Bean regardless so I can alert everyone else J The Ministry of Consumer Affairs have information on a variety of scams. Police encourage people to visit their website for more information

at www.consumerprotection.govt.nz/get-guidance/scams-and-online-safety

Christmas is coming and along with it comes the crazies on the roads, so be careful. If going on a road trip plan for it, take extra time out, don't be in a hurry, be well rested, don't speed...the list goes on. Also be aware that there will be extra kids from cities who think Omarama is a quiet town and may not treat the roads with the respect we know they need, so slow down and be alert.

Lastly I want to say thanks to you all for being such a great community, it makes my job a piece of cake when I have locals like you.

Ange, Cam, Jess and I, wish you all a Merry and safe Xmas. Ho ho ho Bean

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

The Omarama Golf Club



The golf course is looking great with all the rain and a big thank you to all those that have spent some time on the mower.

We have had some new members along for Saturday golf, a warm welcome to you all.

There is some exciting news for the club, but you will have to wait till next month to find out!!

New Year tournament Saturday, January 7, cards in by 12.30, great prizes.

Mark it on your calendar now Remember tee-off Saturdays at 1pm, twilight nine-hole golf Wednesday teeoff 6.00 p.m, at the Omarama Golf Course. All welcome. Club captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276.

- By Paul Bowman

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

"Get Well, Keep Well" with the Kurow Medical Centre

We would just like to say a huge thankyou to the community who came along to support our Skin Cancer Awareness Night in Kurow last month and gave a donation at the door for our local St Johns. We were so pleased to have you there to hear from some great avenues of advice, knowledge and experiences in our community. Huge thankyou to those who shared their emotional stories while providing insight and encouragement to our crowd. We are so very appreciative. To Dr Annie and Pen from the Cancer Society for the extra information on the sun and our skin. To our lovely sponsors who made for a fun night of prizes and atmosphere. We are so grateful for your support. We hope that by presenting this to you, perhaps you can pass on to your loved ones the information you heard, and from there continue on sharing and promoting the sun safe messages that are so important to us all living busy lives under big open skies. We are here for you anytime you need to ask about that worrisome spot.

It's that time of year when we all want to be outdoors and all need to be aware of the damage the summer sun can do.

For more information about how and when to be sun-smart and to plan for sun smart events check out the Cancer Society website. https://otago-southland.cancernz.org.nz/





Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow P: 034360760 F: 034360780

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

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

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



The Omarama Fire brigade has had a busy month so far, we have had 14 calls for November. Just a wee reminder that as things start drying off, keep an eye out for the status of the Fire Season. If your unsure, please ask myself or Mark Paulson. Stay Safe and remember - Smoke alarms save Lives. CFO Terry Walsh Stay Safe and remember - Smoke alarms save Lives.

Chief fire officer Terry Walsh

Pump workout under an Omarama Sunset

Omarama's fire-fighting volunteers came together once again for a joint training session on Monday. This month it was all about testing different methods of delivering water from a water source to the fire line and both the Fire Brigade and Rural Fire units learned a lot about how their different equipment can perform under different scenarios.

Thankfully the weather was kinder this time around and everyone got a good sweat on while heaving around all the pumps and hoses, there was even a good ol' Omarama sunset put on over the Ahuriri river.

If you're interested in joining either the Fire Service or the Rural Fire Force then get in touch with a current member who can point you in the right direction.

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

The Omarama Rural Fire Brigade meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday each month at the Omarama Rural Fire Station, Sutherlands Rd. New volunteers are welcome.

By Jack Zorab, Omarama Rural Fire training officer



Can I join the library for free?

I am: A Waitaki district resident Absolutely! Just bring:

- proof of your address (rates bill, bank statement etc).
- the address and contact details of someone (friend, relative, employer) living at a different address in NZ wo can act as guarantor.
- photo proof of ID (Drivers License, passport etc).
- A Waitaki district rate payer but I live elsewhere in NZ Yes, you can! Just bring:
- proof of the address (rates bill, bank statement etc) to which you want library correspondence (if there is any) to be sent. This can be either your address in the Waitaki district, or the address where you usually reside.
- the address and contact details of someone (friend, relative, employer) living at a different address in NZ who can act as guarantor.
- photo proof of ID (Drivers License, passport etc).

A rate payer on a Waitaki district property, but I live overseas

Yes, you can! Just bring:

- proof of the address (rates bill) for which you pay rates to the Waitaki District Council. Any library correspondence will be sent to this address, unless you specify a different NZ address to us as we are unable to post correspondence overseas. Please note all postal addresses in Omarama and surrounds should be addressed to a PO Box as there is no street delivery service.
- the address and contact details of someone else (friend, relative, employer) living at yet a
 different address in NZ who can act as guarantor.
- photo proof of ID (Drivers License, passport etc).

A temporary worker here (for up to 12 months) before I move on somewhere else in NZ Yes you can! Just bring:

- proof of address while in the Waitaki District. This can be a letter from your employer, tenancy agreement etc.
- your permanent NZ address (if you have one)
- the address and contact details of someone else (friend, relative, employer) living at yet a different address in NZ, who can act as guarantor.
- photo proof of ID (Drivers License, passport etc).

A temporary worker here (for up to 12 months) before I move on somewhere else overseas

Yes you can! Just bring:

- proof of address while in the Waitaki District. This can be a letter from your employer, tenancy agreement etc.
- the address and contact details of someone else (friend, relative, employer) living at yet a different address in NZ who can act as guarantor.
- photo proof of ID (Drivers License, passport etc).

A New Zealand visitor to Omarama for four to eight weeks

Yes, you can! Just bring:

- proof of your address whilst visiting Omarama. This can be a letter from your host or accommodation provider.
- Proof of your usual NZ address (rates bill, back statement etc).
- the address and contact details of someone (friend, relative, employer) living at a different address in NZ who can act as guarantor.
- photo proof of ID (Drivers License, passport etc).

An overseas visitor to Omarama for the summer months

Yes, you can! Just bring:

- proof of address while in the Waitaki District. This can be a letter from your host, employer, accommodation provider etc.
- the address and contact details of someone else (friend, relative, employer) living at yet a different address in NZ, who can act as guarantor.
- photo proof of ID (Drivers License, passport etc).

Omarama's Community Library

New hours for the library!

From Saturday, December 10, the Omarama Community Library opening hours will change and we're introducing an evening session.

The new hours are: Saturday and Wednesday mornings, 9am to 10am and Tuesday evenings 7pm to 8pm.

We are (unless otherwise informed) open all through the Christmas period. The rationale behind the new hours is:

a) One hour is easier to commit to for volunteers

b) An evening opening means people who have day commitments can use the library

c) Having consistent morning hours is easier for people to remember.

d) Having an earlier morning time allows volunteers to do a session and still have most of the day free.

Christmas is coming!

We'd like to decorate the library for Christmas, and we need your help! Paper chain making sessions are on in the library 9am to 1am Saturday, December 10 and 7pm to 8pm Tuesday, December 13.

The young (and young at heart!) are most welcome. The only requirement is that you are able to operate a pair of scissors and a stapler safely. If not, you will need to bring a sensible adult to supervise you. If you can find one ;)

Sale Table

Did you know we have a sale table of books at the library? We currently have a large variety of books ranging from fiction to non-fiction: wine-tasting to thrillers, cookbooks to romance, we pretty much have it all! And best of all, we have the Fire Brigade's blessing – for which, many thanks:) The sale table is in the Plunket Room and can be browsed when the Library is open, or whenever the Doctor is practicing. Come and take your pick for a small donation.

Read more here:

So you can keep up with the play our library has: Local Government information; Council meeting agendas and minutes and items of public interest. Right now people are being asked for their views about proposed marine protection areas.

The South East Marine Protection Forum Public Consultation Document is at the library. It highlights the areas along the South Island south-east coast that are being proposed as possible marine protected areas.

Submissions are welcome and the deadline for these is Tuesday, December 20.

Copies of the document can also be found at: https://south-

eastmarine.org.nz/ Any queries, contact: semp@doc.govt.nz 0800687729 or write to South East Marine protection forum, PO Box 5244, Moray Place, Dunedin 9058.

Omarama Land Search and Rescue

Omarama LandSAR opens its doors

About 50 invited guests gathered for the official opening of Omarama's new Land Search and Rescue coordination facility this afternoon, Saturday, November 26.

Official guests Waitaki Mayor Gary and Mayoress Kerry Kircher, North Otago Search and Rescue chairman Tony Wood and vice-chairman Mike Firman, Police representatives - Otago Coastal acting area commander Inspector Kelvin Lloyd and Sergeant Blair Wilkinson, of Oamaru, joined past and present Omarama LandSAR volunteers to mark the occasion.

Omarama LandSAR volunteer Hank Verheul said Omarama's was a small team with a "passion for the great outdoors" who also knew when not treated with respect it could prove "very dangerous".

Existing facilities had proved "inefficient" and "detrimental to results" in past operations and so an efficiently-equipped incident management facility became the group's goal.

"Bean [Omarama's Senior Constable Nayland Smith] had a dream...he's been the driving force behind this."

Mr Kircher said the amount of work put in by volunteers to create the new facility "typifies small community spirit".

Inspector Lloyd said the police relied heavily on these volunteers when called on to carry out search and rescue, and were "fortunate" to have the "calibre of people we have in Sar".

Throughout New Zealand Land SAR provides a trained group of volunteers to assist the Police in finding and rescuing people in difficulty in urban, suburban, rural and wilderness areas.

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 Residents' Association

The Omarama Community Centre continues to grow in its use as a focal point for the community.

The association was pleased to secure a medical service for the town once again. Kurow Medical Centre are using rooms at the centre for Dr Tim Gardner to run his weekly clinic.

NZ Merino used the centre for its open day and annual meeting and reported they were very happy with the facility.

Last week, the Memorial Hall was used for David Klein's Tour de Science.

The association is still looking for a caretaker/curator to oversee the centre's facilities and equipment.

Next spring it is proposed the committee organise a High Country House and Garden Tour to fundraise for the proposed sports facility at the Centre.

The Omarama Residents' Association's final meeting for the year will be 7.30pm Thursday December 15, at the Omarama Community Centre. Craig Dawson, secretary. 027 4389132. Ross Gold, chairman, 027 4434149

Omarama Community Centre and Memorial Hall

wanted urgently

CURATOR

A community-minded person is needed to act as curator for our modern facility This only involves a few hours each week and is very flexible

Remuneration to be negotiated

For a full run-down contact: Omarama Residents' Association Secretary Craig Dawson 027 438 9132 Chairman Ross Gold 027 443 4149



Kia Ora

The school pool has reached temperature and will be open to the public for use from the 10th of December.

If you would like access to the pool please contact the school to arrange payment and access.

The cost for using the pool has increased due to vandalism that occurred over the holiday period.

Due to this we have installed surveillance cameras that have 24-hour monitorina.

Any inappropriate behaviour will result in your access being removed. We have installed a shower, to help maintain our water quality and chlorine levels and request that all users of the pool shower prior to swimming.

Omarama School's last day will be on Friday the 16th of December. We will be holding a whole school assembly starting at 11.30.

Everyone is most welcome to attend and join in our celebration of our successes over the year.

- Kim McKenzie, Omarama School acting principal

Omarama School Camp 2017

Last month Omarama School went on camp to Lakeland Park, Queenstown. Here are some highlights.

On Monday the 21st of November we were off to the most exciting place. school camp. Yeah the school camp was in Queenstown.

First Mrs McKenzie showed us where our rooms were. After we all finished unpacking we went to the swimming pool, it was so much fun.

The next morning we packed up and went to the Arrowtown museum. The best part of that day was the old teacher 1860's.

Then after lunch we went to an awesome trampoline place.

It had trampolines there, of which there are only fifteen of them in the world. Thursday was our last full day at camp. My favourite bit was(well actually I have 2), swimming in the lake at Queenstown and luging.

On Friday we went home, I was so tired. - Susie Smith

School Camp Report

Monday 21st

On Monday I did not go down with the school to camp, I went to the North Otago Athletics to compete in shot put and discus, I won the shot put. Then I went to camp, I did not get there in till 9:30pm.

Tuesday 22nd

On Tuesday we went to the Lakes District Museum. I really enjoyed the 1890's class. She was really strict. When we were there we had to put on old clothes. Wednesday 23rd

On Wednesday we went to this place in Frankton, it was called Site Trampoline. This place was really fun. They had one of the bounciest tramps in the world. It was a good place to get fit. When we got back we went on a big walk along the beach. Thursday 24th

On Thursday we went up the gondola. I was scared of heights so it was a wee bit scary for me. We were just about to get on and it stopped. They got it back going and we went up to the luge. The luge was really fun. We got three go's on the luge. Friday 25th

On Friday we packed up to go home. I packed up when I got up and then just chilled out. We got on the road and stopped in Cromwell for something to eat. When got home I was happy. *By Charlie Mathias*

Camp, By Dom

Monday,

We drove into Queenstown happy that the long drive has stopped. We drove into camp, I grabbed my bag and put it in my cabin and the headed into the Auditorium to play table tennis. It's dinner time we had nachos it was amazing. Bed time, Archie, Jack, Balin, Travis and Charlie were in my cabin they were so noisy.

Tuesday

Breakfast I eat my breakfast then went to the Arrowtown Museum. After the museum we go gold panning I found three gold flakes. We come back for dinner it was so good. Sadly it was bed time I hoped into bed.

Wednesday

I woke up had breakfast then went to the waterslide and ZOOM, I slipped the slid and fell. It was awesome. Now for archery I got a bullseye it was a good one. Then we played games, more table tennis. Time for dinner. Bed time, best sleep ever

Thursday

Breakfast time. After breakfast we went to the gardens to play frisbee golf. Then we went up the gondola to go on the luge it was so fun then we went back to camp to have dinner then to sleep.

Friday

We packed up and drove home, best camp ever.



Omarama School hears

A piece of hard-won Rio Olympic Silver made its way to Omarama School , last month.

Olympic trap shooting silver medallist and ISSF World Cup winner Natalie Rooney, with her brother Sam, visited school pupils this afternoon to talk about her experiences and show them her silver medal. Afterwards she took part in clay-bird field shoot at Omarama Golf Club as a fundraiser for the School.

The 11 pupils of Tarras School travelled to Omarama especially to join in the event.

Natalie said the reason she took up the sport was her "brother Sam's fault". He had taken it up and she had been "dragged along to watch" and thought she "may as well give it a crack".

Initially, she was unaware it was an Olympic Sport but once she realised she resolved she would work towards competing at that level.

The whole experience following her win, the podium, crowd, media attention, and returning to the Olympic village, was "pretty surreal", she said.

What she loved about the sport was it was one she could enjoy with the family.

"It is a social sport, you're friends with all your competitors, possibly because you are only really competing against yourself...[when there's success] you're happy for them and they're happy for you. It's for everyone, anyone can shoot, that's what I love about it."

Natalie, told the pupils her plans were to enjoy a break and then work towards qualifying for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

After sharing her story the Olympic medallist passed her silver trophy to the pupils to hold, it is the heaviest of the medals.

Tarras School made a special presentation of an oak sapling to Natalie. The sapling is a grandchild of an oak presented to New Zealand's first Olympic gold medallist Jack Lovelock at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Lovelock brought the sapling home and it was planted at Timaru Boys High School. An acorn from that Timaru tree was planted at Tarras School and that mature oak is parent to the one presented to Natalie.

Among the keen shooters taking a practice with Natalie at the golf club were member of the St Kevin's College trap shooting club; Clark Ewing (year 9, of Oamaru) and Corbyn Hocken (year 10, of Twizel) with Clark's father Colin Ewing, who is coach. The boys were eager to pit their skills against the World Champ, although it was not the first time Clark had done so. Clark (12) competed against Natalie at the Waimate –Oamaru Gun club championships last year and pipped Natalie by one , scoring 14/15 to her 13/15. "That was a real buzz", Colin said.

Natalie's silver medal story

Last term, during the Rio Olympics and Paralympic games, Omarama School pupils were set the task of following an athlete -researching, watching and writing about their chosen competitor and sport. Visit organiser Wendy Parsons was so impressed by their work she decided to "go on a mission" to get an athlete to visit the school. She wrote to Natalie to ask if she could spare the time for a visit. Natalie not only agreed to that but also to help out with the fundraiser.



LADIES PLAYGROUP DINNER

PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL THE LOVELY LADIES OF OMARAMA

Ohau Lodge Friday the 9th of December 6.30pm

For a delicious three course meal \$46 per person Please let me know if you can make it and

If you have any dietary requirements let me know asap.

Petrina Paton 0273456192/4389540

Omarama Combined Church St Thomas's

Welcomes all to the Christmas Eve Carol Service 7pm, Saturday, December 24

> Joy to the world Peace on earth Goodwill to all

We will remember them

Last month, November 11, Armistice Day, the day the First World War officially ended in 1918, was commemorated.

Three men from this district died in that war and are named on the two memorial plaques, one at the Omarama Memorial Hall, and the other set in the rock in our 'Anzac garden' at the corner of Chain Hills Highway and Sutherlands Rd.

The plaques commemorating WW2 name six from this district who died – B Appleby, N Reid, E Dowie, H J Simpson, S Kitto, and H Struthers.

Recently, a new plaque was added to a memorial seat in that garden which is dedicated to all returned service men and women from the Omarama-Benmore district.

Upper Waitaki RSA president Michael Blackstock says anyone who has loved ones who served but has no official reminder is welcome to add a plaque to the seat in their memory.

"It is for all those who left our district to serve and came home ...loved relatives who came back and built our country."

Should people wish to arrange a plaque they should first contact Upper Waitaki RSA vice-president Kieran Walsh, in Kurow. Mathers' Jewellers, Oamaru, will make the plaques.

After four years of war the WW1 armistice between Germany and the Allied Powers was officially signed at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month - 11 November 1918.





BISCUITS BARK UP



Wayleggo all you Shepherds....

Round up your best huntaway and head for the

Omarama Hotel

7.30pm, Friday 23rd December

Entertaining night of Competition Individual and Team Events

1st Prize \$500, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100 Plus loads more prizes to be won



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Wednesday 28th December

- « Bareback « Saddle Bronc
- « Steer Wrestling « Calf Roping
- « Bull Ride « Barrel Racing

« Team Roping

'Come and support your community event and local competitors'

Children's Stick Horse Race Calf Ride

Youth Steer Ride

ADMISSION \$20 Adult, 12-16 yrs \$5, Under 12 free **'See you there'**

Public Bar operating, no BYO.

Intoxicated people will not be tolerated

and removed from grounds

Remember this is a family event/

Starts 11am

Waitaki District Council news in brief

New Open Space maintenance contractors, Downer, have experienced some "teething" problems since taking on the contract last month. This, together with the wet weather, has led to "less than desirable" upkeep of the district's open spaces, recreation manager Erik van der Spek says. Downer are committed to resolving this and have set themselves a target of two weeks to do so. Council staff have increased the number of inspections to identify maintenance requirements and Downer are taking on additional people to address the shortfall.

A chance to have your say about Food Act fees.

Changes to the Food Act 2014 will require council officers to undertake more work to make sure businesses meet the new requirements. Because of this the the council is proposing to introduce a new fee structure. But before it does so it is asking for feedback from the public, especially those affected by the changes. The consultation closes next year (Wednesday, February 1). You can find out more at www.waitaki.govt.nz, public libraries and the council offices in Oamaru and Palmerston.

The next Ahuriri Community board meeting is at 3.15, Monday December 12, at the Otematata Community Centre

www.waitaki.govt.nz

From Waitaki district Ahuriri ward councillor Craig Dawson

Ahuriri Issues – December 2016

As this is my second report for my new term as Councillor, I have thrown in a few observations that are common to all our communities in the Valley. 1.Contractors (Building, Electrical, Plumbing etc) have expressed frustrations relating to problems in dealing with our Regulatory Dept. Delays, confrontational approach by officers of WDC, to name a couple of issues, have been brought to Council's attention. With significant change in regulation around building regulations and the massive increase in activity throughout the District and of course, the whole country, this has brought real challenges to the way Council can deal with the problem.

Currently, Council has 21 staff vacancies throughout the organisation, bringing huge amounts of stress to an already difficult situation. Our Council is in a highly competitive environment, where qualified people are thin on the ground and who are being snapped up by the larger organisations.

This isn't to say that we are doing nothing about the problem, but it doesn't hurt to express the challenges we face, in the current environment.

2.Future Town Growth: You all would have noticed, houses and sections in our towns are being snapped up very quickly, to the point where we are

running out of available land for expansion. This means that we need to engage our communities in terms of what they want for their towns.

To that end, I have asked Council to dig up the notes from our previous engagements with the communities, and set about starting a new set of "Visioning Sessions" for each town. These sessions will cover all aspects of what residents want for their towns, such as land designation, facilities required, new projects identified etc.

3.Driver for Projects: Having reacquainted myself with some of our many voluntary groups in the Valley, I keep seeing the problem where individuals come up with good ideas that fall over, through lack of support. The common issue, is that those who suggest ideas aren't prepared to drive the project from beginning to end. We have many volunteers, who are already very committed and who wear many hats in their communities and simply don't have the time to take these ideas further. So if you have an idea, by all means bring it to your Residents group and/or the Ahuriri Community Board and be prepared to follow up on progress.

4.Engaging With Our Community Board: The Board is made up of 5 members (1 from Omarama, 3 from Otematata and 1 from Kurow), these people between them have vast knowledge of what is happening in their towns. The Board meetings are held in Kurow, Otematata and Omarama throughout the year. Meeting dates and venues are notified on the WDC website. Every meeting begins with 15 minutes of public forum, where members of the public can informally talk about the issues that concern them. Each meeting also has a senior Council Officer in attendance to help and guide those present on the processes required to bring about solutions to problems/projects. The Board is also provided with a discretionary fund to assist in getting projects underway.

This is not the Dragons Den, no one will say "I am out", so please do not feel intimidated and come along, because we want to hear from you.

5.For service required or questions, please call (0800108081) or enter the WDC website and list what your issue is. This will ensure your issue will be recorded and listed for action. If then, you have not received any acknowl-edgement or action, THEN give me or the Board members a call for follow up. By dealing with your issues in this order, it gives us (me and the Board) more leverage to help you.

Any questions, give me a call 0274389132. Email cdawson@waitaki.govt.nz this address goes direct to my ipad, which is with me during meetings, enabling me to get back to you as quickly as possible.

There are a lot of good things happening in the valley, which gives me lots to look forward to.

Craig Dawson – Councillor, 027 438 9132 cdawson@waitaki.govt.nz

From Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee

Improvements planned for Willowburn banks at Ahuriri Bridge By ECan land management advisor lan Lyttle

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee recently visited the Willowburn upstream from the Department of Conservation camping ground by the Ahuriri.

Local members Lisa Anderson and Craig Dawson commented on the improvements to the water flow and water quality after Environment Canterbury had removed willows over a reach of 300 metres by the Willowburn flow recorder. Improved flow helps removal of sediment which has appeared in the stream.

Zone Committee members were keen to see some plantings to replace the willows that have been removed and were pleased to hear of plans to plant local native trees and shrubs in the area.

Environment Canterbury land management advisor Ian Lyttle spoke about the plans to gather seeds locally and get these propagated. Te Rūnanga o Waihou representative John Wilkie spoke about manuka and kanuka being suitable species for the area. Carex and tussocks are also suitable and other species may be selected from the "Mackenzie Plant Me Instead" plant list currently being reviewed by the Department of Conservation. Riparian planting will take place over the next three to five years. It takes one to two years to propagate the plants and it is important to stage planning in manageable sections.

Weeding over the first two to three years is critical for plant survival and success.

There are many successful riparian plantings in similar catchments where community participation has been key to project success. Environment Canterbury is keen to work with local volunteers to develop a much enhanced section of stream banks and surrounds that will re-establish quality shade, not reduce stream flow and provide a restful environment for locals and visitors.

For more information or ideas to help it happen, contact lan Lyttle at Environment Canterbury in Timaru.

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

www.ecan.govt.nz

The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

Christmas Bliss Balls

10-12 soaked pitted dates OR 1/2C pure date spread

1 C almond meal/flour

1/2C coconut

1C finely chopped nuts (hazelnuts/macadamias/pecans/ walnuts etc.)

1C dried cranberries

1/2C nut butter (I used hazelnut but any nut butter or peanut butter is fine)

2T dried ginger (if you haven't already noticed I LOVE ginger)

OPTIONAL—2T coconut sugar OR Maple Syrup OR honey OR Stevia

(OPTIONAL BOOZY version—add liqueur or brandy etc to suit. If a bit moist add in more coconut or almond flour.)

Blitz together, the balls will still have a light crunchy nut texture to them. Roll into small balls and coat with below:

CHRISTMAS COATING:

Option 1-roll in coconut or in

almond meal, then top with a couple of goji berries and a couple of pumpkin seeds to look like Christmas holly!

<u>Option 2</u>—Blitz pumpkin seeds and gojis with almond or coconut or both. Then coat the balls with this lovely green/red mix.



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Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

More being done to protect Longfin eel

Recent changes to eel quota classifications in the South Island will help the survival of Long-fin eel.

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee has recommended and supported initiatives to provide strong conservation methods for this species. The good news is that recent changes will split the long-fin and short-fin eel quota and introduce reductions to the Total Allowable Catch.

These actions will deliver on the committee's recommendations and provide better protection for long-fin eel.

Waitaki

For more information on Canterbury Water visit www.cwms.org.nz

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The Otematata Wetlands Walkway story

Just minutes from SH83 and the bustling summer holiday-makers in Otematata village is a wilderness to lose yourself in.

Wide, narrow, dirt, shingle, river-rock, grass and soft silent pine duff, tracks of all descriptions amble and diverge throughout the 50ha alongside Loch Laird that is the Otematata Wetlands Walkway, enticing all who make their way here to lose themselves in its wildest haunts and emerge again to its open views of lake and mountains.

People roam or cycle through, collect mushrooms, they fish, picnic, children tumble down the grassy banks, peer into ponds for tadpoles and dragon flies. For grown-ups, this is what life used to be.

Despite its carefree appearance this natural and unpretentious wilderness has not come about by accident. Rather, the Wetlands Walkway is the product of many thousands of hours of hard graft by hundreds of volunteers over the past 10 years and longer.

Today, Peter Kirk is the unofficially-designated Otematata Wetlands Walkway manager.

"When we first started people thought we were mad, then they started to see what was happening and, well, maybe we weren't so mad after all – it's the usual way," Peter says. A relative newbie to the project, the former Quailburn Downs farm manager says he just wanted "something to do to fill in time", which it has done for the past five years.

Graham first started travelling from his Waimate home to holiday in the Waitaki Valley 45 years ago, buying and settling into his Otematata crib 30 years ago. It is now, very much home for the long-time Ahuriri Community Board chairman and long-time member of the Otematata Residents' Association.



Getting lost in time and place

Going back a little in time, when Benmore Dam was completed it was the biggest man-made structure in New Zealand and the largest earth dam in the southern hemisphere. Otematata grew to 4166 people, had a shopping centre, a large number of sports clubs, primary and high schools and a hospital whose maternity wing recorded 179 births in 1964. Time and people moved on.

About 10 years ago a group of volunteers decided to make something of the virtual no-man's land at Loch Laird left behind after construction. Graham is the only one of that original group still living in the town. But it was not until 2010 the group was able to "really get stuck in," Graham says.

A grant from Meridian Energy's Waitaki Community Fund enabled them to employ Wanaka Landscape architect Anne Steven who drew up a landscape management plan and set down the group's "vision" on paper.

This plan gave the group a basis to apply for more and crucial funding, and while no-one has sat down to do the sums, it is likely to be heading towards \$300,000 to date, Graham says.

Key to a project like this is a person willing to try to wrangle lose the tangle of red tape wound tightly around the purse strings of funding parties.

These days it is Vicky Munro who files the necessary paperwork. Most corporate donors require groups to show evidence of volunteer hours before funding will be released. Not only is it difficult to quantify those countless hours but it can be difficult to give weight to an application when the funds are not needed for person-hours but for the hire of a digger. It is estimated up to 4,000 trees, native and exotic, have been planted and are thriving under the shelter of the existing canopy of original plantings like pines and willow.



The Otematata Wetlands story continued ...

Vicky says over the years many have come to feel they have a stake in the project – locals and ex-pats alike. "People still think of this as home." "People give what they can, all different people come and give a hand, if they saw-up wood that's what they do, others might drop off a load of gravel, everybody has their jobs," Peter says.

"Now it's developing people are taking a pride in it. We've achieved big tasks – we never thought it would get to this," Graham says.

"As it started and we were raising funding for development I remember thinking at the time, this could be never-ending... just how long is a piece of string," Vicky says

Vicky also has generational links with the lakeside land. It was part of that requisitioned from her late husband Roualeyn "Ronnie" Munro's family by the Government for hydro-electricity development under the Public Works Act. Under that same Act it was supposed to have been returned to the families, but her mother-in-law said at the time she would not insist on its return provided it was always used for public recreation, Vicky says. Ronnie was a staunch supporter of the wetlands project and a tireless volunteer - the Munro family contributing much of the machinery required to undertake the heavy lifting for the project.

Over the years the group has received grants from many sources. Meridian Energy has contributed not only through its Community Fund but also through plantings made to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Benmore Dam. The Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail shares part of the walkway. Timaru's St Joseph's School held its camps in the town and its pupils have carried out extensive plantings. Most recently Environment Canterbury released \$12,000 for materials and plants.

And it has grown to be that community taonga, that "jewel" of the valley as set down on that original plan. Iona Home hosts picnics here by the lakeside, outdoor exercise classes are held, people get married here, an art exhibition is planned and Waitaha continue to travel up from the coast to collect raupo, as they have always done. Over the years sorting out just who owns this piece of land has been problematic but in December 2011 the Waitaki District Council agreed to place it under the guardianship of the Otematata Residents Association.

The Otematata Wetlands Walkway is situated between the shores of Lake Aviemore and Loch Laird Rd. It is ordinarily closed to vehicles but access can be arranged as required.

Artist Maree White will hold an exhibition of her paintings at the Otematata Events Centre from December 26 to January 28.

Twenty-five per cent of proceeds from the sale of paintings will go to the Otematata Wetlands Walkway.

EXHIBITION Paintings by Maree White

mareewhiteartistnz.com



Otematata Events Centre 26 Dec – 8 Jan Guest: Fashion Designer Lida

25% painting proceeds to Otematata Wetlands Walkway

LJ Hooker

50 E & F CHAIN HILLS HWY



Your Sanctuary Awaits In Omarama Fully fenced with it's own stream boundary this 3 year old home plus 9mx6m garage with sleepout is in "as new" condition. Price: \$460,000

52 AHURIRI DRIVE



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PUBLIC NOTICE: AIRBORNE SURVEY HAS BEGUN

An aerial survey of northern Otago/ southern Canterbury will be conducted between October and December 2016.



The survey will help us understand the geology of these areas. We will use aircraft to measure the magnetic field and natural radiation levels.

We will use the survey to find potential for mineral deposits, earthquake fault lines, soil types, and to map underground water resources.

The aircraft will fly low (at around 35 metres) and the noise may disturb nearby people and animals. The aircraft will only spend a short while over a given location. They may pass several times. Flights are only during daylight hours (for up to 4 hours).

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this time.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the survey visit www.nzpam.govt.nz. Or call Thomson Aviation at 021 269 6870





MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

New Zealand Government

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee



Zone Committee funding helps protect local wetland

Two local high country families recently completed 2260m of fencing to protect a wetland and creek on their mixed sheep and beef farms at Benmore Station. The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee granted close to \$24,000 from its Immediate Steps fund to help with the work.

Around \$100,000 is available each year to help local projects like this - search "Immediate Steps" at www.ecan.govt.nz or call 0800 324 636 for information on funding criteria and how to apply.

Brought to you by the Upper Waltaki Zone Committee working with





THE VINTNER'S DROP



OSTLER

Jim, Annie and the team at Ostler Wines are excited to be opening The Vintners Drop as an on-licence premise, a wine bar in Kurow, if you will!

You will be able to come and enjoy a glass of wine or a craft beer, along with something light to eat. As well as our normal opening hours, from the 2nd week of December, we will be open until 9.30pm from Wednesday to Friday, other nights on request.

Of course we will still be providing tastings and bottle sales, as we have always done. We wish you all a merry and safe Christmas and would love to see you if you are passing through Kurow over the festive season.



Game-Keeper Products Kurow

Now processing mutton hams for Xmas. Buy or bring in your own meat. Close off date for mutton ham processing 11th December

Providers of gluten free sausages, preservative free bacon, French style pate, smoked fish

Contact Steve on 021 222 2996

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- Situated on the Alps2Ocean Cycle Trail
- Stay a few nights and visit Lake Tekapo, Mt Cook, Wanaka, Queenstown, and Oamaru

Your Hosts: Ken & Jo Walker, ph 0800 743 772 www.omarama.co.nz stay@omarama.co.nz Book Direct for Best Rate

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

November 2016

Highest temperature: November 22, 29.7C Lowest temperature: November 1, 1C Most rainfall: November 14, 17mm Total rainfall for November 75mm

The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions with...



Ron McPhail and Anna Howard

Ron is Omarama Airfield Ltd manager and helps out at the Omarama Golf Course.

Anna works at Four Square Omarama, primarily as "postie" and is a volunteer librarian at Omarama's Community Library.

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

When travelling, pack half the clothes you were planning and twice the money. Always look on the bright side of life.

2. What was your best impulse buy?

Chocolate. Having been a long time tent camper, a 1978 brown Classic caravan seen on the side of the road. Purchased the same day. Luxury!

3. Best day outside the office?

Good company, good food. Any time spent relaxing with family or friends near a BBQ and a well stocked chilly bin.

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?

Spectacular scenery and numerous goodsorts. The way that everyone has made us feel welcome as newbies (and townies to boot) has been tremendous. We think it's an amazing place :)

5. What is one thing that would make the world a better place? *Be kind. No matter what's going on, have a laugh every day.*

The View from the Chook House



Curious?! I didn't realise the cousins were coming over for Christmas dinner.





The Garden Diary Loves me, loves me not, loves me :)

When presented with this little formula for floral fortune telling when you're young it doesn't take long to figure out how to manipulate it so the petals fall where you will them to.

Mathematics is not a strength of mine. To reconfigure one of those bad dyslexia jokes – in my world dyscalculia rules, is that a plus or a minus? But that's not to say I am not overawed by the power of the pure beauty of mathematics.

It was when I met the trillium I started to consciously think about the plantsmaths equation. This North American native emerges in spring and is brought to you by the number three. But it's not just this perennial's obsession with doing things in triplicate which makes it a little different. Instead of a stem it pushes its 'scape' up through the thick leaf mulch blanketing the forest floor. Then it unfolds a whorl of three flat, green bracts – not leaves. On this triangular plane it wears its sepals and flower bud like a bishops mitre before opening its three red, purple, pink, white, yellow, or green petals to reveal six stamens in two whorls of three. Its ovary is six-sided with three greenishwhite stigmas attached. This forms its 'fruit' which continues the pattern. Be assured the trillium knows its three times tables back and front.

This opened my eyes to countless plant-world patterns; spirals, whirls, ladders, blocks, chequers, circles, spheres... stars. When you think about it, it's logical. (Mathematicians get so emotional about that word) It is that ultimate living mathematical configuration, the double helix of DNA, which largely determines how life plays out and, seemingly, it does largely play out in a patterned, rhythmic, symmetrical and orderly way.

Did plants teach us maths? I wonder. Do we try to make pattern and order out of what we see because we want reason and order or does that pattern and order underline who we are and what we do – pure maths is one of those great philosophical chicken and egg debates.

If the answer to life the universe and everything is 42 - an even number, does this mean, using the petal theory, the egg came first - loves me loves me not. And this is why I drove my maths teachers to distraction.

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



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

The Last Page is Classifieds.

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