



# ***-Omarama Gazette -***

**May 2017**

Sponsored by

**Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park**

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## **Young Omarama sportswomen shine**

Three young Omarama rowers say a rural upbringing has put them ahead by a country mile.

Dani Walsh (17), and Sophie (17) and Abby (15) Anderson, have each made the podium at this year's Maadi Cup Regatta at Lake Karapiro.

Dani, who is in year 13 at Craighead Diocesan School in Timaru, was part of the over -15 lightweight coxed four crew which won bronze.

She was also in the under-18 novice coxed eight and novice coxed four which placed fourth. This was her first season rowing.

For Abby and Sophie, who took up rowing in year 9, it's not the first time they've made their mark at Maadi. This year, the sisters, who are in year 11 and 13 respectively at Dunedin's Columba College, were in its under-17 crew which won bronze in



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# **Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park**

There could not be a more perfect holiday spot anywhere, any time.

As the long, hot days stretch out into an Indian summer, golden autumn and a crisp, clear winter Omarama's TOP 10 Holiday Park provides that perfect place to relax, or not – you get to choose.

The park has everything that makes that traditional Kiwi holiday.

Generous caravan, campervan or tent sites under willows by a stream beneath those big skies are just the start. There are also cabins or motel units - a bed for every budget - and to complement it all there are the well-appointed communal facilities.

Families have been making holiday memories at Omarama's Top 10 for generations.

Owners Tony and Amanda Chapman say some have been holidaying there for up to 40 years.

"The kids continue the tradition and come back as adults, bringing their kids," Tony says.

Perhaps, it's because there's always something to do.

There's the playground, cricket matches, fishing, or a dip in the stream, never mind the spirited rivalry of the New Year's Sports Day with its sack races and tug-of-war, and there's no shortage of new friends or old. P.S. Don't tell, but there's even internet.

And if you ever tire of 'getting away from it all' it's great to know not only are all the services of a great little country town within walking distance – a supermarket and post office, the pub, cafes, and the golf course - but it's only a short trip to all kinds of other adventures or the bright lights of Queenstown, Wanaka or Oamaru.

For the explorers, there's the Waitaki Lakes and the coast, or the Mackenzie Country and mighty Aoraki Mt Cook.

If you enjoy snow sports the park makes a great base with several major ski-fields close at hand, or take advantage of Omarama's clear days and explore the Alps 2 Ocean trails.

What better way to end an energetic day than a soak in a hot tub just a few doors down then settling down for a night under the stars.

What more can we say? There could not be a more perfect holiday spot anywhere, anytime!

Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park is for sale, to find out more go to:

<http://www.trademe.co.nz/1306605935>

<http://www.pggwre.co.nz/property/DUN25427/4-omarama-avenue-omarama/>



## **Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park**

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## **- continued from page one**

the coxed eight. Abby was also in its under-17 coxed four which won bronze and in its under-18 coxed four which finished fourth. She added a silver medal in the under-16 coxed four. At the end of the season Abby was picked as one of two Columba girls and only three Otago rowers for the South Island under-18 team to return to Karapiro to compete at the North versus South junior regatta.

Last year, Sophie and Abby were in Columba's under-17 coxed eight which narrowly missed silver in the Maadi at Lake Ruataniwha, in Twizel.

The three friends at one time each attended Omarama School.

Dani said Maadi was "surreal". Until this season her focus had been swimming but she had enjoyed the change to a team sport. Making the podium at the regatta was the goal of every school rower, she said. There to see Dani medal was mother Michelle Walsh and grandfather Neil Smith.

Also there watching her girls was Vanessa Anderson.

Their rowing success is hard-won. Training is "full-on all summer, right through the holidays," Vanessa said. Not only is there early morning training but also extras like training camps and regattas.

"It takes all our time, but we love it," Sophie said.

"At home, we're always out on the farm, so at boarding school we want to keep doing stuff," Abby said. Their team was mostly boarders. "We're always with each other."

The Maadi Cup was "really fun", she said.

"It was a cool environment, cool to be part of it all," Sophie said.

Lake Ruataniwha is an important base for much of school rowing and teams often stay in the Anderson's Ben Omar shearers' quarters. "The coaches have become part of the family," Vanessa said.

It is possibly unsurprising a competitive streak runs through this family. One of the girls' grandfathers, Ginger Anderson, is a national champion sheep dog trialist and the other, Peter Casserly, is a world champion blade shearer.

Michelle said it was no secret among coaches that young people from rural areas punched above their weight.

"They're committed to start with."

They are aware from a young age of the distance they must travel to enjoy their sport and this makes them "more determined", Michelle said.

School rowing is over for Dani and Sophie who are in their final year. They are yet to decide what they will do next.

Abby is facing a difficult choice. Enjoying similar success in netball, she is trying to decide whether to opt out of rowing next season and switch to the winter sport.



PHOTOS: *Supplied*

# Police investigation continues

The police investigation into the vandalism of centre pivot tyres near Omarama earlier this year is continuing.

In January, forty-four tyres valued at up to \$800 each, on three of Omarama Station's irrigators sited just off State Highway 8 and Broken Hut Rd, were slashed.

Oamaru Detective Warren Duncan, who is heading the inquiry, said while there had been no new information the investigation was still ongoing.

"There is quite a bit of work going on in the background."

The police believe the incident possibly happened on Saturday, January 14.

"At about the same time an irrigation system was interfered with in the Hakataramea Valley.

"A valve was turned off, which could be coincidence", Det Duncan said.

"We certainly don't believe there has been anything proven yet as to motive.

"We are keeping open minds as to the motive.

"It would be wrong to make assumptions.

"In a small community rumours become facts."

He wanted to reassure the community it had nothing to fear from the one incident, "especially since it hasn't been repeated".

He urged people still to come forward if they thought they might know something but had thought they "wouldn't bother" at the time.

People may have seen headlights, torch lights or vehicles leaving the north side of the Broken Hut Rd area near State Highway 8 late on Friday or early on Saturday.

"Whoever's involved may have talked to a friend or associate and they may be concerned.

"If so, they can make contact and speak confidentially."

**Det Duncan said people could call him on 021 191 4807 or email: [warren.duncan@police.govt.nz](mailto:warren.duncan@police.govt.nz), or call Bean, Senior Constable Nayland Smith on 021 191 4808 or email [nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz), or give information anonymously to crimestoppers 0800 555 111**





# “Permanent presence” welcomed

The news Central South Island Helicopters is to have a permanent presence in Omarama has been welcomed by the Airfield Company’s new chair.

Newly-appointed Omarama Airfield Ltd chairman Clive Geddes said a wider range of aviation activity in the area would benefit everyone.

Central South Island Helicopters owner operator Matt Brown it wanted to have “more of a permanent presence in the area” and so had decided to set up its own hangar and now had a pilot stationed here.

The Herbert-based company have operated in North Otago and South Canterbury for about 30 years.

“We’ve always had a good client base in Omarama and the Mackenzie.

“This is about us making a commitment to the area,” Matt said.

The company’s machines were maintained in Wanaka and in the past jobs in the area were “fitted in” around those maintenance trips and that could have its problems, particularly if weather conditions did not suit.

“It will be a bit of a trial but by having a machine in Omarama we can get to jobs faster and that makes it more cost effective and efficient for clients.

“We can give everyone better service by having a presence in the area.”

As well as agricultural spraying, the company carries out work for the Department of Conservation and was recently involved in geological survey work for New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals.

Mr Geddes said the move would benefit not only farmers but others in the district.

“The wider the range of activities here the more people it will draw in.

“Often these activities expand into other services and become a huge benefit to the community,” he said.



# Recollections of a Woodsman

- Lex Perriam's story of the missing Cessna 150 ZK-CGI

*The book Missing - Aircraft Missing in New Zealand 1928 - 2000, by Chris Rudge tells the stories of 45 missing aircraft, the searches and the conclusions reached by investigators. It features one story about a missing Cessna 150 ZK-CGI. Rudge, who also trained as a park ranger, writes that the story of the missing Cessna is unique in that it did not go missing by accident.*

*In February 1970, young pilot Robert Bakhuis (19), absconding bail while awaiting sentence on four charges of unlawfully taking cars and charges of theft, stole the plane, along with lifejackets from the Taieri Aerodrome and with only 70 hours flying time and no pilot's licence flew it to Fiordland and ditched it in Lake Duncan. A police investigation and search began.*

*It was estimated the plane had enough fuel to fly about 250 miles, or 400 km. Afraid of what his sentence might be, the young man had said he planned to take a plane and land it in Lake Manapouri or Te Anau, go bush and then escape across the Tasman.*

*An extensive air and ground search found nothing and an insurance claim was filed but police still held out hope he would walk out of the bush.*

*In July 1972, after visiting his mother in Dunedin, Bakhuis gave himself up to police. After ditching the plane - the plane sank to 60 feet (18m) - he had swum ashore and spent some time at the well-stocked New Zealand Forest Service hut at Lake Te Anau. Bakhuis later made his way out of the bush to Lake Te Anau, also not an easy feat. Ultimately, he made it to Australia, returning in April 1972 to Christchurch and then Dunedin.*

*Once it was known where the plane was plans were put in place to salvage it. Special permission was needed because Lake Duncan was in a protected part of Fiordland National Park set aside for takahe.*

*The plane was floated up using inner tubes and then, minus its wings, flown out by Fiordland helicopter pilot Bill Black, using a Hiller UH-12E Helicopter, to the then Te Anau airport. It was later returned to Dunedin, overhauled and, according to Chris Rudge, has had several owners since.*

*Reading Rudge's book triggered memories for ex- New Zealand Forest Service woodsman Lex Perriam, of Omarama.*



Here are Lex's recollections:

During this time, I was employed with the Forest Service based at Te Anau. My work entailed forest surveys and field maintenance work in the Eyre Mountains, the Takitimu Mountains, I was officer in charge of Snowden Forest, and survey work - Fiordland vegetation and deer number counts - in the Murchison Mountains. In 1971, survey work included deer surveys into Esk Valley and took us into the headwaters and over the mountain tops of some of these catchments. I was here several times with my boss and work colleague Les Stanley and Ross Wood on trips from McKenzie Burn to Lake Te Au, Esk Burn, Lake Dunstan, and Wisely Saddle to Shag Burn.

We found life jackets which had been hanging but obviously fallen out of trees at Te Au hut. We couldn't understand why life jackets were on the ground near a hut and breaking down in the forest litter?!

The Te Au hut used to flood occasionally. One hunter spent a week in the top bunk of the hut because of flooding. A backwash of up to 80m between the hut and the high groundwater was swirling around too. This hut has since been re-located to higher ground. Ross and myself were caught here on one occasion. We could not leave the hut and were caught in the area for three weeks.

For Robert Bakhuis to get to Lake Te Anau by the end of the lake would have been a mission on its own. In fact, probably as difficult as landing the plane in Lake Duncan. All in all, it was a 'planned-unplanned' adventure made by a young 19-year-old man.

PHOTOS: *Supplied*

Previous page from left to right: Lex (right), at a location true left of Snag Burn, on the way from Wisley hut, shows a new hunter the takahe block;  
Lex's colleague Ross Wood at the Te Au Hut; *(In 1971, Lex took a photo of Lake Duncan not knowing the secret it kept.)* I'm looking back down from route to the Wisley saddle and hut, On the far side of lake in this pic there is a white shingle bar edge. Here there was a small rock cairn, This marked the site where Bakhuis put the Cessna down in the lake. He was committed to landing as there would have been no way to have climbed out in this steep terrain without going into forest.

This page right:  
Fiordland helicopter pilot Bill Black, using a Hiller UH-12E Helicopter, flies the Cessna 150 ZK-CGI, minus its wings, out to Te Anau airport.



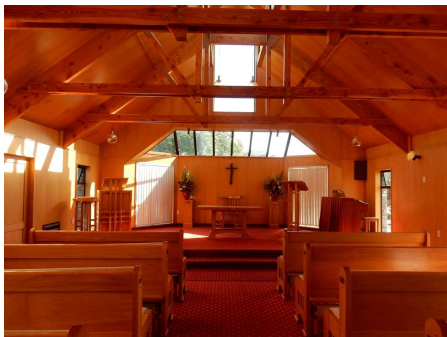
# St Thomas' Church, Omarama

One of the more distinctive buildings in Omarama is St Thomas' Church. It was built by the people of the Omarama district who gifted the land and furniture and raised the funds to pay for it. It is a joint-use building so that Anglican, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic congregations could hold their services. Clergy came from Oamaru and Kurow but the building itself is managed by local people and representatives of the three denominations using the Church. The management committee pays the rates, insurance and power and tries to keep the car park free of weeds. The clergy are ex officio members. The building is managed by the Omarama people although as is common with churches the legal title is held by a trust and in this case the Presbyterian Otago Foundation Trust Board.

There have been many changes since the building was built. The congregations have aged and some have died or shifted away. They have not always been replaced by younger people coming in. The Catholics have not held services in St Thomas for a number of years. Likewise the Presbyterians. Recently the Anglicans held a monthly service until Christmas last year but are unable to continue to provide services except on an occasional basis.

Recently the Management committee was revived and reinstated with the three denominations appointing representatives. An Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 29th June at 2.00pm in the Church. Interested members of the Omarama community especially former management committee members are invited to attend to discuss the future of St Thomas' Church.

In the meantime the contact person: Mrs Kay Verheul ph. 03 438 9538



## ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

Services will not be held in Omarama through winter

Clergy Contacts:

Anglican: Reverend Ken Light 027 211 1501  
Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773



# Omarama Remembers

## Anzac Day 2017

More than 80 people joined together in brilliant sunshine at Omarama's Memorial Rock for an Anzac Day service to remember those from the district who served and died in war. Omarama Volunteer Fire-brigade members, representatives of the scouts, and veterans and families took part in the parade and service which was led by Upper Waitaki Returned and Services president Kieran Walsh, Reverend Ken Light, and New Zealand Defence Force representative navy Lieutenant Commander Andrew Hogg. Mr Walsh told those gathered this year the battles of Passchendaele and Ypres, which took place 100 years ago and where many thousands of New Zealanders lost their lives, were the focal point of Anzac commemorations.

Lt Cmdr Hogg said Anzac Day was about remembering all those who served and who were still serving, in particular, those who lost their lives.

This year marked 100 years since the "hardest battle" of World War 1.

The 21st century task of the Defence Force was to identify present-day threats to security and to be prepared for them. Not only should the actions of those "brave men and women who step forward" to serve be acknowledged but also the sacrifice of their families. As well, there were many young veterans returning from service, including many more women than in previous generations, who required acknowledgment and support, he said.

Waitaki District councillor Craig Dawson, who laid the wreath, said the recent Omarama School Anzac concert had highlighted the impact of service on families at home. "This day will always remain very important."

Upper Waitaki RSA vice-president Indy Gard read the ode.

Kurow Volunteer Fire Brigade Chief Fire Officer John Sturgeon was bugler.

For more photos and videos go to: [www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/)



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## # POTM Pet of the Moment

George the Aristo "Cat" is taking charge at Total Interiors.

He's the new welcoming party  
- the playboy with a passion for upholstery who enjoys loads of pats and praise.



# The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com) or phone 021 294 8002

**Best wishes to Michelle and Todd Hancox and Katrina Sole**, new proprietors of Oasis Café, Bar and Grill.

**Julie is hosting a Pink Ribbon Brunch**, 11am Thursday, May 25 at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama. (See more below.)

**Omarama Rural Fire** will hold its annual meeting on Monday, May 22. All are welcome to attend. It meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday each month at the Omarama Rural Fire Station,

Sutherlands Rd. New volunteers are welcome.

**The Omarama Residents' Association's** next meeting is at 7.30pm, Thursday, May 18, at the Omarama Community Centre. Ross Gold, chairman, phone 027 443 4149 Craig Dawson, secretary, phone 027 438 9132.

**Check out the newly groomed Omarama Bike Park Pump Track**, beside the Memorial Hall.

Cranking Fine trail builder Mark Goodwin worked under the guidance of 'trail analyst' daughter Fern Goodwin(5) to put all the fun bits back into the track in time for the school holidays.

**The Omarama Model Aircraft Club** hosted about 30 owners of scale tow planes and scale vintage gliders as well as modern glass and composite models at its Anzac Aerotow Omarama weekend.

**The Omarama Community Library** is open 7pm to 8pm Tuesdays, and 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre. If you would like to volunteer or make an enquiry phone: Anna Howard 021 132 5586 or Georgie Robertson 027 486 1525

**Dr Tim Gardner of the Kurow Medical Centre** runs two clinics a week in Omarama, on Tuesdays and Fridays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Please phone Kurow Medical Centre, 03 436 0760, for appointments. On Fridays, to book an appointment in Omarama, phone 0274 347 464 because the Kurow Centre is closed.

**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 027 345 6192 or Jess Toole 021 020 53242

**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. Phone Graham McLean 03 438 9832.

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

**The Omarama Golf Club** - Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm, all welcome. Club captain Adrian Tuffley, phone 027 347 8276. <http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/>

**Techy tips:** If you add editor@omaramagazette.com to your email address book the Omarama Gazette is less likely to be blocked by spam filters.

To get a better view of the email you can click on the option in the header to 'view in browser'.

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**The June issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, June 7, 2017.  
Please submit copy by  
Friday, June 2.**

# Omarama Rural Fire

*By Jack Zorab*

You may have seen or heard talk in the news about the merging of urban and rural fire services into one organisation - Fire and Emergency New Zealand, or FENZ. There will be a lot more talk about it in the coming months as we work towards 'Day One' of the transition on July 1 but, rest assured, there will be the same high level of service from all volunteers across both urban and rural services. If you want to read more about the changes that are coming then you can check the regular updates on [www.fenzproject.co.nz](http://www.fenzproject.co.nz) <http://fenzproject.co.nz/>

The Omarama Rural Fire would also like to advise that their AGM will be held on Monday, May 22. All are welcome to attend.



High Country 104.5 FM is a community focused privately-owned station of a non-commercial nature that broadcasts from within Omarama.

Listen live - View the webcam  
[www.highcountryfm.co.nz](http://www.highcountryfm.co.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/highcountryfm/](https://www.facebook.com/highcountryfm/)



# Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade

**To all residents – please note the change in procedure.  
For all medical emergencies dial 111  
and ask for ambulance.**

Omarama Volunteer Fire-brigade's first response team  
will be alerted to the call.

*- Georgie Robertson for Chief Fire Officer Terry Walsh*

St John and the New Zealand Fire Service have chosen Omarama's first response team to trial a new service which will see them called to more medical emergencies. The six-month trial, which began May 1, involves extra training and working alongside St John.

The trial has been approved because there can be a wait of 20 minutes or more for an ambulance to come from Twizel or Kurow.



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

# Omarama Golf Club

*By Paul Bowman*

Over the last month we have been very busy. Mother Nature was looking after us for our Easter Tournament, Saturday, April 15, with a brilliant sunny day after all the wet weather we had the previous week. We had 51 entries from all over the South Island, a record for the club. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the great course conditions and company. A huge thanks to all our sponsors and helpers that contributed to the success of the day.

The winners on the day:

Men and overall winner	-	James McIlraith
Ladies winner	-	Amy Zhang
Closest to the Pin	-	Don Peterson

Saturday, April 22 delivered another sunny day for our club championship finals. It was a long day for our finalists playing 36 holes of outstanding golf, but there could only be two section winners:

Senior Men	-	Ron MacPhail
Junior Men	-	Mark Black

We would again like to thank Bruce and Julie, Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama for supporting the running of the weekly meat raffles at the hotel over the last few months. We are taking a break over the next couple of months but hope to be back later in the year. Saturday club day continues over winter cards in by 12.00 p.m. with tee off 12.30 p.m.

PHOTOS: *Supplied*

Omarama Golf Club Captain Adrian Tuffley makes the presentations to the winners of the club championships (left) Mark Black and (right) Ron MacPhail



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## Omarama Collie Dog Club

Omarama Collie Club members who have qualified are for the Tux South Island championship dog trials are: Ginger Anderson, with Chum for the hunt events and Don and Boss in the heading events; Ed Aubrey, with June in the heading events and Rock in the hunt events; Rick Aubrey, with Toby and Sky in the heading events. Scott Hunter, with Deck and Rangī in the heading and Archie and Harry in the hunts. The trials began on May 1 at the Warepa Collie Club, hosted by the Otago Centre. The Tux North Island and New Zealand Championships will be held at Whangara and hosted by the Poverty Bay Centre beginning Monday, May 29.

# Omarama Playgroup

*By Jemma Gloag*

Buscot Station turned on exceptionally good weather on Sunday for the playgroup inaugural dog training day with Lloyd Smith and Ginger Anderson. More than 30 people came to learn some new skills and improve their dog training. Lloyd demonstrated training from pup-to-paddock, with specific emphasis on huntaways, and Ginger focused on training heading dogs. After lunch participants with their dogs had the opportunity to have one-on-one training with Lloyd and Ginger. There were raffles and a silent auction, lunch and dinner provided, and everyone had a goodie bag to take away. Playgroup managed to raise just under \$2500 which was fantastic. Big thanks go to Lloyd Smith and Ginger Anderson for donating their time and expertise; the driving force behind the day Carla Hunter; and our sponsors: Veterinary Services, Studio 33, The Hermitage, The Helicopter Line, Air Safaris, Eukanuba, Place Makers, Dave Smith, The Wrinkly Rams, Real Dog Equipment Co, Pup Pen to Paddock, O2B Healthy. Well done, a great day had by all!



<http://www.puppentopaddock.co.nz/>

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## Omarama Residents' Association

This past month the association has put a submission into the council regarding an access way through land currently on the market and owned by the Ellis family in Park Lane. The purpose for this was to flag to the Waitaki District Council the danger young children have passing through both petrol stations in the township on their way to school. The council has also been advised of a proposed new sporting complex planned adjacent to the Community Centre and in front of the children's playground. We envisage this would incorporate three tennis courts, a fives wall and net-ball courts, and hopefully include two new toilets. A committee has met to raise funds for this and they are holding an Omarama High Country Garden Day on October 28. Nine different gardens are hoped to be included along with stalls, an action, art displays etc. Other fund raising activities are also being investigated. We will keep you up to date. At this stage we have raised about \$10,000 towards this project. It is great to see the Community Centre being well used by a number of local groups including two days a week with a doctor in attendance and the library open for three days a week.

*By Ross Gold, Chairman 027 443 4149*

**The next meeting is at 7.30pm, Thursday, May 18, at the Community Centre.**



Kia Ora Omarama community,  
Thank you to those who attended our ANZAC concert held on Thursday the 13th of April. I'm sure you would all agree that the children did a fantastic job with their readings, poems, songs and the Room Four production of Archie Dobson's war. We certainly have a very talented bunch of students here in Omarama. Thank you to Charlotte Cook and the community centre's committee for allowing us to utilise the hall free of charge. Looking forward to seeing you all at our next ANZAC service .  
Kind regards, *Kim McKenzie, Principal*

PHOTOS: *Wendy Parsons*







# Community has its say about tourism needs

The second round of Tourism Waitaki meetings to discuss what the community wants to do long term about tourism, began in Omarama last week.

A dozen people attended the meeting at the Omarama Community Centre.

The lack of adequate information centre services in Omarama dominated discussion. As of last month, Hot Tubs Omarama is no longer providing information centre services on behalf of Tourism Waitaki.

Instead, the council-controlled organisation has issued two i-pads, one each to Heritage Gateway and Countrytime Hotels, to provide links to its services.

Countrytime Hotel duty manager Jack Zorab said they were “non-starters and in the wrong place”.

Mr Gaskill said it was too early to say how the trial of the tablets was progressing and it was also still looking at options for a multi-weather electronic ‘kiosk’, and where best to site it.

“There are a lot of constraints as discussed publicly a number of times.

“We’re still actively investigating a number of options as part of the overall strategic review.”

Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan said Twizel and Tekapo were going ahead, people might stop to eat in Omarama but were then going straight through to Queenstown.

There was a need to have something in Omarama to “point them down the valley”, Waitaki District Councillor Craig Dawson said.

“An i-site here is a sales point for the Waitaki and Oamaru.

“Oamaru, Duntroon, Kurow, they’re missing something Omarama can provide.”

Electronic solutions had limitations.

“Establishing a relationship” was key to getting people to change their itinerary.

“Only human beings can fill that.

“If you want to start looking for a place to spend money then relationship building is where to put it,” he said.

“You’ve got to keep people in the equation when you’re dealing with people,” Hot Tubs owner Jan Thomas said.

She proposed a mobile site be setup next to GlenCraigs.

Mr Dawson said this was private land, and pedestrian and parking space was at a premium.

“It should only be a stop-gap measure.”

He recommended Tourism Waitaki work with Waitaki District Council officers on the upcoming review of its toilets’ strategy and plan a “re-vamped” building to house information services and toilets on the one site in Omarama.

“It’s the focal point of the whole town, it’s the only place for an i-site.”

Mr Gaskill said all avenues were being explored as part of the review.

“Everything is pretty much on the table.”

Mr Sullivan said the way Tourism Waitaki distributed funds it received from the council to the small towns needed to be looked at.

The “valley towns” needed more spent on them because they were proving to be “the hubs” of tourism in the district, he said.

Mr Gaskill said services needed to be delivered district-wide which is what influenced budget decisions but that could be reviewed.

“It’s time to change that bias,” Mr Dawson said.

“For its own protection Tourism Waitaki needs to become more familiar with the

region, get more feedback and ideas, get out here and talk to operators, customers, be more proactive, keep talking, moving around, keeping in touch,” he said. Of concern was, there were no eating places in Duntroon, despite its Vanished World attraction drawing many visitors to the area.

One possible solution was a loan to fund a café lease, Mr Dawson said.

There was some discussion about what input Tourism Waitaki had in the development and content of digital apps.

“We’d be interested in seeing what people think we should be focusing efforts on; digital infrastructure, or content, or delivery, or on all of them, or on something else,” Mr Gaskill said.

Kurow Museum and Information Centre manager Carron Cossens said guidance was needed on freedom camping and campervan-specific parking.

“There are people who would like to park up for the night and there’s nowhere to send them to park.”

Mr Sullivan said there was a “real problem” with freedom camping at the Department of Conservation-owned Ahuriri Bridge and Lake Middleton campsites.

Mrs Thomas said there was a need to pool resources and liaise between agencies to solve the problem.

“We need to manage growth.

“Locals don’t go there and that’s sad.”

Mr Sullivan said the community board could push for those discussions to happen.

Mr Gaskill said there was much work being done on freedom camping “locally and nationally” and the council had produced maps about where people could go.

The Tourism Industry Association was “very active on lobbying” on behalf of the regions.

Unfortunately, freedom camping legislation was based on excluding people from certain locations and there was a need to work around the new problems that created, Mr Gaskill said.

Mr Dawson said he believed a levy on tourists to pay for increased costs was the answer. As well, private enterprise could be looked to for solutions.

Individuals should lobby their members of parliament and go to the media with their concerns, he said.

Ms Cossens asked what plans there were to hold familiarisation tours for tourist operators from within and outside the district.

“Until they make a visit they can’t speak to it themselves.”

Mrs Thomas said it was an important way to show Omarama was central to many attractions, and to encourage people to stay.

Mr Gaskill said Tourism Waitaki was working on “wider general industry” familiarisation tours and he was generally seeing more interest from the industry in spending more time in the area.

Omarama resident Jimmy Courtney said he would like to see “better and bolder signage” because he was concerned North Otago was losing its identity because people assumed it was part of the Mackenzie Country.

Mrs Thomas said, from a tourism operator’s point of view there were advantages to that because the Mackenzie was looked at “as a gem”.

“They’re outstripping us by bloody miles.

“We can tag on their coat-tails, but it has to be managed,” she said.

Mr Gaskill said the community input would be considered when the long-term strategy was drawn up.

It was expected it would be presented to the council in about six weeks’ time, he said.

# Talking rubbish and other things

The announcement at last month's annual plan community forum in Otematata the Omarama, Otematata and Kurow transfer stations' "goods exchange sheds" were to be reinstated led the major topic of conversation at the meeting - how best to deal with rubbish in the district's small towns.

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher made the announcement reversing the decision made a month earlier.

"That wasn't supposed to happen, we [the councillors] weren't aware of it at our level," he said.

About 25 people mostly from Otematata, but including Omarama, Kurow and Lake Ohau attended the forum which Mr Kircher described as a new "suck it and see" approach to the usual annual plan public consultation process.

It was something the council decided to try because it was not making "meaningful changes" to the plan so there was not the same requirement to consult using the usual submissions and hearings process, he said.

It was thought the forums were a way to have a "better conversation with people" and would make it easier for people to express views by creating the opportunity to "sit down together and have a chat".

Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan said the council was reviewing its waste management and minimisation plan and wanted to know people's views about rubbish and how best to manage it.

"...Not only ideas about recycling but also who will pay for it.

"Nobody's paying for the recycling carted to Oamaru or elsewhere, there's no money collected for that," he said.

Mr Kircher said a variety of options could be considered - from rate-payer funded curb-side collections through to local disposal, and recycling was not always the cheapest option.

When the issue was last looked at by the council it was considered there was not the same incentive to recycle when a rate-based system operated, but it could be looked at again, he said.

Ahuriri ward councillor Craig Dawson said when collection was handed to private operators the idea was households could then choose the system which best suited their needs, and that encouraging recycling would delay the need for a new landfill.

"The biggest problem with recycling is the cost of transport."

He suggested the transfer stations in the small towns be expanded so material could be stored for longer and transported less often rather than twice a week as was the present arrangement.

He would like to see green waste stockpiled with a controlled burn every "couple of years", perhaps carried out by groups like the fire brigades.

"The biggest challenge to the little villages is transport.

"I'd hate to see the transfer stations go, they're very useful."

Mr Kircher said in some cases recycling seemed "counterproductive" because of the amount of energy used to transport the recyclable rubbish.

"The problem is, it is very, very expensive, the cost per tonne is hugely more but we have to deal with it."

Ahuriri Community Board member Vicky Munro, of Otematata said the cost of the recent "clean-up" of the sites "must have been considerable".

Mr Dawson said different groups in the community had different requirements for rubbish disposal – builders, for example.



The continued need for recycling for the good of the environment was stressed by various members of the public and some solutions suggested included exploring the joint purchase of equipment such as a glass crusher which could be used by all the small towns.

Mr Kircher said the council had met with gardening contractors and were looking at a possible "joint venture" option for managing greenwaste.

"Where private enterprise is an option people need to use that, the council needs to cover the gaps,"

"We have to think laterally to help people help themselves," he said.

Ohau Village Residents and Ratepayers Association chairman Malcolm McMillan said the present situation at Ohau Village was "causing a lot of angst"

Since the last review its population had grown from 28 to 68 households and more people were staying at their homes year-round.

At present, there was a private arrangement with Mike Neilson of Lake Ohau Lodge but that was about to end.

Mr McMillan said the consensus was they would like a rates-based system introduced as soon which used bins, not bags, so as to be pest proof.

"We want that, and as soon as possible," he said.

Corriedale ward councillor Bill Kingan, who is chair of the council's assets committee, said it was possible areas could set up their own schemes that were "good value and fair".

"The Oamaru Landfill is closing the rules are changing and costs will increase," He said.

Concern was raised about the future of the Otematata Boat ramp and camping ground after they were closed because of flood damage.

Mr Sullivan said good progress was being made on restoring the boat ramp. At present, contractors were waiting for appropriate consents to come through.

Mr Kircher said the ramp would re-open, but there were questions about the safety of the camping ground.

Stephen Loach, an Otematata home owner and Dunedin-based architect, said there was a "major design issue" with the bridge because its piers were designed to channel water to the site occupied by the camping ground.

The boat ramp and camping ground were a "huge amenity" for the town and so the issues must be addressed "addressed in a way that is sensible", he said.

Mr Kircher said he was unaware of the problem with the piers and would look into it.

Shingle had built up under the bridge but the present consents did not allow for the removal of any more, Mr Sullivan said.

The council had met with other agencies to discuss flood protection but no-one else was willing to help fund the work, Mr Kircher said. The council had put \$30,000 into the project.

There was general concern about Transpower's plan to remove rather than maintain willow trees which may affect power lines along the shore of Lake Aviemore at Parsons Rock.

Mr Kircher said he would raise the concerns with Transpower.

Questions were asked about the Alps to Ocean cycle trail and how soon it would be before it would be all off-road.

Mr McMillan said there were serious concerns about the stretch along the Lake Ohau Rd, which had seen not only an increase in cycle traffic but also number of vehicles using the road.

**- continued over**

## Talking rubbish *continued*

“Someone’s going to get killed, someone’s going to get collected.”

Omarama Hot Tubs owner Jan Thomas asked if more could be done to put pressure on the Department of Conservation to more tightly regulate the freedom camping at its Ahuriri River camping area.

Mr Kircher said councils were pushing for a national standard of regulation.

There were also several technological user-pays options, including the KiwiCamp concept which were being considered.

Mr Dawson said he believed a \$50-a-head visitor levy with a brochure explaining what their monies would be spent on was the answer. “Why should ratepayers give these people a free holiday”

He said people should lobby their MPs for change.

Mr Kircher said a report of the discussions at the forum would be made to the full council and be considered ahead of finalising the plan.

Submissions closed Tuesday, April 18. The council will discuss the feedback and make final decisions on the plan before it is adopted at its meeting on Wednesday, June 21. A copy of the final plan will be posted on the council website.

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## Ahuriri Issues - From Waitaki district Ahuriri ward councillor Craig Dawson

1. A public forum was held at the Otematata Lakes Centre, which gave those who attended a chance to tackle the issues that were important to them. Resource recovery parks, Ohau’s rubbish service, Otematata’s boat harbour and the removal of trees in the Parson’s Rock area, were items of discussion. There was a good representative group at the meeting, who expressed concerns and what Council action was going to be taken. The group discussion worked well and gave everybody a chance to ask questions and interact with members of the Ahuriri Community Board, Councillors and the Mayor, rather than the more formal format in the Council Chamber.
2. The new WDC Chief Executive appointment process is well underway, with 72 applicants who have registered their interest from far and wide. This list has been whittled down to 11 prospects who will receive an interview. It is encouraging to see the strong interest in being part of this District.
3. Otematata boat ramp repairs are due to begin in May. There have been delays in getting resource consents for this work to be carried out. WDC officers have been doing their level best to get things completed as soon as possible.
4. The Waitaki Car Trust has been going from strength to strength, racking up 41,308kms, with volunteer drivers donating 705 hours to date. The number of passengers carried to date is 189. A second car has been purchased, which will eventually be based in Otematata. It would be really great if some kind person could help with garaging/storing the vehicle overnight. This is an excellent concept, where people can be dropped off at their destination and be looked after until they arrive home.
5. ANZAC day went very well with good turnouts at all the venues in the Waitaki Valley. The week prior to ANZAC day, Omarama School put on an excellent play which showed how the horrors of war affect families and how those who were lucky enough to return, were often shattered by what they went through. It highlights the importance of ANZAC day and the need to give generously when buying poppies, as this money helps all veterans of past and present wars.

# Omarama Airfield Ltd

An update from the directors following their board meeting of April 2017

The board chair Bill Gordon attended his last board meeting and is now looking forward to moving to Alexandra. In his six years on the board Bill has made a significant contribution to the company with a particular focus on improving the standard of the runway and the irrigation system. The positive results of this are there for all to see and will be appreciated by airfield users for many years to come.

The Waitaki District Council has appointed Glen Claridge as a new director. Glen is Oamaru born and bred, attended local schools and went on to become an aircraft engineer with the Air Force before becoming a skydive, adventure tourism and top-dressing pilot. He has aviation experience in the UK, EU, Canada, China and South Africa and is now based in Oamaru. Glen is an active sportsman, having last year won the North Otago Tennis championship, and is looking forward to being part of the airfield governance group.

The board has elected Clive Geddes as its new chair.

Health and Safety.

Subject to some minor amendments the company Health and Safety Plan is now complete. The board is now focussing on the development of Safe Operating Procedures(SOP) for the airfield.

The procedures will be put together with input from airfield users and Gliding New Zealand and will be complete and available before the start of the next soaring season.

Events.

The NZ Tiger Moth Club held a successful fly in weekend with vintage aircraft from throughout the country taking part.

The Omarama Soaring Centre camping facility will close on April 23.

Glide Omarama will, subject to ground and weather conditions, continue to operate on a 'on request' basis through the coming winter. Calling in to book a service is essential.

Briefly

The board is progressing :

- a land use plan for the airfield
- an airfield works programme for the next three years
- an agreement with the Waitaki District Council for waste water disposal on airport land
- the development of Safe Operating procedures

Clive Geddes [clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz) Terry Jones [morganjones@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganjones@xtra.co.nz)

Richard Subtil [subtil@omaramastation.co.nz](mailto:subtil@omaramastation.co.nz) Glen Claridge [glenclaridge@yahoo.com](mailto:glenclaridge@yahoo.com)



# Waitaki District Council news in brief



**New fees came into effect** on April 4 for businesses that sell and serve food including restaurants and cafes. The new fee structure has been adopted after consultation and because of changes to the Food Act 2014.

**Sport Waitaki** are asking what people think about our existing sport and recreation facilities and any changes people would like to see. Recreation manager Erik van der Spek said a survey has been designed to gather this information and to seek feedback on whether a new indoor recreation centre is

feasible. The online survey (<http://bit.ly/RecreationFacility>) asks a series of questions relating to existing facilities and what future facilities would best meet the needs of the district. The survey is open until Friday 5 May.

## **From the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting, Monday, May 1, in Kurow.**

The board has approved payment of an annual rent to the Omarama Airfield Company for the lease of land for wastewater disposal once the council's present discharge permit to discharge wastewater to Omarama Stream ends in December 2019. The amount of rent would be calculated once the design has been finalised and able to be reviewed annually.

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is  
3.15pm to 5.15pm, Monday, June 12, at the Kurow Memorial Hall, Kurow  
Minutes and agendas can be found here <http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx>**

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# Environment Canterbury news

**In April**, ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee visited the Ruataniwha wetlands and sites connected to the Tasman River delta to learn about protecting braided river and wetland ecosystems. The Department of Conservation's Cody Thyne talked about habitat creation and protection for kaki and other wading birds. Doc has been working with local landowners and Project River Recovery to help Kaki increase breeding numbers. Numbers have increased from 10 pairs in 2008/09 season to 28 in the 2016/17 season.

**ECan chairman David Bedford** says the Ministry for Environment/Statistics NZ freshwater report provides a marker of New Zealand's fresh-water management and notes areas that need addressing.

ECan had regulations in place to address water quality problems and was working with other agencies, individuals, industry groups and Ngāi Tahu to deliver measurable water quality outcomes. The report indicated some of the worst water quality was in urban areas and the Christchurch West-Melton Zone Committee was working with others to address the issues identified in the report.

Irrigation – water and land-use management - was also focus.

"We are fortunate that Canterbury's irrigators are actively working to improve the efficiency of their water use and to reduce nitrate leaching from their land.

"Our regulatory framework places stringent limits on farmers.

"At the same time, we need to acknowledge that we have legacy issues from when less was known about the potential impacts of land use.

"We believe we are now in a good position to address these legacy issues.

"It will take time, however – potentially decades in the worst affected areas."

Mr Bedford said.

**The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, May 19, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.**

**Minutes and agendas are posted at:**

**<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/upper-waitaki-water-zone/>**

**[www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)**



# Scenes from Anzac Aerotow Omarama 2017

Omarama Airfield, Friday April 22 to Monday, April 24



# The 'Casso' Report

*By Peter Casserly*

April has seen some great weather.

The Ahuriri River and Omarama Stream have been low and clear with lots of fish, but hard to catch.

The canals have been fishing really well. They've been so clear because there's been no snow melt.

You could not believe how many fish there were and so many people of all ages were able to enjoy easy fishing.

The roar has been very successful with some good stalking and good hunt.

The prize for the roar must go to young Harry Smith, of Ben Dhu, who shot a 16-pointer after stalking it for three hours.

The annual trip into Fiordland with Laurie Ruddenklau, Ginger Anderson and Malcolm Rich was another successful one with all types of sea fish being caught.

This week I'll be feeding ducks and preparing the maimai for the big day.





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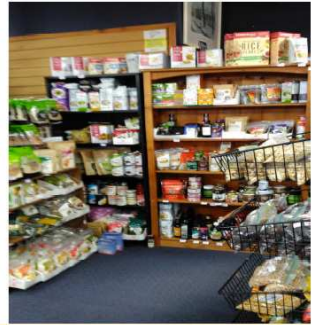
If you are unable to attend you can still donate by searching my pink ribbon page at <https://pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz/login> under Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama.

***WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU HERE.***



# The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

*Not sure if it's the thought of the colder weather coming, but right now what comes to my mind is FUDGE—an autumn winter treat—and it can still be healthy! Here are two of my favourites using Ceres vanilla extract, and Ceres or Chantal nut butter (any type of nut butter can be used if you are avoiding peanuts).. And/or coconut butter.*



## GLENCRAIGS PANTRY

## Healthy SF Peanut Butter Fudge

### Sugar Free Chocolate Fudge

#### Ingredients

1/2 cup [coconut butter](#) (120g)

- 1 over-ripe banana
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp pure maple syrup or honey - or pinch uncut stevia
- 1/4 cup cacao or cocoa powder (40g)
- optional 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- optional 1/2 tsp pure vanilla extract



#### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup peanut butter or other nut butter (110g)
- 1 large banana (150g)
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt (omit if using salted peanut butter)
- 2 tbsp coconut butter OR melted virgin coconut oil
- pinch stevia OR 2T of pure maple syrup

#### METHOD:

(If peanut butter is not stir-able, gently heat until you are able to easily stir it.)

Either combine all ingredients in a small blender until completely smooth, OR mash the banana and stir together ingredients very patiently by hand until completely smooth.

Scoop into a small plastic container OR parchment-lined glass container OR candy molds OR mini cupcake liners. Freeze until firm. Due to the melty nature of coconut, this fudge is best stored in the freezer.

### Instructions

Melt your coconut butter, then mix all ingredients in a food processor.

Then smooth the fudge into a container or candy molds.

(Plastic containers work well, because you can pop the fudge right out.) Place in the fridge for a few hours, or freeze for a few minutes.

You can freeze it for longer periods of time; just be sure to thaw for several minutes prior to eating



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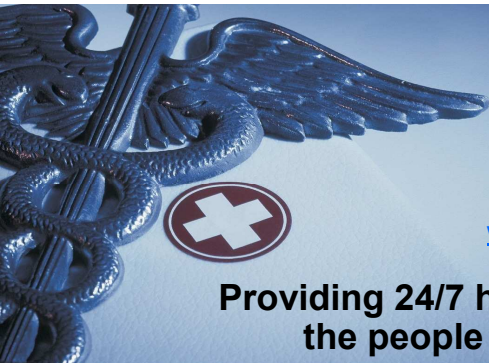
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in the new season.*

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

**April 2017**

**Highest temperature: April 2, 26.4C**

**Lowest temperature: April 7, - 0.1C**

**Most rainfall: April 11, 24 mm**

**Total rainfall for April: 69 mm**



## The FAQs - Those Five Awkward Questions with...



### Neil and Margie Callick

Neil is our Lakes Coffee man and Margie is one of the smiling faces behind the bar at Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama. They have lived in Otematata for the past nine years and were city folk - Dunedinites - before that. They say they never tire of driving to work in Omarama and living in a country town has so much to offer.

#### **What is one of your favourite things?**

*Sitting down with a glass of wine after a big day in the garden - Margie*

*Ticking things off the 'honey do' list. - Neil*

#### **What is one lesson you learned at school that you have never used?**

*Shorthand - Margie*

*Algebra and trigonometry - Neil*

#### **Tell us something about Omarama we might not know?**

*You can never truly know the beauty of the surrounding hills - the changing light makes them new everyday. - Margie and Neil*

*The Love Shack makes the best kebabs south of Turkey. - Neil*

#### **If you could time travel where would you go?**

*To when I was nine years old with not a care in the world living that carefree childhood before the advent of The Warehouse. - Margie*

*The 1960s - knowing what I know now I'd go back and do it all over again! - Neil*

#### **What is one thing you would tell your 16-year-old-self?**

*To stay at school longer - Margie*

*To make the most of life, take every opportunity you can, and always see the glass as half full. - Neil*

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## The View from the Chook House



What do you mean,  
this is not helping?!

# The Garden Diary - Harvest

“Deep in their roots all flowers keep the light.” — Theodore Roethke

I know the scientific reasoning behind it all. To achieve high yielding crops the following factors must align – the best plant genetics, correct soil conditions, suitable climate, and appropriate weed control.

But I’m still in awe of this process whereby a plant takes what it is given, from the place where it is, and transforms it into a fruit or a vegetable packed with goodness – yes, even you, Kale.

I’m certainly no great vegetable gardener so I’m so grateful they know what to do. I think this is my favourite time of year.

It’s right about dinner time when the sun starts lower west down behind the dusky ranges into a glowing autumn sunset.

I grab the colander, step out the back, and fill it to brimming with colourful veggies and handfuls of herbs.

These are no longer the light, skimpy salads of high summer but robust, dense and tasty veg-gie-ta-bulls.

They have worked through the season to capture a kaleidoscope of sunlight in their roots, leaves, gourds, pods, seeds and fruit.

There are chunky Cherokee-purple tomatoes which slice up thickly into steaks for a sizzling autumn barbeque.

There is the corn with tasselled heads held high, whose husks have filled and whose strands of silk – one for each of its pearly kernels - have turned from pale to gold to brown signalling it is sweet and ripe.

There are glowing moon and star-shaped squash, leaves of rainbow beet, zucchini bursting into marrows, pumpkins racing the frost to ripen gathering the last of the heat into their intensely orange hearts, beetroot which has dug deep to swell into earthy, cardinal orbs, and beans, and beans, and beans galore.

My favourite is that royal King of the Blues whose violet flowers with the kiss of the mist or shower of rain transform into satiny deep-purple pods that spangle against the green of its vines, and are now all knobbly with seed.

Gone to seed – I like the way in veggie parlance that means we’ll have new vines next summer.

And there’s kale.

The garlic hangs to dry by the door. I snatch at the last of the basil and oregano leaves which have grown pungent and peppery. The rest have been cut and popped into brown paper bags ready to add zing to winter soups.

Now is when the smoky, woody flavours of thyme, rosemary and sage come into their own.

Autumn – I feel compelled to forage, to gather and to store.

And, in gratitude, I know there’s a row of kale to stand the winter.

- Ruth Grundy

*(I garden a small space under a big sky in Omarama)*





## The Last Page is Classifieds

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