



# ***-Omarama Gazette -***

**July 2017**

Sponsored by

**Your Carpet Guy**

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## **Gardens to open in spring for fundraiser**

Nine diverse and distinctive Omarama high country gardens will open their doors this spring to raise funds for a sports facility for the town.

Organised by the Omarama Residents' Association, the all-day Omarama High Country Garden Tour will showcase local gardens at their peak, and allow people to view many creative interiors as well.

It is hoped it will attract visitors from throughout the South Island who will enjoy some legendary high country hospitality and at the same time raise a significant sum for the new facility.

Already, one garden club has booked a bus to bring its members to Omarama for the day.

"Garden enthusiasts realise this is a rare opportunity and are keen to make the most of it," organiser Jemma Gloag says.

The idea to develop a sports facility adjacent to Omarama's recently-modernised Community Centre was not new, association chairman Ross Gold said.

The draft plans for the facility feature multipurpose courts - three tennis courts, netball and basketball courts, and a fives wall.

"It had been considered in the initial plans for the centre but the idea was set aside at the time and the decision made to raise funds separately."

The High Country Garden Tour marks the launch of this next concerted effort by the community to fund-raise upwards of \$200,000 needed to build the facility.

***...continued over***

# This issue is brought to you by ... Your Carpet Guy

*Dear readers,*

As your local IICRC qualified carpet cleaning technician I would like to take time to inform you about the ins and outs of the carpet cleaning world. I have serviced Twizel and the surrounds now for well over a year, have been in many of your homes and had the honour to turning your carpets into a well presented asset again. I take much pride in my job and love to share my passion for carpets; as some of you may well have experienced in the past year. I have come across many questions as people take pride in their floor coverings; along with many myths people believe concerning those coverings. Today I would like to take the time to explain just one of the bigger questions out there.

## **How often do I have to clean my carpets?**

This heavy loaded question is often asked when a client sees what has just been taken out of their carpets. There is never an easy answer to this question as it is dependent several factors such as:

- ◆ How many people are living permanently in your home?
- ◆ What is the make of your carpet?
- ◆ Do your pets live indoors?

In my professional opinion it is not the amount of times you clean your carpet per year, but rather the timing of that clean. As we enter into the winter season we all start living inside again. We light our fires, all cooking gets done inside as the BBQ retires, and we watch TV eating our snacks. We catch a cold, sneeze and cough and guess where it all ends up? Gravity takes control of all these and they head towards the floor coverings and upholstery. Before you know it there is a bacteria and mould party going 24/7 causing the indoor air quality to plummet and giving potential for many more air pollution issues.

As a father of five, I want to see my kids get through winter with the least amount of asthma, eczema and other air pollutant problems as possible. I always take the time to clean my carpets at the start of winter followed again by a touch up in spring. By doing so I not only increase the indoor air quality during the winter when we are all cooped up, but I also decrease the wear and tear on my carpets. My carpets then last longer and look exceptional all year round.



What about the cleaning process? Well, a good carpet cleaner will understand that nobody would like to sit in soggy carpets for days over winter. I personally dry the carpets for my clients as required through the use of good quality gear that will guarantee a dry space in a very short time. If you have any questions regarding this add or any other questions you wish to have answered please feel free to contact me via phone or Facebook page.

*Healthy living everyone!*

**Wouter Smit**

**03 435 0116**

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**wjcsmit@xtra.co.nz**

**FB: YOURCARPETGUY**

## ***Gardens to open in spring for fundraiser ... continued***

We hope to raise about \$50,000 with this effort which we can then use to seek external funding, Mr Gold said.

"It has been wonderful to have the community behind us and willing to open their homes and gardens for this venture," he said.

The gardens are diverse; pocket-size town gardens with big stories to tell, structured and formal gardens, plant collectors' gardens filled with treasures, and rambling, romantic gardens developed over generations.

The challenges of gardening in the high country has resulted in some remarkable and creative solutions – each gardener has their own story to tell, Mrs Gloag said.

"Of course, we're hoping Omarama will turn on one of its sparkling spring days but, just in case, we do have a postponement date.

"There will be food available to purchase and people are welcome to enjoy a picnic lunch in the gardens.

"There will be art displays, music and other entertainment - a lot of all-day-long fun," Mrs Gloag said.

The day will conclude with an auction at Omarama Station.

*(For more information see notice at back)*

Photo

*Rainy day plans: Omarama High Country Garden tour organisers (front, left to right) Georgie Robertson, Jemma and Toby Gloag, (back, left to right) Kate Sutherland, Hank Verheul, Tony Chapman and Craig Dawson, discuss plans for the new outdoor multipurpose sports facility they will begin to raise funds for when local gardens open to visitors this spring.*





# St Thomas' Church - what does the future hold?

*An annual meeting was held last month at which the future of the church was discussed. Ten people attended the meeting and there were five apologies.*

*Here is a report from that meeting by Reverend Ken Light.*

As previously advertised in the Gazette a meeting was held on the 29th June to discuss the future of the Church of St Thomas, Omarama. An aging church-going population threatens the viability of keeping the church open as a place of worship. Although the building is well maintained and unlike many churches in the Waitaki valley more than meets rigorous earthquake standards it is of little value if it remains empty. The meeting is well aware that the building exists for people to use. Furthermore the meeting heard how hard the Omarama community were canvassed, consulted and fund raised to get the church built and no one wants to see it closed. However that decision rests with the Omarama community and not just the congregations that use it. So it was resolved to begin a process of consulting with the wider community so that local people can have their say. Some questions that could be considered are; what does St Thomas mean to you? When did you last come to a service, attend a wedding or funeral or baptism, or just spend some quiet time in the building? Another question is surely what prevents you from coming to St Thomas' and what would encourage you to attend? They are good questions and there are probably others to consider if the building is to be saved. You are invited to have your say by emailing; [ken@lighteffect.net](mailto:ken@lighteffect.net) or; [lee.kearon@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com) or talk with Kay Verheul (church officer) or John Gillies (treasurer). **The next meeting of the Joint Management Committee will be 2pm, Friday, August 11, at the Church.**



# Long-term treasurer calls time

Glenys Dawson has become somewhat of an expert at wrangling loose the purse strings of funding agencies - all in a good cause.

For best part of the past two decades she has spent a significant amount of her spare time investing volunteer hours working to make sure projects to improve the town get the money they need to get off the ground.

She has recently retired from her role as treasurer of the Omarama Residents' Association which she has held since 2000.

Keeping the books - it's not everyone's cup of tea - filing tax returns, charities returns and service performance documents as well as myriad applications required to raise necessary funds.

Arguably the biggest project she helped drive was to fund raise \$750,000 to modernise Omarama's Memorial hall and transform it into a multifunctional community centre which opened in 2013. It was an impressive result given the size of the community, Glenys says. The idea came out of a town 'visioning' meeting. She and husband Craig, who was at the time the community board chairman, could see the possibilities. They own busy GlenCraig's Clothing in the centre of town.

"There was a lack of facilities. We could see the potential...even the school didn't have a hall. The sale of the old medical centre building gave us the seed capital needed, then we were able to look at the options."

The original hall had become "virtually unusable" with no running water and an out-dated kitchen. She now has the reward of seeing it used many times a week.

"Opening day was such a thrill." Being able to attract a doctor to the town once again was something once thought out of reach. The library opened there a year ago. As well, it is used regularly by playgroup, the school, sports groups and for functions, concerts, weddings and other events. The school holds its Anzac concerts there.

"Seeing it being used - it was exactly what we wanted and it cost the ratepayer nothing - it all came from fundraising."

It took "perseverance and patience" to get there. "You have to be very focused yet flexible, to get what you want." Applications were turned down. "You have to chip away at it". The team behind the project organised five major fundraisers "each building on the one before". Since then more projects have followed which have funded new curtains, stage lighting and new heating.

But now there were so many of the upcoming generation using the hall and enjoying the facilities, it seemed timely to pass on the role, Glenys says.

Charlotte Cook has been elected as the association's new treasurer.



# Our landscape through his eyes

Omarama is justifiably proud of the legacy left to the town by artist Colin Wheeler. This month's exhibition at Oamaru's Forrester Gallery - Colin Wheeler an empty street in Oamaru – was a reminder, if we needed one, that the Countrytime Hotel Omarama boasts a most impressive collection of his landscape work.

The Forrester owns a substantial collection of his Oamaru street scenes, works gifted to the gallery by the artist in 1986, but what is less well known is the Countrytime Hotel Omarama features six substantial artworks throughout the common areas of the establishment – the reception, restaurant, bar and the lounge.

(Unfortunately, two panels of the Lindis Study have been missing since renovations were carried out some years ago and despite enquires their whereabouts remain unknown.)

Wheeler, who died in 2012 at the age of 93, was born in Dunedin and moved to Oamaru in 1951 to become art master at Waitaki Boys High School. In 1969 he retired from teaching to become a full-time artist and writer

He became as well known for his rural artworks as his street scenes.

But his favourites subject matter for both was the buildings, the landscape and people at their work in those landscapes.

Forrester Gallery director Jane Macknight says Wheeler was well known having lived in and painted images of Waitaki for more than 50 years. But despite his "tremendous output and talent" he was not recognised more widely in New Zealand, something the gallery was seeking to redress.

"We want the rest of the country to find out what a marvellous artist he was."

**The exhibition in Oamaru runs until Sunday, July 23.**

**Countrytime Hotel Omarama reopens for the summer season on October 1.**







# Omarama's i-Site services - where to from here?

The Omarama business community is fast running out of patience with the long-running saga that is the what, where and when Tourism Waitaki will resume providing visitor information services in the town ... a saga that looks to continue for a time yet.

At the recent Tourism Waitaki District Strategy meeting, in Omarama, Omarama Hot Tubs owner Jan Thomas, whose contract with Tourism Waitaki to provide information services officially ended in March 2016, although she continued to provide them on a month-by-month basis until March this year, proposed a staffed mobile site be set up adjacent to GlenCraigs. She had also offered to house a stand-alone site on the Hot Tubs premises.

Last month, at the Ahuriri Community Board meeting Waitaki District councillors Peter Garvan and Craig Dawson were asked by chairman Graham Sullivan to relay their concerns about Tourism Waitaki and the provision of information services in the Waitaki Valley to the executive committee.

This followed considerable discussion by board members about the present state of affairs in Kurow and Omarama.

Concerns were also raised at June's Omarama Residents' Association meeting and it was resolved chairman Ross Gold would write to the parties concerned to impress upon them the need for a service to operate again in the town and as soon as possible.

Last week, (Thursday, June 27) Tourism Waitaki met with the Waitaki District Council's executive committee where the issue was discussed. The executive committee is Mayor Gary Kircher, deputy mayor Melanie Tavendale and councillors Colin Wollstein, Mr Garvan and Mr Dawson.

In an interview on Monday, (July 3) Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill said he had met with the executive committee and "had a good chat".

"We are drafting off some options and once we are all comfortable with that we will let people know, as quickly as we can. We're not sure of the timeline at this stage."

"There is sensitivity around the options so we're not discussing those right now."

Mr Gaskill confirmed using a mobile unit or waterproof electronic kiosks were on the table.

"We are still looking. We don't want to "pre-empt the outcome

"The committee asked us to investigate a few further things which we have been doing."

Mr Gaskill would not confirm if he had been asked to look at setting something up on site with the public toilets – "mainly because it's not my area to comment on".

"It's fair to say there is enthusiasm for making something sustainable and fully functional to deliver the outcomes, Tourism Waitaki and the council want."

Mr Gaskill said he should be able to give the Omarama Gazette an update on progress by the end of the month.

Mr Dawson confirmed both the Kurow and Omarama situations were discussed at last week's meeting.

From his canvassing of Omarama businesses over the past few years he believed most wanted a staffed site in the town.

"We are waiting to see what proposals Tourism Waitaki will come back with, I imagine by the end of this month."

A mobile site in the town centre was considered to be a "no-goer".



**...continued**

"I don't see the point in a stop-gap measure."

The committee wanted a "decent information centre, well-funded".

Because the council's toilet strategy was coming up for review the option of combining information services and toilets on one site was being considered, he said.

"This could be fast-tracked."

Mr Dawson said he had not spoken to the landowners who own land adjacent to the toilets which would be required if development was to include an information centre.

"It would be up to council officers to negotiate the relevant land deals to make this happen."

A temporary solution is "not going to cut the mustard".

"I want to do the toilet and information centre in one hit – do it once and do it right."

Mrs Thomas said, despite promises, she had not heard back from Mr Gaskill about her proposal. "It's just a waste of time." She said she was continuing to provide services informally as were other businesses in town.

After snow affected roads in the region this past weekend she said she had numerous travellers call in making inquiries which was a "prime example" of the need for a service.

Ahuriri Community Board member and Omarama Top 10 owner Tony Chapman said it was clear Omarama and the Waitaki Valley towns were losing business because of the situation.

"It's very poor and pathetic to say the least that nothing has been done. People aren't stopping."

Statistics produced by MBIE\* which he, as an accommodation provider, contributed to, showed visitor numbers to the district were falling well behind other districts and, this, when the tourism industry was the number one earner in the country, he said.

Mr Chapman said it seemed to him the possibility of a permanent site could be some years away "by the time they get the dirt and the consents needed".

He understood there had been options for temporary solutions put to Tourism Waitaki which had not been taken up.

"Something needs to be in place before October."

**Continued over...**

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## **# POTM Pet of the Moment**

Sugar is a real sweetie, if you'll pardon the pun. She just loves apples and has discovered carrots are not so bad, either. The rising four-year-old mare is a Clydesdale-cross with attitude and Jo Price has been her best mate for just over a year now. "I'll have her forever."

Despite the fact she looks like butter wouldn't melt, this mare is earning a rep for being a bit obnoxious - determined to get her own way but she may well have another think coming! She's also quite nosey and just a little bit clever. She's managed to open her gate and even been spotted untying a piece of string. Jo's plan is to train Sugar so they can compete in cowboy challenges together and perhaps ride some cavalcades.

Sugar is still growing and because of her breeding will require a special saddle - because "her arse is bigger than her wither"!



# The Noticeboard



**To have your community notice included here email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

**Photo opportunities:** The Oamaru Mail is planning a special photo publication for August 4. Labelled "24 Hours in the Waitaki", the publication will celebrate the colour and diversity of our district through a series of images taken between noon on Friday, July 28 and noon on Saturday, July 29. I plan to contribute to this throughout the 24 hours, on behalf of Omarama and its surrounds, as can anyone else who is interested - more details on that later. If you have something planned for that time and would prefer I come and take photos of you, rather than you supplying a pic yourself, then please contact me - I'd love to help out.

*- Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002*

**The Omarama Business Group's** next meeting will be a gathering at Boots and Jandals Hotel at 6.30pm, Tuesday, August 2.

**The last day of this school term** is Friday, July 7. The school invites all to attend assembly starting at 11.30am followed by a shared lunch. Term 3 begins Monday, July 24.

**In case of emergency:** to prevent any confusion about the location of Lake Ohau Alpine Village in an emergency, the following points should be noted: When phoning 111, advise that Lake Ohau is in South Island and the nearest cross road is State Highway 8 and Lake Ohau Road. Also mention that Lake Ohau Alpine Village is on the shore of Lake Ohau, and is 20 mins (40 km) from both Twizel and Omarama. This will assist the operator to find the required information to enter location in the system and allowing the call to progress to the next screen in the system.

**Bridge Club** - The Omarama Bridge Club meets on a regular basis and would welcome new members. If you are interested please phone Sylvia Anderson 438 9784 or Ann Patterson 438 9493

**The Omarama Residents' Association's** next meeting is at 7pm - **note winter time** - Thursday, July 20, at the Omarama Community Centre. Ross Gold, chairman, phone 027 443 4149 Craig Dawson, secretary, phone 027 438 9132.

**The Omarama Community Library winter hours** are 9am to 10am Wednesdays and 9am to 10am Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Contact Glenys: 027 611 8880

**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 or 027 534 5214 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/>

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**The August issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, August 2, 2017.  
Please submit copy by  
Friday, July 4.**



# The Community Reports

## Upper Waitaki Police news



Hi all,

By now most of you will be aware that I am currently recovering after surgery on my hand. I'm not going to say thumb that will just give people the opportunity to take the mickey out of me.

So in the meantime I am on light duties, with Oamaru staff helping to cover the area when they can.

Good news though, our new Kurow policeman Senior Constable Peter Scott starts in early July so not long to go. I have had the pleasure of working with Peter in Oamaru, I know he will fit in well and look forward to

working with him in the valley. If you do need a policeman for non-urgent matters please feel free to call me, I'll help if I can.

In other news, be aware that there are a fair amount of pigs being hit between Lake Waitaki and Otematata, if you're driving that way between dusk and dawn I'd recommend you slow down and be ready to hit the brakes to avoid a costly repair bill or even worse injury to yourself or others. I have just sent a request to the landowner asking if they will try to eradicate the problem, so we will wait and see. In the meantime though slow it down and be prepared.

Hope you all have a safe month, Bean

- Senior Constable Nayland Smith

03 438 9559, email: [Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)

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



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## And while that particular 'long arm of the law' was recovering...

*Oamaru's Senior Constable Bruce Dow and renowned columnist for the constabulary filled in for Bean... here is his report.*

Recently I was 'forced' to work in Omarama for a few days. Don't worry, I am not complaining though.

Over the period of time I was working there I attended two early morning crashes. The first was when a van failed to make a right hand corner heading into Omarama by the Ben Omar Station turn off and the second one where a wild stag was struck and killed between The Buscot Station and the Lake Ohau turnoff. The message to wild stags here is don't hang around a paddock of hinds when there is a State Highway nearby.

Neither crash involved injury to any great extent and the first crash was the second for that driver that morning. Yip, he rolled it between Tekapo and Twizel funnily enough both times he claimed he was run off the road by another vehicle. What an amazing co-incidence!

The usual speeders were encountered by me. I learnt something about Fiat Ducato mobile homes that I didn't know previously. They can travel at 146 km/hr.

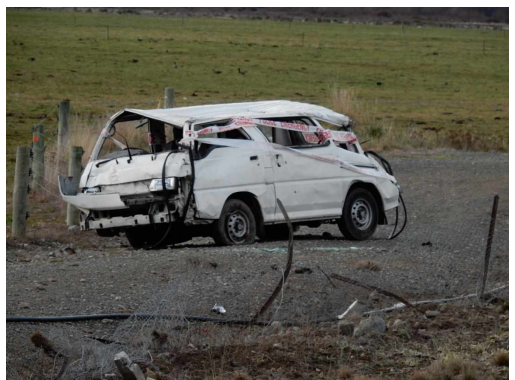
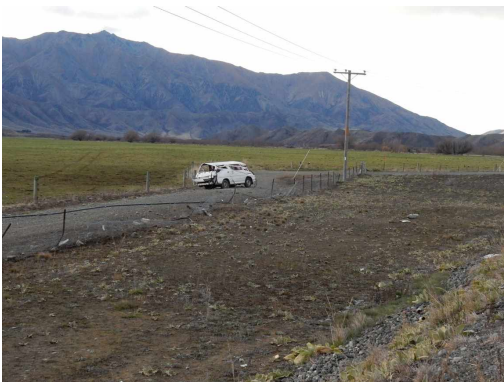
On one day alone, I stopped a total of 10 vehicles. Of those 10, I suspended 3 due to their speed. (over 140 km/hr) Those speeds were 141 km/hr, 146 km/hr (the mobile home) and 152 km/hr. The latter claimed initially he was travelling at 100km/hr but eventually he admitted travelling at 140 km/hr.

Thankfully, not one local was stopped by me so keep it up good folks of Omarama. No dishonesty reports were made to me which was fantastic but a suspended driver was caught driving while suspended.

So overall, a disappointing time had while in Omarama due to the high speeds I encountered. Remember when one of those drivers is coming towards you at 150 km/hr and you are travelling at 100 km/hr and you have a head on crash, that is a 250 km/hr crash.

Scott Dickson may have survived one on a track at 350 km/hr but you won't at 250 km/hr I bet.

*- Senior Constable Bruce Dow*





## Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade

We have had 11 calls for the month of June. With the end of our financial year, we have ended up with 111 calls which is a massive effort from the amazing crews. With winter now here, so are the slippery roads. Please take care out on the roads and allow a little extra travel time. Stay safe - *Chief fire officer Terry Walsh*

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## Omarama Search and Rescue

The draw for the pet products raffle was drawn on the 30 June under police supervision. The lucky winner was Judy Piner from Omarama, ticket number 237. Omarama Search and rescue would like to thank all that participated as well as Vetlife North Otago for generously providing the prizes!  
*Lesley Jackson, Omarama SAR*

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## Omarama Residents' Association

The next meeting is 7pm – note winter time – Thursday, July 20, at the Omarama Community Centre.  
Contact: Chairman Ross Gold 027 443 4149, secretary Craig Dawson 0274389132

### HALL HIRE

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more information about hall hire and availability please contact Charlotte Cook, 027 940 1648, or email [charlotte.omarama@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.omarama@gmail.com). Keys and fobs are collected from GlenCraigs

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## Omarama Golf Club

*By Paul Bowman*

It's a quiet time of year for the golf club, but there have been half a dozen turning up for Saturday golf, which is great for this time of year. Remember the club rooms are always nice and warm for the 19th!!

The wind managed to blow a couple of trees over, and luckily didn't do any damage to the course.

The "3-putt club" had their outing in April, traveling to Central Otago and playing Omakau, Roxburgh and Clyde.

What is the 3-putt club? Every week the 3-putt members are fined for various offences like out of bounds, not finding your ball if lost, hitting trees and going backwards, there is even a fine for being perfect on the day!!

The fines go towards a weekend away playing golf.

This year seven were able to make the trip, and a lot of fun was had by all.

Unfortunately I can't report a lot as, "what happens on the bus stays on the bus".

I can report there were some health issues on Saturday (bad food the night before!!) The winner over the weekend was Johnny Anderson, well done.

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



# Omarama Rodeo Club

From our annual meeting: Jamie Brice continues as president, it's his fifth year, awesome! Steph Voice continues as secretary, it's her fourth year.

And still to confirm a treasurer....

Awesome bunch of committee members, and a welcome to new members to the club.

It's a never ending job to upkeep the grounds and facilities. All must meet the Code of Animal Welfare standards. This year we intend doing some maintenance on buildings and to install shade covers over some of the pens.

The Hillbilly Hunt fundraiser for rodeo, been going for 10years!!

The focus is on family...with colouring in and hunt competitions for the kids - the heaviest mouse and the best-dressed rabbit, go shoot a rabbit with mum or dad, and then dress it up!! Get creative!!

The Friday night quiz, is not your normal school teacher quiz, with interactive sections, therefore the teenagers home from boarding school can enjoy it too. The younger children will have word search while the quiz is on.

The quiz is followed by auction. *By Wendy Parsons*

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## Omarama School Board of Trustees

*By James Kerr*

Recently Omarama school has been very fortunate to gain funding to upgrade the swimming pool. Mulfords from Dunedin will undertake the work sometime in spring when the weather has warmed up a little.

The water quality of the pool has deteriorated over time due to a process known as chalking caused by successive years of paint layers. This is quite a common problem with older pools. Work to be undertaken is to strip all the old paint layers from the pool and resurface it with a Apoxy Resin product which will greatly improve the water quality and reduce maintenance costs into the future.

Omarama School pool is well used over the summer months by the community and people holidaying in the area. It is intended to have the pool up ready and looking smart for the coming summer.

School pools in communities are a huge asset but are becoming very rare, mainly due to the cost of maintaining them, so this funding is very much appreciated.

Drownings in New Zealand are all too frequent and teaching children to swim and be confident in water has to be one of the best and most important life skills a child can learn while at school. Swimming is also a great recreational activity for all ages.

A key for use of the pool over the summer holidays is available from Omarama Top 10 Holiday park at a small cost.

**Omarama School and Board of Trustees would very much like to acknowledge and thank the following funding providers: Omarama Friends of the School, Meridian Energy, Foodstuffs, Otago Community Trust and Network Waitaki who have all generously provided the funding to make it happen.**



Kia Ora Omarama Community,

We certainly have had reminders lately that winter is upon us, I hope you are all managing to keep warm during these cold days.

The school has had a busy term exploring the importance of water and investigating our unique braided rivers.

We have had a number of learning experiences outside the classroom including a visit to Mt Aoraki ( Cook).

While there we had the opportunity to discuss predators and their effects on native animals and plant life, to see close up the consequences of global warming on our glaciers and where the water in Lake Pukaki originates from after walking up to the Hooker moraine wall. On our return home we stopped at Glentanner for some bird spotting. The weather although blustery at times held off raining until we had completed all of our planned program and were on our way home.

Did you know there are only 89 black stilts alive in the whole of New Zealand and that 8 out of 10 native species of bird are on the endangered species list? It really makes you wonder what native species will still be here in 10 years if we don't change the way we think, act and start valuing those things that should be precious to us.

We are still looking for anyone who is interested in sharing a craft or hobby with us. If you know of someone or are interested yourself please contact us on 03 4389-815.

**Our last day of term is Friday the 7th of July. We will be having an assembly starting at 11.30 followed by a shared lunch. All are welcome, so bring a plate and come along, we're looking forward to seeing you!**

Term 3 will start on Monday the 24th of July and we look forward to seeing everyone relaxed and raring to learn.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable holiday break, full of family fun.

*- Kim McKenzie, Omarama School principal*

**Lillie Walsh's Braided river essay: Why are Braided Rivers so important.**

Have you heard about what the introduced predators are doing to our wildlife?

They are lowering their numbers and some birds have high extinction rates.

The introduced predators are wild cats, hedgehogs, weasels, rats, mice, stoats and ferrets. We need to stop this right away as it is not good for our birds. Our Braided River is very special because of our native wildlife, living there.

## ***Lillie's essay continued...***

These predators are not good for our native animals environment so DOC helps by setting traps for these nasty predators to lower their numbers. Wild cats were brought in because when rabbits were introduced they made rabbit holes and the farmers hated that, so they introduced wild cats. In my opinion I think that it was a very bad idea for them to be introduced.

Braided rivers do not go in one big line, they change. The river starts off with one then two then three and so on. Lots of birds live in these places like the paradise duck, wry bill and pukeko. These birds are special to New Zealand because they are native.

With the introduced predators, the food web has changed. Since they are eating our wildlife and their food, some birds get no food or are food.

With polluted Braided rivers, when birds go in the water they may not come back out. What can we do to help stop this occurring? DOC is helping with the water by getting all the rubbish and dirty stuff out of our water. You can help by throwing your rubbish in the bin. If you litter it could land in our water and our wildlife could swallow it and die.

I hope you've taken this information in and are thinking about helping by encouraging yourself and other people to save our Braided Rivers and wildlife.

*Photos by : Kim McKenzie*





# Omarama Golf Club

*By Paul Bowman*

It's a quiet time of year for the golf club, but there have been half a dozen turning up for Saturday golf, which is great for this time of year. Remember the club rooms are always nice and warm for the 19th!!

The wind managed to blow a couple of trees over, and luckily didn't do any damage to the course.

The "3-putt club" had their outing in April, traveling to Central Otago and playing Omakau, Roxburgh and Clyde. What is the 3-putt club? Every week the 3-putt members are fined for various offences like out of bounds, not finding your ball if lost, hitting trees and going backwards, there is even a fine for being perfect on the day!! The fines go towards a weekend away playing golf. This year seven were able to make the trip, and a lot of fun was had by all. Unfortunately I can't report a lot as, "what happens on the bus stays on the bus". I can report there were some health issues on Saturday (bad food the night before!!) The winner over the weekend was Johnny Anderson, well done.

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

---

## Omarama Residents' Association

The next meeting is 7pm – note winter time – Thursday, July 20, at the Omarama Community Centre.

Contact: Chairman Ross Gold 027 443 4149, secretary Craig Dawson 0274389132

## OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more information about hall hire and availability please contact Charlotte Cook, 027 940 1648, or email [charlotte.omarama@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.omarama@gmail.com). Keys and fobs are collected from GlenCraigs



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

## **Antibiotics and Antibiotic Resistance: Something we should all be aware of**

Antibiotics are medicines that kill bacteria and can be given as pills, ointments, drops or injections. Resistance can occur making it harder to treat infections.

Bacteria are microscopic organisms and we have many varieties of both good (protect us from infection) and bad (causes disease) living in and on our bodies.

They can cause a range of infections from urinary tract, pneumonia, blood poisoning, skin infections and diarrhoea. Not all of these need to be treated with antibiotics but may be prescribed by your GP. Antibiotics are medicines that kill or stop the growth of bacteria and not all are active against all types. Some have a narrow spectrum, while others a broad spectrum. Of these sometimes bacteria can become resistant making it harder to treat infections. This could lead to things like surgery becoming very dangerous in the future. Anybody can have the antibiotic-resistant bacteria and may never get sick, but those with altered immunity are most at risk.

But by using antibiotics carefully we can help this issue. Finish any courses prescribed to you and so that micro-organisms are effectively targeted. Don't take antibiotics that have been prescribed for someone else.

Antibiotics won't kill viruses (like cold and flu) so it will not speed up your recovery. The best thing you can do is wash and dry your hands regularly when you are sick, to limit the spread of bacteria, but also wash them to avoid you becoming contaminated. Infections may occur when there is an 'entry point' for resistant bacteria to get into the patient's body, usually through a break in the skin, such as a surgical wound or an intravenous line. The most likely way this occurs is by directly touching the 'site' with unclean hands. Let's just become an aware community and help our future in this area of concern.

**NEWS:** The Kurow Medical Centre has received \$10,000 dollars of funding to go towards the cost of our new ultrasound machine. This Point of Care Visualisation Tool has already proven to be a very valuable diagnostic tool for our patients and cuts down the cost of travel to the nearest hospital. We are now able to look inside a patient's body to see everything from heart valves to a moving baby and pick up fractures, foreign bodies and many medical conditions. We cannot thank Meridian enough for their very generous gift!

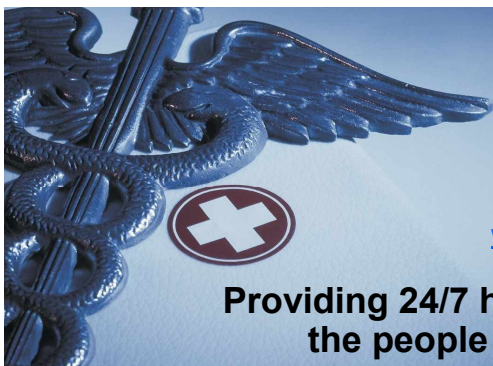
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Kurow offers interesting and varied clinical work in a rural environment to work alongside our GP at its satellite Clinic in Omarama.

You must hold a current New Zealand Annual Practising Certificate.

### **Skills Required:**

- Comprehensive knowledge in Primary Health Care
- Exceptional interpersonal communication and people skills
- Good time management
- Proficient with Medtech 32
- Has a current immunisation certificate
- Starting date as soon as possible

To apply for the position please send your CV and cover letter to

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## ***...continued: Omarama's i-Site services - where to from here?***

In an interview, on Monday Mr Sullivan said he was “very, very disappointed with Tourism Waitaki’s attitude”, not only toward Kurow but also Omarama.

“[A site in] Omarama is very important, another season has passed and nothing has been done.”

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

**\* For further information and reports about these statistics - visitor numbers and spending:**

**<http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/tourism/tourism-research-data/commercial-accommodation-monitor/current-month-rto-reports>**



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**Malcolm McMillan, Lake Ohau Village**  
**438 9798 027 438 9798**



**Georgie Robertson, Omarama**  
**438 9554 027 4861 525**



# Waitaki District Council news in brief



**Ratepayers have been asked** to let the council know whether they want investment in Waitaki's roads to increase, decrease or stay the same. The council's roading manager, Michael Voss, says increased demand is being placed on Waitaki roads, especially its rural roads. The council wants to spend an additional \$2.9 million on roads over the three years from 2018 to 2021 to make improvements; which is equivalent to \$1.305 million from rates.

People have until Friday July 7 to have their say.

A survey can be completed here: [https://](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVF9QZM)

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVF9QZM](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RVF9QZM)

All information can be found at <http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/consultation/better-roads/Pages/default.aspx>

**Fergus Power, the former chief executive of Wairoa District Council** has been appointed as the Waitaki District Council's new chief executive, replacing Michael Ross. Mr Power takes up the role on September 18 and is moving to the district with his partner, Tri. Michael Ross retired at the end of June. Assets Group manager Neil Jorgensen is acting chief executive until Mr Power takes up the role.

**The Otago Community Trust** is offering a \$1000 subsidy to non-profit organisations to attend the Social Enterprise World Forum. Your organisation is eligible to apply if it is running, or thinking about setting up a social enterprise to help up to ten people in the Otago Community Trust's region. This event is in Christchurch from September 27 to 29. The subsidy supports costs of registration, travel and accommodation. Read more:

<http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/news-and-public-notice/news/Pages/opportunityforcommunitygroup.aspx>

**Auditors from International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)** have reviewed Council's building control processes to assess whether or not improvements were made following an audit two years ago. IANZ noted there were no formal corrective actions to be taken, largely due to quality management systems, technical records, and the way in which the building team has been structured to deal with workloads, responsibilities and roles. It made six strong recommendations, primarily about procedures, linking and implementing some procedures. The next IANZ audit will be in 2019.

**The Waitaki District Plan is the community's rulebook** that controls the way land is used and developed within the district. It is being reviewed and now is the time to have your say. The issues under consideration are: temporary buildings and

activities, business zones, managing signage, managing development in rural areas, managing the towns' growth and amenities, heritage values and protected trees.  
<http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-services/planning-and-resource-consents/districtplan/districtplanreview/Pages/default.aspx>

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is  
3.15pm to 5.15pm, Monday, July 24 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>**

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



**Waitaki**

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

## Cats, Roosters, Bees ...



### General Bylaw Review

The General Bylaw is one way Council can help protect people from unpleasant things such as noise, odour and bad public behaviour. We've reviewed the Bylaw and we have identified some new issues that need to be addressed eg keeping roosters, birds and bees in urban areas and responsible cat ownership.

Before we make changes to our Bylaw, we want feedback from you. Have we got it right? Do you have other issues that we haven't identified?



### Emerging Issues

**Responsible cat ownership:** We want to protect native birds and other wildlife and manage public health issues through responsible cat ownership. This would include, in time, microchipping cats, limiting the number of pet cats per household and encouraging de-sexing.



**Keeping of bees, roosters and birds in urban areas:** We believe having beehives in urban areas is ok, however, we'd like to restrict the number to a maximum of two per property. Roosters and other birds can be noisy and smelly. We're considering putting in place restrictions for bird keeping and prohibiting people from having roosters in urban areas unless they are a registered breeder.



### What You Can Do

A consultation document has been prepared and will give you more information about the draft bylaw. Pick up a copy at Council offices in Oamaru and Palmerston, one of the libraries around the district or the Kurow Museum and Information Centre.

More information can be found at [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz). Make an online submission or complete the submission form on the back of the consultation document.



### Important Dates

**Public consultation closes:**

Thursday 3 August

**Public hearings:**

Wednesday 9 August

**General Bylaw adopted:**

Wednesday 6 December

# Environment Canterbury news

**Environment Canterbury's** Council has adopted its 2017/18 Annual Plan (ie the activity and expenditure proposed for the coming financial year) with minimal changes from year three of the current (2015-25) Long-Term Plan. The most significant change is ECan will be increasing its focus on monitoring for compliance and enforcement. As a result Council agreed additional resource would be put into this activity, resulting in the total rates revenue increase being 3.5% for the coming year.

**Five agencies have begun a review** to look at how they can work more closely in the Mackenzie Country and the Waitaki Basin to improve the effectiveness of land and water management activities. Land Information New Zealand, the Department of Conservation, Environment Canterbury and the Mackenzie and Waitaki district councils have agreed on terms of reference for the how review to achieve a closer working relationship will progress. This review will initially be done in consultation with Ngāi Tahu and the Environmental Defence Society, and public consultation will begin later. Read more here: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/zone-news/upper-waitaki/councils-and-government-agencies-look-to-forge-closer-ties-in-mackenzie-waitaki-basin/>

**ECan has accepted the recommendations** of independent hearing commissioners on the Nutrient Management and Waitaki Plan Change, Plan Change 5 to the Land & Water Regional Plan. The Plan Change deals with the effects of land uses, particularly farming activities, on water quality at a region-wide level, and to ensure the effective management of water quality in the Waitaki catchment. Some of the rules for the Upper Waitaki area will have immediate legal effect, while the rest will come into effect when the Plan Change becomes operative. The "decisions" version of the Plan Change has been notified and replaces the publicly notified version of the Plan Change.

The period for lodging appeals starts on 24 June 2017 and extends for 20 working days from that date. Appeals on the Council's decision may be lodged in the High Court, but only on a point of law. Read More here: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2017/nutrient-management-and-waitaki-plan-change-recommendations-accepted/>

**The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, July 21, 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)**

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1 tsp baking powder

1 C ground rolled oats

1 egg

1 C mashed ripe banana

1/4 C sweetener (honey or maple syrup)

1 tsp vanilla

2 T olive oil

3/4 C plain unsweetened yoghurt

1/2 C chopped walnuts

Mix wet ingredients and walnuts in processor until well  
mixed (doesn't matter if walnut bits are still a bit chunky)..

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**June 2017**

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**Lowest temperature: June 9, - 5.1C**

**Most rainfall: June 21, 6.5mm**

**Total rainfall for June: 21.5 mm**

# The 'Casso' Report

By Peter Casserly

June was a good month. Tahr shooting. Tom Innes' son shot a nice 13-inch trophy only to have one of its horns break as it fell down the mountain. Great shot, I heard, at 400 metres. 'Top Gun' Jamie, hunting with his mates up the Mt Cook Rd somewhere, culled six Tahr and made them into salami. Doc will be pleased. It is good to see the young ones out there hunting.

Our fishing trip to Stewart Island was a success. We came home with blue cod, paua, oysters and mutton birds, no crayfish. We picked up some nice Southland swedes from Centre Bush on the way home.

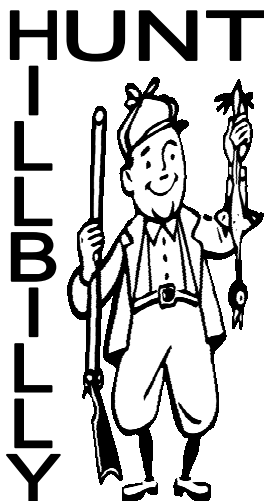
The oyster parasite is a nightmare. I can't see them stopping the spread. The tide goes in to Big Glory Bay and sweeps out to Foveaux Strait and it's spreading like the calicivirus through rabbits. As well, the young spat are amongst the mussel lines. It could be that, like the rabbits, some may survive the disease. It's devastating for the industry.

Last week, was spent blade shearing Arapawa Sheep over the Danseys

Next month ...quail and chukar partridge shooting .

Cheers Casso

Photo supplied



## Shooting Competition

Friday 7th to 9th July

Teams of 2-4 people - Entry Fee: \$40

Register Friday night 7pm at Omarama Hotel

Teams will receive a list of animals they are to hunt for in the weekend.

Teams **must** report back by 3pm Sunday for Weigh in, Judging, Prize Giving and Dinner

Sponsored by:  
**Hunting & Fishing  
Omarama Hotel**

*Fundraiser for  
Omarama Rodeo*

## Quick Quiz Night

Friday 7th July following the Hillbilly Hunt registration  
8pm, Omarama Hotel

Fundraiser for Omarama Rodeo — Fun Evening — Raffles — Auction



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

Restaurant manager Sai Rane has worked at the Heritage Gateway Hotel for the past four years and is about to leave us for a new job in Oamaru where his wife works. Here is a message to us all from Sai: *"It's almost 4 years I have been here and known so many people around which possibly makes it hard for me to say good-bye to everyone. Just don't wanna go without saying bye to everyone around. Its been a great four years of my life. Thank you, kind regards," Sai Rane.*

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

*Sleeping on a nice cold night with the electric blanket on.*

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

*Eat healthy food*

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

*For people who haven't explored or read much about Omarama, In his novel The Zombie Survival Guide, Max Brooks of World War Z fame makes reference to Omarama as site of a historical zombie attack.*

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

*Back to my childhood times when working was just an adult thing and playing was for us.*

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

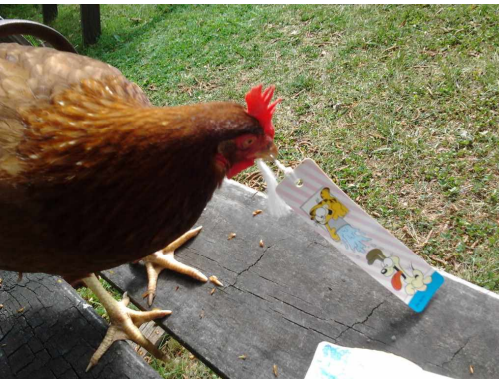
*There is no need to hurry with anything, enjoy your journey instead. Be calm and patient, life will itself bring all the happiness you need.*

Photo: Supplied



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## The View from the Chook House



Spring garden fling...  
We'll book mark that!!

# The Garden Diary - All that glisters

It might just be me? But I was gardening for quite a wee while before I became aware of the little things. Then I was drawn to those intriguing treasures of high altitudes - alpiners. A loose definition - it seems the only qualification needed to join this plant club is to grow somewhere up high above the tree-line. They grow throughout the world – even in the tropics. Grasses, sedges, cushion plants, mosses, lichens and true herbs – plants with no woody stems and often with rosettes of leaves - can all be members of this exclusive community, but it takes real strength of will to survive in this frontier land. We can thank enthusiastic, intrepid and, dare I say it, somewhat crazed Victorian and Edwardian plant collectors whose compulsive fossicking through mountain ranges as diverse as the Appalachians, Himalayas, Caucasus, Andes, the Southern Alps introduced us to many of these treasures.

Do you remember when we called them 'rockery plants'? Those two words bring me out in hives. I have flashbacks to the 70s' craze for suffocating the soil with black polythene, covering it in orange gravel and rocks gathered on family picnics, and punching in poor, bewildered and ultimately doomed plants. – apologies to anyone who loved this look but I can't breathe. I may not know a lot about alpiners but I do know what I like. For me these wild beauties resist being tamed. Still, those Victorian collectors had this down to a fine art, creating magnificent alpine houses to replicate 'the homeland' and showcase their captive beauties.

Most who write about alpiners cannot avoid using adjectives like 'treasure' to describe these wee gems. Understandable. Like diamonds they are honed in extremes and emerge from splitting and shifting shale and gravels, ice-carved crevasses and fissures. Extremes of temperature, blizzard conditions, ultraviolet radiation, desiccation - extreme dryness, and low 'soil' fertility are their daily lot. Small and mighty. Fragile with strength.

In Omarama it's easier to make them feel at home and I have some good gardening friends who have that Midas touch. They make sure they have; a cool root run – imitating that of a shingly mountain slope, where roots are tucked into crevasses; a gritty soil mix, just a little richer than conventional potting mix and so any water drains away quickly. They've found pots and tubs are not the best for alpiners here - the pots can get too hot - remember they do like cool feet even if their heads are in the sun.

As a result they have gentians in sapphire blue and diamond white, primula and fritillaries in ruby red and emerald green and amethyst anemones glitter and glow as they spill from troughs and down their gravel bank.

In Aotearoa New Zealand our taonga tend to be unassuming, modest and discreet to the point of being inconspicuous. The showiest must be Tikumu - *Celmisia* (mountain daisies), buttercups – the Mount Cook Lily, and gentians. Our white gentian hides among the tawny tussocks of the Ohau Basin. And then there is the intriguing *Raoulia rubra* which insists on masquerading as a sheep. I wonder how many heading dogs have been sent up to bring one of those in?!

*Ruth Grundy*

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







• Omarama •

# HIGH COUNTRY GARDEN TOUR

*A unique opportunity to explore  
a selection of gardens in the  
Omarama Area, and help raise  
money for a new sports facility*

**28th  
October  
2017**

**Gardens Open 10am – 4pm**

Tickets \$40 (non-refundable) Children under 14 free  
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Or phone Jemma 0212753662, Georgie 0274861525,  
or Ross 0274434149

*If postponed, Sunday the 29th of October*

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