



-Omarama Gazette -

March 2018

Sponsored by

Trail Adventures Omarama

How times have changed

There's been unimaginable change in Omarama in the past 60 years and it's fair to say it will be almost unrecognisable 60 years from now.

Ron(65) and Sandy Collins live in Timaru. They have an old black and white photo of Omarama's main street, on the wall of their Omarama crib.

Many would say they're more local than some locals, their Omarama roots go down deep.

Ron's parents, Sadie and Arthur Collins, and grandparents, Marnie and Charlie Collins, once owned the local store and garage which sat at the junction of the two shingle roads which met under a towering poplar, known as the 'Black Poplar'.

The large South African poplar, which marked the old Omarama Station fenceline, was the landmark at the junction.

Move forward in time, the poplar is gone, the shingle roads are two busy state highways, the garage is Mobil Omarama service station, and the new landmark at the junction? - Bill Adams' limestone carving of a merino ram.

Reportedly, the poplar was removed early one morning much to the consternation of many.

Ron was born in Omarama.

He thinks he was about seven or eight when his parents made the difficult decision to sell-up and move to town - Timaru - because of his father's arthritis.

He's not sure why his grandparents moved to Omarama but there were relations in Kurow, he says.

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This issue is brought to you by ...

Trail Adventures Omarama

Scott, Dee-Ann and Deborah want to make your next adventure just so easy for you. Whether your dream is to go hard out, or to relax and take in our spectacular scenery, Trail Adventures Omarama provide almost everything to make your high-country cycle adventure happen - even some of the pedal power.

The company's new depot at i-Site Omarama is right at the mid-point of the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail where it tracks east from the alpine section and travels down past the lakes and dams of the Waitaki River Valley to the Pacific Ocean.

Scott Fitzgerald is tour leader and you'll meet Deborah Simpson and Dee Ann Fitzgerald at the depot ready to help you plan your ride whether you have just a few hours or a few days to spend exploring.

The geologically significant Clay Cliffs are just an hour return trip by shuttle van from Omarama, or pedal your way down-hill to Sailors Cutting and take in the changing moods of Lake Benmore and its surrounding peaks, relaxed in the thought you can always book their shuttle service for the return uphill journey.

Not only do Trail Adventures offer rides to suit all abilities they also stock all types of bikes, bikes for all sizes, and accessories.

They have mountain bikes, e-bikes, tag-along bikes, and for the even smaller ones, bike seats, or kiddie trailers, plus bike racks, bike trailers, panniers, and luggage trailers.

Their depot is where they keep bikes in tip-top condition ready for the next excursion so they also have basic bike parts and maintenance equipment for sale plus any extra "comfort features" you may have discovered are quite necessary after making the trek into town. Let's not mention Tarnbrae and they promise they won't tell.

One thing you won't want to leave without is a memento of your experience – yep, been there got the t-shirt... in every colour., plus plenty of other A2O merchandise too.

By the way if you need transport to or from Oamaru, a connection to the Te Araroa trail or any part of the A2O trail, contact Trail Adventures Ltd.

Not only do the Trail Adventures team want to share their passion for this stunning part of the country but they have thought of everything so you don't have to, you can get on with just enjoying the ride.



Trail Adventures Omarama

Phone: 027 937 4472
or 027 937 4473

Open 10am to 4pm daily
Omarama Information Centre

E: info@trailadventures.co.nz
www.trailadventures.co.nz

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It's one of those things you don't think to ask until it's too late.

In due course, Arthur and Sadie took over from Charlie and Marnie. Arthur was a mechanic, Sadie ran the shop, selling groceries and icecreams. The produce for the shop was grown at a market garden sited in the lee on the eastern side of what is now Ladybird Hill.

A disastrous fire in the 1960s virtually destroyed the original shop and the Collins' home. Ron says it was the Kurow fire-brigade who attended the blaze and by the time they reached Omarama their priority was to "save the pumps". The family were put up by Eion and Aileen Woods across the road at the Omarama Hotel while a new shop-tearooms with accommodation was built, about where the Oasis is now.

That fire, and the fire in 1957 which burned down the original Omarama Hall, were the catalyst for Graeme Cowie, Lindis Courtney and others to establish a "fire party" now the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade, about to become FENZ Omarama.

Arthur and Sadie, sold the business to Jack and Alice Menzies but kept a block of land along the Omarama Stream, adjacent to what is now Omarama Top 10.

Arthur built there so the family could return to Omarama as often as possible.

Sadly, Arthur died at age 67, a month after retiring, but Ron remembers they did return very often, "every weekend". Sadie later sold the property to Ron and Sandy on the proviso she could continue to use it for her holidays with friends.

Although Ron's memories of the Omarama of his childhood are growing hazy, they are all good ones. School days, at that time at Buscot Station, were happy ones. He remembers special trips north on the shingle road as far as the old Pukaki Hotel which at that time sat on a rise overlooking the lake. "Winters here were very hard. It was always brown, burnt-off in summer, now everything is green."

And it's not just irrigation that has greened the paddocks, it is the noticeably higher rainfall that has coloured the hills. "Dad would be really surprised – shocked " to see it now. He remembers the filling of Lake Benmore for the creation of the New Zealand Electricity Department's hydro electric dam, a huge concept for the time.

Ron and Sandy made a special point of attending and contributing to the Omarama town visioning session on Saturday.

So, how do they feel about change?

"We come here because of the place it is.

"I'm the one who said I didn't want it to grow.

"I don't want it to change.

"I would like it to stay the little Omarama it has always been.

"That's what a lot come there for – its identity."

Their solution; that land not be freed up, that large plots are not sub-divided, so the town can remain small.

However, Ron acknowledges change is inevitable - "as long as it all changes for the better".

When they're here, he and Sandy make great use of the bike trails, he says.

In the past, the Collins and Woods children would play together at the stream, walk to the river, go fishing, rabbiting and exploring, scrambling up and down Black Peak and it's surrounding hills.

"We'd go out there for hours and hours, Mum would wonder where we'd got to. You can't do that now."

Imagine what the future could hold

On, Saturday, March 3, about 40 from Omarama plus three from Ohau attended a workshop at the Omarama Community Centre to discuss ideas and a long term 'vision' for the town.

The town visioning workshop is one of a series being run by the Waitaki District Council's community boards throughout the two wards - Ahuriri and Waihemo. Run by an independent facilitator, Sandra McIntyre, of resource and environmental management consultants Schema New Zealand Ltd, the workshop was designed to brainstorm with community members the issues each small town faces and what the communities believe need to be addressed in the short and long term.

Once collated the information will be used by the community boards to draw up their priorities so they can recommend to the council what it should do, the rules it should make, and the money it needs to spend in the next five, 10 or 15 years.

It's drawing up its Annual, Long Term and District plans right now.

Topics which drew the greatest discussion at the Omarama meeting, were the growth in both permanent residents and in visitor numbers, in particular 'freedom camping', and how to best manage that and the related infrastructure needs now and into the future.

Included in that discussion was how best to manage traffic flow in the town centre.

Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan told the group the community would receive feedback from the board about the plans that come out of the discussion and decisions, as progress was made.

Waitaki District Council senior planner Mike Searle, planning manager Hamish Barrell, and policy and communications manager Mike Roesler also attended the meeting.



Opening planned for Information Centre

Tourism Waitaki is planning an 'open day' shortly to mark opening its new i-Site in Omarama.

At present, it is setting up the space in what was the St Thomas Church building which it shares with Trail Adventures.

Tourism Waitaki assistant operations manager Brooke Kofoed said two staff members - Caitlin Brown and Phil Jannick - had been appointed and so it was now able to open from 10am to 4pm each day.

Initially, when she first advertised for staff before Christmas, she had no response and had to re-advertise.

Local contractors had been used to fit-out the space and, while some signage had already gone up, more visible signage was to go up shortly, Brooke said.

Staff had completed training in Oamaru and internet access was set up last week.

The i-Site had been "unofficially" open for a few weeks and was already being "well-used", she said.

Although the date is yet to be finalised, Tourism Waitaki hopes to host the 'open' event this month and invite local tourism operators and the community to see the new set-up.

Brooke's contact number is: 027 334 9104



Family atmosphere at Dog Club trials

At this year's Omarama Collie Dog Club Trials, all everyone was talking about was how great the family atmosphere was – never mind the competitions.

Past, present and future triallists of all ages gathered around tables and under umbrellas making the most of the barbeque lunch in the late summer sunshine, and all with a view to the competitions continuing close-by in the surrounding hillsides.

The fact all four courses can be seen from within the natural grassy 'amphitheatre' was a unique and distinctive feature of Omarama's new grounds, life member Ginger Anderson said. Over the course of the two days club president Scott Hunter said he expected about 80 dogs would campaign in each of the four events. Triallists came from throughout Central and North Otago, and South Canterbury to compete.

Dalrachney Station provided the Half-bred two-tooths for the competition.

The judges were: Event I, Chris Hunter; Event II, Chris Calder; Event III, Todd Kavanagh, and Event IV, Elliot Heckler.

Scott said he would like to thank the judges, volunteers, sponsors and Dalrachney Station for their assistance to run the trials. *(Results to follow next month)*

Photos: Omarama Collie Dog Club president Scott Hunter; judge Elliot Heckler and Geva Innes analyse form at the Straight Huntaway event; Henry Murray and Ginger Anderson yard the Dalrachney half-bred two-tooths; Bill Hinchey and Malt (out of shot), of the Omakau-Earnsclough Collie Club tackle the zig-zag huntaway event; Sylvia Anderson, Sarah and Rob Waldie problem solve at the bar; Richard Gloag and Andy Moore grab a bite to eat from the barbeque 'manned' by Carla Hunter; Competitors enjoy the relaxed atmosphere; Thank you to all the sponsors.


Rural Support
0800 787 254

*Otago Rural Support
Trust is pleased to
introduce Lindsay Purvis*



Are times a bit tough? How about talking to someone who really understands the pressures of rural life?

We are local rural people that know from experience that severe weather, finances, relationships, and work pressures can all mount up.

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Otago.rural-support.org.nz



One potato, two potato

The rain stopped.

“Everything stops for ‘Spud in a Bucket’,” Wingy points out.

“It’s the social event of the year,” Lindsay says

While it might not be quite the event that stops two nations there were a fair few gathered round to watch the race to the finish line for the honour of being Omarama’s spud grower of the year, 2018.

Yeah, nah! It does move a little faster than watching grass grow.

There were a record number of entrants – 58 - in this year’s Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama Spud in a Bucket competition, from as far away as Twizel and, reportedly, Geraldine.

The visiting team from Ireland (a big welcome home to Paul, and to all the Tamati clan), however, did not enter.

Spectators speculated sagely they were afraid of the competition.

All bets were off as judge Laurie Ruddenklau dug deep to unearth the winning entries.

“We’ve had an egg, we find everything in here.”

Judge Laurie’s able assistant Ross ‘Rosco’ Kelman, assisted ably.

He was even able to hide his disappointment when it was declared his bucket yielded “six small ones”.



"Mine's a fizzer." Staunch is our Rosco. Fittingly, an excavation of Omarama Golf Club patron Johnny Anderson's bucket revealed seven potatoes and five golf balls. So, he's been practising, golf club people? A hole in the bucket, perhaps? The winner, with 16 potatoes, was novice grower Kanya Xa, who will be able to work a little more green-fingered magic with help from her prize of a garden hose. Twizel entrant Jane Race grew the 'largest lot' and Johnny Anderson grew the biggest single potato... the whole in one. The prize for the healthiest potato went to JR, John Rogers. John (pictured below with Pat 'Wingy' Leopold) also won several prizes at last month's Kurow and District's Flower Show, including a second prize for three stone

Photos: Pat, 'Wingy' Leopold and 'JR' John Rogers check out the action;
 Ross 'Rosco' Kelman assists adjudicator Laurie Ruddenklau;
 The crowd assess the competition;
 Lindsay Purvis presents winner Kanya Xa with her prize.



Employee of the month...

We're a small town with so much talent. Together we do so much. Each month we feature our 'Employee of the Month' - to learn a little more about how our people spend their day.

It would be fair to say a good third of Ron MacPhail's working day is spent watching grass grow, at least another third watering it to make it grow, and the remaining third? Mowing it to keep everything under control.

About 30 years ago, the grass airfield which he maintains was sown with a drylands ryegrass seed mix and since then a "mix of over-seeding" has taken place and irrigation installed.

"It's a 'self-fulfilling' job... The more I irrigate the more it grows, the more it grows the more I mow it."

Ron is Omarama Airfield Ltd's maintenance manager.

This is his third season of "helping out".

He took up the job three days before Christmas three years ago. He had no previous experience so he's been "extremely grateful" for the support and diverse knowledge of the board.

His previous job as Waitikiri Golf Club Administrator kept him pretty much desk-bound, he says.

What he won't tell you himself is, in 2010, he was awarded administrator of the year at the Canterbury Golf sporting awards.

It was to escape the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquakes Ron and partner Anna Howard decided to make the move from Christchurch to Omarama where they'd holidayed in the past.

Ron begins his day early, trying to achieve as much as possible before the first gliders line up on the grid which can be as soon as 10.30am depending on how many tourists are booked.

It is New Zealand's busiest commercial glider airfield so, understandably, safety is all important, he says.

"On a day with good gliding conditions all the pilots want to be out. I try and be out of the way by 1pm."

He's back again at 7pm, for about two hours, setting up the irrigation - 145 k-line pods in total, from west to east, one end to the other, and between the hangars. It all has to come off again by 8am to clear the runway.

Last year, half of the runway was widened to give pilots more landing room and the irrigation system extended which involved burying 200m of pipe and establishing new risers and take-off points.

Recently, the "27 access road" has been filled and levelled with AP20 - that's a blue/green top coarse gravel just right for



Ron MacPhail

providing a hard surface on soft areas - for those of us who need to know. And many of the aging and deteriorating runway markers are being replaced, as and when.

Then there's the other things on the job sheet like tree topping, and the necessary machinery maintenance.

"I'm aiming to keep the place looking good, presenting the airfield in the best light for pilots, glider, enthusiasts, tourists and the public.

He'd recommend the job to anyone but is not likely give it up any time soon.

"No, I quite like it," he says, in his understated way.

"It's great to have meaningful work...why would you want to be anywhere else?"

"I love it when the grass is green."

When he takes a break from his day job he can often be found at the Omarama Golf Club with the other volunteers "helping out" to maintain the greens and grounds, in between games, of course.

Don't they say happiness is a long walk on green grass, with a putter?

The Omarama Airfield is a public airfield jointly owned by the Waitaki District Council and the Omarama Soaring Centre.

Photos: Ron returns to the workshop with the airfield's 1958 Nuffield Universal Four tractor and roller.

Jokingly, he wonders why Te Papa isn't phoning up to ask for it.

Below: Ron takes a break in the workshop.



The O.G. investigates ... The 'who,

Everybody loves a parcel. Even when we've ordered it for ourselves, and, maybe, especially then.

Because of our distance from the nearest 'big smoke' Omarama residents have always relied on what we now call 'mail order services'. We may not send so many letters or cards these days but as we splurge more on online shopping the parcels keep rolling in and courier companies have ramped-up services to meet that demand to have things at once, if not yesterday.

This month *OG Investigates* set out to unravel the mysteries of how best to get parcels to your place.

Okay, guys, It's complicated. This turned into a lengthy, but no means exhaustive, report offering some accepted general wisdom plus some specifics about the main operators.

In general:

1. Ask questions of the retailer selling you the product. What does their delivery charge include? If you're paying for priority delivery, what does that actually mean? And which courier company or companies do they use? There's no point ticking the priority box and paying more if there's just no way it can be delivered to Omarama in that time frame. For most companies the logged 'pick-up time' is 'day zero'.

No matter which courier company you use, there is Monday to Friday delivery only, in Omarama, and no delivery on public holidays. So, if you order something late on a Friday, the earliest it can arrive is Monday. Each of the companies has a specific departure time from the main centre or 'hub' where it collects the parcels to be delivered to Omarama. If your shipment arrives at the hub from, say, Auckland after departure time, it's missed that bus.

2. Use the appropriate address and post code for the service you want.

(Although we're talking town deliveries here, use a clear address for rural delivery parcels - sometimes there can be more than one house on that road.)

We don't have postal delivery to households in Omarama, never have.

Nowadays, most in town have a post box - provided free by NZ Post to all "rateable dwellings". Those who rent a 'dwelling' should make sure their details are changed when they move on so the box can be re-allocated. Apart from the box holder, only NZ Post can authorise the closure or re-allocation of a post box.

If you want the parcel to go to your box - convenient if you're not at home through the day - then make sure you use your post box number and this post code: 9448.

If you have paid to have it delivered to your door, use your physical address and this number: 9412. *(More on this below)*

3. Always use track, then you can trace - yes it costs a little more but it's the wisest move when shipping something of value. And nowadays, you can watch your parcel hurtle through cyberspace making its journey to your place, as its ticket gets clipped at each online stop.

4. Let's train them up - If you don't get the service you have paid for then phone that company and let them know. It can be a hard road finding Omarama, especially if you're new to the business - a quiet word in the right ear can often help educate and smooth deliveries, if not for you, then for the next customer.

what, where, when and how' of parcel delivery in town.

5. Who has the best price? While in most cases only general costs are given, each company has calculators on their website so you can find out what it will cost to send your parcel. If you use the service alot negotiate a contract price.. Beware the extra 'rural' charge.

So who does what?

The Omarama depots:

Four Square Omarama is the agent for New Zealand Post's Courier Post and some things for Fastway provided they are appropriately 'ticketed'.

Mail travels from the Oamaru depot to Omarama, Monday to Friday except for public holidays, and arrives about 10am. Staff aim to have it sorted into post boxes by about midday. The busiest days are Mondays. The Courier Post driver scans the parcel as he/she hands it over and it is scanned again on receipt 'in store'. Then, those who are tracking their parcel electronically will be notified it is ready for collection. An 'authority-to-leave' form must be signed if the parcel is to go on to Lex Perriam for the rural private bag mail run.

Mobil Omarama is the depot for New Zealand Couriers.

All "track and trace signature-required" items are dropped there if the householder is not home or if there is a problem delivering to the physical address. People can phone Mobil to check if the parcel has arrived.

Both Alona and Blair Shaw, at Omarama Four Square, and Terry and Michelle Walsh, at Mobil Omarama, are 'happy to go the extra mile' as a community service because of Omarama's size and location. Both depots would appreciate knowing if you are expecting packages or a drop-off from companies outside of those they are the agents for.

The word from the courier companies:

Courier Post

There is no extra 'rural' charge to use the service when delivery is within the Omarama township.

If you are paying for door-to-door delivery, address the parcel using the physical address and the 9412 post code. If you are not home, or there is some other complication you should receive a card to say your parcel has been left at Omarama Four Square. If this is not happening phone 0800 501 501 and let them know and they will look into it. N B This is the word from the top. But Alona suggests you always have both post box and physical addresses on the parcel to be on the safe side. www.courierpost.co.nz 0800 268 743

New Zealand Couriers run two vans from Timaru, Monday to Friday (except public holidays). The first leaves at 7am and travels through Tekapo to Omarama, the second leaves Timaru at 10am and travels through Waimate and up the valley to town. The word from the top: Derek Edwards, Timaru depot manager.

Use the appropriate address and postcode for the service you have paid for, i.e. 9448 for collection from the Mobil Omarama depot, and the physical address plus 9412 for door-to-door.

...continued at back

The Noticeboard



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

Make sure you check out the classifieds at the back, there may be something there you need to know.

Congratulations and thank you to former Omarama chief fire officer Howard Williams (and Denise) on the presentation of his gold star award for 25 years of service.

If you think it rained a bit last month, you wouldn't be wrong - check out last month's 'Weather That Was.'

Awaiting confirmation: Glider pilot Keith Essex set a possible new world gliding speed record from Omarama last month. It is subject to verification from the governing body - will keep you posted.

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 Carla Hunter 03 976 0504

The Omarama Community Library is open 7pm to 8pm Tuesdays, and 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Contact Anna: 021 132 5586

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 Kurow Medical Centre holds a clinic 8.30am to 1pm, and 2pm to 5pm, on Tuesdays at the Omarama Community Centre. Please phone Kurow Medical Centre, 03 436 0760, for appointments. On Fridays phone 0274 347 464 because the Kurow Centre is closed.

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 1pm, twilight nine-hole golf tee-off 6pm, Thursdays, all welcome. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/

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

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.

To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website.

www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/
omaramagazette.nz

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

**The April issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, April 4, 2018.**

**Please submit copy
by Friday, March 30.**

The Community Reports

Upper Waitaki Police News



This is the first news I've done since Christmas so a wee bit to report.

Just prior to Xmas several holiday homes in Otematata were broken into and various items stolen. The offender gained access by using a crow bar and jemmying windows open. It's worth noting that one home he couldn't get into had metal stays on the sides of the window, despite him trying to bend these and break them he couldn't get in. One of the holiday home owners did some great detective work and with the assistance of the offenders co-workers, the evidence was insurmountable.

The offender who is from Methven has since been charged and is currently enjoying the view from a prison cell.

I've also recently charged a Twizel man with five counts of theft after he was caught breaking into an honesty box on numerous occasions. There has been a recent spike in thefts of this kind around the Mackenzie and North Otago area. It's very hard to identify the person responsible as these areas are fairly isolated and police don't hear about the thefts until they're discovered usually well after the fact. I'd encourage these groups or businesses to make it harder for the would be thieves by ensuring the honesty box is cleared every day, the installation of sensor lights and CCTV cameras all make it harder for the thieves and may deter them with the risk of being caught.

Of course there has been the usual crashes within the area, and I have had a few complaints from locals about overseas drivers. I read in the media recently that tourists are only involved in a small percentage of crashes, this is true 'nationally', but I wonder what the stats would be for Omarama/Lindis Pass area and the likes of Central Otago. Please don't hesitate to call *555 (or 111 if it's an emergency) if you see bad driving, rest assured we do respond to every driving complaint we receive.

Speaking of which I went to a crash about two weeks ago on SH83 near the Waitaki Dam. This was a single vehicle crash with one female occupant. She spun out and lost control crashing backwards into the wire fence which stopped her from going over the bank and into the water right beside the dam. I'm no Sherlock but the half empty beer bottle I found in the driver's door drink holder and the box of beer minus about five bottles, may suggest alcohol was a factor.

There has also been an increase of thefts in Omarama, please make sure you lock your house and your vehicles, keep an eye on your neighbour's property as well. If

you see someone acting suspiciously or just seems odd, note as much detail as you can and call police.

Is your house secure what can you do better, check out these videos on the Police website which has some good tips.

<http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-community/protect-property-vehicles>

I understand that some have had issues trying to get hold of police to report a crime. If non urgent....that is: not an emergency, you can try to phone me first. If it goes to voicemail there's a chance I'm on days off, leave a message but understand that it may be a few days until I get back to you which will be when I'm back at work. If I don't answer the next best thing is to ring Oamaru Police on 03 433 1400.

Thanks and stay safe, Bean.

Senior Constable Nayland Smith, 03 438 9559 email: Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

A special request from our emergency services
Would all residents please make sure their
house number or rural rapid number
is clearly visible at the entrance to their property
so services can find you quickly and easily
in an emergency - day or night.

Justices of the Peace

JPs are available by appointment to:

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

The service is free of charge

To make your visit quick and easy:

- * Do not sign anything beforehand
- * Do take photo identification
- * Remember to take the original as well as the copy to be certified
- * Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your



Malcolm McMillan, Lake Ohau Village
438 9798 027 438 9798



Georgie Robertson, Oamaru
438 9554 027 4861 525

Omarama Golf Club

Copy: Christine Bowman

Another busy month for the golf club with great turnouts on club days. Our course is looking fabulously green, due to the recent rain fall. We are in the process of completing maintenance on our greens, so the rain came at a perfect time to generate new grass growth.

Waitangi weekend we played the annual Otago versus Canterbury game. Just to keep the peace Canterbury decided not to win again this year, therefore Christine Bowman (Canterbury Captain) was again awarded the toilet seat trophy for another year. It was another great day with eight in each team and afterwards we enjoyed our prize giving dinner at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama.

Welcome to our new full members this month: Peter Trusler, Andreas and Carmen Schmutzler.

We are now planning for our Easter tournament so put the date in your diaries, March 31.

Come enjoy the last of daylight saving.

Photos: supplied

Adrian Tuffley presents the toilet trophy to Christine Bowman; The 'Canterbury versus Otago' teams; Prize giving dinner; Ant Ford and Paul Bowman work on the greens;



OMARAMA GOLF CLUB



EASTER TOURNAMENT

Saturday 31st March 2018

Cost \$30.00 pp

Cards in by 12.30 p.m Tee Off 1.00 p.m.

BBQ on course & Meal afterwards

Great Prizes, Raffles and company

Everyone Welcome

Contact Adrian Tuffley 0273478276 for more information



Kia Ora Te Community,

This term is off to a great start with our artist study on Pablo Picasso and his cubist style happening in the junior room. The children are creating 3D cubists portraits of themselves. The senior room have been exploring inventors and their discoveries and looking at some intriguing inventions and trying to figure out what they might have been created for.

The annual swimming sports were well enjoyed by all who attended. It was awesome having the use of the sound system that the Friends of the School donated last year. It helped so much on the day with event organising and calling competitors. So thank you!

Peter took ten Year 7 and 8 children to Peel Forest on camp in week four with the support of Wendy Parsons and Michelle Walsh. Although it was a wet few days (thanks to cyclone Gita) the children still focused on leadership and challenging themselves including rafting in the Rangitata River.

There appears to be quite a lot of coughs and colds about, time for the vitamins and garlic.

Take care,,

Kim McKenzie, Omarama School principal.

Omarama School Swimming Sports, February 16, 2018.

By Elise

The swimming was held at the Omarama school pool. I was so excited to get started. We all had seats, at the end of the pool and all of the people that were watching were sitting at the other end of the pool.

The whole of Omarama School was there, swimming except a few people that were sick. Mrs McKenzie said, "Can I please have the year 1 & 2." Then she went on through all of the year groups. After a long time it was all over and we packed up and all went home. I had a great time.

On Friday at 1:30 pm we had our school swimming sports and everyone wanted to compete in them.

We had a lot of different races, some for those who are learning and some for those who are capable swimmers.

The juniors enjoyed the noodle race, the board race, the egg and spoon race and the longest float. The year three and four children enjoyed freestyle, the longest

breath, breaststroke and backstroke.

The seniors were all really competitive and showed stiff competition.

We also had several fun team events, including the search and find where we had to locate a cup, rock, coin, ping pong ball and weight and the t-shirt race where we had to put on a t-shirt and swim to the other end then give the t-shirt to another team member.

Many parents came to watch us, and cheer us on. Thank you all for coming.

We had heaps of fun, tried our best and showed good sportsman ship to one another.

We think this was the best swimming sports ever!

- **by Room One, Omarama School.**

Senior Camp - by Ella.

Monday the 19th came around extremely fast. As that was the day we went on year 7 and 8 camp. When we arrived at the Peel Forest Eco Lodge we went and chose where we were sleeping. I was in a room with 4 other girls.

As soon as we had done that we got our warm clothes on and went down to base to get our wetsuits, helmets and life jackets on before our first activity, river safety. We got back in the van to drive to the river. When we arrived the instructor started talking about crossing the river. Then Gemma, Suzie and I got in a group and crossed the river. When everyone had got to the other side the lady started talking about eddies before we could float down the river. When we did finally get to float down it was only a short float, but we were allowed to go for longer floats after a while. We then learnt how to do a frog jump off a rock. At the end we went for a float all the way back to where the van was parked. When we got back we got changed into warm dry clothes. After that I went and called my mum. When I was done it was dinnertime, after dinner we played a few games and then went to bed.

When I woke up we had breakfast. Then went white water rafting. Suzie and I sat in the front of the raft. About halfway through we stopped and had hot raro.

When we were finished the trip we went back to camp and had filled rolls for lunch. After lunch we played a few games then had sausage casserole, toasties and potatoes for dinner.

The next morning we found out we were going home because of the bad weather from the cyclone that hit New Zealand the day before. On the trip home we stopped in Timaru and had a swim at Caroline bay.

Over all it was an awesome camp but I am glad we came home a day early.

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

Omarama Residents' Association

From the minutes of the last meeting...

The meeting agreed the association would raise the issue of parking in the town and the new toilet complex which it would like built to complement the new sports facility, at the upcoming visioning meeting.

The topic of freedom camping will also be raised. Lisa Anderson said 'The Pumpkin' was becoming a popular place for people visiting overnight. Hank Verheul said he can't swim in the Ahuriri River anymore because there is human faecal matter everywhere. Lisa said no entity appeared willing to take responsibility for the Ahuriri Bridge Department of Conservation land. It gets passed between Doc, ECan and the council so someone needed to be urged to take responsibility.

Treasurer Charlotte Cook said the financial accounts for the year ending July 31, 2017 had been returned from the accountants with no queries. She has also supplied the appropriate information to the charities website as per the constitutional requirements.

Some repair work is required fix damage caused by a leaking air-conditioning unit. There will be further discussion at the next meeting about the possibility of increasing hall hire to cover certain costs.

**Next meeting: 7.30 pm, Thursday, March 16 ,
at the Omarama Community Centre.**

Contacts: Ann Patterson, chairperson, 03 438 9493, Craig Dawson, secretary, 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. Keys and fobs are collected from GlenCraigs



Omarama Airfield Ltd

An update from the directors following their board meeting of February, 2018

The Airfield

The runway and surrounds have come through the one of the driest years Omarama has experienced in excellent condition and are a credit to Ron MacPhail the airfield maintenance manager. The 27 access road has been filled with AP20 followed by heavy rolling which has produced a much improved surface and common sense vehicle speeds by users will help keep it that way for some time. Many of the runway markers have deteriorated or are broken beyond repair and these are being replaced as and when necessary. The board remains focused on steadily improving the airfields facilities.

Financial

It has been a long hot summer and despite reservations to the contrary the airfield and its operators have thus far experienced a solid season. Stakeholders and shareholders will be pleased to learn that the six month financial result has shown modest growth in revenue and with costs being held below those budgeted there is a consequent lift in the surplus for the period.

Health and Safety

Following a constructive consultation with stakeholders and Gliding New Zealand the board has now adopted the Standard Operating Procedures for the airfield. A copy will be provided to Omarama Soaring Centre for circulation to their members, to GNZ, and the document will be available in the terminal. The company is unfortunately not able to mandate flight following, as a club can, but will work with airfield operators and clubs, GNZ and OSC to see if a mechanism can be developed that will enhance flight safety from Omarama by requiring flight following when any glider is operating from the field.

Events.

The Omarama Model Aircraft Club will be staging their annual Aerotow event April 21 to 23 with flying between 9am and 5pm daily. The event is a great display of the dedication and expertise that the participants put into their sport.

Waitaki District Council Waste Water Treatment Outfall Disposal.

The Council are undertaking a significant and costly upgrade to the Omarama waste water treatment plant. Disposal of the plants outfall sub surface to land is now the standard required by Environment Canterbury. Some years ago the council identified the airfield as an appropriate site and obtained a discharge consent from ECan on that basis. The original plan was to run a single sub surface disposal line parallel to the runway but after discussion with the company it has been agreed, in principle, that the disposal lines will run parallel to the state highway inside the 09 threshold. This location minimises the cost to the Council and any potential inconvenience to the airfield and its users. The council and the company are currently negotiating a land lease for this use.

Briefly

The board is progressing; land use options for the airfield, signage upgrades.

Clive Geddes clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz **Terry Jones** morganjones@xtra.co.nz

Richard Subtil subtil@omaramastation.co.nz **Glen Claridge**

glenclaridge@yahoo.com

Waitaki District Council - news in brief

Several community funds have opened for the application of grants. The Creative Communities Scheme opened on Monday, February 5 and closes Friday March 16. The Community Group Grants applications opened Monday February 12 and close Friday, March 23. Applications to the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund have closed. There will be more funding rounds in August. For more information go to: www.waitaki.govt.nz

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, which was last reviewed about six years ago, is about to be reviewed again. The council will be asking for people for their feedback in the coming weeks.

On Thursday, March 29, the council will open consultation on the district's financial plan as it prepares its 2018-28 Long Term Plan. An average rate increase of just under 4% for the next financial year is proposed. As well as planning to provide and maintain council services, particular attention has been paid to economic development, upgrading information technology, and roading, the council said in a statement. As well, the review of the Waitaki District Plan is to place greater focus on protecting land use and the district's heritage, it said.

"We're now entering a new phase, along with much of the country, to grow our district and make it even better than it currently is. We'll see considerably more emphasis placed on projects and proposals that will bring economic benefits to our community." Waitaki District mayor Gary Kircher said.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Ahuriri Community Board Meeting

Monday, February 26, in Otematata.

The Ahuriri Community Board has agreed to the construction of a 'learn to ride' bike skills park for the ward, to be built in Kurow. It will form part of larger play area funded by the community. The estimated cost, if the park is built to the concept plan, is \$90,000, of which the Waitaki District Council will pay \$50,000 towards the sealed track.

Councillor Craig Dawson noted that although work had begun to upgrade some footpaths in Omarama, it was yet to be completed. In particular, those where work had started in Keene Pl and Blackpeak Rd.

A text-based alarm system has been installed at the Omarama Ave sewer pump station which should provide alerts about issues sooner to contractor SouthRoads.

Concerns have been raised about campers, who had season camping tickets for the Waitaki Lakes Camping grounds, roping off the 60 square metres allowed at the opening of the season but not putting tents or caravans on the site until later. General

opinion was it was not yet causing a major problem although may have to be addressed in the future. Waitaki District mayor Gary Kircher mooted the idea of an extra charge for pre-bookings should it become an issue.

Craig advised two new directors have been appointed to the Tourism Waitaki board – Twizel businessman Rick Ramsey and Megan Crawford, Dunedin Airport marketing and communications general manager.

They replace Marcus Brown and James Glucksman. Margaret Munro, Tourism Waitaki's newly-appointed general manager will take up the role on March 10.

Regarding the sale of the car park beside Boots and Jandals Hotel, Craig said he believed fencing off the park had brought more people into town and heading east. He had seen vehicles parked as far east down SH83 as the Omarama Community Centre, with people picnicking under trees and making use of the playground and bike park. There was a case to be made for shifting the public toilets to the Community Centre, he said.

Board members discussed various events which the ward might host to attract more people year- around to the valley. However, they agreed lack of accommodation was a limiting factor.

Waitaki District Council chief executive Fergus Power discussed the work being done, led by Mike Gray, of Duntroon, to put the valley forward to be considered for Unesco Global Geopark status. If successful it would be one of the first two such sites in Australasia.

The council's financial plan is about to go out for consultation and the feeling was, while the proposed rise of about 4% was considered moderate when compared with other councils, it was time to “put the turbo charger on” , Mr Kircher said. In particular, the council needed more money to spend on economic development and on upgrading its information systems.

The council is at present investigating how it might make use of 'big data' to help quantify and analyse the benefits to the region of such projects as the Alps 2 Ocean cycle trail and Victorian Heritage week. Two companies have been asked by Mr Power to follow through a set case-study and will make presentations to councillors and community board members to demonstrate their capabilities at a workshop later this month.

The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is 3.15pm to 5.15pm Monday, April 16, at the Community Centre, Omarama

Minutes and agendas can be found here

[http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/
Pages/default.aspx](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx)

Environment Canterbury news in brief

ECan has released a report commissioned by the five agencies with statutory responsibility for land and water management in the Mackenzie basin, including Omarama and Otematata. 'The Mackenzie Basin – Opportunities for Agency Alignment' review identifies the issues facing agencies and the community in the future management of the area. ECan chief executive Bill Bayfield said the regional council, the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand and the Mackenzie and Waitaki District councils were looking for ways to better work together for the benefit of the basin, its environment and the people who live there. The agencies will consult with the Mackenzie community, Ngāi Tahu, and environmental NGOs to share the contents of the report, seek views on prioritising its recommendations and understand which recommendations people/organisations would like to be involved with. The agencies will then assess the feasibility, benefits, outcomes and implications of resourcing, before implementing the report's recommendations.

ECan has been given approval to release a new rabbit calicivirus strain. ECan's spokesman Graham Sullivan said the decision was a milestone for the agencies who wanted to use it to reduce the significant environmental and agricultural impacts of wild rabbits. It is the Korean strain of the existing virus and will be released this month and in April because research shows this is when it will be most effective. It only affects the European rabbit and a vaccine is available to protect pet rabbits. The virus will be used alongside more traditional control methods.

Visit MPI's website for the approvals and frequently asked questions.

The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am, Friday, March 16, 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/>



Get well, keep well with the Kurow Medical Centre

By Tracy Young, practice nurse.

Summer is officially over – but it doesn't mean we should stop looking after our skin! The sun's rays can still be intense (even on a cloudy day) and we need to continue to keep care of our skin when outside.

Many of you will have heard the phrase “Slip, Slop, Slap and Wrap” – Slip on a shirt/ Slip into the shade, Slop on sunscreen, Slap on a hat, Wrap on sunglasses. But do you know the changes in your skin you need to be aware of?

Regular body checks and early detection of some skin cancers can reduce the spread of skin cancers and increase the likelihood of successful treatment. You can do a regular at home self examination in front of the mirror, including areas not exposed to the sun. Begin by examining the front and back of the body with arms raised, check your arms/elbows/palms, check your legs/feet/between the toes/soles, use a hand mirror to check the back of your neck/scalp/back/buttocks. You are comparing moles with each other and looking for any that look different to the rest, any new or existing freckle/mole that has changed in colour, shape or size, spots that are itchy and bleed, or that become raised quickly.

The Melanoma.org.nz website has some great resources about self-examination and things to be looking for. If in doubt, book in to get your skin checked by an expert – GP's trained in dermoscopy (available at Kurow Medical Centre), dermatologists, skin specialists or mole check services.

Information from www.Sunsmart.org.nz and www.Melanoma.org.nz

To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 (Monday to Thursdays).

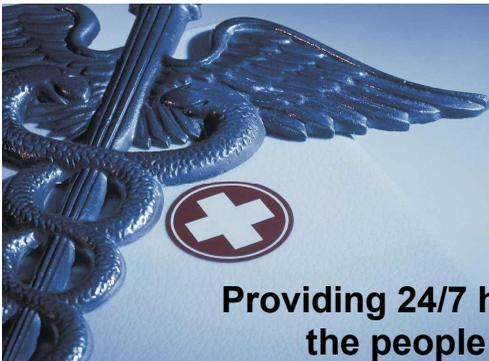
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Feliz



Gifts & More

We are excited to announce that we will be taking over Gifts & More in Kurow on 12th March, we hope you will all stop in on your way past to see what we are up to.

Feliz in Otematata will be closed for winter from Wednesday 4th April but will be back next season from a new location in Otematata so make sure you get in before the end of Easter for a relocation Bargain!

Lisa & Fiona

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*Look forward to seeing you over the break, Do call in, it's our last weekend of the season.
Happy Easter to you all!*





Kurow Medical Centre

Public Notice re:influenza vaccine

Now that we are heading into a new flu (influenza) season Kurow Medical Centre would like to inform all our patients of the following:

There has been a country wide delay in the distribution of this year's flu vaccine.

We will make an announcement as soon as we have the vaccines available in early April.

Points to note about the Flu:

The flu can be a serious and sometimes life-threatening viral infection!

The flu virus is very easy to catch and can affect anyone - it doesn't matter how fit and healthy you or your child are.

It can spread through the air by coughing and sneezing as well as by hands, cups and other objects that have been in contact with an infected person's mouth or nose.

Regular hand washing, covering mouths when coughing and keeping sick people away from healthy people will also reduce the spread of flu.

All adults and children from six months of age can benefit from yearly flu immunisation.

It is especially important, and free for pregnant women, anyone over the age of 65 and adults and children with certain chronic conditions who may develop complications from the flu.

If you do not have an eligible condition, you still benefit from an influenza immunisation available, at a small cost. Make sure your family is ready to prevent the flu each year!

Please contact us for more information. Kurow Tel: 03 436 0760 or Twizel on 03 976 0503



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The O.G. Investigates *continues...*

If you are not at home a card will be left advising you the parcel has been left at the depot for you to pick up. If the parcel is not delivered door-to-door when you have paid for that service Derek says to phone 0800 800 841 number and they'll be "happy to find out why".

There is no extra 'rural' charge to use its service when delivery is within the Omarama township. www.nzcouriers.co.nz/checkit/

Fastway

The Fastway Lakes Run operator travels from Timaru through Tekapo and delivers to Omarama about 1.30pm, Monday to Friday except for public holidays.

If the parcel is addressed with the physical address and postcode 9412 it should be delivered to the door.

Fastway website explains: "If you're unable to sign for your parcel, we're able to leave the parcel in a secure place at your address without a signature. Before we can do this, you'll need to complete the authority-to-leave form located on the back of the calling card you received, or online." If you ask for it to be left at Omarama Four Square or Mobil Omarama please let those depots know.

There is an extra rural charge for delivery in the township of Omarama.

Fastway chief executive Scott Mitchell (021 923 5180) says the company classes Omarama as rural - but "I don't like that word". Fastway charges are based on "metropolitan volumes" and anything outside of that "service area" incurs an extra charge. At one time Fastway employed a "rural service agent" but runs its own service now "to get reliability". The rural charge applies to any deliveries to towns on the Lakes Run, Scott says. If customers choose to go with a company that does not charge a rural rate then "that's your decision".

www.fastway.co.nz

Peter Baker transport - PBT Couriers deliver Monday to Friday except for public holidays. If you ask for a parcel to be left at Omarama Four Square or Mobil Omarama please let those depots know.

PBT also charge a rural rate for delivery within the Omarama township

Timaru operations manager Wayne Lilley explains it this way: Omarama incurs a rural rate – determined by size of parcel and calculated on pick up. This is because it lies outside of a PBT's hub and they employ an agent like Mackenzie Freight or Lakeline to deliver to Omarama. Wayne says NZ Post Courier Post already include the cost of that their prices - "they don't separate it out." www.pbt.co.nz/services/pbt-couriers

DHL Express do charge a "Remote location surcharge"

But after a perusal of a rather massive pdf document which lists the postcodes world wide which incur the extra fee, it appears Omarama is not considered one of those. www.dhl.co.nz

Lakeline Freight Oamaru deliver five days a week Monday to Friday, except public holidays. They pick up throughout Oamaru and deliver door-to-door in Omarama and other valley towns. Dependent on the amount of freight to pick up Lakeline expect to arrive in Omarama about midday.

The weather that was @ 44°29'29.4"S 169°58'19.7"E February, 2018

Highest temperature: February 13, 30.5C

Lowest temperature: February 22, 4.9C

Most rainfall: February 1, 45.5mm

Total rainfall for February: 128mm

(Total rainfall February 2016: 35mm

Total rainfall February 2015: 17.5mm)



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Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park

The FAQs - Those Five Awkward Questions with...



Greg and Adrienne Harper have been holidaying in Omarama since 2005. Greg is a plumber and moved here about a year ago. Adrienne has been commuting from Oamaru but will move here permanently at the end of this month. She is the new assistant at Big Rooster Antiques and Collectibles. Keen volunteers both, Greg is Omarama's deputy chief fire officer and Omarama Golf Club member, where Adrienne is often seen helping out.

Greg and Adrienne Harper

What is the best piece of advice you have been given?

If you're going to do it, do it sooner rather than later - life is too short.

Tell us something about Omarama we might not know?

It's a hidden gem and don't tell too many people.

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

*Nadia Lim - Adrienne
Barack Obama - Greg*

Best day outside the office?

Everyday

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

No greed.

The View from the Chook House



Your feedback is
appreciated.

We will get back to you in
due course.

The Garden Diary - Gathering in

It seems it's always giving back in one way or another, my garden; an ever-changing kaleidoscope of colour through the seasons, a fragrance wheel of scents, and more. I have this sense of wonder that from the tiniest seed, with a little added dirt, water and sunshine, the return is baskets full to brimming of flavour, nourishment and goodness. In many cases I have done nothing at all, not even planted the seed. Yes, I'm talking about you, pumpkins.

Right now, every trip outside and I'm bringing in arms full of its gifts. As harvest grows from a mere handful to too much to hold in the hem of my t-shirt I must remember to grab the largest colander before I step out the back door. Every-time. So humbling and ever so grateful.

The days are turning, the light is changing, there is dew on the ground, and autumn's musky, woody scents begin to drift into the garden adding the base notes to those late summer florals. Puff balls and mushrooms pop through the grass, turned green again. All too soon there'll be the first frost and curing for the parsnips. The fantails are back, squeaky and chatting as they flutter after invisible insects in the darkening shadows of a sun-shower. The kihikihi - cicadas - have already slowed the beat of their fiddle, their bright summer concerto mellowing to deeper, sleepy notes of an end-of-evening blues session.

Talking of kihikihi and fantails - there'll be chattering indoors at Easter - the kids will be home bursting with news, filling the usually quiet house, stretching the walls out to its limits. Easter is harvest festival and feasting in our house.

They'll be hinting for their favourite - warm, spicy and syrupy apples capped with gingery, biscuit-y crumble. It's an old recipe - but timeless. The best ones are, either made from memory and what you have left in the pantry, or from a cream-the-butter-and-sugar-add-vanilla-and-yellow-bright-yolks-stained note tucked into an exercise book. Despite its firm instructions each cook who shares it makes it their own and no-one makes it quite like mum. "I followed the recipe, Mum, but it's not the same." We'll have a roast with a glowing garland of spuds, pumpkins, beetroot, carrots and beans, and there's a new jar of deeply-dense blackcurrant jelly and, of course, gravy for slathering.

Or a barbeque, with corn on the cob, and Cherokee purple tomatoes slow-roasted with yellow and green squash and zucchini, onions, and splash of balsamic, until sticky and jam-my.

An Indian summer day's sun will sink into one of Omarama's glowing sunsets and it will be cool enough to gather the pine cones, light the fire, pull up a rug and te reo kihikihi into the moonlight.

Harvest, home and hearth

Ruth Grundy

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



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Annual Meeting

Friends of Omarama School will hold
its annual meeting at the school.
1.30pm Tuesday, March 20, 2018
All welcome.

Easter Church Service

Omarama Memorial Hall
9.00am, Sunday, April 1
ALL WELCOME

Arborist to visit.

Wanaka Tree Care will visit
Omarama in early April.
If you would like work done
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