



# ***-Omarama Gazette -***

**June 2018**

**Sponsored by**

**Dunstan Downs High Country Sheep Station**

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## **Movie makers set up in Omarama**

It seems the rumours could be true.

Cricket Hop Productions NZ Ltd – owned by Disney Enterprises - has been given the go-ahead to film Disney's upcoming movie, *Mulan*, in Omarama's Ahuriri River Valley.

According to sources, initially filming was also to be done on location at Tekapo. However, Cricket Hop was not able to negotiate a suitable arrangement for the use of that location with landowners, Land Information New Zealand.

The Omarama Gazette understands New Zealand director Niki Caro is set to begin filming of the live-action remake of the animated feature on location from late September through to the end of October or early November.

And according to The Hollywood Reporter, Disney will begin shooting *Mulan* in August, in China and New Zealand.

However, crew will begin to set up in Omarama from the end of this week.

Between 400 and 500 people are expected to move into Omarama and the immediate vicinity for the duration.

Disney representatives have been visiting accommodation providers to make arrangements to house stars and crew, and a check of websites indicates accommodation in town is in high demand from July which is traditionally the beginning of the off-season.

Other reports out of Hollywood say the Disney film's sets are to be "massive and are of an unprecedented scale".

The film reportedly has a budget of nearly \$300 million.

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# This issue is brought to you by ...

## Dunstan Downs

### High Country Sheep Station

Dunstan Downs High Country Sheep Station sits where the Wether Range drops down to river flats bordering the widening braids of the Ahuriri River.

That scenery is easily a distraction from the fact that, year-round, season by season, this is a working high-country merino sheep station.

It's been the backdrop to Innes family life, and where they have earned their living for the past 98 years.

Young Geva Maze, a trained nurse – skills which have been put to good use in Omarama's isolated back country– grew up on her family farm at Pleasant Point.

In 1974, she married Tim and they moved into the station's distinctive A-Frame, built especially for the young couple. She says she took to high country life as if she was born to it.

Tim and Geva took over the lease from his late parents, Pat and George, and moved into the homestead in 1988.

Some 30 years later they're back in their first family home as son Charles, wife Tania and two grandchildren, Madison and Cameron, now have the run of the homestead just as Tim and Geva did when daughter Bridget and Charles were children.

It goes without saying that Tim was born to the high country and, as a young man, when not working at Dunstan Downs could be found mustering at nearby stations.

Then wild game hunting, which began as a passion, became a business.

He became involved in what was a uniquely Kiwi industry - shooting deer for venison from helicopters and later the wild capture of the animals for deer farming.

He still flies his own helicopter - for farming, mustering mostly.

There is no question of slowing down, both Tim and Geva run their own team of working dogs and both still actively farm on the station.

They wouldn't have it any other way and love sharing the back country with visitors.

Their hospitality is legendary and they love meeting and exchanging views with people from all walks of life.

The backpackers accommodation in the old shearers quarters and a 100-year-old rabbiters' hut – are open year-round to independent travellers.

*Photo: supplied*



## Dunstan Downs

### High Country Sheep Station

**Hosts: Tim and Geva Innes**

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[www.facebook.com/dunstandowns](https://www.facebook.com/dunstandowns)**

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# Movie makers set up in Omarama

Last month, the Gazette approached the Waitaki District Council and the New Zealand Film Commission, among others, for confirmation.

Waitaki District Council Chief executive Fergus Power confirmed by email the council had received an enquiry from Cricket Hop regarding a potential filming location in the Ahuriri Valley but at that time had not received a consent application.

The council have yet to respond to further enquiries made on Monday.

However, comments made at the Ahuriri Community Board meeting last week indicate it has the go-ahead.

The Omarama Community Centre meeting room has been booked by crew for the duration.

The film, which was initially due out in November 2017, has faced several delays and is now scheduled for release in the United States in 2020.

The cast includes 'Rogue One' star Donnie Yen as Commander Tung, Yifei Liu as Mulan and Jet Li as the Emperor.

It is a remake of Disney's animated movie of the same name made in 1998.

In the story, based on the Chinese legend of Hua Mulan, a young Chinese girl disguises herself as a male warrior to save her father.

New Zealand Film Commission spokesperson, Jacqui, told the Omarama Gazette it was unable to comment once the film was under production and that our enquiry would be referred to the film's publicist.

However, there has been no reply to that enquiry.

The Film Commission is the government agency which assists film production in New Zealand.

Among the other movies Caro has directed are The Zookeeper's Wife, North Country and Whale Rider.



# Plans to manage Ahuriri Bridge Campsite

Almost all agencies asked by the Omarama Residents' and Ratepayers' Association to speak at a public forum to discuss the future management of the Ahuriri Bridge Campsite have said 'yes' to the invitation.

**The independently facilitated forum will be 11am to 1pm, Saturday, July 21, at the Omarama Memorial Hall.**

The Association has arranged the forum in response to concerns raised at March's town visioning meeting.

It wants to give the agencies with a stake in the site the opportunity to tell the community about their role, and to give them the opportunity to explain how they plan to manage the site into the future.

The meeting will be facilitated by Neil Gillespie, Central Otago District Council deputy mayor and chairman of the Cromwell Community Board.

Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean, Te Runanga o Moeraki Upoko David Higgins, Environment Canterbury deputy chairman and South Canterbury representative Peter Scott, ECan Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee chair Simon Cameron, Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher and chief executive Fergus Power, and Doc Te Manahuna/Twizel Office operations manager Sally Jones have agreed to speak. Land Information New Zealand have yet to confirm.

Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan will attend, and Tourism Waitaki general manager Margaret Munro, ECan chief executive Bill Bayfield and a representative from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association have tentatively said they will attend.

Doc Te Manahuna/Twizel manages the campsite.

Ms Jones told the Omarama Gazette Doc was already working with other parties in the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment Agreement and with the New Zealand Transport Agency on a "multi-agency strategy for managing tourism infrastructure collaboratively and strategically.

"The focus will be on providing a great visitor experience while managing the impact on the environment and communities.

"All agencies acknowledge current use and tourism demand are putting pressure on the natural environment and existing infrastructure, and that there is a need for the infrastructure to be more fit for purpose."

As part of that it would be looking at solutions to problems at camp sites throughout the basin with a view to making changes in time for summer, she said.

"Doc appreciate the community interest specifically in the future of the Ahuriri Bridge Campsite and recognise the community concerns about the bridge and visitor pressures," Ms Jones said in her email.

Doc and Linz are to give an update on the Mackenzie/Waitaki Tourism Strategy at the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee meeting on June 22, which will be followed by a media release.

# to be discussed at public forum

## BACKGROUND

*The meeting has been arranged in response to concerns raised at the WDC Ahuriri Community Board's Town Visioning session held in March.*

*Concerns centre around the sheer numbers using the site – up to 50 on a regular basis through summer - the amount of rubbish and human waste left, and the lack of toilet facilities.*

*There is one toilet.*

*Doc says it provides 30 non-powered tent sites for campers with a maximum stay of four nights.*

*There is no charge to use the site but campers may make donations into an honesty box.*

*Numbers using the free site are expected to grow as visitor numbers to the area increase.*

*Although residents have asked the WDC to intervene, it has stated it is unable to do so because it does not own the land.*

*The matter has also been raised at ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee meetings three months running, and regularly at past Omarama Residents' and Rate-payers' Association meetings.*

*The association included its concerns in its submission about freedom camping to the Waitaki District Council's Long Term Plan.*





# They're cooking up a storm in Otematata



They're cooking up a storm in Otematata. Last month, Neil and Margie Callick took over the running of the Otematata District Club kitchen. The kitchen is open each Thursday, Friday and Saturday night for dinner or a light meal. Neil (also known as the Lakes Coffee man) says the menu, based around seasonal produce, is constantly evolving and he and Margie are keen to create new dishes. The most popular dish to date has been the lambs fry and bacon. The community support and encouragement has been "tremendous and greatly appreciated," Neil says. Lakes Coffee continues to be available for all events and functions.

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## Conifer control on Benmore Islands - an update

Some changes have been made to Land Information New Zealand's plan to remove wilding conifers from the Lake Benmore Islands.

Earlier this year Linz planned to strategically poison the trees on the islands and held a public meeting in Omarama, in March to explain its plans.

It wants to protect native plant species, some of which are threatened, and to stop the spread of wilding conifers onto neighbouring farmland.

Community opinion has been divided on the issue with some saying the trees are pests and must go, while others believe the trees enhanced the islands, adding to their amenity value.

In his report tabled at the Ahuriri Community Board meeting last week, (Monday, May 28)

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher, indicated a compromise had been reached.

Mr Kircher, who is also the present chairman of the Waitaki Lakes Shoreline Authorities

Committee – a committee of representatives of those agencies with interests in the Waitaki Lakes – said, after receiving feedback on its plans, Linz had decided to selectively remove the trees.

If trees were not of the type that would spread then they would stay.

"It has been a real concern for many that the islands were not only more attractive with the trees but that if trees were poisoned the chances that they could fall on people or into the lake where they would become boating hazards."

Those trees near the lake's edge would be felled about two meters above ground level.

These stumps would then act as a barrier to the trees falling into the lake.

Trees which did not pose a 'wilding' risk could be replanted in their place to "add to the amenity of the island," Mr Kircher said.

Linz did not respond to our request for comment before deadline.



# SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, July 21

11am to 1pm at the Omarama Memorial Hall

A public community forum will be held to discuss the management of the Ahuriri River Bridge Campsite.

Come and listen to the agencies who have a stake in the river

- share relevant information with our community.
- create an action plan to remedy identified issues before the start of the next holiday season.
- establish a working party to develop a strategic plan for the management of the camping area into the future.

**Those invited to speak are:**

**Department of Conservation, Waitaki District Council, Environment Canterbury, Land Information New Zealand, Te Runanga o Arowhenua and Waihao Upoko Te Wera King, Te Runanga o Moeraki Upoko David Higgins, Tourism Minister Kelvin Davis and Member of Parliament for Waitaki, Jacqui Dean.**

The meeting will be independently facilitated by Neil Gillespie, of the Central Otago District Council.

The hall is heated

## Plan to be there

# Employee of the month...

## *Allan Elder, Downer Road Maintenance Supervisor*

*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's an age-old question ...how does the driver of the snow plough get to work?

"I've asked that question for years," Downer road maintenance supervisor Allan Elder, says, laughing.

Road maintenance workers tend to be the unsung heroes of winter. We scarcely give a thought to those who work night and day to keep our roads open, until they're closed.

For three to three-and-a-half months each winter, five nights a week, from 7pm to 7am Allan patrols his beat – SH8 from the Ahuriri cutting to the top of the Lindis Pass, and east on SH83 to the Otematata Saddle.

Just after dark to just before dawn each working winter's day he inspects the highways checking for snow and/or ice which could make driving hazardous, and applying grit or ploughing snow as nature dictates.

Allan's hometown is Oamaru but through winter his home away from home is Dunstan Downs backpackers, owned by Tim and Geva Innes.

Truck drivers travelling the busy SH8 route to Central Otago know where he is and often call in to let him know where they've come across bad patches.

Conditions change quickly and can be quite different from one end of his beat to the other, Allan says. The morning Omarama Gazette visited it was -6C in Omarama but -8C at Dunstan Downs.

There can be a shower of rain and then it freezes. As the sun comes up the road can thaw and then suddenly freeze again. The past weekend there had been a light snowfall but running the plough over it just "polished it" so grit was spread. Once the snow and ice have cleared, it is the grit which can pose the hazard. Allan says he doesn't claim to be the world's best driver but too many people do not drive to the conditions – it is an Alpine Pass. There is a lot more traffic on the highways, too, especially at night, compared with when he first started. "There'd be four times as many trucks."

He began spending his winters at Dunstan Downs about 10 years ago when he went on to the 24/7 shift cycle.

"You get a pretty good idea from here of what it's like on top [ at the Lindis Pass summit] ."

Before that he would travel from Oamaru to work and back each and stay at the pub when necessary. Camped up with all the truckies who waiting for the road to open he "never had to buy a beer."

"[There are] heaps of stories I could tell, a lot of them I can't."

As you can imagine there have been some adventures. One time he was called up from Oamaru to clear the pass road and driving his two-wheel-drive ute (only the



bosses got the 4WDs) got to within sight of the 5km marker before the Lindis summit “when I lost the road”. The plough working from the Central Otago side came across, picked him up and took him to his grader. “I got into my grader and carried on working.”

After so many years one winter tends to merge into another but he recalls a particularly bad snow event one year.

“In those days we used to get real snow...Queenstown ran out of tucker. The snow kept falling in huge drifts, we just couldn't get it all shifted. Trying to get it cleared was just about impossible. We had about seven days of snow.”

In the end Mother Nature intervened with a warm Nor'west change and heavy rain opening the highway once again.

Another time, it was getting late and his supervisor said they may as well knock off because there wasn't much more that could be done until morning. But he woke in the night to discover there had been a power cut. “I was thinking, geez, it's cold.”

He decided the warmest place was his truck so he set off to plough snow until the morning. He arrived back to find Tim and Geva had cooked him breakfast on the barbeque. “Tim and Geva look after me – very well.

“And Bean (Senior Constable Nayland Smith)– we're lucky to have him, he's really good.”

Allan gets two days off a week when he goes home to wife Lorraine. His Otematata colleague, Terry Walsh, takes on the shift. His work has almost always taken him away from home. In the past he has worked for Waitaki Transport, Fulton Hogan and the Ministry of Works, at one time doing similar work on the Pig Root road.

But they were short of a grader driver for the Lindis so he came up to fill in.

“I've been here ever since.”

He says he's always had a fascination for transport machinery. “My father worked for MOW.” Summers are spent on road maintenance in other parts of the country, grading near Glenorchy, or Christchurch, “anywhere there's work”.

Allan will be 64 in August – two more winters to go, he says. But he is unsure about retiring. “Even if I could just keep doing winters.” He was lined up for redundancy two years ago - on June 30. That day the boss asked if he would stay on until September.

“So, I pretty much carried on as I was.

“They've [Downer] been good to me.

“I've been really lucky...met a lot of people. I'm pretty much my own boss [because of the isolation]. I love it I like having to make my own decisions and then, whether it's right or wrong, you've got to stay with it. I write everything down in a diary ...I've thought about writing a book.”

But then, he says, some of the best stories he probably can't tell, and laughs.



# We had our say,

The Waitaki District Council's Long Term Plan is all but signed off so how might Omarama fare with its requests?

In all, 173 submissions from throughout the district were made to the plan, 59 of those were verbal submissions.

Included in those were written and verbal submissions from the Omarama Residents' and Ratepayers' Association, and the Ahuriri Community Board which were drawn-up following input from the town visioning session held in March.

(The Association's submissions to the hearings were discussed on Radio New Zealand National, and in the Otago Daily Times)

At its meeting last week, the council was to consider 18 new projects to add to those it consulted on for inclusion in its 2018-28 plan ahead of finalising the plan later this month.

If these are approved rates will need to go up by 3.23% in the first year, in the second year, rates would go up 4.52% and in the third year rates would rise by a further 4.28%.

So, what items on Omarama's wish list could get the tick?

The Residents' Association asked the council to; develop a town concept "master plan" to address planning issues and improve parking, cycle and pedestrian access in the town centre, for support for the Omarama Community Centre's proposed sports facility, to build more toilets, improve provisions for waste collection and disposal, look at gaining 'Night Sky' accreditation, and better manage freedom camping.

The supporting documents (*on the council website under minutes and agendas, meeting of May 29*) produced by council staff to be discussed at last week's meeting made recommendations on those submissions for final "approve, stop, or defer" votes from councillors.

- The report recommends \$20,000 be allocated to drawing up a concept plan for Omarama.
- \$30,000 has been budgeted for "street-scaping" in Omarama.
- There has been no monies directly allocated to the Community Centre's proposed sports facility.
- The Omarama Public Toilets will be upgraded, however, it appears no additional toilets are planned.
- The council will direct Tourism Waitaki to look into dark sky accreditation for Omarama and Ohau. However, Tourism Waitaki have confirmed this is not one of its present projects.
- \$10,000 is to be allocated to each ward for walkways – (the Ahuriri Ward encompasses Kurow Duntroon Otematata Omarama and Ohau )
- It recommends Henburn Road be included in the council's seal extension programme as a matter of priority.
- Alps 2 Ocean will receive an additional \$50,000 on top of its \$100,000 for maintaining and operating the trail for the next three years.

# so how did we fare?

The council also consulted on its Waste Management and Minimisation plan. The community board's request to double the number of hours the resource recovery parks are open looks likely to be declined, although some trial work into the feasibility of different arrangements could take place (*Read more in the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting report over*)

The council report recommends litter bin servicing is increased and this could be paid for out of the Ahuriri Ward reserve funds.

The council wants retain present opening hours and increase fees to make sure it covers costs.

From July 1 the cost to dump general rubbish will increase from \$65 per cubic metre to \$120 per cubic metre, and the cost to dump green waste will increase from \$20 to \$50 per cubic metre.

Recycling will remain free.

Operating a 24-hour drop off for recycling looks unlikely in the immediate term because the council wants to bring costs down and increasing the hours for drop-off would mean an increase in the cost to handle and transport more material.

*The Omarama Gazette will follow up on the community response to these decisions in the July issue, after the Council's meeting later this month to finalise the plan.*



# Hard work and lots of love

More than 40 people dressed in pink and headed to Boots and Jandals' Pink Ribbon Brunch, last month.

There was a minute's silence while we held those who were precious to us in our hearts because we could no longer hold them in our arms.

And there were tears and hugs for those battling the insidious disease that is cancer.

For it has touched many lives in this small community of ours.

In total, \$2190.00 was raised for breast cancer research.







# The O.G. investigates

## Are our high country highways different?

In March, OG Investigates set out to find some answers to the question, Are our high country highways different?

If you remember, late last year, in an article published in the New Zealand Herald, New Zealand Police Mid-South Canterbury area commander Inspector Dave Gaskin told reporter Lynley Bilby; *"claims by officers patrolling the region's roads that foreign drivers were causing the bulk of driving incidents on South Island highways were not correct."*

This was in response to comments made by Twizel Senior Constable Bruce Francis that 80% of the tickets he had recently issued had been given to overseas tourists.

In the article Inspector Gaskin said: *"The Twizel officer and other local police were 'shooting off at the mouth' about overseas drivers and unfairly maligning foreign and foreign-looking drivers...Some of these guys in small areas will deal with a particular thing in their area and they shoot off at the mouth and are not quite correct. They [the officers] are suffering from tunnel vision."*

People contacted the Gazette questioning Inspector Gaskin's statements concerned he was undermining those police who serve in our region's small towns.

The general consensus of the communities in this area is that our regional statistics will differ markedly from the national statistics. So, the O.G tried to verify the statistics. All police in the area have been told they are not to speak to media on the subject and to refer any enquiries the police media centre.

By email a police media spokesperson passed on Insp Gaskin's response to our inquiry:

*"He has told me that since the beginning of December 2017, nine people have died on the road in Mid-South Canterbury Police Area. These deaths have occurred across*

*eight crashes and only one of these people was not a New Zealand citizen but was residing locally."*

We were advised to file an Official Information Act request if we wanted any further information.

After quite some delay the Police responded to our OIA request to provide –

1. the number of driving complaints dealt with by each of the Fairlie, Tekapo, Twizel and Omarama police between December 26 and December 29, 2017?
2. The number of tickets issued for the same period by each of the above?
3. What country issued the driver's license in each case?
4. Of each of the complaints/tickets issued on those days, in each of those locations, how many of those involved were rental company vehicles?

Here is the OIA response from Insp Gaskin:

1. Driving complaints for individual stations is not able to be obtained. I have checked the data over the period requested and can advise that in Mid-South Canterbury there were 32 driving complaints on the 27th of December, 39 on the 28th, 47 on the 29th and 44 on the 30th. Mid-South Canterbury covers the region from the Rakaia River to the Waitaki and back to the main divide. It does not include Omarama Station area.
2. I understand the infringement notices issued for each station area by the various staff who were working within that location has already been supplied by the Infringement Bureau. – Please see attached spreadsheet.
3. Information as to the nationality of drivers who receive notices is not kept therefore the information is not available.
4. Information as to whether the vehicle was a rental vehicle or not is not kept by the Police and therefore not available

The spreadsheet Insp Gaskin refers to states these were the number of infringe-



ment notices (tickets) issued by each station for that time period....

FAIRLIE	63
LAKE TEKAPO	111
OMARAMA	121
TWIZEL	2

Quite obviously, it would take a lot more to-ing and fro-ing to get any further official information from the police on the subject.

OG Investigates ran this response past a police staff member who works outside of the regions and who is also not authorized to speak to the media.

That source said the figures produced "did not make sense".

"All 1Us (1U is police-speak for driving complaints that are logged through the \*555 system) are collated at central comms centre, that is all retrievable."

Although few 1Us result in a crash the numbers are "disproportionately weighted against" overseas license holders in the areas specified.

This information can be checked, although it is time consuming, because the person's name and address are written on the ticket, the source said.

In their opinion, since the Kaikoura Earthquake, traffic policing of SH8 has been under resourced because staff were moved to police the inland route to Marlborough when SH1 was closed.

The reason people were resorting to extreme measures such as confiscating drivers keys was because those people knew it could be quite a distance between patrolled areas, the source said.

We'll let Lumsden man Dave Miller have the (almost) last word.

Mr Miller, his wife and teenage daughter escaped death or serious injury in a crash on the Lindis Pass on Boxing Day last year, after a Japanese doctor fell asleep at the wheel and hit them head on.

Kansei Uno, after travelling for almost 24 hours, rented a car in Queenstown and immediately set off for Mt Cook.

He was convicted of four counts of careless driving causing injury and ordered to pay the Miller family \$15,000.

Mr Miller is advocating for changes which would see a compulsory "stand-down" period for those arriving from overseas before they are allowed to get behind the wheel.

He does not understand why those arriving in the country do not have to prove they are competent drivers when any New

Zealander who wants a license has to undergo "a lot of training".

From his research he believed as much as 90% of all driving complaints in the Lindis Pass area could be attributed to overseas license holders.

"But you can make statistics say anything." It was true very few of these resulted in fatalities.

"But, I'm sure Nayland Smith (who attended the Boxing Day crash) would far rather be with his family on Boxing Day than attending a road accident.

"That must take up an awful lot of his time compared with what he could be doing in the community," he said.

### **And there-in lies the crux.**

The numbers of overseas visitors driving on our high-country highways is set to increase exponentially in the next few years so it's time to face facts about what they contribute to poor driving statistics.

What is the true cost to our small towns?

Police are taken away from community duties to attend to driving complaints. They and our emergency service volunteers - the Fire Brigade, First Response and St John - and their families and employers, bear the brunt of the increasing workload. There is a cost to processing infringements through the courts and the costs to treat injuries from accidents.

Dare I say it, by not wanting to face a few unwelcome facts, perhaps it is Insp Gaskin who has tunnel vision?

# ‘Pat the Rat’ returns

Let's make it happen, they said.

It was an idea which had been always been on the back-burner but the timing was suddenly perfect.

So, a great plan for the excursion was hatched.

They knew they'd never get him there if they didn't tell him where he was going.

But they kept the second part of the plan a complete surprise.

Last week, good friends and fellow conspirators Lindsay Purvis, Julie and Bruce Dyson, and Lex and Jan Perriam with the support of the members of Boots and Jandals Bar Social Club 'loaded' Doreen and Pat Leopold into the pub mini-van and took off for Dunedin.

More than fifty years ago, from 1966 to 1968, Pat Leopold (83), known to us as 'Wingy', was president of the Otago Motor Cycle Club, founded in 1946.

His racing nickname was 'Pat the Rat'.

The plan was to take 'Pat the Rat' back to his old haunts for a bit of a catch-up with old mates

"Wingy has given decades of service to the community, was a volunteer for the Otago Rural Fire Brigade and helping with fundraising for many groups over the years," Lex said.

The idea was to return to the club on a meeting night for a bit of a catch up.

As luck would have it special guest at May's meeting was Hayden Scorringer with his racing bike who had been invited to speak about his successes at the National BEARS (British European American Racing Series) championship.

The rest of the evening was spent reminiscing and comparing notes.



What Wingy didn't know was, Lindsay had arranged that the next day he would be taken to see old racing mate Bill (Junior) Veitch to check out his collection of vintage motor cycles.

Pat and Doreen recently lost their daughter, Tania, to cancer. She was a member of the Otematata Volunteer Fire Brigade and known throughout the valley for her volunteer and fundraising work.

Jan and Lex would like to thank all who supported the excursion – among them Bruce and Julie Dyson of Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama and the bar social club, Bill Veitch, Trevor McDonald, Otago Motorcycle Club president Derek Partridge, secretary Marion Dodds and treasurer Alan Dodds, and Colin Herd and 'Go Bus' for allowing Lex and Jan time off from school bus driving duties.

*PHOTOS: Lex Perriam*

*Left: 'Pat the Rat' in his heyday, Pat (Wingy) Leopold reminisces with old mate Bill (Junior) Veitch.*

*Below: Wingy checks out the photo boards at the Otago Motor Cycle Club rooms., he meets motor cyclist racer Hayden Scoringe. He and wife Doreen enjoy a quiet moment.*



## Acknowledgement

We would like to say thank you to all who sent cards, paid visits and brought food to us on the very sad occasion of the loss of our darling daughter, Tania.

She will be sadly missed by many.

Your kind thoughts have touched us deeply,

*Doreen and Pat Leopold*

# The Noticeboard



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

**The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club** meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the 'Top Pub' - the Blue and Gold pub, in Kurow. All welcome.

**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** has changed to winter hours open 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 12.30pm . Club Captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276. [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/omaramagazette.nz)

To receive email alerts between monthly editions of the Omarama Gazette sign up to our 'Local List'. Email [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com) and put 'Local List' in the subject line.

## **Changes on the airwaves**

If you were a Port FM, The Edge, or High Country FM listener in Omarama then things have changed recently. Port FM is now More FM, with breakfast announcer's Simon Barnett, Gary McCormick and Lana Searle. Afternoons are with Jason Gunn and Jay-Jay Feeney (formerly of The Edge) The Edge is now The Breeze with breakfast announcer's OJ Jackson (formerly of Port FM), followed by Ali Leonard, then Robert Scott. High Country FM's Omarama transmitter has been sold, and now broadcasts "Brian FM", well known for its catch phrase of playing what WE feel like.

Also, we still have our own transmitter (thank you Omarama Residents' and Ratepayers' Association), that re-broadcasts RNZ National.

Frequencies across the dial are now; 90.9 MHz - More FM, 97.3 MHz - RNZ National, 98.9 MHz - The Breeze, 104.5 MHz - Brian FM

**N.B. RNZ National is not on air at present  
and is likely to remain so until access can be gained to the site  
to make the necessary repairs.**

## **Advertising pays for production and distribution.**

To find out about publication and close-off dates,  
and how much it costs to place your advertisement,  
please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or  
email [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

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

**Please submit copy  
by Friday, June 29.**



# The Community Reports

## Upper Waitaki Police News



Howdy everyone,

The beginning of May saw me away for two weeks at Dip Flat, Marlborough, participating in the National Police Search and Rescue (SAR) course which is held annually. I took a lot of learning from the course which covers all aspects of SAR including the latest search techniques and search management methods. Part of the course includes a three-day SAR exercise where participants are required to locate a missing person or in this case two separate hunting

parties. This involves some of the trainers actually going bush for five days, so that their tracks (boot prints etc) aren't fresh but actually aged as they would be for real. Some participants are chosen to be search management while the remainder are required to search and stay out in the bush for two nights. I was lucky enough to be a searcher for a change, it gave me an insight into how important it was to ensure any task set by management was well planned and that a wee creek on a map may actually be a raging torrent with 20 metre bluffs in reality. The highlight of the course for me was completing river crossing techniques. Part of this required you to lay face down in the river in about two feet of water with the instructor holding your pack so you don't float away (for safety reasons) you're then required to demonstrate that you can unclip your backpack and remove your pack while still lying face down in the water. I can hold my breath for a fair while, so after about 40 or so seconds my instructor became pretty concerned when I was still lying face down and not moving. When he dragged me up the look on his face was gold! Needless to say I went back under pretty quick. Note to self; it's a lot harder to remove a back pack with an instructor sitting on top of you.

Unfortunately, while I was away some low life has broken into a property at Ohau. The property was secured and there's nothing much more the victims could have done. But it is a timely reminder that we're not invulnerable to crime. So please take the time to make sure your property is locked and you've done everything in your power to make it as hard as possible for any would be thieves. Also take note of serial numbers etc. That could be as easy as taking a photo and saving them in a separate folder on your phone. That way if stolen property is recovered by police we will be able to identify it, hold the person responsible and return property to the rightful owner.

I've attended a couple of minor car crashes in the last two weeks, both on the Lindis Pass and both due to the driver not driving to the conditions and exacerbated with their limited experience with New Zealand roads. We do have a few new faces in the town so I'll also mention the infamous Ahuriri River "cutting". This is the section of road on the Twizel-Omarama road just north of town, near the Ben Omar road intersection. This area is mostly in shade over winter and frequently covered in black ice. It's caught a few locals out over the years and is guaranteed to catch some tourists





## Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade

There were eight calls for the month of May - four motor vehicle accidents, three alarms and one medical call.

With the frost around it is a reminder to be aware of black ice on the roads. It can be deadly.

*-Stay safe. Omarama Chief Fire Officer Terry Walsh.*

---

and possibly the odd truckie out this winter. I have a feeling it's gonna be a cold winter compared to the last couple so please slow down and be wary of shaded areas, bridges and the extra grit laid down for the frost.

*- By Senior Constable Nayland Smith, 03 438 9559,  
email: [Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)*

*Photos below: by Nayland (Bean) Smith*

*Our accommodation for 12 days - Dip Flat RNZAF training camp, Team 6 (Beans group) completing river crossing techniques, Enjoying the cool waters of the Wairau river.*





Totally in the pink to make a stand - *By Ruth Grundy, photos: Kim McKenzie*

There was a total 'pink-out' at Omarama School last month as pupils and staff made a stand against bullying and for kindness.

Right down to the hair on their heads and the shoes on their feet the school joined the global movement to create schools, workplaces and communities where all people feel safe, valued and respected.

Omarama School principal Kim Mackenzie captured just some of the creativity and fun in these photos.

Mrs McKenzie said the junior class watched 'Oat the Goat' which is a new interactive digital book released earlier this week for Bullying-Free NZ Week.

Pupils learned about appropriate ways to deal with bullying through kindness, she said.

Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 after two pupils witnessed a fellow pupil bullied for wearing pink.

Those pupils bought pink t-shirts for everyone at their school to wear the next day. Their stand was reported on-line resulting in hundreds of students wearing pink to show they stood against bullying.

New Zealand adopted the campaign in 2009 and it is led by the Mental Health Foundation with support from The Peace Foundation, RainbowYOUTH, InsideOUT, New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association, Auckland District Health Board Peer Sexuality Support Programme, Youthline, Te Kaha O Te Rangatahi Te Kaha O Te Rangatahi Trust, Emerge Aotearoa, the Human Rights Commission and Bullying-Free NZ Week.



**When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis be it financial, climatic or personal the Rural Support Trust is ready to assist.**

**Services are free and confidential.**

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# Omarama Golf Club

*Copy: Christine Bowman. Photo: Supplied*

Winter golf has arrived with the cooler weather; however the good side is we need to do less mowing. We continue to get good turn outs on our Saturday Club day, which is great to see. We had four members (Adrian Tuffley, Tom Moore, Peter Trusler and Paul Bowman) play in the recent Kurow tournament. We were represented at both ends of the results. A big congratulation to Adrian who was the overall winner and Paul who had the highest score (otherwise known as last!!!!).

A big welcome to our new club member, Jonny Woodhead. Great to see a new Omarama local join the club.

**Tee off time Saturday is 12.30 p.m. Club captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276.**

**[www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/)**



## 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**

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- \* Do not sign anything beforehand
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- \* Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



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



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

# Kurow Medical Centre

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Doctor or PRIME nurse on call 24/7 Monday to Sunday.

**Mackenzie Health Centre - Twizel Satellite Clinic, 3A Benmore Place, Twizel**

Tel: 03 976 0503 Fax: 03 436 0780

**Office hours: Monday, Wednesday (nurse only) and Friday, 8.30am to 5pm.**

Closed 1pm to 2pm for lunch. **Saturday mornings 10am to 1pm.**

Doctor or PRIME nurse on call 24/7 Monday to Sunday.

**Omarama Clinic, Omarama Community Centre, Chain Hills Hwy, Omarama.**

Tel: 03 436 0760. Cell: 027 434 7464

**Office hours: Tuesdays 9am to 5pm** Closed 1pm to 2pm for lunch.

Doctor or PRIME nurse on call 24/7 Monday to Sunday.

## Omarama Community Library

### Winter Hours

The Omarama Community Library will be open  
**9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays,**  
at the Omarama Community Centre

**Contact Anna: 021 132 5586**



# Omarama Collie Dog Club

Congratulations to Ginger and Boss.

The Omarama pair were placed fourth, in the New Zealand dog trial championships Event II - the short head and yard - with 192.5 points, and first in the same event in the South Island championships.

The week-long Tux South Island and New Zealand dog trial championships were hosted by the Marlborough-Nelson Centre, at Meadow Bank Farms, Omaka, near Blenheim.

The Omarama Collie Dog Club was well represented.

Club members campaigning dogs were president Scott Hunter, with Rangi in the heading dog events, I and II, and Ollie, Barb, Harry in the huntaway events, III and IV. Ginger Anderson entered with Boss and Don in the heading events and Chum in the huntaway events.

Rick Aubrey, who is also a member of the Wanaka Collie Club, campaigned Sky, Toby, and Trump in the heading events, and former member Paul Collins judged event I.

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# Omarama Junior Sports Club

The Omarama Junior Sports Club's Quiz night at Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama raised more than \$1600.

The group held the event to raise money to make sure those children who want to participate in team sports within the district have the opportunity and do not have to worry about the costs of getting there. One of the organisers, Michele Patterson, said the night was well supported, with 13 teams participating, "There was a great mix of locals and holiday makers, with the local team of Gloag's coming out on top as our overall winners, receiving a \$100 bar tab generously donated by the Boots and Jandals Hotel.

The Firewood raffle at the Omarama Four Square was also well supported and has been drawn. The winners are: 1st Amanda Nichol, trailer load of firewood – kindly donated by Supply Moore Yard; 2nd Yvonne Jones, Dinner and wine for two – kindly donated by Heritage Gateway Hotel; 3rd Christy Zeestraten, Bottle of wine "We would also like to make a special mention of Bruce and Julie Dyson from Boots and Jandals hotel for the very generous use of their courtesy van to transport 10 children to basketball in Twizel.

"Lastly a huge thank you to these very kind businesses for supporting our young sporting stars!

*Bruce and Julie – Boots and Jandals Hotel  
Omarama School – for the use of their van  
Heritage Gateway hotel for Dinner and wine for two as a raffle prize  
Farmlands Kurow for auction items  
Omarama Vets for auction items  
New World North End Oamaru for spot and quiz prizes  
Caroline and Julie Grant for the fabulous baking for our auction  
Supply Moore Yard for firewood for our raffle  
Omarama Station a trailer load of firewood for auction  
Omarama Four Square for supporting our raffle*



# Omarama Residents' Association

## **From the last meeting...**

Arrangements are being made to engage a painter and for re-painting and sealing of the external wooden doors and columns of the Omarama Community Centre.

The large leak causing plumbing issues which was discovered beside the play-ground area has been fixed and the water pressure has now been restored.

The committee made plans for the presentation of its submissions to the Waitaki District Council's Long-Term Plan. The hearings were held in Oamaru in mid- May.

**Plans for the public community forum to discuss the Ahuriri River Campsite were discussed. The Community Forum is 11am, Saturday, July 21, at the Omarama Memorial Hall.**

Kay advised that the Christmas in the Park event she is planning will be used to raise funds for picnic tables.

Sports Courts: Jemma said that she is in the process of preparing a funding application to Meridian Energy for the Sports Courts and that Wrinkly Rams are prepared to host a fundraising evening with a celebrity speaker.

**Next meeting: 7.30 pm, Thursday, June 14,  
at the Omarama Community Centre.**

**Contacts: Ann Patterson, chairperson, 03 438 9493,  
Craig Dawson, secretary, 0274389132**

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## OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

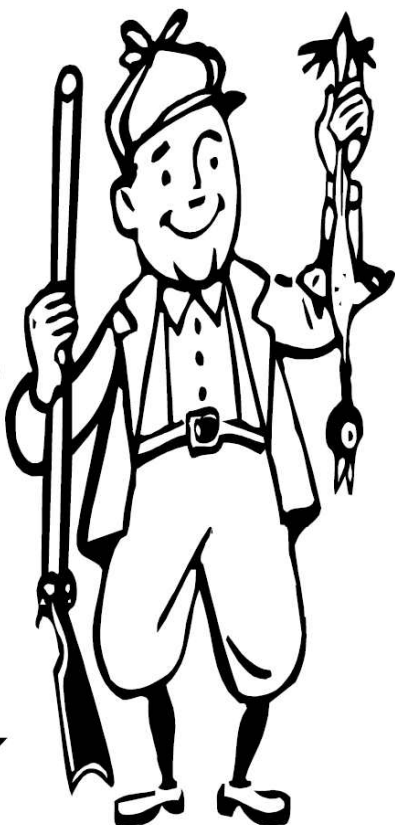
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**'The Community Reports' is  
dedicated to news  
from clubs, groups and sports teams.  
Contributions are welcome.  
[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

# HUNT

# ILLBILLY



## **Shooting Competition**

**Friday 6th to 8th 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

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*Fundraiser for Omarama Rodeo*

# Quick Quiz Night

Friday 6th July following the hillbilly hunt registration  
8pm, Omarama Hotel

Fundraiser for Omarama Rodeo — Fun Evening — Raffles — Auction



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Please make inquiries with our reception.

We will be also be advertising other services as these come on stream.

### **Enroll With Us**

Twizel Medical Centre is an enrolling practice. When you are an enrolled patient your fees are reduced. Please feel free to come in see our Centre and talk to the team about our services and enrolling.

Because our Centre is community owned and has charitable status any surplus can be reinvested into improving access to services for our community.

**Come and join us and be part of growing services for our community.**

# Waitaki District Council - news in brief

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO has shortlisted 'Waitaki Whitestone Geopark' as its candidate for Global Geopark status in New Zealand. The council submitted an expression of interest to become a Geopark in April this year. The proposed Geopark would encompass the entire district from Palmerston to Omarama.

**Phone: 03 433 0300   Freephone: 0800 108 081 - Automated options after hours**

**Email: [service@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:service@waitaki.govt.nz)**

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

---

## Ahuriri Community Board - report from the meeting, May 28, in Kurow.

Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan expressed his disappointment at the outcome of the board's submissions to the council's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

Those who attended the visioning meetings pushed hard for increased hours at the rural resource recovery parks as well as for 24-hour recycling stations, he said.

"It looks like we're going to get nothing."

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher said the underlying issue was the whole district was "paying a lot" for the facilities in the Ahuriri Ward which had a "low rating base".

Sorting and transporting recycling cost a lot and regular trips had to be made to collect the recycling whether or not there was a full load.

Mr Sullivan said locals should not have to foot the whole cost because waste was a district-wide concern.

"It's got to be run more efficiently."

He believed the community board had not had enough of a say in the final recommendation to council.

Mr Sullivan said businesses were offloading their recyclables at the parks and he believed there should be a charge imposed to offset the cost of transport.

"Businesses are getting it for free. If you're going to recycle, charge."

"It's the cartage that's killing it," Mr Sullivan said.

Councillor Craig Dawson said if a charge was imposed people "will just bin it" and not recycle.

But he could not see why the volunteer fire brigades could not be permitted to use green waste piles for controlled burns for fire fighting training which would result in considerable cost savings.

At present, green waste is also being trucked out of the valley.

Composting businesses would not take the waste because it was of "low value".

Mr Kircher said the private contractors who managed the parks determined what the hours would be but there was an opportunity for the community to work with the private contractors to "look at options".



"Customising the service, that's the only way around some of these problems." Mr Sullivan said the council needed to be mindful there were a lot more people travelling through the small towns now who needed to dispose of rubbish. And also if costs went up so would the instances of illegal dumping. It was an issue which the board would continue to negotiate with the council, Mr Sullivan said.

Tourism Waitaki general manager Margaret Munro told the board the organisation had been looking at ways to collect data so it could get a clearer picture about "where tourists were coming from and going to next".

She had received positive feedback from the recent Trenz Conference.

"There are a number of operators who want to pull back from Queenstown and are actively looking for a new option, so we are jumping in there."

They could see using the alternative route of SH83 had potential but it was a "catch 22" situation.

"If you want traffic to come down here, you have to have the attractions."

But to make attractions viable they needed the numbers.

The Alps to Ocean experience and the Geopark concept offered "something unique, something engaging for all ages", she said.

She wanted to "actively encourage" those who might be thinking of diversifying into tourism to make contact.

"There's a lot of interest from agents in farm tours, farm stay.. if they [the attractions] are there we can get trade to it."

#### **Other matters:**

**The board has recommended** the council approves a new office block at Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park. Top 10 made the application because it wants to separate the office from the residence. The council leases the reserve land to the camping ground.

**At the time of the meeting** the council was waiting for a decision about the resource consent variation to allow the Alps to Ocean trail to be taken around the marginal strip between Sailors Cutting and Benmore Dam. Although the decision had been made in the council's favour it was still in the appeal period.

**The Board has approved** the continuation of the existing contract for the cleaning of the Omarama toilets.

---

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is  
3.15pm to 5.15pm Monday, July 9,  
at the 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](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx)

# Environment Canterbury news in brief

**ECan continues to operate** under the Environment Canterbury (Transitional Governance Arrangements) Act 2016. Under this Act, seven Councillors were elected at the 2016 local body elections, and five were appointed by the Government. These arrangements were made to transition the regional council from the governance of appointed Commissioners to a fully-elected council. Last month the Government announced the return to full democracy will occur at the normal time for the triennial local government elections in October 2019.

**Lake Poaka, in the Mackenzie Country** is getting some help to reduce invasive trees that are clogging its shoreline and surrounding wetlands. A project by the Department of Conservation, Central South Island Fish and Game and ECan to reduce alder trees around the lake is underway.



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

### May 2018

Highest temperature: May 4, 25.4C

Lowest temperature: May 30, -6.2C

Most rainfall: May 18, 25mm

Total rainfall for May: 87.5mm



# Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

## - report from the meeting, May 18, in Twizel.

**A "signature" conservation project** Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee member Richard Subtil wants it to look into adopting a signature conservation project along the lines of the Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre forest restoration project in the North Island. He said he realised it was "aspirational" but that he would like the committee to think about doing something "transformational" in the basin.

"Our problem is we have so many options," committee member Mat Bayliss said. "Our job is water but that doesn't mean we couldn't or shouldn't...create an area in the Mackenzie which is how the Mackenzie was."

It would require "a lot of collaboration."

Waitaki District councillor Craig Dawson said something of that nature could "dovetail" into the council's bid for Unesco Global Geopark status.

**The Mackenzie Country Trust** Mackenzie Country Trust chairwoman Julia Mackenzie and general manager Rose Austen-Falloon spoke to the committee about its future focus and its vision for a drylands park in the Mackenzie, Omarama and Ohau basins. Ms Austen-Falloon said it wanted to work with all parties with an interest in the area to develop an approach which balanced farming with conservation, environmental protection, outdoor recreation and landscape protection.

However, rather than aiming to set aside one continuous area of land for a park it believed the concept could best be achieved if an agency like the Department of Conservation established one large area as the "heart of the park" and the Trust worked with other landowners to link in smaller areas of land including privately-owned land, such as existing regional parks, QEII land, easements and reserves land. Although it saw itself as the facilitator for this it was struggling with a lack of funding, Ms Austen-Falloon said.

The Mackenzie Trust was established in February 2016 to administer the Mackenzie Agreement.

**The Bridge programme** The Ahuriri River has been chosen by ECan as one of four rivers to study to find an appropriate legal definition of what is the "edge" of a braided river so they can be "appropriately protected". Braided river beds have multiple channels which are constantly on the move and, depending on their age, can extend well beyond their "active bed".

---

**The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am, Friday, June 22, 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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Capturing all day sun and heated by a heat pump this home is so warm and cosy. A deck runs the length of the home, offering a perfect platform to revel in the surrounding high country landscapes, stunning sunrises and sunsets, or enjoy watching planes and gliders in the clear skies. Easy living is key; fenced and with parking plus there is space and potential - add a garage or sleepout to suit your needs and size requirements.

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To find out more, go to  
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**ELECTIONS**  
ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

More information is available at the Omarama Community Library, open 9am to 10am, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Contact Anna: 021 132 5586

# Situations vacant

## Calf Rearing Extraordinaire

We need someone to join our team to help rear 1200 Beautiful Bouncy Calves

Commencing ~ 1st August – 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Rostered Weekend Work Required

Great hourly rate paid for the right applicant

Experience is preferred but not necessary as full training will be given.

You will need to operate and implement the farm H & S Plan  
If you have a passion for animals and a great work ethic; and attention to detail come join our team

## Cook/ Cleaner

We need someone to join our team to help keep our staff well fed with healthy nutritious food over the busy spring period and possibly beyond

Also carrying out general cleaning duties.

This position will be based in our new

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Commencing ~ 1st August 2018

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## The View from the Chook House



Sure as eggs,  
your  
chickens will come  
home to roost



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



Ross and Pauline Menzies

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

*Marry that girl. I did and that was the best bit of advice ever. Pauline and I have been married for 42 years, have two children, two grand children and counting. - Ross*  
*That guy is a keeper, don't let him go. - Pauline*

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

*Both my Great grand parents when they first landed in NZ in the 1870's worked in the Omarama district. James Menzies worked on Benmore station, owned at the time by Robert Campbell and someone else and managed by Middleton. Michael Downey worked on either Long Slip or Glen Lyon. He being Irish didn't write anything down so there is a bit of guessing there. Both families moved down river to the Kurow/Haka area and raised between them some twenty children. A number of those children came back to the Omarama area as farmers in their own right. Jack Downey (great uncle) ran Twin Peaks for 40 plus years. Ray Menzies (uncle) ran Ahuriri Downs for 40 years after taking over from his uncle and aunt, Jim and Agg (my great Aunt) Duffey. Myra (aunt) and Lex McKinnon ran Avoca and then Shelton Downs for something like 50 years. Then there was May (my great Aunt) Downey who married Les Shirres. They farmed Riverside and then passed it on to their daughter Christian Blackstock and between them ran the*

*station for more than 70 years. In 2014 the last of the direct line of farmers died out and left the area without a family representative. So, Pauline and I moved back to hold up the family name.*

## **Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?**

*Donald Trump, that's a no brainer. I would also invite everyone in the district to a really great dinner party, really great and really expensive and ..... and HE'S GOING TO PAY. But that would be selfish, really, I would invite my family, dinner with family is something we do. - Ross*  
*Yes family. I'm still trying to master the art of getting a word in - Pauline*

## **Best day outside the office?**

*I like to go fishing, I sneak off with my fly rod whenever I can. I owned my own glider up to a couple of years ago and am still current with a glider pilot's licence, now that's a lot of fun. Then there is the night sky with a good camera, tripod and clear skies. I'm also into history research. I am also interested in Block Chain technology, There is no rest for the retired down Cirrus Place. - Ross*

*I am a keen gardener, (not that you would notice that at the moment) better things to come. Also I love to spend time with the family and entertaining friends. I am interested in family history and working on my family tree. - Pauline*

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

*The most pressing item is the elimination of non-degradable plastic. It's a simple engineering problem really, but it is viewed as someone else's problem. Soon enough this plastic will enter the food chain on such a scale that fish will be inedible by animals and/or humans. Remove the fish as a protein source and a whole lot of people will go hungry, and hungry people make for angry people and angry people will come knocking on your door. - Ross*



# The Garden Diary - A bee-loud glade

The cool southerly sends a shiver of golden leaves across the mist-grey sky.  
They dance the tango across the frosted green lawn, each sunset-coloured confetti cut-out rejoicing in its life's work.

From the kitchen window the backyard is busy, busy, busy with the constant fluttering of winter visitors.

There are finches raiding the seeds of dried black sunflowers. Their sunny petals have fallen but they still sport their starry ruff of yellow-green sepals.

There are blackbirds, thrushes and starlings scrumping the crab-apples. The frosts have finally softened and split the tough leathery red skins enough to let sharp beaks in.

Then wax-eyes, swinging from the overhead stems, delicately sip at the sweet fruit until startled they dart out to the very corner of your eye.

When the bellbirds announce their arrival with a clarion call and demand precedence the squabbles begin.

Our apples and pears trees were prolific this harvest.

I've bins of them stored, some for us, some to share and some to feed out to the birds later when the trees are bare and seed is gone.

Out walking on the scrubby, dryland flats a pioioi (ground lark) – a pipit, keeping just out of reach, flits and swoops just above the dirt track stopping every now and again to check its reflection in an ice-cold puddle.

In deep winter there is little bird song, the silence is such you can hear the snowflakes land into pillow-y white drifts. When winters are harsh it can be a long silent wait until spring.

Then there's that first warm spell and the garden begins to hum again.

That new bumble bee queen emerges from hibernation, heavy with responsibility. She drowsily hunts down scarce nectar-rich spring flowers and basks on a thick cushion of pollen in the sunshine to build energy before looking for the perfect nest to raise her first batch of eggs. These will be a group of female worker bees whose job it is to feed the next generation which emerges.

As spring warms more flowers into blossom the honey bees return to the garden too.

Soon after that, the garden is abuzz day and night.

The sound I most look forward to hearing? After a shower of rain, the tree frogs, who have developed their very own anti-freeze system to survive harsh winters, their blood warmed and once again pulsing through their veins, begin their quiet warbling songs, ob-ob, ob-ob, improvising well into the evening.

I love that it is still quiet enough here in our country town to hear them sing.

As our lives get noisier and busy, busy, busy it so easily blanks out those sounds.

And it becomes easy to forget this land is a community to which we also belong.

God forbid we ever completely lose touch with those deep memories of community - once they are drowned out I fear we will hear only the deathly echo of an empty void.

The Lake Isle of Innisfree - William Butler Yeats

*I will arise and go now, for always night and day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the pavements grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core.*

Ruth Grundy

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



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## **Annual Meeting**

**LAKE OHAU ALPINE VILLAGE**

**RESIDENTS AND RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATION INC**

**The AGM and election of office bearers and committee members will be held 10.30am, Sunday, July 29 at the Lake Ohau Lodge.**

**Further information to come.**

***Please note the later date than our previous AGMs.***

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