



-Omarama Gazette -

November 2018

**Sponsored by
The Pink Glider Café**

We won't say goodbye...

(I promised 'Rosco', folks, and I always keep my word – 'Casso' you're front page again! Only this time, it's a surprise.)

This month marks somewhat of an end of an era for Omarama.

The time has come to say farewell to a few notable folk who have each in their own way made a significant contribution to this town.

In no particular order, but first - Gloria and Peter Casserly

It was thirty years and many, many yarns ago this couple moved to town.

Both from the West Coast, Peter's first visit to Omarama was in 1964 as a 16-year-old shearer.

"So I done a season shearing [on the east coast] and I went home in a Mark1 Zephyr and me mates on the West Coast were still riding pushbikes so the next thing I had a girl in the car, elbow out the window, a crew-cut haircut, and I'm still married to that girl, Gloria, 52 years later and have three daughters and eight grandchildren – five girls and three boys."

It was 1988 when the couple officially made Omarama home.

They bought Chain Hills Station and ran that until 1992 when they bought the Omarama Hotel. (Ross [Rosco] and Marie Kelman took on the pub when Peter and Gloria "semi-retired".)

And now they're moving on to the next chapter.

But Peter has one last request of us all.

Omarama has reached a watershed in time, change is a-happening, and before we

This issue is brought to you by ...

The Pink Glider Café

It may be on the edge of the airfield but an arrivals/departure lounge it most certainly is not.

Instead, there's a warm welcome at the Pink Glider Café, to true high-country hospitality, an invitation to linger over coffee, to take that long lunch with friends, or to wine and dine with family while the sun sets into a summertime sky.

The living is easy.

Tanya and Dannie McAughtrie took over the airfield café earlier this year and have worked to renovate inside and out ahead of this new season.

Now known as The Pink Glider Café, the modern fit-out features both cosy quiet corners and generous dining tables for that special gathering.

There is now seating for up to 100 inside and out but it has retained its intimate feel.

The clean lines and fresh, uncluttered feel are deliberate as Tanya wanted nothing to distract from the expansive views across the long lawns to the airfield and mountains beyond.

A new bar and servery opens out onto a sunny deck, and tables across those lawns under shady trees.

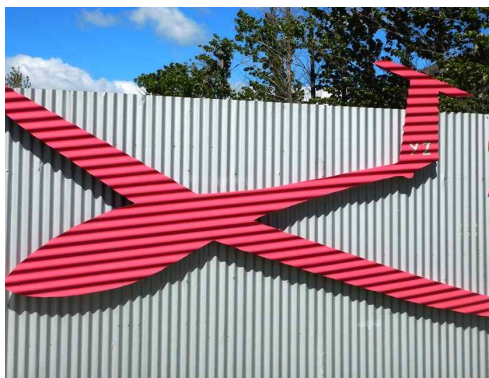
And she's brought a touch of No.8 wire creativity to the place, repurposing some materials from the old café, including the creation of that outdoor feature wall - the dazzling pink 'glider' riding the waves of its corrugated iron 'sky'.

Tanya's has always been an expert in the high-country kitchen, just ask the shearers and musterers who visit Willowburn, and she's bringing those skills to the café, creating food as it used to be - cream cakes, pikelets, scones – simple and basic, a celebration of high country hospitality.

There'll never be a need for anyone to rush here, for a flight or anything else, Tanya says.

Instead, it's the perfect spot to switch off the world and reconnect the old-fashioned way, with conversation over great food, whether it be over a coffee and good home baking or a cold one at the end of a working day.

Whatever, it will be a place to reconnect with friends, take time with family, enjoy each other's company and walk home afterwards under those stars.



The Pink Glider Café
Airport Road
Tanya McAughtrie
027 673 1381

Open early until late

forget where we came from, before our history is consigned to the rubble of renovation, Peter wants us to set up our own museum. He has some plans in mind and he will help. So, let's have a show of hands. If there are others who are keen to help drive this project please let Peter know – 021 029 38386 or 03 438 9557.

Secondly, to the next farewell.

I can't think of anything that's been more reassuring all these years than knowing these guys have had our backs.

Graham and Lorraine McLean settled here more than a decade ago from TeAnau/Manapouri, previously having spent many years in Otematata.

There won't have been many fire calls Graham has missed in all his years as a volunteer firefighter – possibly only those that have happened while he was out of town and then, it is as Lorraine says – "It's a bit far to come when the pager goes off".

Graham has also been instrumental in getting the Omarama Model Aircraft Club "off the ground" --- and off its dedicated fly-ground at the Omarama airfield.

There's not that many photos of Lorraine in the Gazette album but let me assure you that behind every volunteer fire fighter is a baking whizz like her who scrambles to put together packed meals for those volunteers who never know exactly when they might go off-duty, who rescues over-cooked roasts and spoiled dinners, who copes with interrupted sleep and the anxious moments spent waiting for their loved one to make it home safely.

What some might not know is Graham has been the Omarama Gazette's weather-man for the past three years. He's the face behind The Weather that was @ 44° 29'29.4"S 169°58'19.7"E.

Each month he's the first in with his report – no-one has beaten his record!

N.B. Terry? Bean?

He doesn't think we'll need weather reports from Waikouaiti.

Continued over



Continued ...

And thirdly we say goodbye to young Jaden – Jaden Jenkins may have spent fewer years in this town than the others but he's made his contribution. Although, he might need a few more year's cleaning fire trucks before he catches up to Graham.

Jaden joined the firebrigade in 2016. The newest recruit at the time, he was chosen to cut the Fire Brigade 50-year jubilee cake with Omarama's first fire chief, the late Graeme Cowie. Jaden's off to be a JAFFA .

P.S FENZ Omarama chief fire officer Terry Walsh points out Omarama's fire rescue team is losing 20% of its membership. If anyone is keen to join a great outfit and contribute some hours to our town, Terry would love to hear from you. He's at Mobil Omarama.

This last word is by no means a comprehensive list of everything these volunteers have done for this community.

I mean, seriously, where would I start? So, I decided not to.

We salute you, dear friends, thank you for all you have done – you've made the world of difference to our place.

Go well. Visit often.

"We'll drink a cup of kindness yet for auld lange syne."

Photos previous and below: Peter and Gloria Casserly, Graham and Lorraine



Calls for more safety measures on trail

Omarama emergency services are calling for improvements to access, signage and safety messages on the Alps to Ocean trail – specifically on section four between Lake Ohau and Omarama.

This follows two time-critical emergencies on that section when it took services more than an hour to reach the person who needed help because of confusion over their exact location and difficulty accessing the site.

In one incident, the Omarama services and Kurow St John were called to help a woman who fell off her bike and sustained moderate injuries.

Once found, she waited for an hour for the helicopter to arrive and personnel in emergency vehicles were not able to reach her.

In the second incident, about a fortnight earlier, a man died after suffering a medical event.

Since those events FENZ Omarama, together with Omarama Search and Rescue, and including their parent organisations, have worked on plans so all emergency personnel can better respond to such events.

As well, last month the Waitaki District Council was asked to improve information and signage on the trail so people unfamiliar with the area and in trouble would know what to do and could be more easily and quickly located.

The first thing emergency services must do is find out exactly where on the trail the incident is, FENZ Omarama chief fire officer Terry Walsh said.

This is because the First Response crew needs to decide as soon as possible which of the two entrances of the trail to go to – the Lake Ohau or the Quailburn Rd end which are 54km and one-hour apart.

“We set off knowing, potentially, the other route should have been taken,” he said.

In these two incidents because it was unclear where the person was, once the First Response set out on the most likely route he ordered the fire rescue vehicle travel up the other road in case that was where help was needed.

As well, once he realised emergency services vehicles might not be able to reach the person, Omarama SAR was put on standby.

“It’s hard on the tourists, [who do not know precisely where they are] too,” he said.

Senior Constable Nayland Smith, of Omarama Police, said SAR had put together a “pre-plan for emergency response” – a contingency plan for emergency personnel in such scenarios. It has identified the best “access points” to the trail for emergency services.

In the week immediately following the second incident he contacted the Waitaki District Council and asked it to install distance and emergency markers, improve signage, and “better educate” users of the trail about what they needed to do in an emergency.

He also asked for Topo 50 maps for the entire trail to be made available to emergency services, some flat areas to be created at strategic points along the track for helicopter landings, and wide enough access with wider bridges so ATVs could negotiate the trail.

And he also asked for safety material provided to users of that portion of the trail to “strongly recommend” people take personal locator beacons because cell phone coverage was unreliable.

“It should be mandatory for cycle tour operators to have at least two, one of which is held by tail-end Charlie.”

Not only was cell phone coverage patchy but if someone had to move from the scene to get coverage to call for help it meant the phone could not be used to give the exact location of the person in trouble, and, if the caller was unfamiliar with their surroundings, they would not be able to do so either.

“Markers on the side of the track every kilometre would at least give the emergency responders an idea of the area in which to head to.”

He estimated only about 30 markers would be required on that section of the trail. Since he made the request, Alps to Ocean tour operators have held a summit at which the topic “Visitor safety on our trail” was addressed. However, although the cost of putting in distance markers was discussed at the summit no decisions were made, Waitaki District councillor Colin Wollstein said, in an interview. Cr Wollstein is the council representative on the Alps to Ocean joint committee. He said he was aware of the two incidents but was unaware Snr Const Smith had raised safety concerns with council officers. And although, a note in the health and safety report to yesterday’s meeting of the council’s Finance Audit and Risk Committee said the incidents were being investigated by the council recreation manager Erik van der Spek the topic was not discussed at that meeting either, he said. From his understanding, it was confusion at the emergency communications centre about the correct locations which had contributed to the delays.

The two incidents still represented only a small proportion of the numbers travelling the trail, he said.

Personally, he was in favour of distance markers and “better education all round”. He thought carrying personal locator beacons was “a bit over the top”.

“Everything we do has a degree of personal responsibility.”

It was about striking the balance between keeping people safe and individuals making sure they had undertaken the right preparation.

When asked by the Omarama Gazette what had been done so far, Mr van der Spek said in an email, the installation of distance markers on the Tarnbrae section of the trail would be discussed at the Alps to Ocean project team meeting next Thursday. While distance markers might help pin-point locations in the future he disputed it would have led to a faster response to the last callout because the “communications system” had the precise location of the caller from their phone within six minutes and the helicopter was dispatched within 12 minutes of receiving the call.

In the first emergency the person calling for help was able to give the distance they had travelled along the trail but this was misinterpreted as being on Lake Ohau Rd, he said.

“Back country access will always carry an element of risk with poor communications, weather and varying terrain. Response will not be immediate and people need to be aware and prepared. The most reliable method to pinpoint locations is for parties to carry a locator beacon.”

Mr van der Spek said as well as giving consideration to improving safety signage and messages, and resurfacing some sections of the trail the project team would also look at how to better publicise where people could hire locator beacons.

“This may make the trail slightly easier but it will always be a back country section and that is part of the attractions for many. Riders need to ride within their limits, to the conditions and if necessary walk some sections,” Mr van der Spek said.

Community opinion sought on easement

St Thomas' Church management committee wants Omarama residents to have their say about a proposal to create an easement across church land.

Next week it will hold a public meeting so people can hear about the proposal to complete a walking connection between Park and T A Munro Lanes.

At its meeting last week the Waitaki District Council agreed to negotiate with various landowners to create the walking access.

It can do some of this as part of its agreement with the developers - DRKM Holdings Ltd - who want to create a subdivision on the block of land at 10A Park Lane.

In such cases the council would usually receive a development contribution as part of the resource consent (RMA) process.

But it will ask for the land required for the walking easement through the subdivision instead of the equivalent financial contribution.

The report to the council said the developer was open to negotiation.

At the council meeting recreation manager Erik van der Spek told councillors there was still a process to go through with the church to get permission to complete the walking connection.

He said he was dealing with multiple parties and that was taking some time.

On making enquiries following the council meeting the Omarama Gazette was initially told the council had requested the church sell it a five-metre corridor of land – wide enough for 'digger' access - for not only a walking track but also to install a water main through the property.

However, today, in an email, Mr van der Spek said it had not asked the church to sell land for the easement.

"We have requested the church consider an easement over their land to provide certainty over a recreation connection.

"Without this, the church could stop the currently accepted informal access at any point and securing access as part of the [sub-division] development could be pointless. As the existing water main runs under trees, we have also asked if they would consider the water pipeline being installed under a recreation easement but this is a secondary consideration to the recreation connection and not essential."

Church committee chairman Rev Ken Light said the committee has called the meeting to discuss the issue because it is largely made up of people who do not live in Omarama and it wanted to better gauge community opinion.

"[Selling any land] would be a sticking point for the [Presbyterian] synod and the church committee."

However, Rev Light said he could see no issues with creating a walking track.

Mr van der Spek has been asked to speak at the meeting, he said.

The meeting will be at 2pm, Friday, November 16 at the Omarama Memorial Hall.

There has been an informal walking track from Park Lane to TA Munro Lane for many years.

Earlier this year the Omarama School Board of Trustees made a submission to the council's long-term plan to ask the council to obtain the land and formalise the track to provide a safe route for children to walk to school.

The land for the church was gifted by the community and is owned by the Presbyterian Church's Otago Foundation Trust Board.

Omarama i-Site looking forward

Tourism Waitaki is “delighted” to confirm the roll-over its lease of St Thomas Church for a further year, general manager Margaret Munro says.

With the Waitaki District’s bid for Global Geopark park status, the predicted increase in tourist numbers and Omarama’s place on the “golden route”, the i-Site was in the “prime spot”.

Last week, the Waitaki District Council-controlled organisation presented its annual report to the council.

At the council meeting Mrs Munro said Omarama, situated as it was on SH83 was acknowledged as the “western entrance” to the Waitaki District.

Tourism Waitaki director Adair Craik said, although there were no visitor numbers for previous years to use as comparison, in September the i-Site logged 1236 “tickets sold” which was for travel, accommodation or other bookings made by visitors through the centre.

The site was shared with Trail Adventures and the numbers of cyclists had not been separated out from the total number of visitors, she said.

Tourism Waitaki, together with Trail Adventures, began leasing the site in December last year and opened this year in February.

In an interview, Mrs Munro said Tourism Waitaki employed two staff covering seven days and would continue to share space with Trail Adventures.

“Everyone seems to be gearing up for the expected heightened summer activity.”

This season Omarama is to be part of the recently launched Tourism New Zealand initiative Tiaki – Care for New Zealand, which encouraged overseas and domestic visitors to care for the environment and culture, and it would emphasise responsible camping, she said.

Tourism New Zealand, Air New Zealand, the Department of Conservation, Tourism Industry Aotearoa, Local Government New Zealand, New Zealand Māori Tourism and Tourism Holdings Ltd are backing the project.

Tiaki promotional materials included brochures and a video in English, Te Reo Māori, German and Chinese, with more languages to follow.

These would feature “prominently” at the i-Site, Mrs Munro said.

You can read more about Tiaki here :

www.tourismnewzealand.com/tools-for-your-business/tiaki-care-for-new-zealand



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Down a Country Road - by Tony Orman

A book review by Ruth Grundy

I'm not sure I could ever leave a title like this on the shelf.

For reader's like me who love a good yarn about the back country this collection has to be one out of the box.

Of course, the fact it features three of our all-time favourite 'storytellers' does not make this a biased review at all.

Ben Avon's Jim Morris, Ben Omar's Ginger Anderson and Omarama's own world record holder, Peter Casserly, are each profiled by author and former rural journalist Tony Orman

There are 24 chapters in all, each featuring an equally fascinating story about those who have made the South Island back country their home.

Jim's poetry is featured - I first read his Different Worlds not long after it was first published. It says it all, really.

*"Way above,
See jumbo jet
Sydney bound.
Silken businessman
Orders a gin.
Monogrammed handkerchief
Wipes caviar from chin.
Away it winged,
Like a great silver dart;
I rolled a wet smoke -
We're worlds apart."*

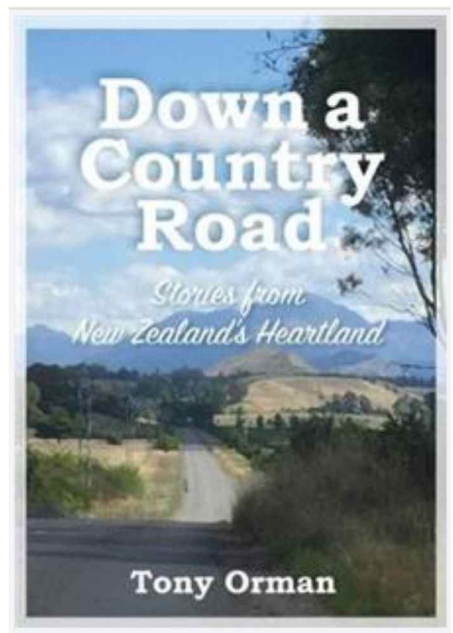
In the chapter about Ginger, he talks about the Anderson legacy and his own experiences dog trial-ling.

And 'Casso' tells the tale of that Black Friday in 1976 when his tally took him to the top of the world.

There's something unique about back country life, the places, the nostalgia, that draws us in. Bill Betts, of Blenheim, in his story says why he thinks we connect to the place.

"Something like boiling the billy and drinking a simple mug of tea, in the company of your dogs and the mountains you appreciate. It's a great country to be in. I still like to think of myself as a back country man, if not now in a physical sense, but 100 percent in spirit."

This book is an important addition to any collection about a way of life fast disappearing. It is published by New Holland Publishers/ I bought my copy from Whitcoulls, Timaru.



Employee of the month...

Hugh A Spiers

Host. The Barn at Killin Lake Ohau - Bed & Breakfast.

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 this month's 'employee' goes out of his way to spoil you rotten. "When I get a hug [when guests leave] I know I've done my job," he says.

Earlier on the phone, he described himself as a cross between Basil Fawlty and Graham Norton. That's much too harsh. There's no sign of the 'Red Chair' nor can I hear 'Sybille' on the phone in the next room. There is just Hugh and I, gorgeous china, and a silver tea pot, at the 'long board' which stretches generously across the dining room of the Barn at Killin Lake Ohau - Bed & Breakfast.

Killin, a relatively new family home and built on what was part of the old Avoca Station on the shores of Lake Middleton, cements Hugh A Spiers' family connection to this place which dates back four generations. His great-grandparents, also in hospitality, owned the hotel in Kurow from 1913 to 1931 and his grandmother, May Ayson, was cousin to Myra McKinnon of Shelton Downs, across the lake.

Like most who come from an Irish Catholic background, Hugh says he grew up accustomed to big family gatherings, "lots of cousins", remembers many picnics and holidays spent at Ohau by the lakes. "This country-side is in my DNA."

"Dad and Mum (Chris and Rae Spiers) camped up here ...they honeymooned here." Originally from Port Chalmers, Chris and Rae retired to Ohau in 2007.

Killin is named for the village of Killin in Perthshire, now Stirling, in Scotland, where “Mum’s mum came from”.

Prior to moving permanently to Ohau from Dunedin two years ago Hugh was gift shop Acquisitions’ team leader. He saw the potential of “such a special location” and an opportunity to share the “wonderful asset”.

“We don’t know how lucky we are.”

He’s spent the past two years developing the bed and breakfast.

Now three luxurious rooms grace the second floor of The Barn which is reached via the wide staircase lined with old family photographs.

Hugh says, from the outset, he was determined to put the 'breakfast' back in Bed and Breakfast.

Many modern B&Bs seem to stint on that, he says. And on what they offer guests. He uses the good china, brings out the good crystal, and takes time to “do all the niceties”.

Unsurprisingly, the B&B’s popularity has “exceeded all expectations” with bookings, repeat bookings and forward bookings from all over the world.

He ticks off the countries - “Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, China, Spain, Italy ...”

And turns, opens a huge trunk and pulls out each country’s flag in turn.

He makes sure the appropriate pennant is flying on the arrival of each group of guests and, if he doesn’t happen to have the right one, he flies the UK royal standard.

“I score big points for that,” he says laughing.

Inevitably, with each new guest, Hugh plays that guessing game every Kiwi loves - just how many degrees of separation are there between you and me?

“The world is such a small place. There’s always some connection,” he says.

And nowadays, with hosting so many guests, and with the wonders of the internet, there are so many more.

“They arrive as strangers and leave as friends.”

With his gift for drama Hugh fills the room with colourful stories of the people he has met. “I was heavily involved with the Dunedin Operatic Theatre... had lots of fun, made life-long friends. There’s nothing I can’t do with a glue gun, paint brush and hair dryer.” On occasion he still helps out a little with musical dinner theatres and has been “make-up and wardrobe” for shows like 'The Other Mrs Brownz Boys’ and ‘The Faulty Towers Dinner Theatre’.

But mostly now, he saves those skills for an evening spent in with guests and impromptu 'shows' around that dining table.

There’s singing and dancing, laughter, music, not to mention the crafting of 'wimples' from table napkins for his Chinese ‘nuns’ who carouse and karaoke through an evening filled with songs from Rodgers & Hammerstein Sound of Music - loved the world over. You can picture it all.



The wait is over

A brand-new accessible toilet is now installed and fully operational at the Department of Conservation Ahuriri River Bridge campsite, and the fence to reduce the area allowed for camping has been built.

In July, the Mackenzie and Waitaki Basins Responsible Camping Strategy Working Group which formed to manage camping ahead of the 2018/19 summer tourist season told concerned community groups, including the Omarama Residents' Association it hoped to have the toilet plus fencing to restrict numbers camping at the site, in place before the summer season.

In August, the working group confirmed it had received the necessary funding from the Government - \$31,000 - to build the additional toilet and fencing at Ahuriri Bridge.

This was part of \$548,000 allocated by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment's Tourism Facilities Development Grants Fund for toilets, signage, vehicle counters, fencing, and monitoring and compliance at various sites along State Highway 8, including Lindis Pass, Ahuriri Bridge, Lake Poaka and Pattersons Ponds. Mackenzie District Council community facilities group manager Garth Nixon has managed the project to install the toilets and the Department of Conservation Mt Cook office has built the fence.



Game on!

The Omarama Residents' Association's application to Meridian Waitaki Power Up Community Fund for help to build sports courts has been approved.

Meridian Energy will give \$75,000 to the project.

This news has come not long after the association learned the Waitaki District Council would contribute \$40,000 towards the multi-purpose sports courts and a toilet at the Omarama Hall Reserve.

The council has also agreed to take ownership and maintain the facilities which will be open for public use.

Jemma Gloag, who has been coordinating the project for the association, said these grants plus the monies already raised meant potentially there was enough to complete at least the first stage of the project.

"I am pleasantly surprised by the level of generosity shown by both Meridian Energy and the council.

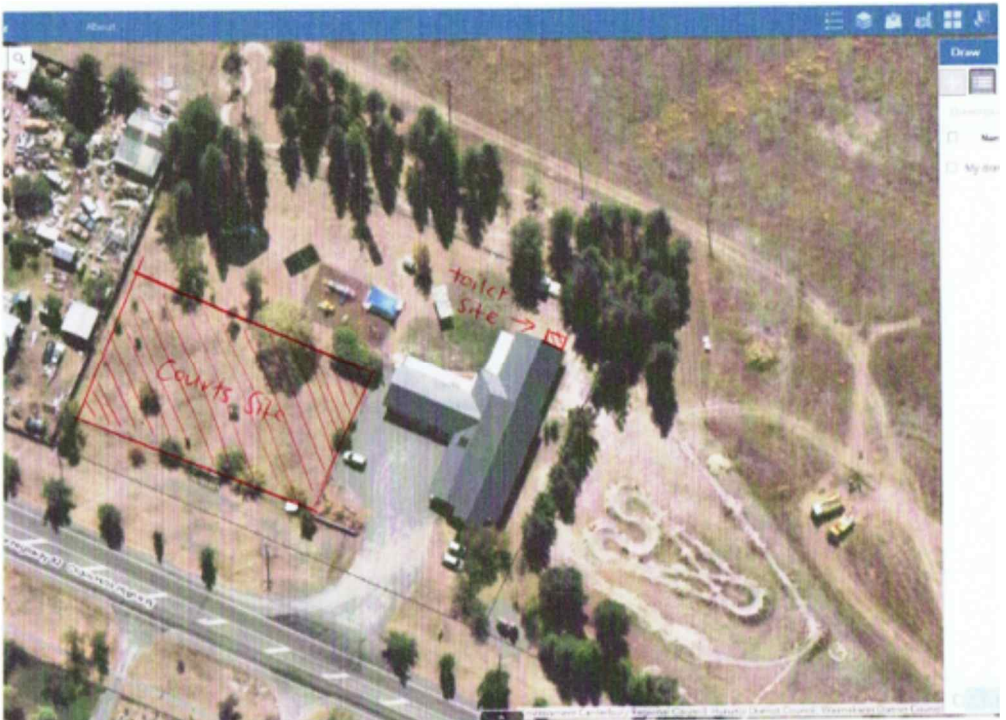
"There's still work to be done but I'm super excited the project is really charging forward.

"It's great news for Omarama."

Association chairperson Ann Patterson said Jemma was to be congratulated for "leading the team" and coordinating the project.

"The facility will greatly benefit residents and visitors alike."

The project would be completed in stages and could potentially cost up to \$240,000 depending on what was included, Jemma said.



The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here.

email: omaramagazette@gmail.com

Our sincere condolences are extended to Karen Ward and Kate and Beckie Wilson on their recent loss.

The Omarama Collie Club recently held its annual meeting. Officers: president, Scott Hunter; vice-president, Rob Waldie; secretary/treasurer Prue O'Neill; catering Carla Hunter and Andrea Aubrey.

The Omarama Golf Club Saturdays tee-off 1pm. Twilight golf tee-off is 6pm, Thursdays. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley, 027 347276.

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 is open 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, and Tuesdays from 7pm to 8pm 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.

FENZ 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.

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

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

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**The December issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, December 5, 2018.**

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

**The Ahuriri Community Board meeting
is 3.15pm to 5.15pm
Monday, November 12,
Community Centre, Omarama**

The Community Reports

Upper Waitaki Police news



Howdy all, another month has flown by and once again Labour weekend.

This years Labour Weekend would have to be the best I've policed in the seven years I've been here. On the Friday night I spoke with several large groups of students both in Otematata township and the Loch Laird camp site. They were all warned that police would be stringently enforcing any breaches of the alcohol ban or underage drinking, and no warnings would be given. I have to give credit to all

the students who attended and, of course, the schools, who I understand gave all of their senior pupils a lecture on appropriate behaviour prior to the weekend. All of the students were very respectful to police staff and 99 percent of them obeyed the rules. Of course there's always the odd clown in a large group of people (including adults) that will try their luck, and this was no exception with one youngster initially being arrested for breaching the Liquor Ban. He is now being dealt with by the school who are ensuring he completes some community work as punishment. Of course there was still the issue of underage kids being unsupervised and drinking at the Loch. Unfortunately, this is extremely hard to police as they're all standing in the middle of a paddock and dump their booze as soon as they see police approaching. There is little we can do to stop this and we rely on parents to ensure that they know where their children are and what they're up to.

In the last two months I've attended approximately six car crashes, a couple of these are your usual tourist crashes i.e not driving to the conditions, being unfamiliar with New Zealand roads. But what is of more concern to me is that three of these crashes all involving New Zealand citizens, have been as a result of being boozed to the eyeballs. One idiot was from Oamaru, another from Twizel and the latest from Otematata. Thankfully, no one was killed in any of these crashes although how the hell that is I don't know, especially the first one in which the vehicle was so badly damaged that I couldn't even tell what make of car it was or if it was a station wagon or a sedan. The second crash involved a bridge where the timber siding went through the front windscreen missing the driver by mere centimetres. If it had hit him he'd have no head. The third crash was a roll-over where the driver escaped unscathed but his front seat passenger received a suspected broken wrist. In almost every occasion where some drunken fool gets behind the wheel there are other people aware that they're doing so. Those people need to speak up tell the idiot not to do it, take the keys from them if you can, or failing that phone police. If it means you upset the person so be it, better that than hearing the next day that person killed themselves or someone else, and you have to live with the fact that you could have stopped it.

That's it from me stay safe and have a great month.

Bean

Senior Constable Nayland Smith,

03 4389559 Ext: 34580 E: Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



There were 13 call in October.

Sadly, we are saying farewell to a couple of our members so we are now desperately seeking replacements. If you are prepared to join an amazing family pop in, we do need you .

-Stay safe. Omarama Chief Fire Officer Terry Walsh.

FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. Contact CFO Terry Walsh at Mobil Omarama.

FENZ Omarama Rural Fire

Omarama Rural Fire are on the look out for new members, 16 years and over - even if you're retired. Age is not an issue.

Our primary role is to fight vegetation fires which normally take place on our local farms and Department of Conservation reserves.

Rural Fire has been going 30 years and Omarama is leading the way in Otago-Southland.

We have amalgamated with the fire brigade and so we are now all one organisation that operates from the Omarama Fire Station.

I invite you to come along to the station on a Wednesday night at 7pm so we can discuss what we do and show you around the station and the vehicles.

Jimmy Courtney, Area Controller 027 441 8612, email: ahuririvalley@gmail.com



OMARAMA GOLF CLUB



NEW YEAR'S TOURNAMENT

Saturday 5th January 2019

Cost \$30.00 pp

Two's \$2.00

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

BBQ on course & Meal afterwards

Great Prizes, Raffles

Great Company

EVERYONE WELCOME

Contact Adrian Tuffley 0273478276 for information

To assist with planning, if possible, pre-registration would be appreciated either txt Adrian or email bambamclarke@yahoo.co.nz include name, membership no. and handicap.

Omarama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

The club is now heading into our busy summer season. The grass is growing fast due to the rain and warm weather. A thank you to all the members that volunteer their time to mow the course, as it's a big job.

Thanks to a grant from New Zealand Community Trust we will be coring our greens on Wednesday, November 7.

There will be no club day on Saturday, November 10, 2018.

Some jobs have been completed over the last couple of months. Gas for hot water has been installed at the Clubrooms, special thanks to Greg Harper, Brent Fokkens (Goldfields Electrical), Johnny Anderson and Plumbing World Oamaru for their contributions. We now have water flowing through our golf course again, thanks to Kevin Grant clearing our waterway.

The club hosted the Labour Weekend Fire Brigade tournament, which again was a huge success.

Lew Walker and Graeme Sargent took first place honours on 49 points, and there were quite few on 48 points.

The bigger winner on the day, of course, was the Firebrigade with about \$2500 raised.

A thank you to all our sponsors.

Planning has started for our New Year tournament (see notice below) which last year we had a record turnout of approx. 70 entries.

Put Saturday, January 5, 2019 in your diary. All welcome.

Welcome to our new member Paul Bryant.

If you are keen to join to the Club we have several options, please contact Christine Bowman (027 209 2320) to discuss.

We have hosted a number of clubs on their golf trips and Superman was recently spotted on the course!! (*Photo: Christine Bowman*).



Omarama Residents' Association

From the last meeting...

Seventeen people attended the annual meeting of the Residents' Association of Omarama, last month.

Ann Patterson was elected chairperson for another year, Charlotte Cook will continue as treasurer, and Lorraine King was re-elected secretary. A new position – vice-chairperson – was created and Judy Piner was elected to this post.

Committee members are – Yvonne Jones, Ross Menzies, Jemma Gloag, Hank and Kay Verheul, Stephen Grundy, Gary Sutherland, Tony Chapman, Lesley Jackson and Ross Gold.

In her report Ann said it had been a “challenging” and “very busy” year.

Highlights included the submissions to the Waitaki District Council's Long-Term Plan, the Ahuriri River Bridge Camping forum, and planning and fundraising for the new sports facility. The financial situation of the association was sound.

Meetings were “always open” and she encouraged members to bring others along.

Looking ahead, the group hoped to complete plans and begin construction of the sports courts, Ann said.

The next meeting will be 7.30pm Thursday, November 15, at the Omarama Community Centre. Waitaki mayor Gary Kircher has indicated he will attend.

Contacts: Ann Patterson, chairperson, 03 438 9493,

Lorraine King, secretary, 027 434 6027

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
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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



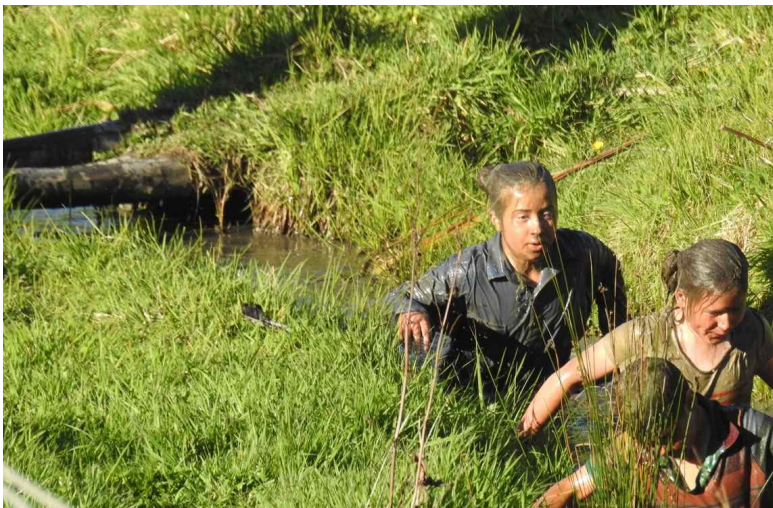
By Omarama School principal Kim McKenzie

What a fantastic challenging camp we had at Berwick lodge, south of Dunedin. The children experienced a huge range of activities and experiences designed to develop problem-solving and to challenge their confidence and abilities. Our outdoor instructor "Uncle Evan" was ex military which led to a special effect on the children. Evan was very impressed by our confident can-do attitudes across our school. He had never seen 5 year old scaling the 10 metre wall before. Children's behaviour on camp was outstanding and they were really good at supporting and encouraging their peers. Great job guys keep up the good work! Below are some recounts from our senior class of their experiences at camp. I hope you enjoy reading them.

Camp 2018 - by Lochie Murray.

Wading through chest deep water, commando crawling through mud what did I get myself into? At approximately 4.30pm Evan was briefing us about what we were about to do, blood rushing to my head then suddenly 'Attention Line up!' As I said in my head why, why, why.

Suddenly in the ditch! While crawling up the ditch all I could hear was Evan hollering in my ear and I could just see him out of the corner of my eye. Next we had to



...Continued

climb up a pole onto a net and crawl across it, then we jumped off. Next we ran and ran and ran some more.

It was getting dark, but as it got darker it got colder and we were already cold by the mud, water and the wind. Life was NOT getting easier. We were running up a creek and I was hoping we didn't need to get in then suddenly Evan interrupting my thoughts said, "EVERYONE IN THE CREEK!"

We had been wading in chest deep, bone chilling water for five minutes and then I saw the exit of the creek and Evan yelling at us. Then we ran down a road to a deep long stop of turd coloured, eye watering thick nose melting mud! Then down commando crawling, crawling face down first in the mud

After we had to wade through a creepily warm creek and across a corner of a pond then we had to simultaneously march back to field introns of camp then to another creek. Lastly Evan said "We're goin swimin! He told us to swim up a creek, swim under a couple of logs and hide in bushes in front of camp and finally charge camp, so we did! Over all it was a really fun experience and I think everyone got into the Evan army and I loved the Berwick Camp overall.

Camp 2018 - by Suzie Smith.

My tummy's turning. I'm almost crying it looks cold wet muddy sticky. Then-it all starts... I wake up and realise it's Monday morning and we are heading to camp today. The whole school arrives at camp at about 2.30pm. It is such a long drive but I am glad we have made it.

From Tuesday until Thursday there is a lot of challenges but fun activities, sometimes they are at amazing camp Berwick and sometimes they are away from camp.

It's Thursday afternoon and the hardest most challenging activity is finally starting it's called the mud run assault course. The man who is taking the assault course is very scary and he yells a lot. He yells at us and says go and get your yucky old clothes and old shoes on now, everyone is very nervous so we all listen and sprint off to do it. We come back and he's still standing there looking even more grumpy. "Line up" he screams "get down do 20 push ups also there's no girl push ups in this army camp."

I am so nervous at this point I almost feel like vomiting. "Run," he says, "Jump."

"This is so hard, I'm so cold, so tired but I have to finish it I say to myself.

"Ok, my god," I thought as he was saying "put mud on your face then crawl through the water under the logs and then charge at all the other kids who didn't do the mud run." The end, I can finally see the end, thank god.





Camp 2018 - By Taylor Anderson

Butterflies are racing through my stomach, my heart's pounding, "Are you sure it's safe?"

It was the 18th of October we were on our last activity of the day. We were on shooting. It was my first time shooting a gun. After the rules were explained Mr.S said " So who are the three people that are going to go first?" Dom, Laura and Eliza jump to the opportunity. About 19-20 minutes later it was my turn... My heart was pounding, my hands were shaking. I take a deep breath, "Ok I'm ready."

I smacked open the nozzle, it hurt my hand a little bit but I was ok. I nervously picked up a bullet, it was so small that it just about slipped - through my finger, it was like trying to keep a hold of a slippery slug. I slipped the bullet into the hole. Then it was time to shut the nozzle up.I line up the lasers... Once they were lined up I realised that I had no idea what we were supposed to be shooting at. It took a little bit but I realised what we were shooting at. We were shooting little orange targets or cans in front of the flax bushes. I took a deep breath I slowly start pulling the trigger my heart starts racing then I here a ding... I hit the target.

Overall I really enjoyed shooting I will definitely do it again same time.



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Limited tickets for those who want to come along to the dinner and auction to be purchased by 1st November \$25 per head.



Contact Lisa Anderson: 021 2438940 | bogroystation@gmail.com to enter your team or for more info

Halloween

The whole school also enjoyed a Halloween party on Friday with some amazing costumes.

Thanks to the year 6-8 for organising some fun games for us to participate in during the afternoon.

We are looking at opening our pool soon, so if you are interested in purchasing the code for our pool for the season please contact Ange in the office. The cost this year will be \$100.00.

Take care, Kim McKenzie, Principal.

Photos: Kim McKenzie and Lex Perriam



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

Waitaki District Council - news in brief

Armistice Day, Sunday, November 11, in North Otago will be commemorated at two services in the Waitaki district.

One will be at the WW1 monument outside the Waitaki District Council office in Thames St at 10.40am.

As well, Waitaki mayor Gary Kircher, Queensland MP Ted Sorenson, members of the Brisbane Rotary Club, Royal Australian Airforce squadron leader Sarah Johnson and representatives of the New Zealand Defence Force as well as district community leaders will attend the unveiling of a plaque at the Maheno Cenotaph, Williams Street Maheno. The service will start at 10.30am.

Last year, a reciprocal ceremony on Anzac Day was held on Fraser Island, Queensland at the wreck site of Her Majesty's New Zealand Hospital ship HMHS Maheno. A plaque raised then on Fraser Island was made from a piece of limestone sourced from North Otago. The plaque and stone plinth unveiled on Sunday will be replicas of those unveiled at the wreck site.

Almost \$24,000 has been given to Oamaru Hospital by the Countdown for Kids Trust allowing Waitaki District Health Services to buy an \$11,742 wall-mounted infant warmer and Neopuff infant resuscitator, a \$5064 junior electric bed, \$3604 Medela Symphony breast pump, \$3074 Milano paediatric electric bed and \$398 Buzzy Bee. WDHS also held a charity luncheon at the hospital which raised \$450 for the Trust.

Closing times for consents or special licences before the Christmas – New Year break.

Building consent and resource consent applications – The closing date for this – to allow for 20 working days for processing is November 21.

Land Information Memorandum application - The last day for submitting a LIM application to allow 10 working days for processing is the December 7.

In these cases, from December 20, 2018, to 10 January 10, 2019, inclusive, are deemed to be non-working days.

Special licences for alcohol – The last day to apply for a special licence for an event being held before January 15, 2019, is November 22. For events from January 15 to mid-February, applications must be received at least 20 working days prior to the event. If your event is in early February the council must receive the application in enough time to process allowing for the non-working days. Under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012, the period 20 December 2018 to 15 January 2019 inclusive are deemed to be non-working days.

Food/Mobile Traders trading over the Christmas period - applications must be in before December 14 to allow for processing prior to the Christmas closure on December 21.

Parking Permits- Any new applications or renewals of parking permits must be submitted before December 19.

Please note the council office close 12.00 noon Friday, December 21 and reopen Thursday, January 3, 2019.

Phone: 03 433 0300 Freephone 0800 108 081

Automated options after hours E-mail: service@waitaki.govt.nz

www.waitaki.govt.nz



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 03 4360760 F: 03 4360780

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre

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- * Botox for Wrinkle reduction
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- * Counselling
- * Spirometry to diagnose asthma and COPD
- * Hearing and sight tests for adults and children
- * Ear syringing
- * Liquid nitrogen for warts, verruca's and skin lesions
- * Cardiovascular risk assessment and diabetic checks (funded for eligible patients)
- * Travel advice and vaccination
- * Cervical smears (funded for eligible patients)
- * Seasonal flu shots and shingles vaccine (funded for eligible patients)
- * Childhood immunisation
- * Before school checks
- * Postnatal and six-week baby health check

And much more!

**GP consult fees: Under 13yrs Free; Adult \$40.00
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We also offer the following services from external Health Care Providers:

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- *Reiki and Reflexology (Twizel only)

Opening hours

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm; Omarama: Tuesday 8.30am to 5pm

Twizel: Monday and Friday 8.30 to 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm
and Saturday 10am to 1pm

Please note: We provide 24/7 on call after hours cover by our doctors and PRIME nurses for all our registered and casual patients!

**If you require further information or an appointment, please contact us on:
For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503**



Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

Take your own picnic and leave the stunning view.

Use a picnic set and reusable containers to enjoy a low-waste lunch without leaving any rubbish behind. Don't let waste get into our lakes and rivers – it can impact water quality.

Here's a few tips for a low-waste picnic:

- Pack your sandwiches rather than buying them in wrapping.
- Use beeswax wraps or reusable containers for carrying food.
- Fruit is a great low-waste option.
- Pack a reusable water bottle and flask for waste-free drinks.
- Use a face cloth for wiping hands and faces.
- Take home any waste – including bottles, packaging and food waste – or use provided rubbish bins.

Remember to use the toilet facilities provided as well!

www.ecan.govt.nz/upperwaitaki



The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by councils.

fb.com/canterburywater

E18/7002

Environment Canterbury news in brief

ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee wants people to pack their own picnics to reduce rubbish when visiting recreational spots this summer. The low-waste picnic theme is part of its Love Your Lakes campaign. The campaign reminds lake users to dispose of rubbish responsibly, use the toilet facilities and not discharge dirty water or sewage into waterways. Committee chairperson Simon Cameron says planning ahead and packing an old-style picnic minimises rubbish.

"It may take a little more planning but going retro – using plates, a flask and reusable containers – really cuts down on the rubbish that's left when you pack up your picnic. A competition to win a waste-free picnic basket will be launched on the Canterbury Water Facebook page. ECan monitors water quality at swimming spots around the region. The results are available at Land, Air, Water Aotearoa lawa.org.nz/swim.

ECan navigation safety officer Gary Manch is urging boaties of all kinds – from paddle-boarders to powercraft operators – to ensure their lifejackets are in a serviceable condition and fitted correctly. Lifejackets with either kapok filling or cotton straps should be destroyed. Kapok absorbs water and causes wearers to sink. Modern lifejackets should be tested every time before they are worn. If they are 10 years old, destroy and replace them. Vessels should be serviced before heading out and boaties should have two reliable forms of waterproof communication, such as a VHF radio and cell phone. And they need to make sure they know the rules of the water, including bylaw, for the area. Braided rivers pose special risks, conditions can change quickly, debris can float or become embedded. Known hazards are published on the ECan Hazard's page.

ECan is reminding irrigators to make sure water is applied to their consented piece of land only and not onto roadways. Irrigation system operators must monitor the use of their water and equipment to make sure the water is used in the way that was authorised by their resource consent. Anyone concerned about spray on the road that is clearly coming from an irrigation system should contact ECan on 0800 324 636. If there is immediate danger to road users they should contact the police.

ECan has announced the results of its release of the new rabbit haemorrhagic virus disease strain. It released the virus at 92 sites across the region. In its analysis across 400km and 27 high country stations in the Mackenzie Basin, the area with the largest problem, there was an average reduction rate of 40%.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu supports ECan in its promotion of the Canterbury Regional Council (Ngāi Tahu Representation) Bill to Parliament. If it is passed, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu can appoint up to two members to the Regional Council, retaining the status quo after the ECan (Transitional Governance Arrangements) Act 2016 expires in 2019.

The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is Friday, November 23, 2018

Venue and start time to be confirmed.

**Please contact Barb Gilchrist on
barb.gilchrist@ecan.govt.nz or 0275683297**

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**

New Zealand Government

Draft Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan - extended time for submissions

The Eastern South Island Region of the Department of Conservation (DOC) gives notice of an extension to the submission period on the draft Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan under Section 47(2) of the National Parks Act 1980.

Written submissions on the draft Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan will now be accepted until 4 pm, Monday 4 February 2019.

Copies of the draft Plan can be inspected during working hours between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm at:

- Department of Conservation National Office Wellington,
- Department of Conservation Offices in Twizel, Geraldine, Hokitika and Fox Glacier (limited opening hours)
- Department of Conservation Visitor Centres in Aoraki/Mount Cook, Franz Josef, Queenstown, Wanaka, Haast, Christchurch and Wellington.

Alternatively, you can download a copy online at www.doc.govt.nz/aoraki-mt-cook-plan-review, where you will also find information about making a submission.

Submissions should be posted to:

Aoraki/Mount Cook NPMP Submissions
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 4715
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

or emailed to aorakinp@doc.govt.nz

Any person or organisation wishing to be heard in support of their submission should state this in their submission. Submitters should be aware that any submission they make is subject to provisions of the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1982.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Omarama women rise to the challenge

Two Omarama teams enter this year's Spring Challenge – the women's adventure race – in Westport.

Both teams – Jemma Gloag, Annabelle Subtil, Nic Zuppicich, and Lisa Anderson, Fiona Bochel and Liko Inkersell entered in the six-hour veterans challenge. Westport put on great weather for the event, Jemma said. The challenge began with a run to the rafts, a 9km raft race down the Buller River followed by a 36km bike ride over farmland and a 7km orienteering hike where the teams needed to find specific markers. Then there was another bike ride, 16km this time, and 6km of orienteering. The challenge finished with “a big hike up soft sand along the beach”. Both teams took just on eight hours to complete the challenge. “Omarama women led the way.” Jemma said they had a good support crew - the husbands – who also had a lot of fun



The long arm of the law attends to Omarama's thin white line.

A welcome makeover, but can anyone help?

Doesn't it look spic and span?!

But, Bean says another coat of brown would not go amiss...so, does anyone have just one more litre gathering dust in the back of the shed?

Last month, Bean spent his days outside the office freshening up the 'Welcome to Omarama, place of light' sign at the southern entrance to town.

Bean undertakes his community service.

- with thanks to Michele Patterson for the photo and caption.





15 Mackenzie Drive PH: 4350777

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

Please make inquiries with our reception. 4350777

Enrol With Us

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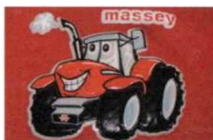
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Steve specialises in Real Estate in the Waitaki Valley and has resided in Otematata for the past 9 years. He enjoys helping people build a better future; whether it's moving up the property ladder or buying their first home, business or commercial venture. Steve brings a huge wealth of experience in all aspects of property - big or small!



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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 Charlotte



For advertising rates
and guidelines

Phone 021 294 8002

Or email: omaramagazette@gmail.com

Twizel Kindergarten



You get 30 free hours if your child is 3 or 4 years old like me.

The teachers are all qualified and registered.



There are spaces here for children aged 2-5 years.

We are a not for profit organisation and registered charity which means all the money received goes back to support your child's learning.



Contact Head Teacher Carol Sinclair

Phone 03 435 0433

or call in to the kindergarten

135 Mackenzie Drive, Twizel

Take a peek...

Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park has just opened four new studio units for the summer ahead.

Below: *Jessie Chapman takes a break on the sunny deck of one of the new units.*



Building New Zealand.



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Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park is ready for summer

Each unit sleeps three, with one queen and one single bed and is complete with its own en-suite and kitchenette.

*The standard cabins have been shifted and renovated.
The studio units offer that touch of luxury.*



Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park

1 Omarama Avenue
Omarama 9448
P: +64 3 438 9875
Reservations: 0800 662 726
omaramatop10.co.nz



It's November
The fish are jumping
Put up that gone fishin' sign
The Ahuriri is the place to be!

Try one of our new luxurious studio units
Book a cabin or motel,
or come camping
and explore our big backyard.

Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park

Situations Vacant

Wanted

Trained Early Childhood and Primary Teachers to relieve at Twizel Kindergarten.

*We know you are out there,
it's time to have your skills and training appreciated once more.*

Please contact:

Carol Sinclair

twizel.kindergarten@sck.nz

03 435 0433



Cleaner wanted

Honest, reliable person required to clean
and service a holiday home in Omarama.
Hours will be dependent on bookings.

Please phone Tracey 021 026 59526

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

October 2018

Highest temperature: October 23, 30.8C

Lowest temperature: October 13, -2.2C

Most rainfall: October 25, 32mm

Total rainfall for October: 78mm

The FAQs - Those Five Awkward Questions with...

Tom and Sally Moore - Lake Ohau Station



Tom and Sally Moore returned to Omarama two years ago and 'real' high-country farming after more than a decade farming on the other side of the Lindis, first at Bendigo then at Lindis Peak station. Back in the day they worked at Twinburn for Peter and Ann Patterson. Their three children – Rachel, Willie, and Suzy – started their schooling at Omarama School.

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

"Dad used to always say, 'Get up early and work hard'." Sally grew up in Wanaka, her father was a deer culler and her mother had motels.

"I've been given a lot of advice ... but 'You've gotta do the work', is probably the best" Tom grew up in Marlborough.

Tell us something about Omarama we might not know?

"In December 1995 Omarama had 123mls of rain – 60ml then 59ml plus four over two days. It washed out the approach to the bridge at Clifton Downs and our neighbour the late Dick Croft flew the children in and out to school. It had been hot and dry and overnight all this clover turned green.

In the same year temperatures dropped to -25C after a heavy snowfall and Patsy Croft had to warm the diesel truck in the garage up with heaters to get them going."

Who would you invite to your dream dinner party?

*Singer and guitarist Diesel - Sally
Golfer Tiger Woods – Tom*

Best day outside the office?

Spending time at the playground with the granddaughters (and ski-ing)– Sally

Taking the rifle for a walk - Tom

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

If corporations would cut chief executive's wages and spread that money out among the workers - Sally

Plant more (non-invasive) trees - Tom



Public Notices

A public meeting will be held

**at 2pm on Friday, November 16, 2018 at the Omarama Memorial Hall,
to discuss a legal easement across the Church property.**

Come, Learn and have your Say

St Thomas' Management Committee

Track closed temporarily

**The Lake Benmore Peninsula walking track
near Otematata is closed until early December
while work is done to selectively clear wilding conifers.**

The View from the Chook House



Forget
coffee,
come
feed
us!

The Garden Diary - Gifts and Collectibles

There's a bit of a pause here in this garden toward the end of spring.

The daffodils saved their last waltz for the breezy Nor' wester and have moved off the dance floor, homeward bound, storing memories for next spring deep within their bulbs.

The early roses have dared to show a face or two only to have the late frost send them shivering back into hibernation for another week.

For now there is time and space for those tiny treasures to captivate and delight.

I still remember the moment I laid eyes on *Corydalis flexuosa* – there is no common name because, dare I say it, she is no common creature. I'd never be without her.

Her prismatic flowers are like intricately-cut blue topaz drops hanging over an Edwardian lace collar of deep green leaves. November's birthstone, indeed.

Don't be fooled by Mme *Corydalis*' fragile looks. She's a toughie, withstanding cold winters and holding her head high in dry-ish shade.

Once she's danced her last dance she fades elegantly into the background to wait out the summer heat.

As does *Dicentra* - now known as *lamprocapnos* - *spectabilis* which I've always known by that gothic name "Bleeding Heart".

Her necklace of Schiaparelli pink 'hearts' break to white crystal and pearl 'tears'.

There is a white version - *Spectabilis Alba*.

Botanically, they're not at all related to the *Corydalis* but it appears they do visit the same dressmaker and jeweller.

Fascinated with their form, I've collected more and, although some do not sport quite such extravagant jewellery, all in their own quiet way are stop-and-look-at-me plants.

Dicentra Formosa 'Langtrees' has sat neglected in its pot under the magnolia, for more than 15 years, and still refuses to be a wall flower.

She, with her pearl drops, wears grey-green lace. She's a cultivar of *Dicentra Formosa* - but even this 'plain Jane' wears a pink pendant.

The yellow *corydalis* would complete my 'topaz' collection.

These treasures are hard to find in nurseries. I suspect it could be because they're not at all showy through summer.

But, when found, you'll also find they're priced as if those gemstones were real.

Like most heirlooms, they are usually handed down or gifted.

They divide and pot up so very easily.

Because not all of them are super long-lived it pays to do this regularly and to be generous in passing them on.

That way you can be sure to replace any you might lose.

Ruth Grundy

(I garden a small space

under a big sky in Omarama)



The Classifieds

To advertise in this section please email omaramagazette@gmail.com.
Cost: Up to 25 words \$10 paid in advance. Copy must be received and payment made by the Friday before publication. Payment details will be forwarded on receipt of copy. Publication is the first Wednesday of each month.

Open to Mackenzie district and Omarama residents.

Twizel Op Shop-eration

Come to the Twizel Op Shop, Twizel Promotions Office or the Community Care Centre and purchase a numbered Op Shop-eration bag.

Take this item and upcycle it into something new and fashionable.

Two categories you can enter are – Clothing and Non-garment.

Entries will be displayed at the Up Cycle Market in Twizel on the November 24.

Entries are open to Mackenzie district residents or holiday home owners and Omarama residents.

Entries: \$10 for adults / \$5 for under 16 year olds (payable when you collect your item). Delivery to Omarama can be arranged.

For more information contact Lisa 0274353014.

House to Rent

New modern centrally-heated house to rent long-term

17 Pinot Noir Court, Omarama.

Four large bedrooms, large living kitchen, large double garage
available early December

Phone Alan 021 713261.

For advertising rates and guidelines

phone 021 294 8002

or email omaramagazette@gmail.com

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