

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)*Staying close whatever the distance...*[View this email in your browser](#)

## Omarama Gazette



## The Daily Wire

*Keeping us connected*

Tuesday, March 31, 2020

### In this issue...

*It's the photography issue, do you accept the challenge? More important notices, fun stuff and today's diary entry.*

Hi everyone

**Just to let you all know, there will be no Omarama Gazette or Otematata Chronicle produced** while New Zealand is at alert level 4 in the fight against the spread of Covid 19.

Instead there will be the Daily Wire with the latest updates sent each day at 4pm-ish by email.

For those who advertise regularly in the Gazette and Chronicle, I will extend your present contract arrangement accordingly once regular transmission resumes. Please contact me if you would prefer a refund - many thanks for your support.

**Please feel free to contact the Daily Wire and share your 'day in the life of Covid-19'**, or phone and I'll take down your words. Send photo's videos, whatever you find easy. Let's share.

**Please get in touch if you have a message** you want to get out to the community.

**Please scroll to the end for email order instructions and forms** for Four Square, instructions from Kurow Medical Centre and info from the Waitaki District Council.

*Let's stay close whatever the distance*  
- Ruth

**Click here to message, contribute, or  
subscribe to the Daily Wire.**

---

Here is the link to the Government's  
one stop shop for all things  
Covid-19 <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

---

## Capturing Omarama's big skies

Capturing Omarama's big skies - through gliding and photography

*By Antonieta (Tieta) Moreno-Casañas. Photos: supplied*

The 20 years of crazy handmade birds flying over the sky of Omarama have left unimaginable stories, good adventures, a strong family and it has been the starting place of innovative cultural projects like Fotorama.

This photography business has developed around three main things: a Hungarian glider pilot named Milan Kmetovics, an impressive Canon wide format printing machine and the beautiful landscapes of the South Island.

Milan, my partner, has been a photographer for more than 20 years and he has spent the past five of them in Omarama taking photos from a glider.

About a year ago he decided to buy the printing machine and start his small business- Fotorama.

In photos he has created different framed anecdotes, gliding adventures and stories that now grace the walls of houses in Omarama creating a historical record of flying in the place of light.

*"Today everybody takes pictures and they are all over the digital world, a massive digital reproduction. It is important to take them back to the physical world so we can create some memories for the future. This machine [the printer] creates museum-grade quality prints that can last hundreds of years, stay at people's houses and create impressions of the time we are living. This is what gives me a sense of purpose," Milan says.*

Milan has also used these 'printed memories' in their different formats - canvas and fine art prints, tiny fridge magnets and, the latest product release, wallpapers - to help raise funds for the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade and Youth Glide.

Hopefully, the gliders will be back in town and with them more images that will show the people the wonders of this land.

*"Behind these photos they are really stories. I took them when I was flying. I am lucky that I can do that so, if I see something nice, why should I not share it with the world?"*

Even in these disruptive times, sharing is possible.

If you want to know more about this, visit the website: <http://fotorama.co.nz>, or the



## The Noticeboard

### A MESSAGE FROM WASTECO MANAGING DIRECTOR CARL STORM

Put gloves on before you move your bins and wash your hands thoroughly after you move them.

The handles can be a coronavirus hot-spot and must be treated like any other

## PLAYGROUNDS ARE CLOSED

To prevent the spread of the virus all playgrounds are closed - this includes the school playground. This is because the disease can be spread on hard surfaces like swings and slides.

## OMARAMA GOLF COURSE IS CLOSED.

## SPORTS COURTS ARE CLOSED

## OMARAMA AND OTEMATATA RESOURCE RECOVERY PARK

Omarama open: Wednesday and Sunday – 9am to 11am

Otematata open: Wednesday and Sunday – 1pm to 3pm

**Household rubbish:** Only bags of household/domestic waste and essential commercial waste will be accepted. There will be no charge for bags, however, there is a **limit of two bags per car, per week** (car registrations are recorded to monitor this).

**Commercial rubbish:** commercial waste from current account holders will be accepted with no gate charge, and invoiced later.

To safely manage these facilities under current circumstances and to protect the facility operators' wellbeing, please note the following conditions for using this service over the next four weeks:

- **No recycling (either clean and store at home, or dispose of as rubbish)**
- **No green waste**
- **Place all waste in the marked area**
- **One person out of a car at any one time only**
- **Please do not talk to the booth operator**
- **Please leave promptly**

And please, do not enter a recovery park if you are unwell, have travelled outside of NZ in the last 14 days; or have been in close contact with someone with a confirmed or suspected case of Covid-19. Thank you!

---

### Essential services operating in Omarama:

Omarama Four Square (see below for how to place an order)

The service stations

Firewood supplies

Rock gas supplies

### Omarama Veterinary Clinic

*" The veterinary professional has been given an official 'essential service' status and therefore will continue to be able to supply seasonal requirements. We have had assurance from suppliers that there will be no issue with supply (or logistics), so we would urge everyone that there is no necessity to stock up or forward purchase. When you do visit our clinics you may be met at the front door to ensure that we regulate the number of people in the building at any point in time. Phoning ahead can allow orders to be prepared in advance and these can be brought to your car. We are currently awaiting advice from the NZVA/Vet Council and MPI on what veterinary based tasks will be considered essential over the next four weeks.*

*Regards*

*Veterinary Centre Ltd – Management Team*

## A special request from Fire and Emergency New Zealand

Fenz has asked that people do not light outside fires during the lockdown.

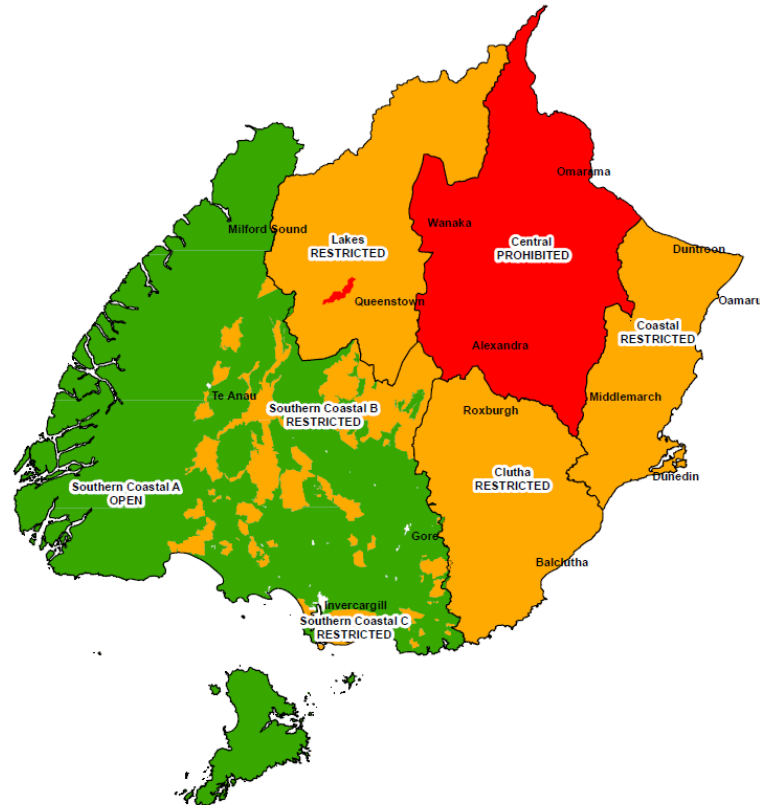
Fewer fires will mean firefighters get fewer callouts and so there will be less risk of



Otago has a **Total Fire Ban in Central Zone** and a Restricted Fire Season for the remainder of Otago.

Fire and Emergency advise applying for a Fire Permit as normal and ensure they follow the conditions on the permit.

In Otago this includes texting your intentions to light up as per permit instructions. For more information please contact [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) or ring 0800 658 628.



## Here's a bit of click bait

Each day I'll put up a topic for those who are out and about to find and photograph. You are welcome to send in one entry per day and you **must** obey the 'lockdown' rules.

Please send in only photos taken that day.

I can publish up to five photos a time in the Wire.

They need to be emailed to [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com) before 2pm to make it into that day's edition.

I will put all entries on the Facebook page.

### Topic for tomorrow's Daily Wire - clouds.

*Photos below - After the rain, by Ruth Grundy and (bottom, left and right) Beckie Wilson*



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

# together at home

## Have you got what it takes?

Brush up on your New Zealand trivia and be sure to be ready when it comes time to take on the New Zealand Chaser!



*So irresistibly squishy*



**Astrophysicist gets magnets stuck up nose while inventing coronavirus device ... click [here](#)**

---

## Our Coronavirus Diary - Day Seven



*By Kim McKenzie, Omarama School principal  
- tackling online teaching via intermittent internet connections with a smile.*

Dear Diary

Today I got up at 7am, lit the fire and cooked breakfast - poached eggs and a smoothie. I walked the dogs for an hour around our section and looked down on the canals. No cars to be seen today.

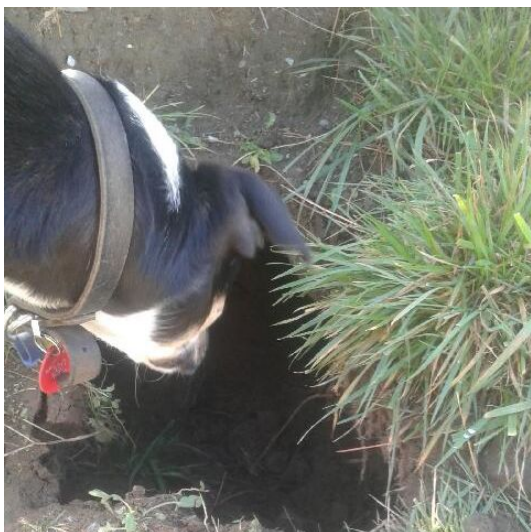
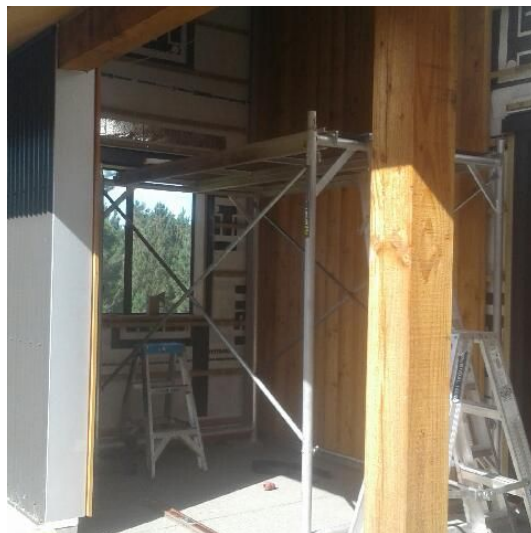
On my return I washed and dried the dishes and then participated in a tutorial about effectively using google 'hangouts' to teach online. Once I had finished this I laid all my tomatoes outside in the sun in the hope the green ones that survived the frost would ripen.

I then began checking and answering my endless emails, including checking the Government's website and the online learning websites and assignments for the



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Once I had completed this I went back outside, and played fetch with the dogs, and helped my husband to put up the larch weatherboard on our house. This afternoon, my plan is to work on our mountain biking tracks and if it rains complete some school work, and perhaps do some baking..... Black berry and apple pie sounds delicious. Still smiling... but thank goodness we have a big section with plenty to do.



# Kurow Medical Centre

Providing 24/7 health care and support to  
the people of the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie

**ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**FROM KUROW MEDICAL CENTRE**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

We as health care providers in the Mackenzie and Waitaki districts would like to extend our heartfelt support and comfort to everyone during these difficult and stressful times.

There will be many who have had to make huge sacrifices and adjustments with their lifestyles that prior to the lock down would never imagined possible. For some the biggest challenge will be isolation and for others too much close contact.

Thankfully the Community Care Centre is doing a fantastic job at reaching out to people who may need help with simple tasks like shopping or fetching wood for the fire, and Kurow and Twizel Community Vehicle Trusts continue to provide a great service for those unable to get to the shops or medical facility.

Friends and families are coming together like never before and even though they may now not be allowed close contact just talking on the phone or skyping etc. is such a valuable way to keep in touch and keep us motivated!

My daughter and three-year-old granddaughter were supposed to arrive from UK last week but missed the border closing deadline by one day! Heart breaking as it was for all of us we made a pact to talk every day on the phone, stay strong and not let this virus kill our spirits!

We as a medical facility are now doing the majority of Doctor and Nurse consults via phone or using virtual consults which is working well. We will continue to see all urgent patients requiring acute care at our clinics. In Kurow we have a separate building next to the medical centre and also fortunate to now have sole use of a building next to our Twizel clinic at Benmore Place. These buildings will be used solely for any potential suspected COVID-19 cases. This means our Kurow Medical Centre, Mackenzie Health Centre and Omarama Community Centre will be kept as safe as possible from the virus.

Flu shots are unfortunately in short supply across the country but will continue to be provided to all eligible patients once we have more in stock. When this restriction is lifted we'll be able to offer this to other patients. We strongly recommended you ALL get your shot this year to ensure our community is protected from the flu. Getting the flu and COVID-19 at the same time is not a good recipe.

I know I can speak for all my staff when I say we are sending you all our very best wishes and will continue to support you all during the lockdown. Please don't hesitate to pick up the phone even if you think it's trivial. We don't mind and will be more than happy to answer your questions or just chat! Tel: 03 436 0760 or 03 976 0503

Please stay safe everyone and ensure you follow the Ministry of Health guidelines for self-isolation: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-self-isolation-close-contacts-and-travellers>

*Yours in health*

*Juliet Gardner*

**PRACTICE MANAGER**

Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinics  
in Twizel (Mackenzie Health Centre Private Clinic)  
and Omarama (Community Hall)

---

**AND MACKENZIE HEALTH CENTRE.**

In order to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and to protect our vulnerable at-risk patients we have been asked by the College of General Practitioners to only see patients at our clinics if they really need to be seen.

For all other appointments, we will now do these via telephone OR virtual Consultations (for this you will need a computer, laptop or smart phone so we can send you a link to download). All screening appointments i.e. Health Heart Checks, Diabetic checks, Cervical Smears etc. will be re-scheduled for a later date.

**PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE MEDICAL CENTRE  
(OR OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE ON TUESDAYS)  
UNTIL YOU HAVE PHONED AHEAD FIRST!  
WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO TAKE THE PRECAUTION  
OF LOCKING THE CLINIC DOORS!**

Call 03 436 0760 or 03 976 0503 to speak with the Doctor or Nurse.  
**Please be reassured you WILL be seen if your condition is urgent!**

Our aim is to bring in patients one at a time from their cars.  
Flu shots are now in and will still be given to patients who are eligible but this will now take place outside the clinics and preferably whilst you are sitting in your car.  
Again phone ahead first to arrange a time with the nurse.  
Thank you for your understanding during these difficult times.

*Take care and keep safe, Juliet and Tim.*

8 Wynyard St, Kurow  
P: 03 4360760 F: 03 4360780  
E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](https://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

The Mackenzie Health Centre is our Twizel Satellite Clinic at:  
3A Benmore Place, Twizel. Phone: 03 976 0503 Fax: 03 4360 780

Omarama Clinic at Omarama Community Centre, Chain Hills Highway, Omarama. Phone: 03 4360 760, Cell: 027 434 7464.

---

## Waitaki District Council update



---

## Today's messages from the Waitaki District Council

**WAITAKI DISTRICT LIBRARIES** have Beamafilm available. Beamafilm is an Australasian video streaming service showcasing hundreds of high-definition documentaries, independent features, educational and foreign films. New films are added all the time. Waitaki District Libraries members get UNLIMITED simultaneous access whenever and wherever there is an internet or WiFi connection. Sign into the streaming platform with your library card barcode number and register your email. The link is right here: <https://library.waitaki.govt.nz/>

### OLDER MESSAGES

**DELIVERIES** please have the necessary items left at your door. Avoid any physical interaction with the delivery person and keep a distance of two metres. This will protect you both from exposure to COVID-19. Wash your hands thoroughly after receiving anything.

**COURIER** or post parcels and packages.

You should only post or courier items that are essential to the provision of the necessities of life. the postal and courier service is busy helping society receive items and goods that are essential. Adding additional pressure and burden to that service may impact on society's wider ability to get through this period and stop the virus.

**WET WIPES** Please pop them in the bin - don't flush them down the toilet. Wet wipes don't disintegrate like loo paper, so flushing them can cause major blockages and breakdowns at wastewater plants, and they'll break your loo, too. Do you really want to be stuck at home with your kids and a blocked toilet?

---

The Waitaki District pandemic response information page is here:  
<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-services/emergency-management/Pages/pandemic-response.aspx>

The Waitaki District Council facebook page is [here](#)

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

Visit the dedicated Pandemic Response Page on our website: [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)



### Message from the Mayor

"May you live in interesting times." This ancient quote which is an ironic curse, seems to be an appropriate one for us in the current situation. These are indeed interesting times!

Life has changed significantly for many of us, and we will have to adapt to it. For others who have been housebound or have limited mobility, sadly it may be more of the same. But for all of us, this is a time to step up and take responsibility for ourselves, and the people around us.

Please remember to stay connected to friends and family. Even though you can't visit them, you can still phone them on landlines, or contact them electronically. Keeping connected to other people is more important than ever, and it's necessary for most people's mental health. I'm looking forward to having a little more time to 'Facetime' with my extended family, using video chat whenever possible to see how everyone is.

Please make the most of the month ahead of us, and please take care of yourself and your family. These are interesting times, and we all have the ability to make them positive times. Best wishes,

Gary Kircher, Mayor for Waitaki



### How to self isolate

All NEW ZEALANDERS who are outside essential services are asked now to stay at home, and to stop all interactions with others outside of those in your household. You can leave your home for fresh air, a walk, exercise, to take your kids, or the dog, outside but **only spend time with those you are in self-isolation with**. If you are outside, keep your distance from others. That means 2 metres at all times. Try not to touch any surfaces. If you do, wash your hands.



### Essential Services are still running

Supermarkets, doctors, pharmacies, service stations, and access to essential services like banking, power, communications, postal services will all be available throughout New Zealand at every alert level.

If you do not have immediate needs, do not go to the supermarket. It will be there for you today, tomorrow, and the day after that. We must give time for supermarkets to restock their shelves, there will be enough for everyone if we shop normally.



### Be kind. Check-in on the elderly or vulnerable

Now's the best time to start yelling over the fence at your neighbours! Swap phone numbers. Think of ways to keep people who aren't online in touch. Think about dropping supplies to those at home sick or that can't make it out. Just remember good hygiene and leave at the door or an agreed spot. Always stay 2 metres apart or more.



### Need financial support?

Don't wait! Apply now. Visit [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz) for info on how to access the government's economic response package or phone the Ministry of Social Development on 0800 599 009.

### Need Help?

The Waitaki District Council call centre will remain open: 03 433 0300

For health advice call your GP, or Healthline on 0800 358 5453

Stressed? Call or text: Need to talk? 1737 This service is free, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Womens Refuge: 0800 733 843

Youthline: 0800 376 633

Age Concern Otago Waitaki: 021 0234 5882

Whitestone Taxis & Post (transport, delivery): call 0800 434 1234

### How we're updating you

On our website, we'll post updates on Facebook and Twitter, broadcast updates via Real Radio 104 every morning (plus send updates to other stations). If you live in the Waitaki Valley check the Oamaru Gazette. In Palmerston listen to Happy Days Radio and Puketapu Radio. We are also finding ways to reach those of our customers who might not use these channels and get print material out to them. Stay safe, everyone.

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



[covid19.govt.nz](http://covid19.govt.nz)



Unite  
against  
COVID-19

### Changes to Council Services

Our offices are close to the public but Council is still operating and focused on delivering essential services during this time.

Our call centre will remain open 03 433 0300, you can email us too at [service@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:service@waitaki.govt.nz)

### Building

No building inspections will be undertaken. Proceeding with uninspected building work will ultimately delay a project and limit our ability to provide Code Compliance Certification. Please be patient and delay your building work until after the alert levels are reduced. If there are any safety concerns with respect to Building/Construction, contact Council for further guidance.

### Rubbish and Recycling

Waitaki Resource Recovery Park is closed. If you don't currently have a kerbside rubbish collection service, please call one of the following businesses directly to organise this - Awamoa bins on 03 434 9445; WasteCo on 0800 341 1111; or Waste Management on 03 434 0031.

Our rural Transfer Stations and the Palmerston Landfill will continue to be open for rubbish drop-off but with limited opening hours and restrictions. Check our website for details.

Recycling isn't an option for hygiene reasons - please clean and store or treat as rubbish.

### Council Facilities

#### Parks

All playgrounds are closed for hygiene reasons. When using the open spaces of our parks and reserves please follow social distancing guidelines.

#### Cultural Facilities

Oamaru Opera House, Horroster Gallery Waitaki, District Archives and North Otago museum are closed. Check the Culture Waitaki website for updates.

#### Waitaki Aquatic Centre

The Aquatic Centre is closed. All pre-payments have been automatically frozen for all customers (swim school & squad). Expiry dates on concession cards & memberships will also be extended.

#### Waitaki District Libraries

Libraries are closed but online resources including e-books, press reader, story box and movie streaming are available from the Library website. Please keep all library items in your home until Libraries are open again. No overdue fines and fees will be incurred.

#### Camping Grounds

All WDC camping grounds are closed. Our Camp Manager will endeavour to facilitate collection of units if necessary - phone 027 6866 901. Otherwise units may stay on site until it is publicly advised that the grounds are open for collection of units again.



**Waitaki**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KALUINHERA A ROME O WAITAKI



Oamaru Four Square | 10 Chain Hills Highway | Oamaru 9448 | Phone: 03 438 9895

Open seven Days, 9am to 6pm

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

the safety of our local and wider community, and our staff and their families - we offer the following options regarding your grocery requirements – should you be unable to, or simply prefer not to shop personally during this time of uncertainty.

1. Email order - and collect
2. Email order - and delivery (within the township).

This service is available Monday – Friday  
Please send orders to - [omarama@foursquare-si.co.nz](mailto:omarama@foursquare-si.co.nz)

**Emailed** orders need to be received by 4pm (Sunday – Thursday) for delivery/collection Monday-Friday between (10am-12pm).

**Please refrain from phoning through orders.**

Please find attached a template grocery order form to be completed, which on receiving – our team will put together for you – for either collection or delivery. At this stage, communication indicates stock levels of core lines are being maintained, however further updates may see some non-essential lines reduced - alleviating unnecessary pressure on deliveries/transportation of goods.

Options for payment:

1. Charged to existing account
2. Payment by direct credit
3. Payment on collection

Any significant updates affecting this current service will be communicated.

*Stay safe everyone.*

*From Alona and Blair, and your Four Square team*

## There are two ways to access the order form...

**(In both cases the completed form must be emailed**

**to: [omarama@foursquare-si.co.nz](mailto:omarama@foursquare-si.co.nz))**

### 1. Click [here](#) to download the Microsoft Word form.

- \* save it to your computer.
- \* type in your order, save it, attach it to the email and send.

### 2. Click [here](#) to open the form as a PDF.

- \* download the form and save it to your computer
- \* print it
- \* write your order on the form
- \* scan it or photograph it, attach it to the email and send.



Other places to find support

- click below to go to websites

## Ensuring Support is Available for Those Most in Need

With the country in lock down many minds are turning to the elderly and vulnerable who may be without assistance at this time.

Civil Defence and Emergency Management Otago acknowledges that it is natural and admirable to want to support others but is asking that people direct their efforts to the right place.

“First and foremost, the best thing everyone can do to help one another is follow the Ministry of Health advice on staying healthy and staying in your bubble,” CDEM Group Controller Richard Saunders said.

“Once you are sure you have your own health in hand, call or text friends, whānau and neighbours to see if anyone in your local networks needs support but make sure you follow the health guidance.”

That guidance is to:

- ☐ Leave groceries at the door, rather than come in. Drop-off at the door (rather than coming in) will protect vulnerable people from exposure to COVID-19
- ☐ Stay at least two metres away from people who are outside your own bubble
- ☐ Use phones or online ways to keep in communication with those you are supporting
- ☐ Maintain good hand hygiene. Wash your hands often using soap for 20 seconds and dry them.

For those who can provide additional support, Mr Saunders asks them to register their availability with Volunteering Otago and Volunteering Central (for Central Otago and the Queenstown Lakes District), the organisations coordinating volunteer efforts on behalf of CDEM Otago.

“It’s critical that our volunteering efforts are coordinated and carried out safely if we are to maintain the requirements around physical distancing. Volunteering Otago and Volunteering Central are the experts when it comes to coordinating volunteers and we are asking anyone who wants to assist the civil defence response to register with them first.

“Our emergency operations centres in each of the districts have been working with them to provide volunteers to those in need and give them the appropriate guidance to protect them and those they are working with.”

**“A regional COVID 19 help centre has been set up in Otago and will operate 7am to 7pm, 7 days a week to receive requests for welfare assistance.”**

**Mr Saunders said anyone requiring welfare support at this time should in the first instance email [help@otagocdem.govt.nz](mailto:help@otagocdem.govt.nz) or call 0800 322 4000 for more information on how to get support.**

## Ministry of Health

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼

**Be kind**



**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.**

**0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)**

**NB Murder is illegal :)**

After 2 weeks of quarantine with her husband, Gertrude decided to knit him a scarf..



Stay tuned...catch you again tomorrow :)

---

### Housekeeping...

Please share this email and encourage others to subscribe if they need to get Omarama notices.

I apologise, I am not able to print copies at the moment. Perhaps, those who can could print one off for someone they know who would appreciate it?

Here is the link to the Government's one stop shop for all things Covid-19- related <https://covid19.govt.nz/>  
(There are daily updates, check it out.)

[Radio New Zealand](#) is the best radio station to tune to for the latest updates, or



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

If you know of someone who is not getting these emails and they are on the 'local list' it could be because some servers believe these messages are spam.

If you add this email address [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com) to your email contacts address 'book' the servers will know we are friends and not spam.

If you want to view previous issues click on '[view this email in your browser](#)' at the top right of this page. Then click on '[past issues](#)' at the top left of that page.

---

# Omarama Gazette

Editor: Ruth Grundy,

021 294 8002, 03 438 9766

Email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

<http://omaramagazette.nz/>



Copyright © 2016-2019, Omarama Gazette, All rights reserved.

**Our mailing address is:**

[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

