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Omarama Gazette



The Daily Wire

Keeping us connected

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

In this issue...

*Remember tonight's **BIG NOISE**; some old (this morning's) news; new news and notices; and today's diary entry.*

Hi everyone

Please note Omarama Four Square has new hours this week, see below.

Let's join in tonight's big noise - at 7pm when the fire siren is tested let's stand at our front doors and make a racket - let the whole world know we're in this together!

Photo challenge topic for tomorrow's Daily Wire - something red.

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 before 2pm to make it into that day's edition. I will put all entries on the Facebook page.

No entries today - topic was clouds.

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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/>

All gone by lunchtime...



TOWN WAKES TO DEVASTATING DAMAGE

Omarama residents woke this morning to a devastating sight.

The recently completed surface on the newly-constructed sports courts appears to have suffered extensive damage at the hands, or should we say 'teeth', of what seems to be an illegally-introduced rodent.

Photos sent to the Omarama Gazette show holes, mounds of soil and surface tunnels rippled across the entire surface of the new courts.

In an interview, Community Centre grounds person Mo Ingrass said he had not yet had time to inform the Residents' Association of the damage but after the many hours of fundraising and labour that went into the construction they would be "totally gutted".

As to the cause, Mo admitted he was confounded.

Omarama Gazette emailed the photos to University small animal specialist Ham Staar.

Dr Staar said, without viewing the damage in person, the damage shown displayed all the hallmarks of the habits of the Ethiopian Bale Mountains mole-rat.

https://balemountains.org/wildlife/mammals/_rrj0341/

Commonly mistaken for a wild rabbit as they are a similar size and leave rabbit-like holes wherever they go, the Bale Mountains mole-rat's natural habitat is strikingly similar to Omarama's Clay Cliffs. <http://tiny.cc/BaleMountains>

He said it was a bit of mystery as to how the mole rat could have arrived in the country, but they may have been smuggled in and freed at the Clay Cliffs as an act of eco-terrorism

It was possible that, with the absence of human activity these creatures had moved down from the hills and into town.

As the days were growing cooler the mole rats would be searching for somewhere warm to wait out winter and had obviously selected the Sports Courts possibly because of the softer base materials used in its construction, he said.

The synthetic turf surface appeared to have proven no obstacle to their razor sharp teeth.

"Anyone with a closeup photo would allow me to confirm their origins.

"I would expect them to move on quite quickly once the weather warms up in spring so I wouldn't be too concerned, and they are relatively harmless if you keep your

would run to the tens of thousands of dollars and would not be covered under warranty.

It was likely it would take some time to fix and in the meantime it would be "very annoying when your tennis balls go down those holes".

He suggested it could be possible to set up a "pay-to-view" or "feeding-time" fund raiser to recoup costs.

But he angrily rejected a suggestion put forward by some that a golf-like 'whack-a-mole' contest be held, citing animal welfare.

"Just because they have chosen the tennis courts to set up home doesn't mean we can have people whack them with a racket every time a head pops up."

When contacted by email, local authority communications staff said it appeared the biodiversity officer had left the building.

However, the parks inspector who replied in an email said he would have contractors come and deal to the situation and the rodents would be moved by lunch time.

For more details and photos click here <http://tiny.cc/more-details>

The Noticeboard

HELP WITH WAGES

If anyone needs help or support with the wage subsidy and paying wages please give me a call and I would be happy to help. I am continuing to work from home in Omarama and have had lots of queries from clients already on how to deal with the wage subsidy, how to reconcile the payment and what to pay your employees and how to process it. Any questions please give me a call. *Keep safe, Lynley.*
Lynley Pryde, 021 333 942 lynley@launchoffice.co.nz www.launchoffice.co.nz



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 surface, doorknobs, stair rails etc.

Here is the link to the [website](#) for other updates about services.

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

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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

No longer the road to nowhere



No longer the road to no-where: the signage for Piner Lane, Omarama's newest street, has been put up. Photo: Chris Howes



Just a question, do you know why our humans are staying home all day now?

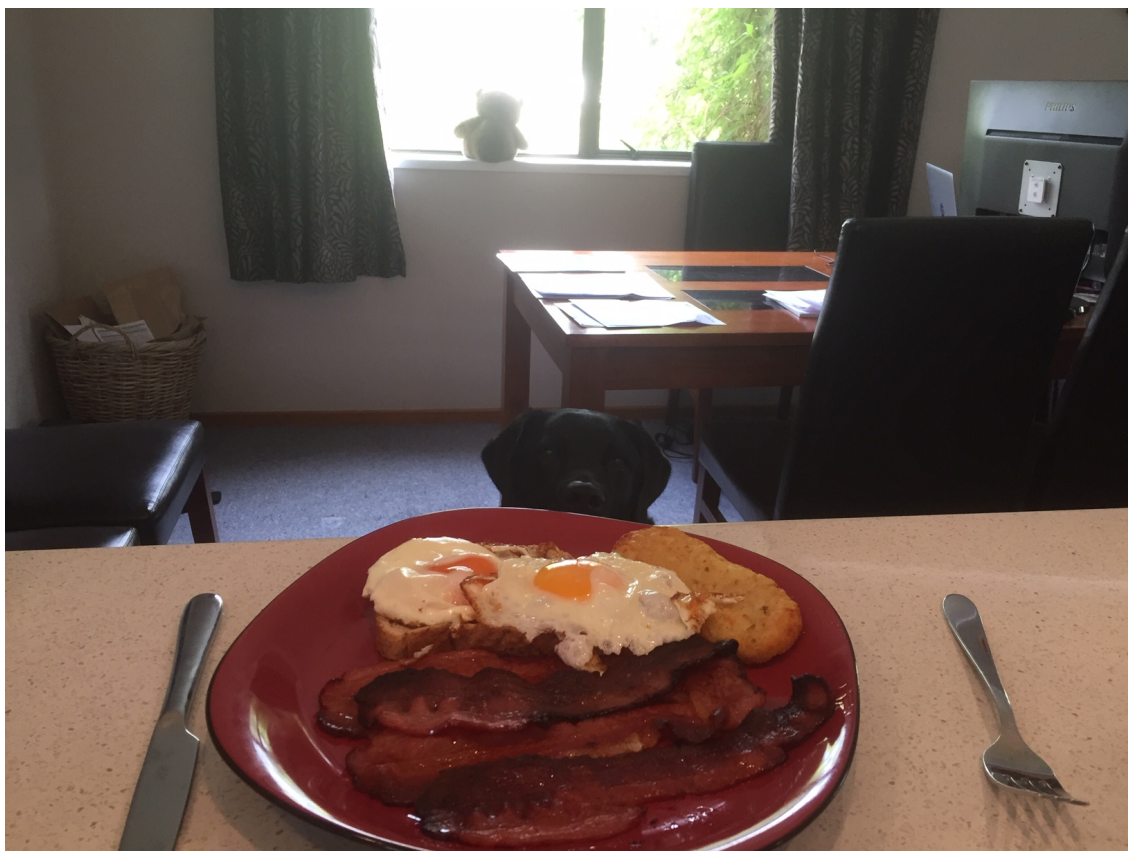
Together at home

Easter just around the corner
but need to do it all 'in house' this year?

How to decorate Easter Eggs and more...



Our Coronavirus Diary - Day Seven



This could just be the perfect lockdown set-up - breakfast on the table, work stations out of sight and out of mind, teddy at the window - but might need to be in quick, someone else is looking hungry!

By Lesley Jackson

Dear Diary

We are still getting used to this new normal.

Hubby's "office" is now the dining room table covered in computer monitors.

He is doing his best to stay on task considering that:

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B. Med breakfasts are now the mid-morning requirement.

C. Most common sound, the telly talking to itself and social media "dings"

I am getting used to my brand new titanium hip, very grateful that the timing was perfect and picking that Mike is probably wanting to go back to the office for a rest.



ANNOUNCEMENT **FROM KUROW MEDICAL CENTRE** **AND MACKENZIE HEALTH CENTRE**

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.

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imited 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)

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM KUROW MEDICAL CENTRE 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.

8 Wynyard St, Kurow

P: 03 4360760 F: 03 4360780

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

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

Update 4pm, Wednesday, April 1.

Today's messages from the Waitaki District Council

What's open?

The council has launched a 'What's open in Waitaki' [page](#).

The directory will be part of the Covid-19 Waitaki Response page and aims to list all businesses that are staying open during New Zealand's Covid-19 Level 4 alert. The response page also includes information on council services and facilities, support for people and businesses.

At present, the list includes medical centres and pharmacies, vets, food and service providers, service stations and transport options.

Council economic development manager Gerard Quinn said it was still working with local businesses to fill this list and encouraged everyone who wanted to be included to get in touch and register by emailing wcdced@waitaki.govt.nz. The council needs to know your location, contact details and a website link so people can check for any specific conditions.

Business owners are reminded that it is the business's responsibility to ensure they are acting according to the law while staying open. If businesses are uncertain about whether or not they can continue to operate they are urged to contact MBIE by emailing essential@mbie.govt.nz or calling 0800 22 66 57 (9 am to 5 pm).

Waitaki District Health services

From today, there is a bright green tent by the side door of Oamaru Hospital's Emergency Department. This tent has been supplied by St John.

It will provide a clinical space for hospital staff to see persons that may have Covid-19 or other infectious conditions.

There will be security presence around the tent and no one is to enter this tent unless directed to by an ED staff member. ED staff members will use this space to take history and swabs where this is clinically indicated.

The tent will be used to keep the ED Covid-19 free for as long as possible.

The public are to present to the side door of ED if unwell.

Staff will talk to you through the intercom and may either have you enter ED or be directed to the tent.



HOLIDAY HOME? Thinking of heading to the crib for a change of scene during lockdown? Yeah, we're thinking of flying to Mars. Just in case you're wondering, Virus says NO. You can only travel if you're accessing essential services or if you're an essential worker travelling to and from your essential work..

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

Visit the dedicated Pandemic Response Page on our website: 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 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



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

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 KAHUHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI



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

CLOSED SUNDAYS

Easter trading hours

Good Friday CLOSED

Easter Saturday 9.00am to 6.00pm

Easter Sunday CLOSED

Easter Monday 9.00am to 6.00pm

While New Zealand is at Covid-19 alert level 4 and in our ongoing efforts to ensure 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**

Emailed orders need to be received by 4pm (Sunday – Thursday) for delivery/collection Monday-Friday between (10am-12pm). **Please email if at all possible and 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)

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.**

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* 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.

Shopping safely guidance now available

31 Mar 2020

Simple guidance is now available for people in New Zealand to keep themselves and others safe while doing their supermarket shop.

The information covers:

- how to prepare so you can get in and out quickly
- tips to keep 2 metres away from other shoppers and supermarket staff
- hygiene tips for while you shop
- what to do with your groceries when you get home.

[Find out more about shopping safely.](#)

Other places to find support

- click below to go to websites

Ministry of Health

Be kind



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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)

Or could it be the fiftyteenth?

**For those who have
lost track, today is
Blursday the
fortyteenth of
Maprilay.**

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

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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
check its site for news.

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 to your email contacts
address 'book' the servers will know we are friends and not spam.

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top right of this page. Then click on '[past issues](#)' at the top left of that page.

**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.

Omarama Gazette

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Email: omaramagazette@gmail.com

<http://omaramagazette.nz/>



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