

*Staying close whatever the distance...*

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## Omarama Gazette



# The Daily Wire

*Keeping us connected*

Saturday, April 11, 2020

## In this issue...

*Let us entertain you! Reading and projects and links to explore. Plus some good news for those greens, and the diary entry.*

### Hi everyone

#### **Fenz Omarama callout**

This morning's early wake up call was routine for Fenz Omarama volunteer firebrigade. It was a general fire call - alarm activation - not medical and not Covid-19 related. No action was required by the brigade, chief fire officer Greg Harper said.

#### **This is an Easter weekend to remember. It's one out of the box!**

We would love to hear from you about how you're spending your 'Day in the life of Covid-19'. Feel free to email or phone and I'll take down your words. Send photos videos, whatever you find easy. Let's create a community diary about how we're spending this extraordinary time.

**\*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/>

## Greens open again for maintenance only

*Green-keepers Johnny Anderson (left), of Omarama, and Peter Kirk, of Otematata, expect to be given the official go ahead to go back to their duties from next week.*

Although the finer points have yet to be announced, local volunteer greens-keepers are relieved by the news announced on Thursday they will be allowed to attend to essential maintenance from next week.

All golf courses and bowling greens remain closed,=.

However, the Government has decided turf maintenance can resume because of the potential cost to community organisations if it did not occur regularly.

Omarama Golf Club president Greg Harper said the news had come as some relief.

He had been about to send an email to Golf Otago expressing concern about the inability to do maintenance especially in light of the fact the club had recently put in a new green.

If it didn't get mowed before the frost set in the new grass would likely die off, he said.

Many hours of volunteer labour plus donations of top soil, grass seed and so on had gone into creating the new green. Although a price could not be attached to that, if you were paid to establish a new green it would cost about \$50,000, Greg said. Johnny Anderson is the golf club green-keeper.

Golf greens are the finely mown patches of grass at the end of every golf hole and ideally must be mowed to a 3mm height and trimmed about five times per week.

Peter Kirk, who maintains the Otematata Bowling Club greens, was relieved to be allowed to get back to duties.

He said he would normally spend about four to five hours a week on general maintenance until the end of the season.

In the normal course of events, once the green was closed to play, he would undertake the seeding and top dressing necessary to see it through winter and set it up ready for spring.

Although, all club facilities were closed locals were making the most of the Otematata Wetland Walkway - most have done the circuit "more than once", he said.

It was times like this made you appreciate such an asset, he said.



## No instances of breaches at Waitaki checkpoints

Both Waitaki Valley police officers report they are pleased with how travellers have complied with 'lockdown' rules so far this Easter weekend.

Last week, police announced they would be setting up checkpoints in popular holiday locations to assist civil defence and local authorities with ensuring people were complying with the Covid-19 restrictions on travel.

Anyone found to travelling to holiday homes in breach of the restrictions was to be turned back.

Checkpoints have been in place at Tarras and Fairlie as well as Kurow and Otematata.

Both Senior Constable Nayland (Bean) Smith, of Omarama and Senior Constable Peter (Scottie) Scott of Kurow reported this afternoon they had so far not found any on the road who were in breach of the rules.

Both said that the checkpoints further afield had possibly prevented anyone in breach from travelling further.

All vehicles they stopped had legitimate reasons for travel.

"We had all points covered," Bean said.

Most of those who stopped at the checkpoint were locals, he said.

"Compliance was really good, we didn't have to turn back one vehicle," Scottie said.

"We were both impressed at how people are complying.

"We stopped a number of caravans and vans but they all had legitimate reasons for travel," he said.

Bean said he had received further reports of people being in holiday homes in Otematata who were not there prior to lockdown. He said he had checked these and found all was in order.

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## A message from a friend

*By Patricia Took-Stevens, Loburn. Photos: supplied*

This is actually my second lockdown. It was in the 50's that my whole family, who at the time lived in Bahrain, were caught up in a polio epidemic. The highlight of each day would be walking through a massive gateway into the desert. There were a couple of low plateau mountains to climb, various creepy crawlies and struggling plants, which my mother, a teacher, would then turn into a lecture.

So, I know one must keep busy during a lockdown. I'm a good cook, but not so good at baking, but I have turned my hand to jam making, scones, pikelets and jam tarts so that Max and I can partake of the odd sweet morsel fresh from the oven - essential in a lockdown. I've read books about the history of threads and fabrics, so fascinating, I can't stop researching the subject.

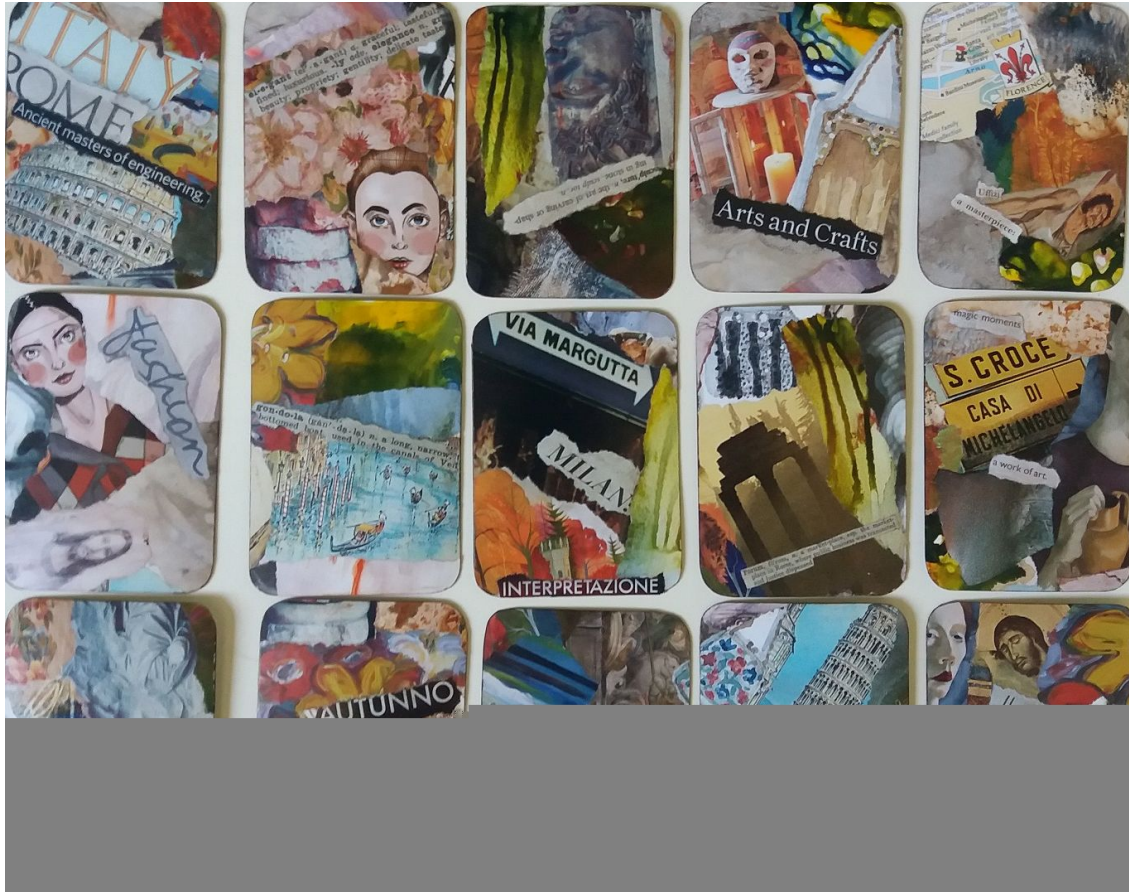
And then there's my studio – it has everything I need, I do not need to buy anything.



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that really did not work out, but have potential once ripped up, I started the lockdown with a handsome stash. My plan to create visual stories of my life. I have fifteen planned. These are the first two which I would like to share. One set is based on the UK – the second set on Italy. My mother's homeland and a country I know well. The third is in the planning stage, not a problem, I have two whole weeks more of enforced lockdown.

*In the meantime, you all take care, keep smiling, ciao for now.*



## Police request help in bear-napping case

*Photos: (left) The victim recovers at Totara Peak Cres;  
(right) The offender is caught red-handed making a second attempt.*

*From Senior Constable Nayland (Bean) Smith*

"I had a wee fella approached me in Totara Peak Cres yesterday afternoon informing me he'd been bear-napped.

Bear language is quite hard to understand but I think the gist of what happened is that the offender grabbed him off his perch and took him to his lair in Totara Peak. Luckily, the offender became distracted by another victim and the wee bear was able to make his escape.



The offender has been warned for breaching the lockdown rules.

If anyone is able to help Bean with his enquiries please phone: 021 191 4808 or email [nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)

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## Our Coronavirus Diary - Day Seventeen

*By Jill Dickie*

Dear Diary,

Ok, so I don't know what's going on recently in the world of humans, all I know is MY human seems to have much bigger expectations of me than in the last 6 months! I'm told it's because there is more time now, but I'm not sure what exactly that means. In my world us guys live moment to moment, making sure we are all safe from potential predators.

When I say we, I mean the five of us, well, four adult horses plus a baby. He's apparently cute and five months old, I actually find him annoying because he loves my human almost as much as I do and demands her time when she is with me. For this reason I am happy to be haltered and taken to places she calls the "round pen" and the "obstacle arena" where she has me using my poor brain, first this way then that, then slowly at a walk where I'm most comfortable then really fast at what she calls a canter. Sometimes we do this without ropes, connecting only through our energy. You know the best part here though? When she asks me to stop and she tells me I've done a good job and I get to see her wonderful smile and feel her happy heart!

I like the obstacle arena the best because it's so much fun. I can show her how well I can walk over the bridge she built, and between the rubbery circles, over the blue patch that looks like water but isn't, and trotting sideways along the fence. My human seems to enjoy this too as she is always smiling and her energy is warm - especially when I choose to put my hoof on the bucket lid, she makes the most amazing noises from her throat when I do that without being asked!

After we have finished our play sessions, I beam my needs to her and we walk together to the area where the hay and other yummy food is. There is a special bucket in there that she only opens after our play sessions and I put on my "waiting face" as she calls it and she gives me the crunchy treats.

So while it seems odd we are all getting more of our play sessions right now, we love learning new things and making her so happy. She says it won't last forever but we hope it does!

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## A bunch of carrots



## A Bunch of Carrots - *by Kate Frost*

The sight of a home garden always takes my breath away. I gaze in awe at row after well ordered row of healthy plants bearing globes of goodness either above or below the manicured surface of the earth.

A while ago a friend asked if I would like some silver beet and told me to pop around any time and help myself and not to worry if there was no-one home. A week or two after our conversation, I did just that. Clutching a plastic supermarket bag in one hand and an old knife in the other, I wandered round this holiday home property looking for the aforementioned silver beet. At the end of my circumnavigation of the house, I turned the very last corner and found the garden. It stood four square upon a slab of concrete specially laid. Wooden sides rose to encase the most amazing soil I have ever seen in a garden - all homemade I was later told, a marvellous mix of "hen and horse, composted tree prunings, all mulched down, with grass cuttings and the animal doings to get it cooking." Today I returned for a second helping as I had been invited to "as it won't be long before your cousin Jack Frost, destroys it and we would hate for it to go to waste. Also-grab some carrots as well, as they will go woody." Grab some carrots! I couldn't wait. Clutching a handful of verdant green, soft, sweet smelling fronds, I tugged gently and from beneath the soil they rose, gloriously orange, unsullied by the trace of evil wire worm or slime of slug, long and straight - a bunch of carrots. A slight shake to dislodge the precious scraps of soil back on to the garden, and into the plastic bag they went, nestling comfortably on the bed of crinkly green the silver beet provided.

I am constantly astounded at how easily many people are able to grow things, be it trees, grass, flowers or vegetables. People are not taught how to do this wondrous thing, it seems to be a genetic feat, a gift handed down from generation to generation, but not, as in my case, to every member of a family. Most of my siblings have the gift but alas my forte is cooking and consumption rather than production. I make an attempt to grow things and must admit that the gardens along the drive look OK with everything holding hands at last and the gaps mostly filled. This year I attempted to grow vegetables in tubs and pots. Some results were quite pleasing albeit in a rather miniature form, but I was proud of my many and varied, perfectly formed mini veg and consumed them with as much gusto and a great deal more pleasure than those I purchased at the supermarket.

I've been very fortunate to have been the grateful recipient of a bag of this, an armful of that and large boxes of almost everything imaginable from fat succulent figs, hazelnuts, and globe artichokes, to the last handful of my wonderful across-the-road neighbour's crunchy green beans. I came home from Kurow one day last year with two gloriously plump pumpkins, a thank you gift from a friend whose computer problem I had solved. With all this bounty provided free of effort on my part, the least I could do was to use some of it to make edible goodies, which over the past six months or so, have included fig and ginger jam, and preserved syrupy figs, rhubarb and ginger jam, sauces and relishes of various fruit and vegetable combinations, all sorts of apricot goodies, plus puddings and pies and various accompaniments to meats. Membrillo made from quinces and sugar, is brilliant with cheese, Indian food and a must have with wild pork. These homemade products are stored in appropriately labelled glass containers of varied shape and size and stored in one of my kitchen cupboards. I sometimes use them as gifts or as a way of saying, 'Thank you' and they're always a great addition to the table as accompaniments for snacks and meals.

So many thanks to all you clever people who grow such beautiful things and a bigger thank you for sharing them with me. Long may your compost produce fat worms and your garden grow objects of bountiful goodness!

*Otematata*

*23 October 2013*



# The siren goes but it's 'Hat Day'

## So, who you gonna call?

### The Great Omarama Teddy Bear Adventure Story for every boy and girl!

*By Lynda Allen.*

### The story so far...

Lynda's teddies have escaped with one thing on their minds - creating mischief! Last week they decided to have a picnic on the roof - well, that was bound to turn to custard.

Luckily, Lynda and her magic needle soon had them mended, ready for all new mischievous adventures.

Yesterday, she spotted the teddies with lots and lots of rope...how would this end? All's well that ends well, it seems. - to read earlier stories check past issues of The Daily Wire click the button at the top left of this email.

### They're having so much fun so who will answer the call?

It's Teddies' Hat Day, but Fireman teddy is hoping Siren doesn't go off, as he can't run with his boots and hat on, and the firetruck ain't gonna wait for him, but all the other teddies tried to be so helpful.

Motorbike teddy, I would take you

but can't reach the kickstart let alone the throttle

Pirate Teddy, I will take you, ... now....where did I leave my ship?

Army Teddy, I would take you in my Jeep, but I lost the keys

Skier Teddy, I could take you on my snowboard, but there is no snow

Santa Teddy, I would take you, but the Reindeer are on holiday

Rugby Teddy, I won't, cause I'm waiting for a very important phone call from the Highlanders

Pot Head Teddy, Whatsuppp!!!

Spotty Dog, I'm not, they might think I'm a Dalmatian and keep me as their mascot

Dragon, I could fly you, but I might get the blame for the fire

Builder Teddy, I'll build you a go-cart But with compliance codes, planning permits, structure

reports.... Nah.... never mind

Tiger, don't look at me, they'll probably call Bean and Animal Control

Simple teddy, I'm only here, cause they told me if I put a paper bag on my head, I'll get a choccy biscuit... They lied 🤪



*(Lynda Allen has kindly allowed the 'Daily Wire' to share her bears' adventures. Thank you Lynda.)*

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# An Ode to Covid-19

*-by someone's Granny*

## Ode to Covid-19

I'm normally a social girl  
I love to meet my mates,  
But lately with the virus here  
We can't go out the gates

You see, we are the oldies now  
We need to stay inside,  
If they haven't seen us for a while  
They'll think we upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did  
Before we got this old,  
There wasn't any facebook  
So not everything was told

We may seem sweet old ladies  
Who would never be uncouth,  
But we grew up in the 60's  
If only you knew the truth

There was sex and drugs and rock n' roll  
The pill and mini-skirts,  
We smoked and drank, we partied  
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married  
And turned into someone's mum,  
Somebody's wife, then Nana  
Who on earth did we become?



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But to bury us before we're dead  
It's like a red rag to a bull

So here you find me stuck inside  
For four weeks, maybe more,  
I finally found myself again  
Then I had to close the door.

It didn't really bother me  
I'd while away the hour,  
I'd bake for all the family  
But I've got no bloody flour

Now Netflix is just wonderful  
I like a gutsy thriller,  
I'm swooning over Idris  
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze  
For when I'm being idle,  
There's wine and whiskey, even gin,  
If I'm feeling suicidal

So let's all drink to lockdown  
To recovery and health,  
And hope this bloody virus  
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis  
And be back to join our mates,  
Just hoping I'm not far too wide  
To fit through the flaming gates!

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## Together at home

### Enjoy an Easter message of hope from Italy.

Anyone upset that they won't be able to hear hymns performed by their local church choirs on Easter Sunday due to the coronavirus pandemic can rest easy, because acclaimed opera singer Andrea Bocelli will perform a live streamed concert from the Duomo Cathedral in Milan, Italy for Easter Sunday.

***The concert will be live streamed Monday, April 13, 5am New Zealand Time.***

### HOW TO WATCH ANDREA BOCELLI'S EASTER CONCERT LIVE FROM DUOMO CATHEDRAL IN MILAN - Go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTUOek4LgU&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huTUOek4LgU&feature=emb_title)

The concert will be live streamed from Monday, April 13, 5am New Zealand Time



## Idea 1: Stitches in time

Let's stitch a blanket together while we're apart

*We're into week three of being housebound.*

**Let's get creative *and* introduce a bit of healthy competition into the mix.**

**Idea 1: Let's make a Lockdown Peggy Square blanket or two.**

Knit or crochet, any stitch, any wool (see note below), any pattern, so long as its 10cm square.

Prizes (modest) in all age groups for the most squares.

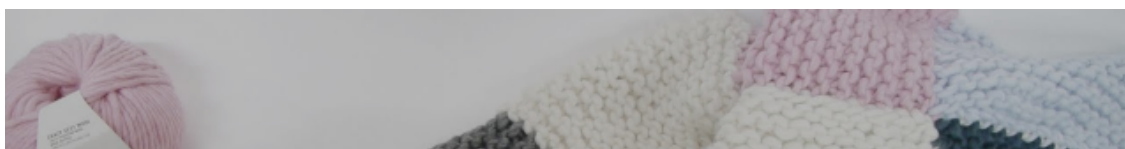
Once the "lock down" is over the squares can be placed in a plastic bag with a label showing name and number of squares and placed in a container/s provided at the community centre. They will be washed and then joined together by volunteers into rugs, placed on display and given to those in need or auctioned so funds can be donated. N.B. *If you can use triple knit (12 ply) wool and a size 5mm hook, our squares will be easier to join. There are many more tutorials on You Tube if you find these do not suit.*

N.B. Peggy squares are squares of yarn pieced together to create blankets and were first made during the Depression to keep sick children warm. Here's the story of how they came to be called 'peggy squares'.



Here is a simple 'how to' for a crochet square - tutorial starts at 4m 6secs.

*If you can use triple knit (12 ply) and a size 5mm hook, our squares will be easier to join.*



Here is a simple 'how to' for a knitted square - tutorial starts at 1m 6secs.

*If you can use triple knit (12 ply) and size 5mm needles, our squares will be easier to join.*

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## Idea two: Our Great Lockdown Bake-off

*We're into week three of being housebound...*

**Let's share our local treasures - tell us all your favourite and most**



Rather than copying it out word-for word (that's rather tedious), open your recipe book - click off a snap, as is where is, and email it to: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

Here's ours 📌

## Nana Todd's Chocolate Chippy Cake

8 oz butter  
8 oz sugar  
4 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla  
Pinch of salt  
10 oz flour  
1 ½ tsp baking powder  
1 large cake of energy chocolate, broken into pieces

Turn oven to 180C, grease and flour 20 cm round spring-form tin

Cream butter and sugar, add vanilla and salt

Add eggs a little at a time, beat well after each addition.

Add a tablespoon of the measured dry ingredients

between each addition of egg to prevent mixture curdling.

Add remaining sifted dry ingredients and chocolate chunks and fold in.

*My Nana was a very budget conscious woman. In her day chocolate was a real luxury and her great weakness. (See ~ it must be genetic!) And so I think she invented this recipe to make a cake of chocolate go further, of course it never did.*

*Whenever we went to stay we would always help her make this cake. Our job was to break up the chocolate, while she creamed the butter and sugar, by hand, in the huge mixing bowl. Coincidentally, she always had a spare cake of chocolate just in case there wasn't quite enough in the first block to go into the cake!*

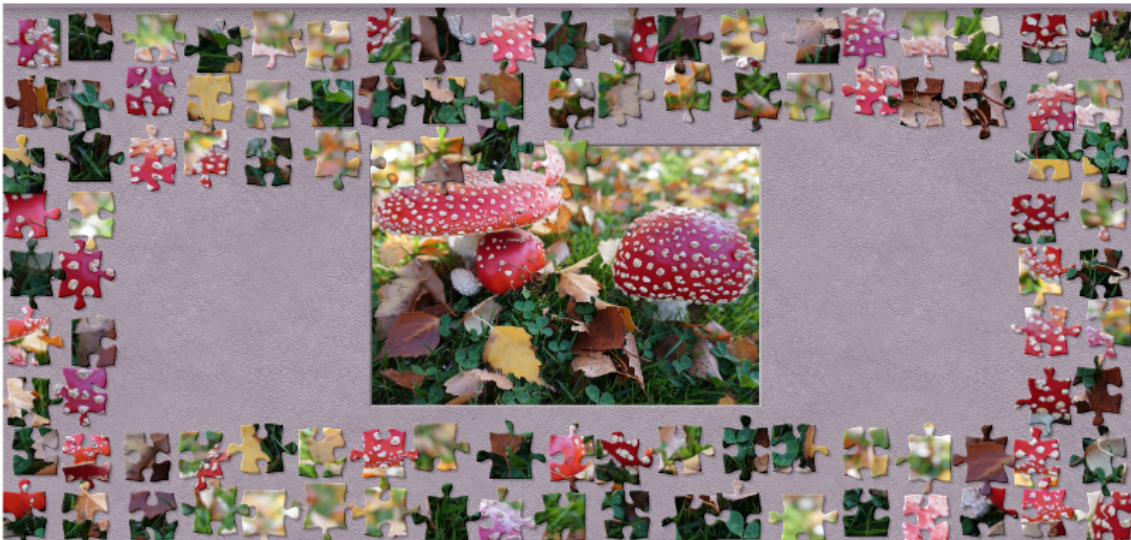
*The chocolate often sinks to the bottom, and as kids we used to hold our pieces upside down to check the bottom to see, and to squabble over whose piece had the most chocolate. We were also known to pick the chocolate pieces out, and eat only them (no never!) Of course Mother frowned and scolded, and Nana offered us another piece!*

*This is a basic butter/madiera cake recipe and so comes out quite dry, this seems to make it just perfect for picnics or tramps. It is also wonderful warmed in the microwave for about 30 seconds, until the chocolate starts to melt, served with a steaming hot milo. (something Nana never knew, but I'm sure would have approved of!)*

*The Grundy family hope you enjoy this cake and wish you many happy family occasions together.*

See if you can puzzle this out...





The answer - We're Better Together.  
*Even autumn toadstools are keeping it local.*

Don't worry, be happy 😊







**Mobil Omarama will be open from 8am to 6pm**  
seven days a week including the Easter weekend.

*Stay safe and be kind*

**Challenge Omarama - the store is closed.**  
Fuel is available 24-hours via the pump pay station.





**FROM NETWORK WAITAKI**

*"We're two weeks into the lock down and are now planning for the future.*

*To ensure that we can keep the power flowing safely and reliably, we need to get back into essential maintenance and equipment replacement to ensure our network remains safe and reliable. Like any system it needs maintenance and attention so it doesn't break down.*

*Over the coming weeks, you'll start to see our crews out there getting back into work.*

*Some of the work we do means we can't keep everyone two metres apart, but they are working in their own extended bubbles and we have health and safety measures in place to minimise the risk.*

*Where possible we will do the work in such a way that we keep the power on, but there might be some work we have to do where we need to switch the power off.*

*We'll let you know well in advance if this is going to affect you - we know the timing isn't great but with enough planning we hope to minimise the disruption to your household. We apologise in advance for the inconvenience."*

**Network Waitaki ask that you refer to its [Facebook](#) page for regular updates**

**RUBBISH COLLECTION SERVICES**

People are advised to put on disposable gloves before moving bins and to wash hands thoroughly afterwards. The handles can be a coronavirus hot-spot and must be treated like any other surface, doorknobs, stair rails etc, collectors say.

**PLAYGROUNDS ARE CLOSED****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



## Essential services operating in Omarama

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

**Omarama Veterinary Clinic** - *please phone ahead. 03 438 9868*

*"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.*

**Firewood supplies:**

**SupplyMoore Yard**

*"Under current conditions we are still able to deliver your firewood if supply is necessary, we would like to do this without any contact so delivery instructions are important, post delivery we will text our bank details for payment, the yard will be closed for pick up so please text or message orders to us or Emma on 027 635 5664*

**Gas supplies:**

**Rockgas Mackenzie Country** <http://www.rockgasmackenziecountry.co.nz/>

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## From AA New Zealand

Effective from Friday, April 10, WoFs, CoFs and driver licences that expired or after 1 January 2020 will be temporarily extended.

Once we start adjusting back to business as normal, the New Zealand Transport Agency will advise of expiry dates for these documents, which could extend up until 10 October 2020.

Vehicles are still required to be safe to operate on a public road.

If you're an essential worker, 15 AA Auto Centres nationwide can provide appointment-only WoFs and urgent vehicle repairs.

We've covered the key info about the extension and all of our services at [aa.co.nz/covid-19-faq/](http://aa.co.nz/covid-19-faq/)

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## Waitaki District Council update



For urgent council issues over the long weekend phone 08 000 322 4000

**The Otago Welfare Help centre** will be operating 7am-7pm on 0800 322 4000 or [help@otagocdem.govt.nz](mailto:help@otagocdem.govt.nz)

**Oamaru Hospital has released information** about the plans it has in place to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. Read about these and find answers to frequently asked questions [here](#).

**All boat ramps at the Waitaki Lakes are now closed**, this includes those administered by the Waimate 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 [wdced@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:wdced@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](mailto: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.

**IMPORTANT:** Unless it is an emergency - call your GP anytime if you are unwell.

There is a GP available at all times

**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..

**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



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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?

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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



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



## CLOSED SUNDAYS

### Easter trading hours

**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](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 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](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.**



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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.](#)



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.



**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: 03 436 0780

Omarama Clinic at Omarama Community Centre, Chain Hills Highway, Omarama.

Phone: 03 4360 760, Cell: 027 434 7464.

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## How goes it today?

Other places to find support - click below to go to websites



**MENTAL HEALTH TIP:**

**LIMIT THE AMOUNT  
OF NEWS YOU  
FOLLOW**



## Ministry of Health

**Be kind**



### Advice for Farmers

*- from the Waitaki Emergency Response group*

Otago Rural Support Trust: 0800 787 254 (0800 RURAL HELP) continues to provide its support service over the phone or on Skype/Zoom during lockdown.

They can help connect farming families with business advice, suppliers, financial information, health, and counselling services. Their services are free and confidential.

Guidance is going out to farmers about managing under meatworks' capacity restrictions.

See <https://beeflambnz.com> for details.

Industry groups and MPI have launched a stock feed planning service for all farmers nation-wide. Toll free numbers:

drystock farmers call 0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352), dairy sector 0800

4DAIRYNZ (0800 4 324 7969), anyone can call 0508 AGFIRST (0508 243 477).



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changes, which will be promoted by industry groups and Federated Farmers.



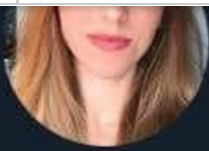
**When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis — be it financial, climatic or personal — the Rural Support Trust is ready to assist. Services are free and confidential.**

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

Darn, I'm right out of the vanilla!







Sarah Archer  
@SarahArcherM

every chef right now: Today I'm going to show you how to make something simple with ingredients everyone has in their pantry, since you can't go to the store. I'm starting with Madagascar vanilla, hemp milk, and a single feather from a dodo bird.

11:11 · 4/3/20 · [Twitter Web App](#)



# LIVING AT ALERT LEVEL 4

## Easter Update

We've never experienced an Easter quite like this one before. It will be feeling very different for most people, so let's all try and be understanding and kind to each other as we all stay home over the holiday.

### Can I visit my family over the Easter period?

You might not be able to visit your family physically, but you can meet up in other ways. Remember, it's important to maintain your family, whānau and community connections at this time.

### How can I celebrate if I can't be with my family?

Stay in touch via video-chat, messaging, emailing and calling each other. Keep an eye on the COVID-19 social channels for tips and ideas over the break. We can still celebrate Easter, whilst reinforcing our communal bonds, we just need to get creative!

### Make sure you stay in your existing bubble at all times

Don't be tempted to join two 'bubbles' or households together. That just helps spread the virus. Church and religious celebrations can be enjoyed in other ways, like via streaming.

### Staying local over the Easter period

Everyone needs to get exercise, and the kids may be tempted to go out to do Easter egg hunts. It's important you stay near home to do this – try hiding eggs in your backyard or around the house.

If you do leave your house for exercise or supplies, you must keep a 2 metre distance from other people at all times. Don't stop and chat, even at this time.

### Is the Easter Bunny allowed to visit?

Please reassure kids: the Prime Minister has confirmed the Easter Bunny is an essential worker.

### Can I use my car over Easter?

Easter is a time for family, but it is not a time to travel. You must stay home. Do not travel out of town, or travel to the beach.

Remember: using private vehicles for transport is only allowed if you are: 1) accessing essential services 2) shopping for food or medicine 3) or if you're an essential worker travelling to, from, or as part of your essential work.

You should also only travel in your car with people from your household. Remember, any unnecessary travel may spread COVID-19. This applies over Easter too!

### Reducing our alcohol intake

It's a good idea to try and reduce, rather than increase your units of alcohol. Try meditating, doing something creative, or going out for exercise once a day, nearby, instead. Note that supermarkets will not be selling alcohol on Easter Sunday (12 April).

### Will supermarkets be open over Easter weekend?

Trading for essential services is available today and some services may choose to remain open tomorrow, Easter Sunday (12 April). Normal trading for essential services resumes Easter Monday (13 April).

### Where can I seek help if I'm feeling stressed or anxious?

If you feel you are not coping, it is important to seek help and professional support. Your family doctor is a good starting point. For support with grief, anxiety, distress or mental wellbeing, you can also call or text the "Need to talk?" service on **1737**. This is free, and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and gives you the chance to talk with a trained counsellor.

If you're just looking for some extra support, you can go to [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz). This includes tips for parents or caregivers who want to discuss mental health and wellbeing issues with primary-school aged children.

### Tips and tricks for Easter

If you have the ingredients available, there's nothing like home cooked hot cross buns to lift the spirits. And it's a great project to keep the kids entertained, with a yummy treat at the end. Another way to have fun is to hold an Easter movie marathon. Follow the official COVID-19 social channel on Facebook for more ideas.

### Who can I contact if I see people not following the rules on self-isolation?

You can tell the Police by completing the online form at [105.police.govt.nz](https://105.police.govt.nz). Where possible, try to keep the phones free for those that need them in an emergency.

### Thank you to all New Zealand

Thank you for staying home and saving lives over this period. We know it's not easy, especially over the holiday, but together we can break the chain.

### Got questions?

Find the answers faster at [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

[New Zealand Government](https://www.govt.nz)

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**

Stay tuned...catch you again soon :)

**Please share this email** and encourage others to subscribe if they need to get local 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?



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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. Listen Live FM 97.3 MHz Omarama, Ch-50 on Freeview TV, CH-421 on Sky TV, Via Internet [rnz.co.nz/audio/live/national](http://rnz.co.nz/audio/live/national)

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.

**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.

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## Omarama Gazette

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<http://omaramagazette.nz/>



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