



# ***-Omarama Gazette -***

**March 2017**

Sponsored by

**Omarama Collie Dog Club**

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## **Shearing celebrity aims to keep a low profile**

There's one thing you might not know about our celebrity shearer Peter Casserly.

He likes to "keep a low profile". He said to say that, and knows you'll laugh.

"They'll say; 'That's a load of bull-s\*\*t'," laughing himself.

There's no doubt there is much we don't know about our man Cass.

He's packed an awful lot into his almost 70 years and he's not planning to change a thing in the next 70. But here's another thing you just might not know about the shearer, duck shooter (His duck shooting get-togethers are a tradition and legend), white-baiter, fisherman ... In 1974, in Christchurch, he won the world 'speed' record for opening 100 oysters – he did it in three minutes and three seconds.

He's not opened oysters since 1989 but in a week's time he's off to Bluff to tackle the task again. "It's like riding a bike, you never forget." It's a lot like blade shearing – you need good hand-eye co-ordination for both, he says.

For 25 seasons, while the children were young, Peter divided his time between the freezing works, shearing and opening oysters. "I've been married [to Gloria] 50 years, in May."

Both from the West Coast, Peter first visit east to Omarama was as a 16-year-old shearer, in 1964. In 1988, the Casserlys made the move permanent.



# **This issue is brought to you by ... The Omarama Collie Dog Club**

The Omarama Collie Dog Club's new grounds at Dalrachney are about to be given their first full work-out.

Next week, Sunday, March 5 and Monday, March 6, some of the country's top dogs and their owners will pit wits against a line-up of serious ovine opposition and put the new courses to the test.

In what has been a fast turn-around since the hosting of last year's Tux South Island and New Zealand Championship trials, club volunteers have selected new grounds, prepared the courses and are ready to go. At present, a marquee will fill in as temporary clubrooms while the club decides the best position to permanently site a new clubrooms and bar. But, rest assured, contingencies are in place and there will be no shortage of the necessary victuals and refreshments.

One thing is for sure, the sheep will not be any easier. Dalrachney is supplying Half-bred two-tooth ewes for the occasion. As any seasoned triallist will tell you, you'd be ill-advised to bet on an outcome, it's always down to who is best dog on the day.

The judges are; Event 1 The Long Head, Paul Collins, St Andrews, Event 2 The Short Head and Yard, Duncan Macrae, Wanaka, Event 3 Zig-Zag Huntaway, John Tweed, Waitahuna, and Event 4 Straight Huntaway, Roger Tweed, Waitahuna.

The club has enjoyed a busy few years. It celebrated its centenary in 2015 and as well as hosting the Nationals and Islands last year it also held its last trials at the Omarama Station grounds.

Dalrachney is a fitting home for the new grounds as the Aubrey family has been involved with the club since its inception, with interest in the sport passing down from Bill, to Jack, Rick and now Ed, who is the club president. Dalrachney Station, in the Lindis Pass, has been farmed by the Aubrey family for four generations.

The Aubreys were one of four families who played major roles in setting-up the club, the others being the Andersons, McAughtries and Waldron families.

Ed says all are welcome to come and see the new grounds in action and view what will be an entertaining display of skills.



**The Omarama Collie Dog club  
trials are on March 5 and 6 at:  
Dalrachney  
2180 Omarama/Tarras Highway, State  
Highway 8, Omarama  
Entries Close 10am 2nd Day  
President: Ed Aubrey  
Ph. 03 438 9863  
Secretary Prue O'Neill  
Ph 03 438 9883  
Email: [prueoneill@me.com](mailto:prueoneill@me.com)**

[www.sheepdogtrials.co.nz/](http://www.sheepdogtrials.co.nz/)  
[Facebook.com/Omarama-Dog-Trial-Club](https://www.facebook.com/Omarama-Dog-Trial-Club)

*Photo by : Ed Aubrey*

# Congratulations and best wishes to the club

**New Zealand Sheep Dog Trial Association president Graham White** says he is looking forward to campaigning his dogs on the Omarama club's new courses next week. There is a great deal of expertise within the club and the surrounding district which has played a role in their development and will ensure a high standard, he says. New Zealand Sheep Dog Trial Association course inspector Lloyd Smith will also be there to give his assessment. "Hopefully, they will stand up to run another New Zealand championship. The beauty of the grounds is they are not far out of town so spectators can easily come and have a look, tourist do like to stop and have a look too. The atmosphere is brilliant." Trials generate a lot of money bringing competitors and spectators to a small town. "It's a good, friendly country town up there." Graham says.

**North Otago Centre president Greg Metherell** says he wants to congratulate the club and thank Dalrachney for stepping up to host the trials. "There's a lot of work goes on behind the scenes." He urges all North Otago Centre club members to come along and support the Omarama club. Greg has looked at the courses and says competitors will be "pleasantly surprised". "And, from a spectators point of view, you can see all the courses and walk to all the courses."



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## Sharing lessons learned about irrigation

About 50 people attended last week's field day at Tara Hills to learn more about how water can be used more effectively to irrigate crops and pasture.

The field day, which was hosted by David and Karen Ellis, was organised by Upper Waitaki Zone Committee and the Benmore Irrigation Company, and run by Nicole Phillips (Irricon) with presentations from Tony Davoren (Hydroservices), Rob Kirk (Kirk Irrigation), and Phil Gatehouse (RX plastics).

Dave said it was a good opportunity for people to "learn about what we are doing". "It was a good day."

He was "disappointed" more "urban people" did not take up the opportunity to come and visit but understood some may have had other commitments.

He said Omarama residents were welcome to contact him and he would arrange for them to have a look at the work they were doing on farm.



# Shearing celebrity aims to keep a low profile *continues*

They bought Chain Hills and ran that until they bought the Omarama Hotel in 1992. Peter is now 'semi-retired'.

"Omarama is Utopia. I've fished most places ... Omarama is the best by far." Despite keeping "a low profile" P.C. never seems to be far from the limelight. He hit the front page again last month.

"She tracked me down," he said of ODT reporter Sally Rae.

Peter was competing in the Southland All Nations blade shearing competitions ahead of the World Shearing and Woolhandling Championships in Invercargill, and he earned a place in the semi-finals.

He was entered in the competition by nephew Shane Casserly, who also competed. It earned him not only the headline but a real ribbing from friend and shearing commentator Norm Harraway. Apart from joking with the crowd that Peter was hurrying through his heat so he could get home in time to watch Coronation St, Norm also turned to the packed stadium and asked if there were any other pensioners out there who might lend Peter a zimmer frame so he could get off the stage.

"The joke was on them. The facts were, I beat all the young ones."

When the Omarama Gazette finally managed to track him down he'd just arrived back from a successful day's fishing with long-time friend Aussie fisherman, Doug. They'd returned with what they objectively considered was a reasonably sized salmon caught in Lake Benmore at an undisclosed location.

While Peter parked the truck and boat Doug confided that he'd finally managed to teach the boy how to fish.

Peter possibly does need a little coaching because, as far as we know, there's been no records broken there. Watch this space.

Here are just a few of the others you might not know about:

He won the World blade-shearing title in Masterton in 1980, he was third in the All Nations in Ireland in 1998, he won the Golden Shears in Christchurch in 1975.

He still holds the blade-shearing record he set in 1976, after shearing 353 sheep in a nine-hour day in Mid-Canterbury. In 2004 he made headlines again when he was chosen to shear that even bigger celebrity – Shrek, and free him from his 27kg fleece.



# Farewell to Senior Constable Craig

Long-serving community police officer, Senior Constable Craig Bennett, has this week announced he and his wife, Anna, will be leaving Kurow to take up a position in Lawrence.

In his “final letter” to the community, published in the Kurow Bugle Senior Constable Craig said it had been a decision made with “mixed emotions” and a difficult step to take.

Senior Constable Craig said, while there were “so many” in the community he would like to thank, there were some he would like to give special mention to.

“A big thank you has to go to Carrol and her St John’s ambulance staff, the medical centre, Prime nurses and to our fire guys and gals up and down the valley. Their skill, professionalism and friendship has made some of the toughest jobs bearable, you are a credit to this community and heroes in my eyes. A huge thank you to you all.”

He also wanted to thank the community for the friendship shown, especially to Anna. “From the very first days, Anna and I were made to feel welcomed and it is something we won’t quickly forget. I personally really appreciated the support offered to Anna the most, it is not easy being the Police Officer’s wife (definitely harder than actually being the officer), but you have always shown her friendship and respect. That has meant a lot to me and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

“My last wee bit is just to speak about the children at the school, past and present. They are truly awesome, it has been such a joy to watch them grow into exceptional young men and ladies. It is what I will remember the most, because I believe it is a true reflection of all that is great about this community - from their parents to the school to the wider community that all help to shape them for future life.

“I know every officer is remembered for their attributes and service to the area, and I hope I will be remembered with affection as the “loud, ugly one”.

Omarama’s Senior Constable Nayland (Bean) Smith said he and Oamaru Police would be covering the Kurow position until it was filled.

“I’m sure I speak for all of us when I wish him and Anna all the best in their move. He would like me to pass on to you all, his thanks for all of the assistance and friendship you have extended him and Anna over the years,” Bean said.



# "Active buyers" at lamb and ewe fairs

Omarama farmers who sold stock in last month's merino lamb and ewe sales appear to have reaped the benefits of lifting lamb and wool prices.

Both the Omarama ewe and lamb sales last month recorded strong sales.

PGG Wrightson area livestock manager Mark Yeates said the lamb sale featured several notable lines.

"It was a strong sale with a very good bench of buyers – a very active bench of buyers."

There was a total yarding of about 12,000 – "good number" which compared well with the past two or three years, he said. Of the merino lambs, the Tara Hills consignment – four lines of wether lambs - stood out. The top cut of 179 made \$83.50, a second cut of 619 made \$76.50, the third cut of 196 made \$74, the fourth cut of 336, \$67.50. Tara Hills merino ewe lambs "featured strongly again", with a line of 83 making \$78, 245 at \$76, and 152 at \$70. There were a good number of Half-breds where Longslip Station featured strongly, Mark said.

The top drafting of 71 Half-bred wether lambs reached \$89 and the second of 189 made \$83.50. Of the Half-bred ewe lambs, a draft of 146 Twin Peaks lambs reached \$82 and a second drafting of 201 made \$76.

There was a sizeable yarding of blackface and Texel-cross lambs. The top line of 35 of Ross Kelman's black face lambs fetched \$103. The next highest was Killermont with a line of 49 at \$100.

Mark said there was a spread of buyers from South Canterbury to East Otago and including some locals.

The lamb sales were followed by an equally successful adult sheep sale a week later which also recorded results well up on previous years. Buyers were spread from Marlborough to Central Otago. Top price was \$97, compared with last year's \$62. No lines were sold under \$68.



# And for some there were none

Predictions were varied ahead of this year's potato harvest as spectators waited in anticipation for the final countdown to determine who would win Boots & Jandals Hotel's Spud in a Bucket competition.

This year the competition was as demanding as ever with some entrants having to dig deep to make it across the finish line – But really, Jack, an egg?!

There were even murmurings some buckets had been doctored and spuds should be drugs-tested. Judge Laurie Ruddenklau refused to be swayed (much) by the crowd as he ticked off the bucket list of about 20 entrants and made his deliberations. Several recounts were requested and denied.

The coveted cup was won by Carolynne Grant with 21 potatoes unearthed.

Veteran grower Ross Kelman was declared 'bridesmaid again'.

(Unsubstantiated rumours abound that Ross was heard to say he might be better off trying those blue pills next year.)

Carolynne said her secret to success was "the luck of the draw" – she gave Kevin the other bucket to enter.

In what was somewhat of a surprise result, the local greengrocer, Blair Shaw, was awarded this year's wooden spoon - The 2017 spudless loser – He was very surprised. Yep, there was not one potato in the bucket, Blair.

Matt Parsons won the potato with the longest stem. Wingy Leopold was judged to have grown the ugliest spud and Jack Zorab was awarded the prize for the most original find unearthed.



# Aerotow event returns for Anzac weekend

## ANZAC Aerotow Omarama 2017 - By Bevan Allan

Omarama will be the place to be for anyone interested in radio controlled model planes and gliders over ANZAC weekend.

Pilots will be travelling from all corners of the country for three days of Scale RC Aerotow at the Omarama airfield.

Once again the Omarama Model Aircraft Club will be running the event.

This will take place from 9am to 5pm Saturday, April 22 to Monday, April 24.

The club is expecting another good turnout of scale tow planes as well as a large number of scale vintage gliders right through to the modern glass and composite models. The tow pilots will be kept busy towing gliders into the sky over the three days. The glider pilots will be putting their skills to use finding those invisible thermals to stay aloft as long as possible.

The club is busy obtaining all the required permits to operate model planes from the airfield. This involves working with Model Flying NZ, CAA, Omarama Airfield Ltd and Glide Omarama. The club appreciates the support it has had from the local community. The public are welcome to come out to the airfield and enjoy the free entertainment over the three days of flying. *Photo by: Peter Deacon*



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## Trekking to Omarama for a good cause

Omarama is their destination and it's all in a good cause.

Next week, about 240 walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders plus 80 supporters will trek their way into town as part of a nation-wide fundraiser.

The aim of the Great NZ Trek is to give people the opportunity to trek the length of New Zealand one stage at a time and at the same time raise funds for the Malaghan Institute of Medicine to help with research into Multiple Sclerosis.

The Great Trek began at Cape Reinga in 2006 and by the end of its 11th stage last year had raised a grand total of \$314,000 for the cause.

Stage 12 begins at Burkes pass on March 4.

Trekkers will travel south across the Ohau C power station and arrive in Omarama on Tuesday, March 7, to enjoy a rest day in town on Wednesday before resuming the trek on Thursday.

From Omarama the group travels as far as Alexandra via St Bathans.

Both Ben Omar and Twinburn stations will be accommodating trekkers during their stay. On Wednesday night, at Ben Omar, the group will be holding an auction run by Lindsay Purvis of Merino Country Cafe & Gifts.

# # POTM Pet of the Moment

This month the Omarama Gazette introduces a new section - one which celebrates our furry, feathered or fishy friends - our pets. Please feel free to nominate next month's poster pet. All they need do is provide a selfie and answer a few short but in-depth questions for our readers.

## #POTM Introducing: Lizzie Dawson

*Hi – my name is Lizzie (named after you know who Elizabeth HRH due to my royal connections of course..) and I am just 4 months old*

*I am Mum and Dad's 5th corgi – I am the first one with a tail!*

*My ears and tail are still too big for me so I need to grow into them a bit more..*

*My favourite pastimes are walking, boating and paddling in Lake Benmore and I LOVE visitors*

*My worst habit – is chewing anything with Velcro – I love the tearing noise...!*

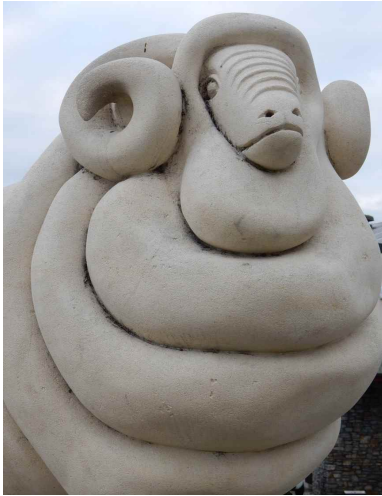


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**Congratulations and best wishes from all of us**



# The Noticeboard



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

**Congratulations to John Rogers** who did well at the Kurow Flower Show last month. John gained two first places, four second places, and four thirds. Organiser Janet Mc Gregor thanked John for entering and said she hoped more from Omarama would enter next year.

**Shag worm in trout:** There have been concerns raised about whether or not the presence of shag worm in fish caught in the lake poses a risk to health. Retired Fish and Game officer Graeme Hughes, of Kurow, says the presence of the worm in fish poses no food safety risk. "It is pretty common in the lakes. It is harmless to humans. Unfortunately, the poor old shag gets the blame [for spreading the

worm] however, it is found in all birds, even the esteemed crested grebe," Graeme says.

**The Omarama Collie Dog Club** is holding a working bee at its new grounds on Dalrachney at 1pm, Friday, March 3, ahead of its annual trials which begin on Sunday, March 5.

**The Tiger Moth Club of New Zealand** will arrive for its four-day visit to Omarama on Friday, March 3.

**The Omarama Community Library is open** 7pm to 8pm Tuesdays, and 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre.

**Please note: The Oamaru Public Library will be closed** from March 1 to March 27 while plans for the redesign and new Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) are put in place. Omarama's Community Library will be open as usual during this time. If you would like to volunteer or make an enquiry phone: Anna Howard 021 132 5586 or Georgie Robertson 027 486 1525

**There will be NO church service at St Thomas, Omarama, this month - March.**

**Dr Tim Gardner of the Kurow Medical Centre** runs two clinics a week in Omarama, on Tuesdays and Fridays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Please phone Kurow Medical Centre, 03 436 0760, for appointments. On Fridays, to book an appointment in Omarama, phone 0274 347 464 because the Kurow Centre is closed.

**The Omarama Playgroup meets** at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Omarama Community Centre. For more information phone Petrina Paton 027 345 6192 or Jess Toole 021 020 53242

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Lisa Crawford, phone 021 126 3113

Car Seat Rentals: Christine, phone: 03 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

Breastfeeding Works: Claire Hargest-Slade 03 684 3625, 021 493 863  
[clairhs@me.com](mailto:clairhs@me.com)

**The Omarama Residents' Association's** next meeting is at 7.30pm Thursday March 16, at the Omarama Community Centre. Ross Gold, chairman, phone 027 443 4149 Craig Dawson, secretary, phone 027 438 9132.

**The Omarama Model Aircraft Club** meets 9.30am to 12 noon Wednesdays and Sundays at its fly-ground at the Omarama airfield. All welcome. Phone Graham McLean 03 438 9832.

**The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade** meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. New members welcome.

**Omarama Rural Fire** meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday each month at the Omarama Rural Fire Station, Sutherlands Rd. New volunteers are welcome. Phone Lis 027 330 3068.

**The Omarama Golf Club** - Saturdays tee-off 1pm, all welcome. Twilight 9-hole golf Wednesday tee-off 6pm. Club captain Adrian Tuffley, phone 027 347 8276. <http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/>

**A big thank you** to all of you who share your stories and contribute in other ways to the Omarama Gazette. People really appreciate what you do.

**About that...** We all love hearing what you've been up to and looking at the pics. You know how it goes – Email any contributions to [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com) If you would like me to help in any way, to share your news, or cover an event, etc – I'd love to. Give me a call 021 294 8002. Truly, I'm never too busy.

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[www.omaramagazette.nz](http://www.omaramagazette.nz)

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please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or  
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**The April issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, April 5, 2017.  
Please submit copy by  
Friday, March 31.**

# **“Get Well, Keep Well” with the Kurow Medical Centre**

Have we had summer yet? It feels some days like Autumn is nearly upon us, so let's take on some autumnal advice from the team at the Kurow Medical Centre.

Autumn is an array of colours that we absorb through all our senses. Our eyes see and enjoy it all, our noses smell the seasonal fruits and the last of the flowers. We hear, too, the sound of the stags getting ready for winter and the crunch of leaves below our feet.

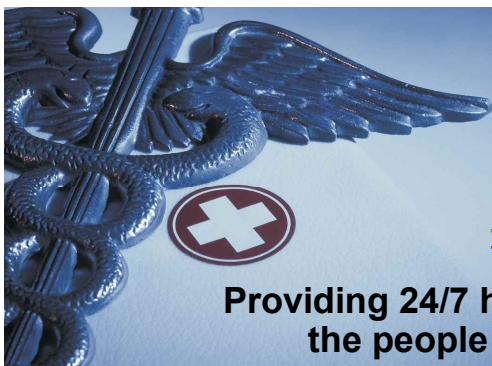
Our bodies, too, can benefit from this seasonal abundance, a good time to make the most of the in-season fruits and veges. Nature knows that as this time of year approaches, we need to fill up on the orange colours and the greens as a good defence against winter ills. It's also cheap and in-abundance, so a good time to stock up. Or harvest the goodies you may have grown yourself, and prepare a winter crop if you are able to. Nature knows, you see, it's a powerful tool.

With this comes the last of the good vitamin D, so get active outdoors, be sun savvy at the same time, but enjoy the fresh air and the rays from above, it does wonders for our health. Sit by the lake, swim in it and take time to nurture your soul, before the feeling of winter closing in occurs.

Squirrels and bears do it, they get prepared, stocking up on all that's good for them to get through. We should do this too. Our cells need recharging, our souls need looked after, our immune systems need nourished and our brains need to unwind.

So head out and face autumn with positivity knowing it's one of the most important times of the year for our bodies.

Not long until influenza vaccination season, and information about how to care for yourself through winter will follow.



## **Kurow Medical Centre**

8 Wynyard St, Kurow  
P: 034360760 F: 034360780

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)

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

# The Community Reports



## Upper Waitaki Police News

Howdy everyone, February already! The Christmas period was surprisingly quiet for police in the area. The majority of calls for service were (and no surprises here) driving complaints.

Since my last report I have attended six car crashes, thankfully most were minor injury, a couple of domestics one of which resulted in a male being arrested for assault. I also arrested a female tourist for obtaining by deception after she was caught using one of our local business shower facilities without paying and then

when caught, still refusing to pay or admit she was in the wrong. Also two females for a petrol theft x two, a male for assault with a weapon following an incident in Otematata. And have suspended a couple of licences for excess speed, the latest was doing 158kph on the Twizel-Omarama Rd. He had his wife and a baby in the car, imagine the carnage if he had of crashed. I have also assisted the local fire brigade with a couple of fires in the last few days, a wee reminder, there is a total fire ban, anyone ignoring this will be prosecuted if caught. Don't be afraid to ring if you see someone ignoring the ban, this includes fireworks! I have had a complaint about runners and cyclists on the road at night with no lights or reflective clothing. Although not a legal requirement for runners or walkers to wear reflective clothing, if you are out in darkness running on the side of the road, it's a good idea to be as visible as possible, why wouldn't you? The same goes if riding a bike, not to mention it is a legal requirement for cyclists to have one or more steady or flashing rear-facing red lights that can be seen at night from a distance of 100 metres. One or two white or yellow headlights that can be seen at night from a distance of 100 metres. Pedal reflectors on the forward and rearward facing surfaces of each pedal. If the cycle does not have reflective pedals, you must wear reflective material. Just common sense really.

Sadly, Senior Constable Bennett from Kurow is taking up a new position as the sole charge officer at Lawrence. I'm sure I speak for all of us when I wish him and Anna all the best in their move. He would like me to pass on to you all, his thanks for all of the assistance and friendship you have extended him and Anna over the years, he promises that he will be back to visit. Until the position in Kurow is filled I will be covering both areas with assistance from Oamaru staff as well.

There has been a Burglary in the Waitaki Valley area recently in which Firearms appear to have been the target. I would ask that ALL Firearm holders review their security arrangements ensuring that your safes are well secured to the wall and floor, and that you lock your house if leaving the property vacant, even if this is only for half an hour while you go to the shop. This is especially important for those that live in the more isolated areas, lastly make sure you have a record of all of your firearms serial numbers, police do not have an active record of serial numbers for firearms, this is expected to be kept by the firearm holder.

Lastly, being the only police officer in a small town offers some challenges. It is only normal for any sane person to make friends when living in a small town. I have recently had an incident in which the complainants were reluctant to come to me as

## Upper Waitaki Police News *continued*

they believed that the offender was a friend of mine, this is not the first time this has occurred. I'm everyone's friend its part of my job, but rest assured I am professional

enough and take my role as the Sole Charge police officer very seriously. I will not let anyone off anything, friend or not....in fact, I would challenge the so called friend and ask what sort of friend would put me in that position. I do not have favourites when it comes to breaking the law.

That's it, stay safe and enjoy Summer now that it's arrived. - Bean

*Senior Constable Nayland Smith*

*03 438 9559, email: [Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)*

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## Omarama Business Group

The Alps 2 Ocean was the feature of our February meeting having agreed in December that there will be significant benefits to Omarama and the surrounding area if we become Guardians of the Trail, specifically the section from Quailburn into Omarama. Omarama is no more than one hour away from every day's starting point on the trail and if we can get individuals and groups to make this their base for two nights or more it would be great for Omarama.

The group decided the best option was to make "Omarama" the Guardian rather than individual businesses, we felt every business and potentially every person in and around Omarama can benefit from the Alps 2 Ocean, whether directly or indirectly. To become a guardian we need to come up with \$5,000 from the township and surrounding area every year for at least the next 3 years.

We managed to write down over 30 business names. If we had a core group of businesses that made up the base level of \$5,000 and any amount raised over and above that could be used to create amenities for A2O cyclists and have individual business signage on them.

Next Business Group meeting set for 7 pm on the 14th March at the Countrytime.  
- *By Jan Thomas*

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

# Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



February has been another busy month for us, we have had 12 calls so far to date. It has been a mixed bag made up of motor vehicle accidents, medicals, personal fire alarms and real fires.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our brigade for its dedication, but I would like to make a special mention to all of the employers, staff and especially family members that end up on the shorter end of the siren.

Please be safe and remember - Smoke alarms save lives

*- Chief fire officer Terry Walsh*

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## Quailburn Downs woolshed lost to fire

The Quailburn Downs woolshed was lost to fire last month.

Omarama Fire Chief Terry Walsh said the Omarama brigade and Rural Fire along with Twizel volunteer firefighters were alerted to the fire about 7.30am on Friday, February 17 but the woolshed could not be saved.

"It had been burning for a while and was at the point of collapse when we arrived," Terry said. The fire was most likely to have been caused by an electrical fault. Up to 17 firefighters were employed at the scene to get things under control. Water was pumped from a nearby stream to fight the blaze.





**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)**



## **ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES**

**There is no church service this month**

Clergy Contacts:

Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)  
03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773

## **Omarara's Justices of the Peace**

**Omarara has two JPs who are available by appointment to:**

- \* Witness documents such as applications for citizenship
- \* Certify copies
- \* Take declarations, affidavits and affirmations

**The service is free of charge  
To make your visit quick and easy:**

- \* Do not sign anything beforehand
- \* Do take photo identification
- \* Remember to take the original as well as the copy to be certified
- \* Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



**Bill Gordon 03 438 9433, 027 4350744**



**Georgie Robertson 4389 554, 027 4861525**

# The Omarama Golf Club - by Paul Bowman

It's been a busy February for the club, with great numbers attending our Saturday club days. The members are in the progress of playing the club championship with the senior division final decided between Ron McPhail and John Cleverley and the juniors currently working through their draw.

The now annual Otago verses Canterbury golf competition was held on 4th February 2017 with a fantastic turnout of 19 players, although mainly Otago players. There were plenty of red and black balloons throughout the course; however it was not to be Canterbury's day this year. Team Otago easily won the stableford competition, so Team Canterbury Captain had to cough up the wager. The competition is now one-all over the last two years.



Later that night we held our prize giving dinner at the Heritage Gateway with players and families. It was a fantastic meal and night with many laughs. This was a time to acknowledge all people that contribute to our great golf course and atmosphere the club currently has. The prizes presented on the night were:

John Cleverley	-	Medal rounds
Christine Bowman	-	Mixed singles knock out
Ron McPhail	-	Putting
Team Captain Canterbury Team	-	Christine Bowman Toilet seat for losing Otago/Canterbury competition

Our hire clubs, bags and trundlers are a bit passed their use-by date, so if you have some modern clubs, bags or trundlers surplus to requirements we would be happy to take them off your hands.

The clubs chest deep freezer is no longer required, if anyone is interested in making an offer contact Paul Bowman on 021 328 450

A big thank you for all those that have supported the Friday night meat raffles at Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama.

We are now starting to plan for our main Easter tournament on Saturday, 15th April 2017, 12.00 p.m. So put the date and time in your diaries and more details will be available in the April issue.

It's been great to have new members joining for Saturday Golf and Wednesdays twilight.

All welcome 12.30pm cards in on Saturday and 6pm tee off Wednesdays

# Omarama Residents' Association

I am pleased to report at our last meeting we appointed Charlotte Cook as curator of the Omarama Community Centre. Charlotte has also been appointed to the committee and will eventually look after all the bookings for the Centre.

Following a phone call to the Waitaki District Council I am pleased to advise they are putting a rubbish and recycling bin at the new dump station. This should enable those using this facility to dispose of their rubbish and help keep things tidier around the site, which is now very well used.

Later in the year, around October/November, we intend holding a High Country Home and Garden Tour to raise funds to build a new sports facility adjacent to the Community Centre. A small group are meeting on Tuesday 14 March at 7.30pm at the Centre and anyone interested is welcome to come along to share their thoughts. Our thanks go to the Play Group who have now planted out the gardens around the Centre this past week.

*- Ross Gold, Chairman 027 443 4149*



*Photo: Newly-appointed Omarama Community Centre curator Charlotte Cook*

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more information about hall hire and availability please contact Charlotte on 027 940 1648 or email her at [charlotte.omarama@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.omarama@gmail.com)

Keys and fobs are still collected from GlenCraigs

## The Omarama Residents' Association

is forming a committee to organise a

### High Country House & Garden Day

in October or November.

This is to raise funds for a new sports complex adjacent to the Omarama Community Centre.

If you are interested in helping on this committee we are meeting

**7.30pm, Tuesday, March 14 at the Community Centre**

# Omarama Playgroup

Thank you to everyone for the work planting out the gardens at the hall. They really look great and hopefully they will be pretty easy care. Great timing with the little bit of rain falling in the afternoon!

Big thanks to Ann Patterson for the mulch. That really finishes things off nicely and will be a big help with weed control and retaining moisture. There was so much in the trailer we have managed to cover the garden behind the front wall as well; very tidy!

Thanks also to Emma and Supplymoore who have very kindly donated seven hebes and two ribbonwoods. Cate Gloag would be pleased that the tussock I have dug out of the garden has morphed into approx 25 babies and will fill the gardens up nicely. Playgroup plans on giving the gardens a good soaking on a Wednesday (if we've had no decent rain). Thanks again, and great job!! - *Jemma Gloag*

## Omarama Playgroup fundraiser

Place orders before Wednesday, March 8

Order your NZ Bulbs spring bulbs through Playgroup and you will pay no freight and they will receive a rebate.

**For a NZ Bulbs catalogue, order form, and details about how to pay contact:**

**Jemma Gloag 03 438 9626 email [buscot@farmside.co.nz](mailto:buscot@farmside.co.nz)**

**or Charlotte Cook 027 940 1648 [cometoogrebattle@gmail.com](mailto:cometoogrebattle@gmail.com)**



# Upper Waitaki Returned and Services Association

She's a Hard Road Finding the Perfect Ice-Cream

All the way over Otematata Saddle to Omarama no less.

Cyclists taking part in this year's Central South Island Charity Bike Ride arrived in Omarama from Kurow on the second day of their three-day 369km ride which takes them from Timaru to Timaru the long way.

The Upper Waitaki RSA catered for the cyclists at the end of day one, in Kurow.

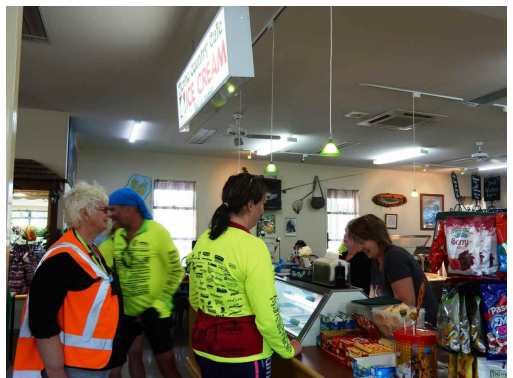
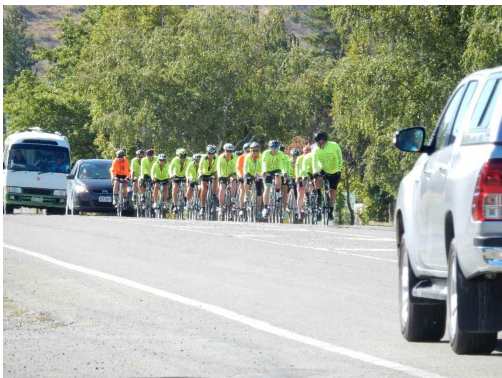
The aim of the ride is to raise funds for charities in communities throughout the region.

Cyclists from throughout New Zealand and as far away as Australia participate. From Omarama the group ride on to Tekapo where they stay the night before completing the final leg to Timaru.

Each year, Omarama's Merino Country Cafe and Gifts provides the charity riders and supporters a welcome and free Tip-Top ice-cream in a cone before they continue on their way.

The first Central South Island Charity Bike Ride was held in 2005 with the aim of raising funds for local charities. \$27,000 was raised on the inaugural ride. Spokesperson Shane Brookland told the Omarama Gazette this year they hoped to raise about \$140,000. In the 13 years of the event it has raised \$1.6m. "Every dollar donated is given out to our charities," Shane said.

"[It's the result of] a big team effort, not just riders but a lot of people make this event happen as do all the areas we travel through."



# **2017 UPPER WAITAKI RSA SECONDARY SCHOOL WRITING COMPETITION.**

This competition is open to those students who reside in the Upper Waitaki R.S.A. region. It is also open to those students who reside anywhere in New Zealand who may have parents, grandparents or relatives who are or were members of the Upper Waitaki R.S.A.

TOPIC: **1917 Passchendaele Battle.**

The **speech** OR **poem** is to be **no more** than **1000 words**.

PRIZES: **First Prize- "Chum Cleave" Trophy plus \$150.00**  
**Second Prize- \$100.00**  
**Third Prize- \$75.00**

The winner will be cordially invited to attend the 2017 Dawn Service at the Hakataramea Cenotaph. Afterwards you will recite your winning speech or poem at the breakfast function in the Kurow Hotel, following that you will be presented with your prize.

The Executive Committee of the Upper Waitaki RSA will be sole judge on the speeches and poems.

Post your speeches or poems to: **Upper Waitaki RSA.**  
**PO Box 57**  
**KUROW**

**IMPORTANT:** Please **include your school and home contact details** as we may need to contact you outside school hours.

Closing Date for speeches or poems: **Friday 7th April 2017.**

For further information, contact: Karen Hofman at  
Phone (03) 4360081  
Mobile 0272082669  
Or email: [Karen.hofman@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Karen.hofman@xtra.co.nz)



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# Omarama School Board of Trustees

The Board is delighted to announce that Kim McKenzie (Principal) has received confirmation from Mr Peter Schashing that he will accept the position of permanent Teacher in the Senior room.

David Anderson (aka Gundy) has taken over from Jan Thomas as Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

The next elections are not due until 2019 but we would like to encourage people to think about serving on the Board of Trustees and to that end we invite anyone who may be interested to attend a Board meeting and see if it is an area you could lend your skills to, at present there are two members who have no children in the School, so just because you don't have kids attending don't think that you wouldn't be welcome.

The next meeting is set for the 23rd March at 3.45 pm and will be at the School.

- by Jan Thomas

## Friends of Omarama School

will hold their

### annual general meeting

1.30pm Wednesday, March 15, at the school

All welcome





Several of Omarama School's senior pupils will go on to compete at the Upper Waitaki Swimming Sports after reaching qualifying times at the Omarama School sports on Friday.

**Freestyle:**

9 years; Toby Bochel, Suzie Smith, Laura Patterson, Lillie Walsh.

10 years; Archie Thomas, Eliza Coetzee.

11 years; Jess Smith, Dom Walsh, Gemma Patterson.

12 years; Charlie Mathias.

**Backstroke:**

9 years; Lillie and Laura; 10 years; Archie and Eliza; 11 years; Dom and Jess.

**Breaststroke:**

9 years; Laura, Lillie and Suzie; 10 years; Eliza, 11 years; Dom, Gemma and Jess.

**Butterfly;** 9 years; Lillie, 11 years, Dom.

**100metres;** Lillie.

**The Upper Waitaki Swimming Sports will be at  
Waitaki Valley School, Monday March 6.**



# Waitaki District Council news in brief



## **Omarama Airfield Company director.**

The council has received five expressions of interest in filling the vacancy left by Bill Gordon, Elly Finnerty, executive assistant to the council's chief executive, said. These were considered by the council's executive committee on Monday. Its recommendations will go to the full council meeting on March 29 for a decision.

## **Waitaki District Council chief executive**

Michael Ross has announced his retirement. Mr Ross has been chief executive since

January 2004 and while his current two-year contract is due to finish at the end of this year, he has decided to leave at the end of June. He will remain as a director of North Otago Irrigation Company until the end of the year. Mr Ross and his wife Susie will retire to their home in Wanaka. The council has begun the process to recruit a new chief executive.

**Work is now underway to build the new refuse transfer station** that will take Waitaki District's waste after the Oamaru landfill closes in April. The new transfer station, located in the industrial area of Oamaru's North End, is being built by Waste Management NZ Limited who recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Council and the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust to ensure a range of waste management and minimisation services are available once the landfill closes. Private contractors around the district will continue to offer kerbside collection services for rubbish and recycling for businesses and households. The council does not charge rates for kerbside collection of rubbish, recycling or green waste.

**The council plans to vote on proposed changes** to its fees to cover costs from implementing and regulating the Food Act 2014 at its next meeting.

**The next Waitaki District Council meeting is 9am, Wednesday, March 29 at the Council Chambers, 20 Thames Street, Oamaru.**

**The next Ahuriri Community board meeting  
is 3.15pm Monday, March 13,  
at the Omarama Community Centre.**

Minutes and agendas can be found here <http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx>

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

# From Waitaki district Ahuriri ward councillor Craig Dawson

Just a quick update on what is happening in the area.

1. Progress is underway regarding our Regulatory Department's capacity to deal with building consent issues. We have approved the addition of three extra clerical staff to enable the Inspectors more time to get on with speeding up the process of consents etc. We have also asked the department to be acutely aware of the stresses and strains placed on the building industry and wherever possible, be as helpful and user-friendly as circumstances allow.
2. Severe flooding event in Otematata: This was an astounding event with a huge of water flowing down the Otematata river, creating a life-threatening situation, which could have had major consequences if it had happened over the main holiday period. I would like to congratulate the Otematata community for getting stuck in and helping those in the camp evacuate their sites. All too often, we hear of criticisms after the event of what should and shouldn't have been done, by those who generally sit on their arses and do nothing. We are all humans and in dire situations, we react to situations as best we can and in this instance, the result was outstanding!  
As you will all know there has been considerable damage to the Boat Harbour camp area as well as undermining of the boat ramp itself. At the last Council meeting, we approved funding to reinstate flood protection and repairs to the ramp. Tenders are being let to get these repairs underway.
3. The Pump cycle track (Omarama Playground) has been given a bit of a thrashing over the last few years, with ever increasing numbers of cyclists using it. The Ahuriri Community Board have agreed to set aside funds to refurbish the track and make it more durable.
4. The dump station (Omarama) has been operating well, with heavy use over the summer season. Council will be installing temporary bins to allow campers to dispose of rubbish to help alleviate the overuse of town rubbish bins.
5. Graham Sullivan (Board Chair) Calum Reid (Com Board) and Kieran Walsh (Chair – Waitaki Valley Soc) and I had a meeting with Tourism Waitaki GM Jason Gaskill, regarding the preparation of a business case for a more permanent funding model for the Information Centre Kurow. With A2O bringing more visitors to Kurow, this has placed more pressure on resources.  
Kurow is growing and looking more vibrant with new business premises opening, creating a welcoming atmosphere for cyclists and other tourists.

Craig Dawson – Councillor  
0274389132 [cdawson@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:cdawson@waitaki.govt.nz)



# **Environment Canterbury news in brief**

**ECan is seeking permission** to release a new variant of rabbit haemorrhagic disease. The new variant, known as RHDV1 K5, has already been approved for registration in Australia and release there is planned between March and June 2017. ECan Regional Leader Biosecurity Graham Sullivan said it was a potentially significant biological control tool for pest rabbits in New Zealand and expected it would result in “improved knockdown” in areas where the current strain of RHDV was less effective. The New Zealand Rabbit Coordination Group (RCG) is co-ordinating the approvals processes for RHDV1 K5. <https://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2017/application-for-improved-rabbit-biocontrol/>

**ECan’s Plan Change 4 to the Land & Water Regional Plan**, the “Omnibus” plan change, will be operative on March 11, 2017. It strengthens the rules about the removal of vegetation from braided river beds have been strengthened. The stock exclusion from braided river beds rules have been clarified to make it easier to understand how to comply with the rules. The plan change also puts in place new provisions to protect areas of potential inanga spawning habitat. It also makes some amendments to the rules about the exclusion of non-intensively farmed cattle from high country lakes. ECan’s compliance response to prohibited activities will be followed through.

For video clips on the key impacts of the Omnibus Plan Change, go to [www.ecan.govt.nz/lwrp-pc4](http://www.ecan.govt.nz/lwrp-pc4)

ECan representatives have met with Fish & Game, Land Information New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and Federated Farmers. Agreement was reached, with Forest & Bird input, that consistent management of all land in and on the margins of Canterbury’s braided rivers is required. A number of specific actions were to be progressed, with the next meeting of the group later in March.

**The next meeting of ECan’s Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, March 17, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.**

**Minutes and agendas are posted at: <http://previous.ecan.govt.nz/publications/Council/uwzc-meeting-190216.pdf>**

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

# The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

## EASY BOILED LEMON CAKE

3-4 large lemons  
6 medium eggs  
225g • 8oz ground almonds  
1 tsp baking powder  
Sweetener of choice

\*\*\*\*\*

Place the lemons in a medium-sized pan and pour in water to cover.

Bring to the boil, cover and simmer for an hour approx.— checking the water level towards the end to make sure they don't boil dry but so the water is nearly all gone.

Preheat the oven to 170-180 degrees. Use a non-stick tart flan or a medium sized cake tin.

Cool very slightly, then remove them from the pan, cut off the top where the stalk was attached, halve and pick out any seeds.

Place the lemons in the bowl of a food processor and blend until smooth and creamy.

Add the eggs, almond meal/flour, sweetener, baking powder and blend again. Transfer the mixture to the prepared tin or flan (can be made in individual dishes also) - Bake for 40 minutes or until turning golden (less for small dishes).

I puree any fruit or berries lying around. Pour them over the top .

OPTIONAL—serve with cream, ice-cream, sheep's or coconut yoghurt!



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Photo Caption

## Make the most of lemon season!!



**I love this recipe—it's only got a few ingredients—it all blends together—easy & fast for unexpected visitors**

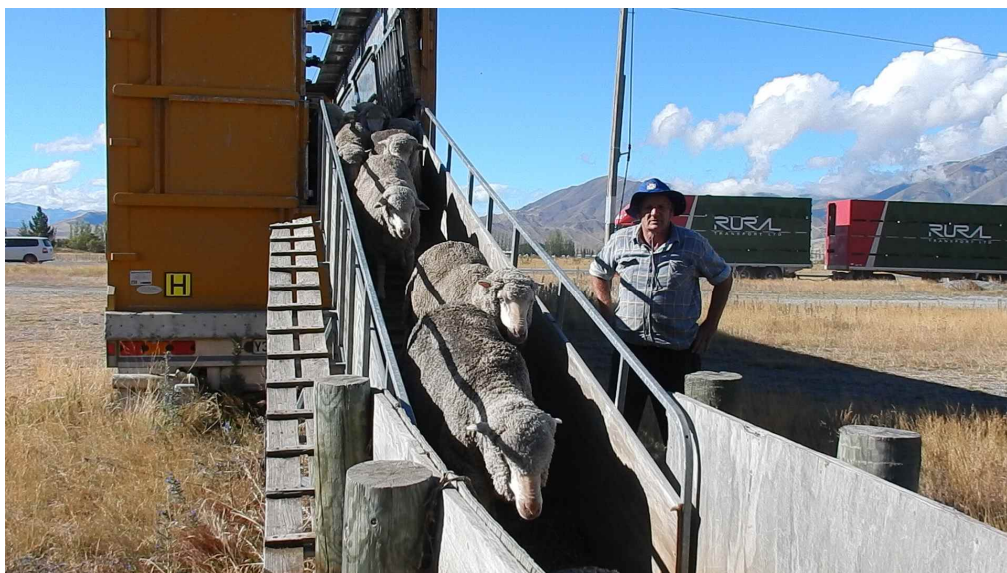
**or a dessert cake—you can moisten it to make it more tart like—with yoghurt if dairy isn't a problem for you, or even more lemon juice for a really zingy version.**

**If you have a surplus, substitute other citrus fruit—I have made it with oranges, limes or grapefruit. Sweetener can be used to taste—stevia, honey, rice syrup, nectar or maple syrup are all options—your preference.**



**CERES now have bottles of organic lemon juice in glass jars... so handy... in this**

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## Twizel Lifestyle Block Evening

An info evening for lifestyler's covering cow, sheep, alpaca, goat, duck and chicken



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Speakers from Vetlife, Elanco, Reliance Feeds. Various Stalls, displays and a great way to meet other lifestylers.

Where: Vetlife Twizel  
1/3 Benmore Place Twizel  
Date: 23 March 2017  
BBQ 5.45  
Speakers: 6:00  
Q & A: 6.35

BBQ provided. Please RSVP to Lis on 027 430 4644 or ring the Twizel clinic on 03 435 0212 by 20 March.



**Vetlife**  
Animal Health Partners



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

**From 1 February to 26 February, 2017**

**Highest temperature: February 20 31.5C**

**Lowest temperature: February 8 3.9C**

**Most rainfall: February 13, 11mm**

**Total rainfall for February 26.5mm**

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## The FAQs - The ALL NEW Five Awkward Questions with...



### Fiona and Jamie Bochel

Huxley Gorge Station

#### What is one of your favourite things?

*Skiing with my boys. - Fiona*

*I've got 3 things that I love snow boarding, water skiing and hunting. - Jamie*

#### What is one lesson you learned at school that you have never used?

*Certain maths equations - Fiona*

*I did a mechanics course at school but discovered I was more of a stock man - Jamie*

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

There are so many awesome hard-working mums around Omarama (but I'm sure you do know that 😊)  
- Fiona

There are some great old time farmers in the district that really looked after me and taught me a lot when I did a stint casual mustering years ago in Omarama - Jamie

**If you could time travel where would you go?** Back to the 80s and my childhood with long summers in Wanaka - Fiona

Back to late 1800s when the wild west of America was being discovered. - Jamie

#### What is one thing you would tell your 16-year-old-self?

Enjoy sleeping in and having no responsibility. It goes so fast! - Fiona

Farming will work out, it's a great occupation - Jamie



## The View from the Chook House

Mmm, that was delicious.  
Now where did it put  
that pot of gold?

Happy St Patrick's Day

# The Garden Diary

First thing in the morning, summer and winter, I love to walk barefoot through garden. Yep, sometimes there are prickles or chicken poop, such is life.

Most often I come back inside with a fistful of flowers for the jar on the window ledge.

Throughout the day I catch a glimpse of them or a wave of their scent as I hurry past and it draws me back from busy-ness to the quiet of the new day. While gathering thoughts at the kitchen window that fistful of stems becomes a new way to look at my plants. Instead of one bloom lost in a crowded bed the personalities of individual flowers or leaves shine. This zoomed-in-macro view lets me appreciate their detail - intricacies which I might not otherwise notice.

It seems 'cutting gardens' are in vogue again – separate beds to grow flowers and foliage year-round specifically for picking. It avoids lacuna. (Aaah, no, not a fancy new cocktail.) It means you avoid making a wee hole in your immaculate, geometrically-designed borders if you want to be a little rash and pick a posy for a friend. Maybe you're trying not to be a cheater – "I grow only natives". Or perhaps you feel the need to excuse your penchant for garish, clashing colours (this one is me). This way you can turn to any startled guests, wave off their shock kinda casually and say; "What, this? Oh, this is my cutting garden." Wikipedia lets you off the hook too. "A cutting garden need not be artistically arranged.", it says. Even weeds count in a cutting garden. Yep, a cutting garden is just asking for trouble 'cause it's for all those fun plants that like to throw riotous parties.

Anywho, stuff that grows in my 'cutting garden' (if I had one) needs to have scent. There is nothing quite like the fragrance unlocked by dew and the warming sunrise. First Thing in the Morning.

One of my very favourite plants to grow just for cutting is the sweet pea. Its perfume is like spring rain. The traditional time to sow sweet peas is St Patrick's Day, our autumnal equinox. They'll be flowering by September – the spring equinox. They're greedy beggars so I plant mine in a big tub filled with compost, easier than deep digging in stony ground. They also do well along the back fence in the rich soil left there after I've cleared out the last of the tomatoes, or next to my climbing roses.

There seems to be a bit of ritual around how best to sow them and, while all advice should be carefully considered, many times my best plants have grown from self-set seed. I do soak saved seeds before sow. I figure it gives them a bit of a wake-up and refresh when they emerge from a dark, dusty packet. The important thing about sweet peas is, once they're in flower you must pick them as fast as you can. Then they flower all the harder trying to beat you in the race to set seed.

Which brings me to sweet peas and chocolate :) What, you didn't think that?

If I was one of those fabulously clever French perfume chemists I would bottle that perfume combination, or sweet peas and strawberries – the quintessential fragrance of early summer.



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

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