



-Omarama Gazette -

March 2016

sponsored by

Lakes Electrical & Whiteware Services - Waitaki Laundry Services



Busy times for Collie Club

Simon and Liko Inkersell and their team of volunteers are looking forward to putting their feet up come June.

That will see the end of about two years of organising and hosting some of the most significant dog trials the Omarama Collie Dog Club has held.

Last year, it was the club's centennial trials. This month, March 9 and 10, the

annual club trials will be a trial run for the Tux South Island and New Zealand Championships which runs from May 30. More significantly, they will also be the last Omarama Club trials held at the present site on Omarama Station, near the sheep saleyards. From next year the club will take up a new site on Dalrachney Station.

"It's been a big couple of years," Simon, who has been club president for the past two years, said. And he expected the next weeks to be "Fairly frantic".

"We're looking forward to putting our feet up, the week after [the national event]." He anticipated about 100 competitors would enter the local club trials. People could arrive and register on the day for these. One drawcard was a chance to test themselves on the courses where the nationals would be held, and under the same judges. Judges are: Event I; Neil Evans, Event II; Selwyn Dorward, Event III, Colin Bayliss, Event IV; John Caley. About 300 to 400 competitors along with supporters are expected for the May-June competition.

The North Otago Centre, of which the Omarama club is a member, is the official host and administers the event. However, it is up to the Omarama club to do the work on the ground - arrange facilities, catering, sheep and the like.

"We rely a lot on others," Simon said. Liko, who is catering convenor, said, although catering for the May-June competition was contracted out, she and her team would be staffing the cookshop for the Omarama trials.

All were welcome to visit and watch the competitions and enjoy the refreshments on offer.

The Sponsor's Say

Lakes Electrical & Whiteware Services - Waitaki Laundry Services

Reuben Simpson reckons he has the best job – so much better than something similar in the city. There is just so much variety, he says. The young electrician has almost completed his apprenticeship and is one of the three-man team working for Lakes Electrical and Whiteware Services, Otematata. Waitaki Laundry Services, which operates alongside, employs up to 12 workers at any one time. They're equally dedicated. Sue Abelen travels to work from her home in the Hakataramea Valley. Susan Lin has travelled from Taiwan to work. She was co-opted by a friend who had returned after working at the Laundry and spread the word about the opportunity. Susan is the seventh Taiwanese to be employed. Maria McLaren gave up her Oamaru job to travel to and from Otematata to work at the Laundry. She is now a permanent resident in the village.

Creating jobs in the village is what lies at the heart of the twin businesses, the hub of which is family and community.

Dawn and Brian Firman joined Kevin and Danielle Powell in business in 2009. Initially, it was just the electrical and white-ware services business but this opened their eyes to the need for laundry services in the Valley. That business opened in 2013. It now supplies linen and laundering for accommodation and hospitality businesses throughout the Waitaki Valley, to the Mackenzie Country, Hakataramea Valley, and east to coastal North Otago. The electrical and services business covers similar ground.

The laundry supplies 80/20 linen, just one step down from 100% cotton, and they are constantly renewing stock. Demand continues to grow fast. They pride themselves on always working to meet the customer's needs. Both businesses are available 24/7. Laundry service delivery and pick up is six days a week but they have the flexibility to do as is required.

"We'll give anything a go," Dawn says.



*Lakes Electrical and
Whiteware Services,
Waitaki Laundry Services
Market Place, Otematata.*

*Phone 03 438 9650
or 027 538 7694*

*Email:
lakeselectrical@gmail.com*



Tell us about the stones

Have you ever wondered about the stone cairns which dot the roadside along the Omarama - Lindis Highway?

So has Christchurch author Debbie Roome.

Debbie contacted the Omarama Gazette to ask about the history of the cairns because she may use the

information her latest book. She was working on a book which included the stones and said she would like to know how long they had been on the roadside and who might have started building them.

Debbie was born in Zimbabwe, lived in South Africa and in 2006 moved to New Zealand with husband Kevin and their five children. The couple are pastors at the Emmanuel Community Church, in Christchurch.

The author and public speaker has written romance novels and non-fiction titles and won awards for her work. Her non-fiction books deal with the Christchurch earthquakes, cyber-bullying and flying.

If you have any information about the cairns please contact the Omarama Gazette and we will pass the information on to Debbie.

Stone Cairns – from Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairn>

- A cairn is the Scottish Gaelic word for a human-made stone mound.
- They have been built throughout history and are common to many cultures
- They have been used for many purposes and to mark occasions among them; as trail markers, to landmark a location, for navigation and surveying, and as memorials and to mark ceremonies.

In Scotland, it is traditional to carry a stone up from the bottom of a hill to place on a cairn at its top. An old Scottish Gaelic blessing is Cuiridh mi clach air do chàrn, "I'll put a stone on your cairn".



ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

(on fourth Sunday of each month at 3pm)

All Welcome

Clergy Contacts:

Rev Ken Light, Anglican Vicar for Waitaki.
Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)
03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773

The rules are changing - have your say

Environment Canterbury's (ECan) Waitaki water management committees held meetings in the region earlier this month so people could find out more about its proposed changes to rules about land and water management.

About 20 people – ECan staff, ECan Upper Waitaki Zone Committee members, farming advocates and Omarama and Haldon landowners met at the Omarama Community Centre.

ECan zone facilitator Nic Newman said the purpose of the meeting was to outline the changes and to discuss how to make submissions. It was not held to discuss the changes because the “statutory process” was underway. The changes would bring ECan regulations into line with national guidelines. As well, a “strong theme” in the plan was to give effect to the Mackenzie Agreement, he said.

ECan publicly notified the Nutrient Management and Waitaki Plan Change to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan on February 13, 2016. Part A applies to Canterbury and Part B applies to the Waitaki sub-region. It specifies new rules for water quality for rivers, lakes and groundwater and ways it expects land and discharge to be managed to achieve set outcomes throughout Canterbury and in the Waitaki sub-region. Alongside this is a requirement for all those farming more than 10ha to register their activity online on ECan's Farm Portal. This computer programme is designed to help farmers assess and manage what they are required to do on their properties to comply with the new rules.

The new rules are based on Good Management Practices (GMP) for water quality, a set of guidelines produced last April by a collaboration of agricultural industries. The importance of developing Farm Environment Plans or Management plans is stressed. GMP will apply to all Canterbury farms by June 2017 and will be reviewed and updated over time. Part of what GMP does is to set baseline limits for the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus (nutrients), sediment and faecal contaminants which can be lost from the farm to water. This is provided the farm is using good management practice for its particular type of set-up.

The Upper Waitaki Nutrient Management rules have taken effect from the date of notification i.e. from February 13, 2016.

ECan senior planner Devon Christensen said this meant there was no “headroom” to move in the Ahuriri Zone. Landowners must operate within the GMP guidelines unless a higher guideline was approved before February 13. But individuals could form nutrient user groups and “share” nutrient loads. This would allow individuals to operate above the baseline provided whole catchment did not move above the baseline. This was to

“provide flexibility” for some “lawful intensification”. Landowners were still required to operate within the good management practice guidelines, Devon said.

ECan strategy adviser Dann Olykan demonstrated ECan’s online tool Farm Portal. He encouraged farmers to log on, practice and test the tool which was still being updated. Some at the meeting had tried the tool, found it wanting and expressed concerns about whether or not it had been fully tested and would be ready in time. Although it was still in the testing phase much work had been done and anyone experiencing problems should contact ECan customer services, Dan said.

Submissions close March 11, 2016. A hearings process will follow. Those who wanted to make a submission needed to note there was a correct process, Devon said. She recommended people were specific about their concerns and the decision they wanted. They should also submit on what they liked about the plan. The wording of the submission was important because it would determine what was allowed to be said at the hearing, she said.

To find out about the proposed changes and submission process go to: www.ecan.govt.nz/lwrp-pc5

To try the Farm Portal <https://farmportal.ecan.govt.nz>

You could be affected or have an interest in the changes if you are a resident, ratepayer or hold a resource consent.

N.B. The Upper Waitaki Nutrient Management rules apply now. As well, existing rules apply unless interim rules override these. These apply until the change becomes ‘operative’ about mid-2017.

To contact ECan Customer Services call 0800 324 636 or email to ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz





The Noticeboard

The Plunket Nurse, Liz Watson, will be at the Plunket Rooms at the Omarama Community Centre on Wednesday morning, March 9. Phone 021 244 9647. Home visits are by arrangement. Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Lisa Crawford, phone 021 126 3113

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

The Southern District Health Board is asking people to share their experiences of its care.

Starting March 7, and across the district, they are holding 'listening sessions' to hear about what needs to improve for patients, carers and staff. You can contribute by attending the sessions or by completing a short survey. Register to attend, complete the survey or find out more at: www.southerndhb.govt.nz, by phoning 0800214 579 or emailing listening@southerndhb.govt.nz

The Omarama Golf Club is hosting an Easter tournament, all welcome. See *below for more details*.

Omarama Inc 4WD tour – The Omarama Residents and Ratepayers Association, is holding a 4WD fundraiser on April. See *below for more details*.

The Omarama Model Aircraft Club is hosting a Model Aerotow event at the Omarama air field at Anzac weekend. See *below for more details*.

The Omarama Collie Dog Club holds its annual trials March 9 and 10 and will host the Tux South Island and New Zealand Championships from May 30.

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade will be celebrating 50 years of service to the community at Queens Birthday weekend. Howard Williams, Chief Fire Officer, phone 021 408202.

Kurow JAB Rugby Registration is 2pm, Saturday March 5 at the Race-course Rugby Grounds. Registration fees are \$30, payable on the day. For more information contact Wade. Phone 0275 493604.

The new Twizel Medical Centre, 15 Mackenzie Drive Twizel, will be formally opened at 2.30pm, Saturday, March 12. All are welcome.

The Upper Waitaki RSA holds its annual meeting in the Kurow Hotel at 2pm, Saturday, March 19. Notices of Motion and Nominations for Officers and Committee Members must be received by Friday, March 4, at P.O. 57 Kurow.

Multicultural Concert in Oamaru for Race Relations Day, 7pm Saturday March 19. Doors open 6:30pm. Performances from around the world. Tickets Adults \$10, Children \$5. Available from Ticket Direct at the Oamaru Opera House or www.ticketdirect.co.nz. For more info contact Sandra 03 437 0418 or 027 7789 753

For a copy of the costs to advertise, and publication and close-off dates for the Omarama Gazette for 2016 please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or email omaramagazette@gmail.com

Dob them in. Go on, you know you want to! If you know of someone who has done something cool, nice or just plain awesome let the Omarama Gazette know and we will make the appropriate fuss.

**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, April 6, 2016.
Please submit copy by Friday, April 1.**



ALPS 2 OCEAN CYCLE TRAIL

**SITUATIONS VACANT - DRIVER
Temporary part time Position March – May 2016**

Cyclejourneys Twizel Depot needs a driver to join their team.

**If you have Class 2 drivers license & passenger endorsement,
can load and transport luggage and bikes on a trailer, assist
and enhance our customers holiday; we want to talk with you.**

Please contact:

**Jill Jenkins Operations Manager at our Wairepo Road depot.
Phone 03 435 0578 Email twizel@cyclejourneys.co.nz**

The Community Reports



The Omarama Golf Club

It has been a long time since we have had something in the Omarama Gazette, but your Golf Club is “Alive and Hitting”.

As always in a small community, members come and go through work and other reasons, but our current membership is 46 and

with some new committee members the club is in a healthy position.

The Christmas tournament was a great success with 51 entries

Results: Men: Tony Sheppard 45 stablefords, 1; Adrian Tuffley 44 stablefords, 2; Jim Harkin and Ron McPhail 43 stablefords, 3=.

Ladies: Christine Bowman 44 stablefords, 1.

Thanks to all our tournament sponsors of the Christmas Tournament.

Club Captain's Bits and Pieces.

Best score this year Johnny Anderson 70-10 -62, best nett Paul Bowman 93 -38-55

Trying to have something different each week and a great hit was the ‘Caaanterbury verses Otagooo’ which was won by Canterbury with much sledging along the way!!

Singles knock out competition is down to the final with Johnny Anderson playing Christine Bowman, watch this space.

Remember only 5 weeks of twilight left. 5.30 pm report, 9 holes.

EASTER TOURNAMENT (Mixed) Report 12.30 pm, Saturday, March 26.

Excellent Prizes, 2s, closest to the pin, BBQ on course and a meal afterwards. Non-golfers are welcome.

Saturday golf has been averaging nine players and a mix of ladies and men with handicaps from 5 to late 30s. So if you would like to play golf but don't think you are good enough or don't know anyone, it is not a problem we welcome everyone and you can be assured you will be helped along the way. Membership \$175 with full affiliation.

Thanks to all our sponsors and we will soon have our new tee sponsors signs in place (all 18). We hope to acknowledge you all in our newsletters, this month we would like to thank: Omarama Service Station; Olive Grove Café; Glide Omarama. Please support these local businesses.

Club contacts: president Johnny Anderson, 021 401730; secretary Jim Harkin, 021 357992; captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276.

www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

Continues ...

Omarama Inc - Residents and Ratepayers Association

The Community Centre is proving a popular venue for weddings this summer. The committee members continue to work to improve facilities through general maintenance, new plantings, a plan to improve heating, storage and stage lighting. It is also working with Playgroup's on planned improvements to playground equipment. A 4WD- tour is planned for April and other community events are being considered as fundraisers. The next meeting is 7.30pm Thursday, March 10

Chairman: Ross Gold. Secretary: Craig Dawson 03 438 9755

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

omaramagazette@gmail.com



Breastfeeding Works!

Having a baby? Already breastfeeding a baby of any age? Then contacting a Volunteer breastfeeding counsellor will be positive for you.

These counsellors are mums, who have been trained to support breastfeeding mothers. "Breastfeeding Works!" counsellors are able to help you with the ups and downs of breastfeeding. No question is too small! There are three local Breastfeeding Works counsellors local to Twizel and Omarama. We are just a phone call away. Sarah 021 326 909, Liko 0272 497 555 or Deidre 0276868879



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)

The Community Reports *continues ...*

Friends of the School

Lambs donated by local farmers were sold at the Omarama Lamb Sale to raise funds to go towards new school furniture. We raised \$105 from extra donations and Boots and Jandals Omarama Hotel donated \$250. A total of \$1120.05 was raised. Awesome thanks to the generosity of the farming community!!

Those who donated lambs were: Waitangi Station, Mt Florence, Ben Dhu, Huxley Gorge, The Wrinkly Rams, Dunstan Downs, Longslip, Tara hills, Lake Ohau, Killermont, Wezzel and Andy, Rosasco and Springer. - *Wendy Parsons*
Read more about the sale at:www.odt.co.nz/news/farming/373894/lamb-prices-better-expected

A “huge thank you” to those who helped make That Dam Race such an enormous success. The feed back from the riders was incredibly positive so this year will be even bigger and better. About \$2000 was raised. - *Pip Smith*

A reminder that the Friends of Omarama School is having its AGM 3pm, Thursday March 3, at the Omarama Community Centre. We have got some stepping down from the committee, and need some new faces to join the other new faces! We are after new committee members and office bearers - most notably, a new treasurer.

Contact: *Lisa Anderson* 03 438 9400, Cell 021 243 8940,
email: bogroystation@gmail.com

Omarama School senior pupils visited the Omarama lamb sale earlier this month. Photos from left to right: They were shown through a stock truck (photo by Wendy Parsons) and listened to PGG Wrightson stock agent Barry Fox talk about his job.





Thank you to Waitangi, Mt Florence, Ben Dhu, Huxley Gorge, The Wrinkly Rams, Dunstan Downs, Longslip, Tara Hills, Lake Ohau, Killermont, Wezzel and Andy, Rossco and Springer, Boots and Jandals Omarama Hotel for your generous donations



Thanks

thank you for supporting the inaugural
That Dam Race and
Omarama Friends of the School

December 2015



The School News

Over the Gate

Wow! What a busy month Omarama school pupils have had. We began the year with a Powhiri to welcome the new staff and pupils to the school. Our roll is 41.

The students have settled back into school routine and we have been busy learning about our area and the community we live in.

There has been a great deal happening this month.

Morgan Knoesen visited the school with his electric car. He was on his way to Queenstown. He came and spoke to the senior students about the cars of the future.

The Junior children have visited a local garden to look at the monarch butterflies. Thanks to Ollie Turner for giving the junior class the opportunity to learn about the butterfly's life cycle. Ms Bennet was given three chrysalises to bring back to school. They all hatched successfully.

The senior class had a morning at the Omarama Lamb sales. It was an interesting experience for the students. They were loaded into a stock truck, given a talk about what happens at a lamb sale and then found the answers to some questions that had been prepared by Wendy Parsons. We were fortunate to have the support of many station owners who donated the proceeds from the sale of a lamb to the school. Boots and Jandals Hotel donated \$250. A further \$135.00 came from donations. A total of \$1120.05 was raised. Thank you to all that contributed. This will help with purchasing the new furniture for the upgraded rooms.

The classroom block is coming along nicely. The linings are on the walls and the plasterer has started.

Swimming continues to be a focus in PE. The Swimming sports are coming up on 4th March at Kurow. Mr Newlands has selected a team.

Some North Otago Cricket players have also visited the school. Youth Town sadly didn't make it as the weather was rather wet. The rain was very welcome though as the farmers have needed this for their pastures.

LAB in a Box is arriving in March. Keep a look out for more information. There will be a session for the community to come to and learn something new.

- Sue Fleming, Omarama School Principal

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To find out more about First Aid Kits for fundraising contact Tracy ph 03 454 3040 | tracy@wpfirstaid.co.nz



Be prepared: Friends of Omarama School will be selling first aid kits like these to raise funds. Photo: supplied

Are you ready?

New health and safety rules come into force next month and Friends of Omarama School wants to help you prepare.

The group is selling WorkSafe New Zealand- approved first aid kits as a fundraiser for the school.

From April 4, when new rules come into effect, all employers who require their employees to use a work-supplied vehicle for work or to travel must make sure each of those vehicles has a first aid kit, chairwoman Lisa Anderson said.

Friends of Omarama School are selling these kits for \$40.00 each.

They will make \$14.00 for each kit sold.

The kits are supplied by Workplace First Aid Training - NZQA registered trainers.

The Health and Safety at Work Act (2015) will introduce new responsibilities for everyone in the workplace and some significant changes to how workplace safety is managed.

Learn more at: www.business.govt.nz/worksafe/hswa

To order a kit contact:

Lisa Anderson
 phone: 03 438 9400,
 Cell 021 243 8940,
 email: bogroystation@gmail.com



**OMARAMA
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OMARAMA COLLIE DOG CLUB

101st Club Trials

March 9-10th 2016

- Every LOCAL entry goes into the draw to win this STIHL Miniboss Chainsaw (valued at \$695)
- So the more dogs you enter - the more chances you have of winning!
- Entries open to LOCAL competitors only
- Drawn 6pm Thursday 10th March

The Omarama Collie Dog Club wish to invite everyone along to their 101st trials - and the last to be held on the existing Omarama Station grounds.

Come along and watch shepherds and their dogs battle it out with the sheep. Food and Beverages available for purchase from the local ladies in the kitchen and bar.

Q&A with Craig Dawson and Jan Thomas of the Omarama Business Group

1. What does the group do?

We support local business.

We provide a forum for local business ideas and interests. We also function as a lobby group for submissions to the Waitaki District Council via Tourism Waitaki. We have fun together and celebrate business success.

2. What have you achieved as a group?

We have built stronger relationships between businesses and other regional organisations. We created and update Omarama's town map, have put up signage for State Highway 83 and 8, and created the "Discover Omarama" website. We have looked at our strengths and weakness, and determined that we wish to be a prominent town in the Alp 2 Ocean success.

3. Who can join?

Anyone who either owns or manages a business or who is positively interested in Omarama Business and wants to be informed on issues facing Omarama and who would like to bring their ideas to assist in the enhancement of our town. *continued over...*

The Omarama Community Centre
4WD Fundraising Tour
Sunday 3rd April 2016
Starting at the Omarama Community Centre
Registration 9:30am



\$100 per Vehicle

All proceeds go towards new community tennis courts

Must have high AND low ratio gearbox

No Dogs and No Alcohol

To book and for more information please contact:
Jemma Gloag on (03)4389626 or buscot@farmside.co.nz
Cathy Ferguson on (03)4389785 or cnferguson@xtra.co.nz

...from over

4. Do you have to pay?

There is no cost for the meeting but we usually hold a breakfast meeting and breakfast costs \$10 per person.

5. Will we have to share our business secrets?

Your business secrets are your business, period! We tend to discuss things on a general level, and for the town and surrounding area as a whole.

6. Is there a secret handshake I have to learn?

No!! But if you share a funny tale or two you will be in the top seat and it is helpful to know about Graham Norton's Red Chair.

7. What will I have to do/commit to?

Primarily we are a discussion group. We often compare notes on trends and listen to guest speakers who represent tourist groups or similar organisations that may affect Omarama. You can participate as much as you feel comfortable.

8. When is the next meeting?

Usually the second Tuesday of the month, at 7.30am(during peak season) or 8.00am(off season). Next meeting 7.30am, March 8 at the Countrytime.

9. Who can I talk to about this?

Jan Thomas, Hot Tubs, Omarama. 03 438 9703

GLENCRAIGS CLOTHING!



VASSALLI - autumn range -
knitwear, pants, trousers, jeans, skirts, shirts and super
puffer vests and jackets!

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*Menswear - Breakaway - super new brushed shirts,
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SALES RACKS CONTINUE - restocked regularly!!

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Omarama Gazette

omaramagazette@gmail.com

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the first choice for your child's future



**ENROLMENTS
NOW OPEN**

Twizel Kindergarten



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

The teachers are all qualified and registered.



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

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



Contact Head Teacher Carol Sinclair

Phone 03 435 0433

or call in to the kindergarten

135 Mackenzie Drive, Twizel

www.kikbuttlife.com

The collage features various clothing items: a bright cyan jacket, a patterned shirt, a floral shirt, a patterned jacket, a grey and green hoodie, a floral jacket, a red floral skirt, a floral jacket, and camouflage pants.

TACKLESHOP AT ASURE SIERRA MOTEL-

Omarama



We still have in stock a good selection of lures and flies for local rivers and lakes.

OPENING HOURS:

7.30 AM TO 7.30 PM.

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

February 2016

Highest temperature: February 3, 34.3C

Lowest temperature: February 1, 7.6C

Most rainfall: February 18, 17mm

Total rainfall for February: 35mm



ANZAC Aerotow Omarama 2016

The Omarama Model Aircraft Club is hosting a Model Aerotow event again at the Omarama air field. This is to be run over ANZAC weekend starting to 12 noon Friday, April 22 running through to 12 noon Monday, April 25. The club has had great support from the Omarama Airfield management, Glide Omarama and the other soaring clubs. This event is attracting radio controlled pilots and builders from all over New Zealand as well as Australia to Omarama the gliding hub of New Zealand.

Some of the tow planes expected to attend this event include a 1/4 scale Cessna Ag Waggon, 1/3 scale Pawnee and a 42% Pawnee to name a few. Gliders will range in size with some of the large ones having wing spans of 7 metres plus. The biggest of them will be 1/2 scale. There will be a range of vintage gliders such as a Slingsby T31, 4.2m Blanik, 4.8m Sperber Junior and ASK 18. As well you will see some of the latest high performance gliders in action like the Ventus and ASH. The public are invited to come along and have a look during the weekend at the Omarama Airfield.

Contact: Graham McLean 03 438 9832



High flier: Chris Norris, of Wellington, gives his six metre wingspan JS1 a lift at a previous model aerotow event. Photo supplied.

One potato, two potato, three potato, four.



Lucky entry: Cathy Ferguson is this year's winner of the Spud in a bucket competition.



Eagle eyes: Judge Laurie Ruddenklau is watched carefully.



It's what's underneath that counts: Ross Kelman had the tallest entry.

In the end, it was down to Mother Nature and Lady Luck and a little help from Nev.

Cathy Ferguson is this year's winner of the Boot and Jandals Hotel Omarama Social Club 'spud in a bucket competition'.

It was Cathy's husband Neville who planted up and nurtured the two potted potatoes entered by the couple. But on the day of judgement Neville told Cathy she could choose which bucket would be her entry. Luck had it Cathy's bucket contained 18 spuds, coming in well ahead of Neville's 14.

Coming a close second in the competition was Wingy with 17. Julie Dyson had a most glamorous entry but it failed to win the judge over. It was "too flowery", he said. However, he did declare Ross Kelman's rather flashy entry, to be the tallest plant.

The crowd was somewhat disappointed because despite a thorough search – "never fear, I reckon they're in here", and "weeks of going on about it", Ross's bucket relinquished only 12 spuds.

The competition was judged by Laurie Ruddenklau and assistant Matt Parsons in the hotel beer garden on Sunday.

Judges and spectators did agree the children, whose entries were judged separately, had worked hardest with their entries and their harvest matched and, in many cases, outdid the adults. There was a prize for each entry. Each of the 53 contestants had been issued with a Desiree seed potato and pale blue bucket in



The FAQs -

The Five Awkward Questions with...

Lorraine and Brian Paget, and Angel Omarama School Cleaners and Omarama Golf Club members

1. What is the best advice you have ever been given?

Work hard for what you want

2. What was your best impulse buy?

Our boat

3. Best day outside the office? *Fishing*

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why? *Great place and great people*

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

More giving



The view from the chook house

What if Bob Jones built a statue to the “wonderfulness” of hens?!



The Garden Dairy

There may be 50 shades of grey and some debate as to how many names those who are stuck with the white stuff year-round have for snow. But I am reliably informed there are 11 shades of green. My daughter ran home from school excited to tell me so.

At this time of year, I revel in green - from happy, fresh and busy lime-yellow chartreuse to the deep, thoughtful, even melancholy, grey-blue and deep blue-purple greens.

I've noticed something happens when I squish plants of the same colour together. It's the same when I look at a black and white photo, my eyes seem to catch so much more. Distinctive detail pops out all over. There are those fat, lush, 'snail and slug food' hosta leaves, oozing with damp tropical excess. There are tightly pleated leaves hiding strawberries, furry but spiky pine needles, leaves that are delicate and lacy-cut and restless, sensuous grasses. Green, the essence of life, stretches from mossy miniature worlds to great arcing giants reaching across the sky and playing dappled, sunlit shadow games with the changing light.

Yeah, I do go on ...but seriously folks.

You already know it's green because of that layer of plant cells, which converts light energy into chemical energy. Greens are good for us, we know this.

Most of the time green is unassuming. It is the backdrop for colourful, splashy flowers which romp across the seasons. Or it is the soft focus setting for pearly raindrops and sparkling spider-webs. A green edge or hedge will underline, a grassy path will lead the way and a stately green cone can be a full stop or exclamation mark. In my case, less stately and more like question marks.

As I have watched them take their twisted shape I have come to love my two conifer - Juniper 'Kaizuka' - question marks. It happens my favourite grass, *Carex comans* 'Frosted Curls', is stealthily making its way to their feet. But I think my all-time favourite 'greens' are my twin *Robinia frisia* which sparkle and twirl like a kaleidoscope of chartreuse in the breeze.

Ruth Grundy

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