



-Omarama Gazette -

April 2016

sponsored by Brosnan Refrigeration



The Hat is Stepping Back

By the time you read this it will be old news and recycled a few times – ‘old hat’, you may say.

Not that we’re saying Hat is old but he is 16 years older than when he first officially began turning trash into treasure. For health reasons he is calling time and will step back from duties at the Omarama and Otematata recovery parks on July 31.

Hat was one of a team of people, led by former Waitaki District Councillor Tim Wardell, who successfully pushed for a recycling scheme in the Upper Waitaki. Hat moved from volunteer to first employee of the Ahuriri Resource Trust (Art) set up in 2000 to service Upper Waitaki towns. In its first year, Art diverted 5% of material from the landfill in Oamaru. Now made-over into the Omarama Recovery Park, 80% of material that enters is recyclables, Hat says. He has lobbied to keep it that way, challenging a name change to ‘transfer station’, making sure it is always acknowledged as Omarama’s Recovery Park. The poet, raconteur and general ‘convivial’ with his succession of canine companions – most notably Skye, then Ruby, now Jet, have transformed that domain with its ‘gift shop’ into what is jokingly referred to as ‘the social hub’ of town, a place where neighbours catch up, swap gossip and trash on a mid-week or Sunday morning. It is usually the first place people call at when they arrive in town and the last place they call at when they leave. “I’ve really enjoyed the social aspects of it,” Hat says. “I’m lucky to work for a company like Delta who is supportive of what I do.” Over the years the park has provided “20 to 30” bikes to wannabe cyclists, helped to furnish people’s houses with basics, and “kids’ toys are always free”. “I get a lot of love from my customers, especially at Christmas time ... I get so many Christmas cakes.” Hat will be back (recycled?) as a relief worker when required.

The Sponsor's Say - Brosnan Refrigeration



Winter is coming...in case you need reminding!

The good thing about that is Blair Brosnan has the answer – install a Mitsubishi Electric heat pump. You can turn it on from ‘anywhere in the world’ and your house will be cosy whenever you come home.

Alternatively, if this Indian summer continues you can programme the pump to have it cool and refreshing. Blair says that’s the great thing about the Mitsubishi pumps. They are well-suited to extremes of weather – hot and cold.

Blair is a qualified refrigeration engineer with more than 17 years experience and a great knowledge of the North Otago region.

He loves working here and services the whole Waitaki District and beyond; from Palmerston to Timaru, and inland to the Mackenzie Country.

No two days are alike, he says.

There are two sides to his business. As well as heat pumps which he installs in homes, in schools and commercial premises, he also installs refrigeration for restaurants, bars, dairies and supermarkets.

Farm refrigeration services have been significant. A career highlight has been having input into the design, development and nationwide release of a new dairy industry milk chilling system, he says. The nationwide release of this significant new technology was at the North Otago A & P Show in February 2014.

Blair is no stranger to Omarama. The family has been holidaying here for the best part of 25 years, built a holiday home about 14 years ago, and subsequently carved a well-worn track to the golf course. Possibly the best endorsement of the quality of his products is the Brosnan family and friends find them essential.

*Brosnan Refrigeration
Blair Brosnan owner/operator
Mitsubishi Electric Heat-pump Agent
Refrigeration Service and Installation
24 hour service
email: brosnan.refrigeration@gmail.com
Telephone: 0800Brosnan, 0277 555 705*



Meet our new Justice of the Peace



Georgie Robertson is Omarama's new Justice of the Peace (JP).

Georgie was sworn in by Judge Joanna Maze at the end of last month at a ceremony at the Oamaru Courthouse, supported by her new peers – other JPs.

It was a special day. Her family was very happy for her and all sent congratulations, she says.

She received a call several months ago telling her she had been nominated and asking her to consider taking up the role. She says she did take some time to think it over and discussed it with her sister who is also a JP before coming to a decision.

A JP's primary role is community service and, once conferred, is for life. Importantly, those who are selected are chosen because they are happy to give time to their community and make themselves available to others. A trained nurse, Georgie is a co-responder for the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade and she is an active member of the Omarama Business Group. These groups provided letters of support for her application. "It's just like applying for a job." Sessions of mostly on-line training followed.

Married to Tim, with three daughters and grand children dotted through the country, she works as an account manager for Glide Omarama. The JP role consists mostly of witnessing and verifying documents such as applications for citizenship and taking declarations, affidavits and affirmations - a form of oath. For Georgie, it is about being involved in people's lives in a "positive way".

Georgie says she will not be undertaking court duties – a JP can sit in place of a judge at special hearings and receives extra training to do this – and it was important to point out she was not a marriage celebrant.

JP services are free.

To make an appointment you can contact Georgie: phone 03 438 9554.

Omarama's other JP is Bill Gordon.

To find out more about what a JP can do for you go to the Royal Federation Of New Zealand Justices' Associations Inc website:<http://justiceofthepeace.org.nz>

The Scale of WW1 – a View of the Exhibit

- photos and text by Blair Shaw and Alona Clark

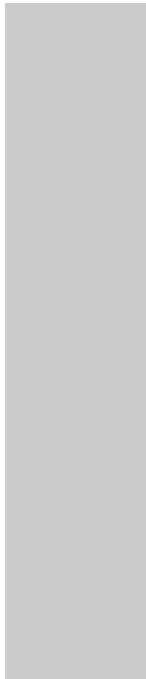
Alona and Blair recently visited Te Papa and viewed the exhibition produced in collaboration with Weta Workshop 'Gallipoli, The Scale of Our War'. The exhibition, using models almost 2 ½ times human size, tells the story of the Gallipoli campaign in World War I through the eyes and words of eight ordinary New Zealanders.

More than 17,000 New Zealand soldiers are now thought to have served at Gallipoli, nearly double the previous official figure that had been accepted for more than 100 years. The total number of deaths remains the same at 2,779. Here are their impressions and photos.

"This exhibition was just superb! We would've been in there for at least two to three hours. It was very tastefully done, not only the larger than life replicas of men and women shown in the photo's attached, but also the commentary, stories and other displays throughout the exhibition – They were just phenomenal.

"The attention to detail was also just amazing, especially how they captured expressions and emotions of pain, sorrow, anguish on their faces and even right down to the sweat on their brows and hair on their skin!

"There is a box at the entry to the museum for contributions, however, entry into this exhibit is free! ...well worth a visit if you can."



Omarama's Anzac Soldiers



*by Michael Blackstock,
Upper Waitaki Returned and Services
Association president.*

When we gather in front of the Omarama Memorial at 11am on April 25, we come together as a community to pay our respects to family, friends and fellow New Zealanders who served and died in the service of our great country.

The Omarama plaque commemorating WW1 names three who left from here and paid the ultimate sacrifice, but who were these men? Below are some facts from available records.

Private Alan Philip O'Neill, Service No. 29681, 1st Battalion Auckland Regiment. Date of birth: unknown. Served: Boer War. Self-employed labourer. Killed in action, Belgium, October 18, 1917. Next of kin: father Felix O'Neill, of 'Glenham', Invercargill, who signed for his son's unclaimed serviceman's wages with an X. Religion listed as none.

Rifleman Lindly Tasman Harper, Service No. 49895, 3rd New Zealand Rifle Brigade, 2nd Battalion, C Company. DOB: February 21, 1875. Surfaceman for the Waitaki County Council. Killed, December 11, 1917 at Ypres, Belgium, aged 42. Next of kin: brother Mr JE Harper, Oamaru; parents Mr and Mrs Alexander Harper of Enfield. Religion: Presbyterian. Height: 5ft 10in, weight 144lbs, complexion brown, blue eyes and light brown hair. He is buried in Bedford House Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium.

Private Arnold Spain Waldron, Service No. 32599, New Zealand Machine Gun Corps, No.4 Company. DOB: June 22, 1895 at Blacks, Central Otago. Shepherd. Killed in action at Ypres, Belgium December 24, 1917, Aged 22. Next of kin: brother Leonard (Len) Waldron of Twinburn Station, Omarama. Religion: Catholic. At the time of his death, he was survived by his four other brothers (two of which were serving in the armed services) and two sisters. Height: 5ft 9in, weight: 131lbs. His complexion was fair with blue eyes and fair hair. He is buried at Buttes New British Cemetery, Polygon Wood, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.

On a personal note Arnold's brother, Len, was my grandfather Leslie Emile Shirres' best friend and best man at his wedding. Leslie was a WW1 veteran of the Otago Regiment who took up Riverside Station, Omarama in 1924. Waldron's farmed Twinburn until the early 80s before selling up to take up farming near Rakaia. Nephew, Brian Waldron is buried in the Omarama Cemetery, his three sons, Mark, Guy and Ben attended Omarama Primary School. Mother Odell was at one time teacher at the school.

Omarama Collie Dog Club Trials “End of an Era”



It was kind of appropriate the sun was setting on Black Peak as the last competitors and dogs came in from the hills. The words ‘end of an era’ was on everyone’s lips. Mind you it was ripping a gale as Tiny – Simon Inkersell, Omarama Collie Dog Club president, thanked all concerned and set to reading out results to a crowded but hushed bar.

The Club had just completed its annual trials, the last trials the local club will hold on Omarama Station where they have been for the past 101 years. Next year, the Club will hold its first trials at its new home at Dalrachney Station, hosted by the Aubrey family. Club secretary Lisa Andersen said about 100 entered in each of the four events this year which was “on a par” with the well-attended centenary trials last year. Competitors travelled from the North Island, and from as far as Southland and Marlborough in the South Island, drawn by the chance to practice on the runs and with judges who will assess the National and South Island trials which begin at the present courses at end of next month. The significance of the last local trials at the present course was not lost on members, participants or supporters who gathered after the final run at the Club rooms for the prize-giving and a barbecue. Lisa said the club was in good heart with “awesome” support from the community and “a lot of newbies” joining. She thanked the Subtil and Wardell families “...for hosting the trials and providing sheep for many years.”

Omarama Collie Dog Club Dog Trials, March 2016

Special prize winners: Williamson, S Croft 1, J Mathias 2; Dalrachney, R Waldie 1, L Wettenhall 2; Ben Omar, S Inkersell 1, L Wettenhall 2; D & K Thomas, D Broughton 1, L Wettenhall 2; Berwen, P Collins 1, L Wettenhall 2; Bog Roy, N Hore 1, I M Anderson 2, J Meehan 3, B Kirk 4; Omarama Hotel, P Collins.

Waitaki Trays: Open Winner Event 1; S Kerr, Ben. Event 2; I M Anderson, Don. E T Woods Cup: Open Winner Event 3; J Reinhardt, Jet. Ballantyne Jewellers Tray: Open Winner Event 4; S Downing, Bo. Omarama Club Trophy: Open Winner Event 4; S Downing, Bo. City Hotel Cup: Dog scoring most points Events 1&2; J Brennan, Jake. Colin Jones Challenge Cup: Local Maiden Dogs most points Events 2 & 4; L Wettenhall. J Aubrey Cup: Best Mustering Team 1 in Event 1 & 2 in Event 3; P Collins. Jack Tiddy Memorial Cup: 1 Local Maiden in Event 1 & 2, Local Maidens in Event 3, Not awarded. J & D Tiddy Cup: Maiden winner Event 3; S Inkersell, Duke. John Anderson Cup: Most Points Event 1 & 3; S Kerr. A E Tiddy Challenge Shield Maiden Dog - Most Points Events 1 & 2; J Brennan, Jake. Pewter Tankard Local Huntaway Events 3 & 4; P Collins, Tiger. Omarama Hotel Shield & \$200 Local with Heading dog and Huntaway - With most points in trials; P Collins. Otematata Station Cup Local Maiden Dogs Most points Events 1 & 2, Most points Events 3 & 4; A Boardman. Tux Top Local Maiden Competitor Prize: D Broughton, Friday.
CM Ag Contracting Prize Most promising run by a local competitor: A Boardman.



Photos:

Left, top to bottom:

End of an era: Last month's Omarama Collie Dog Club Trials will be the last local trials held on Omarama Station.

Silence at the bar: Club president Simon Inkersell reads the results of the 101st club trials.

Up and coming: Young 'club members' Elise (8) and Charlie (11) Mathias (left), and Samantha O'Neill (12) and Susie Smith (8) (right) enjoy dinner in the club rooms.

Cookhouse stars: Club catering convenor Liko Inkersell and assistant Kirsten Mathias sizzle up lamb racks supplied by Silver Fern Farms.

Kirsten was awarded the 'Most Dedicated Lady in the Kitchen' prize.

Right, top to bottom:

Talented entrant: Ashley Boardman, who won the 'CM Ag Contracting Prize - Most Promising Run by a local competitor', and Otematata Station Cup Local Maiden Dogs Most points Events 1 & 2, Most points Events 3 & 4 is congratulated by Simon.

Lucky Draw: The Omarama Veterinary Centre's prize draw for a Stihl Chainsaw was won by Simon (Tiny). The draw was made by club stalwart Ginger Anderson. Photo supplied.

Winner takes all: Club secretary Lisa Anderson records results.





SITE

New i-Site in Sight?

For now, the Omarama Information Centre (i-site) will continue to be managed by Hot tubs Omarama but its future location is uncertain although a “permanent presence” is promised.

The present contract between Hot Tubs Omarama and Tourism Waitaki officially ended on March 31. However, Hot Tubs owner Jan Thomas said she has offered to continue the service “on a month by month basis” until a new service is set up. She said she had been in discussions with Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill and had been told there would be a “permanent presence” in the town “before winter”.

The Omarama i-Site is at the junction of two busy tourist routes – Christchurch to Queenstown and Omarama to Oamaru.

In a phone interview, Mr Gaskill said Tourism Waitaki was at present looking for a “permanent, stand alone site” for the Omarama i-Site. Discussions were ongoing within Tourism Waitaki and with “people in Omarama”, he said.

“There has long been an interest in having a permanent space [in Omarama].

“We are starting the process now and will keep people informed as things progress.”

Mr Gaskill was confident the process would not take long and, because the busy season was ending, there would be “no major disruption”.

He was reluctant to discuss matters further until more “concrete detail” was available because he did not want to “pre-empt any outcomes”.

“We are fully dedicated to making sure there is an information centre presence in Omarama.”

Mr Gaskill said, at this stage, he hoped the town’s businesses would fill the gap and continue to provide assistance to visitors if they requested it, as they had in the past.

“If people [businesses] encounter questions [they cannot address] they can contact the Oamaru i-Site.

“They can offer all the support they need,” Mr Gaskill said.



Found

on the roadside outside Asure Sierra Motel
Red plastic tag, writing reads: U238E

Contact: Cathy
Asure Sierra Motel
03 438 9785



The Noticeboard

Anzac Day in Omarama: 11am, at the Omarama Memorial Rock outside the Omarama Police Station. (*See more details below.*)

Omarama School is presenting an ANZAC community concert at 1.30pm, Wednesday, April 13. Pupils' artwork commemorating the day will be on display at the Omarama Community Centre.

The Omarama Junior Sports Club would like to thank everyone for supporting the Easter raffle which raised \$127. There were 187 eggs in the jar and the lucky winners were Glenys Rutherford who guessed 186 and Alana Walsh who guessed 188.

The Valley Variety Show is happening again. (*See more details below.*)

Good Yarn workshops are being run in Papakaio and Kurow.

People who live and work on the land have to cope with a number of challenges – from long working hours to unexpected weather events, isolation and financial pressure. They're all factors that can affect their mental wellbeing. To take care of yourself, and be able to help others, one of the best things you can do is talk. GoodYarn is a hands-on workshop that will give you the practical tools and confidence to be able to talk to people in rural communities about mental health. All GoodYarn workshops are run by experienced facilitators who have a wealth of knowledge of the rural sector. The workshop is FREE and includes lunch.

Papakaio Community Centre Supper Room: 10am – 2pm, Tuesday, April 19.

Kurow Golf Club: 10am – 2pm, Wednesday April 20.

To reserve your place please contact Carron on 027 282 0615 or carron@kurow.org.nz

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 Plunket Nurse, Liz Watson, will be at the Plunket Rooms at the Omarama Community Centre on Wednesday morning, June 15. 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

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! 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.

Here's What's Happening in the Valley on Anzac Day

The Upper Waitaki Returned and Services Association will this year commemorate 100 years of the Returned and Services Association. Remembrance services to those who paid the supreme sacrifice in all wars and also to those who have since passed on.

Lest We Forget

The Omarama service is at the Omarama Memorial Rock outside the Omarama Police Station beginning at 11am. To begin with there will be a short march from the Omarama Memorial Hall to the Memorial Rock. All those who want to march please meet at the Hall at 10.50am. The service will be led by Rev Ken Light. New Zealand Defence Force staff will attend along with members of a unit of The Brigade of Gurkhas, who are training at the Tekapo Military Camp.

PROGRAMME

0620 Parade forms up - Hakataramea main street

0625 March to Cenotaph

0630 Introduction - President

Band - Australian National Anthem

New Zealand National Anthem

**Address from New Zealand Defence Force
Representative**

Band/Hymn - O God Our Help in Ages Past

Padre - Prayer & Anzac Dedication

Piper - Lament - Wreath Laying

Vice President - RSA Ode

Bugler - Last Post - Minute Silence - Reveille

Band - God Save The Queen

Padre - Benediction

0815 Wreath Laying, Kurow Memorial Gates

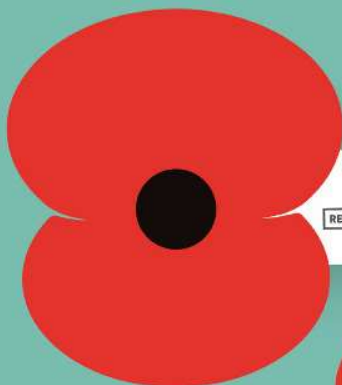
0845 Poppy Laying, Otekaieke Memorial Gates

0915 Wreath Laying, Duntroon Cenotaph

1100 Omarama Service - Similar to Hakataramea

ALL WELCOME

POPPY APPEAL



REMEMBER



TO CARE

DONATE TO YOUR LOCAL RSA

POPPY DAY
15TH APRIL



rsa.org.nz



meridian

Meridian Waitaki Community Fund

Meridian recognises the importance of local communities to our hydro and wind operations.

The Meridian Waitaki Community Fund gives your community a say on what local initiatives are supported and funded by Meridian. The Fund, managed by a panel of community members and Meridian staff, is about working together to build strong communities.

The Meridian Waitaki Community Fund is for the communities around the Waitaki Hydro Scheme from Aoraki Mount Cook to Waitaki Bridge, including Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio, and Glenavy.

TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

The next closing date for Meridian Waitaki Community Fund applications is 26 May, 2016.

For more information on the Meridian Waitaki Community Fund, or to submit an application online, please visit **meridian.co.nz** or email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz

You can also call us on 03 357 9732.

The Community Reports



Omarama Community Centre Update – 2/4/16

It has been a while since my last update, so I thought I had better get cracking and list what's happening for the centre to date.

Since the last update, we have a new chairman Ross Gold who has done a great job getting people to meetings and making sure the members stay on track. He has shown real dedication, as he has had to come from Mosgiel especially to attend meetings and has been a willing participant at working bees. Ross stepped in after I had to stand down due to the Chair tenure being restricted to three years.

The Centre has been very busy with meetings and events such as Boot Camp, Upper Waitaki Water Zone, Community Board, Weddings, Playgroup, Plunket, Basket Ball, Netball, Quiz Evening, Variety Concerts, Yoga, Car Club event (held last week).

The Waitaki District Council has elected to put the Omarama Public Library into the Centre, which should be operational by June this year. New shelving will be installed along with computers to allow patrons to search for books and to be upskilled in computer use. More about that as info comes to hand. The school will no doubt make good use of their vacated space.

On another subject, the WDC Draft Annual Plan is due to receive a submission from the Omarama Residents Assoc. We will be putting forward our views on your behalf. If you have any issues you would like to raise, ie rates, services such as roading etc, or would like to comment on what you see Council should be doing, please contact me and I will raise your these issues on your behalf or if you wish, you can submit yourself in person or in writing to Council.

On behalf of the Omarama Ratepayers Assoc, I would like to thank the Community for participating in all the functions held at the Centre and trust that it be a well-used asset for years to come.

Our next meeting is Thursday 14th April at 7:30pm. All welcome.

Secretary: Craig Dawson 03 438 9755 craig.dawson@xtra.co.nz

‘The Community Reports’ continues over ...

**‘The Community Reports’ is
dedicated to news
from clubs, groups and sports teams.
Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com**



Omarama Golf Club News

At our Christmas tournament prize giving, no one was more surprised than long time member Jim Harkin to be presented with a Life Membership in recognition of his significant contribution to the golf club.

Jim says he felt privileged to receive his life membership from Dave Hutton, the only other living life member. Jim thought you got these when someone was really old or just about in the box!

Jim started playing golf in 1983 after a bad 4WD accident finished his rugby days. When Jim arrived in Omarama in 1994 he immediately joined the golf club and was on a 16 handicap (Jim must have too much space time in Omarama as he is now on a 9!!).

Jim was talked into mowing fairways and the rough, by past life member Don Blue. He didn't realise mowing the rough was more about the "rough ride" on the tractor seat than the grass being mowed.

Jim says he has never been a committee man, but has filled most positions on the committee from time to time. As the membership numbers have gone up and down, Jim would always fill one of the committee positions to ensure the success of the club. Jim believes that rather than long committee meetings you are better to get stuck in and get the job done. This is evident in everything that Jim has achieved.

In the early 2000's discussions started about irrigating the course. Jim was part of a group of about 12 members that completed a fund-raising bike ride from Wanaka to Omarama which took about 6.5 hours with a few, including Jim, doing the whole distance. The Winery Sheriff's car was used for the safety vehicle and got tickets for no warrant and using blue flashing light (got off that one).

The last few years Jim worked with a website designer to develop www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz and has a full manager's certificate to fulfil requirements for recent new Liquor Licensing Laws.

Jim wants to encourage all those, both men and women, who always say "I must join up or I have been meaning to" to come over and sign up – don't worry about the golf, remember the best hole is always the 19th anyway. Looking ahead Jim would like to see more irrigation on the fairways, as at times it is like "walking on cornflakes", as our fabulous summers get hotter and dryer.

A huge thanks, and congratulations to Jim, for all his numerous hours and efforts over the years. This is a well-deserved recognition to a man that always makes you feel welcome and helped keep the club alive, especially in some lean times. Jim acknowledges others, now and over the years, who have also put in countless hours for the golf club and hopes others recognise that the club is a huge asset to the Omarama community and give some time to ensure the Club's future.



Omarama Search and Rescue (SAR) Report

A word about distress beacons - Mike King, Omarama SAR chairman

In February and March the Omarama SAR group was called to three search and rescue operations - two 4WD accidents and a lost trumper in the Maitland Valley.

The first call out was a 4WD vehicle which had fallen off a farm track - male needing assistance. A member of Omarama SAR was also out on this farm track, noticed the vehicle had gone off the road and the male was severely injured. He pulled out his Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), set it off, got back into cell phone coverage to let his wife know because the Rescue Coordination Centre phones the home number to advise the beacon has been activated and the helicopter is on its way.

The second 4WD accident was also on a farm track. The vehicle fell off the track, rolled several times, the male driver was thrown out of the vehicle and a female died at the site. A PLB was being carried by the group travelling with the couple and was activated and emergency services and Omarama SAR group were sent to the accident. It made it easy for the helicopter to find the accident and to take the man to hospital.

A male trumper was over-due from two-day hike through the Maitland Valley. He had written his intentions in the hut log book, perfect, but did not find the track markers and lost site of the track, descended into a gorgy river, realised he was never going to find the track and with time passing quickly would not make the pick up at the end of the road. He looked for a comfortable spot for the night. Omarama SAR group was informed the next morning by a friend who had waited at the pick-up point. Omarama SAR found the missing trumper four hours after we had received the call, mid-morning. Now, if the missing man had a PLB on him we could have had him out that evening. Weather conditions were fine.

This is something the local farmers should look at in their safety plan. Be found out there!

PS A generous donor has responded to the request to meet the cost of paint for the new SAR headquarters. As well Resene Paints will provide half the paint free of charge and give a good discount on the remainder.

'The Community Reports' continues over ...

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF BEACON?

Different beacons are designed for use in different environments. Although they all work in the same way, you should choose the beacon that is most suitable for the activity you are undertaking.

The three types of beacon are:

1. EPIRBs are distress beacons designed for the maritime environment. They are waterproof and designed to float in water. Some require manual activation and have additional safety devices, such as strobe lights. Others are self-activating and will float free in an emergency. The battery life of an EPIRB is normally twice as long as that of a PLB (personal locator beacon).
2. PLBs are small portable beacons typically carried by trampers, climbers, hunters and people working in remote areas. A lot of people use PLBs on small boats and for other water-based activities, but most do not float and may not be fully waterproof. Their airdrops are often not designed for use in the water. Once activated, PLBs usually have a shorter battery life than EPIRBs. Always carry your PLB on you, not in your pack – it's easy to get separated from your gear! Out on the water, attach it to your lifejacket or clothing where it can be reached easily in an emergency.
3. ELTs are fixed to the aircraft and designed to activate on impact. They can also be activated manually in an emergency.

<http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/>



As many of you already know, this time of year creeps up and with that so does the prevalence of the influenza virus.

Kurow Medical Centre can provide these vaccinations for you and for many this is free
if you meet the eligibility criteria
or are over 65yrs. (Ask at reception)

Just call us anytime to make an appointment to have this important vaccination done.
We have stock arriving in now, and are ready to go.

What about the Shingles Vaccine Too?

We can also do the Shingles Vaccine on the same day. Shingles is common in 1 in 3 of us, with risk increasing after the age of 50yrs. Most adults who have had chickenpox in their lifetime, will carry the virus. When you're young your immune system is usually strong enough to keep the virus in check. But as you age it becomes easier for shingles to break through your body's defences. It's called Zostavax and is non-funded private purchase prescription. It costs \$259. Available from Kurow Medical Centre by prior arrangement

ZOSTAVAX
Zoster Vaccine Live

Call us today for more information or an appointment
Kurow Medical Centre 03 4360 760

Or see our website www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
Or www.shingles.co.nz for extended information on this vaccine

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

Welcome to our first of many columns in the Omarama Gazette, as we reach out to our patients and the wider community with a health focus each month.

We feel it's important to take health to the people in areas like ours, as rural New Zealanders can be isolated and it can often be a challenge to find out about these sorts of things.

Last year we set up a website www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz which has proven to be a great tool and notice-board for all things health related. On there you will find important, up-to-date information on issues arising in the community. There is also your everyday information about services we offer, hours and staff here at the clinic.

It's updated regularly to meet the demands of the digital world.

We also have a facebook page:

www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre/ where we share many links and articles of a varied nature to keep our communities well informed of what's going on. You don't have to be a patient to 'like' our page either, it's another good community link.

We look forward to bringing you a different topic each issue with good information and advice relating to current health issues and topics that face us in our world today.

- the team at Kurow Medical Centre



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 034360760 F: 034360780

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre

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



Upper Waitaki Police News

Hi all, it's been a while since my last report so thought it time to fill you in. In February Constable Bennett and I assisted in the search for the glider that crashed on Ben Ohau Range. The search was run by the Gliding Club assisted by Police, with the Rescue Coordination Centre New Zealand (RCCNZ) having overall command. This was a well-run search and the professionalism of the searchers and

management team was outstanding. Unfortunately, the outcome wasn't what everyone had hoped for, with the pilot being located deceased. But all involved should take some comfort in that he was able to be returned to his family.

Of course, the other incident was the tragic 4WD crash on the Benmore Range, where the vehicle has gone off the side of the track and careered down the hillside for approximately 160-200m, resulting in the death of an 88-year-old female from Nelson. This was a difficult rescue due to the remote location and rough terrain. The driver was extracted by rescue helicopter and the remainder of the group consisting of 26 people and eight vehicles were escorted down the Mountain by Omarama Fire Brigade.

The group who were mainly of retirement age were then given afternoon tea. This was provided for by our wonderful local businesses and the Fire Brigade. Some of the group were understandably upset and this show of generosity and empathy was greatly appreciated. I have received numerous expressions of gratitude from most of the group I have spoken to as well as receiving some expressions of gratitude via email, for example: "The response of the rescue services was carried out with exemplary skill and efficiency. It has our lifelong gratitude".

"I would like to pass on my grateful thanks to the fire rescue team, nurse and the people of Omarama. They provided much help, comfort and compassion to our group. We were made keenly aware of the advantages of living in this close knit community."

"We all very much appreciated the assistance you and your colleagues gave to our group. And, the Omarama community support was fantastic!"

"Thank you for the very kind and sensitive way you and all the other services dealt with this tragedy."

Pretty much says it all doesn't it? ...makes me proud to be part of the Omarama Community, well done to you all.

I've also attended six crashes, two domestics, a noise complaint, a couple of mental health incidents, god knows how many driving complaints...and a partridge in a peeeaaAArr tree.

Lastly, it has been brought to my attention that someone is stealing fruit from some of the cribs in the Otematata area. Although this may seem trivial this is theft at the least, and has left the victims feeling trespassed and unsafe. That's pretty average. So to those fruit thieves just remember if caught stealing (i.e FRUIT) and being unlawfully on someone's property you could very well be facing a charge of Burglary...not so trivial then.

That's basically it for me. Stay safe.

PS ...Almost forgot. If you have an emergency...that is...you require police immediately don't ring my cell phone, **phone 111**. You could be wasting vital time trying to get hold of me and I may not be available. Our police communications centre will know who is working and how to get hold of the nearest police officer. This is especially true later at night or early hours in the morning, especially if I'm not working as my cell will be off, but Comms will know how to get hold of me if required. You will never be criticised for ringing 111 if it's genuine. If you want to talk to me as well, ring 111 THEN ring my cell. Cheers Bean

Constable Nayland Smith

Phone:(03) 4389559 / Ext:34580 / 021-1914808 /

mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz



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 Omarama School

by Lisa Anderson, FOS chairwoman

The Friends of Omarama School (FOS) held their AGM earlier in the month. Lisa Anderson was re-elected as chair, Emma Moore elected as vice-chair, Fiona Bochel elected as secretary and Tania Innes elected as treasurer. Prue O'Neill, while stepping down from an office bearer's role, offered her services as the 'catering convenor' going forward - which is just great. I'm excited to have some new faces on the committee, and I look forward to working with the new committee and office bearers for the coming year. Fund-raising is well and truly underway for the year, with current fundraisers including selling of first aid kits, as well as catering for 150 people on a car rally. Coming up we've got a quiz night during Maadi Cup, as well as some more catering events. Again, we are always incredibly grateful for the support from our great wee community - so thank you.

2015, fundraising activities included: winter feed field day, Omarama mid-winter dance, cross country bbq, that dam race, firewood sales, dial-a-driver for dog trials, all of which, combined, raised over \$10,000.



VALLEY VARIETY SHOW

Yes, it's happening again!

Do you have a talent?

We are looking for people to take part
in the Valley Variety Show
to be held on Friday, July 1, 2016
at the Omarama Hall

**Please contact Kay on 4389538
by Friday, April 15 if you are interested**

You told us about the cairns...carefully constructed tales



Last month we wondered about the stone cairns which dot the roadside along the Omarama - Lindis Highway?

Christchurch author Debbie Roome had contacted the Omarama Gazette to ask about the history of the cairns because she may use the information her latest book.

The Gazette received several replies which we were able to pass on to Mrs Roome.

One person recalled watching hitchhikers building piles of stones while waiting for their next ride. If they found anything else lying about – undies, shoes, hats – they would craft a person from the stones and dress them. The odd discarded spray can was used to paint the stone figures. Others who stopped to take photographs would put their finishing touches to the rock cairns. “So I assume these cairns are now known world-wide.” Some were seen going to extraordinary lengths to find just the right rock to complete the design.

Another Gazette reader said she has it on good authority the young men from Tarras would drive over the Lindis Pass to the Omarama Hotel. When they reached the summit they would “free-wheel” down the Omarama side and wherever they finished they built a cairn.

Omarama Gazette understands there is a plan afoot to demolish these rock structures because they have been deemed a distraction to motorists.

**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, May 4, 2016.**

Please submit copy by Friday, April 29.



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 School News

Over the Gate

Tena Koutou,

We have had a very busy time over the last few weeks. We had an opposite day where everyone dressed up. Some students put their clothes on back to front, while some wore mismatched shoes. Mr Newlands dressed as Mrs Newlands and some staff came in their pyjamas. It was a great day.

Swimming has been a sports focus too. Congratula-

tions to the students who represented Upper Waitaki at the North Otago Swimming Sports. All students put in their best effort and we are waiting to see who is selected to go to Dunedin.

The Year 7 and 8 Leadership team organised a Triathlon in the school grounds. It was a fun event with everyone participating. The Leadership team did a great job. They had a run, a bike and scooter section and a swim in the pool. They decided that the gold coin donation charged as an entry fee would be presented to Omarama SAR. They raised \$88 approx. The participants each were presented with a certificate and a small prize at the end of the event.

We were all turned into scientists when Nathalie brought the Lab in a Box onto the school grounds. The University of Otago supplies the Lab free of charge. The classes learnt about living things, science experiments, astronomy and how a three- dimensional printer works. The printer made a 3D dice. We had a workshop after school for families. I believe that some of the parents had fun with the dish washing liquid and the bubbles!

We have started our **ANZAC** unit. Our students are making several pieces of art depicting ANZAC. These will be displayed at the Community Hall for people to view. We are presenting an ANZAC community concert on **Wednesday 13th April at 1.30 p.m.** All are invited to attend. The students will be singing, reading poems and presenting work that they have completed throughout the unit.

Our new teaching spaces continue to take shape. The plasterer has almost completed his work and the painters will move in next. Our library is planned out and the staff are excited about getting the shelves up and the books on display. The Community library was packed up and taken back to Oamaru to be checked. The librarians are keen to get books back that might still be out there in the community. If you have anything belonging to the Community library just drop it into school and I will see that it is returned to Oamaru.

I hope you have enjoyed your Easter break. I returned to Riverton to see my family and pick up some of my winter wardrobe. I am beginning to feel a bite in the air in the mornings now! It is hard to believe that Term 1 is almost over. Next term will see us in our new teaching spaces. I think we will need to have a celebration! Watch this space. Na mihi,

- Sue Fleming, Omarama School principal



Above: Minduli Wewalage (12) looks through a microscope at slides .

Below: Dom Walsh (10) watches the 3D printer create a cube.



**OMARAMA
SCHOOL**

Be prepared: Friends of Omarama School are selling first aid kits like these to raise funds. They are selling these kits for \$40.00 each and will make \$14.00 for each kit sold.

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

To order a kit contact:

Lisa Anderson

phone: 03 438 9400,

Cell 021 243 8940,

email: bogroystation@gmail.com

Any Friends of Omarama School member.

Or Omarama School, phone: 03 438 9815

Lab in a Box Visit

The “smell of microbiology” was said to have wafted fragrantly over Omarama School during Lab in a Box’s visit.

Principal Sue Fleming said pupils were “absolutely buzzing” with the chance to get their hands dirty, to see what bacteria their fingerprints would grow, and with all the new learning to share.

Lab in a Box is a mobile science lab in a shipping container equipped with cutting edge technology on loan from Otago science and research facilities. It allows classes to explore everything from microbiology to astronomy. Otago Museum Science engagement team member Nathalie Wierdak spent the best part of last month travelling from Alps to Ocean, visiting and tutoring at schools from Mt Cook to Oamaru.

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



Waitaki District Council News

The draft 2016/17 Annual Plan: The public has the chance to comment on the council's plans for the next 12 with submissions closing on 22 April. A special consultation document was sent with the Oamaru Mail at the end of March. This document provides key information on the Council's budgets, plus details of some projects that are being proposed. A submission form can be found on the back of the consultation document or completed online at www.waitaki.govt.nz.

The Omarama drinking water upgrade: The council, in consultation with the Ahuriri Community Board, is upgrading the drinking water supply to meet the Government's drinking water standards. It has decided to use water from a bore field near the present river source. Bore water comes from rain and rivers seeping down through layers of soil and rock, which hold the water and allow its slow movement underground where it is held in aquifers. Council contractors test-drilled at the bore field and found a good supply of clean water at a deeper level than previously drilled. Over the past few months they have installed production bores at the site, and the water from these is being tested by a ground water scientist. This will determine what treatment (if any) needs to be added to make it compliant with the Drinking Water Standards. The advantage of using water from this deep bore is that the water is consistently cleaner than river water and needs less treatment to make it compliant with the Drinking Water Standards. The other advantages are: the water from the bores will not be affected when the Omarama Stream floods, like water from the current supply intake is; there is more water available for future demand, it will provide a more secure source of water during droughts. The upgrade is expected to be completed this year. If you have any questions in the interim, please contact your local community board representative Michael Blackstock, or the Council on 0800 108 081.

Proposed Omarama Campervan Dump Station: The council are asking for comment on its proposed site for a campervan dump station at the intersection of Ahuriri Drive and Chain Hills Rd, State Highway 83. *(see below for more details)*

Freedom camping update: A sub-committee of the council has been formed to address rules for freedom campers and a general bylaw review. It will be chaired by councillor Melanie Tavendale and include councillors Bill Kingan, June Slee, Jim Hopkins and mayor Gary Kircher. The bylaw, which includes other rule changes, will be adopted in May. The freedom camping rules it introduces are expected to be in force before summer.

The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is 3.15pm, Monday, May 2 at the Otematata Lakes Centre.

Shaping our district ... what would you do?

Our 2016/17 Annual Plan – what's it all about? In short, it's our plan for the next 12 months and we'd like to know what you think of it.

Submissions close Friday 22 April

A document detailing key information and projects has been mailed to all households. Additional copies can be found at public libraries and our offices in Oamaru and Palmerston.

For all information about the 2016/17 Annual Plan go to www.waitaki.govt.nz.



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

Omarama campervan dump station

Where should it go?

We've discussed possible sites for a campervan dump station in Omarama and think we've found a good location – the intersection of Ahuriri Drive and Chain Hills Highway.

What do you think?

- It's close to sewer and water mains
- Council looks after the land in this area
- A location on the State Highway is easy to find
- It's not immediately adjacent to residential properties



Want more information? Go to www.waitaki.govt.nz to read more about this project or contact Erik van der Spek on 03 433 0300 or evanderspek@waitaki.govt.nz by Friday 29 April.



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

Phone 03 433 0300 Email evanderspek@waitaki.govt.nz Web www.waitaki.govt.nz

Office 20 Thames Street, Private Bag 50058, Oamaru 9444





The Omarama Civil Defence Group is to Reconvene

Waitaki District Council representatives are meeting with community response groups to discuss how the council can support them to ensure communities are prepared for a civil defence event. The second of three meetings was held in Kurow on March 31, with attendees from Kurow, Otematata and Omarama.

Mayor Gary Kircher said community response groups played an important role helping ready communities for emergencies.

“Successful Civil Defence is a partnership between the community, emergency services and the council.

“Our civil defence team is keen to work with communities to help them plan and train for emergency events,” he said.

Omarama Civil Defence co-ordinator Jan Perriam said, now that it had the council “on board helping us”, she would be making moves to re-establish the team.

People who were interested could contact either Ahuriri Community Board member Michael Blackstock 03 438 9481, or herself, 03 438 9547, 022 3144291. There will be a meeting to follow.

The Omarama Community Library Move Update

The Omarama Community Library is expected to re-open at the Omarama Community Centre on June 1.

Mayor Gary Kircher said he had been advised by council staff all the work required to get the facility up and running should be completed by then.

New shelving is expected to arrive on April 15 after which the fit-out, sorting, and re-shelving would begin and be completed within six weeks.

“This allows for a reopening of the library on the 1st of June,” he said.

In the meantime books from the library have been returned to the Oamaru Library to be checked by the librarians. The librarians have asked people to return outstanding loans. These can be dropped at Omarama School for return to Oamaru.

ANZAC Aerotow Omarama 2016 April 22 to 25

Preparation for the Model Aerotow hosted by the Omarama Model Aircraft Club is well under way. Field preparation will be carried out the weekend before the event. The event is to be held at the Omarama Airfield and to be run over ANZAC weekend. The event gets under way at 12 noon Friday, running through to 12 noon Monday. 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. To date we have 25 pilots registering their interest to attend the event. 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.



Piper cub towing the Redbull Blanik

Environment Canterbury News

The Annual Plan 2016/17

ECan is making minor adjustments to its 10-year long-term plan which it put into place last year after consultation. It is asking for feedback on these changes by the end of April. In the 2015-25 Long Term Plan an average rates increase of 5.3% was signalled for 2016/17. But the proposed changes equate to a 4.5% increase. ECan's 2016/17 Annual Plan will be adopted by a meeting of the Council in June.

Willowburn Stream

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee will contribute about \$125,000 to a project to restore Willowburn Stream. The committee decided at its February meeting restoring the stream was a high priority. The focus, at present, is on fencing the waterway to exclude stock.

The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is 9.30am, April 15, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

www.ecan.govt.nz



We are pleased to welcome to the community Javid Ali. Javid completed his vet training in Pakistan in 2003 and in 2007 he moved to New Zealand to be a mixed practice vet. He joined Vetlife Oamaru in 2014 and has now transferred to join Beatrix and the team in Twizel. Javid, with his wife and two young children, are excited to get to know the local community, enjoy the benefits of living in such a beautiful area and to make Twizel their home.

Come see Beatrix and Javid at Vetlife Twizel!
Open 8am until 5pm Monday to Friday.

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E twizel@vetlife.co.nz
www.vetlife.co.nz

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Twizel 7901



Omarama

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Comprising of a large 805m² yard which is sealed chip, the building is 170m² and features 10 bays, each with their own door access. Bays 7 & 8 are a combined double door which opens out and have a single roller door to the rear.

Perfect for a multitude of uses - man cave, storage, as a base for the Alps to Ocean cycleway or possible conversion into accommodation units. The options are there and waiting for you to utilise. Viewing is by appointment only.

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For Sale \$195,000

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All information contained therein is gathered from relevant third party sources. We cannot guarantee or give any warranty about the information provided. Interested parties must rely solely on their own enquiries.

GLENCRAIGS CLOTHING!

NEW

**VASSALLI - SILVER LINING - GLAM- CC -
ALIBI MARCO POLO - autumn/winter ranges -
knitwear, pants, trousers, jeans, skirts, shirts and super
puffer vests and jackets!**

New Winter Boots from Arcopedico!



*Menswear - Breakaway - super new brushed shirts,
Ezi-waist trousers plus peachskin jackets and vests*



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Are you looking for a cleaner?
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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





**Lindis Pass Conservation Group
Tussock Planting Workday
Saturday April 30 2016**

The Lindis Pass Conservation Group are planting out our first batch of seed raised tussocks to a planting plan over four sites below the highway, near the top of the Pass on the Canterbury side. You are welcome to assist.

We have 350 bagged tussocks raised from seed collected from the Pass under DOC permit. This is the first part of staged planting under an agreement with Environment Canterbury through their Biodiversity Fund to plant 2000 eco-sourced tussocks (*Chionochloa rigida*).

Watch this Facebook page for updates <http://www.facebook.com/LindisPassConservationGroup> Please advise Matthew Sole if you intend to come. solem@xtra.co.nz (03) 447 3336

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(FROM THE MAKERS OF THE BITCHES' BOX)

A BRAND NEW **DOUBLE BILL SHOW** THAT'LL BLOW YOUR EARS BACK!

WOOLSHED TOUR 2016

SOUTH ISLAND MARCH 30TH → MAY 1ST

30TH MARCH WINDWHISTLE

31ST MARCH GERALDINE

1ST APRIL CLARKS JUNCTION

2ND APRIL TEKAPO

3RD APRIL MT. SOMERS

6TH APRIL WAIKAIA

7TH APRIL WANAKA

8TH APRIL LUGGATE

9TH APRIL OMARAMA

10TH APRIL WAIMATE

2ND SHOW ADDED

16TH APRIL WINDWHISTLE

2ND SHOW ADDED

17TH APRIL SPRINGFIELD

20TH APRIL BLENHEIM

21ST APRIL BLENHEIM

22ND APRIL KEKERENGU

23RD APRIL CHEVIOT

24TH APRIL ROTHERHAM

27TH APRIL OMIHI

28TH APRIL AKAROA

29TH APRIL ~~SPRINGFIELD~~ SOLD OUT

30TH APRIL ORARI GORGE

1ST MAY RAKAIA GORGE



COMING EVENTS-APRIL

Happy Hour every night between 5pm-6pm

Every Friday night Meat Raffles at 6.30pm

Join our social club \$5.00 per member

Free Pool Table every Tuesday 11.00am till 10.00pm

Investec Super Rugby Competition – Ongoing Friday and Saturday nights

Monteith's Competition Win a Free Crusaders Jersey – Three to be won - just come on in to the bar purchase six Monteith's beverages and be into the draw for a Game, Away or Training Jersey.

**Check out our New Seasons Lunch and Dinner Menu
COMING SOON**

CHEERS FROM THE TEAM AT BOOTS AND JANDALS





Those pre-49 Rodders Roar Through

The Pre-49 Rodders hosted its Protecta Insurance pre-49 Nationals in Omarama last week.

The national event drew 150 hot rod club members, their families and 84 vehicles to town. One of the organisers Brian Ward, of Hawea, said the club has members from Oamaru to Invercargill. It chooses to host its national events in small towns throughout the region to give those from further a-field a chance to explore this part of New Zealand.

People travelled from as far away as Kerikeri and Invercargill to the four-day event, some coming on after the New Zealand Hot Rod Association Nationals, in Christchurch, at Easter. The pre-requisite is all cars must be pre-1949. Club president Dave Rodgers, of Dunedin, said participants had enjoyed visiting Omarama. Many of the north Islanders had commented on the "totally different scenery". The venue had been "perfect...one of the best", Dave said. While here, the group took a day trip to Wanaka and the Highlands Motorsport Park, in Cromwell, where they were able to race their vehicles on the circuit. Brian says the club likes to "give back to the communities" where it hosts these events. Local groups paid to help with organisation as fundraisers. The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade put on a barbecue, the group held its prize-giving dinner at the Omarama Hall which was catered by Friends of Omarama School. One highlight of the event is the selection by participants of the top 10 vehicles. This year's winner was an orange 1941 Willys pick-up belonging to Bruce McKenzie, of Christchurch. "Eight years, four months, two days and three hours" and an undisclosed financial sum in the making the hand-built vehicle was only just finished in time for the Christchurch show and won four first prizes there, Bruce said.

TACKLESHOP AT ASURE SIERRA MOTEL-

Omarama



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

Winter fishing licence now on sale

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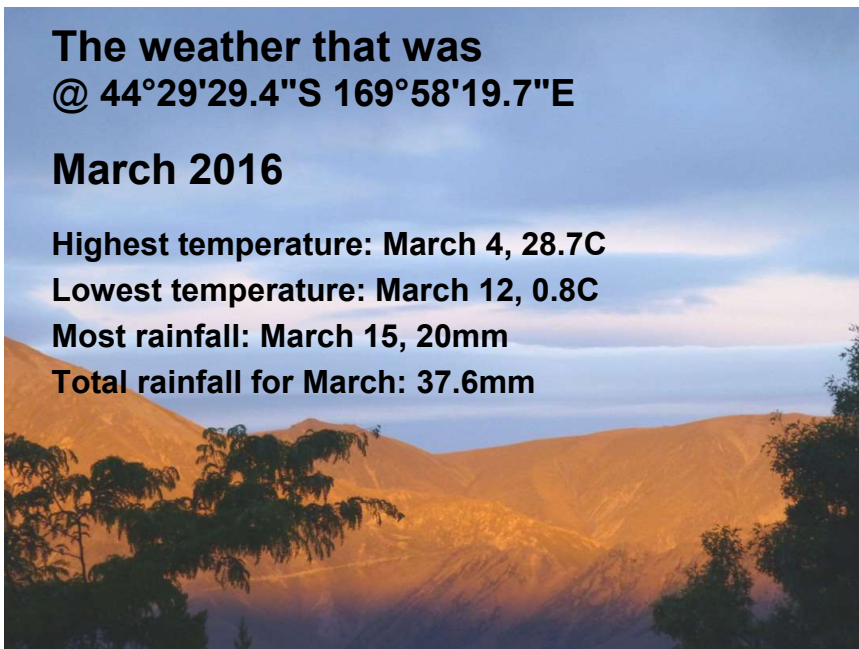
March 2016

Highest temperature: March 4, 28.7C

Lowest temperature: March 12, 0.8C

Most rainfall: March 15, 20mm

Total rainfall for March: 37.6mm





The FAQs -

The Five Awkward Questions with...

Those Irish Girls Lisa Barrett and Eimear Power

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

May you never forget what is worth remembering nor ever remember what is best forgotten.

2. What was your best impulse buy?

Has to be skiing trip to Whistler BC bought during a hard day's work on my break.

3. Best day outside the office?

Sleeping in, Lake Benmore, book, sun and stunning views.

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why?

No sandflies plus the view is pretty amazing and our neighbours would give you the clothes off their backs!

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

If people decided to be proactive instead of reactive. One random act of kindness each day would help transform this one little planet we reside in.

The View from the Chook House



**A nice hot bath
fixes just
about
anything.**



The Garden Dairy

This is not the first time in history a 'Donald' has discombobulated citizens of the US and the world. Who could ever forget that other great Donald of blustering obfuscation – US Secretary of Defense - Rumsfeld, who, quite possibly inadvertently, made one of the most rational observations of all times. There would always be

“unknown unknowns”, he said. “The things we don't know we don't know” and it is these which trip up individuals, and nations. And also, I would say, those who grow tomatoes. But my mantra is ‘learn something new everyday’ and I love the idea we can all dip into and share from a bigger knowledge-filled basket.

So here's what I observed and learnt from my patch this season.

While growing 97 plants from seed can cause you to strut around with pride for several days you can have too many plants. But with so many plants there is not the need to molly-coddle. I did give 16 the VIP treatment. They had room to stretch their feet through bagged tomato mix deep into compost. They could lean against a sunny sheltered trellis, mix with bee-attracting neighbours like borage, oregano and thyme, were watered regularly and had covers pulled up against cool nights. Unsurprisingly, they have rewarded with the earliest fruit for summer salads and to fill fresh bread sandwiches. But even these were slow through that long stretch of cool dull days early on. The Russian Reds plants did lose their centres to frost and matters looked dire for quite a while. But they came back.

The rest of the plants I bunged in anywhere...in front of rambling roses, in the raised bed after I'd dug all my new potatoes and in plain old under-nourished dirt. ...have to report, all doing well.

The sickest plants are the ones I put in recycled PB40s, used years ago, but rust never sleeps. The most rampant but with few trusses are the ones I put in with the roses – too much rich food, at a guess. The ramblers make great support. These suffered the least wind damage, tho' picking the fruit requires some strategy.

Sungold was first to crop, ripening in the second week of January, and is still popping with bright orange fruit. Cherokee Purple seed had the best germination rate even though it was old seed. Purple Calabash was slowest to strike and yielded only two plants. Both are strong and heavy with huge orbs of promise. A friend gave me Ace to try. It was late into the ground but has caught up fast and may yet win the race against the cold.

Next year, I would like to make a liquid manure to give them a boost but need a straightforward recipe. Any ideas?

And, yes, I now have oodles of tomatoes. But, another tip, you can freeze them whole and deal to them later when there's more reason to spend time over a hot stove.

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