



-Omarama Gazette -

February 2017

Sponsored by

Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama

Big star of the small screen to make a flying visit

A big star of the small screen is to pay a flying visit to Omarama next month much to the delight of her owner.

In March, the Tiger Moth Club of New Zealand will set off from Ardmore, Auckland on its Southern Safari and is including a four-day stopover at Omarama Airfield in its itinerary. It is the first time the club has visited Omarama.

Up to 70 people and 30 aircraft - Tiger Moths and other vintage aircraft, are expected to make the journey. Included in their numbers will be two overseas pilots who have shipped their aircraft into the country so they can join the expedition.

The oldest bi-plane expected to make the trip from the North Island to Omarama is a 1929 Gypsy Moth owned and piloted by Jan Chisum, of Hastings. Her husband Jerry will also make the trip piloting a friend's Tiger Moth.

The Gypsy Moth recently starred in the TV movie "Jean" about pioneering aviator Jean Batten, starring Kate Elliot.



This issue is brought to you by ... Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama



No road trip through the heartland is complete without a stop at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama. The hotel is exactly where you need to pause and make the tough decisions - like whether to travel over the spectacular Lindis Pass, or north to our greatest mountain, or east to the mighty Waitaki Valley and on to the coast. If you're cycling that great trail it's the perfect place to 'refuel' before tackling the next section. Travellers have broken their journeys here for generations. The walls are lined with pics. Oh, the yarns this old pub could tell.

Today, hosts Bruce and Julie Dyson proudly uphold those traditions of good, old-fashioned country hospitality.

"We have the coldest beer and the best country cooking for miles," Julzs says. It's not just the beer where tradition is given due respect - they're a DB pub with Speights on tap, or the classy, country pub food, Boots & Jandals still offers that older-style hotel accommodation. At the end of your day there are clean sheets and hot showers.

The hotel has been the local in this heart of merino country since the early 1900s. The Omarama Collie Dog Club's honour boards have pride of place. It's home to the Bark-up and Hillbilly Hunt. There's Friday night meat raffles, sport on the big screen and fishing stories which stretch the length of the bar. Through the summer families spread out across the lawns as the band plays on. There is regular live entertainment throughout the year. On cooler days you can drop in for a coffee, sit back in the cosy lounge and enjoy paintings by talented local artist Lesley Jackson. If your timing's right there could be scones just out of the oven.

"We want everyone to feel comfortable. We want this to be somewhere you can bring the kids, relax and enjoy a drink in the sun."

The pub (building and land) is for sale but Julie and Bruce plan to be there to welcome you well into the next decade.

**Boot & Jandals have a bottle store, are open seven days
11am until late, and offer lunch and dinner.**

Phone: 03-438 9713



Vintage aircraft to pay a flying visit - continued from page 1

In 1934, Batten was the first person to fly from London to Sydney, afterwards flying back to London. In 1936, she flew the more powerful Percival Gull from London to Sydney then on to Auckland. She had been determined to make it to New Zealand. Jan's Gypsy Moth is almost identical to the one Batten flew, which made it a fitting choice for the movie. She told the Omarama Gazette; "Jerry and I were very excited that the film directors wanted the real thing."

"It would have been so easy for them to have used a Tiger Moth – a Tiger Moth is a bi-plane, we love 'Tigers' but it would have looked ridiculous."

Jan, whose nickname is Gypsy Jan, was "stunt double" for Elliot, piloting the craft and appearing in the "far away shots".

"The film people were fantastic to work with, very supportive and encouraging, lovely people." However, it was one of those situations that had you known what you were in for to begin with you might not have made the commitment, Jan said.

This is but one of the adventures this plane and this couple have had.

The plane was once owned by Jan's father, Stan White, who flew it from London to Sydney only three months after Batten's historic trip.

"Stan didn't go much for publicity. He was just a quiet man, he didn't like to stick his head above the parapet."

Jan took up flying lessons in 1977, although, surprisingly, not altogether with her father's approval, she said. Initially, her passion had been only horses and she had not given much thought to flying. But a "turbulent" flight from Auckland to visit her sister in the Bay of Islands changed all that. "I just thought, this is so exciting."

She took up piloting Tiger Moths in 1985 and has been hooked on "old planes" since. Jan has owned her father's Gypsy Moth for only five years.

But, in 2009, she was given the opportunity to fly the plane when the Hawke's Bay and East Coast Aero Club decided to celebrate the 75th anniversary of her father's crossing. Ahead of those celebrations Jan flew the plane from Auckland to Bridge Park exactly 75 years after her father made that same flight, "just as a front moved through – exciting conditions".

In another adventure, this time in Tiger Moths and again in "nasty weather", she and Jerry flew into Mandeville airfield where they had first met "before getting to the scary stuff" - their wedding ceremony.

"You have to be a little bit funny in the head to want to fly old aeroplanes like we do."

Jan visited the Omarama airfield some years ago, while driving, not flying, past and suggested to the club they make a visit. "We're so excited about coming to Omarama – all things being equal." The Gypsy Moth has recently had a "big engine overhaul" and things "are not quite settled down yet".

She said club members had been so enthusiastic about Omarama they had arranged for the tour to stay an extra night. "It's so central, a fabulous place to come with accommodation right alongside, a fabulous part of the country."

Strong winds throughout the country this season had been an issue.

The Gypsy Moth is of wood and fabric construction and although Tiger Moths are constructed of steel and were used by the Royal Air Force as a primary trainer aircraft for World War Two, both are fragile and vulnerable to the wind.

Photos supplied. Jan and Jerry Chisum with the 1929 Gipsy Moth, and taking flight.

Otematata flash flood - community 'debrief' planned

Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan hopes a community meeting can be held in Otematata soon so all those involved in the recent flood at the mouth of the river can "debrief".

Last week, the Otematata River rose quickly through Sunday night and Monday morning after heavy rain in its catchment. The subsequent flash flood saw waters come over the bridge on the state highway and flood the Otematata boat harbour camping ground at the river mouth.

Campers were evacuated and two people had to be rescued from the flood waters. Environment Canterbury reported the river, which normally runs at about 8 cumecs, peaked at about 500 cumecs within three to four hours.

The matter was discussed at the Ahuriri Community Board meeting in Otematata on Monday. In the estimation of those who witnessed events unfold it was remarkable there was no loss of life.

"A week or a fortnight earlier, there in the same area, there would have been tragedies," Otematata resident and community board member Vicky Munro said. Rainfall in the township had not been noticeably significant prior to the flooding, Vicky said. The speed at which the river rose together with the force of the flow took many unawares.

Graham said he wanted to publicly acknowledge the work of all those involved at the time and in the clean-up following the event.

In particular, the efforts of those "on the ground" who worked through the night to ensure people were safe.

He particularly wanted to acknowledge ECan's Phil Lees, Waitaki Lakes camping grounds supervisor Simon Fox, assistant supervisor Carson Welch, the Waitaki District Council's Erik van der Spek, the Otematata Volunteer Firebrigade " - Tania, Brownie, Deborah and Neil", who spent some considerable time hosing down the bridge, and "all those in Otematata who helped the campers retrieve caravans and gear". He believed the work that had been put into river protection by the council over the past two years had saved the bridge and the road from extensive damage.

Mayor Gary Kircher said, although he had not yet had the full briefing, people had been called upon to respond in "extraordinary circumstances" and there was always something to be learnt from such an event.

Ahuriri Ward councillor Craig Dawson said he would like to congratulate all those involved on their efforts.



Dr Tim is here for the “long haul”

The Twizel GP who is now offering medical services in Omarama wants to assure his patients and residents he is here for the “long haul”.

Dr Tim Gardner left the Twizel Medical Centre late last year amid some controversy and joined the Kurow Medical Centre.

Since then he has set-up a clinic in Omarama at the community centre which he runs twice a week.

He has also said he is exploring the possibility of setting up a new medical service in Twizel. In an interview with the Omarama Gazette, Dr Gardner said he would be continuing the Omarama clinics “regardless of what happens in Twizel”.

While he had been investigating the possibilities of running another medical centre in Twizel he had agreed to “restraint of trade” conditions when his contract with the Twizel Medical Centre ended, and these would remain in effect until October.

A further complication was, although it would be possible for him to open a clinic in Twizel once the term of the restraint of trade was up, regulations did not allow for the funding of two health providers in the same area.

If he was able to set up in Twizel his goal would be to establish some kind of “tenant – landlord” relationship “as opposed to an employer- employee relationship”.

Despite rumours, his relationship with the Kurow Medical Centre staff and Waitaki Valley Medical Trust was excellent and they had been very supportive, he said.

Prior to leaving the Twizel Centre he had been considering taking up overseas locum jobs and “semi-retirement”. However, the move to join the Kurow Centre had given him a “new lease of life” and he was feeling positive about the possibilities.

The potential was there for “seamless [medical] service throughout” - from Twizel to Kurow, subject to the approval of the two district health boards. He had been involved in discussions about such a plan several months ago. A scoping study conducted two years ago had acknowledged the “definitely feasibility and “economic viability of such an idea”, he said.

The Omarama clinics – prior to Christmas there was only one clinic a week, this has been extended to two days a week – had been full, and many were making the trip from Twizel to Omarama or Kurow to attend , Dr Gardner said.



Merino Lodge opens

It may be the town's newest accommodation business but first and foremost it is a family home – a home built especially to pay tribute to the legacy of hard-working farming families who, throughout the generations, have wrested a living from Omarama's high country.

Merino Lodge, owned and built by Ann Patterson, was officially opened at a small ceremony last month.

That was important, she says, because it was a way to celebrate and thank all of the people who have been involved with the Patterson family's "farming and flying adventures" for the past 40 years.

The Patterson family has farmed Longslip for five generations, and Ann's son Bryan, wife Michelle, and family - Sam, Gemma and Laura, farm there now. Ann, and her late husband Peter, set up their home-farm at nearby Dunstan Peaks after they married, and daughter Wendy, her husband Richard and their girls - Tara and Hannah, also live and farm in Omarama, at Twinburn.

Peter "collected stuff" and the new home features many of the heritage pieces he picked up and saved.

"The big piece of stone set into the fireplace, Peter brought it home years ago and said; 'that's for the lintel'."

There is no lintel as such in the new home but the stone has presence, as do the exposed beams from his collection which are used throughout.

All the stone used for the lodge and bridge over the feature pond in its landscaped grounds is Longslip schist.

The attention to detail, using "the little things that are important to us", give authenticity.



A tribute to farming heritage

The front door handles are crafted from a pair of blade shears and an old boundary marker which once marked the boundary of Omarama Station before it was broken up in 1915, after World War 1.

The merino is honoured, with the blades, a fleece, artwork and in other little extras like the embroidered bedlinen.

On the splashback in the roomy, open-plan kitchen is a photograph of the Lindis Pass.

"The crafts-people who worked on the house put their heart and soul into what they did, and that's reflected ...they were just as passionate about the ideas as I was."

It is the purpose-built art gallery which is Ann's favourite space.

"I've collected art for years, it's always been an interest. I love supporting young artists. For me it's not about who's who in the art world, that's not important to me."

The three luxury guest rooms open onto the gallery and outside, each with their own deck.

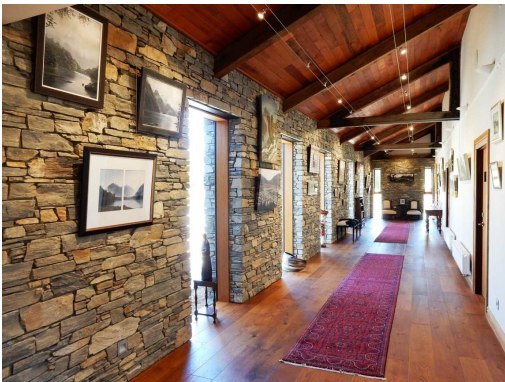
The quarters have been cleverly designed to ensure complete privacy and independence should that be what guests want.

But Ann is already finding guests want to spend time mucking in with "Granny" and the grandkids in the kitchen.

"That's what I want it to be, a home for family and friends, and to share with others.

"I want people to relax and feel at home.

"It's also an opportunity to let others learn and understand what living in the high country is all about, how precious our land is."



The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: omaramagazette@gmail.com

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

Farewell and best wishes for your travels to Jo and Ken Walker who have been managing ASURE Sierra Motels since September, and welcome to Colin and Sue Harvey who take over today, February 1.

Environment Canterbury and David and Karen Ellis extend an invitation to all to attend a workshop about using irrigation efficiently to be held at Tara Hills later this month. (See details over.)

The Omarama Community Library is open 7pm to 8pm Tuesdays and 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre. If you would like to volunteer or make an enquiry phone: Anna Howard 021 132 5586 or Georgie Robertson 027 486 1525

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

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Lisa Crawford, phone 021 126 3113

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

Breastfeeding Works: Claire Hargest-Slade 03 684 3625, 021 493 863
clairhs@me.com

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

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

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. New members welcome.

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

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

Thank you to all who bought Omarama Gazette 2017 calendars. About \$700 has been raised for the Omarama Community Centre sports facilities fund. There are still a few left, if you would like one phone 021 294 8002.

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

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

To read more, enjoy more photos and view videos check out our Facebook page www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/ and website omaramagazette.nz

Advertising pays for production and distribution.

For a copy of the costs to advertise, and publication
and close-off dates

please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or
email omaramagazette@gmail.com

**The March issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, March 1, 2017.
Please submit copy by
Friday, February 24.**

Art exhibition a successful fundraiser for Wetlands Walkway

About \$4000 was raised for the Otematata Wetlands Walkway from the sale of paintings at an exhibition in the town's event centre.

Whakatane artist Maree White, formerly of Waimate, whose family have a holiday house in the town, staged the exhibition between Boxing Day and mid-January, alongside the works of fashion design label Lida - run by her niece, Waimate fashion designer Naomi White.

Maree said the response to the exhibition had been "fantastic".

"We've been getting many locals who are really enjoying seeing their place painted." She said it was a "great venue" and many had taken the opportunity to have coffee at the café next door and look at the art-work and fashion.

In the past, Maree ran exhibitions in Twizel for many years but this was the first time she has held an exhibition in Otematata. The Otematata Residents Association had recently installed a rail hanging system and with the lighting she had brought with her the centre proved to be a perfect venue. She said she was seriously considering returning for another exhibition.

The paintings were sold to buyers from Oamaru, Timaru and Dunedin and 25% of the sales went to the walkway.

As a note: The Otematata Wetlands Walkway was spared damage last week's flood, however, reportedly, there has been wind damage throughout.

Photo by: Maree White



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

*The secret
to getting
ahead is
getting
started*

Have you any New Year resolutions coming into action as 2017 begins? Or have any bad habits got away on you over the fun and festive summer period?

Kurow Medical Centre is proud to support and encourage people with any concerns or hurdles they are having with achieving optimum health, and to quit smoking is one that we are enthusiastic about supporting you with.

The staff at Kurow Medical Centre are committed and trained to help you on this journey and it can all start from one small conversation that may arise, then we will do our best to help you make that step comfortably and successfully.

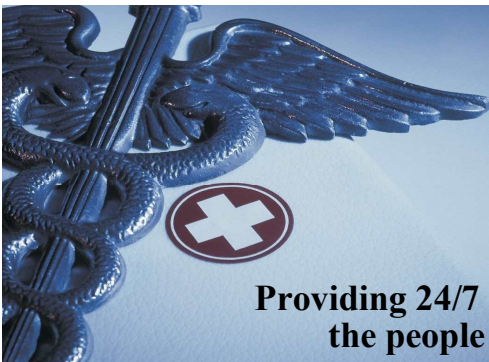
To quit smoking is no mean feat, and many of you may stop reading this thinking “I know, I’ve heard it before, I need to give up”. But it can take many attempts to do so due to the addictive processes that occur deep within our brains.

From that very first conversation until a goal of remaining smoke-free after having given up, it all takes time, energy and determination, which varies within us all. We love being part of our patients goal achieving moments for their health. We can offer the support you need here at the clinic, and also have some fabulous agencies we can send referrals to, to support you on this journey.

The facts are: Smoking is Expensive. Smoking takes its toll on the functioning of your body systems. Smoking can harm those around you. Smoking is carcinogenic.

If you want to bring it up with us at any stage, please do ask. Likewise, if we ring you to touch base, we are doing it to keep our records well up to date, but keep you reminded that we are here to help.

*“Be Strong when you are weak, Brave when you are scared
and Humble when you are victorious”*



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**

The Community Reports

The Omarama Golf Club - *by Paul Bowman*



Green greens, irrigation on fairways, a big thank you to the Meridian Energy Waitaki Community Fund for the \$10,000 of funding towards the club's irrigation system.

Between Christmas and New Year two 30,000 litre tanks were installed beside the clubs existing bore, along with a new submersible pump down the well. This has increased the flow available to our existing irrigation system, and given the club storage capacity as the water level in the well drops.

The increased flow has greatly improved the watering on the greens, and allowed K-lines to be used on the fairways. At our New Year tournament, it was good to hear comments like "The course is in great condition.", "The greens are amazing for a country course."

Once again a big thank you to the Meridian Energy Waitaki Community Fund, to Waterforce Omarama and Southern Electrical for their contribution towards the project. A special thanks to Greg Harper for overseeing the installation and all the club members who helped.



Golf Club Raffles

Thanks to the Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama for letting the golf club run meat raffles on Friday nights. Everyone's support is appreciated

Club Days

There have been good turnouts on club days with some great score cards being put in. It's good to see some new members joining and playing Saturdays. Currently, club champs are being played

Remember all welcome, tee off 1 pm Saturdays and twilight 6 pm Wednesdays.

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

Working Bees

Thanks to everyone that turned out for working bees, we had a 100% turn out of members that were in town, great effort and this was reflected in the comments from the tournament as to how well the course looked

New Year Tournament

This was held on the January 7 and, with 48 entries, was a great day

Thanks to all the organisers, especially Adrian, and to the ladies for preparing the meal and running the on course BBQ

Results

Mens

1st Cliff Munro

2nd Paul Bowman

Ladies

1st Diane Jellyman

A special thanks to all our sponsors who supplied prizes for the tournament Campers' tournament

It was great to have Tony from the camping ground arrange a fun tournament for campers between Christmas and New Year which had a good turnout

There were lots of laughs that go with a fun Ambrose event and everyone took home a prize. Thanks Tony and to all those that played



Tournament photos by : Louise Frampton

Does anyone recognise this?

The Golf Club is not a RUBBISH TIP

Does anyone recognise the BBQ in the photo?

This and the surrounding rubbish was dumped at the golf club about January 14th.

If you do recognise it, we would be pleased to know who it belongs to. If it's yours, we hope you are enjoying your new BBQ and promptly remove your old one from the golf club's green waste heap.

From the packaging left here it looks like your new BBQ is a Jumbuck.



DR TIM GARDNER runs a clinic in Omarama on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please phone Kurow Medical Centre, 03 436 0760, for appointments. On Fridays, to book an appointment in Omarama, phone 0274 347 464 because the Kurow Centre is closed.



ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

(on fourth Sunday of each month at 3pm)

All Welcome

Clergy Contacts:

Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)

03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church

03 436 0773

Omarama's Justices of the Peace

Omarama has two JPs who are available by appointment to:

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

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

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



Bill Gordon 03 438 9433, 027 4350744



Georgie Robertson 4389 554, 027 4861525

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



The Brigade had 18 calls between December and January to date (January 30). It has been a steady holiday period but with the strong winds it is a timely reminder to keep an eye on the weather during a restricted fire season.

Please be safe when lighting any fires and read all of the conditions that are on any permits given.

We have had a great uptake on new recruits at the moment, so if you are wanting to join, now would be a great time to train. Stay safe,

- Chief fire officer Terry Walsh

Embers spark grass fire at Hot Tubs Omarama

Omarama and Otematata urban and rural volunteer fire brigades were called to a grass fire at the Hot Tubs Omarama in early January.

Omarama Fire chief Terry Walsh said the fire was caused by discarded embers of wood used to heat the tubs , which in this case had not been effectively dampened down.

The wind had blown embers onto nearby grass which started the 100m by 10m fire. Once the fire was under control fire fighters remained at the scene to monitor hot spots.

“It was a good effort from all involved,” Terry said.

“There was the potential for it to get much worse.”

The strong winds are continuing to contribute to the fire risk in the district.

“With the wind, even though the place appears to be green, any small fire can build very quickly.

“People need to be very careful.”

The wind had also caused issues on the roads and resulted in recent call-outs to overturned caravans, Terry said.

Photo by: Jack Zorab



Q & A with Omarama school's new principal



The Omarama School Board of Trustees has appointed acting principal Kim McKenzie as its new principal. Kim, who lives in Twizel, began her teaching career about 14 years ago as a kindergarten teacher in Twizel and five years ago moved to teaching new entrants to year three pupils at Omarama School. Kim says she enjoys teaching because she is passionate about children and wants to inspire, encourage and support them to develop skills to serve them in their futures

The Omarama Gazette caught up with Kim after the holidays and asked her all those important things we need to know at the start of the school year.

How did you spend the holidays?

Relaxing, diving and fishing at Karitane and Moeraki, and mountain biking in Alexandra. I had hoped to go hunting but the weather was not suitable.

What was your New Year's resolution?

To get a better work-life balance, I'm leaving the laptop at work!

What did you want to be when you grew up?

I wanted to be a vet but the careers counsellor said I would never amount to that. So, I said I wanted to be a truck driver and was told it was not the sort of thing a young lady would do!

What is your favourite colour? Purple

What primary school did you go to? North East Valley Normal School in Dunedin

What was your favourite subject at school? Art

What was your favourite sport? Soccer (football)

How do you like to spend your spare time? Fishing, hunting, painting, mountain bike riding and spending time with husband Stewart, our family and our dogs.

What is something only your family knows about you?

I had opera training for two years.

[People know] I love music, I play the guitar and piano and played in a band at when I was at Otago Girls High School.

What are you looking forward to this year?

Working with a really great team: Peter, Ange, Kris, Amanda (our new principal release teacher), Lorraine, Brian, Lex, Andy and Emma, and Russell.

What is happening at school this month?

We are joining with Waitaki Valley School for a puppetry session, enjoying sport with the Youthtown programme, Rippa Rugby and swimming. Senior pupils will compete in the Waitaki Valley swimming sports at the end of the month.

A request from Kim: We would like anyone who has close connections with those who served in conflict overseas to come, talk to us and help us with our Anzac Day commemorations. Please phone 03 438 9815 if you are able to help.

Omarama Rodeo Club

The club held another successful rodeo in December.

We would like to thank our loyal local people that turn up every year to help out on the day, you are much appreciated.

Congratulations Alistair and Rod for taking out the tops spot for the 2016 Biscuits Barkup! Thanks everyone for coming along and making it an awesome night without your support we couldn't continue to put on the rodeo which brings so many people to town each year. Thanks again to our awesome sponsors David O'Neill contracting and also to Vetlife and Barking Mad Huntaways for providing extra prizes.

- Steph Voice Omarama Rodeo Club secretary

Photo by Steph Voice, The 2016 Biscuits Bark-Up.



Omarama Airfield Company director moves on

After seven years as director of the Omarama Airfield Company, three of those as its chair, Bill Gordon is stepping down from the role.

Bill says he was initially approached to take up the role because of his previous experience in aviation directorships.

He said the use of airfield had increased in recent years and it was gaining in importance as an asset.

Significant improvements to the runway had been made possible by the development of the irrigation.

Bill said he would like to acknowledge the work of all who had gone before.

"We're lucky to have a good set-up with the hangars and the terminal."

The future looked positive. Omarama was already acknowledged as a premier world gliding site. There was potential to develop this, and perhaps to host another world gliding event. And there was the potential to diversify the use of the airfield for other aviation activities.

Bill's service was acknowledged by the Waitaki District council at a function to thank volunteers, in Oamaru, in December.

Bill and his wife Lyn are moving to Alexandra next month.

The Waitaki District Council is seeking to fill the vacancy, see the advertisement over.

Waitaki District Council news

The Waitaki district's Chinese New Year celebration will be at 5.30pm to 10.30pm, Friday, February 10, at the playground at Friendly Bay, Oamaru. The family-friendly event will have international food stalls, Kung Fu demonstrations, a petting zoo for kids, lantern making, face painting and an outdoor movie, Disney's Mulan, starting at 9.00pm. February 10 is the final day of Chinese New Year celebrations and is traditionally known as the Lantern Festival.

The Oamaru Public Library will be closed from Wednesday, March 1 and reopen Monday, March 27 while renovations and the library's 65,000 books are labelled with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) electronic tags. Library users will be given extra time to return their books and any other material they have out on loan.

Expressions of interest in one of the two council-appointed directors of Omarama Airfield Ltd are sought. Council owns 50% of Omarama Airfield. The principal objective of the company is to provide airfield facilities to support flying activities and other related opportunities in the Omarama area. Please make your expression of interest by submitting a CV and covering letter, by 5pm Tuesday 7 February. *(See advertisement below)*

www.waitaki.govt.nz

From the Ahuriri Community Board

Meridian Energy is to develop a landscaped recreation area complete with interactive information boards at its lakeside site adjacent to its Benmore Dam. At the Ahuriri Community Board meeting's public forum Shelley O'Dwyer and Kelvin Jopson, of Meridian Energy, told the board the company was in the initial stages of a concept plan to redevelop the site previously used for its Benmore Dam information centre. The area would be "updated" and landscaped to include a picnic area, toilets and bike-stand, and renewed signage. The aim was to create a facility which would "cater for all", be "available all year around", and with a focus on the increased numbers of cyclists travelling through the area. The new signage would be "self-guided" with "down-loadable information", about the electricity development. "We want it to be something the community is proud of, not just something for us," Shelley said.

At present, the concept is being discussed with various community groups and Meridian plans to keep the board informed about progress. Board member Vicky Munro said she believed it would be another asset that would benefit the community. "I'm quite thrilled about it," board chairman Graham Sullivan said.

Lighting is to be upgraded through the Ahuriri townships. The new systems will meet "dark sky" specifications.

Funding is to be made available to upgrade the Omarama Bike Park. Ahuriri Ward councillor Craig Dawson said the bike park was proving very popular and asked that expert advice be sought as to the best way to go about an upgrade.

Board members said they were impressed with the efforts of new parks maintenance contractor, Downer. After initially being disappointed with the quality of the work they were pleased at how the township's green spaces were looking now.

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



You're invited to a free workshop on irrigation efficiency

Manage your irrigation to make every drop count

Friday 24 February, 1.00-4:30pm, Tara Hills Station, Broken Hut Rd, Omarama

Come and hear from Tony Davoren - Hydro Services, Rob Kirk - Kirk Irrigation and Phil Gatehouse - RX Plastics. Get your questions answered at a practical workshop designed to get the most out of your irrigation water.

The workshop will cover:

- Soil water properties
- Water scheduling
- How to irrigate in the heat
- Save money
- Pre-season checks
- Efficient irrigation
- New technology

A BBQ will be provided at the end of the day – please RSVP to Environment Canterbury on 0800 324 636 or email ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz



From Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee

Come along to a free workshop on irrigation efficiency

By ECan land management advisor Ian Lyttle

Over the past two decades farmers have been demanding more efficient irrigation systems and practices to help meet local and international demand and grow the economy.

Improved irrigation efficiency can lead to savings in operating costs, improved pasture and crop production, reduced fertiliser loss and help improve water quality in catchments.

David and Karen Ellis at Tara Hills Station are hosting a field day this month for local farmers to see how it has helped them enjoy better production and improved profitability.

The practical day will focus on soil moisture monitoring, using information to make decisions and reducing wastage in an irrigation system.

The field day, supported by the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee and the Benmore Irrigation Company, will be facilitated by Nicole Phillips (Irricon) and include presentations from Tony Davoren (Hydroservices), Rob Kirk (Kirk Irrigation), and Phil Gatehouse (RX plastics).

- continued over

- Continued from previous page

The presenters will discuss best operating practice for pivot and K Line irrigation, irrigating in the hot dry environments of inland basins, and new technology to improve irrigation systems. It will conclude with a barbeque for the attendees.

Attendees will be invited to join a small support group in a one year programme that will help them identify the best ways to improve efficiency and to overcome any barriers to this. Dave and Karen extend an invitation locals who are not farming, but interested in irrigation to attend as well.

The field day will be held on the 24th February, starting promptly at 1:00pm with the BBQ starting at 4:30pm. Come to the Tara Hills on Broken Hut Rd and follow the signs.

For catering purposes, please register your interest by calling 0800 324 636 or emailing ecinfo@ecan.govt.nz.

The next meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, February 17, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

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

www.ecan.govt.nz



Invertebrates and threatened native plants have been given a helping hand thanks to work undertaken at Simon Hills Station by a local farmer.

More than 2.5km of fencing has been installed around a 2.6ha wetland and the Maryburn Stream. Weeds have also been removed along stream margins.

The area has high value invertebrate communities and rare native vegetation including the threatened bushy reddish tangled shrub *Coprosma intertexta*.

The project received Immediate Steps funding from the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee to help with the work.

Around \$100,000 is available each year for local projects like this – search “Immediate Steps” at www.ecan.govt.nz for information on how to apply.

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1/2C Flaxseeds

1/2 C almonds

1 1/2 C rolled oats

2T Chia seeds

4T psyllium husks

1/2 tsp salt

OPTIONAL: 1T maple syrup OR equivalent or stevia for sugar free

3% melted coconut oil

1 12 C water

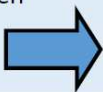
Mix last 3 liquid ingredients together in a large bowl, add dry ingredients and mix well until completely soaked.

Add to a loaf pan (some people mix directly in the pan),

IMPORTANT: - leave to sit AT LEAST 2 hours, preferably overnight.

Bake for 20 minutes on 180. Remove from pan, place upside down back on tray/rack and cook for another 30 –40 minutes until hollow sounding when tapped.

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I was amazed at how good this loaf tasted!

Thanks to my sister Trudy for putting me onto this one!! I have since tried many varieties, including adding raisins and cinnamon, or for a 100% gluten free option, try using quinoa flakes (use 2C instead of 1 1/2C rolled oats).. Also—almond meal is great if you don't want whole almonds—just add water if the mixture is a bit dry. The options are endless.... Nut butter or chopped sundried tomatoes perhaps?

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Waitangi Weekend we have "Live Wire" playing. This is a four-piece band which rocked our hotel last year fantastic music, amazing energy see you on Saturday, 4th February, for a high energy dance night starting 9pm.

Sunday, 12th February, Spud in the Bucket judging – and BBQ for all entrants. Starting at 3.00pm. BBQ at 5.30pm.

Super Rugby is fast approaching, \$20.00 to enter the competition & join in the friendly banter. Be in to win a bar tab if you select the most winning teams each week, \$10 jugs excludes cider while games are on, and nibbles will be provided for games between the Highlanders and Crusaders.

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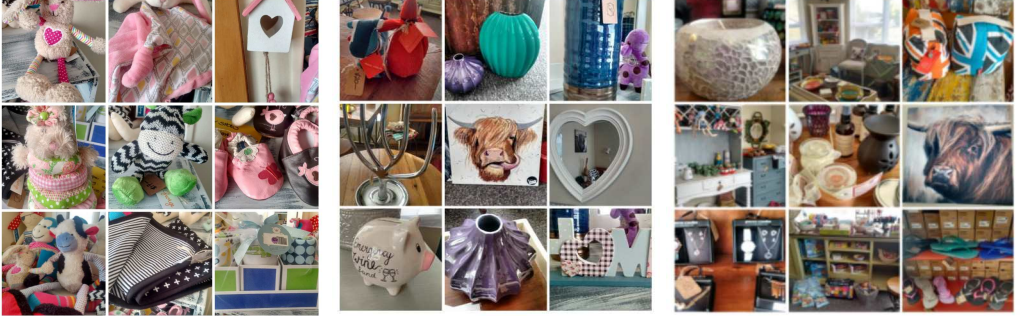
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Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee



Bignose galaxias protected thanks to local farmers and zone committee

South Canterbury's Bignose galaxias have been given a helping hand after local farmers installed fencing at Twaddle Swamp to keep stock out of a spring-fed stream and protect the Bignose's habitat.

Bignose galaxias are a small pencil shaped fish which gets its name from their slightly bulbous nose. They are native to New Zealand and only found in the Mackenzie Basin.

The project received Immediate Steps funding from the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee.

Around \$100,000 is available each year for local projects like this – search "Immediate Steps" at www.ecan.govt.nz for information on how to apply.

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Previous experience in the health sector is not a prerequisite as the skill-set that we are seeking is general management skills.

The successful applicant will report directly to the chairman of the board.

An attractive salary package is offered and pleasant working conditions.

The successful applicant would be expected to take up this position as soon as practicable.

Please apply in writing, including your c.v., and naming two referees, to:

John Abelen, c/- Kurow Medical Centre, 8 Wynyard St, Kurow 9435.

Email: jules@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

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Omarama Residents' Association

Secretary Craig Dawson 027 438 9132

Chairman Ross Gold 027 443 4149

Company Directorship – Expressions of Interest

Omarama Airfield Ltd

Waitaki District Council (Council) are seeking a Director to fill a vacancy created by a resignation of one of the two Council-appointed directors.

Council owns 50% of Omarama Airfield Ltd. The principal objective of the company is to provide airfield facilities to support flying activities and other related opportunities in the Omarama area.

Council's reasons for its shareholding relate to the general economic and social benefits that the airfield brings to the surrounding area. Information on the company can be obtained from www.waitaki.govt.nz.

Process

Directorship appointments are considered confidentially by Council's Executive Committee, which will submit recommendations to Council. Appointment decisions will be made by Council, acting as shareholder.

Please make your expression of interest by submitting a CV and covering letter, by
5pm Tuesday 7 February.

Expressions of interest should be addressed to: Elly Finnerty, Executive Assistant, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Oamaru 9444 or emailed to efinnerty@waitaki.govt.nz.



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



Dan, Nic, Arlo and Ruby Leopold

What is one of your favourite things?

Mowing lawns in straight lines and the smell of fresh-cut grass – Nic

The smell of rain on asphalt – Dan.

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

Algebra – Dan

The need to know the difference between odd and even numbers - Nic

Tell us something we might not know about Omarama?

The best-looking blokes are all taken – Nic

If you could time travel where would you go?

The 2010 Metallica concert in Dunedin – missed it because Nic had to dental surgery.

Intermediate 2001 – the most fun year of schooling, everyone's your friend - Nic

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

Don't change a thing, everything I did then led me to where I am now – Nic

Bet on Trump to win – Dan



The View from the Chook House

It has most definitely
been a
'socks-with-sandals'
kinda summer

The Garden Diary

"If I had my time over again..." sounds a bit regretful as a New Year's resolution unless you are a gardener. Then, each round of seasons is a chance to start afresh. A year ago I read an inspiring piece by Central Otago gardener Jo Wakelin. Inspired by English gardener Beth Chatto's gravel garden, she designed her stunning plot to thrive on drought. Paradoxically, Chatto's inspiration came while sitting eating a picnic lunch on rounded boulders in a dry New Zealand riverbed. I pulled Chatto's book about her dry garden from the bookcase and out floated list after wish list of plants which I had noted I wanted to try in my Omarama garden. Some 17 years later, most plants on that list are here, happy and thriving. I give thanks to these women for sharing their wisdom. We are at peak summer – such as it is. The westerlies which rage down the mountains and across our river basin hold within the memory of what this land has been for generations and have swept across with their harsh reality check. When we moved here, a mere 30 years ago, our tiny plot was lost in the endless landscape, and a great and ancient wash of gravel and river stone had deeply imprinted its braid beneath our feet. The dusty, fine silt slipped between your toes and the river stones like silky talc. That first hot Omarama summer our backyard shimmered ominously, dangerously with the electric blue haze and prickly heat of thousands of viper's bugloss in flower. And so I set about making a cottage garden. Doh! Trailer-loads of stack-bottom and manure, bale after bale of pea-straw were swallowed up in the attempt to achieve the holy grail of deep, fertile, moisture-retentive loam. All was not in vain but, if I had my time over again... The snag was the plants I desired only looked their showy best in "chocolate box" conditions. What I know now is, while life can be like a box of chocolates, I had chosen quite the wrong 'pic n' mix'. Planting for hot and dry is not dull and dusty. Dry gardens just dazzle, no wilted, fading, shrinking or simpering violets here. There is colour, there is shape, texture and perfume. Insects – butterflies, bees – honey and bumble - obsess over dry garden plants. I've continued to work toward that dream of a gravel garden – mostly I just lack that all important ingredient – a truck load of gravel! There is a Chinese proverb - life begins the day you start a garden. Not only are there are things I would do differently but I want to try so much more ... starting again this year! - Ruth Grundy (*I garden a small space under a big sky in Omarama*)

Read how it's done:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/life-style/home-property/nz-gardener/76020864/Garden-of-the-week-The-Central-Otago-plot-that-thrives-on-drought>

<https://central.op.ac.nz/services/nursery-and-plant-sales/>

<http://www.bethchatto.co.uk/> <https://www.facebook.com/bethchattogardens>



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