



-Omarama Gazette -

April 2017

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Omarama Storage

Long-time family connection ends

A family's contribution to the work of the Returned and Services Association in Omarama and the Upper Waitaki, which spans almost 100 years, officially ended last month when Michael Blackstock stepped down from his role as Upper Waitaki RSA president at its annual meeting.

Michael joined the RSA in 1998 and has been president for the past decade, taking on the role when Chum Cleave, of Kurow, stepped down.

Michael was awarded a life membership of the Upper Waitaki RSA at the meeting. "I'm very proud to follow in my father's footsteps," Michael says.



Both Michael's grandfather, Les Shirres, a World War 1 veteran who took up Riverside Station in Omarama in 1924, and his father, Ron Blackstock, who was a World War 2 veteran, were active members of the RSA with Ron becoming a life member.

"When my Dad immigrated to New Zealand [from Australia] it was my grandfather who immediately took my Dad down to Oamaru and signed him up with the North Otago RSA of which the Upper Waitaki RSA was a sub-branch."

In 1975, Ron organised what was to be the last of the Anzac services at

...continued further back

This issue is brought to you by ...

Omarama Storage

There are so many options for safely stowing your gear with Omarama Storage.

Owner Bridget Spencer has offered secure storage for boats, caravans and household goods, "...nothing too big or too small", since 2003, and facilities have only grown to meet demand.

"At the start, a few people approached me to ask if I could store their boats and caravans in my large garage and they are still my customers 14 years later," Bridget says.

She has gone on to extend that original garage into a modern, purpose-built, fully secure facility with individual access.

"People can come and go as they please."

The variable-sized space can accommodate goods up 3.6m in height, the bays are up to 9m long, and Bridget offers short and long term storage.

It's the perfect place for boats and caravans or motor homes to keep them sheltered from an Omarama winter.

And when she says, 'nothing too big or too small', it's true. Some regular overseas visitors choose to store their camping and fishing gear during the off-season, for example.

One area of the lock up is extensively shelved which makes it ideal for household goods and it's already meeting differing needs.

"People who are shifting, or maybe renting their crib out while they are not here and want to put bits and pieces away, they can use this for however long they want to.

"Some have downsized and moved to a smaller property with limited storage but still want to safely store, close at hand, all those necessary extras like fold-out beds or play equipment so it can be brought out when guests and grandchildren arrive and stowed again when they've left."

Regardless, you can relax, 'lock it and leave it' with full peace of mind.

Contact Bridget

Email: bridgesp@xtra.co.nz or phone/text 021 572 798



Important to always remember

Always honouring those who serve for our country is at the heart of the Returned and Services Association, the newly appointed Upper Waitaki RSA president says. Kieran Walsh, of Kurow, was appointed president at the branch's recent annual meeting. Kieran says the underlying values of the RSA continue to remain relevant to this day. "The welfare aspect of the RSA is important. "There are still people who have served and fought for our country who require looking after. "It is something we don't want to forget - lest we forget."



Kieran's connection to the RSA began in

1995 when he joined the Ex-Royal Naval Men's Association in Dunedin.

"We had two types of memberships at the time one was for ex-servicemen (members who had served in the Navy) and the rest were social members."

His military service began in 1963 when he joined the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy. He served as a naval airman until 1967. "I was involved in the Aden Emergency also known as the Radfan Uprising where British troops were working with Saudi troops to control an uprising by Yemini rebels." The campaign ended in November 1967, British forces withdrew and the independent People's Republic of South Yemen was proclaimed.

Kieran moved to New Zealand from the United Kingdom in 1973.

In 2005, he and wife Lyn moved to Twizel where they opened Poppies Café and in 2013 they sold Poppies and moved to the Waitaki Valley – "a grand place to live" - and a new home in Kurow where they run Riverside Bed and Breakfast.



Moths in our Mountains

Some 35 vintage aircraft arrived in Omarama for four days of flying and competitions, last month.

The Tiger Moth Club of New Zealand, members and guests, were taking part in its "Southern Safari" tour, which began in Auckland, and took in stops throughout the South Island.

Vintage aircraft enthusiasts Jan and Jerry Chisum, of Hastings, arrived flying a friend's Tiger Moth and 1929 Gypsy Moth respectively. The Gypsy Moth, the oldest biplane present at the event was once owned by Jan's father who flew it from London to Sydney in 1934, three months after Jean Batten's historic crossing.

A good number of spectators and photographers took the opportunity to see the planes in action tackling various aerobatic tasks, and to chat to the pilots and club members.

Among the 70 or so visitors was Henrietta, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, president of the de Havilland Moth Club of Britain, pictured below with friends Jerry (left) and Jan (right).

Members of Timaru's Air Training Corps 15 squadron assisted with the events. This is the first time the Tiger Moth Club has visited Omarama.

To view more photos and video go to: www.facebook.com/omaramagazette



New trial grounds gets first work-out

Competitors and spectators were full of praise for the design of the courses at the Omarama Collie Dog Club new grounds at Dalrachney Station.

Visitors said organisers deserved to be congratulated, and celebrations at the end of day one were well-deserved, though may have left some feeling a bit 'dusty'.

"It was a course made for men and very few boys," one outdone competitor, was heard to say.

Club president Ed Aubrey said there had been a good turnout of triallists, with competitors coming from throughout North and Central Otago, and Canterbury to "check out" the new courses.

There had been a "big effort" on the part of members to get the site ready –putting up the marquees, bringing in generators, and providing the other requirements which would normally be present in an on-site clubhouse, all so the two-day event could run smoothly.

He thanked all those who had helped, especially Laurie Ruddenklau and Ross Kelman, who had "manned" the barbeque, "the Collie Club ladies" – led by Ed's wife Andrea, who had arranged packed lunches and smokos for the judges as well as providing for the visitors; new secretary Prue O'Neill and assistant Sylvia Anderson for managing the administration; the judges - Event 1 The Long Head, Paul Collins, St Andrews, Event 2 The Short Head and Yard, Duncan Macrae, Wanaka, Event 3 Zig-Zag Huntaway, John Tweed, Waitahuna, and Event 4 Straight Huntaway, Roger Tweed, Waitahuna, and the sponsors.

The sponsors were Farmlands, PGG Wrightson, David O'Neill Contracting, Adrian Cox Shearing and Mobil Omarama.

*To view more photos and video go to:
www.facebook.com/omaramagazette*



A change to i-Site services in Omarama

As of last month Hot Tubs Omarama is no longer providing information centre – i-site services on behalf of Tourism Waitaki.

Instead, the council-controlled organisation has issued two computers - 'tablets' - one each to Heritage Gateway and Countrytime Hotels to provide links to its services. It is also looking at options for an outdoor electronic 'unit' or 'kiosk', and where best to site it.

Tourism Waitaki general manager Jason Gaskill said it reached the "end of its agreement" with HotTubs "early February".

"It was obvious to both parties information services needed to be managed differently or located somewhere else."

Tourism Waitaki had been looking at different methods of distributing tourism information nationally and internationally so it seemed a good time to trial new solutions, he said.

Moving to electronic delivery of information seemed logical because more people were using digital devices and searching online as they travelled.

As well, Tourism Waitaki was pricing all-weather outdoor units with the possibility of setting up some kind of "kiosk" adjacent to the public toilets or just outside a business.

Mr Gaskill said these ideas did not necessarily preclude any other solution. "It's not necessarily either, or."

Tourism Waitaki "wanted to be careful" about the delivery of information services so as to "enhance" the visitor experience and to make sure it was "consistent and meaningful" throughout the district.

"We don't want to rush through the decision and risk it not delivering or being too expensive.

"We're committed to making sure we deliver to Omarama the services required." There would always be "competing opinions" about what and how that would be.

At present, the district's tourism strategy was under review. One round of public meetings was held late last year and Omarama residents would have another chance to have their say at meetings later this month, he said.

The Omarama meeting will be from 12noon to 1pm on Thursday, April 27 at venue to be announced.



Family connection ends...continued from page 1

Omarama's Memorial Hall but was unable to attract a guest speaker. While these days there is a resurgence of interest in Anzac Day commemorations, at the time public opinion was "strongly against anything military" and numbers declined, interest dwindled, Michael says.

So it was a real highlight for him seeing the Memorial Rock and flagpole set up in the town centre to provide a new focal point for Anzac Day Services, and also to have members of the defence forces represented at those services.

Omarama Anzac services resumed at the Memorial Rock in 2010 and more than 100 have gathered there at each service since.

Michael says support from the community, particularly the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Ahuriri Community Board is central to staging the service each year. While some RSAs have struggled to remain viable the Upper Waitaki branch has remained strong, he says.

One thing he has enjoyed is seeing school pupils becoming more involved in commemorations, taking part in Anzac essay and artwork competitions, and staging concerts. The welfare arm is an important aspect of the RSA in the Valley, he says.

All money raised from the annual poppy sales, while not a big take, is spent in the area – helping people with firewood, Christmas dinners, and providing prizes for the school competitions.

The hardest part of his role was writing his speech each year – and "trying to keep the words down".

Michael has moved to Christchurch where he will continue to be part of the RSA there.

N.B. *Charlie (Christian) Van Dulst writes: "The Shirres and Blackstock association will continue with all members of the Blackstock family continuing to be members of the Upper Waitaki RSA, including my husband who is a sub-branch member (Ex Australian Army) and her two children. "Although my family reside in Australia we will continue to support the Upper Waitaki RSA...We as a family continue to support our grandfather and father's memories by supporting the Upper Waitaki RSA to ensure future generations learn the atrocities of war and what our servicemen did for our countries."*

POTM Pet of the Moment

#POTM Introducing: Chookie

Hi, my name is - mmm, that's awkward, no-one is all that sure?!

I am a bantam hen.

I live at Brad and Charlotte's and I'm Emilia's best friend.

I am a good girl, I lay every day and keep the cabbages free of caterpillars.

I just love scratching around in the veggie garden.

My worst habit – some might say it's what I leave on the back door step but...when you gotta...



The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: omaramagazette@gmail.com or phone 021 294 8002

There are many special events and dates to remember this month. The notices are posted throughout the pages of this Gazette. Make sure you don't miss any that are important to you.

The Omarama Model Aircraft Club will host Anzac Aerotow Omarama 2017 from 9am to 5pm Saturday, April 22 to Monday, April 24. The weekend is expected to attract owners of scale tow planes and scale vintage gliders as well as modern glass and composite models.

Omarama School is holding a community Anzac service at 12 noon, Thursday April 13, at the Omarama Memorial Hall. There will be a 'cuppa' and an Anzac biscuit made by the children to enjoy after the service. All welcome.

The Upper Waitaki RSA is distributing poppies for its annual Poppy Day appeal to Omarama businesses. All funds raised from donations are spent in the district.

The Waitaki District Council is holding community forums, including one on Saturday, April 8, in Otematata, to give people a chance to have their say about its annual plan. See below for more details

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

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

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

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Lisa Crawford, phone 021 126 3113

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

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

The Omarama Residents' Association's next meeting is at 7.30pm, Wednesday April 12, 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 - Note winter hours: Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm, all welcome. Club captain Adrian Tuffley, phone 027 347 8276. <http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/>

Techy tips: Remember, if you add Omarama Gazette to your email address book it is less likely to end up in your spam folder. To get a better view of the email you can click on the option in the header to 'view in browser'.

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

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To find out about publication and close-off dates,
and how much it costs to place your advertisement,
please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or
email omaramagazette@gmail.com

**The May issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, May 3, 2017.
Please submit copy by
Friday, April 28.**

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

Imagine a therapy that had no known side effects, was readily available, and could improve your cognitive functioning at zero cost. Such a therapy has been known to philosophers, writers, and laypeople alike: interacting with nature.

Studies popping up all over the place are showing that human beings need to have nature in their lives for mental, emotional, physical, social, spiritual wellbeing.

The findings demonstrate how both green and blue spaces can have a significant impact on physical, mental, and social health.

These spaces promoted mental wellbeing, in which experiences of nature provoked feelings of renewal, restoration, and spiritual connectedness. They also provided a space for multi-generational social interaction and engagement, including planned activities with friends and families, and impromptu social engagements with friends.

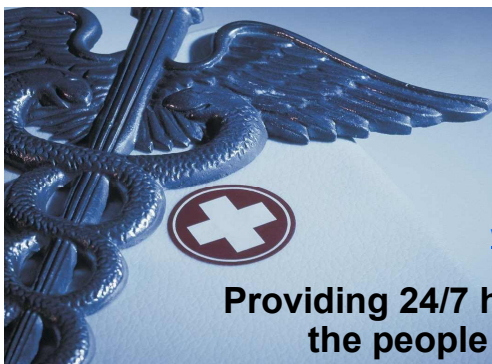
Many have suspected that nature can promote improved cognitive functioning and overall well-being, and these effects have recently been documented.

We have access to so much in the Waitaki Valley, with the Pacific Ocean and Southern Alps a close distance away. In between we have gorgeous lakes, mountains and open skies to make the most of.

You can do this so easily here with access now to a brilliant cycle trail, many walking tracks and DOC reserves scattered throughout our beautiful district.

Don't let the weather stop you. The rain on an umbrella is quite soothing, a crisp morning frost can be invigorating and the sun has some powerful healing attributes too.

Just wake up and make the most of it, and if this therapy becomes addictive, then you are going to get even more out of it, and so too will those around you.



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



Upper Waitaki Police News

Hi everyone this month has been fairly good. I've attended the odd car crash and one fairly serious motor bike crash. Of note the motorcyclist was travelling in staggered convoy with other motor cyclists, he was obeying the speed limit but failed to see a stationary road marking truck. It's worth noting that even on a motorbike you should obey the 2 second rule, had this gentleman

done that, he would most likely have seen the truck and been able to slow down and safely negotiate his way around. The roar is not far away and I have already received quite a few complaints of illegal hunting activity in the Omarama and Lindis Pass area. This is a concern, especially when one of the farmers has reported that one of his cattle beasts was shot and killed as result of what I can only presume was a case of mistaken identity. By law you must seek permission from the land owner before hunting on any land in New Zealand, this includes any public owned land looked after by DOC, you can get a hunters permit and maps to show where you can hunt at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/hunting-permit> Unlawful hunting is not tolerated and police will continue to work with land owners and the local community to help reduce the effect of unlawful hunting in the area. As a result I have changed my roster and requested extra staff to specifically target illegal hunting/poaching in the Omarama, Lindis Pass and Kurow areas during this time. There will be no warnings given, anyone caught illegally on private property will have some serious explaining to do. With the technology available today there is very little excuse to be on land you have no permission to be on. Unlawful hunting charges could result in two years imprisonment and up to a \$100,000 fine. Firearm licences will more than likely be revoked, and firearms and vehicles seized. It is also worth noting that under the Wild Animal Control Act if a person is found to be illegally on land where wild animals are usually present and that person has equipment used for hunting the court shall presume, until the contrary is proved, that the person was hunting or killing wild animals in the area. What does that mean? Simply put it's up to the poacher to prove they weren't hunting rather than the prosecutor having to prove they were.

In fact the issue of trespassing not only lies with poaching but also trampers and recently mountain bikers, you have no right to just walk onto someone's land, if you can't get permission then you simply don't go. Anyone with information in relation to illegal hunting, poaching, spotlighting or other crime-related activities can contact me at Omarama police on 03 4389559 or provide information anonymously to Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111

REMEMBER THE SEVEN CARDINAL RULES!

1. Treat every firearm as loaded
2. Always point firearms in a safe direction
3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire
4. Identify your target beyond all doubt
5. Check your firing zone
6. Store firearms and ammunition safely
7. Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Lastly, I am seeking the owner of a dog that was unfortunately struck by a car on SH8 Omarama Lindis Pass Rd on Sunday March 26, at about 6.15pm. If you could please contact me as the tourists involved would like to make contact with you.

Senior Constable Nayland Smith 03 438 9559, Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



There were 14 calls in March; eight motor vehicle accidents, three medical and three private fire alarms. With daylight saving upon us please check your smoke alarms, replace batteries, and, if you need a hand, please give us a call. Please be safe and remember - Smoke alarms save lives

- Chief fire officer Terry Walsh

Omarama Rural Fire

A team from Omarama Rural Fire competed at last month's Otago-Southland Rural Fire Wajax Competitions in Alexandra but the outcome was not quite what they were hoping for.

More than 100 firefighters took part in the games.

Omarama's team was Lis Rietveld, Jason Rogers, Jack Zorab and Jaden Jenkins.

"We were doing miles better than last year and then got disqualified in the final run so we ended up unplaced. But we had fun and learnt lots which is the main thing," Jack said.

The event was won by the Te Anau men's team and the women's category was won by Glenorchy.

In 1971, Omarama introduced the Wajax pump competition to brigades south of the Waitaki. The first competition was between the Omarama, Stewart Island, Glenorchy and Hawea volunteer brigades which were all using similar Forest Service equipment to fight urban fires.

The Omarama Rural Fire Brigade meets at 7pm on the first and third Monday each month at the Omarama Rural Fire Station, Sutherlands Rd. New volunteers are welcome.

Photo: Supplied



Omarama Golf Club

- By Christine Bowman

Over the last month some fantastic golf has been played with the bonus of summer run conditions and great greens. As we know the leaves have already starting falling and autumn is on its way. Soon we will be into real winter golf conditions, remembering that golf originated in Scotland similar to Omarama weather at times.

Over March we had great turnouts on our club days with many new faces. We have had four new members join our club as we continue to grow from strength to strength. Otago Anniversary weekend we had 24 people in our club rooms for the normal presentations, friendly banter about bad shots and reanalysing our games e.g. If I take off the out-of-bounds and shots that ended up behind a tree my score would be!!

Planning is well underway for our Easter Tournament, Saturday 15th April. BBQ on course and meal afterwards cost \$30.00 p.p. cards in by 12.00 p.m. Tee off 12.30 p.m. Great prizes, raffles and, of course, great company. Everyone is welcome. If you would like more details contact Adrian Tuffley, Club Captain 0273478276.

We would again like to thank Bruce and Julie, Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama for supporting us running the weekly meat raffles at the hotel and all the support, especially the locals.

Also a reminder about the change of start time for Saturday club day due to the end of daylight saving. Cards in by 12.00 p.m. with tee off 12.30 p.m.



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

Omarama Business Group

- *By Glenys Dawson*

To all Omarama Residents, Businesses and Alps to Ocean Trail Supporters

GUARDIANS OF THE TRAIL – Quailburn to Omarama section

At our recent business meeting it was agreed that “Omarama” township could become the guardian of the Quailburn to Omarama section of Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail, subject to sufficient contributions being received.

Although the cost is \$5000 per year for 3 years, upon hearing of the potential promotional and advertising benefits, the group was extremely positive. Funding will be used to promote Omarama specifically, and it was felt everyone in town would benefit whether it be as any one of our more than 30 businesses, or an employee, resident / supporter or trail user etc. The money is NOT going to be used for general maintenance of the track itself.

We are hoping that with voluntary contributions of an amount you saw relevant to yourself, this target could be easily reached. Any additional funds raised could be put towards next year's or used for new or improved amenities.

Waitaki Tourism is also looking at options to either combine or restructure our existing payments as Partners of the A2O Trail so that this is not a large increased burden or cost.

We realise some businesses will reap large benefits whereas some may be quite small, but the hope is that Trail users, both individuals and groups will remain in Omarama longer, using our services and amenities so everyone benefits.

We would love you to be involved, and any ideas or thoughts as to our best marketing and signage options, or suitable amenities (ie perhaps a shelter or tables with signage on them?) - would be most welcome.

**Our next meeting is at 8am, Tuesday, April 11 at the Countrytime Hotel.
We hope you will attend - the more ideas and support we can get the better.**

**Please RSVP: Jan Thomas convenor – 4389 703
or email info@hottubsomarama.co.nz**



High Country 104.5 FM is a community focused privately-owned station of a non-commercial nature that broadcasts from within Omarama.

Listen live - View the webcam

www.highcountryfm.co.nz

www.facebook.com/highcountryfm/

Omarama Playgroup

Playgroup is hosting a farm dog training day with Lloyd Smith and Ginger Anderson, two of New Zealand's top dog triallists.

It is from 9.30am to 5.30pm, Sunday, April 23 at Buscot Station.

It costs \$40 which includes the training, a barbeque lunch, a barbeque tea and refreshments. A silent auction will be held and prizes include accommodation and scenic flights in Tekapo and Mt Cook.

All funds raised go to Playgroup. There will be an opportunity to get your own dogs out after lunch for some one-on-one with Lloyd and Ginger and to ask questions.

All dogs must be dosed.

To register contact Carla Hunter phone: 03 976 0504

or email: smithyc66@gmail.com.

Omarama Residents' Association

The Association would like to extend its thanks to Playgroup for arranging the planting of the garden beds – to Jemma Gloag and Emma Moore of SupplyMoore for the plants and to Ann Patterson for supplying the mulch.

Ross reported the first meeting of the group that is to organise a House and Garden Tour to raise funds for the sports facility was very successful. The tentative date and time for the tour is 10am to 4pm, Saturday, October 28. An auction will be held at 3.30pm. The postponement date is October 29. Ten people have agreed to show their gardens. Tickets will be priced at \$40 a head. There are plans to have food, art displays, music and other entertainment as additional means of raising funds. More planning meetings will be held and all those who are interested in helping are welcome.

Ross said the new facility was expected to cost upwards of \$180,000 and other avenues for raising funds will be explored.

**The next meeting is at 7.30pm, Wednesday, April 12, at the Community Centre.
Contact: Ross Gold, Chairman 027 443 4149**

HALL HIRE

**To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more information about hall hire and availability please contact Charlotte Cook, 027 940 1648,
or email charlotte.omarama@gmail.com.**

Keys and fobs are collected from GlenCraigs



Anzac Day in the Upper Waitaki

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



Omarama School invites you...

JOIN OMARAMA SCHOOL IN HONOURING OUR ANZACS

Omarama School will be holding a community Anzac service
at 12 noon, Thursday, April 13, at the Omarama Memorial Hall.

There will be a 'cuppa' and an Anzac biscuit
made by the children to enjoy after the service.

All welcome



Omarama School Board of Trustees



Recently the Board of Trustees met at the school for their regular meeting. It was the first meeting for myself as chair. This role has come around very quickly with me only being on the board for approximately six months or so. However the condition of accepting the role was that Jan Thomas, immediate past chair, continue on the board and fill a supporting role for myself. I am very grateful that Jan has agreed to this. She has given a lot of her time and self to this role of which everyone should be very grateful. So thanks Jan for all you have done and your continued support.

On this note we are still looking for board members , whether it be parents or people in the community who realise the importance of this role in keeping our school in good heart moving forward. Often with roles such as this people will say, “ I am no good at that sort of thing”, or , “ I don’t know anything about the running of a school”. But everyone has something to offer ,as so many have over the years. All you need is the right attitude and the willingness to put a little time into what is an extremely important part of our community. So if anyone is reading this and thinks they might like to know a little more about what is required, please don’t hesitate to contact myself or any other of the board members to talk it over. We would be very grateful to spread the work load.

I feel the school is moving forward now in a happy positive manner with Kim taking up the role of Principal. This gives our wee school some greatly appreciated stability. On a not so positive note the school has suffered from vandalism over the holidays. So please keep an eye out if you are near the school, and report any suspicious activity to the police so our children do not have to miss out on any outdoor activities. It would seem a pity to have to go to the lengths of purchasing surveillance cameras, but that is what will happen if necessary.

We are looking to give the pool a resurface and repaint over winter in time for it’s 50th birthday. Funding is being sought now so hopefully come spring it will be looking all shiny and new.

That is all for now. Wishing everyone a happy Easter, Regards Gundy
Board of Trustees chairperson Dave Anderson





Kia Ora Omarama Community,

Well, term one is coming to an end and what a busy but productive term it has been. The children have had a range of fantastic learning opportunities, from short trips, swimming and visits from Youth Town teaching sports skills. In class the junior students have been developing their descriptive writing skills and the seniors have been studying Dean Buchanan as part of their artist study. We have all been learning about World War 1 and preparing for our end of year concert. We hope to see you all there.

We have several requests of the local community. The first is for untreated planks, logs or lengths of timber. The children enjoy using these during breaks for creative play, including World War 1 tanks, Master Chef kitchens, cars and forts.

Our other request is that we would love to start a club activity afternoon on Fridays. This would involve members of the community taking small groups of children to learn and experience a new skill or craft. It could be golfing, fishing, cooking, leather craft, carving, as a few examples.

If you have a talent, interest or hobby that you would like to share with 4-5 children for one hour on Friday afternoons 1.30pm till 2.30 pm we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us on 4389-815 if you feel you can help with either request.

We would also like to thank Russell Hayman for all his years of service keeping our pool running. Russell has been a valued member of our school community and his support with the pool has been greatly appreciated by students, staff, and the community members who use our pool too. Thank you, Russell and we wish you well with your future endeavours.

This fortnight has seen the senior room visiting the Clay Cliffs to take photographs as part of their artist study. The children have been excited by the prospect of painting the images they took on large canvas'.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

Kim McKenzie
Principal.

Gemma Patterson's Clay Cliff article.

Room Four's trip to the Clay Cliffs.

On the 23rd of March, Room 4 went to the Clay Cliffs. We had lunch up at the cliffs, everyone was excited to set off in their groups to take photos for our art project, back at school. The next day at school we all selected a photo we want to paint and we've started to trace the pictures that were selected. We all had a good day and hope to go back another day.



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Staz Roberts (027) 438-3196.

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Friends of Omarama School

Friends of Omarama School held its annual meeting last month and the following were elected to the committee:

Chairperson: Emma Moore, Vice chairperson and secretary: Fiona Bochel

Treasurer: Tania Innes, committee members: Kirsten Mathias, Ange Smith, Kerry Thomas and Lisa Anderson



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.

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Transfer Station changes

What's changed

There is now a charge at the transfer stations in Omarama, Otematata and Kurow for dropping off items may previously have been considered re-saleable - including household appliances, furniture and timber.

The charge for dropping off these types of items is the same as for general rubbish - currently \$65 per cubic metre.

If you have items like the ones mentioned above that you no longer want to keep, and you think they are good enough to be re-sold, you will need to take them to a second-hand shop or advertise them.



Why the change?

In recent years, customers haven't been charged a disposal fee at the transfer station for dropping off items considered to be 're-saleable'.

Unfortunately, the transfer station has not had the capacity to re-sell these items and, in addition, many have turned out not to be in re-saleable condition.

These items recently built up to a point where a costly clean-up was required to return the transfer station to a tidy and manageable condition.

To avoid this happening again and to keep costs under control for ratepayers, the decision was made to charge the rubbish disposal fee for these items.

What hasn't changed

The transfer station will continue to be open on the advertised days, and accept rubbish and greenwaste for the usual fees, and all standard recyclable materials (plastics, steel, aluminium, paper, magazines, cardboard and glass) at no charge.

We are currently reviewing our district's Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. Within the next 12 months we will be consulting the community on the plan and any possible changes to the way we manage waste in the future.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about rubbish and recycling, please contact us on 0800 108 081 or go to www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

THE DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF WAITAKI

Waitaki District Council news in brief



There is a chance to learn more and to have your say at the Waitaki District Council annual plan community forum at the Lakes Centre, Otematata, 10am to 11.30am, Saturday, April 8. In all there will be four forums in the district – two in Oamaru were held yesterday, Tuesday, April 4; the Otematata forum on Saturday; and a further forum will be in Palmerston, on Wednesday, April 12. The forums replace the usual method of consultation - making submissions and holding formal hearings. Go to <http://bit.ly/WaitakiAnnualPlan> to find out more.



More than 30 attended a short ceremony at the Oamaru Public Library on Monday, March 27, to mark the re-opening of the "community facility". The library was closed for three weeks while renovations were completed and its 65,000 books were labelled with RFID electronic tags. Waitaki deputy mayor Melanie Tavendale cut the ribbon and congratulated all who helped create the "inviting, bright setting".

Entries for the 2017 Trustpower Waitaki District Community Awards are open. The awards recognise voluntary and community organisations. Anyone can nominate a group, or groups can enter themselves. To find out more go to the Trustpower Community Awards page. Entries close Friday 21 April. <http://www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards>

The three-year \$12million plus road maintenance contract has been awarded to SouthRoads Ltd, who has had the contract for the past five years. Roading manager Michael Voss said the council received two bids; SouthRoads with Downer and Fulton Hogan with Whitestone Contracting Ltd.

The process of applying for external funds to meet the expected \$6 million cost for the amalgamation of the Forrester Gallery, North Otago Museum and Waitaki District Archive, to be known as the Cultural Facility Development Project, has begun. The council will fund one third of the total project cost, while the remaining funds will come from external sources. Its final decision as to whether to go ahead is dependent the gaining other funding and will be made in July. The Forrester Laneway Long Lunch on Saturday and organised by Sally Ann Donnelly (Fat Sally's Bar and Restaurant) and Bevan Smith (Riverstone Kitchen), was the first of the community fundraisers to be held.

The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is 3.15pm to 5.15pm, Monday, May 1, at the Kurow Memorial Hall, Kurow
Minutes and agendas can be found here <http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx>

www.waitaki.govt.nz

From Waitaki district Ahuriri ward councillor Craig Dawson

Ahuriri Issues

1. Kurow, Otematata and Omarama residents will have seen changes to the Resource Recovery Parks, with the swap and sell items cleared from the sites. There have been various rumours regarding what and why this has happened. The upshot is that although these items have gone, it is still business as usual. One point to note however, is that green waste will be charged on volume, so when you load up your trailer, make sure you pack it down as much as possible to help keep the charges at a minimum, you don't want to wind up being charged for dumping air!
The whole issue around rubbish disposal and collection will be reviewed again this year, so I will keep you informed when this issue is raised at Council. Clearly, the greatest costs to us is the transport of waste to Oamaru. I think that we should keep more onsite and shift less frequently to help contain costs. Will keep you posted.
2. We have funds aside for a couple of more picnic tables to be placed around the village. Let me know your thoughts, if you have any.
3. WDC is actively applying for funds to provide more and better toilets in the District. The Government has a contestable fund for Councils who have been challenged by the rapid growth of tourism in NZ.
4. Omarama toilet activity has been flourishing with over 250,000 uses estimated from Jan 16 to Dec 16! As with all council assets, this loo is a depreciated asset, which means that it will be in line for refurbishment in the next year or two. This could create an opportunity to place an information kiosk next to the building, or something similar, to enable us to give tourists access to local info 24/7. More on that later.
5. Annual Plan Roll out will begin shortly and instead of having hearing sessions in Council chambers, we will be having open sessions with ratepayers. The Ahuriri one will be held at the Otematata Lakes Centre 10.00am Saturday 8th April, so come along and have an informal chat. Please leave any weapons at home, but feel free to give us a few tongue lashings!
6. Freedom Camping laws have been given a test run for the year to date and there may be some room for tweaking, as the current rules have proven to penalise locals, which is certainly not the intention.
7. I still get calls from ratepayers for issues in the towns. Please ring 0800108081 or notify your concerns directly through the website. This will mean that your complaint/issue will be recorded and acted upon. You people are my eyes and ears anyway, while I am locked in a Council Chamber in various states of consciousness. Your help in this would be very much appreciated.

Craig Dawson – Councillor
02743891 cdawson@waitaki.govt.nz

2017/18 Annual Plan Community Forum



Want an opportunity to discuss our plans and your ideas for the 2017/18 Annual Plan?

Join us for an informal, round-the-table discussion.

Otematata
Community Hall, Lakes Centre

Saturday 8 April

10am to 11.30am



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

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

Environment Canterbury news

Environment Canterbury owns large areas of land adjacent to rivers. Most of this is involved with flood protection for both urban and rural areas. ECan leases this land to farmers and other industry and use the revenue received to fund flood protection. Read more here: <https://ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2017/river-margin-encroachment/>

The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, April 21, at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

Minutes and agendas are posted at:
<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/upper-waitaki-water-zone/>

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meridian

Meridian Waitaki Community Fund

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The Meridian Waitaki Community Fund gives your community a say on what local initiatives are supported 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 25 April, 2017.

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

You can also call us on 03 435 9393.

Omarama's Justice of the Peace



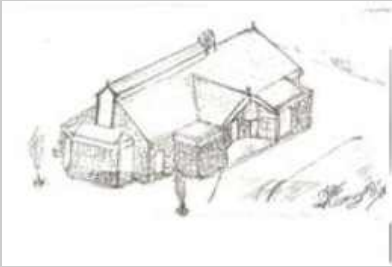
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03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church

03 436 0773

Easter Day Service

9am Sunday, April 16

St Thomas' Combined Church
Omarama

All welcome





Kurow Medical Centre

is thrilled to announce the appointment of their
new practice manager

Juliet Gardner.

Juliet looks forward to meeting the community.

Jules Elliot would like to thank everybody for
their support during her time as practice manager
and wishes Juliet all the best for the future.

Influenza Vaccine 2017

The flu season is now upon us and now is the time to come in for your
annual flu vaccination before winter
sets in.

The flu vaccine is funded to the
following people

- Pregnant women (any trimester)
- Anyone under 65 years with a particular medical condition
- Anyone aged 65 years and older

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Don't give it.

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available, for \$45, to
anyone else who would
like it, children to adults.

If you are not sure if you
are eligible for the flu
vaccine, please do not
hesitate to ask us.

Please call us on 03 4360 760 make an appt to see the nurse at any
time, or book into our flu clinic being held weekly on a Monday
morning.

Look forward to seeing you,

Kurow Medical Centre :)

The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

THIS MONTH—WHICH FLOUR??

There are so many new and different flours available to suit your health or flavour preference—high protein, less starch, gluten free or more traditional such as spelt. Below is a very brief outline of some ideas for their use.



SUPER EASY CRISP BATTER!

For the occasional treat—try my favourite batter—crisp and fast!

1 C brown rice flour

1 large T potato flour/starch or tapioca flour

Water!

.....and that's it!!

Mix together—shallow or deep fry—perfect for fish, chicken, (or oysters!)..



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flours.—sprinkle on salads or in
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MUNG BEAN FLOUR—traditionally
used in Ayurveda, high levels of pro-
tein and dietary fibre. GF and grain
free—it works in both sweet and sa-
voury recipes. Use in cakes, crackers,
and even pasta.

GREEN BANANA FLOUR—very
high fibre, zero sugar, use 3/4 C as a
substitute for 1C ordinary flour, great
flavor, perfect for smoothies

GLENCRAIGS Wholesale Pantry Omarama

SPELT FLOUR—ancient grain easily absorbed, very nutritional (not
gluten free) - great in baking sweet or savoury

MILLET FLOUR—gluten free—slightly sweet, substitute some in
breads and loaves and it makes them lighter with a crunchy crust
and gives a lovely flavour

TIGER NUT FLOUR—(GF—looks stripy—hence it's name) - an
African root vegetable—sweet & nutty, Paleo and prebiotic, nut &
grain free, rich in healthy fibre—use in sweet or savoury cooking

TAPIOCA FLOUR—GF—high starch—perfect for thickening, add
to other flours for baking / binding especially if avoiding eggs

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—gluten free, rich in digestible protein, great
fat substitute in baking

POTATO FLOUR—GF—very light, no potato flavor - it gives a
light, fluffy texture to baked goods. A great thickener in gravies,
sauces, custards and puddings

BESAN or CHICKPEA FLOUR—GF -Rich in fibre and a good
source of protein, great for savoury dishes thickening soups and cur-
ries, or used as batter for fish and vegetables—perfect for making
fritters with leftovers! Mix with water to substitute for an egg in cook-
ing

QUINOA FLOUR—GF—Inca super grain—good protein—makes
baked goods moister, great as a thickener too. Best mixed with other
flours

COCONUT FLOUR—GF -perfect for breads, loaves, baking, pancakes
etc—great flour to use but if substituting use a TINY amount—it absorbs
heaps of liquid—ie a muffin recipe using 3 C of ordinary flour needs only
3/4 C coconut flour. Low in cholesterol, good fibre, nice flavour

SUNFLOWER FLOUR—GF—sweet & nutty, topping, smoothies,
good seed alternative to grains or almond meal if avoiding nuts

LENTIL FLOUR—GF, absorbs flavours so good for sweet and sa-
voury recipes. Use in everything from flatbreads and crackers, to
fritters and pancakes. Great for homemade wraps, also thickener in
savoury dishes.

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The 'Casso' Report



March 31 saw the end of the salmon fishing season in the Central South Island Fish and Game region. Here to relate some lively tales - all true facts of course - is our man in the field – 'Casso'. "I enjoy salmon fishing in March but the sockeye salmon brass me off, they seem to scatter the trout.

After all the heavy rain, I went to Haast to check out my secret whitebait 'possie'.

We won't mention I got my truck stuck in Lake Brunner, but I took the opportunity to have a fish in Lake Paringa, where I hadn't fished before, and caught a 13lb salmon, then moved on to my old home town of Greymouth, had a fish on the way at the mouth of the Taramakau River, and couldn't believe my luck ...caught a 15lb salmon. We had a great feed of salmon that night.

Earlier in the month I took a trip to Lake Onslow with shearing contractor Adrian Cox, and caught some nice brown trout which had been feasting on cicadas. It was a perfect day, the lake was thick with cicadas and I couldn't believe the seagulls flocking in to pick them off the water.

Lake Benmore has been fishing well all season, but overall, because of the high winds, the season was disappointing until the second week of February.

Fishing at the Waitaki River mouth has been disappointing and there are a lot of theories as to why. I was certain I'd landed the big one when it turned out to be a 'stick' fish.

The rivers close at the end of April, so make the most of every opportunity. Next month, of course, it's duck shooting.

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

March 2017

Highest temperature: March 16, 30.5C

Lowest temperature: March 8, 0.7C

Most rainfall: March 26, 12 mm

Total rainfall for March, 27mm





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



Jess and Jackson Kerr

**Two of the Kerr whanau siblings of
The Wrinkly Rams**

What is one of your favourite things?

*Seeing the enjoyment people get out of
their cup of coffee. You know you've
made their day - Jackson*

Flying foxes, sunsets, daffodils - Jess

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

Trigonometry - Jackson

Maths - Jess

Tell us something about Omarama we might not know?

Our great-grandfather Alf Johnson, a WW1 war hero, and great uncle Tuppy Johnson each owned the Omarama Hotel, our family's been in the hospitality game a long time.

If you could time travel where would you go?

Back to the time when swing dancing was popular - the 1920s to 40s. - Jess

*Jump across light years in outer-space and visit other planets, we get so caught up
in what is happening in our own planet.*

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

To work harder at school and socialise less - Jess

To take school less seriously and socialise more - Jackson

The View from the Chook House



So you say
a rabbit
laid these?!

Happy Easter!

The Garden Diary - The world between

“Of course they’re edible. They’re all edible, it’s just whether they’ll kill you or not.” He has a point. We’re talking about fungi, and you can tell neither of us is too cosy with the inhabitants of that other world. The Kingdom of Fungi are not animal, not vegetable or mineral – rather an underworld of ‘de-composure’, inhabiting that domain between life and death. Some families’ autumn ritual is roaming grassy paddocks, thick with dew in search of that holy grail – *Agaricus arvensis*, the horse mushroom. My family did not observe this tradition. His did, and once he was incredibly ill. So. Never. Again.

I have fearful and morbid fascination with fungi. I mean, it’s just like it says on the label, they’re not called death caps or destroying angels for nothing. As for the so-called ‘magic’ sort – personally, there’s no way I’m putting a toadstool in charge. In March 2010, Christchurch’s Botanic Gardens won the supreme award at the Ellerslie International Flower Show with its display, The Creation - Pictures of Life and Death, which used moss, fungi and lichen to showcase the cycle of life and decay, complete with fake lightning and thunder. Lead designer Jeremy Hawker told The Press part of his inspiration came from seeing some mould in the bottom of a coffee cup. Brave man to admit to the world what truly lies with a gardener’s shed. The kingdom of fungi has not been fully explored by even the most obsessed of mycologists. Yet, as they learn more it seems it is as essential to life and death as fresh air and sunshine. Its population, together with soil microbes, is responsible for breaking down decaying matter into carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus which together with water and oxygen are the essence of life.

Mycologists think there could be about 22,000 diverse species of fungi in New Zealand. As gardeners, it’s not the showy, pretty ones which are the most use but rather the almost invisible, hard grafters which silently dissolve whatever you chuck onto your compost heap. And there are the saprobes, or those which extend their hyphae ‘tentacles’ outwards to help the roots of their host plant reach into poor soils for more food and water. Most of these expect to be paid for their diligence in the carbs they need which only plants can make.

You can buy mycorrhizal fungi to add to poor soils and give new plants a head start. But intuition tells me if I’m feeding the soil what comes naturally the underworld kingdom will be in good heart.

BTW that poster toadstool of fairy tales and Noddy, the scarlet fly agaric, is an introduced species which is thought may be competing with our native fungi.

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

Read more here:

Peter Buchanan, 'Fungi - What are fungi?',
Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand,
<http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/fungi/page-1>



The Last Page is Classifieds

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