



-Omarama Gazette -

June 2017

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Merino Country Café and Gifts, Omarama

Chairman steps back after seven years' service

After seven years as chairman of the Lake Ohau Alpine Village Residents and Ratepayers' Association, Malcolm McMillan is taking a step back. Although he's not going far.

"I have always believed that one has to know when one has reached their use by date, I think that's important," Malcolm says.

In 2010, he and his late wife Eileen, about 20 permanent residents and 130 others decided to set up the association because they believed they would have better success tackling issues as a group rather than as individuals. Malcolm, who first started coming to the area in 1948 "as a little boy", and Eileen were among the first to make the village their permanent home in 2002.

"We decided the village needed a voice."

This year's annual meeting was on Sunday at Lake Ohau Lodge, and Elfrida Ward, who lives in Australia, was elected chairwoman. Malcolm remains on the committee and will assist Elfrida with the transition.

Because many of the association's members are not year-round residents much of its business is conducted by email. Membership has remained strong throughout the years, Malcolm says. At present, as well as Ohau, members are based in Hawkes Bay, Christchurch, Dunedin, Australia and (sometimes) Swaziland.

Questionnaires are used to canvas opinion and the feedback received underpins the group's actions.

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This issue is brought to you by ...

Merino Country Café and Gifts

Bev and Lindsay Purvis have been welcoming regulars and visitors to Merino Country Café and Gifts, Omarama, for the past 24 years.

The former farmers traded their life at Waianakarua on the coast for the life of shopkeepers in the heartland after a friend, Oamaru mayor and real estate agent, Rex Allen, suggested it could be exactly the change they were looking for.

"The rest is history," Lindsay says.

Farming in the 80s was "character building to say the least". At the time, Bev was working 'off-farm' garnering valuable experience at the Bank of New South Wales.

"We had no idea what we were doing," she laughs.

But they've never looked back and Omarama has become home for the whole family.

They've raised three daughters here, Anita, Melanie and Lauren.

"It's the biggest town I've ever lived in," Lindsay says.

The best part about their jobs now? – "We travel the world every day," Bev says.

Tourists from around the globe call in to check out the wide range of New Zealand-made and merino possum products, and gifts, or just for a coffee and a chat.

They've seen some changes in their time and made some changes too, growing the business to meet the rise in numbers visiting the town.

"A few years after we started there was the boom in visitors from Taiwan," Lindsay says. "We were very busy. They were wonderful shoppers."

Their "year 2000 millennium project", was to knock down a wall and double the size of the premises. The project was managed by builder Bill Adams so they could continue to trade throughout. The concrete was poured in the snow and they spent the night 'floating' it, fortified with hot coffee and port. In all, they only lost two hours' trade during the whole project, Lindsay says.

Over the years the couple have been supported by loyal staff "who we are very proud of". Nowadays, the shop is busy throughout the year. There's been a significant growth in independent travellers and the Alps to Ocean trail goes right by their front door. Statutory holidays are noticeably busier as Omarama becomes a popular spot to take in on a road trip.

The café offers delicious homemade food and just the best coffee and tea. People can relax, take their time and browse, Bev says.



Merino Country Café and Gifts
7 Chain Hills Highway
Omarama
New Zealand
Phone: 03 438 9844

Our café is open from 8am to 5.30pm
in the summer
and from 8.30am to 5pm
in the winter.

[http://](http://www.merinocountryomarama.co.nz/)
www.merinocountryomarama.co.nz/

Chairman steps back after seven years' service

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"We try to be as democratic as possible." And the group has become that "coherent voice" to speak to local government which they had hoped it would be. Over the years its has come out strongly on several issues such as, lobbying to "see the night sky".

"Convincing the district council to turn off a great many of the street lights and to reduce the wattage of the remainder which were finally replaced with LED lights, [was one success which stood out]."

Changing restrictive building regulations, removing the wilding pines from McKinnon Reserve, and, more recently, gaining consensus of the group to convince Environment Canterbury to continue to allow boating - water-skiing on Lake Middleton were others.

"I think I lost my cool a bit [at times], I've been known to do it. We were so far from Oamaru they just ignored us.

"I have a bee in my bonnet about the intensification of farming and the spread of wilding pines."

The group has good relationships with the Ahuriri Community Board - its chairman Graham Sullivan, and Ahuriri ward councillors - initially June Slee and latterly Craig Dawson. "Community Boards were a step in the right direction, at least for us here, anyway," Malcolm says.

He acknowledged the supportive network within the group, too. "Quite a few people have helped over the years, Rachel Baker as secretary, I'm very appreciative of the work she has done ...most people are pretty supportive."

And its work continues.

The development of the Alps to Ocean trail had increased "exponentially" the numbers of those visiting throughout the year, which was a "huge plus" for Lake Ohau Lodge and homes in the area, although the increase of vehicle and cycle traffic on the road was of some concern. At the annual meeting, members agreed to back an Alps 2 Ocean committee request to the district council to ask the New Zealand Transport Agency to impose a 70km speed limit from where Lake Ohau Rd meets the cycle trail to the Lake Ohau Lodge turn-off.

The numbers of people camping at Lake Middleton last year matched the numbers of those in the 1960s when he used to camp there, but from what he could see most camped responsibly.

Discussions about water supply – residents still must boil water, rubbish collection and the serious risk of wild fire were necessarily ongoing.

As well as stepping down as chairman, Malcolm has also handed back the responsibility for broom and lupin control on McKinnon Reserve to the district council.

He remains a member of the Ohau Conservation Trust and Ohau Protection Society and is also a Justice of the Peace. In 2014, Eileen and Malcolm, were jointly awarded a Waitaki District citizens' award for their work with the association, the Trust and Protection Society.

Lois Trevathan and Wendy Biggs have also resigned from the committee of the Village Residents' Association.



Omaradise, yes, It is paradise !

At the end of the gravel road there's a door from a 1936 Ford V8 truck which leans nonchalantly against a rock wall.

Stencilled on the door in a careful hand is – Omaradise. It says it all, really.

It's been the home of Murray and Sharon Stuart since 2011, but it's so much more than that.

And you could describe Murray as an auto-enthusiast. But there's so much more to that, than that.

The pre-49 hot rod enthusiast revels in taking old car bodies and parts and creatively restoring them to a classic, understated, and most probably, improvement on their former glory.

Hot rod enthusiasts tend to fall into two categories - restorers or hot rodders, Murray says. "I restore."

And he goes for the classic look not the big flashy wheels and colours, rather the traditional browns, blacks and reds reminiscent of those early Fords he loves.

At present, his pride and joy is a brown 1936 Ford V8 pick-up. It sits side-by-side a black 1928 Model A Ford roadster pickup.

"I don't know how many cars I've got. I've got parts can turn into a car and cars I can turn into parts ...it's very hard to say how many cars," he laughs. Sharon's listening.

At their old place, in Dunedin, he used to be able to sneak cars in the back.

Murray clearly remembers when first came upon hot rods. It was in the fourth form at school, in 1963, when he picked up a magazine. Hot-rodding began as an American phenomenon, emerging from southern California and then gaining prominence after WW2. Soldiers returned from Europe having seen the European sports cars decided they could put V8 motors into Model A Fords and go racing.

Murray's father bought him his first car at 14 - "a 1936 Chev with no gear box, thinking it would be quite safe".

"About three weeks later I had that covered, then he had to put in some rules around driving," Murray says, laughing. His cars of choice hark back to that early era in California and what he "was playing with as a teenager" in the 1960s. "I haven't moved with the times," he laughs.

These days the 'past-time' has spilt out of the barn-size 'shed', the workshop, the man cave and, in what must be the envy of any true hot-rodder, takes in a ¼ mile oval dirt race track. And so, if you have a dirt track, needs must have the obligatory grader and roller – hence the old Mt Cook grader and roller parked up alongside.



You may have guessed, Murray's a dab hand at engineering. He honed his skills running his own gas engineering company, Gasco & Pipeline Ltd. But now he's turning his creative hand to more than machinery.

Sharon's passion is horses. Before moving to Omarama she ran the hair salon at Radius Fulton Home. Here, on their block Murray has turned an old musterers' hut into a country tack room for Sharon, and he's working on another project. It's to be a hair salon - imagine 1930-50s, almost 'wild west', but with such an elegant twist.

His man cave, fittingly blokey with wood, stone, iron and leather, and a bar, features re-purposed fittings and fixtures, all with history, each with a story.

That's what he does when he's not messing about with cars. As a member of the New Zealand Hot Rod Association's Pre 49 Street Rodders Club, he takes part in organised runs, shows and swap meets. Omarama was the club's base for its tour last year and many enjoyed the Stuart's hospitality.

This past weekend Murray has driven in the annual Irishman's Rally.

He is also a regular visitor to the US to take in the racing on Bonneville's salt lake and has raced as crew on Australia's equivalent - Lake Gairdner. "Racing there was quite a highlight." Later this month, Murray and friend Lindsay Purvis are heading to the US for LA Roadster show and swap meet. They're keeping mum about the possibility of any excess baggage on the return trip.

Like most enthusiasts he won't admit to how much his interest has cost over the years. "Like they say, all guys live in hope the wife will never sell it for the price he told them he bought it for." And how many hours does he spend? "If I'm in the dog box I spend quite a bit of time out here." Joking aside, Murray says Omaradise, has been exactly that for the couple, despite life's ups and downs. Sharon's still recovering from serious injuries after falling from a horse.

"We have fantastic friends here. It's your friends that make it wherever you are, isn't it?!"



Success for Rick and Toby in Whangara

Omarama dog trialists enjoyed some success at the recent national championships in the North Island.

Omarama Collie Dog Club member Rick Aubrey with Toby, who campaigned in event II, the short head and yard, were placed fifth in the North Island and seventh in the New Zealand dog trial championships.

The trials were hosted by the Poverty Bay Centre at the Whangara Sheep Dog Trial Club, last week.

Former Omarama member Paul Collins, now of Waimate, and Tilly were placed second in the same event in the North Island, and third in the New Zealand championships.

Rick and his dogs took the road trip across the strait to the trials with fellow club member Ginger Anderson and his dogs who also made the draw for the championships.

In May, Rick and Toby were placed fifth in event I, the long head, in the South Island championships in Warepa, South Otago.

Photo: Supplied



When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis be it financial, climatic or personal the Rural Support Trust is ready to assist. Services are free and confidential.

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

Farewell to the Fodies

It's been fifteen years and we have loved the journey from careers to retirement - the best part has been YOU! We will miss our every day people.

Queens Birthday weekend was our last time behind the counter before retirement - a wonderful last weekend in the shop! Thank you for supporting us.

- Sally and Tony Fodie



School pool in for a spruce up

Plans are in place for a complete spruce up of the Omarama School swimming pool to be completed before next summer.

Board of Trustees spokesman James Kerr said funds had been donated from various sources which would enable the school to undertake the job.

After many year of repainting the paintwork had "chalked" and so it would be a major job to restore it. James said work would begin soon to have it ready for the next season.

The work was only possible because those the school had applied to for funding had been generous and the board would be issuing a public notice of thanks shortly, he said.



The duck pluckers' 'luncheon'

It's a tough job but someone's got to do it.

The annual Duck Pluckers' 'luncheon' at Casso's got off to a roaring good bonfire of a start (and finish) as more than a dozen hunters gathered to while away the afternoon, process their bags and spin legions of 'alternative facts'.

Predictably, the first day of duck shooting had gone off with a bang, with each team making good bags.

"Our team did best."

"You can exaggerate that a bit, if you like."

"We all shoot ducks."

"We don't all get one ...but we all shoot ducks."

On the quiet, I'm informed Ginger is usually the best shooter.

This is Ginger, who didn't do so well at the dog trials this year – "I was too excited about duck shooting".

The afternoon at Casso's is an annual tradition. This year its extra special – it's his golden wedding anniversary. But don't worry, she won't miss celebrations.

"The girls turn up later for a bit of a wine around the bonfire," Casso says.

Back to the business.

His traditional pro-duck-tion line processes the birds from start to oven-ready finish.

At the first station, the birds which have been hung overnight have their heads and wings removed. Then they're dipped in a boiler of liquid paraffin wax and dunked in an ice-water bath which sets the wax into the feathers. As the wax coat is ripped off, the feathers come away easily, leaving clean skin. Casso takes charge of gutting and washing. Then the birds are ready for whatever comes next – the freezer or pickling in brine like corned beef. "They come out as good as mutton birds if not better," he says.

Rosco's in charge of the bonfire – and firing off a-round-a-second of cheek.

He's not trusted to do anything else – not even put in the Johnny Cash, Man in Black, CD into the player. "I can predict the future," Todd says. "Someone's gonna end up in the creek before the afternoon's over."

Anyway, there's no duck on the menu today. Lindsay's shouted ribeye steak for the barbeque. But there'll be duck dinner at Ginger's next week. He reminisces and not just about the best tasting roast duck, moist with stuffing and gravy. In his grandfather's day, hunting began with "The Roar", followed by duck shooting, with many more ducks to be had before the rivers were swallowed by lakes. And more greys than mallards.



Fundraiser in the pink

It was balloons, bubbly and everything pink at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama's Pink Ribbon fundraising brunch last month.

Owners Julie and Bruce Dyson hosted about 30 at the brunch which raised \$1130.00 for breast cancer research.

Omarama nurse Tracy Young spoke to the group about the disease and said the first step in the battle was to speak up if you noticed a change.

To find out more about where the money goes or if you would like to make a donation on Julie's page go to:

<https://pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz/page/bootsandjandalshotelomaramashostpage>



POTM Pet of the Moment - Duke Rogers

Here's to this month's birthday boy. Duke is 12 years old, born June 28.

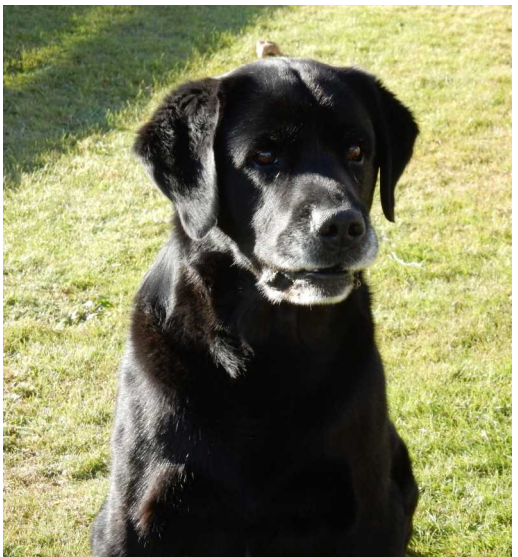
He is one of twins born to Jason Roger's Knight and Ross Kelman's Connie, a long-haired retriever.

Between 'grandpa' naps on the front porch he just loves chasing balls and rabbits - "Not that he gets that many these days," mum Sharon says. "He's never been growled at in his life," dad John says. "He's just the best family dog."

A diet of rabbit, beef bones and dog roll keeps his coat glossy and he just loves to be combed. He'll even line up alongside the leaf rake for a scratch.

His best friend and neighbour is Pedro.

A dip in the river after his walk is routine but Sharon is wise to the 'dog shake' that comes next and to avoid getting a soaking she has taught him to "have a lovely" and roll off all that excess water in the grass.



The Noticeboard



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

St Thomas Combined Church will not be holding services through winter. There are further changes - you can read more over.

The New Zealand Boat Marathon Commission racing in round 4 and 5, the North Otago Powerboat Twin Lakes Marathon, hosted by the North Otago Yacht and Powerboat Club will be on Lake Benmore, Saturday, June 17 and Lake Aviemore, Sunday, June 18.

Congratulations to Dom and Lillie Walsh on their success at the Oamaru Performing Arts Society 80th

Annual Festival, last month. Dom was second in reading at sight and highly commended for poem reading, and Lillie was very highly commended in the under 10 highland fling, commended in reading at sight, commended in the under 12 sword dance and fourth in improvisation.

Congratulations to Nic Blanchard who was runner-up in the recent Otago Merino Association's Fine Wool Pix competition with her entry Let's Go home. This entry also won the people's choice award.

And to Ahuriri Downs whose fleece won the Superfine (16.1-17u) category in the NZWTA/OMA Child Cancer Fleece Competition Awards. Quailburn Station was runner-up in the category. Read more here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Otago-Merino-Association-471545879612198/>

Bridge Club - The Omarama Bridge Club meets on a regular basis and would welcome new members. If you are interested please phone Sylvia Anderson 438 9784 or Ann Patterson 438 9493

The Omarama Residents' Association's next meeting is at 7pm - **note winter time** - Thursday, June 22, at the Omarama Community Centre. Ross Gold, chairman, phone 027 443 4149 Craig Dawson, secretary, phone 027 438 9132.

The Omarama Community Library winter hours are 8.30am to 10am Wednesdays and 9am to 10am Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Contact Glenys: 027 611 8880

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 or 027 534 5214 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 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.

The Omarama Golf Club - Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm, all welcome. Club captain Adrian Tuffley, phone 027 347 8276. <http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/>

Techy tips: If you add editor@omaramagazette.com to your email address book the Omarama Gazette is less likely to be blocked by spam filters.

To get a better view of the email you can click on the option in the header to 'view in browser'.

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**The July issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, July 5, 2017.
Please submit copy by
Friday, June 30.**

The Community Reports

Friends of Omarama School

Various fundraisers have been planned for the year ahead.

Two committee members are in the initial stages of putting together a new edition of an Omarama School cookbook and would love to hear from anyone who would like to contribute in any way.

Another 'Big 5' event is planned for November. Previously, these have been successful fundraisers enjoyed by all. Teams from throughout the district are encouraged to enter the competition which features five main sports and various other competitive activities.

As well, the group will be catering for events to raise funds.

Friends of Omarama School chairperson Emma Moore, phone: 027 635 5664

Waitaki Valley Vehicle Trust

The service now owns two vehicles thanks to community and Environment Canterbury grants. After consultation the white Corolla is being placed in Otematata.

Four members of the Otematata community are at the last stages of being processed as volunteer drivers; a complicated process but we believe it will be worth the wait.

For Omarama residents this means the service is now available from Omarama at the Otematata subsidised rate: Oamaru Return \$55, Timaru Return \$65, and Dunedin Return \$95.

As need develops and usage from Omarama occurs we will look at placing a car in Omarama.

Our volunteer drivers are prepared to sit in with you at medical appointments or carry your shopping.

They aim to make it a pleasant experience for all involved.

To book a trip ring Carron Cossens at the Kurow Information Centre 4360 950 or 027 282 0615. As soon as a driver is confirmed you will be contacted and the booking confirmed.

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

Upper Waitaki Police news



By Ruth Grundy

A Kurow man was arrested on Saturday, after failing to stop resulting in a car chase which took Bean through the back streets of Kurow and to the Waitaki River. The driver was later located and blew a breath alcohol level of 1120 micrograms of alcohol per litre of breath. The limit is 250 mcg.

Police are investigating a burglary at the home of Lake Ohau resident Rowan Yeagar who died following a single car crash at Parsons Creek Bridge on the Lake Ohau Rd in the early hours of Anzac Day. Overnight the following Friday, April 28, a person has broken into his home in Ohau Drive. Police would like to know if anyone can recall seeing or hearing anything unusual, or seeing any strange vehicles driving around the village over that weekend, or earlier. Bean is asking for people to come forward with information even if they may not think it is relevant, "but maybe a little odd".

"Please let me know as it may be the piece of the puzzle required to hold this person or persons accountable." If you wish to remain anonymous, please contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. He says he believes the burglary was a "one-off" and residents have nothing to fear.

"But that does not mean we shouldn't keep things secure and keep an eye out for each other."

The police have an online safety check list which can help with tips to better secure your property.

<http://www.police.govt.nz/advice/personal-community/keeping-safe/home-safe>

Enquiries are continuing into the illegal release of \$150,000 worth of salmon from High Country Salmon, near Twizel, last month. Three "persons of interest" have been identified and police are working to ascertain what their involvement may be or if they have any further information.

Senior Constable Peter Scott, of Oamaru Police, has been appointed to replace Senior Constable Craig Bennett, who left Kurow to take up the sole charge role in Lawrence in March. Snr Const Scott will take up his role in Kurow at the end of June.

Bean has attended a spate of car accidents through May – caused by people failing to drive to the conditions. It was a timely reminder to slow down and increase following distances, he says. Those who travel the Omarama-Twizel Rd should remember 'cutting' near Ben Omar Rd can be "treacherous" in winter conditions.

Please feel free to contact Bean if you have any information or wish to discuss any other concerns at all

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

St Thomas' Church, Omarama

The future of St Thomas' Combined Church is to be discussed at the annual meeting later this month.

The church was built by the people of the Omarama district who gifted the land and furniture, and raised money to pay for its construction which was completed in 1986. The building is used by Anglican, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic congregations.

In the past clergy came from Oamaru and Kurow but the building itself has been managed by locals and representatives of the three denominations using the church. The legal title is held by the Presbyterian Otago Foundation Trust Board.

Since the church was consecrated there have been many changes. The congregations have aged and some have died or shifted away. They have not always been replaced by younger people coming in. The Catholics have not held services in St Thomas for several years, likewise the Presbyterians. Until Christmas, the Anglicans held a monthly service but are unable to continue to provide services except on an occasional basis.

Recently, the management committee was revived and reinstated with the three denominations appointing representatives.

Omarama residents, and especially former management committee members are encouraged to attend the meeting to discuss the church's future.

The meeting is at 2pm, Thursday, June 29 at the Church.

For further information contact: Kay Verheul 03 438 9538



Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



We have had seven calls for the month of May and we have now had our 100th call for our calendar year (which starts in July and ends at the end of June). I would like to thank the family members and employers that sacrifice their time to allow our amazing members to do their job. With the onset of winter, it's a great chance to remind those that have a fire to have their chimneys cleaned, this can severely decrease the chance of a fire which can quickly spread into something bigger. Be safe and remember: Smoke alarms save lives.

- Chief fire officer Terry Walsh

Omarama Rural Fire



In the past month, several Rural Fire volunteers have left the district taking brigade numbers down to five. If anyone would like to volunteer and wants to know what is involved please phone Omarama Rural Fire controller Mark Paulson 021 0263 4195. Being involved offers you the opportunity to learn new skills, meet new people and support your community. Next month, some changes will come into effect as fire fighting organisations move towards their merger into one organisation - Fire and Emergency New Zealand, but this is expected to have little effect "on the ground", Mark says.

In Omarama, there has been a long history of rural and urban fire crews working together with volunteers often member of both crews. You can follow the FENZ transition project here: <https://www.facebook.com/fenztransition/>





Omarama School makes a stand in pink.

Pink in all shapes, sizes and shades, the understated and the uninhibited, took centre stage as Omarama School celebrated differences and stood together against bullying.

School principal Kim McKenzie said, Poppy, a senior room pupil, suggested the school take part in International Pink Shirt Day and everyone thought was a “great idea”.

Year four pupil Poppy Radford (8) (pictured below with the rest of the school) says she came up with the idea after seeing an item on the news. Wearing pink was a way to make people think about and stop bullying, she said.

She was pleased everyone – all 37 pupils and staff - had joined in.

Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 after two pupils had seen a fellow pupil bullied for wearing pink. They bought pink t-shirts for everyone to wear the next day.

Their stand was reported on-line resulting in hundreds of students wearing pink to show they stood against bullying.

New Zealand adopted the campaign in 2009. In this country it is led by the Mental Health Foundation. Its aim is to create schools, workplaces and communities where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or cultural background. www.pinkshirtday.org.nz/



Stream the focus of studies

The Omarama Stream was put under close scrutiny last week by a team of budding young scientists.

Led by Environment Canterbury youth engagement advisor Debbie Eddington, Omarama School took part in a stream study as part of their wider research into braided riverbeds.

Younger pupils looked closely at all small things that swam, wriggled, or squirmed, and tried to identify the kinds of aquatic life which makes the stream its home.

The senior school concerned itself with maths, physics and chemistry - measuring flow rates and water quality.

Hardy pupils donned wetsuits and jumped into the chilly waters to assist teacher Peter Schasching to mark off the stream so different measurements could be taken. Tennis balls dropped into the flow were timed as they floated towards the catchers net. Unofficially, the air temperature, as measured by the adult helpers was Blimmin', yes blimmin' heck it was cold. However, there was no evidence anyone under the age of 12 made any such observation.



Omarama Golf Club

Officially, there's no 'official' Omarama Golf Club report this month.

However, our investigative journalists have been tirelessly working undercover to bring you the following update:

On Saturday, May 20 with snow falling but not settling on the greens five hardy golfers braved the elements to play a round. And since we won't let the truth get in the way of a good story - all played exceptionally, some exceptionally better than others.

Meanwhile some club members were reportedly in sunny Florida, in the U S of A, where temperatures ranged between 23C and 35.5C.

Editor's note: We do not reveal our sources.

Warning: some facts may be alternative.

The Omarama Golf Club - Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm, all welcome. Club captain Adrian Tuffley, phone 027 347 8276. <http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/>

Omarama Residents' Association

Planning is progressing well for the House and Garden Tour to be held in spring to raise funds for the sports facility.

Craig has approached the Waitaki District Council planning manager about the possibility of creating a pedestrian access through land currently on the market and owned by the Ellis family in Park Lane. He says the Council is unable to legally enforce this but it could put a request to a new owner to allow access across the land to allow children to walk to school.

Concerns about irresponsible campers were raised again and Craig told the group about some measures being considered by the council, he also updated the group about toilet facilities, rubbish collection and the upcoming review, progress on the Observatory Retirement Village and the review of the council's general bylaw which deals with keeping bees, cats and roosters, among other things.

As well, Craig said the New Zealand Transport Agency was reducing its subsidy to the council's road network which was causing funding issues.

The next meeting is 7pm – note winter time – Thursday, June 22, at the Omarama Community Centre.

Contact: Chairman Ross Gold 027 443 4149, secretary Craig Dawson 0274389132

OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE 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



Omarama Medical Clinic

At the Omarama Community Centre

Tuesdays and Fridays 9am - 4.30pm

For Appointments with Dr Tim Gardner or a Registered Nurse Phone **Kurow Medical Centre - 03 436 0760**

On Fridays phone 027 4347 464 or 027 534 5214

(Kurow Medical Centre is closed).

We can do Aviation Medicals, Driving Medicals, ECG's, Ultra-Sound Assessments, Minor Surgery, Dressings, Blood Tests, Immunisations, Smears, Liquid Nitrogen and more.

In an emergency call 111

Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow

P: 034360760 F: 034360780

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

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Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773

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Malcolm McMillan, Lake Ohau Village
438 9798 027 438 9798



Georgie Robertson, Omarama
438 9554 027 4861 525

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

Human Papilloma Virus, the big topic currently in the media. Commonly known as HPV. To vaccinate or not to vaccinate? We need to discuss this so that our community is well informed. Here at Kurow Medical Centre we are constantly receiving updated education and information surrounding the vaccine and of course the effects of HPV. Vaccination programmes are changing and screening protocols are changing to incorporate it. It's a powerful disease that has is the leading cause of 90% of cancers found in the throat, vocal chords, anus, cervix and vulva. Why there, well it is spread unknowingly from sexual intercourse of all types. Left undetected it goes on to cause cancer in so many people 10-20 years after first contact. In order for the body to create antibodies to this powerful disease, people need to be vaccinated prior to sexual activity. In this day and age, whether we wish to believe it or not, children as young as 11 are known to be sexually active. Hence the Government's decision alongside the Immunisation Authority that the school vaccine programme should start. Gardasil® and Gardasil® 9 vaccines protect against HPV 6 and 11 that cause approximately 90% of genital warts and cause respiratory papillomatosis (warty growths on vocal cords and throat). Gardasil® also provides protection against the two highest cancer-risk HPV-types (16, 18) that cause approximately 70— 80% of cervical and other HPV-associated cancers. Gardasil® 9 also provides protection against the seven highest cancer-risk HPV-types (16, 18, plus 31, 33, 45, 52, 58) that cause up to 80- 95% of cervical and other HPV-associated cancers. We understand there has been a lot in the media, but what you read should come from reliable and trusted sources. If you are unsure about this, we would love to chat with you and your child so you feel well informed about it prior. We endeavour to bring you a community event this year to cover this topic and to provide information that could help you make an informed choice regarding this.

For up to date information on this perhaps you could try the following websites for more information

The New Zealand HPV Project. 2015. Available from: <http://www.hpv.org.nz>

National Screening Unit. National Cervical Screening Programme 2014. Available from: <https://www.nsu.govt.nz/nationalcervical-screening-programme>

Consumer Medicine Information 2016. Seqirus (NZ) Ltd. Available from: <http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/Consumers/CMI/g/gardasil9.pdf>

Kurow Medical Centre

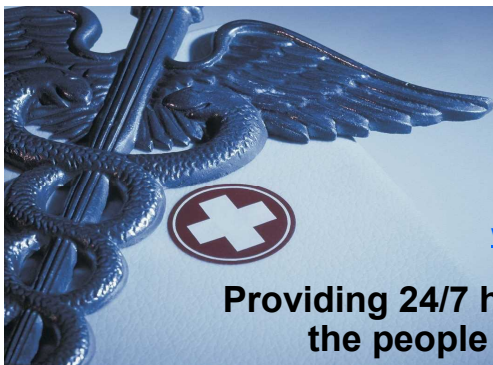
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Waitaki District Council news in brief



Nominations are open for the 2018 Waitaki District Citizens' Awards. Forms to nominate a volunteer are at <http://bit.ly/WaitakiCitizenAward>, a council office at either 20 Thames Street, Oamaru or 72 Tiverton Street, Palmerston, the Kurow Museum and Information Centre and the Oamaru Library. Nominations close June 30.

Waitaki residents on low or fixed incomes have until June 30 to apply for a Government-funded income-tested rates rebate for this financial year. Chief Financial Officer Paul Hope says there is

concern some believe they are not eligible because they think rebates are only available to people receiving government benefits. However, eligibility is based on income. "If someone's income is between \$24,000 and \$30,000 and their rates are over \$1200, they would be eligible for a partial rebate." Application forms are available from the council office in Thames Street, Oamaru. Ratepayers can also call 03 433 0300 to have an application form posted to them

The boat ramp and channel at the Boat Harbour Camping Ground in Otematata has re-opened. The Council-owned camping ground was closed in February after flooding resulted in extensive damage. The camping season begins on the third Saturday of September. By that time a decision will be made as to whether this site will continue to be used as a camping ground, recreation manager Erik van der Spek says.

The \$600,000 Tourism Waitaki and Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust interactive tourist attraction, Whitestone City, opened last month. More than 1000 people took advantage of a free open day to view the attraction. Residents of the Waitaki District with proof of address pay \$5, and those 17-and-under may enter free of charge.

The 2017/18 Annual Plan will be formally adopted by the council this month. It will come into effect from July 1, and will be available online at www.waitaki.govt.nz

The Waitaki District Plan is the community's rulebook that controls the way land is used and developed within the district. It is being reviewed and now is the time to have your say. The issues under consideration are: temporary buildings and activities, business zones, managing signage, managing development in rural areas, managing the towns' growth and amenities, heritage values and protected trees.

<http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-services/planning-and-resource-consents/districtplan/districtplanreview/Pages/default.aspx>

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is
3.15pm to 5.15pm, Monday, June 12, 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

Ahuriri Issues - From Waitaki district Ahuriri ward councillor Craig Dawson

1. The Otematata boat Harbours repairs have been completed, with the channel of the harbour deepened and the boat ramp reinforced with concrete pumped under the surface to bring it up to operational standard.
2. Councillors recently had a meeting with Environment Canterbury commissioners and elected members, which enabled me to ask what could be done to better secure the future of the Otematata bridge. The Waitaki District Council is the only agency funding work on keeping the shingle downstream clear to allow large water volumes to flow under the bridge. This is to help protect the camp and allow the water to escape to Lake Aviemore. We want to be able to clear more shingle upstream, but are not able to obtain consent to do this. There is a real concern amongst Council and the community that the next large flow could severely damage the bridge. Also mentioned was the New Zealand Transport Agency's apparent lack of interest in assisting with funding to protect this vital link. Seemingly, they are only interested in the area directly around the bridge, which in my view is blinkered thinking. More on this later.
3. There was comment made in the Otago Daily Times regarding the cost to ratepayers of \$440,000 to secure the Omarama Airfield operation. To add some perspective to this, I would like to add the following; Council was approached by the Lory family with a proposal to subdivide the block at the end of the runway, which would have had the effect of hampering or possibly curtailing the airfield activities altogether. This would have been a major blow to Omarama and its tourism industry. WDC elected to buy the Lory block and then subdivide land at the western side of the airfield to recover as much of the cost as possible. Approximately one year later, the global financial crisis occurred and some of the land plots for sale languished on the market. They have now, all sold, which is why WDC now knows the full cost of this exercise, to date.
The upside of this, is that this exercise has created a further 21 rateable sections and once they are all built on, will provide WDC with a greater rate take to offset this investment on the airfield. The Lory block is now for sale (with a protective covenant) and when sold, will further offset this cost.
Omarama airfield is a vital Omarama asset, which is the cornerstone of our tourism industry. It also provides us with the opportunity to exploit further business opportunities for Omarama. One example has been the addition of a topdressing company basing themselves at the field.

Craig Dawson – Councillor 0274389132 cdawson@waitaki.govt.nz

Protecting wetland habitat helps boost kaki breeding numbers



Photo: Emily Sancha

In April the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee went on a field trip to learn about protecting braided river and wetland ecosystems, which is a key priority for them.

Committee members visited the Ruataniwha wetlands and two sites connected to the Tasman River delta where they heard about the work being done to create and protect habitats for kaki and other rare wading birds.

DOC and Project River Recovery have been working together to help increase kaki

breeding numbers and the good news is in the 2016/17 season there were 28 productive pairs compared with 10 in the 2008/09 season.

Both organisations would like to work more closely with local landowners to help Kaki increase breeding numbers to never seen before levels so get in touch with your local DOC team to see how you can help.

The Upper Waitaki Zone Committee will now discuss how it can provide support through the Immediate Steps funding programme.

Environment Canterbury news

ECan wants to know what people think about its proposed new plan to manage pests throughout its region. Some of Canterbury's worst pests are chilean needle grass, old man's beard, yellow bristle grass and wilding conifers, feral rabbits and wallabies. You can read more at: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2017/have-your-say-on-the-future-of-pest-management/>
Submissions close on July 3. It is hoped the new plan will come into effect in mid 2018.

ECan, the Otago Regional Council and farmers are working with Landcare Research on a three-year trial to investigate the effectiveness of thermal imaging technology to locate wallabies from planes and helicopters. Small groups of wallabies will be caught and fitted with GPS trackers. Staff will then assess the effectiveness of the thermal imaging technology when it is used to locate the tagged pests in remote environments.

<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2017/new-joint-tech-project-to-locate-hidden-wallabies/>

ECan has approved the tool NCheck for use in some circumstance to check nitrogen loss and whether a land-use consent to farm is required. OVERSEER® is still the best tool for farms with high nitrogen losses. But cropping farms and those with low nitrogen losses can now use the NCheck report in the consent process. NCheck can be used until 2020, when some farms in the region will be required to reduce their nitrogen losses. Last month ECan began a campaign to remind farmers of their responsibility to meet water quality limits set by its Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan and to help them find out whether they will need a consent to farm this year. It is estimated about 10,000 farms across the region fall into this category. While many farmers are aware of the requirements, ECan says it is contacting those who have more than 50ha of irrigated land, because these are the farms most likely to need a land use consent. For more information on NCheck and the "Farming to Limits" programme, go to www.canterburywater.farm

A free app which allows people to receive alerts from Civil Defence Emergency Management Canterbury direct to their cell phones is now available. The Hazard App was developed for New Zealand Red Cross as part of a global project by the Red Cross' Global Disaster Preparedness Centre in United States. The app targets geographic location so users get relevant alerts only. It can also monitor your location so if you are travelling it can provide relevant alerts. The app is in use in Auckland and Wellington and expected to be adopted throughout the country by the end of the year. More information about the app can be found at <https://www.redcross.org.nz/what-we-do/in-new-zealand/disaster-management/hazard-app/>

The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, June 23, 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/>

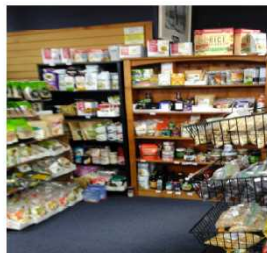
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May 2017

Highest temperature: May 5, 19.9C

Lowest temperature: May 22, - 4.6C

Most rainfall: May 3, 16 mm

Total rainfall for May: 38 mm

The 'Casso' Report

By Peter Casserly

Duck Shooting

Omarama's 'Top Gun' Jamie Chapman has shot about 200 ducks so far this season, at the top end of Lake Benmore and up the Lake Ohau Rd - but he'll not give away his secret and let on exactly where. The ducks need to be culled because they pollute the lake - good shooting, Top Gun Jamie.

Lindsay Purvis had the shot of the season. The duck flew over our maimai, Lindsay shot out the back of the maimai at it going away, at 200 yards.

No one will believe that but we're not going to let the truth get in the way of a good story.

We have had three great weekends of shooting, plucking ducks and partying up - Gloria is over it!

Anyone who would like a duck please phone Jamie or Casso.

We're looking forward to our next trip away - this time to Stewart Island for oysters, blue cod and a deer, we hope.

Cheers, Casso.



The FAQs - Those Five Awkward Questions with...



Lis Rietveld and Jevon Zeestraten

Omarama says farewell, for now, to Lis and Jevon who have moved to Winton.

What is one of your favourite things?

Horse riding out in the peaceful Mackenzie Country, watching a glider float over the top of us - Lis

Exploring the South Island rivers, jet boating - Jevon

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

I love reading but it would have to be how to analysis and write up on English books - Lis

Algebra...actually you use that in life. Spelling lol - Jevon

Tell us something about Omarama we might not know?

That there are some amazing 'locals' who return every year for 6 months to fly gliders and live in Omarama. Some have been coming for over 18 years religiously every summer. Next summer say hi to them, they have some amazing stories!! - Lis

No idea, as everyone knows how amazing the place is - Jevon

Oh, and with us two leaving, the Omarama rural fire team only has five members so if you have ever thought about it, contact them now!! - Lis and Jevon

If you could time travel where would you go?

The days of horses and carts, although it would be a long trip to get back - Lis

The time of no cell phones - Jevon

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

This place called Omarama where you glide and feels like home, it will be "Home" for 11 more years and you will own a house there! - Lis

Don't smoke! - Jevon

The View from the Chook House



Let this be a warning,
I told you the sky was
falling!!!

The Garden Diary - Just for one day

"With the shortest day at hand every opportunity should be taken to complete digging, trenching and manuring work..." add to that pruning. Sigh.

Thus, says my venerable Star Garden guide. And my Facebook feed is full of northern hemisphere tips for lifting and storing tulips – frequent reminders I still have to put mine in their southern hemisphere soil. Late. Ho hum!

Time and light draw in as the world turns. There are still a few roses but they're freeze-dried and their perfume is lost to the chill and dark, just a memory until the garden warms again.

It's time for dreaming by the fire, or brisk walks through sparkling mornings. Senses are heightened, detail is sharp.

The air is still and clear. You can hear the flick as the Piwakawaka ruffles his fan of feathers for his squeaky dance. The magpies laugh. The bellbird is back, so is the song thrush, and they battle it out to sing from the top of the birch, to be king of the world.

A papery leaf cut-out is etched in frost which has transformed that spider web to finest crystal.

Down by the river, ebbing ripples have created a river-sand mandala embellished with the prints of wading birds.

Bare branches are charcoal sketched and smudged against a Schiaparelli pink sunset. Where once someone lived a square of tower of poplars holds the last of its leaves to gleam gold, fading into the winter grey. It was a pretty garden once with lilac hedges all around. I can see the gardener in my mind's eye, scarcely visible through distant time, tucking those slips into the spare and stony soil. Temporary yet timeless.

I love those stories of Claude Monet; gardener and impressionist artist, and his frantic race to capture the light on canvas before it changed forever. I wonder if that was why he became captivated by photography.

The last of the leaves fall to reveal the promise of another spring – the Magnolia's lipstick pink petals are pulled snugly into its furry buds, there's no hint of pear blossom, tight within its lacquered coat.

In summer, I pick daylily (*Hemerocallis* – day beauty) buds and float them in water to watch their bright day-glo petals unfurl minute-by-minute to the sun marking out their hours until the close of day. Its name comes from the same Greek words which transform into ephemeral, epi-hemera – day – fleeting, transitory.

And mayflies, 24 hours to hatch, match and dispatch, so much to pack into such a short life, but they manage to get everything done, counting off minutes as hours, hours as days, expanding a lifetime into a day.

That was then, very soon there will be the winter rose – hellebores – painted delicate white and pastel watercolour – belying their resilience as they push their heads up through snow.

- Ruth Grundy

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



The Last Page is Classifieds

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