

-Omarama Gazette -

August 2017

Sponsored by

Big Rooster Antiques & Collectables

Omarama, this is a day in your life

Just what do we do in a day this town? You'd be amazed.

Last month, the Oamaru Mail asked me to contribute photos from Omarama to its project: 24-hours in the Waitaki. The idea: to compile a 'photo-essay snapshot' of a day in the life of the entire district. Yes, I did that. It was such a great idea. And that got me thinking. Why don't we create a 24-hour snapshot of Omarama?

So, from noon Friday, July 28, to noon Saturday, July 29, I went out and about, getting underfoot, snapping for the full 24-hours. Other photographers joined the fun. (See credits below.) It's been amazing. It's been a privilege. Thank you. I've been to new places, met new people, seen new things and still feel I caught only half a glimpse of all the many things we do in a day. People were generous. They went out of their way to share their time and a bit about themselves. It was humbling. Just how proud we feel about this place where No.8-wire mentality still rules and the way we always punch above our weight in work and play was inspiring.

There's so much to see in this edition. And this was a quiet day.

Ti he mauri ora
Ki te whei-ao
Ki Te Ao Marama
Behold the breath of life
Behold the unfolding world of light
Behold the place of light.

This issue is brought to you by ...

Big Rooster Antiques & Collectables

It's a sign - a sign the doors are about to open on something "distinctively cool" in Omarama. The Big Rooster is about to make an appearance.

In June, after 15 years Sally and Tony Fodie closed the doors of Totara Peak Gallery for the last time and welcomed retirement.

Next month, it officially re-opens as Big Rooster Antiques & Collectables and marks the next chapter in the lives of new owners Jamie and Malcolm Wright.

Jamie and Malcolm have been working in Tembagapura, West Papua, Indonesia, for American mining company Freeport-McMoRan which owns the Grasberg gold and copper mine. Ex-farmer and avid glider pilot Malcolm, originally from North Waikato, moved there in 2008. He's an electrical superintendent whose focus is safety. Jamie is from Milwaukee - Milwaukee, Wisconsin that is, on the shores of Lake Michigan, home to the Harley Davidson, 'The Fonz' and Miller Beer. The couple met in 2010 not long after Jamie moved to Tembagapura to teach at Mt. Zaagkam International School. They married in Queenstown in 2013.

They have travelled the world but home and heart is Omarama.

"Omarama is the gliding capital of the world, so we were naturally drawn to it. We love the rolling hills, snow-capped mountains, and cool mountain air. We love being in the middle of everything, without all the traffic. Omarama has always felt like home to us," Jamie says.

"When we saw the shop it was love at first sight. It seemed like divine providence, we were ready to build a house there, then found the antiques store was for sale. We just knew it was the right move.

"One of the first things I did after we bought the store was go online to look for antique whirligigs because I love whirligigs - the history and craftsmanship they represent. The first whirligig I found was a wooden rooster, and the seller had listed it as 'Big Rooster'. He kind of became our mascot."

Jamie's excited about preparations for opening day.

"We're planning to stock an interesting variety - items with history, intriguing objects, collectables - something for everyone."

The Big Rooster Antiques & Collectibles opens Friday, September 1.



Jamie and Malcolm Wright

mobile: +64-27-361-7223

office: +64-3-438-9757

E: bigroosternz@gmail.com

W: www.bigrooster.co.nz

F: facebook.com/BigRoosterNZ

Noon, Friday July 28

Welcome to Waitaki and a high country winter. Australian tourists Christopher Kipp and Madi Cope enjoyed the snow at the Lindis Pass Summit. WaterForce store manager Jimmy Courtney is about to leave for his lunch break.

Veterinary Centre vet George Smith saves a heifer delivered of a dead calf after a difficult calving.

Photo: Wendy Parsons







1300 hours, Friday July 28

Glide Omarama staff (from left) Daniel McCormack, Sabrina Schels and Philip Plane discuss the afternoon's plans.

Omarama Veterinary Clinic nurse Stephanie Lord assists George with Chockie's senior health check. Rural mailman 'Lexie' Lex Perriam and 'Jolly' John Rogers, who rides shotgun, make the afternoon deliveries.







Omarama School's junior class is busy at work. Photo: Kim McKenzie Graham McLean, a member of the Omarama Model Aircraft Club, is at work in his shed.

It's paperwork hour at Kurow Medical's clinic at the Omarama Community Centre. Nurse Tracy Young writes up notes while Dr Tim Gardner stops for a chat.









Photos at Right:

Omarama School Principal Kim McKenzie checks off the pupils on the bus.

Mobil Omarama mechanic Harry Grundy forgets it is his smoko break.

Katrina Sole picks up her mail.

By the end of this hour Tara and Hannah Parsons have made the bus trip home from school and are feeding and playing with the calves. *Photos: Wendy Parsons*

Senior Constable Nayland Smith (Bean) escapes paperwork.













Peter 'Casso' Casserly chops kindling



Gavin Wills feeds his ducks by the Omarama Stream



Holly keeps an eye on builder Hank Verheul as he works on a new ablution block at the shearers quarters at Ben Omar Station.







Left: Downer grit truck driver Allan Elder

driver Allan Elder parks up at Dunstan Downs then puts his feet up for the day.

Over:

Madison, Tania and Cameron Innes put covers on the horses. *Photos: Geva Innes*



Below: Jaden Jenkins, JD and Armani Bennett prep for dinner at Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama while Wingy (Pat) Leopold, and Todd and Michelle Hancox relax over a cold one at the 'Dunny Door' table.







At Dunstan Downs Geva Innes takes a quiet moment to catch up on some spinning. Dogs get their tucker. *Photos supplied by Geva Innes*





Glenburn farm manager Mike King snoozes after a long day on the tops snow raking and mustering.





At the Heritage Gateway Hotel Charlotte Derosa checks in late arrivals. Jack Zorab waits on a group of guests from China and Mitch Golder clears up for the night.







Mobil Omarama forecourt attendant Linda Allan closes up for the night.



At Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama Margie Callick and Mike Jackson serve at the bar, Ross Kelman (Rosco) enjoys a 'quiet' beer with Ginger Anderson, Omarama Golf Club members (from left) Sharon Stuart, Christine Bowman, Greg Harper, club captain Adrian Tuffley (obscured because of time travelling), club president Johnny Anderson, and Paul Bowman enjoy a catch up.









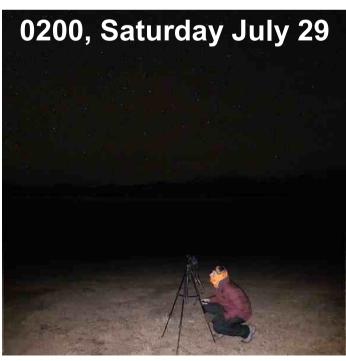






Above: A hunter is on the prowl.

Right: Night-sky watcher and photographer Jack Zorab hopes for a good view of the Delta Aquarid and Alpha Capricornid meteors showers. Photo supplied by Jack Zorab







It's pre-lamb shearing at Bog Roy Station. Nearly 1000 4-tooth ewes will be shorn today. Station shepherd Danny Brown is first to arrive at the woolshed. David (Gundy) Anderson arrives shortly afterwards and meets with Grant Murdoch, his shearing team and wool classer Terry Mulcahy. Today, New Zealand Merino Central Otago area manager Will Gibson (son of Anton and Liz Gibson nee Anderson - Gundy's nephew) is here to undertake tests including weighing fleeces as part of a trial into whether shearing merinos three times in two years is profitable. Senior wool handler Cedric Aramoana collects the first fleece for weighing and makes sure all is ready to go. Gundy and Terry check the first staples for crimp and strength.













Still at Bog Roy and down at the house, Lisa Anderson gets Pippa and Robbie hot porridge for breakfast and at the same time prepares food for the shearers. Pippa and Robbie play Kurow JAB Ripper rugby. From outside the front door Maisie, the Jack Russell, watches cat Minty who is inside 'helping' Pippa put on her uniform. Friend Pene Radford from nearby Otematapaio Station drops off daughter Maggie who is going with the Andersons to Kurow for the day's games.











Four Square Omarama owner Alona Shaw prepares a tray of croissants, which were baked earlier and have been cooling, for customers.

Hot Tubs Omarama owner Lance Thomas begins the daily task of lighting the wood fires, and cleaning and filling the tubs. Lance says he lights 70 to 80 fires a week.







0900, Saturday July 29

Volunteer librarian Anna Howard opens the Library at the Omarama Community Centre. The sun's rays clip the pinnacles of Clay Cliffs. *Photo: Stephen Grundy*, Campers Dan and Penny Smale, of Lauder, end their ski-ing holiday with coffee at Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park, Farmers Charles Innes, of Dunstan Downs, and Jamie Bochel, of Huxley Gorge Station, feed out. *Photos: Geva Innes and Fiona Bochel*













Mechanical Engineer Jason Waters spends his Saturday morning welding the sides of the steel truck deck he is building from scratch at David O'Neill Contracting yard, Campers from Oamaru enjoy a coffee while they pack up after a chilly night at the Department of Conservation camping ground beside the Ahuriri River. *Photo: Stephen Grundy* Below: Japanese tourists enjoy a presentation by James Kerr and interpreter Asaka Hamahata at the Wrinkly Rams.













Above: Heritage Gateway Hotel employee Carol Divan attends to the washing and folding of linen in the hotel's laundry

Angus and Toby Gloag enjoy some water play at Buscot Station. Photo: Jemma Gloag



Left: Geva Innes is at Ohau Snowfields for a day's ski-ing. Photo: Geva Innes

Below and left: Christine Bowman and club captain Adrian Tuffley practice technique, Paul Bowman unloads his clubs, Greg Harper lights the fire in the club rooms, Ron MacPhail signs in, club president Johnny Anderson returns to the club rooms after his warm-up session.









Noon, Saturday July 29



Left: A flight from Queenstown to Christchurch leaves a bright contrail above snowy Benmore (Tamata-o-Patuki). *Photo: Christopher Howes.*

Below:

Omarama's Merino Ram carved by Bill Adams, in 1994, sits at the junction of SH8 and SH 83.

It is a tribute to the merino sheep which has under-pinned livelihoods in this district since 1858.

There were no tourists here taking photos at noon, can you believe that? Oh, ah, but maybe I was there?

So there you have it. This has been a day in our lives.



The thank yous, apologies, disclaimers, and the ones that got away.

Thank you to all for your amazing support and to all who contributed. Special thanks to Mike King. Geva Innes. Wendy Parsons, Jack Zorab, Christopher Howes, Nicola McKerchar, Jemma Gloag and Stephen Grundy for their willingness to take photos anytime, day or night. Apologies because I have missed photographing so many people and so many things, partly because it was the nature of the beast and also because I haven't not vet mastered the art of being in three places at once - two I can manage. Some of the ideas we had we just couldn't pull off. Babies that were waking for feeds at night slept through - Never wake a sleeping baby! Some who had planned to take photos were battling tummy bugs - Yeah, Nah! Some things we don't need to see. Some people were off-duty or away. Some things which often happen, didn't. There were no callouts to the Fire Brigade or First Response for which we are all grateful. And sometimes the cameras just wouldn't behavel

Poort

I hope you enjoyed this snapshot of ourselves. Hopefully, it will be something we can treasure in the future.

Thank you. You made our day.

(Photos by Ruth Grundy, unless otherwise stated)

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Georgie Robertson, Omarama 438 9554 027 4861 525

The Noticeboard



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

The community has been invited to have its say about the future of St Thomas' Combined Church. An aging church-going population threatens the viability of keeping the church open as a place of worship. Rev Ken Light writes: Some questions that could be considered are; what does St Thomas mean to you? When did you last come to a service, attend a wedding or funeral or baptism, or just spend some quiet time in the building? Another question is surely what prevents you from coming to St Thomas' and what would encourage you to attend? You are invited to email; ken@lighteffect.net, lee.kearon@gmail.com or talk with Kay Verheul (church officer) or John Gillies (treasurer). The next meeting of the Joint Management Committee will

be 2pm, Friday, August 11, at the Church.

Daffodil Day is Friday, August 28. For the past few years Dorothy Dry, of Otematata, has travelled to Omarama to collect donations from this town. She is unable to do it this year and would like someone to take her place. Please phone Dorothy 03 438 7777 if you can help.

Farewell to Veterinary Centre, Omarama's vet, Naomi Barrett, who has left Omarama for a holiday in the UK after which she will return to work in the North Island. All the very best from all of us. Naomi.

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade is seeking someone to fill a non-operational role. It involves completing computer data entry reports. This is completely voluntary and you would become part of an amazing team. Please contact Terry on 027 369 3724

The organisers of the Omarama High Country Garden Tour are looking for donations from businesses and individuals of items which can be auctioned or raffled as part of the fundraiser for the new sports facility at the Omarama Community Centre. Please phone Jemma 021 275 3662, Georgie 027 486 1525 or Ross 027 443 4149.

Omarama Playgroup are arranging a casual get-together for 7.30pm Thursday, August 3, for no other reason than it's winter. Pass it on to anyone who is keen as it is an open invite! Please let the Wrinkly Rams know directly if you are interested in coming - Jemma Gloag

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 7.30pm Tuesday, August 15, 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 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre. Contact Anna Howard 021 132 5586 or Glenys Dawson 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 0205 3242

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/

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

Advertising pays for production and distribution.

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 September issue of the Omarama Gazette is Wednesday, September 6, 2017. Please submit copy by Friday, September 1.

The Community Reports

Omarama Search and Rescue

The Omarama Search and Rescue team have had a busy month.

Members of the team travelled to Oamaru to help after torrential rain caused widespread flooding.

As well, time was spent at Ohau Snowfields practicing alpine rescue techniques. Contact: Omarama Sar chairman Mike King

Photos by: (right) Nayland Smith (Bean) and (left) Jack Zorab





Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade is seeking someone to fill a non-operational role.

It involves completing computer data entry reports.

This is completely voluntary and you would become part of an amazing team.

Please contact Terry on 027 369 3724

- Chief fire officer Terry Walsh

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



Kia Ora Omarama Community,

It was great to see such a turn out at our end of term two assembly. The children shared their learning surrounding our Braided River topic and the importance of water.

We congratulated Charlie Mathias on achieving the Sir Peter Blake Young Leader award for Omarama School this year. Charlie is a calm quiet fellow who never makes a fuss. He just puts his head down and works away at the tasks he is set and he is always helpful to others including staff. Charlie is always supportive of his peers, accepts others for who they are and listens effectively to those around him.

Charlie always challenges himself, even at tasks that put him out of his comfort zone, like rock climbing at camp and he shows many great leadership qualities .We encourage him to continue to develop these in his future endeavours.

Over the holiday break a number of individuals gave their time, machinery and materials free of charge to develop a pump track for the children to use during school time in the back area of the school grounds. It is a little soft at the moment but after frosts, snow, rain and use the track will harden and provide the children with another opportunity during morning tea and lunch. We are looking forward to holding a working bee to finish this area with plantings this term if the weather allows.

A huge THANK YOU to Andy Moore from Supply Moore for his time, materials and machinery, to Stew and Ken McKenzie for their time, and machinery skills and to David O'Neill for transporting the fill for us.

Thank you all for your ongoing support of our local school.

Nga Mihi, Kim McKenzie, Principal.

Photos by: Kim McKenzie





"Get Well, Keep Well" with the Kurow Medical Centre

Diabetes and what it really means.

You hear it a lot, you associate it with overweight people and bad diet but sadly some of us have it genetically or through pregnancy and it can also catch you unawares. We have a team of staff here at Kurow Medical Centre who are regularly up to date with new advances in Diabetes technology including new medications and administration techniques as well as screening and management protocol. It's a complex illness and presents differently to everyone. We are lucky to have to ongoing support of our Diabetes Nurses from Oamaru who regularly hold clinics here to support and guide our diabetic community.

It is easily detected through blood screening, and something worth monitoring as its effect long term are life changing.

Picture your vessels like little pipes. Now picture glucose being sticky floating debris in your blood. If it is not stored, used as energy or filtered properly it can build up in your blood stream. When the blood hits the smaller capillaries (smallest veins) which are located in your fingers, toes, kidneys, eyes and skin it will start to block and jam these areas therefore limiting blood flow.

Hence the first things to be impaired and later damaged are your kidneys, skin and eyes. Losing the ability to function properly these can affect your health and your quality of life.

So diabetes screening and education helps to support you in managing your body to the best of its ability. For some this can be with Insulin, known as Type 1 Diabetes. For others it's through diet and exercise, Type 2.

Creating an understanding of keeping your sugars at an optimum level to function well and not get too low in blood glucose is as important as letting it go high undetected. Symptoms vary for both hypo (low) and hyper (high) glycaemia. If there are things like tiredness, excess urination, dark urine, sweet body odour, shaky feelings or anything else then please talk to us, it's a simple test and we can help you find the answers.

For more information look up the following website for information on how you can support your close ones or yourself. www.diabetes.org.nz



Omarama Rodeo Club - Hillbilly Hunt

By Wendy Parsons

The weekend was a great success despite only eight teams entering this year. Last year it was 15. It was great to see families outdoors doing it!!

The Friday night quiz and auction was supported well by the locals. We had 15 teams entered in quiz which was won by Carla Hunter's team,. The prize was \$100 bar tab. A big thank you to all our local businesses for providing auction items. The winners: George Murray won the Hillbilly Hunt for second year in a row with 224 points, Harry Smith's team was a very close second with 212 points. We raised \$2525 for the rodeo club. *Photos: Wendy Parsons*





Omarama Residents' Association

By Ross Gold, Chairman

We are now into August and looking forward to the High Country Garden Tour on the 28th October. I believe Omarama will be buzzing with visitors for the weekend enjoying our town's many facilities and accommodation throughout the area. Around 55 different garden organisations through the lower South Island have been contacted with many indicating they will be attending. Ticket sales are being made which is great.

We met with a council staff member to discuss the proposed new sports facility next to our Community Centre, and he was very helpful and will assist us in the future with the planning.

The Committee also wrote to Tourism Waitaki with a copy to our mayor and councillor regarding the lack of action by Tourism Waitaki in setting up a new i-site in the town. We believe, finally some action is being taken so watch this space for future developments.

The council have completed the replacement of our street lights with LED and these appear much more subdued.

Our residents' committee meets monthly so we welcome all residents to our meetings should you have any matters you wish to discuss with us for the benefit of our area. The annual general meeting will be held in October and interest from residents would be appreciated.

Next meeting: 7.30pm Tuesday, August 15 at the Omarama Community Centre.
Contact: chairman Ross Gold 027 443 4149,
secretary Craig Dawson 027 438 9132

Waitaki District Council

A word from our councillor

Ahuriri Issues – July 2017

1. With the recent deluge received from the skies the lower part of the Waitaki received a lot of surface flooding, with landslips and some road damage. The total cost of this event is hovering round the \$1 million mark. We were relieved that the rain didn't continue for another day.

Gary Kircher (Mayor), relayed to me that Senior Constable Nayland Smith and ten members of the Omarama Search and Rescue group went down to Oamaru to help rescue stranded people from the flood waters. A huge thankyou from our Oamaru cuzzies!

2. Some of you may have received a survey on the proposed increase in expenditure on our roading network. Clearly the number of heavy trucks and extra tourist traffic on our roads, has taken a toll on our network.

The proposal is to spend an extra 1% of rates to increase the resilience of the network, which will, in turn, attract more NZTA subsidy, to aid in a substantially improved network.

From the survey, 70% indicated that they were in favour of a greater spend. Council will be considering a business case shortly on what action to take.

3. Tourism Waitaki are currently working on the placement of Omarama's I-Site in the Omarama church. They have engaged the church committee to reach an agreement on the best way to utilise this excellent building.

Kurow have also made a presentation to Council regarding more funding for their information services.

I would like to see this resolved before the next tourist season. Kurow is getting busier each season, especially with the excellent access created by the Hakataramea bridge and the attraction of Alps to Ocean cycleway.

Craig Dawson – Ahuriri Ward councillor 027 438 9132 cdawson@waitaki.govt.nz

The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is 3.15pm to 5.15pm, Monday, September 4, at the Lakes Centre, Otematata.

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

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee



Omarama Stream studied by school kids

Students from Omarama School didn't have far to travel to investigate the ecosystem and dynamics of a uniquehigh country waterway.

Omarama Stream, a tributary to the Ahuriri River, was the focus of a special stream study led by Environment Canterbury's Youth
Engagement team in conjunction with the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee.

The study involved several sessions at the school, as well as the field trip to the stream. The students learned about water use, quality and quantity in the area, as well as the ecology of local waterways.

Environment Canterbury's youth engagement team provides opportunities for young people to connect with their local environment and issues that matter to them. Schools can get in touch with Environment Canterbury if they are interested in taking part.











KUROW RUGBY FOOTBALL (LUB

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Held at the Top Hut Hotel in Twizel
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TICKETS \$30.00

Numbers needed for dinner and bus by 30th July Text Carol: 0274339150 or email Carol.harding@stjohn.org.nz

There is a bus departing from Oamaru and returning that night. Accommodation available at High Country Lodge contact them on 034350671

The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

Super Easy Grain Free Breadsticks

Ideal to have with winter soups etc. – quick and easy...



1 and a 1/4 C almond flour (or fine almond meal)

1 egg, 1 tsp honey

2 tsp olive oil

1 tsp chopped fresh rosemary

1/4 tsp salt and garlic salt

1/4 tsp Bakina Soda



Place all ingredients together in a processor and blend until a dough forms.

Roll a golf ball sized piece of dough into a pencil shape with fingertips, (wet your fingers if necessary) - lay on a greased tray or baking paper and bake at 180 C..

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COMING EVENTS-AUGUST 2017

Friday 11th August – LIVE MUSIC & **70's Fancy Dress** – prizes for best dressed Lady, best dressed Feller, and best dressed Couple.

Saturday 26th August - All Blacks Vs Australia played live!

Monteith's Competition – purchase any Monteith's beverage and collect six stamps to go into the draw to win one of 5 Monteith's Training Jerseys.

Don't forget to try our winter menu, good hearty country cooking- something for everyone.

Warm Fire and Cosy Bar come in to relax and unwind



FROM THE TEAM AT BOOTS AND JANDALS

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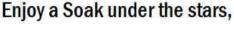
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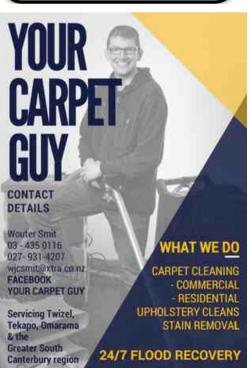
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Professionals

Steve is now specializing in Real Estate in the Waitaki Valley, he has resided in Otematata for the past 9 years. Steve enjoys helping people build a better future; whether it's moving up the property ladder or buying their first home, business or commercial venture. Steve brings a huge wealth of experience in all aspects of property – big or small!

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July 2017

Highest temperature: July 25, 14.9C

Lowest temperature: July 6, - 6.4C

Most rainfall: July 1, 28mm

Total rainfall for July: 114mm

The View from the Chook House



You know the feeling?

When you're a guest in someone else's house and nothing quite fits?





The Garden Diary

So, what three plants would you take to a desert island?

Three that could survive sandy soil, humid tropical air, salt-laden trade winds and the occasional cyclone. Of course that would be the no-nonsense answer. But I was thinking a little more whimsically.

Recently, my parents moved from their home of 43 years, and valiantly tried to squeeze a five-bedroom house into a two-bedroomed town-house. Needless to say, Stuff. Just. Had. To. Go. So many decisions. Just what is important?

For gardeners, it's how to decide what plants need to be uprooted to take with you. Some will just not feel at home in the new place. No matter how much we love them they must stay.

I said goodbye to the everyday plants of my childhood - frangipani and hibiscus – its flowers live for a day. And the lilac tree we climbed which bent down over the water tank – yes, it did grow to that size.

I grow shrubs of lilac here, and honeysuckle lonicera with its frangipani-like scent winds its way throughout the garden as it is wont to do. And I grow bright day-glo daylilies in place of hibiscus.

Other plant we carry with us when we go, as slips and snips and seeds, over country and across generations, so they can put down roots into new earth as we settle to create new memories. For me these have been mostly from my grandmother's garden; the dusty miller - Primula auricula, her rose — a deep red, deeply-perfumed and plushily velvet unknown beauty which could be 'Birthday Present' and her peony - Rubra Plena. I grow sweet peas for her, sweet William for my Uncle Bill and violets, daisies and lily of the valley because they're my mother's favourite. I have no idea what my dad's favourite flower is but, and there is no question about this, he does not like broccoli. My kids, born and bred in the high country, saw photos of frangipani and knew nothing of its native lands. But each time they've found it on their travels they've sent photos. I often wonder what they will grow when they have gardens of their own.

Soppy sentimentality aside, there is a serious side to preserving plants from our past. The Svalbard 'doomsday' seed vault in Norway near the Arctic Circle was opened in 2008 to store seed of many varieties of food crops and safeguard it from natural or man-made disasters and it's not the only such 'vault' to be established. Disturbingly, this past northern hemisphere winter proved warm enough to melt the permafrost and flood its entrance tunnel. Fortunately, water did not breach the vault.

In New Zealand, we have the Koanga Institute in Hawke's Bay which houses an extensive collection of New Zealand heritage food plants. It works to not only to pre-

serve but also to disperse the knowledge required to grow them successfully.

Often it is change and not choice that takes us to a new places.

An inheritance, be it of plant material or plant knowledge, has been nurturing and, pardon the pun, helped me put down roots when change has become inevitable.

And it's given me cause to ask myself - what is of value I can pass on?

Ruth Grundy

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



The Last Page is Classifieds

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