



-Omarama Gazette -

October 2017

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Athletics ‘hub’ proposed for Omarama

It's on the district's wish list but it may take a bit of a push to get the idea up and running.

The idea - to develop a regional athletics centre in Omarama.

It is one proposal made in the Waitaki District Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Indoor Recreation Centre Feasibility study.

The study, prepared by Sport Otago at the request of the Waitaki District Council, was presented to councillors at their meeting in August.

Sport Otago talked to sporting codes and stakeholders throughout the district and carried out a survey to gather information on what sport and recreation facilities the district has and what changes the community would like to see.

In its summary of recommendations, it suggests there is an opportunity to create a “sub-regional athletics hub” in Omarama.

The Omarama Residents’ Association community-driven project to establish sports courts adjacent to the Community Centre is also noted in the report.

An athletics centre here would allow athletes from Central Otago, Lakes District, Mackenzie Country, South Canterbury and North Otago to compete at a central location, the report says.

“Omarama was ideally located for participation from a wide area,” it said.

In an interview, Sport Otago chief executive John Brimble told the Omarama Gazette the idea came about after discussion with North Otago Athletics and other leaders within the code whose observation was ... ***continued further back***

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Lakes Electrical & Whiteware Services

Waitaki Laundry Services

Family is at the heart of Otematata-based twin businesses - Lakes Electrical & Whiteware Services, and Waitaki Laundry Services.

Dawn and Brian Firman joined the Powells - Kevin (PeeWee) and Danielle (Dawn's daughter) in business, in 2009.

Initially, it was just an electrical and white-ware services business but this work opened their eyes to the need for laundry services in the Valley. That business opened in 2013. It now supplies linen and laundering for accommodation and hospitality businesses throughout the Waitaki Valley, to the Mackenzie Country, Mt Cook, Hakataramea Valley, and east to coastal North Otago. The electrical and services business covers similar ground.

Joining Brian and PeeWee in the workshop is Dawn's nephew Reuben, and in the laundry is husband and wife team, Graham Smith and Maria McLaren, driver and supervisor respectively. Penny Powell, PeeWee's Mum also helps out part-time. Each year, two overseas workers are hired to work in the laundry through the busy season, many of whom are taking in this part of the world as part of their working holidays. This year Nicholas, from France, and Rene, from Taiwan, have joined the team.

The business prides itself on the range of professional services it offers.

Between them staff have years of experience in all aspects of the business.

PeeWee, Brian and Reuben tackle new home installations, data cabling, telephone installations, electrical reticulation, and lighting design and installation, among other things. And their 1.8 ton digger is also for hire.

The laundry supplies 80/20 linen, just one step down from 100% cotton, they are constantly renewing stock, and are always working to meet the customer's needs.

Both businesses are available 24/7. Laundry service delivery and pick up is six days a week but they have the flexibility to do as is required, for accommodation providers

- B&Bs, holiday parks, hotels or motels. They launder sheets, pillowcases and towelling, all except domestic linen which is not robust enough for the commercial

process. And they have tablecloths for hire. In fact, business is growing as more visitors find their way to the popular holiday towns along the Alps to Ocean route.

They're willing to consider any job so if you have any queries get in touch.

It's here you'll speak with arguably the most important member of the team - Liz Thomas. Liz will talk through the job and direct you to the person best able to help.



Lakes Electrical & Whiteware Services
Waitaki Laundry Services

Market Place, Otematata.

Phone 03 438 9650

or 027 538 7694

Email: lakeselectrical@gmail.com

Living life on the edge - the story continues

This month: The case for Canterbury - Considering the other side

Mike Neilson points across Lake Ohau towards Ben Ohau and its mountain range. "That's Canterbury", he says. We're standing on the deck of Lake Ohau Lodge, in Otago. Lake Ohau and the Snowfields is where he and wife Louise have lived, worked and raised a family since 1990. They came for 18 months and never left. As far as provincial loyalties go it's something he and Louise will never see eye-to-eye on, he says, laughing. She is Otago, through and through. He is a staunch one-eyed Cantabrian, at least as long as they're the winning side which he doesn't hesitate to point out is most of the time.

Over the past three decades Mike has been director or chairman of various of the region's influential organisations including the Waitaki Development Board, Tourism Waitaki, the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail Joint Committee, Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki water zone committee. He only recently stepped down as chairman of the Mackenzie Country Trust, set up to implement the strategies set out in the Mackenzie Agreement. (<http://mackenziecountry.org.nz/>)

Mike was born and bred in Oamaru, attended Oamaru South and Waitaki Boys' High schools, used to surf at Campbells Bay, but moved before his final year of school to Christchurch and Christchurch Boys' High. He's studied at Canterbury and Otago universities, and when he returned from overseas travels he came back to Canterbury where he lived for most of the 80s.

"I was born near the Waitaki River and criss-crossed the river all my life, really, I've never gone far from the Waitaki. I love Canterbury and Otago culture ...and high-country culture is common to both. It's a community made up of support from both Otago and Canterbury."

The Waitaki River has been used as a boundary line because it is an "easy demarcation". But it's not necessarily the best fit, he says. He recalls the first speech he gave to councillors as chairman of the Waitaki Development Board.

"Greetings from the hinterland of the Waitaki District," it began.

He went on to remind them the Waitaki District did not end at Papakaio.

At the time there was already a "strong" tourism industry in the Mackenzie and Upper Waitaki operating "independently of the coast".

The industry in Oamaru was "fledgling", now it is the district's headquarters.

He means no disrespect to the "long slither" which is coastal Waitaki but wants to point out the district extends to the upper reaches of the Hopkins, "further west than Mt Cook".

Business-wise the Lodge and Snowfields looks to Twizel.

"It's the bigger centre, Christchurch is the bigger centre, our supplies come from Christchurch, Timaru and Oamaru."

Twizel has emerged from an "empty landscape", before that Omarama was the acknowledged centre for Ohau business.

The parties to the Mackenzie Agreement discussed boundaries "quite extensively" and "collaboratively" and were "quite clear how we perceived the land we lived in".

It has mapped out its region to extend south to the Lindis, north to Tekapo, west to the Hopkins and Mt Cook and east to Otematata.

He's in two minds about the viability of creating a new district, as such.

There was merit in using catchments as a basis for boundaries.

"However, the inter-montane basins of the Mackenzie do have different characteristics – landscape, scientific, climatic, which only go so far down the river - it's high country as opposed to coastal."

Living life on the edge - Taking a different angle

Gavin Wills comes to the discussion from a slightly different tack, he's seen the lie of the land from above.

Owner of Glide Omarama, he has been coming here since he was a boy in the late 1950s. He was "born and raised on the edge of the Mackenzie", from a gliding family who farmed in Mackenzie Pass. He was educated in Christchurch and lived at Mt Cook through the 70s and 80s before moving to Omarama and setting up Glide Omarama, in 1998. For him, Omarama is "physically" part of the "inter-montane Basin" which is the Mackenzie. And he feels more connected with that "end" of the Mackenzie. "Because that's where I was born, we see and talk to people north of us more than we do down the valley."

Working in the tourism industry it also made more sense to connect with those north and south along the "Golden Highway", SH8. "It goes right past our door.

"You could say I've slid up and down the Golden Highway all my life."

In recent years the Mackenzie district has "heavily" promoted Tekapo, Twizel and Mt Cook, and Omarama has benefited from that.

And recently the Mackenzie Country as a distinct region has grown in significance. It's become a "significant player in tourism and agriculture... on a national scale".

As far as 'identity' goes?

"Personally, I think we have to leave sentiments aside. Whether or not you support the Highlanders or Crusaders, whether you were born here or born there, we need to put those sentiments aside and be logical."

Gavin, like others in the gliding fraternity, has seen more of the region from above than many others will get to see in life-time.

He recalls those early days of the sport.

The first glider flights in the area were in the 1950s.

There was a growing enthusiasm to develop gliding in the area, interest driven by world record winner Dick Georgeson, nephew of Bill Hamilton, of Irishman Creek, he says.

"Various groups began to fly in various parts of the Mackenzie, the consensus was the Mackenzie basin was the best."

In 1958, an airfield was set up on land leased from Dick Wardell, of Omarama Station, to the North Otago Gliding club. Omarama quickly became a centre for gliding, South Canterbury and Canterbury included.

"All the clubs used to come here to flying camps."

In 1991, when the decision was made to develop the present airfield for the 1995 world championships the project involved seven South Island clubs and Wellington. On another topic, Gavin makes no secret about his views about water management and here his loyalties are divided.

"I prefer Otago Regional Council approach to water management. I feel that the Waitaki catchment should all be under one regional council but if I had a choice I would prefer Otago management."

And although the Mackenzie Country could stand in its own right the environment could be at risk if the region was not part of Canterbury.

The biggest pressure for conservation comes from north of here - Canterbury and Christchurch, in particular, he says.

Living life on the edge - An alternative line of reasoning

Here are some random facts about 1990 New Zealand – Thank you, Wikipedia.
We celebrated 150 years since the signing of The Treaty of Waitangi.
In October, National was elected to Government in a landslide victory.
We had three prime ministers that year, Geoffrey Palmer then Mike Moore then Jim Bolger, and two ministers of finance, David Caygill then Ruth Richardson.
The New Labour Party with Jim Anderton as its leader was a thing.
GDP was \$40.2 billion, unemployment was at 7.4% (March) and the exchange rate was 1 NZ\$ per US\$1.6750. This year New Zealand produced 8,000 million kWh of electricity and Telecom was sold for \$4.25 billion.
In July, tariffs were eliminated between Australia and New Zealand under the Closer Economic Relations agreement.
Once Were Warriors published. The top NZ female vocalist was Margaret Urlich and the top group was Dunedin sound, The Chills.
In May, Gemma Flynn, field hockey player was born, a long way from the Haka, in Tauranga.
In June, Phil Gard, rugby union player, born in 1947, died in the town of his birth - Kurow.
In November, police officer Stewart Guthrie, was killed, along with 12 other people in the Aramoana massacre, an event which surely changed New Zealand for ever.
Rabbits had reached plague proportion in the Mackenzie, Ohau and Omarama basins and were decimating what could have been productive farmland. It seemed there was to be no relief. In 1990, the Government, regional councils – Otago and Canterbury - and landowners began a \$28m Rabbit and Land Management Programme which ran until 1995. Its gains proved short-lived. In the user-pays environment, farmers faced expensive poisoning programmes to try to reduce numbers. Calicivirus or Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease was not introduced into New Zealand until 1997 when South Island farmers illegally imported it from Australia, much to everyone's relief - dare I say it - even and including the authorities'. Regardless of the rights or wrongs, it at least gave some respite to all.
Why say this? Because it happened here is the back story to the passing of the Local Government Act of 1989 which drew new lines across the landscape in anticipation of the Resource Management Act of 1991. Its focus was to manage resources. To that end, its commission determined the top end of North Otago would be managed by Canterbury.
Morven farmer Bill Penno was elected to that first Canterbury Regional Council (ECan).
He had been chairman of the South Canterbury Catchment board.
His new constituency was the Waitaki.
“There was criticism alright, mainly from people living in Omarama.
“But after meetings some would come up and say, ‘you are doing the right thing’.”
It was “complicated” because the Government decided, along with the catchment boards, pest management – because of its association with land management and natural resources - should also come under the umbrella of regional councils, he said.
“People felt their powers were undermined by that.”

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As well, the Rabbit and Land Management Programme set “very strict criteria over who should be in and who should be out, it was very difficult – we had to abide by the criteria set.”

His constituency reached from the Lindis Pass to the Rangitata River.

The boundary followed the historic boundary of the old Waitaki Catchment Board and that of the Waitaki Catchment Commission before it.

Although, that line came in north of Pukeuri and under Ecan was shifted to go down the centre of the Waitaki River at Duntroon, Bill said.

“The river has a huge bearing on both sides.”

“[As a structure for government] we don’t have provincial boundaries any more, we haven’t for a long time.”

In 1989, Bill was at the drawing board when decisions were made as to what shape the new regional councils should take.

A central south island region, from Palmerston to Rakaia, was seriously considered, taking in Oamaru, Ashburton and Timaru based on “similarity of functions” .

But that “fell apart” because Ashburton decided it wanted to go with Christchurch and Oamaru decided it wanted to be affiliated with Dunedin.

“It just didn’t find favour, the two ends split, North and South.”

Once the change was made and various functions were centralised under the regional councils, there was noticeable economy of scale, he said.

Administrative costs for small communities “is a killer”.

“Rabbits, wallaby boards ...the costs dropped significantly and that was passed on.”

Nowadays, ECan has water and pest management committees to make sure there is local input and local agreement to make the processes work, he said.

Rural populations were not growing and villages and towns would find it difficult to finance operations.

Transport and communications made it easier to manage larger areas.

It was not that country areas were “devalued” .

“We’ve got to have a system which allows [communities] to have their say and be adequately serviced,” Bill said.



Living Life on the edge - Just where in the world are we?

Do boundaries matter? How do they shape us?

Is the 'shape' of North Otago a good fit for where we are now and where we want to be?

University of Canterbury geography department's emeritus professor Eric Pawson roped in colleague, adjunct professor Harvey Perkins, who also happens to be President of the New Zealand Geographical Society, and they took up the challenge to answer some questions for the Omarama Gazette.

From a geographer's point of view how well does Omarama 'fit' within its present boundaries?

This is a really interesting set of questions. The original boundary went up the middle of the Waitaki River and then up towards Lake Ohau. The 1989 Local Government Act incorporated two principles, that were not necessarily compatible: catchments, and communities of interest. Omarama seems to be a good example of their incompatibility. In terms of community of interest, the post 1989 boundary does not seem to fit very well at all.

How much influence does the landscape/the environment have over shaping a small community already subject to policies of local, regional and central government?

This is a matter of place identity and that definitely shapes sense of community. Originally Omarama was a service centre for the high country runs, which gave it a deeply rooted and long-term sense of place. But now, it's as much a link on a set of tourist routes from different parts of both Otago and Canterbury. The A2O route makes it a gateway to the Mackenzie. But some of its key tourist assets are definitely 'Otago': Oteake Conservation Area for example.

Do boundaries and provincial 'identities' have significance or are they merely a sentimental notion?

They're not a sentimental notion at all, or this wouldn't be a live issue in Omarama! But the mere fact that the question is being asked shows that they are fluid and negotiable. The roles that the town plays have changed and will continue to change. So too its identities will shift over time.

Would it be true to say the 'Mackenzie' as a distinct region has emerged in more recent history?

The existing Mackenzie District is post 1989, and has its head office in Fairlie. It does have a growing profile, due to the prominence of tourism in recent years, and some wider initiatives, like the Dark Sky Reserve, which has international profile. But then there was a Mackenzie County Council from 1883 to 1989: so it's also quite old.

Do the present boundaries of North Otago fit with emerging environmental and population trends?

No set of boundaries will do this. Take the A2O for example: it draws together the interests of Waitaki District and Mackenzie District along an increasingly prominent flow line. How do you bound that, or why would you try?

Maybe the best answer to these questions is that people know where they belong, but boundaries will always be needed for some administrative purposes, and these may not 'fit' socially. The 1989 boundaries are a good example.

Is it time to look at a new boundary and a new 'province/region'? e.g. along the lines of that in the Mackenzie Agreement?

Interesting question: but no boundary or set of boundaries will satisfy everyone. Boundaries are both pragmatic and invested with meaning. And that is perhaps the basis of Omarama's present dilemma.

Vandals 'tag' historic wool shed

Much of the vandalism to the historic Quailburn Woolshed which occurred sometime early last month has been put to rights by Department of Conservation staff. However, they had yet to advise police of the incident when spoken to by the Omarama Gazette on Monday.

Doc Te Manahuna / Twizel senior ranger Ian Guthrey said he was about to go on holiday when he was told about the vandalism.

He left instructions for staff to clean-up what they could but had not long returned from his trip and so had not yet managed to talk to them about the work which had been done.

He also confirmed they had not yet told police about the matter.

The woolshed, yards and nearby public toilet were extensively spray-painted – 'tagged' with fluorescent orange paint.

Omarama's Senior Constable Nayland Smith (Bean) says he learned of the tagging from a third party and thought it probably took place late August/early September. He would like to hear from anyone who may have information about the graffiti attack. Someone may be able to recognise the handiwork, or may have seen a vehicle or someone acting suspiciously, he said.

The Quailburn Woolshed which was built in the 1920s, still stands on a site which was used, possibly as early as 1874, as an outstation for one of New Zealand's great pastoral runs - Benmore Station.

It is a feature of section 4 of the Alps to Ocean cycle trail.

The Quailburn historic site is part of Ahuriri Conservation Park, managed by the Department of Conservation and is located at the end of Quailburn Road, near Omarama.

If you have any information please contact Senior Constable Nayland Smith 03 438 9559 Email: Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

Give information on crime anonymously: Crimestoppers NZ 0800 555 111,

www.crimestoppers-nz.org/

Photos: Supplied



Athletics 'hub' proposed for Omarama,

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rural communities were “really keen” on getting their children into sport and would travel considerable distances so they could participate.

He, personally, visited Omarama as part of the study.

Because of its location Omarama was singled out as the “focal point”.

It represented the mid-way point between the Queenstown Lakes District, Central Otago, - particularly the Queenstown and Aspiring Athletics clubs - and the North Otago and South Canterbury clubs, he said.

This was especially so for junior athletics but also for the seniors.

The next step would be to see if there was enough interest to take the idea further and “give it legs”. It would require “extensive consultation”.

Support would need to come from not only the community itself but also from the various athletics' bodies that would need to see it as “viable” and show “enough interest and buy-in for follow-through”. “Would they see it as part of the circuit?”

Another aspect was whether Omarama had the infrastructure to support regional meets.

The potential was there. An indicator was the community's aspirations to build sports courts adjacent to the community centre which “seemed to be growing in support”.

The council's “special purpose reserve”, which was historically used for rugby and cricket and had reverted to scrub-land, could be used to site the facility.

It could then link in with the Community Centre which would provide a “place to gather” and amenities, he said.

However, the other factor to consider was whether money would be better spent developing and enhancing existing infrastructure and facilities in Twizel.

“We have to think of that as well,” Mr Brimble said.

The study not only assessed present needs but also future demographics and the growth of Omarama and its surrounds, he said.

Ahuriri Ward councillor Craig Dawson said the idea had not been discussed at a council meeting and he was “open-minded” on the subject.

However, it would be good to get a “general discussion” going.

It was something which could be discussed at the upcoming town ‘visioning’ sessions, planned for November, and which would feed into the district's long-term plan.

The big question would be about how it could be funded and he was, as a rule, against the council getting involved with large development, he said.

Read more here: <http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/news-and-public-notice/news/Pages/indoorrecreation.aspx>



POTM Pets of the Moment

Here's a wee ditty about Jack and Diego.

These two red-eared slider turtles, owned by Jo Price, are not exactly into cuddles. In fact, their recent media conference was a little like a certain politician's.

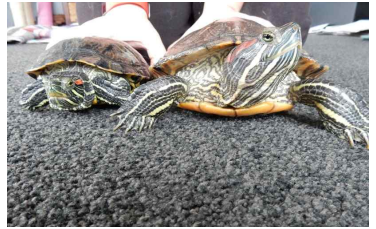
There was quite a bit of hissing and a sudden open-mouthed lunge at the camera as the lens came too close.

Jo's owned the pair for about five years since they were fifty-cent-piece-sized babies. However, there is an identify-the-gender issue. One is male and the other female – the size of the claws (used for digging the nest) is one clue.

"She gets grumpy, or maybe it's him". A relationship like any other, then.

Red-eared slider turtles are long-lived omnivores which like a range of aquatic habitats and are considered pests in some places.

These two love warm baths, although Jo must take great care to make sure there is no chemical residue from cleaning products to cause them harm. "They love worms slurp them up like noodles." And they can survive in the wild or in the back of wardrobes for long periods because when conditions are unfavourable they hibernate. The pair are quick to put the cats in their place, and there is a suspicion they may have committed "petricide" after the mysterious disappearance of long-time fellow tank-mate, a cheeky goldfish, who may have pushed his luck too far.



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- * Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



Malcolm McMillan, Lake Ohau Village
438 9798 027 438 9798



Georgie Robertson, Omarama
438 9554 027 4861 525

Looking pretty tidy, Omarama

Lets' see if we can make a difference. There's no question, we're damn proud of our little town. We're a 'destination' town, the gateway to the Waitaki, right on that 'Golden Highway', at the sharp end of that river road.

We're about to welcome many visitors to our place, so let's see if we can't get things looking shiny.

Tidiness, and rubbish, it's a hot topic, one which was discussed at last month's Omarama Residents' Association meeting. What can we do?

It's a problem that everyone wants to see as someone else's. It's a blame and shame, this is not my job, finger-pointing game.

Let's NOT do this.

Let's make it about setting the tone, drawing a line, instilling country pride.

Let's lift our game, let's begin the campaign, let's clean up and show others leaving a mess is not what we do.

Join the fun - Each time you 'clean-up' take a photo, email it

to: omaramagazette@gmail.com We'll add it to the album to record our efforts.

Together we can make Omarama sparkle.

Here's to Geva and Tim for getting the ball rolling – Thank you from all of us.

See their photo here: omaramagazette.nz or later in the week on the facebook page.

Golf game not a stroll in the park

Teams from four of the district's golf clubs took on each other and a hefty, somewhat sleety westerly to compete for the Proctor Rose Bowl trophy at the Omarama Golf Club course, last month.

The Proctor Rose Bowl tournament takes place annually between Kurow, Ben Ohau, Otematata and Omarama golf clubs.

The Omarama team with 312 points managed a "podium finish" taking third place, but the trophy went to Kurow with 333 points.

Otematata and Ben Ohau scored 318 and 290 respectively.

More than 40 gathered in the clubrooms post-tournament for the prizegiving and meal.

Omarama club captain Adrian Tuffley thanked the participants and volunteers who helped run the tournament in the blustery, spring-like conditions.

"We turned on the weather ...it could have been worse."

Kurow club captain Aaron Haugh accepted the trophy on behalf of his team.

Omarama won the Proctor Rose Bowl for the first time in 1982.



The Noticeboard



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

Do you like to play tennis? Are you planning on practicing your netball or basketball shots for next season? Maybe some outdoor soccer? Then you might like to help out at the Omarama High Country Garden Tour, we could use some volunteers. We're raising funds for a sports facility. If you think you'd like to lend a hand please call Jemma on 4389626.

Congratulations to Jason and Shona, on your recent marriage. All the very best from all of us.

St Thomas' Combined Church. Services are not being held at present. **If anybody knows of storage facilities or can help with storage of church**

furniture (mostly pews) please contact Kay Verhuel (03) 438 9538 or Rev. Ken Light 027 211 1501

In case of emergency: to prevent any confusion about the location of Lake Ohau Alpine Village in an emergency, the following points should be noted: When phoning 111, advise that Lake Ohau is in South Island and the nearest cross road is State Highway 8 and Lake Ohau Road. Also mention that Lake Ohau Alpine Village is on the shore of Lake Ohau, and is 20 mins (40 km) from both Twizel and Omarama. This will assist the operator to find the required information to enter location in the system and allowing the call to progress to the next screen in the system.

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 Community Library has begun its summer hours. It is open 7pm to 8pm Tuesdays, and 9am to 10am Wednesdays and 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 1pm, twilight nine-hole golf Wednesday tee-off 6pm, all welcome. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/

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**The November issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, November 1, 2017.
Please submit copy by
Friday, October 27**

The Community Reports

Upper Waitaki Police news



Well after 3 months on light duty it's nice to get back into the swing of things.

There's not a lot to report really, but a couple of things of note is that in the last couple of weeks someone has stolen diesel fuel from a small digger at a local building site in the town. This happened on two separate occasions.

I also received a second hand report that some lowlife deadbeats had tagged the historic wool shed at the end of Quailburn Rd.

The clowns tagged a newly installed toilet as well as the 100 plus year old shed and yards. Omarama Gazette has posted the pictures on Facebook so take the time to have a look. Someone may recognise the tag, any information would be appreciated.

I've attended a couple of minor crashes on the Lindis Pass and of course numerous driving complaints.

Omarama search and rescue have had a couple of calls in the last month. One to assist a tramper who got stuck due to rising waters at the South Temple and also to provide assistance at Lake Ohau ski field during their chairlift evacuation....although not required by the time of our arrival. A few members also assisted in Owaka last week for the search for missing Dunedin man Stephen Lowe.

The outstanding work of our volunteers and the willingness of their employers to release them is amazing and something I'm extremely grateful for.

Lastly I've noticed that there seems to be an increase (again) with traffic speeding past the school. So next term I plan on targeting this more often. Any vehicle exceeding the speed limit by 4kph can expect a ticket.

If any of you have any other issues that you would like to discuss or think I need to concentrate on please feel free to contact me.

- Senior Constable Nayland Smith

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

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

St Thomas' Combined Church

St Thomas' Church - change of use *By Rev Ken Light*

The Church of St Thomas has been in conversation with Tourism Waitaki Ltd., with a view to the building being leased as a tourist information centre (i-site).

The Joint Management Committee, representing the Anglican, Catholic and Presbyterian churches, reached agreement in principle last month to lease the building and grounds to Tourism Waitaki Ltd. for this to happen, and if all goes well the i-Site should be in business before Christmas.

The future of the Church of St Thomas has been a matter of concern in recent months. It was built with the support of the community and Omarama people are justifiably proud of their Church building. Although used for services it was also a quiet place to visit and pray. It is sad that the building will no longer be used as a place for worship but the burden of keeping it open and maintaining the grounds was falling on too few members.

We had reached a situation where it was impractical to continue as if nothing had changed.

The lease would initially run for a year and then roll over from there, with the right of renewal.

Tourism Waitaki Ltd require the use the whole building so the furniture and ornaments that belong to the Church will be removed and storage for these items needs to be found off-site.

If anybody knows of storage facilities or can help with storage of church furniture (mostly pews), we would like to hear from them. Some of the furniture and ornaments will go to the Community hall to be stored and used by the member churches for services in the future.

The joint Management Committee hope that the Omarama community will accept this change of use for St Thomas. If the lease option is successful it means the life of the church building as a community asset can continue. In time, demographics may change with new people coming into the district and then the building could go back to being a Church again.

Although the use of the building has changed, the faith community of Omarama will continue to be supported, and active. We hope the lease reimbursement will facilitate holding services in the Community hall or at some other place. In other words there will continue to be a Christian presence in Omarama.

Contact people: Kay Verhuel (03) 438 9538 or Rev. Ken Light 027 211 1501

Personally the Management Committee would like to thank those of you who contacted us or came to our meetings and expressed your views during the process of this time of consultation.

- Thank you. (The St. Thomas's Joint Management Committee.)



Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Hi all, we had eight calls for the month of September , four medicals, one motor vehicle accident and three fires. It is a timely reminder now that day light saving has passed - please change your batteries in your smoke alarms as they do save lives. If you need a hand - there is no charge, please let me know.

We will have our new appliance in town for us to train on, once we are happy it will go away to be professionally fitted out and then we will get it back for us to use full time.

Be safe, *Chief fire officer Terry Walsh*

Omarama Rural Fire

The Omarama and Otematata volunteer fire and rural fire crews attended a fire call at Glenburn last month when a permitted burn threatened to get out of control after unexpected strong winds fanned flames.

Omarama Rural Fire controller Mark Paulson said the permit holder had done everything by the book.

“They went above what was required.”

They had asked Mark to be present to monitor the burn, as well they had placed signs on SH83 to advise the public it was a permitted burn so no unnecessary calls were made to the communications centre.

When the fire was initiated there was barely a 5km/h to 10km/h breeze, Mark said.

“[Then] a massive front came in and we were faced with winds up to 50 km/h.”

It was a “hot” fire - a lot of flames - rather than smoke, nearby willow stumps were ignited and that meant there was the potential for it to spread to nearby houses.

He made the call to summon extra help.

“It was not worth the risk, it was just unfortunate about the wind change but in the end the wind went in the right direction.”

The Omarama fire appliance, smoke chaser and tanker along with seven crew and the Otematata appliance and tanker with six crew attended the fire which was under control by the end of the day.

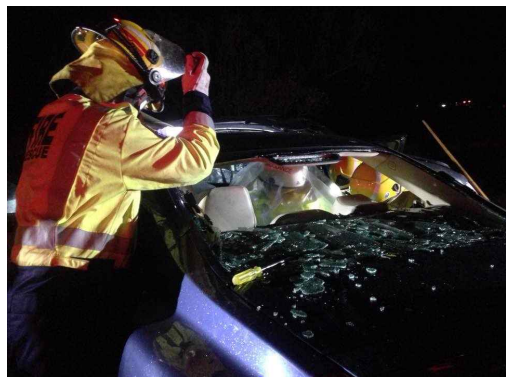


'Real-life' scenario enacted for training

By Georgie Robertson

Wednesday, September 27 saw the Omarama Fire Brigade including the First Response Team join forces with Twizel St John and Kurow St John for a fun training exercise. The team all met at the Fire Station at 7pm usual practise time. The siren sounded telling us there had been an MVA! And it was all hands on deck. The First Response team rushed down to the Willow Trees opposite Hardacre Place to find two cars that had collided. One car had an unconscious female in the drivers seat and a child who had not been wearing a seat belt who had been projected through the windscreen. The other car had a gentleman who had had a few beers before driving home. The ambulance teams followed to watch and see what happens as they not usually first on the scene. The fire truck with team on board followed up to complete the team work. Assessment was made by the First Responders and advised to the Fire Officer so help was directly on hand to sort out what needed to be done to extract the patients. The good part about being an exercise was that at this point we were able to stop and discuss what had happened, and who had done what. There were several different view points but all with good ideas to help with planning. Back to the extraction of the victims. The child was extracted from the windscreen and the right side pillar was removed by the Fire Brigade to allow extraction of the female driver then on to our gentleman in the other car. As time was running out and the weather was not helping, all victims and emergency staff retreated to the Fire station to debrief on what we had done. All in all a great training night and a great way to improve our ability to work with other emergency agencies.

Photos below: by Carol Harding, Kurow St John station manager.



From the producer of the No.1 selling **FAULTY TOWERS Dinner Theatre Show** comes

Mrs Brownz Boys THE FECK'N TRIBUTE SHOW

**"THE BEST
FECK'N SHOW IN
TOWN!"**
AGNES BROWN

**"WHAT MAMMY
SAID!"**
RORY BROWN

**"STEAL A TICKET
I DID!"**
BUSTER BRADY

*Don't miss a good night out....
Only 40 tickets left, be in quick!!*

Show includes scrumptious dinner,
2 hours of non-stop interactive comedy &
a denim-clad DJ to shake your groove thing to!

Omarama Community Centre

Saturday 14th October

6.30pm Happy feck'n Hour - Show starts 7.30pm

Tickets \$70 (show and 3-course meal)

More info and purchase tickets online: <https://www.dkcm.co.nz/the-other-mrs-brownz-boys>

or from Glencaigs Omarama (cash sales)

Raffles

Auction

Cash Bar

Omarama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

Summer is just around the corner and we are looking forward to hopefully warm, windy free days. The club is buzzing with over 45% increase of people playing each week compared to last year. If you are interested in becoming a member we have a number of options, please contact Christine Bowman (027 209 2320) for details.

Our annual Labour weekend tournament is coming up and this year all proceeds will be donated to the Fire Brigade who do an outstanding job in our community. (see poster) This is a fun day and not just for handicap golfers. Come along have a go - what do you have to lose? -and support the local Fire Brigade.

We wish to thank the New Zealand Community Trust for their donation, which has allowed us to complete essential maintenance on our fairway mower. This, along with our ability to irrigate with plenty of water supply from our water tanks, means our course will be in great condition again this year.

The Omarama Golf Club, Saturdays tee-off 1pm, twilight nine-hole golf Wednesday tee-off 6pm, all welcome. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276.

www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/

OMARAMA GOLF CLUB

Labour Weekend Fun Day

4 Ball Best Ball Golf Tournament

All proceeds to Omarama Fire Brigade



EVERYONE WELCOME

- golfers and non-golfers (don't be shy, come have a go and support a great cause. We will pair you with a partner if you don't have one.)

Saturday 21st October 2017

Cost \$30.00 pp

Cards in by 12.00 p.m Tee Off 12.30 p.m.

BBQ on course & Meal afterwards

Prizes, Raffles

and special golf membership deals on the day

Contact Adrian Tuffley 0273478276 for information

Omarama Residents' Association

Omarama High Country Garden Tour

We're almost there.

Before you know it will all be over and the busy organisers will be putting their feet up for a well-earned rest. But right now they are working diligently behind the scenes to make sure everything is 'just so' for the big day.

Omarama is hosting a High Country Garden tour on Saturday, October 28.

Nine gardens will open to the public from 10am to 4pm to raise money for the outdoor sports facility planned for the Community Centre.

Garden enthusiasts from throughout the South Island are coming to Omarama for the day, many plan to stay overnight. But it's not just about the gardens. Artists, all with local connections, will have work on display. Food and refreshments will be sold throughout the day - locavores will be spoilt for choice. The day culminates in an auction at Omarama Station. As well, raffle tickets for hampers loaded with garden-themed goodies – beautiful and handy. The auction begins at Omarama Station at 3.30pm. Businesses, local and out-of-town have been generous with their donations – to see some of the amazing products up for auction check out the facebook page: www.facebook.com/highcountrygardentour

It's also where you can find the latest updates.

TICKETS are available from:

Glencaigs in Omarama

LJ Hooker in Twizel

FMG in Oamaru.

To have them posted to you just send a message to the Facebook page or phone 021 275 3662. Note - Tickets will not be posted after October 16. There maybe some door sales but they will be limited. Postponement day is Sunday, October 29.

Do you like to play tennis? Are you planning on practicing your netball or basketball shots for next season? Maybe some outdoor soccer? Then Omarama's High Country Garden tour is something you might like to help with. We could use some volunteers. If you would like to lend a hand please call Jemma on (03) 438 9626.

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



Friends of Omarama School

Just an update from the Friends of the School on our latest fundraising event. It was the South Canterbury Adventure Racing Club, and there were over 100 competitors, in what was a 12 hour race. Competitors started arriving on Friday night, and registration was from 6am on the Saturday morning, with the race starting promptly at 8am. There were 15 controls on the course map to reach, over the three properties - Bog Roy, Rostrieve, and Otamatapaio. There were three sections to the race - the Bog Roy trek section (33km), the Rostrieve mountain bike section (25km), and the Bog Roy/Otamatapaio mountain bike section (55km). The children loved watching the racers arrive late in the evening - head lamps and bike lights racing down the hills in the dark. Pretty awesome stuff! It was a great night, and the hot soups were a hit!

Thanks again to everyone who helped make this event a great success - from those who donated the baking and soups, to those who were here on the day serving - it was a fun event to be part of and we did ourselves proud.

By Lisa Anderson, Friends of the School member.





Kia Ora Omarama Community,

Here we are at the end of another very busy but productive term. The children have certainly been engaged, both physically and mentally with a range of sport activities along with our focus on fractions, multiplication/ division, procedural writing in the junior room and Maori mythology in the senior room.

The Friends of the School had a successful fundraiser, catering for the Adventure race which was run through Bog Roy, Rostrievers, and Otamatapaio Stations.

We have work beginning on our swimming pool upgrade on Wednesday. Thanks to the Omarama Fire Brigade for emptying our pool for us.

Thanks to all of you who support our wee school at events and in our every day Running

Story Book character day by Room One.

Play group came to school on Wednesday, we had book day and we dressed up as characters from our favourite book.

First we introduced the playgroup to our playground and after play we read stories to them. Then they went back to play group.

We had lots of different story book characters from Jolly Rodger, to Pippi Long Stockings.

Can you find our two "Where's Wally's"?

On Friday, the last day of term, the senior children shared their Maori myths through puppetry. This was followed by planting of our cycle trail and a barbecue lunch.

- Kim McKenzie, Principal.



A dramatic end to term three

Omarama School showcased their recent learning at their end of term assembly held for family and the community, last week.

A packed room enjoyed an hour long show in which several groups of senior school pupils told Maori myths through puppetry.

The pupils created elaborately costumed puppets, stage backdrops and props, soundtracks and special effects to tell their stories.

Junior pupils also presented several of their favourite stories as short plays and also gave a presentation about what they had learned about Antarctica.

At the conclusion of the show end-of-term awards were presented by Mrs McKenzie and Mr Schasching.

After assembly children and parents helped plant around the school's new bike park. Term four begins, Monday October 16.



THE AMAZING FIVE

OMARAMA SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2017

The BIG 5 revamped. Be prepared for twists and turns you never expected!

**TEAMS OF
FOUR**

LIMITED TO 16 TEAMS SO BE IN QUICK!

**ENTRY FEE
\$400**

PER TEAM INC. ENTRY, LUNCH & DINNER

**OMARAMA
GOLF CLUB**

**ENTRIES CLOSE
1ST NOV 2017**

Following the race will be a dinner & an auction with great items on offer.

DINNER & AUCTION ONLY TICKET \$25

Limited tickets for those who want to come along to the dinner and auction to be purchased by 1st November \$25 per head.



Contact Emma Moore: 027 635 5664 | emma24moore@gmail.com to enter your team or for more info



• Omarama •

HIGH COUNTRY GARDEN TOUR

*A unique opportunity to explore
a selection of gardens in the
Omarama Area, and help raise
money for a new sports facility*

**28th
October
2017**

Gardens Open 10am – 4pm

Tickets \$40 (non-refundable) Children under 14 free
for tickets phone or facebook

For more information visit our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/highcountrygardentour

Or phone Jemma 0212753662, Georgie 0274861525,
or Ross 0274434149

If postponed, Sunday the 29th of October

FMG
Advice & Insurance

LJ Hooker
A Licensed Real Estate Agent (REAA 2013)

Waitaki Auto **Electrics**

Call Colin on 03 436 0046

Servicing the Waitaki Valley to Twizel

Proudly supporting the
Kurow Cruisers Car Club

SHOW US YOUR TOYS @KUROW & COMMUNITY FETE FUN DAY

28th October 2017

Kurow Racecourse from 10am

A great family day out!

Public Entry \$2.00

Exhibits \$15 each - Register on the day from 9:30am

**Lawnmower Racing, Kids Rides, Stalls, Food,
Coffee Cars, Motorbikes, Boats ANYTHING GOES**



kurowkruisers@gmail.com



Kurow Cruisers

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

Health and Support in Isolated Communities - By Mischa Clouston

Most of us around here live up a gully or a long dirt road. Many of us reside in our local rural towns, which still lie a little way from various health services such as our Medical Centre Clinics, Base Hospitals and the specialist services in urban locations. Sometimes when we least expect it we are faced with ourselves or someone close to us having to venture further afield to attend various appointments, follow-ups, surgeries, investigations, treatments and extended hospital stays. It can put a lot of pressure on us all financially and emotionally and physically.

We should be very grateful for our communities around us who are supportive and thoughtful during tough times, looking out for our fellow locals when they need it.

We are also very lucky to have services and volunteers in our area offering to minimise the impact. Did any of you know about the below services that are in place to help at times like this?

- Waitaki Valley Community Car available by contacting Carron at the Kurow Museum
- Oamaru House Charitable Trust is available for affordable accommodation for patients, families and friends during hospital visits to Dunedin.
- Rooms are available in this central city location to help make your stay away from home a lot easier. For some people claims can be made for costs to be covered. Call them if you need them 03 471 8533
- Ranui House lies opposite Christchurch Hospital aiming to “keep families together”. Contact their office on 03 3772515 or email info@bmct.org.nz
- A subsidised bus service between Twizel and Timaru is available
- Twizel Community Car
- Check out the Twizel Community Care Centre: <http://twizelcommunitycare.co.nz/>

If you are worried about yourself or someone you know having to venture further than manageable within your means, feel free to ask us how we can help to get you as much support as you can during this time. There are always ways around it, subsidies available, volunteer charitable trusts that can help and people locally who are in the know.

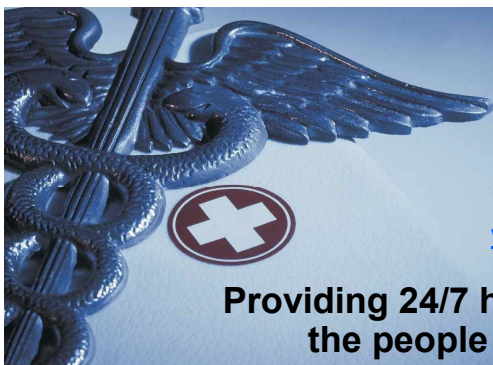
Kurow Medical Centre

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**



A word from our councillor - one year on



It's been one year since Omarama businessman Craig Dawson was elected unopposed to the Waitaki District Council as it's Ahruriri Ward Councillor

When not at his day job as, Craig co-owner with Glenys of GlenCraigs, Omarama, he attends to numerous duties, meetings, and function in his role as Cr Dawson.

Craig sits on these council committees: Assets, Customer Services, Executive, Development Contributions, District Plan Review, Finance, Audit and Risk, Grants and Awards, and is the council's representative on Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki water management zone committee. His portfolio is rural roads.

We decided it was time to put some questions to our councillor, a little different from the more usual - "could you just measure my inside leg ?"

Specifically, what have you achieved for the Ahuriri Ward in the past 12 months?

1. Combined agency response to control of noxious weeds: This came about from a question raised from the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee about broom control. I asked Council CEO to look into what was a vexing issue for neighbouring farmers, who were looking after their responsibilities, while other neighbours weren't. Max Crowe (WDC Biodiversity Officer) contacted landowners, LINZ, ECan, ORC and other agencies to come up with a joint plan to deal with noxious plant control. This work is ongoing. Another offshoot of this project has been the formation of group to deal with the challenges of providing facilities for tourists. NZTA have been in discussions with this group to place a toilet between Omarama and Tarras to alleviate the stress placed on rest areas.
2. I have actively lobbied Tourism Waitaki Board to negotiate a formal agreement with the Waitaki Valley Society to run a dedicated Information Centre in Kurow. I have also instigated TW's approach to the Omarama Church Committee for the lease of the Omarama Church for the purpose of having a dedicated, stand-alone information centre for Omarama.
3. I have engaged officers to help set up a plan in support of the Omarama Sports Courts.
4. Although this question is aimed at the Ahuriri, my responsibilities are to the WHOLE District, where I have been involved in many of the major projects.

In the next 24 months what is on the council's horizon for the ward?

1. Arrange a dedicated rubbish collection for the Ohau. Currently, the village residents are engaged in survey to decide what collection system would best suit them. Ohau is in the unique position of needing a dedicated service because the market is too small and remote to have multiple suppliers offering such a service.
2. The completion of Ohau's water upgrade.
3. The completion of Omarama's water upgrade systems.
4. Solid waste review is currently under way. The big issue here is that our three Resource Recovery Parks are heavily subsidised by the rest of the District and

our biggest cost to run these Parks, is transport.

My view, is that we should focus on reducing these transport costs by storing more clean recyclables on site. Under no circumstances would I agree to closing them down. Council received definite feedback from the Annual Plan meeting held at Otematata that these should stay as they encouraged good behaviour in dealing with waste.

5. See visioning question. (*Yes, coming right up*)

What do you believe needs immediate attention?

Roading issues are the most urgent concerns at present. With severe weather events, more and more traffic on our roads, this has become a major concern. A recent survey of residents showed 75% agreement for Council to spend a further 1% on rates to help us get ahead of the huge new demands placed on the network. With subsidy from NZTA, this would mean that we will be spending a further \$6 million on our network in the next three years.

What should be the ward's goals for the next five years?

See visioning sessions – (*Yep, almost there.*)

Just after taking up the role you told readers of the Omarama Gazette and Kurow Bugle you hoped a new round of 'visioning sessions' could be held in the Ahuriri Ward to discuss how best to manage growth of the towns. What progress has been made there?

I have listed this project as my key project from the moment I was sworn and later sworn at! I have pushed to get these sessions underway. My thinking behind this was that I have been out of the game for three years and a lot of changes can occur in that time. About 8 years ago, Council held visioning sessions in the towns, which created a list of priorities that the town's people wanted to see happen. Notably, the Otematata Hall be sold and Council purchase the old NZED building, which is now the Community Centre of Otematata. Another big project was the selling of the old Medical Centre building and utilising those funds as a deposit to progress the Omarama Community Centre project.

These sessions were a great opportunity for locals to ask Council Officers what was involved in looking after our towns. This gave ratepayers a better understanding of what is required to run the organisation. As well, this gave the Community Board and Councillor a clear set of goals to push on and get done.

Currently Mike Roesler (policy manager) is setting out the detail for the consultation for the Long Term Plan. This is the ten-year plan, where the community submit on what they would like to see happen over this period. It gives us all the opportunity to have our say on what the future could look like. In this process, Council thought this would be right opportunity to incorporate the Visioning Sessions. Dates will be advertised in the next couple of months.

In your view, what are Omarama's strengths?

1. Climate
2. Environment of clean water, mountains, lakes and amenities.
3. One of the last places in NZ where kiwis can enjoy outdoor activities, without having to be wealthy.
4. People. I believe Omarama, per capita, has a very high number of dedicated people who make up what is essential to the wellbeing our community. Fire service, co response, library, ratepayer group, business group, search and rescue, playgroup and many more. All this in a population of just over 300. If anyone whinges to me that the town isn't very friendly, I say you only have to get involved in a volunteer group or club and you're in!

What is holding it back?

I think commercial development and perhaps the lack of available land.

What is on your wish list? What ideas do you have for making this happen?

I am very conscious of the load on ratepayers for essential services, such as water, wastewater, sewerage and roading. These are the biggies that constantly suffer the need for more investment by Council and Officers. Government legislation and all the requirements that entails, takes up a large amount of Council resources. The best way for Omarama to be able to spread more of these costs is to grow in population. This applies to Kurow and Otematata as well.

Having said that, not everyone wants the towns to grow, so we need to have a pretty serious conversation on the future.

I am against Council getting involved with large development because I believe the private sector is better resourced and more experienced at these matters than local government. Council has just had a briefing with our new CE Fergus Power, whose central focus will be on customer focused culture with better communication with the customer base. We need to work on these areas to enable business to better contribute to our future.

From your view - on the end of the phone calls, and from meeting with residents in the ward – how well do you think the council engages with its ratepayers?

It varies between departments. For example, our Building Control Dept has been through a lot of change and has really made some solid progress. We are also working on better data integration between all the departments in order to give better, more timely, feedback to customers. We know we need to do better and now that we have a new CE in position to drive changes within the organisation, I hope to see continuing improvements here.

What could residents and ratepayers do better to make sure their views are known?

We currently have regular press releases, social media updates, website etc, all detailing what is coming up in the future.

There are many ways in which ratepayers/residents could make their views known and that is by calling me, or Ahuriri Board members in their area, or attending Community Board meetings (held 6 weekly).

The biggest problem Council faces with its engagement with customers is that no one is interested in what we do until it affects them personally. Most people I chat to aren't really interested until it is sometimes too late to change what is happening. Sometimes people who are completing a project call me to say that they are having a problem with a Council officer, who is simply carrying out the task he/she is mandated to do. These people want me to tell the officers to go away. I can't do that unless they are being unprofessional or they are acting in breach of the law, in which case I would take that up directly with the CE.

I guess the processes of local government are mind numbingly boring to the average punter, but I really encourage people to take more notice as to what is happening.

We have a good Community Board which beavers away, getting projects done. Both the Board and myself and fellow Councillors need your feedback and PARTICIPATION if you want us to work best for you.

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

Waitaki District Council - news in brief

Waitaki District Council chief executive Fergus Power had his first day in the job last month. Mr Power has been chief executive of the Wairoa District Council since 2014. During his three years there aerospace company Rocket Lab established a private launch complex at Mahia. The council used this to market the region under the trademark "Space Coast New Zealand". He has held roles at the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Kapiti Coast District Council.

Mr Power began his career as a marine biologist and has worked in oil spill management and national disaster management before becoming involved in commercial law. After working at an Auckland-based commercial law firm, he moved to Cairns in 2012 where he was the principal solicitor for the Environmental Defenders Office of Northern Queensland, before moving to Wairoa.

Mr Power has moved to the Waitaki with his partner, Tri.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is
3.15pm to 5.15pm, Monday, October 16 at the
Otematata Community Centre**

NETWORK WAITAKI PLANNED POWER SHUTDOWN

It is necessary to undertake work on the power distribution system in your area affecting customers on **Sutherland Rd**

**Between the hours of 8.30am and 4.30pm
Tuesday October 10, 2017**

**For the network alterations for the installation of
an electric vehicle charger**

If postponed or work is not completed for any reason on the above date this outage may occur on **Wednesday, October 11**, at the same times as above. Please ensure that sensitive equipment, such as computers, are switched off at the wall prior to the shutdown commencing.

We regret any inconvenience caused by this shutdown, and will endeavour to restore supply to normal as soon as possible. You can keep up to date with outages in the Waitaki District at <http://www.networkwaitaki.co.nz/customers/power-outages/>

**Please treat all wires as LIVE, as normal power supply
could be restored at any time.**

**Paul Allan
Operations Co-Ordinator
03 4330065**



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

EASTER SUNDAY SHOP TRADING?

The Issue

Central Government has given Councils the right to have a policy allowing more businesses to open on Easter Sunday – should we adopt this policy, or keep the status quo?

More information

For more information go to www.waitaki.govt.nz.
Alternatively pick up information at Council offices in Oamaru or Palmerston or our libraries.

Deadline

Deadline for your feedback is Wednesday
18 October.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Environment Canterbury news

Environment Canterbury chairman, David Bedford has resigned because of ill-health.

Mr Bedford took leave of absence from the Council two months ago. He was appointed to ECan by Environment Minister Dr Nick Smith in 2010 with six other government-appointed Commissioners when the democratically-elected council was dismissed by the Government. He was re-appointed after the elections last year and became the new chairman.

ECan chief executive Bill Bayfield said Mr Bedford had driven significant change because of his strong financial and business acumen. He had also built strong relationships with district councils and other organisations across the region.

Steve Lowndes will be acting chairman until after the a new Government is formed and a decision made regarding Mr Bedford's replacement.

The next meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is scheduled for 9.30am Friday, October 20, 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/>
www.ecan.govt.nz**

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee



Otematata Wetlands Walkway springs into life

Native bellbird and pūkeko have returned to a popular recreation area thanks to some chirpy volunteers from the Otematata Ratepayers' Association.

The busy group has recently planted more than 2000 natives along the former overgrown relic of the Benmore dam at the head of Lake Aviemore, following years of fencing, landscaping, and willow and weed clearance work.

This latest planting effort was made possible thanks to funding from the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee.

If you have a local biodiversity project that could use a helping hand visit ecan.govt.nz/biodiversity.



Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaitiaki Takekōwhiri o Waitaki



Waitaki Water Zone Committee members Kate Bayliss and Kate White (foreground) help plant natives with volunteers Graham Sullivan (left) and Peter Kirk.

The Good Food News from GlenCraig's Pantry

THIS MONTH - NEW ITEMS or back in stock!

MORE ORGANIC SNACKY THINGS –

in time for the barbeque season... or who needs any excuse??



NORI SEAWEEED

Original Plain

(2 sizes)

Mild Chilli

Teriyaki



This crispy, paper thin snack is made with organic Nori sheets, the "green stuff" that holds sushi together. A superfood from the sea, Nori is nutrient-rich, besides being "moreishly delicious". Lightly seasoned, this delicate seaweed snack provides 100% of the Recommended Dietary Intake (RDI) of Iodine.

Not Ordinary Corn Chip Tortillas!

KALE

MINI YELLOW
ROUNDS



or SWEET POTATO..

Garden of Eatin' use only organic corn, harvested by sustainable farmers and carefully shaped into their one-of-a-kind chip. They use no preservatives, synthetic fertilisers, harmful pesticides, trans fat or hydrogenated oil. This is better for both the environment and you! You can serve these tasty corn chips with confidence, knowing they are a nutritious and enjoyable choice.

GLENCRAIGS Wholesale Pantry

Omarama

OLIVES—Red Pepper Stuffed

CRACKERS— my favourite—Green
Tea & Seaweed



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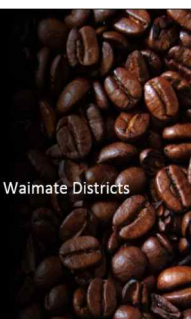
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The FAQs - Those Five Awkward Questions with...



Brad Newfield, Charlotte Cook and Emilia (2 1/2)

Brad is a Dad, a Glide Omarama tow plane pilot and Omarama's refuse bin attendant. Charlotte is a Mum, chef at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama, a candle maker and Omarama Community Centre curator.

What is one of your favourite things?

Looking at beautiful scenery - Charlotte
Flying in the mountains, so many spectacular places you won't see any other way - Brad

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

P.E. - Charlotte

French - Brad

Tell us something about Omarama we might not know?

Omarama has 12 public rubbish bins - Charlotte

People have been gliding here since the 1950s - Brad

If you could time travel where would you go?

Tudor England to observe the political manoeuvrings of Henry VIII first-hand - Charlotte

To explore the world of the Vikings - Brad

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

Not to go to university but do an apprenticeship instead - Charlotte

Be more sensible with my spending and not to smoke - Brad



The View from the Chook House

And now that I've got your
attention...

I will tell you
absolutely nothing

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You-Know-Who!

The Garden Diary - Impulse buys

"Real gardeners buy at least 10,000 plants in a lifetime without the least idea of where they will put any of them when they get home."

(All credit to this unknown author with the wisdom of Aristotle.)

I bought three teddy bears the other day, I just couldn't resist, they were so cute. Magnolia grandiflora 'Southern Charm - Teddy Bear' that is. Of course, now I'm home I don't know where to put them. But the real trouble is I couldn't find what I was actually looking for. And, now I can't remember what that was.

The past few years I've sought to replace some of the plants I loved and lost. Here's a bit of a moan. While I'm ever so grateful we can bulk buy masses of anything cheap as chips nowadays, I miss the days when you could find and buy just a little something out of the ordinary or even an ordinary, everyday garden plant variety of something. And I kinda resent that marketing gurus of the aforementioned big, bulk buy, which stock masses of homogenised product in the season's pre-determined fashionable colours decide what it is I just have to like and have this season, even if they're usually right. The words mass-produced, amenity, and easy-care switch my emoji face to "just eeeuw!" There's just no pleasing some people.

Also, if you do find just what it is you're looking for, usually by asking Aunty Google, its often hideously expensive or bearers with gold-trimmed velvet cushions, accompanied by lords-a-leaping, drummers drumming, pipers piping, dancing ladies and the bonus three French hens must be employed to deliver them to your door, or so it seems from the cost of the freight.

What I've realised is it's mostly my fault. I've got lazy, been distracted from the discipline of do-it-yourself by the lure of a quick and easy fix. Where once I used to vigilantly collect seed, take cuttings and divide perennials and wait, now I'll just nip down to the big store for a bit of instant. I wonder how many garden plants are fading into memory because we are disinclined to make the effort to propagate regularly.

My resolution is to put in that effort, and to share, share and share, because, then, if I lose something chances are good I can always 'borrow' a bit back.

Sometimes I wonder if the nurseries decide not to stock some plants because they have tricky names – like omphalodes, corydalis, and aconite, but then some with easy evocative names like Bleeding Heart, Snowflakes and Irish Molly I've found to be elusive too.

There must be something about plant's name, even if it is not Rose. But who-ever would have thought to call the furry, big-eared Magnolia 'Teddy Bear'? I wonder what French botanist Pierre Magnol would think about being upstaged by Edward Bear?

All this thinking and I still haven't any idea where I'm going to put the three bears. No doubt I'll pop them in pots until I find the right spot. It means I can more easily take them for trips in the wheelbarrow and, who knows, maybe even on a picnic. PS Always ask if you can't find what you're looking for. Sometimes that's all it takes to revive interest in a forgotten treasure.

Ruth Grundy

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





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

September 2017

Highest temperature: September 24, 21.1C

Lowest temperature: September 3, -3.5C

Most rainfall: September 5, 9 mm

Total rainfall for September: 36 mm

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