



-Omarama Gazette -

September 2018

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WaterForce - wise with water

"I would like to advise that,
because of reasons beyond my control,
and after receiving legal advice,
I am unable to report,
now and into the future,
on any matters concerning and surrounding
what is the biggest event to take place in
Omarama for many years."

Ruth Grundy,
Omarama Gazette editor.

This issue is brought to you by ...

WaterForce - *wise with water*

It is all about timing and the timing for those all-important irrigation decisions could not be better.

Right now, everyone is planning carefully for the season ahead and no doubt wondering how to best deal with the unpredictable weather patterns, especially rain events, which have faced the high country the past few seasons, WaterForce manager Grant Kitto says.

Plus, it seems there's always a new compliance regime just around the corner.

There's no question adopting some of the new irrigation technology can prevent headaches, free-up your day, and leave you with more time to focus on real-time farm management issues.

"SCADAFarm has been developed right here in New Zealand to help farmers check and control irrigation over a wide geographical area or multiple properties.

"It gives you complete access to your irrigation and wastewater systems from anywhere in the world via your smartphone, tablet or PC.

"Turn your water on and off, set pivot speed and direction, check your water pressure and soil moisture levels, change your watering depth and more – all at the touch of a button.

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As well, when you're dealing with WaterForce you can be confident you are dealing with a leading irrigation and pumping company.

"We are dealers for world-renowned brands such as Valley Centre Pivots and Linears, Ocmis Hard Hose Irrigators, and Hunter irrigation products.

"We sell and service most brands of pumps and irrigation equipment.

"And to better service our customers in the upper Waitaki Valley and MacKenzie Basin we established our store in Omarama."

WaterForce are on hand in the district throughout the season and because they are local they can give the best advice to "get that water precisely where it is needed".

For more detailed information about the benefits SCADAFarm can offer and how it works, give the Cromwell-based team a call or visit www.scadafarm.com



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Take time to follow your dream

Brian Dagg (58) has come down from the mountains with a message to share – Don't let anyone discourage you from doing what you want to do.

In May this year, Brian climbed to the summit of Denali (formerly Mt McKinley) which rises to 6,190m in the Alaska Range, North America.

His journey began in 2011 when he scaled Tanzania's Mt Kilimanjaro and has seen him summit the highest peaks in each of the seven continents - taking in Mt Aconcagua, in Argentina, Mt Elbrus, in Russia, Mt Vinson, in the Antarctic, and Mt Carstensz, in Indonesia as well as Everest.

The Queenstown high country shepherd only began serious mountaineering with the climb of Kilimanjaro.

"I think I'd been reading too many Wilbur Smith novels."

And says he did not set out with any "real goal" to climb all seven summits.

"They just happened."

Brian was 19 when he went farming with his brother and father on Coronet Peak Station.

He farmed all-up for 22 years, in later years on his own account, but came to realise there had to be "life after farming".

As often happens the stars aligned.

"A lot of things conspired ...a guy came and offered to buy the station."

...continued over



Queenstown high country shepherd Brian Dagg summits Mt Everest. Photo: supplied

...continued

He spent a stint coaching rugby in Canada and later coached the under-19 Malaysian side.

On returning to New Zealand he became a casual shepherd. "I've got the dream job ...all care and no responsibility." Living and working in the high country has been the perfect conditioning for mountaineering. He trained for only two weeks - on a rowing machine each evening - to climb Everest. His days were taken up with work leaving few extra hours for any specialised regime.

"The high country gives you a great base fitness...and muscle memory."

Denali - which he climbed with two professional guides the same age as his sons - proved to be the toughest peak. Battling Arctic conditions, the journey began with a 21-day, 50km trek across a glacier hauling equipment and food to an altitude of 4300m and a wait for a window in the weather before the climb itself could begin. It was his third attempt.

Brian maintains mountaineering is not all about going up and coming back down again. What made it meaningful was the "whole experience", the preparation, getting there, meeting people. Every mountain was different, every experience had been different. And he had learned a respect for the cloud piercers of the world.

"I felt very privileged to be up there ...it was a real privilege to be there.

"A Nepalese told me, 'you don't conquer Everest, Everest lets you climb it'."

After conquering climbs across narrow ridges with sheer vertiginous drops to either side he says he has, now, lost his fear of heights.

"You've got to have some fear, or you can't enjoy the success."

The United States 'holiday' with wife Dale that followed saw him climb Mt Rainier, in Washington state. But while waiting for Dale to join him, he and friends shot down to Ecuador to climb Chimborazo, its highest mountain. Chimborazo is the highest peak near the equator and its location along the equatorial bulge makes its summit the farthest point on the Earth's surface from the Earth's centre.

Brian is guest speaker at an upcoming Omarama School fundraiser prior to which he will speak to Omarama School pupils.

His own school days were spent overcoming the effects of Perthes disease, a rare childhood condition that affects the hip, and later the many broken bones resulting from his teenage pursuits.

His message; "You can do anything you want, whenever you want".

"You may not be able to follow your dream when you 10 or 12.

"You might have to wait until you are 50...but don't let anyone discourage you."

And to the adults.

He says he knows from his own experience farmers work too many hours and too many days and, hard as it may seem at the time to pull themselves away they need to make time to take time out.

"A lot of time farmers will go and do a day or so when they don't really need too.

"[For me it is a matter of] getting off my arse and getting it [the work] done so I can take a couple of days off."

And if you think this has been a 'spoiler' for the evening talk Daggy assures me that, no, everything he will speak about will be new material.

'Dinner with Daggy' is on Friday, September 14, at the Wrinkly Rams.

Tickets are on sale from Mobil Omarama and Boots and Jandals Hotel.

Long-standing service recognised

Long-serving firebrigade volunteer John Rogers was presented with a Life Honorary Membership of the Otago-Southland Fire Brigades Gold Star Association, last month. About 400, including John, Lex Perriam and The Hat attended the presentation dinner at the conclusion of the association's conference, in Matura.

The special award is given in recognition of 50 years of continued involvement and support of the brigade. Members receive the gold star award and join the association when they reach 25-years-of service. John received his gold star in 1993.

He says the letter telling him he had reached the 50-year mark had come as a bit of a surprise and he felt honoured. It had come out of the blue because he hadn't spent a lot of time counting down the years.

"As the years go by you run out of numbers."

He joined the Omarama Volunteer Firebrigade in 1967, the year after it was formed.

"What tickled my fancy was the Wajax pump," John says.

When he had worked in forestry in the North Island John had learned how to use one and when Graeme Cowie, who was to become Omarama's first fire chief, heard this he convinced John to lend a hand.

Service to volunteer firefighting is family affair.

Wife Sharon's father, Lindis Courtney, was a founding member of the Omarama brigade, and sons Aaron and Jason have both been volunteer fight-fighters, with Jason also a rural fire volunteer.

Special tribute: John Rogers is presented his Life Honorary Membership of the Otago Southland Fire Brigades Gold Star Association by president James Walker, of Wyndham. Photo: Lex Perriam
John with Lex after the presentation. Photo: Supplied.



Support services step up in wake

As cattle farmers in more parts of the country battle *Mycoplasma bovis*, support services have also stepped up to help them manage through the crisis.

Just on a year ago the bacterial disease which can cause mastitis, abortion, pneumonia and arthritis in cattle was discovered on a farm in Waimate, South Canterbury.

Its source was traced back to a farm in Southland.

Last week, in its latest update, the Ministry for Primary Industries reported the total number of 'active' infected properties, nationally was 37 with four of those in Otago and 18 in Canterbury.

In the past year cases of the disease have been identified throughout the country including the Upper Waitaki.

MPI have put in place various measures, from restricting stock movement through to culling of animals, to protect the owners of 24,500 cattle-farming properties throughout the country. The disease does not infect humans and there is no food safety risk in meat, milk or milk products.

In the latest update, MPI identifies 402 farms nationwide which have come under its restrictions to a greater or lesser degree because of a concern the disease may be present - down from the 741 under surveillance in March.

The Rural Support Trust has been working alongside farmers affected by the ramifications of the disease from the outset.

It began with four individuals from the South Canterbury and Southland Rural Support trusts but quickly "ballooned out", Otago Rural Support Trust coordinator Lindsay Purvis says.

"Those four people did a wonderful job of getting the message out there, facilitating the public meetings.

"As the net widened, more and more people came under notice of direction – [where there is a suspicion the disease could be present and so testing begins].

"Those four were under too much pressure."

MPI offered contracts to individual Rural Support Trusts so they could provide assistance to affected farmers, "if they wished to pick it up".

Most trusts have done so which gave them the "autonomy" to look after their regions.

When Otago took up the option Lindsay was asked by its chairman and trustees to be the co-ordinator and work directly with MPI.

This involves a conference call twice-a-week with others involved at a national level to keep updated, and includes working closely with the MPI offices in Oamaru and Invercargill, as well as keeping in regular touch with those needing help on the ground.

Considerable resources have been mobilised to tackle the crisis including the employment of 10 MPI Incident Control Point managers - case workers - based in Oamaru alone.

of *Mycoplasma bovis* outbreak

Lindsay says MPI has set in place a two-pronged approach to assist those affected. Its case-workers assist farmers with the immediate “response” – the culling, disinfecting, accessing feed, boundary fencing and the like. The trusts help with “recovery” and welfare – accessing compensation for slaughter, loss of income and so on. About 80% of those under a Notice of Direction which restricts the movement of animals off a farm where it is suspected it has received infected cattle and testing is under way - “go clear”.

But that testing process can take “quite some time”, he says.

There is an inevitable ripple-out effect once restrictions are put in place – affecting the likes of farm service providers, trucking companies, stock sales and shows, graziers, calf -rearers, all of which can be “very disruptive for farming practice”.

“People deal with it in different ways...every case is different, because every farming structure is different... there is no blanket approach, it is quite hard to manage.”

Just the form-filling can be “daunting”.

The important thing to know is Rural Support Trust have trained facilitators, and if it is more than a chat over a cuppa that is needed then the coordinators have the resources and knowledge at hand so they can point people in the right direction.

Rural Support Trust assistance is FREE
And if you need more than a chat, it can point you in the right direction.

Early intervention can reduce issues before they become unmanageable.

If you or someone you know in the Otago rural community needs help, contact the Trust Administrator or one of the coordinators 0800 787 254



When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis

be it financial, climatic or personal the Rural Support Trust is ready to assist.

Services are free and confidential.

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

Italian textile students

There are some lessons you just can't learn in a classroom.

Five post-graduate students from various parts of Italy, who are completing a scholarship course with the Biella Master of Fibre Nobili, have been visiting the premium fibre-producing regions of the world to complete their joint thesis.

As part of their trip the five, in their mid-to late twenties, have been hosted by the Botto Poala family at their "home away from home", Otamatapaio, and have been experiencing a little of farm life there to widen their understanding of the raw materials used in the textile industry in Biella, Fabrizio Botto Poala said.

When the Omarama Gazette called to meet the students farm managers Mike King and Sam Radford were enlisting their help to draft newly-shorn merino 2-tooths through the yards. The students needed a bit of coaxing to set aside inhibitions and make a bit of noise to get the stock moving, eventually shouting; "Via! Via! Via! Go, go, go."

The aim of the course and the trip was to give the five – all of whom made it through the stringent selection process because they were the "best of the best" - a '360-degree' experience of the industry, Fabrizio said.

Chosen from 80 applicants, the students came from various backgrounds – economics, business, architecture, languages, but what they had in common was a "passion for textiles". For the scholarship, leading textile companies of Biella offer different aspects of the internship in Italy and abroad.

The Botto Poala family business, Reda, which sources some of its merino wool from New Zealand and the rest from Australia – offers the part relating to wool.

During their stay at Otamatapaio, as well as yarding, the students had watched sheep being shorn and wool classed by a team from Peter Lyon Shearing, discussed irrigation, stockfeed - turnips and swede, and general stock management. "Everything is experience... a new life experience for them," Fabrizio said.

Matteo Aguggia (27), who grew up in Biella, and whose parents work in the textile industry there, said, apart from learning how to "divide up" sheep, he had learned how "resilient" those in farming were.

Flavia Romei (25), of Rome, whose degree was in architecture and who is also a tailor, has a goal of designing high quality fabrics and creating her own brand.

She said it had been an amazing experience and she was taken with the "kindness" of rural community willing to take time to explain things to the group.

"It is really incredible what a lot of hard work there is behind a simple fabric," she said.

It was not Linda Crosa's (23), she has a degree in languages, and was born in Biella, first trip to New Zealand but she was enjoying getting to see a part of New Zealand not readily on show to tourists.

Luca Stupenengo (22), a business studies graduate, has been focusing on raw materials with an eye to becoming a textile designer.

"Here is the beginning of the process for everything that comes after this."

Sebastiano Magnaghi (25), who graduated in international business and economics, said he was aiming for commercial role in the industry and had a passion for the sector, especially formal wear, inspired by his grandmother who was a tailor.

Fabrizio said the company benefited from its investment in the programme because

meet the locals

often the students came to work for the company.

Biella, in Northern Italy, where Reda was established in 1865, has been a wool processing and textile centre for about 800 years.

Reda exports to United States, European, Asian and Middle Eastern markets, and has supplied fabric to those in the fashion industry such as Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Tom Ford and Hugo Boss, and more recently Allbirds for its specialised woollen shoes.

The students also spent a day in Dunedin at the Otago Polytechnic and University, and with New Zealand Merino, in Christchurch.

Once the trip was over the students had to work together to write a joint thesis which was to describe all the stages of processing, and the processes that take place within the textile / clothing / distribution chain, from the raw material to the finished and marketed product.

Their trip does not only take them to New Zealand and its wool.

The students also take in Sydney, Australia and the merino industry there, Peru, South America, to look at the alpaca fibre industry, China for its silk mills, and New York to study the retail end of the chain.

In March, Reda brought 36 of its managers from various departments, ranging from dyeing to those dealing directly with the customer, to New Zealand, so they, too, could get a greater understanding of the entire process.

"It was a fantastic experience they will not forget," Fabrizio said.

At its conclusion a "think tank" session was held to discuss new ideas and way to meet new challenges facing the company.

Everybody there was "high energy" after their on-farm experiences, he said.

Along with Otamatapaio and Glenburn, Reda owns Rugged Ridges and Glenrock Station, near Tekapo.



Here's looking at you

The New Zealand Transport Agency's new web camera at the Lindis Pass Summit adds just the very best of views to its collection.

Oh, and you can use it to check out road conditions too

Downer, in collaboration with NZTA have installed a CCTV camera at the Lindis Pass summit. The new camera pole, installed adjacent to existing weather monitoring and measurement equipment and solar panels, sits high above the highway.

The Pass, part of the inland route between Christchurch and Queenstown, reaches 965m above sea level at the summit, making it, while not the highest road, the highest point on the NZTA South Island State Highway network.

The camera has pan, tilt and zoom capability, allowing the Transport Agency and the Coastal Otago highway maintenance contractor Downer to monitor road conditions and check on road users both from their depot in Dunedin, and at the Transport Agency's Wellington Transport Operations Centre. The zoom capability allows remote monitoring from the summit car park down to the Lindis Valley floor.

In a statement, NZTA said the alpine conditions and lack of power and telecommunications was a challenge for the project team. Helicopters were used to set up the several repeater sites which were needed to enable communications back into the Transport Agency's network. The project, which cost around \$110,000, was jointly funded by the Transport Agency and Downer as a road safety initiative.

To view the camera in action go to: <http://www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information/traffic-cameras/otago/725>

SH8 Lindis Pass

Southbound | South along SH8 towards Lindis Pass Summit Lookout



'Kingdom of the Collie'

A trailer for a video featuring Omarama's own "legendary sheepdog trainer" Ginger Anderson was released by Australian author, videographer, working dog enthusiast and former champion shearer William Robertson, last month.

"Kingdom of the Collie" produced by Adele Video Production features sheepdog handlers and their border collies ranked as some of the best in the world, including the only woman to have won the Supreme International sheepdog trial, Scotland's Julie Hill.

Other trialists have been chosen from England, Wales, Scotland, Australia and New Zealand to demonstrate their skills in the video.

In it Omarama is described as "home of legendary sheepdog trainer Ginger Anderson".

It tells the story of the Anderson dogs which trace their lineage back to 1894 - the number one Border Collie stud in the New Zealand stud book.

Robertson notes that Ginger is a "prolific trials winner as was his dad and grandfather".

"Ginger has won four national dog trial championships and runner-up five times.

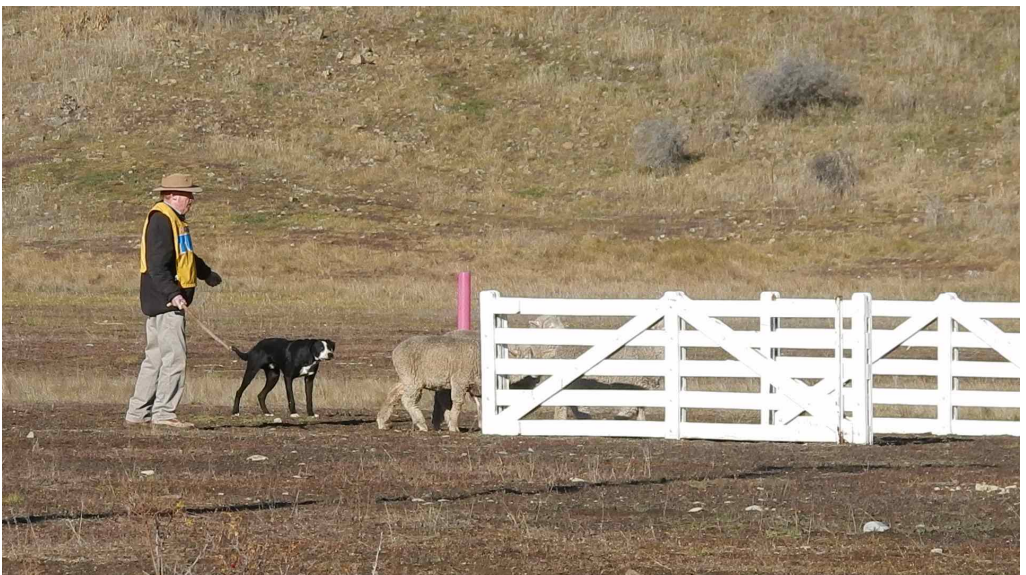
"His method and experience of working stock in some of the mountainous regions of New Zealand is a worthy contribution.

"Ginger demonstrates his collies and his adored, 'huntaway collie.'"

Marlborough sheep dog trialist and trainer Ken White is the other New Zealander to feature in the video.

He is a past national sheepdog trials champion and competed four times in the world sheepdog trials.

To view the trailer go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgCv8SkoK1Y>



Employee of the month...

Charlotte Gray

Tractor Driver, David O'Neill Contracting

We're a small town with so much talent. Together we do so much.

Each month we feature our 'Employee of the Month' - to learn a little more about how our people spend their day.

Charlotte Gray makes breaking new ground look so easy.

As well she might, she's been in the farm contracting business for as long as she can remember.

First as "slave labour" helping out her father, Alistair Gray, on the family deer farm and contracting business in Waimate, and for the past 19 years for David O'Neill Contracting in Omarama – since he started out with "one tractor under a tree".

Today she's driving one of David's several machines – a Fendt 927 vario – discing a paddock with a brand-new toy, but she's struck a problem.

She's not quite sure how, but the new disc harrow has a flat tire.

Frustrating, because while there's not too much this petite tractor driver can't do, the size and weight of the task means she's had to call up the firm's mechanical engineer Jason Waters, from the workshop in town, to get help with changing it.

"Everything is man-sized," She says, exasperated.

Looking back over her morning's work there's no doubt she's got an eye for precision and a straight line.

"I trained in fashion design ...but I can go back to that anytime."

Charlotte designs haute couture fashion and has established a few labels, the main one being Trinkets and Deceit.

She moved to Omarama about 11 years ago after initially travelling back and forth from Waimate to work for David.

"I love Omarama, its really beautiful...not many people either."

Over the years she's become accustomed to chauvinistic comments.

David had not been afraid to employ a woman driver so long as she could "cut the mustard" but not all employers were like that, Charlotte says.

Just like any other driver she's had to earn all the licences, and she's well-qualified.

But sometimes she arrives at a job and the farmer will ask, 'Where's the driver'.

"You have to stand your ground and have patience."

She found it best to be direct and not to "sink to their level".

However, there were more women taking on those tasks nowadays, and more women truck drivers too, she said.

"It's a great lifestyle... women tend to be more careful, they don't go at it all rip, shit and bust."

The working season begins in August and goes through until about April or May.

Later, when silage-making begins Charlotte will swap the disc for the rake. At its peak David O'Neill Contracting employs about 22 staff from all over the world to meet demand. All have some experience. Charlotte takes the younger ones under her wing and shows them the ropes. And the teams work anywhere from Kurow and Hakataramea through to Tekapo. Although she always has fashion design to fall back on she's not thinking of making the switch any time soon "I like it, the money's good." She laughs. "It's a fun place to work."



Editorial - The sound of silence

By Ruth Grundy, Omarama Gazette editor.

Of course, I am invested.

From Lake Poaka to Pinders Pond – who isn't?

There can scarcely be a Kiwi who has not spent hours just messing about by our waterways, our Awa, and we all want to continue to do so.

I was immensely proud of my community last month.

More than 120 of us came together for the Omarama Residents' Association's community forum to discuss our shared concerns over the management of the Ahuriri River Bridge Campsite.

To say the site is our community's taonga would be an understatement.

And because of the Ahuriri River's reputation, once the issue was made public I was contacted by people around the globe with a connection to this special place who wanted to add their voices to the concerns.

Let's not get all starry-eyed about this.

I am under no illusions, there are more differing views in this small town about what should be done than there are stones in that river bed.

But here's the one thing everyone's agreed on.

They want the river to be a beautiful place for all.

And history shows when even a few in Omarama agree on something things get a little scary for bureaucrats.

Following on from the forum, and because it wanted to be sure it did have the community's mandate to continue pressing for change, the Residents' Association, with the assistance of the Omarama Gazette, asked its community to respond to a simple questionnaire.

86% of respondents replied they wanted a representative of the Association on the Mackenzie and Waitaki Basins Responsible Camping Strategy Working Group – the group charged with putting in place short and long-term plans to manage the site.

About two-thirds of respondents - 63% - wanted the camping ground closed until the Department of Conservation installs its new toilet and fencing.

All except seven of the 101 respondents were Waitaki residents.

Most questionnaires returned with comments, all of which were thoughtful and constructive.

And there were the innovative solutions.

I have a sheaf-full of them ready to pass on, should anyone be interested?

And there's the rub.

Last week, the Otago Daily Times reported, despite the outcome of the forum and the results of the questionnaire, not only would the campsite not close in the interim, but the Working Group had decided the association would not take a seat at its table, at least until after its short-term \$548,000 strategy for the coming summer was implemented.

"Mackenzie District Council community facilities group manager Garth Nixon told the ODT the camping working group ...decided "weeks ago" that for now the association's representation on the group would be through Waitaki District Council staff and the local community board."

There was this concession.

"As the responsible freedom camping group moves forward after establishing the initial programmed work, [they] plan to establish a reference group made up of interested groups, which could include, among others, the Omarama residents association," he said.

Just a question, why did the discussion about how this \$548,000 of tax and ratepayers' money would be spent have to be held behind closed doors?

So, here's how it has been since the community forum, and I'll let you be the judge.

Despite Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher's admission at the forum that the council communication with the community could have been better, the first contact made by the council to association chairperson Ann Patterson was three weeks after working group's first meeting. It was a phone call from council recreation manager Erik van der Spek who had not attended the working group meeting because he had been on leave and another officer had attended in his place, to advise he would be the point of contact. He phoned, once again, after the funding announcement to check if Mrs Patterson had heard about it. She had.

Doc's Mike Davies, however, not only replied to the association's open letter to the working group, sent immediately after the forum asking for representation, but the day after the working group met he emailed and he said he understood the council would be responding to the request. His copied his reply to Waitaki District chief executive Fergus Power that day.

Although, Ahuriri Community Board chairman Graham Sullivan and Mr Kircher did mention the funding announcement and Doc's plan to install a toilet and fencing at the Ahuriri Community Board meeting a week ago it was not an agenda item, and there was no discussion of the association's possible representation to the Working Group (*See the full report over*).

Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean, Environment Canterbury councillors and members of its Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee have urged the working group to take on board the association's request. Almost three weeks ago zone committee members urged Doc to "pick up the phone" and call Mrs Patterson. (*See the report over*).

No-one has reached for the phone, no phone call was made.

There have been two meetings of the Residents' Association since the forum which all are welcome to attend. No representative of the working group has done so.

People hearing without listening.

The community has been proactive. It has been constructive.

It has made it clear it wants to be part of the solution.

Here are genuine people with a genuine cause who are having to battle bureaucratic 'duck-shoving', commercial operators' interests, and political point-scoring to achieve something that all are seemingly agreed would be the ideal outcome; that the site at the river be a beautiful place for all to enjoy, immediately and into the future.

This seeming reluctance to involve this community smacks of "we know what's best for you".

Mrs Patterson told the ODT she was not surprised by either the results of the survey or the response from authorities.

"The problem has been there [Ahuriri River Bridge] for two or three years and nothing has happened," she said.

"We don't want to sit back any longer and wait.

"They don't seem to take on the impact it has on the locals, and they don't want the locals to be involved. But the locals, they're the people on the ground, they see the issues. And the issues affect them."

So, what powers do the people really have to effect the change they want?

Let's not wait and see. Surely, it can't be that hard, let's start talking.

To read the questionnaire results go to:

<http://www.omaramagazette.nz/public/img/QUESTIONNAIRE%20RESULTS%20River%20Bridge%20Campsite%20Questionnaire%20Report%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>

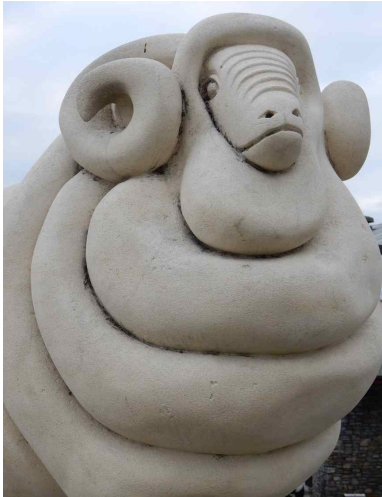
To read the report and recommendations go to:

<http://www.omaramagazette.nz/public/img/FINAL%20Ahuriri%20River%20Bridge%20Campsite%20Questionnaire%20Report%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>

To read the Community Forum whiteboard notes go to:

<http://www.omaramagazette.nz/public/img/AhuririCampSitePublicMeeting21stJuly2018WhiteBoardNotes.pdf>

The Noticeboard



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

Please scroll down and check for other notices throughout the Gazette. There may be something there you need to know.

Ladies golf on a Wednesday at 10.30 am, very casual, 3 to 9 holes. Learners welcome. Bring your lunch. Good company and no pressure!
Further info phone: 021 139 2817

The Omarama Golf Club - Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley 027 3478276. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the 'Top Pub' - the Blue and Gold pub, in Kurow. All welcome.

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 Carla Hunter 03 976 0504

The Omarama Community Library has changed to winter hours open 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre.
Contact Anna: 021 132 5586

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 Kurow Medical Centre holds a clinic 8.30am to 1pm, and 2pm to 5pm, on Tuesdays at the Omarama Community Centre. Please phone Kurow Medical Centre, 03 436 0760, for appointments. On Fridays phone 0274 347 464 because the Kurow Centre is closed.

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.

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

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.

To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website. www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/omaramagazette.nz

To receive email alerts between monthly editions of the Omarama Gazette sign up to our 'Local List'. Email omaramagazette@gmail.com and put 'Local List' in the subject line.

"I would like to advise that, because of reasons beyond my control, and after receiving legal advice, I am unable to report, now and into the future, on any matters concerning and surrounding what is the biggest event to take place in Omarama for many years."
- Ruth Grundy, Omarama Gazette editor.

**Advertising pays for
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email omaramagazette@gmail.com

**The October issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, October 3, 2018.**

**Please submit copy
by Friday, September 28.**

The Community Reports

Upper Waitaki Police News



Since my last report I've attended a few minor non-injury vehicle crashes, the majority of which have been in the Lindis Pass area. The main cause has been drivers failing to recognise that they are driving in winter conditions and being caught out by gritted roads. Unfortunately it's the devil we live with, as without the grit we have the ice. If people just slowed down and drove to the conditions I'd have nothing to moan about.

Unfortunately I've received an assault complaint from a 22-year-old male from Otematata

following the Waitaki Country Ball held at the Otematata Community Hall on Saturday August 11. As the victim was walking home at about 12.30am Sunday morning he was attacked near the intersection of Waitaki Drive and Kowhai Place, where an unknown assailant has come up from behind him and punched the victim to the side of the head causing him to fall to the ground dazed. While still on the ground the same person has kicked the victim a couple of times in the upper body. As a result the victim has suffered swelling to his face and tenderness to his ribs. This is a cowardly attack and it's only luck that the victim didn't receive more serious injuries. The offender/s need to be held accountable. I suspect that there were others with the main offender I would ask them or anyone else that may have any information to contact me please. (*Contact details are below*).

I've also been busy with Search and Rescue training having spent three days near Te Anau doing Disaster Victim Identification training and also a three-day extended search planning course. The local Sar guys have also been busy with training and fundraising.

On behalf of Omarama Search and Rescue I have to say a special thanks to the organisers of the North Otago Boar 'n' Stag hunt which was held early August. In the past three years they have held this event and donated their takings to North Otago and Omarama Sar. Although Omarama Sar is fairly well equipped the purchase of six new personal life beacons at \$300 each, replacing 15-year-old packs, jackets, gloves, torches, buying new radios at just under \$1000 each (and it's six of everything) it doesn't take long to eat into any funds raised. In any rescue operation, without radio communication searchers and the missing person's safety can be put in jeopardy. With the mountainous terrain it can be hard to get a radio signal back to Sar base, to achieve this we need portable radio repeaters which can be placed at vantage points ensuring that the signal makes it all the way back to base where the search management team is. With the latest donation of \$7000 from the North Otago Boar 'n' Stag muster Omarama Sar intend to purchase a radio repeater and subsidiary equipment to ensure that the searchers can talk to base. So a big thumbs up to all of the people involved, without your ongoing support your local Sar volunteers would struggle to provide the outstanding service to the community that they

currently do.

Also a big thumbs up to all that contacted me with concerns held about a transient middle-aged male who had recently been roaming the streets both in Otematata and Omarama. Although not a threat to anyone it was good to be informed so I could ensure this was the case, and also ensure he who was sleeping outside, wasn't going to die from hypothermia.

Lastly I've just had a local inform me they've found a "Baby G" watch near their driveway. So if you or your child is missing a watch give me a shout.

That's it stay safe.

Bean

Constable Nayland Smith, 03 4389559 Ext: 34580 E: Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

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

Justices of the Peace

JPs are available by appointment to:

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

The service is free of charge

To make your visit quick and easy:

- * Do not sign anything beforehand
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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

St Thomas' Church Community

After facing an uncertain future only 12 months ago St Thomas' Church community has moved to a "rebuilding phase", its chairman Rev Ken Light told the annual meeting.

The meeting, which was attended by 11 people, was held last month at the Wrinkly Rams, in Omarama.

The church held its final service in its building in November, last year.

"It has been a year of learning," he said in his report.

"There is always a feeling of deep sadness when a church closes its doors because of too few people attending but this is the reality of today's society.

"We learned that although Omarama people seldom attended services they still had feelings for the building they had fundraised for and built.

"The committee was pleased that we could retain ownership of the building and perhaps it could go back to being a church again sometime in the future."

The church made the decision in September last year to move out of its building and lease it to Tourism Waitaki who would share it with Trail Adventures, Rev Light said.

This was after Waitaki District Councillor Craig Dawson told the church committee Tourism Waitaki needed premises to use as an information centre.

At the same time, Presbyterian Church mission advisor Erin Pendriegh conducted a review on the future of the faith community in Omarama.

"Her report was encouraging and it was heartening to hear that Omarama church people did have a future if they were released of the burden of caring and maintaining a building."

The final service in the church was held in November and Tourism Waitaki took up the lease on December 1.

The lease with the present tenants is for one year with provisions for it to be rolled over each subsequent year for up to three years.

"We understand it is a perpetual process unless either party wants it to stop."

"At the end of three years here is an opportunity for conversation - do they want to put another cycle in place?"

The altar, ornaments and Bible were taken to the Memorial Hall, which the church leases from the Omarama Residents' Association for its services, and the remaining furniture was put into storage "in the meantime".

Both the Christmas Eve and Easter church services at the Memorial Hall had been well attended by residents and visitors, Rev Light said.

The Anglican church had agreed to cover the cost of his ministry in Omarama in 2018.

The income from the rental of the building has allowed the church committee to pay for maintenance, insurance and ministry costs, as well as signs to advertise the services at the less prominent location.

In June, the church committee carried out a half-yearly inspection of the church and were "impressed at how well the building was being cared for by the tenants".

Rev Light said the plan was to continue pastoral visiting and hold services at least once a quarter at the Hall.

Special services such as a service of thanksgiving for emergency services volunteers could also be held.

“They [the tenants] are looking after the building and the grounds that the church through lack of man-power and money could not do.

“But the big benefit is that St Thomas now has an income far greater than we have ever had before which is now available to help grow the faith.

“Another plus is the trust the ministry team have in one another rather than just thinking of our Anglican, Catholic or Presbyterian traditions.

“We are more aware of who belongs to the faith community and are slowly listing a Church roll of members.”

Rev Ken Light, chairperson

Lee Kearon, secretary

Kay Verheul, treasurer

Daffodil Day in Omarama

For a small community we give such a lot.

Almost \$700 was raised in the town this year for the Cancer Society of New Zealand's Daffodil Day.

Adrienne Harper and Bev Purvis collected \$576.10 outside Four Square Omarama which, combined with a raffle which netted \$107.10, made a total of \$683.20 in donations.

Thank you to all who gave and, on behalf of us all, thank you to Adrienne and Bev.

www.daffodilday.org.nz





Winter woollies were the order of the day today even for competitors as a blanket of cloud kept temperatures down at this year's Interschool cross country races in Omarama.

More than 200 year one to year eight pupils from Omarama, Waitaki Valley, Duntroun and Twizel primary schools competed in the annual inter-school cross country hosted by Omarama School at the Omarama Golf Club.

As many, if not more, parents, grandparents, caregivers and friends lined the course to cheer on athletes as they gave it their all.

Omarama School principal Kim McKenzie congratulated all who took part in the races.

Mrs McKenzie said she would like to thank the Golf Club, the Volunteer Fire Brigade First Response, Friends of Omarama School (who ran the food stall) and the school community, for helping to stage the event.

To see the complete album go to the Omarama Gazette Facebook page albums and click on INTER-SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY AUGUST 2018







Dinner with Daggy

Guest Speaker - Brian Dagg

Queenstown High Country Shepherd and Mountaineer

all round "SOUTHERN MAN" talks us through his Epic Journey

Slideshow presentation on conquering all 7 Summits!!



Friday 14th September

6PM

The Wrinkly Rams - Omarama

\$50

Buy Tickets at Omarama Hotel, Mobil Garage
or Ph Wendy 03 4389 568.

FUNDRAISER FOR OMARAMA SCHOOL



Workshop to run...

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seminar, work-shop your event,
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copy of the Tool Kit - Great Events in
Waitaki.

TOURISM WAITAKI
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**Oamaru Opera House
Empire Room
Thursday 20th September
10:30am**

**Register at the I-SITE or
email:
lucianne@waitakinz.com**

TOURISM WAITAKI

Workshop on... MAKING TOURISM WORK FOR YOU

*Understanding how tourism connects
the Waitaki with the world.*

**BRYDONE HOTEL
LINDIS ROOM**

Two sessions available:
Friday September 21st
10:30am - 1pm
OR
5:00pm - 7:30pm

Register at the Oamaru I-SITE
or by emailing lu@waitakinz.com

\$25 P/P

Guest speakers from Tourism Waitaki, Waitaki Tourism Association, Qualmark, TIA and TNZ.
Includes light refreshments.
Suitable for all businesses, accommodation providers, existing and emerging tourism operators.





'Feeling Lucky'

Join us for a fun Evening of Games,
then use your funny money to bid
at end of Evening Auction.

NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

Saturday 29th September

Omarama Community Centre

7pm till late

Admission \$30

Includes: 1st Drink Free, Hor d'oeuvres and some funny money

Purchase Tickets from:

Boot and Jandals Bar or Mobil Omarama

Omarama School Fundraiser



Hors d'oeuvres

Cash Bar



Casino Games

Fun Games

Auction



Pick Up - Drop Off

Local Courtesy Coach

Eft-Pos



More Info - Michele

03 4389 419



Meridian Power Up Community Fund

Meridian recognises the importance of local communities to our hydro and wind operations.

Meridian's Power Up gives your community a say on what local initiatives are supported by Meridian. The Fund, managed by a panel of community members and Meridian staff, is about working together to build strong communities.

Power Up is for the communities around the Waitaki Hydro Scheme from Aoraki Mount Cook to Waitaki Bridge, including Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio, and Glenavy.

TO APPLY FOR FUNDING

The next closing date for applications is 4th October, 2018.

For more information on Power Up or for an application form, please visit **meridian.co.nz/powerup** or email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz

You can also call us on 03 435 9393.

Omarama Residents and Ratepayers'

From the last meeting...

Unfortunately, despite a good number attending the meeting, the number of committee members away on leave meant there were not sufficient numbers to form a quorum.

Nonetheless, there was good discussion about the topics at hand - applying for funding for the sports courts, and the results of the Ahuriri River Bridge Campsite community questionnaire.

The annual meeting is in October and residents will be encouraged to join the group.

**Next meeting: 7.30 pm, Thursday, September 20,
at the Omarama Community Centre.**

**Contacts: Ann Patterson, chairperson, 03 438 9493,
Lorraine King, secretary, 027 434 6027**

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association Inc
is 7.30 pm, Thursday, October 11, 2018,
at the Omarama Community Centre
All are welcome

- Yes, we fundraise - it's fun. Our Garden Tour raised almost \$30,000
- Help plan and build sports courts for our community
- Help care for our Community Centre
- Join to lobby on issues we care about

It's about all of us
Let's work together to make the difference

One meeting, one hour, once a month

Omarama is at the heart of what we do

Waitaki District Council - news in brief

The Waitaki District Council is reviewing its representation arrangements for the 2019 local elections. Local authorities around the country must make decisions about their representation arrangements every six years, following the process set out in the Local Electoral Act 2001, to make sure there is 'fair and effective representation for individuals and communities'. The last time the Waitaki District Council undertook a review was in 2012. Councils must determine the number of wards and their names and boundaries; whether to elect some councillors by wards and the rest at large; and the number of councillors to be elected by each ward. Councils must also make decisions about Community Boards. **Submissions close 5.00pm Friday, 21 September 2018.**

The Waitaki Lakes Camping sites will open for the season on Saturday, September 15. Camping season passes are available from; the Waitaki District Council customer services desk, in Oamaru, Kurow Auto Services, and camp supervisors. Boat ramp passes are available from Waitaki District Council, Westside Café & Shop, Otematata, Mobil Garage, Omarama, Kurow Auto Services, and camp supervisors.

"Warmer Kiwi Homes" is a new Government programme that subsidises the cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation, as well as ground moisture barriers, to eligible households. Read more here:

www.waitaki.govt.nz



Representation Review 2018

The Waitaki District Council is reviewing its representation arrangements for the 2019 local elections.

What's it all about?

Local authorities around the country are required to make decisions about their representation arrangements every six years, following a process contained in the Local Electoral Act 2001. One of the principles of the Act is to make sure there's 'fair and effective representation for individuals and communities'. The last time the Waitaki District Council undertook a review was in 2012. It is now time to review arrangements again. Councils must determine the number of wards and their names and boundaries; whether to elect some councillors by wards and the rest at large; and the number of councillors to be elected by each ward. Councils must also make decisions about Community Boards. Have your say online at: <https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/consultation/Pages/default.aspx>

Submissions close at 5.00pm Friday, 21 September 2018.



www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI

Ahuriri Community Board Meeting, August

A wide range of topics, were discussed at the Ahuriri Community Board Meeting, in Kurow, last month, including the Waitaki District Council's response to the board and some community members' submissions to its Long Term Plan.

Ross McRobie, of the Otematata Residents Association, who spoke at the public forum, said he had come to "reinforcing the presentation" it had made at the Long Term Plan hearings. He acknowledged the \$20,000 the council had set aside for drawing up a concept plan for the town but wondered "how far that will go".

Mr McRobie said the association want to be a part of the process to draw up the town concept plan, "with the community getting together and talking about it just like the visioning meeting". He noted \$10,000 had been set aside for walkways throughout the ward.

"The key thing is to bring the A2O through Otematata.

"It is the logical stop off point between Omarama and Kurow."

It was also "very important to keep following up" the New Zealand Transport Agency who have been asked to consider lowering the speed limit through the town because of safety concerns with increased numbers crossing SH83 in Otematata.

He would appreciate it if "any pressure" was able to be put on NZTA by the council.

The board is making progress on a request from the Omarama School Board of Trustees for an easement for a walkway to link Park and TA Munro lanes to provide safer access for children walking to and from school. A sale and subsequent application to subdivide the land provided the opportunity to "run an access way through" as part of the subdivision consent, board member Vicky Munro said.

The council has advised the board, as a result of submissions to its Long Term Plan it will work with the board to develop a "community plan" to be in place by December. The council wants to build on the board's visioning meetings and will set out "objectives and priorities" to help guide board decisions. Council officers will attend the board meeting next month to discuss the process.

The board approved up to \$5000 from its community grants fund for the construction of a new bike stand area opposite the Otematata Lakes Centre. It will ask the Otematata Residents' Association to come up with a design for the stand and submit the subsequent plan to the board for its final approval. The matter was urgent because there had been near-accidents where the stand was located at present, directly in front of the Community Centre, board Member Vicky Munro said. Deputy Mayor Melanie Tavendale said it presented the perfect opportunity to "make it a bit of fun", perhaps combining it with a bike "fix-it station". There was also an opportunity to perhaps share costs with one of the cycle tour companies, Mayor Gary Kircher said.

The board has asked council officers to prepare a report into the request from the

Continued over...

Continued ...

Otematata Golf Club for a grant to meet the cost to it of paying for pole replacement work at the power supply adjacent to the sewage treatment plant. The club is installing a water-take to irrigate the course which is zoned council reserve. Its bore and pumps are close to the sewage treatment plant and the plan was to use power from the adjacent supply, provided it met the conditions set by the council and Network Waitaki. However, the club feels the costs of those conditions are more than it is able to meet. Board member Calum Reid said he understood the club had been asked to take over infrastructure "that was not up to scratch".

In his report board chairman Graham Sullivan said he had "seen in the paper" a second toilet would be installed "soon" at the Department of Conservation's Ahuriri River Bridge Campsite. "But that's still not going to be enough". Mr Kircher said the Waitaki District Council would receive \$100,000 of the \$548,000 announced for the Mackenzie and Waitaki Basins Responsible Camping Strategy Working Group to address visitor impacts in the area ahead of summer. "All this money is about this season." It was a "first step".

"No-one should see it as all that is going to happen," Mr Kircher said.

Mr Sullivan and Mrs Munro had travelled to the Ahuriri River Valley to visit the film set.

"That was amazing," he said.

Board member Brent Cowles said there were "knock-on" benefits from the production with one Otematata person, Deborah Simpson, being employed full-time by the company "just to organise accommodation".

"It has made a sizeable injection into the economy."

Mr Kircher said the council was endeavouring to see if the film set could be left on site once the production was completed.

"We have all heard about how Hobbiton became an attraction."

At the outset the "film crew" had presented the council with a comprehensive application for consents which had made the "process as smooth as possible", he said.

"The quality of information that came to the council was top notch," Councillor Craig Dawson said

Cricket Hop Productions made its request for land use consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 section 42 to protect the sensitive information in the application on the grounds of commercial sensitivity.

Cr Tavendale said she had been contacted by someone concerned about the removal of trees on the Benmore Peninsula track and wanted to know what the board had done to protest the action.

Mr Sullivan said Land Information New Zealand, who had initiated the removal of the wildings on the track and on the Benmore Island, held a public meeting in Omarama in May but it appeared its "mind was already made-up" with regards to the removal of the trees.

It was understood, while Linz was working on the islands it was Meridian Energy which was undertaking the work on the track because it owned that land.

Cr Tavendale said the board “should take the avenues available to you” to convey that it would like to be part of the “conservation” of the trees.

“You have more power than you realise.”

Mr Cowles agreed to write to the parties involved on behalf of the board to ask to be part of the consultation.

Cr Dawson said, at a recent Waitaki Lakes Shoreline Authorities meeting, the ECan harbour master had expressed concerns that any falling trees could pose a navigational hazard.

“I love trees but those wildings are a pest,” Mrs Munro said.

The next scheduled meeting of the Shoreline Authorities is for October, in Waimate, but it is not a public meeting, Cr Dawson said.

The council has proposed changes to the Ahuriri Ward for the representation review for the 2019 election and it is open until September 21 for consultation.

Mr Kircher said, despite what was reported in the Otago Daily Times he did not vote for the number of board members to be reduced to four.

“I voted for five.

“It’s a matter of making sure we get five good candidates putting their hands up.”

The council propose to shift the boundary to include Duntroon in the ward

Ultimately, the proposed changes have to go to the Electoral Commission for its approval, Mr Kircher said.

Council roading manager Michael Voss, who attended the meeting on behalf of the chief executive, was asked by the board to look into the management and stockpiling of green waste at the transfer stations – Otematata in particular. Mr Cowles said there was also a growing issue with the stockpiles of white-ware.

Mr Voss was also asked to investigate the problems cause by the bridges over the water race south of Park Lane, in Omarama, which have caused blockages and flooding.

These are on Land and Information New Zealand land.

The board has recommended the council approve the extension of the temporary liquor ban for Otematata and Omarama to extend from Labour Weekend to Queens Birthday Weekend.

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is
3.15pm to 5.15pm
Monday, October 1,
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](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx)

Environment Canterbury news in brief

After some debate, the Canterbury Regional Council, last month, made a unanimous decision to increase the number of representatives for South Canterbury from one to two, taking the total number on the ECan council to 14.

ECan has announced, following a high court decision on appeals, it can now begin the process of making its nutrient management and Waitaki plan change fully operative. Plan change 5 to the land and water regional plan, deals with the effects of land uses, particularly farming activities, on water quality in the region and aims to ensure the effective management of water quality in the Waitaki.

Once operative, the nutrient management rules will apply in all catchments in the region not currently the subject of sub-region plans.

The plan change sets industry-agreed "Good Management Practice" as the minimum standard for all farming activities.

Resource consent, including audited Farm Environment Plans, will be required if properties irrigate more than 50 hectares or have more than a specified amount of winter grazing of cattle, depending on property size.

The rules were developed through the Upper and Lower Waitaki Zone Committees and will meet the water-quality requirements in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. Read more here: www.ecan.govt.nz/lwrp-pc5

ECan has released a statement about its environmental management role and Simons Pass Station in the Mackenzie Basin following recent protests which have made headlines. Read more here: <https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/2018/simons-pass-whats-the-story/>



Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

Funding gives rare river species a jump start

Despite its name, the Mackenzie Basin's Robust Grasshopper shares the same threat classification as hoiho and two species of kiwi.

It can't fly and it is a poor jumper so it relies solely on camouflage to protect itself from predators.

The good news is the grasshopper is getting a leg-up thanks to Environment Canterbury funding to help the University of Canterbury and Department of Conservation undertake protection projects.

As part of this, 86 grasshoppers have been moved to the Twizel Kaki aviary where their movements will be tracked by small transmitters attached to their backs to see how they use their habitat.

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee has also helped fund willow clearing projects to protect the grasshopper's habitat. Recently the government transferred a significant section of land into conservation land to help protect the highly endangered species.

*The highly endangered *Brachaspis robustus*, otherwise known as the Robust Grasshopper.*

**Copyright remains with researchers and University of Canterbury: Dr Tara Murray
University of Canterbury*

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by councils.

[fb.com/canterburywater](https://www.facebook.com/canterburywater)



ECan Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

The August meeting of the Upper Waitaki Zone Committee, in Twizel, was unable to muster a quorum so no decisions could be made. However, several matters were discussed in depth by those present.

The topic of the management of the Ahuriri River Bridge campsite has been raised at each of the committee's meetings this year and this meeting was no exception, coming as it did the day after \$548,000 was announced for the Mackenzie and Waitaki Basins Responsible Camping Strategy Working Group to address visitor impacts in the area ahead of summer.

DOC water management co-ordinator John Benn told the committee he had been disappointed to see such "negative" comments on the front page of the Otago Daily Times that morning in response to funding announcement. He said work on the added infrastructure would be starting immediately to have it "done by Labour Weekend". He said there was also some money available for policing and monitoring.

Committee member Mat Bayliss said, as a follow-up to the Omarama Residents' Association community forum, in July, to discuss the issue, it would be a "mistake" not to "pluck a couple of really good people from the community" to help work on the matter.

Mr Benn said he was not in a position to answer questions as to representation on the working group. "[Department of Conservation Te Manahuna / Twizel Office Operations Manager] Sally Jones would need to answer those," he said.

Mr Bayliss said there was a need for him to take a "clear and succinct message" back to Doc. "There has been bugger all communication with that community. If you collaborate with the community you will get a result ...for goodness sake please work with the community." Mr Bayliss said he did not want to be called to another meeting to deal with the matter where the local MP and the Deputy Chairman of ECan and others were present.

It was quite simple. "You have to pick up the phone and have a chat", ECan councillor John Sunckell said.

Doc's plans "were not new", he had seen them in April, Mr Bayliss said.

"And they have not yet been shared with that community".

Environment Canterbury chief executive Bill Bayfield spoke about the Waitaki plan change and putting structure in place to make this fully operative.

The decision as to when it would become operative, possibly late October, would be made at the council's September meeting, he said.

"It is inevitable there will be problems with how it is going to work on the ground."

There had already been indications from some farmers there would be some "significant adjustments" to work through.

It was a matter of finding "methods of implementation to make it as fair and equitable as possible ...to not cause societal harm but move forward fast enough for societal expectations".

ECan also needed to recruit the skilled staff required to fill the new roles and there was a shortage nationwide.

Mr Bayfield also spoke about the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment agreement.

It might not be the "be-all and end-all" of agency alignment but it was a good start".

The agreement report, which was released in February, is between the five agencies with statutory obligations for land and water management in the Mackenzie basin; the two district councils – Waitaki and Mackenzie, Land and Information New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and ECan.

"The five CEOs recognised we weren't necessarily doing the best job we could," he said.

"It's not easy for five CEOs with five different ways of operating ... to do things collectively." The final report distilled "so many viewpoints" into 25 projects.

"We had to look at resources we had to commit to it."

The steering group gave an assessment of "what the report is and what it is not.

"What is it not? It is not a new group, it doesn't change the decision-making power of individual agencies. It's not a blueprint for a dryland park, it's just that's a priority.

"It doesn't remove Tangata Whenua...it's not a new plan, it's simply a way of operating."

Mr Bayfield said there was evidence "on a regular basis" it was already "operating".

The group did not want to introduce another plan. "The Mackenzie's a bit planned out." However, it would work with the Mackenzie Trust, Iwi and Federated Farmers on a "map project".

There were "challenges" in the Mackenzie "quite unlike" any other district.

"Tourism was one of the big drivers here," Cr Sunckell said.

"It is creating issues for us, impacting on the environment, lakes and waterways."

Mr Bayfield was unsure the group would be "brave enough" to have combined office in the region to make "delegated decisions" but there were some moves already underway to share office space in an informal capacity.

Although the Alignment group was working only for the Mackenzie Basin – "because this is a very different part of the world" - he looked forward to the debate over the upcoming Waitaki District Plan review and hoped its council would not fall into the "same trap" as the Mackenzie council did with its Plan Change 13. "I never want to go there again."

ECan's Julia Forsyth said work had begun on a planning framework to work on the group's 25 projects, looking at the Resource Management and Land Acts, "seeing how it all fits together...putting flesh on the bones of the 25 actions."

"We are all dealing with the same land but we all have different mandates," Doc's Ms Jones said. She said the steering group was setting up a website which would have information about what each of the agencies' required for compliance in one place. Ms Jones left the meeting following her presentation.

**The next Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee meeting is
9.30am Friday, September 21,
at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel**

Minutes and agendas are posted at:

<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/upper-waitaki-water-zone/>

New Zealand Government

Draft Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan

The Eastern South Island Region of the Department of Conservation (DOC) gives public notice of the draft Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan under Section 47(2) of the National Parks Act 1980.

Copies of the draft Plan can be inspected during working hours between 9.00 am and 4.30 pm at:

- Department of Conservation National Office Wellington,
- Department of Conservation Offices in Twizel, Geraldine, Hokitika and Fox Glacier (limited opening hours),
- Department of Conservation Visitor Centres in Aoraki/Mount Cook, Franz Josef, Queenstown, Wanaka, Haast, Christchurch and Wellington.

Alternatively, you can download a copy online at www.doc.govt.nz/aoraki-mt-cook-plan-review, where you will also find information about making a submission.

Written submissions on the draft Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan are invited until no later than **4 pm, Friday 9 November 2018**. Submissions should be posted to:

Aoraki/ Mount Cook NPMP Submissions

Department of Conservation

Private Bag 4715

CHRISTCHURCH 8140

or emailed to aorakinp@doc.govt.nz

Any person or organisation wishing to be heard in support of their submission should state this in their submission. Submitters should be aware that any submission they make is subject to provisions of the Privacy Act 1993 and the Official Information Act 1982.

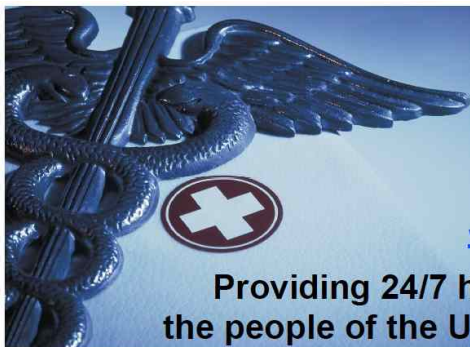
Andy Roberts

Director, Operations

Eastern South Island



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Kurow Medical Centre

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- *Reiki and Reflexology (Twizel only)

If you require further information or an appointment, please contact us on:

For Kurow 03 436 0760 or For Twizel 03 976 0503 - Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

Look us up on our website or Facebook page for opening times and health articles'

SEPTEMBER

29



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Kurow Hotel Annual Bark Up

ENTRIES CLOSE 7PM. ENTRY FEE \$20.

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Prizes include Top Paddock New Years tickets, whistles, meat packs, clothing, animal essentials and more.

Entertainment provided by Brad Staley.

Hakataramea Collie Club Training Session

3pm on the day. Refer to the Waitaki Valley Young Farmers Facebook page for more information.

BEN ANDERSON 0278100981

SAM MINETT 0226184251





15 Mackenzie Drive PH: 4350777

OPENING HOURS

We are now open for appointments.

9:30am to 6pm	Mondays and Fridays
8.30am to 5pm	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
9:45am to 11:45am	Saturdays

AFTER-HOURS

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Blood Tests, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Risk Assessment, Minor Surgical Procedures such as Skin Lesion removal, Smears, Medicals, Ultrasound and Physio, Podiatry, Counselling, Dentures and Mole Map, are also available at Twizel Medical Centre.

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Please make inquiries with our reception. 4350777

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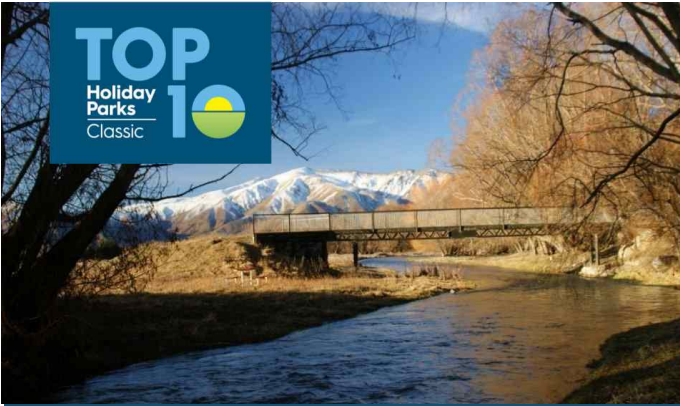


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We would prefer an experienced Teacher Aide, however we will consider untrained applicants.

The successful applicants will be flexible, patient, but firm, and have a good sense of humour. You will have a genuine enthusiasm to assist, mentor and motivate, demonstrating positive behaviour at all times.

This position is fixed term, 25 hours per week.

Hours are to be worked between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, Monday to Friday, during school term time only.

Applications close at 3pm on Friday, September 14.

The role begins as soon as possible.

A copy of the job description is available upon request, please email: Principal@omarama.school.nz

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

August 2018

Highest temperature: August 31, 19.4C

Lowest temperature: August 19, -4.5C

Most rainfall: August 17, 5mm

Total rainfall for August: 17mm



The View from the Chook House

♪♪ *Trust in me, trust in
meeeee...♪♪*

“Woah, Isn’t that Kaa the Snake I
hear singing?”

“Nah, you’re imagining things,
don’t worry your pretty 'lil' head,
'aint no snakes in the high
country.”

The Garden Diary - Something simple

It seems it is one of life's truths, just like a duck skimming across water, an awful lot of energy can go into creating a scene that looks simple.

As the snowdrops go over so the garden work really begins. The 'to do' list grows as fast as the weeds. And the first job – if I want more snowdrops - is to split them up and move them around while they are 'in the green'. There is pruning to be finished, beds to be fed and mulched, seeds to be sown, lawns to be revitalised, irrigation systems to be de-earwigged. Eeeuw.

At this time of the year I'm always hit with a burst of resolve, determination and busyness which lasts until the languid torpor of summer heat sets in, or until after lunch.

The most labour-intensive gardening has to be the care of perennial borders.

I save these chores for spring because I've lost too many beauties to the cold and dry when I tackle it in Autumn. It's time to divide to conquer those great clumps whose hearts have become woody and barren with age. Some of those stubborn, intractable b**** resist all inducements to move with the times and fight back ferociously – twanging and snapping tines from the best steel garden forks. No. Not. Again.

Battling on, I dream of wild romantic drifts stretching out like an impressionist's canvas to capture the light of a misty summer's dawn, humming and buzzy with life.

The snowdrops will soon give way to tulips, euphorbia, and aquilegia with all their pleated and be-ribboned bonnets, bumble bees dancing attendance and dutiful forget-me-not at their feet. Springtime is short in this garden as warm nor'westers chase it off, impatient for summer. From hibernation beneath their winter mulch, sturdy and staunch bearded irises, billowy peonies, and spires of foxgloves and black-eyed

delphinium, also impatient, quickly rise to their full height amidst a supporting crew of sturdy phlomis, phlox and penstemon. Planting close and weaving in birch and hazel sticks helps steady them against the gusts. Joining them in the border there'll be the spiky - anise hyssop, verbascum, and Persicaria bistorta, whose dock-like leaves are a little scary, and pom poms like allium and little fat velvety pincushions of scabious.

There's the frothy fillers like Thalictrum, Queen Anne's Lace and Alchemilla mollis, the airy, happy-go-lucky Verbena bonariensis dancing with the grasses on the breeze, and reliable and constant companions like alpine geraniums, geums and strappy, sunshiny daylilies. Fennel, yarrow and monarda push their cheery, round, flat faces up to the sun, held high by their sturdy stems, until they spin into the distance like plates on poles at a fairground. My favourite, with the ugly name is

Lysmachia clethroides, whose starry spires curve gently through that hybrid musk rose, Buff Beauty. And there is a daisy for every turn of season – from anthemis in late spring, to those Mexican dancing dahlias and zinnias of mid-summer, to autumn asters for Easter and single chrysanthemums to welcome next winter. Something simple in a frantic world.

Ruth Grundy

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



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