



-Omarama Gazette -

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Hiflo Waitaki

Enforcement of camping rules discussed

More visitors moving off SH8 to explore remote corners of the district have not only brought with them the same, inevitable issues, but also likely increased the risk of scrub and grass fires.

However, it appears it will be left to members of the public to monitor any compliance issues, at least for now.

In December, Lake Ohau Station manager Tom Moore raised concerns with the Ahuriri Community Board about the issues caused by more visitors travelling up Lake Ohau Rd – which is unsealed at the top end - to explore the more remote areas of the Ohau valleys.

In an interview this week, Mr Moore said he asked the board what was being done to police the council's freedom camping regulations and the restrictions on lighting fires in the area.

He also asked if the speed limit could be reduced on the road, especially on the stretch which passed through the cluster of station buildings.

Recently, the speed limit had been lowered to 70kph where the Alps 2 Ocean cycle trail emerged onto the road extending the distance to Lake Ohau Lodge.

But it was ironic that at the point where the tar-seal ended the speed limit reverted to 100kph, he said.

Visitors often had little experience driving on gravel roads plus the speeds they were driving through the station was putting those who lived and worked there - adults and children - at risk, as well as posing a risk to working dogs and stock.

Waitaki District Councillor Craig Dawson had recommended the board ask that this

This issue is brought to you by ...

Hiflo Waitaki

Hiflo Group managing director Peter Ryder says, when he got wind Neil Smith really was serious about retirement this time, the opportunity to bring Waitaki Plumbing Services under the Hiflo umbrella was a "no-brainer".

Last month, Neil officially handed over the keys and headed out the door - last seen heading down the highway looking for adventure on his new 2018 Triumph Bobber - and the Smith's Otematata plumbing business became Hiflo Waitaki.

The Ryders are no strangers to the valley. Peter's parents Ian and Helen Ryder established Hiflo in Oamaru in 1971 and in 2005 Peter and his wife, also Helen, took over the business. With the lakes at Oamaru's back door and a holiday home in Otematata the extended family have virtually grown up here. Peter and Helen's two sons Brandon and Cameron, and their daughter's partner Dan have continued family tradition and joined the business.

These days Hiflo offers its services throughout North Otago and South Canterbury - the Waitaki Valley and Mackenzie areas - and Hiflo has grown to be a specialist provider of domestic, commercial and industrial plumbing, drainage, gasfitting, sheetmetal, solar and heating installations, plus it holds the regional franchise for Rockgas - LPG delivery. Through the years Hiflo expertise has contributed to projects such as transportable homes for the hydro schemes and the establishment of major hotels in Omarama.

Recent development in the upper Waitaki and through the Mackenzie has seen demand for services grow, Peter says. Nowadays, Hiflo has plumbers Greg Harper stationed in Omarama, Tarris May in Otematata, and Jeff Ten Thye based in Kurow plus four staff work from the Twizel depot. "The area continues to grow, putting pressure on all services so we've gone with that growth, with Dan set to oversee the Waitaki area."

It means the outlying customer base is now "nearly as big as Oamaru", Peter says.

Neil and Debbie 'retired' from busy Queenstown and headed for the quiet life in Otematata five years ago. Initially, Neil assumed he'd spend a bit of his spare time "fitting a few tap washers" but five years on and the Smith's thriving business was employing four staff.

However, last year the couple decided it was time for a rethink and fresh look at the long wish list they have for retirement. He and Debbie wish the Ryders "all the best", and want to thank their valued customers who made the business a success.

Their staff will carry on with Peter, so people can be assured they can continue with the faces they know - "their own personal plumber", Neil says.

"We're really pleased to be able to continue the good work Neil has done in the area, we want to continue that relationships with customers, and look forward to being part of the community for a long, long time," Peter says.

Peter knows there will be plenty who try to convince Neil to pick up that wrench one more time but he's looking forward to next catching up with him on the many of the nearby golf courses. Besides there's no room for a tool box on the back of that bike.



Hiflo Waitaki

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be considered as part of its upcoming review of speed limits, Mr Moore said. Mr Moore also told the board more people were camping in the laybys along the road and west of the Department of Conservation Round Bush campsite on what is council land by the lake.

Campers were leaving large amounts of rubbish, including human waste, and there was clear evidence of campfires being lit. Some were also camping for extended periods rather than the three nights specified in the Waitaki District Council Freedom Camping bylaw. He and his wife Sally had been cleaning up the mess at the site by the station.

Since meeting with the board, he had approached DOC who had given him a 'light no fires sign' which he has put up at the site. However, fires were lit throughout the Christmas-New Year period. His concern was mounting along with the fire risk.

"If a fire got away up here yesterday, it would have been in Omarama before dark." It posed not only a risk to property but also lives, he said.

This week, in an email in response to questions from the Omarama Gazette, Waitaki District Council environmental services manager Jason Evered said no patrols by enforcement officers were "deemed necessary" in that area through December and January. "Throughout the Waitaki District, we do monitor an area's usage and consider all local information we receive."

Since November, the council had been supplied with data from camping apps about the numbers of visitors and where they were staying, and it was using this information to "try and get our patrols and information in the right areas at the right times".

"Considering the size of the district this is not always that easy. The council is aware of people using the area to stay, and last year new signage was erected to give guidance to the visitors around what they can and can't do."

Mr Evered said with the introduction of the Fire and Emergency Act 2017, the council no longer had responsibility for outside fires and permits.

"If we become aware of a fire (real or potential), we would advise the person of the risks (weather conditions, quickly spreads, dry conditions etc) and strongly discourage them from lighting it. We have taken steps and put fires out in other areas, which we have discovered left unattended and burning."

There was also information on the council website, he said.

He encouraged those with concerns about campers and the "issues they leave behind" to download the council's free Snap, Send, Solve App and attach images to any information or to phone 03 433 0300 to report a concern so something could be done, if necessary.

FENZ deputy principal rural fire officer for Waitaki, Mike Harrison, said the organisation had ongoing issues with campers lighting fires.

It had put together an extensive public education campaign 'Check It's Alright Before You Light' about where and when it was okay to light fires, but unfortunately this did not always reach freedom campers.

"We're not the only ones having difficulty getting the message to that target audience," he said.

Although, FENZ had taken on all responsibilities for fire related issues, it still worked closely with the council on fire safety and civil defence matters.

Mr Harrison said it was vital if anyone saw "something that was not right" – a fire – they call 111 and ask for the fire service.

The appliances would be sent to douse the fire and FENZ would then “work through the process” to address the causes.

New signs were being put up in the area to alert people to the dangers, specifically, new “grapefruit” – fire risk signs were expected to go up along SH8 shortly and these also had the capacity to display various warning messages and in different languages.

FENZ was constantly trying to get the message out about the fire risk, he said.

“Sometimes we’re chasing our tails, we just get on top of it in one area and it comes up in another,” he said.

Information about the numbers of campers travelling through the district was presented in a report to the council’s Heritage, Environment and Regulatory Committee meeting, yesterday.

It showed statistics collected from the CamperMate App for November and December.

In November, 76% of the app users entered the Waitaki district along SH8 as opposed to SH1, and in December it was 77% of users.

Total numbers were not given in the report.

It also said a new leaflet with a "pictorial approach" had been produced to distribute to freedom campers which would more clearly explain the freedom camping regulations. (See photo below)

It is to be distributed by the parking officer and will be available from i-Sites.

It does not include any information on fire risk.



Resources from throughout tackle blaze

Two helicopters with monsoon buckets were called in to help fight a fire at Tara Hills on Monday afternoon which was understood to have started in hay bales and escaped to a silage pit.

As well as both FENZ Omarama brigades, rural fire crews from throughout the district - Kurow, Otematata, Twizel and Waitaki - were also called in to help bring the fire under control.

Firefighters had to contend with 30-degree heat and strong westerly winds throughout the afternoon.

Contractor Kevin Grant was also called in to break up the burning bales so firefighters could get to the seat of the blaze, and to bury the resulting embers to stop them re-igniting.

The fire was brought under control by about 9.30pm, Omarama deputy rural fire officer Jimmy Courtney said.

But a rural crew from Oamaru remained on site to monitor the situation throughout the night.

(Below) Photo of the two helicopters: by Ross Menzies



Sports Courts Raffle results

The raffle to raise funds for the Omarama Sports Courts has been drawn...

Caroline Groundwater (née Preston), of Albury, has won the luxury package for two, including one night's accommodation, at the Lindis Lodge - the grand prize in the Omarama Sports Courts raffle, drawn under police supervision, yesterday. Caroline was one of the first to buy a ticket in the raffle, organiser Jemma Gloag said. When she spoke to the Gazette by phone, after being informed of her win, Caroline said she was "absolutely stoked to win this fabulous prize". She had bought the ticket because of family ties to Ben Avon Station, where the new luxury lodge has been built.

Her uncle and aunt, Colin and Joan Walker, owned Ben Avon, later farmed by the late Bill Walker, and Rosemary Walker (now Hill), prior to it being sold to Jim Morris. "It has really special memories for me...that's why I bought a ticket."

News of the win had almost brought her to tears, she said.

Her family, the Prestons, had farmed at Rhoborough Downs Station, Lake Pukaki.

She had yet to tell her husband of her win.

The raffle has raised \$10,000 for the sports courts project.

The Omarama Residents and Ratepayers' Association would like to thank everyone for their donations through the purchase of tickets with special thanks to all the generous sponsors of the prizes.

Results: Omarama Sports Courts Raffle, drawn Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Grand Prize: one night's accommodation, Lindis Lodge, Ahuriri Valley, valued at \$3,000

Caroline Groundwater, ticket no. 30

Glide Omarama Flight \$368

John Cleverley, ticket no. 76

Merino Lodge – One night's accommodation for two people \$300

Holly Regnault, ticket no. 41

Mobil Omarama - 84-piece tool kit \$198

Nic McKerchar, ticket no. 2

Hot Tubs Omarama - wellness pod for two \$160

Corey Sutherland, ticket no. 140

1/2 a case of NZ Sauvignon Blanc from Urlar Vineyard \$150

Annie Jerram, ticket no. 152

1/2 a case of NZ Sauvignon Blanc from Urlar Vineyard \$150

Jan Alexander, ticket no. 121

Omarama landscape print – Becky Martin \$120

Peter Keller, ticket no. 179

The Wrinkly Rams - lunch for two \$100, Geva Innes, ticket no. 215; Heritage Gateway Hotel - Dinner for two plus wine value \$100, Debs Wilson, ticket no. 222; GlenCraig's Clothing -voucher \$100, Chris Piner, ticket no. 176; Four Square Omarama - voucher \$100, Richard Gloag, ticket no. 40; Hot Tubs Omarama - 1/2 massage voucher, \$65 Sandy Kennard, ticket no. 16; High Country Salmon - voucher \$50, Jill Stringer, ticket no. 73.

Hang gliders compete at x-country classic

Between 20 and 30 hang glider pilots are expected to test their distance flying skills at the annual cross-country competition in Omarama, this week.

The "casual" competition - The Omarama Cross-Country Classic - which began last Saturday and will continue until Sunday attracts pilots from throughout the country, organiser Bill Degan, of Christchurch, said.

Pilots have their choice of launch site within the basin and awards are given to those who fly the three longest distances on any day during the week.

Some years up to 50 pilots have arrived throughout the week to compete, Bill said.

The New Zealand Hang Gliding Nationals in Murchison have just wound up and he expected more pilots would arrive in Omarama from now.

The New Zealand Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association runs the competitions.

Photo: Hang-glider pilots (from left) Gavin Tweedie, Marty Smith and Bill Degen survey the summits for a possible launch site at this week's Omarama Cross-Country Classic competition.



Pou pays homage to Te Maihāroa

Last month, a pou commemorating Te Maihāroa and the whānau that accompanied him on Te Heke ki Te Ao Mārama (1877-1879) was unveiled at the eastern ends of Lake Ohau.

About 70 people attended the unveiling, and included whanau from Moeraki, Arowhenua and Waihao and Waitaha whanau, and mayors representing the Waitaki, Waimate and Mackenzie district councils.

Lesley Te Maihāroa-Sykes, of the Waitaha Taiwhenua o Waitaki Trust provided the Omarama Gazette with this background to the carving and event.

Placement of Te Maihāroa pou at Lake Ohauiti and Mauka atua Ohau

At our April 2016 AGM, the Waitaha whānau expressed the desire to design a pou for our tipuna, Te Maihāroa, to be placed at Lake Ohau.

In 2017, one of our members, Rua Pick, a talented, innovative artist, well known for working within the Māori medium, presented concept sketches of what the pou would look like. On April 22, 2017, the whanau approved Rua's design and he proceeded to carve the pou. In late 2017, Rua finished the pou and signpost after six months of hard work. In 2018, the whanau had the opportunity to view photographs of the finished pou at the annual meeting.

A robust discussion followed to decide on what the wording on the front and rear plaques should be. After a consensus was reached the plaques were sent to the engravers in December 2018. On the of January 12, 2019, the pou and a sign post were erected at Lake Ohau with the unveiling on the January 13, 2019.



The Pou

The pou – Haere ki te Mauka/ Go to the Mountain – commemorates Te Maihāroa's vision quest up Mauka-atua, in the winter of 1879, in which he received a vision to move his people to the ancient Waitaha iwi settlement at Korotuaheka at the Waitaki river mouth.

On this pou, Te Maihāroa is depicted in a form of a prophet both receiving and giving a vision from the Creator upon a sacred mountain.

The pou was placed in the whenua (land) to honour and pay homage to our pōua Te Maihāroa and the whānau that accompanied him on Te Heke ki Te Ao Mārama (1877-1879).

Central to the tuakiri and wairuataka of Te Maihāroa and the Waitaha people, is Papatūānuku, our Earth Mother. The sanctity of her natural world informs us and shapes the essence and very being of us as Waitaha, our identity, whakapapa and histories.

Since time immemorial, Waitaha have been entrusted with a whakapapa of a profound

relationship with the natural world and a deep reverence for the wairuatanga of ao mārama and mana atua.

I would like to share a little bit with you all about our pōua Te Maihāroa and what he believed in and committed his life to.

Te Maihāroa was born in the early nineteenth century in Arowhenua. His father was Te Rehi, and his mother was Kokiro, both of Waitaha decent. Te Maihāroa was a peaceful and intelligent man. He was literate and politically aware, and he thoroughly lived and embodied his wairuatanga and Waitahataka.

He was exposed to the Kaingarara religion in the 1860s and his religious beliefs and raka-tirataka (self-determination) developed during this period. Te Maihāroa became a respected tohuka and prophet for his people.

In response to the encroaching settler occupation facilitated by the 1848 South Island purchase, the 'Kemp Deed', between Ngāi Tahu and the Crown (the largest block of land ever bought by the Crown), Te Maihāroa led his people in 1877 up the Waitaki valley into the high country to establish a peaceful settlement at Te Ao Marama.

Te Ao Marama is commonly known to us today as Omarama and is often referred to as the 'hole in the middle', or the 'land lying between the east of the eastern seaward range of mountains and the Southern Alps because it was not surveyed or sold to Kemp.

For two years they lived here peacefully, a sanctuary for Te Maihāroa and whānau away from the influence of European settlements.

However, in 1879, Te Maihāroa and his people were deemed squatters on their own ancestral land and the Crown threatened impending removal. As the spiritual prophet of his people, Te Maihāroa climbed Mauka Atua Ōhau iti, to seek clarity and guidance from his tīpuna.

He was close to 80 years of age then, and when he returned to the base of the mauka, he informed his twelve disciples of the vision to return to Korotuaheka, an old Waitaha kāika on the southern side of the Waitaki River mouth. On August 11, 1879, the peaceful Māori village at Ahuriri was threatened and pressured by armed constables from Oamaru and the high country station run-holders to leave their village at Te Ao Marama. They did so peacefully, as is the Waitaha way.

Waitaha remember this passive resistance event as 'Te Heke' or 'The Migration', similar to conscientious objections that have since been undertaken by other Māori in other parts of Aotearoa, most famously Parihaka in 1881. In modern times there has been a rich political history of conscientious objection by both Māori and Europeans to World War I and World War II.

Waitaha have continuously re-lit our ahi kā roa over the Waitaki valley by commemorating the heke of Te Maihāroa, through ongoing hikoi, which retrace the footprints of our tīpuna up and down the Waitaki Valley. These hikoi are very significant to us as Waitaha people, to uphold the mauri and wairuatanga of Papatūānuku, Aoraki, the Waitaki awa, and to honour Te Maihāroa as a tohuka and spiritual leader for their people.

Our history is also important to northern Māori tribes and Pākehā, who now call the Waitaki valley their home too. We're ensuring the brave and pacifist narrative of Te Maihāroa is kept alive. Te Heke, or The Migration, has been commemorated in 1927, 2012 and 2016.

"We honour you pōua Te Maihāroa and our beloved whānau whanui, that supported and accompanied you on Te Heke. We honour your visionary Māori leadership, your ability as a tohuka to keep our people safe and spiritually well during these testing times, your ability as a matakite (seer) to hold steadfast to your visions and aspirations, and the prediction of your successor that 'a little child' from Taranaki will carry on your prophecy."

Farm-forest plantings reach harvest

Almost three decades separates the planting and harvest of the forestry blocks on Ribbonwood Station.

Former owners Colin and Gwenda Mackay established extensive blocks of Douglas Fir and pine on the station 28 years ago. Port Blakely Ltd began harvesting 30ha of Douglas Fir in second week of December and about 15 50-tonne trucks a day loaded with logs have left Ribbonwood for the Port of Timaru since, with the ultimate destination being China and the furniture market.

Grant Murray, who manages the station for Verity Farms Ltd, the present owner, said harvesting of the fir was expected to end at the end of last month, and the harvest of the pine is expected to start this month. The blocks were fully machine-harvested – no chainsaws were used, he said. The value to the farmer was about \$53 a tonne, Grant said.

There were three parties involved in the venture.

Along with the Mackays and Verity Farms, Crown research institute Scion also maintained an interest because it had established some plantings for research purposes. Scion specialises in research, science and technology development in forestry, wood product and wood-derived materials.

Now farming in Waimate, Colin said finally reaching harvest decades after planting was not without its significance.

Over that time people had “grown up with the trees”.

“They’re part of the landscape”. But that was the nature of sustainable plantation forestry. “You have to accept there is a time limit on them. It’s all part of the economy of log exporting.”

The blocks were machine planted using a machine not unlike a cabbage planter which was able to plant trees at a rate of 800-an-hour compared with planting by hand which sees 1500-a-day sown, Colin said.

The plantation blocks will be replanted by Verity Farms in due course.

Photo: Mike King



Omarama Rodeo Club awards service

The efforts of two Omarama Rodeo Club members, who fought to resurrect the club earlier this decade, were recognised at the club's rodeo in December. Long-time members Wendy Parsons and Jim Metherell were awarded life memberships partly in recognition of that but also for the effort they had put in throughout the years.

"The club wouldn't be here today without their input," club president Jamie Brice said. The club which was formed in 1987 went into recess in 1999.

Wendy and Jim "got in behind it and got it going again".

Wendy joined the club in 1994 and has held the positions of secretary and treasurer. "She has been the backbone of the club's fundraising and ...just getting things organised", he said.

"Her efforts are second-to-none."

Jim was president for four years and managed the shifting of the club grounds from Ben Omar to its present site on Buscot Station.

He also supplies grazing for the horses each year.

In 2002, the New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys' Association awarded Jim its South Island president's award and presented Wendy with a buckle in recognition of their efforts to bring the club out of recess.

The Omarama club had since gone from strength to strength. "There's a lot of young people coming people ... they're really getting in behind it," Jamie said.

Long-time members Jim Metherell and Wendy Parsons have been awarded life-memberships of the club. Photo: Supplied



It's not the winning that counts, right?!

FENZ Omarama Volunteer firefighters Logan Adams and Jack Zorab made up a two-man team to compete at the United Fire Brigades' Association South Island Waterways Challenge in Darfield, last month.

This was the pair's first South Island Competition.

"We did come last," Jack said.

"But we did what we set out to do."

The organisers had been pleased to see Omarama field a team, something that did not happen that often, he said.

This year, Mossburn won the challenge and last year's winner's Oamaru were placed third. Brunner who fielded two teams took second and seventh place.

The competition is based on "getting water from one end of the track to the other... and not blow up the pump, and without putting people in danger".

"It's all the stuff we use on the fire grounds."

Introduced in 1885, the challenge is designed to test firefighters' hose-running and pump-operating skills.

This year eight teams competed in the two-person challenge and five teams competed in the four-person challenge.

The two-person teams compete against the clock across eight events with points deducted for penalties.

The Waterway Season is made up of four regional or two Island events annually, and a national event held every two years.

The next event Jack and Logan plan to tackle is the South Island Firefighter Combat Challenge, in Cromwell, in March.

Wearing full bunker gear and breathing apparatus, competitors race against each other and the clock in a series of tasks across the course.

"That's the physical, gruel-ling stuff," Jack said.

Photo: FENZ Darfield Volunteer Fire Brigade deputy chief fire officer Ken Muscroft-Taylor



You won't want to miss this!

The Omarama Community Picnic

Let's have ourselves a picnic, Omarama.
Everyone's invited ...

From 11am, Saturday, March 23, let's get together at the Omarama Community Centre play ground for a good, old-fashioned day out.

Spread the word.

Bring the family, bring your mates, bring the staff.

Pack the hamper, fill the thermos and the chilly bin, throw in a rug and the sunscreen, let's make a day of it.

Let's shrug off the busy-ness of the past season, spend the day together and just chill.

**To find out more, or if you'd like to help,
phone Ruth Grundy, 021 294 8002 or 03 438 9766.**

I am contacting all our community groups to see if they would like to arrange an activity or contribute in any way.

So far ...

- The fire trucks will be there to explore.
- There will be a sausage sizzle for the children to enjoy.
- The Playgroup rooms will be open for wee ones.
- Watch this space...

(P.S This is not a fundraiser,
just a low or no-cost fun day for all to relax and enjoy.)

See you there



Employee of the month...

Kevin Grant

Earth-mover and shaper, Kevin Grant 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.

As Kevin Grant casts his expert eye around the surrounding hills, he agrees, yes, there's a great deal of the countryside he's had a hand in shaping.

A man of few words – listen carefully because each one of those matter – he downplays the nearly six decades he has spent breaking ground, making tracks, clearing chaos, and quietly making his mark on the landscape.

He isn't convinced anyone would be that interested in hearing about his life's work.

Monday, he 'dropped everything' and headed to the Tara Hills Station fire to put his skills to use there in his capacity as a volunteer member of the rural fire fighting logistics team. He'll down-play that too. All in a day's work.

His role – to 'expose' the burning hay bales so firefighters could get to the 'seat of fire', and to dig trenches and bury any embers to lessen the risk of it re-igniting.

Kevin grew up in Otekaieke, where his family farmed. After attending primary school there, he would bus to Waitaki Boys' High School in Oamaru and back each day. But he reckons he's had "diesel in the blood from day one". So, it was almost inevitable, as little more than a young lad, he would begin driving heavy machinery. "I've been going since I was 15, I'm 74 this year."

Driving a dozer, working for a private contractor, his first major project was to help create the system of canals and flood irrigation channels which make up the Upper Waitaki Irrigation Scheme (Now called the Kurow and Duntroon Irrigation Company Scheme). Construction will begin this year to upgrade that scheme to a piped system which will continue to take water from the Waitaki River just below the Waitaki Dam and distribute it across the plains south of the river.

In 1965, he married Carolynne and it was no coincidence they began married life in Omarama. He was as pragmatic at 19 as he is now. His new job as a grader driver for the Ministry of Works came with a house – the perfect set-up for a newly-married couple. At the time, the depot and the heavy machinery stationed there was key to maintaining the main roads north, south and east of the town. The road from Otematata to Omarama, from Omarama north to Buscot station backpackers, and from Killermont Station to the top of the Lindis were gravel roads, Kevin said.

Back then there were no holiday homes in Omarama, only permanent residents lived in what was primarily a rural servicing town. There was the motel which later became the Omarama Motor Lodge and is now Heritage Gateway Hotel, the Rabbit Board staff and families, plus quite a large community which managed and ran what was the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry scientific research station at Tara Hills.

The population of Omarama would have been under 200, he said, and the town extended as far east as Sutherland Rd.

By 1969, Kevin was working for a private contractor - JR Bishop - who had the job of building a new Omarama subdivision for the Waitaki County Council. The task included creating three cul-de-sacs which extended the township eastwards to just past Totara

Peak Cres. As 2IC for Bishop, with 45 staff, together they tackled roading jobs like the Shotover Bridge approaches, the realignment of SH1 at Shag Point, and the bulk of the main race for the Lower Waitaki Irrigation Scheme.

By then the Grants and their young family were stationed in Herbert. James and Julie were born in Otematata and the youngest, Aaron, was born in Queenstown.

But "I was never home", he says regretfully.

It was the time of the great construction projects and he worked throughout the South Island. Closer to home his crew was employed as "daily hire" to help work on the Upper Waitaki Hydro Scheme canals, at Twizel – they had their own separate camp on the construction project. And it was about that time the highway was extended from Otematata to Sailors Cutting.

In 1982, he made the decision to "go out on my own", bought a D6 bulldozer and hired himself out for "farm work". It wasn't the best of times - drought and removal of farm subsidies hit North Otago farmers hard - but it was that economic downturn which brought the family back to Omarama – there was more work up this way.

A lot of the work was "track work" or "general drains" but the winter slowdown on the farm saw him take up the job of keeping the Ohau Ski-field access road clear through winter. "It filled in the winters, there's not a lot of dozer work in the winter."

It was sometimes precarious work which caused a few worries "for others", but didn't worry him overly, he says. With interest rates on loans in the 1980's soaring to 27% there had to be money coming in regularly to pass back to the bank. However, he does confess he'd not be worried if he "never saw another snowflake".

When the Omarama Gazette catches up with him he's working in 30-plus degree heat, but he doesn't mind that.

He's now on his fifth digger – a Caterpillar 312C Hydraulic Excavator – bought in 2008 which has clocked up 12,000 hours. Quite a substantial number of those hours have been spent volunteering. As well as fire-fighting duties, Kevin's helped out with earthworks for the Golf Club, the Omarama Hall and Community Centre and the Fire Station, to name just a few projects. "You live in the community, you do your bit," he says.

Retirement's on the cards but not yet. The work is so varied, and because he's a 'one-man-band' he scarcely ever sits still. His checks his fitness app which tells him he climbed the equivalent of 57 flights of stairs and trekked about 7.5km the previous day. Clearing drains is not so much fun but he does like the farm track work, and he's also enjoyed using that exacting eye to create landscaped gardens.

"You can see where you've been at the end of the day." Surveying the lie of the land, and getting down to work and sculpting out the required design has become almost instinctive but it still requires absolute concentration, not only so the client's requirements are met, exactly, but also for safety.

"You have to be conscious of what you are doing all the time, you do get the odd fright... it brings you back to reality."

As we scan the hills he admits, "There's not much of this country I haven't been over" – and points out the Vodafone tower overlooking Otematata, 460m up, at Tin Hat Bluff.



The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here.

email: omaramagazette@gmail.com

The riders on the Central South Island Charity Bike Ride will leave Timaru on February 21 for the three-day 367km ride which includes a stop in Omarama and which raises fund for charities and community organisations in the region.

This year's Otago Goldfields Trust Cavalcade to Hawea begins on February 23.

Three walking trails, two mountain bike trails and six horse-riding and wagon trails will start from throughout the region on February 23, and travel through farm and mountain country to finish in Hawea on March 2. The Tussock Creek Light Wagons and riders trail starts at Ribbonwood

Station, near Omarama, while the Cobb and Co Heavy Wagon and riders trail starts from Shirlmar Station in the Lindis Valley. The Veterinary Centre Dam Busters riding trail starts at Waitangi, near Lake Aviemore.

The Alps 2 Ocean Ultra endurance race will be between February 24 and March 2. Competitors arrive at Lake Middleton at the end of stage three **of the race, on day two.**

The Omarama Community Library is open 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, and Tuesdays from 7pm to 8pm at the Omarama Community Centre.

Contact Anna: 021 132 5586

The Omarama Golf Club Saturdays tee-off 1pm. Twilight golf tee-off is 6pm, Thursdays. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley, 027 347 8276. 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 president Andrea Aubrey, 03 438 9863; vice president Ruby Milestone, 03 438 9401, secretary Carla Hunter, 03 976 0504

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 on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at its flying ground at the Omarama airfield. All welcome - Contact Don Selbie on 027 435 5516.

FENZ 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: Petrina Paton 027 345 6192

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.

A special notice for you to pass on to all those who subscribe to our email but did not receive the latest issue of the Omarama Gazette. Please add the email address omaramagazette@gmail.com to your contacts 'address' book so all systems know we are friends and not evil spam.

**Advertising pays for
production and distribution.**

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

**The March issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, March 6, 2019.**

**Please submit copy
by Friday, March 1.**

The Community Reports

FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Fire and Emergency Omarama has had a very quiet January.

The message from all fire volunteers is the same... With conditions getting dry, please check its alright before you light - <http://www.checkitsalright.nz/>

- Stay safe, Chief Fire Officer Terry Walsh

FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month.

FENZ Omarama Rural Fire



"As most of us know, the rural fire crew were dispatched in conjunction with the Brigade, as well as the Kurow, Otematata, Twizel and Twizel rural fire crews to the hay fire at Tara Hills. I would like to thank those behind the scenes who made food and supplied drinks, great effort and much appreciated. Thanks to Kevin Grant for dropping what he was doing to assist, as he always does to all rural calls when required."

As summer finally arrives, with it has come record temperatures. As we are currently in a Restricted Fire Season, permits are still being issued and it's up to the permit holder to weigh up whether to burn or not. Check the FENZ website and check "It's alright before you light" I asked, in the last publication of the Gazette, if you intend to burn, could you notify us, but coming back from a call recently, a farmer opted to ignore that request and it does put us on edge as we are getting tired, so a courtesy call would be appreciated. Last week, I was informed of a vegetation fire at Ohau Village and though the locals got the fire out, noted it had the potential to consume a dwelling as the fire came very close to two outside gas bottles. We can only stress, "In case of fire, call 111" as we need to be rolling, regardless of whether it is a false alarm, to save time. FENZ have created a 'new' Rural Fire Unit in Twizel, recently, and I was invited up to meet and greet. They have a great bunch of Guys/Girls and we will be training from time to time to strengthen local resources. As always, if you interested in joining up with Rural Fire, come along to the Omarama Fire Station on a Wednesday night at 7pm and have a look around and weigh up your options or call me on 027 441 8612.

- Jimmy Courtney Deputy Rural Fire Chief

Omarama Residents' Association

The major focus while the group has been enjoying a summer recess has been the drive to sell 250 tickets in the Omarama Sports Courts raffle.

The latest news is that all tickets have been sold and the draw, which must be held under police supervision, has taken place.

The winners have been notified and the results are published on the previous page and on the Omarama Gazette Facebook Page.

Please note: the Association now has its own post office box.

Could all those who want contact the Association by mail, send accounts to be paid, or have correspondence considered at the monthly meetings ensure it is addressed to: The Secretary, P O Box 93, Omarama 9448.

Topics for discussion at the next meeting will include:

- A discussion about the upcoming Waitaki District Council's District Plan Review.
- An update on progress on the Omarama Sports Courts project.
- The future of the Omarama Scout Den

All are welcome

**The next meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association will be
7.30 pm, Thursday, February 21, at the Omarama Community Centre.**

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

Omarama Community Library

The Omarama Community Library is
holding a meeting
following its evening session,
on Tuesday, February 19,
at the Omarama Community Centre.

The meeting will begin at 8pm.

If you are a volunteer, want to be a volunteer, or have ideas
or suggestions for the library
please feel free to come along.

For more details
please contact: Anna 021 132 5586.

Omarama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

Summer golf is here with great turnouts for our Saturday club days. We have also had many green fee players from across New Zealand and overseas.

Thank you to all those who helped install power and water to the equipment shed. This has made life a lot easier for those utilising the shed and they are now able to work 24 hours!! (just joking).

The weather produced a gusty day, but our New Year tournament was a huge success again this year. We had 71 entries from about 15 clubs across the South Island. As always, the 19th hole provided many laughs and tales of the great shots made or missed!

The winners on the day:

Overall winner (by lot): Craig McDermott (Ben Ohau) 41 stablefords.

Senior Men: Ron MacPhail (Omarama) 41 stablefords; Tim Larkins (Ben Ohau) 37 stablefords; Peter Trusler (Omarama) 37 stablefords.

Junior Men: Lewis Gillies (North Otago/Omarama) 40 stablefords; Ross Cameron (Ben Ohau) 40 stablefords; Greg Harper (Omarama) 40 stablefords.

Ladies: Kate Grant (Tokarahi) 40 stablefords; Rebecca Best (Pleasant Point) 38 stablefords; Mary McIlraith (Pleasant Point/Omarama) 36 stablefords.

A huge thank you to all our sponsors who support the club, as without them the tournament wouldn't be possible. Also, to our committee and members that had the course looking top notch, which all our visitors acknowledged and appreciated. A few more congratulations to our members that have placed well in recent tournaments at other clubs:

North Otago Senior Men's : Adrian Tuffley, 2nd =

Otematata Junior Men's: James McIlraith, 1st

Otematata Ladies: Mary McIlraith 2nd

The Golf Club held its annual general meeting and the following is our committee for 2019. Feel free to contact anyone below for information about our club.

President	Greg Harper
Vice President	Paul Bowman
Secretary	Christine Bowman
Treasurer	Adrienne Harper
Club Captain	Adrian Tuffley
Course Convener	John Anderson
Clubhouse Convener	Brent Fokkens
Other Committee Members:	Ant Ford, Jim Harkin, Peter Trusler

Put this date in your diary for our Easter tournament SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2019.

Photos (next page) New Year Tournament : supplied



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
- * Do take photo identification
- * Remember to take the original as well as the copy to be certified
- * Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



Georgie Robertson
Omarama

03 438 9554 027 4861525



Vicky Munro
Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



Malcolm McMillan
Lake Ohau Village

03 438 9798 027 4389798



A team from Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama joined the 16,000-strong crowd for an afternoon of mud and music at this year's Gibbston Valley concert. Our roving photographer Lex Perriam captured this moment.

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



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control lead to a
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be it financial, climatic or personal
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ready to assist.
Services are free and confidential.**

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Omarama Airfield Ltd

An update from the Directors following their Board meeting of January, 2019.

The Airfield

The Omarama region has experienced one of the wettest springs and early summers on record so the airfield's grassed runway and surrounds are in great condition for this time of the year. Continuing irrigation will, however, be required to sustain the moisture levels as the season warms up.

Airfield Café

A new tenant, Tanya McAughtrie, took up the cafe operation in August last year and at that time the board committed to a building refurbishment programme to ensure the property was fit for purpose. The outcome of significant investment by the company and the tenant is a café, "The Pink Glider", which provides a real asset for the airfield and is proving to be popular with airfield users, local residents and airfield visitors.

The Terminal Building

The board is starting a review of the terminal building with the aim of undertaking a long overdue refurbishment of the property. Current tenants and users will be consulted and the aim is to establish a facility that is attractive and provides interest for visitors through focus on the history of gliding in Omarama.

Events

Over the past three months the airfield has hosted the South Island Regional Gliding Championships, the Youth Glide Development Camp, attended by 34 youth glide members, and the New Zealand Multi Class Gliding Championships.

All three events were successfully completed although concern was raised about the lower entry numbers for this year's national competitions. The company will continue to support these events as and when appropriate and will work with contest organisers on enhancing contestant numbers.

Winch Launching for Gliders

Currently glider launching is undertaken by tow planes which provide an efficient service but at a cost that is often a challenge for new pilots. In particular many Youth Glide members, who are the future of the sport, find tow plane fees a barrier. The organisation Youth Glide, have commenced a funding project in order to purchase a winch which will be based in Omarama to provide their members and other users with a lower cost launch option. The company is wholly supportive of this initiative and has taken responsibility for funding and developing the winch-only runway that will enable the operation to proceed. The ambition is to have winch launching available on the airfield as from December this year.

Briefly

The board is progressing :

- land-use options for the airfield.

discussions with adjoining land owners and has replaced its aged utility vehicle.

Clive Geddes clivegeddes@extra.co.nz

Terry Jones morganjones@extra.co.nz

Richard Subtil subtil@omaramastation.co.nz

Glen Claridge glenclaridge@yahoo.com



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 03 4360760 F: 03 4360780

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 and Mackenzie**

**Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinics
in Twizel (Mackenzie Health Centre Private Clinic)
and Omarama (Community Hall)**

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- * Minor surgery
- * Vasectomies
- * Mole mapping and removal
- * Steroid injections
- * Venesection
- * Aviation, workplace and driving medicals
- * Botox for Wrinkle reduction
- * Workplace health screening
- * Counselling
- * Spirometry to diagnose asthma and COPD
- * Hearing and sight tests for adults and children
- * Ear syringing
- * Liquid nitrogen for warts, verruca's and skin lesions
- * Cardiovascular risk assessment and diabetic checks (funded for eligible patients)
- * Travel advice and vaccination
- * Cervical smears (funded for eligible patients)
- * Seasonal flu shots and shingles vaccine (funded for eligible patients)
- * Childhood immunisation
- * Before school checks
- * Postnatal and six-week baby health check

And much more!

**GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$40.00
Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

We also offer the following services from external Health Care Providers:

- *Podiatry and Ear Health (Kurow only)
- *Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Massage (Kurow and Twizel)
- *Reiki and Reflexology (Twizel only)

Opening hours

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm; Omarama: Tuesday 8.30am to 5pm

Twizel: Monday and Friday 8.30 to 5pm; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am to 3pm
and Saturday 10am to 1pm

Please note: We provide 24/7 on call after hours cover by our doctors and PRIME nurses for all our registered and casual patients!

**If you require further information or an appointment, please contact us on:
For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503**

Southern District
Health Board

Bowel screening

for 60 to 74 year olds



National
Bowel
Screening
Programme

The Southern district has some of the highest rates of bowel cancer in New Zealand. Regular bowel screening can save lives by helping find cancer early when it can often be successfully treated.

The free National Bowel Screening Programme is being rolled out across the Southern district. It is being offered to men and women aged 60 to 74 years who are eligible for publicly funded healthcare.

When it is your turn to be screened you will be sent an invitation letter, a consent form and a free bowel screening test kit through the mail.

You'll receive your first invitation within two years of the programme starting.

The test is done at home, and is clean and simple to do. Bowel screening is for people without symptoms of bowel cancer. If you have any bowel symptoms that concern you please see your doctor now, don't wait for the screening.

Find out more about symptoms of bowel cancer and the screening programme at timetoscreen.nz or by phoning 0800 924 432.



National
Bowel
Screening
Programme

Southern District
Health Board



New Zealand Government

Bowel Screening for Free

If you live on the Otago side of the Waitaki River you should, at some stage, get an invitation to be screened for bowel cancer if aged between 60 and 74.

We urge you to take up the offer. Those who have already done it say it is quite easy to follow the instructions and get it done. The results go to your GP and to you.

At this stage it is not on offer for South Canterbury residents.

For further information phone the nurse at Kurow Medical Centre.

Waitaki District Council - news in brief

The District Plan review team held drop-in sessions in Kurow, Otematata and Omarama last month, so residents could have their say. People were also able to respond online through the council website.

There were 69 online responses. There were 30 responses from Ohau and the majority of these were against further growth. There were 12 responses from Omarama which dealt with the need for more housing, shifting the airfield and retail area, and addressing traffic concerns at the junction. There were 16 responses from Otematata which included a request for a single-story option building code so as to keep the density of housing in the town to its present level. There were 11 responses from Kurow which included a request for better provisions for the elderly.

Toilets and rubbish

Three trailer mounted port-a-loos have been purchased for use at locations where the council deems there to be emerging issues. The Recreation unit will find contractors to service these once the locations have been finalised. The council plans to put up signs which will tell people where the next toilet stop is once they leave Omarama and advise people to 'go' before they leave. 'Big Belly' refuse compaction rubbish bins have been ordered and one will be placed at the Omarama Campervan Dump Station.

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust is bringing Professor Patrick McKeever to the Waitaki between February 18 and 22 to tour the proposed Whitestone Geopark and advise the Trust on any steps that might need to be taken before a potential UNESCO inspection in May/June this year. He will also deliver a public lecture in the Oamaru Opera House at 6pm on February 19.

Prof McKeever is the former chief of Earth Sciences and Geohazard Risk Reduction for UNESCO, covering roles such as Global Coordinator for the Global Geoparks Network, Secretary of the International Geoscience Programme and Head of Global Earth Observation within the Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences. He was previously principal geologist with the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, and a Professor at National University of Malaysia.

Waitaki Community Groups are invited to [apply for funding](#). The Waitaki District Council is inviting local charitable groups and community organisations to apply for their share of community grant funding to go towards special projects and programmes to help enhance their local community. Funding rounds for the first half of 2019 open soon.

Community Group Grants were set up by the Waitaki District Council to assist not-for-profit organisations and groups based in the Waitaki district with projects. **The Creative Communities Scheme** is supported by Creative New Zealand to encourage community participation in the arts, support cultural diversity and enable young people to engage with the arts.

The Rural Travel Fund was launched by Sport New Zealand in response to concerns raised by Territorial Authorities about the lack of participation in sports by young people living in rural communities.

Phone: 03 433 0300

Freephone 0800 108 081 - Automated options after hours

E-mail: service@waitaki.govt.nz

www.waitaki.govt.nz

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is
3.15pm to 5.15pm Monday, March 11
at the Lakes Centre, Otematata.**

Waitaki District Health Services Ltd

A Waitaki District Health Community Forum about the future of Oamaru Hospital was held last month at the Oamaru Opera House.

Oamaru Hospital clinical director Dr Pragati Gautama, Waitaki District Health Services board members Dr Andrew Wilson, Mark Rogers and Helen Algar, chairman Chris Swann, Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean, Oamaru Hospital chief executive Ruth Kibble and Timaru Hospital chief medical officer Dr Robyn Carey were present to explain more about the Oamaru Hospital's shift to a rural health model and answer questions.

The Otago Daily Times reported Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher chaired the meeting, which was attended by about 100 people.

You can read more at this link:
www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/shift-rural-health-model-hospital-defended

*Dr Pragati Gautama,
Oamaru Hospital clinical director.
Photo: supplied*





PUBLIC LECTURE

Professor

PATRICK
McKEEVER



Professor Patrick McKeever was instrumental in establishing the first Global Geoparks in 2000. Head of Ecological and Earth Sciences at UNESCO and advisor to the Global Geopark Network, he has undertaken numerous expert missions, advising countries on every continent regarding the creation of UNESCO Global Geoparks.

In New Zealand as a guest of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust, this talk will allow Patrick to share his knowledge of geoparks worldwide, his impressions of ours, and what it means for our district.

“The role
of Global
Geoparks
in a
changing
world”

OAMARU OPERA HOUSE
.....
TUES 19TH FEB, 6PM

**ENTRY BY
GOLD COIN DONATION**

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Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust



*Photo of Patrick McKeever by IISD/Klara Worth and Diego Noguera
(enb.iisd.org/iucn/congress/2016/5sep.html)*

COMMUNITY GROUP GRANTS

Could your community group use a funding boost towards a special project? Big or small - we want to hear from you!

Applications close: 22 March 2019



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME

Waitaki District
creative
COMMUNITIES *nz*

Funding for local
arts projects

Applications close: 15 March 2019



SPORT NEW ZEALAND Rural Travel Fund

Grants to help subsidise rural travel to local sporting competitions for junior sport teams aged between 5-19 years

Applications close: 04 March 2019



All information, including application forms, can be found on our website and at Council offices

www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI



Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

Take your own picnic and leave the stunning view.

Use a picnic set and reusable containers to enjoy a low-waste lunch without leaving any rubbish behind. Don't let waste get into our lakes and rivers – it can impact water quality.

Here's a few tips for a low-waste picnic:

- Pack your sandwiches rather than buying them in wrapping.
- Use beeswax wraps or reusable containers for carrying food.
- Fruit is a great low-waste option.
- Pack a reusable water bottle and flask for waste-free drinks.
- Use a face cloth for wiping hands and faces.
- Take home any waste – including bottles, packaging and food waste – or use provided rubbish bins.

Remember to use the toilet facilities provided as well!

www.ecan.govt.nz/upperwaitaki



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

 fb.com/canterburywater

E18/7002

Environment Canterbury news in brief

Environment Canterbury's Nutrient Management and Waitaki Plan Change, Plan Change 5, to the Land & Water Regional Plan, is operative as of February 1, 2019. The plan change deals with the effects of land uses, particularly farming activities, on water quality at a region-wide level, and ensures the effective management of water quality in its Waitaki sub-region. It is the final step in a three-year process which involved the industry agreeing on and setting "Good Management Practice" as minimum standards for all farming activities. The nutrient management rules apply in all catchments in the region not currently the subject of sub-region plans.

Ecan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is working with a landowner to complete a fencing project to keep stock out of two lakes and three tarns. The project has been granted funding from the committee's Immediate Steps programme. It will complete the fencing of Lake Alexandrina and fence Lake Murray as well as the Tui, Stony and Grebe Tarn to protect the water quality and reduce disturbance of bird species such as the Black Stilt. The committee has also approved funding from the same programme to help rabbit-proof fence two lifestyle properties near Twizel to protect and promote the natural regeneration at the site. The two properties are dominated by a diverse range of native species but threatened by grazing by rabbits and hares. The landowners will also manage and maintain the rabbit eradication on their properties.

Campers and holidaymakers are advised to take care and keep up-to-date with weather conditions when choosing campsites by the Waitaki and Mackenzie lakes, rivers and streams over the holiday season. Heavy nor-west rain can occur in the main divide, which may result in a rapid rise in water levels in rivers and streams. If you are planning to visit lakes and rivers, or camp nearby, check the latest weather forecast before heading out, as well as monitoring ECan's rainfall data and river flow data.

ECan navigation safety officer Gary Manch is asking boaties to report their accidents following a handful of incidents during the holiday period. The incidents were spread across Lake Benmore, Loch Laird, and Morven in southern Canterbury and North Otago. Manch said this was a learning opportunity so asked for people to come forward so the harbourmaster's office could be of more assistance to boaties in the future. People could also report incidents to Maritime New Zealand.

You can read more about these topics on the ECan website

www.ecan.govt.nz

**The next meeting of
ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee
is 9.30 am Friday, February 15, 2019,
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/>



15 Mackenzie Drive PH: 4350777

OPENING HOURS

We are now open for appointments.

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8.30am to 5pm	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
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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.

We will be also be advertising other services as these come on stream.

Please make inquiries with our reception. 4350777

Enrol With Us

Twizel Medical Centre is an enrolling practice. When you are an enrolled patient your fees are reduced. Please feel free to come in see our centre and talk to the team about our services and enrolling. Because our centre is community owned and has charitable status, any surplus can be reinvested into improving access to services for our community.

**Come and join us
and be part of growing services for our community.**

MACKENZIE PERFORMING ARTS ACADEMY

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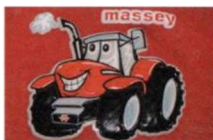
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The FAQs - Those Five Awkward Questions with...

Jason and Lynley Pryde

Jason and Lynley Pryde have moved to Omarama this year from Wanaka after holidaying here at Lake Benmore Holdiay Park for the past seven years.

Their adult twin daughters Shenee and Alyssa have began their working careers in Wanaka and Dunedin respectively.

Jason is Breen Construction Area and project manager. Lynley manages her own business, Launch Office Solutions, from home

What is the best piece of advice you have been given?

"Make a timeline, make a plan." Jason

"Treat others how you would like to be treated" Lynley

"Tell us something about Omarama we might not know?"

"It makes a great base for an adventurer's playground." Jason

"The Pink Glider Café does drinks and beautiful platters - recommend it." Lynley

What was your best impulse buy?

Our section in Wanaka...our section in Omarama."

Best day outside the office?

"Spending time in the great outdoors with the girls, time with family and friends." - Jason

"Sitting in the sun with a good book and a glass of wine." Lynley

What is your wish for the world?

"World peace. There's a lot of time and energy wasted [in conflict] when there are better things to do." Jason.

"For people to be happy in themselves you don't need things [possessions] to make you happy." Lynley





COMING EVENTS-FEBRUARY 2019

ALL SOCIAL CLUB MEMBERS. Be at the Hotel Bar at 6.00pm every Tuesday night and if your number is drawn you will win a \$30.00 bar tab, if the drawn member is not present, the tab will Jack Pot to the following week.

Every Friday Night at 6.00pm the Omarama Fire Brigade are selling Meat Raffles.

Saturday 9th Feb - Spud in the Bucket judging – and BBQ for entrants. Starting at 4.00pm, at 9pm we have live music “Set in Stone”

Super Rugby is fast approaching, \$20.00 to enter the competition & join in the friendly banter. Be in to win a bar tab if you select the most winning teams each week, \$10 jugs for entrants, excludes cider while games are on, and nibbles will be provided for games between the Highlanders and Crusaders.

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The View from the Chook House

What a summer...one minute you're frozen,
next minute, roasting?!



*(NB Although these girls are threatened with the recipe book on some occasions,
be assured, not one feather on their little heads has ever been harmed in the making of these post.)*

**The weather that was
@ 44°29'30.1"S 169°58'20.3"E
January 2019**

Highest temperature: January 31, 37.3C

Lowest temperature: January 24, 2.6C

Most rainfall: January 6, 13.7mm

Total rainfall for January: 37.3mm

The Garden Diary - The struggle is real

Trite platitudes and clichés about weeds and weeding are as profuse as the seeds on a single dandelion head, and just as tiresome.

Especially so when coupled with 'New Year' or 'resolutions'. Sigh!

Triumphing over toxicity, clearing out, letting go, moving on, making a fresh start, none of that makes the chore any easier.

I am suited and gloved up. It's hot, I'm itchy, sneezy and grumpy. Frustrated and fractious? that's putting it very mildly indeed. I have only myself to blame. Darn it!

In this case – to re-word one of those banal aphorisms, 'What I did NOT focus on has grown', With weeding it is mind over matter – if you don't mind then it really does start to matter.

Don't get me wrong, I love gently spreading and self-seeding plants that escape into that gap or quietly get on with business and fill a corner – those blue-eyed forget-me-nots, freckle-faced violas, lacy-leaved alpine geraniums and foamy bishop's flower.

But then there are those patches where the 'wild romantic' look has turned truly feral. Everybody has their demons. For me, this season, it has been pineapple mint.

Like other interlopers that steal your heart it looks so innocuous, smelling sweetly of piña colada and the tropics, or smooth, creamy custards.

Beneath that phony façade lies a troll of the worst kind, determined to take over the world. It has threatened, invaded and choked everything in its path in the herb garden and is now making its determined way across the lawn.

"What will we do today", it sings. "Same as we do everyday...try to take over the world", is the resounding chorus.

You have been warned. I bet you don't listen. I bet you think you know better. Can I have a bit, you'll beg. It won't happen to me, you'll say. I'll watch it carefully, you'll say. Ah, yes. Remember those other enduring words of wisdom from your past you've chosen to ignore to your detriment? Advice like; 'You'll be sorry if you bite the bottom off that ice-cream cone'.

Quite simply it has been a physical tug of war for most of summer to try to beat this invader back. I oscillate between a calm and systematic approach – on a good day I can clear half a metre in an hour - and full on tantrum throwing. For the preservation of everybody's sanity chemical weapons have been deployed, to little or no effect.

Ah yes, and what did you do on your holiday? Exterminate.

"In the spring and at the end of the day you should smell like dirt" – Margaret Atwood's words are beautifully evocative but...no mention of smelling of pineapple mint, sunscreen and sweat!

But I guess, after all, that's what making a garden is about – hard work and lots of love.

Ruth Grundy

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



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