



# ***-Omarama Gazette -***

**May 2019**

Sponsored by

**Glide Omarama**

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## **Just what are the odds?!**

Just what are the odds?

According to Wikipedia, it's 1 in 12,500 for those whose game is still a passion and not a job.

And Omarama golfer Christine Bowman has just nailed one of those history-making moments.

She bagged her first-ever ace on the par-three 14th - Quailburn - hole of the Omarama golf course using a 5-hybrid club – on the last sunny club day in March. Not that she noticed at first.

“Ant [Ford] said he thought it would be good for a two.”

He and Colin Thornley, the other player of the group, were pleased because that would mean the golf club would shout.

But Christine still couldn't find her ball.

“I thought it must have been a through shot.” – hit straight through the green.

“I was busy helping the boys - Colin was in the creek and Ant was in the trees – they both got sixes.”

After some time spent searching for her own ball Ant suggested she check in the cup. Paul, Christine's husband, was at Los Angeles airport waiting for his flight home when he took her call.

“I said; ‘Oh my god, what's gone wrong. Has the house burnt down?!’” as she broke

**This issue is brought to you by ...**

# **Glide Omarama**

*Courtesy of, and with the permission of Rod Dew*

It could have been the Kahu that first discovered the “invisible pathways” of Te Ao Marama’s big sky – one that rode the waves stretching upward into space just for sheer pleasure. Gliding out of Omarama is the closest those of us born ‘earthbound’ and envious can come. And the story of how that came to be is, also, almost the stuff of legends. The South Island’s first glider flight was made in 1950 by the ‘father’ of New Zealand Gliding, Dick Georgeson, in his Slingsby Prefect glider from Simon’s Hill, nearby in the Mackenzie Country. The popularity of the sport grew, and it was not long before gliding enthusiasts found a “highly promising” airstrip on Omarama Station – christened “Wardell’s” after Dick Wardell the station’s owner - to establish a base. Georgeson is reported as saying that it became a place of fun, excitement and relaxation “...a very special and happy place”. In 1962, Georgeson, who was now flying one of the Slingsby company’s latest gliders, a Skylark 3F with the call sign Charlie Foxtrot, became the first person to break a world record flying out of Omarama. His single-seat out-and-return from Omarama to Hanmer and back covered 1087.4 kms. Fast forward almost 60 years, and just a little further down SH8, and you’ll find Omarama Airfield, developed for the 1995 World Championships, is well-established as a world-renowned gliding centre – a place where world records are made to be broken. The most recent record was set in February last year by Alaskan Keith Essex in his ASG 29 Es - 500 km, out and return at an average speed of 255 kph. Glide Omarama and its international mountain soaring school led by Gavin Wills, has become central to Omarama Airfield operations. It has 11 gliders and three tow planes and includes the largest fleet of high performance Duo Discuses in the world. The family-run operation employs 20 staff during the high season and operates year-round. Gavin, with his background as geologist and mountaineer, and his encyclopaedic knowledge of soaring in the South Island, who first flew from “Wardell’s” in the 1960s, has developed one of the most respected gliding companies in the world. He knows every glacial valley and mountain ridge of the surrounding spectacular terrain. And he delights in sharing everything that this mountain gliding playground has to offer with others. “Wave, ridge, thermals, convergence, It’s all here.”



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## *Continued from page one*

the news, he recalls, laughing.

Christine began playing golf only four years ago.

“Paul and I learnt together. I learnt how to play and how to swear.”

Other husbands quip that they play golf “to get away from the wife”, Paul chips in.

Christine plays twice a week – at Gleniti - Timaru, on Tuesdays, and in Omarama, on Saturdays, and has a 14.9 handicap.

The couple's love of the game has taken them to golf courses around the world – wherever their holidays take them.

Kate Sutherland was the last Omarama golfer to ace a hole in one ‘at home’, in 1993, on the 11th hole.

Christine is only the third person to have scored an ace at the Omarama course.

A hole-in-one is only recorded if it is hit on a competition day.

The course is a challenge because it's a country course – “the ball can bounce anywhere”, she says.

As tradition demands it was down to Christine to shout “the boys” and the club, making for a late night of celebrating.

After spending the night in town she walked back to the club at 5.30am to pick up the car before heading to Christchurch Airport to pick up Paul.

Christine understands, as well as her name being added to the club hole-in-one board, she will receive a trophy and a certificate from New Zealand Golf.

Plus, she now qualifies to join the prestigious golfers' “Two-Under” club.

The Omarama Golf Club was established in 1974



# A new generation pays its respects

Many families were among the crowd who gathered to pay their respects to New Zealand's servicemen and women at this year's Anzac Day service in Omarama. The service, which was attended by more than 200 people, took place under sunny skies at the Memorial Rock.

Upper Waitaki Returned and Services Association president Indiana Gard noted many families, with children of all ages, were present.

It was a "day of reflection", to remember those soldiers who "stood up for their country".

And, although Anzac Day commemorated defeat at Gallipoli, that day also marked a beginning for New Zealand as it emerged as a nation with its own role to play, Mrs Gard said.

In what was a poignant moment, Ordinary Electronic Technician Walsh of the Royal New Zealand Navy – Dani (19) - formerly of Omarama, now based at Devonport – marched alongside her father, FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Terry Walsh, to lead the parade from the Memorial Hall to the Rock.

The New Zealand Defence forces were also represented by Senior Lieutenant Commander Geoff Andrew, of the RNZ Navy.

Omarama School pupils Elise Mathias, Laura Patterson and Eliza-Jayne Coetzee led those gathered in New Zealand's national anthem.

Laura and fellow pupil Balin Sole read passages explaining the significance of wearing a poppy.

A wreath created by the school pupils was laid on their behalf by Paige Doree.

Waitaki District Councillor Craig Dawson gave the address.

The Ode was read by Alice Griffiths, the bugler was John Sturgeon, and Bill Wallace lowered the flag. (All are of Kurow.)

Three armed police provided extra security for the Waitaki Valley parades and services in the wake of the Christchurch terror attack.





# A special Anzac Day for Dani and Terry

That moment when you return to your home town to march for your country in its Anzac Day parade – it's going to be a tough one to beat.

But for ordinary electronic technician Walsh(19) – Dani - of the Royal New Zealand Navy, it's bound to be only one of many unforgettable moments in the career which stretches out in front of her. The ordinary rating, formerly of Omarama now based at Devonport, is 14 months into her training. She has completed basic training, is working her way through trade training, and hopes to be "on a ship" for her first posting, "by September". They're not told what and they're not told where. "It's been great, I've learnt so much, I've grown a lot." She was "really proud" to return to Omarama for Anzac Day commemorations, to take part "in uniform" and march with her father, FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Terry, in the parade.

"It gives much more meaning to Anzac Day, I appreciate it so much more," she said. Her experiences had also given her a greater understanding of what it meant to leave home to serve overseas and just how important the support of family was, she said.

It was a "hugely proud" and emotional moment for him, Terry said.

Mastering the intricacies of the dress uniform was not to be underestimated – with "all the little bits and bobs" each representing a navy tradition, Dani said. But she has all that off pat – it takes her eight minutes.

RNZN Senior Lieutenant Commander Geoff Andrew also attended Omarama's Anzac service as the New Zealand Defence Force official representative. He described Dani as "a pretty pragmatic young lady, who will do very well".

Snr Lt Cmdr Andrew, who specialises in communications, has served in the Middle East, East Timor and the Pacific, and is now based in Christchurch.

He attended the Twizel dawn service and was continuing to Waimate for the service there. Omarama's was "a moving service", he said.

Although he had attended Anzac services in the Middle East and East Timor it was always special to attend the small home town commemorations.

"This is what it's all about."



# More than a trip down memory lane

New Zealand champion dog trialist Ginger Anderson has never let distance come between him and his great love – dog trialling.

This month, the 73-year-old New Zealand Sheep Dog Trial Association life member and fellow Omarama Collie Dog Club trialist Rick Aubrey will fly Air New Zealand to Auckland with their dogs then rent a vehicle to travel to the Tux North Island and New Zealand Championships in Te Ahuahu, Ohaeawai, near Kaikohe, Northland.

However, that's a relatively tame approach given the journey Ginger made there in 1987.

That trip made national television.

That year 20 South Island competitors (including Lloyd Smith of Palmerston, and David Crutchley and Eric Stringer of Kyeburn) and their 40 dogs made the journey in a converted DC3

All the passenger seats were removed from one side of the plane and replaced with cages for the dogs, Ginger said.

On the day of travel the plane took off early from the US Navy's Antarctic Base, Christchurch, flew to Paraparaumu where it refueled, and made a second stopover in Taranaki before flying on to Kaikohe and landing on a grass airstrip, Ginger says, "just out in the paddock".

At first the DC3 travelled at 9,000ft but the dogs "didn't like it".

Many whined, Ginger says, although his didn't and he thinks that may have been because they were used to higher altitudes.

Anyhow, the pilot took the aircraft down to 7,000ft which is, of course, less fuel efficient and consequently more costly.

Country Calendar filmed the whole adventure.

Ginger and Snow won the first round of those trials – the North Island championships - by a record five points, a record that's not been broken. And they went on to come fourth in the second round – the New Zealand championships.

A lot of the competitors were 'airsick' on the journey home, Ginger says.

"But at least we got home quickly ... getting there we were really excited ... going home everyone is always buggered."

This year, Ginger enquired about making the journey the same way but because the DC3s are now fitted out for luxury tours the costs to convert one to carry dogs and trialists would be "astronomical" plus it's no longer expensive to fly Air New Zealand.

There will be stiff competition for titles.

The Child family are "prominent" dog trialists in Northland.

"They're good operators."

Murray Child and Dice won the Long Head at the New Zealand championships, in Omarama, in 2016, and came fourth in the South Islands, and Neville Child and Harry took second place in the Islands and seventh in the New Zealand championships in the same event.

The Northland terrain is quite different – "volcanic humps and bumps".

The whole course is laid out around an extinct volcano.

And the sheep are different, usually cross-breeds, and a challenge.

One year they were old ewes destined for the freezing works.

"They knew every trick in the book".

It does make it a little easier if you can go in with a dog you have confidence in, Ginger says.

This season Boss has given a stellar performance easily qualifying with more than 60 points for both the Tux South Island championships, which begin on Monday in Hanmer, and for the New Zealand's.

Quite a contingent from the Omarama club will attend the South Islands.

Ed Aubrey, of Dalrachney Station, is to judge Event I – the long head.

As well, Scott Hunter, Rick and Ginger will campaign dogs.

Rick with Toby and Sky, and Scott with Rangī and Crest have qualified for the long head.

Rick with Trump, Toby and Sky, Scott with Crest and Rangī, and Ginger with Boss will campaign in Event II, the short head and yard.

Scott with Barb, Harry and Ollie have qualified for both huntaway events.

The North Island and New Zealand championships begin May 27

*Below: Omarama dog trialist Ginger Anderson recalls a history-making trip.*

*Ginger and fellow trialist Lloyd Smith with their dogs are pictured in the photograph.*

*Right: Ginger and Boss will join the rest of the Omarama Collie Dog Club contingent heading away for dog trial competitions this month*



# An unexpected love story

It's an unexpected love story - of the love of gliding and the love of a good woman. She was "sketched out on the back of an envelope" over lunch between two kindred spirits with a vision.

It was a long lunch.

Helmut - Helli – Lasch's wife, Orcillia, patiently waited for him outside in the car until at last he emerged from meeting Bjorn Stender at 5pm.

This is only the start of the story told so eloquently by gliding 'legend' Justin Wills as he slides his glider – Orcillia II - smoothly from the hanger and begins to demonstrate how she is disassembled for transport.

It has to be the sleekest craft ever destined to be air-borne.

Reverently, step-by-step, her wings are detached and carefully encased in the trailer.

And step-by-step Justin continues the history lesson.

German-born South African industrialist Helli learnt to glide in Switzerland, in 1947, and quickly became an accomplished and passionate glider pilot.

In the early 1950s he represented South Africa in three world championships.

In 1961, he returned to Germany on a business trip and went to look at a new high-performance single seat glider designed and built by students from Brunswick University.

Consequently, the long lunch with young engineering student Björn and a new design - begun on the back of that envelope - for a prototype built in the new material – fibreglass.

Helli helped finance the project to create the Björn Stender BS-1 and commissioned two "super-exotic very, very streamlined gliders" to be made.

And as thanks for her patience he asked the glider be named for Orcillia, Justin said. Björn was killed in 1963, while test flying the second BS-1, when the glider broke up at high speed.

Although this meant there were now questions about the design, Helli had already taken possession of the first model.

He had "three wonderful years" flying the BS-1 until he "over-speeded it and the wing fell off" and he landed out in a small field.

Helli bailed out as the glider disintegrated in the air around him.



*Below: Helli Lasch*





A gathering crowd surrounded the crash scene and someone asked Helli where the pilot was. He was quick to reply; 'I think he got away to avoid publicity', Justin said. Nonetheless, the accident still made the front page – something which necessitated a bit of a confession from Helli at breakfast with Orcillia the next morning. 'When I said I'd left the bird down in the field, what I neglected to say was I'd left it in rather a lot of bits', he told her. Orcillia, seeing "how desperately sad" he was to have lost the glider, ordered an H-301 Libelle to replace the BS-1. At Helli's request Porsche broke with convention and agreed to supply the same navy-blue leather for the cockpit as that of Helli's car. The new bird was duly christened Orcillia II. In 1982, at age 70, Helli acquired a Glaser-Dirks DG-400 - a single-seat self-launching motorglider – in which he died on approach to land at Parys. Helli left Orcillia II to Justin.

*Below:  
Omarama Model Aircraft club member Bevan Allan (left)  
and gliding 'legend' Justin Wills  
slide the distinctive Orcillia II from the hanger, at Omarama Airfield.*

*Right  
Justin demonstrates how Orcillia II is disassembled for transport.*



# Street Rodders in heaven at Omaradise

Last month's gathering of 76 custom-built pre-1949 hot rods in Omarama represented a collective passion worth well over a million dollars, one enthusiast estimates.

The 150 auto-enthusiasts - members of the Pre-49 Street Rodders club - were taking part in their 'Rod Run' and were based in Twizel for the three-day event.

While there the group visited club members Murray and Sharon Stuart's property, Omaradise, for a relaxing afternoon of socialising, games, music, and some aerobatic entertainment provided by Gavin Wills, of Glide Omarama.

President of the club John 'Skinny' Thorpe, of Oamaru, who builds the modified vehicles, said it was a "fantastic venue".

Skinny brought his fibreglass 1940s Willys Coupe to the event. *(Photo: below right)*

While it seems he would gladly spend every waking moment in the workshop his day job is property manager for Ray White Real Estate, where his wife Marie Thorpe is agent.

"She tells me she's keeping me in the style to which I am accustomed," he said, laughing.

Murray and Sharon's block features two old musterers' huts which he has renovated into a country tack room, and a 1930-50s, almost 'wild west' elegant hair salon (Sharon is a hairdresser).

There's also his man cave - fittingly blokey with wood, stone, iron and leather, which features re-purposed fittings and fixtures, all with history, each with a story.

But the pièce de résistance - the real draw-card and envy of all street-rodders - was the '¼-mile' oval dirt race track, where some "unofficial" racing might or might not take place, Skinny said.

Whenever the club stages an event it likes to "give back to the community", he said. This year the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade were invited to provide lunch as part of its fundraising towards hosting the Wajax 2020 competition.







# Information sought on illegal dumping

*Copy supplied by Environment Canterbury*

Environment Canterbury would like to hear from anyone with information about the illegal dumping of three diesel tanks near a stream north of Omarama.

The diesel tanks - thought to be from a car and two light trucks - were found recently by a member of the public off Quailburn Road, near both Willowburn Stream and the Ahuriri River.

They alerted ECan and staff inspected the site and removed the rubbish.

ECan southern zone manager Chris Eccleston said the illegal dumping, which included remnants of diesel that was left in the tanks, was both environmentally irresponsible and a waste of resources, time and money.

"It would be great to hear from anyone who can help. Our team are making enquiries but would like to raise awareness with people who were near the area, from late February to mid-March, who may have seen the rubbish being dumped."

Members of the wider Upper Waitaki community - Karl Russell from Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Emma Subtil, of Omarama Station, and Mananui Ramsden, Pou Mātai Kō with ECan, are also urging anyone with information to call the ECan incident response line to help find the person or persons responsible.

Mr Russell described the culprits as 'lazy'.

"They have no empathy with the environment and don't give a stuff about the environment for the future of our mokopuna," he said.

"It is very disrespectful and unnecessary. We all need to be responsible for taking care of our waterways and environment," Miss Subtil said.

**Anyone with information is urged to call the  
ECan incident response line: 0800 765 588**

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## Parking at the cemetery - an update

The New Zealand Transport Agency will install folding signs either side of the Omarama Cemetery entrance on SH8 to assist with traffic control during an interment.

In response to the story published last month, NZTA network manager Chris Harris told the Omarama Gazette he has commissioned the "semi-permanent" folding signs to be installed 250m in advance of the cemetery entrance.

"These signs can be opened out, should there be an interment, to provide additional warning to motorists and improve safety for mourners, then closed once the service is complete."

As well, the matter has been put on the agency's "Register of Access Issues".

The register prioritises projects for when the necessary funding becomes available to do the work, Mr Harris said. The move follows concerns about the safety of visitors raised by Ahuriri Community Board member Vicky Munro and Senior Constable Nayland Smith, of Omarama.



# Omarama Model Aircraft Club Anzac Aerotow 2019

The weather may not have been perfect, and numbers were down but enthusiasm was by no means dampened as the Omarama Model Aircraft Club played host to 18 model fliers at its annual Anzac Aerotow.

One of the organisers Bevan Allan said the beauty of holding an event like this in Omarama was that model pilots could mix with and learn from the pilots of full-sized craft. "It's one of the special things about coming here."

Dunedin enthusiast Jack Coker (85) said he has been "playing with models" since was a boy – 1946.

He brought his replica vintage Weihe glider to the Aerotow.

The Weihe was used to set many world and national records.

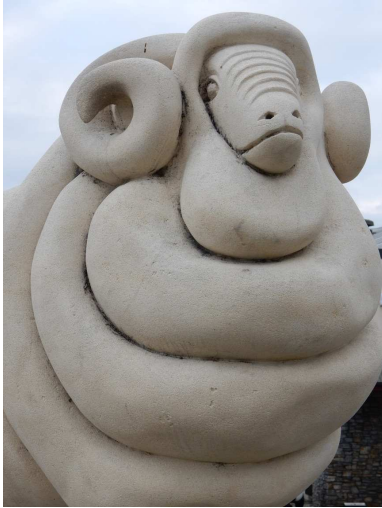
Canterbury glider pilot Dick Georgeson, who regularly flew from Omarama's Wardell's airstrip, set the world record for altitude gain in 1959 in the Weihe flying more than 30,000ft (about 9,665 m) at Mt Cook, Jack said.

Jack also took the opportunity while in Omarama to take a glider flight – something he checked off his bucket last year but, wanting to make the most of the weekend, he decided to repeat the experience.

*Photo: Model enthusiast Bevan Allan, (right) gives Jack Coker's (left) model Weihe glider a tow up for a flight above Omarama airfield.*



# The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

**Our deepest condolences** are extended to Christopher Garton on the recent death of Annabel.

**A special message from Frank Monaghan,** California: "Carol, Richard and I were shocked and dismayed about the massacre in Christchurch. While, unfortunately, mass killings are becoming too common-place in our country, and our politicians only blow hot air and are afraid to do anything about sensible gun control because of our National Rifle Association, we always held our belief about New Zealand as a isle of sanity with kind, friendly people having a sane attitude concerning guns. The one saving grace was that the culprit was an Australian and not a 'Kiwi' Our prayers and

thoughts go out to you all, the victims and their families."

**The 2019 Merino Excellence Awards** hosted by the Otago Merino Association and Child Cancer Foundation Otago/ Southland incorporating the Child Cancer Fleece Competition are on Friday, May 24, in Alexandra.

**The Omarama Community Library** is open 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

**The Omarama Golf Club** Saturdays tee-off 12.30pm. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley, 027 347 8276. [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://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. Join the Facebook group. [www.facebook.com/groups/300929013444437](https://www.facebook.com/groups/300929013444437)

**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/](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/) [omaramagazette.nz](http://omaramagazette.nz)**

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

**Thank you to all who share your stories and contribute in other way to the Gazette. We all really appreciate what you do.**

**If you find anything amiss in the Omarama Gazette please contact Ruth Grundy, 021 294 8002 or email [omaragazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaragazette@gmail.com) and I will do my very best to put it right.**

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**The June issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, June 5, 2019.**

**Please submit copy  
by Friday, May 31.**

# The Community Reports

## Upper Waitaki Police News



Hi all,

The last couple of months have been steady for me with the usual crashes and numerous driving complaints. In the past couple of weeks, I have dealt with two males for illegal hunting within the Lindis Pass area. With the help of eagle-eyed farmers both men were apprehended and now face the potential of going to Court, having their firearms forfeited to the Crown, losing their firearms licence as well as whatever punishment the Courts deem fit.

There is no excuse for going onto land without the express authority of the landowner. The excuse, 'I thought I was on DOC land,' doesn't fly either, you should know where you are at all times, especially with the technology available today. To any potential poachers out there, I'd think twice about poaching in this area. (Actually, forget about it, full stop.) The farmers and police work well together, you will be caught. On Easter Monday I received a complaint from members of the public about two vehicles driving like lunatics around the Otematata camping grounds. As a result, I've impounded one of these vehicles and the driver is off to Court for sustained loss of traction. While I was dealing with these young drivers, I had three different people come up to me and advise that the pair had been driving like idiots all weekend long. At the time I was busy dealing with the drivers and only managed to get one of those people's details. I would like to speak to the others who approached me again, and anyone else who may have witnessed these vehicles in the Otematata area over the Easter weekend. I can be contacted on 021 191 4808 or emailed at [Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)

Earlier this month I was patrolling the Lindis Pass area for poachers at around 2am, I noted a 4WD go past me at speed. By the time I had found somewhere safe to turn he had sped off, obviously realising it was a police car he'd gone past. By the time I had him in sight again he was well in the distance. Unfortunately for him, he decided to turn into Goodger Road, turning his lights off hoping I wouldn't notice, but forgot that when he hit the brakes his tail-lights still showed. Knowing Goodger road's a dead end I didn't want to go up the road in case he snuck back past me through the paddocks so waited for a Cromwell unit and along with assistance from a local farmer we located the driver hiding underneath an old truck at the road end. By that stage he was freezing his kahunas off due to the -3 frost. Reason for running? Einstein thought he may have been over the limit as he'd had a couple of beers before driving. He passed the breath screening test and was allowed to continue on his way with some tickets for speeding and not having his headlights on, which unfortunately means he loses his licence for three months due to excessive demerit points.

I recently relieved in Oamaru for a few days, and as a result am currently investigat-



ing a phone scam in which a low-life targeted an elderly gentleman who over the decades has served New Zealand and the Oamaru community in a variety of roles. The caller identified themselves as being from the IRD and informed the victim that they had excess money left over in a fund and that due to his exemplary record they'd decided to pay out some of this fund to him. They requested that the victim provide \$400 worth of i-Tunes vouchers to compensate them for costs incurred to complete the transaction. Luckily enough a staff member at the local New World were aware of the scam and approached the victim after he'd purchased the vouchers from there, taking time to explain and after some time finally convince him that it wasn't legit. That employee and New World Oamaru should be extremely proud of themselves.

Lastly, winter's not far away so remember to be careful of those shaded areas. We have a few new faces in the town, so I'll once again mention the infamous "cutting" which is the section of road on the Twizel-Omarama Rd just north of town, near the Ben Omar Rd intersection. This area is mostly in shade over winter and frequently covered in black ice and or grit. It's caught a few locals out over the years and god knows how many out-of-towners. So please slow down and be wary of shaded areas, icy bridges and the extra grit laid down for the frosts when they arrive.

That's it from me, *stay safe* - *Bean*

**Senior Constable Nayland Smith, Omarama Police.**  
**021 191 4808 or email [Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:Nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)**

## Just how many 'Beans' can you fit in a mini?

The Pork Pie Charity Run - held in homage to the Kiwi classic movie Goodbye Pork Pie - was held over Easter and made quick pit stop at the Omarama police station. In all, 60 teams drove their Minis more than 2,500km from Kaitaia to Invercargill over six days raising funds for KidsCan. *Photo: Michael Jackson*



# Behind the scenes when they're first on the scene

More than 60 people got a first-hand look at what is all-in-a-day's work for the district's emergency services, last month.

FENZ Omarama volunteer firefighters and the first response crew together with St John Kurow and Twizel, and Omarama Police demonstrated to those gathered how events might unfold when there was a car accident, and the contribution each of those services make, once that siren sounds.

Motor vehicle accidents on Omarama's two busy state highways are the most frequent reason these volunteers are called out.

During the exercise an 'accident victim' had to be freed from a car at the same time as receiving medical care.

The FENZ Timaru command unit and personnel were also on hand to demonstrate the specialist resources it can offer in the management of a large-scale emergency. Age was no barrier when it came joining the brigade, Omarama chief fire officer Terry Walsh said.

Omarama's youngest 'member' was just seven months old and the oldest was 68 years-of-age and about to reach 50 years-of-service with the brigade – there were many ways to contribute, he said.

Call-outs can happen anytime day or night and in the space of the afternoon's proceeding the exercise was interrupted twice as St John crews were called to real-life emergencies.

After the demonstration personnel were on hand to answer any questions, show people around vehicles and the fire station, and speak to those interested in joining the services, young and old.

The children's colouring competition was won by Eve (5), Maggie (8)



# FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



There were 10 calls for the month of April. We had a great open day on April 7 (read more below) and if you're keen to help out or join, come along to our training nights - Wednesdays from 7pm.

- 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

From 8am, Wednesday May 1, FENZ Otago's Central region has moved from a restricted to an open fire season. No fire permit is needed to light a fire in open air. However you still need a permit to burn if you are within 1km of Department of Conservation land. - *Jimmy Courtney, area controller.*

*FENZ Omarama and Otematata volunteer fire brigades, as well as Omarama's First Response, St John Twizel and Twizel Prime Team member Gemma Hutton, along with two Otago Regional helicopters, were called to the scene of Easter Sunday's motor vehicle accident between Shortcut and Broken Hut Rds. A car with five occupants travelling north collided with another car travelling south towards the Lindis Pass on the straight stretch of road. One occupant from each of the vehicles was injured, one seriously, and helicopters were used to transport both to Dunedin Hospital, with St John transporting the others to Twizel. Photo below: Bruce Dow*





# A golden day for gold star achievers

Omarama treated a group of distinguished guests to traditional high-country hospitality in recognition of their commitment and service to their communities on what was a golden autumn day, last month.

About 140 members of the Otago-Southland Fire Brigades Gold Star Association gathered in town for their annual 'picnic'.

The association which has 843 members from brigades from south of the Waitaki River holds two main events each year, its annual meeting in August, and the picnic. Association president James Walker, of Wyndham, said hosting of the events was "shared" among the member brigades.

"Today is about old friends and firemen getting together and 'rekindling' old friendships – no pun intended."

The event drew visitors from Otematata to as far south as Tuatapere.

The association represents those with 25 years or more in the fire service, and five recipients of the Life Honorary Membership badge, representing 50 years of service, were expected to attend.

After a morning meeting attendees took the opportunity to fit in some shopping.

The 'picnic' was catered by volunteers, Julie and Carolynne Grant, and included an extensive spread of roast beef, ham, corned beef, chicken, and veggies with all the trimmings, as well as range of salads, followed by pavlova, brandy snaps, trifle, brownies, cupcakes and tarts.





After lunch, members took in a variety of activities with many taking the opportunity to explore Sharon and Murray Stuart's 'Omaradise' and watch a sheep dog handling demonstration by New Zealand champion dog trialist Ginger Anderson. Many also gathered at the Omarama Airfield to view a display and hear Gavin Wills, of Glide Omarama, talk about gliding. The day concluded with a barbecue at the fire station.

*The Fire Brigade want to thank The Big Rooster, GlenCraigs and Total interiors for their generous donations as well as those who organised the day's activities – Georgie, Julie, Bruce, Sonya, Peter, Geva, Adrienne, Greg, Bev, Charlotte, Jimmy, Zane, Steph, Liam, Jack, Aaron, Angela, Murray and Sharon, Julie and Carolynne.*



## OMARAMA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade wishes to thank everyone involved in making the recent Gold Star Association meeting at Omarama a great success through the generous donation of their time, or donations of goods or services.

Members of the Gold Star Association have volunteered at least 25 years of service in the various fire fighting organisations in our area, and to have made this annual meeting such an enjoyable success when hosted in Omarama would not have been possible without the support of our local community.

**Ken Rogers**  
**Hon. Secretary**  
**Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade**

# Omarama Hotel Social Club

Save the date: Saturday June 8, start time to be confirmed.

A pool and darts family fun night for social club members is being planned.

Bring your own pot luck tea, there will be mulled wine, and prizes for winning teams.

However, if you'd prefer not to compete, just come along, relax and enjoy the social occasion - there's need for spectators as well.

You can join the club at Boots and Jandals for \$20 per financial year  
(from April to March)

**For more information contact: Philip Jannink 027 410 6524**

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Omarama

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**Vicky Munro**  
Otematata

**03 438 7855 021 438745**



**Malcolm McMillan**  
Lake Ohau Village

**03 438 9798 027 4389798**

# Omarama Golf Club

*By Christine Bowman*

Another very successful tournament was held in Omarama at Easter with a record number of 64 entering - up about 30% on the past two years.

It was great to see many new faces joining the club for their first time.

## **Easter Tournament Results**

Top winners of the day:

Hamish Benny (Kurow) by lot 43

Senior mens (0 – 17 handicap): John Anderson (Omarama) by lot 43, 1; Bruce Kerr (Kurow) by lot 41, 2; Lyndon Bailey (Waimate) 41, 3.

Junior mens (18 and above): Kevin Malcolm (North Otago) by lot 42, 1; Garth Dovey (Tokarahi) 42, 2; Mike Lory (Tokarahi) 40, 3.

Ladies: Sheryn De Geest (Pegasus) 41, 1; Debbie Herron (Tokarahi) 37, 3; Janeen Benny (Kurow) by lot 35.

Closest to the Pin; Jason Little (Lower Waitaki)

There were three twos on the day; Kath Galwey (Gleniti), Mike Lory (Tokarahi), Tonni De Geest (Pegasus)

*Photos below supplied: Overall Easter tournament winner (by lot) Hamish Benny (Kurow) with Adrian Tuffley (Omarama Golf club captain), Senior men's winner John Anderson (Omarama) with Adrian, the club rooms were packed for the evening meal, Paddy Galvin, John Cleverley and James McIlraith tackle the clean-up.*



# Omarama Residents' Association

From April's meeting...There were 15 people present.

## **Community Den**

Ross Menzies reported he had conducted an extensive search of archives plus followed all other avenues in his investigation of the ownership of the community den with nothing conclusive found. He believes the council must hold the only records. The committee agreed to hand the matter back to the Community Den group for it to decide about further follow-up.

**Sports Courts:** The Residents' Association building convenor Hank Verheul said an application together with plans have been lodged with the Waitaki District Council for planning and building consent to construct the tennis courts, with a 3m fence, and a toilet with connection to existing water and waste water services. The 3m fence was recommended by the Tennis Association.

Neighbours Bo and Ann Bateman have voiced concerns about the possible impact on their property and would prefer the courts be built on land adjacent to the Hall already earmarked as domain land. A council officer and Association chairperson Ann Patterson, as well as Hank and sports courts project coordinator Jemma Gloag will meet with the Bateman's early this month to discuss the matter.

If the site of the courts was changed this could affect promised funding, Ross McRobie, who was present and is Otago Community Trust chairman, said.

## **Ahuriri River Bridge Campsite Management**

Suzette Van Aswegan, who is Mackenzie District Council chief executive and chairperson of the Mackenzie and Waitaki Basins Responsible Camping Working Group, has written to acknowledge the Association's earlier letter. Although the working group has officially wound-up she recommended the Association register its interest in contributing to upcoming tourism strategies with the Waitaki District Council and the Department of Conservation. She has also asked the Association be placed on the reference group to contribute to the MDC growth feasibility study/destination management plan so it can be "fully involved" in helping to form camping strategies for the Omarama District.

The committee also wants to see the reports produced by the wardens who monitored the Ahuriri River Bridge Campsite through the past season.

**Judy Piner has purchased paint** and she and Yvonne Jones will repaint the lettering on the front façade of the Memorial Hall.

## **Trees to be removed**

Waitaki District Council parks officer Jane Matchett has advised Bo approval has been given to remove a group of pine trees on the back west side of the playground because they pose a danger.

**The next meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association will be  
7.30 pm, Thursday, April 18, at the Omarama Community Centre.**

**All are welcome**

**Contacts: Ann Patterson, chairperson, 03 438 9493,**

**Lorraine King, secretary, 027 434 6027**

**P O Box 93, Omarama 9448.**

**Email address is [omarama.committee@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.committee@gmail.com)**



# Omarama Community Library

New volunteers are always welcome  
and any necessary training can easily be arranged.

If this sounds like you,  
and you would like to join this hard-working team  
and contribute to this great community resource  
there is a gap in the roster with your name on it!

**Please phone Yvonne Jones 027 476 7473.**

**The Omarama Community Library  
is open 9am to 10am, Wednesdays and Saturdays,  
at the Omarama Community Centre.**

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## Storylines National Festival Story Tour

Oamaru Library will host New Zealand young adult and children's authors and illustrators as part of the Storylines National Festival Story Tour on Wednesday, May 15, from 6pm. Families including children, teachers and anyone interested in hearing New Zealand young adult and children's authors and illustrators share their ideas on how we can encourage children to be more engaged readers are invited to attend this event brought to Oamaru by Storylines and the New Zealand Book Council.

Authors and illustrators at the Oamaru event are:

Mandy Hager: winner of the 2019 Storylines Margaret Mahy Medal for life-time achievement and a distinguished contribution to New Zealand's literature for young people

Suzanne Main: How Not to Stop a Kidnap Plot: Finalist – New Zealand Book Awards for Children & Young Adults 2018 (Junior Fiction)

Toby Morris: The Day the Costumes Stuck: Finalist - New Zealand Book Awards for Children & Young Adults 2017 (Russell Clark Award for Illustration) as well as one of the illustrators for Oh Boy: A Storybook of Epic NZ Men

Jenny Cooper: Illustrator of Skip to The Loo (2018) by The Topp Twins and Roly the ANZAC Donkey (2015) and many other books.

**To find out more contact Fiona Kerr at the Oamaru Library:  
library@waitaki.govt.nz or (03) 433-0850**

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**The Waitaki District Library wants to set up a Friends of the Library Group** for the combined Waitaki District. It would support the various libraries in the district, advocate for them and institute initiatives and activities to serve diverse communities within the district. Interested parties may contact Jean Rivett (Community Services and Deputy Library Manager) 03 433 0850 or Philip van Zijl (Libraries Manager) 03 433 0851 for more details. Once expressions of interest have been received, the steering committee will draw up a constitution and invite membership applications.



Pupils, teachers and helpers marked what had been a busy first term at last month's final assembly.

Principal Kim McKenzie thanked school cleaner Ann Garthwaite for keeping the school "spic and span" and dealing with the inevitable "woopsies" for the past two years.

Room 1 pupils treated the audience of friends and family to a demonstration of West African rhythms accompanied by djembe drums(bongos).

Year 7 and 8 pupils shared their reports and slide-shows about their recent camp at Peel Forest Eco Lodge where they tackled various challenges and learnt new skills like shallow water diving and white-water rafting.

Term one value certificates went to -

Junior room: Learning, Paige Doree; Inclusive, Robbie Anderson; Growth, Ryan Scobie; Happy helper, Samantha Roulston, Truthful, McGregor Hay.

Senior Room: Learning, Taylor Anderson; Inclusive, Elise Mathias; Growth, Balin Sole; Happy Helper, Pippa Anderson, Truthful, Nick Murray.

**'The Community Reports' is  
dedicated to news  
from clubs, groups and sports teams.  
Contributions are welcome.  
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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:  
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If you would like to Donate an Item for our raffle, they can be dropped into Boots and Jandals Hotel at any time leading up to the Brunch.

There will be a couple of games for a bit of a laugh, and then brunch will be served, followed by Raffles, lucky seat prize etc...

If you have a story you wish to share on the day, please contact me so we can arrange it.

If you are unable to attend you can still donate by searching my pink ribbon page at <https://pinkribbonbreakfast.co.nz/login> under Julie Dyson.

## **WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU HERE.**

# Waitaki District Council - news in brief

Masterplan workshops for Omarama and Otematata are scheduled for July  
From the Waitaki District Council 'Committees' Day, April 16

In a report to the council's Assets Committee recreation manager Erik van der Spek confirmed that consent had been given to create an easement between Park Lane and TA Munro Lane which will include "water services construction".

In a report to the Heritage, Environment and Regulatory Committee, group manager Lichelle Guyan said latest reports from GeoZone about visitors to the district who use the CamperMate App showed over the four months the data was collected there were four distinct areas in the district where people were staying – Oamaru, Kakanui, the Duntroon area and Omarama. Seventy-seven percent of those coming into the district arrived by way of SH8, either from Central Otago or the Mackenzie districts, and 79% left by this same route.

This information is used by Environmental Services to plan patrols of the areas. In March, officers "regularly patrolled" Oamaru and Kakanui and "visited" Ohau.

## Speed limit review

The council wants to hear what people think about proposed new speed limits for some roads after a review of 37 roads was carried out late last year. It

is recommended speed limits be changed on 18 roads and retained on 19.

It now wants to hear the community's views on the recommendations and if it wants any other sites to be considered.

It recommends the speed limit on Lake Ohau Rd be 80kph from the point the Alps 2 Ocean Trail meets the road and this limit continue as far as Lake Ohau Station.

At present the speed limit is 70kph from the trail to the turn-off to Lake Ohau Lodge where it reverts to the open road limit or 100kph.

Consultation in this first round closes 5pm Friday, May 3. [Click here to take part.](#)

The Waitaki District Council Ahuriri and Corriedale ward boundaries will be redrawn before this year's local body elections as a result of a representation review carried out last year.

Under the Local Electoral Act, the population of each ward divided by the number of elected members must meet a certain threshold and the Ahuriri ward fails to do this which led to the council's request to the Local Government Commission to make a special case for the ward.

It has agreed and the Ahuriri and Corriedale wards will be changed to follow Otago Regional Council and Canterbury Regional Council boundaries, and Duntroon will become part of the Ahuriri ward.

Cr Craig Dawson represents the Ahuriri ward.

The elections are on October 12.

Phone: 03 433 0300

Freephone 0800 108 081 - Automated options after hours

E-mail: [service@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:service@waitaki.govt.nz)

**[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)**

**The next meeting of the Ahuriri Community Board  
Is 3.15pm to 5.15pm  
Monday, May 13, 2019  
at the Kurow Memorial Hall**

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**

### **ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee has released its annual report**

"The complexities of consenting requirements, land use and nutrient regulations for farming in the Mackenzie and Upper Waitaki areas were in the national spotlight this year," chairman Simon Cameron said.

As well, the setting up of the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment to improve how five agencies - ECan, the Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand and the Mackenzie and Waitaki District councils - worked together was a welcome development, he said. The zone committee expects to play a key supportive role to make sure the recommendations of the Agency Alignment Group become reality. In addition, the committee asked various agencies to act to manage the environmental impacts of tourism.

"Several public meetings were held to discuss the issue with community members and new toilet facilities are now in place at Ahuriri Bridge."

Other highlights included the allocation of \$100,000 of Immediate Steps Biodiversity Funding and checking in with previous recipients to see how their projects were progressing. As part of the committee's promotional work the 2018 'Love your Lakes' campaign included a competition to encourage visitors to pack a low-waste picnic and be environmentally responsible when holidaying around waterways.

Committee members have also assisted with ECan's BRIDGE Project which wants to create a standard definition of a braided river bed and the activities which can occur

**The next meeting of  
ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee  
is 9.30 am Friday, May 17, 2019,  
at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.**

[www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)

# Planting boosts habitat at Twaddle's Swamp

*- copy and photo supplied.*

A natural spring-fed stream system running through a farm near Omarama has received some extra help to improve water quality.

'Twaddle's Swamp', on land owned by Wendy and Richard Parsons, received Immediate Steps funding for stream enhancement and the planting of 500 native plants to help its VIP residents – the threatened native fish bignose galaxias.

Previous stream enhancement work and fencing had already been carried out on the property but the Parsons noticed that the streams were still not draining well and clogging with weeds and plants. After they raised the problem with the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee, a field trip was organised to learn about the issues and a plan made to help the stream flow better. Now, with the stream cleared and natives planted to provide shade and reduce weeds, it's hoped the stream will continue to improve in water quality, without the help of human – and digger - intervention.



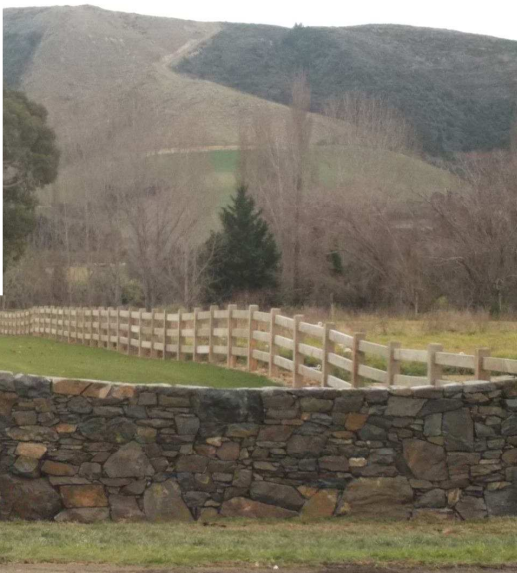
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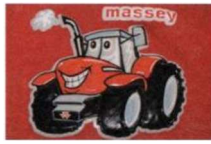
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## The Pink Glider Café

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Omarama 9448

Brent Fokkens 021 221 0060  
Jonny Woodhead 027 329 7271



## Residential - Commercial - Farming Business - Motels - Development

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



**Property Brokers**

Hastings McLeod Ltd Licensed REAA 2008  
211 Thames Street, Oamaru  
P 03 434 3347 E [omaru@pb.co.nz](mailto:omaru@pb.co.nz)

**Steve Dalley**  
021 768 719  
[steve.dalley@pb.co.nz](mailto:steve.dalley@pb.co.nz)



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**

On call after-hours services are also offered 24/7 for urgent care.

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## **Other Health and Wellbeing Services**

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.**



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## QUALITY WOOD CHIP DELIVERED TO YOU



■ Wintering sheds ■ Wintering pads ■ Calf sheds ■ Lanes



**Ultimately cows need a clean, dry and comfortable surface to rest on.**

McNeill wood chip is sourced from Niagara Sawmill where they produce clean, quick drying radiata pine chip that is ideal for use in the rural sector.

Not only does radiata pine smell fresh it is naturally hygienic... as like wooden chopping boards have a natural tannin in them that acts as an anti-bacterial agent. Wood chip creates cleaner cows prior to milking and are less susceptible to mastitis.



Wood chip can be washed and dries quickly as air circulates around the chips. This continuous air flow is beneficial in keeping moisture at a minimum.



Moisture is one of several essential factors necessary for bacterial growth in bedding materials. Therefore, it is important to keep bedding as dry as possible to minimise exposure to environmental mastitis pathogens.

Contact Tony Thompson  
03 230 3019 • 027 222 2097  
or Andy Boniface  
03 230 3018 • 027 204 3694

[woodchip@mcneillnz.com](mailto:woodchip@mcneillnz.com)  
[www.mcneillnz.com](http://www.mcneillnz.com)



# The Beauty Room

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## Opening 7th May

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or come camping  
and explore our big backyard.

**Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park**



# Situations Vacant

## Part-time Practice Nurse required

We have an exciting opportunity for an experienced and confident Registered Nurse. In this role you will work with a friendly and skilled team of GP's, nurses and administration staff to ensure that the highest standards of care are delivered to our patients. This is a permanent part time position (job share), working two to three days/week at our Twizel clinic branch of Kurow Medical Centre.

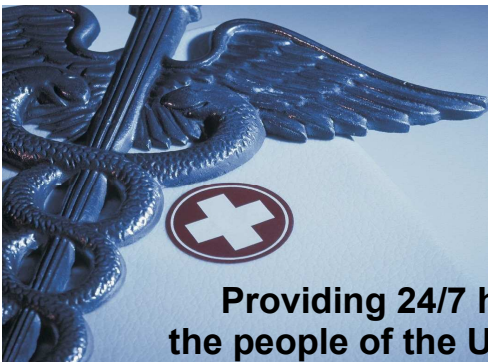
Requirements:

- Registered Nurse
- Current New Zealand Practicing Certificate
- Current Level 4 CPR Certificate
- Computer literate with concise documentation skills (Medtech32 knowledge a bonus)
- High Level of Communication Skills
- Open to Learning and adding new skills
- Current Childhood Vaccinators Certificate
- Smear Taker (not essential)
- Commitment to continuous quality improvement
- Desire to play a significant role in designing effective and efficient primary care services
- Sense of Humour
- Good team player

This could be your opportunity to join a practice preparing for an exciting innovation-led future.

If this sounds like you, send your cover letter and CV to  
[juliet@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:juliet@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

**CLOSING DATE: 5.00pm Friday May 31, 2019**



### Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](https://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

**Providing 24/7 health care and support to  
the people of the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie**


# The View from the Chook House



*(Fun fact: chooks can recognise more than 100 faces, animal and human.)*

"But, of course...there's  
'What's-his-face' and 'What's-her-face'  
and then there's  
'What-the-h\*&%-are-you-doing-in-my-veggie-garden-face'!"

---



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

**Highest temperature: April 9, 26.4C**

**Lowest temperature: April 7 and 30, -3C**

**Most rainfall: April 10, 22.6mm**

**Total rainfall for April: 68.8mm**

# The Garden Diary - The colour of light

Autumn is my best season for procrastination, as if I need any other reasons.

I head out into the day with the very best of intentions to gather-in and clean-up but I'm constantly distracted, enchanted, mesmerised by the changing light, as it plays its shadow games across golden grasslands and along the mountain ranges, all day and into moonlight.

In the garden the trees change colour moment by spectacular moment too.

If you look away you might miss something, when you look back it's changed again.

Sunrise and sunset set the garden alight.

It's as if nature draws those colours into the garden to hold them as long as possible until the sun is fully wrapped in mists and ice.

Magical? – such a paradoxical word for the spell-binding science of it all.

It is the waning light and tumbling temperatures that switch on that light show.

But the actors are deep within.

Science has still not fully unravelled the wonder but does know life would be impossible without it.

Put simply, a green chlorophyll-filled leaf captures sunlight and uses that energy to change a gas and a liquid - carbon dioxide and water - into food.

So vital is that process that most of the year, in most plants, green dominates and masks the other colours.

But once the days draw in and that chill bites at your fingers and toes and ears the switch turns off green, and yellow, orange, scarlet, red, purple, amethyst, cardinal, all the colours of the autumn garden 'sunset' have their short but sweet time in the light.

I've planted all kinds of deciduous trees and shrubs to capture those 'sunset hours' - azaleas, dogwoods, maples, crab apple, pears and more. Who would have thought pears had leaves that turned to glowing amber?

Just beyond the fence, against the sky are ash – Golden and Claret - and Liquid Amber - a sunset in a single leaf – oaks of all descriptions with confetti cut-out colours, and a Copper Beech – burnished and gleaming, sometimes holding those rattling marcescent leaves until early September when warm equinox winds whip them away to reveal new delicate bronze leaves – a sure sign Spring is on her way.

Light intrigues me. Sir Isaac Newton found colour is not 'in' an object but that light waves bounce back from its surface and our eyes and brain together see those as colour. Because the surface absorbs all other colours we see only that which is reflected.

So, that deep cardinal red is not 'in' the leaf, it is reflected back at us - that concept tangles my mind.

In the meantime, too much dreaming, not enough doing. In my garden effort is spared. But then, that much is obvious. Instead, (and to respectfully rephrase Dylan Thomas) I'll watch the colours of the "dying of the light" and in wonderment "go gentle into that good night".

Ruth Grundy

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



# The Classifieds

## Omarama School Board of Trustees' Election

Nominations are invited for the election of parent representatives to the board of trustees. A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations will be posted to all eligible voters. You can nominate another person to stand as candidate, or you can nominate yourself. Both parts of the form must be signed. Additional nomination forms will be available from the school office.

**Nominations close at noon May 24, 2019**

and may be accompanied by a signed candidate statement and photograph. The voting roll will be open for inspection at the school office and will be available to view during normal school hours. There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

Should the number of nominated candidates exceed the number of positions vacant, a voting election will be required.

**Voting should then close at noon on June 7, 2019.**

*Charlotte Newfield, Returning Officer*

## OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more information about hall hire and availability please contact Charlotte Newfield, 027 940 1648, or email [charlotte.omarama@gmail.com](mailto:charlotte.omarama@gmail.com)  
Keys and fobs are collected from Charlotte



## The Omarama Gazette

**Omarama's news delivered to your inbox**  
the first Wednesday of each month

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