



## ***-Omarama Gazette -*** **September 2019**

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### **Sabrina's taking us to the skies**

Not only has she adopted this place as her own, but she is determined to take our name to the skies.

Last month, German-born glider pilot Sabrina Schels set a new New Zealand women's gliding record for speed over a 100km out-and-return task, with a best speed of 171.77 km/h. And on Tuesday she had confirmation she has cracked the 200km out and back record. But she has her horizons set even higher.

"I hope to break some important New Zealand records," she says in that pragmatic way of hers. But then sheer enthusiasm ripples to the surface.

"I want to show the world that New Zealand is a superb gliding country. I'm going to fly for New Zealand. New Zealand is my home and I want to give something back."

She has her sights set on gliding records not yet attempted by female pilots.

"I want to fill the gaps."

In gliding, women are permitted to challenge men's records.

"Which is really quite cool."

Her aim next is to gain the appropriate licences to do this, meaning all records she sets will be flown for New Zealand.

Originally from Bavaria, Germany, Sabrina trained as an environmental engineer before coming to New Zealand and to flying school in Omarama, in 2015.

She gained her residency about two years ago and works as a flying instructor for Glide Omarama. She and partner Dan McCormack oversee Glide Omarama's winter

## *Continued from page one*

flying programme.

Through winter she has used her free time to attempt the shorter runs, despite temperatures sometimes dropping as low as -30C. She wears all her ski gear and merino boots as insulation.

"In summer the glider is rented out and I have to work."

The day she set the 100km record did not start out that promising. But fellow pilot Phil Plane urged her to "just give it a go".

"I thought it was impossible because I struggled to get up, there was very weak lift." She decided she would take her time climbing to 14,000ft expecting the wave could be better at that altitude.

"I went off quite slowly to see how it felt."

The flight path was from the Omarama Saddle to Glen Lyon Airstrip. Coming back, the weather had improved. So, she thought she would give it another go. There was just enough time to make it before sunset. That was the record.

Dan and Phil were monitoring progress on the ground.

But, although it looked promising, at that point no-one could know exactly how well she had flown. A raft of checks and balances had to be made before it could be confirmed. While it took less than 40 minutes to fly the qualifying flight, it took three hours to collate the necessary data and to check Sabrina had met all the qualifying criteria. And that was only step one. The wad of paperwork dispatched to Gliding New Zealand, in Wellington, for official sanction was a centimetre thick. There followed an anxious wait. It took a week-and-a-half to verify and not until she received the official email 14 days after that August 7 flight did she celebrate.

She set the second record the day after she got that news.

This time the 200km out and return took her from a point above St Bathans Range to Glentanner and back, at a speed of 177.68 km/ph, not that far off the men's' record of 191.33.

Sabrina says she is "very thankful" for the support of some of New Zealand's best glider pilots.

"It's awesome how many people are helping and are interested in what I am doing."



"Personally, I want to thank everyone who has welcomed us [to Omarama] with open arms. "They've been very kind to us. I really feel at home here."

Sabrina has joined Omarama Land Search and Rescue.

The 100km record was previously set by Abby Delore and Enya McPherson in April 2013, at Matamata.

# We're going places!

This September Issue of the Omarama Gazette marks two important stages in its progress.

From this issue, we are including Otematata community news. The long-serving editor of the Otematata Chronicle, Kate Frost, is retiring from the position and asked if the Gazette could be part of a team to share its news.

Yes, of course, and welcome neighbours!

We're taking this step-by-step to see how it grows...any and all suggestions welcome.

Part two - this September Issue is the largest ever produced. So many incredible people in our place (Seriously, wow!), matters of concern too, and some things you wouldn't even bother with. I get that! Oh, yes, and there's the chooks.

Scrolling through the entire length of the email to get to what you want to read is a pain. I had planned to introduce a new layout this month to fix this. But and However. The time has come to hit send and it's not ready. My apologies. I ask for your patience. It could still be a few issues away. In those immortal words, "good things take time".

In the meantime, I have had the privilege to hear and share the most amazing stories this month, I hope you enjoy 'listening in' as much as I have.

We are going places. Let's do this!

*- Always a work in progress, always for all of us, Ruth Grundy, editor.*

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**'The Otematata Page'**  
**is dedicated to Otematata news,**  
**including from clubs, groups and sports teams.**  
**Contributions are welcome**  
**Email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**



# Introducing ...the Otematata Page

## Otematata now has its own 'Community Guide to Emergencies'

Emergency Management Otago with community response groups, community boards, emergency services, and community members have developed guides to tell the community about local hazards and the need to prepare for emergencies.

Otematata's guide was presented by Ahuriri Community board member and Otematata Civil Defence Coordinator Brent Cowles at the masterplan workshop last weekend and will be delivered to letterboxes over the next few weeks.

Copies are available at the Otematata Library, Community Centre or on the Emergency Management Otago website

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## Large crowd of Otematata Residents have their say

Last month's public workshop to discuss the Otematata town masterplan attracted a large crowd of residents.

About 75 members of the public gathered at the Otematata District Club for a nearly three-hour workshop to discuss options for a town master plan.

The workshop was run by independent facilitator Sandra McIntyre of Schema Consultants, who also ran last year's town visioning sessions.

Also attending were the three candidates for the Waitaki District Council mayoralty – Katrina Hazelhurst, incumbent Gary Kircher and Paul Mutch.

Peter Scott, Environment Canterbury councillor and candidate for its South Canterbury- Otuhituhi constituency was also present.

Three options or concepts for a town plan, drawn up by council planners from the visioning sessions, the feedback from the council's District Plan drop-in sessions held in January and February this year, and after a closed-door workshop with councillors and Ahuriri Community Board members, were considered by the gathering.

The full story was published on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page on Saturday, August 24, 2019. (*Search Facebook posts for the above headline.*)

You can view the ideas for Otematata masterplan on the Waitaki District Council website.

**Submissions close September 6.**





# Cancer survivor pays it forward

When Otematata businessman Neil Callick got the call three weeks ago to say his latest biopsy was clear he decided he was going to do something to get the word out about prostate cancer.

He and wife Margie decided to host a 'Blue Do' – a brunch at their 'Kitchen' at the Otematata District Club.

"I decided I'm going to do this because I'm one of the lucky ones," Neil said.

More than 30 people – 'from their early 20s to their late-80s' - gathered for the brunch and to hear Kurow Medical Centre's Dr Tim Gardner speak.

About \$1050 was raised which was a "great donation from our small community," Neil said.

Sponsors donated food and raffle prizes and Margie and Neil "absorbed" the balance of the cost so "every cent raised" went to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

"Dr Tim entertained everyone with a few stories but got the message across, as he does.

"[And] there were a few wives putting a bit of pressure on their guys to be checked," Neil said.

**[blueseptember.org.nz](http://blueseptember.org.nz)**

## **Neil and Margie would like to thank:**

Dr Tim Gardner

Campbell's Butchery Oamaru

Bidfood Timaru

River T Estate

DB

The Otematata District Club and the Otematata Gentle Exercise Group.

Rob and Anita Armstrong

*Photo: Karen Greenslade*



## Long-serving editor takes a step back

Recently, Kate Frost had a particularly rough day.

She sat down and went through the emails she received after her daughter, Emma, died four years ago. "It took me 25 minutes," she said, still astounded at how long it took to read through them all. Each email was reassurance her community cared, and reading them over was a vivid and poignant reminder of that.

She and husband Len, a Londoner, have been married almost 50 years, and came, quite unexpectedly to Otematata, on holiday. Immediately, it felt like home. They read each other's minds. "God, I could live here," Len said to her. "Three weeks later we drove down and bought a house. We tossed in our jobs like a couple of kids."

At 2.40am, Saturday, July 7, 2001, with Emma's "big" cat Claude in tow, they left Havelock North, made the ferry, crossed the strait and headed for the centre of the mainland, arriving in Otematata 7.20pm that same night. "It was freezing cold with black, black skies and hills."

There was no problem finding work. Len, with his background as an industrial electrician was snapped up by Zelko. Kate trained as a teacher and has spent 40 years in education mainly in the Hawke's Bay, including at Flaxmere Primary School.

She has taught from Papakaio to Mt Cook and at Otematata as a relieving teacher, and worked in adult education throughout the valley. She's also done a stint manning the office at Waitaki Valley School. Her community contribution is extensive and includes work on the Otematata Residents' Association. Kate became involved with the Otematata Library as a volunteer in 2005 when Pauline Coulman was in charge. For the past two-and-half years she and other volunteers have run the library as a combined effort.

After almost two decades in town, with her indefatigable thirst for stories old and new, she has become a fount of knowledge about her place. But Kate is probably most well-known, here and throughout the country, for her work as editor of the Otematata Chronicle, and the subsequent publication of two books documenting some of its history. She began on the Chronicle 15 years ago. When she started each edition was cyclostyled. She has been sole editor for about 12 years piecing together community news, publicising community events, "anything topical, interesting stuff found nowhere else", and somethings "just for a bit of a giggle". And she has kept officialdom accountable and on their toes, throughout. "I can be a bit outspoken."

The sought-after books - *Otematata – A Whimsical Look* and *Otematata – Memories of That Dam Town*, document community memories, and are self-published, a project she undertook "despite having no training in graphic design". There have been photo cards, bookmarks and the annual calendars too. Her latest short piece of work is a compilation of material about 'Snake Gully'- most likely the earliest and most basic of the Benmore Dam construction workers' settlements.

In earlier days the Chronicle was hand delivered by "three darling ladies". Nowadays most people receive it by email. Regardless, holiday makers and visitors often come into the library or recognise her on the streets and exclaim; "Oh, you're the person who does the Otematata Chronicle".

Wanting to focus her energies on her other ventures, especially library work, she has decided to hand the task of sharing community news on to a small team which includes the Omarama Gazette.



## Our golden girls in those glory years

Undoubtedly, they were the glory days of competition for Omarama's firefighters, and most certainly THEY were our golden girls.

In 1990, in Wainuiomata, the Omarama High Country Fire women's Wajax team – Lynda Allen, Trish Blackstock, Debbie Armstrong and Beverley Perriam - under New Zealand competition rules, set a national record for the fastest time for their event.

**That score has not been beaten in national competition.**

However, the same team did better their own score later in a regional competition, in Dip-ton, completing its run in 1m15secs with no penalties.

Admittedly, the competition has changed since the 90s.

Those were the glory days of competition for the Omarama unit with all teams regularly returning from national and regional competitions with a clean sweep of trophies.

At a second memorable event in 1997, again at national level, this time in Whakatane, the Omarama women's team won the overall competition.

To put that in perspective, at the time the competition regularly attracted between 20 and 30 teams from throughout the country, from all units engaged in rural and bush fire-fighting, including Department of Conservation staff, "including the Rimutaka Forestry Boys - for them it was their jobs", Lynda said.

That year, a 'slip-on', a portable firefighting unit, was the prize up for grabs for the overall 95 women's team was not allowed to keep the 'slip on' and another prize was substituted.



"They hadn't expected a women's team to win it," Lynda said.

Graciously, she adds; "Of course, there would have been the issue of getting it home across the strait".

"The year after that we really put the pedal down and trained."

The Omarama Brigade was the first brigade to accept women fire fighters, notably Eunice Marett (nee Blair) and Beverley Perriam.

Lynda joined the High Country Fire Unit, as it was known, in 1988.

It was a family affair with husbands, partners, who were often also fire brigade members, and children all taking part.

Training sessions were for about 1½ hours three days a week at the stream, at the reserve, at the river, even emptying swimming pools.

If they worked it right they could manage nine practice runs of about two minutes per session, bearing in mind they had to pack up the gear between each run.

The team would practice setting up pumps, running out hoses and knocking down targets under time pressure. The equipment was not allowed to touch the ground.

It was a "very practical", if "demanding" competition.

It included preparing a monsoon bucket for use, running out and connecting fire hoses, and sometimes, in a mixed team, carrying the pump - testing teamwork and working under pressure.

It was "quite demanding" to carry and unwind a hose while running.

"If you got the wobbles and collapsed the nozzle would go flying.

"Or, the hoses could jam and you'd fly backwards." And then inevitably there was mud. On one occasion, spectators swore they had never seen a finer sight than that of Lynda sliding at speed through the mud on her knees to snap on the hose.

"I really enjoyed the training, it was hard work but I thoroughly enjoyed it."

1999 was her final year competing – that year Omarama brought home seven titles

The Wajax competition began in Omarama 50 years ago when the Omarama unit introduced the it to brigades south of the Waitaki. That first year Omarama competed against Stewart Island, Glenorchy and Hawea volunteer brigades which were all using similar Forest Service equipment to fight urban fires. The competition is named for the Wajax portable pump, one of a rural firefighter's main pieces of equipment when the competition started.

While still used now, the pump "backpack", which was carried in to fires, has been superseded by fire chasers and 4WD vehicles.

The 50th celebrations of the event, Wajax 2020, will be held in Omarama, in March.





# Steps taken to address water quality

Landowners in the Ahuriri Arm catchment, with Environment Canterbury's help, will further assess the reasons for deteriorating water quality in Lake Benmore, and may agree to voluntarily reduce their nutrient discharge allowances to address the issue. This is instead of setting up a two-person panel with one scientist appointed by ECan and the second by consent holders to review each affected consent to see it is contributing to the increase in the trophic level index - a measurement of water quality. At August's meeting of ECan's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee there was general, if reluctant, agreement farming had contributed to an emerging problem in the upper reaches of Lake Benmore but also consensus farmers would work together to try to resolve it.

"Farmers are going to be the solution to this," committee chairperson Simon Cameron said.

Several farmers and farm advisors representing land owners in the catchment attended the August meeting.

Zone committee member Lisa Anderson, of Bog Roy Station, a farm in the catchment, did not take part in discussion or vote on matters pertaining to the issue.

After receiving advice from ECan's legal counsel Catherine Schache, who was present, fellow committee member Richard Subtil, of Omarama Station, which is part of the wider catchment area was permitted to take part.

ECan advisors presented reports about the implications of the high TLI levels for farming consents, and the pros, cons and legal implications of each of the responses available.

At the conclusion, the committee asked for a group to be set up for the entire Ahuriri Arm catchment – not just those consent holders immediately affected - as soon as possible.

It asked ECan water quality scientists to provide this group with the information it had collated about the likely causes of the increase.

As well, it asked for any "hot spots" within the catchment to be identified and reported to the new catchment group.

The catchment group is to discuss these findings and report back to the committee.

Many of those affected had met already and consensus was it was not an individual but a group problem, Mr Subtil said.

In June, ECan's annual water quality monitoring survey for the Ahuriri Arm showed the TLI had increased to 2.9 from the previous year's TLI of 2.3.

This means 10 consent holders in the catchment, whose TLI 'trigger' levels are 2.75, must take set actions as stipulated by their consents to reverse the trend.

A further group of five consent holders have a TLI trigger of 2.9.

ECan views it as a "collective issue" so it is also working with other landholders within the Ahuriri catchment.

Consent holders are unhappy about "inequity" because trigger levels throughout the catchment on the various consents in play are not consistent.

ECan has allowed greater intensification of farming in the catchment in the past 20 years.

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**Background:**

The TLI combines four water quality indicators, including nitrogen and chlorophyll levels, to give a rating of between 1 and 7 – the lower the number the better the quality. TLI levels for the Ahuriri Arm were set in consultation with the community and the trigger levels are part of consent conditions agreed to in the application process. To bring the levels down affected consent holders may have to reduce their nutrient discharges by up to 5% and if this does not work ECan could require further compliance measures be put in place. ECan met with affected consent holders at the end of July to discuss what action they need to take. Initially, it was thought a two-scientist panel – one nominated by ECan and one by the consent holders - must be set up to investigate.

**August meeting discussion:**

At the August meeting ECan principal resource management adviser Marty Mortiaux told the committee, after further examination of the rules, consent holders had a choice, either help to resource the panel, or pay for a catchment assessment, report on the situation, and reduce their nutrient levels. It is “an either /or choice”.

The catchment group was “less interested in a panel and more interested in reducing, and a report”, he said. ECan could help resource a panel if required and it was “initiating a full catchment group in September”.

There were 34 consent holders and 33 farms in the wider catchment, he said.

ECan was also making sure landowners who had not yet lodged a land-use consent had these in place by October. Seven had been completed, five remained outstanding but were “on-track”, he said.

Compliance on-farm was “high priority” for those affected and although they wanted to “work as one”, they believed it was an issue which affected a wider group than just those whose consents had a trigger level of 2.75. And they were concerned about the inequity of the levels set “across all types of consents”, he said.

ECan water quality and ecology scientist Graeme Clarke said the TLI element which caused the “breach of the trigger” was a “massive jump in Chlorophyll A”. Chlorophyll A is an indicator of algae present in a waterway. The more algae present, the poorer the water quality.

He said the data presented was for the point at which the Ahuriri River entered the lake. And although there may be other aggravating factors the cause “could only be farming related”.

Mackenzie District councillor Stuart Barwood challenged that view.

“Why are you not testing at the top of the catchment?”

Mr Clarke said it was likely the changing climate – with rainfall more evenly distributed, a higher water table and the relatively high flow rate of the river throughout the course of the year – not so many flushing flows - meant it was likely nutrients were dispersed differently, travelling through the soil profile and so “more available” to aquatic plants.

“The bulk of the load of plant-available N is coming into the lake, it’s going in at the top of the lake. Most of the load is coming from farming ...it’s not an assumption.”

Mr Clarke said, with more rainfall, more groundwater was moving into the lake as a “large pulse of N-rich water”.

“In-lake nutrient concentrations are strongly related to inputs.” The change in climate

may be making the effects of those inputs more obvious, he said.

Farmers Dave Ellis, Trent Spittle and Mr Subtil pointed out that because ECan collected regular water quality data from individual landowners it should be able to pinpoint the exact locations of high inputs.

It could be there were high N levels registering at some locations which were not yet reflected in the levels in the lake, Mr Ellis said. "So, if this is all coming from us, underground, is it going to get to the lake at some point?"

"Farmers give the data to ECan, so you know," Mr Subtil said.

"We need to identify the hot spots ...and [as landowners] address it together."

"There is no doubt it is farming."

All in the catchment should take it as "the wake-up call that it is", work with those whose trigger level is 2.75, and put resources into doing "something meaningful" to stop it going above 2.9, he said.

"We will all be seen as the problem. We all live up here. We've got to work together to get something done, together, rather than pointing the finger.

"There's going to be a little bit of 'share the pain' to find a way to keep it down below 2.9," Mr Subtil said.

Committee member Mathew Bayliss, who is employed by Meridian Energy, dismissed the idea that spraying and decomposition of lake weed was contributing to the high readings.

Advisors had observed the increase in lagarosiphon corresponded to the increase in nutrients.

There was already "a mandate" from the catchment group to work together to find a remedy.

That those inputs are coming from farming is an "indisputable truth" and must be addressed, Mr Bayliss said.

Waitaki District Councillor Craig Dawson asked if it was time for "enforcement for those who are thumbing their noses at the process".

ECan councillor John Sunckell said the committee had no need to vote on that because it was already part of the consent process.

However, it seemed "pointless everyone taking a haircut" if the areas posing most risk to the catchment could be pin-pointed, he said.

Irricon Resource Solutions environmental consultant Haidee McCabe questioned whether some data was missing which would "tell the whole story".

"There's a lot more to understand."

She asked that farmers be given enough time to consider any new material before it was put "into the public arena".

Cr Sunckell agreed to take concerns about funding the necessary work to the ECan council.

"It is a sensitive national issue."

The committee has also asked that a technical group of ECan staff and consultants look into the inequity between the TLI trigger levels of 2.75 and 2.9 in consents and discuss options with consent holders.

In a statement last week, ECan southern zone delivery manager Chris Eccleston said it was committed to responding to this year's rise in TLI "before the next irrigation season begins", in October.

"We will also continue with our programme to work with all farmers in the catchment to ensure their activities fit within environmental rules."

# Okay you guys, it's time to man-up!

Do you think you've got what it takes to face 'The Doctor' ???  
-the Flying Doctor, that is ?!

For all you dads, brothers, sons, partners and mates,  
and that means you...



**Boots & Jandals Hotel and RuralSupport**  
present



**BULLS** FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE LTD  
www.flyingdoctor.co.nz

**Dr Dave Baldwin GP**

**5.30pm Monday, November 4, at Boots & Jandals Hotel**

Hear some hard-hitting, below the belt (true) facts

**Dr Dave tips on men's health – or How to be a COMPLETE 'Healthy Bastard.'**

(Apparently, it's a little bit naughty? )

**Even better news**

► You're not expected to face the music on an empty stomach  
First up - legendary Boots & Jandals pub grub - your dinner ticket - only \$15

AND for afters - the big reveal -

**That great 'Shave-Off-Your-Mo' mo-moment**

**Shave off, November 4!**

But wait there's more ...  
ahead of Dr Dave's visit we're having another  
little mo-moment to get you in the mo-ood



► **REGISTER, Do it!**

**5.30pm Tuesday, October 1**

**at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama**

► Go in the draw to win this rugby world cup jersey



► Grow your mo/beard ► get sponsors  
► have it shaved or styled ► win awesome prizes

*All funds raised go to Omarama School*





# Here's one for the boys

*- and girls are welcome too.*

Next month, and the one after that, Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama and the Otago Rural Support Trust will host two events especially for our blokes.

*(The girls are welcome too, of course – how else would we get them there and back again ?!) So, book these in ...*

**Tuesday, OCTOBER 1** - register and grow your mo, DO IT! – there are awesome prizes to win.

**And, Monday, NOVEMBER 4** - is a night off cooking, tea at the pub. Come, hear some hard-hitting, below the belt (true) facts - Dr Dave tips on men's health – or How to be a COMPLETE 'Healthy Bastard.' (Apparently, it's a little bit naughty?)

Plus, line-up for "The Great Shave-Off" and hear those immortal words "Yes, that looks so much better, now!" *(Check out the poster left)*

Dr Dave Baldwin, of the Bulls Flying Doctor Service, is calling into Omarama, in November, on his regular monthly rounds of the South Island High Country, so it's time for a check up and maybe a bit of a tune-up about, you guessed it, "men's health". Omarama is regular port of call on his route south.

The doctor/pilot turned author and speaker works two-and-a-bit days a week at the Bulls Medical Centre and the rest doing aviation medicine for the Bulls Flying Doctor Service, flying to remote areas to give pilots their medical checks.

He realised quite some time ago that our men are quite shy when it comes to talking about their health.

"I got sick of signing off death certificates for young men."

In 2009, he wrote a book called 'Healthy Bastards', addressed to the stubborn Kiwi male.

He followed this with his autobiography - 'The Flying Doctor', - in which he talks about the ups and downs of his unusual career, the people he has met and the tragic death of his son and best mate, Marc.

It was the death of his son by suicide which was the catalyst for his latest book.

"The Bushman's Bible" is Dr Dave's third book in the "Healthy Bastards" trilogy, which discusses not only the importance of maintaining physical health but mental and spiritual well-being also.

But it would be a mistake to equate 'spiritual' with 'reverent'.

Dr Dave is renowned for his "totally un-PC" aka 'a little bit naughty' delivery of hard-hitting, below the belt facts about men's health - he speaks from the heart and tells it how it is, on paper and in person.

And he works to get his message out to men on the ground.

Just as there's a Gideon's Bible in every hotel in the country, he is aiming to get a 'Bushman's Bible into every back country hut in New Zealand.

As well as the books, Dave has a website where he has published an 'Online Medical Textbook for the Common Man' to, as he says, "promote good health messages to all you unhealthy bastards out there."

Oh, and there's a DVD. Plus, to cap it all off there's... a cap!

To read more check out [www.flyingdoctor.co.nz](http://www.flyingdoctor.co.nz) and [www.healthybastards.co.nz](http://www.healthybastards.co.nz)

## Longslip Station Campervan Park opens

A new camping ground beside the Ahuriri River which will cater to self-contained motor caravan travellers only, is about to welcome its first guests.

Bryan and Michele Patterson, who have developed Longslip Station Camper-van Park, said they hoped it would help relieve some of the pressure increased numbers of freedom campers were having on numerous sites in the area.

And they were looking forward to “sharing a small part of the stunning scenery with fellow New Zealanders,” Michele said.

“It’s something we get to wake up to and enjoy every day.”

The park, at the corner of SH8 and Birchwood Rd, alongside the Ahuriri River is consented for up to 20 sites and is for New Zealand Motor Caravan Association members only.

By making it available to NZMCA members only means they can ensure only self-contained vehicles would use the park, she said.

*The full story was published on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page on August 12, 2019. (Search Facebook posts for NEW AHURIRI CAMPER-VAN PARK OPENS*



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## Christchurch artist brings workshops to town

Christchurch artist and tutor Katrina Stadler says she was pleased with the response to her first workshop in Omarama and plans to hold another in the near future.

Shortly after advertising the workshop last month, all available places were filled.

Five women took part in the two-day workshop – The Art of Feminine Embodiment - at the Omarama Community Centre.

Katrina said no previous experience was needed.

Through the workshop she taught the techniques and tips for painting a feminine face.



At the same time women could use that as a basis for “finding their own creativity”.

The workshop operated on “two levels”, technical and intuitive.

What was “put on canvas and the process” became a “mirror of how you live”. Katrina works only with small groups so she can give each person individual attention as required.

“People go through such a process as they are doing it.”

# Call for help to keep doors open

Omarama's community library is in urgent need of more volunteers.

It is possible if more people do not step up the library may have to be shut at short notice, coordinator Yvonne Jones said.

Omarama's library, one of the Waitaki District Council Libraries, re-opened in June 2016 at new premises at the Omarama Community Centre.

Since then volunteers have kept the doors open for two one-hour sessions a week through winter, Wednesday and Saturday mornings, and on Tuesday evenings through summer, including through the holidays.

However, numbers putting their hands up for roster duties has dwindled to the point where door may have to be closed.

Yvonne said she "really enjoys" her sessions on duty.

The best part was it was a "great way" to get to know people as residents and visitors often dropped in.

"And you get to flick through books you wouldn't normally read."

People need not be put off by the training as it was all quite straightforward with easy to follow instructions, plus there was always someone on hand for the trickier questions.

The experience gained always looked great on a CV and for those who were keen there were opportunities to gain further training because of the affiliation to the Waitaki District Library.

Regular volunteers found giving an hour on a regular basis was not onerous.

Some worked their duties around work shifts and some even put their names on the roster for when they were in Omarama on holiday, Yvonne said.

**Yvonne would love to hear from anyone who would like to give an hour of their time to keeping the doors open. To get in touch, phone 027 476 7473.**



## Omarama has its say on town plan options

Waitaki District Council planners and elected members were given a clear message at Omarama masterplan workshop.

The traffic problems at the intersection of SH8 and SH83 and within the shopping centre need to be resolved “as a matter of urgency”. Work on that should be given priority and dealt with “in the next two years, not the next 20”.

Last month, 50 people met at the Omarama Community Centre to discuss options to manage long-term future development of the town.

Independent facilitator Sandra McIntyre, of Schema Consultants, who also ran last year’s town visioning sessions, split the gathering into small groups for the two-hour discussion.

It was an opportunity to discuss the options the council had “put up” but people need not feel they were limited to those options, Ms McIntyre said.

The three options under discussion were drawn up from ideas generated at last year’s visioning sessions, from feedback from the council’s District Plan drop-in sessions held in January and February this year, and after a closed-door workshop with councillors and Ahuriri Community Board members.



The workshop was attended by the three candidates for the Waitaki District Council mayoralty – Katrina Hazelhurst, incumbent Gary Kircher and Paul Mutch.

*The full story was published on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page on Saturday, August 24, 2019. (Search the posts for this headline. OMARAMA HAS ITS SAY ON TOWN PLAN OPTIONS)*

**The community can make submissions on the masterplan until September 6.**

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## Let's get political - an elections update

Nominations of candidates for local body elections closed August 16.

As a result, no election is required for the Ahuriri Ward Councillor for the Waitaki District Councillor who will be Ross McRobie.

As well, no election is required for four places on the Ahuriri Community Board which have been filled by Vicky Munro, Brent Cowles, Dr June Slee and Ross Menzies.

However, a by election will be held after the elections to fill the fifth place.

There are three candidates for the Waitaki District Council mayoralty and six candidates for Environment Canterbury's South Canterbury-Ōtuhituhi Constituency.

Voting opens on September 20 and closes midday October 12.

Next month the Omarama Gazette will publish profiles of those standing for election and outline some of the issues.



## In memory - Andrew Bernard (Bernie) Gillies

Andrew Bernard (Bernie) Gillies, Born Oamaru February 2, 1925, died August 14, 2019.

Bernie built his first crib at Omarama in 1955, with two friends, Jim Easton and Brownie (Jim Brown) with permission from "old Mrs Collins" who later sold them the land on what is now Omarama Avenue. The three men later subdivided the land and Bernie and his wife Joan built a new crib adjacent to the original one.

In the 1950s and into the 1960s, the roads to Omarama from all directions were gravel, and the journey from Oamaru a slow two hours. The main features of the Omarama junction were the hotel and the giant poplar tree growing where the Post Office was built. Brensalls Omarama Store provided daily needs.

There was limited electricity and the original crib had none, with cooking and water heating done by a coal range and lighting at night from Tilley lamps.

The main attractions of Omarama as a holiday destination in those days were the reliably hot, dry summer summers, swimming in the Omarama Stream, fishing in the Ahuriri River and mountain tributaries, fishing and tramping trips to Lake Ohau, picnics at Lake Middleton, duck shooting with friends at local stations and, of course a cold ale or three at the Omarama Pub.

Men drank beer and women had a shandy or, if really daring, a Pimms. Barbeques were over an open fire and outdoor tables were painted cable reels and seats an upturned beer crate.

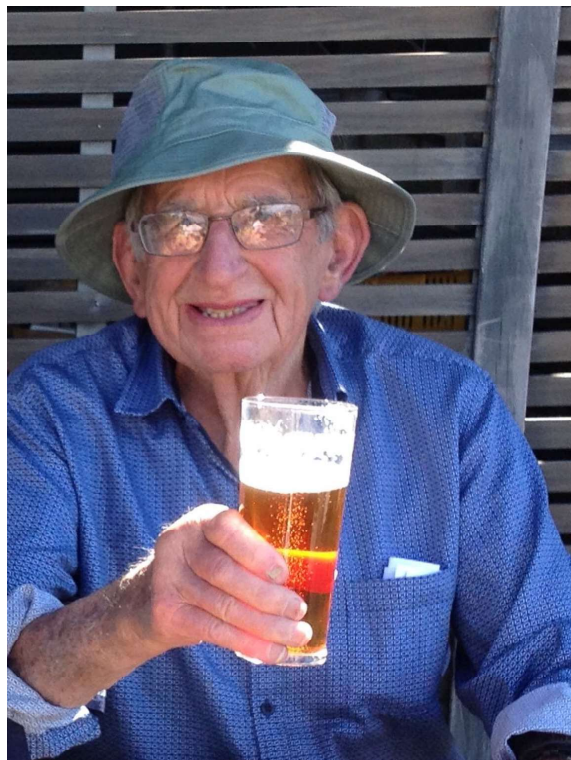
Those who were early pilots, frequented the original glider club field and camp, past Omarama Station, while others were intergenerational holiday makers at the Omarama Camp Ground.

Cribby life in the 50s and 60s was a fairly tight knit community of like-minded people who enjoyed simple summer pleasures of swimming, barbeques at each other's cribs, fishing and the essential "elevenses" under the cooling shade of a willow tree.

Names of the Collins, Fodie, Gillies, Walton, Woods, Collette and Munro families will still be remembered by some.

Bernie Gillies and family sold the crib at Omarama Avenue in December 2017.

- Supplied



# The Noticeboard



**Our sincerest condolences** to the Grumball family on the recent death of Brian.

**Our sincerest condolences** to the Gillies family on the death of Bernie.

**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.

**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](mailto: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/](https://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.**

## **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](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

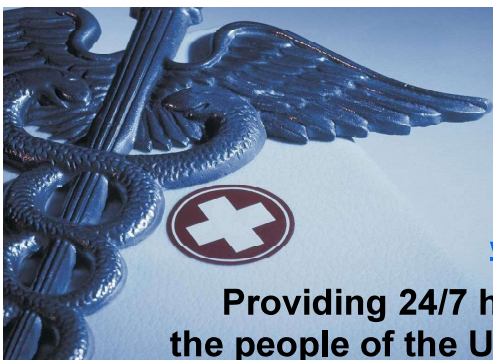
**The October issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, October 2, 2019.**

**Please submit copy  
by Friday, September 27.**

## **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





**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**

**Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinics  
in Twizel (Mackenzie Health Centre Private Clinic)  
and Omarama (Community Hall)  
are proud to offer our registered and casual patients the following services**

- \* Ultrasound performed by a qualified clinician (great for minor fractures, gall stones, kidney stones, heart and lung problems, foreign bodies, blood clots, detecting early pregnancy and much more!)
- \* Minor surgery \* Vasectomies
- \* Mole checking 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**



# The Community Reports

## FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Spring is here, so start your Christmas shopping! It's been a quiet month for FENZ Omarama which is not a bad thing. Daylight saving is coming up so it's time to check your smoke alarms. If you have any issues or would like some help, give us a call. We are only too happy to assist you.

Just to follow up on last month's topic about escape plans, there is a website [www.escapemyhouse.co.nz](http://www.escapemyhouse.co.nz). If you were at our open day you may have tried the head-

sets we had but, if not, the website is well worth a look and a good family exercise. I recently read an article about a person that passed away in house fire possibly because the key was not in the dead lock. The best option is to leave it in the lock when you are at home.

**Here is some new info on fire permits.**

For permitted fires: As of the September 9, 2019 Fire and Emergency will implement the new online permit system in the Otago district. This replaces the Otago District system. People can create an account, so once details are entered they will stay in the system for faster processing in the future. The entry point will be at [www.checkitsalright](http://www.checkitsalright) website.

*- Keep yourselves safe. Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper*

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

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## Omarama Golf Club

*By Christine Bowman*

Winter is always quieter for the Golf Club with mainly locals fronting on Saturdays. Our turn outs have been great with up to a dozen members. The number of people playing is up on last year by about 27 %, which is great as many other clubs have declining player numbers. Work is progressing on the new green in preparation for sowing.

Remember everyone is welcome, if you want to learn or have a go at golf, our members are happy to get you started

Welcome to new members Bob Burgess, Iain Niles and Richard Wade.

**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)**



# Omarama Residents' Association

**From the August meeting...** There were 16 people present

## **Fire compliance for medical centre**

Questions have been raised about whether the community centre meets the fire compliance regulations required to house a medical centre. Although the building regularly undergoes fire compliance checks signed off by an outside auditor, the medical centre has contacted the committee to say it believes it may need to meet different standards. Stephen Grundy is to look into this and report back to the committee.

## **Ahuriri Bridge campsite**

The Mackenzie District Council has advised there were no written reports supplied by the wardens who monitored the Ahuriri River Bridge campsite last season - feedback was verbal only - and that the working group disbanded after Easter. The council and the Department of Conservation have put in a bid for Government funding to pay for enforcement in the upcoming season. The committee expressed disappointment at the lack of communication and records. The council has apologised for this and assured the association records will be kept this season and it will be kept in the loop.

## **The Sports Courts project**

Building convenor Hank Verheul advised there has been delays at the council with the processing of the necessary paperwork. Contractor for the project, Kevin Grant will draw up a scope of work once all permits and consents are in place. A sub committee - Ann Patterson, Hank, Stephen Grundy, Ross Menzies and Jemma Gloag - has been formed to oversee the project. It will have its first meeting in the first week of September.

The council will lay a new water main before work begins on the sports courts.

The meeting was followed by a social hour.

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. The association's email address is [omarama.committee@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.committee@gmail.com)

**The next meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association will be  
7.30 pm, Thursday, September 19, at the Omarama Community Centre.**

**All are welcome**

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



**When circumstances beyond your  
control lead to a  
rural business crisis  
be it financial, climatic or personal  
the Rural Support Trust is  
ready to assist.  
Services are free and confidential.**

**0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)**

## Omarama NZ Post Box Lobby update

Having recently reviewed processes, it's timely to note a few reminders surrounding collection of Post from Omarama NZ Post Box Lobby

### **KEYS**

If you lose (or have lost) keys to your PO Box, please let us know so a replacement lock and two new keys can be organized. A small charge may be applicable. Moving into our busier season we encourage PO Box holders to keep their keys with them – as staff will not always be available to check PO Box's on request.

### **MAIL COLLECTION**

Please collect your mail on a regular basis (at least monthly).

### **HOLDING MAIL**

If heading away on holiday, or are going to be away from the area for an extended period of time – please let us know. There are options we can offer to ensure mail is held safely.

### **UNADDRESSED MAIL**

If you currently receive unaddressed mail i.e. flyers, pamphlets & other notices however would prefer not to - again, please let us know and we will provide you with PO Box amendment form. Once completed - your Box 'category' will be amended so that no further unaddressed mail is directed to your Box number

### **PARCEL COLLECTION**

As a result of the ever increasing volume of items arriving daily, we ask that you look to collect parcels after 11.00am - allowing time for staff to 'receipt and deliver' all items following NZ Post guidelines uninterrupted and as efficiently as possible.

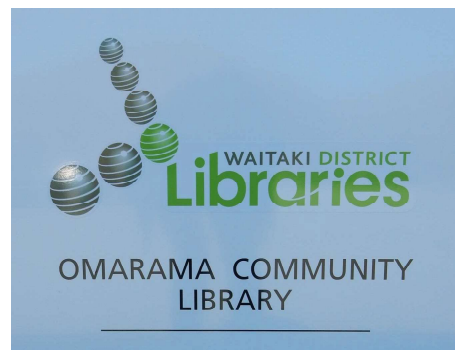
## Omarama Community Library

### An urgent request

To all volunteers, current and new. Names are needed urgently for the roster. Helpers need to step up now to keep the doors of this community facility open.  
The library could be shut at short notice if there are no volunteers available.

Contact: Yvonne Jones 027 476 7473.

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





## Upper Waitaki inter-schools cross country

The Waitaki Valley inter-schools cross country competition was hosted by Omarama School at the Omarama Golf Club last month.

About 200 year one to year eight pupils gathered from four schools - Duntroon, Waitaki Valley, Omarama and Twizel - to compete, and a significant crowd of supporters gathered to cheer on the young athletes.

Omarama School principal Kim McKenzie congratulated all who took part in the races and thanked the Golf Club, the Volunteer Fire Brigade First Response, Friends of Omarama School (who ran the food stall) and the school community, for helping to stage the event.

These Omarama pupils were placed in their respective races.

**Results:** Year 1 Lleyton McLeod, 2, Paige Hunter 6; Year 2 Lucy Radford, 3, Jimmy Moore, 4; Year 3 Jack Bochel, 6; Year 4 Jack Doree, 1, Isla McLeod, 4, Maggie Radford, 5; Year 5 Archie Bochel, 6; Year 7, Toby Bochel, 6, Isla, Maggie, Jack Doree, Archie and Toby Bochel qualified for the year 4 to 8 North Otago primary schools cross country.

For photos go to the Omarama Gazette Facebook page and click on the album: Inter-school cross country 2019

**On Monday, Jack Doree (left), Maggie Radford (right) and Isla McLeod (below) competed in the year four to eight class at the North Otago primary schools cross country competitions, in Oamaru.** *Photos : Kim Doree*





## Omarama School Board of Trustees

Following recent elections Omarama School has appointed two new parent representatives, Michael Doree and Judy Piner, and a new staff representative Shona Denton, to its board. Chairperson David (Gundy) Anderson said, on behalf of the board, teachers and parents, he would like to thank outgoing representatives Jan Thomas, James Kerr and Kristine Lindsay for their dedication and commitment.

**Here's a little more about Michael and Judy, in their own words.**



My name is Michael Doree and I have recently been appointed to the Omarama School Board of Trustees. I hope to bring to the board my diverse skill sets in business and my desire to see the school, its students and teaching staff thrive in our local environment. My wife Kim and I have two children, Jack (9) and Paige (7), who both attend Omarama School. My passions are my family, agriculture and the great outdoors. I look forward to working with the newly-formed Board and helping to lead the school over the next few years.



Recently appointed to the Omarama School Board of Trustees, I look forward to working with fellow Board members and School Staff over the next three years. Although now “retired”, my background includes experience in both the small business and education sectors. Having taught at Omarama School several years ago I look forward to renewing my association with our School. My interests include gardening and enjoying discovering more of our beautiful country..... at a leisurely pace.

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

# Friends of Omarama School

Omarama School Art for Education fundraiser. More than \$30,000 has been raised to help fund a third teacher for Omarama School at the 'Art for Education' auction and dinner last month.

The event run as a joint effort by the Omarama School Board of Trustees and Friends of the School was held at the Heritage Gateway hotel. More than 20 local artists contributed work to be auctioned and sponsors donated goods and services to be raffled.

School parents and supporters wanted to raise enough money so that when the search began for a third teacher funding would be in place to make up any Ministry shortfall.

The Ministry of Education threshold for funding three teachers is 51 pupils and the school roll is 43 pupils at present.

The organisers would like to thank all sponsors.



## 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

# Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

At Meridian, we're committed to doing good things with our energy. To do good for people, and good for the environment.

So, we're proud to back local projects in communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with our Power Up fund.

With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund. Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff, we're working together to build strong and sustainable communities.

Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects in Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio and Glenavy.

## How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until 30th September 2019.

For more information and to apply:

- visit [meridian.co.nz/powerup](http://meridian.co.nz/powerup)
- email [community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz)
- call 03 357 9732



## Waitaki District Council - news in brief

**The Waitaki District Council has announced it has secured government funding to employ two part-time contractors - one of which will cover the Ahuriri ward - to help manage budget camping in the district this season.**

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has announced it has approved Waitaki's bid for \$170,000 which will pay for staff (\$40,000), information and signage (\$30,000), and the servicing of toilets on the Kaitaki straight (\$100,000). In the same announcement it has approved the Mackenzie District Council bid for \$215,011 for staff, signage and education, and servicing and maintaining existing camping sites.

In Waitaki the enforcement officers will be called 'Tiaki Ambassadors' and are part of the council's 2019-20 Responsible Freedom Camping programme which will focus on educating campers about "responsible freedom camping", the council statement says. In response to a request for further information, council recreation manager Erik van der Spek told the Omarama Gazette the funding would mean the council could engage two part-time contractors, one of which would cover the Ahuriri Ward. The contractors would work under council bylaws and "target areas identified by Council" and those identified in feedback from the community.

Last month, the Mackenzie District Council and the Department of Conservation told the Omarama Gazette they were waiting to hear the outcome of their joint bid for funding to pay for monitoring and enforcement at camping sites so they could make plans about how it would be spent in the upcoming tourist season.

That bid would not cover any Waitaki District Council land but it would pay for wardens to monitor the Ahuriri River Bridge campsite, Mackenzie District Council chief executive Suzette van Aswegen said at the time.

Mr Van der Spek said, this morning, they would be meeting with the Mackenzie council to discuss "how we can work together".

All three agencies were members of the Mackenzie and Waitaki Basins Responsible Camping Strategy Working Group set up last year to apply for, distribute and manage \$548,000 of MBIE funding for visitor education, monitoring and compliance, toilets, signage, vehicle counters and fencing at various sites along SH 8.

The full story was published on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page on Monday, September 2, 2019. (*Search Facebook posts for this headline:*

*FUNDING SECURED FOR FREEDOM CAMPING 'AMBASSADORS'.)*

**The Waitaki District Council has secured \$635,000 from the MBIE to take the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail off State Highway 83.**

A new trail 15.6km long will be built between Sailors Cutting and Benmore dam. From Sailors Cutting the trail will follow along the edge of Lake Benmore before climbing through a saddle and running along top of the hills between Lake Benmore and Loch Laird. The trail will then descend and finish at the Benmore Dam car park. It will be a Grade 2 (easy) trail.

The new section will be open to the public by September 2020. A highlight of the proposed new track will be the view across the Ahuriri arm of Lake Benmore and a bridge planned to connect two bluffs that will carry cyclists and walkers 10m above the water.

**The Waitaki Lakes Camping grounds** open for the new season on Saturday, September 21.

# Wastewater system upgrade begins

Work has begun on the upgrade of Omarama's wastewater system.

The upgrade is to take place in two stages.

Last week, Waitaki District Council contractors Specialised Services Group Ltd begun work to construct a 'dispersal' field at the western end of Omarama Airfield where effluent will be piped into underground infiltration trenches.

Council project manager Joshua Rendell said that part of the job was expected to take about four weeks and the timing was arranged to fit around airfield operations.

The council has also advertised for tenders for the second stage of the work, these close on September 2.

In the second stage a new pumping shed will be constructed at the present treatment plant, along with an effluent filter system to ensure the infiltration gallery "doesn't bind up".

The project was initially estimated to cost \$500,000.

"However, our current indications are showing it is likely to cost a bit more than that."

The tender for the first stage was about \$150,000 over estimate.

"So, at the moment we are likely to be tracking around \$700k."

Mr Rendell said more information about the final price would be available after tenders closed for the second stage.

The project is to be funded from a combination of depreciation, development contributions and a loan.

At present, wastewater from the township is treated using a 'facultative' lagoon and a maturation pond at the Omarama wastewater treatment plant which is across SH8 from the end of the runway.

The discharge from the treatment plant flows through a gravel swale into the Omarama Stream, a tributary of the Ahuriri River.

The upgrade is required as part of the renewal of the discharge consent from Environment Canterbury to meet regional council and Iwi requirements.

"The present consent to discharge to the stream is to be replaced with a discharge to land system," Mr Rendell said.

He said the council had been in discussions with the Omarama Airfield Ltd, a council-controlled company, about the upgrade project "for some time".

As part of the consent process, extensive groundwater modelling was conducted to make sure there would be no detrimental effects on the neighbours downstream to the north of the airfield, or the environment.

Bores will be sunk on council land adjacent to the airfield to monitor this - in line with consent conditions, he said.

The project features as a brief write up in the council's Pre-election Report intended as a tool to assist voters and candidates in the run up to the election.

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





The next meeting of the Ahuriri Community Board  
is **3.15pm to 5.15pm**  
**Monday, September 9, 2019**  
at the Otematata Lakes Centre

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)

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 poster features a background map of the Omarama area. A green trapezoidal shape contains a white silhouette of a frog and the text 'OMARAMA MASTERPLAN'. Below this, a red banner reads 'shape your place'. The main event details are in bold red and black text. A blue speech bubble says 'Have YOUR say!'. A red box contains information about viewing Masterplan options and a URL. A dark blue box at the bottom contains the Waitaki District Council logo and website.

**OMARAMA  
MASTERPLAN**

*shape your place*

**COMMUNITY  
MASTERPLAN  
WORKSHOP**

**SUNDAY 25 AUGUST 2019**  
**10AM - 12PM**

OMĀRAMA COMMUNITY HALL

Help us plan the future of Ōmārama  
Masterplan options can be viewed on  
the Waitaki District Council website  
and copies are available at the library,  
community centre and some local  
businesses  
<http://bit.ly/omarama-masterplan>

Have YOUR say!

Fill out our online survey on the [Omarama Masterplan page](#) under 'Consultation' on our website or pick up a feedback form from Council offices and libraries.

All feedback needs to be returned to us by 6 September 2019

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

 **Waitaki**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI

**N.B. Masterplan submissions are  
open until September 6  
[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)**

# Environment Canterbury - news in brief

There is now less than a month to lodge **submissions to Plan Change 7** to the Land & Water Regional Plan (LWRP) and Plan Change 2 to the Waimakariri River Regional Plan. Submissions must be received by 5pm on 13 September 2019. Submissions close: 5pm September 13. Read more at [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)

The next meeting of Environment Canterbury's  
Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is  
9.30 am Friday, September 20, 2019  
at the Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel  
**All are welcome**

Minutes and agendas are posted at:  
<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/upper-waitaki-water-zone/>

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

## Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

### Trip downstream for trout improves odds for tiny native species

Tiny native fish that live in remote streams in the Mackenzie Basin were given better odds for survival recently thanks to a three-day joint operation to relocate their major predators – hungry trout.

More than 500 rainbow and brown trout were safely caught and moved downstream below special fish barriers during a multi-agency effort in the tributaries leading to Fork Stream. This gives the vulnerable galaxiid species – which rarely grow bigger than 80mm in length – a safer habitat to thrive within.

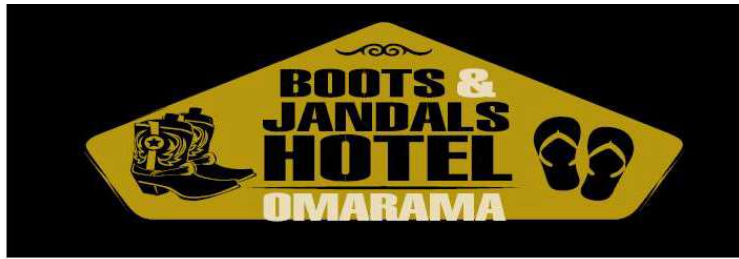
A team from Environment Canterbury, Department of Conservation and the NZ Defence Force worked together to carefully net the trout and move them further downstream, away from bignose and longjaw Waitaki galaxias – which are only found in the Mackenzie Basin.

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee has supported many projects to protect native fish in the Mackenzie Basin, including \$12,000 of funding towards fish barriers at Fork Stream.

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is a community led committee supported by Environment Canterbury, Waitaki District Council, Mackenzie District Council and Waimate District Council.

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





## COMING EVENTS-SEPTEMBER 2019

*Social Club Bar Tab Draw- Every Tuesday 6.00pm sharp*

*Friday at 6.30pm Meat Raffles – Fundraiser for the  
Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade.*

*DB Hunting and Fishing Promotion buy any DB or Tui Beer  
collect 6 stamps and go into the draw to win an Outdoor  
Clothing Kit*

*Rugby World Cup – Live, starting Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September*

*World Cup Rugby promotion from 20<sup>th</sup> September*

*Heineken Bucket (5 x stubbies, get the sixth one FREE)*

*Sick of Beer, CC and Dry Bucket Deal 4 x stubbies for \$25.00*

*Mist Wood Pre-mix Gins with apple, 10 pack \$20.00  
takeaway, while stocks last*

*Warm Fire and Cosy Bar come in relax and unwind*



*FROM THE TEAM AT BOOTS AND JANDALS*



Waitaki Tourism Association

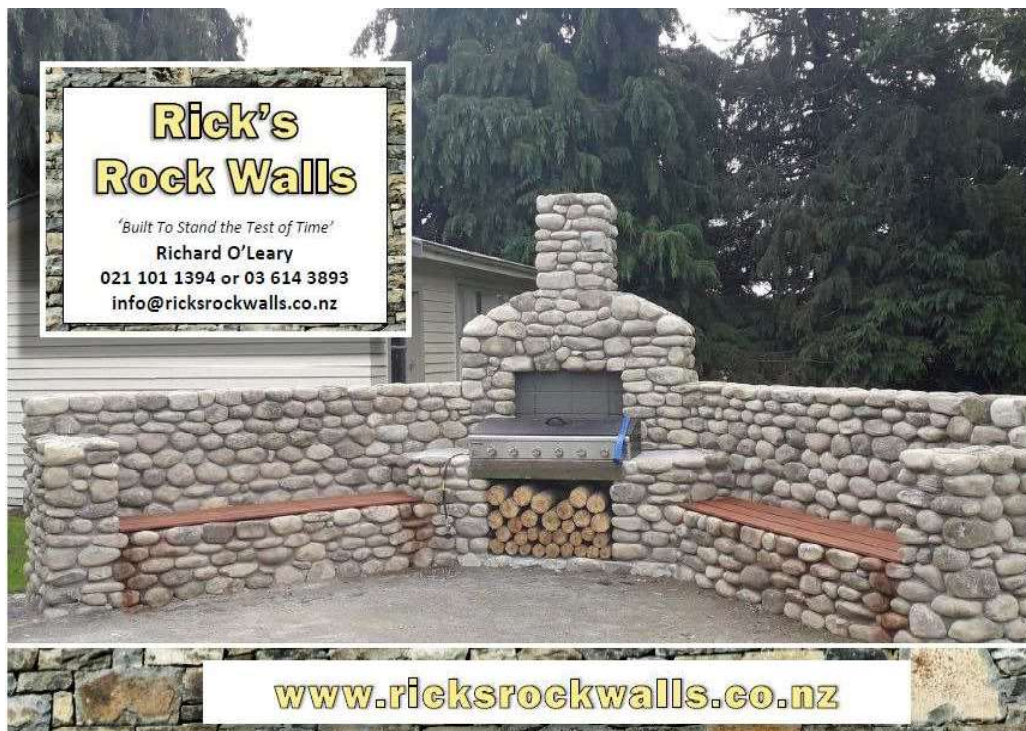
## AGM

will be held on Saturday, 7th September 2019,  
starting at 6pm  
at the Loan and Merc, Harbour Street,  
followed by a dinner.  
All are welcome.

Keynote Speaker—David Higgins  
Upoko Runaka o Moeraki

Speakers - Council and Mayoral Candidates  
on the topic of Tourism in the Waitaki District.

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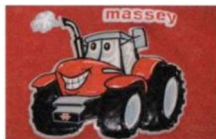


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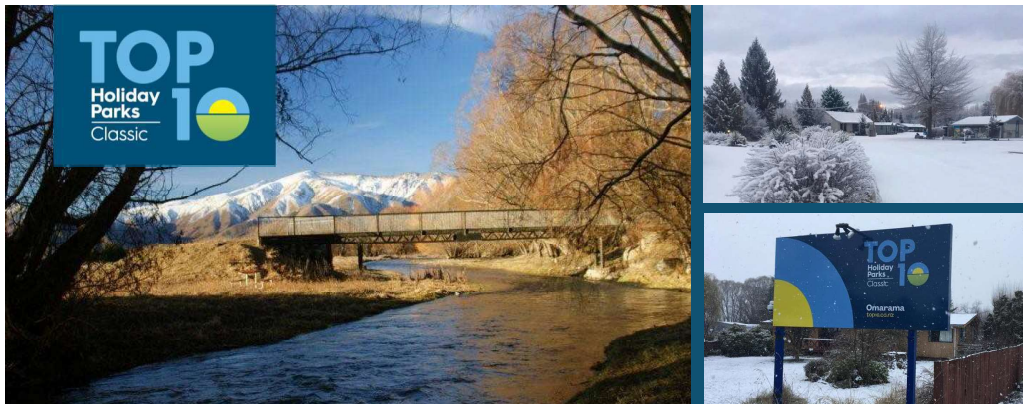
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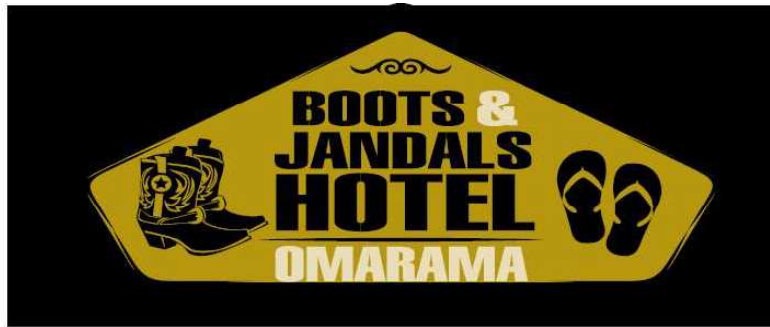
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## The View from the Chook House



*It's spring - time to crack on with hatch and dispatch!*

---

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

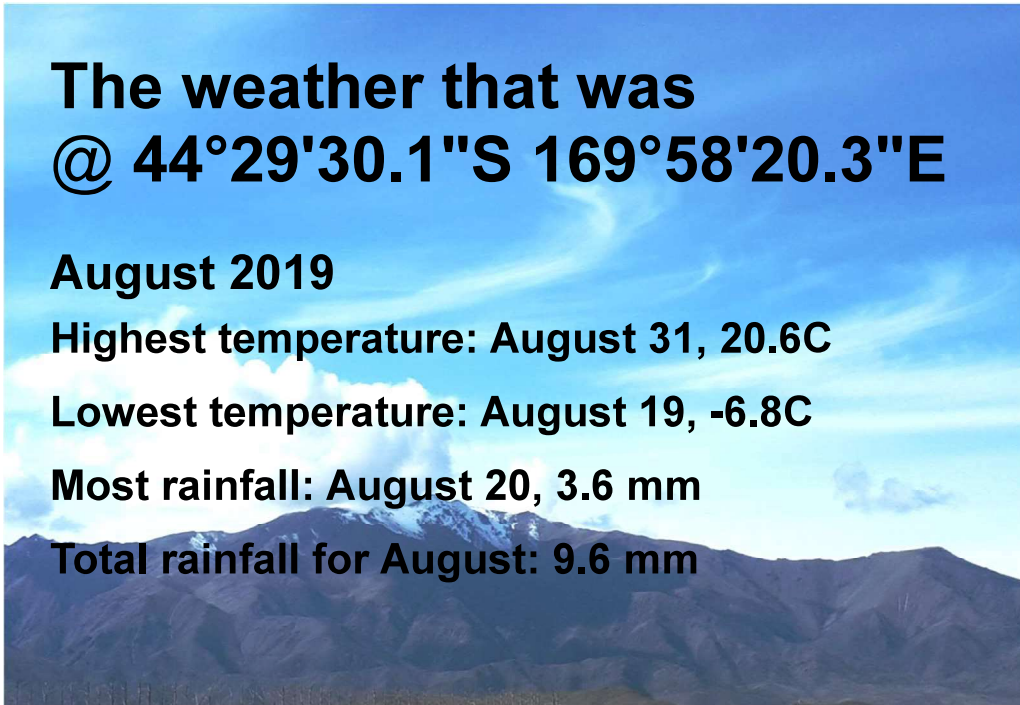
**August 2019**

**Highest temperature: August 31, 20.6C**

**Lowest temperature: August 19, -6.8C**

**Most rainfall: August 20, 3.6 mm**

**Total rainfall for August: 9.6 mm**



# The Garden Diary - Bud burst

*"Favourable weather at this time of the year lures the unsuspecting gardener into sowing all manner of things in the open ground only to lose them to the combined effects of cold soil, excessive moisture and lack of sunshine." – 'Star' Garden Book, a week by week guide.*

The early-birds, the snowdrops are up and almost over and are ready to shift to new spots under the hedge and apple trees. Ruby nubs of rhubarb are pushing their way through and unfurling. They're ready for a dollop of something nutritious.

The garden year has come full circle and a new one has begun.

The same pattern will follow – spring, summer, autumn, winter as we travel once more around the sun. This is the fifth spring I have 'scribbled' in this Garden Diary.

There is not much new. No doubt I will repeat myself - "Ah ha, I think you said that already". I love routine, it keeps me grounded, a still point in the turning world.

And I love the high-country climate where one season can never be mistaken for the next.

When winter steals every colour in the world spring gently lures it back brushing pastel watercolours across the sepia landscape.

Out on the reserve the grass is still tawny but the willows have turned. It begins. The larks sing their whistling tune as they dart out of the long grass just ahead of my steps and into warm sunshine. Wisps of fog steam off the frosty Chain Hills and down on the lake. Winter has not quite let go.

The change in the weather not only brings new growth, the 'to do' list grows as well. It sees me pulling aside the dead foliage, freeing up the green shoots until my fingers won't move with cold from the morning frost.

I read the advice from my Star Garden Guide every year, not once do I listen.

Back in autumn I had smugly thought I was ahead. Winter and early spring veg sowed right on time, row on row, ready to 'stand' the cold. I was the proudest I had ever been of my veg patch, imagining all the hearty winter meals I could create.

Note in diary – returned home, chooks were out. Not one green shoot left, just a bunch of happy, warm, fat and fluffy hens luxuriating in deep dust baths.

This year, spring is arriving differently in the high country. I think. It may have been a mild winter but I'm still nervous about a cold snap. I remind myself not to prune the roses just yet. But a new Moorpark Apricot sapling – why can't I get them to grow? – has been given its new home.

And tomato seeds, my usual – Russian Red, Cherokee Purple and Gardeners delight - have been sown in trays, and sit on my daughter's sunny dresser. She's not home for a few more weeks.

I've bought seed potatoes, 'Purple Passion'. This year's 'Spud in a Bucket' winner by a country mile!

And maybe I'll see what the sprouting kumera in my veg basket can do.

Soon there will be a few early strawberries to add to the rhubarb crumble.

Ruth Grundy

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



## **The Last Page is Classifieds**

### **Annual Meeting**

St Thomas' Church , Omarama

**12 noon, Friday, October 11**

*(postponed from June)*

Omarama Memorial Hall.

### **Bra fittings**

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