



Omarama Gazette

June 2020



Bids in play to return gliding to airfield

Seven separate applicants have expressed an interest in re-establishing a gliding-related business at Omarama Airfield ahead of the upcoming season.

Last month, the Omarama Airfield Company invited gliding operators who wanted to set up a commercial gliding operation at the airfield to apply for a licence to operate. Glide Omarama ceased operations in early March because of a licensing dispute with the Civil Aviation Authority.

And since that time restrictions to prevent the spread of Covid-19 have put a stop to resumption of activity.

Omarama Airfield Company chairperson Clive Geddes said the company had received seven separate applications for a variety of gliding and gliding-related operations to begin September 1.

The company was actively working with the applicants, he said.

Given the circumstances it was acutely aware of the need to obtain “some certainty” for the operation, the applicants and the community.

The company was in discussion with some of the parties already and hoped to have a decision by the end of this month, Mr Geddes said.

It was hoped this would give all parties the necessary lead time to prepare for the season ahead, “whatever the nature of the economy maybe in the coming year”.

Last month, Mr Geddes said it had “circulated” the call for expressions of interest through Gliding New Zealand channels and to “two or three parties overseas” who had shown interest and previously had a “long-term summer presence” in Omarama. As well, Glide Omarama had been kept “fully informed” of progress and were welcome to submit an application.

Bids in play to return gliding to airfield, *continued...*

Applications closed May 22.

Anyone who applied was required to confirm they could meet the relevant statutory requirements, Mr Geddes said.

The Omarama Airfield Company, which owns and operates the airfield, is a council-controlled enterprise.

In its advertisement it says, "any one or all of towing, cross country and ab initio training, trial and or scenic flight services will be the subject of the Licence to Operate".

The licence to operate will be granted for three years with two rights of renewal and may include exclusive rights for certain of the services.

The company would consider applications where a number of parties were offering separate services but were seeking a single licence.



The Otematata Chronicle

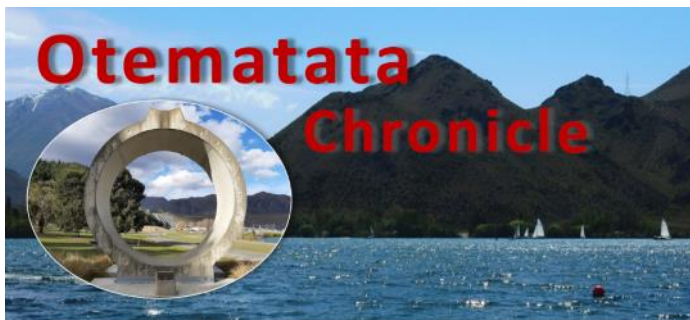
is published on the third Wednesday of each month.

The next issue is Wednesday, June 17, 2020
The close-off for this is Friday, June 12

The Chronicle is emailed to subscribers.

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Discussions on building's future

Any decision about the future of the St Thomas's Church building is unlikely to be made immediately, the church committee chairperson says.

Its future is once more under deliberation after Tourism Waitaki announced last month, because of the impact of the Covid-19 crisis, it would be closing its Omarama Information Centre which it runs from building.

As well as ensuing job losses it will end its lease of the building. Talks between the parties involved are continuing.

Tourism Waitaki has leased the church building since December 2017. At that time cycle tour company Trail Adventures took up a sub-lease with the council-controlled tourism company and also began operating from the building. Combined church services have continued at the Omarama Community Centre and in parishioners' homes.

St Thomas Church Community chairman Rev Ken Light said the news had come as "a blow to the town and the Church". He said, when it was alerted there were issues, the church offered Tourism Waitaki a three-month rental holiday which ended at the close of this month. "Which we were happy to do because Covid meant they couldn't even be there." Tourism Waitaki contacted the church committee to tell them of its final decision once staff were informed of the closures, he said. Although the committee had been warned, the decision to end the lease came as "a shock and a surprise", he said. With the subsequent loss of income, the church would still not be a position to remain viable long-term. Last year, because of the rental payments, for the first time in its history the church was "self-sufficient" and had income to pay for a minister's stipend and travel costs, he said.

The management committee would discuss the turn of events at its meeting next week and the new Anglican Bishop of Dunedin, the Rt Rev Dr Steven Benford, and the Archdeacon with oversight for North Otago were expected to attend.

Rev Light also intended to discuss matters with Trail Adventures owner Vaughan Williams. It was likely the committee would adopt a wait-and-see approach until the end of the year and then advertise there was space available to use, Rev Light said. "The thought of selling it is very premature." St Thomas' Church is a combined Presbyterian, Catholic and Anglican church community.

The land and building are owned by the Presbyterian Church's Otago Foundation Trust Board.

In an interview, Mr Williams said he was meeting with Tourism Waitaki general manager Margaret Munro via Zoom on Thursday and also hoped to arrange a meeting with church representatives.

He and partner Aimee Snellgrove took over the lease from Scott and Dee-Ann Fitzgerald in November.

His return to Auckland at the end of the season had been planned because of the impending birth of their baby daughter, born last week.

He said the couple "absolutely" planned to return to Omarama for the upcoming season. "We're still as keen as."

He said his first preference was to negotiate a new lease directly with the church. Failing that, the business would need to rent out something else which would suit, in Omarama.

"We have to look at all the options...we desperately need to have something in place by the start of the season.

"We want it to work for everyone ...we're in it for the long haul," Mr Williams said.

Emergency services kept busy

It seems with the lifting of Covid-19-related travel restrictions "Kiwis have forgotten how to drive", Omarama's chief fire officer says.

And foggy and frosty road conditions have only served to complicate matters.

The long weekend brought welcome crowds to the town as people took to the high-ways to blow away the lockdown cobwebs.

However, with that came an increase in calls to emergency services which set off sirens throughout the holiday.

In all the Omarama brigade was called to three motor vehicle accidents, attended three medical events and a small electrical fire in the grounds of St Thomas' Church, Fenz Omarama chief fire officer Greg Harper said.

"We've gone from zero [calls through lockdown] to very busy in a short space of time."

Kiwis are venturing out after lockdown and "might not be the drivers they think they are".

Drivers were making classic mistakes - not driving to the conditions, driving with limited vision, driving when tired and driving at "crazy speeds".

Monday's accident was at the "notorious Ahuriri cutting", the stretch of road just north of the Ahuriri River bridge where over the years there had been "many a call".

That stretch could turn from a dry road to black ice "in a very short space of time", he said.

On Saturday morning Omarama crews plus two Otago Regional rescue helicopters, the Otematata Volunteer Fire Brigade, St John Twizel, Police and Downers were called at about 2.20am when a vehicle rolled on SH8 just south of the town. Four people were taken to hospital.

The Omarama brigade was also called when a motorcyclist was injured after an accident on the Tarras side of the Lindis Pass but were turned back because they were not required.

The Omarama brigade is at present recruiting members

As from last week the brigade had resumed regular training sessions under Covid-19 level 2 protocols, Greg said.

Photo: Meridian Energy



Pest eradication proves positive for business

The Government's promised financial boost to a programme to eradicate the high country's number one plant pest looks set to have a positive spin-off for one Omarama-based operation.

Central South Island Helicopters, who established its own hangar at the airfield and has had a pilot stationed here since May 2017 "as a bit of a trial" is now considering growing its Omarama base, owner-operator Matt Brown said.

Not only has there been high demand out of Omarama for the primarily agricultural-focussed business but work to eradicate wilding conifers has picked up speed since about 2016 when the Ministry of Primary Industries allocated more funding to the National Wilding Conifer Control programme.

Trees which were planted from the 1950s for erosion control, shelter and beatification have spread to threaten farmland and environmentally sensitive landscapes prompting the control work.

Last month, the Government announced a further \$100 million would be put to a Covid-19 redeployment support package specifically targeted at the eradication of the conifers, considered a \$4.6 billion threat to farmland, waterways and ecosystems. Specifically, the package allocates \$2million to Environment Canterbury and Department of Conservation-led projects at Ohau, Tekapo and Craigieburn.

The projects are also to provide about 50 people with work for about three months, ECan said, in a statement.

It has offered this work to those in the tourism and hospitality industries who have lost their jobs because of the Covid-19 crisis.

Although the agencies had not directly asked CSIH to employ more staff, Matt said the promise of more funding to target the pest could only be good news.

It was difficult for the general public, who was only able to view the problem from the ground, to fully comprehend the extent of the spread of the conifers.

It would have to be the number one pest threatening the high country at this time, he said.



Positive news for business, *continued...*

“We’ve spent a long time keeping them at bay but it’s just been so hard because of the spread.”

The 2019 season spent tackling the problem was the “biggest season yet”.

Not only does the company conduct aerial spraying but it also flies in crews to tackle the pest on the ground.

Matt said, apart from the lockdown period – Covid-19 alert levels 4 and 3 - CSIH has had two-to-three helicopters working out of Omarama “from daylight to dusk” tackling the eradication work.

The Herbert-based company with 10 full-time employees plus contractors has operated in North Otago and South Canterbury for about 30 years.

And CSIH has been involved in wilding conifer eradication for well over a decade, Matt said.

In that time it had worked with Doc and the Crown research organisation Scion in trials, on developing new processes to tackle the work, and on better, more effective sprays and techniques for both boom and spot spraying.

The work from Omarama encompassed the Ohau Basin, Benmore, Twizel and Omarama – including the St Mary and Ida Range.

There was the same amount of work still ahead of them this season as there was for the whole season last year, Matt said

The eradication regime works “on rotation”.

“You go through and clear it out, then go back in about three years to deal with the seedlings and missed spots.

“It’s highlighted the fact that a hangar here was feasible.

“In fact we need something a wee bit bigger.”

Matt said he had begun discussions with the Omarama Airfield Company with a view to expanding the premises to meet future needs.

He also expected to be looking for additional staff to help on the ground.

Central South Island Helicopters' two machines get set to begin a day's work earlier this week. Photo: supplied



Wajax 2020, it's a wrap!

It may seem like an age ago but right before New Zealand went into Covid-19 level 4 lockdown Fenz Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade staged the 50th anniversary Wajax 2020 competitions.

In March, 25 teams from across Otago/Southland came together to compete in the competition based at the Countrytime Hotel.

About 200 competitors, supporters, judges, officials and VIPs attended throughout the day.

At the awards dinner the Omarama Brigade was thanked by all for hosting a successful event and memorable occasion.

Omarama firefighter Jack Zorab (above) was singled out for a special mention for his efforts to bring the event together.

As the main sponsors WATERAX, the Canadian company that makes the modern day Wajax pump, gave each competitor a Wajax 2020 commemorative competition coin.

The Omarama Team comprised Maurice Cowie - who also ran in the team in the first competitions, Aaron Ferguson, who retired early with an injury and was replaced by Jack, Peter Trusler and Jacob Cook.

The competition was won by favourites Te Anau A.

The first Wajax pump competition was in 1970 between the Stewart Island, Glenorchy and Omarama rural fire volunteer brigades. They were later joined by Lake Hawea.

The competition is named after the Wajax portable pump 'backpack', one of a rural firefighter's main pieces of equipment.



Teddies' antics - a new chapter begins

As one chapter ends another exciting chapter is about to begin for Omarama poet and storywriter Lynda Allen.

Throughout the country's Covid-19 lockdown Lynda has created a series of engaging narrative poems set to scenes of her teddies' antics and adventures as they too whiled away the hours waiting to be let out the front gate.

As an essential worker the Mobil Omarama forecourt attendant worked through the crisis.

However, the combination of missing her young grandsons, Ryley (13, Masterton), Jermaine (7) and Bradley (5, Palmerston North), and wishing she could entertain them by joining in the popular 'bear hunt' lockdown activity got her thinking.

She thought why not create stories for the children here to enjoy, those who were separated from their grandparents, too?

"I had all these stories in my head."

Rounding up teddies and other soft toys was not a problem as she had plenty left at home courtesy of her two now adult sons Greg (Palmerston North) and Lindsay (Tasmania), who grew up in Omarama, plus there was her "Tiger" who proved to be somewhat of the ringleader for the various antics.

Lynda said she had always created "her wee ditties" as her Mum called them, for family and friends, "something funny for work" often for special occasions.

The lockdown stories began simply but as time went on each teddy tableau grew more and more creative.

Initially, the problem was children could not easily spot the teddies if they were set up at ground level so Lynda decided to create a scene on the roof.

But then she asked herself, as any good story teller would, what were teddies doing the roof?

The ensuing episodes and adventures, filled with twists and turns and puns and quips, sprang from there.

Many of the props were courtesy of her sons also, "their stuff still in my shed"- snowboards, surfboards, golf clubs, hats and helmets.

She said she would come across something and there'd be that spark of inspiration.

"I can work my story around that," she said.

She also became a deft hand at constructing detailed props from things at hand - a village, playground equipment including a zip line. Mobil Omarama's hoist featured in one story.

And no decent teddies' picnic is complete without choccie biscuits.

Lynda said one dad told her his family "had to walk past her place every day to see what the teddies are doing", as they were out getting fresh air and exercise.

Once Covid-19 restrictions began to lift other community members were woven into the teddies antics.

There was Senior Constable Nayland (Bean) Smith who was required to give the motley crew a stern scolding to arrest their progress into a life of crime.

There was nurse Misty Rodgers who administered essential flu shots ...now that didn't hurt a bit.

Posting 'Army Bear' to Palmerston North on secret deployment to visit Jermaine and Bradley at Linton Army Camp required a degree of collusion between Lynda and Greg, and daughter-in-law Clare, who luckily had an identical bear.

So the boys would not detect that the bear had not, in fact, winged its way north via courier Lynda said she and Greg had to replicate the props with careful attention to

every detail - she even had to mirror Greg's handwritten label letter for letter. The Teddies' stories were posted on the local Omarama Shenanigans Facebook page and locals loved them, waiting with eager anticipation for each new episode, and now also for the book Lynda has decided to publish. The stories and photos will be collected into a colour publication which Lynda expects will be priced at about \$20.

She said she hoped no one would let the cat out of the bag and the teddies would not spill the beans as she wanted the book to be a surprise for the grandchildren.

She has been overwhelmed by the response and already has about 50 orders without counting the copies she wants to give her family.

To contact Lynda phone 03 438 9728 or 021 183 8079.

Photo: supplied



Looking back

Our life and times through Covid-19 lockdown

Dear Subscribers,

After a two month break The Omarama Gazette has returned to its usual monthly slot. As some of you will be aware the Gazette suspended usual publication - April and May - when the country went into lockdown to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Instead, the Daily Wire was produced throughout and published by email and on various Facebook pages to make sure locally relevant information reached our communities.

My apologies, because of the restrictions I did not have the resources to print copies during this time but I understand generous people made sure the information was passed to those who needed it.

During 'lockdown' we shared our daily past-times and recorded our experiences in prose, poetry and photos.

People from as far afield as Australia have contributed to our community peggy square blanket...more to come on that.

It was an Easter and Anzac Day we will never forget.

If you missed getting the "Wire", you can catch up on the instalments by visiting the Omaramagazette.nz website and going to the read more link.

Please contact me if you would like to be sent links to earlier issues.

Kind regards,

Ruth



Tell me why ?

Tell me why we must continue?

At the risk of coming across as dreadfully needy, tell me why?

With the Covid-19 lockdown has come a chance to reassess, to consider what it is that really matters and what should take priority.

So, I would like to be sure I'm on the right track and the fastest way to do that is to ask you what you think.

Like others, our community is in a state of flux right now, so how best can the Omarama Gazette serve?

Who would you prefer to hold the editorial reins?

I refuse to remain here past my use-by and continue to churn out some sad relic which is merely archived in the dusty recesses of some electronic 'cloud'.

Let me set out for you the challenges.

Community newsletters were once the sole and best source of information we needed to guide our daily lives - think meeting times and places, who to contact about what, the place to go for local recommendations, to find out who to call when things got busted.

Now there are myriad ways that information comes to us.

During the Covid-19 crisis there has been a tsunami of information flooding the 'airwaves'.

Businesses, the Government, local governments, community groups each have their communications teams, numerous social media channels, websites and email contact trees dedicated to getting their message to you.

Eyeballs matter and there are now so many vying for your attention, including me.

And there is nothing guaranteed to make me switch off faster than to see, again and again, the same 'news' which has been posted and shared five or six times or more throughout the day. It must be the same for you.

Alongside the genuine, there are more sites appearing who want to present you with what I would call 'filtered' news, 'puff pieces' produced by marketing teams who are paid to make sure any message has only the perfect spin on it.

Reporters on busy news desks whose job's worth is measured by the amount of copy they can produce in a short space of time at minimal cost feel pressured into regurgitating these 'company' lines.

And who in a newsroom has time to go and sit-in on a three-hour meeting, or anything spare in the budget to pay for those wages?

As well, there are many setting up 'news' sites who have been dazzled by the promotional dollar and have designed ways to skim the cream off the top. Hey, everybody has to make a living.

Each month, the Gazette is built on the smell of an oily rag so finances are not an issue.

To me, being relevant matters more.

And let's face it, at this point in time no one has enough spare time or cash to spend on something that's irrelevant.

As the editor of the Omarama Gazette the one value I treasure and protect is credibility.

We're all well aware of US president Trump's relentless attacks on "media", and, this week, those physical attacks too on journalists reporting on protests in his country. And we're so pleased we live here. It wouldn't happen here. We might not have a president who is so willing to cry 'fake news' but, think about it, we still have plenty who will attempt to discredit the work bona fide journalists, even if only through insinuation.

"Well, that's the media for you - blows everything out of proportion."

"If the notion of not believing what you see is under attack, that is a huge problem. One has to restore truth in seeing again." New York University professor Nasir Memon was quoted in a recent article.

"The challenge for all journalists beset by anti-media sentiment and cutbacks is how?"

Prof Memon is a computer scientist and professor of its school of engineering and computer science.

Quite obviously the Gazette is not in the physical war-over-words-zone which is the US at present.

None-the-less all those clever little jibes and snipes build daily toward anti-media sentiment, plant those seeds of doubt and chip away at credibility.

During the past five years when it has been my privilege to be the Gazette editor I have received thanks and compliments daily. Truly. People are kind. Like these...

"I've got to say the Gazette has become one of the few things that I actually sit still for, and enjoy reading!"

"You do an amazing job – and just wanted you to know it's very much appreciated."
"Wonderful work, as usual, you did an excellent job."

And then there are these...

"Check your history before making statements! You may live in Omarama but it takes many years to be a local. Especially if you don't respect or take the time to learn the history."

"You control a paper that no one has a say in and it's all your opinion. That is not freedom of speech."

"Your comments have been noted and shared with residents and ratepayers with similar concerns and issues with your biased opinions and they have been added to the growing file."

And then there was the person (not a local) I overheard saying that at my age my time would surely be better spent helping her in her garden than reporting on Omarama issues discussed at annual plan proceedings at a council meeting. I am sometimes tempted to agree with her wholeheartedly.

I've found criticism is a great motivator to make sure you never settle for less than your best work.

That works for me provided that work is still seen by most as worthwhile.

Enough, already.
This is not about me.

The Omarama Gazette is yours, ours.

- continued over

Tell me why, *continued...*

So in the midst of all this naval gazing I need you to tell me if this is worth fighting for.

What makes this relevant?

What makes this necessary.

What makes it worthwhile for you to open this and read it?

Tell me why we must continue?

PS

If you are curious, these are the principles I use to guide my work.

These are known as the Jim Lehrer Rules for being a journalist with integrity.

- Do nothing I cannot defend.
- Do not distort, lie, slant, or hype.
- Do not falsify facts or make up quotes.
- Cover, write, and present every story with the care I would want if the story were about me.
- Assume there is at least one other side or version to every story.
- Assume the viewer is as smart and caring and good a person as I am.
- Assume the same about all people on whom I report.
- Assume everyone is innocent until proven guilty.
- Assume personal lives are a private matter until a legitimate turn in the story mandates otherwise.
- Carefully separate opinion and analysis from straight news stories and clearly label them as such.
- Do not use anonymous sources or blind quotes except on rare and monumental occasions. No one should ever be allowed to attack another anonymously.
- Do not broadcast profanity or the end result of violence unless it is an integral and necessary part of the story and/or crucial to understanding the story.
- Acknowledge that objectivity may be impossible but fairness never is.
- My readers have a right to know what principles guide my work and the process I use in their practice.
- I am not in the entertainment business.



The Noticeboard



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

Congratulations to Vaughan Williams and Aimee Snellgrove (Trail Adventures) on the birth of their baby daughter.

Farewell and best wishes to Antonieta Moreno Casañas who has moved to Cromwell to take up work. Thank you Tieta for your contributions to the Omarama Gazette.

St Thomas' Omarama

Community: Services and communion are held on a regular basis, usually monthly at 10.30am on the Friday of the second

weekend of the month at the home of a parishioner. Contact: Kay Verheul 03 438 9538 or Rev Ken Light 027 211 1501.

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, cards in 12noon, tee-off 12.30pm. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley, 027 347 8276. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

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

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.

Bridge Club - The Omarama Bridge Club meets on a regular basis and would welcome new members. If you are interested please phone Sylvia Anderson 438 9784 or Ann Patterson 438 9493.

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

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

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

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Petrina Paton 027 345 6192

Car Seat Rentals: Christine, phone: 03 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

Breastfeeding Works: Claire Hargest-Slade 03 684 3625, 021 493 863
clairhs@me.com

In case of emergency: to prevent any confusion about the location of Lake Ohau Alpine Village in an emergency, the following points should be noted:

When phoning 111, advise that Lake Ohau is in South Island and the nearest cross road is State Highway 8 and Lake Ohau Road. Also mention that Lake Ohau Alpine Village is on the shore of Lake Ohau, and is 20 mins (40 km) from both Twizel and Omarama. This will assist the operator to find the required information to enter location in the system and allowing the call to progress to the next screen in the system.

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

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

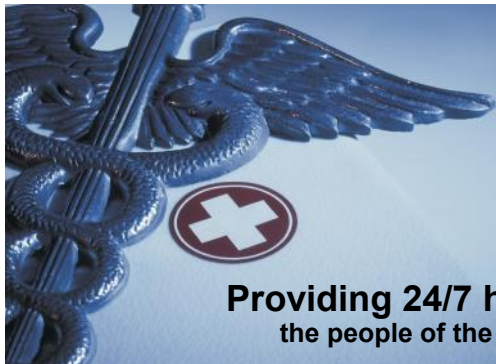
Thank you to all who share your stories and contribute in other way to the Gazette. We all really appreciate what you do.

**The July issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, July 1, 2020.**

**Please submit copy
by Friday, June 26.**

**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



Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre

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

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

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

To our community groups and businesses

Two things which may help you out

- if you would like a feature written about your business please contact the Gazette. A booking is required and there is a fee for this. Unlike regular advertising, a feature will be posted to the Omarama Gazette Facebook page.
- Omarama resident Charles Hornblow is available to tackle design work for your business or group (see below). He will also be assisting the Gazette with graphic design requirements. Please feel free to contact Charles for any of the services he lists.

- Ruth Grundy, editor.

Design Works

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The Community Reports

FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



"At times like these, it's important we recognise the employers who allow their staff to volunteer and, just as importantly, the volunteers that are self employed. With the extra freedoms of Level 2, we hope you'll consider supporting those businesses that allow us to respond to your emergencies. We really appreciate you guys Ahuriri Motels, Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama, Dunstan Downs, Four Square Supermarket, Hiflo Group, Meridian Energy, Merino Lodge Rockgas Oamaru, Vetlife New Zealand, West Coast District Health Board, Chain Hills Limited,

David O'Neill Contracting, Ellis-Lea Farms, Little Ben Limited, Longslip Station, Mobil Omarama, Red Hand Scaffolding, Twinburn."

- 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

Omarama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

We have all been excited to get back close to normality at the golf club. Everyone must have missed our Saturday club days, as we have great turnouts on the sunny calm weather that we have been fortunate to have. We have had a number of visitors playing from other clubs, and we thank them for their support.

The course remains in great condition, a special thanks to all those who maintained and mowed during lock down.



We welcome our new members to the club, great to see so many from our local community; Jessie Chapman, Amanda Chapman, Lynley Pryde, Lance Thomas, Rebecca Best, Donna Booth, Riley Tuffley.

As always, all welcome on Saturday Club day. Cards in 12pm tee-off 12.30pm

Club captain Adrian Tuffley,
027 347 276.
www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz/

Omarama Community Library

Contact: Yvonne Jones 027 476 7473.

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



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



Notary Public Services Affidavits and Declarations

David Stone, Lake Ohau

03 438 9653, 027 490 9118, david@stone.org.nz

Omarama Residents' Association

The next meeting is

7pm Thursday, June 18, 2020.

(Please note earlier start time)

An invitation is extended to all

Contacts: Tony Chapman, chairperson, 027 242 8605.

Yvonne Jones, secretary, 027 476 7473.

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

Could all those who want to 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**

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
Keys and fobs are collected from Charlotte



**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)



Below and over are contributions by Omarama school pupils, first published in 'The Daily Wire' April and May 2020. (Photos supplied)

By Jack and Paige Doree.

Dear Diary

Today our morning started off, online, with our Teachers and school friends.

Mrs Denton gave us some tasks to do for the weekend, like take a funny picture and learn a new maths game.

Mrs McKenzie showed us how to make a bookmark that looks like a monster, it was fun.

We are also researching a famous New Zealand person.

Thank you Mrs McKenzie and Mrs Denton we both had a great time.

This afternoon we went out to the farm to shift some sheep and Paige and I cut down some pine trees.

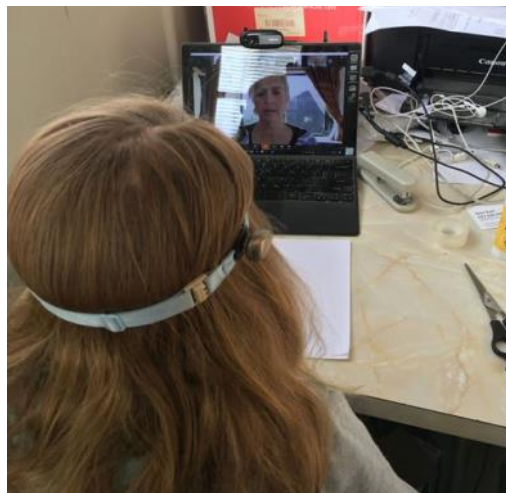
We also fed the dogs.

We can't wait to get to level 3 so that the builder can come back and finish building our house so we can live at the farm.

Hope everyone is safe and thanks to all our essential workers.

Keep it up we are doing a great job beating Covid -19.

We can't wait to get back and see all our friends, in person.



By Jack, Archie and Toby Bochel, of Huxley Gorge Station

Dear Diary,

Yesterday I had a zoom meeting with my class, it was good to see my friends. After my school work we went up the Temple Valley on our bikes to the river. We got lots of big rocks and made a dam. It was really fun we biked through all the puddles on the way there and home again. I was pretty wet and dirty. - *Jack*

On Tuesday we had a zoom meeting at 10am with my class and teacher. Then we went for a bike ride up the Hopkins River. We biked across the river and we biked across sinking sand. I took my gumboots off and my socks and I started running over the sinking sand. We crossed other bits of the river to get to different sinking sand then crossed back again. Then we ran round and round in circles and the sinking sand was knee deep. - *Archie*

On Tuesday the 22nd of April I got up and did our morning routine, then we went to do some school work at 9:00. I had to research ANZAC day and write a post card home as if I was at war. Then a bit of math and some spelling on the iPad. After that we had lunch, I had a home made pie. Then we went for a bike, we went up to the river in the Hopkins valley. Surprisingly we could bike through it and our little fox terrier puppy could hop through. On the other side of the river there was muddy quick sand, our bikes got stuck in it so we got off our bikes and took our gum boots off and started running around. Some parts of the sand we sank down in was up to our knees.

It was lots of fun

By Toby Bochel



By Ashleigh Rusbatch (below left)

Dear Diary

"What an early start it was this morning with my mum waking me up at 5.30am so I could be ready to stand in honour for the men and women who fought for us and our country.

I got up straight away and got dressed while my mum made me a milo.

At 5.55am my mum, dad and I went outside to the end of our driveway to wait until 6am when we played "the last post" and "Scotland the brave".

It was very dark, and the wind was blowing ever so softly.

I really liked listening to the music sitting in the quietness with wind blowing in the background reflecting on what our soldiers went through for our country."

By Pippa and Robbie Anderson, Bog Roy Station (below right)

Dear Diary,

Our mornings start off with feeding our animals (Beez my pony, and the chooks), and then into our classroom (we've taken over the good lounge!) for zoom meetings with our teachers - Mrs Denton and Mrs McKenzie, and our school work. We are loving the zoom meetings as we can catch up with our friends. It's really good to see them. This week our school work has been based around Anzac Day. I (Pippa) have written a postcard/ letter as though I'm a soldier at Gallipoli writing to my loved one at home. And I (Robbie) made a batch of Anzac biscuits. They were a hit and didn't last long!!

We have been out on the farm lots, riding and hanging out with the pony and horses, and collecting and bagging pinecones to sell once we are out of lockdown. Today we were crutching lambs on the farm, but had to have smoko at home as we weren't allowed in the woolshed with the shearers because of the social distance rule.

We are looking forward to seeing our grandparents - GG, Poppa Bill, and Grandma Susie, along with our friends back at school face to face.

Hope everyone is keeping safe :)



Postcards to friends

- *By Isla McLeod*

Dear Lexi,

We have been in lockdown for 6 weeks. The coronavirus is a bit scary but it's alright. We went down to level 3. We have to wash our hands more often to prevent the virus. In the shop you have to use hand sanitiser to not spread the virus. People put on masks so they can't cough on other people. We have to do school work at home and use Zoom for our lessons. We can't go and meet our friends and if we do see someone we have to stay 2 metres apart.

From Isla

- *By Pippa Anderson*

To Kate

How are you doing?

Lockdown has been fun for me although I haven't been able to see my friends. Since lockdown the family has been spending a lot more time together which makes me feel really amazing.

Dad has been riding with me and showing me how to eat berries. These rides make me feel amazing afterwards and makes me feel excited for the next one.

Mum has been baking with me and teaching me new recipes which I love it makes me feel grateful.

Grandma and I also made chocolate lamingtons together which was so much fun.

Since homeschooling finishes at lunch Robbie and I have the rest of the day to ourselves we have just finished putting a ladder on a tree and FS a hat that we have been building in the little forest behind the house. We are so proud of ourselves it makes me feel so happy.

Hope you are doing well.

Love Pippa. XO

- *By Elise Mathias*

South to North

We had to make a decision to leave before end of term as Covid 19 was spreading fast around the country. We pack up our things and get on the road for the long haul to Christchurch. From Christchurch we went to Blenheim and then drove to Picton where we waited five hours for our ferry with seven dogs and a cat. Once we got off the ferry we drove to Hastings and then the next morning we drove to Mahia, stopped at the beach for a lunch break and then drove to Whangara Road, north of Gisborne, unpacked our things and relaxed (kinda). We had so much fun at Whangara walking hills and going and burying ourselves in sand at the marine reserve. Five weeks later we moved into our permanent house and got all our things out of storage and settled in. Yesterday we finally got Henry and Harmony (our horses)! It felt amazing to see them I will show you a few photos after. Over all I had a very long and fun journey from the south to North Island and hope to get my things out of my desk and start school up here at Nuhaka School. It will be my first time travelling on a bus to get to school.

Friends of Omarama School

ANNUAL MEETING

1.30pm, Tuesday June 9, 2020

at Omarama School.

Everyone is invited

Secretary Fiona Bochel 03 438 9413

Otago Community Trust news

From the media release, Friday, May 29, 2020

The Otago Community Trust has appointed financial adviser John Wilson, of Wanaka, as its new chairman.

Mr Wilson takes over the role from Ross McRobie, of Otematata.

Mr McRobie said that he felt very privileged to have served on the Trust for the last nine years and has thoroughly enjoyed his tenure as chairperson since 2015.

Mr McRobie remains on the board of the Trust until such time as the Minister of Finance makes new trustee appointments.

Mr Wilson, who was previously an investment advisor with Craigs Investment Partners was appointed as a Trustee in July 2016 and has served as deputy chair since July 2018. Diccon Sim, partner at law firm Gallaway Cook Allan has been appointed to fill the deputy chair role.

At its May meeting the Trust awarded \$76,910 to 12 community organisations.

Friends of the Forrester Gallery Society Inc was the largest beneficiary receiving a \$25,000 grant. This will assist the gallery with the cost of purchasing and installing a purpose-built art storage system.

Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust also received funding support via a \$12,000 grant which will support with the cost of installing a kitchen and bathroom in the middle floor of the Loan and Mercantile Building.

The Trust continues to approve COVID-19 funding.

To date \$514,778.36 has been awarded to 41 community organisations since the dedicated COVID-19 Response Fund was opened in early April.

It would like to hear from community organisations if they have any questions about funding support.

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PROJECT?



Waitaki District Council - news in brief

To find out about Waitaki District Council services operating under the present Covid-19 restrictions go to the council website.

The council is at present reviewing the Rooding Bylaw and completing the Speed Limit Review which began in May 2019.

Written submissions are invited when consultation begins on June 8 and finishes July 20. Waitaki residents will be able to review the proposed changes and give feedback via the Consultation page on the council website from June 8, 2020.

The District Plan Review team would like to hear from people about their ideas for protecting Waitaki's coastline?

The Forrester Gallery will reopen to the public on Saturday, June 13, 2020

Phone: 03 433 0300

Freephone 0800 108 081

Automated options after hours

E-mail: service@waitaki.govt.nz

The next
Ahuriri Community Board meeting
is 3.15pm
Monday, June 8, 2020

The meeting will be live-streamed
on the Waitaki District Council's Facebook Page and recorded.
The recording will be uploaded to the council's YouTube channel after the meeting.

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)

www.waitaki.govt.nz

IT WOULD BE ABIT RUFF

IF YOU FORGOT TO
REGISTER YOUR DOG
BY 1ST JULY



It's nearly time for your Annual WoOF

Applications to register will soon be sent out to all registered dog owners in Waitaki requiring them to register their dog on or before 1st July 2020. Every dog owner must register their dog when it reaches the age of three months and re-register each year. Late penalty fees apply after 31 July 2020.

Visit our website
for more info:
www.waitaki.govt.nz
or give us a call on
03 433 0300



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA A RONGE O WAITAKI

Have Your Say on how local roads are managed

We are reviewing the Roading Bylaw and completing the Speed Limit Review and we want you to tell us what you think about proposed speed limit changes around the district, and road use and enforcement procedures.

Waitaki residents will be able to review the proposed changes and give us feedback via the Consultation page on the council website **starting from June 8, 2020**. Consultation will finish on July 20.

Visit our website for more info:
www.waitaki.govt.nz
or give us a call on 03 433 0300



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA A RONGE O WAITAKI



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- *Questioning to Discover new insights and better solutions.*
- *Feedback – wisely sharing observations, insights, experience and wisdom.*

This programme is registered with the Management Capability Development Voucher Fund.

Find out more by visiting regionalbusinesspartners.co.nz

DURATION

This programme, spanning 4 weeks, covers 2 days of workshop, and 2 hours of one to one coaching.

INVESTMENT

\$1,700 + GST per participant.
Discounts are available for multiple registrations from the same team.

For more information and to register please contact Sarah Barr.

☎ - 027 444 9380

✉ - sarah@ruralcoach.co.nz

💻 - www.ruralcoach.co.nz

Environment Canterbury - news in brief

To find out about ECan services operating during the present Covid-19 level restrictions go to the ECan's website

The Ecan council met on May 21 to discuss its 2020/21 Annual Plan priorities and rates for the coming financial year. Because of COVID-19 restrictions the meeting was recorded rather than open to the public.

TOXIC ALGAE WARNING

Environment Canterbury has issued a warning to dog owners to be on the look out for potentially toxic algae in the waterways.

This can be deadly for dogs.

The combination of the mild autumn weather and stable river flows has created favourable conditions for potentially toxic cyanobacteria to continue growing in some rivers.

Recreational water quality monitoring had ended for summer which meant many popular swimming spots were not monitored and warning signs might not be in place.

The odour of algae is extremely attractive to dogs who may knowingly or accidentally consume cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria can also be harmful for people.

"If you have been in contact with water which may contain cyanobacteria and contract tingling or numbness around the fingertips and/or mouth, breathing difficulties, gastrointestinal symptoms or skin rashes, please seek medical advice from your doctor or contact Healthline on 0800 611 116."

To read more and watch a video about how to identify this algae go to the website

The date and venue
of the July meeting
of Environment Canterbury's
Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee is to be
advised.

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

Omarama Stream Water Users' Group

By Bridget Pringle, project manager (Photo supplied)

The Omarama Stream Water Users Group was formed by the farmers within the Omarama Stream catchment to work together with Environment Canterbury to manage water quality and quantity matters.

There are highly complex ongoing resource management and planning regulations around the effects of farming in the Omarama catchment, and by working collaboratively with Environment Canterbury and external technical advisors, we have forged strong relationships and have been able to identify key areas to focus on to achieve good long term management of our Omarama Catchment waterways for current and future generations.

Fencing: We have undertaken an extensive waterway fencing programme. In 2018 we received part funding to continue the existing fencing we had done in the catchment. We now have an additional 23km of fencing complete in the catchment with more to come.

Water Quality Sampling: In addition to our required water quality sampling we continue to conduct a voluntary and extensive monitoring programme and analysis throughout the catchment. The results are consistently analysed to determine patterns over the year and long-term trends to better understand the hydrology of the catchment and the effects of landuse on waterways. This has enabled us to identify, implement and measure improvements that are being made as a result of on farm management initiatives and to consistently work with experts to improve outcomes.

Riparian Management: Investigations into riparian management and additional planting initiatives with experts is another area of focus for us - this requires careful consideration and planning to ensure success of riparian initiatives in the extreme Omarama Catchment climate and will be an ongoing initiative.

On Farm Tools and Technology: All farms have, or are finalising, up-to-date Farm Environment Plans that are audited and all farms are operating within the nutrient loss limits specified on consents. We are also all operating at or close to Good Management Practice – on farm practices that are known to improve environmental outcomes. The use of technology to improve environmental management including installation of soil moisture monitoring and irrigation system efficiency assessments and adjustments has been undertaken. An Irrigation New Zealand Field Day was recently held at Twin Peaks Station with a focus on Good Irrigation Management Practices.

Working with Environment Canterbury: We work with Environment Canterbury and external advisors to ensure we are directing our efforts to the areas that achieve the best environmental outcomes, primarily in the catchment but with the lake in mind as well. It is extremely challenging to marry up the planning regulations and consent requirements with practical on farm initiatives whilst maintaining a business in these uncertain times, but the group remain committed to continuing this work.

As you can see, we have been busy. Lots of our work is around on-farm actions that you do not see from a drive up the road and these actions take time to eventuate in instream improvements.

If you have any questions about the groups objectives, achievements or next steps please direct to bridget@irricon.co.nz (Project Manager).

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Jonny Woodhead 027 329 7271

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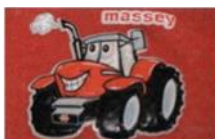
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Wednesday and Thursday 11am till 9.00pm

Friday and Saturday 11.00am till 11.00pm

In level two social distancing still needs to be observed, and because of this

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The View from the Chook House



So how come??

When all the other pets got to be stars on Zoom we didn't get a callback?!

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

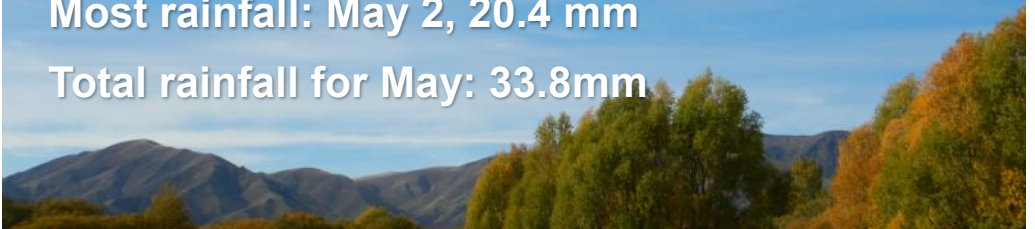
May 2020

Highest temperature: May 1, 21.6 C

Lowest temperature: May 31, - 5.7 C

Most rainfall: May 2, 20.4 mm

Total rainfall for May: 33.8mm



The Garden Diary - Surrendering to uncertainty

"I write in waning May"* and it has been a very golden autumn.

Yet it has been an autumn like no other. Almost all of it has been spent sensing the menacing fog of Covid-19 creep ever closer to our door and hoping its cannot find any undetectable opening to push its way through.

The tide seemingly recedes and with it (most of) the anxiety but we remain watchful and wary of this invisible foe. Whether shuttered indoors or out on long expansive walks we've watched the landscape slowly turn to catch those last golden rays of autumn light and now we hunker down for winter's darkness.

I imagine an astronaut in the space station orbiting watches Earth in much the same way. In their bubble above the blue, as they strive to ever keep ahead of the horizon, they're ever watchful for signs of change below and hope for the old familiar things.

Perhaps this autumn has been no more beautiful than any other?

Maybe we have just had the time?

Maybe we have just had the yearning to zero in on what it is that is most reassuring? It's as if we have watched in poignant slow motion the world grind to a halt, no longer rushing around us. You get more time by standing still.

Time - like petals opening on the last rose arrested by frost – has stood still.

The nerines which have been bright iceberg white throughout are only now just beginning to brown and fade.

The autumn leaves which are crisp confetti cut-outs momentarily take flight on the back of a slight breath of a breeze in a ticker-tape parade of gold and red and orange.

The cyclamen have day-by-day slowly bowed their proud pink mitred hats deeply as they draw over their shining sliver cloak of leaves.

The bird song has been clear – no traffic, no hustle, no bustle. The sound of silence. And so there was time.

And lists longer than New Year's resolutions to fulfil and more promises made to the garden to spend more time.

Coming out of 'lockdown' or our combined Rahui to protect our beautiful country leaves me torn between two worlds.

This place is safe, outside an unseen storm has hit and the sand has shifted.

The garden while still turning to the season is the still point in this churning world.

Paradoxically, time stood still but all has changed.

Aphorisms abound to help make sense of what has been beyond comprehension.

Change, not always choice, takes you to a place.

We can't go back ...not 30 years, not three months, not three weeks, not three hours, not three minutes.

We may not step in the same river twice.

Like the garden we change and grow, and grow and change.

The closing line of that *Mary Ursula

Bethell poem, Response?

"Everything is for a very short time."

- Ruth Grundy

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



The Last Page is Classifieds



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LET'S GO RACING

The New Zealand Boat Marathon Commission has announced its 2020 season, originally scheduled to begin in Invercargill in April is to begin next month with two days of racing on Waitaki lakes.

The Twin Lakes power boat races - at lakes Benmore and Aviemore - will be on Sat-

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