

Opportunity to stand because you care

Now is good.

It's the perfect time for anyone who believes they have skills to offer to step up and contribute to the success of Omarama School and its pupils, its Board of Trustees chairperson says.

Chairperson David Anderson, who has previously held the position, has stepped into the role left vacant by the recent resignation of Michael Doree.

He said his goal was to "get the school back on track" after the "sudden disruption" and get the board up and running again and work to create a "decent culture".

He understood there had been talk of the risk of the school being closed.

"The school is not going to close ...100%."

"This is not the case and will not happen as long as the school is being run effectively and up to Ministry standards," he said.

Mr Doree's resignation took the number of parent representatives on the board from three to two.

Because the next elections would be in May the board has opted to fill the vacancy through the shorter selection process rather than hold a by-election.

"People need to think about what they can do for the school and what sort of culture they would like the school to have and then put the effort in to create that," Mr Anderson said.

"This was the prime opportunity for any parent who thought they could contribute to put their hands up."

He said he stood by school principal Michelle Green.

The board could not overstep the bounds of its governance role, he said.

-continue over

Opportunity to stand because you care - continued

It was not there to manage the day-to-day running of the school, that was the principal's job.

The Board's role was to look after and maintain the school property and grounds. It also had a duty to the children to make sure educational standards were being met, he said.

As well as a change at the top, parent Tarryn Benton and community member Nayland Smith, have been co-opted onto the board "because of past experience and the skills they bring", he said.

In a letter to parents, Mr Anderson thanked those who had taken advantage of the school's "open door policy" to discuss matters with Ms Green.

"There have been some very constructive ideas discussed and support offered, which will help to move the school forward positively," he said.

In his letter of resignation, Mr Doree said he had not made the decision lightly but needed to give his own and his family's wellbeing priority.

He felt there was at present a "large disconnect" between what parents and teachers wanted the school to be "and what it actually was".

A "culture change" was needed to create a better environment to work and learn, and he believed Ms Green, who took on the role in February, was the right person to lead such a change provided she was given the support to do so.

"There has been a lot of discussion around a culture change within the school, but until everyone involved is willing to participate and actively work towards making the school a better place to attend and work, then this will never happen," he said.

He was concerned unless changes were made, and with the school's history of high staff and student turnover, the Ministry of Education could decide to close the school and send pupils to Twizel or Waitaki Valley schools.

In response, Mrs Benton wrote to the school community in support of Mr Doree and Ms Green.

"Enough's enough. It is time we as parents got behind our school and created change instead of expecting it to just happen, " she said in the email.

"...the last thing we need to be doing is advertising for yet another principal. The one we have is absolutely up to the job but needs our support."

"With her hard work we now have funding to build an extension for a new classroom. "She has also initiated academic testing of our children according to Ministry curriculum guidelines ...From this she has set a goal (a challenging one) to bring 80% of our children up to or above the ministry guideline in maths and reading by the end of the year.

There are many other great things that she is working on behind the scenes," Mrs Benton said.

She urged parents and staff to "get in behind the school and the one leading it". "I am confident when I say I believe we all want our cool little country school to survive.

"We are a tight knit community who gets in behind fundraising and working bee's – because the bottom line is, we all care," she said.

A request to you from Greg

OMARAMA, WE NEED YOUR HELP

The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade are now desperately looking for some new recruits.

In the last two months we have lost four of our firefighters for various reasons. We are now down to four that can commit to a search in a burning dwelling and that is only if we are all available. If we are not all available and a search is required in a burning house the nearest help is 30 minutes away.

All the Omarama brigade will be able to do in that case is carry out an external attack on the fire until suitably qualified fire fighters arrive.

For our vulnerable people, both young and old, and the rest of you the results could be fatal. Now is not the time to sit on your hands In the past I have spoken to a few people who say they may come and help. Well, now is the time to get off your backside and please give me call, or any of our volunteers. Be assured it is not scary and neither are we. There is great training for all at whatever level you would like. Please come along and see what we do.

You do not have to be in the town to be part of our team. Some live up to 15 km away and are valuable part of our team.

We are very fortunate to have a great fleet of vehicles but if we are to retain them we need to be able to put bums on seats. If we can't they will be moved to where they can be used. This is no time for apathy , we need your help and so does this great community.

We still have our great team of first responders doing a wonderful job. They would also like to see some new faces.

Don't be surprised if you get a tap on the shoulder.



Negotiations over land still in limbo

The latest from Environment Canterbury about the potential sale of the former Omarama Rabbit Board land in the town centre confirms little progress has been made since 2016 when it began the process.

The Omarama Gazette last visited the issue exactly one year ago and at that time ECan confirmed there was no formal MOU with the Waitaki District Council for it to purchase the land.

There has certainly been no progress made since May when the hearings of submissions to the Waitaki District Council Long Term Plan took place.

The Omarama Residents' Association and others asked the council to address the issue of traffic safety and parking in the town centre and for it to buy the land to help resolve this.

At the Long Term Plan hearings Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher told Association representatives the council would "certainly put our hand up" and indicate an interest in buying the land.

He said would be attending a mayoral forum at the end of that week and would bring up the topic with ECan's chairperson, "mayor to chair".

"See if we can start that discussion happening rather than just waiting on them to decide if they might put it on the market or not."

Following up the hearings and in the written replies to submitters Mr Kircher said discussions with ECan regarding purchasing the land for parking would continue.

This week in response to questions from the Omarama Gazette ECan stated: "Waitaki District Council did note their interest in the land to Environment Canterbury in 2019 and this was passed on to the Department of Conservation as the disposing agent, as per the process."

"Chair [Jenny] Hughey and Mayor Kircher are planning to talk about this issue at a meeting at the end of this week," the spokesperson said.

In June, this community once again strongly voiced its concerns about the town centre traffic management .

This time at a Tourism Waitaki Destination Management meeting.

The meeting was facilitated by council Business Attraction and Recovery manager Mel Jones, who told the Omarama Gazette she had taken on board the community's concerns, as had Ahuriri Community Board chairperson Vicky Munro, who also attended. Ahuriri Ward Councillor Ross McRobie did not attend.

At the meeting there was some uncertainty expressed over whether the land had, in fact, already been sold. ECan confirmed yesterday that the land in question has not been sold.

The Omarama Gazette has still not had a reply to its request a month ago to council roading manager Mike Harrison for an update about town centre plans following the finalising of the Long-Term Plan.

Mr Harrison had been expecting to report what had been happening "behind the scenes" at the July 5, Ahuriri Community Board meeting but his request to speak

did not make it on to the board agenda.

However, Ahuriri Community Board member Ross Menzies told last month's meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association the board had been briefed about plans being drawn up.

Last month, the council announced its application to the MBIE Tourism Infrastructure Fund for \$505,000 to; build a new carpark and make safety improvements at Elephant Rock, install a new toilet and undertake road safety improvements in Duntroon, and upgrade parking at Oamaru Harbour had been successful.

The written replies to those who made Long Term Plan submissions about the Omarama town centre issues state:

"Our roading team of the Omarama Road user and parking issues in their programme of works, and will involve the mayor, and councillors Kingan and McRobie in this review as they identify options for improvement of road user safety and parking.

In the meantime, discussions with ECan regarding the possibility of purchasing the land for parking will continue."

In 2016, ECan determined that the Rabbit Board land was surplus to requirements, and instigated a formal process with the Department of Conservation's accredited agent to begin the divestment process. This will include a report to the Commissioner of Crown Lands and right of refusal to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.





Hot Tubs adds more ways to relax

There are now even more reasons to relax and soak in the views at Hot Tubs Omarama

Last month, owners Emma and Andy Moore opened an addition to the complex, a bar designed and crafted by Andy, who is a builder.

Emma said, as well as adding to the client's experience, opening up a bar was a practical solution to making sure people had the correct glassware when enjoying a drink in the tubs.

Although there was no need to have a tub to enjoy what the bar had to offer, people could now enjoy hot or cold beverages in the bar or a tub, Emma said. "It just continues the experience."

"People come out of the tubs feeling relaxed, the fire is going and the food is ready," she said.

The couple also own landscaping and firewood supplies business SupplyMoore Yard.

The new bar was constructed from larch logs supplied to SupplyMoore which could not be processed through the machines, and so Andy set to and milled it for purpose at the yard.

A unique feature was created in the bar top itself from a knot in the wood transforming it into a bowl for the water dispenser.

Continuing the theme the new décor also features recycled saw blades as menu boards.

The bar offers patrons an extensive beer menu, including craft beers, and a wine list which includes local varieties.



The food menu offers platters to share - artisan meats, antipasto and cheese platters, featuring Whitestone Cheese, and a dessert platter.

All food is prepared on site by chef Jared Gee, who has created the menus.

The school holidays had been an "incredibly busy" time for the complex, Emma said.

Despite this it has had to close on Tuesdays because of staff shortages, she said.





Consent holders want inequity addressed

Pointing out the patent inequity and ineffectiveness of the system which was designed to protect the water quality of Lake Benmore has struck a chord with all sides in the debate.

Those who spoke at the recent meeting in Omarama said the measures as they are at present require only a few to reduce their nutrient load and would likely have little impact on water quality unless they were introduced catchment-wide.

Last month, Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee and members of the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group met to discuss this year's water quality results for the Ahuriri Arm of Lake Benmore.

These show the Trophic Level Index for the lake has reached 2.8 exceeding an early warning trigger level of 2.75 on 10 consents in the catchment.

There are 34 consent holders and 33 farms in the wider catchment and ECan has acknowledged everyone in the catchment is likely to be contributing to the TLI increase.

The different conditions on consents across the catchment means some must act now and reduce nutrient discharges for the irrigation season ahead but others do not need to act unless the water quality further declines.

For the 10 consent holders required to act it is a case of 'here we go again' and frustration no action has been taken to remedy issues with the process raised two years ago.

In 2019 the TLI reached 2.9. In 2020 it was 2.75. The TLI limit for the lake is 2.9. The higher the TLI the higher the nutrient concentrations and algal biomass of the lake.

Those whose trigger is 2.75 must now either pay for a catchment assessment and reduce their nutrient discharges by up to 5%, or they can ask for a two-scientist panel – one nominated by ECan and one by the consent holders – to be set up to investigate.

In 2019, the affected landowners opted to get a catchment assessment and reduce their nutrient discharges.

A catchment community group was also set up to guide landowners in collective action to protect the water quality in the Ahuriri Arm.

However, that group is struggling to achieve its goals because of lack of buy-in from the wider catchment.

At the meeting, after considerable debate, Omarama farmer and long-time member of the Omarama Stream Water Users Group Wendy Parsons proposed ECan exempt the 10 consent holders affected until 2025 when water consents would be aligned to land use consents and so make compliance more equitable across the catchment.

And Canterbury Regional Councillor John Sunckell has agreed to take this proposal to the council for a decision as a matter of priority.

"The 10 water consent holders affected by this ruling are a very small proportion of all the Ahuriri catchment consent holders and smaller still if you look at how few litres per second we use," Mrs Parsons said.

Science clearly indicated forcing only 10 consent holders to make reductions would not make a difference to the TLI, she said.

Landowner Dave Ellis said, when only 10 consent holders were being netted by the consent conditions, it was "only a point of law" and not a practical solution for the whole catchment.

"Those whose trigger is 2.75 are forced to take action and nothing is being done about the wider catchment," he said.

Dave Anderson, of Bog Roy Station, said holding only 10 consent holders to account was not going to work.

"We'll do our bit, but the unfairness of it all ...only those farmers who are part of the 10 are here, [present at the meeting] none of the others are. The objective of what we want to achieve is being lost in the process. As it stands it's not going to address the issue."

Mrs Parsons asked ECan to acknowledge that penalising the 10 farmers would not influence the TLI and the rise in level was in whole or partly because of a naturally occurring influence.

Cr Sunckell said ECan had been trying to address the inequities in consent conditions for the past three years and "got nowhere".

And now the Government's new freshwater rules were coming into play.

"We need to get alignment but the reality is we might get a level playing field but at a TLI of 2.5. Can you farm at that level?"

That could be the unintended consequence, he said.

"The bigger picture has the potential to come in and swamp this."

He had hoped the new catchment group would be "working together to address this". He said he would "try from the top again to get some solution".

ECan Southern Zone Delivery manager Peter Burt said there could be "impediments and consequences" of such a move to exempt the 10 affected.

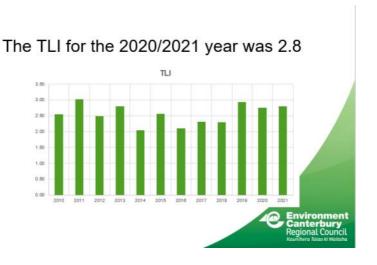
"[But] these shouldn't be the things that stop us completely."

ECan needed to get the rest of the consent holders to the table and "put more heat on the rest of the community...rather than just the 10 in front of us," Lisa Anderson, of Bog Roy Station, said.

As well, there were some individuals who were not complying and ECan was not coming down on those individuals, Quailburn Downs manager Trent Spittle said. Rural Support Trust coordinator Lindsay Purvis asked if ECan had given though to the welfare of farmers caught up in the situation.

Cr Sunckell there was an awareness and understanding of the pressure farmers were under but "also a set of laws we have to adhere to".

"We are a regulator and a messenger," Mr Burt said.



Labour Weekend at Loch Laird - August

When is an event not an event? When it has not been 'organised'.

So, despite the fact that 200 to 300 young people gather at Loch Laird each Labour Weekend for their traditional end of school year celebrations and have done so for many years, despite the fact tickets are sold to camp on the terrace, despite the fact there will be lighting provided and a separate car park sectioned off, this is still not an 'event'. There is no organiser.

"It's not an organised event – it's a gathering, a party, just a whole lot of people gathering, there's no entertainment provided, no food, no band, or anything," HiViz Event Management Ltd director Cathy Knowsley said.

Ms Knowsley specialises in event management services with an emphasis on safety. Her agency is listed on the Health and Safety Association of New Zealand national register of verified workplace health and safety professionals – the go to place for businesses to find health and safety advice and services.

This could not be called an event. "It's too organic," she said. "It's a party with no food. he issues I see with activities like this is that there is no formal organisation or organisers. The organic nature of the gathering and the lack of any entertainment or organised activities or higher purpose makes it incredibly hard to hold anyone accountable for what happens on site." Event safety requires a degree of organisation. "This is not at all organised, it's too organic to be able to apply usual event safety principles," she said.

However, once any kind of infrastructure was put in place then obligations to mitigate risk applied, she said.

In New Zealand there was no specific 'event' legislation rather that was covered by the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, she said. Under those regulations those running a public event needed to manage risk.

Ms Knowsley has provided a list (detailed over) of things she, as an event professional, would generally need to do and have in place to run an organised event on public council-owned land. She notes that the landowner does have responsibilities under the Act to make sure risks relating to the land and amenities are managed.

As the organiser, if alcohol was served, she would need a liquor licence, with food and water available and this usually requires some sort of entertainment or "purpose' for the event, she said.

She would develop various safety plans – a general risk management plan; onsite traffic management plan; weather plans; emergency management plans; crowd management plans and waste management plans as well as making sure she had appropriate infrastructure and emergency equipment on hand.

Because of the nature of the event she would need: security to enforce the liquor licence requirements and liquor management plans; Chill out/ safe spaces zones for anyone experiencing emotional or mental overwhelm, including anyone who has been the victim of an assault (physical or sexual), harassment or bullying and a triage centre for alcohol/drug related injury and illness - resourced by first aid-trained people and paramedics. Without those things in place "I'm really exposing myself to risk". Dr Ken Palmer, of Auckland Law School, agrees there would be responsibilities under the Health and Safety Act to manage risk in the public space, obligations both the council and any event organiser would need to fulfil if it was an organised event.

And event organisers would also have to comply with council bylaws dictating the use of the public space he said.

So, given the legalities, who would be liable if something was to go wrong, if someone was injured or killed?

This takes us back to Waitaki community development manager Helen Algar's question posed to the last workshop of community leaders held in June to discuss the matter.

To recap:

If someone was harmed at Loch Laird at Labour weekend when agencies know the risks there will not only be legal questions asked but moral ones too, she said. It was perceived by many as a council-run event.

So, who was liable if someone was hurt?

"It's still a legal question that needs to be considered," Mrs Algar told the workshop "The law says that people under 18 can drink with parental consent and oversight. "So, if somebody at Loch Laird dies, is raped or seriously injured that is under 18, that is drinking and we know, and it doesn't matter who 'we' are, we know that they're doing that, and we know before they even go they going to be [doing that], who is legally responsible?

"That to me is the biggest risk of all to us collectively."

It was also a message for parents, she said.

"I think in the court of public opinion we will be responsible. I think in the court of law parents will be responsible, so that puts us and the parents in the firing line."

Again, from the Auckland Law School; While it might not be possible to take a criminal case, civil cases can and have been taken against councils.

The council sets out its Lease / Licence / Retail information requirements to comply with the Reserves Act and Waitaki Reserves Management Plan 2014 and its event health and safety risk management plan on its website.

"As the organiser of an event, you are required to take all practical steps to eliminate, isolate or minimise hazards in all areas. To do this you will need to document and demonstrate what practical steps are being taken to fulfil your Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 obligations," it says on the risk management plan. - continued over



Labour Weekend at Loch Laird - continued

Below is HiViz Event Management Ltd director Cathy Knowsley's full list of things she as an event professional would put in place if running an organised event on public council land.

- 1. Get permission from the land owner (noting that the land owner has responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure reasonably foreseeable risks relating the land and amenities are managed).
- 2. If there is alcohol served I would need a liquor licence (this would involve me needing to have food available, water, an alcohol management plan and usually some sort of entertainment or "purpose" for the event stated)
- 3. Identify all foreseeable risks to health and safety and eliminate if reasonably practicable, or if this is not possible manage these so far as is reasonably practicable.

In doing this I would develop the following types of management plans:

- 1. General risk management plan
- 2. Onsite traffic management plan
- 3. Weather plans (coordinated response to sudden weather changes, high wind events, heavy rain events etc)
- 4. Emergency management plans
- 5. Crowd management plans
- 6. Waste management plan

The types of infrastructure required would likely include:

- 1. Site lighting
- 2. Additional sanitation facilities
- 3. Entertainment structures (eg stage etc)
- 4. Food service marquees, kitchens, for vendors
- 5. Waste removal skips, bins etc
- 6. Fence to cordon off high traffic areas and high risk areas on the site.
- 7. Barriers to prevent vehicle access (bearing in mind the potential for a hostile vehicle incident eg drunken disagreement, one person feeling slighted or hard done by gets in a car and deliberately drives into the crowd)
- 8. Emergency equipment potential for fires, minor and major injuries etc
- 9. Fences to secure the site and keep uninvited or un-ticketed public out

(Noting that any additional infrastructure need to be suitable for the site and purpose and that risks associated with these also need to be eliminated or managed)

Additional services required for the event demographic you described may include:

- 1. Security to enforce the liquor licence requirements and liquor management plans
- 2. Chill out zones / safe spaces zones for anyone experiencing emotional to mental overwhelm... including anyone who has been the victim of an assault (physical or sexual), harassment or bullying.
- 3. Triage centre for alcohol/drug related injury and illness resourced by first aid trained people and paramedics.

BACKGROUND

The alcohol-fueled unruly behaviour of some young people – many under the legal drinking age - celebrating the end of the school year at the Loch Laird campground each Labour Weekend has been cause for concern for many years. Some years are worse than others. While actual reported incidents are few, the consensus of authorities is the risk of serious harm is high.

Police and community leaders have been meeting to try to find ways to curb the risky behaviour at the annual. The group has worked to identify key issues in what has been, and is, an ongoing and convoluted discussion. It has asked the council to put a temporary liquor ban in place covering Loch Laird Rd and the top paddock for the weekend. The Omarama Gazette has been told this will be decided on at its August 10 meeting.

Farewell for a friend

"Mikey would have wondered what all the fuss was about.

"Haven't you all got better things to do? he would have asked," close family friend Pip Giles said at his memorial service last week.

Last week, the Omarama community, many wearing Crusaders colours ("For the first and last time, mate!") gathered in numbers to farewell barman and mentor to many Michael 'Mikey' Jackson following his unexpected death the week earlier.

About 200 gathered at the Omarama Hall for the service followed by a procession to Jimmy Barnes' anthem "Working class man" to Boots and Jandals Hotel where more memories were shared over a Heineken or two or maybe three, or a red wine or two or maybe three...

Michael – Mikey, Mike - also known as Uncle Mickey was cremated on July 23, in Timaru and the memorial service, which was attended by sister Debs Wilson her partner Johnny, brother Mark and partner Kylie, and Mike's nieces and nephew was led by Pip.

Tributes were given by and on behalf of family, friends and work colleagues. They spoke of the no fuss, no nonsense man who let his gruff exterior mask a kind and gentle nature.

He "did not suffer fools" but "would give the shirt off his back", and his clever oneliners were legend.

Mikey followed his sister Debs to Omarama seven plus years ago and worked as barman, manager and kitchen cook in "Hell's Kitchen" first for Ross and Marie Kelman and later for Bruce and Julie Dyson.

Through his time there he took many overseas workers under his wing teaching them various skills and mentoring them in the ways of the New Zealand hospitality industry.



Boat ramp improvements possible

The council has made no plans as yet to address the congestion experienced this summer at the Sailors Cutting boat ramp.

Nor do plans for improvements to any council-administered boat ramps appear in the recently adopted Waitaki District Council 10-year Long Term Plan.

However, in reply to an email this week, council recreation manager Erik van der Spek said although no specific plans had been made, it was under consideration.

"We will be looking options over the coming months as we lead into summer."
In his report to the Ahuriri Community Board in March, Mr van der Spek said the Sailors Cutting parking area had "experienced a lot of congestion" over the summer. Since then, a workshop about camp management issues has been held.

Boat ramp fees were introduced in 2010 at Ohau C and Falstone and in 2011 to all council- administered ramps to pay for maintenance and improvements.

Figures supplied to the Omarama Gazette appear to show thus far the money has only been spent on maintenance and repairs.

A total of \$299,600.01 has been raised in boat ramp fees since they were introduced.

Of that \$132,255.97 has been spent; \$91,837.38 on for annual operating, servicing, and minor maintenance, and \$40,418.59 on ramp repairs, leaving \$167 344.04 unspent.

Annual fees cover multiple ramps and are sold through various outlets, they are not broken down per site.

The council administers boat ramps at Parsons Rock, Loch Laird, Falstone, Boat Harbour and Sailors Cutting. Significant repairs were made to the ramp at Boat Harbour, Otematata, after it was damaged by flooding in 2017.

Suggestions have been made the council could use the funds to build a new ramp near Pumpkin Point to ease the congestion at Sailors Cutting.

Since the 2014/2015 season boat ramp fees have cost \$50 for season pass and \$5 for day This season the boat ramp annual ticket (excluding Ohau C) will be \$60. Launch fees are not included in the annual camping fees and apply to powerboats and yachts, not to rowers, kayaks, or coracles.

The council website says the fee covers the cost of ramp, carpark and toilet



From the captain's log

It's one week down and more than 350km has flowed under the bow since New Zealand rowing representative Ben Mason headed out on his marathon row for breast cancer.

Although he has been battling strong winds the past few days Ben has managed to meet his goal of averaging a 50km row each day in his bid to reach his ultimate goal of 1000 kms in one month.

Ben said he was "stoked" to report he had reached 354.309km.

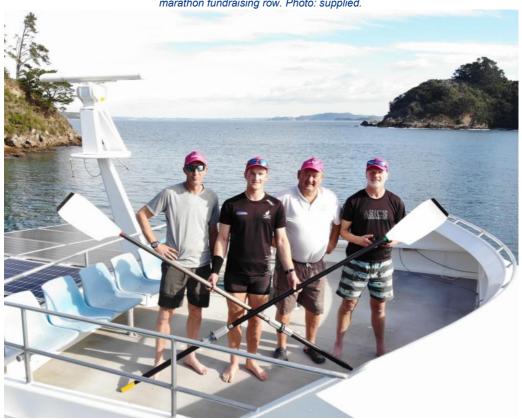
After various changes to plans Ben set out from Bucklands Beach marina, Auckland with his support crew – dad Ted Mason, and friends Nayland (Bean) Smith and Brian Walker (skipper), following closely in Brian's catamaran Picking Daisies.

A student at Otago University, Ben has set himself the challenge to raise funds for the New Zealand Breast Cancer Foundation in memory of his mother Sonia who died from the disease in 2007 when he was six. He hopes to raise about \$20,000 for breast cancer research, education and support services.

To follow Ben's progress: https://www.facebook.com/Row-for-Breast-Cancer-108075341494216/

To make a donation: https://takeaction.org.nz/page/rowforbreastcancer

Rower Ben Mason (centre) set out from Bucklands Beach marina, Auckland last week with his support crew – dad Ted Mason(far right), and friends (left) Nayland (Bean) Smith and (right) Brian Walker, for his marathon fundraising row. Photo: supplied.







HAWAIIAN –homemade tomato pizza sauce with ham, pineapple and our 3-cheese blend

BIG BOOTS MEAT LOVERS- pizza sauce, ham, bacon, chorizo, sliced beef, meatballs, peppers, red onion, 3-cheese blend

SEAFOOD – salmon, mussels, shrimp, prawns, mesclun, with cheesy garlic cream cheese and a lemon pepper aioli, 3-cheese blend

VEGETARIAN - pizza sauce, veges of the day, red onion, peppers, topped with a spicy mayo 3-cheese blend

CRANBERRY CHICKEN – cranberry sauce, smoked chicken, bacon, brie cheese, cashew nuts, peppers, red onion 3 cheese blend

PEPPERONI – pepperoni, 3-cheese blend and pizza sauce.

MOROCCAN LAMB - Lamb mince, pizza sauce, peppers, onion, 3-cheese blend, with yoghurt dressing.

Available Thursday to Saturday starting 5th August From 5pm

A return to business as usual for now

It will be a return to business as usual for now at Boots and Jandals Hotel, Omarama.

Delays in getting paperwork signed off has meant the planned renovations which should have been underway have had to be delayed until April next year. In what was a mutual decision the owners and the managers, Bruce and Julie Dyson, agreed to postpone the work, part-owner Richard Subtil said.

"Because of the paperwork, it pushed the build back and back...[into] their key Christmas period. "They would have been without the restaurant or kitchen, potentially.

"We didn't want the renovations to impact on the core money-making period." "We really regret it ...it's devastating."

It was a combination of things – "mainly paperwork from the council".

"It was a one-week delay, and then it was a two week delay, and then suddenly we're looking at the middle of winter and that's not the time to build."

The plan was now to begin in April next year and complete construction through the quiet winter months, Mr Subtil said.

Designed by architect Nic Zuppicich, of Nic Zuppicich Design, the extensive renovations to the accommodation, kitchen and restaurant areas will be carried out by Central Otago builders Central Blue Ltd.

Parts of the Hotel including the kitchen are more than 100 years old.

Plans include a new dining area, a bigger kitchen and boutique accommodation. Instead of 10 bed sits there will two, plus five self-contained boutique units



The Noticeboard



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

Planned power shutdown: Network Waitaki advise there will be a planned power shutdown for pole replacements and general maintenance between 8.30am and 4.30pm, Tuesday, August 10, 2021. The a rea affected by the planned power shutdown will be Omarama Ave, Airport, Prohibition, Ahuriri Heights and Twizel-Omarama roads. Please ensure that all your sensitive electronic equipment is switched off at the wall prior to the shutdown commencing. You can keep up to date with outages at: www.networkwaitaki.co.nz/customers/power-outages/

The North Otago men's rugby team will be in Otematata this weekend starting at 10am on Saturday for a team training weekend based at the Otematata Sports fields.

The Kurow Medical Centre Omarama Clinic at the Omarama Community Centre, is open Thursdays mornings from 8.30am. To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 (Monday to Thursdays). www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

St Thomas' Omarama Church Community: chairperson: Jan Thomas; committee secretary (Presbyterian): Lee Kearon, phone: 021 250 1060 or email: lee.kearon@gmail.com; Anglican representative: Ven Dr Michael Godfrey, phone 022 342 9977 or email Dylanfreak@gmail.com

The Omarama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am Wednesdays and Saturdays, Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

The Omarama Golf Club Saturdays, cards in 12 midday, tee-off 12.30pm. Club captain James Moynihan phone: 027 215 8266; email jwmoynihan2@yahoo.co.nz. 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 Tarryn Benton 027 201 7065 or secretary Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536 aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com

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 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: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536 Car Seat Rentals: Christine, phone: 03 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

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 September issue of the Omarama Gazette is Wednesday, September 1, 2021.

Please submit copy by Friday, August 27, 2021

Advertising pays for production and distribution.

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

The Community Reports Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Hello to you all,

August already folks.

The days are starting to stretch out. Just a few safety reminders.

In my travels delivering gas I see a few things that are, shall we say, not best practice.

The other day I noticed plastic containers of ashes at somebody's back door and I did point out the obvious dangers of using plastic and suggested using metal containers. Remember ashes can stay hot for five or six days. Never presume they may not

ignite. The same deal with burn heaps, especially if they have stumps or thicker branches, the embers can remain hot for a long time. If possible bury the remaining ashes.

Overloading multi-boxes is another. Appliances with a heavy draw-off should be plugged directly into the switch at the wall.

When using a drying rack make sure the 'metre from the heater' rule is followed and the rack is balanced and can't fall towards the heater.

Keep yourselves warm and stay 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.

Volunteers acknowledged by Council

Waitaki's road safety champion delivered two important messages to the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade, last week.

The first was to say thank you.

Waitaki District Council road safety co-ordinator Jason Evered joined brigade members at their weekly practice delivering pizza and sandwiches to say thank you to the volunteers for their considerable work over recent months attending motor vehicle accidents.

In July alone the brigade has attended 10 motor vehicle accidents.

"This is just a little thank you. You are unsung heroes. People don't say thank you enough," he said.

The second was to ask how he could help.

The road safety co-ordinator role is to co-ordinate road safety activities in collaboration with the police, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, ACC and other community groups.

And the focus of his job was to reduce the numbers of those killed or seriously injured in the district.

Last year, the Government launched its 'Road to Zero' strategy. he said. It wants to reduce those killed or seriously injured on New Zealand roads by 40% by 2030.

The reduction is based on the 2018 road statistics.

That year in the Waitaki district there was one death and 18 people seriously injured, he said.

"So, a 40% reduction on those figures comes out at just on 11."

Already this year there had been one road death in the district and 15 had been seriously injured.

A new road safety campaign, featuring rally driver Hayden Paddon, is about to be launched and this as well as other advertising will be used to target drivers before they head out on the road and as they travel through the district.

It was a simple message; "Roads don't kill, drivers do".

Waitaki was a "drive through" district and driver fatigue was a major cause of accidents, "twice as bad as the national average", Jason said.

However, no matter how good the campaign it would still not drive the safety messages home to everyone.

"People who don't listen to the warning messages are your customers."

It was also important for the volunteers to take care of themselves and be especially wary of fatigue setting in both when out on a call and in their day jobs.

Jason was keen for the volunteers to put forward any ideas they might have for future campaigns or safety initiatives which could be put in place.

Many drivers did not appear to know the correct speed for driving through an accident scene – 20kph – and this could be reinforced with a campaign, Station Officer Maurice Cowie said.

Jason can be contacted at email: jason.evered@waitaki.govt.nz or Waitaki District Council 03 433 0300 Facebook.com/WaitakiRoadSafety



Omarama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

The well overdue renovations at the clubrooms have started.

A big thank you to Bean and Ian Niles for painting the inside of the club rooms, a great job and its certainly modernised the inside.

A huge thanks to Barry Phillips Painting who supplied the paint.

New curtains and blinds, are all up and looking great.

We are now looking at carpet options to complete the inside and update the toilet area.

Saturday numbers have been good despite the cold conditions, with 21 last week, which is great for winter golf.

Omarama Golf Club

Saturdays; cards in 12 midday, tee-off 12.30pm. Club captain; James Moynihan phone: 027 215 8266 email jwmoynihan2yahoo.co.nz. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz











The Otago Community Trust provides grants to not-for-profit community groups and projects that make a positive contribution to Otago communities.

Veterinary Centre Omarama

Kennel Cough Outbreak

By Ellen Hodder BVSc

There is a New Zealand-wide outbreak of Canine kennel cough and the North Otago region is currently experiencing a sharp rise in cases.

Canine kennel cough is a contagious respiratory disease specific to dogs, which affects their health and performance. Like the human cold, it is caused primarily by a virus with many different strains.

However, the illness can be made worse if bacteria present normally within the dog's nose and windpipe invade the respiratory system.

It is spread through direct contact between dogs or contact with contaminated surfaces.

Common transmission locations include kennels on farm, training classes, dog trails, dog parks and beaches.

Onset of the disease can take 3-10 days to develop from time of exposure.

An uncomplicated course usually runs between 7-14 days.

Signs include frequent fits of a loud cough, retching or hacking and nasal discharge. Dogs are otherwise well and eating normally and will recover on their own.

The disease can have far more serious effects in young, old or unwell dogs.

Affected dogs can continue to be contagious for up to a month.

Kennel cough vaccination will reduce the severity of disease and we are strongly encouraging people to ensure their dog's vaccination is up to date.

An annual vaccination is required and in an outbreak scenario, vaccination of dogs not done in the past six months is recommended.

If your dog is currently showing signs of Kennel Cough, please isolate your dog and contact your vet clinic for advice.

If the Kennel Cough is causing your dog to be unwell (e.g. fever or lack of appetite) please call us for an appointment as treatment may be necessary.

We ask that you call ahead to book an appointment and keep your dog on your vehicle until a vet is available.

Address: 13 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama

Phone: (03) 438 9868 Fax: (03) 438 9656

Email: omarama@vet111.co.nz

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 5pm

The Waitaki Newcomers Network

Contact: Christine Dorsey 027 242 8643. waitaki@newcomers.co.nz Abacus House, 102 Thames Street, Oamaru

Omarama School

Dear families and community,

We are all happy to be back at school for Term 3. Skiing starts next week at the wonderful Ohau Skifield and will run for six weeks on Thursdays.

We will also welcome Waitaki Valley School and Duntroon to our Upper Waitaki Cross Country event on Friday 13th at the Omarama Golf Club course. Our focus at school is the Olympics with daily excitement and heaps to learn about history, values, heroes, countries of the world and current events.

We wrapped up Term 2 with a week long celebration of Matariki, culminating in a brilliant end of term assembly for a crowd of at least 50 parents and family. This photo shows a little of our Matariki artwork. The Korowai or cloak was a collaborative effort with every child contributing a feather and will hang in the office. A new technology prize was added to the end of term awards this time, sponsored by our tech company New Era. One child from each classroom was rewarded for "thinking outside the box" and expertise in digital technology. (See photo at right)

Our big news is that we have secured the funding for our new classroom extension, giving us three classrooms and a library space in our modern block. The build is about to go to tender if you know anyone who may be interested, and the old block will eventually be removed from the site.

We are especially grateful to the parents who are coming in to "parent help". What a difference it makes to have another pair of hands, a kind ear for extra reading or someone to extend literacy through cooking!

The Friends of School have also been very active with selling cheese rolls, running a ball with raffles and auction, and the catering at the cross country. All these activities help to raise funds to support our excellent programme of outdoor education and make it accessible to every child in the school.

A request – if you have any of the following in the shed or garage we'd love to hear from you. A donation for our wonderful children is always appreciated. Give Ange a call on 03 438 9815, email to office@omarama.school.nz or even better drop in to see us.

- Big chest to hold dress ups
- Cupboard or shelving for kitchen equipment
- Kitchen equipment
- Bike racks
- Small bikes
- Old lengths of rope for phys ed/skipping/play ground adventures
- Gardening tools
- Sandpit toys- could be sieves/ funnels etc.

Kind regards Michelle Green, Omarama School principal



From left: Toby Courtney, Amelia Wilson, Lockey Harding, and Ms Green.

Omarama School Board of Trustees Casual vacancy for a parent representative

Mike Doree's resignation from the Omarama School Board of Trustees has created a casual vacancy for a parent representative and the Ministry of Education and New Zealand School Trustees Association have advised us that this position must be filled either by holding a by-election or by selection.

As the next elections for School Boards of Trustees will be held in May 2022, the Board has chosen to fill the vacancy using the much shorter 'selection' process, thus expediting the Board's return to full numbers for the remaining months of the Trustees' term of office.

If you are interested in being part of this selection process please contact David Anderson (021 457 073) or Judy Piner (021 222 4552). They will be happy to explain the role.

If 10% or more of eligible voters on the school roll ask the board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a by-election to fill the vacancy, then a by-election will be held.

Request for a by-election should be sent by September 1, 2021 to:

David Anderson (Chairman)

Omarama School Board of Trustees Address: Omarama School office.

Leave your name and contact details at the office and David Anderson will contact you.

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Omarama Community Library

The Omarama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Omarama Community Centre.

omaramalibrary@gmail.com



At the library last month: Making Matariki Stars and a visit from Age Concern social connections coordinator Jody Macdonald. Age Concern Waitaki



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

Omarama Rodeo Club

By Marcia Green

What a weekend! Thanks to all those who came to our Hillbilly Hunt. The weather made hunting difficult but we still got a good range of animals. Congratulations to our winning team "Emma's Army" there was only one point in it. We added a new category this year- swede carving, we had some creative results. For anyone who was wondering what the teams had to hunt, have a look at the 2021 hunt card and rules - nothing too difficult and we do take phone or email entries - lock the date in for 2022 now- the middle weekend of the the July school Holidays. Thanks again to The Wrinkly Rams for hosting us both Friday and Sunday, and to our main sponsor Central Otago Hunting and Fishing, and our prize sponsors Mackenzie Helicopters, Calibre Taxidermy, Inflight Mt Cook, Nige Cameron Western Saddlery and Ben Booth Fishing Tuition.

The winners on quiz night were the Hawk Hunters.







By Jack Doree

On Saturday morning of the hillbilly hunt, dad and I went out to look for a deer, but we couldn't find any so we kept driving when we spotted a white hare.

We parked the truck and we stalked in on it. We were looking around and we saw him behind us, so we shot it.

We went back home to show Mum and Paige what we got.



Omarama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the

Omarama Residents' Association

7pm Thursday, August 19, 2021

at the Omarama Community Centre

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 Michelle Kitchen 027 280 5446 or email hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz



And it's a full house

There were spells of deep concentration punctuated often by gales of laughter at the 'inaugural' community housie session last week. (*See photo below*).

It attracted 20 people – old friends and new - for an afternoon of fun and games followed by a cuppa.

The sessions are run by volunteers and were instigated by the Omarama Residents' Association, with equipment donated by Age Concern Waitaki.

With a mix of new and more experienced players attending the important thing was to relax and have fun, it was not "serious housie", organiser Ann Patterson said. The sessions will continue each Wednesday at 1pm at the Omarama Community Centre until the end of September.

Afternoon tea is included and an invitation is extended to all.

AND IN A FURTHER UPDATE

Omarama is about to get its very own Men's Shed.

Murray Stuart is inviting all interested in forming a Men's Shed group in Omarama to meet at the Omarama Community Centre 10.30am Saturday, August 14 and discuss what needs to be done to make a start. (See poster above).

PLUS

A proposal to set up a community garden in the recreation reserve at the Omarama Hall has been put forward to the Waitaki District Council and will be discussed at its August meeting. Will keep you posted ...





Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinic in Twizel Mackenzie Health Centre and Outreach Clinic at Omarama Community Hall are proud to offer our registered and casual patients the following services:

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

*Podiatry and Ear Health (Kurow only)

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Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm. Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm. Twizel: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 12pm

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 - Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

Look us up on our website or Facebook page for more information.

Men's Shed omarama

Time we had one, don't you think?

What's this about? Blokes getting stuff done. Where? First meeting Omarama Community Centre When? 10.30am, Saturday, August 14, 2021. Why? For a bit of a blather about making a start. After that, well, what's said in the shed stays in the shed, but there'll be more do-ie less hui for sure.

Be there, or give Murray Stuart 027 432 7537 or Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002 a bell.





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Twizel Medical Centre is your local Ministry of Health funded, enrolling practice. Contracted by SCDHB for General Practice, District Nursing and 24/7 Urgent Care, contracted by St John for PRIME (Primary Emergency Response) Services across the greater MacKenzie area.

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Our Team: NP Gemma, GPs Drs Peter and George, Admin/Receptionists Donna, Jacqui, Annie and Sue, Nurses Paula, Ann, Zoe, Holly and District Nurses Libby and Jess are passionate about our community accessing a high quality service.

Twizel Medical Centre has charitable status so any surpluses are reinvested to ensure our community has access to sustainable general and urgent care services.

15 MacKenzie Drive, Phone: (03) 4350777

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Georgie Robertson Omarama 03 438 9554 027 4861525

Vicky Munro Otematata 03 438 7855 021 438745

Alona Shaw Omarama 027 773 4214



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The Waitaki Destination Management (DM) Strategy and Plan seeks to view all aspects of destination Waitaki that contribute to a visitor's experience, taking into consideration the perspectives and expectations of Mana Whenua, residents, businesses, industry, visitors, and local government. Community consultation is underway gaining insights into how residents feel the region could be revitalised as a sustainable destination where tourism gives-back. Seeking feedback from each community is key to the success of a meaningful Destination Management Strategy. This is where you come in! Have your voice heard on the future of the Waitaki. We invite you to complete this short survey: www.waitaki.govt.nz/Destination-Management/Resident For more information please visit the Destination Management page at www.waitakinz.com

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The café is now closed for the season Re-opening Labour weekend

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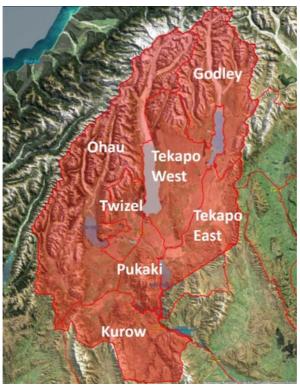


On track to a wilding free Mackenzie

To date, the approach to controlling wilding pines in the Mackenzie has been to contain the existing spread by working around the basin from the outside in towards the major infestations at Pukaki and Twizel, known as legacy infestations. The legacy infestations are a major source of seed contributing to wilding pine spread. As a result of the major funding increases in the past 12 months control work throughout the basin, and particularly within the legacy infestations, has increased dramatically. If government support for wilding pine control continues as it has done recently, we are well on track to achieving a wilding free Mackenzie. However, this can only be achieved if smaller landholders control the wilding pines on their properties too. Most importantly, this includes getting rid of mature wilding pines, not just the seedlings. There are several methods for controlling wilding pines including hand pulling, cutting with hand tools, cutting with chainsaws, treating with chemical (via several techniques) and leaving the dead tree standing. Each method has its pros and cons, and some methods are better suited to particular situations. There is also funding available to assist landholders to control wilding pines on their properties. If you would like take advantage of this funding and discuss how best to manage the wilding pines on your property, please contact Steve Palmer or Lance Smith at Environment Canterbury.

Steven.palmer@ecan.govt.nz Project lead, wilding pines. Lance.smith@ecan.govt.nz Biosecurity officer, Mackenzie and Upper Waitaki.









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SATURDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2021 REMEMBER THIS DATE!

St John Twizel is turning 50! So, if you or anyone you know has ever been part of the St John Twizel team, please get in touch with us so we can make sure no one misses the party.

We warmly welcome any stories, photos, or memorabilia associated with St John Twizel.

Please contact Katrina on 027 902 9281, email stjohntwizel@gmail.com or find us on Facebook: St John Twizel 50th Anniversary.





Review of Ownership of Shares in Network Waitaki

Under the terms of the Waitaki Power Trust Deed, Trustees are required to regularly consider options for the future ownership of the shares in Network Waitaki.

A review of ownership of shares in Network Waitaki is required to be held this year. The information below sets out the commencement of this process.

From Wednesday, 4 August 2021 copies of a report relating to the review of ownership of shares in Network Waitaki Limited and Trustees' comments are available on request from:

Network Waitaki Limited, 10 Chelmer Street, Oamaru or the Waitaki Power Trust website: www.waitakipowertrust.co.nz

or

can be inspected at the Oamaru Public Library and Community Libraries in Hampden, Kurow, Otematata and Omarama during normal opening hours.

Submissions on the review open on Monday, 9 August 2021 and close on Friday 10 September 2021.

Submissions are to be addressed to: The Secretary, Waitaki Power Trust, C/- PO Box 147, Oamaru, 9444 or emailed to: waitakipt@gmail.com



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To find out more come along to our info evening:

WHEN 7pm, Thursday, August 12, 2021

WHERE Back Bar, Kurow Hotel, 55 Bledisloe St. OR come to the Growing Future Farmers, open day

10am, Friday August 13, Awakino Station, 75 Awakino Rd, Kurow

Or contact Ping, our Kurow Liaison Manager on 021 176 2812.

We look forward to seeing you.

Nga mihi, Sue Meade, HR MANAGER, 021 315 534



Back in my day - By Jude Gillies

We're running a series to share a little of the whakapapa of our place. Various snippets by different contributors will recount stories of 'back in the day'. This month, those long, lazy days of an Omarama summer.

That's my Dad, Bernie Gillies, on the left, sitting beside an old cable reel, the typical outdoor table everyone had in those days, while my mother Joan, in the blue dress, sits chatting to a friend Doreen Potter, on an old chaise lounge. The chaise lounge would have been a throw-out from someone who had given it to the crib. That's me sitting on the front deck and Philippa Potter reading beside me.

The photo was taken in the early 1960s, because I reckon I am about seven or eight. It was taken by Doreen's husband Avon Potter who, about that time, was a teacher in Otematata.

Dad and two friends, Jim Easton and Cecil ("Brownie") Brown built the crib on Omarama Drive from mostly second hand materials in 1955 on land "old Mrs Collins" sold to them. Brownie went on to build his own place near where the hot pools are now and Jim's widow Jessie Easton kept the old crib when my parents subsequently built next door.

The photo looks like "elevenses" time, with the flagon of beer on the table and drinks all round. I remember elevenses most days at someone's crib, when the men would have beers and the women shandies and, if we were lucky, the kids would get a cold lemonade.

It was hard to keep the lemonade or beer cold though, because there was no electricity. We certainly didn't have it until well into the 1960s. That's why you can see smoke coming out of the chimney. Despite the obviously hot dry weather, as apparent from the browned off grass, the coal range would be going every day even in summer to heat water and for cooking. For that reason we usually only had hot meals at night when it was cooler to cook inside. We ate our dinner and played cards at night by Tilley lamp. I still have the old silver Tilley lamp we used that was given to my Dad by Dave O'Donnell, who farmed up past Omarama Station. It was the only light we had before the electricity.

The beer and milk were kept cool by being dunked in the little water race that ran past our crib, but fresh supplies were available most days from Brensell's Store. Other perishable foods were kept in a well ventilated "safe" However, often it was so hot the butter would completely melt.

Dad used to go duck shooting at Dave O'Donnells swamp each year with his mates, including Brownie and Jim and Mr Collins. They also went shooting Canada Geese some years up the Ahuriri to help cull the numbers for the farmers. One year Mum tried slow roasting one in the coal range and it was awful!

You can see the tyre tube in the photo that we used for floating down the Omarama Stream. But it was always cold, so when we were older we would walk across the plains to the Ahuriri and float down to the bridge where the main road crosses it. In those days the summers were reliably hot, day after day, starting at sun rise, and temperatures would soon soar into the 30s. We would spend most of the day at the river or have a trip to Lake Middleton to picnic and swim. All the roads were dry gravel and so dusty the car would be filled with dust after every trip. We had an old Morris Minor and the drive from Oamaru to Omarama seemed to take forever when I was young, but in reality was about two and a half hours. Even before Lake Benmore

was there, we used to stop at Sailor's Cutting for a swim to break the hot, dusty journey from Oamaru.

Dad's duck shooting dog, a springer spaniel named Zippy, used to ride in a box on the rack at the back of the Morris Minor while all our holiday luggage was piled on to the roof rack. Poor Zippy got a dusty ride to Omarama but he loved it when we got there and he could swim in the Omarama Stream every day with us kids. The Morris Minor used to over-heat driving over the Otematata Saddle so we would have to stop to let the engine cool down.

As young kids we had huge freedom to wander all over the village and along the stream, swimming and fishing and, at night, catching eels. Every summer we would pack a lunch and walk up to the top of the big peaks behind the village by ourselves, taking all day and only returning at dinner, without our parents being concerned. In addition to elevenses lemonades with family friends like Tom and Nessie Fodie, a big treat was to have an ice cream sundae or a "spider" of fizzy and ice cream at Menzies tea rooms by the petrol station.

Apart from drinks at the pub during the day, then owned by Ian and Aileen Woods and which closed at six o'clock, the only evening entertainment was getting together at each other's cribs for barbecues and card games or fireside singalongs. No one had fancy outdoor furniture or gas cookers, but instead the barbecue would be an open fire or a plough share on legs as a grill plate.

They were simple pleasures and life was loads of fun. No one had electric gadgets, let alone TV or the internet. Most crib owners knew each other and all the locals. It was a tight-knit, friendly community of good hearted, like-minded people.

It was pure bliss.

This photo of our old family crib illustrates everything iconic about Omarama back in my day, when I so loved the long, hot, carefree days of summer there.



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