



# Omarama Gazette

August 2022

## Town urged to support First Response

**(UPDATE This story was updated at 3.20pm, Friday, August 5, at the request of St John)**

The Ōmārama community, holiday homeowners, and other regular visitors to Ōmārama are being urged to attend this month's public forum to discuss the ongoing issues the town's first response is having with being turned out to all medical emergencies.

Medical call-outs make up about half of the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade and First Response calls each year.

Ōmārama's population swells to more than treble the size at holiday times as holiday houses and camping grounds fill.

Ōmārama Co-Response [First Response] Trust spokesperson Craig Dawson is urging the community to come out in force and support its first response team "in their desire to help save lives and provide better outcomes for people in need of urgent medical assistance".

Residents' Association of Ōmārama chairman Lindsay Purvis reiterated Mr Dawson's comments.

The association was hosting the forum because of the community's concerns that St John's present practice was seriously compromising outcomes for those in the area requiring urgent assistance, he said.

"Representatives of St John and Fenz [Fire and Emergency New Zealand] are coming to the forum so people need to come and have their say.

"It is a very important issue for our community – even those who are only here on weekends, because you never know when an emergency might happen," Mr Purvis said.

The Ōmārama First Response unit wants to be called to all medical emergencies because they are the closest service which can provide medical assistance.

The nearest St John ambulance is stationed in Twizel some 20 minutes away, with the next closest being Kurow, about 40 minutes away. At present, because of staffing issues, some are waiting anything from an hour-and-a-half to four hours for an ambulance.

It is important to note the decision to call out the First Response is not made by ambulance field staff on the ground but by the St John call centre.

*-continued over*

## *Town urged to support First Response, continued*

When the First Response was first set up in 1997 and under a 'local agreement' it was on the understanding it would be called to all emergency medical calls. However, at various stages since St John have reverted to its national model and agreement with Fenz, and have not called the unit to those calls deemed to be non-life threatening.

Because triaging a medical emergency by phone can be inaccurate, 111 calls have often found to be much more serious than was first able to be conveyed by the patient, and long wait times have caused unnecessary suffering and angst.

### ***[UPDATE FROM ST JOHN: REQUEST FOR CORRECTION***

*We're particularly concerned this article lacks fairness, balance and accuracy with regard to the statement on 111 call triaging. This has been written as if it is fact with no attribution and no examples to back it up and we have serious reservations that not only is the statement inaccurate, it is alarming and could cause unnecessary angst for the community.*

*To claim that triaging by phone 'can be inaccurate and 111 calls have often found to be much more serious than was first able to be conveyed by the patient', is simply untrue and misleading. There is no balance to the story because you never sought a response from St John leading to an incredibly unbalanced, bias article.*

*Had you sought a response from St John, you would have been provided with the information explaining that St John Ambulance uses an internationally recognised triage system and NZ Ambulance Communication Centres are accredited centres of excellence (ACE) rewarded in recognition of organisational excellence in public safety. ACE accreditation is achieved through rigorous and measurable set of globally recognised best practises.*

*St John Emergency Medical Dispatchers (who answer 111 calls) are regularly audited and 100% of our random 111 calls are audited by an external agency. We also have internal quality improvement officers who review additional 111 calls.*

*St John would like to request removal of the statement that references 111 triaging from your article immediately and a correction be published.]*

*... story continued*

Residents are frustrated because their community-funded and fully-equipped unit is literally just around the corner from any local incident and can not only provide emergency medical care but has access to the St John clinical desk for advice and can radio the oncoming ambulance with relevant updates.

Individuals have stepped forward with their own examples of how St John's present call allocation system has failed them. [See Ōmārama Gazette July Issue]

As a result, the Resident's Association decided to host a facilitated public forum with the partner agencies present to hear concerns and to share relevant information with a goal of creating an action plan to remedy identified issues.

Representatives from St John New Zealand and Fire and Emergency New Zealand have been invited to speak.

Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean is unable to attend because of a prior engagement but is sending a statement to be read at the forum.

Official guests include Waitaki District mayor Gary Kircher and representatives from Federated Farmers and Rural Women New Zealand.

The forum will be independently facilitated by Mathew Bayliss, Meridian Energy senior manager

**The forum is at 11am, Saturday, August 20, 2022, at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall with a cup of tea provided on arrival from 10.30am.**

# You are invited

**Come, support your Omarama First Response team  
Always there for community and always there for you  
Let's plan to keep it this way**

**11am Saturday, August 20, at the Omarama Memorial Hall**

**A public community forum will be held to  
discuss the ongoing management of Omarama  
First Response Unit**

- Come and listen to the First Response partners share relevant information with our community
- Help create an action plan to remedy identified issues

Those invited to speak are: St John New Zealand and Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

Official guests include Waitaki District mayor Gary Kircher, representatives from Federated Farmers and Rural Women New Zealand

The forum will be independently facilitated by Mat Bayliss, Meridian Energy senior manager



# Flood event - time for a debrief?

## When is an emergency not an emergency?

That is the question on everyone's minds as they as they grapple with the aftermath of the Ahuriri River and Ōmārama Stream flood.

No question, there is widespread anger over the Waitaki District Council response to the event and its aftermath, and there is resentment over issues the community had raised many times prior to the flood which were not resolved and made matters worse.

There has been complaints council communication with the township and residents since the flood has been either non-existent, negligible or late.

Strong feelings have been voiced that the council relies too heavily on volunteers to do its job.

And it's not just the council in the firing line.

The weedy and overgrown state of the lower Ōmārama Stream prior to the flood is considered a contributing factor to causing a clogged and overloaded waterway.

And it is the source of long-term frustration for the residents alongside the stream who are forced to deal with that ethereal and notoriously duck-shoving group – 'ECanLinzDocandWDC' – to try to make any difference.

People want to be heard and for things to change.

People are talking 'rates revolt'.

People are angry.

## FIRSTLY, WHY WASN'T A STATE OF EMERGENCY CALLED?

It was an extreme weather event for the town, the Ōmārama Stream not only broke its banks but forced its way out of its course, chose Omarama Avenue as a new channel, and poured itself into the camping ground and nearby properties with a force such that it destroyed whatever was in its path.

Further down the line residents Murray and Sharon Stuart's caravan was lifted and carried more than the length of a rugby field to lodge in trees at the very far reaches of their property.

In all, at least 100 people were evacuated – 60 from the camping ground plus residents, including families, from homes along the avenue from the Ōmārama Stream Bridge to Ōmārama Hot Tubs.

The evacuations were voluntary and carried out by Ōmārama's sole charge policeman with the help of Fenz Ōmārama Fire brigade volunteers. A welfare centre, staffed by those same volunteers, was set up at the Ōmārama Hall in the night and early morning, and helped about 30 displaced people.

The town water supply was compromised.

Residents woke to impassable roads, bridge washouts and debris – branches, roots, gravel, general detritus - backed up in properties and strewn for miles, garages and basements which had been inundated leaving tidemarks at about ¾ metre off the ground, and sodden carpets and furniture.

The hardest hit businesses were, first and foremost, the Top 10 Holiday Park, followed closely by Ōmārama Hot Tubs, but other smaller and significant businesses along the path of the flood waters have also been calling their insurance companies.



## SO, WHAT IS THE CRITERIA FOR CALLING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY?

Under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 section 4 (a) an emergency “is the result of any happening, whether natural or otherwise, including, without limitation, any explosion, earthquake, eruption, tsunami, land movement, flood, storm, tornado, cyclone, serious fire, leakage or spillage of any dangerous gas or substance, technological failure, infestation, plague, epidemic, failure of or disruption to an emergency service or a lifeline utility, or actual or imminent attack or warlike act; and

(b) causes or may cause loss of life or injury or illness or distress or in any way endangers the safety of the public or property in New Zealand or any part of New Zealand;”

Yes, this event ticks those two boxes.

But the decision makers also must consider that the event; “cannot be dealt with by emergency services, or otherwise requires a significant and co-ordinated response under this Act.”

And, in this event, emergency services and police were able to manage the situation.

Declaring a state of local emergency would have given powers to the Waitaki Emergency Operations Centre that would not usually be available to “protect the safety of the public or property”, and that are also “designed” to help recover from an emergency”.

This covers a multitude of services that can be put in place because of the emergency – accommodation, welfare, waste disposal, sewerage and so on. Because of language used in council media releases from the Operations Centre there was some confusion over whether it had actually called a “state of local emergency”.

However, in an interview with Radio New Zealand’s Kim Hill on Tuesday morning, Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher said that, while the emergency management team were “certainly looking after things and so on,  
“...We haven’t activated...we haven’t declared an emergency because we are coping with things.”

On Monday, in an email the Ōmārama Gazette asked Waitaki District Council chief executive Alex Parmley and Civil Defence emergency management officer Ewen Graham why a civil defence emergency had not been called.

“The overall feeling of the community is, although the sole charge police officer and volunteers managed the event well, this would have been of great assistance for the subsequent decisions which had to be made during the ‘recovery’ – clean-up – phase,” the email said.

As well, the Gazette asked Mr Parmley and Mr Graham if they had considered a meeting of council staff, Environment Canterbury, emergency services and members of the community to ensure future plans and protocols were fit for purpose and worked as they should.

Mr Parmley and Mr Graham did not respond ahead of deadline. However, the response will be published once it is received.

[The Omarama Gazette has asked for all information pertaining to the decision made whether or not to call a state of emergency under an Official Information Act request.]

Before making its decision, the emergency response group must get the advice of others including Police and Fenz. In light of that, the Ōmārama Gazette has also

## *Flood event - time for a debrief? continued*

requested official information held by Ōmārama Police about the events of Monday night and Tuesday morning concerning the event in Ōmārama and its surrounds. The council is part of the Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, and its Civil Defence Emergency Management is legislated to provide a “coordinated and integrated” approach to the way significant risks and hazards are managed in the district, “with a focus on 4R’s”: Reduction, Readiness, Response as well as the Recovery phase.

### ANDY AND EMMA MOORE’S STORY

The couple arrived at the Ōmārama Hot Tubs complex on Tuesday to find the septic tank overflowing and groundwater coming up through it.

The tank had to be emptied so repairs could be made.

The first time it was emptied Andy said he did not know “what to do with it”, or who to contact about the problem.

The first tanker load was trucked to Twizel to the Mackenzie District Council’s facility and the Moores paid for it to be emptied there.

As the second load was about to go, they realised that, along with the cost, there could be additional problems because the waste was being emptied in another district.

So, Andy arranged to meet with Ahuriri Community Board member Ross Menzies and a SouthRoads’ representative and, after consultation by phone with the council, it was agreed the waste could be taken to the Ōmārama Wastewater plant for disposal.

However, the tanker was turned around at the gates by an employee who told Andy he had just been informed he could not dump the waste at the sewage treatment plant after all.

This was followed up by a phone call confirming the council position.

“Because I don’t pay rates to use the pond, I am not allowed to use the pond.”

Andy was in “disbelief”.

“Under the circumstances, they could have helped another person in a shitty situation. I thought that we could help each other, but no.”

Consequently, four tanker loads at 12,500 litres a time were trucked to Twizel and payment made to the Mackenzie District Council for the use of its facility.

“Yes, insurance will cover it.” But the point was, along with there being no communication, and no advice, the council decision was inflexible and meanspirited given the circumstances, Andy said.

Apart from help from Ōmārama Police and the community there was no help, it was “frustrating”.

“We felt completely on our own, no communication, no advice, not a phone call, and we had to do what we had to do.”

Andy and Emma both hope the response to the emergency will be carefully looked at and reviewed to make sure necessary improvements are made.

On Monday, the Ōmārama Gazette emailed Waitaki District Council senior operations engineer David Inwood to ask for an explanation of the decision regarding the septic tank.

“I understand there were issues regarding the clearing of septic tanks in the flooded Ōmārama Hot Tubs complex and that, even though it would have aided recovery from an extreme event, the Hot Tubs was not permitted to empty septic tank and

grey water at the nearby council-managed Ōmārama Treatment plant but instead had to truck waste to Twizel. Would you please give the council perspective on this?" the email asked.

Mr Inwood did not to respond ahead of publication. However, the response will be published once it is received.

#### THE COUNCIL RESPONSE:

"The recent weather events across the Waitaki district caused several obstacles for water services. During this time, there were direct access issues to the Omarama Treatment Plant and Council's Health and Safety protocols could have become compromised. Every owner of septic and holding tanks need to use an accredited contractor to take waste water to Ōamaru's treatment plant. This protocol is not uncommon in many councils throughout NZ as discharges direct to pond systems can become problematic with changes in BOD levels and other variances which could in turn breach resource consent."

**Heritage Gateway Hotel general manager Megan Talarico** said the hotel put up about 60 guests in 20 rooms after they were evacuated from the Ōmārama Top 10 Holiday Park, with the Holiday Park passing on the accommodation payments they had received from the guests to compensate the hotel for the first night.

Many stayed two nights because of the road closures.

In light of the circumstances they were charged a minimum rate for the second night.

"We weren't going to leave them stranded," Megan said.

However, despite accommodating evacuees the hotel received no direct notification from the council of the advice to boil water.

"When a 'boil water' notice comes through the hotel buys bottled water to supply guests for things like brushing teeth."

Whether the council ought to have provided tankers of potable water while Ōmārama was under the week-long advisory as some have suggested was arguable.

"Had it happened during peak season it would have caused more issues," Megan said.

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# *Flood event - time for a debrief? continued*

She praised the actions of the emergency services and townspeople.

"Everyone in town came together and helped.

"The evacuees were just happy to be safe and dry, some loved their extended stay so much they have promised to return."

## THE COUNCIL RESPONSE

Marty Pacey, Water Manager

"The deployment of a water tanker was considered at the beginning of the event, however roads were closed, so the establishment of one was not possible. Once flood waters receded and access was restored, only one member of the public requested the establishment of a water tanker. Past experience with deployment of water tankers has shown very little use by the public in these situations."

## THE SOAK PITS/MUD TANKS

In the early hours of the flooding on Monday night soak pits through the town were quickly overwhelmed causing flooding which threatened properties.

Because contractors refused to attend that night, the volunteer Fire Brigade was called to pump out the soak pit in Totara Peak Cres as the water began to encroach on two properties in the street.

The community has long requested that the effectiveness of the soak pits be addressed, with the most recent requests forwarded to the council after heavy rain in January of this year.

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The Ōmārama Gazette emailed council assets operations manager Josh Rendell on Monday to ask why this had not been addressed and to ask why, and given it was a holiday period with accommodation houses and holiday homes in use, the township was not provided with tankers of potable water for drinking and meal preparation during that time.

Mr Rendell did not respond ahead of publication.

However, his response will be published once it is received.

## THE COUNCIL RESPONSE

Joshua Rendell, Assets Operations Manager

"The intensity of the events experienced this year has been significant. The ability of some of council's infrastructure to cope with the scale of the events has been tested and found wanting. Council will be undertaking a review of some of its stormwater infrastructure, including soak pits with a view to restoring capacity to those systems."

## SHOWING A LITTLE KINDNESS

In all of this, the one time the strangle of red tape was loosened came because of the efforts of council solid waste manager Steve Clarke.

Ōmārama Residents' Association chairman Lindsay Purvis' asked the council to waive fees on the disposal of flood debris at the council-owned transfer station.

Initially, the council's response was a categorical 'no'.

But Mr Clarke went further and contacted WasteCo which manages the transfer stations to ask if it was willing to step up, which it was.

The Ōmārama Gazette also emailed Mr Clarke on Monday to get the council's perspective on this. This is Mr Clarke's reply, received yesterday [Tuesday].

"The recent weather events in Waitaki caused flooding resulting in debris in Ōmārama. A request came through from the Ōmārama Residents' group asking to provide free waste disposal for this event. Council advised that we would be setting a



precedent by offering free dumping and advised that dumping fees are claimable through insurance.

“However, we understand these are difficult times and offered to put extra bins in Ōmārama.

“Council also approached WasteCo on Ōmārama's behalf to see if they would be keen to support Ōmārama, which they were. They dropped off a bin which locals utilised for related waste.”

The Gazette will be following up on all the email questions it has sent to the council.

On the Sunday following the flood, Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean held an informal meeting with some residents.

Subsequently, Mrs Dean sent this message to all Ōmārama residents:

“I hope that by the time this goes to print, Ōmārama residents have had a chance to take a breath and get some decent rest after the big flooding clean-up.

“Having seen the damage done to farmland, local businesses and backyards, I have every sympathy for what you've been through. I would also like to thank those who've taken time out to talk with me about what they experienced and what lies ahead.

“From the discussions I've had, it's clear that some aspects of the emergency response worked well, and some aspects did not.

“Some questioned why a ‘state of emergency’ wasn't called. There also seems to be a disconnect between how authorities view the response and how some local people feel about what took place.

“It would be nigh on impossible for all aspects of an emergency response to be handled perfectly, with decisions having to be made fast and with competing priorities.

“But I do think it's important to take stock and review how things went from all sides so that improvements can be made.

“A review proved useful after the Ōhau fires, and I suspect it would be useful here too.

“I would hope that ECan, the Waitaki District Council, Fire and Emergency and members of the community could sit down together to ensure plans and protocols are fit for purpose and work as they should.”



# Thank you from Erwin and Natalie

Erwin and I would like to thank everyone in the community for their support and kindness during this tough time for us!

Although it has been absolutely heart-breaking to see the devastation caused by the flood and we know it'll be a long road to recovery, we feel incredibly blessed to be part of such a supportive community! Thank you!

*Erwin and Natalie Beiboer*  
*Omarama TOP10 Holiday Park*

*We will get through this season, together!*  
*Photo: Omarama TOP10 Holiday Park*



# More thank yous

## Thank you from the Wall family

Please pass on our sincere appreciation to the community of Ōmārama for their kindness and generosity over the past couple of days.

We were quickly evacuated from a family cabin at the Top 10 as flood waters began to flow and we were promptly provided with a lovely hotel room to stay in until the roads opened again.

The short, unexpected 'blip' we experienced on our holiday has only given us great memories and a desire to return again some day to experience all your region has to offer.

All the best, the Wall family.

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## Thank you from Tony Fryer

Good morning

I just want to send a huge shout out and thank you to your Ōmārama community.

We are stranded travellers who were evacuated from the Top 10 last night and have been put up across the road at the hotel. The crew at the Top 10 are amazing and our thoughts are with them, and the crew at the hotel are also amazing for putting us up until 'not sure when'.

So a massive shout out to the emergency services and your community.

Also a massive shout out and thank you to this Facebook page which has good updates with what's going on. Fingers crossed one of the roads out will open today preferably the Twizel one. Keep up the good updates.



# Congratulations Arabella, from all of us

"Arabella (11), a pupil at Omarama School, was awarded a St John Super Saver Bravery Award earlier this week for her actions after her mum fell from a horse earlier this year."

*Photo: supplied*



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## A message for flood-affected campers from the Ōmārama Gliding Club

The Omarama Airfield Company has made the glider trailer park available for anyone who needs to park equipment until the situation in Omarama is restored.

The glider trailer park is the paddock south of the hangars – turn right through the gate by the Pink Glider Café and you will see the long line of glider trailers parked side by side.

It is important that you hook into the steel cable which runs the length of the paddock, as it is quite exposed, and this stops the trailers from being blown around in strong wind conditions.

There is a second cable which runs south from the gate down the fence line to the west of the paddock.

Please avoid driving on the Omarama model aircraft club landing strip which is the green prepared area towards the middle of the paddock, about 50m south of the trailers.

Parking elsewhere on the airfield is restricted because it is an operational area and parking in the campground is also not available.



# Colin David Herd - Herbie

January 4, 1952 to July 14, 2022

## Surrounded by love

It was the mark of the man that many friends travelled to Ōmārama to give him a fitting send-off last month.

The Ōmārama Memorial Hall was packed for the celebration of the life of long-time resident Colin Herd.

Close mates Peter Reinke, who gave the eulogy, and Lindsay Purvis and Paul Meester all paid tribute to a life well-lived with humour and vibrancy, illustrated with tall tales of schoolboy pranks and mischief who grew to be a true 'Southern Man'. In a special message to Colin's wife Sharon, Lindsay reminded her she would have the continued love and support of her community through the days ahead. Sharon, in return thanked the Omarama community for all they had done for the couple during Colin's illness.





# Jan and Julz big day out

Going 'up, up and away' in a beautiful balloon may have been on Jan's bucket list but it certainly wasn't even on Julz's wanna do list.

But what are good friends for but to share the ups and downs of life.

Our two girls – Jan Perriam and Julie Dyson – left good old terra firma last month shooting straight up “from zero to just over 1800m” in what felt like seconds from a paddock in Methven, courtesy of Balloon company <https://www.adventureballoonsnz.com/>.

“It was BI\*&%y scary,” Julz said.

“When we got to 6,000ft, I said , that's high enough thanks. Jan was stuck to the spot for at least 10 minutes.”

“Yes, I was, I was absolutely petrified,” Jan said.

“It was just so quick, zero to 6300ft, oh my goodness!”

They were then taken back down to about 900m just under cloud level which was a little less angst-inducing.

“It's the weirdest feeling...and then somebody moves,” Julz said

Once Julz got used to it she started bouncing around, “with everybody telling me off”.

“Once we went down below the clouds...It was so peaceful,” Jan said

It was beautiful, absolutely stunning...just silence, and you could hear the cows mooing.”

It was amazing watching the balloon fill with gas, “and then there's the wicker basket ... and yeah, it pays not to think about things too much”, Jan said.

She's keen to give ballooning another go and has pencilled in another trip, hopefully at the Hororata Balloon festival.

And while Julz says it was great, she may not be tagging along this time. It was still not bucket list material, so, no, she won't be doing it again, she said.



*Photos: Lex Perriam and supplied*





# The Noticeboard

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

**UPDATE: A notice from Richard and Annabelle**

This event is postponed, date to be confirmed

**"Let's Have Ourselves a "Feck the Flood" Party**

**Where: @ the Hāngī Pit, Omarama Stream, in front of the Omarama Station Homestead.**

**Rug up warm and BYO everything - food, chairs, blankets, wine to mull, marshmallows...There will be a BBQ, somewhere to warm your cup, a bonfire."**

**Thank you:** *"A big thank you to the Omarama Community Care Group. I recently received a box of food and treats from this wonderful group of caring volunteers. What a wonderful caring community we live in. Thank you."* - from Geva Innes.

**Annual meeting:** The St Thomas's Management Committee will hold its annual meeting 2pm, August 19, 2022, at the Wrinkly Rams, Ōmārama. Apologies by email; to the secretary, Rev Lee Kearon, [lee.kearon@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com)

**Community Housie** continues 1pm each Wednesday at the Omarama Community Centre. On the last Wednesday of each month Housie will be hosted by a local Café/Restaurant. Last month the Wrinkly Rams hosted a very enjoyable afternoon with a group of 18 keen players attending.

**Kurow Medical Centre** Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 12.30pm. 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](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

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

**St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:**

chairperson: Ven Dr Michael Godfrey, phone 022 342 9977 or email [Dylanfreak@gmail.com](mailto:Dylanfreak@gmail.com); committee secretary (Presbyterian): Rev Lee Kearon, phone: 021 250 1060 or email: [lee.kearon@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com)

**The Ōmārama Golf Club** Saturdays cards in 12pm, tee-off 12.30pm. Club captain James Moynihan phone: 027 215 8266; email [jwmoynihian@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jwmoynihian@yahoo.co.nz) [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

**The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group** meets once a month. For time and place contact facilitator Nicola McKerchar. Phone: 022 612 7570; email: [committee@ahuriricatchment.com](mailto:committee@ahuriricatchment.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.

**Ōmārama Playgroup** meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Ōmārama Community Centre. For more information phone president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 [rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com) or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016 [tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz](mailto:tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz)

## *The Noticeboard, continued*

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

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

A gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. The exercises are run with the guidance of personal trainer Lauren Maree. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to E: [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)  
W: [www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz) F: [facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/](https://facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/)

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Ōmārama Plunket Committee: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536  
[aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)

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To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website. [www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/](https://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/)  
[omaramagazette.nz](http://omaramagazette.nz)

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

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

**The September issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, September 7, 2022.**

**Please submit copy  
by Thursday, September 1, 2022**



# The Community Reports



*Hi all,*

Here we are into the last month of Winter. I hope you are all recovering from the rough weather we had in the middle of July. If you were unfortunate enough to have water around your place it is a good idea to make sure any debris is cleaned up from around drains and any place it may stop any water flow if it were to happen again.

Some kitchen safety hints, if you have a fat fire smother it with a lid, damp tea towel or a chopping board and leave to cool down, don't ever try to carry it outside this could result in spilling and spreading the fire and also serious burns.

If there is an oven fire close the door turn off the oven and isolate the heat source if electric turn off at the wall if gas isolate at the easiest valve to get to which could be at the regulator and dial 111.

*Stay Safe*

*Greg Harper and the team at the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade*

Chief Fire Officer , 021 293 1171 [greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz)

Facebook: /Omaramafirebrigade

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## Come along to our Open Day

Bring your friends and whānau to meet the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade.

There's plenty for the kids to get involved with and a chance for the adults to get hands on with activities including:

Car cutting demonstration

Using hoses and equipment

CPR skills

**When Sunday 7 August 11am-1pm**

**Where Omarama Fire Station 18 Chain Hills Highway Omarama**





# Waitaki Recreational and Boating Club

*By Debbie Smith*

The Waitaki Recreational & Boating Club  
Are holding their annual motorbike rally .  
**“Thunder in the Valley”**  
**It's all go folks 23rd till 25th September.**

Down Loch Laird road overlooking the dam . Bikes will be arriving 12.00pm on Friday onwards. Leaving by 11am Sunday . Bike competition, food stalls , bar , bands. If your keen on attending please click the link below. Small entry fee for public to take a look on sat . All proceeds made are going towards the Parsons Rock new floating wharf .

<https://www.waitakiclub.com/events>

**It's all go**



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**‘The Community Reports’ is  
dedicated to news  
from clubs, groups and sports teams.**

**Contributions are welcome.  
[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

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# Ōmārama Rodeo Club

## Thank you

Wowee what a ride the last days have been! We hope all our followers in the Waitaki are all safe and dry after the snow, nor'west winds, then crazy rain. We sure did pick the best few days of the last month to have our Hill Billy Hunt.

Our club wants to say a HUGE thank you to those who came out on Friday for the Quiz Night. It was such a fun night, and the Wrinkly Rams kept us all toasty warm, well fed and hydrated over the evening.

Despite the snow and chilly days, there was still successful hunting done over the weekend. Our Sunday weigh in saw some brilliant catches and creations.

Over two events our club has raised a whopping \$6000. This is just fantastic, and getting to do so while having a good time is even better.

We could not have been so successful without our long standing sponsorship from Central Otago Hunting and Fishing.

If you're in Cromwell please call in and support this awesome store. We love being able to say our major sponsor has been so since the very first Hunt. Such a wicked achievement, and we can't wait to continue this partnership for Hill Billy Hunt 2023!

The Wrinkly Rams- Thank you for opening specially for us on Friday evening. Everyone of your team is welcoming, the food AMAZING, and your venue just superb, and then for staying open Sunday for prize giving- Thank you. To all our other sponsors- there were so many local and wider regions, island and country sponsors. Without you all providing products or services, our event would not have been what it was. Thank you, so very much.

And to YOU- our Community. Thanks for braving the chilly weather to come spend a Friday testing your general knowledge, and then spending the rest of the weekend hunting off the list.

**Our Lucky Winners were The Clod Throwers - Mike and Jack Doree, and Sam and Poppy Radford - on 139 Points.**

Well done, we loved your moose head wire Sculpture, and you sure did find an Ugly Stag! Same weekend next year, lock it in now.

We are excited to be planning our Rodeo for December 28, 2022. We hope to see you there.

OMARAMA RODEO CLUB  
wants to say  
*Thank You*



Your Generous support of our Quiz night and Hill Billy Hunt, helped our club raise over \$6000

# Ōmārama School Board of Trustees

## Ōmārama School Board Elections

### Parent Election Notice

Nominations are open for the election of three parent representatives to the school board. All eligible voters will receive a nomination form and a notice calling for nominations. Use this form to nominate yourself or someone in your community. You will also receive a nomination cover letter calling for nominations. Information on who is not eligible to be a board member is provided with the nomination form. If you need more nomination forms, contact the school office.

### **Nominations close at noon, Friday, August 5.**

You may provide a signed candidate statement and photograph with your nomination.

The electoral roll is held at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours.

There will also be a list of candidates' names kept at the school up until election day, which you can view.

### **Voting closes 4 pm Wednesday, September 7, 2022.**

*Megan Talarico*  
Returning Officer

## 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**  
Ōmarama  
03 438 9554 027 4861525



**Vicky Munro**  
Ōtematata  
03 438 7855 021 438745



**Alona Shaw**  
Ōmarama  
027 773 4214

# Ōmārama Golf Club

## A BIG THANK YOU

- to all those who have helped - many more than can be named - with the clean up of the Ōmārama Golf Club following the recent flooding.

*Photos: Bean Smith and James Moynihan*







If you are interested in joining the club please contact Christine 027 209 2320 we have a couple of membership options.

**Saturday club day cards in 12 noon and tee off 12.30 pm.**

**Club captain James Moynihan, phone: 027 215 8266;**

**email [jwmoynihan@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jwmoynihan@yahoo.co.nz)**

**Secretary: Christine Bowman**

**phone: 027 209 2320**

**[secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz)**

**[www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)**



# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

## Medieval Event

6th August 2022

At Oasis Cafe

6 p.m Start

\$25 a ticket

- ★ Includes a Medieval Banquet
- ★ Mulled Wine on Arrival
- ★ Medieval Themed Costume
- ★ Cash Bar

*Bring your own Goblet*

Limited number of tickets

Available from Jan Perriam

Ph 022 314 4291 or text for further details



## TO OMARAMA RESIDENTS

Wasteco NZ Ltd has generously agreed  
to allow waste from the damage  
caused by the recent flood to be  
dropped off

FREE OF CHARGE

at the

Omarama Resource Recovery Park.

Open Wednesdays and Sunday 9am - 12pm



# Ōmārama Shed

The Ōmārama Shed group meets  
at 10am each Saturday  
and at other times, too.

For further information contact:  
Murray Stuart 027 432 7537

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## Ōmārama Playgroup

Ōmārama Playgroup meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the  
primary school term  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

For more information contact:

president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 [rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com)  
or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016 [tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz](mailto:tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz)  
Plunket: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536 [aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)

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## Ōmārama Community Library

The Ōmārama Community Library  
is open 9.30am to 11am,  
Wednesdays and Saturdays,  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.  
[omaramalibrary@gmail.com](mailto:omaramalibrary@gmail.com)

Contacts: Georgie 027 486 1525 or Yvonne 027 476 7473

LOOKING FOR  
FUNDING FOR  
A COMMUNITY  
PROJECT?





OTAGO  
Community Trust  
Working Together with Our Communities

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

0800 10 12 40 [www.oct.org.nz](http://www.oct.org.nz)

# Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the  
Ōmārama Residents' Association is  
**7pm Thursday, August 18, 2022**  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

An invitation is extended to all  
(note change of time)

Contacts:

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630

Yvonne Jones, secretary, 027 476 7473

(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Yvonne)

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## **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, Ōmārama 9448.**

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

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## ŌMĀRAMA 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](mailto:hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz)





## WAITAKI REGIONAL EVENTS FUND VIRTUAL WORKSHOP – AUGUST 17 2022

The Waitaki Events Advisory Board to host a virtual events workshop on Wednesday August 17, 2022, prior to the next funding round opening in early October 2022.

Prior to the opening of the second funding round of the Waitaki Regional Events Fund in early October 2022, the Waitaki Events Advisory Board is hosting a virtual workshop for prospective applicants.

'The line-up of speakers includes renowned events promotor Arthur Klap.

The day will cover aspects required in submitting a successful application to the fund', Advisory chairperson Jan Kennedy said.

'Key aspects for a successful application are the need to meet all the criteria, such as a marketing plan which focuses on bringing visitors from outside of the region, and showing how the event can encourage a longer stay.' Dunedin events marketer Amanda Dire, will share her insights on preparing a successful marketing plan.

Local accountant and sports advocate Adair Craik will cover off producing a clear and comprehensive event budget and financial plan, aiming to display how an event can move towards financial sustainability.

Also presenting at the workshop is Megan Williams, Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA) Sustainability manager, who will be sharing tips on how events improve their impact on the environment and their carbon footprint.

'We are aiming to provide event operators with beneficial knowledge to ensure submissions to the fund are both complete and to the standard required to access this government fund. We really want to get the funds out the door and see events grow across the region', Mrs Kennedy said.

The virtual workshop is Wednesday, August 17, 2022, starting at 10am and ending at 4pm.

Event organisers are encouraged to RSVP before 8 August 2022

to: [marketing@waitakinz.com](mailto:marketing@waitakinz.com) the link to the virtual workshop will be issued on receipt of the RSVP.

Event organisers are welcome to submit their draft marketing plans to the Waitaki Events Advisor, Tammy Jackman prior to the event for feedback. Email: [tammy.jackman@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:tammy.jackman@dcc.govt.nz)

Tourism Waitaki received a total fund pool of \$183,000 as a part of the government, MBIE, Regional Events Fund. The fund also covers capability for administering the fund.

The first round of the fund opened in October 2021. One event was successful in receiving funds.

Criteria includes (but is not limited to):

- Driving increased visitation
- Bringing measurable economic benefit to the region
- Complimenting a regional calendar of events that's well-balanced to create year round stimulation

Information about the REF including the application form can be found on the Tourism Waitaki website: [waitakinz.com](http://waitakinz.com)



# TOURISMWAITAKI

## **The Waitaki District Council Draft District Plan engagement period ends on August 31.**

The planning team has so far held drop-in sessions at Palmerston, Hampden, Moeraki, Weston, Kakanui, Ōmārama, and Duntroon.

For your feedback to be used to inform the next stage of the District Plan process the council asks you submit your feedback using the specified channels.

This includes the online feedback form, which can be found at [www.waitaki.govt.nz/haveyoursay](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/haveyoursay).

You can also send an email with your feedback to [planreview@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:planreview@waitaki.govt.nz). Alternatively, you can also post or drop off a hard copy form.

Copies of the engagement document and forms are available from Council offices and Waitaki District Libraries.

For more information, visit the website [www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review).



**the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark**  
*presents*

# **THE MACKENZIE BASIN'S OSTLER FAULT**

One of New Zealand's most spectacular active fault

Ongoing compression between the Australian and Pacific tectonic plates is uplifting the Southern Alps. Part of the compression emerges on the Ostler Fault. Extending ~65 km from near Omarama to the Lake Pukaki valley, the Ostler is the Waitaki District's most active geological fault, experiencing a large ground-rupturing earthquake on average once every 3,500 years. The fault breakouts preserved across the glacial-age plains of the Ahuriri and Ohau valleys are world-class examples of fault landforms.



## **A presentation by David Barrell**

David is a geologist with GNS Science, a government-owned earth science research institute. Based in Dunedin, David has worked on the geology and landforms of the Waitaki District for over 25 years. He has particular interest in landscape-shaping processes, including effects of glaciation and tectonic movements on fault lines.

# **6 - 7PM THURSDAY 18 AUGUST**

**Omarama Community Centre - 35 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama**

**FREE**

## Community Care Group - just give anyone of us a call.

If you must self-isolate and there's a few things you've not had a chance to do or get in, or you need to put your mind at rest over something, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed below. We're a bunch of volunteers able to help with most things. BUT we will not approach you unless invited to by yourself or a friend. And your privacy and confidentiality will be respected.

☐ Keeping connected - keeping in touch and getting the info

Ruth Grundy, [ruthjgrundy@gmail.com](mailto:ruthjgrundy@gmail.com) 021 294 8002

Adrienne Harper, [adrienneharper@gmail.com](mailto:adrienneharper@gmail.com) 021 139 2817

☐ 'Meals on wheels' and deliveries

Carolynne Grant, [kevingrant@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kevingrant@xtra.co.nz) 03 438 9742 and leave a message.

Georgie Robertson, [huntly@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huntly@xtra.co.nz) 027 486 1525

☐ Rural tasks (complementing the work of the Rural Support Trust)

Annabelle and Richard Subtil; [subtil@omaramastation.co.nz](mailto:subtil@omaramastation.co.nz)

Annabelle 027 406 9522, Richard 027 208 9096

☐ Taking care of visitors and hospitality industry advice

(If you are accommodating guests in any way eg airbnb and have questions, give Megan a call) Megan Talarico, [gm@heritagegateway.co.nz](mailto:gm@heritagegateway.co.nz) 021 545 566

☐ Drop-offs and deliveries (other than meals above)

Alona Shaw, [Alona.Shaw@foursquare-si.co.nz](mailto:Alona.Shaw@foursquare-si.co.nz) 027 773 4214

☐ Pets and plants and necessary chores.

Tanya Humphreys [tanyahumphreys5@gmail.com](mailto:tanyahumphreys5@gmail.com) 022 611 7099

Staying mentally well: This bugger takes its toll. We are all feeling anxious or stressed about this, it's normal. Don't be afraid to reach out for help. You can call or text 1737 to talk with a trained counsellor for free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

COVID-19 Healthline: 0800 358 5453

Healthline: 0800 611 116

Health advice about babies or children:

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922; Family Services: 0800 211 211

Work and Income: 0800 559 009

Alcohol Drug Helpline: 0800 787 797

Rural Support Trust: 0800 787 254

Business support: South Island 0800 505 096

### OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Kurow Medical Centre: 03 436 0760 or Mackenzie Health Centre Twizel: 03 976

0503 [kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

Twizel Medical Centre: 03 435 0777 [www.twizelmed.co.nz](http://www.twizelmed.co.nz)

Mackenzie Pharmacy: 03 435 0883 [mackenziepharmacy.co.nz](http://mackenziepharmacy.co.nz)

Four Square Omarama: [omarama@foursquare-si.co.nz](mailto:omarama@foursquare-si.co.nz)

### FOR WELFARE SUPPORT

Our Waitaki Community Connectors

These people are available to help with non-health-related welfare matters.

Mafa Alaloto [mafa@oamarupacific.nz](mailto:mafa@oamarupacific.nz) 021 107 8163 8.30 to 1pm

Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc

Lauao Havili [lauao@oamarupacific.nz](mailto:lauao@oamarupacific.nz) 027 213 8939 1pm to 5pm

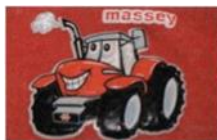
Oamaru Pacific Island Community Group Inc

A dedicated 0800 COVID-19 welfare support helpline (0800 512 337) is also available to those who need to self-isolate.

# The Directory

**For advertising rates  
and guidelines**

**phone**  
**021 294 8002**  
**or email**  
**omaramagazette@gmail.com**



**David O'Neill Contracting Ltd**  
**Omarama**

Home 03 438 9883  
Cell 027 433 5523 Fax 03 438 9891  
[davidoneillcontracting@xtra.co.nz](mailto:davidoneillcontracting@xtra.co.nz)

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Mobile 027 489 5149

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Email: [solesmith2021@gmail.com](mailto:solesmith2021@gmail.com)

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[bigsky.kiwi.nz](http://bigsky.kiwi.nz)



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Don't let the weather deteriorate your caravan, boat or motorhome over winter. Spaces available now.  
Contact Bridget – [bridgesp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bridgesp@xtra.co.nz)  
or Ph /txt 021572798

**!! FREE !!**

RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS  
for self testing are available in Omarama  
Anyone can phone and ask for RATS  
and we will deliver the kit with instructions to your gate.

To arrange for test kits to be delivered  
Phone 021 294 8002  
03 438 9766



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)**

**The August issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, August 3, 2022**

**Please submit copy  
by Thursday, July 28, 2022**

# T & J Golder Ltd



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karanm.twizel@ljh.co.nz



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

**Tanya and Dannie would like to thank all for their patronage**





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Heta**  
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0274 145 256



**Sue  
Newton Gaze**  
Sales & Listing  
022 691 4795



**Chris  
Heywood**  
Sales & Listing  
021 178 2644



**Shelley  
Robertson**  
Senior  
Property Manager  
0274 439 305



**Emma  
Drew**  
Sales & Listing  
0274 731 112



**Erin  
Kingan**  
Sales & Listing  
0274 731 112



**Isaac  
Cleland**  
Sales & Listing  
0274 731 112



**Leigh  
Byrne**  
Sales & Listing  
0274 731 112



**Nikita  
Coubrough**  
Property Manager  
0274 439 433



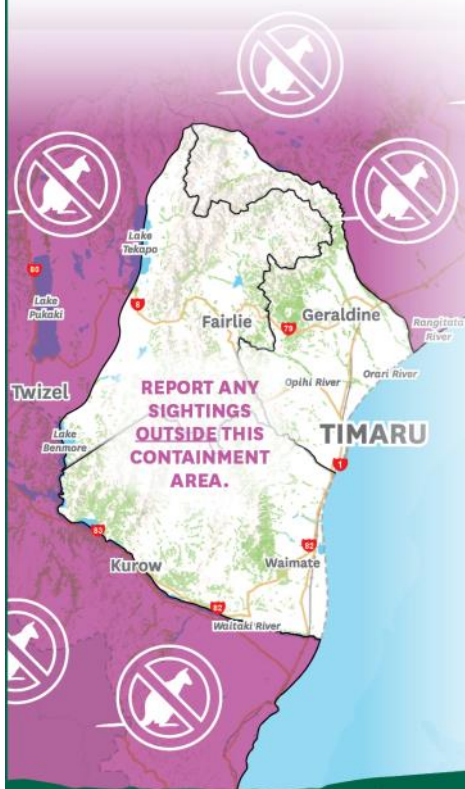
# SEEN ONE? SAY SO!

Wallabies cause serious damage to farmland and our environment.

We are working hard to reduce their range and need your help finding them.

**If you see a wallaby outside the containment area, please report it.**

Visit **[reportwallabies.nz](https://reportwallabies.nz)** to report your sighting.



**REPORT ANY  
SIGHTINGS  
OUTSIDE THIS  
CONTAINMENT  
AREA.**

**TIMARU**



*Outside the containment area is south of the Waitaki River, north of the Rangitata River, and westwards from the Lake Tekapo river system.*



**Environment  
Canterbury**  
Regional Council  
*Kaunihera Taiao ki Waitaha*



# Kurow Medical Centre

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

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

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

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**are proud to offer our registered and casual patients the following services:**

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- \* 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

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- \*Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Massage (Kurow and Twizel)

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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.*



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# A trip to the winterless north

- story and photos by Michelle Kitchen

Queen's Birthday Sunday was D-day for our long trek north to Russell. We - rather Neville was working for Tony and Amanda Chapman at their Russell Top 10 Motor Camp.

We had carefully planned our overnight stops with the first leg coinciding with the Interislander ferry on Tuesday 7 June.

The first leg was two nights with our son and partner in Rolleston via Timaru to say hello and goodbye to family.

Tuesday morning the big haul up to Picton to check-in by 12.30 pm. Remembering we are in the company stretch Limo (AKA the Toyota Hi Ace van) the going would be much slower.

The van was packed to the roof mainly with the relocation of our son's stuff left over from the days when he lived at home or used our place as a storage unit between flats. Yay, finally the last of it was going to his new home.

All was going good as we finally closed the van door late Saturday afternoon.

Then came the call from our son – "We have tested positive for Covid, can you please get us some groceries when you call past"

Bugger - plan B for accommodation in Christchurch.

My niece very kindly put us up for the night. It was good to catch up.

In hindsight driving from Rolleston to Picton to meet a 12.30pm final check-in was a big ask. Monday night was at a lovely beach front motel in Kaikoura and dinner at

- Continued over





## *A trip to the winterless north - continued*

The Pier Hotel watching the sun set. The next morning we woke to the most stunning sunrise that only happens when the sun rises straight out of the sea, glad we stayed the night. With pressure off for driving time we were pleased the road wasn't busy considering this was Queens Birthday Monday.

One thing I quickly learnt was that coffee and sandwiches can be few and far between even on SH1 and almost impossible after 3pm. Thank goodness for fuel stops and takeaway teas.

The crossing was good, I had taken my travel calm ginger working on the theory that if you don't take it, it will be rough and if you do take it, it will be calm.

The next challenge was to get through a wet dark Wellington to stay with family. With only Google Maps on my phone we made it in one hit. I wish Siri would stop telling you to go north when you can't see where north is because it's dark.

Transmission Gully really is an engineering master piece. Something you would see in Europe winding its way around the Alps.

I was looking forward to the Desert Rd. Unfortunately, it was a wet howling Nor' west day so no stopping to take in the splendour of Mt Ruapehu.

Taupo dawned a nice day as we had a big leg driving north of Auckland. By this time I was starting to get over the bouncing around in the jump seat in the van.

Once we hit the Thermal Explorer Hwy it was plan sailing all the way through Auckland. We could have even pushed the speed up to 110 km on the Waikato Expressway. It's clear to see where all our fuel tax money has gone over years. No wonder NZTA have nothing left in their coffers for our end of the country, the motorways certainly move traffic quickly and efficiently.

We caught our breath in Omaha for the night, by this time I had ditched the merino and ventured out in a T-Shirt.

One of my missions was to eat fresh local fish when I saw it on a menu. This night it was grilled flounder, I had forgotten how wonderful this simple dish is.

With the Northern Express road works starting at the Johnstone's Hill Tunnel heading all the way to Warkworth, the going was slow in places. This new piece of road is curtesy of Shane Jones's Provincial Growth Fund.

The best way for vehicles into Russell is via the Opua - Okiato ferry, roughly a 10 minute trip then another 10 minutes' drive into Russell. A passenger ferry also runs from Russell to Paihia.

Russell is beautiful, gorgeous big old wooden villas and lush tropical foliage and flowers.

However, I was not prepared for the relentless rain, no problem to dump 20 mm of rain per hour.

I guess you cannot have all that lush foliage and beautiful tropical flowers unless it is wet, humid and warm.

The bird song is relentless, mainly Tui, Weka and Miner birds during the day and North Island Brown Kiwi calling at night, they are all around in the bush behind the camp.

As the days turned into weeks, we enjoyed exploring the far north, discovered the wonderful Old Packhouse Market in Kerikeri.

The mussel fritters were to die for, we found a new love for Northland Wines and who knew they grew Lady Finger Bananas.

The camp has bananas, avocados and the most enormous lime tree. My heart bleeds seeing all the citrus fall on the ground up north.

Cape Reinga is definitely worth the trip especially as we got to see Manawatāwhi/ Three Kings Islands, made all the better with a pit stop on the way at a wonderful roadside food truck. Neville swears by the Paua Pie and, of course, who can resist a real fruit ice cream. We stocked up on local Avocado oil, Manuka Honey and 10 Avocados for \$5.

I flew home after four weeks and got caught up in the school holiday/cancelled flights debacle that plagued Air New Zealand.

I found myself in transit in Auckland with a cancelled flight to Christchurch and no seats available for the next three days.

The queue at the help desk stretched half the length of the domestic terminal; no hope they would be able to help me.

Realising I needed to act quickly as thousands of travellers were in the same boat I managed to book a hotel room nearby. My darling husband drove four hours arriving at midnight. The next day we drove to Tauranga to stay with friends, I eventually got a direct flight to Christchurch arriving two days later than planned. Neville drove back to Russell to work.

I still haven't braved the three hours plus wait time to talk to Air New Zealand to get some compensation for my expenses.

Neville will be home this week to a colder but generally drier climate. The only way we like it. No cockroaches to worry about, no worrying about planning your work around a torrential downpour.

The winterless north has suffered from sub-tropical rain this year, most unusual according to the locals.

We did enjoy the experience of working and living up north, it was great to catch up with Tony and Amanda but at the end of the day I am an inland girl, the hair goes too curly on the coast.



# Back in the day - Ahuriri River Flood 1878

- excerpt from Munros Merinos and Matagourie



**Mrs Eion Woods has produced this photo which is 101 years old and is of the worst flood of the Waitaki River and its contributories in its history. This is the photo of the Ahuriri River in flood in 1878 looking down from Omarama to the Chain Hills. The mountain at the back is Totara Peak. The Omarama village was no doubt under water and the camera would be south of the village.**

## Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

At Meridian, we only generate from 100% renewable resources: wind, water and sun. We're committed to doing good things with our energy. That means good for people, and good for the environment.

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

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

Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects in the Waitaki area, including Aoraki / Mount Cook, Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio and Glenavy.

### How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on 25 September 2022.

For more information and to apply:

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



# **Mackenzie Basin Wilding Tree Trust**

**Notice of Annual Meeting of the Trust to be held on  
Thursday 11 August 2022 at 11am**

**In the Conference room at Mackenzie Country Hotel, Cnr Ostler & Wairepo Roads, Twizel.**

## **Business**

Receive and consider the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Receive, consider and adopt the Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Report on the business plans for the current year.

Consider any resolution which may properly be submitted to the Annual Meeting.

Such notice of resolution must be given in writing to the Secretary of the Board no later than Wednesday 27 July 2022.

B R Cowan

Secretary

Twizel

Email: [mackenziewildings@gmail.com](mailto:mackenziewildings@gmail.com)



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

**July 2022**

**Highest temperature: July 4, 14.8C**

**Lowest temperature: July 11, -6.9C**

**Most rainfall: July 18, 79.25mm**

**Total rainfall for July: 204mm**



# The Last Page is Classifieds

## BREEN CONSTRUCTION

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Trail Adventures is a family owned and operated business on the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail. We pride ourselves on doing our best to ensure each one of our customers gets a quality, personalised experience.

For the 2022/2023 season (October 2022 to April 2023), we are continuing to expand and are wanting to hire casual staff to

provide transfers of people and luggage.

Ideally you will currently hold a P endorsement. This isn't a deal breaker however you must be prepared to get one.

If you can provide first-rate hospitality, enjoy sharing our incredible countryside with others, are flexible in terms of hours and enjoy working in a team-focused environment, please get in touch with us for more specific details.

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