

## Community asked for input into decisions

By Ruth Grundy

The sale of St Thomas's Church in Omarama may be imminent, but decisions about how the proceeds will be used could take "quite some time", if not "years", its management committee secretary says.
The management committee had been tasked by the Otago Foundation Trust Board, which owns the property, to research the "source and intent" of contributions made to the building of the church.
"The priority is to ascertain the underlying purposes for which funds were given by people originally to enable purchase or construction, if they are a matter of record," Rev Kearon said.
The process would be an "inexact science" but once this information was verified as far as was possible the Management Committee would put a case to the Board with recommendations for the dispersal of the proceeds.
The Otago Foundation Trust Board is the perpetual trustee of Presbyterian properties
St Thomas's combined church was opened in 1986 and is now on the market

## Community asked for input into decisions, continued

located south of the Waitaki River and it has title to the property - both the St
Thomas's building and the land is vested with the Board.
The foundation stone of the church which was built on land gifted to the Presbyterian Church by former Ōmārama resident T A Munro, was laid on May 31,1986 by Mabel Neave, Mr Munro's daughter.
It states the church was "dedicated by the people of the Ōmārama district past and present who contributed towards its construction".
The church is a combined Presbyterian, Anglican and Catholic Church, and Rev Kearon said the other denominations would be involved in drawing up the submissions to the Trust Board about the dispersal of proceeds.
In the early 1980s fundraising efforts and donations of materials from the Ōmārama community to build the architecturally-designed building were significant.
Initial funding of $\$ 50,000$ came from the sale of part of the land to neighbour Ōmārama Motor Lodge owner Rob Perriam. This was then invested and returned good rate, former church treasurer Tony Gloag said.
The schist stone was donated by the Patterson Family of Longslip Station. Colin and Gwenda Mackay, of Ribbonwood Station, donated the timber and cartage. As well, the Mackays donated the proceeds from tour parties who travelled to New Zealand and the area to view Halley's comet in 1986, about \$12,000 in all, he said.
The committee took out a loan of $\$ 150,000$ to make up the $\$ 200,000$ cost of the build, and such were the contributions that by the time the church opened in 1986 it was clear of debt, he said.
"The Presbyterian Church certainly contributed. The Anglican Church gave \$2,000 and the Catholic Church donated the carpet."
As well, local families made significant bequests, Mr Gloag said.
Rev Kearon said decisions about dispersal of the proceeds would not be about repaying the original donors.
"Donations and fundraising for a church are unconditional gifts, offered with goodwill to a common cause and it would be inappropriate to return the proceeds of sale to individuals.
"Those who contributed gave funds and goods to build a church in Ōmārama did so, so that people of faith could use it for worship and fellowship to the Glory of God in that place.
"Sadly, as sometimes happens, the congregation is no longer able to support St Thomas's Church and so it has been put up for sale."
The committee's priority over the next months would be to try to find written records to ascertain the original intent of the donors.
At present it is going through a "painstaking and detailed process" of reviewing the minutes and the construction and committee notes from the past 37 years, she said.
Under the rules of the Presbyterian Synod - the Church's Court - it must do its best to find out 'the underlying purpose for which funds were given by people originally to enable purchase or construction'.

It can then pass the information to the Synod and Board and make recommendations that , "clearly expresses these contributions as best we can". "We need to make sure their intent is being honoured," Rev Kearon said.
"This is where the community might be able to help, as there may be documentation that we can put beside our own records to understand what the giver would have wished to support.
"From this we can best disburse such funds in a way that best reflects their wishes." For example, would they want the money to go to another church in the area or to a community project.
It was not going to be a fast process and nor would the final decision please everybody.
"Naturally, this is just the start of a long process which may take another year or so, but in this case it is far better to do it right than do it fast," Rev Kearon said.
"The management committee have spent the last five years taking care of the church and congregational needs of St Thomas's but were not able to build up the congregation to a point where it could once again be a self-supporting faith community.
"While none of us would have wanted to see the church put up for sale, preferring to see it as the heart and home of a vibrant faith community, loss of income and spiralling costs have forced our hand, requiring it to be sold," she said.

St Thomas's Church was built by the community from donated funds and materials.


## Community connections key - new principal

Newly appointed Ōmārama school principal Alison Holden says her goal is to work at establishing stability within the school and to build its connections with the community. "I value community and family."
And she is looking forward to "seeing what skills there are out there to be shared". People have skills which they could offer which tied in with learning and building relationships was key, Alison said.
Alison is a familiar face around the district having lived in Ōmārama with partner Gary Sutherland for the past five years. "I'm really excited to be taking up the [Principal] role. I am very appreciative as to what the Waitaki Valley has to offer and the community culture that Ōmārama provides."
Alison began teaching at Twizel Area School in 2015 and moved into leadership roles, working to become learning support coordinator, mentor for new graduates and junior school dean responsible for pastoral care. She also belongs to a Kāhui Ako group. Kāhui Ako is a group of education and training providers who work together to help learners achieve their full potential.
"My passion is working with students with different learning styles."
Learning difficulties often occurred because different learning styles were not recognised, and behavioural difficulties often stemmed from learning issues, she said. "That's my passion... my passion is learning support ...helping kids that don't like to be at school."
This was something that underpinned a second interest which was "second language learning".
New Zealand was one of the few countries where most of the population had learned only one language, she said. How other countries tackled "second language acquisition" formed the basis of her sabbatical studies which she undertook following the completion of her Masters Degree in Education at Canterbury University in 2019. She was awarded a year to travel to Japan, England, France, Croatia, Italy and Vietnam to study the processes used in teaching in those countries.
"I popped into schools and got in amongst the classroom."
Her experience led her to offer language assistance to migrant workers in the district and as a sideline, one which she has put on hold while she finds her feet in her new role, Alison has begun designing her own English language website.


Alison also has a keen interest in writing stories. After the death of her son by suicide she wrote a book about her experience and found the writing experience both rewarding and therapeutic. "I've always been interested in telling my story."
Her outside interests include travel, kayaking, biking, walking and "camping in our retro camper", yoga and socialising with family and friends.
Alison takes up the Principal's role at Ōmārama school at the beginning of term three.
"I'm looking forward to connecting with students and their families and working together to build success for our young learners in a positive environment," she said.

## You made a world of difference to our place

This month the community says farewell to a couple who have made giving back to community front and centre of their time in Ōmārama.
Peter and Sonya Trusler, and the family made the move to Ōmārama from PapakaioPukeuri five years ago when Pete took up the job of drystock manager at Chain Hills Station. From the outset the couple put their hands up to various volunteer roles. Pete joined the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade and the Ōmārama Golf Club, and Sonya joined the Ōmārama Fire First Response - groups where they have both held key roles.
Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Greg Harper said Pete had already put his name down for the Oamaru Volunteer Fire Brigade.
"Their gain is our loss," Greg said. "What can I say, they [Pete and Sonya] are a solid part of the team and have been missed already. Pete was a volunteer who was available for callouts during the day which was often when others were working out of town," he said.
Ōmārama Fire First Response spokesperson Bruce Dyson said Sonia was an integral part of their team. "She brought a different set of skills and new knowledge to the role. In particular, she will be missed for her compassion and empathy for patients and other members of the community. They will both be missed and leave a huge gap in the team to be filled," Bruce said.
Sonya has held several jobs in the Ōmārama including, recently taking up the position of a Royal District Nursing NZ support Worker for Waitaki. She also works in a similar role for HealthCare NZ
And, while you may be able to take Pete out of Ōmārama it may be harder to lever him out of the golf club. Ōmārama Golf Club president Paul Bowman said Pete had not yet relinquished his membership and as far as he was aware he wasn't planning to. During the past five years he had not only contributed as a player but also as a volunteer, holding the role of treasurer at one point. In 2019, Pete was part of the Golf Club men's team which won the North Otago Golf Sub-Association Pennant Series 2019, Intermediate competition. It was the first time the Ōmārama club had won any sort of pennant flag.
When Pete and Sonya arrived in Ōmārama in 2018, they told the Ōmārama Gazette how "very, very lucky" we all are. "lt's a great community, with old-fashioned country values. Everyone looks out for everyone else. Everything you could want is on your doorstep."
Pete and Sonya are making their new home in Oamaru. We're really going to miss you guys!

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## Just out 'breath'n some mountain air'

The long weekend provided the perfect opportunity to take some vintage rigs out of their shed for a bit of a spin on mountain highways and byways.
Ten classic trucks with three or four groups following in cars, utes and a motor home 25 people all up - left Timaru on Saturday for a weekend classic truck run to Fairlie, Mt Cook, Lake Ohau, Ōmārama and back to Timaru.
Group organiser Bruce Anderson, of Timaru, said theirs was not a formal group but just a group of friends who "revolve around" the transport museum. Kyle Park Transport Museum in Timaru, formerly the South Canterbury Traction Engine and Transport Club Museum houses the club's collection of classic former working trucks. Truck enthusiasts from around the South Island - Christchurch, Ashburton, Wanaka joined in the run. "Most of the trucks are past their working life but are still good running trucks," Bruce said. In most cases members were people who had some association with the old vehicles at some stage in their lives and then bought one back and restored it, in the same way Bruce had done.
Bruce was driving his 1989 Hilton Haulage Mack truck which he ran for about 12 years before it was sold. He got it back about eight years ago to restore to its 1989 condition. Phil Cassidy, of Christchurch, was one who housed his 1987 Kenworth in the museum, and had taken it out for the weekend run. "He drove it when it was new in 1987 and got it back about three years ago and restored it."
The oldest truck on the run was the 1974 Mack truck, which was originally North Otago Road Metals Truck No 15 and, when new, worked in Twizel carting sand. It was now owned and has been restored by Central Machine Hire Ltd (Wanaka) general manager Jason Winder and sports that livery.


A vehicle not often seen on Kiwi roads - a 'White Road Boss' - formerly an Aussie Road train - owned by Peter and Jane Turner, of Christchurch company Peter Turner Contracting Itd, and who holiday in Otematata, joined the weekend rally. "There are not many like that," Bruce said, Both classic fire engines on the rally have a local connection too. Peter and Donna Hardie, of Timaru, who have a holiday house in Ōmārama, own the Dennis Fire engine and Richard and Jayne Jopson, of Otematata, have restored the Benmore Belle.
"The wives all come on the runs now. So all the time we were doing those up and weren't at home, we're making up for it now," Bruce said, laughing.
The tour took in Fairle. where they visited collections of old vehicles, a Quirky Farm Tour of Tasman Downs by lan Hayman, Glentanner Station where George Ivey gave them a tour of the station's machinery sheds and gave a talk about Ivey family history and the Hermitage. Included in the run was a visit to Lake Ohau Alpine Village, where group member - owner of restored fire truck the Benmore Belle and Otematata Fire Brigade volunteer - Richard Jopson talked about the challenges of fighting the Lake Ohau fire in 2020.
The big rigs crossed paths several times with that other classic rally - the Canterbury Vintage Car Club's Irishman Rally, Bruce said.
Sunday night was spent at Omarama's Heritage Gateway Hotel.
PHOTOS: Bruce Dow
(Left) Classic Truck run organiser Bruce Anderson drove his 1989 Hilton Haulage Mack truck through Ōmārama on Sunday. (Below) Peter and Donna Hardie, of Timaru, who have a holiday house in Ōmārama, own the restored Dennis Fire engine; Richard and Jayne Jopson own the Benmore Belle. The oldest truck on the run was the 1974 Mack truck, which was originally North Otago Road Metals Truck No 15 and, when new, worked in Twizel carting sand; A 'White Road Boss' - formerly an Aussie Road train owned by Peter and Jane Turner, of Christchurch company Peter Turner Contracting Itd, and who holiday in Otematata, joined the weekend rally. Facebook page: Trucks of the South Island


## First Response still waiting for answers

It's June and the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade's First Response team is still waiting.
The Ōmārama and Districts Community Co-Response Trust which oversees and funds the First Response has asked Hato Hone St John and Fire and Emergency New Zealand for the review of the agencies' 2020 Memorandum of Understanding which has been underway since November - to include a local agreement for its Fire First Response unit to allow it to be turned out to all medical emergency 111 calls. At present, the agreement is not formalised and continues to operate under a trial status.
Both St John and Fenz promised to consider formalising the agreement after a public forum was held in August last year where the community voiced its concerns about the response model being discontinued.
In April, Fenz acting national manager, response capability Aaron Waterreus told the Ōmārama Gazette the agencies hoped to "be at a point to have a draft document out to our key stakeholders for review and comments in May". The Gazette understands a meeting to discuss the draft MOU with some 'stakeholders' was held in Dunedin late last month.
Yesterday, the Ōmārama Gazette received this response to a request for an update on progress from Fenz. "Please attribute the following to Cam Grylls Specialist Response Manager; "A draft MOU is currently being prepared for review by the relevant parties and stakeholders. "
The Fenz media centre and Mr Grylls were asked to reconsider the brief statement and more fully engage with the community. However, the offer was not taken up before publication.
Meanwhile, the Trust has handed a petition with 796 signatures along with a written submission to Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean asking for Parliament to urge the agencies to formalise the trial response model. In addition, it has asked the Petitions Committee to be allowed to speak to its case. The group is waiting for a hearings date.
Last month, some trust members met with Labour's Waitaki candidate Ethan Reille to discuss the issue. Mr Reille has since arranged a meeting between the Trust and the Minister for Internal Affairs Jan Tinetti and Minister for Emergency Management/ Rural Communities Kieran McAnulty later this month so it can put its case.


The Omarama Volunteer Fire
Brigade's First Response heads to the Lindis Pass
to attend a motor vehicle accident on Monday. Photo: Bruce Dow

## Buscot's garden glory features

Keen gardeners will have spotted a familiar face in this month's issue of the New Zealand Gardener magazine.
The Buscot Station garden with this generation's guardian, Jemma Gloag, is showcased in the June issue.
The 12-page spread features the garden it in all its "Summer Glory and Autumn splendour".
The story pays tribute to the generations of gardeners who have worked the garden, building it from bare paddocks, around a working farm and precious memories, to make it what it is today.
Jemma said hours of work went into getting the garden ready for the magazine's visit in December. This was followed by a second visit to capture all the autumn colours.

Jemma Gloag and Phoebe feature in a story about the Buscot Station garden in the June issue of the New Zealand Gardener Magazine.

Photo: NZ Gardener


## The Noticeboard

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

The Ōmārama Gazette has a focus on our 'Noticeboard' section and community group with contributions welcome. Let us all know what you are up to, and any little snippets such as congratulations or farewells.


Maurice and Liz and the family gather at Government House last week for Maurice's investiture ceremony. Photo: Nayland (Bean) Smith


Maurice and Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro stand for the official photo.
Photo: Governor-General of New Zealand

It's official! Congratulations, Maurice!!
In what is to be one of the final Queen's Honours awards ceremony - soon to be King's Honours awards -
New Zealand Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro has presented Mr Maurice Cowie, of Ōmārama, with his Queens Service Medal insignia for services to Search and Rescue. From the official blurb:
"Maurice Cowie has been a member of Ōmārama Search and Rescue (SAR) since 1998, including as field member, team leader and incident management team member, and has volunteered to assist in searches in other regions. In 2012, he helped locate a missing tramper in Ahuriri Valley after 14 days. He contributed time and materials to the renovation of the Ōmārama SAR base. He constructed a stretcher trailer for towing behind an ATV to rescue injured persons from the Alps to Ocean cycle trail. Mr Cowie has also been involved with rural and urban fire brigades for 50 years."
Sincere condolences to the family and friends of Shirley Hayman who passed away after a short illness at Hospice South Canterbury, Timaru, last month.
Age Concern coffee afternoons in Ōmārama from 1pm to 3pm at the Ōmārama Community Centre on the second Tuesday of each month.
Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 12.30 pm . To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 034360760 (Monday to Thursdays). www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 0274767473.
The Ōmārama MenzShed Group meets each Saturday at 10am and at other times too. For further information please contact Malcolm Cameron 0224762225
St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:
chairperson: Ven Dr Michael Godfrey, phone 0223429977 or email Dylanfreak@gmail.com; committee secretary (Presbyterian): Rev Lee Kearon, phone: 0212501060 or email: lee.kearon@gmail.com
The Ōmārama Golf Club Saturdays cards in 12.30 pm , tee-off 1 pm . Club captain Adrian Tuffley phone: 0273478276 www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group meets once a month. For time and place contact facilitator Nicola McKerchar. Phone: 022612 7570; email: 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 0226127570 rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com or secretary Tarsh Bell 0273490016 tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz
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 4389493.
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 0274355516.
FENZ Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at $7: 30 \mathrm{pm}$ 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 034387764.
Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz W: www.newcomers.co.nz F: facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/
Plunket Line: 0800933922
Ōmārama Plunket Committee: Aimee Snelgrove 0223505536
aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com

## The July Issue of the Omarama Gazette is Wednesday, July 5, 2023.

Please submit copy
by Thursday, June 29, 2023

## OMARAMA <br> Rodeo Club <br> Hill Billy funt

 Friday July 7th-9thRegistration 6.30pm Friday July 7th at

岁The Wrinkly Rams Omarama \$50 Teams of 2-4
Weigh in Sunday 9 th 3.30 pm The Wrinkly Rams, Car park


Awesome Prizes - New hunting Catergories All ages Welcome



## Winter Housie

## From Wednesday, June 7

## 1 pm each Wednesday <br> @ the Omarama Community Centre

*20 Houses *Super House *Afternoon Tea
*Raffles *Supported by Age Concern (Please bring small denominations or coins)

## A warm welcome to all



## Reporting issues is a snap with our Snap Send Solve App

Did you know Waitaki District Council has a FREE smart phone app to help make reporting issues easy? If you spot a pothole on a local road, damage to a footpath, a water leak or any other issue that you think Council may be able to sort, then you can use this clever app to report it by taking a photo (SNAP) and sending (SEND) it to the Council (SOLVE).

The app works by identifying the location of where the photo is taken using your phone's GPS data. You can fill in a few details then hit send. A report is then allocated to the relevant Council department. Find more info and a link to the app on our website.

## MILLES

 ANDERSON
## WILL GET THINGS DONE FOR WAITAKI



# AHURIRILINK <br> NEWS FROM COUNCLL \& THE COMMUNTY BOARD 

Some upcoming Council meetings are listed below - the public sessions of these meetings will be livestreamed on YouTube.
Check the 'Meetings' page on Council's website for more details and to register to speak at public forums.

## COUNCIL MEETING

9:45am, Tuesday 13 June 2023

## COUNCIL ACTIVITY UPDATE

9:00am, Tuesday 20 June 2023
COUNCIL MEETING
9:00am, Tuesday 27 June 2023
PERFORMANCE, AUDIT AND RISK (PAR) COMMITTEE MEETING 1:00pm, Tuesday 27 June 2023
The next meeting of the Ahuriri Community Board is scheduled for 10 July 2023.



## ōHAU PLANTING

Combined efforts of Enviroschool students from Waitaki Girls and Boys High Schools, the Student Volunteer Army and community volunteers saw 1083 natives planted in what Ōhau Community Trust chairperson, Viv Smith-Campbell, said was "a huge boost to the restoration of this area".
With support from teachers, facilitators and parents, and a contribution from the Enviroschools ecological building fund, 17 students headed up to Öhau Village for an overnight stay and a day planting out on Avoca Forest to a plan that will regenerate the area around Lake Middleton, previously populated with pine species, into a native forest with walkways and seating.

## SUBMISSION TO THE ANNUAL PLAN

On 16 May, Calum Reid spoke to the Ahuriri Community Board's submissions to the 2023/24 Waitaki District Annual Plan at a Council Hearing.
The submissions focused on highlighting the need for funding and support of projects to ensure key footpaths and roads are safe, repaired, connected, and properly sealed in the Ahuriri.

# The Community Reports Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade 



Greetings everybody Here we are, winter has arrived. We have been lucky so far, hardly a frost but I'm sure they are on their way.
Just the usual winter safety tips. Remember if using a clothes drying rack follow the metre from the heater rule. That rule also applies to you and your family when you come inside from the cold. Don't get too close to the fire/heater.
If you are using the clothes dryer, clean the lint filters after every use. This will help prevent the possibility of a fire.

Please dispose of your ashes in a metal bucket with a lid and keep them in the bucket for a minimum of five to seven days to be sure they are out.
Drive to the conditions - we will get some treacherous conditions, I'm sure.
Stay Safe
Greg Harper and the team at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade
Greg Harper, Chief Fire Officer, 021293 1171,
greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz Facebook: /Omaramafirebrigade

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

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.

## St Thomas's Church Community

Rev Libby Smith, who was a former minister for St Stephen's and St Thomas's for a number of years died last month.
Below is the memorial minute prepared for Libby's funeral service in Cromwell. I was also honoured to speak at Libby's funeral on behalf of the parish.

- Rev. Lee Kearon


## Memorial Minute For Rev Elizabeth Helen (Libby) Smith

Libby Smith was born in Invercargill on May 22, 1942 and died at home in Cromwell just before her 81st birthday on May 20, 2023.
Before entering the ministry Libby trained as a registered nurse, and worked in general nursing, midwifery and with Plunket.
She spent many years working in the health sector both here and in Vanuatu where she spent four years working for the PCANZ nursing.
She also worked as parish assistant at First Church, Invercargill, where she ran a community medical clinic in addition to her other duties.
Libby completed an Licence in Theology in 1965 (Honours) at the Bible College of New Zealand. She also completed a Bachelor of Theology (Otago, 2000), Diploma of Ministry and other studies.
Libby was Inducted and ordained into the Kurow Presbyterian Church as Minister of Word and Sacrament on April 29, 2001. She quickly became a valued member of the community, serving as a Bible in Schools teacher, Community Centre committee member, children's club and youth fellowship coordinator.
Libby is particularly remembered as a dedicated visitor to many in the district, her pastoral care transcending denominational and cultural boarders.
She also served at regional level on the business committee of Presbytery,
Presbyterian Support and nationally on Nominating Committee, National Assessment Workgroup and the workgroup for the placement of ordinands.
For those who knew her, Libby was a strong, intelligent, passionate, faithful minister and friend. Her passion for people was utterly inclusive, and her honest and forthright approach to life was very much appreciated in the small rural parish of Kurow where she made her home.
Libby's family were a treasure to her throughout her life and she was always interested in what her children, Shem, Andrea, Benjamin and Rebekah, and their families were up to.
After retirement Libby remarried and she and her second husband, John Smith, settled in Cromwell.
Libby was farewelled at a wonderful service at St Andrew's Anglican Church, Cromwell, on Wednesday, May 31, 2023 with her children, grandchildren and many other family and friends in attendance.
Libby believed in God, and she believed in people. Her ministry was real, relevant, focused on grace and compassion above law and judgement. She led by example, with strength and compassion and left the world a better place for her being with us.

## Ōmārama MenzShed

By Malcolm Cameron
Ōmārama MenzShed continues to meet on Saturday mornings. At the moment, we don't have a lot of projects on the go and we are still waiting on timber to arrive so we can complete the community gardens before spring arrives.
We are planning a new 'bookcase' for outside the Four Squar for the book exchange fundraiser.
Funding has been approved for the outdoor basket ball court at the Ōmārama playground reserve. We hope to begin constructing that in Spring.
We would like to wish Howard Williams a speedy recovery after his recent operation.

> The Ōmārama MenzShed meets
> at 10 am each Saturday
> and at other times, too.

For further information contact:
Malcolm Cameron 0224762225

## Ōmārama Community Garden

We are a group of gardeners who work together to create something for everyone in our community.
The gardens are under construction behind the Omarama Community Centre and anyone is welcome to pop along and have a look, and also to put in any plants they may have ready to go in now.
Join the Facebook group: https://www.facebook.com/ groups/742877880594146

Contact Heather Smith, 0273300249

## Waitaki Newcomers Network

For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to waitaki@newcomers.co.nz
"Welcome to Waitaki" Packs are now available for those who are newcomers to the district (or for you to give to someone who is). Arrangements are being made for this information to be available at locations in Ōmārama.
Meanwhile you can contact Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support
Coordinator Paula Eatherley, in Oamaru, directly.
Contact: Paula Eatherley
Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support Coordinator
waitaki@newcomers.co.nz
coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz
0273256151 (business hours)
www.newcomers.co.nz
www.multiculturalnz.org.nz

## Ōmārama Community Library

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Ōmārama Community Centre. omaramalibrary@gmail.com

Contacts: Georgie 0274861525 or Yvonne 0274767473


## Justices of the Peace

JPs are available by appointment to:

* Witness documents such as applications for citizenship
* Certify copies
* Take declarations, affidavits and affirmations

The service is free of charge

To make your visit quick and easy:

* Do not sign anything beforehand
* Do take photo identification
* Remember to take the original as well as the copy to be certified
* Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation


Georgie Robertson
Omarama 0343895540274861525


Vicky Munro Otematata 034387855021438745


Alona Shaw
Omarama
0277734214

## Aopa donate to thank community

Two Ōmārama groups are significantly better off thanks to generous donations from the visitors to last month's Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (Aopa) Autumn flyin.
Small aircraft from all over the country flew into Ōmārama Airfield for the 2023 event at the end of April. 75 planes and three helicopters from throughout the country flew into town for the weekend for a bit of a catch up and to go exploring.
On the Saturday, the 130 visitors broke into small groups and took off for a day's excursion following five different itineraries around the region, flying as far west as Longslip Station, as far south-west as Galloway, as far east as Kokonga, as far north as Clayton Station and to all points in between. The visit was possible thanks to landowners who gave permission to access about 60 airstrips.
Last month, Aopa donated $\$ 1000$ to each of the Ōmārama First Response and the Friends of Ōmārama School Aopa members Gavin Wills, of Ōmārama, and Ian Sinclair, who flew in from Geraldine to make the presentation, said "it was a privilege" to be able in some way to repay the generosity of the community. Ian said the group chose the First Response because it wanted to support "those who support us in emergency situations" and to acknowledge the burden visitors can place on a on "a small but popular community". And secondly, it was felt that supporting the school was another good way to support those who had supported the group.
Board of Trustees chairperson Jemma Gloag, whose family also offered an airstrip for use by the visitors, said the grant was a "very welcome" boost to Friends of the School resources.
Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Greg Harper said the gesture was much appreciated.
" We are totally reliant on funding to buy more equipment. "
The group visits Ōmārama regularly and planned to again in Autumn next year, Ian said.
Ōmārama was a "favourite" destination.
Aopa will be heading to Haast for their winter fly-in in July this year.


## Age Concern

# Age Concern Coffee afternoons are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Ōmārama Community Centre. The next coffee afternoon is 1 pm to 3 pm , Tuesday, June 13, 2023 

## Ōmārama Golf Club

Saturday Club Day, cards in 12 noon, tee-off 12.30pm. Club captain: Adrian Tuffley
phone 0273478276
Secretary: Christine Bowman phone 0272092320 email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

## 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 0226127570 rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com or secretary Tarsh Bell 0273490016 tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz Plunket: Aimee Snelgrove 022350536 aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com

From last month's Age Concern Coffee afternoon speakers ...

## About EnergyMate

Some Kiwis struggle to pay their power bill or heat their home. EnergyMate is a free in-home energy coaching service for households at risk of energy hardship that are struggling to pay their power bill or keep their home warm, delivered by the Electricity Retailers' Association.
During the in-home visit, our EnergyMate coaches will help your household get on the power plan that best suits your needs, give advice on heating your home in the cheapest way and on using appliances efficiently. We'll also check your hot water and shower flow, and deliver three free LED lightbulbs for instant power savings. Our energy coaches cover: Oamaru, Waitaki, Dunedin, Central Otago (excluding Queenstown).

Call us on 0508396678 to book an in-home visit to help lower your energy costs. Eligibility criteria applies. For more information about the EnergyMate programme and energy saving tips please visit www.energymate.nz


Te Whatu Ora Southern (formerly Southern DHB) launched their Disability Strategy in April 2021 and formed a Disability Working Group made up of community members with lived experience of disability and key staff from within the organisation. Two years on, our founding members have come to the end of their term and we are looking for new members who can guide us in our continued implementation of the strategy. The group meets online every second month on a Friday morning. Members need to have good community networks as this is crucial to us ensuring that how we implement the strategy is going to work for everyone. We are looking for diverse membership with a particular focus on rural areas (outside of Dunedin and Invercargill).
Please forward your expression of interest
to kathryn.harkin@southerndhb.govt.nz and any questions are welcomed as well.
Kathryn Harkin
Consumer Liaison Southern District
waea pūkoro: +64 3470 9691| 59691 | 0273939802
īmēra: kathryn.harkin@southerndhb.govt.nz
Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand

## CenergyMate

## EnergyMate in Aotearoa 2022

EnergyMate is a free in-home energy coaching service for consumers facing energy hardship, struggling to pay their power bill, or keep their home warm. EnergyMate helps families make the most of their electricity - whether it's a reduced power bill or a warmer, drier, healthier home.

## EnergyMate coaching

We want all whãnau to live in warm, dry homes with affordable power. That's why we launched EnergyMate, a partnership between electricity retailers, lines companies, community organisations, and the Government.
EnergyMate in-home coaching and community hui workshops helps whảnau and families by

- finding the best plan for the family's needs;
- educating how to use appliances efficiently;
- helping heat the home within budget;
- referring onto services like budgeting support;
- giving free LED lightbulbs.


## Uncovering the drivers of hardship

EnergyMate targets families in greatest need of assistance.
Unsurprisingly, the programme is finding that the systemic drivers of poverty such as poor housing quality, inefficient heating, low incomes, low energy literacy and issues with tenancies all influence energy hardship.

- $30 \%$ of families were able to to heat their bedrooms sufficiently
- $50 \%$ of families were able to to heat their living spaces sufficiently
- $30 \%$ of families didn't have an efficient heating source (e.g. heatpump)
- $35 \%$ of families had no ceiling and/or underfloor insulation


## 2022 roll-out

EnergyMate is expanding across New Zealand this winter to reach more than 1,500 families this year through a partnership between electricity retailers, lines companies, Government and community budgeting services.
A core strength of EnergyMate is that it is delivered in communities, by community partners. EnergyMate's primary community partner is FinCap, who through their national network of over 200 budget advisory services are able to connect in with local whãnau to provide targeted support.
EnergyMate will continue in Kaitaia, South Auckland, Rotorua, South Taranaki, Levin, Hutt Valley, Christchurch and Dunedin, including Central Auckland, rural Waikato/ King Country, Whakatāne/Opotiki, Whanganui, and Porirua, and be expanding into Oamaru.

## Further information

Find more about EnergyMate at energymate.nz. If you receive queries about EnergyMate, please forward them to energymate@eranz.org.nz.


Family Works
Presbyterian Support Otago
communityfinance@psotago.org.nz
www.psotago.org.nz
0800477711

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

* Ultrasound performed by a qualified clinician (great for minor fractures, gall stones, kidney stones, heart and lung problems, foreign bodies, blood clots, detecting early pregnancy and much more!) * Minor surgery * Vasectomies
* Mole checking and removal * Steroid injections * Venesection
* Aviation, workplace and driving medicals * Botox for Wrinkle reduction
*Workplace health screening * Counselling
* Spirometry to diagnose asthma and COPD
* Hearing and sight tests for adults and children * Ear syringing
* Liquid nitrogen for warts, verruca's and skin lesions
* Cardiovascular risk assessment and diabetic checks (funded for eligible patients) * Travel advice and vaccination
* Cervical smears (funded for eligible patients)
* Seasonal flu shots and shingles vaccine (funded for eligible patients)
* Childhood immunisation * Before school checks
* Postnatal and six-week baby health check


## And much more!

GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult $\$ 43.00$
Care Plus - Free to eligible patients only
We also offer the following services from external Health Care Providers:
*Podiatry and Ear Health (Kurow only)
*Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Massage (Kurow and Twizel)

## Opening hours

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday mornings 8.30am to 1 pm Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30 pm
Twizel: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30 to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 12 pm
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 034360760 or for Twizel 039760503

## -Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

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

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
P: 034360760 F: 034360780

## E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.orq.nz <br> W: www.kurowmedicalcentre,ora.nz www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre

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

## IMPORTANT PATIENT NOTICE

## from Kurow Medical Centre and Mackenzie Health Centre

Due to rising costs and rent increase at Kurow Medical Centre we must advise that effective June 1, 2023 there will be a fee increase for patients aged 17 years and over. The change has been approved by our PHO, WellSouth.
The following fee schedule is for standard Doctor and Nurse consultations:

| Age Group | Current GP Fee | Amended Fee |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Up to 13 yrs | $\$ 0.00$ | $\$ 0.00$ |
| $14-17$ yrs | $\$ 27.00$ | $\$ 27.50$ |
| $18-24$ yrs | $\$ 42.00$ | $\$ 43.00$ |
| $25-44$ yrs | $\$ 42.00$ | $\$ 43.00$ |
| $45-64$ yrs | $\$ 42.00$ | $\$ 43.00$ |
| Over 65 yrs | $\$ 42.00$ | $\$ 43.00$ |
|  | Current Nurse Fee |  |
| Up to 13 yrs | $\$ 0.00$ | $\$ 0.00$ |
| $14-17 \mathrm{Yrs}$ | $\$ 26.00$ | $\$ 26.50$ |
| Over 18 yrs | $\$ 38.00$ | $\$ 39.00$ |
|  | Community Card Holders |  |
| $14-17$ yrs | $\$ 14.00$ | $\$ 14.00$ |
| Over 18 yrs | $\$ 19.50$ | $\$ 19.50$ |

For other fee increases or if you have any questions please contact the Receptionist or Juliet, the Practice Manager
on 034360760 or 039760503
We look forward to continuing to provide excellence
in primary health care to all our patients.
Best wishes
Tim and Juliet Gardner

## Coming soon from Neighbourhood Support...

## Save the date...Sunday, July 23, 2023 St John ‘Three Steps For Life’ Programme

at the Ōmārama Community Centre

- You'll learn how to take action by calling 111
- how to start CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)
- how to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator).
- Training sessions are for groups of 10 or more and run by a St John community educator.


## Ōmārama School

From this month's school newsletters
We are thrilled to announce that following a robust recruitment process we have appointed a new Principal, Alison Holden, to start in Term 3.
Alison may already be known to you as she lives in Omarama and currently works in a leadership role at Twizel Area School. We know Alison will fit in well with the school community and we look forward to working with her. She has a collaborative and calm leadership style and is a very experienced classroom practitioner. We know she will have a positive impact on the school and our learners.
Kind regards
Limited Statutory Manager Madeleine Hawkesby and Board of Trustees chairperson Jemma Gloag

Ōmārama School's Ahuriri (junior) class also welcomed new teacher Bailey Smith at the start of term two.

We are on our way!!
We are in full swing for our production. We are still gathering costumes and if you are going to Oamaru or Christchurch and don't mind having a look around for some costume bits for us, it would be greatly appreciated. We are particular keen to get some face paints, brushes and sponges to make up the animal faces.
We will be looking for some older siblings or ex-pupils to help out with advertising, selling tickets and programmes and helping with the children on the night, so if you are keen, please let us know.

## Contact details

Phone: 034389815
principal@omarama.school.nz
office@omarama.school.nz

## Don't miss the boat!

Ōmārama School is about to make a huge 'Splash'!

## Save the dates

for this 'wonderfully wet and wild' musical comedy Two unforgettable performances; come to one, come to both!

- 11am Wednesday, June 28 - Matinee
-6pm Thursday, June 28 - Evening performance at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall



## Lake Ōhau Conservation Trust

## One more planting session...

We know, we said planting was all finished for 2023...well, when you get an offer of plants and people to plant from the Rotary Club of Ōamaru, you can change your mind!
On Sunday 11 June 2023, we're holding a planting session along with the Rotary Club of Ōamaru and the Lake Ōhau Community Hub Charitable Trust to enhance the area where you enter Avoca Forest from the Village reserves walkway.
The Rotary Club of Ōamaru gave a donation to the Lake Ōhau Community Hub Charitable Trust for the plant vouchers given to property owners who lost a house in the Oct 2020 wildfire. The Rotary Club members were also keen to do some actual planting themselves. So they are coming to Lake Ōhau on 11 June with members of the Rotary Club of Waimate that they have invited.
We'd love people to come and help with the planting. It will be great to be able to thank the Rotary Club members in person for their generous support for the community.
The planting is per our DOC approved planting plan and shown on the wee snip out of the planting plan below. It will be great to get plants established here as it is where most people enter the reserve and Avoca Forest.
We'll start planting at 10.30am - giving the Rotary members time to travel from Ōamaru and Waimate. We've got about 300 plants to plant.
We'll finish up about 1 pm with a BBQ sausage for everyone.
Please bring warm clothes, wear sturdy footwear and be prepared for all weathers!
Please also bring other food and hot/cold drinks. Bring your gardening gloves and a spade/shovel (we will have holes dug for most plants).
Please contact the Trust with any queries. If a planting session is cancelled because of bad weather - it will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

## Viv, Helen and Katrina

Trustees of Ōhau Conservation Trust
https://ohauconservationtrust.nz/
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068703571969


## Friends of Ōmārama School

## Annual Meeting

## Omarama Friends of School AGM is

## 7pm Tuesday, June 20, 2023

 at Boots and Jandals Hotel Ōmārama
## All welcome.

Friends of Ōmārama School would like to thank those who supported the recent fundraiser.
Thank you to all those that supported the school by buying cheese rolls and an extra shout-out to Fonterra for donating cheese, and Blair and Alona at Four Square Omarama.

- Carla Hunter, Friends of Ōmārama School secretary.

On it's way to making cheese. Photo: Bruce Dow


## Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting will be
7pm, Thursday, June 15, 2023
at the Ōmārama Community Centre
An invitation is extended to all
Contacts:
Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 0274389630
Yvonne Jones, secretary, 0274767473
(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Yvonne)

## 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

## 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 0272805446 or email hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz


## Care in the community

## Ōmārama Community Care Group

NOW AVAILABLE...
Thanks to generous donations our group now has
free emergency food supplies

- all the staples you may need to get you and your family through.

Be assured all requests and referrals are taken in confidence.
Please contact Ruth 0212948002.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE OAMARU PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITY GROUP (Ōmārama's MSD Community Connectors)

We have received confirmation from the Ministry of Social Development that OPICG's Connector service which was due to finish on June 30 will be extended until September 30. Other connector services will likely have this too.
Our Food service is still running for those isolating with Covid and we still have discretionary funding to support those in hardship isolating with Covid. Our generic email address covidwelfare@oamarupacific.nz is still operating, and free phone: 0800 OPICGP, or people can contact either of our Connectors, Mafa and Lauao.

## Covid Care

Please do make contact if either yourself, or a friend or neighbour need anything.
We have - free RATS, free sanitiser, masks, gowns and face shields if you are caring for someone with Covid and need protection.
Only a phone call away: Ruth Grundy 0212948002

## Royal District Nursing Service New Zealand

is now operating in the Ahuriri and Waitaki valleys. RDNS is a local home help specialist. The organisation offers a range of home nursing and home support services to people of all ages and cultures in the comfort and security of their own homes. Whether you need complex nursing care at home, support while recovering from an injury or just a bit of help with housework and grocery shopping,
RDNS can support you.
It accepts referrals from a range of health and home support professionals, including general practitioners, hospitals and other healthcare and support workers.
The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade has a fold-up mobility scooter available. This along with a wheelchair are available for loan. To find out about these contact Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper 0212931171 or any fire brigade member.


## Twizel Community Care Centre

Vicky is the office manager at the Twizel Care Centre.
If you need any of the services listed below please contact the
Twizel Community Care Centre, Mount Cook St, Twizel, Phone: 034350687
Email: twizelcare@xtra.co.nz, Hours of opening: 9.00am - 2.00pm, Mon to Fri

- Work and Income - assistance with applying for benefits, helping with queries regarding superannuation, and any other financial assistance you may receive. Printing and scanning of documents.
- Inland Revenue - queries regarding anything IRD related, access to forms.
- Twizel-Tekapo Community Car bookings - this is a community car that picks you up from your house and takes you wherever you need to go
such as town here in Twizel or Timaru for an appointment, whatever you need. There is a cost involved depending on destinations.
- Home Delivered Meals - We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for $\$ 8$ and small snack meals for $\$ 4$. We can deliver to your home.
- Printing/scanning services
- Assistance with finding jobs in the area.
- Foodbank - donations, and supply people with food parcels when in need
- Any other government services - ACC, Department of Corrections, etc
- Arowhenua Whanau services - Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of
each month.
- Computer/cellphone assistance - needing help with something on your computer or cellphone. Free WiFi
- Rat tests/Mask supply free of charge
- Assistance with filling in any forms or paperwork.
- Offer room hire to community groups and businesses.

Jobs: If you are looking for jobs a great place to start is the Jobs in the Mackenzie Facebook page.
Leaine Rush runs that Facebook page. leaine.rush@mackenzie.govt.nz
Transport can be quite a hurdle if you aren't able to drive.
Here's one solution and ratepayers fund this through the Environment Canterbury
Rate. The Twizel-Tekapo Community Car . Here's how it works... The Twizel Community Care Centre (above) takes the bookings: Driven by volunteers, the car can be booked and used by anyone in Ōmārama to get you to nearby towns or cities for medical appointments or shopping visits - e.g to Twizel and back or Kurow and includes trips to Oamaru, Dunedin or Christchurch etc. There is a minimal charge depending on the destination.

## Age Concern (for people 65 and older).

Monthly coffee afternoons are held at the Ōmārama Community Centre.
Kathryn Bennett, coordinator
034347008
0274347089
NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz
Hours: Mon-Wed 9-4.30pm / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm
If you need emergency home help - this is if you need cleaning done or the like in the short term, for example, if you are recovering from an illness - contact your GP for a referral.

## The Directory



David O'Neill Contracting Itd
Omarama
Home 034389883
Cell 0274335523 Fax 034389891 davidoneillcontracting@xtra.co.nz

## For advertising rates and guidelines

phone
0212948002 or email omaramagazette@gmail.com


LICENSED AGENT
021919089
coralie.reid@oatps.nz

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97 Racecourse Rd, Washdyke.
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www.scarlett-hydraulics.co.nz


52 Ahuriri Drive Omarama 034389538 bigsky.kiwi.nz

## Team Karan \& Jess

The power of the team. Based in Twizel, only 20 minutes away and ready to help with all of your real estate needs, when \& where you need it.

## Karan MacDiarmid

 0275177959karan@mcre.co.nz

# 1 LJ Hooker 

Jess Mackay 0279025529 jess@mcre.co.nz


The cafe is now closed for the season Re-opening Labour weekend
Tanya and Dannie would like to thank all for their patronage


# Till Poppy 

Gary is proud to be covering the Waitaki Valley - with over three decades in the Real Estate industry in the Waitaki, Central Otago and Mackenzie Country, using the traditional real estate model.

Living in Omarama, Gary is proud to offer New Zealand's \#1 FREE marketing package and fair flat fees.

With one centralised national office, we keep overheads low and savings where they belong - in your pocket!

Thinking of selling? Call Gary today.


## Gary Sutherland <br> Business Partner \& Sales Consultant <br> 0274326615

gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

## The Last Page is Classifieds



## FOUR souane

Please be advised that Four Square Ōmārama will be closing at the earlier time of 5pm Sunday, June 11 and Monday June 12 for further refurbishments.

- Alona and Blair Shaw


# The weather that was  

May 2023
Highest temperature: May $6,21,1 \mathrm{C}$ Lowest temperature: May 16, - 4 C

Most rainfall: May $9,23.4 \mathrm{~mm}$
Total rainfall for May: 97 mm

## The Ōmārama Gazette

Ōmārama's news delivered to your inbox
the first Wednesday of each month To subscribe email:
omaramagazette@gmail.com
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[^0]:    Valued volunteers Peter and Sonya Trusler, who have managed Chain Hills Station for the past five years have left for Oamaru.

