



# Ōmārama Gazette

August 2023

## We're marking a small step forward

August marks one year since the community, led by the Ōmārama First Response Trust, gathered to put its case to Hato Hone St John and Fire and Emergency New Zealand to have the agencies formalise a local agreement for its Fire First response unit to be turned out to all medical 111 calls in the area and to be able to respond to medical alarm calls.

“While this is still yet to be formalised, we have indicated we are open to developing a more robust process for ensuring Fire First Response Units (FFRU) are considered for some incidents in a FFRU area – especially for incidents involving vulnerable patients (such as elderly who have fallen) and patients who may be exposed to environmental factors that make them prone to deterioration prior to ambulance arrival. In the meantime, we are continuing to dispatch Ōmārama FFRU to all medical emergencies where it is clinically appropriate and meets the current criteria.

“Like Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Hato Hone St John operates in a dynamic environment, where community needs are changing. It is particularly challenging in

- continued over

*FILE PHOTO: Last year, about 200 people attended a public forum at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall to discuss concerns about the ongoing operation of the Ōmārama First Response unit.*



# *We're marking a small step forward*

*- continued*

rural areas, and we would like to acknowledge the amazing contribution the Fire First Response Units make as part of our wider response framework,” Mrs Buchanan said.

Ōmārama and Districts Community Co-Response Trust chairman Lindsay Purvis said, while he had not had the time to discuss the statement with the trust, he saw it as “a baby step”, and a “step in the right direction”.

He would like to see more detail about how St John would define the kinds of incidents to which the First Response was turned out to, but this was a start.

He said he agreed with Mrs Buchanan that all services were working in a dynamic environment with changing community needs. which is why the Trust was seeking a change to the MOU.

The Trust would meet shortly to consider the new information, Mr Purvis said.

Labour’s Waitaki candidate Ethan Reille arranged the previous meeting. The Gazette contacted Mr Reille last week to ask about progress.

Mr Reille said that he understood Fenz had spoken to St John.

“Fenz officials have suggested that they wish to progress such engagement with Ōmārama First Responders and are currently working on how this will work logistically (who, what, where).”

He said Mrs Edmonds was “fully aware of these ongoings” and he would continue to keep her in the loop.

“I will also continue to advocate for the Trust and work closely with them as we work towards a resolution that has the community’s best interests at heart.”

The Gazette understands that, early last month, after many months of discussions within Fenz, its deputy chief executive Russell Wood met with St John to ask it to clarify its position and vision for the MOU.

This week Gazette asked Fenz also for an update and to clarify what the position was... would the trial status be formalised in the new MOU?

The Gazette was told to direct its questions to St John.

Fenz specialist response manager Aaron Waterreus said St John was the lead agency for medical responses across most of the country and they made all decisions as to how they triaged patients and dispatched crews.

“Fire and Emergency New Zealand and our brigades operate in a support role, and we will abide by Hato Hone St John’s decision. We will be next engaging with the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade when we are ready to share Hato Hone St John’s final decision on the matter,” Mr Waterreus said.

The Trust is also waiting to hear from Parliament’s petitions committee about when it will get its chance to speak to its submission at an oral hearing.

A spokesperson for Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean, who heads the committee, said the committee was at present seeking further advice on the petition.

# ECan assures stream work is "imminent".

It seems it is taking more time to fulfil promises about completing river maintenance work made to Omarama Stream ratepayers last month than was first envisaged.

Last month, Environment Canterbury said remaining work planned for this year's stream maintenance programme would be finished by the end of July.

The Department of Conservation and Central South Island Fish & Game had both been consulted and it was consulting with Te Rūnanga o Moeraki.

"We hope to start works within the next month," - that being July, the ECan statement said.

However, no work has started, so last week the Gazette asked ECan why the delays.

Rivers Manager David Aires said work on the river channel works were "imminent".

"We are simply awaiting formal documentation and expect to be able to start within a couple of weeks. The works upstream are being carried out by NZTA and their bridge team."

In response, the Gazette asked why there was a delay with documentation given the work programme was laid out and approved by the ratepayers last November.

ECan said the hold-up had "simply been a result of the time and availability of people involved in the engagement process when we are working with multiple partner agencies".

"Staff have also been responding to flood events over the last week."

The Gazette has also verified the work upstream and at the bridge was completed by Waka Kotahi in June.

Last year, two major flood events in July and August caused considerable damage to properties along the length of the Ōmārama Stream and when it flowed along the state highway and through the township.

As a consequence, Omarama stream ratepayers met with ECan in November to draw up a programme of work at a cost of \$70,000 to \$100,000 with the initial work to be completed before this winter.

The agreed scope of work included clearing blockages in-stream, channel improvement, repair to the damaged stopbank and preventative maintenance of willows threatened the flood carrying capacity of the stream. Subsequently, ECan carried out some work in March.

Although much work had been done upstream of the SH 8 bridge to reduce the risk of a repeat of the damaging flows, those downstream were left wondering if enough had been done by the agencies tasked with completing the job there, before winter.

The Ōmārama Gazette has yet to hear from ECan councillor Nick Ward in reply to questions put to him in June discussions he has had with stream ratepayers about the rating arrangement.



# Community group could enter discussions

Residents concerned about the sale of St Thomas' church by the Presbyterian Church could set up a small group to work with church authorities to look at various options for the return to the community of any proceeds.

In June, the community was told that while the sale of the property could be imminent, decisions about how the proceeds would be used could take "quite some time", if not "years".

The church went on the market on May 17 with a deadline sale date of June 23 and at that time the Gazette was told three indications of interest had been received.

The Otago Foundation Trust Board is the perpetual trustee of Presbyterian properties 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 St Thomas's Church building was built for ecumenical Christian worship and services in the Ōmārama community, and was supported by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Presbyterian churches.

The church management committee has been tasked by the Trust Board to research the "source and intent" of contributions made to the building of the church and verify as far as possible the "underlying purposes" - why funds were given so it can put a case to the Board with recommendations for the dispersal of the proceeds.

In June, the Ōmārama Residents' Association wrote to church authorities saying it wanted it put on record that residents did not want the building sold but returned to the community which had fundraised for and built it, or that funds from any sale be given to back to the community.

Last month, the association considered forming a small committee to work with church authorities and look at various options.

There was "nothing further to report" about the sale at present, St Thomas's Combined Church management committee secretary Lee Kearon told the Ōmārama Gazette on Monday.

The property no longer appears on listings websites or those that note what has been recently sold.

Those who wish to make a submission to the St Thomas's Church Management Committee who will put the case to the Otago Foundation Trust Board should send these to the Management Committee c/o the Secretary, 3 Holyhead St, Outram or by email to [lee.kearon@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com)





# Volunteers vital to Coastguard service

Sometimes it seems the CoastGuard is the forgotten emergency service, former president of Coastguard Mackenzie Lakes Dene Madden says.

And that could be because people wondered just what a coastguard would need to do this far inland.

Yet, in the Mackenzie and Upper Waitaki, the volunteer-run service plays a vital role in water safety rescue and education, he said.

Dene may have recently retired from the position, but he is still working to raise awareness about the volunteer service.

It was in that capacity he spoke to a small group at last month's Age Concern Waitaki coffee afternoon in Ōmārama about his experiences.

In fact, the Mackenzie Lakes Coastguard has about 1200km of 'coast' under its watch, Dene said.

At present there are 25 volunteers who work to safeguard water users and their area stretches from Lake Opuha through to Lake Waitaki and includes the canals and rivers in between.

Dene was a founding member of the Mackenzie-Upper Waitaki service which grew out of summertime camping at Lake Benmore with friends and helping out other boaties using their own boats.

As the numbers of boats on the lake grew to be in the hundreds the need emerged for a more formal service.

In 2009 he approached Cheryl Moffat, Coastguard Southern Region Manager, with a request for help.

In 2010 Coastguard New Zealand agreed to form the Mackenzie Lakes unit and work began on recruiting volunteers and raising funds for a rescue vessel.

In June 2011, it was made official and the Coastguard Mackenzie Lakes unit was formed. *-Continued over*



## *Volunteers vital to Coastguard service - continued*

Apart from a one-year break, Dene has served as president from 2010 until his retirement earlier this year.

He became an Industry Specific Certificate Coastguard Master in 2014 and the unit's Coastguard Instructor in 2017.

He has also spent 20 years as a Maritime safety officer for Environment Canterbury. The unit operates two boats – a 6.9m Naiad called Meridian Rescue and a 9m Naiad – an ex America's Cup chase boat with 4WD truck - named Mackenzie Lakes.

The unit regularly provides safety boat services for events like the Meridian Twizel Hard Labour Weekend and the Aviemore Classic Sail race, and carries out training exercises with Search and Rescue, including exercises along the waterways adjacent to the Alps to Ocean Trail.

Playing the role it did in rescue operations and alongside other emergency services it was inevitable the volunteers were also called on to help not only with rescues but also to recover bodies, he said.

Not many knew the coastguard unit had played a vital role in helping to fight the Lake Pukaki and Ohau fires – two of New Zealand's biggest wildfires, Dene said.

Because helicopters were using monsoon buckets and flying over water the coastguard was employed as a safety boat in case a rescue was needed.

The coastguard volunteers put in long, gruelling days battling gales on the lake, returning battered and bruised from the choppy conditions with the wind at times preventing crews from getting back to land for breaks.

However, despite this, the role the Coastguard played was not given much prominence, Dene said.

As well as employing the service for its lakes and canal inspections Meridian Energy was a staunch supporter of the unit and had donated substantial funds over the years, Dene said.

The unit needed to be 'self-funding' and had to raise money to provide search and rescue equipment, training and support.

And it was always looking for volunteers.

Those who frequented the lakes and rivers in the area might like to think about offering their time to give back to the service , Dene said.

While Dene primarily spoke to the group about his work as a coastguard he also touched on the importance of bowel screening, and talked about his own experience with the deadly disease.

**The bank account number for Mackenzie Lakes Coastguard is:**

**06 0966 0135173 00 Current A/c**

**To find out more about the service:**

**[www.coastguard.nz/areas/southern-area/units/mackenzie-lakes/](http://www.coastguard.nz/areas/southern-area/units/mackenzie-lakes/)**

# Photographers look for new views

The shifting shapes and shades of the Ōmārama Basin were captured by a group of keen photographers who travelled to town last weekend to study more of their craft.

More than 30 photographers, mostly from Christchurch, travelled to Ōmārama for the Christchurch Photographic Society's Laurie Thomas winter school and based themselves at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall.

The creative photography workshop was run by Twizel tutor photographers Jackie Ranken and Mike Langford.

Mr Langford said the group chose Ōmārama because they "liked the basin".

The group was set tasks throughout the weekend to both test and trial new and wide-ranging skills.

Photographers used their cameras to explore various aspects of the basin from first light until dusk, taking in differing light and landscapes like the Quailburn Woolshed, the Clay Cliffs and the waters of Lake Benmore.

On Saturday afternoon Mr Langford and Ms Ranken conducted a workshop at the former gliding club huts at Wardell Airstrip.

Friends of Ōmārama School catered for the event.

<https://www.cpsnz.com/>



# Another stab at town planning

Last month, Ōmārama was introduced to Waitaki District Council's new placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen at a meeting at the Ōmārama Community Centre attended by 17 people. For those short on time a brief summary of the main points is below. A more complete account follows.

## Thursday, July 20, meeting outline:

- 17 people, this includes council officers and Waitaki District Council and Ahuriri Community Board elected members attended the meeting to discuss how the Governments' Better off Funding allocated to Ōmārama could be spent.
- No facts were presented about how much the funding is or what it can be spent on. However it seems a considerable sum is tagged for Geopark signage.
- The community was asked to come up with ideas for projects and direct them to the council.
- Locals present at the meeting pointed out that this information had already been gathered on several other occasions.
- Council Placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen said she will visit Ōmārama "every couple of weeks" to 'engage stakeholders' in a review of town centre plans.

## Here is the long read...

The only observation that could safely be made about last month's meeting to discuss how the Waitaki District Council would spend the Government's 'Better Off Funding' monies tagged for Ōmārama was that confusion reigned.

Seventeen people gathered at the Community Centre to hear about what was being proposed.

That number included Waitaki District Council Ahuriri ward councillor Brent Cowles, Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King, newly-appointed council placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen, urban parks officer Lindsay Hyde and Waitaki Whitestone Geopark manager Lisa Heinz, business owners and Ōmārama Residents' Association members.

The locals who attended struggled with the unclear objective of the meeting and the lack of clear information or facts.

No presentation explaining the funding and its parameters was made nor were any handouts produced.

Discussions were at cross purposes as people tried to find out the actual amount available to be spent, what it could be spent on, and in what time frame, as well as how much had already been tagged by the council for other district-wide projects.

There was frustration expressed over the lack of connection and continuity with the previous community consultation exercises held since 2018 to give the council direction as to the community's list of priorities and ideas - ideas and priorities which seemed to have been shelved or forgotten.

Initially, from statements made in the meeting, it appeared \$240,000 of 'Better-Off Funding' had been allocated to the whole of the valley and that district-wide signage for the Waitaki Whitestone Unesco Global Geopark was also to be paid for from this sum. Despite questions from the floor the total amount tagged for signage was not forthcoming, but it appeared it would be costly. It also appeared it was not something the community could contest.

Ms Heinz said the new signage would be information centre-type communication for geopark visitors.



[Interestingly, the council's approved Better-off funding application, which was made in September 2022, makes no mention of Geopark signage. (The full application is on page 75 of the agenda of the council's June 13 meeting.)  
The Geopark only received Unesco accreditation in May this year.]

Later in the meeting, Cr Cowles and Ms Christensen said the amount of Better-off funding was either \$225,000 or \$240, 000 for each of Ōmārama and Otematata to develop their spatial plans.

Ms Christensen said the funding was available to be spent on parts of the spatial plan – “nothing super specific”.

Cr Cowles suggested the funds could be used as seed funding for bigger projects as happened in Otematata with the Department of Internal Affairs community-led development programme running there.

Ōmārama Station owner Richard Subtil said it was important to know the exact amount of funding available and what it could be spent on.

Ms Christensen said, once signage had been paid for, the amount of funds available was likely to be limited but the community could use what remained for smaller projects.

“The best thing to do is look at smaller projects as steppingstones to get to big projects, use funding as leverage [to get outside funding]. After the signage [is paid for] you won't be left with a whole lot.”

Business owners Kay and Hank Verheul said the community had raised concerns about the provision of “better parking” and “better traffic flow” at previous council-run consultation sessions, the last one being in 2020.

“Not much has happened since 2020. We have done this for so many years, there have been lots of promises, we're feeling frustrated, angry and pessimistic,” Mrs Verheul said.

Mr Verheul asked if the Better-off funding could be used by the council as seed funding to buy the former Rabbit Board land.

The opportunity to use that land to address town centre issues could be lost if it was bought by developers, he said.

Mr Hyde said he was not aware of any discussions between the council and Environment Canterbury about the possibility of buying the Rabbit Board land.

[However, in May 2021 representatives from the Ōmārama Residents Association made the trip to Oamaru to put forward oral submissions to the Long Term Plan requesting the council do just that.

At the time Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher said the council would “certainly put our hand up” with ECan indicating an interest in buying the Rabbit Board land. He would be attending a Mayoral forum at the end of that week and would bring up the topic with ECan's chairperson. “See if we can start that discussion happening rather than just waiting on them to decide if they might put it on the market or not.”.]

Back to this meeting.

Mr Hyde said, should the community put forward any ideas now which needed money not provided by the Better-off funding grant, these could be included in the council's next Long Term Plan review so that so money could be set aside for them through that process.

The LTP is the council's wish list for a 10-year period. It is reviewed and refined every three years. Each year's budget uses this as a starting point and is finalised as the annual plan for setting that year's rates.

This is a separate process and separate budget from the Better-off funding which is funded from taxes.

Business owners Craig and Glenys Dawson, of GlenCraigs, which would be one of the many businesses affected by any redesign of the council-owned town centre parking area, recommended streetscaping plans and plans to buy the Rabbit Board land be scrapped in favour of developing the reserve land adjacent to the Ōmārama Memorial Hall - what was the former rugby field.

[New designs for traffic flow and carparks in the town centre as well as development of the

# *Another stab at town planning -continued*

Rabbit Board land for extra parking was prioritised in the 2020 master/spatial plan for Omarama ]

"Get that underway because the Rabbit Board thing is going to eat up all the money. We don't want fancy streetscaping," Mr Dawson said.

"We don't want to lose carparks," Mrs Dawson said.

Mr Dawson said it was not signage which attracted permanent residents to a place, rather it was facilities like sports courts.

"We don't know how much money we have to work with," Mr Subtil said. "It wouldn't hurt to have a ball-park figure of how much money we have left. That is the thing we really need to know," he said.

Ms Christensen said the council wanted to understand "what we want in that picture" first and then "pull those things down and cost it".

Cr Cowles said following through with the Rabbit Board land sale involved other parties and was not a simple process.

Omarama resident and Volunteer Fire Brigade station officer Maurice Cowie said Fire and Emergency New Zealand had invoked the Public Works Act to permanently secure the portion of the land Fenz Omarama occupied and asked why that could not happen here.

Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park owner Natalie Beiboer said they had identified a wish for a mini golf course in town which could be built at the campground and used by visitors and locals alike, and could be administered by the Holiday Park.

The Holiday Park leases the reserve land the camping ground occupies from the Waitaki District Council.

It was an idea which found some favour.

"We need to get a win on the board rather than planning and money going down the drain," Mr Dawson said.

Mr Hyde said various amounts had already been tagged in the council's Long-Term Plan for sports and recreation.

For example, in its 2021-31 Long Term Plan, in the year 2031, the council had noted it might spend \$1.761 million on a community sports pitch for Omarama, Mr Hyde said.

Mr Verheul said that since the Residents' Association had already raised funds for a basketball hoop and a skatepark that it would be good to draw up an overall plan to make sure "it all works in together" with other proposals.

Mr Dawson said he believed there would not be a great deal involved in developing a sports pitch.

"Simply having a good flat field. We don't have to be too fancy about it," he said.

Mr Hyde was then asked if a start could be made and the former rugby field could be mowed by the council parks staff on a regular basis. He was non-committal

He suggested a further community meeting to "just drag the ideas out – put them down on post-it notes – throw the ideas around".

Ms Hienz said, ultimately the Community Centre could become a focus with information boards, a picnic area and sports field all in the same place.

She had already been in discussion with the Resident's Association regarding the proposed mural at the Community Centre which could be linked with the geopark signage.

Ms Christensen said developing the area at the Community Centre would make it a place people wanted to spend more time.

She said her goal was to involve the community "in everything".

She would be visiting Omarama "every couple of weeks".

"You guys really need to understand what you want...bite it off in chunks," Ms Christensen said.

Mr King said it was up to the community to come back with ideas " then Cyndi can understand what you want and look at turning it into projects".

The monthly meeting of the Residents Association was held following the meeting.



# Community Safety Day a hit

Although not as many as hoped attended last month's Community Safety Day those who did go took advantage of the opportunity to learn some new skills and all reported it was a worthwhile exercise.

The Omarama Resident's Association provided the venue free of charge to Stronger Waitaki' Neighbourhood Support which ran the event and paid for the lunch which was prepared and served by volunteers.

Omarama Police, the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade and First Response, Hato Hone St John, Waitaki Neighbourhood Support and Stronger Waitaki representatives and volunteers were present, contributed or gave presentations throughout the day. Sessions were held about fire safety, performing CPR and using a defibrillator and well as general community safety.

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## The right to know, part two

Last month, I raised a concern that the Waitaki District Council was insisting I pay \$1,402.50 before releasing any information about survey responses from Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail users between April 2022 and March 2023, and other official information about the trail management. The full story is in the July issue.

### **Here is a short update.**

Since publication of the story, I have received overwhelming support for my stance from the community and outside the area and many offers to help pay the amount demanded – which I have respectfully declined at this point. Thank you all so much. It was so heart-warming.

And yes, I used the word 'demanded' because, after paying the full amount, I received a reminder notice to pay up. It was fully paid on July 5.

On July 11, I asked the council to please acknowledge receipt of payment and when I could expect the information.

I was then told it wanted to extend the time limit until August 18.

The reason given was because the request was for a large quantity of information and meeting the original time limit would not be possible.

This is information council staff have at hand and use to inform their communications and decisions making, as pointed out in last month's story,

### **So, the wait continues**

In the meantime, I have laid a complaint with the Ombudsman regarding the council's decision to charge for release of this information.

Some have asked what more can be done to show support.

If you wish to voice your concerns about the council's actions you may like to email: council chief executive Alex Parmley [aparmley@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:aparmley@waitaki.govt.nz) and your elected representatives:

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher [gkircher@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:gkircher@waitaki.govt.nz) and Ahuriri Community Board chairman Cal Reid [creid@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:creid@waitaki.govt.nz)

**More to come...**



# Mural artwork gets the go ahead

This eye-catching concept for a mural designed by Oamaru artist Wicksey (above) has attracted widespread consensus to be given the go-ahead.

An Omarama Residents Association project, the artwork will feature on the concrete wall at the sports courts beside the Memorial Hall and Community Centre.

The association's committee has proposed a couple of tweaks to the original concept –such as the addition of a panel featuring the Ahuriri River.

In the mural the artist has brought together elements for which Ōmārama is renowned; Bill Adam's Merino Sheep statue, sheep farming, the Clay Cliffs, mountains and gliding.

The artwork features the colours of the area; the clay yellow and burnt orange of the cliffs, the warm pinks of the sun playing off the barren landscape of the mountains, and the blues and whites of the sky, water ways and snowcapped peaks.

Bright letters which spell OMARAMA are set against the familiar silhouette of the Benmore range.

The Waitaki District Council's Ahuriri Community Board has given \$6,900 discretionary grant funding to the Residents' Association towards the wall.

*Below: This eye-catching concept for a mural designed by Oamaru artist Wicksey has attracted widespread consensus to be given the go-ahead.*



# The Noticeboard

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



**Wishing Mick Walsh a fond farewell** as he leaves Ōmārama for his new home, Thornbury House, in Dunedin. We will miss your mischievous grin which brightened even the gloomiest of days, dear Mick. Come back and visit often.

**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 12.30pm. 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.

**The Ōmārama MenzShed Group** meets each Saturday at 10am and at other times too. For further information please contact Malcolm Cameron 022 476 2225

**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 12.30pm, tee-off 1pm.  
Club captain Adrian Tuffley phone: 027 347 8276 [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)

**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/](http://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)

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

**The September Issue of the Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, September 6 2023.**

Please submit copy  
by Thursday, August 31, 2023



# Winter Housie

From Wednesday, June 7

1pm each Wednesday

@ 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



**HOUSIE EACH WEDNESDAY**



A vibrant red carpet event poster. The background is a deep red with a subtle pattern of stars and light flares. A central cream-colored scroll contains the event details, tied with a red ribbon at the top and bottom. The scroll is flanked by two vertical columns of gold stars. At the bottom, a red carpet leads towards the scroll, bordered by gold stanchions and red ropes, with large gold stars placed along the path.

Whether you are world famous in  
Omarama or a rising star,  
it's time to grab your moment  
in the spotlight  
and sparkle at the ...

## **Red Carpet Party at the Oasis Bar and Café**

**Saturday August 12, 2023**

**From 5.30pm**

**Continuous nibbles**

**Tickets \$35 limited to 50**

**Tickets available from**

**Jan Perriam 022 314 4291**

**Cash Bar/Eftpos**

# 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.*



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

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

*Scan for more info  
and app download*



## Mackenzie Basin Wilding Tree Trust

**Notice of Annual Meeting of the Trust to be held on Thursday 17 August 2023 at 11:00 am In the Lounge at Twizel Events Centre, Market Place, Twizel.**

### Business

1. Receive and consider the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2023.
2. Receive, consider and adopt the Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2023.
3. Report on the business plans for the current year.
4. 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 2 August 2023.

B R Cowan  
Secretary  
Twizel

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

# AHURIRI LINK

## NEWS FROM COUNCIL & THE COMMUNITY BOARD

**The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting is currently scheduled for 2pm, Monday 11 September.**

Check Council's website for venue details and to register for the public forum.



## ŌMĀRAMA WATER TREATMENT PLANT

**Council's contractor, Corde, have laid the foundations for the new water treatment plant at Ōmārama.**

All going well, the plant is expected to be completed by December this year and will provide residents with water that meets the Government's Drinking Water Standards.

Next stages of the project will include work on the bores and installation of electrical systems and switchboards in the treatment plant building. Specialised water treatment equipment is being provided by Filtec.

A special thanks to neighbours who have provided support for this project. More detailed updates on the work and photos will be provided soon as work progresses.

## OTEMATATA COMMUNITY PARK

**The new playground equipment has been installed in the Otematata Community Park (already a huge hit with locals and visitors) and now it's time for landscaping to tie it all together.**

Earthworks are scheduled to start at the beginning of August and the landscaping will be carried out across various sites on the park until 1 December 2023, to include new cycle and pedestrian tracks, planting, benches, a community BBQ and picnic shelter.

Work will be staged so there'll still be plenty of areas accessible for public use while it's going on.

This Community Park and village beautification programme initiative is led by the Otematata Residents Association Inc with funding from the Department of Internal Affairs who have provided outstanding support throughout this project.

Find more details about the project at [www.otematata.nz](http://www.otematata.nz)

## RATES REBATES

**Application forms for Rates Rebates can be downloaded from the Department of Internal Affairs website or picked up from Council offices.**

If you're eligible and on a low income you can apply for a discount on your rates bill. If you need help with your application, give us a call on 03 433 0300.



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



**Waitaki**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHĒRA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

# The Community Reports

## Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*Kia ora*

August has arrived and winter will still have a couple of surprises for us I am sure.

Last month Waitaki Neighbourhood Support held an information and practical learning day at the hall.

Thankyou for all that took the time to come down and listen to what we had to say and take part in the 3 Steps for life run by St John.

Also thanks to Christine Dorsey( Neighbour Support) for her input about looking out for each other and property.

I covered home safety. Things we should know about, an escape plan, a safe assembly point, oven and fat fires and how to put them out safely; (i.e.. Put a lid or a damp tea towel on it, or a flat cutting board.) overloading wall sockets; and the importance of working smoke alarms.

On that, we still have a few at the station. If anybody needs theirs replaced please give us a call.

We also touched on making sure our first port of call in an emergency is to dial 111 and not family members or one of our First Response team.

*Stay Safe*

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

**Greg Harper, Chief Fire Officer, 021 293 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



# Ōmārama Golf Club

*By Christine Bowman*

Well the weather has been fantastic for golf over winter to date. We have had good playing numbers on club day each week.

The club has now burnt the rubbish heap, which was mainly flood debris picked up around the course last year.

It was great that the local fire brigade could use this as a training opportunity for the rural fire team.

A number of our members are fire brigade volunteers, so they are pleased there is one less place to lose a ball!!

Generation Disc Golf again held their "Sub Zero" tournament on our course Matariki weekend.

Last year they had snow, this year two great days of sunshine. It is always a pleasure hosting them, and seeing them enjoying Omarama. We hope to see them again next year.

A big thank you to D & K Engineering for building and donating a watering trailer, to make life a lot easier for our volunteers watering our trees while we get them established. We have some more trees on the way soon so it's perfect timing.

Remember we have a couple of memberships options, including a first year special. For details email [secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz).

*Photos: Paddy Galvin, who is a golf club member and fire brigade volunteer completing the training exercise at the golf course.*



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Saturday Club Day, cards in 12 noon, tee-off 12.30pm.

Club captain: Adrian Tuffley

phone 027 347 8276

Secretary: Christine Bowman

phone 027 209 2320

email [secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz) [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

# Battle for top at national disc golf event

## Sub Zero National Disc Golf event

*By Morgan Hartevelde*

As the sun rose over the stunning Omarama golf course on Saturday morning, Disc Golfers from around the country began to feel the excitement building for the start of the second annual Sub Zero National Disc Golf event, put on by Generation Disc Golf's Morgan Hartevelde and Adam Rimes.

During the 2022 event, snow fell and settled for both days of play making for some interesting golf, however the weather gods blessed them with nothing but sunshine over this year's event and with only light winds the course was ready to be attacked.

There were many stories unfolding throughout the weekend, none bigger than the tussle for the top of the pro division where at the close of day 1, Queenstown's Ben Wiel Lake and Christchurch's Sebastian Falconer sat tied at 18 under par, and with a handful of players only a few strokes back, it looked to be a great story unfolding for the final round on Sunday.

Day broke on Sunday and the weather was phenomenal yet again, and with only a small amount of rain falling overnight, the course was in perfect condition.

The battle for the top continued, but soon it was very clear that if someone did not do something exceptional, they would not be able to stop the surging force of Sebastian who was really laying claim to the course.

On the final hole it was merely a formality, as Sebastian, through a 120 metre plus drive to the centre of the fairway, followed by a crushing 100m upshot to put it right by the basket and in front of the player gallery surrounding the 18th green, played the final shot of the event to lay claim to victory, at the 2024, Sub Zero.G

New Zealand's hole in one biggest cash prize of \$760 was hit on hole 9 by Tom Strawbridge of Nelson.

"Omarama is such a truly special location to, not only come and compete in, but to immerse ourselves in for the whole weekend and we want to say a big thank you to the whole community for supporting us and being so welcoming. We cannot wait to return next year".

*Below: Disc golfers (from left) Ben Wiel-Lake, Morgan Hartevelde, Tom Strawbridge and Trent Hogg prepare to welcome all players to the Sub Zero National Disc Golf event at the Omarama Golf Course last month.*



# Ōmārama School

## THERE TO CHEER ON EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

For some it was their very first, for some it will be their last.

And wherever they placed, today they gave it their all.

Ōmārama put on a sparkling winter's day for school pupils and their supporters from Twizel Area School, Waitaki Valley School and Duntroon School who joined Ōmārama School at the Ōmārama Saleyards to compete in this year's cross-country competition.

Family and friends gathered to cheer on every step.

Great mahi, guys!

With thanks to the Ōmārama First Response, and Friends of Ōmārama School.



# Ōmārama Rodeo Club

*By Marcia Green, Ōmārama Rodeo Club secretary*

Wow! we have taken time to catch our breath and we now want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who came out to our Quiz Night and Hill Billy Hunt. We loved putting on another weekend of fun, and the amount of support we had was next level!!

So many people to list to thank but firstly **Wendy Parsons** - our hardworking treasurer, She was the driving force behind this event and boy was her organisation outstanding. Thank you Wendy!!

**Central Otago Hunting and Fishing**- your support from day one is huge.

**The Wrinkly Rams**- your venue is fantastic, the Food on Point and we love you hosting us each year.

**Nige Cameron Western Saddlery** - beautifully hand crafted gun sling, such a stunning piece.

We had two new sponsors come on board-

**Rata Smokehouse** - the lucky winners are looking forward to their dinner!

**Chasing Tail Guiding Services Twizel** - one lucky kid won your guided fishing trip- How COOL!

There were so many other sponsors who provided us with auction Items, or prizes, or people who gave us their time, we really could not have done it without you all.

**To our Winners of the Hill Billy Hunt - "The Poached Eggs"**

Congratulations, you had a great hunting weekend,  
and we hope to see you back for 2024 to reclaim your title.

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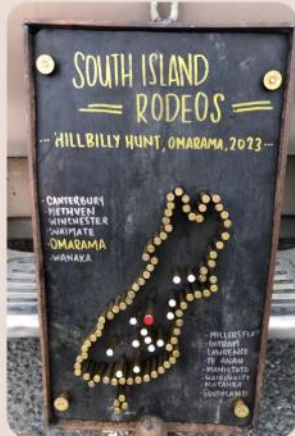
## ANNUAL MEETING

The Omarama Rodeo Club Annual meeting  
will be at  
7pm, Sunday, August 13,  
at Boots and Jandals Hotel.  
New members welcome.

Plus the club is searching for a new secretary  
- a community minded person to be part of the  
administration team,  
experience with rodeo is not essential.



A group of people, including a man in a military uniform, are seated at round wooden tables in a large, rustic hall. The room has a high wooden ceiling and large windows. The atmosphere appears to be a formal or semi-formal gathering.



for your Support



# Ōmārama MenzShed

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

**For further information contact:  
Malcolm Cameron 022 476 2225**

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## 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, 027 330 0249**

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## Waitaki Newcomers Network

For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details  
to [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)

Contact: Paula Eatherley  
Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support Coordinator  
[waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)  
[coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz)  
027 325 6151 (business hours)  
[www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz)  
[www.multiculturalnz.org.nz](http://www.multiculturalnz.org.nz)

# Ōmārama Community Library

It's that time again...can you help?

The library is in need of more volunteers

If you have a few hours to spare once a week, once a fortnight, or once a month it would really help lighten the load. Please give Yvonne a call (details below) if you'd like to give it a go.

**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)**  
**Yvonne 027 476 7473**



## Justices of the Peace

**JPs are available by appointment to:**

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

**The service is free of charge**

**To make your visit quick and easy:**

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



**Georgie Robertson**  
**Omarama**

**03 438 9554 027 4861525**



**Vicky Munro**  
**Otematata**

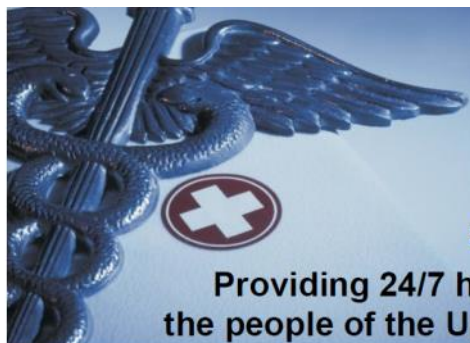
**03 438 7855 021 438745**



**Alona Shaw**  
**Omarama**

**027 773 4214**





# Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](https://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

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

**Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinic  
in Twizel Mackenzie Health Centre and Outreach Clinic  
at the Omarama Community Centre**

**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 checks 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:

- \* Counselling \* Ear Health (Kurow only) \* Audiometry
- \* HIP (Health Improvement Practitioner) – Free service provided by WellSouth.
- \* Health Coach – Free service provided by Wellsouth.

## **Open**

**Kurow:** Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30-1pm. **Omarama:** Thursday 8.30am to 1pm. **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.*



# Age Concern

## August's topic and speaker

The Waitaki District Libraries are launching a new collection of resources designed around people with and caring for with dementia, called 'Memory Care' ; free for them or their family and carers to borrow.

Ōmārama is the first of the Waitaki District community libraries to get this collection.

Waitaki District Library Customer Services coordinator Eileen Armstrong has been invited by Age Concern to attend the August 8 coffee afternoon from 1pm to 3pm at the Ōmārama Community Centre to talk about this initiative.

She will bring a collection of material to show and discuss with the Age Concern group and this will then be left at the library and will be their own collection.

*Kathryn Bennett, Waitaki Coordinator*

*03 434 7008; 027 4347 089*

*NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz*

*Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm*

**Age Concern Coffee afternoons are  
on the second Tuesday of each month  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.  
The next coffee afternoon is 1pm to 3pm,  
Tuesday, August 8, 2023**

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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

or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016

tomandtash@mchoney.co.nz

Plunket: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 536

aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com

# Ōmārama Airfield Ltd

*By Clive Geddes, Ōmārama Airfield Ltd chairman.*

An update from the directors following their board meeting of June 23, 2023

## The Year Ahead

The year ahead has a full calendar of courses and events on the airfield. The Ōmārama Gliding Club is stepping up its activity level and part of that is a takeover of the vacant front office in the terminal for use as an administration and operations base. Throughout the season the club will be offering ab initio, introduction to soaring, cross country and alpine pilot courses in addition to hosting the South Island Regionals in January.

Youth Glide also have a busy program with well attended courses being held over the winter and their annual camp in late January.

Kahu Soaring are also in an expansionist mode with additional instructors being on hand for what they anticipate will be a busy season.

## Nimbus Drive Development.

The development has been consented and contracts for the civil works will be let in late July with works required to be completed by late October. The 12 lots will go on the market through local agent Gary Sutherland at Tall Poppy in early September.

## Airfield Users Group.

The board is over the next few weeks forming an Airfield Users Group in order to increase the liaison between the company and airfield operators. The group will provide a valuable platform for identifying and resolving operational and administration issues in a timely manner.

## Briefly

Fibre optic cable has been installed to the terminal and distribution from that point, probably by radio, should be available within the next three months.

The board has committed to a web site which will provide information on the airfield, its operators and the local community. The site will include web cams, weather information, and a calendar of courses and events scheduled for the airfield plus links to airfield and community businesses.

The company is replacing aged tractors, upgrading the irrigation supply system and pressing on with the completion of the dedicated winching strip with the aim of it being in use before the close of the season.

The airfield maintenance manager of the past five years, Pete McKenzie, will not be on board for the 2023 - 24 years and the board wishes to recognise the significant contribution Pete has made to the standard and operation of the airfield.

The company has presented its 2023 - 24 Statement of Intent to the shareholders who are the Waitaki District Council and the Ōmārama Soaring Centre Inc. The statement identifies that the company will, over the coming months, be establishing stronger links with the Ōmārama community and Ōmārama businesses as we all put the tough times of the past few years behind us.

Clive Geddes [clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:clivegeddes@xtra.co.nz)

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

Terry Jones [morganjones@xtra.co.nz](mailto:morganjones@xtra.co.nz)

Simon Williamson [simon@glenbrookstation.co.nz](mailto:simon@glenbrookstation.co.nz)

# When the lights go out -by Tony Gloag

What happens when the lights go out?  
We live in the age of cyber fraud  
With fingers more powerful than the sword  
When the once mighty Royal Mail  
is reduced to the pace of a snail.  
So the reason for the lack of speed  
the fact that now so few can read?

They tell us it's now the electronic age  
Electric communications are all the rage  
Why use letters stamps and cash  
when gadgets will do it in a flash  
Cheques and cash will be obsolete  
Plastic cards are now so neat  
Flash it and the deal is done  
Shopping has never been such fun!

In these times when phones are smart  
We are never that far apart  
In this age we are never alone  
when connected by cellular phone  
But tragedy strikes alas, alack  
When cyber pirates launch their attack  
what happens when you're at the bank  
without warning the screen goes blank?  
Or when the machine can't read your card  
Life indeed becomes rather hard!  
When suddenly there is no way  
when in a shop one can pay  
without electricity t'will be quite cruel  
When there's no way to pay for fuel  
and no method to purchase food  
this frankly will not be good!

Perhaps you will try to call a friend  
using the phone on which you depend  
But the battery has fallen flat  
without a charge, that's a fact  
By now you will begin to see  
How we depend on electricity  
and important it is to our life  
to protect us from all strife  
But when it is no longer there  
will be a time of great despair.

In the Waikato what was the cost?  
when the medical records were lost?  
And the patients details were redacted  
by the criminals who attacked it?  
Patients now have dreadful fear  
When records are researched there's nothing there.  
But it's a danger we can avoid  
If a modicum of wisdom is employed.  
The written record should always be  
The back up for failure of electricity.

# Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting will be  
**7pm, Thursday, August 17, 2023**  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre  
An invitation is extended to all

## 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)





# 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 021 294 8002.

### **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](mailto: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 021 294 8002

### **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 021 293 1171 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: 03 435 0687  
Email: [twizelcare@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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

03 434 7008

027 4347 089

[NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz](mailto: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.

*BigSky*  
Bed & Breakfast

Kay & Hank Verheul  
10 Ahuriri Drive, Omarama, New Zealand

Phone +64 3 438 9538  
Mobile 027 489 5149

Email [kay@bigskybnb.co.nz](mailto:kay@bigskybnb.co.nz)  
[www.bigskybnb.co.nz](http://www.bigskybnb.co.nz)

 **Coralie Reid**  
**ONE AGENCY**  
THE PROPERTY SPECIALISTS



LICENSED AGENT

021 919 089

[coralie.reid@oatps.nz](mailto:coralie.reid@oatps.nz)



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[www.coraliereid.nz](http://www.coraliereid.nz)



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

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## **AHURIRI RIVER - LAKE OHAU Possum Control – Poison Warning**

Downer wishes to advise that a ground-based possum control operation will be taking place to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis (TB). This operation is being conducted as part of the TBfree New Zealand programme.

**Area:** This operation covers 11,088 ha starting along the western faces of Lake Ohau and extending south until the Henburn Road.

**Operation date:** August 2023 – July 2024.

**Poisoning methods used on this operation include:**

**Potassium cyanide:** Possum habitat will be targeted using Feratox cyanide capsules. Feratox will be placed in a non-toxic peanut paste, either inside biodegradable blue bait bags or baitstations made of potato starch or plastic. Bags and bait stations will be attached to trees or posts in suitable habitat.

Traps will be being used throughout the area in conjunction with poisoning methods. The public is warned to take care in these areas and not to remove carcasses or baits. Baits are toxic to people and animals.

### **General warning**

- Do not touch poison bait or traps
- Poison bait or carcasses are deadly to dogs and cats
- Watch children at all times
- Follow the advice on the poison warning signs

### **If you suspect poisoning**

- Contact your local hospital, or dial 111
- National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON – 0800 764 766

In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact a local veterinarian

**For further information (including maps of the operational area),  
contact the Southern South Island Project Supervisor on  
0508 392 355 or [biosecurity@downer.co.nz](mailto:biosecurity@downer.co.nz).**



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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.

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

## How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on 24 September 2023.

For more information and to apply:

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

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A snowman stands in a snowy field. It wears a straw hat with a red band and a dark scarf. The background shows a fence, trees, and a cloudy sky.

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

**July 2023**

**Highest temperature: July 14, 16.8C**

**Lowest temperature: July 22, -7.2C**

**Most rainfall: July 23, 5.3 mm**

**Total rainfall for July: 6.34mm**

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