



Ōmārama Gazette

August 2026

Promises of good signs to come

The word is there are good signs to come.

It appears the new corten steel signage for Ōmārama is on its way.

In an email in response to questions from the Ōmārama Gazette, Waitaki District Council Infrastructure manager Joshua Rendell said the council had given the go ahead for new signs signalled at its February meeting because quotes had come in within budget.

“The signs are currently being manufactured, and installation will take place later in the year,” Mr Rendell said.

The present signage was installed about 16 years ago and is now faded, damaged, and barely readable.

-continued over

These new corten steel signs (below) are to be installed later this year.

Photo: Waitaki District Council.



Promises of good signs to come - continued

The new designs were developed in-house by the council's Strategic Communications and Engagement team, collating ideas from council run 'community conversations' held across the district in 2023, and ideas shared online and on the Let's Talk Waitaki platform.

Ōmārama's design was presented to the Ahuriri Board at its meeting in May 2025 for approval.

This was the second attempt at new district-wide branding after a near-breach of copyright and controversy in 2024. It was found the proposed logo was very similar to that of sustainable wool business Woolchemy.

The signs feature a river-inspired logo and distinctive elements of each town.

Corten steel, a naturally weathering steel was chosen because it is suitable for outdoor use, is graffiti-resistant, requires no ongoing maintenance, and has a lifespan of 20–30 years.

In a separate move, the Ōmārama Residents Association has asked the Ahuriri Community Board if the old signs could be removed in the meantime, leaving the posts to attach the new ones when they are ready to be installed.



Talking rubbish once again

The council is once again under fire for the seeming inadequacy of Ōmārama's public rubbish bin servicing arrangements.

Last month, the combination of the long weekend, school holidays and more visitors once again saw the public rubbish bins were overwhelmed

A stroll through town on the Sunday afternoon following Matariki showed all bins filled and overflowing to what may be record levels.

The bins were serviced promptly and efficiently first thing Monday morning, by contractors Green by Nature.

Without question Ōmārama was busy as tours and independent travellers stopped off in town that weekend.

Queenstown Airport recorded its busiest winter reaching a peak on July 18 of 70 flights and about 10,000 passengers arriving or departing a day many of whom would continue their holiday experience travelling SH8 through Ōmārama to Mt Cook, Tekapo and Christchurch.

Business owners Todd and Michelle Hancox say the recent increase in the numbers of travellers stopping in the town has once again stretched public rubbish bin handling arrangements to the limit.

The couple say, however, that the responsibility for this does not lie with the contractors but fairly and squarely with the council contract itself.

From what they had observed the contractors were conscientious and focused on doing a good job, servicing bins more frequently when required.

- continued over

Ōmārama's public rubbish bins throughout the town were overwhelmed with litter this past Matariki Holiday weekend.



Talking rubbish once again - continued

In Mr Hancox's opinion the present contract was inadequate, did not match the town's present needs and had not done so for some time.

The community argued against the reduction in the number of bins last year – including the removal of bins from outside the café - and although that decision was reversed it had still not solved the problem.

The council needed to take a look at the bigger picture, take into account the numbers travelling and completely overhaul the contract for service in Ōmārama, he said.

The couple attempted to log complaints several times over the long weekend using the council app.

"Public rubbish bin servicing is a core council function that is not being performed," Four Square Ōmārama co-owner Craig Bishop-Everett said.

In light of recent rate increase it should be "at the very least performing that function".

He said the shop often put out cardboard boxes beside the bin outside when it was full – "so at least the rubbish is contained".

That weekend they removed four large boxes of rubbish at their own expense.

They did not register a complaint but thought that should be unnecessary and that seeing the photos should "inspire some action", he said.

In his opinion what was needed was more capacity or more frequent emptying and "it would make sense" if a recycling station was set up.

In answer to questions put by the Ōmārama Gazette, Waitaki District Council network manager Erik van der Spek said there had been no calls received over the weekend nor had there been any unexpected issues which meant the bins were not emptied as per the usual arrangements.

However, the Ōmārama Gazette has documented evidence and heard from multiple residents who raised the matter of overflowing bins with the council through the Antenno app, the previous Snap, Send, Solve app, and directly to Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King.

Mr van der Spek said the bins were serviced five days a week in Summer (Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday), and three days a week in Winter (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

"All public holidays are treated as a usual business day. The contractor can initiate additional empties as necessary.

"[That] weekend the bins were emptied as scheduled (being Friday, and Monday).

"Our contractor did not receive any calls over the weekend regarding full bins so did not initiate any additional empties.

"Where there is a hygiene or safety concern, we encourage the community to go through the afterhours service on 03 433 0300 which will put them through to the relevant contractor."

In July, last year – despite Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King raising the issue of inadequate capacity and servicing arrangements at its March meeting – the council decided to remove two bins from Ōmārama to cut costs but after protests and "determining all bins were needed" reversed its decision in January this year as reported in the Otago Daily Times.

Mr van der Spek again cited in the news report there had been no complaints.

At the March 2025 meeting the Board asked staff to report on the matter. There is no record a follow-up report has been presented at a public meeting of the board since that request.

On Tuesday the Gazette made a request to the council for official information about the nature of the contract, the whereabouts and contents of the staff report, the discrepancies in numbers of reported complaints and what forward planning or service level reviews are planned.

Ōmārama's public rubbish bins throughout the town were overwhelmed with litter this past Matariki Holiday weekend.



The visitor levy - Can we get some, please?

The recent news Ōmārama's near neighbours scored \$2.5 million from the Government's International Visitor Levy (IVL) fund to improve public toilets has led to questions about whether this town ought to qualify for spending.

Last month, the Government announced it would invest \$3.8 million from the fund to upgrade public toilet facilities in Mackenzie and Queenstown Lakes.

Large numbers visited the tourist hotspots each year, placing significant pressure on infrastructure normally funded by ratepayers, Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston said.

Mackenzie District mayor Scott Aronsen told RNZ the funding was hard won. It would be spent on upgrading and converting toilets to a user-pays system to help recoup some of the costs of providing the facilities to visitors.

The International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy was introduced in July 2019. It was initially set at \$35pp and was increased to \$100pp from October 1, 2024.

Although councils can lobby the government and try to make a case for funds for specific projects as Mackenzie and Queenstown Lakes have done, the IVL is not a contestable fund.

The monies are allocated by central government agencies (MBIE and the Department of Conservation)) to nation-wide objectives - strategic infrastructure projects, regional tourism boost initiatives, and national conservation programs.

Details about what the levy has funded can be found online on the MBIE website. In the latest funding round \$30 million from the IVL has gone to wilding pine eradication including in the Mackenzie basin and \$800,000 is to be used to modernise Tourism New Zealand's digital systems so that tourism operators and destinations are more visible to travellers using AI search tools.

*The Mackenzie District Council provide t
his recycling bin service for visitor use in Twizel.*



Plans afoot to make amends

It appears the Waitaki District Council could be walking back on previous statements made to residents that long overdue maintenance of Ōmārama's footpaths would be minimal at the most.

In February the Ōmārama Residents' Association was told there were limited funds available to spend on footpaths and that they would be "swept" only at a cost of \$7,000.

In April, residents and an Age Concern Waitaki representative took their concerns, highlighting the safety issues, to a meeting of the Ahuriri Community Board where Waitaki District mayor Mel Tavendale agreed the matter needed another look.

There has been minimal maintenance work carried out since the 2017/2018 financial year. Ōmārama Township amenity rates are collected annually to pay for such work.

The monies in the township amenity fund stood at \$135,478, at the end of the financial year in June and a further \$31,820 has been allocated from rates for this financial year.

The Community Board has delegated authority up to \$50K to decide how to use these funds. Any individual projects of more than that must go to the council for approval.

The council conducted a district-wide footpath survey in May.

In the agenda for the Community Board meeting scheduled for July 6 but cancelled, items for discussion included the council staff response to the matter of Ōmārama footpath maintenance which had been raised by residents.

"We recently completed a footpath survey across the district. Our budget for footpath maintenance and renewals is limited - around a quarter of what's needed to renew all paths routinely. We'll focus our spending on the paths in the poorest condition, as identified by the survey," it said in the agenda item.

In response to questions from the Ōmārama Gazette council Infrastructure manager Joshua Rendell said while timing for maintenance works was not confirmed there were plans to attend to those in the poorest condition.

"[In Ōmārama, overall,] all footpaths are considered to be in good condition... most are considered to be in fair condition with those being in poor and very poor condition identified below and in the accompanying graphic.

- Pinot Noir Court - six faults
- Clay Cliffs Lane – four faults
- SH83 from Black Peak Road through to Sutherland Road - four faults
- Airport Road - two faults
- SH83 carpark - one fault
- SH8 - one fault in front of Heritage Gateway Hotel
- Quailburn Drive - one fault
- Nimbus Place - one fault
- Cirrus Place – one fault

The next meeting of the board is at 2pm Monday, August 31 at the Duntroon Hall

Mid-winter fixture celebrates 20 years

The Ōmārama Rodeo Club's Hillbilly Hunt marked its 20th anniversary last month celebrating two decades of quirky challenges, community spirit and grassroots fundraising for local rodeo.

This year's event drew a record number of entries for both the quiz and the hunt and helped the club raise more than \$6500.

The Hillbilly Hunt — a fixture of Ōmārama's mid-winter calendar since the mid-2000s — drew families to Wrinkly Rams for the now traditional family quiz night, held as registrations for the hunt are taken.

As well as fundraising, the hunt's secondary goal has been pest reduction, raising awareness of the regions targeted pests in the process.

Also celebrating the anniversary was Central Otago Hunting and Fishing which has been naming sponsor since the hunt began.

Manager Larry Dougherty was there to judge at the event and said he was impressed with the numbers competing and the 'bags' produced.

Rodeo Club life member and organiser Wendy Parsons said she and husband Richard introduced the club to the fundraiser when they returned to farm in Ōmārama having run it successfully for the Five Forks Young Farmers club.

"[That first year in Ōmārama we had 12 teams enter, Bryan [Patterson] won it and the club made a profit of \$276.30."

In the early days the event was at the Ōmārama Hotel.

This year several families who participated in the earliest hunts, including some now-grown children returned with children of their own.

"Seeing generations come through — that's what makes this weekend special," Mrs Parsons said.

She said it took a dedicated team a lot of work and organising the event began about six weeks ahead.

The event has long been known for its offbeat tasks, scavenger-style challenges and children's creative entries as well as it showcasing the generosity of the community and businesses who contribute substantial prizes for the auctions and raffles.

This year's milestone event followed the familiar format: Friday's registration, task handout and quiz followed by the hunt culminating in the judging, weigh-in and children's games on the Sunday afternoon.

And while the challenges might change, there's one thing you can (almost) count on, it will be cold out there.

This year's event was hampered by fog, which made spotlighting virtually impossible, Mrs Parsons said.

RESULTS

The winners of the Quiz night were: Zero Bucks Given (1); Better late than pregnant (2); Deer Devils (3); Still No Idea (4)

The Hunt's winning team was The Camo Fiddlers led by Ryan Becker.

With thanks to:
Central Otago Hunting & Fishing
The Wrinkly Rams
Rata Smokehouse
Nige Cameron Western Saddlery
McSkimming Shearing
Valley Views Glamping
Farm Source Oamaru
PGG Wrightsons Kurow
Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama
Hot Tubs Omarama
Farmlands Kurow
Buscot Station
Huntsman Optics
Outram Garage
Omarama 4 Square
Scapegrace
Airmax Refridgeration
Glenbrook Station
A2O Electrical Services
Ahuriri Motels
North Otago Pastoral
AON
FMG
Rabobank
Ross Kelman
Benmore Station
Drummond & Etheridge
Wools NZ
Silver Fern Farms
Lauraine
Petrina Paton
Ann Patterson
Michelle Patterson
Twinburn Station



School pupils busy indoors and out

Matariki Breakfast

Parents and caregivers were not the only ones in for a treat at Ōmārama School last month.

All enjoyed bountiful kai at a breakfast held to celebrate the rising of the Matariki star cluster and the Māori New Year.

The junior class - Ahuriri - read out their written work which were poignant tributes to those they missed - commemorated by the star Pōhutukawa.

Artwork highlighting the stars and their meanings was displayed on the wall and craftwork in the form of bead-embellished coasters was displayed on the tables.

Just before the meal pupils gave a spirited performance of the Matariki Macarena. But centre stage was taken by the kai brought by the children and families for the shared meal.

Cross Country

The day may have begun at -7.2°C but temperatures rose to a balmy 0°C by 10am as Ōmārama welcomed primary school pupils from throughout the district for the Upper Waitaki Schools Cross Country competition today.

Twizel, Waitaki Valley and Duntroon primary schools were hosted by Ōmārama School at the course on Ōmārama Station - with thanks to Richard and Annabelle Subtil. A good crowd of family and friends gathered to cheer them all on.

The five-year old girls began the morning competitions heading out across the course with that particular enthusiasm reserved for uninitiated novices. New friends were made along the way.

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



Community stalwarts farewelled

Last month Ōmārama said farewell to two long-time residents, Jim Harkin and Yvonne Jones. Jim's time in the area began after leaving school when he became a radio technician on the Upper Waitaki Hydro Scheme project for the Ministry of Works based in Twizel. He left for a time to work in Marlborough before returning to work in the same field for Electrix – a subcontractor to Transpower.

Jim lived for a time in town before moving to Tara Hills where Yvonne joined him and they lived there, until they moved to a new home in Hardacre Pl.

Yvonne had been a doctors receptionist in Dunedin and at one time 'manned' the Ōmārama postal agency.

However, it is through their community work they are probably best known.

Jim has been a stalwart of the Ōmārama Golf Club which he joined in 1994, and throughout his time has held most positions on the committee, from treasurer, secretary, club captain, bar manager and course convenor. Yvonne also held committee positions to help support the club.

For many years he oversaw the greenkeeping and general upkeep of the greens.

Because of Ōmārama's extreme climate this was no easy task and very time consuming plus he didn't have the luxury of the modern machinery the club now uses.

Several years ago the club went through challenging times, with lower playing numbers and lack of volunteers. It was acknowledged that it was Jim's determination and effort that kept the club operating.

Club members also recall he was always encouraging and helpful to newcomers. He would help learners on club days and would meet some at the course in his own time to share his skills. He just loved his golf!

About 10 years ago Jim was made a life member of the club to acknowledge his exceptional service, long-term commitment and voluntary contribution.

In recent years, Jim joined Ōmārama MenzShed where he also put in many hours of volunteer work for the community.

In addition to supporting the Golf Club, Yvonne has contributed many hours in voluntary work in her own right.

Over the years she has been a volunteer at the Ōmārama Community Library, helped with Age Concern meetings, and Housie sessions.

A major contribution was through her work with the Residents' Association of Ōmārama.

She joined the committee in July 2018 and was elected to secretary in October 2019. In her role, Yvonne's ability to sum-up various views succinctly and her willingness to advocate for those who could not be present at meetings was valued.

Her secretarial duties meant she worked hard behind the scenes in everything from making cups of tea at public meetings, to working through the necessary correspondence and application requirements for funding to complete projects such as the History Wall, and the replacement block wall carrying the community centre signage.

She actively contributed to the town visioning and masterplan sessions in 2018 and 2019 and attended the follow-up submissions hearings in Oamaru.

Although she stepped back from secretarial duties in 2023 she remained on the committee for another year.

Behind the scenes she has also willingly helped young families with child minding and to care for those who were not able to do so for themselves through illness or infirmity.

We wish Jim and Yvonne every happiness for their new life in Dunedin.



AI-Generated

DAFFODIL DAY 2026

OMARAMA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2026

Collectors will be outside Four Square Omarama



Daffodil Day helps fund support services that can make the hardest moments a little less lonely, including accommodation during treatment, local check-ins, and access to counselling and practical support. Because cancer doesn't just affect one person. It affects partners, kids, parents, friends, the whole whānau

Donations from Daffodil Day go directly to the Cancer Society to fund cancer research, patient support services, and prevention programmes.





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Chelsea Grant
Property Manager
027 435 0187
rentals@mcree.co.nz



The Noticeboard

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

The Ōmārama Gazette and this year's General Election

This is to let you know the Ōmārama Gazette will not be covering this year's general election. This is because the Gazette lacks the resources of a full newsroom which is needed to cover all parties, policies and angles to ensure what is printed would be accurate, fair and ethical.

There is specific legislation relating to political advertising prior to an election and all parties who enquire will need to comply and pay to advertise.

Public Meeting: The Future of Twizel and Ōhau

The Mackenzie Sustainable Growth Initiative is hosting a public meeting in Twizel next week. The meeting is to discuss concerns changes proposed for the region — multiple fast-tracked solar farms and possible hyperscale data-centre developments. The meeting is:

□ Wednesday 12 August □ 7:00 pm □ Twizel Event Centre

All are welcome — residents, ratepayers, business owners, and any concerned about the future of the region.

Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is on Tuesdays. Appointments are available 9am to 4.30pm.

To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 or Mackenzie Health Clinic 03 976 0503 .
www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Email: omaramalibrary@gmail.com

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

Kurow Presbyterian Church:

Kurow Presbyterian Parish: Rev Eymbert Johannes Schoneveld, Interim Moderator, Kurow Presbyterian Parish, Waiareka-Weston Community Presbyterian Church, 48 Main Street, Weston. Phone: 022 683 5117
email: westonminister@gmail.com

The Ōmārama Golf Club Saturdays cards in 12 noon, tee-off 12.30pm. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340.
www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group meets once a month. For time and place contact facilitator Bridget Pringle, 021 072 2113
or bridget@irricon.co.nz

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the Kurow Hotel. 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 or email president Olivia Black 027 833 0869, vice-president Jess Townsend and secretary Bridie Brosnahan 027 341 3010 omaramaplaygroup@gmail.com

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 regularly at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Bevan Allan bjallan@xtra.co.nz

FENZ Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets at 7pm each Wednesday at the Ōmārama Fire Station and has its meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. If anyone would like more information about the various volunteer roles available within the fire brigade please get in touch. Email omarama@fireandemergency.nz or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909. You can follow us on Facebook (Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade)

During winter months a gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons during winter. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Shirley - 021 165 6439, or Diane 021 237 9636.

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: 0800 933 922

To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website.

www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/
omaramagazette.nz

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

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 2, 2026.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, August 27, 2026

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Police



Call triple one (111) when you need an emergency response from police, fire or ambulance. Use Ten Five (105) to report things that don't need urgent Police assistance.

Usual office contact details: Senior Constable Nayland Smith

Sole charge Constable / Omarama / Po Box 101, Omarama 9448.

Phone: (03) 438 9559 / Ext: 34580 /

mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Chief Fire Officer Jack Zorab

It has been another busy few weeks for the brigade.

Many of you will remember the significant snow event that hit the surrounding areas in early July. Brigade members spent much of the evening in the Lindis Pass helping rescue and transport stranded motorists as conditions deteriorated. It was a long night for everyone involved, but a great example of local people and organisations pulling together when things get tough. A particular shout out must go to the teams from Fulton Hogan and Downer. We got to see first-hand the incredible work they do in some pretty miserable conditions to keep the road open and our communities connected.

Closer to home, we've welcomed a couple of new members to the brigade. It's always great to see new people putting their hand up to serve the community, and we look forward to

supporting them through their training journey.

We recently held one of our biggest training exercises in years at the Countrytime Hotel. The scenario involved multiple casualties and gave our firefighters an opportunity to practise dealing with a complex incident in a realistic setting. A huge thank you to Megan and the team at the Countrytime for letting us take over the hotel for the evening.

An even bigger thank you goes to the 18 members of the community who volunteered as role players. The effort they put in made the exercise far more realistic and valuable than anything we could have achieved on our own. Volunteer brigades simply couldn't do what we do without support like that.

We're also starting to gear up for a special milestone, with the brigade celebrating its 60th anniversary this September. If you're a former member and would like to be involved in the celebrations, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch so we can make sure you receive the details.

Finally, I'd like to thank the wider Ōmārama community for its ongoing support. Whether it's helping with exercises, supporting fundraisers, joining the brigade, or simply understanding when a pager goes off in the middle of dinner, that support means a great deal to our volunteers and their families.

CALLING ALL PAST MEMBERS!



ŌMĀRAMA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

You're part of our 60 year story.

We're celebrating 60 years of service to Ōmārama and the surrounding districts - and we'd love to see you back on station.



FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER - FROM 4PM
Informal BBQ on station



SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER - FROM 10AM
Open station for the community



SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER - FROM 4PM
Honours night & 60th celebration



Email

omarama@fireandemergency.nz

if you'd like to attend and we'll send you the details.

*We'd love
to hear from
you!*



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Brodie Craig CA

Ōmārama MenzShed

By Malcolm Cameron

The Omarama Menzshed has been busy this month. Members erected a new Morrifield Tunnel House for the School Garden Club, cleaned the spoutings at the Omarama Memorial Hall, and freshened up the Hall's heat pump filters. We also farewelled long-time member Jim Harkin. The Menzshed wishes Jimmy and Yvonne all the very best for the future in Dunedin.



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

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



Ōmārama School

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

principal@omarama.school.nz,

office@omarama.school.nz

www.omarama.school.nz



OMARAMA PLAYGROUP



All children under 6
and their parent(s) / caregiver(s)

welcome!

MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY
DURING SCHOOL TERM
9.30AM – 11.30AM



Omarama Community Centre
Playgroup Room



Find us on Facebook:
Omarama Playgroup

Ōmārama Golf Club

Saturday Club Day
Cards in 12 noon and tee-off at 12.30pm.

If you are interested in joining the club
email Arron Chambers,
secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz for details.
Club captain: Greg Stuart phone: 027 438 9018
Secretary: Arron Chambers phone: 027 203 2340
email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz

www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

Talking Café



Jan Keown
Heart Health Promoter : Heart Foundation

- What does the Heart Foundation do?
- Learn about healthy lifestyles
- How to keep your heart healthy and reduce the risk of heart disease
- Pulse and Blood Pressure checks available



Monday 10th August 2026 : 1:00pm - 3:00pm

**Venue: Omarama Community Centre
Chain Hills Highway, Omarama**

All Ages Welcome

For Further Information:

Age Concern Otago-Waitaki
P 03 434 7008

E NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz

ageconcernotago.com

Ōmārama Community Garden

We are a group of gardeners who work together to create something for everyone in our community

Anyone is welcome to pop along to the Community Centre and have a potter, and also to pop in any plants they may have ready to go in. Join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/742877880594146>

And watch this growing space, Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com

Let's get growing together!

Ōmārama Community Pantry

The Ōmārama Community Pantry has closed its doors for the winter months.

But although the doors may be closed to keep weather and vermin out and while there is not much surplus produce around, they are not locked.

So, if you have anything you want to leave please continue to use the cupboard, just send a text to 021 294 8002 and I'll get the word out there.

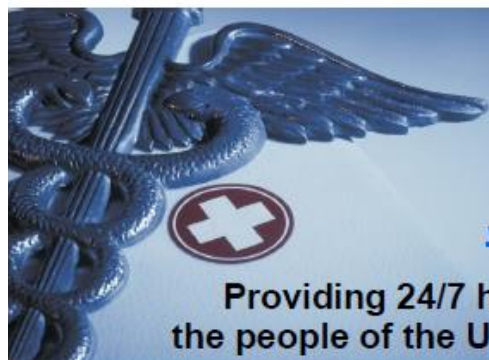
PS Please leave the doors closed (not locked) for now and we will reopen again in the warmer months.

The Ōmārama Community Pantry is at the entrance to the community gardens and picnic area at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall and Community Centre.

No donations are necessary but if you'd feel more comfortable giving a small koha this will go to our two community gardens, at the community centre and the school.

Take what you need, leave what you can.





Kurow Medical Centre

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

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

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

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

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

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

And much more!

GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$50.00

Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only. Community Services Card \$20

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

Omarama: Tuesdays 9am to 4.30pm

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm

Twizel: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm, 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

!!Weekly Winter Housie 2026 !!

Every Wednesday through winter

@ the Ōmārama Fire Station

*20 Houses *Super House *Afternoon Tea

*Raffles *Supported by Age Concern

(Please bring small denominations or coins)

A warm welcome to all

Wednesdays at 1pm

One day
I'll start
behaving
myself...

Maybe
tomorrow.



Care in the community

Ōmārama Community Care Group

If you are in need of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002 and we can work together on options and put you in contact with those who can help or for whatever will best suit you.



Twizel Community Care Centre

Benmore Place, Twizel, 7901

admin@twizelcare.co.nz

03 4350687

Open Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
The Twizel Community Care Trust
offers a range of services including:

Forms for Work & Income, IRD, Immigration, Passport & other Government agencies

Twizel/Tekapo Community Vehicle – booking system for trips Monday to Friday

Frozen meals – A variety for purchase including main meals and snack sizes

Food bank – Anyone requiring assistance with food, contact us for confidential help (donations of non-perishable or foods that can be frozen always welcome)

Plus – access to a computer, printing, free WIFI, community notice boards and Cancer Society gazebos for hire



Ngā ratonga ki te manawa o te whenua

Heartland Services



Twizel Linkage

Morning Tea

Come along to LinkAge where we meet up for company, a giggle, and a catch up, with guest speakers, entertainment & up-to date information, plus much more.

Every Thursday - 10.30am-12pm

All very welcome

Community Lounge at the Events Centre

Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club
meets at 7.30pm on the
first Monday of each month at the Kurow Hotel.
Email: upperwaitaki@youngfarmers.co.nz

Join the Facebook group.

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Where you'll find us:

Omarama Practice:

Omarama Community Hall
35 Chain Hills Highway,
Omarama, 9412

☎ 027 214 2533

@ info@waitakichiropractic.co.nz

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Otematata

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Alona Shaw

Omarama

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**Your local MP welcomes
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This depot is unmanned. For all product enquiries, or to arrange pick-up/delivery contact our Oamaru store:
3 Usk Street, Oamaru 9400 | www.nops.co.nz | 03 434 7766

Ahuriri Catchment Community Group

By Bridget Pringle, ACCG facilitator.

The Ahuriri Catchment Community Group (ACCG) met in Omarama in June to discuss water quality, wetland restoration, biodiversity projects and the future of catchment funding.

A key message from the meeting was that local, farmer-led action remains the best way to improve environmental outcomes across the catchment. Members heard that targeted action to improve water quality and habitats will provide the greatest benefit, and the catchment wide Ahuriri Wetland Revival project is well underway.

So far this year Ecan and group members have achieved 17ha of protected areas, 5kms of fencing, willow control has been carried out along 27 km of waterways, and work continues to identify practical "quick win" wetland projects that improve both water quality and biodiversity.

The group also agreed to adopt new mapping and monitoring tools to help track projects across the catchment and demonstrate the value of the work being done by landowners.

Members unanimously voted to adopt a new subscription model to help support the long-term sustainability of the group and strengthen future funding applications.

An update was also provided on the large scale "Hoads Corner Wetland Revival Project", which aims to deliver water quality, biodiversity, recreation and cultural benefits for the wider community.

Looking ahead, ACCG's focus remains simple: practical projects, measurable outcomes, and local solutions that make a real difference for the Ahuriri catchment.

The ACCG is launching a new website and Facebook page soon so watch this space!



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Ōmārama Residents' Association

The August meeting
of the
Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm, August 20, 2026
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

The minutes of the last meeting are available from the secretary

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



Ōmārama Community Library

The Ōmārama Community Library's
opening hours are 9.30am to 11am,
Wednesdays and Saturdays,
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.
omaramalibrary@gmail.com

Knit Night Ōmārama

Knit Night Ōmārama
5.15pm each Tuesday
at the Omarama Community Centre
Gold coin donations towards room hire
would be appreciated.

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Garden Diary - the promise of snow

Whipped by the gusty southerlies whirling straight from the south pole the Robinias become besoms bending to the task and sweeping the grey and white scudding clouds across the sky.

There has been no snow, tho' up the back the Diadems are folded into the stuff.

There has been cold, driving rain, sleet and windrows of graupel - snowflakes that ought to have been until halted partway through their earth-bound journey and rimed by super-cooled rain droplets. But no snow.

Small birds circle the bird feeder, feathers fluffed back by the wind as they cling to its swinging frame and dip in for a sugar rush of sweet pear.

It is bleak. The wind howls around the chimney and buffets the house. There are still a few crab-apples left in the tree, and they shine like Christmas baubles against the Lawson Cypress.

It is winter. For a moment there I almost forgot, it's been unseasonably warm. And Spring has been impatient. Stealing some time in the garden, racing to get chores done before the weather changes I'm surprised on the path by an old friend returned. Scarcely visible, its perfume is not at all retiring. In the absence of scent in deep mid-winter its wafting, deeply rich, heavy sweetness demands attention. At any other time of the year it would be cloying.

The birds brought me my precious Daphne mezereum. Such an unassuming and unremarkable shrub except for now. This is its moment in time. It flowers exceptionally early. In the Northern Hemisphere it is called the February Daphne. It produces clusters of tiny deep crimson flowers directly on bare, leafless woody branches. You have to look to find them. It's that intoxicating perfume that grabs you arresting and awakening memories.

Is nostalgia the emotion of mid-winter? – where resignation and hope meet?

Those others that refuse to be diminished by winter's grey, the golden aconites have pushed their way through the soil, brown leaves and twigs to sit like the glowing sun on their emerald ruffs. The snowdrops have also pushed through slowly opening their petals revealing a snow globe of winter white, green and glittering gold. Rosettes of magnolia grandiflora leaves are edged in ice - rimed - while its cousin, the Magnolia stellata's lipstick buds are still tightly closed in their fur-trimmed case. Come September...

Eager for spring I take some inside to force an early bloom. In a day or so the kitchen fills with their fresh and zesty essence - fresher and lighter than the grand lady's heady summer perfume. It brings delicious memories of past seasons, hope for summers to come.

The sun is out again, the temperature shoots up, the jersey comes off and believe it or not bees hum away busy in the Hazelnut catkins. It has to be the only pollen for miles.

There'll be a frost tonight for sure. But when will it snow?

*"Days go
so very slow they say, so fast.
It matters not. A good mate dies,
another goes abroad or mad.
It matters neither way. What does,
what always will, is that we load
the fire high with logs. She's a
winter this! bull-seals barking in the bay.
If she don't snow soon, I tell you
friend, she's never going to."**

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

*Rainbows and a promise of snow, by Sam
Hunt





When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis be it financial, climatic or personal the Rural Support Trust is ready to assist. Services are free and confidential.

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

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

July 2026

Highest temperature: July 17, 17.2C

Lowest temperature: July 26, – 6.8C

Most rainfall: July 5, 16.8 mm

Total rainfall for July: 50.8 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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