



Ōmārama Gazette

December 2025

Ōmārama's skies the ultimate race track

Gliding New Zealand awards officer Bruno Tagliapietra said, in its newsletter, it was a “milestone” for New Zealand gliding.

“Omarama has long been known for its world-class wave systems, but achievements of this magnitude continue to demonstrate just how exceptional the conditions — and the pilots — truly are.

“Pending FAI ratification, Dane Dickenson’s performance may soon enter the record books as one of the fastest 100 km triangle flights ever flown, and the fastest one ever recorded and claimed in the D15G category,” he said.

GNZ governs the sport in this country.

Bruno reported that Dane said the wave, which was “absolutely pumping”, provided “immense, consistent lift that allowed him to maintain extraordinary cruise speeds”.

“I just couldn’t fly fast enough — the lift was that strong, and the turn points lined up perfectly with the wave structure,” Dane said after landing. *- continued over*

Omarama Gliding Club member Dane Dickenson has set a new gliding world record. Photo: Supplied



Ōmārama's skies the ultimate race track - continued

As is the practice Dane flew the task three times, at one point reaching ground speed of 381kmh at 19,000 feet.

Gliding speed records are governed by the FAI, which maintains standards and validates achievements across all classes of gliders. A speed record typically involves completing a predefined course—such as a straight distance, out-and-return, or FAI triangle—as fast as possible under strict rules.

Records exist for different triangle distances, such as 100 km, 300 km, 500 km and different glider classes, so fair comparison can be made based on aircraft performance, Bruno said.

Anticipation was high at each of the morning briefings.

But there were only few days during the championships when there was 'goldilocks weather' – that is, just right for mountain soaring and 'scorable' tasks.

With task setters and pilots up against the challenge of every kind of weather Springtime in the high country could throw at them the opportunities to complete scorable tasks over the week-long competitions were limited.

A total of five days were flown through the week with only three tasks scored.

South Island Regional Gliding Champs November 15 to November 22, 2025

Results: Open Class; Derek Kraak 1, Max Stevens and Grae Harrison equal 2.

Racing Class; Terry Jones 1, Wes McIver 2, Davy and Sly, 3.



First Response awarded for life-saving work

The Omarama Fire Brigade's First Response unit are the winners of this year's 'operational efficiency' award in Fire and Emergency Otago/Southland Te Kei region Ngā Tohu Raukura celebrating success awards.

The award was accepted by First Response members Tania and Geva Innes, and Charlotte Derosa on behalf of the team at an awards function in Dunedin last month.

Ōmārama's First Response team is primarily dedicated to medical response and their training places a significant emphasis on medical training alongside their fire-fighting duties.

Former fire brigade volunteer Ken Rogers nominated the team for the award, in particular to recognise their prompt and skilled response to his own life-threatening medical emergency a year ago.

He noted in that critical moment, the team's ability to respond swiftly and effectively made all the difference and saved his life.

Omarama chief fire officer Jack Zorab acknowledged the steadfast support of the community which had loyally supported its emergency medical crew since its inception.

"This achievement belongs to everyone—our past and present members, our supporters, and the wider Ōmārama community who have always been so supportive," he said.

The award was presented by Fenz chief executive and national commander Kerry Gregory who reportedly went 'off script' to acknowledge the community support and efforts to have its First Response called to a greater range of medical events than is usual because the closest medical assistance is 20 minutes away.

In 2022, the Ōmārama Community gathered in force at a forum to press home to Fenz and Hato Hone St John that it wanted its community-funded and volunteer-crewed unit to be called to all medical 111 calls to give assistance until an ambulance



First Response awarded for life-saving work - continued

or other aid arrived, because it was the closest help available.

Subsequently, following a year of lobbying, a compromise was reached and a new Memorandum of Understanding between the agencies has ensured a closer working relationship that more closely reflects those community wishes.

The Omarama Fire Brigade was formed in 1966 and it was the vision of its founders that it would grow to encompass medical capability given Ōmārama's isolated location at the junction of two highways.

It took until late 1997 to achieve that dream and through the setting up of the Omarama Co-Response Trust a vehicle was bought and the team established with Fire Brigade volunteers receiving pre-hospital emergency care training to be able to respond to medical emergencies and accidents.

This was an initiative of St John and the Fire Service for rural areas that had no ambulance service based in their towns.

The Trust continues to administer funds and support the unit with fundraising and governance on behalf of the community.

On Tuesday the First Response was called to two medical call outs back-to-back.

The Fire and Emergency Otago/Southland Te Kei region Ngā Tohu Raukura awards:

- Going Above and Beyond Award; Michele Lindsay (Business Services Coordinator based at Dunedin Station)
- Risk Reduction Award; Station Officer Tane Rogers and Firefighter Kirsten Rogers from Oamaru Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Operational Efficiency Award; Winner: Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Leadership Award – Winner; Chief Fire Officer Daniel Wark from Waitahuna Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Community Engagement Award; Qualified Firefighter Olivia Weatherburn from Waikaka Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Innovation Award; CFO Jason Bryant from Ravensbourne Volunteer Fire Station
- Championing Diversity and Inclusion Award; Station Officer Dennis Hika from Kingswell Station
- Safety, Health and Wellbeing; Balfour Volunteer Fire Brigade
- Judges' Special Award; Brigade Volunteer Katherine Lamont from Queenstown Volunteer Fire Brigade

Below left: The first Omarama and Districts Co-Response team, and (right) some of the team members pictured in 2018 when responders - Geva Innes, Liz Komen, Georgie Robertson, Bruce Dyson, Charlotte Derosa, Sonya Trusler and Stephanie Lord had attended 46 medical call outs and 36 motor vehicle accidents.



Making it official, GlenCraigs changes hands

In the unlikely event you have missed the news, Craig and Glenys Dawson will officially hand over the keys of their successful retail business, GlenCraigs, to established Central South Island retailer Maureen Van Tiel on Monday.

In an interview Maureen told the Omarama Gazette GlenCraigs enjoyed a “unique location” and she greatly respected its history and Craig and Glenys’ involvement over such a long period of time.

They had been successful retailers and she would be learning from them, she said.

Craig and Glenys bought the shop in 1999 and they expanded the premises in 2001. The business was formerly the Ōmārama Trading Post and before that the old Post Office.

Maureen said she would be keeping the existing staff; Glen, Vicky, Pam and Lesley, and receiving a “helping hand” from Glenys who had agreed to staying on part time. And she is even keeping the name.

Glenys said she was grateful to still be involved because as the handover date approached she had been viewing retirement “with a sense of terror.”

Glenys had “become a friend.” Maureen said.

Maureen said she was keen to maintain loyalties to existing customers and, while the shop would be keeping all the old favourites, they would also be introducing the new. Plus they would be running a loyalty scheme.

With other retail outlets through the Central South Island sharp-eyed customers on the search for quality merino clothing may have spotted Maureen in Tekapo, Wanaka, or at the Wanaka A and P show.

“I love merino,” she said.

Maureen also had family connections in Oamaru and Timaru.

“I love people and I love retailing,” Maureen said.

GlenCraigs new owner Maureen Van Tiel (left) is looking forward to working with new-found friend Glenys Dawson.



Ospri shares TBfree update with farmers

OSPRI TBfree Update - *By Fiona Caldwell of Ospri New Zealand Ltd*

Last week, OSPRI's regional team spent two days in Omarama meeting with local farmers, many of whom have faced TB challenges in the past.

A big thank you goes to Simon Williamson for organising the sessions and to the farming families who shared their time, views, and recommendations for the TBfree programme.

In those meetings we received strong support for the TBfree programme and the shared goal of achieving TB freedom locally and across New Zealand.

Those we met with acknowledged the hard work of contractors operating under tough conditions, and provided valuable insights on areas with high possum numbers to help achieve full coverage and better outcomes.

There was clear backing for Ospri to continue TB control work and explore effective measures, including the option of aerial 1080 for efficient possum control.

There was emphasis on the importance of ongoing collaboration between Ospri, contractors, and landowners to ensure timing aligns with farm operations.

Concerns remain about pests on conservation land, and OSPRI will continue working closely with the Department of Conservation to achieve coverage and effective possum control.

We understand the community want a view of future of TBfree activities and funding in the region, so in the new year, Ospri will share its five-year plan and roadmap toward eradicating TB in South Canterbury and Otago.

TBfree pest control progress

Between June 1 and November 25, pest control teams across the Upper Waitaki / Omarama area (South Canterbury South TB Management Area) have made significant progress in reducing possum numbers:

34,000 Feratox® poison pills deployed

1,212 possums shot

1,712 trapped

233 dispatched by trained dogs

*From the team at OSPRI,
we hope you all have a safe and
happy holidays.*



A merry and bright Playgroup Christmas party

The rain may have come down but it was all so merry and bright with loads of bubbly fun for Santa's visit to Omarama's littlest people today. Rather than seasoned glider pilots – I didn't say old ☐ – the Glider Café was filled with tiny customers - and possibly potential pilots - as Playgroup gathered for its Christmas Party and end of year celebrations. And party food was order of the day with a magnificent spread of childhood favourites... can't you just taste those hot dogs!

Photos by Ruth Grundy, published with permission



Precious pets showcased for the day

WITH A WOOF, WOOF HERE AND A BAA, BAA THERE, NO MOO, MOOS
BUT MIAOU, MIAOU WAS THERE, TOO!

Old MacDonald could well be wondering where everybody got to on a fine Friday last month, ee, i, ee, i, o.

Seems like all the town's pets had gathered at the Omarama Sportsgrounds to put on their best show for their junior owners.

Last month the Omarama School held its Pet Day and every body who was anybody's pet was there.

There were dogs and horses and chickens and lambs and rams and guinea pigs and rabbits, a kunekune and a turtle, no cows but Miaou Miaou was there with all the other cats.

Needless to say the cats were less than impressed Ee, i, ee, i, o.

Vet Tim Horton, of the Omarama Veterinary Centre, explained how best to love and care for pets, and fielded questions.

The dogs were put through their paces on the agility course.

Artist Kathy Kerr adorned cherubic faces with works of art and there was heaps of water fun with Jack, Zane, Daniel and Maddi of the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade Ngawai and Keith Shaw provided pony rides. The Gloag family provided the temporary stock fencing and Kim Doree supplied the gazebo for the cats.

Judges Pam Harding and Tony Gloag were given the unenviable task of selection. Parents donated baking and Josh Brosnahan and Rata Smoke House donated the deer and processed sausages, to fill hungry tummies.

The event was unanimously declared to be a great success and a credit to organisers.

School parent Jo Golder instigated the event and was 'general admin' finding, judges and prizes organising advertising and liaising with the necessary people

Photos by Ruth Grundy, published with permission



Christmas Housie



Monday, December 15



at the

!!* Ōmārama Community Centre*!!

A shared lunch at 12 noon, Housie at 1pm,

All the usual fun

Plus just a few little surprises

A warm welcome to all



The Noticeboard

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

International Volunteer's Day is Friday, December 5. This year the United Nations has as its theme - "Every contribution matters". This community would scarcely function without the work of its volunteers - these pages are a record of those contributions big and small. We thank you all. Cheers to all of you in whichever field you put your skills, time and energy to use - you make the world of difference to our place.

To Sadie, Hazel and James Mason

On behalf of the Omarama Community especially those of us who have been following your many achievements we wish you every success as you take on new challenges next year. We are so proud of each of you.

Know we are with you all the way and wherever your adventures lead you Omarama will always be here to welcome you home.

Congratulations, love and best wishes to Jessie and Nate and wee Phoebe Toni for your big day.

Update, November's story 'It's taken a decade so far'.

In response to the question had there been any progress regarding the acquisition or otherwise by the council of former Rabbit Board land, council Support Services director Paul Hope replied:

"No further progress has been made on this since the Mayor's comment in April"

Clarification, November's story 'Weather stories dominate October'

Waitaki Emergency Management advisor Danny Fountaine emailed to clarify;

"The council did not stand-up an Emergency Operation Centre.

"We had put a limited number of staff on alert in case we did need to stand up, but we ended up managing with an Emergency Management Team that used council 'Business as Usual' to manage the event. In other words, what we stood down on the evening of the 23rd of October was a Emergency Management monitoring team, not

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.

Ōmārama MenzShed 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: 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 12.30pm tee-off 1pm. 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 '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 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 on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Bevan Allan bjallan@xtra.co.nz

FENZ Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm 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)

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. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group 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 Christmas Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, December 17, 2025.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, December 11, 2025

STOP PESTS INVADING OUR LAKES AND RIVERS

 **CHECK**
for what's visible

 **CLEAN**
for what's not visible

 **DRY**
to be sure

WHEN YOU MOVE BETWEEN
LAKES AND RIVERS



[ecan.govt.nz/
check-clean-dry](https://ecan.govt.nz/check-clean-dry)

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



 **Environment
Canterbury**
Regional Council
Kaunimera Tekeo ki Waitaha

LOVE OUR LAKES

Simple steps can reduce
your impact.



**POO IN
THE LOO**



**CHECK CLEAN DRY
YOUR BOATING GEAR**



**WASH CLOTHES /
DISHES AWAY
FROM WATERWAYS**



**BIN YOUR
RUBBISH**



ecan.govt.nz/loveourlakes



Help us find the needle in a haystack

Chilean needle grass (CNG) is an invasive grass that can grow up to one metre tall. It has bright green leaves and distinctive long-tailed seeds with a pointed base (6-7cm long). CNG is easiest to identify from late October until March during flowering and seeding when its drooping panicles have a red-purple tinge.

CNG spreads easily on clothing, machinery, vehicles, feed and livestock and is very difficult and costly to control once established.

Its sharp, needle-like seeds can also penetrate the flesh and eyes of livestock, causing serious injury and degrading meat and wool products.

CNG can be tricky to identify but our team is here to help.

If you have seen CNG or think you have it on your property, contact us on **0800 324 636** or visit **reportpests.nz**

ecan.govt.nz/chilean-needle-grass

 **Environment
Canterbury
Regional Council**
Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

CAN I SWIM HERE?

We monitor water quality at popular river, lakes and beaches over summer.

Check the water quality at

lawa.org.nz/swim



 **Environment
Canterbury
Regional Council**
Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

LAWA
LAND AIR WATER AOTEAROA



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 Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade first responder Lynley Pryde

The countdown to Christmas is on and we have noticed the roads are getting busier and there is a buzz around town. November has been a steady month with six medical calls, three motor vehicle crashes and one vegetation fire.

We have been busy training with our new recruits completing their two-day medical course and our First Responders completing their one day refresher training which we do every 6 months. It was a great training day which also involved a medical call-out and so we had our St John trainer turn out with us. Nothing like hands on training.

Personally, we have had birds nesting in our vehicle and after a clean out the very next day they were back. It's a good reminder that they don't just nest in farm vehicles, and we urge everyone to have a check under your bonnet especially if you are travelling out of town.

Thanks for your support for Toot for Tucker this week. If you missed us and want to donate, please drop off to the fire station and we will make sure it gets to where it's needed.

We also have our annual emergency services golf day which we have renamed as 'Bruce's bash' after our first responder Bruce Dyson who loved getting us all together socially with the added bonus of some friendly competition. Hopefully we do Bruce proud and hang on to the trophy. Go Fenz!

A big thank you for supporting us at the fire brigade and we wish you and your families a happy and safe Christmas.

The 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.co.nz or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909.

You can follow us on Facebook (Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade)

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade Golf Tournament

By Jack Zorab

Our annual Golf Tournament fundraiser is back on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at the Ōmārama Golf Club – and we'd love your support to make it a success.

This is our main fundraiser for the year, and the money raised will help us make the brigade more resilient in the event of a natural disaster or extended power outage, like those seen recently in Southland. We're working to ensure we have enough food, water and essential supplies on station to keep our volunteers and their families going for the first 48 hours. That way, they can focus on getting straight out and helping the community in an emergency instead of worrying that their own households are taken care of.

Here's how you can help:

- * Donate a prize for the raffle or auction – big or small, every contribution counts.
 - * Provide a salad or dish for the evening meal – we know we've got culinary wizards out in the community!
 - * Spread the word and encourage friends and family to take part and play a round.
- If you'd like to contribute, please email omarama@fireandemergency.nz or have a chat with Arron Chambers, our tournament organiser, by January 7 so we can plan ahead.

The official flyer will be out in the coming weeks with more details about the tournament.

And while we're preparing, we encourage everyone to think about their own household readiness. Check out <https://getready.govt.nz/> for tips and make your own household emergency plan.

Let's make this year's tournament the best yet – together!

Fenz Omarama recruits at their two-day medical course



OMARAMA FIRE BRIGADE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Saturday the 24th January, 2026

Stableford Tournament



Proceeds to Omarama Fire Brigade

EVERYONE WELCOME – Golfers and Non-Golfers

Come and throw some water about as well as balls!

ENTRY \$45 Per.Person

Cards in by 12.30pm Tee Off 1.00pm

BBQ on-course and Meal afterwards

Great Prizes and Raffles

Entries and Enquiries to:

Arron Chambers

arronandyema@xtra.co.nz

0272032340

Christmas Housie



Monday, December 15



at the

!!* Ōmārama Community Centre*!!

A shared lunch at 12 noon, Housie at 1pm,

All the usual fun

Plus just a few little surprises

A warm welcome to all





OMARAMA GOLF CLUB
NEW YEARS TOURNAMENT
ALL WELCOME

Saturday, 10th January 2026

Numbers will be limited per session

Morning Session: Report 8.00 a.m. for 8.30 a.m. tee off
(Lunchtime meal supplied)

Afternoon Session: Report 12.30 for 1.00 p.m. tee-off
(Evening meal supplied)

Prize Giving will be held at the conclusion of afternoon session

Stableford prizes

Entry fee: \$45.00

On-course BBQ - Great Prizes - Raffles - Great company

Entries to be received by Thursday 08th January 2026
CAMPervans WELCOME TO STAY OVERNIGHT

EFTPOS Available for Bar and Entries

Entries (including morning or afternoon session, club/player ID) to:

Greg Stuart email gregstuart10@gmail.com or TXT 0274389018

CHIROPRACTIC CARE in MACKENZIE BASIN & WAITAKI VALLEY

**Now serving the Omarama, Twizel and wider
Mackenzie Basin community from Omarama**

At Waitaki Chiropractic, our focus is on caring for people and supporting the health of our community. Dr's. Max and Maree have been serving Oamaru and the greater Waitaki district community, and we are grateful for the opportunity to now extend that care to **Omarama, Twizel and the wider Mackenzie Basin.**

Our aim is simple: to make chiropractic care accessible for families, farmers, workers, and anyone who values staying well and moving well. We believe chiropractic is part of the bigger picture of health, and we're proud to work alongside local GPs, physios, and fitness providers so people in our community get the best support possible.

This can support injury recovery, encourage better mobility, reduce back and neck pain, reduce headaches and much more. Our hands on approach to care is natural, and tailored to each individual—suitable for people of all ages.

**Get in contact with us or book online to start
your journey towards better health**

☎ 03 433 1888

✉ Info@waitakichiropractic.co.nz

🌐 www.waitakichiropractic.co.nz

ACC Accredited and registered - no referral required

Where you'll find us:

Omarama Practice:
Omarama Community Hall
35 Chain Hills Highway,
Omarama, 9412

Oamaru Practice:
22 Wear Street,
Oamaru,
9400



WAITAKI
CHIROPRACTIC



He Kōwhiri. He Manaaki.
He Whakaoa.
prevention. care. recovery.



NEW ZEALAND
CHIROPRACTORS'
ASSOCIATION

Supporting the Whānau's Pursuit for Excellence
Whānau ki te hāora.

Age Concern Ōmārama

Kathryn Bennett is the coordinator for Age Concern Waitaki, based in Oamaru.

Kathryn's contact details are: 03 434 7008, 027 4347 089

NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz

Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thurs - Fri 9-12.30pm

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

Ōmārama Knit Night
Is in recess for the year.
See you again in 2026

Ōmārama Golf Club

Saturday Club Day: cards in 12.30pm and tee-off at 1pm.

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

Ōmārama Community Garden

The weather held up the planned working bee but eventually a group of volunteers was able to get out and get stuck in to weeding and planting out seedlings. There is still room for more if anyone has spares they would like to pop in.

While there's still not a lot to pick the rain and warmth has made for good growth.

We have been battling the wind which wants to turn the covers into kites but

MenzShed are helping to make those a little more secure.

They've also taken on the build of a small produce share stall to sit at the gate. -

More on that to come.

Frustratingly the sparrows have taken a liking to the silver beet seedlings, eating several attempts at sowing down to the ground and even climbing under the covers to feast on their daily greens! The rhubarb in the new no-dig plot is ready to eat.

As a work in progress the grass paths between the plots will gradually be covered in wood chips as an easy care solution to mowing - the large commercial mower is not able to work these paths.

We're also putting out a call to see if some kind 'Santa' could drop off some bags of sheep manure. Six to eight bags would be ideal. The beds need a wee bit of a top up of nutrients to get the growth amped up a bit. - *Jennie and Ruth*

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. Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com



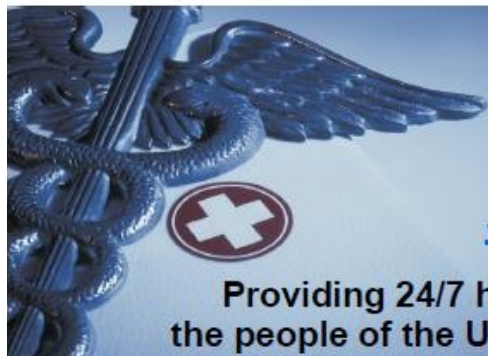
LJ Hooker Property Management

We don't just manage your property, we **maximise** your investment.

Get in touch to find out more!

Rachel Sheridan
Business Development
Manager
0274647751
pmrentals@mcre.co.nz





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

Wellness Matters

*A health column from the Kurow Medical/Mackenzie Health Centre Team
- contributed by Fiona Chamberlain*

As we head into December and the busy summer period our community begins to shift into that familiar mix of long days, hot weather, visitors, travelling, and end-of-year pressure. It's a time many of us look forward to, but it can also be a time when small health issues escalate quickly. This month, we want to share a few simple reminders to help keep you and your family well and safe over the holiday season.

Sun and heat safety

Our region is known for its strong sun and dry windy summers. Even short periods outdoors can lead to dehydration or sunburn more quickly than expected. Burnt skin can lead to skin cancer. To help prevent this, ensure you are using a broad-spectrum SPF 30+ sunscreen, reapplying through the day, and keeping children protected with hats, shade, and covered clothing when possible. If you're spending time at the lakes, rivers or working outdoors, keep an eye on how long you're in direct sun, drink water regularly, and rest in the shade when needed. Heat exhaustion can come on gradually, particularly for older adults, young children, and people with health conditions. Check the live UV index here <https://niwa.co.nz/atmosphere/uv-and-ozone/uv-and-ozone/todays-uv-index>

Food safety

Food-related illness is a common—and avoidable—summer health issue. Warmer temperatures, longer days and shared meals mean food is often left out longer than it should be. Remember to:

- Keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot
- If food has been sitting out of the fridge it's safer to throw it away
- Use clean utensils and avoid cross-contamination, especially between raw and cooked meats
- When travelling, use a chilly bin with plenty of ice packs, and keep it closed as much as possible
- Wash hands before preparing food, after handling raw meat, and any time you switch tasks

Staying Safe on the roads and outdoors

Many of us travel long distances in summer. Allow extra time, share driving where possible, take regular breaks, and avoid driving when tired. If you're boating, tramping, cycling or working outdoors, carry water, let someone know your plans, and check weather and fire conditions.

Managing health conditions and medications

December is also a time when routines change. If you or someone in your family has a long-term condition such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease or COPD, make sure medications are up to date before the public holidays. If you're unsure if you are due for a check-in, contact us early so we can help with planning and repeat prescriptions.

Ōmārama School Garden Club

The Waitaki District Council grants and awards subcommittee met recently to award grants to community groups in the district. In this latest round the Omarama School Garden Club application was successful and it was awarded \$2000.

The Garden Club meets Mondays at lunchtimes and the enthusiastic group is run by volunteers, led by Jennie Hales.

The group raises its own fruit and vegetable plants in a tunnel house and raised beds which MenzShed Omarama helped build. Surplus plants are shared with the Community Gardens and sold to raise funds.

*The Omarama School Garden Club gets to work each Monday at lunchtimes.
Photo: Jennie Hales (Photo published with permission)*



Ōmārama School contact details:
Phone: 03 438 9815

principal@omarama.school.nz,
office@omarama.school.nz
www.omarama.school.nz

Ōmārama Playgroup

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

For more information contact:

President Olivia Black 027 833 0869, vice-president Jess Townsend and secretary Bridie Brosnahan 027 341 3010
omaramaplaygroup@gmail.com

Boots and Jandals Hotel Social Club

By Philip Jannink

A fabulous day was had at the Boots and Jandals Omarama Hotel for the Social club annual Christmas function

A special thank you to Julie and the great team at the hotel who created a very memorable day including an amazing buffet meal for the numerous social club members attending this great event, so just a great day had by all.



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Brodie Craig CA

Ōmārama Gliding Club

Hello Omarama!

It's been an exciting few weeks here at the Gliding Club, we had club member Dane Dickenson set a new Gliding World Record! He flew a 100km course at a blistering 258kph, and it took him a total of 23 minutes to complete!

A true milestone of what can be achieved in our sport in the right conditions with the right pilots.

We've just had our South Island Regional Championships, with 20 South Island and North Island pilots and gliders here competing. It was an awesome week, although tricky with the weather, but with great company! We had some stellar days exploring the mountains, with a few gliders exploring some landout options on some of the strips around the place.

A big thank you to the folks at the Glider Café, they hosted us for breakfast, lunch, and dinner all week! Phenomenal service and great hospitality, if you haven't yet-head on down for a treat. Maybe come learn to fly with us too! We always welcome new pilots.

See you on the flight line!

Omarama Gliding Club manager Charlie Irvin

And from Omarama Gliding Club captain Rod Stuart's Captain's log, December 2025...

Christmas wishes and all the best for the New Year to everyone.

As 2025 draws to an end we can reflect on the year gone by and be grateful for all the good things that have happened. The OGC is so lucky to fly at one of the best mountain gliding sites in the world.

We are a small club that looks after all our members and hosts many visiting pilots from New Zealand and overseas.

We work closely with Omarama Airfield Ltd and the Omarama Soaring Centre to create a unique experience for everyone that visits Omarama.

There has been a lot of change this season and many people are putting in a lot of work in to make these changes worthwhile. 2026 promises to be a settling year where gliding in Omarama reaches a newfound peace.

It is in all our interests to work towards building a safe and fun environment where everyone enjoys "A great day on the airfield!"

Happy landings, Rod Stuart OGC Club Captain

At the South Island Regional Gliding Championships - fun was had!

Photo: Reece Fisher Omarama Gliding Club




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Ōmārama Residents' Association

The Omarama Residents' Association annual meeting was held in October. An election of officers was held and the new constitution and bylaw regarding St Thomas's Church funds was adopted.

The annual meeting was followed by the meeting for October. The November meeting was on Thursday, November 20. The minutes of the meetings are available from the secretary

**The December meeting followed by the Christmas function
of the Ōmārama Residents' Association is
6pm, Thursday, December 18, 2025
at the Glider Café.**

Residents' Association of Ōmārama committee 2025-26

Stephen Grundy, chairperson

Michelle Kitchen, vice-chairperson and hall curator

Vicky Chambers, secretary

Richard Kitto, treasurer

Hank Verheul, building/projects convenor

Malcolm Cameron, MenzShed representative

Natalie Beiboer

Maurice Cowie

Jennie Hales

Gary Sutherland

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

Could all those who want to contact the association by mail,
send accounts to be paid,
or have correspondence considered at the monthly meetings
ensure it is addressed to:

The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.

The association's email address is omarama.committee@gmail.com

ŌMĀRAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more
information about hall hire and availability
please contact Michelle Kitchen 027 280 5446
or email hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz



Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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

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.

All welcome. Join the Facebook group.

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'The Community Reports' is
dedicated to news
from clubs, groups and sports teams.

Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com

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

If you need any of the services listed below please contact:

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel

Phone: 03 435 0687

Email: admin@twizelcare.co.nz

Hours of opening: 9am - 3pm

Days of opening: Monday - Friday

- **A reminder we have a food bank** available with no questions asked
Our contact details are 03 4350687 and email admin@twizelcare.co.nz if you would like to arrange a convenient time to collect a parcel. (Donations of non-perishable or foods that can be frozen always welcome)
- **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. Monday to Friday
- **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.
- **Immigration** - passport and other Government agencies.
- **Cancer Society Navigator** – support for anyone with any cancer each third Thursday of every month
- **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**
- **Arowhenua Whanau services** – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- **Access to a computer**, printing, free WIFI, community notice boards

Waitaki District Council November news

ICYMI Council meetings are recorded and can be found on its YouTube channel.

Christmas break:

The council headquarters and service desks will close at midday Wednesday, December 24, for the Christmas break and will reopen 8.30am, Monday, January 5, 2026.

During the break you will still be able to contact Animal Control, Noise Control, and make reports to the council about water leaks, roading issues, fallen trees etc by contacting the on-call team at 03 433 0300.

Parking metres replaced

New cashless, ticketless metres have been installed in Oamaru as the replacement of the town's metres begins.

Revenue from Council's parking machines declined from \$249,422 in 2019 to just \$79,732 in 2024. This is in part due to the age and breakdowns of the machines. In March 2025 just eight of the 46 machines were fully functional with 14 completely out of service and a further 24 unable to take debit or credit cards.

The cost of replacing the machines is \$350,000, which will be paid for out of the \$424,389.50 parking meter depreciation reserve.

These machines are expected to have a life of over a decade, with appropriate maintenance.

Council staff will be hold a session at the Ōamaru Library about how to use the new metres and will provide information on its website and on social media.

The council keep the 1-hour free parking during December and January, however, from the start of February this will stop, and there will be a six-month trial of a 15-minute courtesy parking period.

The trial will also get feedback from businesses on the effect on footfall, and any decision about permanent changes will be made by the Mayor and Councillors in 2026.

Minister confirms Crown Facilitator appointment

Local Government Minister Simon Watts has addressed the council's reservations regarding the costs to ratepayers of Crown Facilitator for Water Services Amy Adams appointment and confirmed she would start work Monday, November 10.

After its November 4 meeting the council had written to the minister to accept the appointment with reservations around the timing of the notification, and the cost of the facilitator being borne by the Waitaki District Council.

Ahuriri Community Board member Calum Reid was re-elected as chairman at its first meeting last month.

All five board members and their ward councillor were re-elected unopposed in last month's election. Otematata resident Steve Dalley was re-elected as deputy chairman.

Mr Reid said water would be a key issue for the next triennium.

He told the Oamaru Mail, heading into the summer period, tourism numbers were expected increase which brought with it concerns about rubbish and freedom camping.

Omarama had a "huge rubbish issue" associated with increased visitors he said.

The board would also review town plans for Duntroon and Kurow through the next term.

Justices of the Peace

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- * Certify copies.
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- * Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



Vicky Munro

Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



Alona Shaw

Omarama

027 773 4214

Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki



Wishing you a happy summer break, I hope you can enjoy time with family and friends. Travel safe over the Christmas and New Year period.

Our Wanaka and Oamaru Offices will be closed from 19th December 2025 and will reopen on 8th January 2026.

 Waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

Oamaru Office

127 Thames Street, Oamaru • 0800 679 248

Wānaka Office

Level 2, Spencer House Mall,
12/31 Dunmore Street, Wānaka • 0800 679 248

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Garden Diary - a matter of perspective

It's a bit of a trek from the back door to the washing line. And back.
But it's the journey not the destination.

The garden has filled out, in all directions.

There are discoveries to be made each morning – distractions pulling me hither and thither from the well-worn path. Getting to the line and back can take some time. A glimpse of something new through the gate and behind the hedge and under the crab apple, the dappled light on the butterfly rose, the raspberries tumbling down to the sunshine imploring it to turn them ruby red and sweet as.

The garden is in a complete and serious state of neglect, the roses did not get pruned this year – a broken arm does that.

But wow! That and the rain and the warmth and that the possum must have moved - this year the roses take my breath away. All there is to do is to stand and stare and inhale. The garden has never been this chaotic. It is unbelievably beautiful.

There is a panorama of roses in all colours - strawberries and cream, apricot and peaches, fizzy lemon and flummed plum. They have scrambled up and thrown themselves over and spread themselves out. Everywhere.

There is the buxom Constance Spry with intoxicating La Ville de Bruxelles at her feet. Gloire de Dijon is summing the cherry and Alchemist is winding up through the Golden Queen. Cécile Brünner and Mutablis follow the wisteria up through the cherry plum weaving through its red-purple leaves.

Veilchenblau has made it to the top of the hazelnut and Purity and the honeysuckle have combined forces to all but obliterate the glass house.

Never mind they never got tied up in place so were caught and had fallen in the windstorms, Crepuscule and Souvenir D'Un Ami are now spreading a waterfall of flowers across the drive – and no, we're not cutting them back now until they're done.

Don't mistake me, there is ugly.

Albéric Barbier has somehow suddenly succumbed to something leaving only the ugliest of skeletons against the old house. A chainsaw will be needed on its massive half metre wide trunk. Now that will be a job!

There is still uncleared winter debris, the unfettered pineapple mint has staged a whole-of-garden takeover bid and there's the weed-smothered veggie garden, with couch now as high as an elephant's eye.

The battle is real – but I'll have help on that front shortly.

This week three new chooks come home - the Brontë Sisters - they'll make short work of that and give fresh eggs for Christmas.

In the lingering dusk I head slowly back from the line, face buried in sun-dried sheets.

I saw my first butterfly, a Red Admiral, last week.
Hello Summer!

*By Ruth Grundy,
I garden a small space under the big sky in
Ōmārama.*





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

November 2025

Highest temperature: November 5, 25.7C

Lowest temperature: November 16, -0.1C

Most rainfall: November 27, 16.3mm mm

Total rainfall for November: 48 mm

The Ōmārama Gazette

Ōmārama's news delivered to your inbox
the first Wednesday of each month

To subscribe email:

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