



# Ōmārama Gazette

February 2025

## Teamwork and planning pass the test

This one was not a drill but those involved say the past five years of training and preparation paid off leading to a “great outcome” for all concerned.

On Monday, about 3.45pm, emergency services were alerted to an incident on the Sailors Cutting to Benmore section of the Alps to Ocean Trail, Senior Constable Nayland Smith said.

He received a call from Hato Hone St John to say that a cyclist had been found unconscious on the trail at a point not easily accessed.

“Police activated, fire activated and we all got dispatched.”

The response included the Ōmārama and Otematata volunteer fire brigades and first response, Omarama Search and Rescue and the Otago Southland Rescue Helicopter. In the event the injured cyclist walked down the bank to a boat and got a ride back to Sailors Cutting, Snr Cnst Smith said.

The cyclist was checked there by the helicopter paramedics and cleared.

*Emergency services had the chance to put training into practice at a call out on Monday. Photo: Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade*

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# Teamwork and planning pass the test - continued

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Since that section of the trail was opened in December 2020, and in recognition of the fact usual emergency vehicles may not be able to reach patients, the combined local services have regularly trained on and refined a “pre-plan” in case of an incident such as this.

In the agreed pre-plan the Mackenzie Lakes Coastguard can also be called.

The incident happened at “mile marker 22” which was an “awkward spot where banks are steeper”, Snr Const Smith said.

The person who called emergency services was not English speaking and although the GPS coordinates for the informant were known, that did not give them the location of the incident.

“It is imperative [people on the trail] take note of the mile markers,” he said.

It could take about ½ an hour to ¾ of an hour for services to get Sailors Cutting before they could begin to make their way to any incident.

While there are off-road access routes through to the trail at various points they are few and cell phone coverage on this section was patchy.

This was the first time this training had been called on and it was rewarding to see it all come together, Snr Const Smith said.

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade deputy chief fire officer Jack Zorab said the crews had spent a lot of time and effort preparing for such an event and it was good to have a “great outcome”.

The rescue team had made it to the “staging point” and meanwhile “a member of the

*Below: Cyclists travelling on the Sailors Cutting to Benmore section of the Alps to Ocean Trail are warned of the dangers. The trail travels through a remote area with steep banks. Photos by Ruth Grundy*



# Encouraging learning success on farm

Fynn Archbold (16) could not be more excited about the direction his career path has taken these past weeks.

Last year he was a Rangiora High School year 12 pupil.

Last week he joined 20 other young people to begin a two-year Growing Future Farmers' course.

Fynn said while he joined to learn new skills and to become independent, he was "very excited" about the prospect of leaving the course with a "good set of working pups".

The young people including fellow students Katie McNay and Victoria Kyle spent the week at Ōmārama Station as part of the training organisation's South Island Orientation.

Ōmārama station owners Annabelle and Richard Subtil are two of the scheme's farm trainers, who are spread throughout the country, and Annabelle is one of four directors.

On the day the Ōmārama Gazette visited a small group was taking a horse care workshop run by Annabelle.

Other groups were engaged in activities including quad and side-by-side vehicle training.

The week included instruction from Dave Robertson from Oamaru Vets and Otekaieke farmer and dog triallist Greg Metherall who gave the students lessons in pup care and training.

The students who gathered at Omarama Station had come from throughout the South Island to begin the New Zealand Qualification Authority-approved course. They enrol in polytechnic and study for Primary Industries (level 2 and 3) and the Certificate in Agriculture (level 3) Meat and/or Fibre strand.

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## *Encouraging learning success on farm - continued*

GFF's South Island student success advisor and sheep and beef farmer from Parnassus, Fiona Bush, joined the students for their orientation week.

Their live-in, on-farm experience with their assigned farm trainers is complemented by courses with 'expert trainers' in shearing, 4WD training, fencing, chainsaw use, animal health and dog training, to teach them all-round essential farm skills, Fiona said.

There was a new intake of students each year and they graduated farm ready with two working dogs - a header and a huntaway - to work on sheep beef and deer farms.

The majority of students, or "cadets" came to the course straight from school, some had been in the workforce for a year and most came from urban backgrounds, she said.

It offered a "different pathway" for those keen on a rural career to that offered by agricultural training institutes.

The programme grew out of the idea of offering those from urban backgrounds, who may have no family connections to the land, the opportunity to embark on a farming career.

The "complete urbanites" may be "really interested" but have no access to opportunities, she said.

The programme began in Gisborne five years ago in recognition that the meat and fibre industry needed to widen its pool of recruits.

The farm trainers – "our gold" – gave up their time to "grow great young people", building skills and character, she said.

Ōmārama Station was one of 20 farm trainers in the South Island.

These provided the practical on-farm training as cadets worked alongside the existing workers.

The cadets were provided with a living allowance, fully-furnished on-farm accommodation - with power, heating and WiFi, had meat supplied and were given a heading pup and a huntaway in their first year.

Fiona said such was the growing reputation of the programme for teaching skills which are consistent across the country that 98% of the students were placed on farms when they graduated.

The student success advisor role – one of pastoral care - was to make sure they succeeded.

"We want the kids to be successful to learn and to come out passionate about sheep and beef farming," Fiona said.

Fynn said he was beginning the programme feeling confident. He had never been close to a horse before let alone ridden one, an essential skill for a high country farm.

Orientation week was not all hard work and no play, with a trip to the Clay Cliffs and competition clay bird shooting thrown in.

The students had their first day on-farm on Monday.

The Ōmārama Gazette hopes to follow the progress of the students through the next two years.

# Gemma is heading to the top!

In May young fire fighter Gemma Patterson will take on what promises to be the biggest physical challenge of her life so far.

Each year firefighters from across the country and the globe come together to take on the gruelling challenge of climbing the 1103 steps of Auckland's Sky Tower in full firefighting kit, to raise money for leukaemia or blood cancer.

Gemma always thought she might “do it one day”, then there was” no time like the present”.

It was an “impulse”, she said.

“But once I made the decision, I had to see it through.”

Gemma joined Fire and Emergency New Zealand two years ago after signing up during an Ōmārama Fire Brigade open day.

Not long after that she moved to Oamaru and so initially became a member of the Oamaru Volunteer Fire Brigade, but now turns out for both Oamaru and Ōmārama when she is back ‘home’.

With 107 days to go until the big day training has begun. Most evenings she trains at the gym using ‘stair master’ – a fitness machine, something her team captain recommended.

Fire brigade training nights were “rest nights”, she said laughing.

There are four others from the Oamaru Brigade completing the challenge.

Those taking it on pay their own way to Auckland and for their accommodation expenses.

*Oamaru and Ōmārama firefighter Gemma Patterson encourages wannabe firefighters at the Ōmārama Emergency Services expo last year.*

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# *Gemma is heading to the top! - continued*

Gemma said that while she does not personally know anyone with leukaemia or blood cancer she knows those battling other cancers.

“All and any one of them matters,” she said.

She was “really excited” about her bid, and it wasn’t until she visited Auckland recently and looked up she began to feel “a bit nervous”.

“I know I can do it. I hope I can anyway.”

The support from the community through their donations had been motivation to “get to the top” as quickly as she can.

Gemma has raised \$2993 so far in her individual campaign. She has set a goal of \$4000.

A large part of that already raised was from the bingo afternoon and baking auction held at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall last month which about 60 people attended. That raised \$1915.

Gemma wanted to thank all of those who contributed baking for the auction, with a special thank you to Ōmārama baker Julie Grant.

Gemma said she loved being part of the fire brigade, she couldn’t imagine not being a firefighter now – “I have another family”.

NB If you missed the opportunity to donate or want to follow progress you can go directly to this link: <https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/gemma-patterson>

*Gemma began her fundraising campaign for the firefighters' Sky Tower challenge with a bingo afternoon and baking auction at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall last month. Photo; Supplied.*



# Dispersal of funds from church sale discussed

Matters are progressing on the question of the dispersal of the funds to the community from the sale of St Thomas's Church.

In July 2023, the Otago Foundation Trust Board – the property arm of the Synod of Otago and Southland of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa - sold the building and land because it was no longer being used by a church congregation.

The St Thomas's Church Community management committee was wound up in July last year.

Following this there was a submission made to the Synod of a community expression of interest in the dispersal of funds from the sale.

This was because the land and the building were donated and church built by the community for its use.

A concept for a project to use the funds – a community chapel, wellbeing and care centre - which met the Synod's legal requirements, was put to the Residents Association of Ōmārama and approved at its June meeting.

In response to the submission, in November, the Residents' Association received a letter and supporting documents from the Synod's legal representatives setting out conditions for a full and final settlement.

The Residents' Association committee decided it needed to seek legal advice prior to accepting this settlement and it nominated two representatives to manage this.

In addition, the land value has not been included in the amount put forward by the synod as the final settlement and the association's committee is debating whether this should be followed up.

While there was a brief discussion of the matter at its special January meeting the committee has decided to take direction at its next full committee meeting later this month.

The meeting is at 7pm, Thursday, February 20, at the Ōmārama Community Centre.





# Generator powering our way

There's a 40KVA generator sitting in Christchurch with Ōmārama's name on it.

Now the paperwork is done, the 'i's dotted and 't's crossed, and the holiday break is over, the fundraising group is ready to 'collect' that which has been 'clicked' and bring 'er home.

Four possible suppliers of generators were considered and when the chosen supplier, Q-Power, was contacted to confirm the purchase the manager's response was that there was one sitting there "with your name on it".

And there's a party planned – or most likely a barbecue - to welcome this workhorse to town and to thank our sponsors. They made this possible.

## To recap:

Last May a joint project team got their heads together and began fundraising for a portable generator for community use.

By November the representatives of the Ōmārama Emergency Management Group, the Ōmārama Residents' Association and Ōmārama MenzShed had raised just over \$40,000 for the generator primarily to provide power for the Ōmārama Community Centre in the case of an emergency. Of this about \$15,000 was contributed by individuals - an incredible show of generosity and support from a small community.

## Some background:

In 2019, as part of the Civil Defence Emergency Management strategy, Ōmārama Police, Fire and Emergency, Search and Rescue and other volunteers put together an emergency management plan for the area to be put into action in case of a disaster. The Ōmārama Community Centre has been designated as the 'community shelter' where 'displaced' people, including visitors to town can gather for safety, warm shelter, food and medical attention.

The potential for the alpine fault to rupture was largely the motivation for this, but the plan can be put in place for any major emergency.

*Yep, one of those, Q-Power, please, but with a merino ram, not the fruit, thanks. Photo: QPower*





Because of our location Ōmārama can be cut off from help for days or weeks by snow or flooding and it can take some time for help to get here to reinstate power and other services.

The Ōmārama Emergency Management Group has long held the goal to have a generator large enough - 40KVA - to meet the needs of evacuees and enable the town to be self-sufficient in such an emergency.

There is no generator in Ōmārama with the capacity to run the necessary facilities at the Ōmārama Community Centre in an emergency.

The formation of the Ōmārama MenzShed group made this joint project viable.

MenzShed needs a portable generator to power its facility and to give it the flexibility to work at other sites on community projects.

This asset will be used to develop the skills and capacity of the group.

In return for its use MenzShed has committed to its regular maintenance and upkeep.

Waitaki Emergency Management has agreed to pay for the lockout or change-over switch, which will be installed at the hall by A2O Electrical shortly.

And we'll let you know when it arrives...

### **We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the following for their generous generator donations...**

- \* Sierra Motels
- \* Ōmārama Rodeo Club
- \* Merino Lodge
- \* Ian and Jan Mckie
- \* Peter and Adrienne Borrie
- \* David and Anne Coulter
- \* Graeme and Andy Oxley
- \* Jenny Mollard
- \* Ruth Dolan
- \* Blair and Alona Shaw
- \* The New Zealand Community Trust
- \* The Otago Community Trust
- \* Meridian Energy Waitaki Power Up Community Fund

### **About Q-Power**

QPower has branches in Hamilton, Christchurch, Dunedin and Central Otago and a team of advisors and diesel generator technicians who operate in some of the most remote parts of the country.

The New Zealand-owned company imports generators from around the world and can not only supply the generator but also provides maintenance and servicing.

QPower has provided generators to farms, dairy factories, councils, civil defence, hospitals, Fire and emergency service providers, construction and infrastructure companies and network and power companies.

# And that's a wrap, thanks from the team

Some of you may be wondering what direct financial benefits have come from the Simon Gault event staged in November.

The organising team would like to share that, as expected and budgeted, a modest profit was made.

After paying some expenses and making some smaller donations by way of a thank you to those volunteer groups who gave freely of their time to help, a donation of \$2,700 has been made to the Ōmārama MenzShed.

But that's not all, Simon recently contacted Georgie to tell her that his offer to donate 10% of all sales from Ōmārama made at his online shop, [www.gaultsdeli.co.nz](http://www.gaultsdeli.co.nz), to the MenzShed will continue until December this year. Customers need to use the codeword: Omarama10 for this to happen.

Simon is making these donations directly to MenzShed month-by-month.

We hope we have thanked all those who contributed to making this the success it was

If there is anyone we have missed, please accept our sincere apologies.

*Sincerely,*

*Georgie, Ruth, the Simon Gault event organising team and Ōmārama MenzShed*



# ICYMI Introducing Ōmārama Lodge

The low-key opening of Ōmārama's latest dining attraction, Ōmārama Lodge in Pinot Noir Court, belies the good deal of planning and hard work behind the scenes to bring the new owners' dreams to fruition.

The Lodge, formerly known as Ladybird Hill Vineyard and Restaurant in Ōmārama, opened without fanfare this past weekend and it just happened to coincide with another important celebration for the Cosgriff family – Max's birthday.

Partners Nicola and Campbell Barbour, who are Auckland-based, and Tony and Teisha Cosgriff and the boys, Alex (15) and Max (13), who are Twizel-based - bought the property from long-time Ōmārama residents Rodger and Donna Smail last year. Tony is Nicola's brother.

The family's excitement at seeing their new venture finally come to fruition is palpable and plans tumble out, one hot on the heels on another as the couple detail the journey to this point and into the future.

To Tony, taking on the opportunity to develop the potential of the well-known Ōmārama property was almost a no-brainer.

And it's where the boys caught their first fish, he said.

The family have holidayed in the district over the years, camping at Ohau C and going on to build a house in Twizel.

It has been 'all go' since they bought the Pinot Crt property and they made a conscious decision to begin quietly and start slowly to give all involved a chance to settle in, Tony said.

The partnership has employed Nepalese chefs Hemanta and Setoshana Sharma who have created a menu focussed on a wide variety tapas, small plates and platters with a local emphasis, and a good variety of vegetarian options on offer. House-smoked salmon will continue to be a speciality. *- continued over*





# *Introducing Ōmārama Lodge - continued*

The drinks menu also includes locally-produced wines with neighbouring Central Otago drops featuring.

The venture is supported by Lions-owned craft brewery, Emerson's, with strong family ties to its founding family. Tony and Nicola's father helped build its first breweries in Dunedin.

Tony, himself is a builder and his company Alliance Building and Asbestos Ltd, in Christchurch, specialises in asbestos removal. Most recently Teisha has worked on the administration side of that business.

But for the family the best day outside the office has to be spent involved in sport – they share a passion for outdoor activities, particularly athletics, both recreational and in the amateur field.

Teisha, who back in the day represented Australia in indoor netball, has played a significant role in sports coaching and management with young people and schools in Canterbury.

Previously, she has worked as a coach for St Margaret's College and is now one of the team who manages Te Ropu Oma O Waitaha - Runners of Canterbury cross country.

This is a group for year 5 to 8 girls and boys who are keen cross-country runners. Both Max and Alex's strengths lie in track, field and cross country with Alex representing New Zealand in hockey against Australia during an Anzac challenge tournament last year.

At the lodge Tony and Teisha say promotional plans will focus on the weddings, conferences and corporate markets although they will also continue to focus on tourism.

They plan to "keep tending the vineyard and the orchard" and are also working towards re-opening the Ladybird Hill track, although maintenance work is necessary to bring it up to the safety standards now required, so completion of that is possibly still about 18 months away.

More immediately on the 'to do' the list is developing a dinner menu and with a plan to open for high-end evening dining shortly.

And as well as plans to continue the renovation of the dining area, including developing a conference centre, tentatively plans are also underway to add accommodation.

<https://www.omaramalodge.co.nz/>  
Omarama Lodge, New Zealand

# Looking back to take things forward

Come October and I will have been guardian of this publication - the Ōmārama Gazette - for ten years. My how time flies when you're having fun!

Reaching a milestone is always a cause to reflect.

You may have noticed slight changes in layout style this issue but that is purely cosmetic.

I have ideas for a fresh approach which I hope will improve the publication overall and which I'll be exploring over the next wee while.

However, I'll be working to make any changes as seamless as possible.

I'd love your help with some of these.

Firstly, if you don't mind testing out a few of the experiments on behalf of all of us and giving your feedback then please send an email to [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com) and I will include you.

Secondly, I plan to ask a couple of questions of you in each issue to try to gauge how best to 'renovate' the publication to meet our future needs and what should be left in the archives, so to speak.

This month's question is:

Would you please rank from 1 to 5 how important each of these sections of the Gazette is to you, with 1 being least important and 5 being most important.

- The news stories
- The Noticeboard
- The Community Reports
- The Puzzle
- The Weather.

Again you may email [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

The Ōmārama Gazette is our very own. Your feedback will help shape its future.

*Thank you,  
Ruth Grundy,  
Editor*



## -OMARAMA GAZETTE-

October 2015  
sponsored by

Asure Sierra Motel and Tackle Shop



It's time to dust off those 'gone fishing' signs, shut the office door, leave the world behind, and take off into the wild blue of Omarama.

But be sure to pay a visit to Cathy and Neville Ferguson, of Asure Sierra Motel, before you head out.

Because they also run a fully-stocked tackle shop, with lures and baits for all waters - rivers, lakes and canals.

Neville, a keen fisherman himself, is happy to give advice and may even be coaxed into giving directions to good fishing spots.

The changes to licensing regulations this season mean there are many more choices available, especially for short-term fishers.

A whole season licence is valid from October 1 to September 30, 2016.

### FISHING LICENCE PRICES

#### WHOLE SEASON

(October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016)

Adult	\$124
Loyal senior (new)	\$186
Junior	\$23
Child under 12	Free
Family	\$161
Local area (new)	\$99
Non-resident (whole season)	\$161

#### 24-HOUR LICENCE

Adult	\$20
Junior	\$5
Short break (new)	\$45
Long break (new)	\$57



Ruth Adams (left) has joined the CSI team after the retirement of the legendary Graeme Hughes. Ruth is based in Temuka.

THE NEW SPORTS FISHING SEASON OPENS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1.

For the Central South Island Region (CSI) that means that the

# What caught your eye this month?

Just prior to the holiday break we began a new regular feature on the Ōmārama Gazette Facebook page - Photo Friday.

It is where we invite you to share a photo of something that has caught your eye or made you smile during the previous week.

We really do love to see them and invite you to post your 'Photo Friday' in the comments.

We'll then also share those photos here in this new regular section.

here is a selection from the past two months.

At right: The evening sky by Noah Tiplady.

Below: (clockwise from left) Seals sunbathe at Friendly Bay, Oamaru, by Julie Grant; Sunflowers planted by the Omarama School garden club come into bloom; Malcolm Cameron's tunnel house is chocka with tomatoes and the girls enjoy their visit to Shanty Town, by Jennie Hales.







# The Noticeboard

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



**Our sincere condolences to the family** and many friends of Neville Orford who died in Timaru last month, especially to Prue, Dave, Samantha and Jack O'Neill.

**We wish those who are struggling with ill health a speedy recovery** and also give a special shout out to their carers and support people.

**A very happy birthday** to Noah Tiplady who turned 18 last month.

**The Omarama Collie Dog Club Trials** will be at the club grounds at Dalrachney Station, 2180 Omarama/Tarras Rd March 1 and 2.

Entries Close 10am 2nd Day.

Contact: Elizabeth Bertenshaw, phone 027 740 9742.

Email: [elizabeth.mitchellgreen@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.mitchellgreen@gmail.com)

**Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre**, is now open Tuesdays 9am to 5pm (Nurse only) and Thursday 8.30am to 1pm with Dr Tim Gardner. 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 9am to 10am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

**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:**

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. Twilight golf 5pm Thursdays. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340. [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://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](mailto: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 president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 [rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com) or secretary Olivia Black, 027 833 0869.

**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](mailto: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. 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. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

**Waitaki Newcomers Network:** For more information about this group 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**

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 March Issue of the Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, March 5, 2025.**

Please submit copy  
by Thursday February 27, 2025



# The Community Reports

## Ōmārama Police



*Hi all,*

Well 2025, and a month gone already!

The Xmas period was busy for police in the Waitaki Valley but nothing more than normal. We had a few vehicle crashes but I reckon less than we normally have. But I have noticed an increase in driving complaints especially in the last few months, I have no idea why, perhaps it's an increase in tourist numbers who are by far the majority of offending drivers in this neck of the woods at least.

On Saturday one of our young farm boys turned 21. It was great to see that he had organised his Aunty to be a sober driver

and also organised for anyone who wanted to stay, to have a place for where they could put their head down.

Unfortunately one young gent who did the right thing and stayed the night because he'd been drinking thought that five hours sleep would be enough for him to be sober and not fatigued. I'm highly doubtful he would have passed an alcohol test and as for the fatigue? Well, he fell asleep and crashed down a steep bank rolling his truck and with it coming to rest on its roof. Thankfully, he was okay and only suffered a couple of cuts and bruises. The Fire boys from Otematata, Omarama, and I were amazed that he walked away from this. It could so easily have been a fatal.

It takes up to 12 hours for alcohol to be absorbed completely out of your system, of course this is dependent on how much you've drunk. But if you've had a good night on the turps I can assure you that five hours won't cut it.

I'm just glad that we didn't have to deal with a dead 25-year-old male, who from all accounts is a good bugger, never been in trouble etc, what you would call an all-round good kiwi bloke, and no doubt loved by his family and friends....if the worst had happened it would have been an avoidable tragedy. It's something you should think about before doing dumb shit like this.

No doubt there will be a lot of people on the road this coming weekend with more than normal overseas visitor numbers and Waitangi Day being nice and close to the weekend. So be careful out there, take your time and watch out for the nutters.

*Cheers, Bean.*

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](mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)

# Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Well, just like that, we are at the end of January! We hope that you all had an enjoyable festive holiday period. The 13 callouts in December brought our total number of callouts for the 2024 calendar year to a record 127. To date we have been to 11 calls in January.

In 2024, we welcomed five new members to the Brigade and said goodbye to seven. Aside from callouts it was a fun packed year with home fire safety visits, an open day, Halloween festivities, recognition of the employers' programme, culinary learning with Simon Gault, and a fun day at the Top 10, not forgetting our annual golf day between Fenz and Police/Sar in November where Fenz took back the trophy.

We carried out one home safety visit at the end of last year. These will be resuming again shortly, so if you put your name down you can expect to hear from us soon. Our Annual Golf Tournament was held January 25 with 42 players on the field. The day was perfect for golfing as it wasn't too hot, this was a blessing for Deputy Chief Fire Officer Jack who walked around the course in breathing apparatus for people to guess how long the air in the tank would last. The day was a great success and we raised approximately \$2,800 from this event and thank you to all our sponsors and helpers on the day.

On a serious note, we would remind you that we are in a prohibited fire season, with strong wind warnings at present and we would remind you all to be vigilant around activities that could create sparks or heat.

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

**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 are welcome.**

**Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Greg Harper, 021 293 1171**



**Antony Ford CA**



- Farm Accounting Expertise
- Business Advice
- Family and Succession Planning

*If you would like us to visit you, please call and arrange a time.*

**e.** [office@fordsimpson.co.nz](mailto:office@fordsimpson.co.nz)

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

**PHONE 03 687 2080**



**Brodie Craig CA**



Boots and Jandals Hotel  
Omarama Social Club  
Spud in a Bucket  
function, including judging  
will be held at 2.30pm,  
Sunday, February 9.

There will be a free meal provided  
for social club members  
later in the day.

Hope to see you there for a  
fun-filled afternoon

# Weather plays ball for tournie

By Ruth Grundy

The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade's golf tournament proceeded last month without incident in somewhat calmer weather conditions than those which saw it postponed from its usual Labour Weekend date last year.

The planned 2024 annual Fire brigade fundraiser was postponed because of an unseasonal storm which swept through the central South Island.

Ōmārama Golf Club secretary and fire brigade volunteer Arron Chambers said there was a good field of 43 entrants including eight women golfers – a few less than would normally have attended the Labour weekend tournament.

Along with strong local support there had been good support from holiday makers with players from Christchurch, Dunedin, Oamaru, Timaru and Cromwell entering.

Players faced a cooler, overcast summer's day, if a little muggy, for the stableford tournament – something deputy fire chief Jack Zorab may well have been grateful for as he tackled the challenge of moving around the golf course in full kit carrying breathing apparatus as entrants attempted to guess, for a donation, the distance he would travel before the gas cylinder ran out.

There were also the more traditional raffles and prizes held to raise funds..

The tournament is the brigade's biggest fundraiser for the year.

Arron thanked the sponsors and gave a special thanks to Bruce and Julie Dyson, of Boots and Jandals Hotel Ōmārama, who allowed their staff, who are also brigade members, to help with the barbecue and serving food during the day.

As well, brigade members volunteered their time to manage the catering.

## Results:

First place Women's Division: Sandra Kitto

Country Rover: Rob Labes

First Place Men's Division: John English

Fireman's Walk time winner: Peter Trusler

*Right: Junn Poboy and Dominic Walsh volunteer at the barbeque.*





# Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



**Wishes to Thank all the Sponsors and Entrants of  
our 2024 (Postponed) Golf Tournament held on  
the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2025.**

A Great Day had by all with the following results:

**1<sup>ST</sup> Place Women's Division: Sandra Kitto      Country Rover: Rob Labes**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place Men's Division: John English      Fireman's Walk time winner: Peter Truster (1hr 44)**

**Please look to support our sponsors of the Event:**

*Heartland Chips  
Chopped Butchery  
Liquorland Oamaru  
Mitre 10 Oamaru  
Otematata Pub  
Omarama Four Square  
Ahuriri Motels  
Omarama*

*Distinction Omarama  
GlenCraigs Clothing  
On The Spot Otematata  
Taieri Lakes Golf Club  
Tony Sheppard  
Red Hand Scaffolding  
Boots and Jandals Hotel  
Omarama*

*Fresh Choice Cromwell  
Sutherlands Clothing Oamaru  
Balmacewan Golf Club  
Phil Kennard  
Mobil Twizel  
Omarama Hot Tubs  
  
FENZ*



# Ōmārama Golf Club

Results of the New Year's Tournament - January 4, 2025

By Arron Chambers

What a fantastic day it was for our annual New Year's Tournament! With perfect weather and a full field of enthusiastic entrants. The Ōmārama Golf Club was the star of the show, showcasing our course at its absolute finest.

The atmosphere was electric, with friendly competition, outstanding prizes generously provided by our amazing sponsors, and a mouthwatering dinner spread expertly prepared by our dedicated members.

Thank you to everyone who participated, supported, and helped make the day unforgettable.

Here's to another incredible tournament next year!

## Results:

Full field of 91 entries.

Winner over the field by lot Dave Allan

(Ben Ohau), 42 stablefords

Men's 1st Division - Craig Cornelius (Ben Ohau), 42 stablefords

Adri Verbakel (Lower Waitaki), 41 stablefords



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

Twilight Golf: Thursdays, tee-off 5pm to 5.30pm.

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

# Ōmārama Community Garden

*By Jennie Hales*

There will be a working bee at the gardens in mid- February, date to be advised, (check the Facebook page). to dig over the gardens and start planting new crops for autumn/winter

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

The group receives sponsorship from Age Concern.

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](mailto:jenniehollows@hotmail.com)

Let's get growing together!

---

# Ōmārama MenzShed

*By Malcolm Cameron*

Ōmārama MenzShed has resumed for the 2025 year after a break for the festive season.

We meet every Saturday at 10am to Midday.

This year we have a couple of community jobs to undertake as well as work at the school and other small jobs around the town.

If you're elderly or incapacitated and there's a small job you would like done, the MenzShed can help with this, you can contact me Malcolm on 022 476 2225.

Ōmārama MenzShed wishes the Ōmārama Community a great New Year and may all your plans and New Year Resolutions come to fruition.



# Age Concern Bus Trip

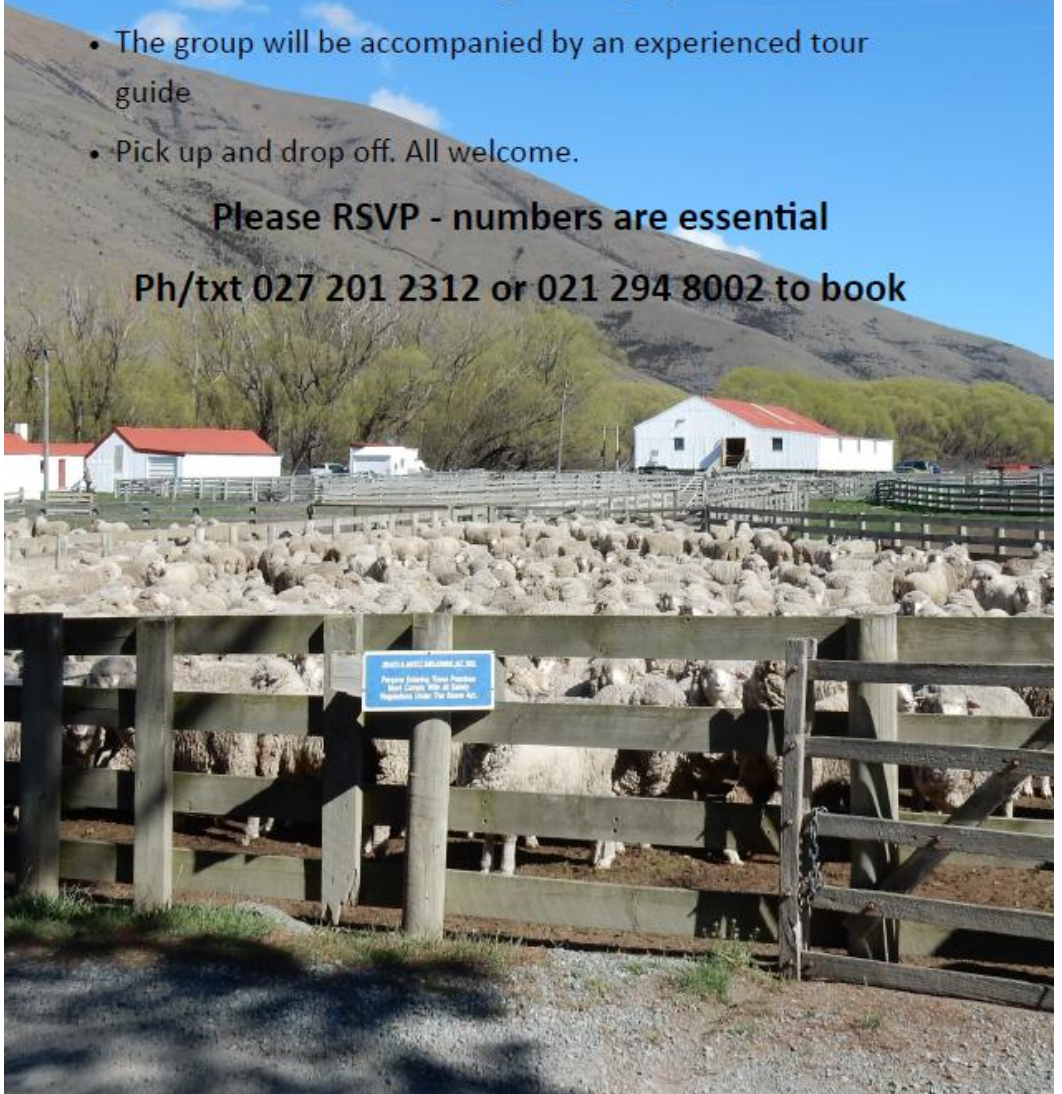
**11am to 3pm, Wednesday, February 26**

Includes:

- A tour of the Ahuriri Valley.
- A picnic lunch. Please bring your own lunch.
- A tour of the historic buildings at Longslip Station
- The group will be accompanied by an experienced tour guide
- Pick up and drop off. All welcome.

**Please RSVP - numbers are essential**

**Ph/txt 027 201 2312 or 021 294 8002 to book**





# Age Concern Ōmārama

The 'Pop Up Café opens Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Coffee afternoons are on the second Tuesday of each month  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

COMING THIS YEAR...

Van outings - Wednesdays February 26, Wednesday, March 12,  
and Wednesday, April 16.

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 / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm

## 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  
20th December 2024 and reopen on 8 January 2025.*

 [Waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz)

### Oamaru

127 Thames Street  
03 434 7325

### Wanaka

Spencer House Mall  
12/31 Dunmore Street  
03 443 4820





Authorised by M Anderson, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



# Ōmārama School

<b>Omarama School</b>	All 4 year olds welcome - Wednesday 2:00 - 3:00 pm
<b>Headstart programme</b>	Come and meet us and have some fun at school



Information	Activities	Social Skills	Our School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Headstart is an afternoon for 4 year olds</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Come and meet the friendly team</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Mingle with other parents / students</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Information booklet available to read</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> View our learning spaces</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Parents may stay or leave their child</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Learning needs can be discussed</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Creative early language tasks</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bubble painting</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gardening experiences</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fun with Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative games &amp; Fitness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Stories and artwork</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Musical instruments</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Number fun with counting games</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Colouring activities</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social routines</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Organisational skills - following instructions</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Manipulative skills - blocks, threading, scissors, puzzles</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gross Motor skills - climbing &amp; swinging</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fine Motor skills - holding a pencil</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Early language knowledge - talking about books</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Numeracy knowledge - counting, dice, cards</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Y1 - Y8 students</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Rural school, 37 students, 2 rooms</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Fun Hub for Art(s)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Club</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ski Club</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Strong sporting culture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Home Economics area</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Snr Option classes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> William Pike Challenge school</li> </ul> 

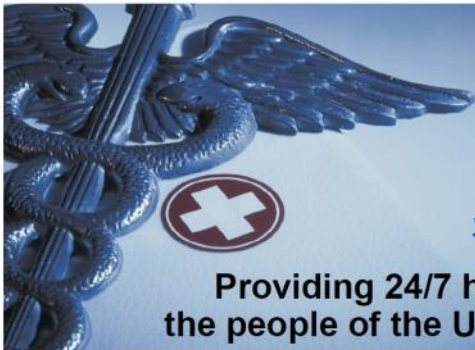
<b>Transition to school</b>	Please contact us on <b>03 4389815</b> or email <a href="mailto:office@omarama.school">office@omarama.school</a> to arrange a school visit.
Learning and thriving in the place of light - Ki te Whei Ao, Ki te Ao Marama e!	

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

[principal@omarama.school.nz](mailto:principal@omarama.school.nz), [office@omarama.school.nz](mailto:office@omarama.school.nz)

[www.omarama.school.nz](http://www.omarama.school.nz)



## 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](http://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 \$45.00  
Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

We also offer the following services from external Health Care Providers:

- \*Podiatry and Ear Health (Kurow only)
- \*Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Massage (Kurow and Twizel)

#### **Opening hours**

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday mornings 8.30am to 1pm

Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm

Twizel: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30 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*

# Wellness matters

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

Over 300,000 people in New Zealand have diabetes. Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas is no longer able to make insulin, or when the body cannot make good use of the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that acts like a key to let glucose from the food we eat pass from the blood stream into the cells in the body to produce energy. All carbohydrate foods are broken down into glucose in the blood. Insulin helps glucose get into the cells.

Not being able to produce insulin or use it effectively leads to raised glucose levels in the blood. Over the long-term high glucose levels are associated with damage to the body and failure of various organs and tissues.

Type 1 diabetes is an 'auto-immune' condition and symptoms can appear rapidly. The body does not produce any insulin (or very little). Different factors, such as genetics and some viruses, may cause type 1 diabetes. Although type 1 diabetes usually appears during childhood or adolescence, it can develop in adults. Treatment is directed toward managing the amount of sugar in the blood using insulin, diet and lifestyle to prevent complications.

Type 2 diabetes is the most common form of diabetes and occurs mostly in adulthood usually after the ages of 30 – 40 years. You may have had type 2 diabetes for many years without realising it. It can be managed with diet and lifestyle changes and medication.

Some groups of people are more likely to develop type 2 diabetes:

- European descent aged 40 years or older
- Diabetes in your family (grandparents, parents, brothers or sisters)
- Māori, Asian, Middle Eastern or Pacific Island descent aged 30 years or older
- High blood pressure
- Overweight (especially if you carry most of your weight around your waist)
- Diagnosed as having pre-diabetes (also known as impaired glucose tolerance) – this occurs when the glucose (sugar) in your blood is higher than normal, but not high enough to be called diabetes
- If you gave birth to a large baby weighing more than 9lbs / 4kg, or have had gestational diabetes (diabetes during pregnancy)

Symptoms of diabetes include:

- Feeling tired and lacking energy
- Feeling thirsty
- Passing urine often
- Getting infections frequently and slow healing
- Poor eyesight or blurred vision
- Often feeling hungry
- Abdominal pain, nausea vomiting (type 1)

To try and avoid type 2 diabetes developing, make the following changes:

Stay physically active and get regular exercise. Aim for at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity each day. Remember you don't have to do all of your daily exercise at once. For example, three brisk walks for 10 minutes in the day may be more manageable than one of 30 minutes.

Eat healthy food

Keep your weight in a healthy range.

Diabetes is diagnosed through a blood test. If you think you are at risk, contact your healthcare provider. We also support people with diabetes to self-manage and live well.



# 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 Olivia Black,  
027 833 0869.

---

# Ōmārama Community Library

The Ōmārama Community Library's  
usual opening hours are 9am to 10am,  
Wednesdays and Saturdays,  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.  
omaramalibrary@gmail.com

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473



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# Ōmārama Rodeo Club

*By Charlotte Montgomery*

The annual Ōmārama Rodeo ran on December 28, and the club is thrilled with the day it produced.

The sun came out and the wind stayed low which made for a very hot day at the grounds.

The livestock all ran super- a big thanks to the timed event stock contractors- Patrick and Deanna McCarthy, Smith Family, Roy Tisdall and Ryan Adams for supplying well trained stock.

The rough stock really showcased their talents with D&J Bucking bulls coming off the winners with only one score. We were very lucky to have Let er Buck Pro Services sponsor a buckle for the winning Bull ride, this was awarded to Ky Boghero who came from Australia for the Christmas Rodeo Circuit. The 2nd Division bulls supplied by Twinburn were a great line of stock that gave the cowboys a good shot at being in the top four.

The broncs all bucked super and we are proud to have a great relationship with Waimate Rodeo Club and Winchester Rodeo club, allowing us to use their broncs each year in return for grazing them. A big thanks to Dave Ellis and Trent Spittle for Grazing these horses over the summer for the club.

The committee put many hours into the grounds this year and we are now at a place where we can start looking to holding some practice or Have-a-go days, so keep a look out for some dates, or get in contact if you would like to be on the list.

Huge thanks to our locals that turn up each year and volunteer to help out on the day. Legends!!

We could not have got our rodeo done without our fantastic sponsors. A big thank you to Jamieson Construction for being our naming sponsor. Give Pie a call if you're looking to get some building done- renovations, new builds or farm builds- he's your guy. The Ōmārama MenzShed has been such a great supporter by building us those trickier items, and every time they exceed our expectations.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, many have been part of our rodeo for years and also some were new to us this year. We thank you for being a part of our day.

We had a great rodeo day and from that we are able to make some donations to those in the community- The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club, The Ōmārama MenzShed and the Omarama School.

Keep a look out for our next event being the Quiz Night and Hill Billy Hunt in the July school holidays.

*Photo: Supplied*



# Ōmārama Gliding Club

## OGC Captains Log ~ Full Moon, January 14, 2025

*By Rod Stuart*

Easterly conditions have made flying quite different in Ōmārama this summer. 09 has been the dominant take off and landing direction. The normal strong westerlies have been almost nonexistent! The south and east facing ridges have been working. To the west we have experienced great cloud bases and reliable thermals with outrageous convergence on the West Coast. The flats of the Mackenzie Basin have been often working reliably. There has even been Easterly wave setting up!

For the past two weeks there has been so much good flying around Ōmārama. Perfect flying conditions for the NZ Gliding Nationals competitors, visiting pilots holidaying in Ōmārama, student pilots and Youth Glide.

2025 Gliding Nationals: And what a huge success they were with seven tasks flown over a possible nine days. The flying was superb, the task setting was perfect and there were no accidents or injuries. Thank you to Director Bob Henderson, tow pilots, grid workers, score keepers, task setters, organizers, family, friends, support crew and most of all the competitors for making these nationals a spectacular success. Eight pilots flew in Open Class, ten pilots flew in Racing Class, seven Pilots flew in Whio Glide. (more on the Blue Duck competition below)

Congratulations to the overall place getters!

Open: Dane Dickinson, 1 ; Michael Oakley, 2; Nick Oakley, 3.

Racing: Alexander and Dale, 1; Davy and Wallace, 2; John Smith, 3.

Open Unhandicapped: Michael Oakley, 1; Dane Dickinson, 2; Nick Oakley, 3.

I have posted quite a few fun pictures taken during the nationals on the OGC Facebook page. Here is a link to our fb page ~ check out my posts: <https://www.facebook.com/Omarama.glidering>

Below are a few of my favourite pictures:

Gavins cub makes a perfect sun umbrella while we wait for the thermals to kick off.

John Smith ~ 'Make America Glide Again'

Pam and Brian in the OGC office. They call themselves 'doers' ~ doer one and doer two.

Thank you for all you do 'doers'.

Whio Glide: Thank you Phil Plane for an amazing initiative to introduce budding pilots to flying competitively in the Omarama area. The Whio is our native NZ blue duck and Phil has named his little competition after this beautiful bird.

Phil's description: Designed to introduce pilots to contest flying in the Ōmārama area. Tasks are designed to be safe and fun. The tasks will be set so that they can be flown within easy glide of well-known airstrips. This allows new or visiting pilots to easily learn around ten land out airstrips to cover the whole contest area. The task will be set each suitable thermal day before 9am.

Here is a link to Whio glide: <https://whioglide.nz/index.html>

When a competitor completes their first Whio Glide task they are given a blue rubber duck. I managed to complete a 100km task on 5th Jan and was so proud to receive my blue duck.

Link to Whio Glide Entries with their IGC files: [https://whioglide.nz/list\\_logs.html](https://whioglide.nz/list_logs.html) If you click on Rod Stuarts IGC file a map comes up and after a while a little blue duck flies the task and quacks at each turn point. So utterly cool to watch!

That's all from me until the next full moon due on 14th February (Valentines Day!)

Happy Landings

Rod





# Ōmārama Residents' Association

Chairperson's report, December 2024

*By Michelle Kitchen*

The playground meeting with Waitaki District Council recreation manager Lindsay Hyde was productive and was followed up with an email with task list to be addressed in the New Year.

We have a clearer idea of the way forward to establishing the sports field project. It is imperative that we get our Better Off Funding application on the agenda for Ahuriri Community Board March meeting to get any chance of this funding.

The WDC contractors have inspected the shade sail in the playground – put up by play group.

Lindsay has also been in contact regarding the placement of more waste bins in town to cope with the summer influx of visitors and has organised daily emptying of existing town kerbside bins.

Of interest was our Public Toilets which have the highest daily use of all public toilets across the district according to the door counter.

It is my intention to call a Special General Meeting for Thursday 19 January to scope out our BOF application with details of the overall objective to establish the sports field and extend the existing playground.

Stage one would be removal of existing trees, tidy up ground work and establish irrigation for the playground and proposed sports field.

Once we have established an overall plan and objective we can then call our public meeting to consult and get support from the community and establish a working group to drive the project forward.

This will be a long term plan done in stages as funds and manpower are available.

It is important to note the initial outline plan is for gaining BOF and in no way should be considered the final plan. This will be determined by community input.

I would like to thank the committee for your input and commitment to RAOI this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas all the best for 2025.

omarama.chairperson@gmail.com

The draft application for Better Off Funding for the  
**OMARAMA PLAYGROUND AND SPORTS FIELD IRRIGATION  
PROJECT** is available on request.

A proposal put forward by WaterForce is to be considered among others.

This was discussed at a special meeting called for January and will be discussed at further at February's meeting.

The next meeting of the  
Ōmārama Residents' Association is  
**7pm, Thursday, February 20, 2025**  
at the Omarama Community Centre

The minutes of the previous meeting are available from Vicky

**Residents' Association of Ōmārama committee 2024-25**

Michelle Kitchen, chairperson and hall curator

Vicky Chambers, secretary

Stephen Grundy, treasurer

Hank Verheul, building convenor

Malcolm Cameron, MenzShed representative

Natalie Beiboer

Maurice Cowie

Jennie Hales

Lindsay Purvis

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





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Email: [info@csihelicopters.co.nz](mailto:info@csihelicopters.co.nz)

# 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](http://lawa.org.nz/swim)



 Environment  
Canterbury  
Regional Council  
Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

**LAWA**  
LAND AIR WATER AOTEAROA





**AHURIRI CATCHMENT  
COMMUNITY GROUP**

# Fish Celebration Day

*\*NEW DATE CONFIRMED\**



*Join the ACCG and find out about the special fish living in our rivers.  
Learn about survey methods for our elusive fish and get up close and  
personal with rare species.*

- FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 am (followed by light lunch at 12 to finish)
- Meet at Backyard Road opposite Bog Roy Woolshed (Rapid Number 3570 on SH83)

We will drive up Corbies Creek to electric fish and investigate what we find, have a Q&A with expert ecologists and view the fish passage barrier weir designed to protect our rarest species. Bring polaroid sunglasses if you have them. Light lunch to follow.

Register at this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/66TF70JiKn>

OR Contact Bridget: 0210722113 or [bridget@irricon.co.nz](mailto:bridget@irricon.co.nz)





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Info@swiftcontracting.co.nz

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Steve 021 99 33 52



# 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.

---



## **PRE LAMB BLADE SHEARING**

Constant wool growth - Less animal stress =  
More wool - More milk - Less crop feed required.

Experienced team available.

**John Bruce**

**027 433 0679**

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# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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- \* Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



**Georgie Robertson**  
Omarama  
03 438 9554 027 4861525



**Vicky Munro**  
Otematata  
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**'The Community Reports' is  
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Contributions are welcome.  
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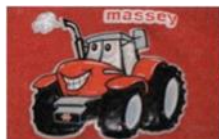
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LJ Hooker Twizel | 03 435 0170 | [twizel@mcre.co.nz](mailto:twizel@mcre.co.nz)

A photograph of a modern office interior. On the left, there is a vertical wooden slat wall. In the center, a potted plant sits on a white table. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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

January 2025

Highest temperature: January 22, 30.3C

Lowest temperature: January 4, 3.1C

Most rainfall: January 26, 25.2 mm

Total rainfall for January: 47 mm

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

December 2024

Highest temperature: December 28, 31.3C

Lowest temperature: December 18, 3.6C

Most rainfall: December 25, 6.6 mm

Total rainfall for December: 25.1 mm

Total rainfall for 2024: 240.8mm

Total rainfall for 2023: 204.5 mm

# *The Garden Diary - continued from back page*

She also loves to use quotes, those beautiful, clever words of others. That quote above she chose for her chapter about late summer.

This book *'In the Garden, Essays on Nature and Growing,'* features chapters by various renowned personalities who write on the set topic. It is full of learned wisdom, each chapter unique, in the way light viewed through a prism becomes the rainbow. *"A garden, no matter how good it is must never completely satisfy,"* Jamaica Kincaid says.

For me *'The earth I inherit,'* by UK born author Paul Mendez is the most poignant. According to Wiki, Mendez was "born to a second generation Jamaican-British family and raised as a Jehovah's Witness. Disfellowshipped for their sexuality, Mendez left their parents' house at age seventeen."

He learnt 'gardening' from his parents and grandparents and sums up their motivation, *"Whatever traumas might come with trying to settle into a hostile environment they could be in control of their own space, express themselves and assimilate while showing their individuality and nodding back to their heritage."*

Each of us begins our gardening journey with a different piece of dirt as unique as ourselves. Each of us comes to it or grows with it through different stages of our lives.

*'Secret Gardens of Aotearoa, Field notes and practical wisdom,'* By Jane Mahoney and Sophie Bannan also plays on that theme. This book, like many these days grew out of a website, [Secretgardens.co.nz](http://Secretgardens.co.nz), which is also lovely to dip into.

In the introduction Mahoney tells a little of her own gardening journey, *"defined by where I've lived and stages in my life"* and drawing on the shared wisdom of her "gardening heroes".

*"Whilst the solitary nature of gardening is part of its appeal, I had always loved calling on my mother for advice or visiting other people's gardens for inspiration or to expand my plant knowledge."*

It features 12 gardens each a reflection of their owner-gardeners and the accumulated wisdom which they share.

So far, I have only dipped into *'The Naturally Beautiful Garden – designs that engage with wildlife and nature'*, by Kathryn Bradley-Hole, immersing myself in the beautiful photos of gardens that encourage ecosystems to grow and thrive. It is a garden designers' book.

Let me say, the 'wild look' in vogue at present is no excuse for untidiness and, ironically, needs careful curation to create that natural look. Two New Zealand gardens feature in the international offering.

A garden is a living thing, changing through seasons and years. That sapling planted for the birth of a child can now hold a swing, a tree house, a hammock, or shade a chair. Your garden is a creation of your own, your own place to be, your own place to stand.

In this garden, thistledown fairies float on a warm breath of wind.

And the first windflower is out, the rosehips are colouring.

Those are the first whispers of autumn.

*By Ruth Grundy,*

*I garden a small space under the big sky in Ōmārama.*



# The Garden Diary - Following one another softly

*"I believe the nicest and sweetest days are not those on which anything very splendid or wonderful or exciting happens but just those that bring simple little pleasures following one another softly..." L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables.*

It's late summer with the holidays behind us.

We're no longer saying; 'How was your Christmas?' or 'Happy New Year!'

Resolutions are long forgotten, thankfully. There's always next year.

The cool early morning hours slide into long, hot, hazy, blue-sky days.

The mountains are tawny, shimmering electrically with heat.

I have been in the veggie garden 'very earnestly digging', trying to restore semblance and hoping to harvest something this season, just something.

The couch is as high as an elephant's eye and there ain't no eatin' in that!.

The tomatoes which were cut to the ground by that late frost have come away again.

They may not win prizes but have borne fruit which may well ripen before that first frost takes a lash at them.

Two weeks ago, I bought two zucchini plants which were in bud. They are now flowering. There is hope. I do so hate not having veggies to pick. I've sown carrots and beetroot and lettuce and beans and peas and spinach and broccoli "on a wing and a prayer".

The dry dirt was stripped of all nutrients with the couch and the compost is not yet ready.

I've still two-thirds of the patch to clear but it feels good to have made a start.

Gardens are forgiving, there's always the possibility of a fresh start, a new beginning.

The best days out of the garden are always with a head in a book, is that not so?

I have been spoilt, four new gardening titles to explore.

Although, *'The Flower Hunter'*, by Lucy Hunter, is not specifically about gardening but about flower arranging and creating plant dyes for exquisite fabrics, it is about employing the harvest creatively.

The beautiful photographs and her story of how she came to use flowers as an art form set against backdrop of her family life and the turn of the seasons are a journal of how she came to be where she is in life.

I'll never succeed at flower arranging but I do love picking and bunging together blooms in a jar to see how plant forms, flower colours and scent harmonise or not. I get to look at each with fresh eyes.

*-continued over*

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