



Ōmārama Gazette

January 2024

Rural fundraiser delivers AED

Ōmārama is the latest to benefit from a rural fundraiser which aims to put an automated external defibrillator (AED) in each of the main towns in the Waitaki Valley.

The Hato Hone St John Waitaki Area Committee recently installed an AED at the Ōmārama Community Centre, paid for with funds from its 'Project Moo' initiative. 'Project Moo' is a calf rearing fundraiser.

The move to install the AED came out of the Neighbourhood Support Community Safety Day held in Omarama in July.

Waitaki Area Committee secretary Anna Haugh said each year the committee bought calves for rearing and fattening by famers in the community.

The calves were grown to R2 (rising two-year-olds) then sold, and the funds raised donated to the committee.

"It is funds raised through this initiative that have been put back into the community

*Hato Hone St John group manager Carol Harding (left) and Waitaki Area Committee secretary Anna Haugh celebrate the installation of a AED at the Ōmārama Community Centre.
Photo supplied*



Rural fundraiser delivers AED - continued

via the AED project," Anna said.

"Every day, about six people in New Zealand will suffer from cardiac arrest in the community, and early bystander intervention involving three key steps: performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), calling 111 for an ambulance and applying an AED, can more than double survival rates."

Waitaki Valley now had publicly accessible AEDs in Ōmārama, Duntroon, Kurow and the Hakataramea Valley and the committee is working towards getting more into the community, she said.

The Ōmārama Gazette understands a community training session is to be held at a date to be advised.

(Go to this link: <https://www.stjohn.org.nz/first-aid/about-aeds/> for some quick help tips from the Hato Hone St John website)

Anna said committee appreciated the contribution farmers made to the fundraiser and wanted to thank everyone for their support.

If anyone was interested in putting their farm forward to participate in 'Project Moo', they can email Anna at waitakiareacommittee@gmail.com

Below: Quick help tips from St John

A defibrillator often referred to as an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) is a small device that gives a safe electric shock to someone having a sudden cardiac arrest, increasing their chance of survival by 44 per cent.

Locate an AED by ***putting your location into this map.***

Quick help

- ***Call 111*** and ask for an ambulance before using the AED.
- Turn the AED on.
- Keep calm and follow the voice instructions from the AED.
- Hold the edges of any wound together to control bleeding.
- If there's no response, perform CPR until the ambulance arrives.

Former community leader remembered

By Ruth Grundy

Former Ōmārama community leader, rural advocate, prankster and one of life's true gentlemen was remembered at a service to celebrate his life, in Kurow, last week.

Antony (Tony) James Chapman died unexpectedly in Northland last month, aged 59.

Tony was born, in Oamaru, to Thea and James Chapman and grew up on the family farm, becoming the fourth generation to work Westmere, in Kurow which he and wife Amanda later farmed in their own right. In 2013, the farm was sold and the family moved to Mosgiel.

Life on farm posed many challenges as Tony sought to adapt to the various economic and political events of the day – navigating through a conversion from sheep, beef and deer farming to dairying, and through the turmoil which resulted from Meridian Energy's proposal to build a new hydro scheme, Project Aqua.

The New Zealand Herald reported the family celebrated the announcement the project would be canned by decorating the property with balloons.

Tony and Amanda became patrons of New Zealand Rural Games, an organisation dedicated to preserving tradition rural sports and activities, now held in Palmerston North. Tony was hands on, helping with the various events, most notably the 'Running of the Wools' when a sheep drove would take to main street of first Queenstown, then Feilding.

In January 2016, the Chapman's bought Ōmārama Top 10 Holiday Park and moved to town and into the busy holiday park way of life.

Although he did once comment that "people don't move like sheep" Tony enjoyed interactions with campers and over the years many became firm friends.

During his time he instigated considerable renovations at the park, with the addition of four new units, renovations of the cabins, a new reception unit and an improved layout, among the many changes made

The family sold the Ōmārama park in May 2021 but only enjoyed only a few months break from the hospitality business before a trip to Northland and a taste of the coastal lifestyle of the winterless north captivated Tony and led to the purchase of the Russell Top 10 Holiday Park.

Despite his business commitments Tony also made time for community.

In 2016, he was elected to the Ahuriri Community Board and joined the Ōmārama Residents' Association committee, taking up the chairperson's role in 2019 and bringing with him an open, collaborative, inclusive style of leadership.

In both roles Tony was a passionate and committed voice for Ōmārama taking community concerns and advocating for the town and its residents locally and further afield.

During his tenure he and the team worked to see the sports courts through to completion.

He negotiated the red tape required to have the community library shifted to a larger brighter space, which has seen it grow in patronage.

He was always enthusiastic about new ideas, activities and fundraising to support projects which saw the Centre become an important hub.

One of the last fundraising projects he helped drive was the bid which has led to the recent creation of the Ōmārama mural.

Tony was also fully involved in the push by the community, through numerous

Former community leader remembered - continued

petitions and submissions, to the council for improvements in the town, most notably the long-time push to get the traffic concerns at the town centre addressed.

Behind the scenes he took time to lend a listening ear to those tricky small-town issues and dealt to the practicalities— like overflowing and smelly public rubbish bins, all the while juggling a very busy accommodation business.

He once said it was to the chagrin of some in the bureaucracy that he did not always fall into line.

In 2017 he broke ranks with fellow board members and councillor to advocate for the removal of wilding pines on the Benmore Peninsula and islands because of the adverse effects the invasive tree species was having on the surrounding farmland.

Sitting still was never Tony's style.

He was likely the first to cycle the new Sailors Cutting to Benmore section of the Alps 2 Ocean trail, triumphantly producing a photo for publication in the Ōmārama Gazette prior to the official release of promotional material.

Hundreds gathered at the Kurow Memorial Hall for the celebration of Tony's life with many noting his quick wit and adventurous nature.

Family and friends paid tribute to a loving and committed family man, a loyal and true friend, and dedicated fun-loving larrikin who left many rich memories.

The eulogy was delivered by Roger Nehoff and Lex Cochrane who recounted endless stories of pranks which did not end with their younger days.

Sister Beth Scott and brother Scottie Chapman recounted early family memories growing up on the farm, and daughter Jessie gave a moving tribute to a much loved father taken too soon.

Celebrant Jude McNab told the gathering that, above all, Tony would be remembered for being kind and recited the Maya Angelou quote;

“At the end of the day people won't remember what you said or did, they will remember how you made them feel.”

Our sincerest condolences to Amanda, Jessie and Nate, Alec and Holly, and Hugh and family and friends.



Better-Off Funding - keeping you in the loop

Late last year Waitaki District Council staff met with members of the Ōmārama Residents' Association for an informal meeting to discuss ways to spend the Government Better-Off Funding allocation for Omarama.

Last month, the Ōmārama Gazette reported that the Ahuriri Community Board had signed off on the proposals for that spending on the recommendations of those staff. There have been further developments since and those, plus some background information, are detailed in the stories below and overleaf.

Councillor questions spending priorities

Questions about priorities were raised at the December meeting of the Waitaki District Council when councillors were asked to ratify the Ahuriri Community Board's recommendations for the allocation of Better-Off funding to Omarama.

In September 2022, the council applied for and was allocated \$3.71 million of Better Off funding from central Government as part of the (then named) Three Waters Reform (now Affordable Water) process. The funds were made available for councils to invest in community wellbeing.

The council applied for and was allocated \$225,000 [\$240,000 minus \$15,000 support costs] specifically to implement the Ōmārama town centre masterplan over three years.

Better-Off Funding is a 'draw-down' fund – the council must present projects which meet the criteria of the initial application and the project must be completed to 'draw down' the fund.

On December 5, the Ahuriri Community Board passed the recommendations of a decision report written by council placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen and forwarded its recommendations to the council.

The report said its recommendations had come from an "informal meeting" Ms Christensen and other council officers had with representatives of the Resident's Association of Ōmārama on November 20.

On investigation, the Ōmārama Gazette found none of the ratepayers at that informal meeting knew it was to produce the decision report for the Board.

At the council meeting three recommendations were put forward and passed. The council agreed that elements of all three options put forward in the 2020 Ōmārama masterplan process will be in scope for future developments.

It agreed on three priorities to be allocated funding; design concepts will be drawn up for a natural playground and new amenities at the Community Centre, a six-month parking improvement trial will be paid for, as will signage for the Sutherland Rd carpark.

It also confirmed council chief executive Alex Parmley would be delegated the authority to approve the "final distribution" of the \$225, 000 across individual projects in the Ōmārama Masterplan as recommended by the nominated community-led project team.

The council has nominated members of the Residents' Association of Omarama to be that project team.

Councillor questions spending priorities - continued

The proposed action plan in the report lays out further detail.

On playground and community amenities, it specifies the funds are to be spent on assessment, research and design of these.

There is nothing in the plan which suggests fund will be allocated to any purchase of equipment ,or build , or development.

In the council meeting Councillor Jim Hopkins queried this.

“The recommendation talks about the design of natural playground and new amenities at the community hub.

“I just wanted to be satisfied, because it seems to me ...the idea of a natural playground was only one of a relatively limited number of things regarding the community hall amenities.

They also wanted shelter and seating around the tennis courts, a basketball half court, a barbeque unit, possible resurrection of the rugby field, flying fox, additional exercise equipment. So, does the resolution as it stands capture all of that in addition to the idea of the natural playground?”

In a second go at questioning Mr Parmley he asked why “tangible” requests were not being prioritised ahead of concept designs.

“... if I’ve heard correctly ...some tangible and actual requests for things like additional shelter and seating, a barbecue, additional exercise equipment, have been set aside or relegated, to enable the research of a natural playground and sharing ideas for concept designs. I would have thought it might have been better to actually have tangible things rather than spend a not inconsiderable amount of money on a design that may or may not in the end see the light of day,” Cr Hopkins said.

In reply, Mr Parmley told councillors that he understood the community wanted to “pursue all those options”.

But while the funding was a “reasonable amount” it would not “extend to all of those” and so it was a matter of directing it to where the community “sees the priority... for meeting their particular aspirations”.

“They have set out what they want to pursue but in terms of the use of the Better Off Funding they prioritise those particular actions in there,” Mr Parmley said.

“We are certainly not using the full \$225,000 for just those initial elements of it,” Mayor Gary Kircher said.

He noted that authority had been delegated to the chief executive to approve the final distribution of funds and requested the council be kept regularly updated about progress on the Better-Off projects.

The Omarama Gazette together with the community has been asking since the first meeting with council officers in July for an outline of the budget, or proposed budget and breakdown, for the planned dispersal of the \$225,000, in Omarama.

The questions were asked again by the Resident Association members and ratepayers who met with Ms Christensen in Omarama on December 18. *[See the story below]*

On Thursday I emailed yet again for those details plus sent a separate email with questions about the procedures which had been followed.

I was told the council Executive Leadership Team had decided both sets of questions

were a 'Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act' request and, as such, the council would respond no later than 20 working days after the request was made – February 8 – unless it required an extension of that time.

All questions posed regarding the management and distribution of public monies could be legitimately asked of the council by any rate/taxpayer.

Because the board and council have handed delegated authority to the chief executive one question was about what recourse or right of appeal ratepayers had if they wished to challenge decisions about how and why these public monies had been allocated to specific projects, and the reasons why some projects might be prioritised over others.

This seems reasonable given there were only 11 ratepayers present at the 'informal meeting' in November and the total number of Ōmārama rate/taxpayers is estimated to be between 280 and 300.

One observation is that, if the chief executive, executive leadership team and council staff, are prepared to make it this hard to get information about tax/rate payer spending then possibly it was not the wisest decision for our elected representatives to delegate their responsibilities.

Still no answers about proposed budget

Meeting with Waitaki District Council placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen, Monday, December 18, 2024

Present:

Cyndi Christensen, Waitaki District Council placemaking lead
Mike King, Ahuriri Community Board member

Residents Association of Ōmārama committee members:

Malcolm Cameron

Vicky Chambers (secretary)

Maurice Cowie

Michelle Kitchen

Ann Patterson, former committee member seconded to projects.

Lindsay Purvis (chairperson)

Hank Verheul

Ruth Grundy, Ōmārama Gazette

A follow-up meeting between six members of the Ōmārama Residents Association and the Waitaki District Council 'placemaking' consultant yielded no further clues as to what monies are available from 'Better-Off' funding to spend at the Community Centre and Recreation Reserve.

In her decision report to the Ahuriri Community Board, which was adopted by the council, in December, placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen recommended developing design concepts for a playground and new amenities at the Centre should be given priority for funding. However, she was not willing to divulge to the group just how much that would be.

The council applied for and was allocated \$225,000 [\$240,000 minus \$15,000 support costs] by the Government specifically to implement the Ōmārama town centre masterplan over three years.

Still no answers about proposed budget - continued

Since the initial meeting in July the community has been told some of this could be put towards its nominated projects in the town but not how much.

Better-Off Funding is a 'draw-down' fund – the council must present projects which meet the criteria of its initial application, and the project must be completed in order to 'drawn down' the fund.

At the Residents' Association December 14 meeting, concerns were raised about the distribution and amount of funds available from the council.

It resolved to raise those concerns with Ms Christensen at the next scheduled meeting on December 18.

It wanted a "clear budget" and to establish that the town would not end up funding projects which were the responsibility of the council, the resolution said.

At the meeting when pressed, as she was several times, Ms Christensen neatly pivoted away from the direct questions put to her and advised the group to put forward "aspirations" and not get too fixated on budgets.

She made no mention of her decision report presented to the Ahuriri Community Board or the Residents' Association's subsequent rights or responsibilities under that report because of it being ratified by the council.

She distributed copies of the March 2020 Ōmārama Town Masterplan which included the three options for development and which form the basis of the Better-Off funding application.

At the December 14 meeting chairperson Lindsay Purvis also expressed the intention he would ask that council Chief Executive Alex Parmley would attend on December 18 with Ms Christensen so the group could find out more about the budget breakdown and how finances were to be handled.

The Ahuriri Community Board and Council have delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve the final distribution of the \$225k Better Off Funding for Ōmārama. Ms Christensen said Mr Parmley did not attend the meeting because of the short notice.

She said she would try to make arrangements for this to happen but the earliest it was likely to be was February.

Association chairperson Lindsay Purvis said it needed to meet with the chief executive sooner rather than later to understand the funding, how it would be distributed and "what it means for us".

"We need more clarity about where we go for funding. We need an updated budget. We need to know for planning, we need to know about the \$225,000 and what the chief executive is thinking and where it is going to go. We need to understand all the different silos [of available funds within the council] and try to unravel that if we can. We need more clarity on that," he said.

"I can ask. We would need to get it in his calendar," Ms Christensen said.

"I think that [meeting] is critical," Ann Patterson said.

Mr Purvis said, in addition, there needed to be a plan drawn up of the present playground and "where things might go" and asked if this would be something Numat Industries could do.

Oamaru-based Numat Group Ltd is a playground and agricultural surfacing company and Creo Space Ltd is its playground design and construction division.

Ms Christensen said there were providers of playground equipment in addition to Numat and the Residents' Association would need to work with council recreation manager Lindsay Hyde and follow the council procurement process.

"You will need to get three quotes and all that".

She said that Numat wanted to give the group a tour "and as soon as possible".

Residents' Association committee members Hank Verheul, Maurice Cowie and Michelle Kitchen were voted by the committee at its December 14 meeting to lead the projects subcommittee to research playground improvements, and would be joined by Mr Purvis on the tour.

Numat also had a staff member who had worked with Disney who could be a useful resource, Ms Christensen said.

Numat was not connected to the council it was just a local provider that council had worked with in the past, she said.

The Residents' Association would need to do its research and pricing.

She recommended the subcommittee also visit the new Caroline Bay playground development CBay, a "destination playground".

"You need to understand what you want and who you want to attract," she said.

Mr Purvis said one idea was to get the Ōmārama school children to contribute ideas.

Mrs Kitchen said the association would need to decide whether to put all the money into one project or split it into two or three projects .

"It's open at the moment."

One thought was to create a frisbee golf course along the Omarama Stream walkway, she said.

Mrs Kitchen said there should also be funds set aside to spend on recreation reserves in the council's development contributions and Resource Management funds.

Ms Christensen said the Residents Association could present its ideas to the Ahuriri Community Board for its consideration.

"There is the \$225,000 plus \$200,000 in the annual plan for the next two years, plus up to \$2million in the LTP [Long Term Plan] to 2031."

[The Omarama Gazette was unable to fact check this statement from information supplied on the council website prior to publication.]

The LTP was about to be reviewed and at that time "all budgets are reviewed", she said.

She reiterated the Better-Off Funding was tied to the masterplan approved document and strategy.

The project must be completed by June 30, 2027, she said.

"Do we have carte blanche on the lot [the entire \$225K]?", " Mr Purvis wanted to know.

While no answer was given, she did refer to the council decision to hand Mr Parmley CE delegated authority over the "final distribution" of spending.

"So we don't have to go back to the [Ahuriri Community Board] board each time. You present the information to him, and he ticks it off as long as it aligns with the work plan we have laid out.

"We should be prudent with how we spend the money. It has to be spent on things that align with the masterplan.

The council had approved widening this scope by including all three masterplan

Still no answers about proposed budget - continued

options to save having to go back to the council to recommend a decision or approval, she said.

Masterplan option two and three included proposals to use the recreation reserve [former Sports field] for a new visitor attraction or adventure zone.

"The playground would come under that," she said.

"[It gives an] easier and broad scope so we don't waste time going back and forth.," Ms Christensen said.

She said, rather than be concerned about the budget details, the group should "be aspirational" and "look down 20 or 30 years" and decide "this is what we want to be and then we cost them."

"You can use the plan and the Long-Term Plan and find external funding.

"The budget will always be reviewed."

"How do we know what projects will be ours to do and what will be the council's," Mr Purvis said.

"That's what ongoing communications with Lindsay Hyde and the roading teams are about," she said.

'The Waitaki Story' and district signage - formerly tagged as Geopark signage - would still happen but now would not come out of Better Off Funding as was initially planned and proposed at the July meeting with the community, she said.

To access Better-Off Funding any project "needs to be done and completed before funds can be drawn down", she said. There was a possibility the council could "bank roll it". Contractors employed would bill the council, she said.

Mr Cowie said the proposal for an adventure playground needed wider community discussion.

"You cannot expect three people to make the decision for the whole community.

"How will an adventure playground be maintained? Will the rates go up to do that, there are loads of questions we need answers to from the chief executive," he said.

Mr Hyde would guide the group through the various funds available from the council, Ms Christensen said. As the group progressed it would be important to "tick off and celebrate...take photos telling the stories of what is trying to be accomplished here" and for accountability purposes.

In the meantime, it was important to focus on "what the outcome is to be? what is the end result? what the pathway is to get there," she said.

Following its visit to Numat Industries the playground improvements subcommittee is to report on three options for an adventure playground to a meeting of the **Residents' Association at 7pm, Thursday, January 18.**

Old topic returns to the table

The subject of building an adventure playground/visitor attraction on the Ōmārama Recreational Reserve – the former sports field - is one that just seems to keep coming back on the radar.

Just what is with the council's persistent push for a designer playground in Ōmārama when surveys and submissions point to it being lower on the residents and ratepayer priority list for development on that land?

When did the concept of an adventure playground/visitor attraction enter the frame and why did it end up there?

The Ōmārama Gazette has tracked this story since the proposal was first mooted following the town masterplan process in 2019.

A glance down the timeline only elicits more questions.

Mid-2018 The Otago Daily Times reports Disney's live-action remake of the 1998 animated feature Mulan is to begin in the Waitaki Valley.

January 2019

In a media release, it is announced that Oamaru company Numat are launching Balance Parks into New Zealand, and will build the first at the council-owned Friendly Bay playground, Oamaru, at no cost to ratepayers.

August 2019

The council's masterplan workshop process begins in Ōmārama culminating in the presentation of three concept design options.

In the masterplan workshops in 2019 and earlier town visioning workshops in 2018, both of which were well attended, keeping the reserve area adjacent to the hall as a green space to be used as a sports pitch was third in the list of documented priorities. The idea for an 'adventure playground' or 'visitor attraction' on the reserve land was not put forward at any of those public sessions.

Curious as to where the ideas had come from the Ōmārama Gazette asked for details from any other submissions and from the workshops held with councillors following the consultation process.

Again, there was no proposal for either an 'adventure playground' or 'visitor attraction' for that space in the material provided to the Gazette.

December 2019

The three preferred options for an Ōmārama Town Masterplan go to the Ahuriri Community Board for approval after a consultation process. Option two proposes an "adventure zone" be built on the recreation reserve – the former sports field. Option Three puts forward the idea a visitor attraction could go there.

Early 2020, the ODT reports the Waitaki District Council has engaged tourism consultant Dr Stefan Roesch to discuss potential tourism opportunities and the potential impact of the release of Mulan in July.

The council reports at various of its meetings it is expecting many overseas visitors off the back of the release, especially from mainland China where the popular legend is based.

March 2020

The Ahuriri Community Board recommends the council adopt Option one of the Masterplan.

However, Covid-19 restrictions delay all activities and the council does not ratify any of the masterplan options.

May 2021

The council releases its Long-Term Plan 2021 to 2031 consultation document which tags \$400,000 to be spent on an adventure playground in Oamaru in 2025.

In its June Issue the Ōmārama Gazette reported that at the LTP consultation drop in sessions the previous month Residents' Association member Jemma Gloag asked if the council would consider "bringing the process" forward and contributing some of those funds to the Association's project to build and install an outdoor fitness circuit,

Approved Omarama Masterplan concepts

- from the Masterplan discussion document

<https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/Council/Consultation/Closed-consultation/Closed/Omarama-Masterplan>

OPTION 1

Status quo with streetscape & traffic improvements

Maintain the status quo of the retail area with improvements to streetscape amenity and traffic improvements to reduce congestion and parking issues.



MAP 1
See Map 2 for village centre area options

1 Mixed use developments along SH8 road frontage with accommodation above. Tree planting/landscaping at gateway area to centre. Slow the flow of traffic using landscaped berms.



2 Mixed density housing with a range of housing choice for seasonal workers, first-time buyers etc. Provision for visitor accommodation. Sustainable design with community gardens.



3 Community recreation & sports area. Native tree planting and walkway with connection to Omarama river walk and loop walk along Black Peak Road and foothills. Informal recreation and picnic areas. Road frontage tree planting. Parking & rest area for vehicles



OPTION 2

Additional retail area and low impact Eco Housing

The main focus of this option is to improve the village centre, provide more housing choice with low impact eco-housing, and create a pedestrian and cyclist friendly environment. A new road link is provided from SH8 to SH83 and an option to provide an activity zone.

- 1** **Communal eco-housing** for the elderly, first time home buyers, workers and visitors. Allow for community gardens and orchard.



- 4** **Option for habitable hangars** adjoining airfield.



- 5** **Residential housing** to south of airfield. Potential for visitor accommodation mix to support airfield activities.

- 2** **New road link** to provide alternative access to SH83 & SH8. Improved access to airfield activities and relieve traffic volumes at main intersection

- 3** **Relocate iSite** next to public toilets – see Map 2. Re-use existing building as a **Cultural/ Dark Skies Centre**



- 6** **Activity zone** area for community and visitors.

- Sports facilities
- High ropes/ abseiling (maximize views of mountains)
- Adventure zone hub – potential for links to airfield activities



OPTION 3

Additional retail area and new visitor destination.

Provide an additional retail area and create a new visitor attraction and visitor accommodation.

- 1** Mixed use development with visitor accommodation and service activities.

Landscaping along SH8 and footpath to provide a sense of arrival coming towards the village centre.



- 2** Medium density low impact designed housing with

pedestrian links through to centre and community recreation area.



MAP 1

See Map 2 for village centre area options

- 3** Visitor attraction such as a High Country Farm experience with crabs/cafe etc. Access from SH83



- 4** Extend existing community recreation area to provide courts, skate-park, picnic areas etc. Potential for a small covered facility.



Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the
Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm Thursday January 18, 2024
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

Contacts:

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630

Vicky Chambers, secretary, 021 296 5782

(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Vicky)

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



Christmas cheer rings out at the park

Christmas bells, those Christmas Bells rang out across the park last month as many took the chance to take a break from it all and chill with neighbours and friends old and new ahead of the big day.

Many gathered for the impromptu DIY and BYO Christmas in the Park at the Park Lane Reserve on Christmas Eve.

Interspersed with a couple of wee showers, people enjoyed music, decorating the trees, a visit from Santa , the sausage sizzle and just generally getting together for a catch up.

Many went back after sundown to view the trees lit up with lights.

Thank you to:

Maurice and Liz Cowie

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade

Hank and Kay Verheul

Four Square Omarama for donating the food for the sausage sizzle

Jan and Lex Perriam

The Grundy family

Photos: Lex Perriam and Ruth Grundy





'all age' exercise equipment, and perhaps a cricket pitch or the like in the sports reserve adjacent to the Omarama Memorial Hall.

"Absolutely ask for that," Mr Kircher said. The council could agree to some funding to go along with community fundraising and that could leverage more funding, he said. "Back up those things again with a submission."

Omarama farmer Dave Ellis wanted to know if there was a breakdown of costs available which justified the "serious rates demands" proposed. There appeared to be no justification for the \$400,000 playground proposal, he said.

The Residents' Association did follow this up with a submission in person to the council's LTP hearings which was also reported in the June Issue.

"In the submission about the development of the recreation reserve the council was asked to consider bringing forward some of the budgeted \$400,000 for an adventure playground in 2025 to this year. "The renovation of the hall and the building of the sports courts has been a success story for our community." The association wanted to "build on the popularity" by adding an outdoor exercise circuit for all ages. Other ideas included a cricket pitch and skate park and basketball hoop. "The planning and the ideas phase could be drawn up now so we can work towards our goals. "If the council would work closely with the Omarama residents, we could come up with something that benefits the whole community."

Councillor Colin Wollstein wanted to know if that spending would be instead of putting those funds to the playground.

"If the money is spent now the money won't be there later for the adventure playground, so is it a matter of either or?"

Mrs Patterson said it was not, rather just that some funds be brought forward for this development.

Mr Kircher said the playground had not been "planned out" and these ideas could be included in "how it's all developed over time".

"I believe the funding is partly council funds and then external funding as well." ...

In a follow up email to Omarama residents, read to the May Residents' Association meeting, which was in response to questions about the proposed adventure playground, council Assets Operations manager Joshua Rendell said it had been listed under option two of the concept plans put forward for the

Omarama Masterplan.

"It was listed as the fifth highest important item in the subsequent community feedback."...

He apologised for any misleading comments at the meeting stating that a number of community members requested an adventure playground.

However, it had scored as a "medium level priority" in the community feedback, he said.

There were six submissions on the three masterplan options for Omarama which included one submission from Public Health South and one from the Omarama Airfield Ltd.

September 2022

The council applies for Better-Off Funding from the Government to implement the Omarama Town Masterplan.

May 2023

Consultant Cyndi Christensen is appointed as council 'placemaking lead' to facilitate and 'deliver' the projects to draw down the funds.

August 2023

Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King revisits the earlier community feedback and conducts an informal survey of 50 residents and asks the same questions. Eight people want the “sports’ ground” improved for rugby and cricket games. For sport and recreational activities 29 people preferred “Playgrounds (sports field, community games)”

Only one person wanted to see an adventure park out on the old sports ground.

November 2023

Ms Christensen and other council officers meet with RAOI committee members to help prioritise playground and community centre amenity projects.

Her report of that meeting notes resurrecting the rugby field is of keen interest but subsequently prioritises developing design concepts for a natural playground and new amenities at the Community Hub

The Residents Association report of the same meeting makes no mention of an adventure playground but lists in this order:

* Reinstatement of the Rugby field – it was noted that Omarama School is unable to hold events with other neighbouring schools, such as track and field, due to the lack of a functional playing field. At present Omarama School is only able to host the Cross Country event. And

* Improvements to existing playground – suggestions were made around improving the current playground, coin BBQs, flying fox, trampoline, shaded seating and picnic tables.

December 2023

The council agrees all masterplan options can now be in scope for future development.

Ms Christensen tells members of the Ōmārama Residents Association that development of an adventure playground/visitor attraction – can be considered for Better-Off Funding because of this.

She strongly urges the playground improvements project team to visit Numat industries, at the same time stressing it is not necessarily a preferred council contractor.

She also passes comment they might find speaking to the Numat employee who previously worked for Disney to be helpful.

January 2024

The visit is to be arranged ahead of the Residents’ Association project team presenting three options to the Residents’ Association meeting next week.

In a report to the community in the December Ōmārama Gazette Residents’ Association chairman Lindsay Purvis urged all ratepayers to attend the meetings to stay informed and to contribute.

Each ratepayer who pays the Ōmārama Hall Rate has the right to vote. The proviso is, in the case of a jointly-owned property only one vote may be cast for the both and you are limited to a single vote regardless of the size of, or how many, properties you own.

Those who rent properties within the Ōmārama Hall rating area are also entitled to vote.

The Noticeboard

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

Gliding: The Ōmārama Airfield has been extra busy this month as it plays host to the annual gilding events.

The Aoraki Classic Hang Gliding Competition was on from New Years' day until January 6. The South Island Regional Championships were on from January 2 to January 9 and the Youth Glide NZ Soaring Development Camp begins on Monday.

Thank you to those good sorts from Ōmārama MenzShed who gave their time to mend the stile which leads to the Ōmārama Reserve adjacent to the Resource Recovery Park.

Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 12.30pm. To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 (Monday to Thursdays). www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, 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

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. Twilight golf on Thursdays, tee-off 5pm to 5.15 pm. Nine hole stableford run through summer. Come along for some fun and laughter. Contact is Greg Stuart 027 438 9018. 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 president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 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 Don Selbie on 027 435 5516.

FENZ Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. New members welcome.

A gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. The exercises are run with the guidance of personal trainer Lauren Maree. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz
W: www.newcomers.co.nz F: [facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/](https://www.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 February Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, February 7, 2024.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, February 1, 2024

Familiar face back behind the counter

There is a familiar face back behind the counter at the shop at Tasman Fuels, in Ōmārama.

Jazz Deshwal took over the lease of the shop from Heather Smith and Jill Crawford-Ferguson in December making a minor name change.

Called 8 Chain it will continue to specialise in 'on-the-go' food and other products alongside assisting Tasman Fuels customers with "great customer service" -his top priority, Jazz said.

He was not new to the job.

He had several years of experience under his belt gained while working in the same outlet for former owners of what was then Mobil Omarama, Terry and Michelle Walsh.

And he was not at all phased by taking over the helm at what is arguably the busiest time of the year for retail sales and visitors, looking excited by the challenge.

He had employed one staff member and was looking to engage more.

In addition to the regular fare Jazz had added hot takeaway food – sausage rolls, hot dogs, chips and the like.

The outlet would be open 6.30am to 8.30pm seven days a week.

Indian-born Jazz arrived in Omarama from the big smoke - Auckland - in 2017

"I'll become a local soon," he said, laughing.

Jazz said as well as prioritising great customer service he also hoped to contribute to various community groups – the volunteer fire brigade and the school in particular – because he knew first hand they were the mainstay of a small town.



The Community Reports

Upper Waitaki Police News



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.

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



The Ōmārama fire and first response volunteers continue to be on duty 24/7 and ready to respond throughout the holiday period.

In an emergency call 111 and ask for the service you require, fire, ambulance or police.

Check the website checkitsalright.nz before you light and you will be prompted how to proceed.

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.

Greg Harper, Chief Fire Officer, 021 293 1171,
greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz

Facebook: /Omaramafirebrigade

Omarama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

Ōmārama Golf Club held its annual New Year Tournament on January 6. This year we had 90 entries from across the South Island (39 playing in the morning and 51 playing in the afternoon).

It was great to see our old friends and make new ones that had entered for the first time.

It was a great success and the day was full of fun and laughter. We appreciate the support of all our wonderful sponsors who contributed auction items, prizes and raffles.

RESULTS:

Our overall winner was Arron Chambers (Ōmārama) with 45 stablefords.

Other top winners:

Men's first division; 1st Robbie Pearson (Tarras) 39 stablefords
- 2= Scott Kitto (Ōmārama) 38 stablefords
Graeme Sargent (Gleniti)

Men's second division ; 1st Arron Chambers (Ōmārama) 45 stablefords
2nd Paul Bryant (Ōmārama) 42 stablefords
3th Paul Bowman (Ōmārama) 40 stablefords

Women's division: 1st Ann Moyle (Gleniti) 40 stablefords
2nd Leslie McAuley-Bryant (Lincoln) 39 stablefords
3= Jan Stringer (North Otago) 38 stablefords
Dawn Scott (Gleniti)

Photos at right :

Ōmārama club captain Greg Stuart (left) the overall and men's second division winner of the New Year Golf Tournament, Arron Chambers. Photo: Christine Bowman

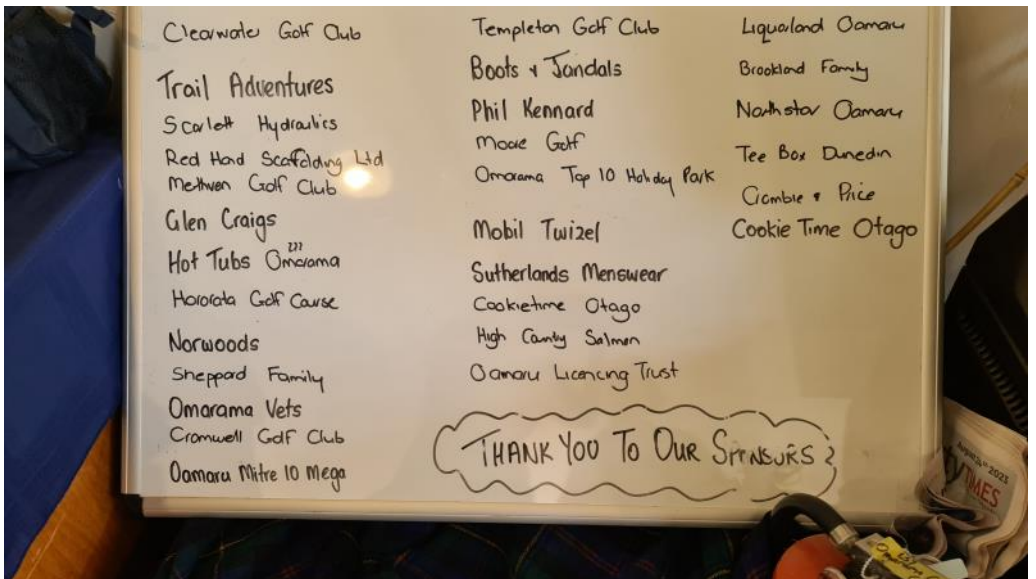
Robbie Pearson, of Tarras, won the men's second division and Ann Moyle, of Gleniti, won the women's division. Photos: Louise Frampton;

Club secretary Arron Chambers mans the on course barbeque, volunteers Sandra Kitto, Adrienne Harper and Vicky Chambers prepare the meals; Kathryn Ford donated a decorated ham; It takes generous sponsors to stage the annual event. Photos: Ruth Grundy

Saturday Club Day, cards in 12.30 noon, tee-off 1pm.

Twilight golf on Thursdays, tee-off 5pm to 5.15 pm. Nine hole stableford run through summer. Come along for some fun and laughter.
Contact is Greg Stuart 027 438 9018.

Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018 **Secretary:** Arron Chambers 027 203 2340
email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz



THANK YOU, MERIDIAN ENERGY LTD

By Christine Bowman

The Omarama Golf Club is very grateful to Meridian Energy who recently approved a grant from its Power Up Community Fund towards the total cost of a New Zealand made Trimax Snake S2 mower. The club has saved the balance over the last couple of years through raffles, tournaments etc. We would also like to thank the Ōmārama community for supporting the golf club in numerous ways to help us save for the mower.

Being a small club the hours our volunteers provide are extremely valuable. The cost of running and maintaining the old 2007 Toro fairway mower was increasing and creating extra hours of rework. The old technology and age of the Toro meant our volunteers had to do additional mowing with the Hustler rotary mower to cut longer tufts of grass and Viper's Bugloss on the fairway, plus this created extra fuel costs.

We were very excited when the mower arrived, although on the day some of our volunteers had to do a training session in the snow!!! So, everyone was eager to use it, however had to wait a week or so for the ground to dry out.

The new mower has a wider cut giving us time and fuel savings. It now takes about half the amount of time to complete the mowing. It has a quick height adjustment, so we can use the mower on both the fairways and rough. This came in very handy to keep the course in great condition when we had the spring growth.

The feedback on our course from members and visitors is that they haven't seen the course – greens, fairway and rough - looking so great which we are very proud of.

A Trimax Snake mower was delivered to the Omarama Golf Club last winter.

Photo: Supplied



Age Concern in Ōmārama

**Age Concern Coffee afternoons begin for 2024
on Tuesday, February 13, 2024
and continue on the second Tuesday of each month
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.**

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

Age Concern Bus Trip, February Kurow and the Waitaki Valley

Includes:

- tour of St Albans Anglican Church vicarage and chapel
- visit to the Kurow Museum and a walk around the shops
- home via north side of the Waitaki River from Aviemore to Benmore
- lunch at River T Wines - with a variety of platters, pizza and food to share available from the menu to purchase.

Wednesday, February 7, 2024

11am to 3pm

Pick up and drop off.

All welcome.

An indication of numbers would be appreciated

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

Ōmārama Community Garden

By Heather Smith

Ready to eat!!!

Please take a wee trip down to the Community Garden and pick yourself a feast of greens. Spinach, silver beet, kale, and salad greens are ready to eat now and need picking to keep them coming.

And what about tossing a few tasty herbs in your bag too?!

The cabbages will be ready any day so get down and grab one and more planting can be done by anybody keen to put something in.

Don't be shy - it's time to appreciate the work of our volunteer gardeners.

For tips on how to harvest using cut and come again methods go to Youtube and search for: Spinach, Silverbeet, Kale, lettuce and salad 'greens'

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 enjoy

Join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/742877880594146>

Contact Heather Smith, 027 330 0249



Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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

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

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473



Care in the community

Ōmārama Community Care Group

Because all Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted and the last time the Care Group was asked for assistance was in June, the Care Group has been formally wound up. 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 whatever will best suit you.



Twizel Community Care Centre

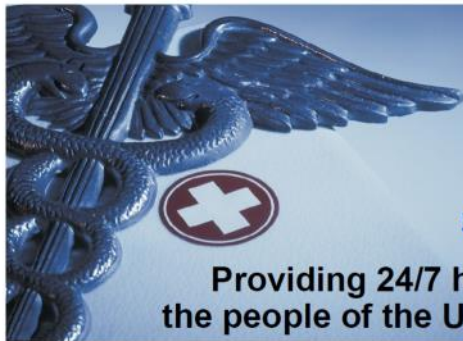
If you need any of the services listed below please contact:

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel, Phone: 03 435 0687

Open: Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm

- A reminder we have a food bank available with no questions asked. With the lead up to Christmas, it can be a particularly difficult time for people so please call in to the Twizel Community Care Centre on Mt Cook Street if you are in need of food.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Home Delivered Meals – We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for \$8 and small snack meals for \$4. We can deliver to your home.
- Printing/scanning services
- Assistance with finding jobs in the area.
- Foodbank – donations, and supply people with food parcels when in need
- Any other government services – ACC, Department of Corrections, etc
- Arowhenua Whanau services – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Computer/cellphone assistance – needing help with something on your computer or cellphone. Free WiFi
- Rat tests/Mask supply free of charge
- Assistance with filling in any forms or paperwork.
- Offer room hire to community groups and businesses.



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 \$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

Reporting issues is a snap with our Snap Send Solve App

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

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



Waitaki
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TE KAUMIHĒRA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

www.waitaki.govt.nz

*Scan for more info
and app download*



Justices of the Peace

JPs are available by appointment to:

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

The service is free of charge

To make your visit quick and easy:

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



Georgie Robertson
Omarama

03 438 9554 027 4861525



Vicky Munro
Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



Alona Shaw
Omarama

027 773 4214

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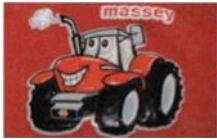


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W: valuationpartners.co.nz

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Big Sky

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Karan & Jess

Karan MacDiarmid

027 517 7959

karan@mcre.co.nz

Jess Mackay

027 902 5529

karan@mcre.co.nz

20 Ruataniwha Road, Twizel

Mackenzie Country Real Estate Ltd Licensed REA 2008



Many thanks to all in the waitaki who have given me their support this year and Have a very merry & safe christmas with family & friends.

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

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

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

Thinking of selling? **Call Gary today.**



Gary Sutherland

027 432 6615

gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

For appraisals & viewings over the holidays call me anytime



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

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

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

December 2023

Highest temperature: December 19, 30.1C

Lowest temperature: December 11, 3C

Most rainfall: December 26, 11.2 mm

Total rainfall for December: 34.8 mm

The Ōmārama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

omaramagazette@gmail.com

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