



Ōmārama Gazette

July 2023

A year on - has enough been done?

It is one year on from the first of two major Ōmārama Stream flood events which left considerable damage in its wake.

On the night and morning of July 18/19 last year and again on August 6 heavy rain forced the Ōmārama Stream out of its bed at the bridge and to chart its own new course to the Ahuriri River.

Environment Canterbury river engineers said the flood event of July 18 was the highest ever recorded flow at Wardells Bridge across SH8.

Although much work has been done upstream of the bridge to reduce the risk of a repeat of the damaging flows, those downstream are wondering if enough work has been done there by the agencies tasked with the job.

After last year's floods concerns were raised that planned stream maintenance work had fallen behind and that ECan, which is responsible for the stream work, had not done enough to maintain an effective channel below the bridge to reduce flooding risk to properties there.

-continued over

A year ago scenes like these made headlines around the country as emergency services responded to record river flows evacuating people throughout the night.



A year on - has enough been done? - continued

Subsequently, in November, a meeting was held between ECan's Ōmārama Stream Rating District ratepayers and ECan staff to discuss a scope of work and how it would be funded.

The agreed scope of work included clearing blockages in-stream, channel improvement, repair to the damaged stopbank and preventative maintenance of willows threatened the flood carrying capacity of the stream. It was estimated it would cost between \$70 and \$100,000 to complete the work.

The plan was to carry out the work early this year on the Stream and flood banks below the SH8 bridge to mitigate flooding risk to adjacent properties in the township. Other agencies have also been involved in carrying out remedial work.

Last week, the Ōmārama Gazette contacted ECan and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to ask what had been completed and what more needed to be done.

As the agency responsible for state highways, Waka Kotahi is charged with the maintenance of the SH 8 bridge across the Ōmārama Stream - Wardells Bridge. Coastal Otago senior network manager Chris Harris told the Ōmārama Gazette all "reinstatement work" at the bridge had been completed.

"This included, tree removal, the repair of scour damage on the true left bank and rock armouring.

"We will be returning to re-apply herbicide to the tree stumps, otherwise our work is complete," Mr Harris said.

Last month, in the Waitaki District Council assets group report to the Council Activities meeting, assets operations manager Josh Rendell said several assets team officers were working with ECan on flood prevention in Ōmārama to protect council infrastructure and to make sure "more appropriate flood mitigation measures are in place as soon as possible. This is an Environment Canterbury-led project, with Waitaki District Council being one of many stakeholders," the report said.

The council-owned Ōmārama wastewater treatment plant was among the assets which sustained some damage in the event . Others included the golf club road and the walkway.

Stream ratepayers spoken to by the Ōmārama Gazette last week expressed concern that despite the programme of work agreed to in November not enough had been done to prevent flooding if there was to be a repeat of last year's events this winter.

However, on Friday, at the same time as the Ōmārama Gazette received answers to its questions, the ratepayers said they also received an email telling them the remainder of the planned work would be completed by the end of this month.

The Omarama Gazette asked ECan what had been done, what was still to be done and when ratepayers could expect that to be completed.

ECan Rivers manager David Aires said that by March the trees along the eroded stopbank had been removed.

"These were removed using an excavator and stacked on Waitaki District Council land, with prior approval. While the machinery was on site, we skimmed the gravel island adjacent to the bank and stockpiled approximately 730m³ of gravel on WDC land, again with approval.

“This material has been earmarked for the potential construction of a bund upstream of the bridge,” Mr Aires said.

“The intention is to use some of it to repair the stopbank and to build a bund at the State Highway bridge. We are currently in discussions with other parties to determine the best option for these works, in order to prevent flooding and protect existing infrastructure. As yet there is no agreed start date, or date for moving the gravel.”

He said the gravel stockpiles would have “little effect” on stream flows should there be repeat of last year’s high stream levels.

“In a flood of similar size to last year, water would already be flowing towards the golf course from further upstream. For an event that size, the gravel stockpiles would have little effect,” he said.

“As per usual, increased flows are expected in the stream heading into winter.

“Since July 2022, the stream has naturally shifted into a historic channel on the true left of the flood plain and this is now well established, with evidence of habitat for aquatic life, including sockeye salmon spawning beds. We have put a plan of works together to remove low tree limbs, saplings in the stream bed and limbs crossing the river. Removing trees which are at risk of catching debris will open up the stream bed, enabling unimpeded flow.”

“The Department of Conservation and Central South Island Fish & Game have both been consulted and we are currently engaging with Te Rūnanga o Moeraki. We hope to start works within the next month. The rebuild of the damaged stopbank will be completed in late spring/early summer, as it is still currently functional.”

Modelling has been completed to determine the capacity of the highway bridge and discussion between ECan, the council and Waka Kotahi is ongoing, he said.

At the November meeting the [stream] ratepayers agreed to pay \$30,000 for the next two financial years, \$20,000 the following financial year and \$1000 in the 2026-2027 financial year. All ratepayers agreed to fund this as passed by the committee, as per the minutes,” Mr Aires said.

The Ōmārama Gazette also emailed questions to ECan councillor Nick Ward because it understands he has been talking to the Stream ratepayers about the rating arrangement. However, it received no response.

There will be follow-up coverage in the August issue

This willow (photo at left) which had fallen across the Omarama Stream was cleared by ECan and gravel removed in works completed in March (photo at right).



Paying for the right to know - editorial

The 'right to know' is recognised as fundamental to our democracy.

It is a right which underpins the ability of our media here in New Zealand - yes, even in Ōmārama - to operate freely.

It is a right which Sir Julian Smith, former publisher of the Otago Daily Times and director of Allied Press said equated with "an open, informed and healthy democracy" *.

In that same forward to Karl Du Fresne's booklet promoting media freedom he points out that there are "myriad ways in which media freedom can be subtly undermined". It is a right that cannot be taken for granted.

Last week, in response to a Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act request made for more background to a recent Waitaki District Council media release about responses to an Alps to Ocean cycle trail survey, the Ōmārama Gazette received this response:

"I refer to your official information request dated June 13th, 2023, regarding Alps 2 Ocean Trail survey responses and accident/incident reports. ...

Council Officers have reviewed and decided to grant your request.

Given the amount of resource required to process your request, we have decided to charge for making the requested information available.

*We estimate that the maximum charge will be **\$990.00 of work [for] 9 hours estimated to collate (first hour free, then \$55 per half-hour, or part thereof) Plus \$412.50 (\$165 per hour for [the] NZCT (New Zealand Cycle Trails) response, [to your] LGOIMA question 2) to extract the information you have requested.***

However, we have already spent more than an hour on this request, so any further work will need to be charged.

In total the maximum charge is \$1,402.50.

[The Gazette's] LGOIMA question 2 was as follows:

Please supply the "aggregated" and "anonymous" A20 Trail Survey responses as collated by Get Smart system, and available to the Alps 2 Ocean Trail manager, to the questions about trail difficulty, condition of the trail surfaces, rating of trail signage, suggestions for improving the trail experience, rating of information available on the Alps 2 Ocean website, and how many people needed to be rescued or evacuated, from the past season from September 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

Any unused component of the maximum charge will be refunded to you.

For details of how this charge has been calculated refer to Civic Activities | Waitaki District Council (Official Information Enquiries).

***Before we proceed further with your request, please confirm your agreement to the charge and pay the maximum full amount \$1,402.50.** Once you have agreed to this payment Council will send you an invoice for you to pay. We will send you the information as soon as practicable after your payment. Please note the pricing indicated can be recalculated if you choose to refine or lessen your request.*

Kind regards..."

Official information legislation covers government departments, local government and publicly funded bodies. Section 5 of the Official Information Act 1982 says "... information shall be made available unless there is good reason for withholding it."

And, yes, it is in the Act, agencies do have the right to charge "reasonable" costs for

labour and materials involved in making information available. A deposit maybe required and charges may have to be paid in advance. And no, I have received no information from that first hour of work referred to in the email.

"Time spent deciding whether to grant a request is not chargeable, nor is time spent trying to find information which is not where it should be. Charges can be waived if... payment will cause the applicant financial hardship, It would enhance the organisation's public image or it would be in the public interest," investigative reporter Amanda Cropp says in her book**

Let's rewind a bit so you know where this began and how it got to this point.

This year the Alps to Ocean Trail celebrated its first 10 years of operation. In May, the council issued this press release "Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail survey reveals positive economic impact" celebrating the significant economic contribution the trail makes to small towns and villages along its route.

Undoubtedly it does – this is why Otematata has been lobbying since the day the trail opened to have it re-routed through its town.

So, why would any reporter want to question any of this, risk any adverse publicity and, basically, ruin a good thing for small town businesses.

I can categorically assure you that was not the aim.

The story I had planned was to be well-researched and rounded – a fair, accurate and balanced view - of the difference the trail has made to our community.

Naturally, the press releases have tended to focus on the positives. But even good news stories need balance otherwise it's just puffery – like those photos of those burgers. And there appear to be cracks appearing in that rose-tinted view of our world-famous trail.

In March, Peter Rodwell, of Elderslie, near Oamaru wrote a letter to the editor of the Oamaru Mail in which he says;

"I read with interest your article on February 17 regarding celebration of the A20.

"There are, of course, a number of contrary views and we, the owners of one of the properties that the trail runs through the centre of, are not celebrating.

The state of the trail is nothing less than a disgrace and it has been so for the last 7 months with no repair in the near future in sight."

The responses from Waitaki District Council assets operations manager Josh Rendell and Waitaki mayor Gary Kircher are attached to the letter.

My sources in Ōmārama tell me of concerns here also.

Because of washouts caused by flood events the best part of a year ago, parts of the trail have been out of action for a considerable part of the tourist season. Repairs and maintenance work began on the Otematapaio River and Tarnbrae in May. There was a press release: Update on Repairs and Maintenance wWork.

In the interim there were accounts of some cyclists leaving the trail and finding themselves lost on private farmland trying to negotiate streams and rivers – the Otematapaio River being one – or to find their way back to the road and firm ground. Was there enough information about the state of the trail available and obvious?

Against the reported positives economics for trail communities must be weighed the costs to tax and ratepayers who have spent in the hundreds of thousands to build and repair the trail since its inception. Figures are available here.:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/immigration-and-tourism/tourism/tourism-projects/nga-haerenga-the-new-zealand-cycle-trail/nzct-funding/nzct-funding-recipients/The>

Paying for the right to know, editorial -continued

council is, at present, waiting on a decision on a further bid to the latest funding round to pay for more repairs and maintenance as well as to upgrade sections of the trail to make them safer.

Section 4 of the trail between Tarnbrae and Omarama is second on the priority list - the first in priority in the Waitaki District - for safety upgrades once further MBIE funding is granted. Sources tell me, this season with many more using the trail, accidents in our neck of the woods have reached concerning numbers - specifically where the trail meets Quailburn Rd and cyclists ride into loose gravel. Again, from sources, reportedly Alps 2 Ocean trail manager Robyn Hyde and Fire and Emergency New Zealand Otago/ Waitaki group manager Michael Harrison met earlier this year to discuss ways to improve matters, and the Ōmārama Fire Brigade and First Response were asked to collate accident statistics for Ms Hyde. Sources also told me that some trail operators were helping cyclists get emergency medical help without the involvement of the services, and so true numbers would not necessarily be recorded. That concerns within the trail management team were real became evident in Facebook posts asking for people to report any accidents via its website.

Interestingly, health and safety reports made public in council minutes seem to make scant reference to incidents on the trail. One has to assume councillors would need to be briefed on most incidents? They certainly receive regular briefings about accidents at the Oamaru Aquatic Centre and a "near miss" at Oamaru Airfield was recorded in last month's Council Activity Update.

At this point, for myself as a reporter, there are a raft of questions building up alongside the concerns voiced by my sources.

My starting point for the story was the press release and this statement: "The latest New Zealand Cycle Trail Monthly Report Survey received 807 responses from Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail users between April 2022 and March 2023, the highest number of survey responses out of all the 23 Great Rides in New Zealand."

What were those responses, I wondered?

"We're thrilled to see such a high level of engagement from Trail users," said A2O Trail Manager Robyn Hyde. "We take all feedback seriously, and we're committed to making the Trail the best it can be. Positive feedback that has been received month on month is centred on praise for the scenery, facilities, and experiences offered by the Trail. The on-road gravel sections, Trail surface and condition are cited as opportunities to improve the overall experience."

The release went on to tout the positive economic impact – citing another section of the feedback data collected in the survey.

On May 29, I emailed the author of the press release and asked for a copy of the full report and the survey responses which had informed the press release.

I was sent a section of the survey report recording the economic data collected – the "Quarterly Economic Contribution to Area". I thanked them for the response and asked for the additional survey responses referred to in the release and received this reply:

"NZCT commissions the survey and we get a Trail Manager's report/summary each month.

"We unfortunately do not have the actual survey results as the records are with NZCT."

I tried again:

"So, to clarify the request.

"I would like to see the responses submitted by A2O trail users in the survey as referred to in the press release:

"The latest New Zealand Cycle Trail Monthly Report Survey received 807 responses from Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail users between April 2022 and March 2023, the highest number of survey responses out of all the 23 Great Rides in New Zealand. The results exceed the benchmarked minimum and targeted feedback responses, which have been set at 300 and 500 respectively."

"We take all feedback seriously, and we're committed to making the Trail the best it can be. We're grateful to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback and we look forward to continuing to improve the Trail for future users.

"Positive feedback that has been received month on month is centred on praise for the scenery, facilities, and experiences offered by the Trail. The on-road gravel sections, Trail surface and condition are cited as opportunities to improve the overall experience."

I have been sent the economic data from that survey, thank you.

The press release refers to "positive responses" and "areas or opportunities to improve". I would like to see both.

I believe, as you say, NZCT commissions the survey, and Robyn and the council get a Trail Manager's report/summary each month.

However, obviously from the material already provided quite specific segments of information can be pulled out of the data collected, it is the reason for conducting the surveys.

This data and response collection from A2O users is ongoing – and as you say it feeds into economic data and improving experience.

It is logical, as trail managers, the council and Robyn have ready access to this and use it to inform decisions and recommendations for public spending.

I look forward to receiving the information requested."

The communications specialist asked the trail manger to respond.

"Robyn, can you kindly request all the survey responses from NZCT and forward onto Ruth."

There outcome was a to-ing and fro-ing, in all over nine days and no answers. There had been staff absences.

On June 6, the day before publication of the June Gazette and a week after my initial enquiry I added further questions to my request and copied in Mr Harrison.

The day after publication on June 8 I received a response from both within minutes of each other, and it was at this point that further limited information was shared.

From Ms Hyde:

"As indicated previously I forwarded your request for the survey responses to NZCT. NZCT have come back to me and stated that due to privacy issues they are not able to release this information to you. Information gathered via a survey comes under strict privacy rules. Raw data/responses cannot be released to the media as apart from other considerations it was not gathered for this purpose, therefore breaching privacy considerations."

She went on to say that since January 2020 about a third - 34% - of all the accidents which happen on the trail happen on section 4. She did not say how many accidents

Paying for the right to know, editorial - continued

this represented.

She also said she had met with emergency services to discuss improved access for them as well as additional signage.

I question the privacy assertion. It states clearly to those who complete the survey that: "Unless otherwise stated, all surveys undertaken by organisations using the get smart system collect information on an anonymous basis and the information you provide is made available to these organisations only when aggregated with the information provided by other survey participants."

Here was Mr Harrison's response:

"Fire and Emergency New Zealand has attended a number of incidents along the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail over the last year. This has been expected as the trail becomes more popular and the number of cyclists using it increases.

"Protecting and preserving lives is our purpose, so when we attend an incident on the trail we advise the Alps 2 Ocean team. They can then investigate and take any appropriate action to make the trail safer for cyclists. The Alps 2 Ocean team have been excellent to work with. Through this relationship we've been able to implement ways to improve access for emergency services to isolated parts of the trail.

"We understand the importance of the Alps 2 Ocean to the local economy and want visitors to enjoy their time in the Waitaki. FENZ will continue to work with the Alps 2 Ocean team to ensure the trail remains a great and safe experience for locals and visitors to our district."

Still no numbers.

It did seem likely the stumbling block was supplying information which could be portrayed or perceived as 'negative'. In my experience it seems the closer you get to public information that someone does not want shared the more pushback there is.

When doing the research for the story I was warned to be careful. Visitors to the trail were supporting a lot of businesses; the place is buzzing and thriving. I agree.

And some are also quietly voicing concern about the fall out. There are operators in all sectors - cycle tour and accommodation - who are afraid to make waves about where things are not working.

From this month the council will require commercial cycle tour operators to pay \$5 per head per day for tour groups using the trail.

Who will administer this, how will they verify numbers and how will they decide how it is spent?

On June 13, I lodged the LGOIMA request with the council asking for the information needed to fill the gaps. *[If you would like to see the full request I can email this to you.]* None of this information is private and all should be readily available so as to inform councillors and council staff about the management of the trail. It is logical as trail managers the council and Robyn have ready access to this and use it to inform decisions and recommendations for public spending as well as the public press releases.

And an Official Information Act Request was lodged with Fire and Emergency New Zealand for the accident statistics. *[If you would like to see the full request I can email this to you.]*

Apart from acknowledging receipt, The only correspondence since has been the

council's request for payment.

Let me tell you a little about the Ōmārama Gazette financials.

This is an excerpt from an email I sent to council chief executive Alex Parmley and then communications specialist Anna Eisenhut , August 4, 2022, explaining how things worked.

“There is a minimum charge made for advertising depending on the size of the advertisement.

This pays for printing and distribution only.

It also pays for the advertising for local and not-for-profit community groups.

It means the council can be offered a discounted rate for its advertising.

The Gazette receives no grants of any kind.

This is to keep everything independent and transparent.

I am not paid, I work as a volunteer for the Ōmārama community.”

This year, the council has paid the Gazette the per annum local contract advertising rate of \$330 for a year's worth (11) full page advertisements - this is its Ahuriri Link published in each Gazette. It has also, so far this year, paid for two additional half page insertions of the snap, send, solve app advertisement for a total of \$60.

I started with a quote from a newspaperman I greatly admire, Sir Julian Smith.

Let me finish with another from New Zealand writer and historian Michael King.

“The role of the journalist above all else is to disclose, to shed light in hidden places.”

I consider charging what is arguably a large sum to retrieve information the council should already have to hand, and which is actively being used in discussions and decisions, to be a financial obstacle to access to public information and one of the “myriad ways in which media freedom can be subtly undermined”.

Unless you can afford to pay for it you won't get access – is that how democracy works?

It is in the public interest for tax and ratepayers to know how their money is being spent.

It is in the public interest to know more about the experiences of the users of the trail, good and bad.

No-one wants Ōmārama to be the place visitors remember because of an accident even if there is gratitude for the kindness of strangers.

No-one wants to be welcoming the injured and their companions into their hostleries even if they will willingly offer world-class hospitality.

No-one wants people to return home from holiday to rave about the scenery, their top class guides and accommodation and oh, how wonderful Ōmārama's emergency services are. And they are. We do all want the issues dealt to.

I think we all agree on this.

This morning I paid the council the \$1,402.50 asked for in return for supplying the information. I have a receipt.

Let's see what happens next.

NB I will be appealing the council's decision to the Ombudsman

Ruth Grundy,

Editor, Ōmārama Gazette

*References: *The right to know News media Freedom in New Zealand , by Karl du Fresne.*

***Digging Deeper, a New Zealand Guide to Investigative Reporting, by Amanda Cropp.*

Trust Board responds to community queries

While St Thomas's has not yet sold the Otago Foundation Trust Board, that is administering matters, has responded to further questions from the community about the sale of the church.

Last month, the Ōmārama Gazette published the story about the church property going on the market which prompted questions about the true ownership of the building because its build was funded by the community and the church was interdenominational.

As well, there were questions asked about the exact amount the Presbyterian Church had contributed to the build.

The Ōmārama Gazette put those questions to the trustees, who forwarded the matter to the Trust's lawyers for their professional opinion.

On Wednesday, the legal team sent a statement to the Ōmārama Gazette on behalf of the Trust and Presbyterian Church Synod of Otago and Southland.

While the church has not sold – the deadline treaty closed June 23 – the Trust does have the legal right to sell both the land and the building, it said.

“...without documentary evidence to the contrary the ownership of the St Thomas's Church building lies with the Trust Board.

“This is because, at law, a building is a fixture of the land and once a building is attached to the land, it is owned by the owner of the land, not by the person or entity who paid for its construction.”

The Trust Board is governed by the Otago Foundation Trust Board Act 1992 – an Act of Parliament. Under section 14 of Act, the Trust Board as trustees “hold” all Presbyterian parish properties located south of the Waitaki River.

The Act rules on what can and can't be done with these properties.

Before coming to decisions it must identify “the purpose” for which the properties were acquired, and “honour” that purpose, “in accordance with the law”.

St Thomas's Church building was built for ecumenical Christian worship and services in the Ōmārama community, and was supported by the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Presbyterian churches.

“This will need to be taken into account in determining what happens with the building,” the statement said.

Property title records show that the parcel of land that comprises the property has been in the ownership of the Presbyterian Church since at least 1921 (originally the Otago Presbyterian Church Board of Property and latterly the Otago Foundation Trust Board since 1971).

“In terms of the existence of a Deed of Transfer, the chain of ownership recorded on the Records of Title is evidence of the Property ownership over time ...without documentary evidence to the contrary the ownership of the St Thomas's Church building lies with the Trust Board.”

“Our client is therefore legally entitled to sell the Property on the open market and the proceeds will be held on trust by the Trust Board in accordance with the Act.”

The Trust Board must follow a statutory process when deciding what to do with proceeds, and the St Thomas's Church Management Committee was taking steps

(including obtaining community submissions) to determine how the proceeds should be disbursed. it said.

“The Trust Board will consider any documentary evidence provided to it to support application of the proceeds.

“However, without any evidence to the contrary, the Trust Board is required to exercise its statutory functions under the Act when dealing with those proceeds, and it not free to simply distribute those proceeds in a way that does not accord with the provision of the Act.”

Although interdenominational funding made the build possible and it was intended the church would provide a place for ecumenical services, the Trust “does not accept the assertion that the Presbyterian Church did not contribute toward the construction of the building ... this was a joint undertaking between the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian Churches.”

The management committee made the decisions to sell because of falling attendance at church services and because it is no longer financially viable to continue to maintain the building, it said.

“Our clients acknowledge that the community is passionate about St Thomas's Church and the history behind its construction.

“It welcomes any documentary evidence that supports a return of some of the proceeds to the community, but does note the statutory constraints it must operate within.

“Our clients will continue to engage with the community on this process.”



The St John/Fenz MOU review - July update

Next month, it will be one year since the Ōmārama community gathered to put its case to Hato Hone St John and Fire and Emergency New Zealand for a review of the agencies' 2020 Memorandum of Understanding to include a local agreement for its Fire First Response unit which would allow it to be turned out to all medical emergency 111 calls.

At present, the agreement operates under a trial status and is not formalised.

The review of the MOU has been underway since November. The Ōmārama and Districts Community Co-Response Trust oversees and funds the Ōmārama First Response unit.

Last month, Labour's Waitaki candidate Ethan Reille arranged a zoom meeting with the Minister for Internal Affairs Barbara Edmonds and Minister for Emergency Management/Rural Communities Kieran McNulty so the trust could brief them on the issue. However, neither Minister was able to make the meeting. Instead trust members met with Mrs Edmond's private secretary and Fenz National Manager Response Capability Paul Turner.

Speaking to the Ōmārama Gazette after the meeting, Trust Chairman Lindsay Purvis said, although the group was disappointed not to be speaking to the Ministers' directly it felt it had been able to clearly state its case.

He said he asked Mr Turner why the negotiations within Fenz to settle the part it played in the review of the MOU were taking so long.

The MOU needed to be more flexible and not 'one size fits all' so it could allow first response units up and down the country to better serve their communities, especially rural communities – each of which was different, Mr Purvis said.

He said he pressed home the point to the officials that, despite the fact St John and Fenz had agreed the response model could continue as the enhanced trial status, it was still only a trial and needed to be formalised.

The Trust was told, as far as Fenz was concerned, negotiations within the organisation had made progress and now it was waiting for St John to engage in discussions on the matter and set out its requirements, Mr Purvis said.

At the conclusion of the hour-long meeting it was agreed it would be useful if the group reconvened with a St John representative present to continue discussions.

"We need them both [Fenz and St John] to be there. We are adamant we are not going anywhere. We are not giving up," Mr Purvis told the Ōmārama Gazette.

Meanwhile, the Trust has handed a petition with 796 signatures along with a written submission to Waitaki MP Jacqui Dean asking for Parliament to urge the agencies to formalise the trial response model. In addition, it has asked the Petitions Committee to be allowed to speak to its case. The group is waiting for a hearings date.

Last month, Hato Hone St John Southland-Otago District Operations Manager Pauline Buchanan sent this statement to the Omarama Gazette:

"Hato Hone St John has recently been invited to provide a submission in response to the August 2022 petition ... Should we choose to make a submission, this will become publicly available on the New Zealand Parliament website.

"Work continues to review of the MOU between Hato Hone St John and Fire and Emergency New Zealand. In the meantime, Hato Hone St John remains committed to providing timely access to ambulance services to the people of Omarama and other rural communities across New Zealand and we thank the Omarama Fire First Response Unit for their ongoing support," she said.

IN LATE NEWS: Labour's Waitaki candidate Ethan Reille sent this update to the trust on Wednesday. *"Fenz representatives are meeting with representatives from St John today to better understand their position. Once I have an update from them I can organise a meeting with all stakeholders."*

Meeting will discuss new health hub

A community meeting is to be held at the Ōmārama Community Centre next week to present a proposal for a Community Health and Wellness Centre for the Waitaki community.

The Waitaki Valley Health Trust has historically been responsible for providing medical services to the mid and upper Waitaki.

The trust strongly believed there was an urgent need for a replacement community health and wellness centre to replace the "aged and inadequate" general practice buildings, in Kurow, trust chairperson Jim Jerram said.

"Safety, and in particular privacy of access, within a small community is seen as a priority in this concept."

Dr Jerram said the trust was committed to broadening the scope of the facility and providing a modern purpose-built, future-proofed building that would meet the needs of the general practice and the wider community into the future.

Dr Tim Gardner and wife Juliet Gardner bought the Kurow-based general practice in 2016. "We are in consultation with them at each step in the project process," Dr Jerram said.

The Trust became "landlords" of the premises on land owned by Department of Conservation and vested in the Waitaki District Council, he said.

The project aimed to provide a "multipurpose physical environment to cover the breadth of services necessary to promote health and wellbeing and to dispense health care".

"The medical practice build will be the major, but not only, component, with allied health services, including physiotherapy, counselling, podiatry, ear nurse, district nursing and particularly a community meeting room also being accommodated."

"To be blunt, the existing facility is marginal at best, certainly not fit-for-purpose. It is a collection of old 1960's Catchment Commission buildings... Disability and ambulance access is poor with consulting rooms and offices on different levels.

Practice staff struggle with insufficient rooms and space; poor insulation and lack of adequate heating and cooling; constant maintenance issues (leaking roof, blocked drainage etc)."

"Major upgrades are needed." .



Show spectacular brings rave reviews

THE CURTAIN CALLS ARE OVER,

The reviews are in...

"...the most amazing performance by the Omarama School children - you should all feel super proud of yourselves and a big ups to everyone!" - audience member posted on Facebook.

Thursday evening's performance of the Ōmārama School production of 'Splash', the musical, played to a packed audience and was universally declared a resounding success.

Storyline: inspired by 'Splash'

Script: Craig Hawes, Music by Geraldine Sumner, Lighting: Andy Moore, Tech Support: Jo Golder and Andy Moore, Costumes: Clair Winslade and parents, Props: Jemma Gloag, Murray Stuart, Nic Leopold and Jo Golder, Hair and make-up: Kathy Kerr, Skye Watson, Petrina Paton.

With thanks to all who donated materials and helped create costumes.





Ribbon cutting marks an new era

The long-awaited moment arrived... It was tools down, the ribbon was cut and the newly-refurbished wing of Boots & Jandals Hotel Ōmārama declared open! There was a fantastic turnout of locals on Friday night [June 23, 2023] to mark the moment and wish owners Dave and Karen Ellis and lease-owners Bruce and Julie Dyson all the very best.

Long-time patron Pat (Wingy) Leopold cut the ribbon to open the new wing with just one more question left for Dave.

"Have you finished stuffing round with the pub yet?" he asked to much laughter. Almost, Dave said. There were just a few more improvements to make on the remaining part of the building.

Dave thanked all those involved in the project and Bruce paid tribute to Dave and Karen for taking on the project less than a year ago.

"This town is proud of what they are offering us. It's second to none," Bruce said. Renovations began in earnest in September.

The new look includes a new garden bar complete with a king-sized outdoor fire, a new dining area, kitchen and boutique accommodation.

Dave and Karen, Bruce and Julie extend their thanks to...

* Timaru-based Shore Construction, A2O Electrical Services, Kennedy Aluminium, HiFlo, Barrett Joinery, Red Hand Scaffolding, Karton Construction Systems Ltd

* Boots and Jandals Hotel staff for their dedication throughout the past year.

To enjoy more photos go to the Ōmārama Gazette Facebook page

Photos at right: Hotel owners Dave and Karen Ellis enjoy a celebratory drink with guests in the new restaurant; the 'tradies' celebrate the end of the build in style; Guests gather around the mammoth open fire which is the focus of the new garden bar; Long-time resident Lex Perriam marks the special occasion with the opening of a drop of former publican, the late Eoin Woods's, favourite tippie. While good friend Tony Gloag (79), of Buscot Station, may hold the title of oldest, Omarama-born resident, second to oldest, Ginger Anderson(77), of Ben Omar Station reckons that of the two of them, he holds the title of most dedicated punter, a joke he shares with friend Laurie Ruddenklau; former publican Peter Casserly congratulates Karen Ellis; Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama's Bruce Dyson thanks all for their support; Ginger congratulates Dave; Casso charms the ladies The Two Steve's - Stephen Grundy and Steve Dolan reminisce about that infamous moment in history - 1986 - when the newly-arrived NZED lads forced the hand of Stan and Pat Cotter's barman, Dave Hutton, and 'turned' the DB pub, Speights. Who'd ever heard of Heineken? Ōmārama was never the same!





The Noticeboard

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

The Ōmārama Gazette has a focus on our 'Noticeboard' section and community group with contributions welcome. Let us all know what you are up to, and any little snippets such as congratulations or farewells.

A special request: The flag that flies on the top of Lady Bird Hill will need to be replaced again shortly. Because of Omarama's extreme weather it is replaced often. If anyone would like to donate towards the purchase of a new flag please contact Mike King, 027 434 2760.

Many Happy Returns to Mike and Lorraine King who have birthdays this month.

Wanted: house to swap or crib to rent for December 30, 31, 2023, and 1, 2 January 2024 in Omarama. Happily house swap for our crib in Lake Hawea. For a family, no pets, non smokers. Sarahstalkercelebrant@gmail.com

Congratulations to all:

Judged in Wanaka last month, the Otago Merino Association's Child Cancer fleece competition results:

Up to 16.2 micron: Hazel Hills 1, Little Valley 2, Glen Cary 3.

16.3-17.3: Little Valley 1, Merino Ridges 2, Stonehenge 3.

17.4-18.3: Otematata 1, Waikeri Downs 2, Glenrock 3.

Over 18.3: Buscot 1, Ahuriri Downs 2, Bluestone 3.

Overall winner: Little Valley.

Results of the Clip of the Year.

Superfine — up to 17.5 micron: Matarae 1, Foulden Hill 2, Patearoa 3.

Fine wool — over 17.5: Benmore 1, Armidale 2, Maryburn 3.

Top stud clip: Benmore.

Top commercial clip: Foulden Hill.

Age Concern coffee afternoons in Ōmārama from 1pm to 3pm at the Ōmārama Community Centre on the second Tuesday of each month.

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

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

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

St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:

chairperson: Ven Dr Michael Godfrey, phone 022 342 9977 or email Dylanfreak@gmail.com; committee secretary (Presbyterian): 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 Adrian Tuffley phone: 027 347 8276 www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group meets once a month. For

time and place contact facilitator Nicola McKerchar. Phone: 022 612 7570; email: committee@ahuriricatchment.com

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 Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016 tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz

Bridge Club - The Ōmārama Bridge Club meets on a regular basis and would welcome new members. If you are interested please phone Sylvia Anderson 438 9784 or Ann Patterson 438 9493.

The Ōmārama Model Aircraft Club meets on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Don Selbie on 027 435 5516.

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

A gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises.

The exercises are run with the guidance of personal trainer Lauren Maree. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz W: www.newcomers.co.nz F: facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Ōmārama Plunket Committee: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536 aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com

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](http://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 August Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, August 2 2023.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, June 27, 2023

OMARAMA
Rodeo Club

Hill Billy Hunt

Friday July 7th-9th

Registration 6.30pm Friday July 7th at

The Wrinkly Rams Omarama

\$50 Teams of 2-4

Weigh in Sunday 9th 3.30pm

The Wrinkly Rams, Car park

Awesome Prizes – New hunting Categories –
All ages Welcome

Omarama Rodeo Club

MID WINTER

QUIZ NIGHT

Teams of 4, \$50 Entry Fee.

Dinner Available until 7.30pm

The Wrinkly Rams Omarama

July 7th 7.30pm

Loads of Prizes &
Categories

Auction Items &
Raffles



Winter Housie

From Wednesday, June 7

1pm each Wednesday

@ the Omarama Community Centre

*20 Houses *Super House *Afternoon Tea

*Raffles *Supported by Age Concern

(Please bring small denominations or coins)

A warm welcome to all



HOUSIE EACH WEDNESDAY

Reporting issues is a snap with our Snap Send Solve App

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

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



Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Scan for more info
and app download



Reducing your fertiliser use



**Synthetic
nitrogen
fertiliser use
is limited
on all grazed
pasture.**

Nitrogen applied to pasture aids growth, but it can leach into the ground, lowering surface and groundwater quality. Reducing nitrogen use is essential for protecting drinking water and the environment.

The limit of 190kg per hectare per year for synthetic nitrogen fertiliser use applies to all grazed pasture, not just dairy. Canterbury dairy farmers: report your use to us by the end of July.

For access to the reporting tools, visit ecan.govt.nz/ncap, or call us on 0800 324 636.

**Environment
Canterbury
Regional Council**
Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

AHURIRI LINK

NEWS FROM COUNCIL & THE COMMUNITY BOARD

Council is taking a mid-year break from meetings for the remainder of July 2023.

The Council Meeting and Performance, Audit and Risk Committee Meeting that were originally scheduled to be held on 25 July have been deferred to Tuesday 8 August 2023.

The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting will be held in September.



OTEMATATA DOMAIN

The installation of the new playground equipment in Otematata Domain is complete and looking fabulous.

We're looking forward to the next stage of park development throughout the Domain with new landscaping, pathways, lighting, irrigated plantings, shelters and a barbecue. Construction is scheduled to start in August. Well done to the dedicated members of the Otematata Residents Association, who made all this happen as part of their Community Led Development Programme!

GRANTS & FUNDING

Council has three funding rounds open in July that you or your community group may be eligible for:

COMMUNITY GROUP GRANTS

Open 3 July - 4 August 2023

Funding to help community groups and not-for-profits with projects and programmes that benefit the Waitaki community.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES SCHEME

Open 3 July - 4 August 2023

Funding for local creative projects that promote participation in the arts.

WAITAKI HERITAGE FUND

Open 3 July - 15 September 2023

Grants for works that protect and enhance the historic character of heritage buildings or sites.

Find more details and apply here:

www.waitaki.govt.nz/grants-and-awards

WAITAKI CITIZENS AWARDS

Do you know an unsung hero?

The Waitaki Citizens Awards are open for nominations until 28 July. Help us show some appreciation for our community volunteers. Don't wait, nominate!

From the arts to sports, social and cultural, carers and environmentalists, it's a great opportunity to recognise those who give to the Ahuriri community every day.

More info and the nomination form here:

www.waitaki.govt.nz/grants-and-awards



www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHĒRA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Golf Club

By Paul Bowman, Ōmārama Golf Club president.

The Ōmārama Golf Club one year on

As you all know the club suffered a lot of damage from the flooding last year, building, fences, driveway and car park and general damage to the course.

A big thank you to all who have helped us recover, the community, members, and businesses. The damaged fairways and greens have recovered remarkably well. There is still some work needed around the fairways and this is work in progress.

The fences have all been repaired, our driveway inside the club grounds and car park are all repaired, some work is still needed on the road in.

We have settled with the insurance company for the Club house damage and repairs are under way. With no damage to the main area, we have been able to continue to use the club rooms.

It is a concern that not a lot of the planned work on the Omarama Stream to prevent a reoccurrence has been completed.

There is still a lot of debris in the riverbed/reserve area that could potentially wash through the club should there be another flood, this would cause damage again.

A large amount of gravel is currently stockpiled close to our boundary, this is likely to cause a problem should we experience another flood. [See *Environment Canterbury's response above - Ed*]

Despite the flood damage, the club is in good heart with good numbers playing on Saturdays, lots of green fee players with positive feedback about the excellent condition of the course.

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

**Club captain: Adrian Tuffley
phone 027 347 8276**

**Secretary: Christine Bowman
phone 027 209 2320**

email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz

www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

New members welcome, membership options available.

Email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz for options

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

**Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com**

Ōmārama Rodeo Club

By Wendy Parsons

Join us this Friday for a great local night out followed by a weekend of hunting competition for young and old!

Friday night is Quiz night at the Wrinkly Rams:

Fun Quiz Questions

Prizes - raffles - auctions

Please bring cash/coins for raffles

Plus register your teams for the hunting competitions.

See you there

And on Sunday, join us again for the weigh-in at the Wrinkly Rams

Something for the kids

- Obstacle Course

- Rabbit Toss

And the heaviest mouse – you don't have to be entered in a hunting team, just rock up with your mouse!!

Auctions – Raffles – and heaps of prizes

Auction Items include:

- * Alloy Tool Box
- * Wellness Hamper
- *Fishing Trip
- *Signed Crusaders Rugby Ball
- *Kids Scooter
- *Baking



Waitaki Neighbourhood Support

The Ōmārama community is invited to a community safety day on Sunday, July 23, from 11am at the Ōmārama Community centre.

There will be presentations from Neighbourhood Support about the work they are doing in the Waitaki area, police will speak about ways of improving safety. Fire and Emergency will talk about fire safety and smoke alarms. St John will run their Three Steps For Life Programme based on CPR and the use of a defibrillator chance of surviving a heart attack. Each presentation will run for approximately 45mins, with two sessions in the morning, then a break for refreshments, with the third session in the afternoon.

If you can't be there for the whole time, just pop in for a short time. We'd love to see you and this is a great opportunity to have all the emergency services in one place at the same time and ready to answer your questions.

Children are welcome, as they can join in and might also learn something that could save a life.

Ngā Mihi, Christine Dorsey

Co-ordinator | Waitaki Neighbourhood Support waitaki@nsotago.nz

Neighbourhood Support, Police, FENZ and St John Safety Day

Sunday July 23rd, 11:00am

Neighbourhood Support, Police, FENZ and St John will be at the Omarama Community Centre running sessions on fire safety, CPR/defibrillators, and community safety.

Refreshments will be supplied. Come along to this community event.

We look forward to seeing you there!



For more information email waitaki@nsotago.nz.

Age Concern

Kathryn Bennett, Waitaki Coordinator

03 434 7008; 027 4347 089

NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz

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

**Age Concern Coffee afternoons are
on the second Tuesday of each month
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.
The next coffee afternoon is 1pm to 3pm,
Tuesday, July 11, 2023**



Photos: supplied

July's guest speaker is recently retired
Mackenzie Lakes Coastguard Dene Madden.

Dene has served as the president of Coastguard Mackenzie Lakes since 2010, apart from a one-year break. The coastguard team plays an important role on the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie lakes especially over the busy summer boating season. It also played a unique role helping to fight the Lake Ohau fire - something not well-known.

A nurseryman by trade, Dene worked on the Upper Waitaki Hydro Electricity project in Twizel from 1976 to 1981, then managed Ministry of Works nurseries before buying all four nurseries.

Later, he was an adult education teacher at Hillmorton High School teaching horticulture.

Returning to Twizel 20 years ago he worked at Twizel Area School as property manager/ caretaker and then facilities manager for the hydro contract for Meridian for 15 years.

As a volunteer he has worked in numerous roles including as a scout leader, for the Twizel RSA, and he coached rowing for 10 years alongside raising four children. Recently, he became an advocate for the National Bowel Screening Programme after his own brush with the disease.

Ōmārama MenzShed

By Malcolm Cameron

Ōmārama MenzShed continues to meet on Saturday mornings. At the moment, we don't have a lot of projects on the go and we are still waiting on timber to arrive so we can complete the community gardens before spring arrives.

We are planning a new 'bookcase' for outside the Four Squar for the book exchange fundraiser.

Funding has been approved for the outdoor basket ball court at the Ōmārama playground reserve. We hope to begin constructing that in Spring.

We would like to wish Howard Williams a speedy recovery after his recent operation.

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

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

Ōmārama Community Garden

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

The gardens are under construction behind the Omarama Community Centre and anyone is welcome to pop along and have a look, and also to put in any plants they may have ready to go in now.

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

Contact Heather Smith, 027 330 0249

Waitaki Newcomers Network

For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to waitaki@newcomers.co.nz

"Welcome to Waitaki" Packs are now available for those who are newcomers to the district (or for you to give to someone who is). Arrangements are being made for this information to be available at locations in Ōmārama.

Meanwhile you can contact Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support Coordinator Paula Eatherley, in Oamaru, directly.

Contact: Paula Eatherley

Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support Coordinator

waitaki@newcomers.co.nz

coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz

027 325 6151 (business hours)

www.newcomers.co.nz

www.multiculturalnz.org.nz

Ōmārama Community Library

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

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

The Ōmārama Community Library
is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays,
at the Ōmārama Community Centre. omaramalibrary@gmail.com
Yvonne 027 476 7473



Justices of the Peace

JPs are available by appointment to:

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

The service is free of charge

To make your visit quick and easy:

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



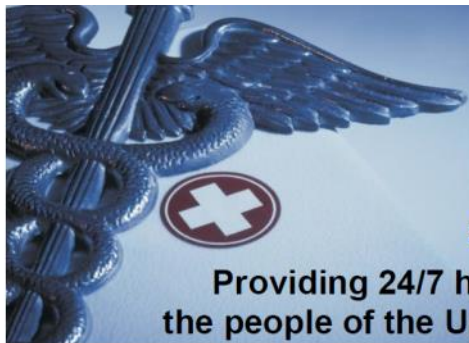
Georgie Robertson
Omarama
03 438 9554 027 4861525



Vicky Munro
Otematata
03 438 7855 021 438745



Alona Shaw
Omarama
027 773 4214



Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
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 clinic
in Twizel Mackenzie Health Centre and Outreach Clinic
at the Omarama Community Centre**

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

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

And much more!

**GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$43.00
Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

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

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

Open

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30-1pm. **Omarama:** Thursday 8.30am to 1pm. **Twizel:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 12pm

Please note: We provide 24/7 on call after hours cover by our doctors and PRIME nurses for all our registered and casual patients!

If you require further information or an appointment, please contact us on:

For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503 - Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

Look us up on our website or Facebook page for more information.



Kurow Medical Centre

Mackenzie Health Centre, Twizel Winter Weekend Opening Hours 2023

Saturday 1st July - 0900-1200

Saturday 8th July -CLOSED

Saturday 15th July - 0900-1200

Saturday 22nd July - CLOSED

Saturday 29th July - 0900-1200

Saturday 5th August - CLOSED

Saturday 12th August - 0900-1200

Saturday 19th August - CLOSED

Saturday 26th August - 0900-1200

Saturday 2nd September - CLOSED

Saturday 9th September - 0900-1200

24/7 on call support will remain in place throughout this period,
please call **03 976 0503** for any out of hours appointments.

Thank you for your continued support.

From all the team at Mackenzie Health Centre

OMARAMA SCHOOL FUNDRAISING PRESENTS

HOAR FROST WONDERLAND BALL

TO HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUNG SNOW ANGELS EDUCATION

FRIDAY 18TH AUGUST 2023
5.30PM - LATE
VENUE: THE WRINKLY RAMS

\$100 PP
TICKETS INCLUDE:
2 COURSE WINTER BUFFET FEAST
GOODIE BAGS & COMPLIMENTRY WINE ON ARRIVAL
AUCTION, RAFFLES & LIVE MUSIC BY
SPOT PRIZES!!

DOUBLE TALK!!

FREE COURTESY COACH RIDE HOME

Tickets Available at
The Wrinkly Rams, Hot Tubs Omarama
or Email Emma: emma@hottubsomarama.co.nz

OMARAMA SCHOOL FUNDRAISING PRESENTS

HOAR FROST WONDERLAND BALL

TO HELP SUPPORT OUR YOUNG SNOW ANGELS EDUCATION

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

PLATINIUM SPONSOR: \$1500

- Table and Tickets for 10 -Raffle tickets x10
- Complimentary wine on table -Favourable seating place
- Main sponsor Advertising

GOLD SPONSOR: \$1000

- Table and Tickets for 6 -Raffle tickets x6
- Complimentary wine on table -Favourable seating place
- Main sponsor Advertising

ADVERTISING SPONSOR \$500

- Donation to Omarama School Fundrasing,
- Includes Main Sponsorship/Advertising
- Your business will be the talk of the town!

To secure your Table/Sponsorship please
Email Christy: Sales@countryglow.co.nz or Call 0276964598

Friends of Ōmārama School

The Friends of Ōmārama School annual meeting was held last month and the following have taken up positions as office bearers for the year ahead.

President: Kay Mason

Vice President: Jenny Hales

Treasurer: Andrea Aubrey

Secretary: Carryn Warnock

Ōmārama Playgroup

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

For more information contact:
president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570
rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com
or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016
tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz

Plunket: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 536
aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com



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)

Ōmārama School

From this month's school newsletters

Tena Koutou Katoa, Nga mihi nui, ki a tatou katoa – Warm greetings to you all

With a heavy heart, I write my last newsletter as Principal of Omarama School. It has been a pleasure to serve your community and help the school to become a happier and more inclusive environment. I have enjoyed working with the staff and children and will take away many fond memories.

We are currently organising our ski camp, and again the FOS (Friends of the School) are there helping to organise the event and working with the staff to ensure every child has the opportunity to attend. We estimate the cost will be about \$100 per child. This is a three-day camp with a two-night stay. The price will include all travel, accommodation, activities and food. We are only able to offer this price with the help of FOS to cover half of the cost. So please support their fundraising endeavours, as everything they make goes directly to every child of the school. We will be offering payment options by direct debit for those who will need to spread the cost over a period of time.

This year Ohau ski program is increasing its costs. We are going to apply for a grant and will ask the FOS if they are able to cover the shortfall. This event is part of our school curriculum and therefore we are no longer able to ask parents to contribute towards the cost of the skiing, but we are able to ask for a contribution towards the cost of travel to and from Ohau.

The staff and school, are very grateful to have such a hardworking and dedicated team of people supporting the school. The school is now in good shape, the staff are supported and happy and the future looks great.

Thank you for welcoming me into your school and I wish you all the very best.

Ōmārama School has an amazing community and the children are very fortunate to have such great people working for and with them.

I will miss you all very much and will think of you often.

Nga Mihi Nui

Geraldine Sumner

A message from Limited Statutory Manager Madeleine Hawkesby

Tena koutou,

I would like to give a big “thank you” to Geraldine [Sumner] for her work as acting principal in Terms 1 and 2. We have been extremely lucky to have Geraldine providing such constructive leadership during 2023. She has not only done a great job in “holding the fort” but has been instrumental in implementing changes and developments within the school. Geraldine has formed positive relationships with staff, students, the Board and the wider school community. We are very thankful for her work and I know she will always be welcome at Ōmārama School.

Enjoy the school holiday break and we look forward to seeing you back in Term 3, and welcoming our new principal Alison Holden. Alison has been working with Geraldine over the last few weeks to make herself familiar with the role and the school.

Happy holidays, kind regards

Madeleine Hawkesby

Contact details

Phone: 03 438 9815

principal@omarama.school.nz

office@omarama.school.nz

Growing Future Farmers has been in our area now for three years.

During this time you may have noticed some of the GFF students starting to appear at your sports clubs, collie clubs, and young farmers events. Growing Future Farmers is an organisation dedicated to growing “bloody good people” in the sheep, beef and deer sector. Currently in the Waitaki region we have six students either in year one or two of their two-year training course. The farms involved are, Awakino Station, Acacia Downs, Waikoura Downs, Caberfeidh, and Ōmārama Station. We also had three students graduate last year and two have stayed locally at Clifton Downs and Bog Roy where they found employment. We are currently looking to grow the number of students and farm trainers in our area for the 2024 intake, and we are holding an Open Day from 10am to 1pm on Thursday, July 27 at Awakino Station. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about becoming a farm trainer or a student, to come along and hear what we are all about. Alternatively, you can give me a call to discuss any aspect of the programme.

I look forward to hearing from anyone who is interested in knowing more about Growing Future Farmers.

Ping Horn

021 176 2812

Liaison Manager- Kurow/ Ōmārama/ Waitaki

ping.horn@growingfuturefarmers.co.nz



Kurow Open Day

Student Session

10am - 1pm

Farm Trainer Session

1pm - 3pm

**INTERESTED
STUDENTS & FARM
TRAINERS COME
ALONG TO A
PRACTICAL AND
INFORMATIVE DAY
TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT THE
GROWING
FUTURE
FARMERS
PROGRAMME**

Thursday 27th July, 2023

Awakino Station

75 Awakino Road

Kurow

www.growingfuturefarmers.co.nz

Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting will be
7pm, Thursday, July 20, 2023
at the Ōmārama Community Centre
An invitation is extended to all

Contacts:

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630

Yvonne Jones, secretary, 027 476 7473

(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Yvonne)

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



Care in the community

Ōmārama Community Care Group

NOW AVAILABLE...

Thanks to generous donations our group now has free emergency food supplies

- all the staples you may need to get you and your family through.

Be assured all requests and referrals are taken in confidence.

Please contact Ruth 021 294 8002.

A MESSAGE FROM THE OAMARU PACIFIC ISLAND COMMUNITY GROUP

(Ōmārama's MSD Community Connectors)

We have received confirmation from the Ministry of Social Development that OPICG's Connector service which was due to finish on June 30 will be extended until September 30. Other connector services will likely have this too.

Our Food service is still running for those isolating with Covid and we still have discretionary funding to support those in hardship isolating with Covid. Our generic email address covidwelfare@oamarupacific.nz is still operating, and free phone: 0800 OPICGP, or people can contact either of our Connectors, Mafa and Lauao.

Covid Care

Please do make contact if either yourself, or a friend or neighbour need anything.

We have - free RATS, free sanitiser, masks, gowns and face shields if you are caring for someone with Covid and need protection.

Only a phone call away: Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002

Royal District Nursing Service New Zealand

is now operating in the Ahuriri and Waitaki valleys. RDNS is a local home help specialist. The organisation offers a range of home nursing and home support services to people of all ages and cultures in the comfort and security of their own homes. Whether you need complex nursing care at home, support while recovering from an injury or just a bit of help with housework and grocery shopping, RDNS can support you.

It accepts referrals from a range of health and home support professionals, including general practitioners, hospitals and other healthcare and support workers.

The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade has a fold-up mobility scooter available.

This along with a wheelchair are available for loan. To find out about these contact Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper 021 293 1171 or any fire brigade member.



Twizel Community Care Centre

Vicky is the office manager at the Twizel Care Centre.

If you need any of the services listed below please contact the Twizel Community Care Centre, Mount Cook St, Twizel, Phone: 03 435 0687
Email: twizelcare@xtra.co.nz, Hours of opening: 9.00am - 2.00pm, Mon to Fri

- Work and Income – assistance with applying for benefits, helping with queries regarding superannuation, and any other financial assistance you may receive. Printing and scanning of documents.
- Inland Revenue – queries regarding anything IRD related, access to forms.
- Twizel-Tekapo Community Car bookings – this is a community car that picks you up from your house and takes you wherever you need to go such as town here in Twizel or Timaru for an appointment, whatever you need. There is a cost involved depending on destinations.
- Home Delivered Meals – We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for \$8 and small snack meals for \$4. We can deliver to your home.
- Printing/scanning services
- Assistance with finding jobs in the area.
- Foodbank – donations, and supply people with food parcels when in need
- Any other government services – ACC, Department of Corrections, etc
- Arowhenua Whanau services – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Computer/cellphone assistance – needing help with something on your computer or cellphone. Free WiFi
- Rat tests/Mask supply free of charge
- Assistance with filling in any forms or paperwork.
- Offer room hire to community groups and businesses.

Jobs: If you are looking for jobs a great place to start is the Jobs in the Mackenzie Facebook page.

Leaine Rush runs that Facebook page. leaine.rush@mackenzie.govt.nz

Transport can be quite a hurdle if you aren't able to drive.

Here's one solution and ratepayers fund this through the Environment Canterbury Rate. The Twizel-Tekapo Community Car . Here's how it works... The Twizel Community Care Centre (above) takes the bookings: Driven by volunteers, the car can be booked and used by anyone in Ōmārama to get you to nearby towns or cities for medical appointments or shopping visits – e.g to Twizel and back or Kurow and includes trips to Oamaru, Dunedin or Christchurch etc. There is a minimal charge depending on the destination.

Age Concern (for people 65 and older).

Monthly coffee afternoons are held at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

Kathryn Bennett, coordinator

03 434 7008

027 4347 089

NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz

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

If you need emergency home help – this is if you need cleaning done or the like in the short term, for example, if you are recovering from an illness - contact your GP for a referral.

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Email kay@bigskybnb.co.nz
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How to find the Matariki star cluster

We've been enjoying some beautifully clear sunrises here in Te Ao Mārama ahead of Matariki rising next weekend.

Here is a great link to the Te Papa website to help if you want to find out where to look in the sky to view the star cluster rising.

<https://www.tepapa.govt.nz/discover-collections/read-watch-play/matariki-maori-new-year/what-and-who-matariki/watch-how-find>

Last year we had this clear sky view over the Tōtara Kaimaka Benmore Range and you could see it with binoculars.

Mānawatia a Matariki, Te Ao Mārama!





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Phone Matt 027 227 8256
Email: info@csihelicopters.co.nz

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karan@mcre.co.nz

Jess Mackay

0279025529

jess@mcre.co.nz



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The café is now closed for the season
Re-opening Labour weekend

Tanya and Dannie would like to thank all for their patronage



Tall Poppy

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Gary Sutherland

Business Partner & Sales Consultant

027 432 6615

gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

The Last Word - we love you, Wingy XXX



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

June 2023

Highest temperature: June 1, 17.1C

Lowest temperature: June 17, -7.8 C

@Metservice Tara Hills lowest temperature: June 10, - 10.6C

Most rainfall: June 4, 9.9 mm

Total rainfall for June: 20.1mm

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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