



# Ōmārama Gazette

June 2025

## Devoted to family, community - *Bruce leaves a lasting legacy of service*

It will be difficult, if not impossible, to capture in words just a little of the unique contribution this man made to this community over the past 20-plus years, just what a gaping hole he has left, and the significant legacy he has gifted us all.

But we will try.

Bruce Edward Dyson, born September 9, 1963, passed away peacefully on the morning of Saturday, May 17 at home, surrounded by his family – after a cancer diagnosis 18 months ago.

He was husband and soulmate to Julie, loved father of Bailey, Cheyanne and Korey, adored best mate of Monty and Beam, a firm friend and mentor to many and, let's not forget, a loyal Crusaders' fan.

He was a man who held his beloved family, friends and community close through good times and bad, and he was a lot of fun.

*-continued over*

*Captured! The one, maybe the only time Bruce Dyson donned the formal uniform - this time in honour of friends receiving medals for bravery last year.*



## *Bruce leaves a lasting legacy of service - continued*

Here are the words of his family, friends and community.

Opening the funeral service in Timaru, celebrant Wendy Lang acknowledged the huge crowd many of whom had travelled significant distances to be there, saying she doubted there was “anyone left in Ōmārama”.

It was a time to “honour the life of your Bruce ... to take leave of someone who you have both loved and respected.”

He was a man who had “touched many lives”.

It was a time to celebrate Bruce's life, his personality, his deeds, to “stop to hear the stories, to laugh and to cry together.”

“We are different because Bruce lived amongst us,” she said.

Close friend Lesley Jackson read Julie's tribute.

There had been many heartfelt messages of condolences sent to the family, the common theme was what a caring person Bruce was and a much loved and respected boss, she said.

Bruce hired Julie as merchandising supervisor at Quality Bakers in Dunedin and “that is when it all began”.

“We became great friends, partners in crime.”

It was at the farewell do for the valley's ‘Bread Man’ Murray Taylor, at the Ōmārama Hotel

“ - a great night and a dance to Neil Diamond's ‘Forever in Blue Jeans’ - our song -” that was the start of “our fairy tale love”.

This was despite Julie breaking an unwritten rule and hightailing it out of town first thing next morning without paying the bill.

“I had a phone call asking me if I'd paid the bill at the pub before I left, which I hadn't .

“It was an unwritten rule, the boss never used his credit card... he had to ask for forgiveness for that one.”

Bruce and Julie moved to Omarama in 2002 to take up the lease of the Oasis Café. It was where they raised their three children, made lifelong friends and had ‘a shit ton of fun’.

After time spent living over the café they built their home in Totara Peak Cres.

“Bruce built a bar in the backyard – Church - where we had many Sunday sessions with our amazing friends.”

Ten years ago, they bought the lease for the Omarama Hotel and named it Boots and Jandals Hotel – “the boots being Bruce and the Jandals, Julie”.

In the past months of treatment, the chemotherapy, radiation and pills really took their toll, she said.

“The support of his children meant he could stay at home for his final journey.”

Julie thanked the staff for their unwavering support, the smooth running of the hotel while the family took time out, and the Haka they performed as Bruce left home for the final time.

Ms Lang read the tribute to their father written by Cheyanne, Korey and Bailey.

They said how lucky they had been to have Bruce as a father and how hard it was to fit a lifetime of memories into a few words.

They recalled the perks of living over the café growing up and the great after-school

snacks, heading down to the stream with the bikes and the dogs, special overseas getaways,  
Bruce worked his “arse off to spoil us”. He was “so fun, loving, supportive and always ...there for us...such a great father ...helping us become who we are today.”  
There was the trip to Rarotonga and the extra special surprise of being told Bruce and Julie were getting married and they would all be part of the ceremony.  
The couple honeymooned in Port Douglas, thereafter a favourite family holiday spot.  
“As soon as we could reach the counter tops Mum and Dad started our bar tendering training. We were shown once how to pour a bourbon and coke for Mum and a rum and coke for Dad. We were expected to deliver the same quality every time...  
“We have Dad to thank for our great taste in music... it led to many late-night parties and we’d quickly learnt to fall asleep.  
“Most Sunday mornings we were woken by Dad blasting one of his favourite songs, ‘Gutter Black’, to get us out of bed.”

Boots and Jandals bar manager Louisa Proctor spoke on behalf of the staff.  
“He always made us feel like family. He was a humble and well-respected man. We are so grateful to be part of his team under his incredible leadership. He had a positive impact on our lives, and we are forever thankful for it.  
“Bruce and I had one thing in common and that was drinking rum. I’m sure you all have had a sesh with him – I mean a drink,” she said laughing.  
Led by Lou, the staff then sang the waiata ‘*Whakaaria Mai (How Great Thou Art)*’.  
Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Jack Zorab said that there was debate about whether Bruce would have actually approved of the brigade turning out in uniform for him with fire appliances and the first response unit lined up outside.  
“But there was general consensus that this was our last chance to get one over on him.”  
Qualified fire fighter Bruce Dyson – volunteer firefighter and medical first responder – Bruce had been with the Ōmārama Fire Brigade for more than 20 years, he said.  
“To the very end he was never about the uniform or the medals. He would actively avoid any occasion where he had to wear them.  
“As a self-employed business owner you would be forgiven for thinking he would have had to miss a lot of calls and training nights due to his other responsibilities. The opposite is true.  
“According to records which only go back about halfway through his service Bruce attended over 800 incidents, just since 2011. - 800 times that Bruce dropped everything to go and help somebody else, that was Bruce in a nutshell.  
“He was a guardian, someone who looked out for his family, his friends and his community.  
“He was a defender, when he saw something that wasn’t right, he did everything he could to fix it. No better example of this was than with the first response capability in Omarama ....  
“He was instrumental in fighting for that service to be returned to us.”  
“Without his efforts in fundraising and fighting the good fight our first response service would not be what it is today.”

“Bruce resigned from the brigade earlier this year – the treatments were knocking it out of him. Two decades of service and he was still worried he wouldn’t be able to do enough for others.

- continued over

## *Bruce leaves a lasting legacy of service - continued*

"We weren't able to arrange a leaving do for him before he passed. We never got the opportunity to thank Bruce for everything, to formally recognise a third of his life given in the service of others, to tell him how grateful we were to him for looking out for all of us in the brigade ... He probably wouldn't have let us say all those things anyway," Jack said.

Mate Michael Jackson spoke of the loss of his "dearest friend" of more than 20 years and the "gaping hole" he had left.

"He whispered to me when we first met that one of his middle names was 'rum'."

That should have been the first clue, Mike said.

He recalled Bruce and Julie's combined 30th and 40th birthday party, a seventies night at the Oasis, helping behind the bar there, and time in the fire brigade, and then seeing them through the Oasis Café fire "which was massive for the Dysons".

"It showed us what a gutsy couple these two were."

In the apartment above the café there was Bruce, Julie, Cheyanne, Bailey, Korey, two cats, Coruba's nine puppies, one budgie, a Mexican walking fish - "all this and a busy restaurant to run". He said.

There was a blow-up paddling pool on the upstairs deck, an air hockey table and ear-piercing studio and the trademark nip pourers in the kitchen, "with the best music and memories ever...Boy, did we want to be close to this family".

"A strong loving couple with an incredible bond, incredible children ...what a credit to them, what an incredible legacy to leave this world with."

It had been an incredible friendship " – no questions asked, no judgment delivered... just there... giving sound advice".

Mike recalled one particular incident when a freight truck came to grief on the Lindis Pass, with "potential pollutants" spilling out posing an environmental hazard as a result, and the fire brigade called to the rescue and to bury the offending contaminants.

"Bruce, with his skills learned from the hospitality industry, identified everything to be put in the pit. He felt that any liquid that was in a sealed bottle with a cork would probably be okay and then took two trips with the fire appliance to the crash site to rescue the bottles of quality wine – Bruce became Ōmārama's conservationist of the year."

"Being at the Dyson home you always felt like part of the family, visiting the family was very straight forward, returning home was often a more difficult process," Mike said.

Bruce always looked on the bright side of life and the good side of people.

"He had this instinctive mode that he would switch to see things from all sides, incredibly wise and incredibly giving.

"Even when the shit was going down, front of mind was always his family, friends and staff - that they would be okay..."

"You have forever changed our lives and no doubt our livers...we're blessed to have known you," Mike said.

Former colleague Allan Sims said he first met Bruce when they worked together at Heron's Bakery – part of the Goodman Fielder Family in Timaru in the early 90s. They were mates from then on, along with Tony Green ...helping his uncle Wayne

Ramsey on the delivery truck when he was 12 years old, then he left school and worked “pretty much every job in the factory and around the bakery” and running the bread truck to Oamaru.

Tony’s dad was the boss and was impressed by Bruce’s work ethic and also by the fact he didn’t drink. Bruce only drank coca cola. Being a sober citizen led to him getting the job as sales manager. Then at 23 he discovered that if you added rum to coke it tasted so much nicer – “never looked back”, Allan said.

He was “really successful at his job - just being himself, just being a good honest, real bloke,” and on one occasion winning sales manager of the year for Goodman Fielder.

The writing was on the wall for the smaller bakeries, Heron’s closed and Bruce transferred to Dunedin as sales manager running a team of reps, merchandisers and delivery contractors,

He took over as distributions manager there and it was noted he spent a lot more time “up central” and “not a lot of time down in Mosgiel” he said.

“He said; ‘Well you’ve been to both, where would you go?’

“They were wonderful days ... unlimited expense accounts.”

Goodman Fielder changed from a family-run business to a corporate, run from Australia.

“So, Bruce and Julie bailed to Ōmārama and built a wonderful life there, “ Allan said.

Friend of 50 years Tony Green gave a short tribute acknowledging the significance of their times together.

“You can have many, many friends, but only one best friend. We have had a run and a half,” he said.

Great friend and neighbouring business owners in Ōmārama, Craig Dawson said anyone who knew Bruce “knew you were going to have a great laugh”. He had given a “huge gift” and left a legacy “that lives on for ever”.

Ms Lang told those gathered to take time to grieve and be there for each other.

“Commit yourselves to being present for Bruce’s family as they find ways to live without their Bruce.

“...you are now the representatives and ambassadors of Bruce’s legacy

“He gave you wonderful gifts of kindness, graciousness, strength, acceptance and love, and he showed you how to live with challenges and struggles, and how to survive.

Bruce’s coffin was draped with the New Zealand flag in recognition of his service, with a painting of Coruba, Sam and Buca, loved labrador friends who had passed, leaning against its side.

The family and close friends entered the chapel to ‘Free Bird’ – a song by Lynyrd Skynyrd

During the photo tribute ‘Gutter black’, by Hello Sailor, ‘Run Runaway,’ by Slade, and ‘Take it easy,’ by Jackson Browne were played.

He was carried from the chapel to Neil Diamond’s ‘Forever in Blue Jeans’.

Colleagues representing his volunteer service mounted a guard of honour.

His casket, accompanied by the family was escorted to the crematorium by the Ōmārama First Response unit 5633 and Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade tanker 5611.

*Donations can be made to North Otago Hospice, <https://otagohospice.co.nz/support-us/make-a-donation/>*

*Funeral directors: Betts Funeral Services, Timaru.*

# Farewell Wingy, fly high

There are not many in this world who could say with confidence, as their life reached its end that they had “nothing left on their bucket list, absolutely nothing!”.

But so said Pat (Wingy) Leopold as he spent his last days at his “hacienda” as he called it, the Strathallan Retirement Village, in Timaru, where he passed away peacefully on April 13 aged 90 years.

There was standing room only at Boots and Jandals Hotel Ōmārama – Wingy’s watering hole and the heart of his many yarns – for his memorial service and community farewell to that legend of the Dunny Door Table.

His ashes were ceremoniously piped into the pub by piper and friend Bill Clarke so Wingy could ‘sit’ and hold court at his table for one final time.

With wife of 66 years, Doreen, at his side and surrounded by family, son-in-law Steve Reeves lead the tributes.

Wingy was father to five daughters, grandfather to four granddaughters and two grandsons, great grandfather to seven, and great, great grandfather to two. Tragedy struck the family in 2018 when Wingy and Doreen lost daughter Tania Cochrane to cancer.

Steve recounted that Wingy’s great passion was ‘Marion’, the Marion Crane, that is. As a well-respected member of the Upper Waitaki Power project team Wingy was described as “special machine operator”, of the unique equipment, one of only four brought into New Zealand to work on the massive project.

‘Outside the office’ his twin passions were speedway racing and flying with the Twizel Aero Club. In his younger days after gaining his pilot’s licence he clocked up some 600 hours of flying. Hence the nickname.

The Twizel of the early 1970s was a wealthy, bustling construction town. The Upper Waitaki Aero Club, based at Pukaki Airfield, boasted a strong family-orientated membership with two aircraft. Wingy was at one time president of the club.

Steve recounted that in his later years Wingy’s job was as Public Relations Manager at the Ōmārama Service Station – owned by Steve and wife Sharon – Wingy’s daughter.

“His main role there was to greet the customers and intercept the bull shit before we actually got to the bottom of what the problems were.”

He was affectionally known as the Vince Martin of Ōmārama Steve said.

He soon got wise to the “same one [tyre] you did last week”, claim and began writing his name and the date inside the tyres, and from then on would respond with a definite “No, it bloody isn’t”, in more colourful language.” Steve said.

“He was also a respected vehicle recovery specialist”.

When, as volunteer firefighters, Steve and Sharon were called out on fire calls Wingy would follow in the recovery vehicle to pick up the wrecks.

“Our trailer in the early days would only fit one vehicle on it, so he used to wait until the police had left then if the vehicle could drive, he would hop in and drive it back to Ōmārama - hazard lights on of course (if they worked)”.

Wingy’s daughters and grandchildren then paid tribute with Doreen filling in gaps as they recounted their many memories.

Sharon said how he had “played such a major part in all our lives”.

“He was always there to offer guidance when required.

“His greatest love of all was Ōmārama and the people in it, which made him the happiest.”

Sharon thanked all for their love and made special mention of Julie Grant, for her carrot cakes, Rikki Remi, for his Blue Cod fish, pilot Bryan Patterson for taking Wingy for a flight when he had the chance, Ross Kelman and Laurie Ruddenklau for bringing him whitebait and firewood, Jan and Lex Perriam for the regular mail run trips, Lindsay Purvis for his trip over the Lindis Pass in the Morgan to take his flight in the Mustang aircraft, Bruce Dyson who would be there at the drop of a hat to help or give advice if required.

"These are to name just a few people who made Dad's life such a happy one in Ōmārama.

Sharon said Wingy also had "a very special spot in his heart for two dearly loved defacto daughters" – Julie Dyson and Michelle Hancox.

"Dad adored you both and loved every minute he spent with you both."

Those of his children and grandchildren, who now live out of town, told of regular phone calls 'home' and of his constant love and support.

Close family friend Lex Perriam spoke on behalf of the Ōmārama Hotel Social Club where Wingy was king of the dart board.

Wingy began the Waitaki Valley Pool and Dart Competition in 2005 where local pub teams competed for the challenge trophy and bragging rights. The inaugural competition was one by the Hakataramea Hotel but in 2023 Boots and Jandals Top Guns, brought the cup home.

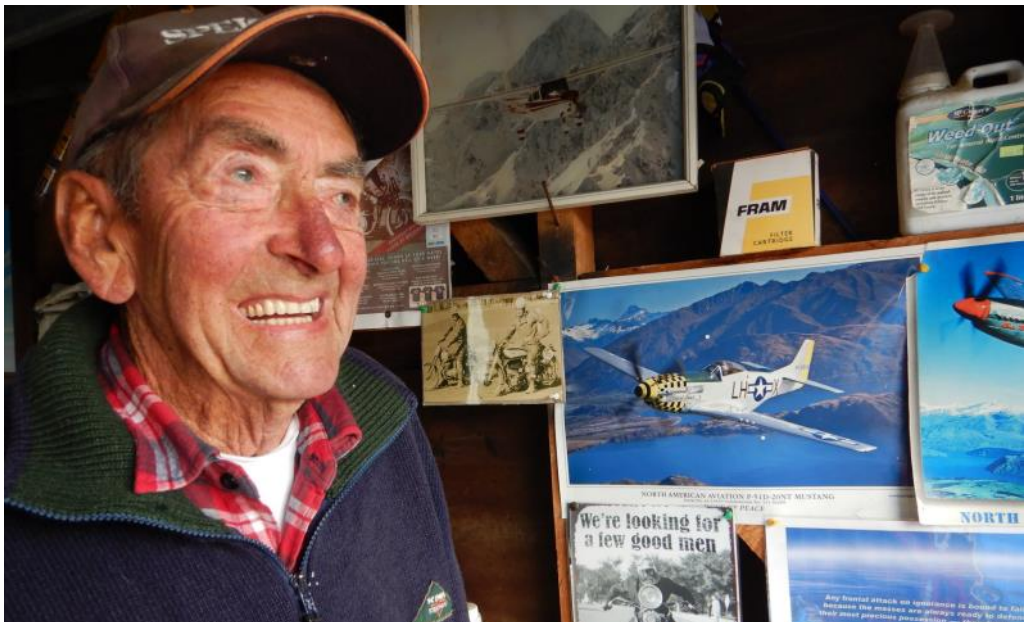
We salute you, Wingy, for a life well lived.

Our sincerest condolences go to Doreen, Michelle, Sharon, Cindy and Kelly and to grandchildren Cushla, Stacey, Shane, Daniel, Rebekah and Beth, and Wingy's great grandchildren.

Wingy asked that his ashes be spread atop Ben Omar with Bryan's help, "So he can keep an eye on everyone."

Fly High Wingy, and may your spirit ride free.

*Patrick James Leopold  
(Wingy), December 1, 1934 - April 13,*



# A Thank You from Sadie

**Thank you** for all the incredible support and generosity at last week's Quiz night, in Twizel, and the raffle. I hope you all had a fantastic night!

It was a huge success and together they raised \$4000 to help me get to the Rowing World Champs in Lithuania this August. This outstanding amount shows the heartwarming support from the district. I was blown away by the turnout, 26 teams! I am so grateful for everyone that helped.

**Thank you** to the Quiz Master Ange, Chloe and all the staff at The Combined Services Club for hosting and coordinating the Quiz night.

Thank you to Chris LM for organising the event, raffles and prizes.

Thank you Kelvin for getting up to speak and share your kind words.

**Thank you to the following business' for your generous donations for the raffle prizes:**

- Skyscape - Omahau Hill Station
- Cycle Journeys
- Mount Cook Sky Dive
- Lakestone Lodge
- Breen Construction
- Hot Springs Tekapo
- High Country Salmon
- Twizel Market Store
- Twizel Gym
- MacKenzie Four Square
- Hot Tubs Ōmārama
- The Wrinkly Rams
- Twizel Four Square
- Mint Folk and Co
- Edit Salon
- Mackenzie Pharmacy
- Meridian Energy
- Trail Journeys



**Thank you to the following business' for your generous donations for the quiz prizes:**

- |                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * MOW Bar              | *Shaw's Hardware            |
| * The Razza            | *The Combined Services Club |
| * Glen Craigs, Ōmārama | *Twizel Auto                |
| * Ōmārama Top 10       | *Ōmārama Four Square        |
| * Mount Cook Salmon    | *Edit Salon                 |
| * Meridian             | *Southern Alps Outdoors     |
| * Twizel Opushop       |                             |

CONGRATULATIONS to the lucky winners and the teams on the night!

All contributions were hugely appreciated!. I am super excited for the upcoming trip and the challenges I'll face and representing such an awesome community. I couldn't be there without all your help.

- Sadie Mason

# Butter a golden ticket to achievements

They've done it! Butter is bringing in the gold for our girls.

Ōmārama School year seven pupil Charlotte Hales' butter fundraiser has raised the final \$4000 needed to get friend and rower Sadie Mason to the 2025 U19 World Championship Regatta in Trakai, Lithuania, in August.

The butter sales were the last push needed after an all out effort in Twizel and Ōmārama over the past two months since Sadie's selection to raise the estimated \$20K needed for her training and the trip

Charlotte had been searching for ways to complete the necessary sections of the William Pike Challenge set for year seven and eight pupils at Ōmārama School when her father Simon Hales came across the Westland Dairy fundraising page. It was a golden opportunity to help both girls reach their aims, he thought.

All up Charlotte has sold 3960 250gm blocks of butter at \$4 each with \$1 from each block sold going towards Sadie's goal.

With the timing coinciding as it did with the steep rise in butter prices the fundraiser "went crazy," mum Jennie Hales said.

It took no time at all to fill three hand-written A4 pages of orders, and all of that handwriting was "quite tiring", Charlotte said.

The news of the fundraiser spread like wildfire through social media and good old fashioned word-of-mouth.

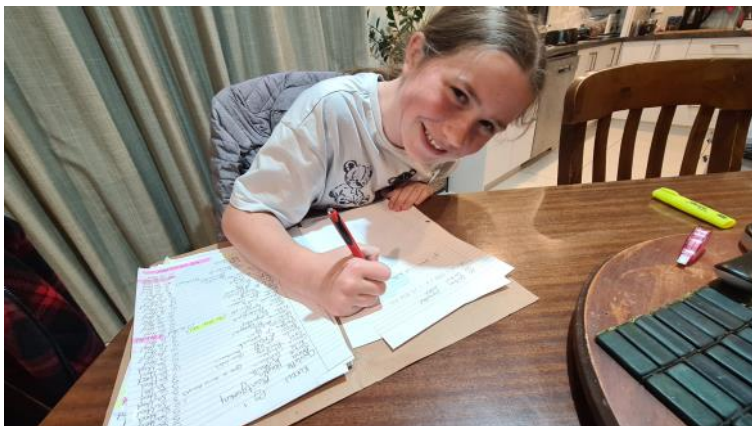
Orders came in from across the district and further afield – Oamaru, Wanaka, Invercargill, Christchurch. With shearing ahead some saw the opportunity to buy in bulk and the biggest order was for six boxes. Orders are now closed.

The next job will be packing and distributing, and the garage is cleared in readiness for that production line.

For Charlotte, the project will help her complete the 20 hours of community service needed for the William Pike Challenge which is similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Those entered must complete 20 hours of community service and 20 hours on a passion project - Charlotte says this will probably be dancing - and five outdoor activities. Recently the school group ticked off the first of these by completing an overnight bush walk to North Temple.

The overall goal of the challenge is to take pupils outside of their comfort zone with a programme that includes discovering new skills and passions, and learning firsthand how to contribute with community service projects.

*Fundraiser Charlotte Hales completes the necessary bookwork recording butter sales.*



# Pink Ribbon brunch raises record amount

It was an afternoon to cry a little, laugh a lot and remember all that is important, together with friends.

About 60 ladies and a couple of gents from Ōmārama and Otematata enjoyed an afternoon in the pink, last month, all in a good cause.

It was an afternoon to celebrate great memories of friends recently lost to cancer, and of course to raise money for a cause that touches so many.

One organiser Jan Perriam shared poignant thoughts she had written as she reflected on the grief of recent losses.

She held a small basket of stones precious to her, each with their story – a heart shaped stone, pounamu, a brooch. These small stones and how they each came to her collection held a story of resilience, she said.

They had been tossed and tumbled by the wind, a constant reminder of life's unpredictable nature. Yet each journey shaped its surface leaving it smoother more weathered and ultimately more beautiful.

"These stones like life itself embraced the change finding strength in its imperfections."

Chef Josh and Sam, with bar manager Lou, and the Boots and Jandals team treated the gathering to: wild mushroom risotto, with truffle oil and aged parmesan; home-made potato gnocchi tossed through lamb ragu and parmesan, and gluten-free chocolate brownie served with raspberry couli, cream and ice-cream, with a complementary glass of bubbly.

There were a lot of laughs too as tables battled it out solving quiz questions without the aid of Aunty Google – mostly – and the many raffles were drawn and distributed.

As usual the community's generosity was unbeaten with donations of great raffles, prizes and gifts. As a result just over \$6,000 was raised for breast cancer research, which sets a new record for the annual event inaugurated by Bruce and Julie Dyson in 2016.

So many thankyou's, where to start?!

Check the photo of the sponsor's board below which was still not able to fit the names of those who made individual donations.

A debt of gratitude goes to the Boots and Jandals team who, despite the difficult circumstances pulled out all the stops to make it an occasion of celebration, and special thanks go to Julie's team of great friends Lesley and Mike Jackson, Jan and Lex Perriam, Teresa Gallagher, Adrienne Harper, Tanya Humphreys, and Kay Verheul who stepped up to organise the event.



# School pupils rise to the challenges

There is no doubt the next generation of 'Ted Talk' presenters are budding right here at Ōmārama School.

Last week the school ran its 2025 speech competitions.

Pupils were tested over a variety of skills – from reciting, recounting and public speaking depending on their age group.

The younger pupils had to recite a poem, Year three pupils had to read from a book

On the day pupils overcame nerves and stage fright to make their presentations and to put their hours of hard work and rehearsals to the test.

On the day it was all about that preparation - timing, projection and using powers of persuasion were all put to the test.

The topics ranged from 'Why cats were annoying', to encouraging others to take up mountain biking, to - and this proved popular - there should only be four days in a school week. There were contentious issues like why hockey was better than rugby and whether the country was better than the city. And yes, everybody should get a springer spaniel.

The judges were Lynette Steele and Alona Shaw.

Ōmārama School speech competition 2025

Results

Y1 / Y2 - 1st place Ava Sloan, 2nd place Sienna Nelson

Y3 / Y4 - 1st place Carter Golder, 2nd place Louis Aubrey

Y5 / Y6 - 1st place Mazie Paton, 2nd place equal Maddie McCabe and Briar McKerchar

Y7 / Y8 - 1st place Charlotte Hales, 2nd place Nicole McMurtrie

The first and second place winners will have the opportunity to attend the final speech competition at Ardgowan, today.

The Technology home challenge called the "Down Hill Racer" took place last week.

This year all pupils were set the same challenge.

They had to create a downhill racer from an egg carton and other recycled materials.

Various models created and decorated from cardboard, popsicle sticks, straws, rubber bands, tape, and various wheels were entered on the day.

The challenge encouraged students to explore concepts like physics, friction, and aerodynamics

On the day the models were raced down the ramp outside the school which led to the last minute discovery of an unexpected design challenge – the ramp did not sport an even slope from top to bottom.

Despite the seriousness of the final test - measuring the distance and speed of the racers - much fun was had.



# Gemma made it to the top



She did it!

Oamaru Volunteer Fire Brigade fire fighter Gemma Patterson raised almost \$4K for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand by tackling the Firefighter Sky Tower Challenge last month. Despite contending with an old back injury Gemma successfully finished the challenge in a time of just over 27 minutes.

The challenge was to climb the 1103 steps of Auckland's Sky Tower in full firefighting kit. Gemma was placed 875th of the 1056 who competed.

About three years ago Gemma damaged a disc in her spine playing rugby and it is this which has caused an injury prone few months leading up to the challenge.

Gemma is a member of the five-member Oamaru Volunteer Firefighting team which committed to climbing the tower in full firefighting kit.

Together the team raised \$12,781.

The total raised by Gemma was \$3995

The total raised for the cause this year was \$1,956,389.

Gemma became a fire fighter little more than two years ago after attending an open day at the Ōmārama Fire Brigade.

---

## In breaking news...

Terry and Michelle Walsh have sold Mobil Twizel to another Ōmārama couple, Richard and Nicola McKerchar.

The changeover will take place at the end of this week.

Terry and Michelle plan to move to Blenheim.

*Read more in July's Ōmārama Gazette.*

---

## Correction

In the story 'Jack leads the parade to the skirl of the pipes, in last month's issue of the Ōmārama Gazette, it was incorrectly stated that Jack Boon had been learning the pipes for two years. Jack began learning the bagpipes nine years ago. I apologise for the error.

# Ōmārama Gazette response to new privacy guidelines

Last week the New Zealand Privacy Commissioner updated guidelines about photographing and filming children and young people.

As a result there will be some minor changes to the way the Ōmārama Gazette carries out this work.

The guidelines I will be using are published here for your information, are available on request and are taken from those produced by the commission detailed in the link below.

The Ōmārama Gazette policy is to:

- \*check with the child and parent each time I take their photo that I have their consent to take and share their photograph through the Gazette channels.
- \* No names will be used in captions.
- \* obtain assurance each time that any photos of children/ young people which are shared with me have the appropriate consent.
- \* All other photos - e.g group photos will be used without identifying characteristics as far as is possible.
- \* You can be assured all photos collected by the Gazette are stored securely and not on a shared platform, and not shared without the person's permission.
- \* No individual's photos will be shared on the Gazette Facebook page without permission.
- \* Each person will be told why their information is being collected, what is going to happen to it and whether they have a choice about providing that information (including what will happen if they say no).
- \* I will be doing my utmost to make sure that children, young people or their parents always know that photography or videoing recording is happening and why it is happening.
- \*People can withdraw consent at any time, including getting previously published images taken down, as long as that is feasible.

*We will work to keep each other safe,  
Ruth Grundy, editor.*

<https://www.privacy.org.nz/publications/guidance-resources/children-and-young-people-photography-and-filming-guidance/>

---

## Back in the day

Credit: K1CK Historic  
Photographs on Facebook

Blackie's Garage, Ōmārama,  
September 1981



# The Noticeboard

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

## **The Waitaki Valley Health Hub**

A series of public drop-in sessions are to be held to update the community about plans for the new purpose-built health hub in Kurow - designed to support the wider Waitaki Valley and Hakataramea districts. The Ōmārama session will be 6pm to 7.30pm, Tuesday, June 10 at the Ōmārama community Centre. (See poster over.) The Waitaki Valley Health Trust has set up a Facebook page to keep the community informed about progress.

**Oamaru House** - patient accommodation for rural people traveling to Dunedin Hospital for treatment - is to close. The Oamaru House Charitable Trust was notified its lease will be terminated on October 31 due to the scheduled demolition of the building. Read more in the Otago Daily Times.

**Congratulations** to Sadie Mason who was awarded her New Zealand citizenship at a ceremony at the Oamaru Opera House, last month.

**Matariki celebrations:** In 2025, Matariki is celebrated from June 19 to 22, with a national public holiday on 20 June.

**Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre**, is now open Tuesdays 9am to 5pm (Nurse only) and Thursday 8.30am to 1pm with Dr Tim Gardner. To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 (Monday to Thursdays). [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

**The Ōmārama Community Library** is open 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:** Kurow Presbyterian Parish: Rev Eymbert Johannes Schoneveld, Interim Moderator, Kurow Presbyterian Parish, Waiareka-Weston Community Presbyterian Church, 48 Main Street, Weston. Phone: 022 683 5117 email: [westonminister@gmail.com](mailto:westonminister@gmail.com)

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

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

**The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club** meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the 'Top Pub' - the Blue and Gold pub, in Kurow. All welcome. Join the Facebook group.

**Ōmārama Playgroup** meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Ōmārama Community Centre. For more information phone president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 [rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com) or secretary Olivia Black, 027 833 0869.

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

**The Ōmārama Model Aircraft Club** meets on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Bevan Allan [bjallan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bjallan@xtra.co.nz)

**FENZ Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade** meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. . If anyone would like more information about the various volunteer roles available within the fire brigade please get in touch. Email [omarama@fireandemergency.co.nz](mailto:omarama@fireandemergency.co.nz) or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909. You can follow us on Facebook (Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade)

**A gentle exercises and social afternoon group** meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

**Waitaki Newcomers Network:** For more information about this group send contact details to E: [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz) W: [www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz) F: [facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/](https://facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/)

**Plunket Line: 0800 933 922**

---

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

[www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/)  
[omaramagazette.nz](http://omaramagazette.nz)

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

Thank you to all who share your stories  
and contribute in other ways to the Gazette.  
We all really appreciate what you do.

**The July Issue of the Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, July 2, 2025.**

Please submit copy  
by Thursday June 28 2025

# !!Weekly Winter Housie 2025 !!

Save the date

1pm, Wednesday June 4, 2025

@ the Ōmārama Community Centre

\*20 Houses \*Super House \*Afternoon Tea

\*Raffles \*Supported by Age Concern

(Please bring small denominations or coins )

A warm welcome to all

## Wednesdays at 1pm

One day  
I'll start  
behaving  
myself...

Maybe  
tomorrow.

Last session of the month is at a café near you  
(Find out where the week before)



# WAITAKI VALLEY HEALTH HUB

COMMUNITY WELLNESS

## COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS

The Waitaki Valley Health Trust invites you to one of our upcoming drop-in sessions to learn more about plans for a new, purpose-built health hub in Kurow — designed to support the wider Waitaki Valley and Hakataramea regions.

These informal sessions are a chance to:

- View plans and concept designs
- Watch a short video presentation
- Ask questions and share your thoughts
- Learn how to stay connected or get involved

*Let's shape the  
future of rural health  
together*

There's no formal presentation — just drop in when it suits you.

### SESSION DATES & LOCATIONS:

#### *Duntroon*

Thurs 29 May, 1–3pm, Duntroon Hall

#### *Otematata*

Tues 3 June, 12.30–2.30pm, Otematata Community Centre

#### *Kurow*

Thurs 5 June, 1–3pm & 4.30–6.30pm, Kurow Hall

#### *Omarama*

Tues 10th June, 6 – 7.30pm, Omarama Hall

Check out our new website,  
a great way to find out more and stay up to date with our plans  
[www.waitakivalleyhealthhub.nz](http://www.waitakivalleyhealthhub.nz)

Follow us on Facebook @WaitakiHealthHub

# Situation vacant

## Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade - treasurer

The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade is on the look out for a new treasurer. The brigade is a critical service for the community, usually the first to provide assistance when people call

111. We're made up entirely of volunteers who give their time to serve the community we live and work in.

The treasurer role is critical in keeping the brigade running and a great way to get involved without having to attend call outs when the siren sounds.

You'll need to attend our monthly meetings, be able to put a bit of time into keeping on top of payments and accounts from month to month, and want to be part of a team that looks out for the community.

Experience with Xero or similar accounting systems is a benefit but not essential. If this sounds like you, or you want to know a bit more about the role, get in touch with Jack , 020 4045 0909, or email [Omarama@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:Omarama@fireandemergency.nz) before Sunday 15 June.

---

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Possum control – poison warning

High Country Contracting wishes to advise that a ground-based possum control operation will be taking place to keep possum numbers under control to prevent the spread of bovine TB. This operation will be conducted as a part of the TBfree New Zealand programme.

Areas covered: The area known as South Canterbury South is situated on the western side of the Waitaki Lakes, from Maraewhenua River in the South to Omarama in the north.

**Operation date: 10 June 2025 to 9 June 2026**

Poisoning methods Feratox capsules to be placed in a peanut paste inside blue biodegradable bait bags and bait stations. Cyanide paste and hand laid sodium fluoroacetate pellets may also be used in the high country.

The public is warned to take care in these areas and not to remove carcasses or baits. Baits are dangerous to people and dogs.

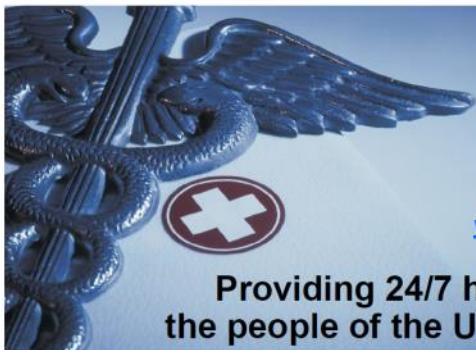
### General warning

- ☐ Do not touch poison baits/bait stations/traps
- ☐ Do not touch poisoned possum carcasses
- ☐ Keep pets under supervision
- ☐ Do not leave children unattended
- ☐ Follow the advice on the poison warning signs.

### If you suspect poisoning

- ☐ Contact your local hospital, or dial 111
- ☐ National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON – 0800 764766
- ☐ In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact a local veterinarian

For further information (including maps of the operational area), contact High Country Contracting – Tel. 0508 POSSUM (767 786) or email [info@hccltd.co.nz](mailto:info@hccltd.co.nz)



# Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](https://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*

# The Community Reports

## Ōmārama Police



*Hi everyone,*

I thought it was time for a brief catch up with what's been going on around the traps.

I have had enough to keep me occupied the last few months. Easter weekend was fairly hectic with a large number of driving complaints and crashes.

In regards to driving complaints you may not be aware that the police treat every single one seriously. If someone calls up 111 or \*555 we will attend if there is a unit available and either educate the driver or take legal action or both.

Funny story, on Good Friday I attended three vehicle crashes.

The first was a tourist vehicle that ended up on its roof in the Lindis Pass after failing to take a moderate left hand bend. It's unknown if the occupants were okay as they'd left the scene by the time police and fire arrived.

The second was a small car that was rear ended on the Twizel-Ōmārama Rd as it slowed to allow the vehicle in front to pull into a rest area.

A 4WD was following too close and shunted it across the centreline and into a farmer's paddock.

What was funny is that not long after a Kiwi bloke from Geraldine-way drove past and asked his wife, 'How does someone crash on a straight section of road?'

About 15 minutes later he went to pass a slower vehicle up near the Lindis, on a straight section of road and for some unknown reason lost control and ended up in the farmer's paddock scratching his head in bewilderment.

I've also noted some long skid marks at the intersection of Broken Hut Rd leading straight across the intersection of SH8 and continuing down the bank and into the farmer's paddock. The jerks have then driven off without reporting it. I measured the slide marks which I sent to our Serious Crash analysts. They believe that the vehicle would have been travelling in excess of 150kph.

It's believed that the vehicle is an older style green/bluey green Toyota Land Cruiser. It will be missing a front wheel arch and have a broken headlight. So, if anyone has any idea who the person was let me know please, I would love to catch up them.

Last week, I was disappointed to have to investigate a fairly serious assault involving two local men that occurred on the corner of Ōmārama Ave and Chain Hills Highway. As a result one person has been arrested and charged with assault and is due in court later this week.

On the Search and Rescue side, things have been quiet, but the team have been training hard. On top of our regular training we recently had a weekend away up the Ahuriri Valley where we went over various search techniques and stretcher management and patient care. I definitely enjoyed this as I got to be the patient and be carted through the bush by them all. They've also recently done a helicopter safety course which was also great as some of our newbies hadn't been in a chopper before.

There's been some asking me if we will be doing another SAR quiz night again, like we did last year. The short answer is, 'Yes'. I just need to work out a date that will work for everyone, watch this space.

Sadly, last month was Bruce Dyson's funeral. I met Bruce for the first time in 2011 when I first came to Ōmārama. We were at a function at the fire brigade, I saw this guy walking around with a glass the size of a bucket and couldn't believe he was drinking rum. We pretty much hit it off from there and been mates ever since. Over the years that I worked with Bruce either at car crashes or medical emergencies his calm demeanour and just get it done attitude always impressed me, but probably even more so was the fact he cared about everyone else, not just his Fenz and Sar family but anyone in the village.

A lot of my favourite memories are with Bruce 'n' Julz either at the fire station or around at their place watching Bathurst, or just because it's Sunday. Brucie, it's not going to be the same without you mate, rest easy.

*That's it from me. Stay safe everyone!*

*Bean*

Call triple one (111) when you need an emergency response from police, fire or ambulance.

Use Ten Five (105) to report things that don't need urgent police assistance.

Usual office contact details:

Senior Constable Nayland Smith, Sole charge Constable / Omarama /  
PO Box 101, Omarama 9448. Phone: (03) 438 9559 / Ext: 34580 /  
mailto: [nayland.smith@police.govt.nz](mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz)

---

## Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*Photo: Supplied*

*By Charlotte Derosa*

Who can believe we are almost halfway through the year 2025? It started off as an extremely busy year, then entering into May, our volunteers had a quieter month with two call outs; one motor vehicle collision and one medical.

As always, a big thank you to our volunteers who still attend training every Wednesday to keep the knowledge ticking over for when the siren sounds.

Firefighters and Ops Support have been busy working on their breathing apparatus and hose skills whilst First Response have looked at training around what type of illnesses we may see during the colder months.

*- continued over*

# Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade - continued

The First Response team also had their six monthly Continued Clinical Education (CCE) training, which was held with our neighbouring brigade Otematata. During this, both brigades had separate call outs, keeping our instructor very busy throughout the day!

Through May and over winter, we are focusing on winter fire safety. With people starting to bring out the heaters, it's a great time to be reminded that we should always keep things "a metre from the heater", making sure objects are at a safe distance and cannot catch fire.

If you are looking at emptying your fireplaces, be sure to soak the ashes with water in a metal bucket before discarding, and last but not least when using your tumble dryers, be sure to remove the lint before each use.

If you have any questions regarding fire safety through winter, then please do not hesitate to reach out to the brigade by messaging the Facebook group or popping in to ask a question if you see us in and around the station.

With that, I wish you all a wonderful start to June and hope you enjoyed the long weekend. Be safe!

*The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets at 7pm each Wednesday at the Ōmārama Fire Station and has its meeting on the third Wednesday of the month.*

*If anyone would like more information about the various volunteer roles available within the fire brigade please get in touch.*

*Email [omarama@fireandemergency.co.nz](mailto:omarama@fireandemergency.co.nz) or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909.*

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

---

## Ōmārama Golf Club

Saturday Club Day: cards in 12noon and tee-off at 12.30.

If you are interested in joining the club

email Arron Chambers,

[secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz) for details.

Club captain: Greg Stuart phone: 027 438 9018

Secretary: Arron Chambers phone: 027 203 2340

email [secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

[www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)



**Antony Ford CA**



**Ford Simpson Ltd**

Chartered Accountants

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

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

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

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

**PHONE 03 687 2080**



**Brodie Craig CA**

# Ōmārama Community Garden

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

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

Contact: Jennie Hales, [jenniehollows@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniehollows@hotmail.com)

---

## 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](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com)  
or secretary Olivia Black, 027 833 0869.

---

## Ōmārama Rodeo Club

Ōmārama Rodeo Club Annual meeting

The Ōmārama Rodeo Club annual meeting  
s 7pm Monday, June 16, at the Otematata Pub.  
New Members Welcome.

Save the Date ...  
for the Hillbilly Hunt and quiz night, July 4 to 6.



# Age Concern Ōmārama

The next coffee afternoon is  
**1pm, Tuesday June 10**  
at the  
Omarama 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 / Thurs - Fri 9-12.30pm

---

## 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 Community Library

*By Glenys Dawson*

Three flowering hebes have been planted in the front corner of the Ōmārama community playground along from the front entrance gate.

These were kindly donated by the Waitaki District Libraries team in the memory of Georgie Robertson, with the blessing of Georgie's husband, Tim, and the Residents Association.

Georgie was a long term volunteer at our local library and passed away earlier this year. We are looking forward to seeing them flowering in-season - a huge thanks to the Oamaru librarians who organised this.

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

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473



## 80 POWERFUL R2 ANGUS BULLS




CONTACT  
US NOW  
FOR A BULL  
CATALOGUE

**25th ANNUAL ON FARM  
FOSSIL CREEK  
ANGUS BULL SALE**  
Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 2pm  
434 Dunrobin Rd, Five Forks, North Otago



[www.fossilcreekangus.co.nz](http://www.fossilcreekangus.co.nz)

Blair and Jane Smith: (027) 4324154 / (027) 3841424  
[newhavenfarms@netspeed.net.nz](mailto:newhavenfarms@netspeed.net.nz)

 @Fossilcreekangus



# Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki



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

*Our Wanaka and Oamaru Offices will be closed from 20th December 2024 and reopen on 8 January 2025.*

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

### Oamaru

127 Thames Street  
03 434 7325

### Wanaka

Spencer House Mall  
12/31 Dunmore Street  
03 443 4820

Authorised by M Anderson, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



# Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the  
Ōmārama Residents' Association is  
**7pm, Thursday, June 19, 2025**  
at the Omarama Community Centre

The minutes of the previous meeting are available from Vicky

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

Michelle Kitchen, chairperson and hall curator

Vicky Chambers, secretary

Hank Verheul, building convenor

Malcolm Cameron, MenzShed representative

Natalie Beiboer

Maurice Cowie

Stephen Grundy

Jennie Hales

Lindsay Purvis

Gary Sutherland

---

## **THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX**

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

**The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.**

**The association's email address is [omarama.committee@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.committee@gmail.com)**

---

## **ŌMĀRAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE**

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



# 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



**Vicky Munro**

Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



**Alona Shaw**

Omarama

027 773 4214

**It's time,  
Canterbury**

Our climate change  
conversation

## Let's take action for our climate.

**Every action adds up to reduce  
the effects of climate change.**

If we all do a little, we can change a lot.



[itstimecanterbury.co.nz](http://itstimecanterbury.co.nz)



For all your agricultural needs and more:

- ❖ Competitive rates on Gorse/Broom/Horehound etc
- ❖ Spraying – crops and forestry
- ❖ Bucket work – fertilising and seed
- ❖ Scenic Flights
- ❖ Pest Control
- ❖ Fire lighting and fighting
- ❖ All Lifting/mustering/hunting requirements
- ❖ Search and Rescue



Phone Matt 027 227 8256  
Email: [info@csihelicopters.co.nz](mailto:info@csihelicopters.co.nz)



## **PRE LAMB BLADE SHEARING**

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

**John Bruce**  
**027 433 0679**

# **Nigel Grant Fencing**

**All aspects of rural fencing  
- sheep, cattle, deer fencing,  
yard building and bulldozing.**

**High quality workmanship  
027 436 0964**



**TRUCK & DIGGER HIRE  
CERTIFYING DRAINLAYERS  
SEPTIC & WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

Info@swiftcontracting.co.nz

Swiftcontracting.co.nz

Steve 021 99 33 52



# Ōmārama School

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

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

www.omarama.school.nz

---

## Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club  
meets at

7.30pm on the first Monday  
of each month  
at the Kurow Hotel.

All welcome. Join the Facebook group.

---

## Omarama Storage



- Secure Lockup Storage
- 3.6m h x 3m w entry
- Short & Long term

Don't let the weather deteriorate your caravan, boat or motorhome over winter. Spaces available now.

Contact Bridget – [bridgesp@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bridgesp@xtra.co.nz)  
or Ph /txt 021572798

---

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

Contributions are welcome.  
[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

# Care in the community

## Ōmārama Community Care Group

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

---



## Twizel Community Care Centre

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

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel

Phone: 03 435 0687

Email: [admin@twizelcare.co.nz](mailto:admin@twizelcare.co.nz)

Hours of opening: 9am - 3pm

Days of opening: Monday - Friday

- **A reminder we have a food bank** available with no questions asked  
Our contact details are 03 4350687 and email [admin@twizelcare.co.nz](mailto:admin@twizelcare.co.nz) if you would like to arrange a convenient time to collect a parcel. (Donations of non-perishable or foods that can be frozen always welcome)
- **Twizel-Tekapo Community Car bookings** – this is a community car that picks you up from your house and takes you wherever you need to go such as town here in Twizel or Timaru for an appointment, whatever you need. There is a cost involved depending on destinations. Monday to Friday
- **Work and Income** – assistance with applying for benefits, helping with queries regarding superannuation, and any other financial assistance you may receive. Printing and scanning of documents.
- **Inland Revenue** – queries regarding anything IRD related, access to forms.
- **Immigration** - passport and other Government agencies.
- **Cancer Society Navigator** – support for anyone with any cancer each third Thursday of every month
- **Home Delivered Meals** – We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for \$8 and small snack meals for \$4. We can deliver to your home.
- **Printing/scanning services**
- **Arowhenua Whanau services** – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- **Access to a computer**, printing, free WIFI, community notice boards

Team

Karan & Jess



Your *Waitaki & Mackenzie District*  
Property Experts

Karan MacDiarmid | Sales Consultant | 027 517 7959 | [karan@mcre.co.nz](mailto:karan@mcre.co.nz)

Jess Mackay | Sales Consultant | 027 902 5529 | [jess@mcre.co.nz](mailto:jess@mcre.co.nz)

Rachel Sheridan | Property Management | 027 435 0187 | [rentals@mcre.co.nz](mailto:rentals@mcre.co.nz)

LJ Hooker Twizel | 03 435 0170 | [twizel@mcre.co.nz](mailto:twizel@mcre.co.nz)

Managing your  
**Investment Property**

Call us now for more  
info!

**LJ HOOKER**  
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

☎ 027 435 0187

✉ [rentals@mcre.co.nz](mailto:rentals@mcre.co.nz)

🌐 [twizel.ljhooker.co.nz](http://twizel.ljhooker.co.nz)

🏠 20 Ruataniwha Road,  
Twizel, 7901



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, selling residential, lifestyle & commercial property.

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**

Business Partner & Sales Consultant

027 432 6615

[gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz](mailto:gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz)

Your  
advertisement  
could go here!

To contribute or  
advertise in the  
Omarama Gazette  
Phone  
021 294 8002  
Or email  
omaramagazette  
@gmail.com



LICENSED AGENT

021 919 089

coralie.reid@oatps.nz



Licensed REAA 2008

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



**For all your hydraulic requirements**

Sales, service, design,

hose fittings & spare parts

**97 Racecourse Rd, Washdyke.**

**Phone 03 688 2902**

**[www.scarlett-hydraulics.co.nz](http://www.scarlett-hydraulics.co.nz)**

**CarpetPlus+**

**John Bennett**

Owner Operator

Mackenzie and Waitaki Districts

13 Chain Hills Highway

Omarama

027 208 7383

[john@carpetplus.co.nz](mailto:john@carpetplus.co.nz)

[www.carpetplus.co.nz](http://www.carpetplus.co.nz)

+Carpet +Vinyl +Tiles +Laminate +Timber Floors

**Michelle Ward**

Registered Valuer

B Com (VPM) PG Dip Com (VFM)

ANZIV SPINZ

[michelle@mackenzievaluations.co.nz](mailto:michelle@mackenzievaluations.co.nz)

0274 329 015

Mackenzie Country Valuations



**T & J Golder Ltd  
Omarama**

**Travis 021 710305**

For all your excavation  
needs give us a call!

Landscaping,  
Farm work, Building  
sites and more.

# Legacy – my personal tribute to a great friend and mentor

*By Ruth Grundy, editor.*

This is a rum-free story about Bruce, especially for you, Cheyanne. :) And it is yet another recount of a treasured friendship.

Bruce had that uncommon knack to meet you where you were, no judgement. Not many, if any, knew we were friends. Truth be told I was probably more of a project. Trouble is my middle name.

Sometimes a chat with Bruce was a little bit like being called to the principal's office. He would walk in the door, take a seat on the couch and own the room. I'd say, 'You know don't you?' and he would nod slowly and in silence. And then hear my story. And understand.

He cut through the bitchy, destructive gossip. – "I never knew that was what it was all about," he would say. But, I was never given a free pass. I was handed out extra homework as necessary. And also the support needed to get there. He encouraged me to hear my doubts then trust my instincts – to have the confidence to be myself.

Although we are so very different, we had some significant things in common. Among those, we both have zero tolerance for bull shit. We both believe in standing strongly for what we believe in, and in standing beside others – only with his innate wisdom he did it so much better than I ever will.

His last chat at the end of February took an unexpected turn. It was an unexpected topic. He wanted to talk about the Gazette no longer tackling council stories. Last year when things came to a head, he had said to me that the community had not fully realised the significance of that decision and would come to regret it. So, the reason for the chat? That time had now come, he said. It was time to push to get the council to change their policy regarding giving information to the Gazette. I wasn't sure, but he was insistent and said he would push for me to get the necessary support. And, as I discovered only a week or so ago, despite all he was dealing with, he did just that. Well, Brucie, if you were here, you'd know - "You know already, don't you?" - that one hasn't gone down too well so far. You also know nothing makes me dig deeper than someone telling me to back off.

There is an old, old story of how once there was no room at the inn for a outcast single mother literally about to give birth and her fiancé, the older man standing by her side picking up the pieces; both had been shafted by the authorities whose ruling had pushed them into being homeless on this night of all nights. A bed was found, and feed for their donkey.

I bet that innkeeper drank rum and I bet his wife told all those random visitors to \*%\$ off and give them some peace and quiet. She probably even kicked a king out of his room to give the young mum and babe a room. That wouldn't have earned a great review on Trip Advisor!

We are going to miss you so much dear friend and, tell me, who the hell will keep Maurice, Bean, Mike and Hank in check now?!

No-one will miss you as much as your darling Julie, Bailey, Cheyanne and Korey, Beam and Monty.

We make this promise to be there for them as you were for all of us.

You have shown us, challenged us to be fiercely kind, to turn anger towards justice not meanness, and as has been said already "how to live with challenges and struggles, and how to survive". This is your legacy.

It's going to be tough, but we will do this together.



**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**

**May 2025**

**Highest temperature: May 7, 19.9C**

**Lowest temperature: May 24, -2.7C**

**Most rainfall: May 9, 19.5mm**

**Total rainfall for May: 70.4mm**

## **The Ōmārama Gazette**

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

**To subscribe email:**

**[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)**

**Copyright © 2016 -2024 Omarama Gazette, All rights reserved.**