



Ōmārama Gazette

June 2026

Felicity is riding to represent New Zealand

A young cowgirl is about to realise her dream and see her hard work and dedication through the past years reap exciting rewards.

NZ Rodeo Cowboys' Association cowgirl and Waitaki Girls' High School pupil Felicity Montgomery (15) has been selected for the NZ youth rodeo team to travel to Australia in August.

She will compete in the barrel racing and breakaway roping events, against an Australian and USA teams in a week-long competition in Townsville.

The NZ Youth team consists of seven members aged between 15-18, competing in bull riding, team roping, barrel racing and breakaway roping, over a week.

Felicity has just completed a successful season scoring numerous placings in her chosen events on the circuit across the country.

Father and mother, Daniel (Monty) and Charlotte Montgomery, are heavily involved in the Ōmārama Rodeo Club – Monty is president and Charlotte, secretary.

Felicity has been competing since she was seven years old and the whole family competes in the sport, Charlotte said.

“It’s a family rule.”

Speaking for Felicity, Charlotte said her daughter was “really excited”.



Ōmārama Rodeo Club youth member Felicity Montgomery is to represent New Zealand at the tri-nations competition in Australia in August.

Photo: Supplied.

Felicity is to represent New Zealand - continued

“It is a real honour.”

It was a goal Felicity had been working towards and this selection meant so much more than winning competitions.

Those selected for the youth team and to represent New Zealand needed to have demonstrated to selectors that they were good “all rounders” doing well at school, working hard as volunteers and helping to promote and fundraise for the sport, Charlotte said.

Training for the tri-nations event is about to kick-off with a team camp to brush up skills and help accustom competitors to differing conditions – it was officially the off-season for rodeo in New Zealand.

The host country finds the horses for the visiting New Zealand and US competitors. However, they only get a couple of rides before the competition, often only a day or sometimes only a few hours before it begins. However, the young people had been selected for their riding ability, she said.

Negotiations are underway to have the Australian team make the return trip in December or January with the possibility they may compete in Omarama.

Advances in the sport meant that rodeo was aligning more with other sports like netball in its focus on youth development and offering opportunities for overseas competition and travel, Charlotte said.

Felicity has clocked up a successful rodeo season in the barrel racing and breakaway roping events. Photo: Supplied



Footpaths follow-up part II

While there are no plans to work on Ōmārama's footpaths this financial year – which ends in a matter of days – the monies in the township amenity fund – now standing at \$135,478, will be carried forward to next year, a spokesperson for the Waitaki District Council says.

In April the Ōmārama Residents' Association took its latest list of concerns in the long running saga of lack of footpath maintenance in the town to the Ahuriri Community Board.

Little maintenance work has been done since the 2017/2018 financial year, yet rates continue to be collected to carry out the work - \$126K in the Board's amenity fund as of June 2025.

Additional funds are collected through the general rate and in development contributions.

Residents have regularly raised the subject through submissions to previous long term plans and through the masterplan process, and it has been the subject of countless 'snap, send and solve' reports.

At the board meeting Waitaki District mayor Mel Tavendale agreed to take the matter back to the council for another look.

Following the meeting the Ōmārama Gazette asked the council for more details in a Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 request and the reply is summarised below.

While there was \$126,718 in the Ōmārama township amenity fund at June 2025 by March 31, 2026 there was \$135,478 in the fund.

There has been no spending from 30 June 2025 – 31 March 2026.

“There are no plans to expend the funds this financial year.

“The funds will be carried forward to next financial year for the Ahuriri Community Board to assign.

“The Ahuriri Community Board has delegation to decide how to use these funds. Any individual projects totaling over \$50k are required to go to the council for approval.

“The funds have not been committed to something other than Omarama township amenities,” the statement said.

Council staff or Ahuriri Community Board members can put forward projects to be paid for from this fund. If the project costs more than \$50K then the Ahuriri Ward councillor can push it up to the full council for approval of the remainder.

The last time any monies was spent from the amenities fund in Omarama was in the 2017/2018 financial year.

According to the February financial report to the board, it had no projects planned for Ōmārama in the 2026 financial year.

The Gazette also asked the council what standards or guidelines it used to assess footpaths.

“For assessment of footpath condition, the council uses the Pedestrian Pathway Fault Assessment and Condition Guide. This guide was developed by WSP for NZTA [The NZ Transport Agency]. This approach allows for a full condition survey to be undertaken of the footpath network in the district by WSP using a scooter in three weeks rather than undertaking a smaller 10% representative sample of the network annually.”

- continued over

Footpaths follow-up part II

Although the Residents' Association has not received the promised response from the board or council yet this information was forwarded to the committee for discussion at its May meeting.

During the general discussion several points were raised, including questions over what the recent survey results were, and whether the technology was sophisticated enough to pick up the detail when large stretches of path had been covered in loose gravel.

The point was also made that the council must have an obligation to remove the safety hazards.

An idea was put forward that the committee might scope out the worst affected area, and seek quotes for repairs and then put this to the board for consideration,

No motions were put forward at the meeting.

The committee was told the council and board continued to encourage residents to use the council's app – the new app Antenno - to report concerns.

In small communities volunteers wear many hats.

Declaration: I am married to Stephen Grundy who is Residents' Association of Omarama committee chairperson.

I attend the public meetings of the association as a Waitaki District Council ratepayer, an Omarama Hall ratepayer and the editor of the Omarama Gazette. I speak to issues relevant to each of those roles as necessary.



Operation snowstorm tests preparedness

For all intents and purposes it is library day at the Ōmārama Community Centre.. Books are being checked in and out as a steady stream of readers come and go.

But, today, May 20, there is also a small group heads down at work at a table in the corner problem solving and strategising.

Unbeknownst to the library borrowers there is a raging snowstorm outside and operation Whakarite Kia Rite – Prepare to be Ready, is underway.

The operation – which simulated a significant snowstorm impacting the whole of Otago was designed by Otago Civil Defence Emergency Management to run through realistic scenarios to see how emergency services and councils would respond to realistic challenges including road closures, power outages and isolated communities. In the scenario the severe weather system brought not only heavy snow to low levels, but strong winds and widespread disruption across the region. This the first time an exercise of this scale – Otago wide - has been run for sometime.

This was also the first time the Ōmārama Resilience Group was put through its paces. The Resilience Group, under the leadership of Emergency Management Otago Waitaki advisor Danny Fountaine was formed after the AF8 Roadshow visited Ōmārama in April last year to discuss how to prepare for an alpine fault earthquake.

Its primary purpose is to set up and run the community shelter – the Ōmārama Community Centre - in the case of any emergency and under the direction of either Ōmārama's Emergency Community Response Group – made up of Police, Search and Rescue, Fire and Emergency and First Response volunteers – or Emergency Management when a Civil Defence Emergency has been called. - *continued over*

Members of the Ōmārama Resilience Group take part in simulated emergency exercise at the Ōmārama Community Centre last month.



Operation snowstorm tests preparedness -continued

Meanwhile the morning frost – it was -4.5C – and overcast skies give the exercise a touch of reality and even though the power is only theoretically out the heat pump seems as if it is on a go slow. We're wearing hats, gloves, and scarves and we're inside.

Everyone quickly moves into role playing mode and the day plays out a little like this. Well, if it didn't it was supposed to.

About 9am from the incident control point at the Ōmārama Police, Fire and Sar headquarters instructions have been relayed to the Resilience Group Coordinator that the hall will be needed to house evacuees and to be the main conduit for communications to and from the public.

About the same time in Oamaru the Waitaki District Council has 'stood up' its Emergency Operations Centre. A Civil Defence Emergency is officially declared.

SH8 and 83 and Lake Ohau Rd are closed and reports of stranded vehicles are coming in.

The Resilience Group coordinator has mustered the group who have trekked through deep snow to prepare the hall. It's already been checked over by the Ōmārama's Emergency Community Response and declared safe.

Once the Resilience Group members arrive the coordinator assigns us our roles. Any incoming information is gathered and initial needs assessed.

The first status report goes out to the Waitaki Emergency Operations Centre advising the hall is about to open.

As the storm has gathered force through the morning regional and local information plus safety advice has already gone out to the community via the Omarama Gazette and other Facebook pages and via Gazette email.

At the Hall it's first things first.

Power is not yet out but in the likelihood Ōmārama MenzShed have mobilised to bring in the generator. And a request has gone out for volunteers to help clear snow from the carpark and access ways to the Hall.

A 'status board' is set up in the foyer noting what is known about the status of roads, power, water, phone and internet as well as any known hazards and key safety issues plus useful contact details. Not everyone has internet access.

A registration desk is set up and appropriate forms laid out with two volunteers on the job ready to collect these details plus details about needs and offers of help. This info is also posted on the board.

Weather weary travellers begin to arrive and are ushered into the warm hall by the volunteers tasked with 'wellbeing support' for tea, coffee and a chat, and help to contact whānau, if needed.. More arrive as the day goes on and the cafes close. There are truckies, families who have been travelling, those stranded by the storm and evacuees gathering.

Out of the public eye in the communications room - the library – a situation board is collating a running log of events and queries. Here is also where known welfare issues – including animal welfare issues - are shared.

Maps of the town are spread out on the table and radio communications is

established via the Totara Peak channel.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications – the volunteer organisation tasked with keeping everyone connected during search and rescue operations, emergency responses, and community disasters – has donated a radio to the Ōmārama Resilience Group.

We have our first training session with the North Otago team via cell phone and then we check in. “CD Oamaru this is CD Ōmārama do you receive? Are you hearing me now?” There’s a pause. Static. Then: “Copy”. We try another channel, that’s a little clearer.

Because of the strength of the storm the likelihood of civil defence personnel arriving from Oamaru to take over from the Ōmārama volunteers is remote. No-one is coming to help. We’re on our own.

Throughout the day the Ōmārama Resilience Group works through the seven exercises in which we are involved, sending back status reports and requests for assistance or further information as necessary.

The response is guided by the overarching structure of the Coordinated Information Management System and adapted to suit our local situation. Because all from the highest levels down understand the system it means when we are talking back and forth with other groups we (almost) speak the same language.

It’s early afternoon, we are aware of five to six locals who are vulnerable and best not to move so we have assigned volunteers to check on them on a regular basis to make sure they stay safe.

-continued over



Operation snowstorm tests preparedness -continued

We are now anticipating we may have to prepare meals in the hall kitchen to be taken out to those people and others. We have asked the Emergency Management Welfare team for directions as to how to pay for food needed to be requisitioned from Four Square Ōmārama. They will get back to us.

Then a new forecast comes in. MetService is predicting a further 48–72 hours of similar conditions. The power is out, and Network Waitaki relay we could be without power for a further 48 hours.

But we have it in hand.

Without power the generator is key, so long as fuel stocks remained good.

With communications down the radio allows contact back and forth to the Emergency Operation Centre and Incident Control, and willing volunteers are commandeered to carry messages where needed on foot or by 4WD.

The group sends its final status report just prior to shift change at 3pm.

It logs that:

“There are 30 people registered at the Hall at 3pm, Wednesday.

There is a 40 seater bus stranded below the summit of the Lindis.

We do not know how many are on the bus or their nationality.

Sar volunteers are shuttling them to the hall from the bus in 4WD vehicles.

We expect this to be completed by 5pm.

4WDs have been diverted from the animal welfare rescue to this mission.

We have sent out requests to community for accommodation and food for the evening.

As well volunteers in a 4WD with covered trailer are collecting mattresses and bedding to drop off at the hall.

We have runners taking medication/ checking on people etc if necessary, although in the conditions it is slow progress and we are discouraging all but the most important.”

Over and out!

Other small community groups throughout Otago, like Waipiata and Ranfurly - were included in the exercise.

We weren't perfect, not by a long shot.

However, none of the incidents raised were completely unfamiliar.

Problem solving was key and after the first trial run it turns out, on paper anyway, we can be confident the Ōmārama community is a pretty self-sufficient bunch.

To find out how to prepare for an emergency go to this website: getready.govt.nz/



Bridge and stream work complete

Work to strengthen the Ōmārama Stream bridge on SH8 and to reduce the risk of flooding is now complete.

New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi began the \$170,000 project a few weeks ago as a response to the damage caused by significant floods in 2009 and 2022.

After planning the project and obtaining the necessary consents, the physical work at the bridge took about three weeks to complete, the agency said.

Contractors removed built up sediment, overgrown vegetation and opened up the waterway at the Lindis Pass end of the bridge, increasing the water carrying capacity under the bridge.

Stopbank construction work would provide protection against floodwaters.

As well rock called 'rip rap' has been placed in the stream bed to strengthen the bridge piers and prevent erosion and scouring.

"It is always satisfying to complete projects like this one that have a very clear benefit for both the highway network and the local community," NZTA lower South Island maintenance and operations area manager Chris Harris said. *Photos: Supplied*



Watch this space...

Do we dare to dream.

Let's get together on a winter's afternoon and let our imagination run wild.

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? – the potential the recreation reserve adjacent to the Memorial Hall offers for the future of sport and recreation in Ōmārama.

WHEN IS IT? – **NOTE NEW DAY AND TIME - Sunday, June 21 at 2pm.** Let's get together to chew things over. If it's not a sparkling winter's day, we'll be indoors.

WHY – The Ōmārama Residents Association wants to know what you think about what this reserve land could become. But, wait there's more - not just about what you think but also to build a team to see any plan through.

PLEASE share this invitation. Bring a friend. **When was that again? 2pm Sunday, June 21.** There'll be stuff for the kids to do, a BBQ – please bring your own refreshments and ideas.

Let's not let this opportunity slip through our hands. Just imagine: Rugby, soccer, athletics, cricket, softball? And with a little volunteer power anything is possible – just look at what our little town has done so far. We stand on the shoulders of giants! These are by no means pie in the sky dreams. In October 2017, an 'athletics 'hub' for Omarama was a proposal put forward in the Waitaki District Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Indoor Recreation Centre Feasibility study. The study was prepared by Sport Otago at the request of the Waitaki District Council, largely to test the feasibility of an indoor stadium in Oamaru. But the study covered much wider ground.

Sport Otago talked to sporting codes and stakeholders throughout the district and carried out a survey to gather information on what sport and recreation facilities the district has and what changes the community would like to see. In its summary of recommendations, it suggested there was an opportunity to create a "sub-regional athletics hub" in Omarama. An athletics centre here would allow athletes from Central Otago, Lakes District, Mackenzie Country, South Canterbury and North Otago to compete at a central location, the report said. Ōmārama was ideally located. The study not only assessed present needs but also future demographics and the growth of Ōmārama and its surrounds.

At the time, in an interview, then Sport Otago chief executive John Brimble told the Ōmārama Gazette the idea came about after discussion with North Otago Athletics and other leaders within the code whose observation was rural communities were "really keen" on getting their children into sport and would travel considerable distances so they could participate. He, personally, visited Ōmārama as part of the study. Because of its location Ōmarama was singled out as the "focal point". It represented the mid-way point between the Queenstown Lakes District, Central Otago, - particularly the Queenstown and Aspiring Athletics clubs - and the North Otago and South Canterbury clubs, he said. This was especially so for junior athletics but also for the seniors.

[AND just think, anyone coming to support their teams would stay, overnight, for the weekend, or for the holidays - summer and winter]

PS If anyone has photos from times past – we would love to have them on display.

Do we dare to dream?



Is this our field of dreams?

Rugby? athletics? cricket?

For us, for our children, for our future?

Let's kick this idea around a bit at a mid-winter barbeque.

Sunday, June 21, 2pm start

at the Omarama Community Centre picnic area.

The true meaning of community

A LOT OF LAUGHS FOR A SERIOUS CAUSE,
AND THE TRUE MEANING OF PINK RIBBON

It is the day Ōmārama pays tribute to our women and families, past and present, who find themselves on the breast cancer journey.

Once again it was a fun-filled day and generosity flowed as more than 50 ladies and gents from Ōmārama and Otematata gathered at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama to raise \$5311.50 for breast cancer research.

The patrons, all in pink, were treated to a three-course brunch with bubbles, lovingly prepared and served by Julie Dyson and the Boots and Jandals team.

One of the organisers, Adrienne Harper, welcomed all to what was the ninth Boots and Jandals -hosted Pink Ribbon event and thanked all who contributed so generously to its success.

“Thank you to Julie and her team, our sponsors and the generosity of the community, the many people who have made cash donations, it is bloody mind blowing... we are truly grateful...we know this event means a lot to us all.”

Fellow organizer Lesley Jackson read a poem, “The meaning of a pink ribbon”, “for the women forever changed,

For lives interrupted rearranged,
For families learning to stand strong,
And friends who help them carry on.”

Quizzes and games punctuated the proceedings as raffles were drawn and prizes awarded.

The display of bras kept everybody laughing and guessing as bets were laid as to what size each was and the serious side of having regular breast checks was promoted.

In all there were 304 jelly beans in the guessing game.

The trailer load of firewood was won by Jennie Hales.

There were also generous prizes donated by

- From The Lindis – lunch for four.
- From Skydive Mt Cook – a tandem sky dive.
- From Trail Journeys – a day trip for two.
- From Lake Ōhau Lodge & Ōhau Snow Fields – two all day ski passes, to name only a very few.

To find out more about the cause and to donate to Julie's Pink Ribbon Brunch click here:

<https://fundraise.bcf.org.nz/fundraisers/PInkRlbbonBrunch/pinkribbonbreakfast>



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SATURDAY 27TH JUNE 2026

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The Noticeboard

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

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Isobel Wray, who died in Oamaru last month, aged 93. Isobel and husband John who died in 1993 aged 60 owned Merino Country Crafts for many years.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of shearer John (Linny) Linwood, who died in Kurow, last month.

Congratulations to Sadie Mason who was named the 2026 Network Waitaki Sports junior sportswoman of the year in Oamaru, last month.

Community support is needed

Hazel Mason was one of five South Zone athletes selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Netball Team to compete in Australia.

The athletes are currently seeking sponsors for their NZSS warm-up tees to help support their journey and represent our region on the international stage.

Businesses and individuals are invited to support the athletes by sponsoring one or backing all five. If you are interested in supporting, please get in touch with Kate at: kate.loyd@netballsouth.co.nz

Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is on Tuesdays. Appointments are available 9am to 4.30pm.

To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 or Mackenzie Health Clinic 03 976 0503 .
www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Email: omaramalibrary@gmail.com

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

Kurow Presbyterian Church:

Kurow Presbyterian Parish: Rev Eymbert Johannes Schoneveld, Interim Moderator, Kurow Presbyterian Parish, Waiareka-Weston Community Presbyterian Church, 48 Main Street, Weston. Phone: 022 683 5117
email: westonminister@gmail.com

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

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

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the Kurow Hotel. 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 or email president Olivia Black 027 833 0869, vice-president Jess Townsend and secretary Bridie Brosnahan 027 341 3010 omaramaplaygroup@gmail.com

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

The Ōmārama Model Aircraft Club meets regularly at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Bevan Allan bjallan@xtra.co.nz

FENZ 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.nz or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909. You can follow us on Facebook (Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade)

During winter months a gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons during winter. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Shirley - 021 165 6439, or Diane 021 237 9636.

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

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

www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/
omaramagazette.nz

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

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

**The July Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, July 1, 2026.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, June 25, 2026

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Police



- from the minutes of the Residents' Association of Ōmārama (RAOI) May meeting.

In recent months on several occasions when the Lindis Pass has been closed because of car crashes traffic has built up in town on both state highways, 8 and 83. The resultant gridlock, with vehicles not pulling off the road, blocking the junction and backing up in both directions - towards Twizel and Otematata has made it virtually impossible to move around town.

In April, the RAOI wrote to Senior Constable Nayland (Bean) Smith to ask if anything could be done to alleviate the problem.

Bean sent the RAOI email with his endorsement and recommendations for a possible solution to the Southern District Road Policing manager acting inspector Dylan Ross, who has in turn forwarded this to the NZ Transport Agency for consideration at the next meeting of the Lower South Island Regional First Responders Group on June 18, where such matters are addressed and actioned.

Police recommendations were; better signage indicating realistic road closure time to encourage drivers to go down SH83 instead of congesting the road from the school back towards Ōmārama/Twizel, better traffic management, such as a second contractor ensuring vehicles pull off the road and park legally – enforcement/ presence by police if available. Inspector Ross also sent the emails directly to the regional NZTA journey manager Nicole Felts for her consideration.

Bean says in his report back to the RAOI the NZTA do take notice of police recommendations and concerns, so some type of action will be taken

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



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Brodie Craig CA

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Senior Station Officer Maurice Cowie

We're coming up to the 60th-year anniversary of the brigade and already we are over our highest turnout numbers for a 12-month period. Last financial year (July to June) we responded to 131 calls, already as I write this on May 27 we are at 141.

Although we are in good stead compared to a lot of other small brigades, it is heartening to see some new faces taking up the challenge to support this community, surrounding communities and travelling public in their time of need.

It was really encouraging to attend a fire call recently with a full and qualified crew, it has been quite some time since we were last able to achieve this. So, if you

think you could spare a little time to support our great community, Fire and Emergency New Zealand is a great team to join. Some of us are getting near the end of our prime (use-by date).

Our calls since July 1, 2025 have consisted of 53 car crashes, 50 medicals, 16 fire alarms, nine structure fires, four vegetation fires, four miscellaneous fires, two rescues, two with hazardous substances and one aircraft incident.

Everybody needs good neighbours - copy and photo supplied

Support for the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade comes in many forms, and this season Trail Journeys Ōmārama showed just how much that matters.

Trail Journeys employ volunteer firefighter Arron Chambers, which means when the pager goes off and Arron heads out the door, the team behind the scenes quietly step up to keep things ticking along. That willingness to back volunteer service and pick up the slack is a big part of how brigades like ours operate.

Over the busy summer season, Trail Journeys also ran a donation jar in their shop. When someone popped in for help with something small, like fixing a bike chain or quick advice, they often waved away payment and suggested a donation to the fire brigade instead.

By the end of the season, those small gestures had added up to over \$600!

The donation was presented to the brigade by Trail Journeys General Manager, Simon Stevens, before the whole Trail Journeys crew headed off on their well-deserved end of season get together.



Ōmārama Golf Club

By Paul Bowman,

Hi everyone,

The Golf Club has had some great club days with members and visitors playing. The mornings have been crisp, but lovely sunny afternoons. The course and greens are in great condition for the time of year, thanks to all our volunteers' efforts.

Our singles knockout competition is in full swing, with most games remarkably close. We are down to the semi-finals, so good luck to all involved.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone our Easter tournament because of weather (rain, and more rain). It is now Kings Birthday weekend, probably past by the time you read this, a big thank you to all our sponsors as without you we would not have prizes for the tournament and our raffles.

We have two new 30,000L tanks arriving, this will help our water storage capacity for when restrictions are in place over summer.

Happy for anyone to join us on a club day and try golf out. The club has a couple of membership options, rather than paying green fees. Just contact the club for more information. Happy Golfing everyone!!

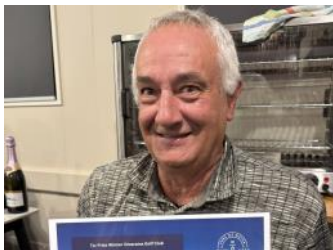
And in late news!! (copy and photos from the Ōmārama Golf Club facebook page.)

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who played in our King's Birthday tournament, (postponed from Easter Weekend) a fun occasion. Our appreciation also goes to our sponsors and volunteers for their invaluable support. These events can't be held without you. Thanks to Golf Stop who sponsored No. 2 Hole in One with \$3500 of credits up for grabs. Unfortunately this wasn't struck and no male even hit the green for closest to the pin!!

Congratulations to all and the following are some of the main results of the stableford round.

Winner over the field: Chris Holder (Pegasus) 39, 1; Richard Parish 37, 2; Adrian Tuffley, 37 (3 by lot); Richard Kitto, 36, 4; Jamie Toms 36, 5.

Ladies winner and nearest to ladies pin: Brittney Haugh (Kurow) 34; One 2 (No. 14) - Graeme Sargent (Gleniti)



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

If you are interested in joining the club
email Arron Chambers,

secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz for details.

Club captain: Greg Stuart phone: 027 438 9018

Secretary: Arron Chambers phone: 027 203 2340

email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz

www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

Waitaki Newcomers Network

For more information about the Waitaki Newcomers group and Waitaki Multicultural, and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to waitaki@newcomers.co.nz

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

Talking Café



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- What is it like to live with hearing loss?
- The impact hearing loss can have on health, wellbeing and confidence
- Simple practical ways to communicate more effectively
- How hearing assistive devices and support services can help people stay connected and independent



Monday 8th June 2026 : 1pm - 3pm

Venue:
Omarama Community Centre

All Ages Welcome

For Further Information:

Age Concern Otago-Waitaki
P 03 434 7008

[E NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz](mailto:ENthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz)

Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre

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- *Physiotherapy, Acupuncture and Massage (Kurow and Twizel)

Opening hours

Omarama: Tuesdays 9am to 4.30pm

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm

Twizel: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm, Saturday 9am to 12pm

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

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

For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503

-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

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

!!Weekly Winter Housie 2026 !!

Every Wednesday through winter

@ the Ōmārama Fire Station

*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.



Ōmārama Playgroup

When I grow up I wanna be...

Last month, with morning tea in hand, Ōmārama's littlest people set out for a visit guaranteed to be remembered for a lifetime.

They had been invited to visit the Ōmārama Fire Station to learn more about what our volunteer firefighters and first responders do when the siren goes.

Following in the footsteps of their guides they explored the big red truck (and the smaller ones), inspected the equipment, tested the sirens and then with fire hoses and some grown-up help at the ready tried something a little more their size - racing the mini fire trucks.

It is hard to say who had more fun, the grown-ups or the littlies.

Playgroup would like to thank the fire brigade for a great morning.

Photo: Olivia Black



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

For more information contact:

President Olivia Black 027 833 0869, vice-president Jess Townsend and secretary Bridie Brosnahan 027 341 3010

omaramaplaygroup@gmail.com

Ōmārama School

By Ruth Grundy

A visiting 'woolshed' has been a focus of learning and a highlight so far this term at Ōmārama School.

Through the 'Campaign for Wool NZ' education programme a modified container - the Wool Shed – comes to schools for two weeks at a time and provides a hands-on classroom that showcases wool's journey from farm to product.

The pupils "really enjoyed the learning that took place inside the Wool Shed", principal Alison Holden said.

The shed is full of woollen made goods; clothes, rope, rigs, toys, tennis balls, slippers, and resources for children to view and explore.

Mrs Holden said the unit built on and extended the learning about local history which began last year and culminated in the school production 'Dusty Tales'.

Visitors like wool industry representative Nic Blanchard and farmer Christy Zeestraten have talked to pupils and planned visits to local sheep stations would teach more about sheep farming and the wool industry, she said.

In another development, the informal school garden club set up by parent Jennie Hales, and which has proven a great success with pupils, has been officially adopted into the school programme as an element of its environmental studies.

This term the school welcomed Taylor McGifford who is relieving in Ahuriri Class for Bailey Duncan as the Duncan family welcome a baby daughter.

The senior pupils have recently celebrated success in Cromwell competing in the EPro8 challenges

EPro8 is an inter-school science and engineering competition

Although the school now has its own equipment, ideally it would like to supplement this with additional electronics components.

Senior pupils tackling the William Pike challenge have teamed up with the local fire brigade who are supporting them through a cadetship, to fulfill requirements for 20 hours of passion project and 20 hours of community service.

Mrs Holden said the school has recently linked with Te Runanga o Waihao Inc to explore its Taonga Tuku Iho - cultural heritage, and whakapapa through Ngāi Tahu's Kōia te Mātauraka programme.

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

principal@omarama.school.nz,

office@omarama.school.nz

www.omarama.school.nz

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>

And watch this growing space, Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com

Let's get growing together!

Ōmārama Community Pantry

The Ōmārama Community Pantry has closed its doors for the winter months.

But although the doors may be closed to keep weather and vermin out and while there is not much surplus produce around, they are not locked.

So, if you have anything you want to leave please continue to use the cupboard, just send a text to 021 294 8002 and I'll get the word out there.

PS Please leave the doors closed (not locked) for now and we will reopen again in the warmer months.

The Ōmārama Community Pantry is at the entrance to the community gardens and picnic area at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall and Community Centre.

No donations are necessary but if you'd feel more comfortable giving a small koha this will go to our two community gardens, at the community centre and the school.

Take what you need, leave what you can.



Ōmārama Collie Dog Club

Congratulations to Ōmārama Collie Dog Club member Scott Hunter and Lucy who won Event I, the long head, and were placed third in event II, the short head and yard, at the South Island Sheep Dog Trial championships at Mararoa in Southland. And congratulations to them both for their selection for the Test Team to take on Australia in the Wayleggo Cup in Stanthorpe, Queensland in August.



Ōmārama MenzShed



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

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

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

Benmore Place, Twizel, 7901

admin@twizelcare.co.nz

03 4350687

Open Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
The Twizel Community Care Trust
offers a range of services including:

Forms for Work & Income, IRD, Immigration, Passport & other Government agencies

Twizel/Tekapo Community Vehicle – booking system for trips Monday to Friday

Frozen meals – A variety for purchase including main meals and snack sizes

Food bank – Anyone requiring assistance with food, contact us for confidential help (donations of non-perishable or foods that can be frozen always welcome)

Plus – access to a computer, printing, free WIFI, community notice boards and Cancer Society gazebos for hire



Twizel Linkage

Morning Tea

Come along to LinkAge where we meet up for company, a giggle, and a catch up, with guest speakers, entertainment & up-to-date information, plus much more.

Every Thursday - 10.30am-12pm

All very welcome

Community Lounge at the Events Centre



Hill Billy Hunt & Quiz Night 2026

Hunting competition suitable for the whole family and all ages.

July 10-12

20 year anniversary

Rego Friday 6.30pm -Ph Entries

Accepted

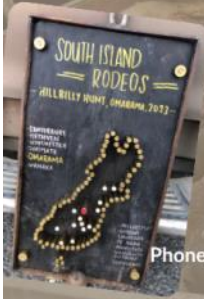
Quiz 7pm

The Wrinkly Rams Omarama

\$50 Teams of 2-4

Weigh in Sunday 3.30pm

exciting spot prizes



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Phone entries to 0273470329, with Team Name & members, one person to have Current Gun License

OMARAMA RODEO CLUB

MID WINTER QUIZ NIGHT

TEAMS OF 4 \$50 ENTRY FEE

The Wrinkly Rams Omarama

7pm July 10th





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Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

Last month the Upper Waitaki Young Farmers held its annual meeting and the following were elected:

Chairperson - Jenna Borthwick

Vice Chairperson - Hamish Smith

Secretary- Abby Ross

Treasurer - Oliver Bromley

Health & Safety officer - Mathew Metcalfe

Events Co-ordinator - Thomas Cochrane

Publicity Officer - Ella Bryan

New Member Liaisons - Flynn Bell-Taylor and Hamish Coutts

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the Kurow Hotel. Email: upperwaitaki@youngfarmers.co.nz

Join the Facebook group.

CHIROPRACTIC CARE OMARAMA

Chiropractic is more than pain relief... here's why!

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ACC Accredited and registered - no referral required.

Where you'll find us:

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Omarama Community Hall
35 Chain Hills Highway,
Omarama, 9412

☎ 03 433 1888

@ info@waitakichiropractic.co.nz

🌐 www.waitakichiropractic.co.nz



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Ōmārama Rodeo Club

By Charlotte Montgomery, club secretary

It is business as usual at the club with us focusing on running our fundraisers and improving the grounds. We have purchased our own port-a-loos, to help reduce some of the standing charges we face, but also to cater for our ever-increasing crowd and contestants- which is a great space to be in.

The club is also proud to be supporting club member - Felicity Montgomery. She has been selected for the New Zealand youth rodeo team to travel to Australia in August to compete in Barrel racing and Breakaway roping, against an Australian and USA team.

The NZ team consists of seven youth aged between 15-18, competing in bull riding, team roping, barrel racing and breakaway roping. They are away for seven days to Townsville. The whole team is fundraising to help cover their costs. We are excited to see how the team go.

We do have our annual hill billy hunt and quiz night coming up next month. This is a big year being the 20th anniversary of the event, so we have some extra prizes up for grabs.

New Zealand Rodeo Cowboys Association cowgirl Felicity Montgomery shows form in the breakaway roping event in competition this past season. Photo: Supplied



Ōmārama Residents' Association

The June meeting
of the Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm, Thursday, June 18, 2026
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

The minutes of the last meeting are available from the secretary

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



Friends of Ōmārama School

The Friends of Omarama School
Annual Meeting
is 6pm Monday, May 11, 2026
at Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama.

Ōmārama Community Library

By Glenys Dawson

The library is going well with a strong core group of volunteers keeping it sorted! Thanks to them for their time and effort.

Also - we have regular new book arrivals across all categories, fiction, non-fiction and some gorgeous new books for the children / youth sections.

With winter coming on to us quickly don't forget that you can borrow the Healthy Home Kit from the library to check the health and efficiency of your home.

This is a partnership between Waitaki District Libraries, Network Waitaki, and Cozy Homes. These toolboxes will help you figure out how healthy and efficient your home is. You can issue these out on your library card like a book (and it's free!). You can also place a reserve on a toolbox if they are all out by going into your online account.

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

Knit Night Ōmārama

Knit Night Ōmārama
5.15pm each Tuesday
at the Omarama Community Centre

Gold coin donations towards room hire would be appreciated.

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

Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com



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Garden Diary - “How we spend our days”

As I am writing this I am looking out at the garden and it is a dripping sad mess.

But the leaves have dropped from the Dogwood and its trunk is studded with puffs of blue-green lichen – a sign the air is pure.

For once I am not tempted outside from the desk by the fire, neither is the dog asleep at my feet, but I really don't know what I'd do without my garden.

Demands, deadlines and difficulties clutter the days like toddlers all clamouring for attention at once.

I am reminded that 'how we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives'.*

There is joy in dancing to the slightly slower beat while in the garden, not to say there is not the pressure of work to be done. It's just different.

Mother Nature's rhythm is soft, accepting and forgiving not like that of those other puppet masters whose pace leaves you breathless and in wired exhaustion.

Outside autumn and winter are transforming what spring and summer have made.

There is a timeless suspended feeling between the two golden hours of sunrise and sunset. The thrush is back to sing from the tops welcoming dawn and ringing out the evensong. The leaves in the hedge tremble gently as the near invisible dunnocks jump from branch to branch rustling for insects. This year has been a bumper year for apples and the crabapple also got the memo – I've not seen its fruit so large and so scarlet. A feast for the waxeyes when they return.

That low winter sun on frost transforms intricate icicles into sparkling ephemeral crystal, here now, gone next. Or it lights the string of raindrops reflecting landscapes in the tiny orbs. The 'ordinary' is backlit, shadows outline the textures with a charcoal pencil and shapes cast long sculptural forms across the lawn. It winter light uncovers new beauty in foliage and seedheads. There is the fluffy *Alchemilla Mollis* and aster seed heads, rusty flat-faced sedums, the architectural and tiered geometry of *phlomis* and *monarda*, and because I have been lax at clearing, this year I have discovered flaxen seed pods bursting open with black hosta seeds. I might have to collect those and see what they do.

Then there, carefully hidden under strands of honeysuckle, disguised by brown fallen leaves, I spot a huge clutch of chook eggs – and I had thought they had gone off the lay!

There's still the to do list – tulip bulbs just must go in or there'll be no spring at the doorstep. And I might pot up some snowdrops to bring inside early when winter grows too long.

Yes, there'll be a list for this weekend - but it's somehow not the same.

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

*Annie Dillard





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 2026

Highest temperature: May 31, 19.6C

Lowest temperature: May 18, - 6.6C

Most rainfall: May 8, 13.9 mm

Total rainfall for May: 46.4mm

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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