



# Ōmārama Gazette

November 2023

## Ōmārama to join EV charging hub network

A New Zealand-owned business working to expand the fast electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the country has been granted Government funds to set up two rapid EV chargers in Ōmārama – with plans for this to grow into a commercial transport hub.

Last month, the Government announced - through the latest Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority funding round – it had approved Jump Charging Ltd's application for \$295,500 to install two 150kW rapid chargers in Ōmārama with a planned completion date of December 2023.

The two chargers are capable of charging four vehicles simultaneously.

In April, the EECA identified Ōmārama as one of 25 specific locations on 14 major holiday journey routes where it wanted to add to the network of public EV charging sites before the 2023 peak holiday season, and it invited requests for proposals for co-funded arrangements.

- continued over

*Jump Charging Ltd specialises in the supply of commercial electric vehicle charging and green hydrogen fuelling infrastructure solutions to support the commercial transport sector's transition away from fossil fuels. Photo: Jump Charging Ltd*



## *Ōmārama to join EV charging hub network - continued*

The routes were identified through analysis of New Zealand traffic flows and analysis of peak-season traffic data obtained from Waka Kotahi.

Route 1 aims to connect Christchurch and Wanaka and includes sites in Geraldine, Fairlie, Twizel and Ōmārama.

Jump Charging successfully bid to set up hubs in Geraldine, Twizel and Ōmārama.

Speaking to the Ōmārama Gazette on Tuesday, Jump Charging's Christchurch-based director, engineering and commercial manager Alex Watson said the company had to wait until the Government's announcement on October 4 before going public.

"We were pretty excited about the recent announcement ...we're really excited about the project."

Theirs was a relatively small business which set up two years ago primarily to support the transport sector fleet and larger vehicles , he said.

"We work with businesses directly to transition to electric. We do a full assessment and recommend solutions then supply, install and commission those," Mr Watson said.

"To date there's not been a lot of support for the commercial sector.[to switch to EVs]"

"You can't expect a company like Bid Food, for example, to adopt electric vehicles if they have to spend 50% of their time charging," he said.

"Our aim is to be fast, visible and accessible.

"[And] we want to make them oversize or drive through."

Jump Charging had already begun building around key business hubs and areas of industry in Christchurch but often those customers needed to get from Christchurch to Queenstown, for example.

The intention was, depending on demand, to expand the initial installation in Ōmārama into a hub.

"Ōmārama is on our list as a hub, that is certain."

And it would have the capacity to easily grow from two to four chargers now without any extra power supply requirements, he said.

Mr Watson said the company had been in discussions with private landowners in town about "blocks of land that are empty" to use as a site.

"But we haven't been able to make it stick."

The company was now talking with the council about using a public site.

Specifically, it wanted to set up adjacent to the existing Network Waitaki installation in the public carpark behind the Challenge Service station.

Network Waitaki also had plans to install a second charger at that site, he said.

Mr Watson said while Network Waitaki serviced domestic EVs Jump Charging stations were designed for all vehicle types including domestic and if they worked in together it would make a "combined consolidated hub".

"It doesn't make sense to put these somewhere else and double up on infrastructure."

Mr Watson said he was aware the community was concerned about traffic congestion in the town centre and that the community was in discussion with the council about plans to alleviate that.

"We want to make sure this does benefit the area."

*- continued overleaf*

# Board confirms St Thomas's Church sale

The St Thomas's Church and property in Omarama has been sold.

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for the vendors, the Otago Foundation Trust Board, confirmed the sale. Synod of Otago and Southland executive officer Fergus Sime said settlement was scheduled to take place in late November.

"As the agreement is still on foot, we would need to obtain the purchaser's consent to disclose their information, and while we can ask for this, we do not consider that it is likely we will have this information prior to publication," he said.

The architecturally-designed building and 3997m<sup>2</sup> freehold property went on the market in May. The land is zoned Business 6 in the Waitaki District Council District Plan. This zone applies to sites that are developed or have been identified as appropriate for the establishment of travellers' accommodation.

Earlier this year the St Thomas's Management Committee asked for the community's input into submissions to be made to the Trust Board as to the dispersal of sale proceeds. Mr Sime said that consultation was continuing.

"As previously advised, the St Thomas's Management Committee are happy to receive any submissions from the community, including the Residents Association of Ōmārama, that include written documentary evidence that supports a return of some of the sales proceeds to the community.

"The Committee is prepared to meet with the Residents Association in due course and will provide further detail once a suitable date has been determined," Mr Sime said. The Residents' Association has set up a sub-committee to liaise with church representatives.

The Ōmārama Gazette has asked to be informed as soon as the buyer has given consent to disclosing that information.

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## *Ōmārama to join EV charging hub network - continued*

Regardless, it was expected the number of EVs on the road would only grow and "they will need space to park.

This gave them an incentive to park in that park, "handy to toilets and amenities."

If given the go ahead, Jump Charging planned to improve lighting and safety at the site. "[And] We can't do it without the support of the community."

He had already been in discussions with the Geraldine and Twizel community boards about the installations in those towns.

Mr Watson said the company aimed to follow through on its commitment to sustainable practices into any built infrastructure, for example canopies would be timber – not lit neon – so as to be in keeping with the surroundings, the natural beauty and dark sky status.

On Tuesday, the Ōmārama Gazette emailed the council to ask about where the chargers might be installed.

"Jump Charging are currently looking for a site for these chargers in the Ōmārama area, and council is supporting them in finding one," the council communications spokesperson said.

"However, until a site is found that is suitable for these chargers there's no further progress regarding installation or power in that regard," he said.

# New business goes for gold

Born of their own quest for the motherlode, Charles and Tania Innes hope their new outlet for prospecting and mining equipment company Dredge NZ will offer detectorists, old and new, a gold rush of experiences.

Last month Charles and Tania were joined by family and friends and gold prospecting hobbyists from throughout the country for the opening of their new shed on Dunstan Downs – the new home of DredgeNZ

Charles and Tania are fourth generation owners of Dunstan Downs High Country Sheep Station and have two children Madison and Cameron. The shed, which was built by Charles, has a gold mining-themed interior – designed as miner's den – and houses the shop and equipment storage.

Former owners Dan and Anita Gerber, who were at the opening, sold the business to the Innes's last year after owning the business for about 10 years. Charles and Tania had gone to Christchurch to buy a dredge from Dan because they had been offered a share in a gold claim.

They mentioned they were keen to find something new after going through the changes to farm pastoral leases as a result of tenure review, Tania said.

Coincidentally Dan and Anita were wanting to retire and sell the business and so they returned with not just the dredge but a new business proposition.

Until now the Innes's had been operating out of the homestead but it fast became obvious a dedicated space was needed and so the shed was built.

Gold prospecting has a surprisingly large following, Tania said.

Detectorists had come from throughout the South Island for the weekend and wasted no time getting down to work - one had already discovered a silver florin on the

*DredgeNZ former owners Dan and Anita Gerber and new owners Tania and Charles Innes gather at business's new premises at Dunstan Downs to celebrate the opening at Labour Weekend.*



property, Tania said.

“There is a real community of miners,” Tania said.

In fact, the Innes may just have swapped the tangle of farming red tape for another as the mining community is at present lobbying against new water rules proposed by the Otago Regional Council aimed to protect waterways.

The neighbouring Otago Regional Council is working its way through the community consultation on its a draft regional plan.

The gold prospector hobbyists fear if it adopts the new rules, this will set a precedent and other regional councils could follow suit.

The ORC proposes that all suction dredge gold mining, which is currently a permitted activity and has been since the 1990s - would need consent.

The council says suction dredging has significant ecological impacts and disturbs the habitats of various species within the water way.

The hobbyists say they are only spot mining and are already bound by rules set out in their mining permits

A Givealittle page has been set up and \$44,000 raised to date to be used to hire a freshwater ecologist and lawyer to put their case.

Consultation on the draft plan closes November 6.

*Below: Tania takes care of sales as guests explore the new shed and Friends of the School take the opportunity to raise funds by running a barbeque.*



# Airfield/council to consider company structure

Soaring accounting and auditing costs may threaten the future status of the Ōmārama Airfield Company Ltd as a council-controlled organisation.

The topic was raised at last week's Waitaki District Council meeting when Ōmārama Airfield Ltd chairperson Clive Geddes presented the company's annual report.

Overall the report painted a positive outlook, he said.

"In the year we have managed to get the company through a difficult trading period and in a position that enables us to go forward," Mr Geddes said.

"That has resulted in a significant reduction in our cash reserves but we are confident that year to come and the conclusion of the Nimbus Drive subdivision will restore those to a very, very comfortable level."

In the past two months the company had lost the services of the "low profile low noise microlight towing" aircraft and returned to using the services of "a relatively noisy" aircraft, he said.

"We are very conscious of that change for the community and we have spent time with the aircraft owner and operator going through a range of tow patterns that will minimise the impact of that aircraft on the community," he said.

In discussion, Councillor Jim Hopkins noted that there had been a reasonable increase in revenue in the year – "You've made \$7,000 or \$8,000 more".

But expenses had effectively risen by \$20,000.

There had been an accumulation of "little increases all along the way".

He specified power, depreciation and auditing costs.

"While not holding you back they are an impediment," he said.

Mr Geddes said that of the \$20,000 increased expenditure \$10,000 was "in the accounting and bookkeeping and audit lines".

"That cost has risen from \$19,000 in 2022 to something like \$28,000 in the current year and that is a matter which we have opened a discussion with council on and we would look forward to progressing that."

Mr Geddes said an increase in power and employment costs associated with managing the irrigation had pushed up operating costs but these could reduce if the coming season was favourable.

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher asked for an indication of the forecasted audit costs.

Mr Geddes said the company had paid \$9700 for the past year and the estimate for the 2023/2024 year was \$12,500, and \$16,000 for the year to follow.

"We don't believe any of those costs are sustainable and the accounting and bookkeeping cost is higher than it really need be for a company of this size because of the audit requirements, so we would look forward to opening a discussion with council as to how we may be able to mitigate those ever rising costs," he said.

Mr Kircher said it was "a bit ridiculous when your audit costs are around 10% of your overall expenses and that's in a year when you've been spending a bit more than usual. It's quite astounding."

Cr Hopkins asked if some of those accounting and auditing costs arose from being a CCO. "I'm imagining that when you say you want to have a conversation with us that perhaps the directors envisage a change in the status of the airport that might see it no longer being a CCO is that a correct assumption."

Mr Geddes agreed.

"The audit and accounting cost is a direct requirement of the Local Government Act and I'm fully aware that it's not just Ōmārama Airfield that is suffering this burden, council itself is", he said.

"We think that if you look at the structure of the company, each shareholder holds exactly 50% and each shareholder has two directors so in essence there is no control by either shareholder."

It was a company that worked on a consensus basis and there were several options for the auditing arrangement that could be considered, he said.

Firstly, whether any loss to the airfield due to malfeasance – wrong doing – was "actually material to council".

Secondly, was it possible to have "a release from the CCO status" through the Local Government Act and the Office of the Auditor General.

"And last, and probably the least likely, is consideration of a shareholding change that would release the company from being a CCO but would retain the status of council in the decision-making process," Mr Geddes said.

"I want to just signal that the sooner we resolve the matter in one of those three ways ... proposed the better. I don't know how we can timetable that but I would have thought that opting for one of those three choices would have been a relatively simple process that we could do quite quickly, perhaps as part of the Long Term Plan," Cr Hopkins said.

"There is a process to go through if we are to go down that particular path," Mr Kircher said.

Mr Geddes told councillors there had been a "strong interest" shown in the subdivision sales but not from glider pilots.

And despite being three weeks behind schedule because it was discovered a new design was required for the wastewater system and it needed consent the development was back on track thanks to the help of council staff.

*Ōmārama Airfield Ltd chairperson Clive Geddes presents the company's 2022/23 annual report to the Waitaki District Council at its October 24 meeting in Oamaru.  
Clip: Waitaki District Council You Tube Channel*



Clive Geddes

# 'Community conversation' revisits old ground

Only a small group of locals turned out to the Waitaki District Council's 'Community Conversation' in Omarama at Labour Weekend.

It was the fourth such session in five years and the question on everyone's lips was would the council deliver this time.

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher, Ahuriri Ward councillor Brent Cowles, Ahuriri Community Board members, council chief executive Alex Parmley and council staff and session facilitators joined the eight who attended from Ōmārama and nine who travelled from Lake Ohau Village to the Ōmārama Memorial Hall for the discussions.

The meeting was told the purpose was to hear from the community about what priorities it thought the council should focus on before work began on the council's Long Term Plan – its forecast 10-year budget - for next year.

Mr Kircher said while he understood many present had already been through a similar process several times the council was trying to do things differently by "getting in at the start of the LTP process...getting the ideas now".

Wānaka-based McElrea consultants Rebecca McElrea and Sarah Jamieson led the session. During the hour-and-a-half long meeting the attendees were broken into groups and asked for their responses to questions put to them about the needs and aspirations of both communities. Using stickers, individuals then voted on the priorities. In general, results for the Ōmārama groups mirrored those collated in earlier facilitated sessions held in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and those collected by Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King in his informal survey of 50 residents earlier this year. At its conclusion the meeting was told the facilitators would compile a report from the feedback and attendees would get a copy of that report.

"We want to make sure that all the info is captured so you can say yes we did talk about that, or we didn't say that. From there it will go back to council and feed into some further processes."

Ōmārama holiday homeowner Malcolm Garvan asked for a timeframe for that. Mr Parmley said work on the Long Term Plan would begin "early in the new year". "We will be working with your community board representatives as well, in terms of your plan for the area."

Mentioning that this information had been supplied to the council before, Mr Garvan pressed Mr Parmley for a clearer indication.

"Most things get bogged down [when they get to] in council," he said.

"We're in the middle of a transformation programme, a programme to change the organisation... we want to get quicker at doing things, we want to be better at listening to communities. That's what this is about, to get better at listening to communities," Mr Parmley said. Council placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen was also present and listening to the community in "terms of the place planning", he said. There were things in the Masterplan but this was also about other things that might be needed to "take things forward", he said.

Over the next few months, the council would assess the feedback and come up with the draft Long Term Plan which would go out to consultation in March and then after submissions hearings the council would agree on the final Plan in June next year.

"That sets the budget," Mr Parmley said.

"If we don't do that, we're breaching legislation," Mr Kircher said. "At the moment we're spending \$3.5 million upgrading Ōmārama water supply," he said.



There also has been \$225,000 granted in funding to develop the Ōmārama town centre. “We need to get that in place. I don’t know what the time frame is for that because we need to be getting on with doing that before that early next year. So we can do some things you want us to do,” Mr Kircher said.

“There are some things that are happening, so it’s not that nothing is happening, but yes, we want to deliver better and that’s our promise, we’re going to be doing what we can to do that.”

“In 2020, we approached ECan (Environment Canterbury) and said we want to buy the Rabbit Board Land. They said, yes, that’s fine. It wasn’t until more recently we found it wasn’t with ECan it’s Linz (Land Information New Zealand) looking after it now. So that’s on my to do list on Monday (Labour Day), I haven’t got time to wait for the official week to start so I will be I’ll contact Linz and talk to them.,” Mr Kircher said.

Last week the Ōmārama Gazette contacted the council to get clarification on several of the issues raised at the meeting including an update from Mr Kircher about his discussions with Linz.

On Tuesday, council communications spokesperson John Palethorpe forwarded this email from Mr Kircher in response.

“I have been in touch with my contact at Linz, who passed me onto their property team. I received a response this morning from them, stating they don’t believe they have any land matching the description, in their control.

“In response to their request, I emailed them an aerial screenshot of Omarama with the rabbit board land marked on it. At 10.42am, I received a response which has directed me back to ECan if we want to use the land, and to Doc (Department of Conservation) if we want to purchase the land.

“I will be following that up to do my best to get to the bottom of the situation and to get the desired result. “At this stage, I don’t feel that I am in a position to give the

*Wānaka-based McElrea consultant Sarah Jamieson leads the ‘Community Conversation’ session in Ōmārama.*



# AHURIRI LINK

NEWS FROM COUNCIL & THE COMMUNITY BOARD

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

**Council staff, Councillors and Community Board members have been travelling around the district, facilitating community conversations, listening to what you love about your towns, what you wouldn't want to lose, and your visions for the future.**

We held sessions in October for the Kurow, Duntroon, Otematata, Ōmārama and Ōhau communities which over 80 people attended, with great feedback from the folks who came along.

Thank you to everyone who gave up time in their evening, long weekend and post All Blacks semi-final game morning to spend with us!

We really appreciate the candour and honesty brought to the table as we talked about the challenges facing our townships, as well as the creative ideas for ways we could work together to address them.

We're now writing up engagement summaries for each of the sessions which will be sent out to everyone involved for further feedback and presented to elected members as part of our Long Term Plan preparation.

It's all helping to build a picture of what gives each of our townships their unique character, as well as finding common themes that are important to all.

**If you missed your local Community Conversation, our community and business surveys are still open:**  
[www.letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz)



[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)



**Waitaki**

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHĒRA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

## *'Community conversation' revisits old ground*

*- continued*

community an update, though I will be when we confirm whether an approach to Doc is the correct action.”

In August 2020, Mr Kircher told the Ōmārama Gazette, although the council had voiced an interest in buying the land, the council had not registered any formal understanding with the agencies managing its sale and might not do so. Use of the land is a key component of the Ōmārama Masterplan. In the plan the area is to be used as a key retail hub with car parking.

Mr Kircher had made a statement to a public meeting of the Ahuriri Board in March 2020 that the council had let ECan know it was interested in the land. At the meeting he said there were a “number of steps” to be worked through, including consultation, and there were safeguards in that process to protect the interests of neighbours. “Personally, I don’t believe that council must buy the land to progress the masterplan concept. That could be achieved through a number of options, presumably including the appropriate re-zoning of the land.”

At that time, it was widely known Doc was managing the sale process for Linz and then Doc Twizel Office operations manager Karina Morrow told the Gazette the department had reviewed applications from ECan to revoke the land’s reserve status to free-up the land for disposal. Earlier, in April 2018, an ECan spokesperson said it had passed the matter to Doc because it was the agency that administered land subject to the Reserves Act 1977. Doc has to revoke the land as reserve land under section 24 of that Act. Once this was done, the land becomes Crown land and available for disposal. Linz administers the disposal of Crown land through the Land Act 1948. Doc has no legal authority to dispose of any revoked Crown reserve. There are legal obligations on the Crown around the sale including offering first right of refusal to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, any obligation to offer the land back to any former owner, and notification of the proposed disposal to other noted Crown and local government agencies who may be interested, and any other obligations under the Land Act 1948.

Read the full story and background to how this lengthy process has tracked so far in the August 2020 issue of the Gazette.

The Gazette also followed up on questions put to Ms Christensen after she met with residents in July, about the \$225,000 grant from the Labour Government’s Better Off Funding scheme set aside for the town centre plan. For a second time the Gazette asked to see a proposed breakdown of the budget. This is still not forthcoming.

However, the cost of the ‘Community Conversation’ sessions, would not be paid from the \$225,000, Mr Palethorpe said.

At the July meeting the community was told that the cost of Geopark signage would I be taken from this sum.

On Tuesday, Mr Palethorpe said no decision or costing had yet been made regarding signage for Ōmārama from the Better-Off Funding.

“Having spoken with Cyndi Christensen and Lisa Heinz of the Geopark, I think there may have been some crossed wires here.

“Signage from this fund refers to Ōmārama signage, which may include Geopark information but are primarily for Ōmārama,” he said.

# Changes at the helm of Association

Last month's annual meeting of Ōmārama's ratepayer representatives saw two long serving volunteers step back from official roles, but not from their continued contribution to the group.

Ann Patterson has stepped down from the vice-chairperson role and the committee, and Yvonne Jones has stepped down as secretary but will remain a committee member. She is also the Waitaki District libraries representative on the group.

Yvonne began her contribution in 2017, joined the committee in July 2018 and was elected to secretary in October 2019.

In her role, Yvonne's ability to sum-up various views succinctly and her willingness to advocate for those who could not be present at meetings was valued.

Her secretarial duties meant she worked hard behind the scenes in everything from making cups of tea at public meetings, to working through the necessary correspondence and application requirements for funding to complete projects such as the History Wall, and the replacement block wall carrying the community centre signage.

She actively contributed to the town visioning and masterplan sessions in 2018 and 2019 and attended the follow-up submissions hearings in Oamaru.

At the meeting Residents' Association of Ōmārama chairman Lindsay Purvis thanked Yvonne for "all the hard work and accurate records" she had kept over the years.

The exact number of years Ann Patterson has been a committee member has faded into the minute books.

When asked, she thinks she joined what was then known as the Ōmārama Hall Committee when her children were at playgroup and Plunket, so about 50 or so years ago.

Her signature is clearly inked on the Residents' Association constitution signed in September 2009 when the group became an incorporated society and began to fundraise to pay for the redevelopment of the World War II Memorial Hall.

In this latter time of her tenure she was chairperson in 2017 and 2018, stepping back to vice chairperson 2019.

Under her governance, as she herself said in her annual reports, meetings were "always open" and she always encouraged others to come along.

She has been a tireless advocate for the community, arranging the Ahuriri River Bridge Camping forum, taking an active role in presenting submissions to many Waitaki District Council Long-Term Plan processes, and planning and fundraising for the new sports facility. A highlight was to be the subsequent opening of that sports facility which is now complemented by a basketball half court.

Ann provided very practical assistance with the Covid Community Care group – many were recipients of "granny's baking" and meals.

She has instigated weekly winter housie sessions and regular coffee afternoons with Age Concern.

She has always encouraged activities and fundraising for projects which have seen the centre become an important hub of the community.

Ann will continue to oversee two projects until their completion – the Ōmārama History Wall and a mural designed by Oamaru Artist Wicksey, and she has been seconded to the subcommittee which is liaising with the Otago Foundation Trust Board about the proceeds from the sale of St Thomas's Church.

In his verbal presentation to his chairperson's report, Lindsay not only paid tribute to Yvonne and Ann but also thanked all the committee members for their attendance and hard work throughout the year.

"The year started with the Lone Soldier silhouette being fixed to the end wall of the Community Centre and attracted many favourable comments from the residents. Along with the Memorial Rock and further landscaping planned, this has become a very fitting memorial tribute and an ideal location for our future Anzac day services," he said in the report.

"The Upper Waitaki RSA would like to see the community take more control of the organizing

of these memorial days so [that is] something for us to consider going forward....

"The MenzShed continues to be in good heart with a membership of 13 and a regular turn out of eight on average. This year they applied for and became official members of the MenzShed organization...The community gardens are now complete and there are conversations ongoing regarding a tool shed and vege stall.

"Following on from the community forum, that was held in August 2022 and the resulting public mandate, many hours were spent lobbying with Fire and Emergency New Zealand and St John to have our First Response enhancement to the MOU formalized but sadly this was all to no avail and St John made it very clear that we must adhere to the guidelines of that MOU.

"It was then decided by the First Response Trust that for the sake of future governance of that Trust we should defer our aspirations but continue to monitor the triaging of all emergency calls.

"To date everything appears to be working fine indicating there may have been some alterations to the dispatch system." he said.

The committee and its finances "continue to be in good heart" and the money had been raised to complete several more projects - one completed within the past week was the long-awaited basketball half court.

Lindsay said he looked forward to working with the Waitaki District Council, "the lobbying and challenges" for further development within the community.

Lindsay will continue as chairman and Vicky Chambers has been elected as the new Residents' Association secretary.

*Two Ōmārama Residents' Association's long-serving volunteers, Yvonne Jones (left) and Ann Patterson (far right), stepped down from official roles at this year's annual meeting.*



# Bootcamp for juniors about to kick off

A junior bootcamp for Ōmārama children begins Monday after school at the Omarama Community Centre. (Details in the poster below).

Organiser Kathy Kerr said the programme, which was designed to meet an identified need, had been made possible through the generous donations from the Sutherland family from the Clay Cliffs gate sales.

A trainer from Twizel will run the five week programme.

*More to come...*

Special Edition

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# BREAKING NEWS

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NEW ZEALAND  
**CLAY CLIFFS**  
OMARAMA BOOT CAMP  
2023

**IT'S ALL GO!!!!**

SRARTING MONDAY 6th November!!!!  
Every Monday for 5 weeks!

Walking train from school to hall 3.45pm Start

You need:  
\* water bottle  
\*sports shoes  
\*Sponsor sunhat provided



SPONSORSHIP  
FROM CLAYCLIFFS  
GATE SALES

THANKYOU  
SUTHERLANDS!!!!

BOOT CAMP WILL  
FINISH  
APPROXIMATELY  
5PM



CONTACT: KATHY 0276723907

# Sausage sizzle welcomes back campers

The lure of sizzling sausages proved irresistible to campers arriving at Labour weekend to celebrate the start of the new camping season at the Ōmārama Top 10 Holiday Park.

In what was hoped would become a new annual tradition at the camp's new barbecue shelter park owners the Beiboer family, Erwin and Natalie, Elora and Wesley, cranked up barbie-loads of sausages to welcome campers back. Ōmārama's Top 10 was a bit of an exception among the parks in that it had returning campers from generations of families, Erwin said. Although not quite complete, the new space will be useable in all weathers.

The sausages were donated by Chopped Butchery and exchanged for a gold coin donation to the go to Child Cancer Foundation



# A 'spooktacular' night in town

More than 30 ghouls, ghosts and other spectres accompanied by a complement of crones (the adults also dressed for the occasion) were on a pre-arranged tour to selected homes of friends and neighbours to terrify them out of any sweets and treats that they hadn't eaten already ...yep, ours were all gone!

It really was the most spooktacular night ever - clock Lex and Jan's House of Horrors plus all those amazing costumes and makeup in the photos below - a great treat...thank you ghouls and guys.

And thank you Kathy Kerr for the photos







# A final farewell to Sue

Our sincerest condolences to Colin Harvey and the family and friends of Sue who passed away surrounded by family on October 5.

Sue passed away after a sudden illness.

She was mum of Lisa, Kate and mother-in-law of Paul and Adam and the late Dean. She was special 'Granny Sue' to Taylah, Carter, Kendall, Sadie-Kate and Hank.

At Sue's request there was no funeral but hundreds gathered from Ōmārama and Sue's former home towns of Twizel and Timaru to have "a final drink with Sue" at Boots and Jandals Hotel, in Omarama.

Colin and Sue took over as managers of the Sierra Motels in February 2017 and only recently retired from Ōmārama to Ranfurly.

Friend Peter Race led the tributes recounting to a packed pub stories from throughout Sue's life. It was followed by moving tributes from 'Susie's Girls', former employees and friends - Debs Wilson, Tanya Humphreys, Linda Cumming, Jan Perriam and Elaine Hill. Time spent with Sue was filled with laughs, laughs and more laughs, they said.

Although not one to suffer fools and who observed meticulous standards both in her personal style and in her work she was also always quick to pick up her guitar and be front, centre and the life of the party.

*Three of 'Susie's girls' - (from left) Debs Wilson, Tanya Humphries and Linda Cumming celebrate the life of friend and employer Sue Harvey who died suddenly last month.*



# Katrina and Chops's "golden opportunity"

A couple of well-known faces are now fronting the desk at the Sierra Motels Justin (Chops) Perniskie and Katrina Marsh have taken on the role previously held by Colin and Sue Harvey.

Sue died suddenly last month.

"Sue was a dear friend, I worked with her for quite a few years," Katrina said.

Having lived in Twizel for the past 12 years and looking for a lifestyle change Chops and Katrina said they were grateful to motel owners Steve and Gail Darling for giving them "a golden opportunity".

The couple have worked in various fields including hospitality and agricultural services but their vocations have been in the wool industry – Chops a blade shearer and Katrina as a wool classer.

They were looking forward to being able to spend more time together and with family.

They have two sons Darcy (12) and Joe (10) who attend Twizel Area School.

They enjoyed the relaxed country atmosphere of the Ōmārama.

"We feel right at home here " Katrina said.

Chops has shorn for contractors Peter Race, Ross Kelman and Alan Butcher and both have worked in sheds throughout the district.

The couple plans to "keep their hand in" shearing and classing.



# The Noticeboard

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

**Our congratulations** to Matt Taylor, of Kurow, who won the Winter Comb Senior final at the Waimate Spring Shearing Championships last month. Matt is the grandson of Pam and the late Murray Taylor, former owners of Four Square Ōmārama.

**And congratulations to Charlotte Stuart** who was placed fourth in the senior wool handling event at the Waimate Shears.

**Happy November birthday, Murray Stuart** and thank you for all you do for our town!

**October was a busy month for birthday girls**

We hope you all had a wonderful day - Madison Innes, Alona Shaw, Lou Proctor, Jenny Mollard, Helen Wysockyj, Michelle Kitchen and Yvonne Jones.

**Room to let** for one or two people in Ōmārama. Call Dan on 027 432 3518

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

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

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

**St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:**

chairperson: Ven Dr Michael Godfrey, phone 022 342 9977 or email [Dylanfreak@gmail.com](mailto:Dylanfreak@gmail.com); committee secretary (Presbyterian): Rev Lee Kearon, phone: 021 250 1060 or email: [lee.kearon@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com)

**The Ōmārama Golf Club** Saturdays cards in 12.30pm, tee-off 1pm. Club captain Adrian Tuffley phone: 027 347 8276 [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

**The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group** meets once a month. For time and place contact facilitator Nicola McKerchar. Phone: 022 612 7570; email: [committee@ahuriricatchment.com](mailto:committee@ahuriricatchment.com)

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

**Ōmārama Playgroup** meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Ōmārama Community Centre. For more information phone president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570 [rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com) or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016 [tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz](mailto:tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz)

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

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

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

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

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

**Waitaki Newcomers Network:** For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to E: [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](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

Ōmārama Plunket Committee: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536  
[aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)

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

[www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/](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.

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**The December Issue of the Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, December 6, 2023.**

Please submit copy  
by Thursday, November 30, 2023

# **TARGETED CONTROL OF RUSSELL LUPINS**

## **IN THE UPPER WAITAKI**

**Environment Canterbury will be undertaking aerial spraying of Russell lupins in the Takapō/Tekapo, Pūkaki and Ōhau Rivers.**

Spraying will take place over a two-week period commencing late November, as this is the ideal time to target this pest plant.

Management of Russell lupins in the river channel increases the flow capacity for flood waters, while enhancing and protecting native biodiversity. All spraying is in accordance with our existing consent until a decision is made on the consent applications currently in process. This is provided for under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Visit [ecan.govt.nz/current-works](http://ecan.govt.nz/current-works) or call us on 0800 324 636.

**For more information visit**

[ecan.govt.nz/current-works](http://ecan.govt.nz/current-works)

# The Community Reports

## Upper Waitaki Police News



*Hi everyone,*

So, another Labour Weekend done and dusted.

All in all I would have to say it was a successful weekend in regards to the general disorder in Otematata that we have been trying to curtail over the last few years.

It was disappointing to find out that one group of youths left the Otematata pub and on their way home decided it would be funny to steal the tee markers and flag from the golf course. I've managed to

locate the tee markers but so far have been unsuccessful in finding the flag. I've been informed the youths responsible left it at Loch Laird campsite where they were staying. However, so far I've not been able to locate it, so please keep an eye out if you're out and about in that area.

I also warned one group of youths that were carrying alcohol in the liquor ban area. Apart from this, there were very few issues to deal with.

Also disappointing was having to process a local for driving with excess breath alcohol.

Coming into silly season I will be concentrating more on this. Be warned, If I see your car parked at the pub (or over the road) and then see you driving, expect to be stopped and tested.

Unfortunately, last Monday evening I also attended a fatal car crash on State Highway 83 near the Waitaki Dam where one person lost their life.

This is still being investigated to ascertain the cause. My thoughts go out to the family and friends of the deceased.

I would once again remind people if you need police for an emergency - this includes traffic complaints where the driving manner is putting people at risk don't ring me! Ring 111, then after you've done that give us a call. This will ensure the nearest police units will attend as soon as possible.

If I'm not working you're wasting time ringing me. If I am, the police communications unit will call me on the radio and send me, or if not me, the next closest unit.

That's it from me, enjoy the (hopefully) warmer weather.....without the wind!

*That's it from me,  
Stay safe, Bean*

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>



# MELBOURNE CUP 2023 AT BOOT AND JANDALS HOTEL



Tuesday 7th November

Pre-Race drinkies from 3.00pm

Complimentary glass of bubbles



Complimentary nibbles throughout the afternoon

\$2.00, \$5.00, \$10.00 betting winnings divided into first,  
second and third placings



Prizes for best dressed couple, lady, and  
man.

**See you here for a fun afternoon**



# Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*Kia ora*

November, supposedly the beginning of the barbecue season but as I am putting this together it is anything but.

Before we get into the cooking on our gas barbecues we should check for gas leaks.

A good way is with either a spray bottle with soapy water in it, or a container with the same, and an old paint brush and paint on all the couplings.

For those that are into the fire and charcoal, it is a good idea to keep a hose handy and make sure you are well away from any flammable items, dampen

down any grassy areas.

The fire season remains open but please always check the web site [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz) before you light any fires.

A huge thank you to all at the Ōmārama Golf Club for letting us run our fundraising golf tournament at Labour Weekend and to all the businesses that supported us with their generous sponsorship.

Without it we would not be able to run such a successful event. We had 45 competitors and all enjoyed the day.

In all we raised \$6800 which will be put towards equipment we need to run both our fire and first response units.

*Stay Safe*

*Greg Harper and the team at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade*

**Greg Harper, Chief Fire Officer, 021 293 1171,  
[greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz)**

**Facebook: /Omaramafirebrigade**

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

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



**AGE**  
CONCERN  
OTAGO

## **Monthly Coffee Afternoon**

Community Centre, 35 Chain Hills Highway,  
Omarama

Guest speaker:

**Rochell Fox**  
**Living Well Centre**

**Come along to be informed  
about a range of assistive  
products that support daily  
living**

- Second Tuesday of the month
- Refreshments provided

**For further information:**

Kathryn Bennett

P 03 434 7008

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



**TUESDAY**  
**14 November 2023**

1:00 - 3:00 pm

# Ōmārama MenzShed

By the time this news reaches your inbox the basketball half-court for Ōmārama will be complete, bar the finishing touches.

In what has been a combined Residents' Association of Ōmārama and Ōmārama MenzShed project, the court is an addition to the Ōmārama Sports Courts facility at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

The Ōmārama Residents' Association has put in funds of \$3800, the Waitaki District Council has donated \$5000 from its community groups grants fund, the Ahuriri Community Board has donated \$6500 from its discretionary fund, and the Meridian Energy Power Up community fund has donated \$7500 to the project.

The community gardens build project was also completed this month.

The Residents' Association would like to thank MenzShed Ōmārama and Richard and Wendy Parsons for the supply of the topsoil and the use of the digger, T & J Golder Ltd for carting the soil and Ann Patterson for arranging the supply of the timber to build the raised beds.

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

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

## Age Concern in Ōmārama

### **Mystery bus trip**

**Wednesday, November 15, 2023  
11am to 3pm.**

Pick up and drop off,  
bring your own lunch.  
All welcome.

An indication of numbers would be appreciated

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



**NOTICE OF OMARAMA GOLF CLUB INC  
2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

The Annual General Meeting of the Omarama Golf Club Inc will be held as follows:

**DATE:** Saturday 25th November 2023

**TIME:** 11.00 a.m.

**VENUE:** Omarama Golf Clubrooms

All members and interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Items of Business for AGM:

Confirmation of AGM Minutes 2022

President report

Financial Balance Sheet

Election of Office Bearers – President, Vice President,

Secretary, Treasurer, Club Captain, Course

Convenor and committee members

Approval of auditor for 2023/2024

General Business

# Omarama Golf Club

*By Christine Bowman*

**The golf course is closed from November 1 to November 8** as we are coring the greens. We apologise for any inconvenience, but this is essential maintenance to keep our greens in great shape.

The golf club hosted the Ōmārama Fire Brigade Tournament fundraiser at Labour weekend. [See above - the tournament raised \$4900 and the auction \$1900, in all \$6900 was raised which will be put towards equipment for the brigade's fire and first response units.] The recent rain and spring growth had the course looking great. Big thanks to our volunteers Greg Stuart and Nayland Smith (Bean) who are keeping the fairways and rough under control. It was great having so many ladies out playing, some who completed their first 18 holes.

The main winners on the day...

**WINNER OVER THE FIELD - Darren Lewis (Lincoln) 42 stablefords**

Senior Men: Darren Lewis, 1; Peter Trusler (Omarama) 2; Mike Bond (Lincoln) 3.

Junior Men: Braedon Hogg (Martinborough) 1; Arron Chambers (Omarama) 2; Roger Ford (Greendale) 3.

Ladies: Jo Bond (Lincoln) 1; Lenore Harvey (Greenacres County) 2; Jan Clark (Taieri Lakes) 3.

Our New Year tournament date is January 6, 2024, so put the date in your diary.

Summer is coming, so if you want to get out and play golf consider becoming a member, we have a couple of options. If interested email [secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz).

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

Club captain: Adrian Tuffley phone 027 347 8276

Secretary: Christine Bowman phone 027 209 2320

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



# Christmas Housie

lunch at the



**!!\* Oasis Café and Bar\*!!**

**1pm, Wednesday, December 13**

All the usual fun

Plus just a few little surprises

**A warm welcome to all**



# Ōmārama Community Garden

*By Heather Smith*

The finished garden beds look amazing and ready to be planted out. Feel free to add anything. If you do just make sure you label everything so we know what's what. Enjoy!!!

The boys (MenzShed) are sorting the tap near the toilet so the hose will be there for anyone wanting to water.

I will leave a red sprinkler in the corner of the no dig garden. Happy gardening!!!

A special request

If you have any gardening tools or equipment around gathering dust rather than rich, deep earth and you are considering having a clear out, the Ōmārama Community Garden would greatly appreciate your donations.

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 look, and also to put in any plants they may have ready to go in.

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

**Contact Heather Smith, 027 330 0249**



# Ōmārama Playgroup

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

For more information contact:  
president Nic McKerchar 022 612 7570  
rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com  
or secretary Tarsh Bell 027 349 0016  
tomandtarsh@mchoney.co.nz  
Plunket: Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 536  
aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com

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## Ōmārama Community Library

The Ōmārama Community Library  
is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays,  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

Email: [omaramalibrary@gmail.com](mailto:omaramalibrary@gmail.com)

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473





# Ōmārama School

*By Ōmārama School principal Alison Holden*

Last term ended with a wonderful whole school camp to Glendhu Bay. All students had fun and experienced great opportunities for collaboration.

We all headed over to Wanaka, some students headed to the Snow Farm and the others headed to Glendhu Bay camping ground.

The snow farm group walked out to the Musterers hut and stayed overnight, while the younger group settled into the camping ground and then visited the trampoline place and the park, concluding the day with a trip to Paradiso Cinema to watch a movie, while munching on some popcorn.

The following day the Glendhu Bay group visited the Toy museum and met up with the older students at the Recreation Centre, where we all played on the courts followed by a swim in the pool. The evening concluded with sports and a game of four colours. We celebrated a birthday with cake and we ended the night by toasting marshmallows.

Ōmārama School is heavily involved in sport. Over the last two terms we have participated in Cross Country, Skiing, Ski Races and Athletics. We are also supported by Sport Waitaki who provided our students with a play trailer full of equipment to explore. This is known as 'Takaro On the Go' and our students had a great deal of fun exploring the various equipment.

Last Thursday we were very lucky to receive a spontaneous visit from Alyse Boaz - a children's author. She shared three of her books with us, they were called Starfish, Sammy the Rooster and Jed the Robot.

Alyse explained the whole writing, publishing and illustration process to us and we learnt a great deal about the importance of editing and proof-reading our literacy work. Ōmārama School has now purchased these books and they will be available for everyone to read. This was an enjoyable visit for all of our students.

Please contact the school office if you know of any 4 year olds in the area that may be interested in coming for a look around our amazing school. We welcome any family to reach out and come and talk to us about our programmes. We are in the process of updating our transition to school information package and programme and will share this when completed.

Alison, Clair, Bailey, Kay and Ange

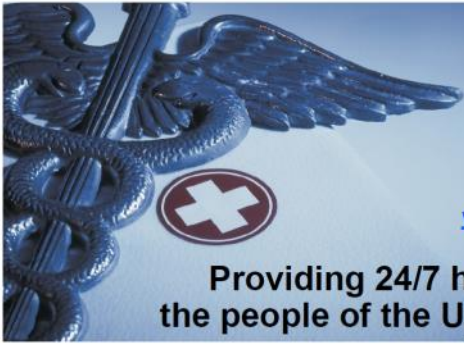
## **Contact details**

**Phone: 03 438 9815**

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

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





# Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](http://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

**Providing 24/7 health care and support to  
the people of the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie**

**Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinics  
in Twizel (Mackenzie Health Centre Private Clinic)  
and Omarama (Community Hall)**

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

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

**And much more!**

**GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$45.00  
Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

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

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

### **Opening hours**

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

Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm

Twizel: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30 to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 12pm

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

**If you require further information or an appointment, please contact us on:  
For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503**

*-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner*

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

# Wellness matters

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

Daylight savings is upon us and how lovely to be able to enjoy longer days and warmer temperatures (apart from a few snowy blasts)!

## **Breast Cancer Awareness**

October is breast cancer awareness month. Each day 9 Kiwi women of all ages are diagnosed with breast cancer. That's 3,500 women a year and 25 men too. Early detection with regular mammograms can save lives and women aged 45-69 years can have a free mammogram every two years. You can self-enrol BreastScreen Aotearoa by calling 0800 270 200 or registering online.

Screening recommendations for women outside of this age group vary and your healthcare provider can support you with more information or visit

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

Self-examination is encouraged for all women from age 20 and is an important part of breast health awareness. Any changes like lumps, thickening, dimpling or nipple discharge should be reported to your healthcare provider.

## **Shingles (Herpes Zoster)**

Many of us had chickenpox as a child, although there is now a vaccine for chickenpox which is delivered to children on the immunisation schedule at 15 months, and to some high-risk individuals or their close contacts. Shingles is caused by a virus called varicella zoster, which is the same virus that causes chickenpox. Following chickenpox infection, the virus lies dormant in the nerves near the spine and can re-emerge later in life. Increasing age, some medications, certain medical conditions as well as emotional stress can cause the immune system to weaken which gives the virus an opportunity to reactivate as shingles. Symptoms of shingles usually start as a tingling or burning pain for two to three days and then a painful rash on one side of the body. This can be very debilitating and often lead to longer term complications.

People with these symptoms should seek advice and care as soon as possible. Clinicians can prescribe medication which is best started before the rash appears. This has been proven to reduce the duration and severity of shingles.

There is some good news on the shingles front however. A vaccine to prevent shingles is available and is free for anyone who is 65 years old (not older) and for some people with immunity problems. It is also recommended for other people aged 50 and over and a charge will apply. Find out more about vaccines at

[www.immune.org.nz](http://www.immune.org.nz).

## **Sun Smart**

New Zealand sunlight can have high levels of ultraviolet (UV) radiation which can cause skin and eye damage and cancer. Our ozone layer is one of the thinnest in the world and UV index level three is enough to cause skin damage. Although it doesn't feel like it now, being sun smart all year round is important and more so heading into the warmer months. NIWA has a UV index app you can access at [www.niwa.co.nz](http://www.niwa.co.nz) which gives localised reports.

So, until next time, stay well and cover up, slip into the shade, slop on sunscreen, slap on a hat and wrap on your sunnies – even on the cloudy days as 80% of UV radiation can get through the clouds.

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# Waitaki Newcomers Network

For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)

“Welcome to Waitaki” Packs are now available from the Omarama Community Library for those who are newcomers to the district (or for you to give to someone who is).

**Contact: Paula Eatherley**  
**Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support Coordinator**  
[waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)  
[coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz](mailto:coordinator@waitakimulticultural.org.nz) 027 325 6151 (business hours)  
[www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz) [www.multiculturalnz.org.nz](http://www.multiculturalnz.org.nz)

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## Ahuriri Catchment Community Group

### Annual Meeting

The Ahuriri Catchment Community Group will hold its annual meeting 3.30pm to 4.30pm Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at Boots and Jandals Hotel, Omarama

It will be a great opportunity to add your input to what the ACCG should focus on.

We have some funding and can apply for more.

We are also pleased to introduce our new facilitator, Bridget Pringle, to the team.

She will bring her wealth of experience and knowledge of our specific area needs.

Everyone is welcome.

**Facilitator Nicola McKerchar.**

**Phone: 022 612 7570; email: [committee@ahuriricatchment.com](mailto:committee@ahuriricatchment.com)**

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# HERITAGE NORTH OTAGO

## Charitable Trust Incorporated

### SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT

Direct descendants of service personnel from North Otago who served in New Zealand or Commonwealth forces during the Second World War or in combat since, may apply to be considered for a scholarship/grant for health, education or special needs.

The applicant must have resided in North Otago for the majority of their life time.

Application forms are available from the  
Secretary, June Jones, 61 Wharfe Street, Oamaru.  
Phone 027 260 7133 or email: [junejonesnz@gmail.com](mailto:junejonesnz@gmail.com)

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE with the Secretary  
by 5pm FRIDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER 2023.**

**J.E. Jones  
HON. SECRETARY**

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## Justices of the Peace

**JPs are available by appointment to:**

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

**The service is free of charge**

**To make your visit quick and easy:**

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



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



**Vicky Munro**  
Otematata  
03 438 7855 021 438745



**Alona Shaw**  
Omarama  
027 773 4214

# Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting will be  
**7pm, Thursday, November 16, 2023**  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre  
An invitation is extended to all

## Contacts:

**Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630**

**Vicky Chambers, secretary, 021 296 5782**

(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Vicky)

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## 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)**

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## 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)



# Care in the community

## Ōmārama Community Care Group

Because all Covid 19 restrictions have been lifted and the last time the Care Group was asked for assistance was in June, the Care Group has been formally wound up. If you are in need of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact Ruth Grundy 021 294 8002 and we can work together on options and put you in contact with those who can help or whatever will best suit you.

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## Twizel Community Care Centre

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

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel, Phone: 03 435 0687

Open: Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm

- A reminder we have a food bank available with no questions asked. With the lead up to Christmas, it can be a particularly difficult time for people so please call in to the Twizel Community Care Centre on Mt Cook Street if you are in need of food.
- Our contact details are 03 4350687 and email [admin@twizelcare.co.nz](mailto:admin@twizelcare.co.nz) if you would like to arrange a convenient time to collect a parcel.
- Twizel-Tekapo Community Car bookings – this is a community car that picks you up from your house and takes you wherever you need to go such as town here in Twizel or Timaru for an appointment, whatever you need. There is a cost involved depending on destinations.
- Work and Income – assistance with applying for benefits, helping with queries regarding superannuation, and any other financial assistance you may receive. Printing and scanning of documents.
- Inland Revenue – queries regarding anything IRD related, access to forms.
- Home Delivered Meals – We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for \$8 and small snack meals for \$4. We can deliver to your home.
- Printing/scanning services
- Assistance with finding jobs in the area.
- Foodbank – donations, and supply people with food parcels when in need
- Any other government services – ACC, Department of Corrections, etc
- Arowhenua Whanau services – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Computer/cellphone assistance – needing help with something on your computer or cellphone. Free WiFi
- Rat tests/Mask supply free of charge
- Assistance with filling in any forms or paperwork.
- Offer room hire to community groups and businesses.



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## Reporting issues is a snap with our Snap Send Solve App

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

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



Scan for more info  
and app download



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# Big Sky

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## David O'Neill Contracting Ltd

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# Big Sky

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karan@mcre.co.nz

**Jess Mackay**

0279025529

jess@mcre.co.nz



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FROM LABOUR WEEKEND

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Phone: Tanya 027 673 1381



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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

October 2023

Highest temperature: October 5, 26.5C

Lowest temperature: October 3, -2.2C

Most rainfall: October 26, 14.5 mm

Total rainfall for October: 49.1 mm

## 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)

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