



Ōmārama Gazette

October 2025

Dan keeps a weather eye open to the sky

Hindsight is a harsh critic of weather forecasters.

And forecasting conditions for the Ōmārama basin and high country is more fraught than most.

While our own 'Dan the Weather Man' feels confident enough to predict weather changes in a day, he says he does not try to look past tomorrow.

"A week ahead you could say there would be a rainy day but that might be either Friday or Saturday," he said.

Glider pilot and software developer Dan McCormack has been reading Ōmārama skies since he first came flying here about 10 years ago.

He regularly forecasts flying conditions throughout the gliding season at the 10am safety briefings for pilots.

"Weather in Ōmārama, while not unpredictable is localised," he said.

"It's why glider pilots come to Ōmārama because it is changeable but not unpredictable."

'Dan the Weather Man' keeps a weather eye open ahead of safety briefings at the airfield.



Dan keeps a weather eye open to the sky - continued

Dan collects and downloads data from various sources including pressure charts from MetService before compiling the information into his report.

"If they [the sources] agree then I'm confident."

Otherwise, he hedged his bets and would explain his doubts.

He studies quite a wide area looking for patterns, "where it is cloudy or sunny".

Webcams are very useful, particularly the Ōmārama webcam on the Benmore range [this appears to be offline at present] and webcams at Wanaka, Roys Peak in particular.

"The reason it is difficult to forecast weather conditions [in New Zealand] is that we are an island. They can be correct about what air masses are going to be present but not just exact about where they will be when."

And surrounding topography has a key influence on conditions in Ōmārama and its surrounds. As an example when the wind comes over the main divide it "funnels down" the Hopkins and Elcho Valleys, all the air pushes down so by the time it gets to Ōhau it "squirts out" at high speed. From there it begins to spread out dissipating somewhat as it spreads across the basin.

"It [the wind speed] can be twice what it is here up there."

In an alternative scenario Otematata has the cool easterly sea breeze.

This not only heads in the opposite direction but the moist, often fog-like flow, behaves differently as it comes over the Benmores and the saddle and into the basin.

"It flows into the low-lying areas, first Ōmārama then Quailburn, then Tara Hills."

In yet other conditions thunderstorms form around the ranges from the hot-air thermals rising up the side of the mountains, Dan said.

Anecdotally, Spring also tends to be the time of the year which yields the most weather warnings from weather forecasting agencies.

Last week MetService announced, in addition to information about severe weather warnings given on its app and website, as well as through radio, TV and social media, it was introducing digital billboards as another way to get that messaging across to the general public.

The digital billboards could be targeted to a specific geographical area, similar to an Emergency Mobile Alert, and this meant the National Emergency Management Agency could display safety information to areas forecast to be impacted.

Its spokesperson told Radio New Zealand it was expecting warnings to be more important as climate change would cause more frequent and severe weather events.

As for forecasters predicting watches and warnings that don't eventuate, "It sounds like they're getting it about right then," Dan said.

Ōmārama was all about the weather, he said.

"It's called place of sunshine, place of light because the moisture is dropped on the mountains first so the air is clear when it reaches us."

Some weather recording websites:

* Omarama Gazette weather station: www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/IOTEMATA5

* Airfield weather station: holfuy.com/en/weather/398

* www.yr.no/en/forecast/daily-table/2-2185646/New%20Zealand/Canterbury/Omarama

Farmers urged to have say on TB strategy

Ōmārama farmers will have the chance to have their say on how to finish the job of eradicating bovine TB from New Zealand at a meeting at the Memorial Hall on Monday.

And their Federated Farmers representative is urging them to take every advantage of the opportunity, especially given the recent identification of the disease in the district.

An independent review of the National Pest Management Plan for TB has found that, while the goal of completely eradicating TB by 2055 is still a possibility, this won't be achieved without prioritising the remaining hot spots of TB-infected possums – this includes Otago.

The review was conducted by a Plan Governance Group including representatives of the Ministry for Primary Industries, DairyNZ, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, and Deer Industry New Zealand (DINZ) and chaired by Dr Helen Anderson, a primary sector board director.

New Zealand had made great progress in reducing the impact of TB but there was more to do to protect valuable dairy, beef and deer industries and to safeguard rural communities, Dr Anderson said.

“We are so close to achieving zero infections in our livestock, with just 15 herds, or around 0.01 percent, infected in July this year. That's an amazing achievement, thanks to decades of hard work and ongoing investment. But while the disease remains in possums, we will keep having outbreaks of reinfection.”

Of those 15 infected herds – down from a nationwide peak of 1698 in 1995 - six are in Otago, including one in Omarama and two in the Lindis.

As an outcome of recent events National Bovine TB eradication agency Ospri has today introduced a new Movement Control Area to include Tarras, Lindis Valley, the upper Manuherekia and the top end of Ida Valley. About 110 farms and lifestyle blocks with deer or cattle will be included in the area.

Being in an MCA means all cattle and deer over three months old must be TB tested within 60 days of being moved off a property, and only animals going straight to slaughter do not need testing.

This move was mooted by Ospri senior veterinarian Kevin Crews at its July meeting in Omarama although it is not yet the most extreme measure put forward which would bring in include Waitaki River, Benmore, Ahuriri, Cluden, Clutha, the Lindis Valley, Outram, and the Pig Route, affecting 620 additional herds.

The downside of leaving out some areas was possibly prolonging the control measures. he told the meeting.

Earlier this year calves from the Lindis Pass area were sold at an Omarama calf sale, and the vendor later advised the calves had reactors to TB.

There was a known problem in the Lindis area but Ospri were too slow communicating with farmers and failed to set up movement control early enough to cover the area, Landowners claimed.

About 70 landowners and other affected parties met with Ospri representatives at the Ōmārama Hall in July to discuss the event and ways to prevent the spread.

-continued

Farmers urged to have say on TB strategy - continued

In a statement in last week's Farmers Weekly, Federated Farmers North Otago president Otto Dogterom warned farmers in Otago could be overlooked if they did not speak up.

"We need to put our case forward strongly because there's a real feeling we're being left behind in the 'too hard basket'.

"Recent slips in vigilance show how quickly the situation can get out of control when possums – the main disease vector – aren't managed properly.

"Livestock sales and movement are seriously disrupted, and farmers face uncertainty and extra costs until the problem is under control," Mr Dogterom said in the article.

In a separate move, the Department of Conservation, which was heavily criticised at the Omarama meeting for not doing enough to control possums on conservation land, has publicly notified that from September 15 (last month) until August 8, 2025 it will carry out possum control in its Ohau Forests area.

At the meeting Mr Crews said Ospri would also be ramping up possum control. It had been "10 to 20 years" since possum control was last done in this area, he said. That was being remedied beginning with a major 1080 drop, recently.

He said there had been competing demands on funds which meant other areas had been prioritised for control work and Otago had been put in a holding pattern while areas like the West Coast and Southland were worked on.

Now those areas had been dealt to more resources would go into Otago, he said. "Now, it is Otago's turn", he told the July meeting.

In particular the Plan Governance Group wants to hear thoughts about:

- Prioritising eliminating TB in the remaining hot spots of highly-infected possum populations as soon as possible, using the most cost-effective tools in large 'landscape-scale' operations
- Updating the TB Plan milestones to achieve TB freedom in both herds and possums by 2040.

Dr Anderson says it's proposed to replace the current milestone of TB freedom in herds by 2026.

"We're so close to zero, but we can't achieve or maintain zero herd infections until we get rid of the disease reservoirs in the possum population", she said.

Consultation on draft proposals for the TB Plan runs from 1 September through to 12 October. For more information or to make a submission visit www.tbplanreview.co.nz

The first meeting will be held at Omarama Hall, 35 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama, from 11am-12.30pm on Monday, October 6.

A second meeting will be at Wedderburn Woolshed, 7145 Wedderburn-Becks Road, Wedderburn, from 11am-12.30pm on Tuesday 7 October.

**HAVE YOUR
SAY**

Finishing the job of eradicating bovine TB

New Zealand's TB Plan is under review.

This country has made great progress so far reducing the impact of TB.

But there's more to do.

The review recommends some changes that will help finish the job of eradicating TB from New Zealand.

Come to a meeting (details below) or find more information and have your say, on the website



www.tbplanreview.co.nz

Submissions close 12 October 2025.

Omarama Public Meeting

Monday 6 October 2025

11am – 12:30pm

Omarama Hall

35 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama 9412



Loved Leopold family matriarch now at rest

The family of Doreen Leopold would like to take the opportunity to pass on their heartfelt thanks for all the support and kind messages received after the recent passing of their special mum.

Doreen passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 86 years with family by her side.

She was an amazing woman who brought up five wonderful daughters from the confines of the family home. Yes, she was 86 years old and had never driven a car or held a driver's license throughout her whole life.

Doreen married Pat in 1959 and by 1971 was bringing up five daughters within a 12-year age gap.

Doreen and Pat moved to Ōmārama from Twizel in 1982, where Doreen started working in the hospitality industry at the Country Time Hotel and the previously known Heritage Gateway Hotel.

Back in the day, both establishments were a hub of social activity, and the family remember Doreen saying if she had a penny for the secrets she had to keep, she would have been a rich woman.

Doreen was more like the silent partner in the Leopold family who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the family the success it was.

Doreen's passion in life were her five daughters. She was a very proud mother of each one of them. Yes, they all contributed to her grey hair over the years but her love for them all, never faulted.

Each one of them developed into the successful and admirable woman they are under the guidance of Doreen.

One thing that never faulted in her later years was her hearing. Bugged if I know how, but it seemed she could listen in on a conversation from 20 metres away. She always used to say "I heard that".

There were always lollies in the lolly jar for the grandkids who were always asked to say please and thankyou before grabbing a handful, and always a cup of tea on offer for anyone that stopped by.

Like every marriage, Doreen and Pat had their ups and downs but her love for Pat and the family were ever present every day they were together. Pat, her soulmate passed away earlier this year, and it was apparent that she missed him terribly.

Doreen is now at rest with Pat and Tania where I am sure Tania will be keeping the peace between them forever more.

Rest in peace Doreen. You have served your life and your family well. God bless.

The family will hold a celebration day and memorial of Doreen's life from 2pm to 5pm, Saturday, November 8, at the family home in Ōmārama.

- contributed by the Leopold family

Taking time to begin the next chapter

Long-time Ōmārama retailers Craig and Glenys Dawson are taking a relaxed and practical approach to fully embracing retirement.

Although they had decided the time was right to sell the business they would be taking a judicious approach to how that rolled out, Glenys said.

"There has been some interest [from buyers] in the business."

She and Craig would consider either selling the building – which has a prime location – or the business and the building, she said.

Although it might feel as if things were in limbo, plans were in hand to "officially" put the building on the market later this month. The 'retirement sale' of existing stock would continue through the spring and summer, she said.

"It has been a really good winter for us."

The couple wanted to thank all customers for their support and promised they would "keep everyone posted" as and when matters were finalised.

Craig and Glenys have operated GlenCraig's Clothing since moving permanently from Oamaru to country living in 1999 and they expanded the premises in 2001.

The business was formerly the Ōmārama Trading Post – the old Post Office.

They had been holidaying in Ōmārama at their second home for eight years before the move.

Last year, they and their staff - Glen Rutherford, Lesley Jackson, Vicky Chambers, and not to forget Lizzie - celebrated 25 years since opening the store, which offers high-quality, practical clothing with a focus on wool products, catering to both locals and tourists.

They decided early on to target the domestic market and it had been a successful strategy. It was something tourists also liked, they said.

Overtime they structured their seven-day-a-week operation to ensure work-life balance for themselves and their staff and to allow them time to be fully involved in the community.

This past season had been the strongest trading year since Covid-19 so they were "going out on a high".

Craig and Glenys are planning to enjoy more leisure time and to travel.



- Craig, Glenys and Lizzie Dawson
celebrate 25 years in business last year.
Photo Supplied

Mayors' Taskforce support available here

The new Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs coordinator for the Waitaki District Council is keen to make sure all valley businesses and young people can take part in the opportunities the programme offers.

Taskforce coordinator Greg Pestell is on a 12-month secondment from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), where he has been working as an employment case manager, to the Waitaki District Council, where he will run this programme in-house. The Ministry of Social Development funds the Taskforce's Community Employment Programme, which Local Government New Zealand administers.

The programme focuses on 18–24-year-olds (primarily those who are MSD clients) and 16–24-year-olds who are Neet (Not in Education, Employment, or Training), helping them into sustainable employment.

The Taskforce is a nationwide network of 17 mayors who pool resources to work towards their goal of having all young people 16-24 engaged in employment, education, training, or other positive activity in their communities.

Greg says he is committed to seeing that the programme delivers to the whole of the Waitaki district from Ohau to Palmerston, including Omarama, not just to Oamaru. He and wife Katherine and their children have holidayed at their 'second home' in Omarama for the past eight years.

A former high school teacher, Greg has spent the past four-and-a-half years with the MSD.

Some individuals he works with are “close to ready” to enter the labour market while others need support to get there, he said.

Support can include help with matters as various as drawing up a CV and writing cover letters, job interview preparation, buying clothes for an interview, help to get a driver licence, barista training, or help to work through mental wellness issues.

“Once they get a job we stay connected for up to six months,” Greg said.

The key goal was to match the skills and interests of the candidate to the vacancy and provide them with all-round support so they remain in employment long-term.

There was practical support for employers too, such as wage subsidies.

Much of his role was also about “networking” with businesses, finding out what employers wanted, what their needs were and then working “to align with those needs”.

“I’m a conduit between the two.”

He would love to hear from any Ōmārama employers, be it businesses in town or on farm, who were able to offer employment, or even work experience opportunities. “We can support that to make it happen,” Greg said. He can be contacted by **email: gpestell@waitaki.govt.nz or by phoning the council on 03 433 0303.**

Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs coordinator for the Waitaki District Council Greg Pestell wants to ensure the opportunities are available to all in the district.



Charlie and her angels back to fly high

This summer the angels are back!

Charlie and her angels – Amy Smith, Felix Harper and Tuulianna Laukkanen are back for the whole Omarama gliding season and they're off to a flying start.

That's Charlie Irvin (24) that is, Omarama Gliding Club's newly appointed manager. "I'm a woman of many tricks," Charlie said, with her trademark bubbly enthusiasm.

Her day-to-day tasks will include front of house duties at the Ōmārama Airfield, morning briefings for those who are flying, administration work, launch point controller, "all of the behind-the-scenes work" that goes into running the club.

Charlie owns her own glider, "a trusty DG-100", and spent three months learning to soar in our mountains last season and teaming up with the 'Angels'.

"During that time, I fell head over heels in love with flying here and felt like I could contribute to the lovely local gliding community- who all welcomed me with open arms."

"I found out how long one could get stuck on Mt Horrible [Mt St Cuthbert] - making it look like you were trying to colour the thing in with your track. I met some nice farmers on the Maitland strip on a fortunate out-landing, and I did my best to avoid getting too up-close-and-personal with the cliffs and rock faces."

Charlie's "home gliding base" is Piako Gliding Club, Matamata where she has been for the past four-and-a-half- years, getting in 230 plus hours flying hours and recently gaining her C Cat instructor rating.

Her day job during the past four years has been in management roles.

"I stepped into my first role as manager for a local retail business in my hometown of Raglan at 19 years old, and I have been helping my dad manage his food truck



business on the side during this time.

Charlie will step into former club development manager Brian Sharpe's shoes. Brian, who made a key contribution to getting the club on its feet after the Covid years, died earlier this year.

Charlie wanted to acknowledge his support.

"[He] welcomed me to the club from the day I arrived and always made the effort to support whatever he could every day I saw him, his dedication was always so visible. It would be an honour to step into his shoes and continue the hard work."

Her 'angels' form the winch crew and they along with new resident tow pilot and instructor Luca Ruzzon, airfield staff Terry Morgan and Felix Harper and new Chief Flying Instructor Andy Parish, who is a regular visiting UK Gliding instructor, will form the base of the club's team. The aim is to make the most of every flyable over the seven month season.

Charlie said her objective was to encourage more young people to take up and stay with gliding. " – to live here, fly here and have fun".

She wants to encourage groups of "keen young people" through regular club days and camps.

So, how does she like spend her time 'outside the office'.

Aside from biking, Charlie is a keen 'yarn wrangler' and has already booked her spot with the Ōmārama Knit Night group. Plus, she loves other crafts like sewing.

She has set herself a project of sewing new covers for the local gliders and has brought both her sewing and knitting machines with her to Ōmārama.

"I know there are many faces I have yet to meet and many I will get to know more during my time- I'm a bit of a yapper so don't say you haven't been warned," Charlie said.

[With the 'Angels' arrival it begs the question of who could be Bosley?

It seems a likely candidate may have just rolled on up to take the part.

Former chief flying instructor, friend and mentor to gliding students and pilots Gavin Wrigley (Griz) arrived in town this season with his new toy - a dazzling banana-yellow bird, a 1975 Morgan. (And yes, he does play the ukulele!)

Photos: Supplied and Rod Stuart



Stream reserve clean-up on task

The weather played the game and a good proportion of the clean-up of flood debris, slash and overgrown undergrowth along a length of the Ōmārama Stream has been dealt to.

Thanks largely to the work of volunteers more than double the six piles of willow slash along the Ōmārama Stream from the SH8 bridge to the Golf Club was burnt and buried over about a week

Heavy rain has fallen since completing the job.

At the same time Maria Prince, of Arowhenua Native Nursery and Restoration, with funding from Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Water Zone committee has carried out plantings alongside the culvert stream and the nohoanga site managed by Ngai Tahu.

In August, some three years after the floods, the Waitaki District Council and ECan finally gave the go ahead and some funding for the clean-up on the reserve land.

Earthmoving Contractor Phil Honeywill and Stream resident Peter Hardie, who owns the semi-retired fire truck 'Dennis', provided the heavy muscle.

Retired farmers Peter Casserly and Mike King also worked at the fire ground to supervise the controlled burn.



*When he's not playing with blades he's playing with matches - Peter Casserly lights the burn-off piles at Ōmārama Stream.
Photo: Mike King.*

After the floods about 13 or 14 property owners plus Ōmārama Station, Ōmārama Top 10 Holiday Park and the Ōmārama Golf Course - agreed to find \$100,000 or \$30,000 each year for three years - to pay for urgent remedial work.

The 'tree work' was completed in December 2023.



(Above: Maria Prince, of Arowhenua Native Nursery and Restoration, with funding from Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Water Zone committee has carried out plantings alongside the culvert stream and the nohoanga site managed by Ngai Tahu.

Below: An 'after' shot of the reserve, once all of last month's the hard work was complete





Ōmārama - a love letter

It's been 10 years this month since I was handed the guardianship of the Ōmārama Gazette. Many have come before me and many more will come after me.

I can say that with confidence because I truly believe our news and our stories are enduring no matter in what form they are told or by who.

I look to the past and to the future in humility. It's been a huge privilege. Telling your story has become my story and I've told it with my whole heart. You've been right here by my side.

It's been rocky at times, but we've pushed through together because we believe this intangible thing of community is one of rare and precious beauty.

I could have listed all the highlights and achievements through the years, and slipped in the stuff ups and bloopers for a bit of a laugh. Somehow, this time, that approach didn't quite sum up what this really means to me, or what you have come to mean to me through this work.

I found these words.

"I am going to get it wrong. You are also going to get it wrong. I have already gotten it wrong a ridiculous amount of times... Some days I will be too gentle towards evil, and some days I will be too self-righteous towards humans made in the image of God. I'm going to be angry when I should be listening well, and listen silently when I should be angry at injustice. I am going to get called out, sometimes kindly and sometimes angrily, by people that I hurt when I get it wrong. And I'm going to have to learn how to humbly course-correct myself when I'm called out, so that I keep learning how to speak, when to speak, and what to say."

Or how to write, when to write and what to say. Never underestimate the power of words to build up and to tear down, to inform and misinform, to blend falsehood and fact until there is no truth.

"These are weird and confusing and evil times. Don't let fear of getting it wrong keep you from saying what your conscience prods you to say. Listen humbly, be kind, be angry, and speak bravely."

I've done it before but there is another short clip of memories on the Gazette Youtube ready to view. <https://youtu.be/CE80DesYRWE>

Let me again reflect back to you who it is you are, and what it is you believe in.

This is a tribute to the place I love, yes, for better and for worse.

Ōmārama, our small town with the biggest heart of the heartland.

When you come over that hill, you're home, and there's no other place to be.

***"Sometimes you want to go
Where everybody knows your name
And they're always glad you came
You want to be where you can see
Our troubles are all the same
You want to be where everybody knows your name."*

*Looking forward with hope,
Ruth Grundy, editor.*

Photographers: Ruth Grundy, Mike King, Lex Perriam, Amy Smith, and all who have contributed to the Ōmārama album.

*** Cheers Theme Songwriters: Portnoy Gary / Angelo Judy Hart*

** When I kept Silent" By Laura Jean Truman*

The Noticeboard

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



Co-owner of Ōmārama TOP 10, Natalie Beiboer, accepts the award for emerging Leader presented by TOP 10 Board Member Nick Blake. Photo Supplied.

Congratulations to Natalie Beiboer and the team at Top 10 Holiday Park.

Natalie was awarded Emerging Leader at the recent TOP10 annual awards held in Christchurch. Ōmārama Top 10 was also finalist for Most Improved Club Membership Seller, Most Highly Recommended Employer of Choice and Top Guest Experience.

North Otago Cardio Tennis begins in Ōmārama

Cardio tennis will begin each Thursday 9am -10am starting next term, October 9, 2025, at the Ōmārama Sports Courts. Contact: Kate Mortimer 027 434 6603

NB CHANGE OF HOURS Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Tuesdays 9am to 4.30pm. There is no Thursday clinic. 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.

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

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

The Ōmārama Golf Club Saturdays cards in 12.30pm tee-off 1pm. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group send contact details to E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz 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 November Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, November 5, 2025.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, October 31, 2025

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Police



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>

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Ōmārama Fire brigade volunteer Arron Chambers

Where are the months going! We are now out of Winter and starting to see the buds of Spring show themselves around our community.

The calls this month may appear to have been light but there has been a lot going on behind the scenes within the Brigade. Jack (CFO) and Tania (DBL) have been working hard to combine their skills to support the brigade under their leadership and we have seen this bring new energy and vigour to our structure, training and general day to day running of our brigade. Our new recruits are going strong

and you will start seeing them on the road as they upskill and partake in the calls we attend.

We would also like to welcome two further members to the brigade –

Dan Leopold – Rejoining as a Qualified Fire Fighter

Nic Leopold – Joining as Community Liaison to Brigade

We have also had brigade members complete training this month to ensure you have the best skills available on board.

Zane Lord – Station Officer Renewal

Aaron Wood - PRT (Vehicle Crash) Course

Tania Innes – Pump Course

If you didn't get the chance to check your smoke alarms when the clocks changed, give those buttons a press and make sure they beep. It only takes a minute but it could save a life!

The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets at 7pm each Wednesday at the Ōmārama Fire Station and has its meeting on the third Wednesday of the month. If anyone would like more information about the various volunteer roles available within the fire brigade please get in touch.

Email omarama@fireandemergency.co.nz or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909.

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

Preparing to be ready

Ōmārama's Community Resilience group continues to work on its emergency preparedness at its regular meetings.

Last month, Emergency Management Otago advisor Danny Fountaine demonstrated the hardware and operation of a portable high-speed Starlink satellite internet connection for use in remote areas and in emergencies.

He also ran through the requirements and various procedures involved in setting up a Community Emergency Hub as opposed to a Civil Defence Centre. There were important distinctions between the two, he said.

Community emergency hubs were not for overnight stays or delivery of a formal welfare response, he said.

If required, the district emergency operations centre would open a civil defence centre to provide for formal emergency welfare support.

A community resilience group may set up a community-led hub which would run within guidelines set by Emergency Management Otago. This would be "resourced" by the community, Danny said.

An Emergency Operations Civil Defence Centre would be set up and run by trained and vetted personnel, provide government and support agencies a facility to offer services, provide the formal and official welfare response, and may set up an emergency shelter, if appropriate, for the emergency.

The overall emphasis of any response was to plan to look after yourself and your family, including pets for at least a week.

Key to this was to draw up a household emergency plan .

This includes knowing the best way to leave your home in an emergency, where to meet and how to contact one another if separated.

In most emergencies, it was best to stay in your own home if it is safe to do so. But that might mean being without power and water or any way to get supplies for three days or more.

You also need to know how to connect with people around you in your community. Get to know your neighbours. In an emergency, they may need your help or you may need their help, and you may be able to band together to get through.

If directed to evacuate by emergency services personnel, this community's emergency shelter is the Ōmārama Memorial Hall.



Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

We're proud to back local projects in the communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with our Power Up fund.

With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund.

Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff we're working together to build strong, sustainable communities. Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects in Aoraki/ Mount Cook, Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio, Glenavy.

How to apply

Applications are open until midnight on Sun 12th October 2025.

For more information and to apply:

- visit meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund
- email community@meridianenergy.co.nz
- call 021 733 931



The Difference

LJ Hooker Property Management

We don't just manage your property, we maximise your investment.

Get in touch to find out more!

Rachel Sheridan
Business Development
Manager
0274647751
pmrentals@mcre.co.nz





Make your vote count!

This month you'll be receiving your voting papers to vote for Mayor and ECan. Fill out your ballot and return it by post.

Election day is Saturday 11 October, get your ballot in the post by then.

Not registered yet? You can still vote!

**Enrol or update your details
to vote in the local elections.**

vote.nz 0800 36 76 56



THE VOTING PACKS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED ...

The last day to post your vote is October 7.
Voting closes midday Saturday, October 11.

All info is in your pack.

Whatever you decide, decide to vote

You can post your vote here...

- ☐ At Oasis Bar and Café - 4 Chain Hills Highway
 - ☐ At the DX boxes outside
 - ☐ GlenCraigs, 6 Chain Hills Highway.
- ☐ At the Merino Café, 9 Chain Hills Highway.

LAKES BALLET TWIZEL'S JAZZ TROUPE PRESENT

THIS IS HALLOWEEN!



TWIZEL EVENTS CENTRE THEATRE 30TH OCT 5.30 PM

ENTRY BY GOLD COIN KOHA

WEAR YOUR HALLOWEEN COSTUME FOR A "TRICK OR TREAT"

A FAMILY-FRIENDLY FRIGHT!

creative
COMMUNITIES *nz*

Ōmārama Playgroup

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

For more information contact:
president Nic McKerchar, 022 612 7570,
rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com
or secretary Olivia Black, 027 833 0869.

Ōmārama Community Library

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

Knit Night Ōmārama

Ōmārama Knit Night
takes place at the
Community Centre
on Tuesday evenings at 5.15pm.



Antony Ford CA



Ford Simpson Ltd

Chartered Accountants

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

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

e. office@fordsimpson.co.nz

w. www.fordsimpson.co.nz

PHONE 03 687 2080



Brodie Craig CA

Ōmārama Golf Club

By Arron Chambers, Ōmārama Golf Club secretary.

It's been a while since our last update, but we have been busy getting our course and clubrooms ready for the coming Spring/Summer season.

Big Shout out to the Waitaki District Council for approval of a grant for more plants that we are now seeing developing around our waterways, tee areas and clubhouse. These help to enhance the course and invite life and activity within these new areas. They also add extra temptation to roll a ball into this new wilderness.

We also want to give a huge thanks to Aoraki Trust for a grant to assist with the build of a new implement shed which has enabled us to house the course equipment under cover and secure. Thanks also to "BuildMoore" (Andy Moore) for the assembly and finishing of our 2-bay shed.

Our club rooms are also nearing completion due to renovations required from the 2022 floods and great to see the paint going on around the office and entrance areas. We have also had the achievement boards updated and replaced within the club rooms to show memory to the members achievements over the decades. The Ōmārama Golf Club has also had some great results over the winter with the local competitions.

Proctor Rosebowl Winners 2025 Our mixed Team of six men and four ladies won the day against Otematata, Ben Ōhau and Kurow with 300 points. It had been 19 years since we last lifted this prestigious trophy.

Challenge Shield for the President's Cup Placed 4th against the 10 teams competing which put us into the Semi-Finals for the Presidents Cup. Sadly, could not proceed further but Well Done to the team who competed!

We will be carrying out coring to the greens on October 6 and the course may be closed for a few days following this work.

Green Fees are now \$25 for all non-members unaffiliated with our sister clubs. These fees allow us to continue the upkeep of our club and are essential to keep us open. Please ensure you make payment and complete the form and carry your voucher on the course and please don't be offended if we ask for your receipt. We offer direct bank payment as well as box deposits.

Saturday Club Day: cards in 12.30pm and tee-off at 1pm.

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

Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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



Kathryn Bennett is the coordinator for Age Concern Waitaki, based in Oamaru.
Kathryn's contact details are: 03 434 7008, 027 4347 089
NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz
Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thurs - Fri 9-12.30pm



Coffee Group

Join us for our last coffee group for the year!

A time to reflect on the year that was.

A time to share our memories.

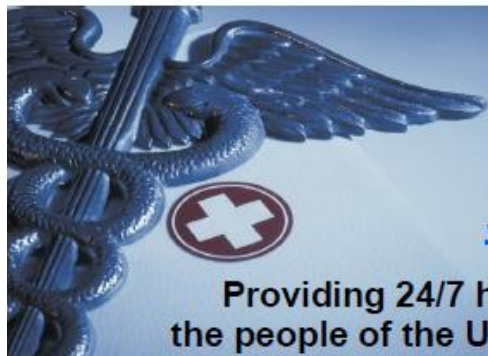
A time to remember those that are no longer
with us.

Let's get together over coffee and cake 😊



Omarama Community Hall

Tuesday 14th October 1:00 - 3:00pm



Kurow Medical Centre

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

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

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

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

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

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

And much more!

GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$50.00

Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only. Community Services Card \$20

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

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

Wellness Matters

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

Happy spring – wow those cold blasts are still coming through, but the spring growth is telling us the warmth is on the way!

Breast Cancer Awareness: Why Mammograms Matter

October is a good time to remind ourselves about breast cancer awareness. In New Zealand, breast cancer is the most common cancer for women, but early detection makes a huge difference. That's where mammograms come in. A mammogram is a type of x-ray of the breast that can detect changes even before you or a doctor can feel anything.

Women aged 45 to 69 are invited to participate in BreastScreen Aotearoa, the free national breast screening programme. You will be contacted when it's your turn, or you can call for to discuss or enrol online. It is recommended you have a mammogram every two years.

Women with a family history of breast cancer may have a greater risk of getting the disease. The risk can vary depending on the number of relatives affected and the age of the relative(s) when their breast cancer was found. You can discuss your risk with your doctor.

Mammograms aren't painful for most people, though some might feel a bit of pressure. The short discomfort is worth the reassurance and early detection they provide. Remember, regular screening can catch cancers early when treatment is often simpler and more successful.

Besides screening, being breast aware is important. Women (and men) can get breast cancer at any age, so it is important to know what's normal for your own body—look and feel for any changes such as lumps, skin dimpling, or nipple discharge. And don't hesitate to speak to a health professional if something feels not quite right. Awareness, combined with regular mammograms, is your best defence.

<https://info.health.nz/keeping-healthy/cancer-screening/breast-screening>
Phone 0800 270 200

Health Literacy: Making Health Information Work for You

October is also Health Literacy Month, a good reminder that understanding health information is key to making informed choices. Health literacy is more than just reading - it's about finding, understanding, and using health information to make decisions that work for your life.

Start by thinking about reliable sources. Websites like Health Navigator, the Ministry of Health, and Te Whatu Ora provide trusted, up-to-date information. Your pharmacist, nurses and doctors can also answer questions in plain language. If you find medical terms confusing, ask for explanations or a summary in everyday words. Good health literacy means you can weigh options, ask the right questions, and make decisions about screenings, vaccinations, medications, or lifestyle choices. It also helps you support family members or friends navigating health issues. Remember, no question is too small, and seeking clarity is part of taking control of your own health.

healthify.nz/ www.healthinfo.org.nz/ info.health.nz/

Ōmārama School

From the Ōmārama School Newsletter

By Alison Holden, Ōmārama School Principal

This has been a super tough term with a range of sickness for students, parents and staff. The sickness ranges from fever to cough, to runny nose, to aching muscles, to fatigue and even tonsillitis. It has certainly been rough and interruptive. Let's hope the holidays help break the cycle.

Elections: An email will be sent with information on the upcoming school board elections. Please read over this information carefully.

- Nominations will close at noon on October 8.
- Voting will close at 4pm on November 12.

Consultation meeting:

Early next term we will be holding a parent community consultation meeting as we prepare our new Strategic Plan for the next three years. This is a great opportunity for you to have your say about school matters and the direction and forecast of Ōmārama School for the next few years.

Briar McKerchar attended the Otago Cross Country event in Dunedin.

Congratulations for your superb effort and dedication to travel to Dunedin and attend this event. Briar placed 33rd and had a great day with the rain holding off. We are proud of you Briar.

Ahuriri Class

Last month when Mrs Holden was teaching in Ahuriri, they were looking at New Zealand travel websites to consider all the wonderful activities and places to visit in our little village. The students were making wonderful connections to their parents' place of work and were showing interest in gliding, A2O bike track, hot pools and places to fish and hunt.

As part of our local curriculum studies lupin plants were identified as being a symbolic plant of the local area. The students took great pride in sketching lupins, whilst paying attention to the intricate detail of such a plant. There is some great art talent in our school!

Clay Cliffs Class

Clay Cliffs had a go trying to bake caramel tarts, they didn't work out as hoped. The year 7 and 8s have been cooking in Twizel as part of their technology program. They have made courgette fritters and granola over the past couple of weeks. Ōmārama Rebels went to Oamaru to compete in the six-aside hockey tournament. They played well and managed to win two out of their five games.

Congratulations to Gemma who got most improved in Netball in her year 6 team and Charlotte most valuable player in her Netball team, Kurow Black.

This week we were looking at water and how it is treated, looked after and arrives at our taps. Students had a challenge scenario to complete involving building a filtration system, testing PH and removing dirt before delivering a certain percentage of water to each container.

Netball Celebration Gemma McMurtrie

Gemma is a keen netball player and has been attending all of her practices and games this year. She plays for the Twizel netball club. The season has just finished and Gemma has received a certificate and engraved trophy for the 'Most Improved Player'.

Congratulations Gemma - what a great achievement!



Ōmārama School contact details:
Phone: 03 438 9815

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Sunday 12 October, 10 am, at the Lindis Pass Scenic Reserve.

The meeting will be followed by work with Kowhai trees. If the weather is rainy, Sunday Oct. 19 is the back-up day. All are welcome. to come along to see what we do, and give us a hand.

Meet at base of Otago side. For parking, see the map on www.facebook.com/LindisPassConservationGroup/

**If you love this place,
vote to influence it.**



Be part of the decision. Vote

Ōmārama Gliding Club

University pilots invade Ōmārama

by Amy Smith, Otago University Gliding Club

The Otago University Gliding Club brought along seven new 'victims' to Ōmārama in mid-August.

On Saturday we were met by the new Pawnee (several Uni students were dismayed to find out that the colour scheme does not mean it is sponsored by McDonalds – potential business opportunity for OAL???) and an excited Gavin Wills, who heroically towed us for most of the day. He wanted to fly from dawn till dusk and had more energy than all the Uni students combined! Thank you, Gavin, for flying a staggering 18 tows in excellent conditions!

A bit of wave also made an appearance and gave each student the opportunity to soar – most flying for up to an hour with our dedicated instructors Terry Jones, Malcolm Wright and Phil Plane.

Malcolm took to attempting to beat personal bests in the classic Ōmārama Saddle and back run, showing off the mid-winter snow to several students (and only making one sick!) Every student had massive smiles on their faces afterwards thanks to the instructing team.

On Sunday, we also managed to show off the YSDCT's Winch and did 22 launches! A major thanks you to Bradan Foster, Ted McFadgen, Taylor Barry and Karen Morgan for making a fantastic launch point team. Ted, Bradan and Taylor joined us from the pre-existing Ōmārama Youth contingent and showed the Uni students what's what all weekend long.

Everyone was super quiet on the car ride home, so I took that as a sign of the fantastic weekend that it was!

Thanks so much to all the many volunteers that made it happen.



Ōmārama Residents' Association

September news, by Ruth Grundy

Former Residents' Association chairperson Lindsay Purvis's resignation from the committee at last month's meeting ended a short but busy tenure which encompassed a period of major change.

Lindsay was elected as chairperson of the committee at the October 2021 annual meeting following the resignation of Tony Chapman.

His election coincided with the arrival of Covid 19 in Ōmārama and the setting up of the Covid Community Care group.

He became the public face of the Ōmārama volunteers, fronting for the town in the many Zoom meetings held to keep agencies throughout the Waitaki district connected in their efforts to provide help to their communities.

Lindsay was instrumental in arranging the installation of the 'Lone Soldier' on the front of the hall building which was accompanied by the moving of the Memorial Rock from the town centre to the hall car park.

Lindsay with the help of wife Bev and Jemma Gloag helped fundraise to build the basketball ½ court at the centre.

In August 2022, the association undertook a major exercise to support the Ōmārama First Response in its bid to establish an enhanced first response. This was partially successful and ultimately lobbying helped effect some improvement to services.

At this time Lindsay was also elected Ōmārama and Districts Co-Response Trust chairman to acknowledge the community link between the two groups.

The RAOI constitution directs a chairperson may not hold the position for more than three years and so he stepped down from the role at last year's annual meeting. Recently, Lindsay directed council staff in the dispersal of \$125K of the Government's Better-off funding allocated to the development of the Ōmārama Masterplan with developments at the Ōmārama Community Centre, including \$70K to the upcoming carpark sealing project.

Former Residents' Association chairperson Lindsay Purvis hosts Waitaki District Mayor Gary Kircher for a community meeting about the Better-off funding grant in February 2024.



Annual Meeting NB change of date

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
Residents Association of Ōmārama Inc
7pm, Thursday, October 30, 2025
at the Ōmārama Community Centre
An invitation is extended to all

To include:

- * Election of Officers
 - * Presentation of Annual and Financial Reports
- General business
- * Ratification of new constitution
 - * Ratification of member's notice of motion for proposed bylaw to secure any funds from the dispersal for the agreed purpose

Vicky Chambers, secretary omarama.secretary@gmail.com
The minutes of the previous meeting are available from Vicky.

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

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

The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.

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



Ōmārama Community Garden

The Ōmārama school and community garden are raising funds by selling Kings Seeds. The list of fundraiser seeds is available from Jennie
Please email Jennie to place your order: Jenniehollows@hotmail.com
Orders close Monday, September 15, and are expected to be delivered at the end of the following week.

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

Anyone is welcome to pop along to the Community Centre and have a potter, and also to pop in any plants they may have ready to go in.

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

Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com

Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club
meets at
7.30pm on the first Monday
of each month
at the Kurow Hotel.

All welcome. Join the Facebook group.

Omarama Storage



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

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

Contact Bridget – bridgesp@xtra.co.nz
or Ph /txt 021572798

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

Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com

Care in the community

Ōmārama Community Care Group

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



Twizel Community Care Centre

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

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel

Phone: 03 435 0687

Email: admin@twizelcare.co.nz

Hours of opening: 9am - 3pm

Days of opening: Monday - Friday

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

Waitaki District Council September news

ICYMI Council meetings are recorded and can be found on its YouTube channel.

Elections 2025

The Ahuriri Ward, which includes Ōmārama ratepayers, will vote for mayor as there are four candidates for the one position which has been vacated by Gary Kircher. There will be no contest for Ahuriri Ward Councillor or the Ahuriri Community Board. The existing councillor and board members, who stood again for this term, have been elected unopposed.

Voters should have received papers now. Special voting continues to October 11. October 11 is Election Day and voting closes at 12 noon.

Candidate profiles are available on council's website.

NB Environment Canterbury have three candidates standing for two seats in its South Canterbury/Otuhithui constituency. They are: Peter Scott, Toni Severin and Nick Ward.

Loch Laird Labour Weekend liquor ban.

The council agreed yesterday to continue the practice of the past four years and place an alcohol ban on the upper terrace of Loch Laird and the foreshore between Loch Laird and Wildlife camp for Labour Weekend in 2025 to protect the community and improve safety.

District plan stop recommendations

The Waitaki District council has yesterday considered recommendations from the District Plan Review Subcommittee, relating to the Plan Stop legislation passed by the Government in August.

These include seeking exemptions for specific parts of the plan which relate to housing growth and subdivision, sites listed in the National Historic Landmark proposal by Heritage New Zealand, large industry zones for Macraes Mine, Pukeuri Freezing Works and Lean Meats, Energy, Infrastructure, Stormwater and Transport and others.

Exemption requests would then be made to the Minister for the Environment, and once responded to, the council will notify the community explaining the status of the Proposed District Plan.

\$400k in rates rebates returned in July and August

There were 188 more rates rebates processed by the council by end of August this year than in 2024/25 and more than \$400k in rebates were processed in July and August. The council encourages everyone who thinks they might qualify to try the Government's Rates Rebate Calculator: <https://www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/rates-rebate-calculator/>

More in-person customer services

The council plans to double the hours its in-person service desk is available from 4½ hours to 83 hours a week by the start of next year as a result of its Transformation programme. It says it will manage this change by using existing facilities and staff, along with new technology.

Locality officers

The council has employed locality officers to serve Waihemo, Ahuriri, Oamaru and Corriedale wards. The staff live in the areas they serve and will work with Community Boards and other groups in the particular ward.

Justices of the Peace

JPs are available by appointment to:

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

The service is free of charge.

To make your visit quick and easy:

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



Vicky Munro

Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



Alona Shaw

Omarama

027 773 4214

Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki



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

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

 Waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

Oamaru

127 Thames Street
03 434 7325

Wanaka

Spencer House Mall
12/31 Dunmore Street
03 443 4820

Authorised by M Anderson, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.





For all your agricultural needs and more:

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



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



PRE LAMB BLADE SHEARING

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

John Bruce
027 433 0679

Nigel Grant Fencing

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

**High quality workmanship
027 436 0964**



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

Info@swiftcontracting.co.nz

Swiftcontracting.co.nz

Steve 021 99 33 52





The difference between settling for a good result and celebrating a great one.

LJ Hooker continues to lead the way across the Waitaki and Mackenzie districts. With strong local knowledge and a track record of successful sales, we're proud to deliver great results for our clients, time and time again.

Call 03 435 0170 or scan the QR code to book your free property appraisal today.



 **LJ Hooker**
Mackenzie Country Real Estate Ltd MREINZ Licensed Real Estate Agent (REA 2008)

Team Twizel
Jess, Karan & Libby



Tall Poppy

REAL ESTATE

Gary is proud to be covering the Waitaki Valley – with **over three decades in the Real Estate industry** in the Waitaki, Central Otago and Mackenzie Country, selling residential, lifestyle & commercial property.

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

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

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



Gary Sutherland

Business Partner & Sales Consultant

027 432 6615

gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

Your
advertisement
could go here!

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



LICENSED AGENT

021 919 089

coralie.reid@oatps.nz



Licensed REAA 2008

www.coraliereid.nz



For all your hydraulic requirements

Sales, service, design,

hose fittings & spare parts

97 Racecourse Rd, Washdyke.

Phone 03 688 2902

www.scarlett-hydraulics.co.nz

CarpetPlus+

John Bennett

Owner Operator

Mackenzie and Waitaki Districts

13 Chain Hills Highway

Omarama

027 208 7383

john@carpetplus.co.nz

www.carpetplus.co.nz

+Carpet +Vinyl +Tiles +Laminate +Timber Floors

Michelle Ward

Registered Valuer

B Com (VPM) PG Dip Com (VFM)

ANZIV SPINZ

michelle@mackenzievaluations.co.nz

0274 329 015

Mackenzie Country Valuations



**T & J Golder Ltd
Omarama**

Travis 021 710305

For all your excavation
needs give us a call!

Landscaping,
Farm work, Building
sites and more.

Garden Diary - 'Sing a rebel song'

It's 6pm. Monday.

I'm standing at my favourite window watching the storms race up the mountains desperate for a distraction from the endless bad news streaming.

I click it off... and turn on the music.

Still looking out the window for the distraction I crave, instead I'm watching virile weeds grow, set seed, and burst, parachuting to all four corners, me helpless to act to stop the spread.

There's been a somewhat minor inconvenient and annoying first world problem in my corner of the world. I broke my right arm – no, not falling out of a tree! I had a tussle with the trailer. A six- year-old boy would have no problems with this, tho' his long-suffering parents might. I have a long-suffering husband.

Hence the sheer impatience, the all-consuming frustration at watching the weeds take over my world.

And too much time to sit and brood.

*"I turn the music up, I got my records on,
I shut the world outside until the lights come on."*

Fear and pain seed anxiety and anger. Misinformation spreads unchallenged. The wind howls around the garden. Even the blackbirds are brawling in the street.

"Maybe the streets alight, maybe the trees are gone."

Front-footing it cannot possibly be worse than hiding from the reality. I want to feel the chill on my face.

Walking up to the veggie garden the scent from the Golden Queen peach blossom follows me. I fear its promise will be snapped back with the frost.

As I pick what stems are left of purple sprouting broccoli I glance over at the daffodil lawn and just 'Wow' out loud, startling the starling, who is sitting iridescent in the cherry, from its purring and clicking into a sharp trill of agreement.

"I feel my heart start beating to my favourite song."

And the forecast is for yet more snow showers.

*"I turn the music up, I got my records on
From underneath the rubble sing a rebel
song..."*

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

*** excerpts from Coldplay, Every teardrop is a waterfall.





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

September 2025

Highest temperature: September 16, 19.1C

Lowest temperature: September 11, -4.6C

Most rainfall: September 17: 22.9 mm

Total rainfall for September: 93.1 mm

The Ōmārama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

omaramagazette@gmail.com

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