



Omarama Gazette

October 2020



Lake Ohau fire - so many to thank

For generations they'd feared it, for generations they've planned for it. But no one in their wildest dreams imagined it would be like this.

It's quieter in the Ohau basin now, the wind has stopped roaring for a bit. The constant drone of the combined helicopter and fixed-wing air attack has slowed. The media noise is dialling down. There was almost a frost this morning, cool and clear, and there's snow in the forecast. At last report the Lake Ohau fire is much closer to being 'contained'.

It's now New Zealand's largest wildfire by area - the Lake Ohau Fire perimeter is 48.8km. More than 40 homes have been destroyed – a village has been lost. And it has burnt through 5540ha since Sunday.

Tuesday afternoon, with the worst of the battle behind them a weary Grant and Rachael Murray, who farm neighbouring Ribbonwood Station and Shelton Downs, tell their story over once again for the Omarama Gazette.

It's one Grant has repeated to visiting media throughout the past days as they congregate at their farm gate for a look, and to catch a new angle. The Gazette's been invited because Grant just wants to say how very grateful the family is - Lochie is visiting a friend but Nick is home with them. The enormity of the battle they have fought over the past few days is starting to hit home. They're on auto-pilot. Tears are close but they are determined to take time to say thank you. "We want to thank all the locals."

They're both so tired they can't for the moment think of all those they want to thank, and they're worried they might miss someone out. *- continued over*

So many to thank, continued

There's Ramon Zeestraten who phoned them in the early hours to raise the alarm – they were in Geraldine and made an immediate dash back
“We could see it from Pukaki ...from Simons Hill.”
There was shepherd Bevan Forbes who opened the gates to allow stock to escape if they could.
‘He says we're not to go away again because something always goes wrong when we do,’ Grant said.
There were those neighbours who helped shift stock.
The fire crews, the helicopter pilots, the logging contractors who had been working up the road who turned their machinery to creating fire breaks.
The two diggers had “worked non-stop”.
“...at 6am he got on his bulldozer and hasn't got out of his seat yet.
“They got the ball rolling to get firebreaks in”
- The Wrinkly Rams, Four Square Omarama ... the list goes on.
There have even been offers of stock feed from down south, Grant said.
The days passed in a blur.
For the most part Rachael has been at the homestead organising food and supplies for the firefighters and facing the constant worry of not knowing where Grant was or what he was facing.
Grant said he was too busy to process the enormity of what was happening around them. He remembers it being dark with smoke the entire time.
The priority was to get the stock out and onto the safest country, that which had already burnt.
Because FENZ fire command had its hands full at Lake Ohau Village the Murrays did not hear from them until after lunch on Sunday.
“It was local effort that slowed it [the fire] down.”
There on the south side of the fire they managed to put in a 3km fire break which helped “but it did beat us at the top”.
At one point a more immediate source of water was needed.
“Three dams were put in pretty quick.”
The fire front came to within 2km to 3km north of Quailburn Rd.
“By Sunday afternoon it was wrapping around the side of the hill.”
Travelling up the Quailburn Rd you follow a trail of pink fire retardant right to their gates. The homestead garden, in full spring colour, is pink-tinted.
Just a stone's throw away from their home a line of pines has also been doused in retardant.
“If they hadn't sprayed that...they were worried the fire would have been across the kettle holes and headed straight for Omarama,” Grant said.
The irony was the increased funding and employment opportunities for wilding pine removal meant many more pines had been felled than would have been otherwise leaving slash in their wake and subsequent fuel for the flames.
Driven by horrific winds there was no rationale behind what the fire took and what it left behind
“It's amazing how it's burnt. We would clear a strip then it just curved around and came in again. It was all around us.”
He would just get sheep shifted out of danger and look back and it had moved in there.

A circle of beehives was left standing, while all around it burnt.

What comes next? They've not had time to think.

Insurance will cover some livestock losses, but they're not insured for the damage to fences and gates. Fixing those will be priority.

The Murrays lost between 100 and 180 ewes of a flock of 1800, and of the 2500ha they farm about half to two thirds is burnt. Lambing is about to begin. Mercifully, it was not yet fully underway.

And yet, the Murray's concern is for the wellbeing of the rest of the community.

Ohau Village evacuees left with nothing have returned to face the devastation.

"Napalmed," David Stone told a reporter.

But against all odds, some homes made it through. Abandoned pets have been found safe and well. Well wishes and gratitude have flowed across social media. Donations of all kinds have flooded in. As the initial shock wears off, the extent and severity of the blaze is still beyond comprehension. There have been many close calls, many, many acts of courage, and countless acts of heroism.

The village was prepared, but not for an event of this magnitude. Since its inception wildfire has been its greatest fear. Over the years fire has been a constant threat, the last of any significance was in 1995 when a burn-off got out of control. People thought that was big.

The community has focused on their fire plan. The threat is never far from their minds. One has a water tanker stationed on the property, others efficient sprinkler systems.

And there was that crucial siren.

"Distance [from help] is a huge thing," Grant said.

There's to be a debrief and there are lessons to be learned.

He'd like to see better communication, and perhaps a warning system for those in the Quailburn Valley. There needs to be "better clearance" - defensible space, between a property and fuels that will burn.

It's not yet summer and it's by no means dry. Springs and creeks run high through the property.

"In the last fortnight we've had 75mm of rain and four inches of snow. The water table is chocka and look what happened," Grant said.



We'll do what we can to help - Mayor

A mayoral relief fund has today been set up for those who wish to donate to help those affected by the Lake Ohau fires.

Waitaki mayor Gary Kircher, speaking to the Omarama Gazette this morning said he had spent most of the past few days with the Lake Ohau Village evacuees and would be returning to see them again today.

"I feel quite privileged to be there for the community. They have been an amazing group of people. They have gone through heck of a lot. There has been this stoicism and support for each other and gratitude for the support from the community, the wider community and the New Zealand Community. We'll be doing what we can to help them rebuild and make it as safe as possible for the future."

Yesterday, he told meeting of the Waitaki District Council via video link from Twizel the effects of the blaze on homes in the village had been "very sobering to see".

"It was one of the worst things I have had to do."

When the Waitaki District Council was in charge of rural fire fighting a fire plan was drawn up for Lake Ohau Village by the council's rural fire and civil defence management - Steve Couper and Chris Raine - in conjunction with the community, he said.

Recently, the residents had contacted Fire and Emergency New Zealand to get that updated. "The fact no people were injured is a minor miracle"

Ohau resident Craig Ovenden was the last out and made sure everyone else was out before driving through flames to get to safety, Mr Kircher said.

"There are a lot of stories like that. The community has banded together and looked out for each other."

Mr Kircher said many of the residents intended to rebuild. A lot of "clean-up work" would be required and there was a need to look at "what the recovery might look like".

On Wednesday morning Mr Kircher said that last week deputy mayor Melanie Tavendale had attended a meeting with Environment Canterbury when a plan to remove the wildings in the area over the next three years was discussed. "We'll be pushing for that to go forward." To date funding had been made available largely for reduction on public land, but he would be pushing for them to be removed from private land also.

"A small village was down on the priority list, we need to lift that, if possible.

"Another part is seeing what worked and what didn't, and what worked with their own [the residents'] plantings," Mr Kircher said.

Photo: Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher speaks to a meeting of the Waitaki District Council via Zoom from Twizel



If you would like to donate to support those affected by the Ohau fire, the official bank account is:

Ohau Relief –
Ref Ohau Bank account:
02 0940 0156400 000

Lake Ohau fire - emergency contacts

PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE

The Waitaki Emergency Operations Centre is working with partner agencies to assist those affected by the Lake Ohau Fire. For more information contact Waitaki Emergency Operations welfare staff on 027 213 1508. The link to the page is: <https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/news-and-public-notice/news/Pages/waitaki-fire-emergency.aspx>

For latest updates on the wildfire situation, please check the Fire and Emergency NZ Canterbury Facebook page.

Newsletter for Residents and Ratepayers affected by the Lake Ohau fire #2 October 7, 2020

This email comes to you on behalf of the Waitaki Civil Defence Controller Murray Linwood. We've sent it to you because we understand you have been directly affected by the fire. It includes an update from today's briefing – today's information is quite lengthy.

- We are working on a full contact list for residents and ratepayers affected by the Lake Ohau Village fire so please forward this newsletter on to anyone who you know who you think may not have received it themselves.
- In-person welfare support is available at the Civil Defence Centre at the Twizel Events Centre, open tomorrow 8am to 5pm
- For those in the Ohau / Twizel area there will be a meeting for residents at 12pm daily at the Twizel Events Centre this week through to Sunday. It's an opportunity to hear directly from Fire and Emergency as well as our civil defence team, and to ask questions. Those who are unable or prefer not to come will receive the same information via this daily email.
- Local MP Jacqui Dean is planning to attend the daily meeting this Thursday. Jacqui and a member of her team will be available for individual appointments if you wish.
- We are preparing an information sheet for residents and ratepayers that will be available by this Friday with more detailed information.
- We will be putting information on this web page over time <https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/news-and-public-notice/news/Pages/waitaki-fire-emergency.aspx>
- Please let us know what we can do to support you, as we don't know what we don't know. Thanks to those who have already made contact via email. We're aiming to give everyone a timely response.

Summary of Wednesday's residents' and property owners' briefing

Welfare assistance

- A team from the Red Cross has arrived today and is available to provide "psychological first aid." Their team leader is Kathy O'Neill. You can contact her on 03 688 6961 or 027 272 1983 and by email Kathy.oneill@redcross.org.nz. You're able to talk to their team at the Twizel Events Centre between 8am and 5pm daily.
- The Southern District Health Board says you can phone or text 1737 (<https://1737.org.nz>) for free any time to talk to a trained counsellor. You can make a one-off anonymous call or if you consider it might be useful to call back another time then request a case number so that they can try get the same person to save telling

Lake Ohau fire - emergency contacts, continued

your situation again.

- The DHB also advises that if you do find stress levels are causing you to lose sleep or having other impacts such as straining family relationships or drinking more, talk with your GP or a trusted health professional.
- We have received offers of accommodation from many people. If you will be travelling to visit or access the site please contact our welfare team to access this accommodation.
- A variety of funds have been established to collect donations to support survivors of the fire. Residents at the meeting today suggested the community have some discussions on how these funds might be used. That conversation will continue.
- We believe that the Warehouse has donated \$1800 worth of clothing, which is being delivered to the events centre. If you are in the area, you are welcome to come and select any items that are of use to you. We will let you know when they are delivered.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand

- The fire situation has improved from Tuesday and thermal imaging has not identified new hot spots in the village itself, though there are some elsewhere. Around 50 firefighters (17 crews) plus heavy machinery are still working on the fire. Their objectives are to secure the fire perimeter, assess dangerous trees and manage hotspots. Aircraft weren't used today but are on standby.
- Fire crews will be in the village again tonight and drones will also be used to identify hotspots again.
- FENZ is working on safe / managed access for people whose property has been destroyed to retrieve items from the debris before the clean-up starts. They are identifying the hazards and making a plan for safe access. Hazards include loose debris, toxins and potentially asbestos dust, as well as hidden hazards such as old buried septic tanks.
- Good discussions between agencies FENZ, Insurers and Waitaki District Council on progress for joint debris cleanup continue.
- High winds are forecast on Saturday.
- Cause of fire not established but investigation is progressing.

Civil Defence response

- We know we have not yet responded to all the queries we have received from affected people. Our apologies, we are working on this and we have more staff on site in Twizel now.
- FENZ continue to run this response at present, with Waitaki Civil Defence proving welfare support. We are preparing for when responsibility is handed over to Waitaki Civil Defence to lead.
- Network Waitaki, Chorus and Waitaki District Council are checking infrastructure to ensure people can return safely as soon as possible. We expect to have an update on damage to the water supply, sewerage system and roads Thursday. Chorus reports that their network is intact.
- There will be a significant amount of debris to be removed from the village. We are working on where this can be taken and also looking at how the removal can be managed – the experience from the Christchurch earthquake suggests that having one contractor undertaking this for everyone may be the most cost-effective and efficient option.

Recycling and compacting waste is also being looked at. We are working with the Insurance Council to coordinate insurance activities and see how costs can be aggregated.

Insurance

- From today, insurance assessors have been able to access the area. If your agent has yet to visit, please advise them they will need to report to the forward control point with identification, then they will be escorted by Fire and Emergency New Zealand.
- Cost of cleanup is with each policy holder, but a co-ordinated cleanup should be less expensive.
- The cleanup will be a tendered job and the final decision on the tender will be with the Insurance Council.
- If you are intending to retrieve items from the debris please also talk with your insurer so they are informed of your plans.

Managed access to properties

- Over 30 ratepayers and residents whose properties were undamaged in the fire were able to return briefly Wednesday to collect essential items. People with damaged properties have been able to drive past the properties to view the situation for their property. The managed access is provided by Fire and Emergency personnel, working with our Waitaki welfare team to prioritise those with the most urgent needs.
- Civil Defence is working with FENZ on the criteria that will need to be met before residents and ratepayers have unrestricted access to their properties.
- No timeframe yet for unrestricted access.
- MYTH BUSTER: residents and property owners have not been given permission to sift through debris on site. Debris may have been examined by fire investigators and insurance assessors, which may be the source of this rumour.
- Some residents with properties outside the immediate area of Lake Ohau Village will have access to their properties in the next few days. That is a decision made by FENZ

Contacts

The Waitaki Emergency Operations Centre is working with partner agencies to assist those affected by the Lake Ohau Fire. Staff names have been provided but due to shift change you may speak with another staff member.

Waitaki District Council welfare support contact, 027 213 1508

Ministry of Social Development, 0800 559 009

Otago Rural Support Trust (support for farmers) Andrea Ludemann 027 659 6800 or 0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

Victim Support 0800 842 846 or Kelly Katene 027 53 00074

Federated Farmers Nick Abbott 021 805 788

Please contact your insurance company if you haven't already done so

Waitaki Emergency Operations Centre contacts

For general enquires please contact admin@waitaki.org

Courts prove popular training grounds



Above: Omarama's Junior hockey team – the Omarama Lynx – enjoy a warm spring afternoon at practice on the Omarama Sports Courts.

There are nine in the team who played each Wednesday this season at the North Otago Hockey Association turf in Oamaru throughout the season.

Between 15 and 20 children of all ages attended the regular practices at the sports courts under coach Becky Martin.

North Otago Hockey Association awarded most improved player to Pippa Anderson and most valuable player was Maggie Radford.

Early voting underway

THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION AND REFERENDUMS

Vote now in the General Election and referendums.

Find your nearest voting place at vote.nz or call 0800 36 76 56.

vote.nz

ELECTORAL COMMISSION
© Electoral Commission

Advanced voting for the General Election is underway and continues through to Election Day on Saturday October 17.

On election day the following polling booths will be open:

In Omarama - Omarama School,
Saturday, October 17, 9am - 7pm.

In Otematata - Otematata Community Hall,
Saturday, October 17, Oct 9am - 7pm.

Last turn in the limelight, he says

He says it's his last turn in the limelight, he's not doing it again.

"I'm getting past it... I hope they dag it before I get there."

Former Omarama resident and world-renowned blade shearer Peter Casserly was today "doing up a pair of shears" for his next celebrity turn – shearing 'Gizzy Shrek'. The Gisborne 'Shrek' – hermit sheep - recently found living in a forestry block adjoining Wairakaia Station at Muriwai has been likened to the merino wether found on Bendigo Station near Tarras in 2004.

Since her discovery, she too has attracted national and international media attention. This will not be the first time Peter has been called on to shear a celebrity hermit sheep.

He hit the headlines when he was the one chosen to divest Shrek of his 27kg fleece. In October 2018 it was Suzy.

Suzy was found in the Mapiu district, south of Te Kuiti and was shorn in Masterton at The Wool Shed, the national museum of sheep and shearing.

Suzy's fleece had the longest staple - at 55cm - Peter had seen but although organisers went for the world record, he thinks they may have missed out on it.

Gizzy Shrek – a Romney-Coopworth cross - is also being put forward for that title, Peter said.

Peter understands her wool maybe prove to be 60cm in length.

Gizzy Shrek will be shorn next Friday afternoon at the Poverty Bay A & P Spring Show.

"All the gun shearers will be at Waimate [The New Zealand Spring Shearing competition in Waimate]" – which is why he was chosen to do the honours, he said.

Peter, a former world champion, still holds the blade-shearing record he set in 1976, after shearing 353 sheep in a nine-hour day in Mid Canterbury.

The weight record initially claimed by Shrek, is now held by 'Chris the Sheep', from Canberra, Australia.



AHURIRI CATCHMENT COMMUNITY GROUP

PRESENTS WESTPAC AMBASSADOR

SIR JOHN KIRWAN ON WELLBEING & RESILIENCE



To secure your free seat please email:

Fleur@mckenzieca.co.nz

A world class winger, JK's contribution to rugby, both as a player and a coach, has been immense. JK is one of the highest try scorers in international rugby union history and still holds a couple of NZ rugby records. The other side of the story is while he was scoring tries and becoming a rugby legend, he was also battling depression.

JK's personal journey with depression has led him to be actively involved in mental health awareness campaigns in New Zealand. For his incredible commitment and work in this space JK was appointed as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to mental health in the 2007 Queen's Birthday Honours. And in the 2012 Queen's Birthday and Diamond Jubilee Honours, JK was appointed a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to mental health and rugby.

SPONSORED BY:



Come along to one or both! RSVP essential.

DATE: 11th November 2020

LOCATION: Buscot Station

AGENDA: 4:30 PM Sir John Kirwan talk

-The Woolshed Tour-

6:00 PM Fundraising BBQ & Bar

7:00 PM Show starts

Book tickets for The Woolshed Tour here:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2020/the-woolshed-tour-lifes-bitch-mel-parsons/omarama>

LIFE'S A BITCH + MEL PARSONS
The Woolshed Tour
SOUTH ISLAND OCT 14TH - NOV 22ND

BRAND NEW SHOW

THE UNMISSABLE NIGHT OF MUSIC, THEATRE + COMEDY IS BACK!

BOOK NOW

TICKETS ONLINE AT [eventfinda](https://www.eventfinda.co.nz)

5-STAR TOURISM | [visitnz](https://www.visitnz.co.nz) | [ANZCO](https://www.anzco.co.nz)

Award recognises extensive contribution

When we talk Monday morning her voice sounds scratchy and tired.

She apologises, its because of all the smoke

Alongside other volunteer crews she spent most of Sunday fighting the Lake Ohau wild fire.

The Omarama Volunteer Fire-brigade was first to the Lake Ohau Village just after 3.30am Sunday morning. She was not home again until about 6pm.

Last week, Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade and First Response volunteer Liz Komen was, in her absence, conferred a Waitaki District Council Citizens Award in recognition of almost three decades volunteering with the service.

Her daughter Lee Anderson accepted the award on her behalf. Her mother, Isobel Wray and husband Mike were also there.

However, Liz was unable to attend because bad weather prevented her from travelling from the West Coast where she works.

She spends seven days at a time at her home in Omarama on her "days off" when she volunteers for the fire brigade's First Response, and is called on to attend mostly medical emergencies, mostly motor vehicle accidents, from the Lindis Pass to Ruataniwha and as far east as Otematata.

Liz was one of the first cohort of eight from Omarama to train as fire service co-responders as they were called.

For the seven days that follow she is on duty and on-call 24 hours, including the weekend. She is Haast rural nurse specialist, and St John Prime (Primary Response in Medical Emergencies) Nurse.

The award was "very unexpected", she said.

"You just do what you do, you just don't think about it.

"I just do it for the satisfaction it brings."

And the feeling of being part of a team.

She really prefers not to be singled out for work they all do.

As Prime nurse she does have to lead a team but here in Omarama she's "part of the team", she said.

"Good team, good leadership, good humour", the experiences shared helps build the team.

Liz's community involvement also includes being a member of the Omarama Rural Fire Team and the Omarama Search and Rescue.

Omarama Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper said the recognition given to Liz had been an "honour for the whole team".

"You know she was at the call yesterday?"

She is a valued team member and highly valued by the Omarama community for what she does for us," Greg said.



Unique heritage showcased for fundraiser

Twizel Kindergarten is planning a day out to explore its town's unique heritage of hearth and home.

In November, it will host a house tour of Twizel to raise funds needed to modernise its outdoor play area.

The tour includes about 10 homes from across the architectural spectrum.

Each home showcases different facets of the unique and remarkable story of the town.

There is the twentieth century sheep and beef station homestead still the hub of farming family life five generations later.

There is the remodelled prototypical 'Twizel House', one of thousands which mushroomed overnight, row upon orderly row, over the Mackenzie plain in the early 70s when the town was created to house workers who constructed the ambitious hydro schemes of the day.

As well the tour takes you forward with a new generation of architecture, opening the window on future house design celebrating and treasuring the great Mackenzie back-country.

Twizel Kindergarten committee chairperson Sarah Waldie said the tour showcased some of the best examples of Mackenzie Country living in a bid to raise those all-important funds.

"The playground upgrade has been in the pipeline for a long time, and the House Tour gives us an opportunity to view some beautiful houses around Twizel and also help us complete a really great project for the Kindergarten."

It is about 10 years since any major improvements have been made to the outdoor play area.

The next step was to take the concept from design to reality and this meant bringing in the bigger diggers. It is estimated the project will cost about \$30,000.

The concept is to create a natural play area in keeping with the surroundings - the rivers and the mountains - using all-natural materials.

"It reflects our commitment to Enviro Schools and sustainability, which is valued with in our teaching and learning, and in our wider community."

It will be somewhere for the children to play and explore their natural environment and learn, with areas like a bike/trolley track, and a 'river bed' to explore.

Spending time outdoors is a big part of who we are as a community and the children probably spend around 75% of their time outside, Mrs Waldie said.

Some work has begun – with the help of volunteers three "huge rocks" from Buscot Station have been installed as have four water barrels in a new pebble area.

Already children are using the space for imaginative and creative play, Mrs Waldie said.

Moves to establish a kindergarten in Twizel - a Ministry of Works Upper Waitaki hydro scheme construction town, began in the early 1970s.

The kindergarten moved to its present site in December 1989 with the outdoor play area developed in stages as funds were available.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1096470697417286>

or search 'Twizel House Tour' on Facebook

(See poster over)

THREE HOMES INCLUDED IN THE TOUR

A new build, architecturally-designed holiday house.

This holiday home, completed in 2018, on 8500sqm is a stone's throw from Lake Ruataniwha, with unobstructed views to the Ben Ohau Range and was designed by architect Barry Connor and built by Christchurch builder Mitch Frost of Frost Builders Ltd. PHOTO: NZ House & Garden Photographer: Paul McCredie.



Century-old Family Ben Ohau Station Homestead

The Ben Ohau homestead was built in 1903 after the original sod and thatched house (built in 1857) was destroyed by fire.

The new homestead was built in the Victorian Villa-style of the era, with double-paned sash windows, Rimu joinery, and Kauri doors and fireplace surrounds.

Photo: supplied

A 'Twizel House' - a remodelled original 'Dam Dwellers' home.

In 1994, the decision to buy an original Twizel house, is one Gaynor and Bruce Sim will never regret. This tiny house become their holiday bach until 2008, when they moved from Timaru to reside permanently in Twizel.

When they bought it the 70 square metre, 3-bedroom house was still in its 'original package', apart from the newly painted pink/brown kitchen and boldly coloured Axminster carpet adorning the floors. The bathroom, measuring 1.5 metre square, with brown linoleum walls, surely was original! The fireplace, the size of a shoebox, per-





Twizel House Tour

A TWIZEL KINDERGARTEN FUNDRAISER

\$60 per Ticket

Saturday, 7 November 2020

10am to 3pm

No Children Please

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

**TWIZEL KINDERGARTEN, TWIZEL 4 SQUARE,
HEAD KANDY, PHONE SARAH 0272052125 OR EMAIL
TWIZELKINDYFUNDRAISER@OUTLOOK.COM**

TOTAL INTERIORS
SHOP & SHOWROOM

presents

AN EVENING OF ACOUSTIC MUSIC

with

KAYLEE BELL



4PM - 7PM
22 CIRRUS PLACE
OMARAMA

24
OCTOBER

TICKETS \$35 AVAILABLE FROM WWW.KATESNAKE.COM

TICKETS INCLUDE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS, LIVE MUSIC & ACCESS TO TOTAL INTERIORS 2020/21 SEASON

FOR FURTHER INFO PHONE +64 27 438 7853 OR EMAIL INFO@KATESNAKE.COM

The Noticeboard

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

Kurow Medical Centre Omarama Clinic at the Omarama Community Centre, is open Tuesdays, 8.30am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm. 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

St Thomas' Omarama Church Community: Services and communion are held on a regular basis, usually monthly at 10.30am on the Friday of the second weekend of the month at the home of a

parishioner. Contact: Kay Verheul 03 438 9538.

The Omarama Community Library is open 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

The Omarama Golf Club Saturdays, cards in 12.30pm, tee-off 1pm. Club Captain Adrian Tuffley, 027 347 8276. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

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

For more information phone president Andrea Aubrey, 03 438 9863; vice president Ruby Milestone, 03 438 9401, secretary Carla Hunter, 03 976 0504

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.

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

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

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Omarama Plunket Committee: Petrina Paton 027 345 6192

Car Seat Rentals: Christine, phone: 03 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

Breastfeeding Works: Claire Hargest-Slade 03 684 3625, 021 493 863 clairhs@me.com



In case of emergency: to prevent any confusion about the location of Lake Ohau Alpine Village in an emergency, the following points should be noted:
When phoning 111, advise that Lake Ohau is in South Island and the nearest cross road is State Highway 8 and Lake Ohau Road. Also mention that Lake Ohau Alpine Village is on the shore of Lake Ohau, and is 20 mins (40 km) from both Twizel and Omarama. This will assist the operator to find the required information to enter location in the system and allowing the call to progress to the next screen in the system.

**To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website.
[www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/
omaramagazette.nz](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/omaramagazette.nz)**

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

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

**The November issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, November 4, 2020.**

**Please submit copy
by October 30.**

**Advertising pays for
production and distribution.**

**To find out about publication and close-off dates,
and how much it costs to place your advertisement,
please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or
email omaramagazette@gmail.com**

OMARAMA GOLF CLUB



Labour Weekend Fun Day

4 Ball Best Ball Golf Tournament

All proceeds to the Omarama Fire Brigade

EVERYONE WELCOME - golfers and non-golfers
(Don't be shy, come have a go and support a great cause.
We will pair you with a partner if you don't have one.)

Saturday 24th October 2020

Cost \$30.00 pp

Cards in by 12.30 p.m Tee Off 1p.m.

BBQ on course and meal afterwards

**Prizes, raffles and special golf membership deals
on the day**

Contact Adrian Tuffley 027 347 8276 for information

The Community Reports

FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Hi everyone,

Firstly I would like to congratulate Liz Komen on her Citizen's Award. Well done! and nice to see some recognition for all the time put in over a number of years.

The wind has arrived and we have moved into a restricted fire season, so a permit is required for any outdoor fire. Please check the FENZ web site.

Just a reminder we are in daylight saving, so I hope you tested your smoke alarms to make

sure they are in good working condition.

As we move into summer the BBQ will be fired up but before lighting it is a good idea to check connections to make sure there are no gas leaks. The best way is to spray some soapy water on the joints. Please don't use a lighter or matches you could end up with more than singed eye brows.

- Stay Safe, Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper

- Keep yourselves safe. Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper

FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month

Omarama Rodeo Club

ANNUAL MEETING

The Omarama Rodeo Club
will hold its annual meeting

7pm, October 28, 2020

at Boots & Jandals Hotel

Omarama

Justices of the Peace

The JP service is free of charge
To make your visit quick and easy:
* Check a JP can complete your

documentation
* Do not sign anything beforehand
* Do take photo identification
* take the original as well as the copy to



Malcolm McMillan
Lake Ohau Village
03 438 9798 027 4389798



Vicky Munro
Otematata
03 438 7855 021 438745



Georgie Robertson
Omarama
03 438 9554 027 4861525



Alona Shaw
Omarama
027 773 4241

Omarama Community Library



OMARAMA COMMUNITY
LIBRARY

We are Open

The Omarama Community
Library
is open 9am to 10am,
Wednesdays and Saturdays
at the
Omarama Community
Centre.

Contact: Yvonne Jones 027 476 7473.



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)



Notary Public Services Affidavits and Declarations

David Stone, Lake Ohau

03 438 9653, 027 490 9118, david@stone.org.nz

Omarama Residents' Association

From the last meeting...

There were nine people present

There has been no feedback from the New Zealand Transport Agency or Ahuriri Community Board regarding several safety concerns raised by the Omarama community.

There has been no information received about when the library relocation will take place.

The Omarama junior hockey team is in need of hockey nets for practice sessions at the sports courts. Ahuriri Community Board member Ross Menzies said there were funds available and he would advise how to apply for those.

A new gate will be installed on the eastern side of the sports courts to allow for access from the car park.

Sundry items of kitchen equipment have been purchased and clearly labelled as hall property.

Waitaki District Councillor Ross McRobie told the committee the community should put forward ideas for any one-off "big ticket items" for inclusion in the Waitaki District Council's long term plan.

Hank Verheul had attended the Alps 2 Ocean forum in Twizel where results from a survey about what visitors found unwelcoming about towns along the trail were presented. The dangerous congestion of traffic at the entrance to Omarama was top of the list, he said. Also there were a lack of picnic areas. Picnic tables could be placed under the trees east of the shopping centre on the green verge. There are also no drinking fountains in town. Any fountains installed would need to be frost-proofed.

The block wall at the front of the Community Hall is crumbling due to moisture damage. The wall will need to be replaced and the garden bed behind it removed which would also extend the number of parking spaces at the Hall.

Quotes will be sought for replacing the wall.

The next meeting is

Thursday, October 29, 2020.

to follow the annual meeting

An invitation is extended to all

Contacts: Tony Chapman, chairperson, 027 242 8605.

Yvonne Jones, secretary, 027 476 7473.

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, Omarama 9448.
The association's email address
is omarama.committee@gmail.com

OMARAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more information about hall hire and availability please contact Charlotte Newfield, 027 940 1648, or email charlotte.omarama@gmail.com
Keys and fobs are collected from Charlotte



Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association Inc
is 7.30 pm, Thursday, October 29, 2020
at the Omarama Community Centre

An invitation is extended to all

- * Yes, we fundraise - it's fun.
- * Help care for our Community Centre and Memorial Hall
- * Join to lobby on issues we care about

It's about all of us
Let's work together to make the difference

One meeting, one hour, once a month

Omarama is at the heart of what we do



Omarama School end of term three assembly, September 2020

By Ruth Grundy

More than 100 sat in assembly at the Omarama Memorial Hall last month – something which would have been impossible a week earlier.

That was an observation made by principal Bevan Newlands as he welcomed family and friends to the end-of-term school mini-production and awards presentations. The school roll had grown through the term from 53 to 58, and it would begin term four with 61 pupils, Mr Newlands said.

The packed hall was treated to a medley of song, dance and theatre from well-known productions; Pippin, Cats, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and Hamilton.

Mackenzie Performing Arts tutor Michelle was able to provide pupils with free tuition for the term thanks to a grant from national arts development agency Creative New Zealand.

The year 8 pupils held a cake stall school fundraiser as part of their leadership program and raised \$283 for Friends of Omarama School.

Examples of the pupils art work and term projects were also on display.

AWARDS

Sir Peter Blake young leader award: Ebony Scobie

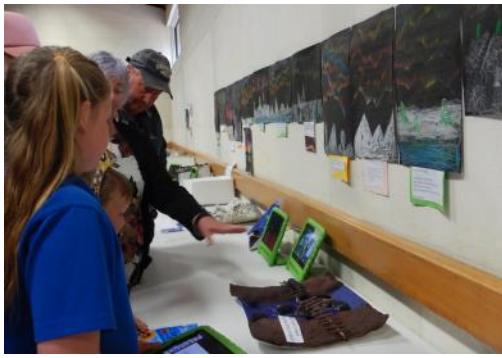
North Otago Hockey Association awards: most improved player Pippa Anderson; most valuable player Maggie Radford.

Omarama School LIGHT awards

Junior school: Learner, Wyatt French; Inclusive, Briar McKerchar; Growth, Lockey Harding; Happy helper, Arlo Zeestraten; Truth James Hunter.

Middle school: Learner: Francis Garbe-Boris; Inclusive, Lucy Radford, Growth, Samantha Ralston; Happy helper, Amelia Wilson; Truthful, Brydie Ferguson.

Senior school: Learner, Ben Hay; Inclusive, Pippa Anderson; Growth, Jake McCabe; Happy helper, Jack Doree; Truthful, Isla McLeod





Omarama School's Big Fundraising Event

The Amazing 5 is back!

Friday, November 27, 2020

- but if you think you know what it's about,
think again...

it's the Survival Edition!

This year teams will have to pull out all their survival skills to
get over the finish line.

Have **YOU** got what it takes?

- Entries open now and limited to 12 teams -

Contact:

Facebook @theamazing5omarama | email: bogroystation@gmail.com

Omarama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

Spring is here, the grass is growing and so are our membership numbers. A big welcome to the following new members Aaron Ferguson, Bean (Nayland Smith), Hank Verheul and Ollie Turner. Great to see Omarama locals joining in the golf club fun (or frustration depending on your game that day!). Anyone interested in joining the club, we have a variety of options, feel free to get in touch as daylight saving is here, so get out and enjoy the longer days.

It's been pleasing the number of green fee players visiting our club for the first time from all around New Zealand. Visitors have been pleasantly surprised, and complimentary, of the course standard for a country club. This month we had the agronomist visit the club to discuss further on going green improvements. New flag poles, flags and tee markers are being installed so we are all set for a great spring/summer.

Due to daylight saving, Saturday Club day cards are now in by 12.30 p.m. and tee off 1 p.m.

Below: A local Omarama golf member (who shall remain anonymous!) was spotted "MOA" (mower) hunting in golf club stream. It appears the newer "mower" variety is easier to find than its predecessor the MOA. Guess his mower "L" plates will remain on for a bit longer until he learns to cross the bridges. Photo: supplied.



St Thomas's Church Community

From the annual meeting,
Friday, September 18, at the Omarama Memorial Hall

Former church joint management committee chairperson Rev Ken Light, who retired in June has been replaced by Archdeacon Michael Godfrey as the Anglican Church representative on the committee.

Interim chairperson Jan Thomas, of Omarama, has been confirmed in the role for the coming year.

Kay Verheul, also of Omarama, continues as treasurer.

Committee secretary Lee Kearon will be ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church and inducted into the parish of St. Stephen's, Kurow, in November

Lorna Utting, the Kurow Presbyterian Church representative has stood down.

In her chairperson's report Jan thanked Lee and Kay for their work, Struan Munro, of Otematata, and Lorna Utting for their continued support, and Hank Verheul for building maintenance work.

Following the closure of the Information Centre and Tourism Waitaki subsequently terminating its lease, cycle tour operator Trail Adventures, who had been sub-leasing from Tourism Waitaki, has agreed to continue to lease the building from October to April.

"Although the amount they are offering is significantly lower than the previous agreement, Kay and I have crunched the numbers and believe we can cover costs. We have monies set aside for maintenance ... and a small reserve has built up thanks to the Tourism Waitaki lease," Jan said.

Jan and Kay would like to see part of the building used by the community.

Although it was considered by Waitaki Libraries to house the Omarama Community library, Waitaki Libraries decided to continue to use rooms at the Community Centre.

"In light of Covid-19 we have a number of people in town who have lost their jobs or are working less hours, and I believe many business folk are operating under additional stress. This causes me to wonder what role this church can play in this community with the resources it has."

The committee agreed to pay for the church furniture to be stored for another year. However, the ongoing cost of storage could not be justified if the furniture was not to be used in the future. The committee agreed to consult with the community about next steps. It wants to know if anyone can store the furniture for free.

Those who donated furniture would be asked if they wanted it returned to them.

Otherwise it could be sold. The furniture was created a "set" and could be advertised sold as such.

The church committee has agreed to investigate the true southern boundary of the property. Questions had been raised about its exact location and if it could be moved further north it would provide more room on TA Munro Lane for school traffic and parking.

Contacts:

Ven Dr Michael Godfrey

022 342 9977 or Michael.dylanfreak@gmail.com

educator@calledsouth.org.nz

Committee Secretary: Lee Kearon

Phone: 021 250 1060 or email: lee.kearon@gmail.com

The Waitaki Newcomers Network

Contact: Christine Dorsey
027 242 8643.
waitaki@newcomers.co.nz
Abacus House,
102 Thames Street,
Oamaru
03 434 7544.

www.newcomers.co.nz

**'The Community Reports' is
dedicated to news
from clubs, groups and sports teams.
Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com**

The Otematata Chronicle

is published on the third Wednesday of each month.

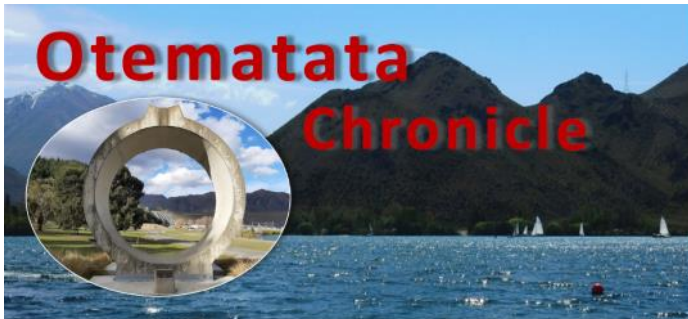
The next issue is Wednesday, October 21, 2020

The close-off for this is Friday, October 16

The Chronicle is emailed to subscribers.

If you would like to subscribe please:

email otematatachronicle@gmail.com or phone 021 294 8002



Waitaki District Council - news in brief

Lake Ohau Road speed limit

The Waitaki District Council has agreed to lower the Lake Ohau Rd speed limit to 60 kph from the point at which the A2O trail emerges on to the road to Lake Ohau Station.

The road was seeing increasing traffic from Alps 2 Ocean cyclists and other visitors moving off SH8 to explore more remote corners of the district.

In December, 2018 Lake Ohau Station manager Tom Moore raised concerns with the Ahuriri Community Board about issues caused by increased traffic on the road - which is unsealed at the top end and asked for the speed limit to be reviewed.

About the same time the council began a district-wide review of speed limits in Waitaki which went out for consultation twice.

The speed limit had been lowered temporarily to 70kph where the trail emerges onto the road up as far as Lake Ohau lodge, but as the tar seal changed to gravel the speed limit reverted to 100kph.

In April last year, after receiving a report from consultants Stantec the council agreed to change the speed limits of 20 roads in the district, including Lake Ohau Rd, which it suggested should be 80kph.

Last month the council's asset committee endorsed final recommendation to council except for the recommendation for Lake Ohau Rd which it wanted changed from the 80kph, initially recommended, to 60kph.

Ahuriri Ward Councillor Ross McRobie asked council officers why the speed limit should be set at 80kph "given the number of A2O cyclists using it" and given the temporary speed limit was 70kph.

"What is the justification to increase it to 80kph?"

Council roading manager Mike Harrison said the recommendation had been made to fit with the New Zealand Transport Agency guidelines.

The NZTA, which had to give final approval to the new speed limits, favoured either 60kph or 80kph for rural roads similar to Lake Ohau Rd, he said.

Councillor Colin Wollstein said he would also support the move to 60kph "because it is a very narrow road that goes up hill and down dale." There were no verges "nowhere for cyclists to go".

The recommendation was approved at Tuesday's council meeting.

Footpath survey

Waitaki District Council staff are at present surveying all 166 km of the district's footpaths from Palmerston to Omarama checking on their condition, finding repairs needed and any safety issues and reporting them back to the council.

Waste Management Survey

The council is asking for feedback about what services are used by households, businesses, and farms to dispose of their waste and how satisfied they are with these services. The council will use the results of the survey to help determine whether the present system needs to change. Key Research, an independent research consultant, are conducting this survey and your responses will remain confidential.

Residents survey

The council report on its annual residents survey has been published on its website. It measures satisfaction with council services and facilities.

The telephone survey of 401 residents taken four times between last October and June records overall satisfaction levels have improved from 41% in 2019 to 46% this year.

The summary notes trust, rates spending and unsealed roads are areas which need improvement.

Ahuriri Ward residents ranked the council's 'reputation' benchmark at 'acceptable' between 60 and 79.

In the past year, satisfaction with the mayor and councillors rose eight percentage points to 72%.

However, satisfaction with the performance of the Ahuriri Community Board dropped 17 percentage points to 38% over the past year.

There have been two by-elections in the ward – the council's largest by area and smallest by number - in the past year.

Also, because Covid-19 restrictions interrupted the meeting schedule few meetings have been held.

Ahuriri Community board chairperson Vicky Munro said now there was a full board and consistency with meeting times residents should see an improvement.

“We have really good people spread through the ward and great communities to work with.

“Since the last election the board has made a concerted effort to engage with all communities, with board members regularly attending residents association meetings and other events,” Mrs Munro said.

In other stats, Ahuriri respondents satisfaction with sealed road dropped by eight percentage points to 39% from last year's survey.

Overall satisfaction with the camping grounds, public toilets , parks and reserves sports fields and Aquatic centre increased and declined with the resource recovery park, library services cemeteries and water supply.

WDC housing survey results

In June, the Safer Waitaki housing taskforce surveyed residents about housing and well-being issues in the district.

More than half of the 559 people who responded to the survey reported compromising their health to keep household costs down – 56% of people had put up with feeling cold, 19% had gone without fresh fruit or vegetables, and 16% had postponed trips to the doctor or gone without filling prescriptions.

Pasifika people were much more likely to be struggling than non-Pasifika; 53.6% of Pasifika survey respondents said they did not have enough, or had only just enough, money to meet their family's basic needs.

About half of respondents reported a problem with mould or dampness in their home.

www.waitaki.govt.nz

The Extraordinary Ahuriri Community Board Meeting

for the inauguration of board member-elect Steve Dalley

will be 9.30am to 9.50am Monday, October 12

at the Waitaki District Council chambers

It will be live-streamed on the Council Facebook page.

The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting

is 3pm to 4.30pm Monday, October 19, 2020

This meeting will be held via Zoom

Minutes and agendas can be found here

<http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx>

Environment Canterbury - news in brief

Six projects to protect environmental values in the Upper Waitaki have been recommended for nearly \$95,000 in Immediate Steps funding

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee made the recommendation at its meeting last month in Otematata. The six projects involve bog pine protection, fencing of tarns, native planting, weed control and wetland protection on four stations in the zone.

Canterbury not alone in facing river water quality challenges

ECan has welcomed the latest river water quality data from Land, Air, Water Aotearoa

“The LAWA river water quality national picture summary from 2010 to 2019 shows a similar result for Canterbury as for the rest of the country,” chairperson Jenny Hughey said.

“It’s a mixed bag illustrating little change over the last few years. One thing is clear however – the more intensive the land use, the poorer the water quality.

“This is the challenge we’ve been addressing here for several years, primarily via the Canterbury Water Management Strategy. Much has been done but we acknowledge there is more to do.

Minister announces creation of the Tū Te Rakīwhanoa Dryland Area

The five government agencies with statutory environmental responsibilities in the Mackenzie Basin (Environment Canterbury, Waitaki and Mackenzie District Councils, the Department of Conservation and Land Information New Zealand) gave the Minister of Conservation and Land Information Eugenie Sage their backing for the creation of the Tū Te Rakīwhanoa Dryland Area.

On behalf of the Mackenzie Basin Agency Alignment Programme

ECan chairperson Jenny Hughey said the Dryland Area was an exciting development which had been one of the programme's priorities since it started in 2018.

The next meeting of Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

is at 9.30am, Friday, October 16, 2020

at the Tekapo Hall, 8 Aorangi Crescent, Lake Tekapo

Minutes and agendas are posted at:

<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/upper-waitaki-water-zone/>

www.ecan.govt.nz

It All Adds Up Accounts and Administration Support

Need some support with your accounts, payroll, or general administration?

With a background in commercial banking I have over twenty years' experience in accounts, payroll, compliance, and administration management. I am experienced in setting up systems and managing all financial aspects of a business in both large corporate and small business. References available.



If you would like some help with balancing the books, accounts, electronic or paper systems, payroll, GST, or someone to make you a coffee ☺ give me a call, Gaye Schurgers on 027 2287873 or email addsup@outlook.co.nz

Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee

Getting rid of rowan: the pest plant with a mystical past

The rowan tree was once planted to protect against witches and spirits but in our part of the world it is a threat.

A joint project, which has received \$10,000 of Immediate Steps biodiversity funding (IMS), is now under way to manage the invasive tree before it becomes more established.

Rowan, which is part of the wider rose family, has been taking hold amongst tussock in the Upper Waitaki area. If left unmanaged it can smother and kill native plants making it a real threat to local biodiversity values.

The rowan control project involves ground crews systematically searching and destroying the invasive species,

particularly where tussock land has been retired from grazing.

Land Information NZ is managing the rowan removal project and is working in partnership with DOC, Te Manahuna Aoraki, landowners and Environment Canterbury.

The project was recommended by the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee to receive the IMS funding. If you have a local biodiversity project visit www.ecan.govt.nz/biodiversity to see what support is available.

The red berries of the rowan tree (pictured) were once believed to ward off evil.

- + Bespoke Facials
- + Skin Consultations
- + Tinting, Lash Lifts, Eye Trio
- + Gel Manicures, Deluxe Pedicures
- + Spray Tan, Waxing, Massage

The Beauty Room

2 AHURIRI DRIVE, OMARAMA, 0224859463



Open Tues, Wed, Thur, Frid

LUXURIOUS BEAUTY SERVICES...

MAKE YOUR APPT NOW:

FB: [Thebeautyroomomarama](#)

Email: rachaelatthebeautyroom@gmail.com

Call or Text: 022 4859 463

DERMAINDUALS. PURE FIJI. REVITALASH




the
PINK GLIDER
cafe

Re-opens October 23

Come check out what's new and exciting this season!

Join our coffee loyalty programme.

*** Book now for your Christmas parties ***

Phone: Tanya 027 673 1381



TOP 10
Holiday
Parks
Classic



**Omarama
TOP 10 Holiday Park**

1 Omarama Avenue
Omarama 9448
P: +64 3 438 9875
Reservations: 0800 662 726
omaramatop10.co.nz



It's almost Labour Weekend!
Start summer as you mean to go on.

Book a luxurious studio unit
cabin or motel,
or come camping
and explore our big backyard.

www.top10.co.nz/omarama-top-10-holiday-park

Omarama TOP 10 Holiday Park



NO OBLIGATION MARKET APPRAISAL

I live and work from Omarama and have waiting buyers for most types of property in our area.

Having been in the Real Estate Industry since 1984 within the Central Otago, Waitaki and Mackenzie districts I can offer today's technology with the benefit of experience to get you a great result.

Call me anytime for a Real Estate chat.

Gary Sutherland

AREINZ

027 432 6615

gary@twizelre.com

Licensed Real Estate Agent REAA 2008



Rick's Rock Walls

'Built To Stand the Test of Time'

Richard O'Leary

021 101 1394 or 03 614 3893

info@ricksrockwalls.co.nz

www.ricksrockwalls.co.nz

rockgas[™]
MacKenzie

Locally owned and operated in Twizel & Tekapo

We are always nearby—
Our local sites in Tekapo and Twizel are ready to make your delivery.

We're there for you.

Whether it be for your endless hot showers, instant heat, or to
cook with gas.

Get more ahhh than argh this winter, and contact your local
Rockgas team.

Twizel
Omarama
Ohau

Tekapo
Mt Cook
Lake Alexandrina

Ph: 0800 433 4574 www.rockgasmackenziecountry.co.nz





**COMPLETE
CURTAINS
& INTERIORS**

89 King Street, Temuka

 03 615 7289

- Free consultations and quotes for curtains, blinds and accessories
- Interior and Exterior colour consulting

Make an appointment for our van to visit your home

Best Prices Everytime

Email: sales@completecurtains.co.nz



www.completecurtains.co.nz

The Directory

COMPUTER FIX – COMPUTER SUPPLY
SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS – SUPPLIED AND INSTALLED

PHOENIX I.T. LTD
WWW.PHOENIXIT.CO.NZ
PHONE 021444468

18 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMPETITIVE PRICING ON ALL THINGS TECH
DOMESTIC AND BUSINESS INFO TECH SUPPORT
SECURITY CAMERA SYSTEMS (PSPLA & NZSA APPROVED)
WEBSITES, REMOTE SUPPORT, NETWORKS, WIFI
MANAGED PRINT SERVICES – BROTHER NZ TECHNICIAN



ducksgoquack@xtra.co.nz

Big Sky
Bed & Breakfast

Kay & Hank Verheul
10 Ahuriri Drive, Omarama, New Zealand

Phone +64 3 438 9538
Mobile 027 489 5149

Email kay@bigskybnb.co.nz
www.bigskybnb.co.nz

Coralie Reid 
LICENSED SALESPERSON

 021 919 089
 coralie@oamackenzie.nz

Twizel, Lake Tekapo, Omarama
www.coraliereid.nz

ONE AGENCY
THE PROPERTY SPECIALISTS



Licensed REAA 2008

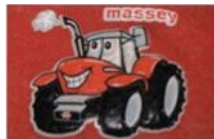


For all your hydraulic requirements

Sales, service, design,
hose fittings & spare parts
97 Racecourse Rd, Washdyke.
Phone 03 688 2902
www.scarlett-hydraulics.co.nz

Big Sky
MOTEL
Your Hosts Kay & Hank Verheul

52 Ahuriri Drive Omarama
03 4389 538
bigsky.kiwi.nz



David O'Neill Contracting Ltd Omarama

Home 03 438 9883
Cell 027 433 5523 Fax 03 438 9891
davidoneillcontracting@xtra.co.nz

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

OMARAMA HIRE

MINI EXCAVATOR DRY HIRE

- New Machine
- 301.8 Digger
- Tilt Bucket
- Trench Bucket
- Digging Bucket

For more information:
Grant Murdoch
Ph: 027 430 7678
Email: grant@omaramahire.co.nz



Campbells Butchery

quality meats and
smallgoods available at

**Otematata On the Spot
Mackenzie Four Square**

*For private processing of your cattle and sheep
contact Steve on 03 434 5780 Ext 4*

South Canterbury
Kindergartens
the first choice for your child's future

Twizel Kindergarten

ENROLMENTS NOW OPEN

- You get 30 free hours if your child is 3 or 4 years old like me.
- The teachers are all qualified and registered.
- There are spaces here for children aged 2-5 years.
- We are a not for profit organisation and registered charity which means all the money received goes back to support your child's learning.

Contact Head Teacher Carol Sinclair
Phone 03 435 0433
or call in to the kindergarten
135 Mackenzie Drive, Twizel

ON-SITE SERVICING AND REPAIRS ON ALL HEAVY DIESEL MACHINERY

- Preventative maintenance
- Breakdown call outs
- Oamaru based workshop, competitive rates
- Diagnostic computer for leading brands
- Servicing North Otago, Waitaki Valley and Lower South Canterbury



TOTAL
LUBRICANTS



Office **03 434 1121**

Aaron **027 501 6470**

aaron@earthworksmechanical.co.nz



TOTAL INTERIORS

"LOVE THE SPACE YOU LIVE IN"

22 Cirrus Place, Omarama

Locally owned and operated for over 25 years.

For friendly professional advice phone Karen for a free measure and quote.

Curtains, blinds, upholstery & colour consultation.

Phone: 027 438 7853

Email: total.interiors@xtra.co.nz

Facebook: [totalinteriorsshop&showroom](https://www.facebook.com/totalinteriorsshop&showroom)

Instagram: [totalinteriorsnz](https://www.instagram.com/totalinteriorsnz)

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES ALL OF THIS POSSIBLE

THANK YOU.

*When you advertise
you help our
community groups
share their
message*

T & J Golder Ltd



Operating locally, specialists in agricultural chemical application and for all your small digger requirements

Call: Travis 021 710 305, Jo 027 458 4828 Email: travis.joanne@xtra.co.nz



Fishing • Camping • Gardening • Gifts Cycling • Games • Toys • Homeware

Just up the road in Twizel!

A bit of
everything.



Jake's HARDWARE

www.jakes.co.nz

03 435 0881

The View from the Chook House



*Halloween 2020, Trick or treat?
or does something more fowl loom?*

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

September 2020

Highest temperature: September 8, 22.3 C

Lowest temperature: September 12, -4.0 C

Most rainfall: September 1, 37.6mm

Total rainfall for September: 98.8mm

The Garden Diary

Some say cle-may-tis some say cle-muh-tis

Frothy and lacy and light layers waterfall from the top of the maple to the ground.

And dark, velvety and mysterious skirts swing as they cling to their partner the apricot, pink and gold "old Glory" - Rosa 'Gloire de Dijon, as they dance their together way up to the sun and the dusky blackboy peaches.

By any name they're pretty. Like shoes and roses, I don't have nearly enough of these beauties.

You may know that roses do well in the high country. But you may be like me and not have discovered until later that their very best buddy companion plant the clematis does too. The thing is, and it's a bit like roses – you need to pick the right one.

The earliest to flower in my garden was an Alpine clematis. It had a good innings but succumbed last year. However, I was always disappointed it was a pale insipid pink instead of the sky blue promised in the catalogue – no doubt a rogue seedling had jumped lines in the nursery. Now I'll have room for the bell-shaped blue beauty.

The next is often dismissed as rather ordinary but there's nothing like the sleeping beauty castle effect as the white Clematis Montana comes into flower and cascades from the very top of the Norway maple. In the warming evenings its vanilla fragrance spreads through the front garden and its simple four petalled flowers glow in the moonlight. It begins blooming just as late snowfalls drift over Black Peak and the lime-green blossoms of the maple emerge. Its scruffy exit is hidden behind the maple's curtain of fresh green leaves.

It's hard to pick a favourite but I do love Clematis viticella 'Polish Spirit' rambling up along the back fence into the roses and fruit trees. The viticella group is so very tough. Guess what – to prune it you just chop it to the ground late winter – it's scary to do, and truth be told I've never quite gone there with the whole vine at once but it loves it.

Viticella 'Purpurea Plena Elegans' is more demure and quite old-fashioned. As you'd expect of a lady, it has no common name. I don't have her photo in the album, must do that this year. The petals and sepals are so elaborate the world's best couturier could not replicate them with fabric and thread. Although, reportedly a 16th century plant, she has Downton Dowager Countess of Grantham elegance. - the circle of faded mauve petals pinned in the centre with a lustrous pearly brooch.

Clematis Ernest Markham is the only large petal cultivar I have. Sturdy and studious much like his namesake he stands sentry at the front gate. The colour is often described as 'red' in catalogues but it is, in truth, more maroon.

Last but by no means least is sweet, deep blue-mauve Integrefolia Arabella. She just sparkles as she twines her way up through the hornbeam hedge toward the apple tree.

Integrefolias are not a true vine but that never stopped Arabella.

Some find clematis tricky to get going. But I've not had issues, more like tricky to get stopping!

I've followed instructions (haha) and planted them more deeply than the pot to prevent wilt, put their roots in the shade – under a rock - and pointed their heads to the sun. There's been no looking back.

- Ruth Grundy

(I garden a small space under a big sky
in Omarama)



The Last Page is Classifieds

ANNUAL MEETING

The Lindis Pass Conservation Group's
annual meeting will be at
6pm on Wednesday, October 7, at Tarras School
(The school is beside the Tarras shops.)

We are community volunteers in partnership with the Department of Conservation, working to keep the Lindis Pass Scenic Reserve landscapes beautiful, clear of weeds and roadside rubbish, and trialling the replanting of snow tussock. You are very welcome to attend, to talk over what we are doing and to ask any questions.

<https://www.facebook.com/LindisPassConservationGroup/>
or phone secretary (03) 443 4337.

BREEN CONSTRUCTION

Building since 1939 - available for your all of your construction projects in the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie districts.

Contact our Area Manager Jason Pryde on 021 340 694

or email jason.pryde@breen.co.nz

www.breen.co.nz

For advertising rates and guidelines

phone 021 294 8002

or email omaramagazette@gmail.com

The Omarama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

omaramagazette@gmail.com

Copyright © 2016 -2019 Omarama Gazette, All rights reserved.