



Ōmārama Gazette

September 2024

Those happy golden years of golf

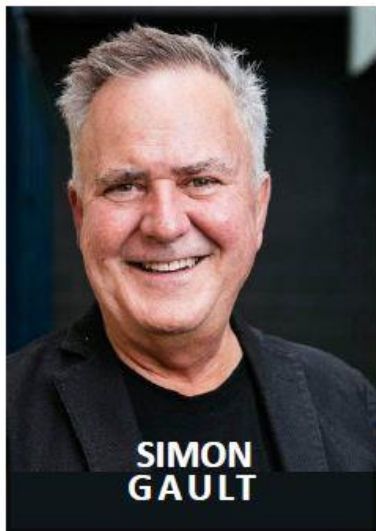
The 50 years since the first meeting to decide if there was enough interest to form a golf club in Ōmārama has been marked by hijinks, hilarity and hard work.

It will 50 years this Saturday since two indomitable forces of nature – Ada Patterson, of Longslip Station, and Prue Aubrey, of Dalrachney – both enthusiastic golfers, combined strengths and called a meeting to see if there was enough interest to form a golf club. A committee was formed.

As a teen Rick Aubrey remembers driving around with his mother to find the best site for a course. The present site was eventually selected because of its easy access to water – something that would later prove to be both an advantage and disadvantage. Warwick Smith worked with the committee to design the nine-hole country course. Then the hard work began. Nine families were assigned a hole each to develop. Rick recalls “weeks and weeks” of fencing and using old spring beds to sift the soil for the greens.

- Continued on page 8





7PM SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2024

AT THE ŌMĀRAMA MEMORIAL HALL

Omarama MenzShed and friends are bringing renowned chef Simon Gault to town for a unique community event.

Combining a little learning and a lot of fun he will show easy ways ... nothing fussy, nothing fancy... to cook up heartwarming meals from your own kitchen. This is going to be epic!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW \$50 PER PERSON

Tickets are strictly limited

To secure your e-ticket register now. Email: Georgie.Robertson_huntly@xtra.co.nz



You make this possible, thank you.



Our Event Sponsors



Event will showcase community

Here is a great news story – come November the Omarama community will come together not only to show a special guest some unrivalled high-country hospitality, but also to showcase the work of our volunteers – the beating heart of our town

And we hope to learn a thing or two from our guest also.

Simon Gault's visit to Omarama in November promises to be an evening when we can take time out for family, take time out for friends and workmates but most of all when we can take time out for an evening of fun.

Yes, tickets are walking out the door for Simon's cooking demonstration – so, if you're at all keen to come along then now is good!

But most heart-warming is how our community groups are embracing the opportunity to come together after Simon's demonstration to share what it is they 'bring to the table'.

Together with the food Simon prepares, Friends of the School will have on sale at an affordable cost mini charcuteries 'boards' - cold meats, cheese, crackers, fruit, nuts, pastes etc for grazing.

Our littlest people - Playgroup - are busy creating new artwork for the walls.

But they are not the only ones whose artistic talents will be on display.

Earlier this year former resident and Totara Peak Gallery owner Sally Fodie gifted artworks of the area by various artists such as Kevyn Webb to the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade with the intention these be sold to raise funds.

These will be on display in the library with an opportunity for those viewing to put in expressions of interest.

The Fire Brigade/First Response will also have a stall with the focus on fire safety in the home

The Ōmārama School Garden Club has begun growing pots of culinary herbs and flowers for sale on the night.

MenzShed will have a stall as will Age Concern Ōmārama.

Nurse Tracy Young will be present with health information especially with regards to living with pre-diabetes.

And the ANZ Bank will have rural representatives at the event.

On the night the Ōmārama Gliding Club will take registrations from ticket holders who are interested in taking a discounted glider flight at its open day at the airfield the next day.

If your group would like to be part of this, it is not too late – contact Georgie: huntly@xtra.co.nz

Those who are making this event possible are:

The ANZ Bank

Kahu Soaring

Boots and Jandals Hotel

Four Square Ōmārama

GlenCraigs

The Ōmārama Gliding Club

The Lindis

Merino Lodge, Ōmārama

Big Sky Motel

Ōmārama Station

Mobil Twizel

Ōmārama MenzShed

People power is bringing it home

Never underestimate the power of community!

Individual donations to the Omarama Community Centre generator project have now reached **\$10,350** - in just on four months.

As well, the New Zealand Community Trust and Otago Community Trust have pledged \$10,000 each to the fund, which brings the overall total to **\$30,350 !!**

We are awaiting the outcome of a further funding application which, if successful could see us close the deal. We're almost there!

Which means ... that might put an end to 'generating' dad jokes.

As well, new quotes for a change over switch to be installed at the Hall have been obtained and forwarded to Waitaki Emergency Management advisor Danny Fountaine for consideration. This installation would complete the project.

Our generous generator fund donors are:

- * Sierra Motels
- * Ōmārama Rodeo Club
- * Merino Lodge
- * Ian and Jan Mckie
- * Peter and Adrienne Borrie
- * Graeme and Andy Oxley
- * Jenny Mollard
- *The New Zealand Community Trust
- *The Otago Community Trust

Here is more information about why we decided to initiate this project

*The Omarama Emergency Management Group (Fenz, SAR volunteers and Omarama Police) - decided, in the case of disaster, a 40KVA generator is required to run the Community Centre, hall and kitchen. The Centre is the nominated community shelter in case of an emergency. The Centre is owned by the Residents' Association of Ōmārama. The generator will also be used to provide power to the Omarama MenzShed facility adjacent to the Centre. In return MenzShed will maintain and service the generator.

*Because of Ōmārama's location it is considered highly likely that during a disaster - the Alpine Fault rupture, flooding or snow, the township may be cut off from help for some days, if not weeks. Should power be cut it could be some time before this could be restored. The concern is during winter months people could be at risk with not having warm shelter. Along with warmth, there is a need for cooking facilities to heat and refrigerate food to cater for a large number for a length of time.

*Electrician Brent Fokkens carried out the initial assessment of the size of generator needed to run the community centre, which includes heating, lighting and the kitchen, as well as medical centre. He recommended a 40KVA diesel generator.

* For it to be used by Ōmārama MenzShed and for other community projects it needs to be portable – on a trailer. Being transportable also makes it easier to service and refuel.

*Quotes provided for both the trailer and generator plus delivery to Ōmārama run from around \$30K to \$40k. Four quotes have been obtained.

- * There is no generator in Ōmārama with the capacity to run the necessary facilities at the Ōmārama Community Centre in an emergency.
- * The Fire Brigade generator is not owned by Ōmārama Fire Brigade and can be requisitioned for use anywhere in the district.
- * The Ōmārama Search and Rescue generator does not have the capacity.
- * Other large generators in the district are privately-owned, mostly by dairy farmers. In case of an emergency these would be used on the farm because farmers are legally required to continue to operate to prevent animal welfare issues.
- * Although in a disaster an emergency generator could be helicoptered into the areas isolated by a disaster event, there is no agreement in place for this to happen in a timely manner. The availability of a large capacity generator cannot be guaranteed and would require a heavy lift helicopter. Also, in the initial stages of a disaster helicopters would be busy dealing to medical emergencies and emergency assessment activities.
- * The Ōmārama Community has always prided itself on being self-reliant when outside help is not immediately available.
- * The Ōmārama MenzShed is a relatively new group of volunteers which is already benefitting the wider community, specifically through completion of projects at the school, the community gardens, at the Community Centre, and Rodeo club, and for the elderly. These would otherwise prove too costly or difficult to achieve.
- * They have a strong core group of members and are actively encouraging new members of all ages from throughout the region to join.
- * They have basic facilities which are gradually being enhanced as funds and time allows. There has been a generous donation of tools.
- * The lack of a power source is hampering their attempts to grow and to tackle a wider range of projects.
- * In return for the use of the generator - their contribution will be to service and maintain the equipment to keep it in working order at all times – this includes keeping the generator fuelled and the trailer roadworthy – a not inconsiderable commitment.

**Anyone who would like to donate to the emergency generator project may make a deposit to the Residents' Association Bank account:
06-0927-0054362-02 reference: generator.**

(A receipt can be provided so you can claim a IRD tax credit of up to 33% of the amount donated.)

Please feel free to contact Residents' Association treasurer Stephen Grundy, 021 545 150, omarama.treasurer@gmail.com , if you need further information, clarification of any points, or have any further questions.



Trust Aoraki welcomed to town

A new funding provider has moved to town.

Last month Boots and Jandals Hotel changed its gaming machine provider to Trust Aoraki ending its longstanding relationship with the New Zealand Community Trust. Trust Aoraki chief operating officer Steve McCoy and director Murray Roberts visited the hotel last month to officially mark the changeover and to meet the locals.

The trust was “here to help”, Steve said “Boots and Jandals was the “latest addition” to the South Canterbury gaming trust’s family.

Ten representatives from Ōmārama’s community groups attended the presentation. The Trust had “been around for more than 20 years”, and operated 84 gaming machines from eight venues throughout South Canterbury, he said.

For the 2023/2024 financial year, it distributed \$1.64 million of gaming machine revenue back into the local communities of Timaru, Temuka, Kurow, Otematata, Twizel, Fairlie. The board met to consider applications for grants six times a year. Steve said the trust aimed to distribute the funds raised from a local community back into that community. But there was the discretion to distribute funds to another area if there was a “community of interest between the two areas”. It regularly received about 30 to 40 applications at a time. In March, applicants asked for a total of \$1.5 million – “Obviously, we can’t grant all of those”.

Applicants did have to show their projects would have wide reaching benefits for their community or that the events they were planning would generate an economic benefit, he said. The application should “tell a compelling story” to be successful. “We like to get the story behind the application.”.. the better the story, the more background information, the easier it was to pitch the idea to the board, he said. Trust Aoraki had a tradition of focussing on amateur sport with about 70% of funding going to those projects and about 30% going to organisations with a health, arts or education focus, but the projects did not necessarily have to be big-ticket items, he said. “[Contributions have been made to] scout troops to the A2O [Alps to Ocean cycle trail] and everything in between,”

One important tip was not to leave applications until the last minute – especially in the case of applications for grants for events. The Trust could not fund projects retrospectively, Steve said.

The Trust’s activities were monitored by the Department of Internal Affairs and it operated under strict government requirements, Murray said.

Of the total revenue earned from the gaming machines 40% or more must be returned to the community, the venue owner received 16% and 10% could be used for administration purposes.

Trust Aoraki Ltd is a not-for-profit organisation that exists for the purpose of raising funds for the community.

Not-for-profit bodies, including charitable trusts who have been operating more than a year and can provide annual accounts, sports clubs, incorporated community groups, schools, kindergartens, and play centres may all apply for funds.

Here is a link to the Trust's website: <https://trustaoraki.co.nz/>

The application forms can be found online and are also available from Boots and Jandals Hotel. Applications for the next round of funding close on Monday 23rd September, for the board to consider applications on Monday, October 14.

Early end to World Gliding Champs bid

Competition ended for the New Zealand team entered in the World Gliding Championships in Uvalde, Texas after seven days of flying despite an excellent start. Former Ōmārama residents and glider pilots Keith Essex and Marju Rossi entered in their ASG 32 in the 20 Metre 2-Seat class, with Marju's daughter Tuulianna and Hannariina Laukkanen as crew, and Hugh Colton as the team captain.

Gliding New Zealand has reported that although Keith and Marju, who won the first day of their first World Gliding Championships, got off to a "great start", they made the decision to pull out after seven days of flying.

The 38th FAI World Gliding Championships, hosted by the Soaring Society of America began with an opening ceremony on August 17 followed by 13 days scheduled for competition flying.

The team reported they travelled in parade to the "short but sweet" opening ceremony on a "beautifully decorated" float made especially for the occasion by their host family .

Photo: Customs and Border Protection acted as the colour guard for the opening ceremony of the ceremony 38th FAI World Gliding Championships in the US last month. Here they are pictured with the New Zealand team (from left); Tuulianna Laukkanen, Marju Rossi, Keith Essex, Hannariina Laukkanen and team captain - Hugh Colton. Photo: Team NZ World Gliding Championships 2024



Buyers gathered under sunny skies

Winter smiled on Glen Eyrie Downs' first on-farm sale.

Keen buyers from throughout the region gathered under crisp, sunny skies at the sale which is to be an annual event at the Zeestraten property on Quailburn Rd, near Omarama.

570 high country-bred rising one-year-olds – Angus, Hereford and Limousin - went under the auctioneers' hammer.

Agents were Hamish McAslan and Gareth Coutts of Carrfields and Bill Reid of North South Livestock.

Those gathered were treated to lunch catered by Friends of Omarama School.

One percent of the sale proceeds will be donated to the school.



Those happy golden years of golf - continued

Dave Hutton, a club life member now living in Dunedin, who moved from Otematata to Omarama in 1975, said one of the biggest jobs was to get the course fenced. Once the fencing was complete “then away we went”, he said. He was one of the “very early members”. There were between 15 and 20 members at the time. “They built it from nothing,” he said.

“Rick Aubrey got his rotary hoe and worked around in circles to form the greens.” They were later named for various local landscape features.

Initially, the road did not go all the way into the club house, so Ōmārama Motor Lodge owner Robbie Perriam arranged for North Otago Road Metals to fix that. Robbie also roped in Ray Hill, of Oamaru, to set up the irrigation, Dave said. Dick Wardell’s sheep kept the grass down.

The first ‘official’ club house was a small two-room hut bought in February 1976 for \$500. Opening day was recorded as March 6, 1976, with the local rules drawn up later that year. It is this date in 2026 the Golf Club will use to mark its 50 years, club president Paul Bowman said.

The present club house was bought in 1977 from De Geest’s for \$7,000. It was built as an eel factory but not completed.

At the time he moved to Ōmārama Dave worked as a builder but then got a job at the Ōmārama Hotel. Because he worked shift work and often had Sundays and Mondays off, he would put in time at the golf course. “I was over there most mornings... Wattie Munro also did a lot of work. It was a very, very good club.”

“It was a bit hairy for a while – [At most courses] people lose balls, here we were losing clubs,” Rick said. “It was a lot of work ...but we made it social. We had a lot of fun at the working bees.”

Of course, none of this was possible without funding and other donations. Materials, machinery and debentures were sought from and donated by the community. There were raffles, housie, produce stalls, catering for car rallies and stock sales, balls and cabarets, and the “very popular” luncheons held in the gardens on the various stations, Ada’s daughter-in-law Ann Patterson said.

Dave, Rick and Ann recount great stories. One of the best games was their variation on the three-club challenge, Ann said. “Three clubs, three hole, three dollars.” These games often continued after sunset. On one such occasion car headlights were used to light up the green – you guessed it, someone lost a windscreen.

On another dimly lit occasion someone was celebrating a birthday. Rather than letting it pass without a cake the ladies went out and gathered up a suitably shaped dry cow pat, placed it carefully on a plate, decorated it with candles and a knife for cutting and carried it to the unsuspecting birthday boy. So unsuspecting was he, the ladies thought they should ‘fess up just as the knife was poised to cut the first slice.

Seemingly, more than one robust debate over “the gentleman’s game” was settled by pushing opponents in the creek. But Rick would not be pressed. “What goes on tour...,” he said, laughing.

“I don’t want to dob anyone in, but.. there were a few scuffles in the creek,” Dave said, with great tact. “We had a lot of fun over there. It was terrific.” Records show in December 1978, the committee gave permission for a stag party to be held in clubhouse on condition that club members Robbie Perriam, Dave Hutton and Rick

Aubrey be responsible for any damage. That committee must have held its breath!

It was not long before members began entering in tournaments. In May 1978 the first of the 'at home' trophies were decided on. In January 1980 the club fielded two Men's Pennant Teams. In 1981 Ōmārama was invited to participate in Proctor Rose Bowl which is still played annually between Kurow, Ben Ohau (Twizel), Otematata and Ōmārama. The next year, Ōmārama won it for the first time. The Lindis Shield played between Omarama and Tarras clubs is also a hotly contested annual tradition. Locally, the list of winners of the Runholders' Challenge is a roll call of farming families and the district's stations.

Newer tournaments such as the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade fundraising tournament and the Ōmārama Emergency Services Challenge are adding new trophy's to the shelf, while the New Year's and Easter Tournaments have become increasingly popular, especially with holiday makers.

Possibly the most challenging times the club has faced is recurring flooding with the two floods of 2022 being the most devastating. Volunteers were well underway with a massive clean-up after the Ōmārama Stream burst its banks in July when to their dismay nature struck again with no less fury in August. "That last flood was the worst, Dave said. " But we have come back remarkably well. We have been very lucky with the grants from Meridian Energy [to bolster reserves]."



Front cover: The photo board of the club's silver jubilee features some of the original members including one of the two 'founders', Prue Aubrey, in the centre.

Below: Ōmārama Golf Club members pose proudly after winning the 30th Proctor Rose Bowl Tournament in 1992, the district's prestige Rose Bowl trophy and a roll call of players who have scored a hole-in-one, over the years new tournaments have been added to the calendar. Photos: Supplied and by Ruth Grundy.



Setting sail for a sunset

Resisting the old cliché is futile, simply because it has never been better said.

A seasoned sailor sharing his passion with his newfound friend says; “Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”

And there, thanks to Kenneth Grahame, you have it.

Last southern hemisphere winter our adopted Yorkshireman, Gavin Wrigley – you may know him as a glider pilot – travelled back to the UK with one goal in mind. To sell his 44ft Baba Cutter, which he has sailed from New Zealand to Malaysia “off and on” for more than 12 years.

No sooner had he rid himself of the obligations of one sailboat than he began pining for another.

“I was immediately relieved and immediately wanted to buy another one,” he said.

Dreaming of red sails in the sunset he went in search of his next ‘traditional’ boat. “The lakes here are a good place for that.”

He had a Drascombe Lugger in mind until he came across “this boat up a creek in South Devon” and was smitten.

“I got lost in the moment and bought it”.

Needless to say, it needed some work. It travelled to New Zealand in a container.

“It cost more to bring it in, complete with dramas ...than it did to buy it.

“But I still think it was a bargain.”

The boat was a Roger Dongray Coble, a “play boat” – recreational boat – based on traditional design and with red sails.

It is a style of fishing boat used on the Northeast coast of England but was also used all the way along the coast of Britain and Scotland, Gavin said.

And the design dates back hundreds of years.

The Coble was and still is “built by eye” from no particular plans apart from what was in the “mind of the bloke what made them” and in its history it carries with it Norse and Dutch influences. It has a unique style - high-bowed with a flat-bottomed hull, complete with two skates - which evolved in response to the conditions prevalent in the area.

The flat bottom and skates are a practical response to launching from and landing on shallow, sandy beaches which are a feature of that coast.

These enable the boat to sit upright even as the tide goes out, and in shingle or sand making it easier to load nets.

The high bow is an advantage sailing the notorious North Sea and for launching into surf and landing back on the beaches.

Sailboat designer Roger Dongray “lofted the plans” for his recreational version and about 300 were produced between 1976 and the late 1980s by the Cornish Wooden Boat Company

It was different in scale to the original and in addition to the standing lug sail, a forestay and jib had been added, Gavin said.

There follows a history lesson from the former schoolteacher on the development of traditional sails –the lateen, the crab claw, the lug sail. Harnessing wind power in these traditional ways was “underrated in terms of what it can do”, Gavin said.

Reading the wind is as important on the water as in the sky.

“Since then, I have re-trained myself to sail this kind of boat.”

The “cleverness” of the boat continually surprises him.

“Roger Dongray noticed the subtleties and has incorporated them into this playboat.”

“Quite a few people have had quite a bit of fun in it.”

It’s only now Gavin has noticed just how often the Coble has inserted itself unobtrusively into the background of his life, seemingly just waiting in the wings. His father made a model of one in 1980 – it now has pride of place on its shelf in Ōmārama, and a photo of a Coble in full sail appears on the cover of his mother’s memoir.

Gavin has already had Cobblers out on Lake Benmore and becalmed on Lake Ohau, and she has had an outing to the Antique and Classic Boat Show on Lake Rotoiti at St Arnaud this past summer.

“There are still bits to tart up ... I’ll have it sailing as soon as I can,” Gavin said.



Above: Gavin's father built this model of the red sail Coble in 1980. This: Cobblers has an introduction to Lake Benmore. Photo: Supplied.



The Noticeboard

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



All the very best to Omarama Collie Dog Club members Scott Hunter and Lucy who will compete as part of the New Zealand Sheep Dog Trial Association's test team to defend the Wayleggo Cup included in the Australian Sheepdog Championships which are hosted by the Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association

The competition begins on September 13, in Geelong. Check the [Ōmārama Gazette Facebook page](#) for competition updates. More in next month's issue.

Congratulations to Lachlan McQuade and Danae Smith who were married at St Thomas's Church last month.

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

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

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

St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:

Rev Lee Kearon, phone: 021 250 1060 or email: lee.kearon@gmail.com

The Ōmārama Golf Club Saturdays cards in 12.30pm, tee-off 1pm. NB from Sunday April 7, when daylight saving ends, it will be cards in at 12 noon and tee-off at 12.30pm. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340. Twilight golf has finished for the season. ww.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. New members welcome.

A gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. 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 October Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, October 2 2024.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, September 26, 2024

Thank you from a friend

By Tracy Young

A massive thank you to all those who so generously donated on Daffodil Day this year.

Also to those who dug a little deeper to help out Nicole Leopold (you may have seen her friendly face serving you coffee at the Oasis), when they made a donation to help fund private MRI's scans for ongoing surveillance. She is so grateful to you all :)

Nicole has a rare syndrome – Li-Fraumeni, that impacts on a specific gene which usually stop cells dividing or growing too quickly. Unfortunately, it increases the chances of developing cancers. To help reduce her risk, a group of us are fundraising for Nicole to get MRI scans rather than funded CT or x-ray (that have some exposure to radiation).

Currently she is unable to get MRI scans through the public system. Also the money raised for the Cancer Society on Daffodil Day is committed to specific personal support (ie transport and accommodation costs) as well as research for improved outcomes and cures, which is understandable.

We have almost got the first payment for scan number one (out of nine to 10 scans). If you missed out on the day but would still like to help, you can donate directly into the following account: 01-0678-0017439-04, T A Young (Any questions please contact Tracy Young) or keep an eye out for a fundraising Quiz Night in a few months' time!

Daffodil Day in Ōmārama

A thank you to all who gave so generously on Daffodil Day last week.

Our volunteers, Beverley Purvis and Adrienne Harper, who were stationed outside Four Square Ōmārama last week, raised a total of \$588.20 for the Cancer Society's annual fundraiser.

All money raised goes towards cancer care for patients and their whānau, education and awareness programmes, and life-saving cancer research.

If you missed it, you can still donate online at <https://daffodilday.org.nz/>

Photos: Volunteers Beverley Purvis and Adrienne Harper brace themselves against the cold southerly to collect for the cause.



Season ends with full house

Another winter comes to an end and with it the last day of winter housie.

Last week's session was a highlight for all, with 25 ladies gathered in the meeting room at the Omarama Community Centre for an afternoon of the game of numbers and probabilities, and coloured dabbers – this year with re-usable cards.

Vanessa Anderson as the caller and Shona Smith as the runner added to the fun as they kept the players on task.

As well as the regular lines, house and super house there were donated prizes for lucky draws for the fun scarves everyone had to put on.

The highlight was the most sumptuous shared afternoon tea imaginable.

Winter Housie is supported by Age Concern Otago-Waitaki District, the Residents' Association of Ōmārama which supplies the venue, and the regular volunteers who help set up, take down, supply afternoon tea, call and run - this would not be possible without you.

In what has become a tradition, a Christmas housie session will be held at a date and venue to be confirmed.



Coming up...

! Christmas Housie !

All the usual fun,
plus so much more

Date and venue to be confirmed



The Community Reports

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Jason Pryde

For the month of August, the Ōmārama Fire Brigade has attended a total of eight call-outs, these include two motor vehicle accidents, four medical callouts, one vegetation fire and one alarm activation.

We recently have another recruit who has joined the Ōmārama brigade. We are pleased to acknowledge and welcome Aaron Wood to the team and we look forward to supporting Aaron on his journey.

We are very excited to announce the Emergency Services Expo that we will be

hosting here at the Ōmārama Fire brigade from 10am to 2pm on Saturday, September 21.

This promises to be an action-packed day with three main events which will include live presentations by the Police Armed Offenders Squad which will include police dogs, followed by a live fire safety demonstration on unattended oven fires, and a final demonstration on motor vehicle extraction using the purpose-designed 'jaws-of-life' cutting equipment.

This day will also include representation and information about home fire safety visits, St John's ambulance, our very own First Response Team demonstrations on CPR, a fire hose target demonstration and lots of fun activities for family which include virtual reality simulations and black-out inflatable tunnels, and not to forget the free BBQ.



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

**Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer
Greg Harper, 021 293 1171**



Omarama Emergency Services Expo

21 September 2024
10am - 2pm
Omarama Fire Station

Experience live displays from the Police dogs and Armed Offenders Squad (AOS), real fire, and a car cutting demonstration. PLUS enjoy a free sausage sizzle!



Ōmārama Golf Club

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

If you are interested in joining the club email Arron Chambers, secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz for details.

**Club captain: Greg Stuart phone: 027 438 9018
Secretary: Arron Chambers phone: 027 203 2340
email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz
www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz**

We would love you to be part of this event



Omarama MenzShed and Friends are bringing renowned chef Simon Gault to town for a unique community event.

We are asking our volunteer groups if they would like to be part of this as an opportunity to showcase what you contribute to our community.

This is not a fundraiser, just a way to combine a little learning and a lot of fun as Simon demonstrates easy, no fuss cooking skills, and, at the same time, we would like to highlight just what a great town this is!

The event will be the evening of Saturday, November 9, at the Omarama Community Centre.

To discuss this opportunity and your ideas phone or email:

**Georgie Robertson
027 486 1525
huntly@xtra.co.nz**

Your contribution will make this great thank you!

Age Concern in Ōmārama

Coffee afternoons are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

The next Pop Up Café is 1pm to 3pm, Tuesday, September 10

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 / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm



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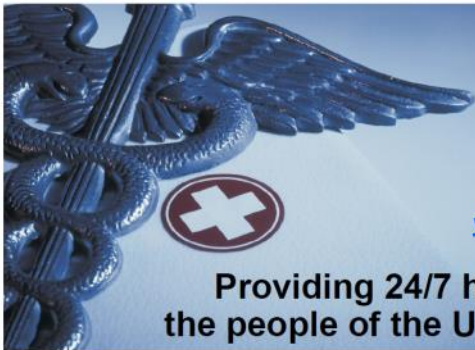
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Brodie Craig CA



Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow
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E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
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- * Minor surgery
- * Vasectomies
- * Mole checking and removal
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- * 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

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Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

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

Opening hours

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

Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm

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

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

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

-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

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

Wellness matters

A health column from the Kurow Medical/Mackenzie Health Centre Team

- By Fiona Chamberlain

Our August column focussed on immunisation protection for children. This time we overview funded vaccinations for adults. Immunisation helps to stop you, your whānau and your community from getting sick from serious diseases. As you get older, you become more vulnerable to some infectious diseases. By building immunity before exposure to an illness, you have a better chance of not getting sick.

Boostrix. This vaccine helps protect from three diseases:

- Tetanus; A rare but serious disease caused by bacteria found in soil and horse/cow manure. You can get the disease if dirt carrying tetanus gets into a wound. Symptoms include painful muscle spasms, difficulty breathing, chewing and swallowing.

- Diphtheria; A serious disease that can easily spread through coughing and sneezing and causes a skin infection and affects the throat causing breathing difficulties.

- Whooping cough (pertussis); Causes breathing difficulties and severe coughing fits. It can lead to pneumonia, seizures, and other brain issues. More than half of babies under 1 year who catch it need to go to hospital, and up to 1 in 50 of these babies die. It can easily spread by coughing and sneezing. Whooping cough is not under control NZ.

As an adult, you can get Boostrix for free;

- from when you turn 45 (if you have not had 4 previous doses of a tetanus vaccine)
- from when you turn 65 (if it has been more than 10 years since previous tetanus vaccine)
- from 13 weeks of every pregnancy (recommended from 16 weeks)
- if you get a dirty cut and not had vaccine for 5 or more years

Certain people are recommended to have a Boostrix vaccine at least every 10 years — but there may be a cost. This includes people who; work with young children and vulnerable people, live with a newborn baby, are at higher risk of severe illness from whooping cough, for example those with chronic respiratory disease.

Influenza: we recommend all adults get a flu vaccine each year (from April 1st).

It is free for;

- people aged 65+
- people who have a long-term medical condition (ages 6 months and older)
- pregnant people
- children aged 4 and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness
- people with mental health conditions, including schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, or schizoaffective disorder
- people who are currently accessing secondary or tertiary mental health and addiction services.

COVID-19: These vaccinations are free — even for visitors. You can still have the vaccine if you have had COVID-19. This reduces your risk of serious illness. It may also reduce the risk of long COVID. You should wait six months after testing positive before getting any COVID-19 vaccines. If you are at higher risk of severe illness, you may be able to get another immunisation sooner.

Shingles: Shingles is a painful rash caused by the herpes zoster virus. The vaccine is recommended for anyone aged 50 and over. It's free for the 12 months after your 65th birthday. If you're not 65, you will need to pay.

Measles: Two doses of the MMR vaccine are needed for protection against measles. Many adults born between 1989 and 2004 in NZ were not vaccinated against measles — or may only have had one dose. MMR vaccination is free for these groups. If you know that you have had two MMR vaccinations, you do not need additional vaccines as an adult — you are fully protected.

Meningococcal disease: A serious infection of the brain. As an adult, you may be able to get free vaccines if you are 25 or under, and living in a boarding school, hostels, military barracks, or prison and if you are at higher risk of some diseases due to certain medical conditions.

Human papillomaviruses (HPV): a virus that can cause cervical cancer. If you were not immunised against HPV as a child, you can get free vaccination until you turn 27. You will need three doses, given over six months.

New to NZ: If you have moved from overseas check you have had the vaccinations recommended here.

Overseas travel: You should check you are up to date with vaccinations — especially measles, hepatitis B, and tetanus. Depending on destination, you may also need to be immunised against other diseases. wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list

For more information see immune.org.nz, call 0800 IMMUNE or ask your doctor or practice nurse. (Content sourced from the New Zealand Immunisation Advisory Centre.)

Ōmārama School



Omarama School 2024. Photo: www.omarama.school.nz

Keeping in touch with Ōmārama School

Paris Olympics

This term we have been busy following the Olympics and learning about teamwork and perseverance. Alongside this we have been thinking about French culture, language and cuisine. A couple of Fridays ago the senior class held an event to celebrate the end of the Olympics. Students invented country names and competed in challenges that included hanging up washing, folding washing, setting tables, washing and drying dishes and stacking firewood. A lot of fun was had and the students looked wonderful all dressed up in colours representing their chosen country. Our school values of learning, inclusiveness, growth, happiness and trustworthiness were certainly on display.



Cross Country

At the start of this term our annual cross country racing was held at Ōmārama Station, thanks to Annabelle and Richard Subtil providing the use of their land. Waitaki Valley School, Twizel Area School, Duntroon and Ōmārama schools all competed. We were fortunate with the weather and this event ran smoothly. The top six from each event then got the opportunity to attend the North Otago cross country event in Oamaru. Ten students from Ōmārama School were selected to attend.

Headstart

A reminder that on a Wednesday, our Headstart programme runs for any 4-year-olds in the area. This begins at 1.30pm and includes creative tasks, literacy, physical games and collaborative activities. Please contact the office if you are keen to come along and visit 'Headstart'.



Music lessons

Currently we have Anne Sweney from Twizel, coming down to Ōmārama School on a Friday to teach music to the junior class. Students are learning about patterns, rhythm, and tempo as well as a few new songs and actions. We have introduced a few instruments and the students are loving this opportunity.

Teacher Aide hours available

We have acquired a few hours of funding to support some students, inside and outside of the classroom. These hours are somewhat flexible and if you know of anyone that may be interested, please ask them to make contact with the school.

Skiing

Finally the weather behaved and we got our first visit up to Ōhau, for a day of skiing or snowboarding. Everyone enjoyed the day, despite the wind and somewhat fresh conditions.

Parent Community

Ōmārama School has an excellent parent community who are very involved with the school and offer practical support at all times. We are very fortunate to have such a supportive community who have the children's best interests at heart, always. Small rural schools cannot operate effectively without parent and community support and



we are very grateful for the ongoing support and enthusiasm that is shown by our community.

Ōmārama School also has a very strong FOS (Friend of School) team that fundraises fiercely for Ōmārama School to participate in all relevant opportunities.

*Alison, Clair, Bailey, Kay and Ange
Ōmārama School*

All photos: Supplied.

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

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

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Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects in Aoraki/ Mount Cook, Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio, Glenavy.

How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on 22 September 2024.

For more information and to apply:

visit meridian.co.nz/pu-waitaki

email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz

call 03 357 9732

Do you know of a community project that's working to reduce carbon emissions? Visit meridian.co.nz and search "Decarb fund" for more information.



Meridian.

Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki

Your local MP welcomes
all enquiries.

waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

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Wanaka

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Twizel, 7901

Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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

Ōmārama 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
is open 9.30am to 11am,
Wednesdays and Saturdays,
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.
omaramalibrary@gmail.com

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473

Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the
Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm, Thursday, September 19, 2024
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

Residents' Association committee:

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson
Vicky Chambers, secretary
Stephen Grundy, treasurer
Michelle Kitchen, hall curator
Malcolm Cameron, MenzShed representative
Hank Verheul, building convenor
Maurice Cowie
Jennie Hales
Gary Sutherland

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

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

The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.

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

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



Annual meeting

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Residents Association of Ōmārama Inc

7pm, Thursday, October 17, 2024
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

An invitation is extended to all

To include:

Election of Officers

Presentation of Annual and Financial Reports

Contacts:

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630

Vicky Chambers, secretary, 021 296 5782

The minutes of the previous meeting are available from Vicky.

HOT TUBS [☺]ŌMARAMA

Part-time position available to join our
team here at

Hot Tubs Omarama

Approachable, hardworking and
common sense are essential!

This is currently a part time position, which includes weekends, public holidays, and evenings.

This position covers a wide scope of duties.

Immediate start is available

Please contact
Emma Moore
03 4389703

or email emma@hottubsomarama.co.nz





Situation Vacant

Omarama School is looking for someone to support students for a few hours per week, this term and possibly next term. If you are interested then please contact Alison Holden (principal@omarama.school.nz) to find out more information.

Situation Vacant

BigSky Motel Manager / Housekeeper

Location: Omarama, Waitaki/McKenzie Tourist Region

A small luxury motel, we are looking for someone to help us maintain our high-end facility and provide exceptional service to our clients.

This role is ideal for retired or semi-retired individuals, or those interested in job sharing, as it involves a 7-day-a-week commitment.

What You'll Do:

- * Client engagement: Take client bookings, meet and greet guests, and ensure they have a memorable experience.
- * Financial Transactions: Handle payments with accuracy and professionalism.
- * Facility Maintenance: Keep our luxury rooms and common areas spotless, ensuring our guests enjoy a pristine environment.

What We Offer:

- * The chance to experience the great outdoors and embrace the lifestyle of our beautiful location.
- * A dynamic work environment where no two days are the same.
- * Onsite accommodation is available.
- * The Motel can also be run remotely.
- * Contract rates and conditions are negotiable.

If you're passionate about hospitality and eager to be part of a luxury experience, we'd love to hear from you!

Please email us at: us@hankay.co.nz



Have your say on our dams policy

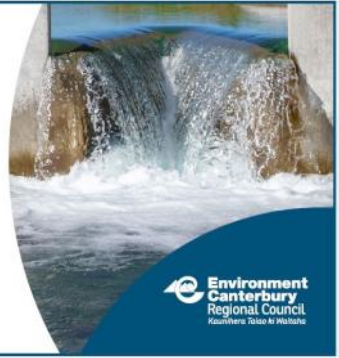
A new policy is important because we need to:

- 1 Protect people, property and the environment from dangerous, earthquake-prone and flood-prone dams
- 2 Align the policy with the new Government's dam safety regulations ecan.govt.nz/dam-regulations



To make a submission visit:
ecan.govt.nz/dam-policy

Please provide your feedback by 4 October 2024.



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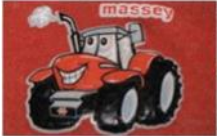
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Care in the community

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

The new garden diary - Beginning again

The garden is eager to get started despite it all.

Hellebores already destined for demise defy the odds and force their ruddy buds up through the rubble, through the shingle and mud compacted tightly between caterpillar tracks only to be trammelled by hardworking boots. You're not meant to be here, I whisper. The next day they're gone. But snowdrops and matchheads have found safer places to put down new roots, tucked and settled under hedges.

Once I swore if I had my time over again to make a garden I'd be disciplined and carefully consider the conditions and constraints, right plant, right place and all that. But all vows of restraint have blown east on the back of the 'blow-out-the-cobwebs Nor' wester. It's easier to admit I'm just not the disciplined type.

Daily (sometimes more than that) I swing the gate open with a clang and head down the old path to the new house in excitement to wonder over the workmen's craft. While they skillfully build us a home I'm planning the garden. I've dug out the measure tape, the protractor, the slide rule and the sketch pad and pens. I have the books out. I've been revisiting my favourite garden designers for sage advice. Tomes by John Brookes, Beth Chatto, Piet Oudolf and Jo Wakelin pile up around me as I sit in front of the fire with rain and sleet pouring down outside.

In my mind's eye beds are already bursting and brimming over their borders. There will be sweet peas for my Grandma, Lilly of the Valley for my Mum, and daisies of every kind. There will be a sunny colour clash of zinnias, there will be red and there will be fun!

The golden queen peach is in place but where will the apples trees be replanted? And the plum, and the apricot and two pears? And where will the new chook house go? Plumber Travis has suggested a installing a tank – not a silly idea.

The wildings, the soldier poppies and bugloss will no doubt be first up through the rubble followed by violets and forget-me-nots to fill cracks and crevices. The new deck is finished in time to show off the terracotta bowl of daffodils and cream violas I planted in anticipation in autumn.

It will be a sanctuary, to write in, a garden with bees, beetles, birds and the frogs, a garden for day dreaming, but not too much dreaming. John Brookes cared so passionately about garden design, about Getting It Right and Taking It Seriously but he pulled no punches.

"Just...get out there and get on with it, he once said to a student.

And I can't wait!

"I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning." - J. B. Priestley

By Ruth Grundy,

I garden a small space under the big sky in Ōmārama.





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