



# Ōmārama Gazette

September 2025

## Permission granted to burn slash piles

Plans will be in place which will include a comprehensive smoke management plan which includes the state highway when the major task of burning the six large piles of slash begins.

The slash piles were formed when the stream was cleared of trees and debris after the July and August 2022 floods.

The piles sit along the western side of the stream from the Millennium Walkway Bridge to the Ōmārama Stream Bridge, some are under willow trees. They are a constant reminder of the enormity of the two flood events.

The Ōmārama Stream Environment Canterbury ratepayers have been attempting to shoulder what they acknowledge is their responsibility under present legislation despite limited resources and tangles of red tape.

It is difficult to get the scale from photographs of these six behemoths which must be removed.

- continued over

*Parties concerned have agreed these mountains of slash and debris cleared in the clean-up after the Ōmārama Stream floods in 2022 can be burned.*



## *Permission granted to burn slash piles - continued*

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

The 'tree work' was completed in December 2023 and at that time ECan Rivers Manager David Aires said the original \$100,000 discussed for tree removal and stopbank repair was an estimate and additional \$11,000 was needed to meet the original objective.

Several agencies ECan, the Waitaki District Council, Transit New Zealand, and the Department of Conservation for Land Information New Zealand, are charged with managing the waterway and immediate surrounds and undefined agency responsibilities have contributed to delays.

The Ōmārama Gazette understands the Waitaki District Council was to manage the removal of the slash and debris, and this matter was also raised with Parks and Reserves staff at the meeting with the Residents' Association of Ōmārama on November 20, 2023.

This year the council has budgeted \$25K and \$5K next financial year to go to Ōmārama Stream Reserve Management.

In answer to questions put by email by the Ōmārama Gazette last week a council spokesperson said the \$25K was to implement any simple ideas that came out as a result of the community discussions at the recent community workshops, and \$5K next year was to cover any operational maintenance costs outside existing contract requirements. i.e. grass management to reduce fire risk.

Council staff will work with the community to agree on how this should be spent, he said.

The Stream ratepayers hit a further roadblock when ECan told the ratepayers that funds to mend the stop banks above the Ōmārama Stream bridge could not come from the rates collected because only land below the bridge was included in the scheme.

Specifically, the council needed to give consent for the stop bank work and this cost was also not covered.

These frustrations were voiced at the council-led workshops – open to all ratepayers - and subsequently some progress has been made.

At the second workshop council recreation manager Lindsay Hyde told those present the council had "come to the party" with the consent needed for ECan and Transit to work above the bridge.

Ōmārama Station owner Richard Subtil pointed out that the "the plug" which caused the Stream to jump from its course and flow across SH8 and into the properties below was the bridge.

Although there was an apology from ECan for the workshop and site visit, a staff member was available for questions by phone and it would be fair to say other immediate concerns were thoroughly thrashed out.

No time has been wasted since to get the approved tasks underway.

The area had been regularly grazed in the past – people were happy with that.

However, the grazing lease had lapsed and it had not been grazed for a couple of seasons and was not being grazed at present.

Peter Casserly, who had the lease, said grazing should take place between April and December for best effect.

“There should be no ewes or lambs over the Christmas period” because of increased use by dog walkers and holiday makers over summer.

Mr Hyde said temporary grazing could be put in place now. A long term lease would likely have to be advertised, he said.

He gave verbal permission to Mr Subtil to graze rams directly and would follow this up with the appropriate written agreement.

The persistent and vexing subject of gorse and broom control in the council-managed reserve land was also raised.

“You and I know it hasn’t been done in years,” Mr Subtil said.

Regular applications had been made to the council to spray because the weeds spread from there onto Ōmārama Station.

Weed control had been part of the grazing lease but had not happened since the lease lapsed, Stream property owner Bridget Spencer said.

Mr Hyde said the first step was to notify the council of the maintenance issue through the Snap, Send, Solve system.

Ms Spencer questioned why the reserve land was not part of the council’s green space contract.

Mr Hyde confirmed it was not included in that contract and any work there was additional work.

He suggested the group make a direct approach to the Ahuriri Community Board for funding for this work.



## *Permission granted to burn slash piles - continued*

He also said the council was open to “cost-effective” solutions like “sharing” Ōmārama Station's approved contractors. Mr Subtil agreed to supply the name of the contractor to Mr Hyde.

In an email following the workshop the Ōmārama Gazette asked specifically, what funding the Ahuriri Community Board had which could be applied for and allocated to the management of the Council-administered reserve land at the Ōmārama Stream. In the reply the spokesperson said one funding stream was via the board's Ahuriri Reserve Improvements fund..

The Ahuriri Community Board also had its amenities fund, and the community could work with the council's Grants and Funding Officer and the Waitaki Grant Finder app to find suitable other funding streams for specific projects, he said.

In the most recent financial update to the board, published yesterday in its agenda for next week's meeting, the board has \$23,460 available for minor recreation improvement projects to be spent across the ward. The board also has \$14,509 in its Discretionary Fund to fund small community projects and \$44,978 for the 2024-25 financial year in its Community Grants fund, also for use across the whole ward.

Mr Hyde said the council had “no fixed ideas” about projects in the area but was trying to get “support and agreement” for what should be tackled and “looking at the potential”.

“[There is] one hell of a mess to clean up first, Ms Spencer said. The placement of the slash piles risked blocking the flow of water and causing future flooding in the next rain event. It had been two years since the trees were pulled and nothing further had happened. “Shortly we will be in a restricted burning season and, hello, another winter has gone by,” she said.

Mr Hyde acknowledged the piles were an “eyesore” and had not been “a successful solution” for what was an horrific event but that the cleanup had to be paid for by someone “ – a wider rate is not my decision”.

In an email which was read to the meeting ECan Area Engineer Southern Sam Kidner said it had \$1000 in its budget this financial year. “This will cover a day's spraying but no other works”.

“At this stage we have no plans for the piles. I have been quoted ~\$30k for burning and ~\$60k for chipping.

“ECan maybe (definite maybe) able to contribute some funds to this from a different area (not the scheme) to help fund this but this will only be a contribution. And to be super clear I cannot guarantee any funding,” the email said.

The group discussed how burning might be managed by volunteers to reduce costs.

While the council did not create the problem it had given its permission for the tree work to take place, and his view was he would rather “get in and get it done and manage the risk”, Mr Hyde said. “We're not putting up any barriers [to burning] at our end if the plans are well worked out, crossed ‘t's dotted ‘l's.”

Mr Kidner was then contacted by phone and he confirmed the stream ratepayers had ECan's permission to burn if all parties concerned were properly notified, if there was a smoke plan in place, Fire and Emergency was notified, requirements around fire



seasons were met and appropriate notice given to the community.

The onus was on the person lighting the fire to make sure it was lit in the best conditions and to have the appropriate machinery on site to manage the burn, he said. Ms Spencer was nominated to form a subcommittee to set those plans in place.

After the meeting she told the Ōmārama Gazette those plans were well advanced and burning could happen this month. There was a considerable cost to bring in the appropriate machinery but the group would approach the council for some help with that.

Mr Hyde agreed to supply the written agreement for the reserve to be used for the burning. The community would be advised of specific dates through Ōmārama Gazette channels.

The site visit – the first time Mr Hyde had visited the area concerned – reinforced the recounts of stream residents and highlighted some of the other issues they had faced. Mr Hyde acknowledged it was a beautiful site with potential.

Developing the Ōmārama Stream Reserve walkway and connection back to SH83 was identified as a key goal of the Ōmārama Masterplan which was allocated Better-off funding in 2022.

There was a ratepayer representative at the November 20 2023 meeting who asked for an allocation of the \$225K Better-off funding monies to go to the on-going work of the Ōmārama Stream ratepayers and this was noted by council placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen's in her meeting notes.

In answer to a question from the Ōmārama Gazette a council spokesperson said no Better-off funding had been allocated to this project. The financial position had changed and in June 2024 the council approved some of that money would go to water projects, and the Government's water reforms, at the request of the Department of Internal Affairs, the spokesperson said. The council has now

*Below: Attendees at the Waitaki District Council Ōmārama Stream workshops take a site visit to view the state of the Ōmārama Stream.*



# What's happening with our water?

The council has now submitted its Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) ahead of today's deadline and is awaiting the outcome.

But there will be a delay before Omarama residents hear how this will affect this township's rates.

The Government can do one of the following:

- Accept the plan.
- Request further information or changes to the plan, or
- Reject the plan.

If the plan is accepted by the Government:

- the council will be legally required to deliver the WSDP as approved by the DIA.
- Any changes the council wants to make to the WSDP must be approved by the DIA
- the council will need to amend its Long Term Plan 2025-34 to include depreciation for water assets in 2026/27 and include all water assets, infrastructure upgrades, depreciation and operating costs from 2027/28 to 2033/34 as set out in the WSDP. This Long-Term Plan amendment will be the responsibility of the new mayor and councillors chosen in next month's local body elections.

If the DIA reject the plan it can

- appoint a Crown Water Services facilitator to support the council in developing a compliant plan for re-submission and review.
- It can appoint a Crown Commissioner for Water Services who will hold the decision-making powers of the council to determine the structure and contents of a compliant plan, including deciding whether to create a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) for the council's water services or to put the water services into a Joint CCO with other councils.

If a Crown Commissioner for Water Services is appointed, the mayor and councillors would not have any further role in approving or developing the council's plan, or the structure of how water services are to be delivered in future. The decision-making would rest with the Commissioner and the DIA.

The draft plan proposes water charge increases of 62% in the 2026/27 financial year, and a total of 135% in water charge increases between 2024 and 2034.

This means a proposed district average rates rise of 26% in 2026/27.

Had a joint approach and shared services been adopted and a new entity set up ratepayers water services charges would have been separated from rates and ratepayers would have been levied for those costs by the joint CCO.

Water metering will also be introduced as part of the changes.

The average figures for the rate increase for Omarama's three waters are yet to be determined.

Council staff are still working through all potential ramifications after councillors decided at their July meeting to go for an in-house business unit, rejecting three other options, including a joint council-controlled organisation with the Central Otago, Clutha and Gore district councils.

The council had previously voted to go to public consultation, with the joint CCO listed as its preferred option.

*-continued*

In late 2023, the council built a new Omarama Water Treatment Plant as part of compliance with Taumata Arowai - the national water services authority - directions. Water main renewals were carried out in the town earlier this year and in 2020 under the previous Government's Three Waters programme the council approved a \$1.4 million for wastewater treatment upgrade in Omarama.

The Omarama Gazette will endeavour to keep you informed of changes as information becomes available.

The council will inform the community once the DIA responds to the submitted plan.

A series of five public workshops were held to develop the plan in July and August. The Department of Internal Affairs, Bancorp, the Local Government Finance Association, Morrison Low and the Council's Finance and Assets Team all gave presentations and answered questions from the Mayor and Councillors about the development of the plan.

A copy of the WSDP is available on Council's website.

The council is encouraging people to watch the videos of the workshops and read the presentations to be fully informed about the development of the plan.

You can find the links to each of the five workshops on the council's YouTube channel.

Workshop 1 Financial forecasts for the Water Services Delivery Plan

Workshop 2 The council staff provide further information on financial forecasts for water services.

Workshop 3 The council staff provide further information on Water Service Delivery plan requirements and the capital expenditure programme.

Workshop 4 Council officers were joined by representatives of the Department of Internal Affairs to discuss the feedback provided by DIA relating to the Draft WSDP.

Workshop 5 :The council receives a presentation from Morrison Low and Bancorp regarding further information about the Water Services Delivery Plan and a potential credit rating.



# ICYMI

## Rowing and netball success for Mason girls

While returning to Ōmārama and schoolwork may have been a bit of a come down after competing so successfully at the World Rowing championship in Lithuania, Sadie Mason hit the ground running.

Sadie competed as part of the Rowing New Zealand's Under 19 women's quad to win the B Final in the World Rowing Under 19 Championships in Lithuania at the start of August.

Last week the successful athlete was joined by sister Hazel in the Twizel School Netball team to compete at the South Island Secondary Schools Netball in Dunedin. Not only did the team win the B Grade final but the organisation named Hazel and Sadie as B Grade Talent ID players - athletes identified by scouts, coaches, or evaluators as having the potential to play at a more advanced, elite, or professional level in a specific sport.

Twizel School's Energy team capped off the week by winning 36–21, and finishing seventh in their Premier A grade match in Oamaru.

*The Twizel Area School netball team won the B Grade of the South Island Secondary Schools netball tournament in Dunedin, last week. Photo: SISS Netball.*

*Rowing New Zealand's Under 19 women's quad pulled out all the stops to win World Rowing Under 19 Championships B Final 2025 at Trakai, Lithuania, in August. Photo: Rowing NZ*





# Let's all get ready - grab and go

In this second of a series on how to get prepared for a significant emergency event let me take you on a journey.

We don't know when and we don't know why but chances are good we'll take this journey together – but separately. So, its time to make plans – yes, now is good.

It can all seem a bit overwhelming to prepare for the unknown. Where do you start? I thought this info here was helpful and easy to understand: [www.consumer.org.nz/products/emergency-grab-bags/guide](http://www.consumer.org.nz/products/emergency-grab-bags/guide)

Consumer has teamed up with the National Emergency Management Agency and Toka Tū Ake EQC to produce these free reports and advice. They're clear and easy to follow and you can go through step by step..

I started with getting a 'grab bag' ready, one each for two of us plus a small waist pouch for the dog's needs. One bag each is easier to carry if you have to walk any distance plus you could be split up.

An emergency grab bag should have the essentials you need for at least three days away from home. It needs to be stored somewhere it'll be easy to grab if you need to evacuate in an emergency.

And if that happens and you are told to go to Ōmārama's emergency shelter which is the Hall, take this bag with you. The Hall will have limited provisions.

You can buy a readymade bag - Consumer rates those on sale and points out most need extras added to make them useful. Or it gives a guide to making your own. This was just the best advice and what's more it's been fun putting it all together.

Yeah, I don't get out much!

The more you get into it the more you realise the bags are much better 'tailormade' – not having food rations which are gluten free could be a disaster on top of disaster if you know what I mean?!

And I've found checking items off the list made me realise how many things I couldn't find that I had assumed I could just lay my hands on in a hurry. I'm not done building ours yet but I'm well on the way. I hope to have it ready to take to the next Ōmārama Resilience Hub meeting in about a fortnight where the volunteers who will 'man' the hub will compare notes.

I'm not sure if I'll ever be brave enough to trial mine like Consumer researcher Amy has - there are YouTube clips of her doing that - but it's worth a thought.

While when it comes to the ultimate test I might not nail everything, better than nothing has to be a good start.



# The Noticeboard

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

**And it's birthday congratulations** for last month to Annabelle Subtil, Hank Verheul and Lindsay Purvis.

**Welcome back campers:** The Waitaki Lakes camping season, including Sailors Cutting opens on the third Saturday of September and is open until the first Sunday in May.

**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](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

**The Ōmārama Community Library** is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change.

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

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

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

**The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group** meets once a month. For time and place contact facilitator Bridget Pringle, 021 072 2113 or [bridget@irricon.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:bjallan@xtra.co.nz)

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

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

**Waitaki Newcomers Network:** For more information about this group send contact details to E: [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz) W: [www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz) F: [facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/](https://facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/)

**Plunket Line: 0800 933 922**

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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](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

Thank you to all who share your stories and contribute in other ways to the Gazette.

We all really appreciate what you do.

**The October Issue of the Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, October 1, 2025.**

Please submit copy  
by Thursday, September 25, 2025

# The Community Reports

## Ōmārama Police



Call triple one (111) when you need an emergency response from police, fire or ambulance.  
Use Ten Five (105) to report things that don't need urgent Police assistance.

Usual office contact details:

Senior Constable Nayland Smith

Sole charge Constable / Omarama / Po Box 101,  
Omarama 9448.

Phone: (03) 438 9559 / Ext: 34580 /

mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

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## Ōmārama Golf Club

The Challenge Shield for the President Trophy was held Sunday, August 24, at the Ōmārama Golf Club.

Ōmārama, North Otago, Waikouaiti, Kurow, Lower Waitaki, Otematata, Tokarahi and Ardleigh all played for semi-final spots.

CONGRATULATIONS to the following four teams (in ranking order) they go through to semi-finals to be played on Sunday:

- Ardleigh
- Tokarahi
- Lower Waitaki
- Ōmārama (well done team!!!)

All the best for the next round.

Arron Chambers, Ōmārama Golf Club secretary.

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

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](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

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# Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*- By Ōmārama Volunteer Fire brigade chief fire officer Jack Zorab*

It's been a busy month for the brigade, call outs have been steady at nine for August, but our volunteers have been putting in a lot of hard graft behind the scenes to help each other with training for courses, keeping the gear operational, and making some improvements around the station. Fresh off her promotion to Deputy Brigade Leader, Tania jetted off to Rotorua to the national training center where she completed her Qualified Firefighter course. Ask her about it if you see her around, four days of live fire, helicopters, confined spaces and a world-class facility!

We've welcomed a few new recruits into the brigade, and they've hit the ground running. Welcome to Alona and Blair Shaw and Erwin Beiboer and thank you so much for stepping forward and joining the team.

Jason Pryde is busy preparing for his recruit course in October. There's been a lot of sweat shed as he focuses on his breathing apparatus skills. He's also been responsible for delivering a side project as we looked to upgrade our training facilities on station. Using money kindly donated by Ōmārama Top 10 Holiday Park from the open day last year, the brigade has purchased a new TV that is larger, able to connect to all devices and glare free. This will allow us to access more online training, dial in to seminars and make sure that everyone is able to see what's on the screen. We've also been able to secure a mobile stand for the screen that came off the wall so that it can be used in other areas of the station, allowing separate groups to train at the same time. A huge thanks to Jase for all the work he put in to get the best bang for our buck, and of course to the Top 10 for their donation which allowed us to make the upgrade.

The team also came together for a brigade day one Sunday for a bit of team building and planning for the year ahead. Heartfelt thanks from me to everyone from me for giving up a weekend day and contributing so much. We always put a lot of time and focus on our practical skills, but it was really nice to set them aside and spend some time focusing on ourselves and how we can best support each other and the community.

Last thing from me, I was able to attend the newly-formed community resilience group meeting in August and it's great to see the proactive work they've already started on. One thing is clear, the better prepared we are as individual households, the quicker we'll recover as a community. If you haven't already got a plan for your household, visit <https://getready.govt.nz/prepared> and make a plan!

The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets at 7pm each Wednesday at the Ōmārama Fire Station and has its meeting on the third Wednesday of the month.

If anyone would like more information about the various volunteer roles available within the fire brigade please get in touch.

Email [omarama@fireandemergency.co.nz](mailto:omarama@fireandemergency.co.nz) or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909.

# Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

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

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

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

## How to apply

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

For more information and to apply:

- visit [meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund](https://meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund)
- email [community@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:community@meridianenergy.co.nz)
- call 021 733 931



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Business Development  
Manager  
0274647751  
[pmrentals@mcree.co.nz](mailto:pmrentals@mcree.co.nz)





## Make your vote count!

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

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

Not registered yet? You can still vote!

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

vote.nz 0800 36 76 56



## Community Grants and Awards

Looking for funding for a community or heritage project?

- Community Group Grants close September 5 2025
- Heritage Fund Grants close September 8 2025

You can find these, and other grant opportunities, by using the Waitaki Grant Finder:

<https://grantguru.com/nz/waitaki>





# **Boots and Jandals Hotel Social Club Spring function**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at  
Boots and Jandals Omarama Hotel**

**Start Time 3pm. Light meal to be  
provided later in the afternoon.**

**Hope to see you there.**



# 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](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com)  
or secretary Olivia Black, 027 833 0869.

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## Ōmārama Community Library

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

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## Knit Night Ōmārama

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

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**PHONE 03 687 2080**



Brodie Craig CA

# Weekly Winter Housie

Thanks to popular demand the season will extend for another two weeks!  
Next thing you know it will be Christmas! Each Wednesday at 1pm at the Omarama Community Centre.



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](mailto:NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz)  
Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thurs - Fri 9-12.30pm

## OMARAMA Pop Up Café

**Guest Speaker:**

**Fiona Chamberlain  
RN, Kurow Medical Centre**

**Healthy Aging**

**Move More Live Longer / Falls Prevention  
Healthy Nutrition  
Mental and Social Wellbeing  
Cognitive / Brain Health**



**Join us!**



**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1pm to 3pm  
Omarama Community Centre**



# Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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



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## Daffodil Day in Ōmārama

THE SUN WAS OUT AND SO WERE THESE DAFFODILS

Sales kept these ladies busy and our volunteers raised \$984 for the cause.  
Daffodil Day in Ōmārama, 2025.



# Ōmārama Residents' Association

*By Ruth Grundy*

After a postponement and a lack of a quorum at the previous meeting it was virtually a full house of Residents' Association committee members who met for its delayed August meeting on Monday.

Chairperson Michelle Kitchen gave her report and noted the hard work put in by the committee members developing the new constitution so it would be able to be published for feedback before being sent to the Association's lawyers ahead of next month's annual meeting where it will be ratified. The draft for review and comment is available from the secretary. [See note regarding feedback below].

The new constitution needs to meet the requirements of the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. It will replace the association's original constitution drawn up at its inception in 2009.

There was some concern expressed that the RAOI may not be able to meet the requirement to keep a register of members. Legal advice will be sought.

Work to seal the hall carpark will begin mid to late September: Lindsay Purvis obtained two quotes for the work, from Whitestone Contracting and MCM Contracting Ltd of Oamaru, and the contract was granted to MCM. There were unexpected delays getting a purchase order for the work from the Waitaki District Council because of changes to council staff. Prior to the sealing a permanent artificial grass surround will be installed around the Memorial Rock.

This will be managed by Maurice Cowie who obtained quotes and presented samples to the committee for approval. So, with the help of MenzShed members, it can be installed shortly.

It was reported council recreation manager Lindsay Hyde has asked the committee for a list of maintenance jobs for summer work. He has also asked for a plan of work for the playground. He has said the council would not consider removing the pines and birches between the playground and the old sports field until a plan was in place which included replacement plantings. It was unclear whether this request was made verbally or via email.

The committee was told the state of the wire fence was not causing an issue for Playgroup at this stage because play was largely indoors. However, it may be an issue in coming warmer months. Consequently, Gary Sutherland's offer to restore the fence was accepted.

There are three bookings for the hall coming up. The hall curator will remind regular hall users of the need to bag and take their rubbish after using the hall.

As there was no response to the advertisement of the treasurer's role holiday homeowner Richard Kitto has been approached and nominated to accept the role at the annual meeting. Richard, who will participate in monthly meetings via Zoom calls, is a manager at de Geest Construction Ltd, Oamaru.

Stephen Grundy, who gave this month's financial report, has agreed to remain as treasurer until the annual meeting.

The financial reports the Project funds monies include sums for the community garden, exercise equipment, the finalisation of the generator project, and \$10,000 seed funding for the carpark sealing project.

*-continued over*



# Annual Meeting

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING  
Residents Association of Ōmārama Inc  
7pm, Thursday, October 16, 2025  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre  
An invitation is extended to all

To include:

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

Vicky Chambers, secretary [omarama.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.secretary@gmail.com)  
The minutes of the previous meeting are available from Vicky.

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## **THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX**

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

**The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.**

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## **ŌMĀRAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE**

To make a booking for an upcoming event or for more  
information about hall hire and availability  
please contact Michelle Kitchen 027 280 5446  
or email [hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz)



# *Ōmārama Residents' Association - continued*

As part of the dispersal of funds from the sale of St Thomas's Church the Otago Foundation Trust Board has forwarded the amount of \$20,827 from the remaining bequest which has been placed in a term deposit account.

The notice of motion put forward by Ruth Grundy regarding a proposed bylaw to secure any funds from the dispersal for its agreed purpose which is to be put to the annual meeting was not discussed but taken as read. The document is available from the secretary. Please direct all feedback about the bylaw to the [secretary.omarama.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.omarama.secretary@gmail.com)

As part of the legal advice sought from Berry and Co Law, Oamaru, about accepting the offered proceeds of some of the monies from the sale of St Thomas's a letter had been sent to the committee for its approval on July 3. This was unanimously approved at the meeting on Monday with the decision to instruct the lawyers to continue. Depending on the outcome of this a further meeting with the representatives of the Presbyterian Synod of Otago and Southland may take place.

The minutes and reports of Monday's meeting are available from the [secretary.omarama.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.omarama.secretary@gmail.com) and will be published in next month's issue of the Ōmārama Gazette.

## **Below is a notice from RAOI secretary Vicky Chambers re the draft constitution**

*"Under the changes that have been made to the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, all Incorporated Societies are required to re-register their status as an Incorporated Society. Part of this requirement is to review and amend the existing constitution to ensure that it meets the current legal requirements.*

*The committee members of the Residents Association of Ōmārama Inc (RAOI) have now finalised the document and are putting this out to the community by way of consultation for a period of at least 14 days. Any comments on this document should be sent via email to [omarama.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.secretary@gmail.com) or to PO Box 93, Ōmārama, 9448 and should be received by the Secretary **no later than 5.00 pm, Thursday September 18, 2025**. If you require a non electronic version of this document please contact the secretary directly. (Vicky Chambers – 021 296 5782)*

*It should be noted that within this document all references to Member and Membership are to be determined and clarified under legal advisement to ensure that they comply with the legal requirements of the Act. They are highlighted yellow or underlined in blue and are subject to change."*

Please direct all feedback to [omarama.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.secretary@gmail.com)

## **Residents' Association of Ōmārama committee 2024-25**

*Michelle Kitchen, chairperson and hall curator*

*Vicky Chambers, secretary*

*Hank Verheul, building convenor*

*Malcolm Cameron, MenzShed representative*

*Natalie Beiboer*

*Maurice Cowie*

*Stephen Grundy*

*Jennie Hales*

*Lindsay Purvis*

*Gary Sutherland*

# Update from Kurow Medical and Mackenzie Health Centre

We are very pleased to announce that Dr Pnina Strasbourger will be joining our medical team next week on Monday, September 8, 2025. She will be working in Twizel at our Mackenzie Health Centre for three days per week and at our Kurow Medical Centre for one day per week.

Here is a brief introduction from Dr Pnina:

"I was born and raised in a small kibbutz in Israel. This is where I picked up my love of nature, as well as my ideals of strong communities and fair social policies. After high school, I spent a year volunteering in a town in the south of Israel. Later, I moved to Seattle to pursue my bachelors in Bioengineering at the University of Washington, where I also worked for several years in microbiology and genetics research.

Enjoying the science, but missing the human touch, I decided to change careers into medicine. I attended the University of Washington School of Medicine and then did my family medicine residency at Valley Medical Center in Washington state. Since graduating from residency, I have worked in various primary care clinics around the Seattle area. I am passionate about nutrition, wellness and people's stories.

I am excited to start a new chapter and to be practising medicine in New Zealand. This is my second time here. I first visited New Zealand on vacation back in 2003 and I fell in love with this country and its people. I am happy to be joining MacKenzie Health Centre and to experience beautiful Twizel with my husband and four children. Outside of medicine, I enjoy spending time with friends and family, laughing, traveling and learning about different customs and cultures, hiking, snowshoeing, skiing, camping, and playing board games.

- Dr Pnina Strasbourger

If you would like to make an appointment with Dr Pnina please call reception on 03 436 0760 for Kurow or 03 687 3530 for Twizel.

*Yours in health  
Juliet and Tim Gardner*

## Kurow Medical Centre

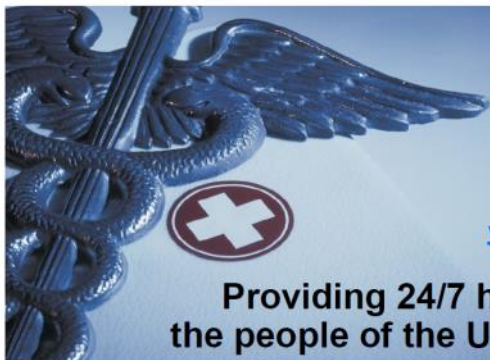
8 Wynyard St, Kurow  
P: 03 4360760 F: 03 4360780

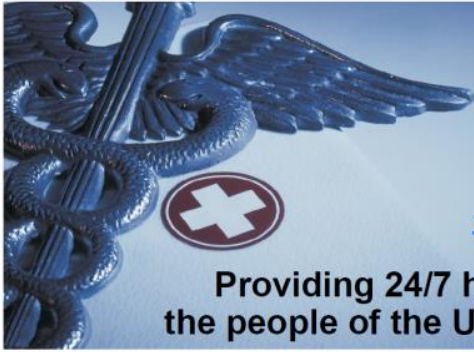
E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](https://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

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





# Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](https://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

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

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

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

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

**And much more!**

**GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$45.00**

**Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

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

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

## **Opening hours**

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

Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm

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

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

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

**For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503**

*-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner*

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



# Wellness Matters

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

September highlights two important health issues: prostate cancer and cervical cancer. Both affect many New Zealanders, but awareness, prevention, and early checks can make a big difference and save lives.

□ Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in people assigned male at birth. The prostate is a small gland below the bladder that helps produce semen. Each year, over 4,000 people in New Zealand are diagnosed, and around 700 die.

It mainly affects those over 50, but those with a family history - especially if a parent or sibling was diagnosed before 65, should be extra careful. Māori and Pasifika people are also at higher risk.

Early stages often have no symptoms. Difficulty urinating, going more often (especially at night), or pain and blood in urine or semen are the main symptoms. Pelvic discomfort, bone pain, or unexplained weight loss can also occur. This can also be caused by other illnesses, so it is important to get checked.

Early detection saves lives. The PSA (Prostate-Specific-Antigen) blood test is the usual first step. People with a prostate over 50 (or over 40 with a family history) or those with symptoms should talk with their doctor about whether this test is right for them. [www.kupe.net.nz](http://www.kupe.net.nz).

Blue September reminds us that open conversations and regular checks save lives. [www.blueseptember.org.nz](http://www.blueseptember.org.nz)

□ Cervical cancer is highly preventable thanks to the HPV vaccine and regular screening. The cervix is the lower part of the uterus (womb). Each year in New Zealand, about 170 people are diagnosed, and around 50 die.

Most cases are caused by HPV (human papillomavirus), a common infection passed through intimate skin-to-skin contact. In most people, HPV is harmless and unnoticed, however, for some people, infection by certain strains of the virus can lead to HPV-related cancers. The HPV vaccine is free for all people aged 9–26. [www.hpvvaccine.co.nz](http://www.hpvvaccine.co.nz)

For screening, most people can now do an HPV self-test swab, a simple, accurate, and less invasive option. There are some exceptions where some people still need a cervical sample smear test. Screening is recommended for all people with a cervix from 25-69. It is free for Māori and Pasifika people, Community Services Card holders and for some who are overdue or have never been screened. Your doctor or nurse can advise on this. [www.timetoscreen.nz/cervical-screening](http://www.timetoscreen.nz/cervical-screening).

September messages:

People with a prostate: Find out when to have a PSA test.

People with a cervix: Keep up to date with screening.

Everyone aged 9-26: The HPV vaccine is free for you.

Everyone: Start open conversations - reducing stigma saves lives.

Spring is here (with the odd chilly blip here and there!) so enjoy the warmer temperatures and longer days and take a small step for yourself or someone you love this September.

**Information sourced from [www.info.health.nz](http://www.info.health.nz)**

# Ōmārama School

*From the Ōmārama School Newsletter*

*By Alison Holden, Ōmārama School Principal*

This term has seen meeting visitors popping into school and good relations being exchanged between school and the community. This is wonderful to see and to observe when children make connections with their family history in the Ōmārama area.

With the weather getting warmer we are enjoying our sporting outside lessons and our sessions with Kale from Youthtown. Our students definitely enjoy their sport and are currently practicing for Term 4 athletics. Unfortunately this year, that will not be held at Twizel Area School as their school build is in the way of the field events and markings.

Staff attended Professional development for the Teachers Only day last Wednesday. This meeting was to further unpack the new maths curriculum and was attended by many schools in the area. We are hoping to share some of our new maths programmes with you before the end of term.

## **North Otago Cross Country**

Congratulations to Toby Gloag who placed sixth in the Y6 race and to Briar Mc Kerchar who placed eighth. Both students have been given the opportunity to attend the Otago Cross Country in Dunedin on September 5.

## **Ahuriri class**

As part of Ahuriri's enquiry learning, they have been drawing their interpretation of Clay Cliffs and identifying relevant facts.

After Peter Casserly visited the children last Wednesday, Ahuriri class created a brainstorm to reflect everything that Peter shared with us. As Ahuriri class is currently working on explanation writing, pupils wrote about significant aspects of Peter's talk. The writing was impressive.

## **Peter Casserly, by Louis Aubrey (Year 3)**

"Last Wednesday Peter Casserly came to Omarama School to talk about Omarama history and his shearing career. When Peter Casserly was 17 years old he came to Omarama to be a shearer, but sadly he got bored and bought the pub. He was shearing for 60 years at many places around Omarama. Then he went to a competition and he won a trophy, then he won another trophy. He was a really talented shearer. His mum packed him some lunch and his dad gave him \$10 as he left home. They said good luck when he left home. He owned the pub for 10 years. He was going to rent it but it was for sale so he bought it. I enjoyed Peter coming along to school and sharing his stories."

## **Clay Cliffs class**

Over the past two weeks, our students have been busy in the kitchen making their own puff pastry and sausage rolls. The week before, they worked on cupcakes and decorating skills. After cooking, everyone sat down together to share their food — and while eating, they told scary stories. Apparently, there may even be a couple of ghosts wandering around Ōmārama farms!

In class, we've also been exploring the history of Ōmārama. Students began by learning about the early Māori in the area before starting their research into local history from the 1840s through to the 1930s.

*-continued*

We were very fortunate to have Peter Casserly and Lex Perriam visit, sharing their knowledge and stories about Ōmārama's past.

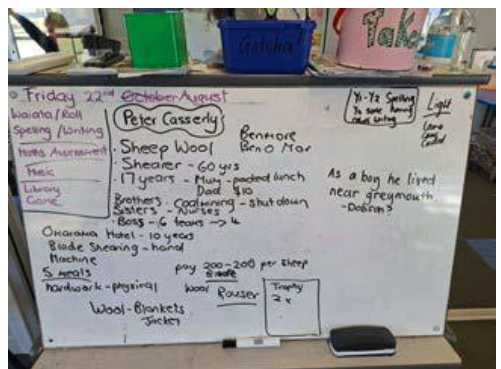
Nicole, Charlotte, and Paige have been working on informative writing about Ngāi Tahu, helping their understanding of the iwi's history and connection to the land.

### **Ngāi Tahu Tribe**

*Ngai Tahu is a iwi/tribe of the South Island of New Zealand for hundreds of a years, Ngai Tahu people travelled through the Ōmārama area they used the land for hunting birds, fishing, and gathering plants. The Waitaki River and nearby lakes were important for catching tuna/eels and other food.*

*They also travelled long distances to find pounamu/greenstone and other valuable resources. Paths through Ōmārama connected the east and west coasts later when Europeans arrived the Ngai Tahu tribe traded food and goods with them but they also lost a lot of land through unfair deals.*

*By Charlotte Hales, Nicole McMurtrie and Paige Doree (Y7 - Y8)*



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Ōmārama School contact details:  
Phone: 03 438 9815

[principal@omarama.school.nz](mailto:principal@omarama.school.nz),  
[office@omarama.school.nz](mailto:office@omarama.school.nz)  
[www.omarama.school.nz](http://www.omarama.school.nz)

# Ōmārama Airfield

## OMARAMA AIRFIELD - CAFE OPPORTUNITY

The tenancy of the Pink Glider café on the Ōmārama airfield has become vacant and the airfield company is seeking expressions of interest from experienced hospitality parties who wish to take up a lease on the property.

The café property is fully equipped, located in a unique airfield environment and offers an outstanding opportunity to create a great hospitality business which will serve aviation related customers, local Ōmārama residents and national and international visitors to the district.

An information pack that describes the airfield, the premise and a summary of the lease terms is available from [admin@omaramaaairfield.co.nz](mailto:admin@omaramaaairfield.co.nz). The airfield company is progressing the establishment of a new lessee as a priority. Requests for the information pack must be accompanied by a description of the applicants experience in the hospitality industry, any proposals they have for the business and should be made prior to 5pm Wednesday, September 10, 2025.

**Clive Geddes**  
**Ōmārama Airfield Ltd**  
**027 229 4860**

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## OPERATIONAL UPDATES FOR OMARAMA AIRFIELD LIMITED

- *Clive Geddes, Ōmārama Airfield Ltd chairman. [clive@omaramaaairfield.co.nz](mailto:clive@omaramaaairfield.co.nz)*

The team at Ōmārama Airfield Limited (OAL) have several important and exciting updates regarding the operations at the Airfield and its associated components which we would like to share with all users, operators and interested parties with regards to Ōmārama Airfield:

Reopening of Airfield Café.

The café facilities at Ōmārama Airfield have been closed in recent times and the previous operator's lease has now ended. COVID was particularly hard on the Ōmārama Airfield, its facilities, its operators and café especially given it's seasonal with most activity generally operating between October and May each year.

Ōmārama Airfield Ltd has entered into an agreement to acquire the operational chattels of the previous operator to enable the café to reopen quickly with an opening date of no later than 01 November 2025 or sooner if possible.

Historically the café (formerly The Pink Glider) was a pivotal and central facility to the Ōmārama aviation users as well as regulars from the wider community and those visitors and tourists passing through the area.

Ōmārama Airfield considers having an attractive exciting café operation functioning seven days a week between 9am and 5pm between October and May and is critical to support those users of the Airfield and its visitors. Breakfasts, morning teas, lunches,

afternoon teas and afternoon refreshments support the general vibe of the Airfield day-to-day operations as well as bring people into the general facilities. It may also be that the café considers providing evening meal options as previous operators had in the past although this

needs to be discussed with the successful new operator.



Historically pre-COVID the Airfield café provided a frequent option (and one of the few in the South Island) for general aviation pilots visiting by air from outside the region as well as the busy and active gliding community. Ōmārama has many excellent accommodation options in the Ōmārama township close to the airfield. The ability for general aviation pilots to fly into Ōmārama and stay is very compelling and exciting. A number of regular events relating to aviation and non-aviation have historically been frequent and the Airfield company will support the new café operator to ensure this becomes normal again.

Negotiations with new café operators are under way and should conclude in the next couple of weeks.

The Airfield company will help in any way it can to ensure the new operator opens quickly and is well supported by the Airfield users and wider community in any way it can.

This is very exciting news for both the Ōmārama wider community and the Ōmārama Airfield.

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## Ōmārama Gliding Club

*By Rod Stuart*

The Otago University Gliding Club had a ball at Ōmārama last month ~ August 16 and 17, 2025.

On Saturday the Pawnee CNC did 18 tows in superb soaring conditions. On Sunday the fun continued with the Te Toroa winch completing 22 launches into ice smooth Omarama air. Ideal for circuit training.

Amy sent through these cool pics from the weekend. A big thank you to all the volunteers that helped make this happen.

We are sure to get some new budding OGC members from this initiative.



# Ōmārama Community Garden

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

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

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

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

Contact: Jennie Hales, [jenniehollows@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniehollows@hotmail.com)

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## Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

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

All welcome. Join the Facebook group.

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## 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](mailto:bridgesp@xtra.co.nz)  
or Ph /txt 021572798

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

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

# Care in the community

## Ōmārama Community Care Group

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

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## Twizel Community Care Centre

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

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel

Phone: 03 435 0687

Email: [admin@twizelcare.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:admin@twizelcare.co.nz) if you would like to arrange a convenient time to collect a parcel. (Donations of non-perishable or foods that can be frozen always welcome)
- **Twizel-Tekapo Community Car bookings** – this is a community car that picks you up from your house and takes you wherever you need to go such as town here in Twizel or Timaru for an appointment, whatever you need. There is a cost involved depending on destinations. Monday to Friday
- **Work and Income** – assistance with applying for benefits, helping with queries regarding superannuation, and any other financial assistance you may receive. Printing and scanning of documents.
- **Inland Revenue** – queries regarding anything IRD related, access to forms.
- **Immigration** - passport and other Government agencies.
- **Cancer Society Navigator** – support for anyone with any cancer each third Thursday of every month
- **Home Delivered Meals** – We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for \$8 and small snack meals for \$4. We can deliver to your home.
- **Printing/scanning services**
- **Arowhenua Whanau services** – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- **Access to a computer**, printing, free WIFI, community notice boards

# Waitaki District Council August news

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

## **Elections 2025**

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

Voters will receive voting papers between September 9 and September 22.

Special voting is from September 9 to October 11.

October 11 is Election Day and voting closes at 12 noon.

Candidate profiles are available on council's website.

NB Environment Canterbury have three candidates standing for two seats in its South Canterbury/Otuhithui constituency.

They are: Peter Scott, Toni Severin and Nick Ward.**Grants open**

The following grants are open.

Community Group Grants - Opens 28 July – Closes 5 September

Waitaki Heritage Fund – Opens 7 July – Closes 8 September

Information about applying for these is here: <https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/About-Waitaki/Living-here/Supporting-our-community/Community-Grants-and-Awards>

And check this app: Grant Guru - GrantGuru | Waitaki District Council

## **E-Motorbikes and council reserves and A2O**

High-powered e-motorbikes or petrol powered motorbikes should not be used on Council parks, reserves, tracks or the A2O.

E-motorbikes are not the same as E-bikes, which are permitted.

The motorbikes are a risk to other parks, reserves and trail users; walkers, riders, families, dogs on lead. They also increase damage to tracks, including those put in by mountain bikers, making them less safe.

Under the Reserves Act (1977) the use of any vehicle in these places could result in between an \$800 and \$1600 fine, and the council also has the power to confiscate the vehicle.

The council is aware that some retailers claim that adding pedals to an E-Motorbike reclassifies it as an E-Bike. However, legally an E-Bike must be rated at 300W or less. NZTA guidelines on vehicle classification can be found at their website.





# Justices of the Peace

**JPs are available by appointment to:**

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

**The service is free of charge.**

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

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



**Vicky Munro**

Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



**Alona Shaw**

Omarama

027 773 4214

## Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki



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

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

 [Waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz)

**Oamaru**

127 Thames Street  
03 434 7325

**Wanaka**

Spencer House Mall  
12/31 Dunmore Street  
03 443 4820

Authorised by M Anderson, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.





For all your agricultural needs and more:

- ❖ Competitive rates on Gorse/Broom/Horehound etc
- ❖ Spraying – crops and forestry
- ❖ Bucket work – fertilising and seed
- ❖ Scenic Flights
- ❖ Pest Control
- ❖ Fire lighting and fighting
- ❖ All Lifting/mustering/hunting requirements
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# Garden Diary - One wild and precious life

Another day passed and I still didn't get to use algebra.

Although, I have had my protractor and compass out, still only dabbling with design ideas for the new spaces, but it's getting all a little more coloured in.

Every moment outside in the garden is weather-dependent, especially now as the Spring westerlies whoosh across the frozen landscape in quick succession.

There's still the shiver of winter as they carry a dusting of snow on their backs. But the temperature gauge is lifts in hope each day.

I shuffle from task to task, depending... and just pootling. Frivolous and fun.

From past experience I know I'll regret not being more focussed on the jobs at hand.

It's about to get frenetic out there.

I've been ordering new seeds, shuffling the old packets, wondering what treasure lie in the ones I didn't label and holding the propagator at arm's length while I cautiously dust off the cobwebs and layer in the potting mix.

It's still too cold to set up in the glass house but there's space in the spare room to get the tomatoes started.

Just outside the glasshouse in the warming sunshine it is a busy 'bee loud glade' as the Hazelnut catkins turn from golden to lemon with pollen as they warm.

The sparrows and finches are already exuberantly squabbling over the best nesting spots. A strong gust sends them squawking and tumbling out of the hedge. They throw feathery punches all the way to the ground and up again.

The heady scent of the daphne hangs like a heavy pomade in the air – the first fragrance in the garden

I'm scrambling through the clean-up as the winter foliage and seed heads change from sculptural to sad and green shoots push through urgently.

I reach from the top of the ladder to the crown of the apple, lopping away at the laterals, leaning into its sturdy branches and take a break to watch the world below. Climbing trees, it's like being a kid again.

Below, one at a time the daffodils are opening. Narcissus Bambi beat all the rest this year and today there are two flowering and a Tête-à-Tête.

The 'to do' list is endless inside and out but there was a new sign in the sunshine outside the café last week, 'Time is precious waste it wisely'. Yes!

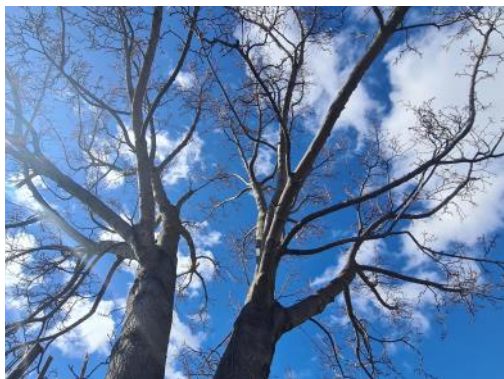
Reluctantly, I untangle myself from my perch, climb down and head inside for evening chores. Happy.

"And at the end of the day your feet should be dirty, your hair messy and your eyes sparkling." - Shanti

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

\*\*\*

The Summer Day - Mary Oliver





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**The weather that was**  
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August 2025

Highest temperature: August 15, 17.1C

Lowest temperature: August 5, -6.8C

Most rainfall: August 18: 5.3 mm

Total rainfall for August: 19.6 mm

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