



Ōmārama Gazette

September 2026

The Wayleggo Cup comes home

(The unashamedly one-eyed Ōmārama version)

They each faced that moment every dog triallist competing on the international stage dreads — three sheep, one pen, and not one but two nations watching.

There may have been plenty of nerves on the ground, but there was nothing but sheer skill on show for viewers on this side of the Tasman watching as the contest played out.

Scott's got them close... but close isn't enough. One wrong step and they'll be away again. Lucy's holding beautifully — just a whisper of pressure now... will they break, or will they go?

-continued over

Ōmārama sheep dog triallist Scott Hunter and Lucy work to pen merino wethers in the third and final test for the Wayleggo Cup in Queensland, Australia.

Video snapshot: Australian Sheep Dog Workers Association



The Wayleggo Cup comes home - continued

Sunday was the final day of the trans-Tasman Wayleggo Cup in sheep dog trialling, contested at the Stanthorpe Showgrounds in Stanthorpe, Queensland, Australia, and it was nail-biting stuff as the Kiwis came from 20 points behind to win the day—just.

Especially nail-biting for Ōmārama viewers, two in particular — Paige and James Hunter — willing their father Scott and Lucy to pen those wily sheep in their last run. Then heart rates soared again as the final New Zealand run was made, this time by grandfather Lloyd Smith with Guide.

If he can just steady them... just steady them... yes, the dog's reading it well... but they're thinking about bolting.

The dog barely moves, but the sheep feel it. That's experience.

It's a battle of wills now. Beautiful control... but the sheep aren't convinced. One more nudge... one more... will they commit?

And they've done it, they're bringing the Cup home!

The final score had New Zealand nine points ahead — 808.5 points to 799.5 points.

Ōmārama triallist Scott Hunter and wife Carla — Lloyd's daughter — were waiting to catch their flight home when Scott took a quick call from the Ōmārama Gazette.

"It's awesome to be coming home with the cup," Scott said.

"It's pretty cool to have been part of it."

Despite appearing unruffled by the antics of the feisty merino wethers, there were plenty of nerves as the action played out, Scott said.

Lucy had travelled well and was on the flight home with them.

Carla was very proud of both her husband and father, and the kids were excited and looking forward to having them home, he said.

The win was a real team effort, and with an accumulation of points over the days the Kiwis managed "to sneak in".

It had been a while since the Cup was home, Scott said.

Scott wanted to thank the sponsors for their "wicked effort" raising funds to get them all there to compete.

This is the second time Scott and Lucy have been chosen to represent New Zealand in the trans-Tasman trials.

The 2026 winning team was: Mark Copland and Don, Ben Millar and King, Scott Hunter and Lucy, and Lloyd Smith and Guide.

New Zealand last won the Cup in 2023 in Ashburton and prior to that, 2019 in Nelson.

The 2020 and 2021 events were cancelled due to COVID.

Next year's clash is in Gisborne.

Heavy rain triggers flooding and washouts

Last week's heavy rain sharply lifted river and stream flows, triggering flooding in the usual trouble spots and causing a serious washout on the Birchwood Rd bridge approach.

Ōmārama township recorded about 60 mm of rain across three days from August 26 to August 28, while MetService's Tara Hills station recorded 54 mm, but the weather event brought much higher rainfall to the headwaters of rivers and streams. Environment Canterbury river flow data shows rivers rose sharply in response to heavy rain in the high country, with the Ahuriri River recorded at almost 300 cumecs at 1 p.m. on Friday, August 28, up sharply from about 100 cumecs recorded about 1 a.m.

Lindis Lodge group lodge manager Averil Patterson said a staff member had alerted her to the washout and the council was contacted. Staff also worked with Longslip Station manager Tony Holder to place a temporary roadblock and repair the breach. The lodge opened its Ben Avon Station quarry to Whitestone Contracting and Twizel-based firm Tricorp and supplied the material for the repairs. This meant contractors did not have to truck in material from Twizel, she said.

The council says its roading contractor has been carrying out further work along Birchwood Rd — repairing scouring, clearing grates, and further inspection on the bridge this week.

Landowner Bryan Patterson (no relation) said he had worked to fix previous washouts at the bridge approach himself and that it needed a permanent fix to prevent the problem recurring. The creek that joined the Avon Burn at that point needed to be realigned to go under the wider bridge, Mr. Patterson said.

Most rivers and creeks in the district rose with the heavy rain, causing washouts in the usual trouble spots, including on the Alps to Ocean Trail, and muddying the waters of Lake Benmore.

Below: Birchwood Rd (supplied) and the A2O trail



Planning continues on councils' amalgamation

Since the Waitaki District Council submitted its amalgamation proposal early last month, “a lot had happened and nothing had happened,” Mayor Mel Tavendale told the Ahuriri Community Board on Monday.

In her verbal report, Mrs Tavendale said the council had opted to move in a “northern direction” in its proposal to join other councils under the Government’s Head Start program.

“The feedback [from the community meetings and questionnaire responses] was clear,” she said. Residents wanted assurance “the local voice” would be heard and that catchments would be managed as a whole.

Although the proposals had to be submitted by August 9 councils would not hear back from the Government until later this month at the earliest, she said.

The focus in the meantime had switched to “how we all win,” Tavendale said. One idea under discussion was whether “centres of excellence” could be established in different locations within a new unitary authority.

She said consultation was still underway on the district’s southern boundary and the future of the Waihemo Ward, with the approval of the Department of Internal Affairs.

The goal of “keeping Waitaki together may come with a couple of riders”, she said.

Mrs Tavendale said the DIA had advised that Waitaki’s preferred amalgamation option — with Timaru, Waimate and Mackenzie — was not viable without Ashburton. As a result, the final proposal included Ashburton with an “off-ramp clause.”

“It is with Cabinet. We [Waitaki] have been named in others’ plans.”

“There are questions now about where the regional councils fit... there are a lot of things still in play,” she said, including the possible setup for the 2028 local body elections.

Although aware of a residents’ petition calling for a referendum, the council had not taken up the idea because “the chance of us not being at the table was too high”.

Mayors and other representatives of the five councils had now met as a group with further discussions planned to develop a plan so residents understood what was coming.

Mrs Tavendale said the Resource Management Act was also under reform, and Waitaki was pushing to be part of the Canterbury spatial plan, though discussions were ongoing.

In other matters, the new water entity, Southern Waters, was interviewing directors. The transition of water assets and staff to the new council-controlled organization was “challenging,” with all work required to be completed by July 1 next year.

What was clear, she said, was that “there would be no more local body elections on the present basis.”

At the same time, the council was “building the LTP [Long Term Plan]” and trying to base it on community needs for the next 10 years. This would form a starting point for discussions during the amalgamation process.

“All this is being done under rates capping,” she said.

With water removed from the budget, a rates rise of between 2% and 4% appeared more achievable. But after the go-live date, residents would begin receiving separate utility bills directly from Southern Waters, on top of their rates bills.

Mrs Tavendale said she was aware some residents might not fully grasp this point and had tried to emphasise it in all communications.

The rates cap did not account for anticipated amalgamation costs, new civil defence requirements, NZ Transport Agency's proposal to withdraw co-funding, or inflationary pressures, she said.

"We will have to look at cuts to services."

Water costing under the new entity would be "completely rejigged", and estimating a dollar figure for the new water rate was difficult.

Although the Commerce Commission would oversee the changes and had a role in protecting consumers, its primary focus would be ensuring water rates were set high enough to cover the costs of the new entities, Mrs Tavendale said.

*Sub-Regional South Canterbury-North Otago Unitary Authority map.
Graphic: Timaru District Council*



Ōmārama bins and toilets focus of meeting

The impact of growing tourist numbers on Ōmārama's toilet infrastructure and rubbish collection drew intense discussion at Monday's Ahuriri Community Board meeting.

Board member and Ōmārama resident Mike King requested the discussion, citing recent incidents of overflowing bins and unclean conditions at the public toilets.

With high visitor numbers putting pressure on ratepayer-funded infrastructure, Mr King suggested exploring International Visitor Levy funding and fare-paying toilet models similar to Tekapo's.

Questions were also raised about who monitors servicing during holiday periods.

Council officers said, in a brief report, the toilet and bin contract allowed additional servicing when needed, and residents should call the council's after-hours number rather than use the Antenno app on weekends.

Board chair Calum Reid said Ōmārama was the gateway to the district, with many tourists passing through on their way east to Ōtemātātā, Kurow and Oamaru, and the current situation "was not a good look."

The issue of inadequate infrastructure for tourist volumes had been longstanding, he said. "That issue is back after Covid and is 10 times worse." Mr Reid said the existing bins were clearly inadequate.

"In Ōmārama they need two 1-cubic-metre bins at least, which are picked up every day. What they have there is ridiculous."

Mr King said something needed to be done about the current contract.

"Can we as a board sit with the contractors and locals and discuss it?"

Councillor Brent Cowles said the Matariki holiday weekend had not been factored into the contract but would be now. He said the Tekapo user-pays toilet model "was not as well accepted as it might be portrayed...The answer is not cut and dried."

Cr Cowles said residents should be encouraged to use the Antenno app, and he was willing to run a workshop to show Ōmārama residents how to use it. He did not say how this might be funded.

"It's not that hard," board member Steve Dalley said. "We just need more bins."

Cr Cowles said amalgamation might give councils more lobbying power to persuade central government to invest in tourist infrastructure. "We certainly have to address the problem."

Mr Reid said the council needed to "get past the cost" and look at a short-term fix, possibly shifting funds from areas with fewer visitors. Mr King said he wanted to sit down with the council to discuss rubbish, toilets and parking.

Council Support Services director Paul Hope said imminent rates-capping legislation would shape the Long Term Plan. Whereas communities could previously lobby for higher rates to fund specific needs, this would no longer be possible. After rates capping, there would have to be trade-offs between competing priorities.

Cr Cowles said the board could write to government ministers to lobby for funding for tourist attractions such as the Clay Cliffs, Ōhau and the Hot Tubs.

Mr King said tourists were leaving Ōmārama with a bad impression.

Mr Reid said busloads of tourists were coming through the town every 10 minutes and paid toilets were a “no-brainer.”

Council acting chief digital officer Scott Milne said the council was considering placing QR codes next to rubbish bins so issues could be reported directly.

Because Antenno complaints were not actioned after hours, the council was also considering a text-alert system that would automatically notify contractors when an issue was logged. No discussions had yet been held with the contractor on how this might work.

The board agreed to formally request a report from council staff on the rubbish situation and options for a short-term fix, to be presented at its next meeting.

The board also acknowledged a letter from the Ōmārama Residents' Association raising the same concerns, with Mr King endorsing the group's views. It agreed to send a reply outlining the board's recommendations, including that the association also lobby the Government for additional funding for Ōmārama's tourism infrastructure.

Last month the Ōmārama Gazette made an official information request to the Waitaki District Council about the rubbish bin servicing arrangements. Here is a link to the reply: <https://www.waitaki.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/2/files/our-council/Igoima-responses/2026/oia-1750-public-rubbish-bin-servicing-in-omarama-and-otematata.pdf>

Ōmārama's public bins and toilets are coming under pressure from the increasing number of visitors to town.



Board demands answers on footpath spending

Footpath maintenance in Ōmārama was back on the table at Monday's Ahuriri Community Board meeting.

Council staff, in a brief report, said a districtwide footpath survey had been completed. However, with a limited budget for maintenance and renewals, spending would be directed to the paths in the poorest condition.

Board member Mike King said he was committed to raising the issue "until it gets done".

Board chair Calum Reid said the footpaths outside Merino Country Café were an eyesore and that council staff should be in discussions with the owners to get remedial work done urgently.

"Ōmārama is the gateway to the Waitaki District," he said.

Ahuriri Ward Councillor Brent Cowles said a work plan was in place, but residents should report safety and risk concerns — priority matters — through the council's Antenna app, which replaced Snap Send Solve.

Mr Reid said he wanted to know what the long-term plan for footpath spending had been, noting that not enough funds appeared to have built up to complete the work.

"What was the plan... let's create a plan, let's make sure Ahuriri's footpaths are up to scratch."

Funds had run down, "which is why I voted the rates rise should be 27%," Cr Cowles said. He had later changed his vote to support an average 16.9% increase.

Mr King said he had understood a council officer would attend the meeting to speak to the issue.

Mr Reid said that would be a priority for the next meeting.

"That's what we will have — and a report."

Council Support Services director Paul Hope said the board must formally request a report, after which officers would attend to speak to it and answer questions.

The board then moved that a report outlining available funding for footpath remediation and how it would be prioritised be presented by a council officer at its next meeting.



Junior rodeo success in tri-nations

The dust in Townsville has barely settled after the final round of the Tri-Nations Youth Rodeo Challenge, and while Team New Zealand didn't take home the overall trophy, our junior riders delivered a string of outstanding performances.

After two high-intensity challenges against Australia and the USA, the New Zealand juniors saved their best for last, storming home with 190 points in third challenge topping both the USA and Australia in the final showdown.

And leading that charge were two names familiar to Omarama, North Otago and Geraldine, South Canterbury: Felicity "Flick" Montgomery and Bianca Haugh.

For Felicity, the Tri-Nations Challenge was the culmination of years of dedication — a dream she had worked toward since she first began competing at seven years old.

As her mother, Charlotte, Ōmārama Rodeo Club secretary, said earlier this year, it was real honour for her daughter.

Felicity delivered on that honour with style. She claimed third place in Barrel Racing with a tidy 18.590-second run, and earlier in the competition she produced a scorching 3.60-second Breakaway Roping run, earning third place in first challenge and showing exactly why she was selected for the national youth team.

Bianca was in blistering form throughout the competition, finishing second in the Barrel Racing with a sharp 18.135-second run in the final challenge.

Earlier in the week she had also clocked an impressive 17.944-second run again securing second place and helping keep New Zealand firmly in the mix.

Bianca didn't stop there. She added a second place in Breakaway Roping and teamed up with Flick Montgomery for a hard-earned third in Team Roping.

Mrs Montgomery said in her Facebook updates that across the board, the Kiwi juniors showed heart, determination, and classic New Zealand resilience.

Joseph Jackson, of Rotorua, secured second in Mini Bull Riding with 61 points, and Ty Blake, of Taupo, took out first place in Junior Bull Riding with a commanding 74-point ride.

Despite Australia claiming the overall Tri-Nations title with 470 points, the final challenge belonged to New Zealand — a fitting finish for a team that battled unfamiliar horses, tight timeframes, and the pressure of international competition she said.

The event also highlighted the generosity and camaraderie that define youth rodeo. Families across Australia lent horses to visiting riders, giving these young competitors the chance to shine, Mrs Montgomery said.

Ōmārama Rodeo Club cowgirl Felicity Montgomery compete in the barrel racing event in the Tri-Nations Youth Rodeo Challenge in Townsville. Photo: Stephen Mowbray Photography, North Queensland Elite Rodeo Facebook page.



Boot scootin' boogie-ing takes over town

If you wandered past the Ōmārama Memorial Hall any Monday evening over the past two months, you might have heard it — the unmistakable stomp to country beats, the slide of dancing boots on polished boards, and the kind of laughter that tells you someone has just turned left instead of right again... Hank!

For eight glorious weeks, at times up to 30 locals - of all ages - gathered to learn the fine art of line dancing under the expert, patient, and occasionally heroic guidance of Ōmārama's own Teresa Gallagher. The idea was sparked by fellow local Michael Jackson – yeah nah, not that one - who clearly has no idea what he has unleashed on the town.

What followed was a weekly ritual of grapevines, K-steps, toe struts and the universally feared jazz box corner.

The music was country, the steps were enthusiastic (if not always accurate), and the camaraderie was pure gold. There's something magical – or slightly horrifying - about watching a roomful of people all attempt the same move and somehow produce thirty different interpretations. Nobody cared.

And then there was the occasional triumphant moment when everyone actually landed on the beat at the same time, pure joy.

It was winter warmth, community connection, and the kind of fun that leaves your face aching from laughter. Sometimes the best nights are the ones where you grapevine slightly out of sync with your neighbours and love every minute of it!

The grand finale came in the form of a full-blown hoedown, fuelled by pizza and chips generously donated by Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama. Energised by carbs and community spirit, the dancers powered through every routine they'd learned: That Honky Tonk Highway, The Bar Song, Wagon Wheel, The Door, Choosin' Texas, Boot Scootin' Boogie, Miles On It, The Canadian Stomp, and finally — with the confidence of people who had absolutely earned their moment — a barn-shaking, foot-flying rendition of Footloose.

There was even a heartfelt nod to the late, great Dolly Parton, with the group stepping out to Nine to Five in her honour. If Dolly had been there, she would've grinned from ear to ear - possibly.

Who knows — with this many newly minted line dancers roaming the district, Omarama might just be one boot-scoot away from becoming the unofficial country-dance capital of the Waitaki – Heaven Forbid!



Daffodil day raises funds in the valley



After a day or so of heavy rain and high winds the sun shone for Daffodil Day volunteers raising funds in Ōmārama and Ōtemātātā for the Cancer Society.

Michelle, Bev and Shona (above) were outside Four Square Omarama collecting and the Ōtemātātā ladies (below) were out in full force outside On the Spot.

The tables were laden with raffles and cake bakes along with Cancer Society merchandise and the all important flowers.

In all there was \$625.10 raised in Ōmārama and \$1005 raised in Ōtemātātā, which was "a pretty good effort for the valley" volunteer, Adrienne Harper said.

If you would like to donate visit the website: www.daffodilday.org.nz



The Noticeboard

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

The Ōmārama Gazette and this year's General Election

This is to let you know the Ōmārama Gazette will not be covering this year's general election. This is because the Gazette lacks the resources of a full newsroom which is needed to cover all parties, policies and angles to ensure what is printed would be accurate, fair and ethical.

There is specific legislation relating to political advertising prior to an election and all parties who enquire will need to comply and pay to advertise.

The Ōmārama Gazette and AI - our new policy

We believe that responsible use of AI tools can support better journalism, not replace it. Here's how we use AI tools in our work, and how you can expect us to use it responsibly and with your needs in mind.

1. Human-first, human-preferred: We remain responsible for everything we produce and publish, and we strive to verify anything created with generative AI that you see.

2. Why and how we use AI tools: We use AI tools to assist with tasks like research, summarising articles, transcribing interviews, translating content, or helping us spot patterns in large data sets. If AI tools were to play a major role in a story or feature, we'll tell you how and why it was used.

3. Your data, your trust: We do not input any private or sensitive information into AI tools. We follow a strict privacy policy.

4. AI tools in visual journalism: Images shape how we understand the world. We use AI tools in visuals sparingly and transparently. For example, we may use an AI tool to visualize something not otherwise possible to photograph or display. We never use AI tools to alter real people or events unless clearly labelled and editorially justified.

A human editor reviews everything published in the Ōmārama Gazette - that's why there are mistakes :)

Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is on Tuesdays. Appointments are available 9am to 4.30pm.

To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 or Mackenzie Health Clinic 03 976 0503 .

www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

The Ōmārama Community Library is open 9.30am to 11am, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Library hours can change. Email: omaramalibrary@gmail.com

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

For further information please contact Malcolm Cameron 022 476 2225

Kurow Presbyterian Church:

Kurow Presbyterian Parish: Rev Eymbert Johannes Schoneveld, Interim Moderator, Kurow Presbyterian Parish, Waiareka-Weston Community Presbyterian Church, 48 Main Street, Weston. Phone: 022 683 5117

email: westonminister@gmail.com

The Ōmārama Golf Club Saturdays cards in 12 noon, tee-off 12.30pm. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340.

www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

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

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the Kurow Hotel. 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 or email president Olivia Black 027 833 0869, vice-president Jess Townsend and secretary Bridie Brosnahan 027 341 3010 omaramaplaygroup@gmail.com

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 regularly at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Bevan Allan bjallan@xtra.co.nz

FENZ 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.nz or contact Jack on 020 4045 0909. You can follow us on Facebook (Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade)

During winter months a gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons during winter. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Shirley - 021 165 6439, or Diane 021 237 9636.

Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group and to subscribe to regular updates 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. facebook.com/omaramagazette/ www.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 7, 2026.**

**Please submit copy
by Thursday, October 1, 2026**



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!!Upcoming vacancies!!

Help make a difference in our community.

The Residents' Association of Ōmārama will hold its annual meeting in October and is looking for volunteers from our community to fill the following roles; secretary and treasurer. There is full support for newcomers to either role, as well as outsourced formal training available, if wished, for those new to the role.

Both positions offer a valuable opportunity to build experience in primary leadership roles of an organisation.

Secretary

The Association is on the lookout for a new secretary.

This is a great opportunity for someone who is organised, reliable and a good communicator, and who would like to play an active part in supporting our local community.

The position requires: attendance at monthly meetings, agenda preparation, minute taking and circulation, handling of correspondence and checking the mailbox, ensuring relevant information is circulated between meetings.

The time commitment is modest, and you will have support from the existing committee.

If you are interested, please contact Vicky Chambers 021 296 5782 or email omarama.secretary@gmail.com

Treasurer

The Association is looking for a treasurer to join our team.

Ideally, we are looking for someone who lives locally and would be available to attend monthly meetings or take part via video link on a regular basis.

You don't need to be a qualified accountant, just have a willingness to help, an eye for detail, and an interest in supporting our local community. A knowledge of Xero is beneficial but not essential.

The position requires management of the association's bank account and payments, preparation of records of income and expenditure for monthly meetings, producing annual accounts, and annual financial information as required by Charities Services.

If you are interested in the position, please get in touch with Vicky Chambers either by phone 021 296 5782 or email omarama.secretary@gmail.com

WANTED TO RENT IN TWIZEL

Hi, I am looking for a warm and cosy house to rent long term in Twizel, which will be well looked after.

I am a mature and reliable tenant with excellent references .

I am a non smoker. Also no pets.

I can be flexible with moving dates.

If you can help me please phone 027 344 1740.

WANTED IN OTEMATATA

Cleaner for Airbnb house in the village

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Ph. Adrienne 027 450 8412 or Peter 027 491 6413

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Police



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

Usual office contact details: Senior Constable Nayland Smith

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

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

mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Chief Fire Officer Jack Zorab

The brigade has a couple of important events coming up, with the biggest being our 60th anniversary celebrations on Saturday, September 26.

Past and present members will come together for an honours night and celebration, recognising the people who have served our community over the past six decades. It is a special milestone for a brigade that has been protecting and supporting Ōmārama and surrounding districts since 1966.

We're also opening the station to the public from 10am to 12pm on the same day. Bring the kids along to have a turn on the hose and spend some time with our volunteers. We'd love to see you there. There'll be something for both the little kids and the big kids.

A few weekends ago, our brigade attended a serious two-vehicle crash on the Lindis Pass. Our small crew was first on scene and worked alongside firefighters from Ōtemātātā, Twizel and Tarras, Hato Hone St John ambulance crews, a PRIME nurse, Police and helicopter crews in what was a significant multi-agency response.

More than 40 emergency services personnel were involved. Incidents like this are a reminder of the value of training, teamwork and the strong working relationships between emergency services across our region. I am incredibly proud of how our volunteers stepped up and put their skills to use in a challenging and confronting situation.

Our thoughts remain with those involved in the crash, along with their families and friends. I'd also like to acknowledge the members of the public who were first on scene and took decisive action while waiting for emergency services to arrive.

One of the things I'm proudest of in our brigade is how we look after each other. After incidents like this, crews come back to the station, talk through the response and check in on one another in the days that follow. While some brigade members were working at the scene, others were back at the station preparing breakfast and helping ensure everyone could come together, debrief and support one another afterwards. Responses like this rely on many different people contributing in different ways.

While no one ever wishes for these incidents to happen, it was a privilege to witness the professionalism, compassion and teamwork shown by everyone involved. On behalf of the brigade, thank you to all those who played a part in the response.

CALLING ALL PAST MEMBERS!



ŌMĀRAMA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

You're part of our 60 year story.

We're celebrating 60 years of service to Ōmārama and the surrounding districts - and we'd love to see you back on station.



FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER - FROM 4PM
Informal BBQ on station



SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER - FROM 10AM
Open station for the community



SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER - FROM 4PM
Honours night & 60th celebration



Email

omarama@fireandemergency.nz

if you'd like to attend and we'll send you the details.

*We'd love
to hear from
you!*



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Brodie Craig CA

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 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

Age Concern Ōmārama

The next 'Pop-up Cafe' will be 1pm to 3pm Monday, October 12, 2026.

The guest speaker is the Livingwell Disability Resource Centre's Rochelle Fox.

She will suggest simple and practical solutions to maintain your independence, along with giving up-to-date information and resources, give a demonstration of assistive products and carry out walking stick and walker height and safety checks.

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



OMARAMA PLAYGROUP



All children under 6
and their parent(s) / caregiver(s)

welcome!

MEETS EVERY WEDNESDAY
DURING SCHOOL TERM
9.30AM – 11.30AM



Omarama Community Centre
Playgroup Room



Find us on Facebook:
Omarama Playgroup

Ōmārama Community Garden

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>

And watch this growing space, Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com

Let's get growing together!

Ōmārama Community Pantry

The Ōmārama Community Pantry has closed its doors for the winter months.

But although the doors may be closed to keep weather and vermin out and while there is not much surplus produce around, they are not locked.

So, if you have anything you want to leave please continue to use the cupboard, just send a text to 021 294 8002 and I'll get the word out there.

PS Please leave the doors closed (not locked) for now and we will reopen again in the warmer months.

The Ōmārama Community Pantry is at the entrance to the community gardens and picnic area at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall and Community Centre.

No donations are necessary but if you'd feel more comfortable giving a small koha this will go to our two community gardens, at the community centre and the school.

Take what you need, leave what you can.

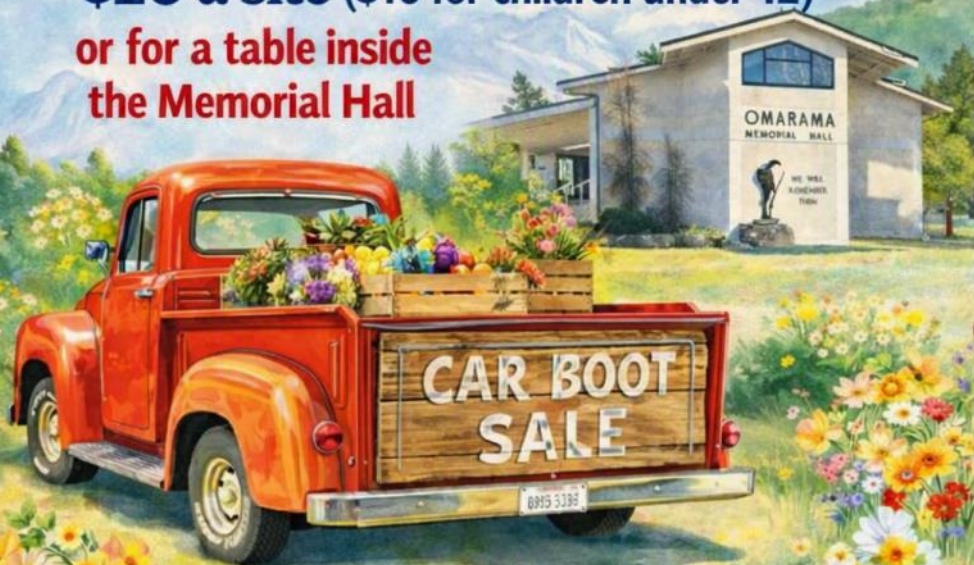


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ŌMĀRAMA MARKET DAY & CAR BOOT SALE

Sunday, October 25 • Labour Weekend • 10am

\$20 a site (\$10 for children under 12)
or for a table inside
the Memorial Hall



Please bring cash • **Bookings recommended**

All proceeds to St Thomas's Care Centre extension

To book: **Glenys Dawson** 0276 118 880 or
Ann Patterson 027 201 2312

Ōmārama School



Enrolments Welcome

Ph: 03 4389815

Strong relationships and family atmosphere Students are well known as individuals and benefit from positive, respectful relationships with staff. ERO has noted that students describe the school as "like a family," with a strong sense of belonging and wellbeing.	Positive school culture The school's LIGHT Values—Leadership, Inclusion, Growth - Mindset, Honesty and Teamwork - are embedded throughout school life and underpin behaviour, learning and relationships. These values create a safe, respectful and supportive environment where students thrive.	High-quality personalised learning Small class sizes allow teachers to tailor learning programmes to individual strengths and needs. Students requiring additional support receive timely interventions, while extension opportunities are provided for high-achieving learners.
Rich local curriculum Omarama School makes excellent use of its unique rural setting, incorporating authentic learning experiences through environmental education, local history, outdoor learning, agriculture, science, and community partnerships. Learning is connected to the local environment and reflects the identity of the Mackenzie Country	Community partnerships The school enjoys strong support from parents, whānau and the wider community. Local organisations, volunteers and the Friends of the School contribute significantly to enriching learning opportunities and supporting school initiatives.	Inclusive and equitable practice Students with diverse learning needs are fully included in all aspects of school life. Our school places a strong emphasis on equity, ensuring every learner has opportunities to succeed academically, socially and emotionally.
Commitment to wellbeing Student wellbeing is a priority, with a strong focus on positive behaviour, resilience and social-emotional learning. ERO identified a positive and inclusive culture where students feel safe, valued and engaged in learning.	Effective leadership and continuous improvement The school demonstrates reflective leadership and a commitment to ongoing improvement. Collaborative practices between leadership, staff and governance support strategic decision-making and continued enhancement of teaching, learning and student outcomes.	Summary - Omarama School offers strong academic foundations with authentic local learning, positive relationships and a genuine sense of community. Our strengths lie in our personalized approach, inclusive culture, committed staff, supportive families, and the ability to provide rich learning experiences that connect students to their place, culture and future. These qualities create an environment where children are encouraged to grow as confident, capable and compassionate learners.

Embracing the Curriculum to enhance our learning

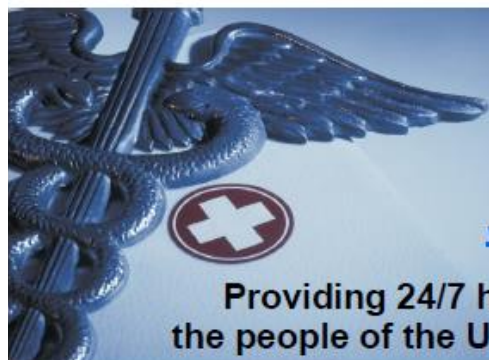
Reading - Speech Competition  Annual event	Writing - Celebrations  Strong focus & value of writing	Maths - Geometry  Designing floor plans
Art (s) - Music  Weekly guitar lessons with music teacher	Sport - Term 3 Skiing  Weekly skiing funded by Friends of School - Ohau Ski field	Science - Garden Club  Students enjoy working in the tunnel house
Social Science - Hydro Dam  Local Curriculum learning at the Waitaki Power Station	Technology - EPRo8 (2nd)  STEM challenge (Sci, Technology, Engineering & Maths)	Health - Pink Shirt day  Demonstrating kindness and upholding school values
Leadership - William Pike  Local Fire Brigade supporting cadetship for Leadership	Life Skills - Clued up Kids  First Aid Training with North Otago school clusters	Family Events - Matariki  Bringing everyone together for a shared breakfast

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

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

www.omarama.school.nz



Kurow Medical Centre

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

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

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

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

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

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

And much more!

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

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

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

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

Opening hours

Omarama: Tuesdays 9am to 4.30pm

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am to 1pm

Twizel: Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm, Saturday 9am to 12pm

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

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

For Kurow 03 436 0760 or for Twizel 03 976 0503

-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

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

!!Weekly Winter Housie 2026 !!

Every Wednesday through winter

@ the Ōmārama Fire Station

*20 Houses *Super House *Afternoon Tea

*Raffles *Supported by Age Concern

(Please bring small denominations or coins)

A warm welcome to all

Wednesdays at 1pm

One day
I'll start
behaving
myself...

Maybe
tomorrow.



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

Benmore Place, Twizel, 7901

admin@twizelcare.co.nz

03 4350687

Open Monday to Friday 9am-4pm
The Twizel Community Care Trust
offers a range of services including:

Forms for Work & Income, IRD, Immigration, Passport & other Government agencies

Twizel/Tekapo Community Vehicle – booking system for trips Monday to Friday

Frozen meals – A variety for purchase including main meals and snack sizes

Food bank – Anyone requiring assistance with food, contact us for confidential help (donations of non-perishable or foods that can be frozen always welcome)

Plus – access to a computer, printing, free WIFI, community notice boards and Cancer Society gazebos for hire



Ngā ratonga ki te manawa o te whenua

Heartland Services



Twizel Linkage

Morning Tea

Come along to LinkAge where we meet up for company, a giggle, and a catch up, with guest speakers, entertainment & up-to date information, plus much more.

Every Thursday - 10.30am-12pm

All very welcome

Community Lounge at the Events Centre

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.
Email: upperwaitaki@youngfarmers.co.nz

Join the Facebook group.

CHIROPRACTIC CARE OMARAMA

Monday & Wednesday, 2–6pm - Omarama Community Hall

Your body was designed to move.

To work hard. To keep up. To wake up feeling ready.

When your spine isn't moving well, your nervous system can't
communicate clearly — and your whole body feels it. The stiffness.
The fatigue. The niggles that's just become normal.

That's not ageing. That's your body asking for support.

Chiropractic restores movement to the spine, removes the
interference, and lets your body do what it was designed to do.

If you're not moving at your best — come and talk to us.

Move better. Live better. Feel better.

Get in contact with us or book online to start your journey towards better health

ACC Accredited and registered - no referral required

Where you'll find us:

Omarama Practice:

Omarama Community Hall
35 Chain Hills Highway,
Omarama, 9412

☎ 027 214 2533

@ info@waitakichiropractic.co.nz

🌐 www.waitakichiropractic.co.nz

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- * 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

**Your local MP welcomes
all enquiries.**

waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

Oamaru

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Authorised by M Anderson,
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- 2.4 Strainer Posts
- 2.4 Stay Posts

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- 2.5mm HT Wire
- No 8 Wire
- 5ft Waratahs
- 5ft 6 Waratahs
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- 8/90/30 x 200m TL Netting
- 15kg 50 x 40 Barb Staples

McAlpine's bulk timber packs

- 150 x 50 x 4.8m H4 Timber Packs 55 lengths
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Hanham concrete troughs

- Rectangle Trough 318lt
- Round Trough 700lt
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- 14ft Cattle Gate
- Gudgeon Packs
- 2.5mm HT Summit Wire

BA Pumps & Sprayers

- TSX 400lt Trailer Sprayer
- LM1150X 2073 3 Point linkage 12m Hydraulic Spray Unit

This depot is unmanned. For all product enquiries, or to arrange pick-up/delivery contact our Oamaru store:
3 Usk Street, Oamaru 9400 | www.nops.co.nz | 03 434 7766



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**Monthly prize draws valued
at \$599 - be 1 of 6 winners!**

Be in-to-win 1 of 2 Brass Monkey 50L Fridge/Freezers each month valued at \$599*. The sooner you order, the more chances to win!

**Terms & conditions apply.
Order in September to be in all
3 Brass Monkey draws. Brass
Monkey draw runs 1 Sep - 30
Nov 2026.*



Final draw

**Be in-to-win a \$1000
New World Voucher**

In our December draw, all purchases throughout the campaign go in the draw to win a \$1000 New World Voucher*.

**Terms & conditions apply.
\$1000 voucher offer valid for
all competition purchases
made from 1st September -
18th December 2026.*



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win



The Differen



your share in \$23K
of LG appliances or
a new Suzuki Swift*



Book a free appraisal to win.

 LG x  LJ Hooker

*T&Cs apply. Licensed REAA 2008.

Nassella tussock

A tussock worth talking about

Help us find nassella before it spreads. This invasive pest grass can spread rapidly and become difficult and costly to control once established.

If you think you've spotted nassella tussock, don't ignore it.



Take a photo



Record your location



Report it to Environment Canterbury



Find out more at
ecan.govt.nz/nassella

Ōmārama Residents' Association

The September meeting
of the Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm, Thursday, September 17, 2026
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

The minutes of the last meeting are available from the secretary

**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



Ōmārama Community Library

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

Knit Night Ōmārama

Knit Night Ōmārama
5.15pm each Tuesday
at the Omarama Community Centre
Gold coin donations towards room hire
would be appreciated.

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'The Community Reports' is
dedicated to news
from clubs, groups and sports teams.
Contributions are welcome.
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Travis 021 710 305
Jo 027 846 5483

Garden Diary - look how they shine for you

The freezing September winds howl around the garden and still there is no snow. Frosts are few and far between and the warm rain has the lawns greening up.

For those who have been hanging out for the scent of two stroke and the sound of lawnmowers but haven't quite reached for the pull start YouTube has the video for you

Spring is here.

Small pools of sunshiny yellow are quietly pushing through winter mulch and gleaming under grey skies.

I have my first daffodil – Bambi, a miniature, a quiet creamy yellow with lemony trumpet. But I miss my bright Tête-à-Têtes which are the usual herald in this garden. They were always like, 'Hello, yellow!!'

They've gone wherever it is good daffs go. I must plant more.

The bumble bees have obviously been waiting too, hungry after hibernating they're burrowing into the side of the trumpets to get to the nectar fast. They make a huge fuss of the crocuses too, immersing themselves in saffron.

The primroses and delicate yellow cowslips were the first of the true spring flowers to arrive on the scene. They always look too fragile to withstand what spring can throw at them, but they push on through with their sturdy 'PollyAnna' positivity, thinking only happy thoughts.

The creamy winter roses under the Rhododendrons are still unfolding their sturdy buds one by one unwrapping the world inside. The euphorbias are breaking out of their wallflower personas into eyewatering chartreuse. And the violas are popping their cheery little faces into everybody's business!

The first of the blues are out – the matchheads and very soon there will be bluebells with creamy tulips.

Waiting for the end of winter each single blade and leaf and bud and petal and bloom emerge in timelapse detail, speeding up as the season gathers pace. By the end of spring, it will so busy I'll scarcely notice an individual flower.

By then the daffodils in the lawn behind the veggie garden – which needs digging by-the-way – will be almost 'a host' fluttering and dancing and fighting the nor'wester not to be flattened – sorry to burst the bubble, Wordsworth.

They may not be ten thousand or
"Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,"
Nevertheless, I can't help myself –
"And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils."

Bright and cheerful like caravan curtains.

Ruth Grundy

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

** I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud, by William
Wordsworth





When circumstances beyond your control lead to a rural business crisis be it financial, climatic or personal the Rural Support Trust is ready to assist. Services are free and confidential.

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

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

August 2026

Highest temperature: August 25, 18.4C

Lowest temperature: August 6. – 8.9C

Most rainfall: August 27, 24 mm

Total rainfall for August: 74.5 mm

The Ōmārama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

omaramagazette@gmail.com

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