



Ōmārama Gazette

April 2024

Rūnanga buys part of Rabbit Board land

Te Runanga o Waihao has bought part of the former block of Rabbit Board land in the centre of Ōmārama.

The Ōmārama Gazette had confirmation of the purchase last week from Te Runanga o Waihao Interim Chairperson Trudy Heath.

Waihao marae is located between Oamaru and Timaru, in the township of Morven. The primary hapu – kinship group - of the governing body of Te Runanga o Waihao is Waitaha, Kāti Mamoe and Ngāi Tahu.

The Rūnanga has bought two houses – Nos. 40 and 48 Chain Hills Hwy – and the block of land which runs behind those two properties, Ms Heath said.

Although it had considered buying the remainder of the land it had made no decision one way or another, she said.

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Te Runanga o Waihao has bought the area of former Rabbit Board land marked out in blue.
Credit: Google Maps

Rūnanga buys part of Rabbit Board land

However, a working group has been formed to come up with options for the land and properties the Rūnanga has bought.

“We know affordable housing is an issue,” she said.

They had been talking with some of the bigger employers in the area and understood that staff accommodation was an issue.

“We are looking at what’s possible. What does the community need, what’s missing. We want to meet a need.”

Realistically, any venture needed to make a profit.

“We want to make a profit but we want to meet the needs of the community if we can.

“That’s really important to us,” she said.

There was quite a substantial amount of work to be done on the houses to get them up to healthy home standards.

“Our holdings company is working on this and has also made contact with a property manager who... will manage the properties on our behalf.”

Conscious of the fire risk Ms Heath said the strip of land needed to be mowed regularly and a contractor would be employed to maintain that.

“It is incredibly dry, we will be getting on to that,” Ms Heath said.

The houses have been empty since 2016 when Environment Canterbury began the ‘disposal’ process.

The land was passed to ECan in the late 1980s when Rabbit Boards were dissolved and it took over rabbit control management and the land the Board owned.

It is now Crown [Linz] Land– a reserve administered by the Department of Conservation and at present maintained by ECan on Doc’s behalf.

The disposal process involves first offering the land to iwi – in this case Ngai Tahu – which has first right of refusal before it can be offered on the open market.

The future use of the land was raised at the public community meeting with Waitaki District Mayor Gary Kircher in February.

At the meeting the Waitaki District Council was roundly criticised for the protracted delay in tackling the “eyesore” which the vacant land had become and its lack of action addressing ways to buy the land to address town centre issues and further the Ōmārama Masterplan.

At the time Mr Kircher said the council had let ECan know, as part of the masterplan process, that if it wanted to sell then the council wanted to have “first say”.

Mr Kircher said that, while the Government must first offer it to Ngai Tahu, there could be a joint approach between the council and Ngai Tahu made to the Government to come to an arrangement.

“What I want to do is to talk to Ngai Tahu property and see if there is some joint arrangement...to get the result the community wants,” he said at the time.

Mr Kircher said he would raise the issue with Kaiwhakahaere of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Justin Tipa at the Waitangi Day ceremony at Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff.

At last month’s Ahuriri Community Board meeting Mr Kircher confirmed he had done that and shared the information about the Te Runanga o Waihao purchase.

Rowers shine at Maadi

The results speak for themselves – our girls did good.

First, second and third placings in last month's secondary schools' rowing competitions at Lake Ruataniwha, near Twizel, were the rewards for hours of sheer hard work and determination.

It was a week of highs and lows - sometimes making that 'sprint' to a place in the last 250m, or dipping out by the merest gnat's whisker, or facing the heartbreak of being pipped for a podium finish by equipment failure.

Such was the excitement of the week-long Maadi Cup regatta.

Our Omarama girls took all in their stride with graciousness and generosity of spirit, something noted by spectators.

All three excelled. One has been selected for national competition.

Rowing for Twizel Area School Hazel Mason helped bring home a gold medal and two bronze medals.

Sadie Mason and her crewmates brought home one bronze, they placed first in the B Final of the Girls u17 double sculls and she took third place in the B Finals of the Girls u17 single sculls.

Rowing New Zealand has included Sadie in its selection for the North vs South Island U18 trials later this month, after which it will select its women's and men's crews to compete in a North vs South competition.

Rowing for St Hilda's Collegiate School in the Girls U15 double sculls, Yvie Moore and her crewmates placed second in the B Final and third in the B Final of the Girls U15 coxed quad sculls.

The girls follow in the footsteps of Ōmārama's former school rowing success stories. Craighead Diocesan School old girls Samantha O'Neill, who endured the Covid-marred years, and in the late 2000's, Dani Walsh, and those of Sophie and Abby Anderson, who rowed for Columba College.

The week began with the welcoming parade in Twizel and the sheer infectious excitement of more than 2000 secondary school pupils representing more than 100 school from throughout New Zealand carried through to finals day.

Christchurch Girls' High School girls U18 coxed eight took the girls' equivalent of the Maadi Cup - the Levin 75th Jubilee Cup - for the first time and Hamilton Boys' High School boys U18 coxed eight took the prestigious Maadi Cup for the twelfth time.



Rowers shine at Maadi - continued

The Aon Maadi Regatta is the National Championships for school rowing in New Zealand. Run by the NZSSRA and Rowing New Zealand, it is New Zealand's largest rowing regatta, alternating annually between Lake Karāpiro in Cambridge and Lake Ruataniwha.

RESULTS:

Hazel Mason

Girls U15 double sculls A final, first, (7:50.92) with Lucia Yates

Girls U17 coxed quad sculls A final, third, (7:18.36) Bronze, with Kiara Thyne Sadie

Mason Hazel Henderson and Jaizmine Baikie

Girls U18 novice double sculls A final, third, (8:07.38) with Taylah Marsh

Sadie Mason

Girls U17 coxed quad sculls A final, third, (7:18.36) Bronze with Kiara Thyne, Hazel

Mason, Hazel Henderson and Jaizmine Baikie

Girls u17 single sculls B final: placed 3rd (8:46.56)

Girls u17 double sculls B final: placed 1st (7:49.68) with Kiara Thyne

Yvie Moore

Girls u15 double sculls B final: placed 2nd (8:17.01) with F Whiteside

Girls u15 coxed quad sculls B final: placed 3rd (8:01.56) with F Whiteside, R Herlihy,

L Horrell and B McGregor

<https://rowit.nz/mads2024/results>



"Old Gits" take to the sands at Oreti

It may not be the world's fastest Indian, but Murray Stuart can still claim bragging rights for entering the first Ōmārama-built vintage hot rod in New Zealand's version of the "Greatest race on earth" - vintage hot rod beach racing on the sands of Oreti.

For only the second time in its two-year history about 20 traditional pre-war hot rods took to the flat sand stretches of Southland's famed beach with drivers and navigators dressed in heritage attire to compete in the "Great Race Old Gits" race, otherwise known as the G.R.O.G event.

Over three days like-minded pre-war hot rod enthusiasts gathered for fun, racing, yarning and the prerequisite bit of one-up-man-ship, Murray said.

Entrants came from Geraldine, Oamaru, Dunedin and Invercargill and oldest car there was fittingly a 1923 Model T racing car, he said.

In gentlemen's fashion the beach races were two cars at time and first across the finish line was deemed the winner, possibly only reaching speeds of 80kph - about 50mph.

In February 1957 motorcycle racer Bert Munro set a New Zealand Open Beach record of 131.38 mph at Oreti and in 1975 he raised this to 136 mph

The wide sands of the beach, which was a key location for the film 'The World's Fastest Indian', which tells the story of Munro, is one of the few beaches in New Zealand vehicles are allowed to drive on and is about 26km long.

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Ōmārama's Murray Stuart and his newly built vintage hot rod prepare to race at Oreti Beach. Photo supplied



"Old Gits" take to the sands - continued

For Murray, the race was a fitting finale to more than a year of intensive work restoring his 1930 Ford Model A coupe, and the culmination of a dream born in his teens and sparked into action in August 2016.

The pre-49 hot rod enthusiast revels in taking old car bodies and parts and creatively restoring them to their classic, understated former glory.

This particular journey began while visiting friend and fellow Model A enthusiast the late Ron Mosher who bought and sold Model A parts.

Murray bought the body of the car from Ron and shipped it to New Zealand

A few years later he went back to LA to visit the same friend who was driving a Model A truck. .

"When I looked at that particular motor...well. I just loved those motors."

So, he bought the truck, shipping that also to New Zealand, kept the motor and sold the truck to another friend.

"Last year and early this year one of my goals was to get it going," he said.

What Murray created combined the Model A coupe body on a 1932 Ford chassis, and a Model B engine with a rare 1930's vintage overhead valve conversion Riley 4 Port.

It was ready – bar the paint job - for its first outing to 'Muscle Car Madness' in Rangiora, in January

Then last month, finally complete in classic understated traditional red- red goes faster - he it took to the Oreti sands.

GROG rules stipulate the event is for flathead powered vehicles only. However, organisers made an exception for Murray.

Hot-rodding began as an American phenomenon, emerging from southern California and then gaining prominence after WW2. Soldiers returned from Europe, having seen the European sports cars, decided they could put V8 motors into Model A Fords and go racing.

Murray has visited to take in the racing on Bonneville's salt lake and has raced as crew on Australia's equivalent - Lake Gairdner.

GROG is the New Zealand spin-off of TROG - The Race of Gentlemen – and the brainchild of Southland Rodders Inc members Peter and Janine Little.

It held its first event last year.

The first TROG event was in 2012 on the beach in Asbury Park, New Jersey.

Enthusiasts now attend from all over the world and it has generated similar events across the globe.

The 'before' photo of the 1930 Ford Model A coupe body.

Photo: Murray Stuart



Workshop offers support in dry spell

The long term dry conditions throughout the Ōmārama/Ōhau basin is beginning to cause concern.

In response, several agencies are offering support and advice to landowners about strategies they can put in place to help deal with the conditions. Environment Canterbury's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee is hosting a barbecue and workshop at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall next week and an invitation is extended to all.

The workshop - Strategies For Dealing With The Dry - will feature two guest speakers. Farm consultant Pete Young, and Rural Support Trust South Canterbury chairman Mark Adams will offer some practical advice and detail the support available to farmers.

Pete is a Central Otago farm consultant based in Clyde.

He spent several decades farming next to the Ida Burn Dam in Central Otago – an area that experiences one of the most extreme climates in New Zealand. Pete will share his experience of farming through extreme conditions and some tips he learnt along the way.

As well as working for the Rural Support Trust Mark Adams farms in Fairlie.

Mark's presentation will focus on the challenges at play for farmers, their families, and the farm team, and also the functions of the Rural Support Trust.

He will cover next steps in the Government's drought support funding and give some key advice to help farmers and their families.

Date: Tuesday, 9 April 2024

Time: 12 noon to 3 pm at the Omarama Memorial Hall

The Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee invites you and your team to an informal workshop

Strategies for dealing with the dry

Tuesday 9 April 2024 | 12 noon - 3pm

Omarama Community Memorial Hall
35 Chain hills Highway, Omarama

Hear from:

Pete Young

Clyde, Central Otago farm advisor

- Strategies for dealing with drought and extreme climate

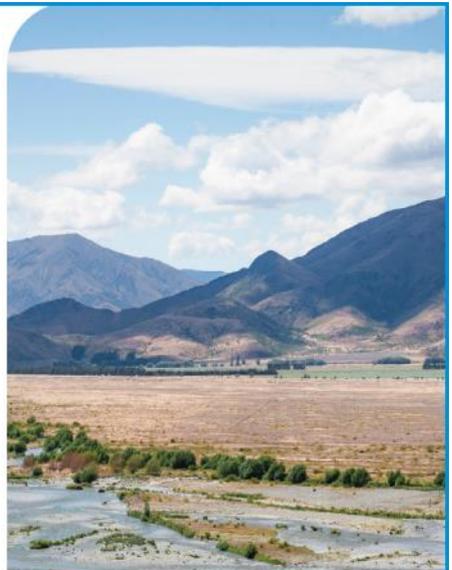
Mark Adams

Chair, South Canterbury Rural Support Trust and Fairlie farmer

- Challenges at play for farmers, their families, and farm team – and the role of the Rural Support Trust

BBQ lunch and refreshments provided by Silver Fern Farms

Supported by the Rural Support Trust, the Ahuriri Catchment Collective Group, Environment Canterbury and the Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee.



PLEASE RSVP:

Text or call Jess Hishon-Knowles
on **027 334 2909**

Provincial conference comes to Ōmārama

Come the end of the month and there should be no shortage of volunteers to 'man' that big red truck when the siren sounds.

Volunteer firefighters from throughout Otago and Southland will converge on the Ōmārama Memorial Hall for the weekend of April 20 and 21 for the conference and annual meeting of the Otago Southland Provincial Fire Brigades Association. The association is acknowledged as one of the country's strongest provincial fire brigade associations under the umbrella of the national body, the United Fire Brigades Association.

The UFBA is funded by Fire and Emergency New Zealand to represent 550 volunteer brigades and 11,500 firefighters.

The occasion will also mark Ōmārama chief fire officer Greg Harper's election to the role of president of the association.

Dignitaries – including United Fire Brigades' Association chairman Peter Dunne and Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher will attend.

Each brigade in the Otago Southland region would be represented – 28 delegates and their partners - plus key Fenz personnel, Greg said.

It had been decades since a representative from Waitaki had held the role.

"I was in nappies when the last person from the Waitaki Valley was president," Greg said.

And that man was Kurow's chief fire officer George Cogger who was elected president in 1958.

Greg first joined the fire service in Temuka in 1982 and later, after moving to Oamaru, he joined the fire brigade there

In 2022, in Ōmārama, he received his gold star for 25 years of service.

On the Friday night of the conference the past presidents' dinner will be hosted at the Oasis Restaurant, and on Saturday night a social occasion will be held at the Ōmārama Fire Station.

Activities have been planned for the partners while conference sessions take place.

Friends of the School will provide the catering for the weekend.



Right: Ōmārama Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper will be elected president of the Otago Southland Provincial Fire Brigades' Association at its upcoming conference in Ōmārama.

ANZAC DAY

Lest We Forget



25 April

Upper Waitaki Services

6.20am: Parade forms up on Hakataramea main street and will march to the Cenotaph.

8.15am: A wreath will be laid at the Kurow Cemetery Gate.

8.45am: Poppies will be laid at the Otekaieke Memorial Gate.

9.15am: A wreath will be laid at the Duntroon Cenotaph.

11.00am: A service will be held at the Omarama Memorial Hall.

Wreaths will be laid at all services.

Medals and hats may be worn at all services.

Medals of deceased service personnel may be worn by family members on their right-hand lapel.

Waitaki District Council news

Ratepayers encouraged to have their say

The council has approved its draft Annual Plan with its supporting documents and the public are now being asked to have their say about its proposals.

Last month, council staff proposed rates rise by 13.74% for the next year to cover budgets and allow for the present level of service to be maintained.

The proposed adventure playground for Ōmārama is in the council's draft project list for work it wants to do over and above its 'business as usual' this coming year. The "construction" of the playground has been allocated \$208,080 for this coming year 2024/25, which the document says will be funded from loans.

In reply to questions raised by the Ōmārama Gazette the council has said the proposed \$400,000 to be spent on the playground in years 2025 and 2026 of the Long Term Plan is also to be loan funded.

The amounts in later years until 2034, the \$37K to \$39K allocated annually to the Adventure playground will be funded by rates, it said. (*Read more overleaf*)

The Ōmārama Stream Reserve Future Management which will review future maintenance and management will get \$5,000 from rates in the coming year.

The Oamaru Mail reported that under the council's new models for funding it had decided to apportion targeted rates collected to fund the council's big ticket item - the Waitaki Sports and Events Centre - at a ratio of 3:2:1:1 for ratepayers based in Oamaru, Corriedale, Waihemo and Ahuriri respectively.

"With that example, Oamaru ratepayers would pay an extra \$48 each year, Corriedale \$32, Waihemo and Ahuriri \$16," The Oamaru Mail said.

As well, Kurow residents, who fall into that hall and community centre rating area, will pay an extra \$30 for every \$10,000 the council has loan funded for Whalan Lodge, while those in the Ahuriri ward will pay \$5.

Ratepayers will also be paying more in fees and charges

Specifically, Ōmārama Ratepayers will pay more from July 1 this year for solid and green waste disposal at the Ōmārama Transfer station.

Solid waste disposal will increase from \$130.00 to \$150.00 per m³ or part thereof and green waste disposal will increase by \$60.00 to \$70.00 per m³ or part thereof

This year the council is using a mix of community meetings and online question and answer sessions, or webinars, to inform the public about its proposals and get feedback. (*See poster overleaf*)

The consultation period began last week and submissions close on April 30. A summary of the 2024-25 Annual Plan engagement document is available at the community meetings and from libraries and the council service centres.

No community meetings will be held in Ōmārama.

The council report says the community conversations in October provided feedback which has been incorporated into the consultation process. Eight people from Ōmārama attended that meeting.

To find out more about the annual plan go to: <https://www.letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/annual-plan-2024-25>

Copies are available at public libraries and service centres

To make a submission you can download the form

Then email it to consult@waitaki.govt.nz

or post it to : Annual Plan Submission, Waitaki District Council, Private Bag 50058, Ōamaru 9444

or deliver it: Drop it off at any Council office or district library.

Submissions close on April 30.

TIMETABLE FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

- 28 March 2024 to 30 April 2024 – Consult on the 2024-25 Annual Plan. Receive community feedback.
- 13 May 2024 and 14 May 2024 – Annual Plan Hearings
- 20 May 2024 – Annual Plan Deliberations
- 11 June 2024 Additional Council Meeting – Approval of Key Directions
- 25 June 2024 Council Meeting – Adoption of the 2024-25 Annual Plan

EXAMPLE OF RESIDENTIAL (ŌMĀRAMA)



	2023/2024	2024/2025
Capital Value	\$390,000	\$490,000
Land Value	\$205,000	\$260,000
General & Rooding rates	\$731	\$852
UAGC	\$515	\$532
Targeted rates	\$1,276	\$1,619
Total Rates	\$2,522	\$3,003
Total \$ increase		▲ \$481
Total % increase		▲ 19.07%
an extra \$1.32 per day		
\$9.24 per week		

Adventure park to be loan/rate funded

Although a proposed adventure/destination playground for Ōmārama has featured in the Waitaki District Council Long Term Plan since 2021 and has more recently been put forward as a proposal for the use of Better-off Funds, the community has been assured it is not yet a certainty.

Yesterday, council chief executive Alex Parmley responded to a question from the Ōmārama Gazette put to the council, councillors and Ahuriri Community Board members.

The Gazette asked if the council intended to construct an adventure park/destination playground on the former sports field in Ōmārama.

In response Mr Parmley said there were “no plans to build an adventure / destination playground on the former sports field in Ōmārama”.

“You may be aware that there was mention of an adventure playground in the Ōmārama Masterplan and as a result of this, some provision was made for this in the current Long Term Plan.

“However, no plans for this have been drawn up and no site assessment of potential locations has taken place, “ Mr Parmley said.

Earlier in the month, because the \$400,000-plus project has featured prominently in council spending plans for Ōmārama, the Gazette asked for more information about the proposal and how the council proposed to fund such a venture.

The council opted to make this a request for official information which delayed its response until yesterday.

In 2025, it is proposed \$208,080 will be spent on the adventure playground. An amount of \$226,414 is set aside for spending on the adventure playground the following year.

In the years that follow until 2034, \$37K to \$39K is to be set aside for the playground annually.

The council spokesperson said in reply to the Gazette's questions that the \$400,000 funding to be spent in Ōmārama in years 2025 and 2026 would be “loan funded”.

“The amounts in later years will be funded by rates.” No needs analysis had been conducted, the spokesperson said.

Money had been set aside in the 2031 financial year for spending on the sports field “If the community feels that priorities should change, then they will be able to do that through the Annual Plan / Long term engagement processes for council to consider.” That is, make a submission to the annual plan before April 30.

The council had not spent any money on the Ōmārama sports field in the past five years, the spokesperson said. This, despite sports fields across the district being funded using district services charges.

“The Reserve Management Plan categorises reserve types and their service levels. “As Ōmārama is not classed as a sports field, it is not maintained as one and is not funded from the district sports ground rate,” the statement said.

The Ōmārama Gazette also asked why a \$400,000 adventure playground was added to the council's list of projects in 2021 and continues to remain on the list when it was not put forward as an idea in the public masterplan/visioning process.

Although the council replied yesterday that the idea was put forward during the public part of the process the Ōmārama Gazette disputes this and will be asking further questions to get any hard evidence this was the case.

The council also maintains it was the identified as the fifth most preferred option in the subsequent submissions on the Masterplan.

At the time there were six submissions on the three masterplan options for Ōmārama which included one submission from Public Health South and one from the Ōmārama Airfield Ltd.

Mr Parmley said the council remained “committed to working with the community on how the ambitions of the Ōmārama Masterplan are realised”.

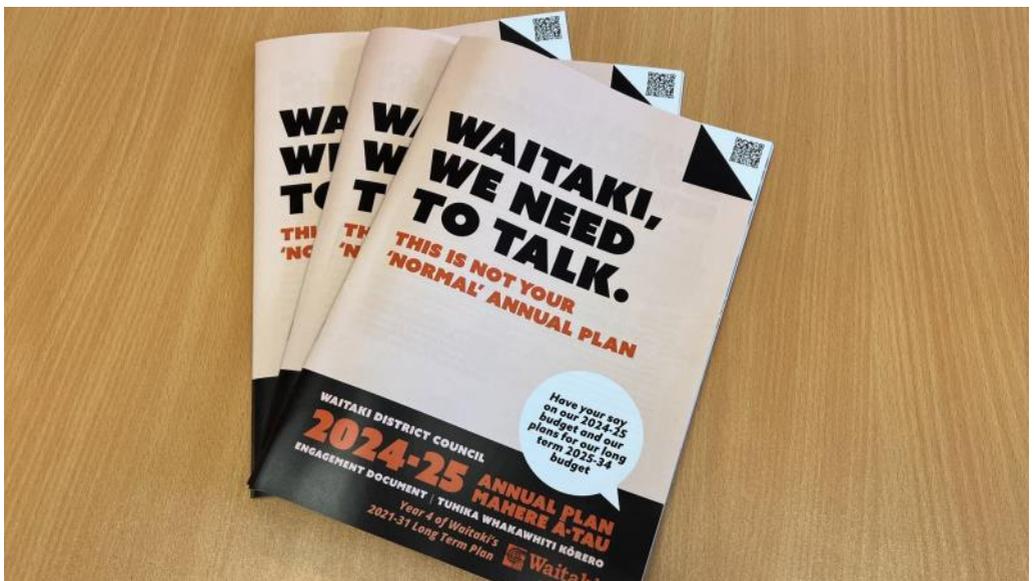
It would continue "to have engagement" with the Ōmārama Residents' Association “to take forward the community’s aspirations”, he said.

3 locations identified for activation Ōmārama masterplan- Option 1

Location	Community Hall & Playground activation
What	Mural - funded Halfcourt/basketball - funded Shading and seating Trickle charge (other sites to be reviewed) Natural playground Adventure park
Rationale	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement projects underway and funding secured(mural/halfcourt) Additional activation will increase usage & appeal to youth and families and reinforce its importance as a key gathering place/hub for the community



Community Hub area



Shareholding arrangements considered

A proposal to change how the Ōmārama Airfield shareholding is managed to cut costs was put forward at last month's meeting of the Waitaki District Council.

The concept – Ōmārama Airfield, Ensuring its Future – was put forward by Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher in his report to the council.

Ōmārama Airfield Ltd is a Council controlled organisation with 50% of the shares held by the council and an equal shareholding held by the Ōmārama Soaring Centre which is a consortium of gliding clubs.

The company owns the airfield assets including the land, main buildings and some plant.

Mr Kircher has put forward the idea that the council and Soaring Centre could transfer 5% each of their shareholdings into a community-owned trust.

With a company director appointed by the trust it would remove the CCO status, he said. It would be necessary to get legal advice on the move.

“All of this is just conjecture at this stage but something for council and our community to consider.”

“Obviously some legal advice would be required on that as well as the community setting up a suitable trust model,” Mr Kircher said.

He said, while there were “numerous reasons” why the council had a shareholding including the economic benefits it brought and Ōmārama's reputation as a gliding centre, the obligations for the company particularly with regard to the “intensive and costly” audit process was “punitive in scale”.

However, council ownership provided greater certainty that the company could not decide to sell the land and “change focus”, he said

Councillor Jim Hopkins asked council chief executive Alex Parmley, how close the issue was to the top of the list of priorities for staff and when work might begin on the matter given “there's a lot of costs and impediments” for the company.

“Do we have a timetable for that?”

Mr Parmley said the council were not working on it at present and would need to know from councillors how they want that work prioritised.

Mr Kircher suggested it could be discussed during next year's Long Term Plan process.

“Obviously there needs to be discussion and agreement that we do want to see change.

“It's something we need to discuss further as the governance team and decide what priority it does have and how does it fit with the vision we have.

“It would create work in one area but reduce work in the long term and make the airfield more viable potentially.

“But we have to weigh those things up and see whether that's something we can achieve,” Mr Kircher said.

Cr Hopkins asked, if there was going to be a working party, then “who might be on it?”.

There was more work to be done before that was decided, Mr Kircher said.

Testing the waters on metering

Water was the first topic up for discussion in the Waitaki District Council's series of webinars which it is conducting as part of its annual plan consultation process - and the possibility of introducing water metering for residential ratepayers was mooted.

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher and council Water Services and Waste manager Martin Pacey presented topics for discussion and fronted the hour-long online question and answer session last month.

Mr Pacey introduced the topic by saying the council had already spent \$12m to \$15m a year in capital expenditure and upgrades over the past three to five years and was looking at \$40million a year for the next 10 years more to meet legislation and standard changes.

Assets continued to age and required replacement, townships grew, and the overall increase cost in materials, health and safety requirements and community engagement all contributed to the costs, Mr Pacey said.

The council was exploring "joining up with other councils" to get better efficiencies, Mr Kircher said.

"We can't afford to do it on our own."

Stormwater was "the poor cousin" of water services and very little had been spent in that area "for decades, Mr Pacey said.

The council would need to take a "more proactive approach" on this.

However, there were no plans to address this in a significant way until "year five or six" in the Long Term Plan", he said.

Mr Kircher raised the topic of water metering and said while it was not something the council was considering directly it had been a component of the water reforms and there was "no doubt there's significant water savings" when metering was introduced.

His preference would be to set an across-the-board rate for use and then if householders used more than that then additional charges would apply.

"What is usually found is that when water meters are introduced water usage usually drops by about a quarter."

Although initially there would be a cost to installing the system, in the long term it reduced the overall cost of providing the services and infrastructure, he said.

The annual plan shows the projects proposed and the costs for each project, some were estimates, to give people an indication the costs that lie ahead.

"We're trying to be tight in the next three years but that pushes out some of the work that needs to be done...the following years become higher. We don't want to be kicking too many cans down the road, Mr Kircher said.

He said the council wanted to be "transparent" so it would discuss which of the projects could be held over.

"At the moment we're not planning water meters. That's not part of any of the projects but I think it has to be a solution.

"They do work. It's more cost as far as putting them in but if it saves some of the major capital work that's a conversation we need to have with the community in the future," Mr Kircher said.

The webinar about roading and transport was on Tuesday night.

WAITAKI, WE NEED TO TALK.

Rates rises, budget cuts, inflation, soaring costs of materials, increased demand on ageing infrastructure and higher Government standards.

How can we do everything we need to do to make sure Waitaki is a great place to live, while keeping things affordable?

Feedback on our 2024-25 Annual Plan (our budget) is OPEN until 30 April 2024.

To view the draft Annual Plan, supporting info and our online feedback form, visit:

**[letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/
annual-plan-2024-25](https://letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/annual-plan-2024-25)**

or find print copies in Council offices and libraries.



COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Come along to discuss the big issues, ask questions and share concerns in person.

DATE	VENUE
30 March 10am - 11.30am	Otematata Community Centre
3 April 1pm-2.30pm & 7pm-8.30pm	Ōamaru Opera House (2 sessions)
4 April 7.30pm-9pm	Palmerston Sports Hall
8 April 7pm-8.30pm	Kurow Memorial Hall
10 April 7pm-8.30pm	Ngapara Rugby Club

FACEBOOK LIVE Q&As

Tune in to our series of online Question & Answer sessions on Facebook.

TUESDAYS

2 April 7pm - 8pm	WHAT ABOUT OUR ROADS?
9 April 7pm - 8pm	WHAT LEVEL OF SERVICE?
16 April 7pm - 8pm	HOW CAN WE AFFORD IT?
23 April 7pm - 8pm	SO... WHAT'S THE PLAN?

**[letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/
annual-plan-2024-25](https://letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/annual-plan-2024-25)**



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KĀUNIHĒRA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI



WILDING PINE

Volunteer days



Saturday 6 April

Ben Dhu Scientific Reserve

10am - 3pm

Ben Dhu Station

Quailburn Road

Omarama

(10km from Quailburn Rd / HW8 intersection)



Saturday 20 April

Pukaki Flats Conservation Area

10am - 3pm

Meet at the roadside picnic area

just South of Pukaki Airport

HW8, Twizel

(next to Bendrose Station)



Event details

All gear is provided (or bring your own leather gloves and loppers if you prefer). Wear sturdy covered footwear - no jandals or sandals. Bring your raincoat, sun hat and drink bottle. Kids aged 14 and under please bring your adult. Check Wilding Free Mackenzie website for maps and cancellation info.



*CHOP
wilding pines
and enjoy a
BBQ!*



Personal protective equipment and thorough briefings will be provided to mitigate the safety risks associated with these outdoor events.



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www.mackenziewildingtrust.org

The Noticeboard

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



Our sincerest condolences to Craig and Glenys Dawson and all family and friends of Kath Dawson, who died peacefully at Addington Care Centre, Christchurch, last month, aged 90 years. Kath was an Ōmārama resident and throughout her years here took up various volunteer roles contributing time and energy as community librarian, St Thomas's Church organist and secretary.

Kath began as an Omarama library volunteer in 2000 and continued for the best part of 20 years seeing the local library through various changes

including moving from the old school dental clinic to the Community Centre.

Music was her great love and she passed that on to the younger generation, teaching keyboard skills. As well as performing in her own right, Kath also took on the essential supporting role of accompanist in many of the district's variety shows and concerts.

Special congratulations to Neil Prattley, Otematata Fire Brigade volunteer, on 50 years of service. Neil received his award at an event at the Otematata Community Centre last month.

Congratulations to Matt and Molly who last month became engaged to be married.

Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 12.30pm. To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 (Monday to Thursdays). www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

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

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

St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A gentle exercises and social afternoon group meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. The exercises are run with the guidance of personal trainer Lauren Maree. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

Waitaki Newcomers Network: For more information about this group send contact details to E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz W: www.newcomers.co.nz F: facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website.

www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/
omaramagazette.nz

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

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

**The May Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, April 25, 2024

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Charlotte Derosa

Hello Ōmārama community!

March has been a bit of a mixed bag with call outs. It's been a "quieter" month, but we've had a couple of days where the siren has gone off multiple times! Here's a wrap up of the 15 calls we've been to:

five structure incidents; five medicals, five motor vehicle accidents

A big thanks to all the team and those who attended when the siren sounded!

Don't forget, the clocks go back this weekend! This is the perfect time to make sure your smoke alarms are all working. If you can't reach or need a hand, give us a

call or email omarama@fireandemergency.nz and we can come and help.

As you may recall, one of our focus areas for March was the prevention of wildfires and escape planning. Luckily (and hopefully not before this goes out!), we haven't had to attend any wildfires this month, even though we have continued to be in a drought. Thanks everyone for your help in this and not lighting any unnecessary fires! Let's keep this up while we're still in a prohibited fire season. It's still extremely dry out there, with what seems like very little rain forecast for the foreseeable future.

Unfortunately, also through March, one of our new recruits, Vaughan, relocated with his family to the Christchurch area. Whilst we are sad to see him go, we wish them the best of luck in their new venture and cannot wait to see Vaughan riding the truck with his new brigade!

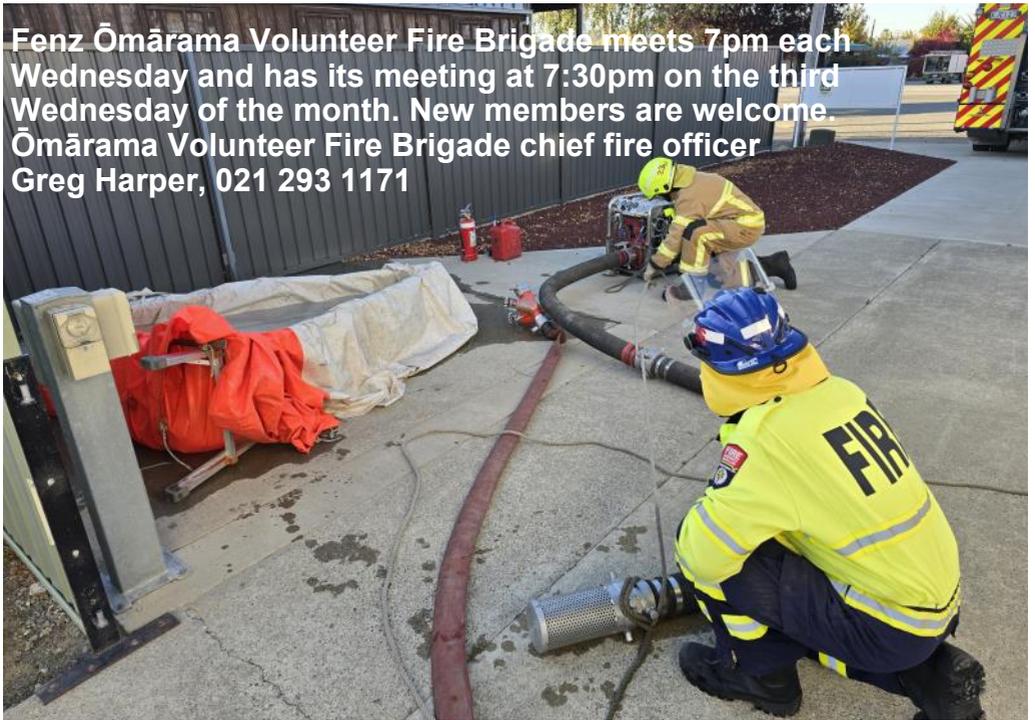
On the weekend of April 21 and 22, Ōmārama will welcome people from different brigades and long standing service members. We are focusing on hosting this year's United Fire Brigades' Association Otago Southland conference, which will be an extra special one for our chief fire officer, Greg Harper, as he'll be voted in as President of the Otago Southland Provincial Fire Brigades' Association. We are all looking forward to celebrating that achievement with him.

If you've been thinking about joining the Ōmārama fire brigade, feel free to reach out to any of the current members to have a chat. We train every Wednesday at 7:00pm and you are more than welcome to come and have a look and see what it's all about.

As always, thank you to each and every employer that makes it possible for our volunteers to attend calls and courses, special thanks to those who are self-employed. Without you, we wouldn't be able to provide this service to our local community.

Right: Volunteers learn how to make a portable dam; New recruits are put through their paces at the playground. Photos: supplied.

Fenz Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7:30pm on the third Wednesday of the month. New members are welcome. Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Greg Harper, 021 293 1171



Ōmārama Golf Club

IT WAS THE EASTER EGG HUNT WITH A DIFFERENCE

There were about 60 entries in this year's Ōmārama Golf Club Easter Tournament, held under clear, sunny, autumn skies.

Thanks to all the hard working volunteers and the sponsors for making it all possible.
(Results to come)



**Saturday Club Day, cards in 12.30 noon, tee-off 1pm.
NB From Sunday April 7, when daylight saving ends,
it will be cards in at 12 noon and tee-off at 12.30pm.**

Twilight golf has ended for the summer.

**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**



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Brodie Craig CA

Age Concern Bus Trip

11am to 3pm, Wednesday, April 10

Includes:

- A tour of the sights and scenery of Twizel and surrounds.
- Lunch at the Musterer's Hut Café and gift shop plus the option of a game of mini golf.
- Taking the long way home including dropping into High Country Salmon

Pick up and drop off. All welcome.

An indication of numbers would be appreciated

Ph/txt 027 201 2312 or 021 294 8002 to book





All proceeds to
Breast Cancer
Foundation NZ

Pink Ribbon Brunch

11am to 4pm

Thursday, May 23

Raffles, prizes, games

\$30.00 entry

**Enjoy a two-course brunch
and a free glass of bubbles**



Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the
Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm, Thursday, April 18, 2024
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

Contacts:

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630

Vicky Chambers, secretary, 021 296 5782

(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Vicky)

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

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

The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.

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



Thank you, Jemma

Thank you, Jemma for the ten years of dedicated and loyal service, you have given to the Residents' Association of Ōmārama.

Jemma joined the association in October 2013 as the playgroup representative and became a tireless advocate for the development of community resources and opportunities for all ages.

Last month she tendered her resignation from the Residents' association committee. As a committee member Jemma's achievements were outstanding.

Year after year in each annual report chairpersons have singled out Jemma's efforts for praise and thanks, for quietly, efficiently and effectively getting fundraising projects underway and to completion.

Key among those assets she has been instrumental in adding to this town has to have been the Omarama Sports Courts.

The reward for us all has been seeing the regular use by school tennis and hockey players plus the many holiday makers who drop in to give the equipment a spin or have a bit of a hit.

Fundraising for the courts was no mean achievement involving a 4WD tour, hosting shows – remember the Bitches Box? - collating a luxury raffle, and the numerous grant applications and the submissions it all entailed.

But the highlight for us all had to have been the High Country Garden tour in October 2017 which saw about 500 people enjoy a day out exploring nine of Ōmārama's gardens and raised almost \$30,000.

By the end of 2019 the full amount of just over \$200,000 had been raised and the first turf was turned.

Fittingly, Jemma was nominated unanimously by the association to open the new facility at a community celebration in February 2020.

She had been going to retire from the committee at that point.

But she followed this up with fundraising for hockey goals and outdoor exercise equipment.

And in the 2021 Waitaki District Council long term plan submission process asked for funds allocated to an adventure playground be brought forward to build to install an outdoor fitness circuit, 'all age' exercise equipment, and perhaps a cricket pitch or the like in the sports reserve adjacent to the Ōmārama Memorial Hall.

Jemma has not put her feet up. She continues to contribute to the Ōmārama community through her roles at Ōmārama School, including as Board of Trustees presiding member.



Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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

Ōmārama Playgroup

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

For more information contact:

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

Ōmārama Community 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 enjoy

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

Contact Heather Smith, 027 330 0249

Ōmārama Community Library

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

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473

Care in the community

Ōmārama Community Care Group

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



Twizel Community Care Centre

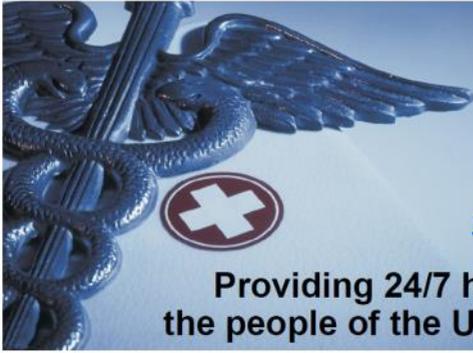
If you need any of the services listed below please contact:

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel, Phone: 03 435 0687

Open: Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm

- A reminder we have a food bank available with no questions asked. With the lead up to Christmas, it can be a particularly difficult time for people so please call in to the Twizel Community Care Centre on Mt Cook Street if you are in need of food.
- Our contact details are 03 4350687 and email admin@twizelcare.co.nz if you would like to arrange a convenient time to collect a parcel.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- Assistance with finding jobs in the area.
- Foodbank – donations, and supply people with food parcels when in need
- Any other government services – ACC, Department of Corrections, etc
- Arowhenua Whanau services – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Computer/cellphone assistance – needing help with something on your computer or cellphone. Free WiFi
- Rat tests/Mask supply free of charge
- Assistance with filling in any forms or paperwork.
- Offer room hire to community groups and businesses.



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
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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

Age Concern in Ōmārama

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

The next Pop Up Café is
1pm to 3pm, Tuesday, April 9

This month's guest speaker is;
Lyn Dunlop, former West Coast district nurse
"Figs, Feijoas, Fishing & Feral"
and remember to bring your photograph

Kathryn Bennett is the coordinator for Age Concern Waitaki, based in Oamaru.

Kathryn's contact details are:

03 434 7008

027 4347 089

NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz

Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm

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

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Pop Up Café

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Bring along a photograph of you as a teenager to share with the group. Let's chat about how we viewed older people as teenagers and what that looks like now we are older!

Celebrating together where we are in life.

Meet you at our "Pop Up Cafe" where real life stories begin!

Let's not grow old, let's grow awesome together".

Join us!



**Tuesday 9th April 1pm to 3pm
Omarama Community Centre**



**AGE
CONCERN
OTAGO**
Age Misconceptions
Don't Stop Learning

Come together for good

Pink Ribbon Afternoon Tea

1pm, Tuesday May 14

at the Omarama Community Centre

A warm welcome to all

Come spend the afternoon with us in the pink!

Donations at the door

All proceeds to Breast Cancer Foundation NZ



**Help fund breast cancer research,
education and patient support.**

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gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

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

How to apply

Applications for the next funding round are open until midnight on 21 April 2024.

For more information and to apply:

- visit meridian.co.nz/pu-waitaki
- email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz
- call 03 357 9732

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



Reporting issues is a snap with our Snap Send Solve App

Did you know Waitaki District Council has a FREE smart phone app to help make reporting issues easy? If you spot a pothole on a local road, damage to a footpath, a water leak or any other issue that you think Council may be able to sort, then you can use this clever app to report it by taking a photo (SNAP) and sending (SEND) it to the Council (SOLVE).

The app works by identifying the location of where the photo is taken using your phone's GPS data. You can fill in a few details then hit send. A report is then allocated to the relevant Council department. *Find more info and a link to the app on our website.*



Waitaki
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TE KAUNIHĀRA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

www.waitaki.govt.nz

Scan for more info
and app download



Water safety

What's the cost?

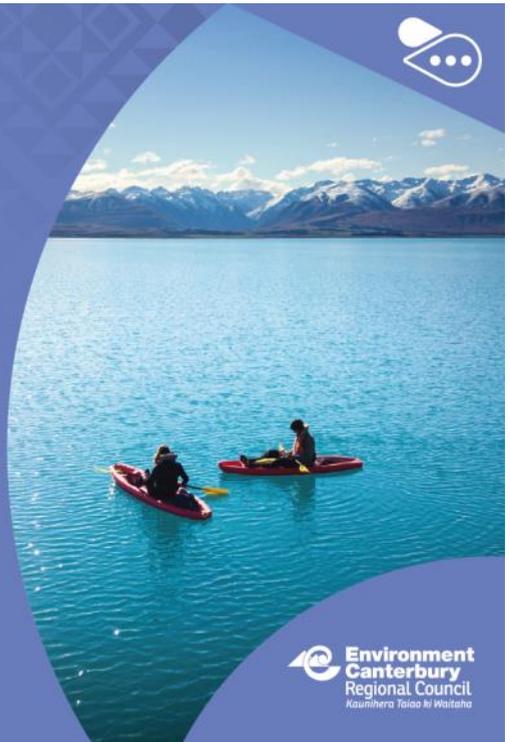
We're preparing our work plan and budget for the next 10 years. What can we afford? What's the cost to our region if we do less? We need your input, so check out the options we're proposing in the draft Long-Term Plan.

Tell us what you think:

ecan.govt.nz/whatsthecost



Consultation closes
14 April 2024



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Canterbury**
Regional Council
Kaitiakihera Taioia ki Waitaha



 **LJ Hooker**

Team

Karan & Jess

Karan MacDiarmid

027 517 7959

karan@mcre.co.nz

Jess Mackay

027 902 5529

karan@mcre.co.nz

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Georgie Robertson
Omarama

03 438 9554 027 4861525



Vicky Munro
Otematata

03 438 7855 021 438745



Alona Shaw
Omarama

027 773 4214

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

March 2024

Highest temperature: March 2, 28.9C

Lowest temperature: March 16, -1.3C

Most rainfall: March 4, 8.6mm

Total rainfall for March: 21.3mm

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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