



Ōmārama Gazette

August 2024

The August Issue

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On sale now ...numbers strictly limited

Tickets are now on sale for a unique community event in November.

Omarama MenzShed and Friends are bringing renowned chef Simon Gault to the Omarama Memorial Hall for a night's cooking demonstration which will be followed by a gathering of our community groups who will showcase the work of our volunteers which is this town's beating heart.

But that's not all.

The Omarama Gliding Club is holding an open day at the airfield the following day – Sunday – and registered ticket holders can book for an 'at cost' ½ hour glider trial flight at the event.

Details are on the tickets.

Bookings for this can be made with Omarama Gliding Club members at their stall on the Saturday night.

Kahu Soaring has gifted Simon a glider flight to take place at the open day. In addition to being a chef Simon is a glider and fixed-wing pilot.

Back to Saturday night.

At the demo Simon will combine learning and a lot of fun to show easy ways to cook up heartwarming meals from your own kitchen. For a taste of what he has to offer check out his Facebook page.

Ōmārama clubs and groups are invited to participate after the main event by booking a stall to showcase what they contribute to our community.

Stall holders will still need to pay for a ticket if they wish to attend the demo.

This is not a fundraiser.

Sponsors have been invited to contribute to keep costs low so all can be included. Thanks to their generosity the organising team has covered about \$6,000 so far of the estimated cost of \$10,000 to bring Simon to town.

Some sponsors are donating by way of equipment, food and accommodation which has kept costs down.

Take a look at the poster above and check out just what a generous community it is we live in.

If you would like to be part of this there are still opportunities to sponsor.

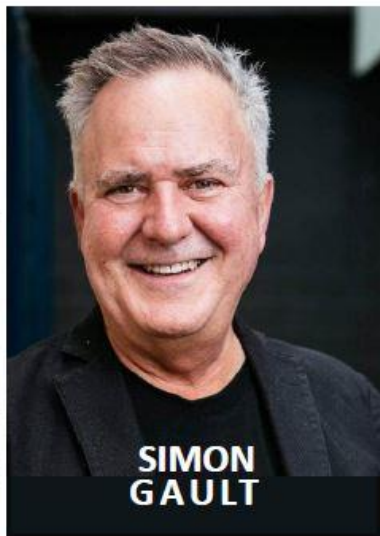
Tickets cost \$50 and are strictly limited.

Omarama School children may attend for free provided they are accompanied by a ticket-paying adult.

Why not spread the love and the learning and shout someone - a friend, your staff or that 'friend you haven't met yet' a ticket.

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

We would love you to be part of this!



7PM SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2024

AT THE ŌMĀRAMA MEMORIAL HALL

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

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

TICKETS ON SALE NOW \$50 PER PERSON

Tickets are strictly limited

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



You make this possible, thank you.



Our Event Sponsors



Church chattels to remain in community

By Rev Lee Kearon, St Thomas's Church management committee secretary.

Over the past few months the St Thomas's Management Committee has been inviting the Ōmārama community, particularly those folk with furniture items donated to the church by family, to think about what they would want done with those items. Since the closure of the church in 2017 the management group have been paying for storage and insurance for these items but because the church has been sold the committee will soon be winding up and so the chattels need to be disbursed.

Firstly, thank you for all who took the time to write, email and phone us about this, and come to the public meeting to discuss what should happen to these items. We met with members of the Ōmārama community last week. Of the folk who had contacted us directly, some families had requested their family items were to be returned to them, but the majority indicated they would like to see the remaining items retained for public use within the Ōmārama Community.

We discussed how this could happen responsibly and safely.

Members of the Residents Association of Ōmārama Incorporated indicated they were happy to take over the remaining items and put them into storage at the hall, and make sure they were appropriately stored and insured. There is a possibility that they could be used in an appropriate space at a later time, so having them available for this would be a good outcome for the town. It is important to note that any items requested by families will be able to be uplifted by them, and arrangements will be made to do so.

A motion was put to that effect and passed unanimously. The chattels remaining from the St Thomas's Church, Ōmārama, will remain in the Ōmārama community and be transferred to the care of the Residents Association to be stored at the hall.

The Residents Association will take custodianship of these items, and they will be insured and stored appropriately.

The exception will be those items which families have asked to be returned.

These will need to be collected by August 20.

Process: A list of items to be returned to families will be given to RAOI chairperson Lindsay Purvis before the release date.

Lindsay will arrange the remainder of the items to be removed from storage on the Saturday closest to release date (August 20) and the items will be removed to the Memorial Hall for sorting and storage.

We ask those families with items for private collection to please contact Lindsay directly by email at purvis@xtra.co.nz to arrange collection before this date.



Generator fund keeps growing, thank you

Going up, up and up...

This month the total amount of individual donations to the generator project have scooted up to \$9850.00 with the generous donation of \$1,000 from Graeme and Andy Oxley

Thank you for your kind donation

Our generous generator fund donors are:

- * Sierra Motels
- * Ōmārama Rodeo Club
- * Merino Lodge
- * Ian and Jan Mckie
- * Peter and Adrienne Borrie
- * Graeme and Andy Oxley

We are awaiting the outcome of funding applications to several agencies.

Here is some more information if you are thinking of contributing to this community project.

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

This will allow the group to work at other sites on community projects. In return MenzShed will maintain and service the generator.

* For it to be used by Ōmārama MenzShed and for other community projects it needs to be portable – on a trailer.

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

*There is at present no generator in Ōmārama with the capacity to run the necessary facilities at the Ōmārama Community Centre in an emergency.

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

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

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



Malcolm and Jenny's Vietnam adventure

It would be true to say Malcolm and Jenny wish that they had more days to spend exploring the many layers of history and culture that is Vietnam.

But also, how great it was to just kick back and enjoy relaxing, time with friends and drinks by the pool, they said.

They returned from their 12 day holiday last month to a chilly mid-winter's Omarama with a wealth of memories and as you'd expect countless photos.

Apart from seeking warmer climes for a winter's holiday Malcolm and Jenny were drawn to visit the Southeast Asian country because of its war history.

They remembered the days of protests in New Zealand.

"Once the protests started you learnt more about it," Malcolm said.

Exploring how the "tunnel rats" - volunteer combat engineers and infantrymen from the Australian Army and the US Army, who cleared and destroyed enemy tunnel complexes - existed and navigated the maze of tunnels was intriguing, Malcolm said.

In the early stages of the war against the French colonial forces, the Viet Minh created the extensive underground system of tunnels, which was later expanded and improved by the Viet Cong.

By the 1960s, the tunnel complexes included hospitals, training areas, storage facilities, headquarters, and barracks. It meant fighters could remain hidden underground for months at a time.

It was very warm, they said. Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) was 30C to 32C during their stay.

Da Nang, on the coast was "a bit hotter" with 90% humidity.

They were poolside relaxing after a day "beating the streets" for happy hour but Malcolm took the chance to take a dip in the South China sea..."how warm was that water!"

Hanoi, the country's capital to the north was about 35C under 95% humidity.

Ho Chi Minh was a favourite. Some describe the former 'Paris of the east' as a chaotic whirl but Malcolm said despite the chaos everyone seemed to know what the rules were.

If you wanted to cross the road "you must walk slowly and put your hand up as you crossed."

You dare not risk running because that's when you'd likely get hit, he said.

Their sightseeing took in Mỹ Sơn with its ancient, ruined Shaiva Hindu temples in central Vietnam, constructed between the 4th and the 14th century by the Kings of Champa, which were still standing and in good nick.

"They must have been good builders," Malcolm said.

A lantern show and a puppet show on the water were other highlights.

They spent one day and night cruising Halong Bay, another UNESCO heritage site and exploring its islets and inlets. But one night was plenty, Malcolm said.

Alcohol – Tiger Beer – was cheap, Malcolm said.

But shopping was not quite as exciting as expected, Jenny said. She did take the opportunity to have a couple of outfits whizzed up in record time and delivered to the hotel in the time-honoured way but there was not a lot available to buy for the grandchildren, she said.

Photos: Supplied



We are so proud of you all

About 200 plus primary school pupils from throughout the Upper Waitaki gathered in Ōmārama for the annual primary schools cross country races, last week.

While the day began with a frost pupils also had to contend with a muddy and slippery track this year.

Ōmārama school principal Alison Holden thanked all those who attended and the many who made the event possible.

In particular she thanked Ōmārama Station, Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade First response and Friends of Ōmārama School who sizzled up lunch orders of 336 sausages for the crowd.

The sausages were generously donated by Kim and Mike Doree and the team at FEHF Butchers in Alexander.





Legendary fundraiser a winner

The Ōmārama Rodeo Club's annual Mid-Winter Quiz Night and Hill Billy Hunt attracted a good crowd of all ages with contestants primed for 'the chase' in more ways than one.

The Friday evening of quizzing and auctions erupted into gales of laughter often as contestants did their utmost to outwit each other on questions across all categories. The taste testing – beers and chips – saw connoisseurs pushed to their limits. Club volunteer Jennie Hales's musical challenge was masterful; spinning out tunes – the oldies and the goodies - with all important bonus points for those who could guess who wrote and performed original versions of cover hits. Yep, still hummin' those tunes, Jennie!

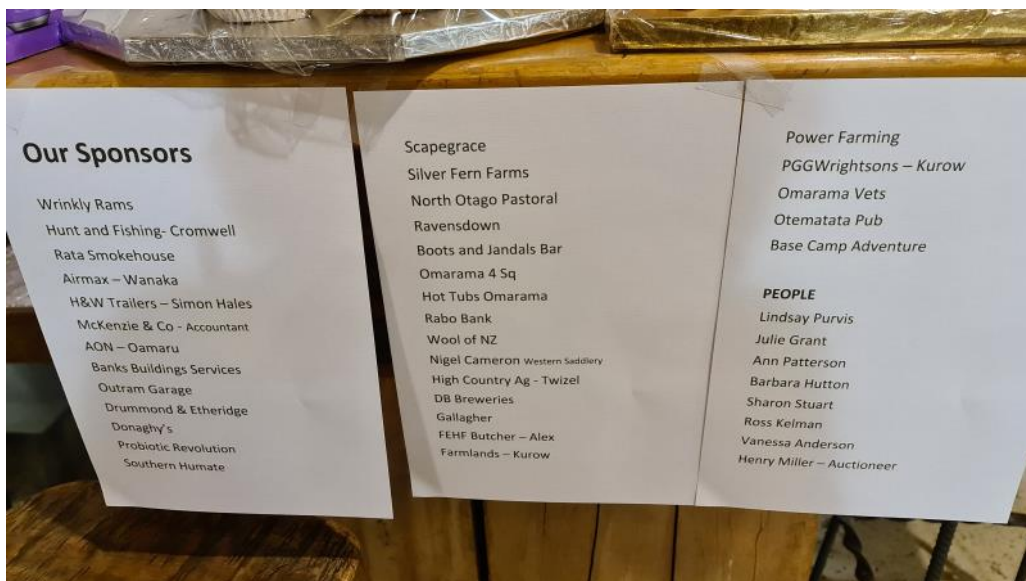
Once the quiz was over for the evening those competing in the Hill Billy Hunt headed out from the fire and warmth of The Wrinkly Rams hospitality into a frozen night to begin the wintry weekend hunt.

On Sunday the teams returned to the hearth to share stories having had varying degrees of success capturing their bags.

Organisers were pleased with yet another successful weekend and thanked the sponsors for their generosity in donating auction and raffles prizes, and the volunteers who helped to stage the Omarama Rodeo Club's weekend fundraising activities.

The club stages its rodeo on December 28 each year.

Photos: Wendy Parsons and Ruth Grundy





Taking us back to the summer of '69

Thank you Jan and Lexie and the awesome crew that is Oasis Cafe, Bar and Restaurant for an evening to blow away those wintry blues!

These photos by: Noah Tiplady - Who do you recognise?!



Signing off from council duty

Where to begin with this ending?

As of Thursday last week I am no longer reporting or promoting any Waitaki District Council matters. Wednesday was my last day as the Ōmārama Gazette's local democracy reporter for this agency.

For the past one-to-two years council staff have made it increasingly difficult for me to get the information needed to address community concerns.

Where once I was able to phone or email direct and get responses to questions the community raised, now most of the questions I ask – routine questions asked by ratepayers – are directed through the council's Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (Lgoima) process with the assertions that this comes at significant costs to ratepayers. I contend that this information should be supplied as business-as-usual communications with the community.

In addition, the council has invoked its Lgoima policies and codes of conduct to prevent elected representatives from speaking to or contacting me.

Emails I send to council email addresses are filtered and vetted.

As well, in interactions with the community, it has been noted that council staff have suggested that rather than using the Ōmārama Gazette alternative ways should be set up to communicate and engage with the community and that pressure should be put on me to stop asking questions because it is costing ratepayers 'thousands of dollars' in staff time.

Where I have been, who I have been talking to, and where I am going are questioned and reported back.

Is she coming to the meeting? This is only one step short of stalking.

If it is a publicly notified meeting then why should I not be there?

If it has not been publicly notified when it is to discuss ratepayer, taxpayer funding and community assets then why not?

Why would you not want a reporter there to keep the whole community informed? 'She has got it in for the council'. Mmm, holding people to account does not equate to 'having it in' for them.

This is another favourite political tactic, it's called gaslighting – look it up.

- impugning someone's character by insinuation. It is a tried-and-true method used nip relevant questions in the bud and fog over the truth.

Remember, in this age information is power. It is up to you to think critically about all of what is put before you. Ask yourselves, why it is that some to whom we have given these public roles are either selective about or unwilling to share information about matters which affect us all.

This impasse with the council is now affecting my family and friends.

In the past month I have received information – which I share below – which confirms the some of the policies and practices the council have implemented to deal with me, and, I think it shows the particular mindset and evidence of the kind of culture which supports that approach. In light of this latest information, I consider the situation is untenable. And, I will not have my family and friends drawn into this.

It is now difficult if not impossible to do this job justice.

I refuse to "fall into line" and to not ruffle certain feathers when required.

I refuse to merely regurgitate curated council media releases without question.

As a reporter that would be irresponsible and unethical.

And so, this ends now.

Tying up loose ends, part one

THE OMBUDSMAN RULES ON CHARGES FOR RELEASING INFORMATION ON A2O INQUIRY

If you wish to understand something of the journey I have made to this point, read on.

I believe council staff decided to begin filtering my email queries in earnest about July 2022 when, after flooding had affected the town, I asked questions to try to find out why a civil defence emergency was not called.

That was the first time the council levied a charge before it would share information with the Gazette, and ultimately the community, about its decision-making process. I paid the fee - \$110 - in return for the information which was published, and this was later refunded by the council after I complained to the Ombudsman.

The council has since said that charge should have been much more.

The next key event was a year ago when I asked for the full survey responses to the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail survey - not just the positive responses the council had reported on in its press release.

This is standard reporting practice.

The Omarama community was aware there had been serious accidents on nearby sections of the trail and our emergency services had expressed concerns to the council that the state of the trails on and off road were contributing factors.

Under protest I paid the \$1,402.50 the council said I must pay before they would give me the information. We had the right to know.

This was information the staff had to hand – in their top drawer in old-fashioned speak - which had informed their media release, and as it turns out, also informed their trail audit to MBIE which included a safety and health audit. (This has also not been made available to the public.)

Here is the story from July 2023.

This week, after a year and an Ombudsman's investigation, which its office required council staff to supply additional information to me (more hours), the Ombudsman ruled in favour of the council's decision to charge for the information saying the amount "was not unreasonable". Read the full report online.

I continue to maintain the information could have been supplied by the council staff member concerned when I first asked for the survey responses as business-as-usual, and it did not need to go through the formal official information request process which is charged out at \$55 per hour.

I believe a direct approach to my initial question would have negated the need for email sweeps and taken far fewer hours work than the nine hours claimed.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand supplied the information to almost the same questions at no cost but also not until a formal Lgoima request was made.

Let me be perfectly clear.

I understand and have complete respect for the Ombudsman's judgement that the charge was not unreasonable under the law.

I consider the council has abided by the law in all aspects of its dealings in all matters regarding the release of official information.

This is personal

SO, THIS HAPPENED

Let's move on to this year and questions about the Better Off Funding budgets, the \$400K adventure playground, the annual plan submissions hearings, and a certain letter.

In April, I put out an "Extra" Gazette telling you about the council's proposed construction of a loan and rate-funded \$400K adventure playground in Omarama to begin in the 2024/25 year. I urged the community to make clear its views about the proposal – one way or another- through the annual plan submission process. There is the link to that story online.

Of the total of 23 submissions from Omarama 21 ratepayers made public submissions against the adventure playground. A link to that story is available online. Although the names of the submitters are public information and published along with their submissions on the council's website as part of the annual plan process, I have chosen not to put these people in the spotlight. Be assured this is a significant list and it is not 'rent-a-crowd'.

However, at the council hearings on May 14 to consider the submissions you may remember this happened. Council chief executive Alex Parmley said the submissions only represented those who were "agin" the proposal and he believed there were others working with the council who were for it.

"If there was a united voice of the community that it was not wanted then that would be great but we're getting different messages from different sections of the community on that, at the moment," he said.

And Waitaki District Mayor Gary Kircher recalled that at the public meeting he attended in February in Ōmārama, of 25 to 30 people present, there seemed to be "only people speaking against it".

"But then [I heard] that a different view was expressed with the smaller group of the people that were there who hadn't spoken up," he said.

At that point the playground proposal remained in the budget with the deliberations to be held May 20.

At the Residents' Association of Ōmārama's (RAOI) May 16 meeting, long-standing committee member and treasurer Stephen Grundy [my husband] raised concerns with Ahuriri Community Board representative Mike King, who was present, that these comments of Parmley and Kircher could be seen as undermining the democratic process. I was not present.

These concerns were endorsed and minuted: "Concerns were raised about the council's behaviour regarding submissions made for and against the "Adventure Playground" concept. To be addressed with the Council."

The following day Stephen and I, as ratepayers, sent a personal letter – written by Stephen sent by myself from my personal email account - to Mike formally expressing our concerns that the democratic process appeared to have been undermined and asking these concerns be directed to the Board for a response.

There is a link to that letter online.

- continued over

This is personal - continued

Because of the discussions at the RAOI meeting the evening before Stephen also asked the RAOI committee to vote via email as to whether it would endorse the letter and approve that a copy could be sent on its behalf to the Board through Mike. Of the 10 committee members, nine, including the chairman, replied and voted 'yes' to sending the letter on the RAOI's behalf. One person could not be contacted. No-one voted 'no' or abstained.

There was a request to add "we welcome some dialog on this" to the letter, which was done. No one was pressured into voting.

Some 28 working days after the letters were sent, I asked Mike what had happened to our letter – the letter from Stephen and I, given he had not reported back to the monthly RAOI meeting the week earlier. As well, neither letter had been logged as inwards correspondence to the July 1 Ahuriri Community Board meeting.

He said that he had forwarded the letters to the Board the same day he received them, the council's Lgoima policy had been invoked, and because of that he was not permitted to speak to or contact the sender(s) in anyway.

So, the council's policy was effectively used to 'gag' our elected representative, the person to whom we have the right to address legitimate concerns about the democratic process. As well, he was warned off making contact. I responded to this news by lodging a Lgoima request to find out what did happen to the letters.

After some to-ing and fro-ing I received a response to my questions but not to the letter. The process and response plus my additional notes for clarification are I the online version of this story,

Yes, there are two mentioned in the material supplied who should have a right of reply – perhaps you'd like to ask them for their explanation for their actions. I cannot stomach any more bullshit. [Sorry, Mum].
It's time for me to let go.

I will no longer be asking questions.
Who really cares? Does it matter?

I won't be asking those questions about what it means for our library volunteers to become a 'community hub' as reported by the Otago Daily Times. Or what it means if it does not.

I won't be asking when fluoride will be added to the water? Has that started already?
What is the plan for the town centre traffic?

Where is the new pedestrian/cycle trail going to go at the junction of the highways?

I have published the code of ethics which I work under.

I have made it clear that material which is considered for publication is fact checked. To maintain independence, I have never received funding from any agency other than in exchange for advertising.

I have now begun the process to return the \$300 the council has paid for its advertising for this year.

Like I said, this is now personal.

I acknowledge that considering everything that some very precious members of our community and good friends are battling right now, this is so insignificant.

Yet recent happenings mean I must address it now.

So, you will need to excuse me a moment while I get something off my chest.
You should have left my family out of this.
I am now officially out of the game, guys.
Shout yourselves a beer. Great work! Ding, dong the witch is dead!
Time was up when you began playing the 'man' and not the ball.

A fear/anger/sadness/anxiety ball is stuck fast in my chest, because I do not know how to do this. The internal battle has been fierce.

For the sake of peace should I let this lie? It would bring no peace.
"Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice." *

It is easy to say the reactions are because I am seen as a threat to 'their' positions. I get that. But I am through with the struggle. I am not defeated but I feel broken and exhausted. However, real defeat would be to continue and to "fall in behind". This is reminiscent of the British case 'Mr Bates vs The Post Office'. I admire his grit and determination, but I don't intend to continue to battle for 12 years.

I have been reporting on Waitaki District Council matters since graduating in 2006. I can say with confidence born from experience that my local democracy reportage stacks up with the best of them. For the past 10 years I have reported on council matters in a volunteer capacity for the Omarama community. This has not meant lower standards.

I do apologise to those genuine people caught in this who feel wronged. I do not apologise to any who does know what they are about and who is playing these passive aggressive games in the shadows to progress their particular agendas which will bring financial or material benefit or status to themselves or their friends at a real cost to this community's residents.

I have made mistakes – from typos to blinding blunders - my mistakes go out in full in print each month for all to see. I have trusted the wrong people. I have unwittingly been used in other people's agenda. There have no doubt been occasions when I have contributed to the issues I have laid out here. But one thing you all know about me is that I have never lied to you. I have never, ever lied to you.

"First they came for the reporter ... we don't know what happened after that." ***

These words were first said by:

- * Mahatma Gandhi
- ** Author unknown
- *** Maria Ressa

I would like to commend to you the work of Otago Daily Times/Oamaru Mail reporter Brendon McMahon.

If you would like to have your say:

The Residents' Association committee: omarama.committee@gmail.com

Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King: mlking@xtra.co.nz

Ahuriri Community Board chairman: Cal Reid: calum@calect.co.nz

Waitaki District mayor Gary Kircher: gkircher@waitaki.govt.nz

Waitaki District Council chief executive Alex Parmley: aparmley@waitaki.govt.nz

Otago Daily Times editor Paul McIntyre: paul.mcintyre@odt.co.nz

Tying up loose ends, part two

ONCE UPON AN ADVENTURE PARK - ANALYSIS

In the interests of tying up loose ends, here is the write up about the council's response to the last Lgoima request I made into the \$400K Adventure Park saga which I received on June 11, the day of the council deliberations.

I have delayed writing this story to give me time to round up and analyse the information.

In May, after incomplete answers to previous questions put to council staff over several months I again asked the council to come up with hard evidence to show the community had asked for the adventure park in the Omarama masterplan workshop process.

I also asked if there was any kind of connection between the supply by Numat Industries of a free 'Balance Park' at Friendly Bay in Oamaru announced in January 2019 and the subsequent appearance of the proposal to construct a \$400K playground at Omarama in the Long-term Plan 2021-31 Budget. The adventure park idea was introduced at the August 2019 Masterplan workshops. Was one a trade-off for the other? Who had entered the proposal into the plan?

In reply to the questions put to him Waitaki District Mayor Gary Kircher said there was "absolutely no link" between the Balance Park gifted to the Friendly Bay playground in Oamaru "and Omarama".

"Even if they [Numat] get awarded those contracts [future playground contracts], that would be a very poor deal for us if we were feeling obliged to give them business because we allowed them to trial a piece of equipment at the harbour."

In its Lgoima response a council spokesperson said there had been "no trade-off". "There is no relationship between the donation of a Balance Park and the development of a playground at Ōmārama."

The council did find the evidence that the adventure park idea had been put forward in the material collected from the Omarama Masterplan workshop.

Here is the link to facilitator Sandra McIntyre's flipchart.

An adventure park is listed on page four of the flip chart as one option under the heading 'visitor facilities' for the town.

On the same page of the flipchart it is stated that participants wanted the area behind the hall to be kept as a recreational area and specifically, on page 2 of the flip chart the word 'sports' is written in red across the map of the recreation area behind the hall.

There are no 'votes' posted against any of the entries for the visitor activities, either for or against.

There were 'votes' cast for retaining the recreation area.

I also asked who it was that first included the proposal in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan budget.

"The Ōmārama Adventure Playground was submitted in 2020 by the Recreation Manager [Erik van der Spek, who is now Project Manager (Major Projects)] as a potential project to be considered for inclusion in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

"This was to give effect to the approved Ōmārama Masterplan which identified that project as a medium priority project. The project was subsequently included in the

2021-31 LTP. “Through the 2021-31 LTP, it was indicated to commence in the 2024-25 financial year. As such, it has been reconsidered through the 2024-25 Enhanced Annual Plan process.”

The response confirmed there had been no needs analysis conducted for this \$400K project.

So, now, after all the submissions and hearings and deliberations into this year’s annual plan, what has happened?

At its June 25 meeting the council confirmed the staff recommendation that any decision on the adventure park should be deferred until next year.

“This will allow more time to get a better understanding of the intention of this project and the desire or lack of) for this project by the wider community before a decision is made on whether it progresses,” the letters to submitters sent on July 11 said.

At the June 11 council meeting Assets Operations Manager Joshua Rendell was more specific,

He made it clear the project should not be dropped merely because there had been ratepayer submissions against the idea, because the Ahuriri Community Board had not sanctioned that.

“I haven’t been privy to recent conversations with the community board but the adventure playground was an item that was discussed within the Omarama Masterplan. If the community board has since decided it doesn’t want to proceed with that and has done so formally then certainly we could cancel it but in lieu of having that cancellation formally I don’t believe it should be cancelled yet. It should be postponed for consideration in the long term plan.”

In March 2020, when the three masterplan options were put to the community board, that board opted for option 1 which did not include an adventure park.

Last year, in its December 5 meeting the community board with only token community consultation opted to recommend all three options proposed in the masterplan to be in scope for future development which the council endorsed. So, it was now possible to go ahead with the adventure park project.

This year, on June 11, in the meeting to consider reallocating the Better Off Funding to water Mr Kircher spoke at length for the sports field to be funded from that ‘now you see it, now you don’t’ government grant but at the same time he did not dismiss the Adventure Park proposal.

However, in the final decision about the Better Off Funding on June 26 Ahuriri Ward councillor Brent Cowles voted for the \$100K Mr Kircher said could be allocated to the sports field to go to water, as initially proposed.

In a meeting in Omarama on July 17 with the Omarama Residents’ Association committee to discuss that funding decision, reportedly Cr Cowles said that Mr Kircher had merely been electioneering.

Next year, which is when the decision to include the adventure park in the budget has been deferred to, is election year.

At the hearings of the submissions Cr Cowles said he felt the community’s concern was due to the “broad” wording.

Adventure park or playground could possibly be interpreted to include sports field, he said.

That being the case, if it is merely a matter of semantics, then why could the words

Tying up loose ends, part two - continued

“adventure playground or park” not have been amended to “sports field” at that same meeting?

So, it's been delayed a year but this 'visitor attraction', the \$400k loan and ratepayer-funded adventure playground or park for Omarama is still on the table. Funding for the sports field development will not be looked at until 2031.

Why does it seem council staff and some community board members are so wedded to the \$400K adventure park idea in spite of all the publicly-voiced opposition?

Why has information about this proposal which affects all Ōmārama Ratepayers not been publicised in any council releases to the community and only by the Gazette?

It was a project scheduled to begin this 2024/25 year.

On May 8, recreation manager Lindsay Hyde had been scheduled to visit and talk to the RAOI committee about “plans going forward” but when he found there had been 20 submissions against the adventure park, he called off the visit because he did not think any decisions could be made until the outcome of this project was decided.

Members of the committee were adamant the meeting should go ahead because it was not about the adventure park. To no avail, Mr Hyde did not meet with the committee on that occasion.

It is puzzling that the adventure playground is still on the agenda and still in the budget.

There are still unanswered questions.

Who is it that will benefit from this project paid for by the ratepayer?

It appears from the outset that this sizeable project is designed to attract visitors.

Who are those 'in the shadows' engaged with 'over the fence' conversations, and who have been alluded to in various public discussions who want the park but will not show themselves or put their names to their opinions?

Who is pushing for this and why?

The idea received one vote in the Ahuriri Community Board survey conducted last year. One.

Ratepayers have submitted against this idea in 2021 and 2024.

Council staff say it has been pushed out a year so there can be a “better understanding of this project”.

So, roll on 2025 because here we go again!

NB All these council stories refer to documents which it is not possible to print here because of their size. They are also too large to email.

However, the links to them are all available in the latest email issue.

Here is the link to that:

<https://mailchi.mp/cd1150a9d6d5/the-august-issue-5477116>

For the last time ...

This will be the final media release that I will publish on behalf of the Waitaki District Council. It is published verbatim. I have asked no questions. I have no further information to hand.

Thursday 1 August 2024

Community seating coming to Omarama

Residents and visitors to Omarama will soon have a space to rest, chat and keep an eye on local sports with the installation of covered seating close to the tennis courts near to the recently painted mural.

The Residents Association of Omarama Inc. project team engaged APEX to design tree themed shelters and matching picnic seating set. Each shelter space covers approximately 12m² within the recreation reserve at the Omarama Community Hall. Josh Lee, APEX Engineering, Design & CAD Operator, says: "It is quite cool to get a project where we can run away with the design, where it still fits the brief and the purpose of the project." Josh Lee, APEX Engineering, Design & CAD Operator. Landscaping, designed by the project team, includes a bund surrounding the shelters, a base of crushed rock gravel and paver path for ease of access. The bund is planted with natives suitable for the Omarama climate.

The project has been led by members of the Omarama Residents Association, and supported by Waitaki District Council using Better Off Funding. It is hoped the new seating will encourage locals to walk to the sports pitches and playground, and reduce traffic and parking pressure in the area.

Lindsay Purvis, Chair of Residents Association of Omarama Inc, says: "The Omarama community was asked by WDC to identify projects within the LTP that would improve the area and provide a friendly welcome to visitors. After consultation via local media, public meetings, and a door-to-door survey of 50 homes the Residents Association were able to identify sports, playgrounds, and CBD congestion as important issues for our community.

Covered seating and landscaping around the area of the tennis courts and our new mural addresses those issues by directing traffic away from the CBD and providing an attractive and safe playground for local and visiting families."

Cyndi Christensen, WDC Economic Development, says: "Omarama's passion for improving their community is so important for the success of these new amenities at the Community Hall. First with the Omarama mural, then the uniquely designed shelters and seating that the project team and APEX created.

I am sure the community and visitors will make great use of this improved area, making Omarama a little better off in the process"

ENDS



The Noticeboard

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



IN LOVING MEMORY - Ngaire Orford February 4, 1944 to July 26, 2024

Our sincerest condolences to Neville Orford and Prue, Dave, Samantha and Jack O'Neill on the death of Ngaire, a much loved wife, mother and Grandmother. Ngaire died in Timaru last month. She was the daughter of George and Millie Grant of the Hakataramea Valley.

Ōmārama was home from 1994 until 2003 and where she continued her many years of service to the community through her work with the Plunket Society.

Our sincerest condolences to Bruce and Julie Dyson and their family on the recent loss of Bruce's mother and Julie's uncle.

Best wishes to Nic Leopold for a speedy and complete recovery. We are missing your beautiful smile.

And best wishes too, to Malcolm Cameron for a speedy and complete recovery.

Happy birthday for July to Jan Perriam and Bryan and Ann Patterson.

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

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

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

St Thomas' Ōmārama Church Community:

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Ōmārama Model Aircraft Club meets on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Bevan Allan bjallan@xtra.co.nz

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

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

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

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

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

www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/
omaramagazette.nz

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

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

**The September Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, September 4, 2024.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, August 29, 2024

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Hello Everyone,

Back to me this month.

It has been great to have the input from a number of our members keen to put their touch on the monthly update from the Ōmārama brigade. I hope they are keen to keep up the good work in the future.

Calls this month have been made up of four motor vehicle incidents, three fire-related and one medical incident. It's not been too busy but we would always love to have fewer calls.

There have been a lot of good hints added to this write-up in the past few months.

A couple of timely reminders, especially with this weather we are having, remember the metre from the heater rule with your indoor cloths racks.

It is open season for burning slash piles etc. but please take the time to check what you should be doing on the checkitsalright.co.nz site and follow the prompts before you light a fire.

We have been to more than one call that could have been avoided had the fire lighters followed the guidelines.

Stay warm and stay safe.

Greg Harper

Chief Fire Officer

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**

Congratulations to Omarama Golf Club members Paul and Christine Bowman who were named North Otago Sports Bodies association's volunteers of the month.

Ōmārama Golf Club

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

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

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

We would love you to be part of this event



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

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

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

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

To discuss this opportunity and your ideas phone or email:

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

Your contribution will make this great thank you!



Winter Housie

From Wednesday, June 5

1pm each Wednesday

@ the Omarama Community Centre

*20 Houses *Super House *Afternoon Tea

*Raffles *Supported by Age Concern

(Please bring cash)

A warm welcome to all



HOUSIE EACH WEDNESDAY

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, August 13

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

*NB
Waitaki MP
Miles
Anderson
has
cancelled
his planned
visit.*



**OMARAMA
Pop Up Café**

COME ALONG FOR A MEET AND GREET
WITH YOUR MP FOR WAITAKI:
MILES ANDERSON

MILES WILL BE AT THE POP UP CAFE
FROM 1PM TO 2PM

Join us! 

Tuesday 13th August 1pm to 3pm
Omarama Community Centre



The poster features a green background with a large white circle containing the text. To the right, there are three circular images: one showing hands holding coffee cups, one showing Miles Anderson with two elderly women at a table, and one showing Miles Anderson with a woman. The AGE CONCERN OTAGO logo is in the bottom right corner.



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Are you interested

in better health and wellness
for Kurow and the wider Waitaki Valley?

What if I told you we are working on it?

The Waitaki Valley Health Trust is excited to showcase their plans to create the...



WAITAKI VALLEY
HEALTH HUB
COMMUNITY WELLNESS

...to serve the communities of the Waitaki Valley and Hakataramea.

The planned state of the art facility is designed to promote wellness and meet critical healthcare needs throughout the region. Imagine one large community owned facility built to accommodate a range of health care options all under one roof.

And right here in Kurow.

With a clear plan in place the Trust is hoping to share their vision and launch their carefully set out capital raising operation.

Now is the time to transform the way we receive care in the region. We hope you join us for the journey.

Waitaki Valley Health Trust
Chairman Dr. Jim Jerram says

"The region is currently well served by a hard-working and accessible General Practice. However, the existing facility housing the practice is totally inadequate with collaboration across services near impossible due to a shortage of space."

Want to find out more?

Please follow our Facebook page
[@WaitakiValleyHealthHub](#)

More details to come in your next **issue of the
Ōmārama Gazette**



Kurow Medical Centre

Omarama Clinic

Omarama Community Centre

Open

New Tuesday Clinic

9am to 5pm

PRIME Trained Nurse Clinic

Thursdays

9am to 1pm

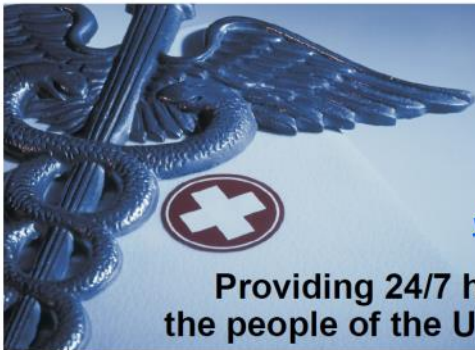
Doctor and Nurse Clinic

Please call:

Kurow on 03 436 0760

or Mackenzie Health Centre on 03 976 0503

To book an appointment



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 \$45.00
Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

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

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

Opening hours

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

Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm

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

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

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

-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

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

Wellness matters

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

Immunisation protects children from rotavirus, polio, hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenzae type b meningitis (Hib), pneumococcal, meningococcal B and human papilloma virus (HPV). These diseases are serious, and immunisation also stops disease spreading within families and the community.

Childhood vaccines on the National Immunisation Schedule are free to all children until their 18th birthday. (HPV immunisation is funded for all aged 9-26 years; MMR immunisation is funded for all born from 1 January 1969.) All immigrant and visiting children can also have free immunisations.

Immunisation is one of the best ways to protect children by working to stimulate the immune system. When a germ like a virus or bacteria enters the body for the first time, the immune system takes time to produce special antibodies to fight that particular virus or bacteria. During that time, a person may become unwell. As the protective cells and antibodies are made, they destroy the virus or bacteria, and the person recovers. The immune system remembers the virus or bacteria, for years or for life. If it enters the body again, the immune system can fight off the disease before the person becomes unwell.

Babies are born with some passive immunity to certain infections because antibodies are passed on to them from their mother before birth. Breast-fed babies get additional antibodies from their mother's milk. However, this immunity does not last long. Babies and children need immunisation to provide ongoing protection from many life-threatening diseases. Over a million people around the world die every year from diseases that can be prevented by immunisation. Most of these diseases have become rare in New Zealand thanks to immunisation programmes. Some diseases, such as whooping cough and pneumococcal disease, are still common.

Immunisation starts at six weeks old. This allows babies to start developing protection as soon as possible when the passive immunity from their mother begins to wear off. After this it is recommended Children should be immunised at three months, five months, 12 months, 15 months, four years, 11 years and 12 years Babies and children can catch diseases at any time. It's important babies and children are immunised on time, every time for the best possible protection.

If you think your child – or anyone in your family – may not have had all the immunisations or if you're not sure, your primary care provider will be able to help. Some children will also need extra vaccines, such as the influenza immunisation, if they have certain long-term health conditions.

For more information see immune.org.nz, call 0800 IMMUNE or ask your doctor or practice nurse.

Content sourced from the New Zealand Immunisation Advisory Centre.

Mackenzie Basin Wilding Tree Trust

Notice of Annual Meeting of the Trust to be held on Thursday 29 August 2024 at 11:00 am
In the Lounge at Twizel Events Centre, Market Place, Twizel.

Business

1. Receive and consider the Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024.
2. Receive, consider and adopt the Financial Report for the year ended 31 March 2024.
3. Report on the business plans for the current year.
4. Consider any resolution which may properly be submitted to the Annual Meeting.
Such notice of resolution must be given in writing to the Secretary of the Board no later than Wednesday 14 August 2024.

B R Cowan

Secretary

Twizel

Email: mackenziewildings@gmail.com



Carrfields

GLEN EYRIE DOWNS *1st Annual On Farm Sale*

580 HIGH QUALITY - ANTIBIOTIC FREE & FULLY TRACEABLE -
ANGUS/HEREFORD R1 STEERS - HEIFERS & MIXED SEX - HEREFORD/SIMMENTAL R1 STEERS &
HEIFERS ARE AVAILABLE!!

WEDNESDAY 21ST AUGUST 2024

1010 QUAILBURN ROAD, OMARAMA 12.00PM



1% OF SALE PROCEEDS
WILL BE DONATED TO
OMARAMA SCHOOL!!

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL

Bill Reid (N/S Live Stock) 027 431 8194

Hamish McAslan (Carrfields) 027 281 0377

Gareth Coutts (Carrfields) 027 208 9365

HOT TUBS OMARAMA

Part-time position available to join our team here at
Hot Tubs Omarama
Approachable, hardworking and common sense are essential!

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

This position covers a wide scope of duties.

Immediate start is available

Please contact
Emma Moore
03 4389703

or email emma@hottubsomarama.co.nz



Twizel Tekapo Community Vehicle Trust

The Twizel Tekapo Community Vehicle Trust offers passenger services from Twizel to Oamaru Monday to Friday for Medical, Hospital, ACC, Dentist, Opticians and other appointments.

Transport is also available to other destinations: Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown on request.

Bookings must be made at least 24 hours prior to date required for travel.

Oamaru \$60.00 per return trip.

Fees on application for other destinations.

Payment is required at commencement journey.

To make a booking for this service contact:

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel

Phone 03 4350687 between 9 am and 2pm, Monday to Friday

Supporting Local Communities





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Omarama Rodeo Club Wants to Say

Thank you
SO MUCH!

Your generous Sponsorship helped us raise over **\$10,400**
for our up coming Rodeo

Congratulations to our Winners
The Midnight Prowlers



Ōmārama Rodeo Club

By Charlotte Montgomery

Last month the Ōmārama Rodeo Club held their annual meeting down at Otometata at The Best Dam Pub

The meeting ran smoothly and the president, Daniel Montgomery, thanked everyone for contributing to the club, with time spent coming to meetings and working bees, and helping run a slick day on December 28.

He made a special mention of Wendy Parsons for her hard work in keeping the club moving behind the scenes.

She has been an integral part of the club for so many years and her passion for her community shines through year after year.

The club made a profit for the year while upgrading facilities; a new arena perimeter fence, and viewing terraces on the bank.

We donated over \$2000 to local community groups and charities and we are proud to be able to give back to the community who support us.

In election of officers our president remains Daniel Montgomery and vice-president, Simon Hales. Wendy stays on as treasurer. The secretary role has been split into club and NZRCA (rodeo) roles, with Laura Hill taking on club duties, and Charlotte Montgomery being the Rodeo Liaison.

We also had a special nomination for life membership of the club. This nomination was for a man who has been member of the club since it first began, he has grazed broncs for 37 years, and is also still heavily involved with the NZRCA as a judge.

The Club is proud to award Danny McAughtrie life membership to Omarama Rodeo Club. He joins a handful of other people who have been awarded this lifetime membership- Ron Williamson, Jim Metherall, Gandy Burrows & Wendy Parsons. Congratulations to Danny for his service to the club.

We are pleased to have a few more club members this year and are still focussed on the upgrade of the grounds, and continuing planning for a great family day out on December 28.

If anyone has any questions or ideas for our club then please do not hesitate to contact Daniel on 027 309 2799.



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

With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund. Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff, we're working together to build strong, sustainable communities.

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

How to apply

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

For more information and to apply:

visit meridian.co.nz/pu-waitaki

email community.fund@meridianenergy.co.nz

call 03 357 9732

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



Meridian.

Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki

Your local MP welcomes
all enquiries.

waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

Oamaru

127 Thames Street

03 434 7325

Wanaka

Spencer House Mall

12/31 Dunmore St

03 443 4820



Authorised by M Anderson,
Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



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🌐 twizel.ljhooker.co.nz

🏠 20 Ruataniwha Road,
Twizel, 7901

Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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

Ōmārama Playgroup

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

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

Ōmārama Community Library

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

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473

Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the
Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm, Thursday, August 15, 2024
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

Residents' Association committee:

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

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

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

The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.

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

ŌMĀRAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

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



Ōmārama School



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

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

principal@omarama.school.nz,

office@omarama.school.nz



**OMARAMA
SCHOOL**

Situation Vacant

Ōmārama School is looking for someone to support students for a few hours per week, this term and possibly next term.

If you are interested then please contact Alison Holden

(principal@omarama.school.nz)

to find out more information.



Ph: 03 4389815

Learning and thriving in the place of light - Ki te Whei Ao, Ki te Ao Mārama e!

Full Primary School - Years 1 - Years 8

We welcome new enrolments, please make contact to arrange a visit

office @omarama.school.nz



School Community	Curriculum Overview	New School Initiatives	What we can offer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rural community with village vibe <input type="checkbox"/> Qualified, experienced staff <input type="checkbox"/> Every teacher, knows every student <input type="checkbox"/> Friends of School fundraising team <input type="checkbox"/> Competent, supportive Board <input type="checkbox"/> Stable staffing, full time teacher aide <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming pool with coaching lessons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Structured literacy programme <input type="checkbox"/> CODE - spelling programme <input type="checkbox"/> Rich numeracy programme <input type="checkbox"/> Strengthened writing activities <input type="checkbox"/> Targeted learning groups <input type="checkbox"/> Local Curriculum (ELC) programme <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Competence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PB4L - positive focus on values <input type="checkbox"/> IYT - focus on behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Peer Mediation - problem solving <input type="checkbox"/> Whānau groups - working together <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Support - RTLB, Speech, Health & Behaviour <input type="checkbox"/> Counsellor - school access if required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Headstart - 4 year old transition programme <input type="checkbox"/> Extension through Mindplus & Virtual Learning network <input type="checkbox"/> Skiing Programme <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Club <input type="checkbox"/> Y7 / Y8 technology opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> Sports, Speech & Technology with Waitaki Schools

School Light Values

“ Actively taught and regularly celebrated”

Learning

Inclusive

Growth

Happiness

Truthfulness

Care in the community

Ōmārama Community Care Group

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



Twizel Community Care Centre

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

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel

Phone: 03 435 0687

Email: admin@twizelcare.co.nz

Hours of opening: 9am - 3pm

Days of opening: Monday - Friday

- **A reminder we have a food bank** available with no questions asked
Our contact details are 03 4350687 and email admin@twizelcare.co.nz if you would like to arrange a convenient time to collect a parcel. (Donations of non-perishable or foods that can be frozen always welcome)
- **Twizel-Tekapo Community Car bookings** – this is a community car that picks you up from your house and takes you wherever you need to go such as town here in Twizel or Timaru for an appointment, whatever you need. There is a cost involved depending on destinations. Monday to Friday
- **Work and Income** – assistance with applying for benefits, helping with queries regarding superannuation, and any other financial assistance you may receive. Printing and scanning of documents.
- **Inland Revenue** – queries regarding anything IRD related, access to forms.
- **Immigration** - passport and other Government agencies.
- **Cancer Society Navigator** – support for anyone with any cancer each third Thursday of every month
- **Home Delivered Meals** – We have small roasts for \$10, Regular meals for \$8 and small snack meals for \$4. We can deliver to your home.
- **Printing/scanning services**
- **Arowhenua Whanau services** – Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- **Access to a computer**, printing, free WIFI, community notice boards

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

Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com

Justices of the Peace

JPs are available by appointment to:

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

The service is free of charge

To make your visit quick and easy:

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



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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Resource Management Act 1991

Advice of Prior Public Notification

Public notice of consent application described below has been published on 24 July 2024 on the Environment Canterbury website and was summarised in the following newspapers on that day: Otago Daily Times, The Press, Timaru Herald and Twizel Update. Submissions close on Wednesday 21 August. Below is a copy of that summary.

Resource consent applications: CRC240441, CRC240442, CRC240443, CRC240444, CRC240445, CRC240446, CRC240447, CRC240448, CRC240449, CRC240450, CRC240451, CRC240452, CRC240453, CRC240454, CRC240455, CRC240456, **CRC240457, CRC240458 and CRC240459.**

Applicant: Meridian Energy Limited

Address for service: Meridian Energy Ltd
287-293 Durham Street North, Christchurch 8013.
PO Box 2146, Christchurch 8140
Attn: Jeff Page or email: jeff.page@meridianenergy.co.nz

Meridian Energy Limited propose to replace existing water and discharge consents associated for the continued operation of the Waitaki Power Scheme.

CRC240441-CRC240449 (inclusive) seek water permits relating to the damming, diverting, taking and use of water. These consent applications seek to replace 18 existing water permits through grouping related activities together.

CRC240450 – CRC240549 (inclusive) seek discharge permits, relating to the discharge of water and associated contaminants to water. These consent applications seek to replace 23 existing discharge permits through grouping related activities together.

A consent duration of 35 years is sought.

The applicant has requested that this application be directly referred to Environment Court. While Canterbury Regional Council has not yet made a decision to accept this request, submitters should be aware that this resource consent application may be heard directly by the Environment Court rather than by the Canterbury Regional Council.

SUBMISSIONS

Full details of the application and to make an online submission visit the Environment Canterbury website: www.ecan.govt.nz (search 'Notified Applications') or view at Environment Canterbury offices at 200 Tuam Street, Christchurch and 75 Church Street, Timaru.

Any person may make a written submission on any of the above applications.

All submissions should be sent to Environment Canterbury, PO Box 345 Christchurch 8140; or emailed to hearings@ecan.govt.nz. A copy of the submission must also be sent to the Applicant at the address for service stated above.

For advice on the application please phone 03 353 9007 or 0800ECINFO (0800 324 636).

Submissions must be received by Environment Canterbury no later than 5pm on Wednesday 21 August 2024.

Stephanie Rixecker
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Free for locals!*

We're opening the doors for free to all locals from 5 - 11 August 2024.

Meet your cutest neighbours and learn more about the crucial conservation work at Ōamaru Blue Penguin Colony.

Bookings will be necessary.

Please send your contact details, proof of address and group size to bookings@penguins.co.nz.

  /amarubluepenguincolony
www.penguins.co.nz

Valid only between 5 - 11 August 2024.

* Waitaki District Residents



Back in the day

Last month Four Square stores throughout the country celebrated the 100 year anniversary of the Four Square grocery store chain which got me thinking about our 'corner store'. I wrote a wee piece for the Facebook page to celebrate the occasion.

So many commented and told their stories about their relationship with Ōmārama's shop that I thought it may be appreciated if I reproduced it here:

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, 4 SQUARE!

Without even realising it we've lived our lives side by side...

Only I'm not 100 years old, just saying!

You have played an important part of our lives, especially those of us who live in tiny towns and off the beaten track.

I guess the first Four Square I can remember was Fairburn's in Roslyn, Dunedin.

Back in the day when my mum would put in her weekly handwritten grocery order for it to be delivered later in that afternoon. Back in the days when they had counters, Blair. :.)

At intermediate school I would dig deep for hard-earned coin to buy a 10 cent chocolate 'Moggy Man' at the Four Square on Shetland St on the after school trek on the way home.

It was Peter and Joan Wytenberg who gave me my first job in Ōmārama at the Four Square. They were a life saver for the girl from the city who needed a job so she could stay with her man... Tell me, who hasn't worked for Ōmārama Four Square?

At that time - in the late 80s - the shop was directly in front of where it is now, with quarters for those 'living over the shop' out the back.

I'm not sure exactly when Ōmārama's store became a Four Square – someone will know. But the first Ōmārama store was likely to have been set up in the early 1900s – again, someone will know this, too.

Our 'corner shops' become the cornerstone of our communities.

And I only know some who graced the front door, hauled in the papers, milk and bread in the early hours and still managed to greet customers with a helpful, sometimes weary, smile most days. There were the Woods's, the Brensell's, the Paulson's, the Tipa's, the Hill's, the Taylor's...we didn't need an alarm clock because Murray, who lived next door, would set off for work at exactly seven minutes to seven, seven mornings a week.

To Blair and Alona, like the rest of us you fell in love with this town, and then you've stayed for the long haul, seen us all through thick and thin.

People will never know the half of it, but I'll never forget that you were there at the ready helping us fill those Covid care packs, slipping in those extra special treats for any and all in need or just whoever needed cheering up.

And, now I've come over all nostalgic.

Funny, isn't it?! No-one paid me to say this... but it's true... you don't remember what people say, you don't remember what they do, but you do remember how they made you feel.

So maybe, just maybe that's why we all fondly remember growing up alongside our local Four Square.

Thanks guys – Thanks to the whole team - for being Ōmārama's corner stone.

You do not know just how important you all are to this place. And Happy Birthday 4 Square!

There is a link to the Brensell's story, By Jenny Clarke, (grand-daughter of Bill and Marion Brensell) here:

<https://www.facebook.com/1176312465731273/posts/5230899703605842/>

Katie Houlihan

Mr Brensell also drove the school bus. He called me Black-eyed Sue. He laughed so hard when I'd get so angry and correct him.

He would hand us lollies as we got off the bus. I would forget and forgive. Now I think about it. It was an old bus. Creamy tan colour. You had to put up with milk and bread under your feet in

boxes. The smell of fresh bread would drive you crazy if you were hungry. The shop was a home depot with everything, lollies and comics down the back and an old penny pinball machine on the wall.

Deirdre Lousley Sisson

Years ago, my brother and I are both now in our 80's, Peter Rowley of Auster Air Services flew us both from Otematata Stn up to Brensell's Store at Ōmārama to get an ice cream. This was a real treat for us! I remember flying around the main roads to see if any cars were coming.

There weren't, so we landed on the Main Road by the Pub.

Peter went to the Store and got us both ice creams then we took off and flew back to Otematata Stn where we landed on the road and taxied up to the house. Great memories!!

Dot Thomas

Many happy memories of Brensell's Ōmārama store. We used to go down to the magazines and have a good read before Mrs Brensell would call us out and we would get the ones we had on order and some sweets and head over the road to chew and read some more adventures of Donald Duck or whatever.

Michael Blackstock

I remember Des Paulson telling me about how Mum left me at the store. He said I wasn't very old at the time. They had closed the shop and were sitting down for dinner. Next they heard sounds coming from the shop. Des said that they thought it was an intruder and so he armed himself with a cricket bat. He said he found me in the shop, going around, knocking produce off the shelves. He picked me up and got on the phone to home. Mum answered and Des began with, "Did you get everything you needed from the shop today Christian?". "Yes" said Mum. "You're sure you got everything and didn't miss anything?" "No" said Mum, "I got the sugar, salt, butter, milk and the mail, no, I didn't forget anything". Des said he asked what she was up to at this moment, Mum replied that she was serving dinner, Des said he suggested she do a head count... Des said that when Mum got back on the phone, she was freaking out, that her baby was missing, he said he quickly allayed her fears and told her that he was holding Michael while they were talking.

Just wondering, was I the first intruder into the shop that committed criminal damage which would be ironic with the job I do today. The Ōmārama Shop has always been an important hub for Ōmārama like the Pub. It's that rural friendly service that separates it from other shops in our bigger centres

John Kelland

I started at the Ōmārama School in 1955. Bill Brown was the sole teacher and we were all in one small classroom. Bill and his wife lived in the shearer's quarters for a while as their new school house was being built.

When some of the Otematata children had to come to school at Ōmārama we all moved down to the old hall which was near the pub. This was while the new classroom was being built.

We had to pick briar berries during our lunch break (near where the church is now) in order to raise money for the proposed baths (pool). These berries were sold to the Robinsons Rosehip factory in Dunedin. We also had to collect beer and lemonade bottles which were stacked behind the play shed, to raise money for the pool.

Bill had to supervise 30 children when we all walked up to the Ōmārama stream for a swim. Bill Brensell drove us from home (Glenbrook) to school in an old green Chev car in the early days. It was only my sister Diana, Tony Gloag and me on the north side of Ōmārama for a while.

Liz Komen

Great write up. I worked in the old 4 Square 1998-99, in the old shop for Brett and Tania. Hugely busy in the summer, rolling ice creams for the long lines of queuing people and selling fishing licences. Great memories.

Ruth Grundy

I remember doing that The hotter the summer the more ice-creams you rolled and busloads queued, or not! There was no air-conditioning. And as you rolled the ice-creams the super hot air from the freezers blasted over your aching feet!

Jane Mcfelin

Yea and I was lucky enough to be taken to school in the bread truck !.

Also went on many early morning runs to Twizel with Noel [Hope] on the bread truck.

Fiona Tebeck

I remember getting 20cent bags of lollies from the shop when the Paulson's had it. Yvonne Munro and I used to bike there by ourselves and then struggle back up hill, the six and 10 miles home, to Twin Peaks and Dunstan Peaks. Pretty sure the bush telegraph might have let our Mums know where we were. Couldn't do that these days. Loved our childhoods.

Charlie Van Dulst

There are several photos at our house of my Grandmother, Mum, Aunty and several other members of the family outside the shop when it was owned by the Valentine's I would say around 1946.

Shona Smith

I remember finding glasses of gin hidden on the shelves 73/74

Jane Mcfelin

Oh, my old home. My parents Christine and Don Fahey brought the Ōmārama shop off the Paulson's. Murray Taylor and Noel Hope were the bread men at the time. Lots of very happy memories in Ōmārama xx

Pat Blackstock

How lucky to have such a pivotal place in the community where everyone meets. I remember the layout of the store in the front and back when the Paulson's owned it, and working for the Taylor's one awesome summer with Sharon Herd . Memories of school days and the boxes of supplies coming home in the school bus with Des or Pat Wright. There can't have been many vacation days for all the owners of the store, with the late night phone calls for shearing supplies, mustering needs or last minute visitors. What an amazing job they have and still do for the community.

Ian Brown

Peter Hemera and I used to walk to Brensell's to get the bread- unsliced- then eat the middle out of it on the way home- knowing we were going to get into trouble!!

When I was about six years old Keith McAughtrie (a very good friend of my father's) used to let me steer his car down the road to the shop sometimes...till I tried to change gears...cos I thought that made the car go faster! Loved my early life in Ōmārama and so good seeing the names that bring back memories!!

John Kerr

Hondy (Paul) and I would fish our way down from Tara Hills and then toss a coin to see which mother we would phone to come and get us.

Greg Blackstock

I can still remember hobnail boots hanging from the ceiling and all manner of other items. There was a trapdoor down to a cellar in from where the postboxes are now. That is where the counter used to be down that end. Brensell's owned it then and Bill used to drive us to school in a very rickety old bus that would never get a warrant today. I believe the Brensell's bought the shop off the Valentine's.

Hilary Bufton

They left in '85 and the shop was run by Ivor and Faye, Les and Sue Tipa

Steve Blackstock

I remember travelling in the old school bus that Bill Brensell drove. One instance that always comes to mind is when Bill dared me to kiss Jane Kelland...he got his wish . To put that into perspective I was no more than six- years -of age, can always remember the stunned unimpressed look she had.....poor girl.

Jane Clark

Steve Blackstock, that's hilarious. I hate to disappoint you but I don't remember that!!



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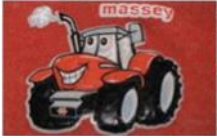
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The weather that was @ 44°29'30.1"S 169°58'20.3"E

July 2024

Highest temperature: July 25, 15.2C

Lowest temperature: July 14, -9.1C

Most rainfall: July 1, 29.7 mm

Total rainfall for July: 68.6mm

The Ōmārama Gazette

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

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