



Omarama Gazette

Christmas 2023



Goodwill to all

Somewhere only we know ...

Christmas editorial 2023, by Ruth Grundy

Some find our föehn winds exhilarating and ride that wave!

For others when the nor'wester blows we can get a tad irritable, when it blows and blows and blows, we can get more than a little crabby and there can be consequences.

"My wife ate the last piece of peppermint crunch, so I went out and readjusted the car's driver seat and mirrors."

We gear up to take a trek through snowdrifts up to our thighs and think nothing of it because that's how it is here.

But if it rains forget it, we think our legs have been cut off. Rain? You want rain, move to the coast, mate.

We love not-so-humble bragging about our weather - we live in the hottest place in summer and the coldest place winter. "Wear more wool," we say, somewhat smugly.

At home, the back step is worn smooth and looks so much smaller now we've grown. We sit there still, in sunshine and safety, warming our older bones and gaze up to the big sky to watch cloud pictures scudding by. Our place in the universe.

Our favourite tree has grown with us, we've climbed every gnarly branch and looked down on crescents of dappled light season after season.

After travelling away we climb up over the saddle eager to catch that first glimpse to the west, perhaps of a raging storm making its way up the Alps.

We're home and the busy distractedness and facelessness of the wider world falls away as familiar well-loved smiles, or not :) greet us up the street.

I haven't lived here all my life as some have.

But this place, our place, has grown me up.

Where you live shapes you – it's not a new concept.

Sociologists know how our neighbourhood, our social and physical environment, our home in a wider sense, its place and identity impacts our lives.

It's simply explained in many studies which show that those growing up in a socio-economically vulnerable area, in the midst of neglected physical maintenance become unfairly stigmatised as problematic, violent, unattractive physically and socially, and as a consequence some grow to fill those expectations we have all set for them.

I feel privileged to live here and humbled to benefit from the work of those in our community who have gone before and I thank them for their legacy.

With that also comes a sense of responsibility to work to shape our place to reflect our values – those values inherited from our past woven with relevant new values to guide us to the future.

Ōmārama Te Āo Mārama, this is our place and it is worthy of respect.

Ōmārama is home of the Lindis (Ōmakō) shared with Tarras, of course :)

Our river – the Ahuriri – is world renowned.

The Benmore Range - Benmore (Tamata-o-Patuki) and Totara (Tatara-kaimoko), Clay Cliffs and the Lindis are all revered by Waitaha and Ngai Tahu, those early navigators of the pathway to the West Coast.

We are the place of light and stars; bright, clean, clear, and you can glide forever.

Elemental and fragile.

We can celebrate the highest quality industry and productivity, in every sphere.
Our families work hard.

We offer legendary high country hospitality and a warm welcome. We have been a town which has hosted travellers since its beginnings – the hotel, shop and petrol bowlers were the first buildings in our main street.

A history wall planned for town will soon document all of this – from our earliest Te Ao Māori history to our unique European New Zealand heritage founded on acres of drylands and the merino sheep that graze there.

We're self-reliant and proud of it.

Our undeclared assets – these don't appear on any financial spreadsheet – are our volunteers who step up to fill any gaps but are stretched now as we grow.

So, we need to build community services that are forward-looking, and care and embrace.

Together we are building a school to nurture the next generations, give them skills for life, instil our values and gift them our talents to take out to the wide world.

This 'learning' about what really matters to us all begins with our Playgroup – but even sooner than that.

It begins as we lend a new mum and dad a helping hand to help them navigate their new adventure, and it continues as we reach out to grasp an unsteady elbow and guide a frail body into the chair beside us.

Let's not make our future only about caring for our travellers and neglect the reasons those travellers are drawn here and the real reasons people want to make Ōmārama home.

They are simple things, so simple we can neglect to cherish them and so risk losing them

There is this song;

*"I walked across an empty land
I knew the pathway like the back of my hand
I felt the earth beneath my feet
Sat by the river and it made me complete."*

- Somewhere only we know, by Keane

We live in a truly beautiful part of the world and in a community that cares.
Let's celebrate our place.

Ti He Mauri Ora!

Ki Te Whei-ao!

Ki Te Ao Marama!

Behold the breath of life!

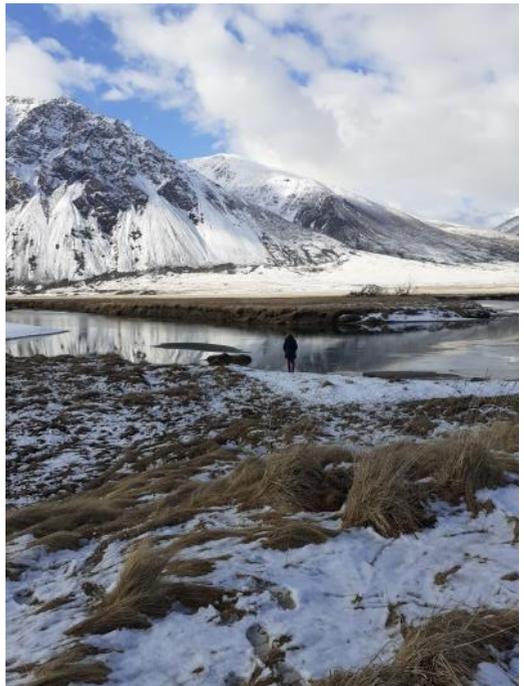
Behold the unfolding world of light!

Behold the place of light!

Wishing you all fun and love
this Christmas and in 2024.

Ruth

Photo: Ruth Gordon



Celebrating a successful school year

It was a day to “celebrate the collective efforts” that had made the year memorable, Ōmārama school principal Alison Holden told the final assembly.

It was a packed house and appreciative audience of parents, grandparents and other caregivers who gathered at school on Thursday to mark the end of the school year and to farewell those moving on.

Ms Holden, who took up the role at the start of term three, said it had been “a year of firsts” for her.

She had never imagined it would be possible to be principal of a school “in my own community”.

She thanked the “wonderful staff” who were “the backbone” of the school, and parents and caregivers for their commitment and support

She had enjoyed watching the “students who are the heart of the school grow, learn and shine” and, because it was a small school, being able to get to know each one. “You’re not just a name on the roll.”

Among the plans Ms Holden laid out for 2024 was to work more closely with the wider community and to tap into the talents and resources there.

Board of Trustees chairperson Jemma Gloag also thanked staff “who really put their heart and soul” into their work.



“The kids’ achievements have been awesome.”

She made special mention of the fundraising efforts of the Friends of the School which allowed pupils to engage in a much wider range of activities than would otherwise been possible.

Friends of the School chairperson Kay Mason outlined work that had been done through the year by the team of dedicated volunteers which had paid for those “extracurricular activities”.

Ms Mason, who is also teacher aide at the school, presented 10 pupils with Physical Activity Leaders awards and outlined the various sporting achievements pupils had gained through the year.

Four school leavers were farewelled.

Ōmārama School’s only year 8 pupil this year, Jack Doree, would be boarding at Dunstan high School next year.

Year six pupil Samantha Ralston would be moving to year 7 at Mt Aspiring College and Jessie Ralston would be a year 5 pupil at Wanaka Primary School.

Shaiah Stuart will be a year six boarder at Waihi School.

Ms Winslade sent them all on their way with the Winnie the Pooh quote;

“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem and smarter than you think”.

The assembly was followed by a shared lunch and a sports afternoon.



Celebrating a successful school year - continued

This term's Light – Learner, Inclusive, Grow, Happy helper, Truthful - Award recipients are:

Ahuriri (junior class, taught by Bailey Smith and Alison Holden); Maisie Paton, Max Gloag, Antonia Hales, Jessica Ralston, Carter Golder.

Clay Cliff (senior class, taught by Clair Winslade); Eira Warnock, Lockey Harding, Toby Gloag, Charlotte Hales, Shaiah Stuart.

The Ōmārama Gazette 2023 award for diligence in literacy: Amelia Paton





Santa Claus pays a visit to our little people

The big man in the red suit paid his Christmas visit to Ōmārama Playgroup for its final session for the year, earlier this month.

Excited and occasionally overcome children gathered at the Ōmārama Playground to greet Santa.

Some were meeting him for the very first time, all were there to share earnest wishes and create special memories.

Photos: Olivia Black





A merry little housie session at the Oasis

A merry little housie session at the Oasis Café and Bar ended the year for the group who meet regularly through winter months for fun and friendship.

About 30 women from Ōmārama and Otematata and one from Waimate gathered for all the usual games plus a few little surprises.

'Summer Holiday Santa' Gary Sutherland was the guest caller for the afternoon games.

Ōmārama local Bev Purvis thanked all who made housie possible with a special thanks to organiser Ann Patterson and to Age Concern Waitaki.

Housie will resume in June.



There be bounty at this year's party

Arrrghh, Merry Christmas me hearties!

Last week the Boots and Jandals Hotel Social club held its Christmas function on a brilliant sunny Sunday afternoon at the Ōmārama Pub with a buffet meal to celebrate the season.

Yo ho! Yo ho! Yo ho!

Children were invited to dress as pirates with prizes given to all.

Ahoy there, that means you lot: Shaiah, Antonia, Charlotte and that lil' scallywag, Riley

Photos: Lex Perriam



Next steps in Church sale process detailed

Two meetings were held with Ōmārama residents last week to discuss the recent sale of St Thomas's Church and what could be done with the proceeds once the balance, after costs and mandatory reimbursements are made, is known.

On Tuesday seven Ōmārama residents and one from Otematata met with two members of the St Thomas's management committee – chairman and Anglican church representative Rev Dr Michael Godfrey, and secretary and Kurow Presbyterian Parish minister Rev Lee Kearon. Treasurer Jan Thomas was unable to attend. The committee called the meeting to talk to the community about the sale and how proceeds might be dispersed.

Distinction Mackenzie Country Ltd, which earlier this year bought the Heritage Gateway Hotel adjacent to the church, had bought the church and land, and settlement was reached at the end of November, Rev Kearon said.

“There was some sorrow attached to this process.”

“We realised that the community, while it did not want to use the church on a regular basis, did not want it to be demolished and would like to continue to have access to it in some form. This gave the committee some direction as to what to look for in the offers made for the property, she said.

Distinction Hotels Ltd director Geoff Thomson had shared “a vision for the future” with the vendors and planned for the building to remain as a chapel.

It would be made available, including to residents, for use for “weddings and functions, funerals or other services”.

The building did not have to be consecrated for this to happen, she said.

This meant it could be used by ministers for faith celebrations or by other celebrants.

However, neither this buyer nor any future buyer could be bound to this.

But it was felt it would be more likely that the community's wishes would be considered by taking this course than if the church became a private residence, she said.

Much research had been done in the past 10 months to verify ownership before the church was put up for sale and afterwards to work out how much each party to the original build contributed.

Documents were still coming in..

She said the cost of the build of the church could now be confirmed at \$211,000.

The role of the church management committee, which was to manage the property after its de-consecration until the sale would end at the close of its financial year and the Presbyterian Church's Otago Foundation Trust Board and Synod of Otago and Southland representatives would take over from there, she said.

The land was donated to the Presbyterian Church by Ōmārama man T A Munro with the wish that a church be built.

In 1986 the Ōmārama community completed fundraising and built the church using donated materials and volunteer hours. Catholic and Anglican churches also donated to the build.

Before deciding how sale proceeds would be dispersed the church was required by the law relating to Presbyterian church property to consider several factors, Rev Kearon said.

Costs incurred during the process of the sale must be recovered. Loans, grants or any tagged funds, would need to be repaid as stipulated.

She said the Otago Foundation Trust Board had made three grants to the build under the Presbyterian Church Property Act 1885 – in today's terms these would be viewed as long-term interest-free loans – amounting to \$63,000 and these were required by law to be repaid on the sale of the property.

The contributions the other various parties made to the build would be determined as far as was possible and factored into the final equation.

A day earlier, on Monday, Omarama residents' Ann Patterson and Lindsay Purvis met with Synod of Otago and Southland executive officer Fergus Sime, the Board's legal representative, Frazer Barton, who is a partner at Anderson Lloyd, and Rev Kearon

Mrs Patterson gave them a detailed account of the Ōmārama community's contributions of funds, materials and labour to the building.

Rev Kearon said this sharing of information together with the information gathered from the submissions process had “really helped flesh the story out for us”.

The Board had acknowledged, from the submissions received to date, there was a case to be made for a “proportioned percentage” of funds to be returned to the Ōmārama community in acknowledgement of its contribution.

“There is a reasonable case for saying that a proportion of funds raised was non-presbyterian funding raised with, and, in the interest of, the community”, Rev Kearon said.

Any payments to the Kurow Parish would not be taken from this portion of monies but would come from the Board’s allocation of the proceeds.

The date chosen as the “cut-off” for contributions to the building as opposed to ongoing costs was 1987.

However, before any funds could be returned to the community, additional terms of the church property act must be met and the Board must be satisfied they would be used for a project “similar enough to a church or the use of a church”, Rev Kearon said.

Any project the community put forward needed to meet or be “similar in intent” to the intent of the people who gave the original funds... for something to be used for “sacred fellowship”, she said.

Mrs Patterson said it would be easier for the community to come up with a suitable idea once the amount of funds available was known.

Rev Kearon said there would be another conversation with the Residents’ Association – which was their point of contact with the community - at that point.

The synod and lawyers would be making that decision and “we will be told how that breakdown happens,” she said.

Mrs Patterson asked if that decision would be “negotiable”.

The community could question the decision and ask for it to be re-examined but that would likely incur legal costs, Rev Dr Godfrey said.

Once the management committee was dissolved “everything goes back to the Otago Foundation Trust Board to sort out”.

So there was a need to continue the communication with the synod and “keep it flowing”.

But we will do as much as we can before that happens, he said.

The meeting was also told the church furniture had been kept in storage, despite the church being empty, for security and insurance reasons.

As well, any money given as bequests was being treated separately from the sale monies.

“They have been ring-fenced... they are not part of this,” Rev Kearon said.

The families of those who gave the bequests would be contacted and appropriate arrangements made.

The final meeting of the management committee will be 11.30am, July 9, 2024 at the Omarama Memorial Hall.



From the 2023 album ...

January

Another season comes full circle and David O'Neill is on the job as the summer harvest gets in full swing.

Young glider pilots gather for their annual camp taking to adventures on those waves above in sunny skies

We farewelled an Ōmārama legend - Kevin Grant died January 31.



February

Spud in the bucket judging was eagerly anticipated as it is each year.

Young James Hunter of Longslip Station received some expert stock assessment advice from Ginger Anderson of Ben Omar Station at the Ōmārama Lamb sale.

Although conferred in the New Year's Honours, Ōmārama celebrated our quiet legend Maurice Cowie's well-deserved Queens Service Medal and wife Elizabeth's service with a function at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade this month.

It was the end of an era for Terry and Michelle Walsh as Mobil Ōmārama garage signs were taken down and we welcomed Tasman Fuels to town.

It was welcome to Heather Smith and Jill Crawford Ferguson's new venture Chain 8, open for those on the go.

As a result of a by-election three new faces were elected to the Ahuriri Community Board including Ōmārama farmer Mike King.



From the 2023 album ... continued

March

If it's March it must be dog trials.at the Ōmārama Collie Dog Club rooms at Dalrachney Station.

Long-serving Heritage Gateway Hotel front of house employee Jeanette de Ridder retired.

At Four Square Ōmārama Jess Gallagher begins selling poppies for Anzac Day.



April

Anzac Day Services returned with the Memorial Rock, to the Ōmārama Hall this year
Ōmārama lost a gliding great - Trevor Mollard died April 24, 2023.

Our Search and Rescue volunteers continued to train for every eventuality throughout the year. Not sure who volunteered Ange for the job as 'patient' ?!

Young pilots visit as part of the AOPA Autumn Fly-in



From the 2023 album ... continued

May

Coronation Day - and the first day of duck shooting - dawned bright and sunny heralding the crowning of a new Monarch in the UK and the commemorative planting of a Totara here in Ōmārama.

Ōmārama School pupils can't wait to get the first ride on their new bike track.

Sadly, St Thomas's Church is put up for sale.

**4-10 Omarama Avenue,
Omarama**

A Sense Of Place

Deadline Sale

House 1 1 150m²





June

He was given the gong and then it was made official. New Zealand Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro lets Maurice wear his new medal.

When it's weather-related they call us - Ōmārama makes news headlines again for dropping to minus something degrees - minus 7 was it? Come on guys, it's not that cold. Except no-one else was up to talk to the AM Show host Ryan Bridge but Ilana Deschepper camping and working at the Ōmārama Top 10 Holiday Park.

Ōmārama local Alison Holden was appointed new school principal to take up the role in term three.

We farewelled Peter and Sonia Trusler, tireless community volunteers, who moved to Oamaru.

June 23 and the newly-refurbished Boots and Jandals Hotel was opened by 'Wingy' Pat Leopold to much fanfare. To celebrate Lex Perriam opened that vintage bottle of White Horse which once belonged to that other Ōmārama legend, the late Eion Woods, and was gifted to Lex by Eion's late wife Aileen. It was confirmed by many it was not cold tea!



From the 2023 album ... continued

July

Primary school pupils in their hundreds descended to take part in the annual Upper Waitaki primary schools Cross Country races.

Setting a more sedately pace, a group gathered at the Omarama Memorial Hall for a community safety day and lunch sponsored by Waitaki Neighbourhood Support.



August

The stars came out and the glitterati gathered as Ōmārama enjoyed not one but two nights out on the tiles for the Red Carpet Party and the Ōmārama School fundraising Hoar Frost Ball.

The Waitaki District Council decides to do something for cycle safety on the Quailburn Rd and puts up a sign.

One year after it began the community's bid to persuade St John to send Ōmārama's First Response to a wider range of callouts achieves an agreed compromise despite no agreement to formalise the arrangement.

Early spring sunshine, daffodils and a good cause bring these two ladies out to raise funds for the Cancer Society.



From the 2023 album ... continued

September

Welcome all our visitors to the lakes camping grounds.

Congratulations to Geva Innes on 25 years as a First Responder - one of Ōmārama's first.

Erwin and Natalie Beiboer built a new shelf for the clutch of trophies won at national holiday park awards.

The pub trophy came back home to where it belongs.

Our MenzShed have been at it again - this time creating a book trolley to sit outside Four Square Ōmārama for the donated books and magazines which raise money for the volunteer emergency services.

And it's shearing time at Longslip station who still use traditional blade shearing to divest their merinos of their valuable fleece.



October

The community gardens at the playground are finished and planted up. A basketball half court is built.

A new business - DredgeNZ - opens its shed doors, and David Bruce cooks up a 'storm' at the annual Fire Brigade fundraising Golf Tournament. Where was 'Little Flick'?

Former Ōmārama local Sue Harvey, who died on October 5, was sent off in style by a large crowd at Boots and Jandals Hotel.

Mike King continues with the local tradition of "doing it for ourselves" and mows the paddock back into a former rugby field.

But the highlight of the month was Halloween, when ghouls and ghosties stalked the town in search of treats.



From the 2023 album ... continued

November

Debs and Johnny take the prize for best dressed couple at Boots and Jandals Hotel Melbourne Cup celebrations.

Boy's Boot Camp puts the town's young lads through their paces over five weeks.

The Botto Poala family celebrate 30 years at Otamatapaio Station.

Carolynne Grant and Doreen Leopold enjoy a cuppa at the Lake Ōhau Station woolshed while on the Age Concern mystery bus trip.

Ōmārama pulls out all the stops for 'Toot for Tucker'.



December

The hotly contested Emergency Services Golf trophy has a new home for a year - the Ōmārama Search and Rescue cabinet.

Omarama School leadership team sold bags of sheep poo and pine cones and more to raise all the funds needed to get them all to a leadership camp at Peel Forest next year.

The Omarama Community Garden has summer greens ready to harvest now. See you all at the Christmas in the Park at Park Lane Reserve, Christmas Eve.

(See poster below)

Merry Christmas!

Photos credits: Bruce Dow, Ruth Grundy, Kathy Kerr, Lex Perriam and supplied.





OMARAMA GOLF CLUB

NEW YEARS TOURNAMENT

ALL WELCOME

Saturday, 6th January 2024

Numbers will be limited per session

Morning Session: Report 8.00 a.m. for 8.30 a.m. tee off

(Lunchtime meal supplied)

Afternoon Session: Report 12.30 p.m. for 1.00 p.m. tee off

(Evening meal supplied)

One Prize Giving will be held at the conclusion of afternoon session

Stableford prizes

Entry fee: \$45.00 - Two's \$2.00

On-course BBQ - Great Prizes - Raffles - Great company

Entries (including morning/afternoon session, club/player ID) to:

Arron Chambers (Secretary) email secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz or
TXT 0272032340

Entries to be received by Thursday 4th January 2024

CAMPervans WELCOME TO STAY OVERNIGHT

PLEASE NOTE: CASH ONLY



When the presents are wrapped and the baking's all done
- Don't touch that, it's for Christmas! -
or you've finished a hard day's work, tomorrow's your day
and you just want to chill. Why not pop into

Our very own DIY
Community Christmas in the Park
Christmas Eve from 5pm to 8pm
at the Park Lane reserve

Bring decorations for the trees
Join in the decorating fun from 4pm

There'll be Christmas music to sing to
Santa is popping in before he starts his night shift.
BYO everything, Bring a rug and picnic chairs,

Let's have ourselves a merry little Christmas time!!

Walk if you're able, parking is limited
No postponement day, no wet weather standby
- any cancellation will be on the Omarama Gazette Facebook page



The Noticeboard

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

Check over for Christmas and New Year hours for our businesses and community services - these could be different to those listed here.

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

Kurow Presbyterian Parish

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.
Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340.
Twilight golf on Thursdays, tee-off 5pm to 5.15 pm. Nine hole stableford run through summer. Come along for some fun and laughter. Contact is Greg Stuart 027 438 9018. 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.

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 and to subscribe to regular updates send contact details to E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz
W: www.newcomers.co.nz F: facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/
Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

To read more, enjoy more photos and watch our place 'come to life' check out our Facebook page and website. 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 and put 'Local List' in the subject line.

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

**The February Issue of the
Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, February 7, 2024.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, February 1, 2023

To advertise in the Omarama Gazette

for rates and guidelines

Phone -021 294 8002

Or email omaramagazette@gmail.com

Thank you your generosity pay for printing and distribution and means our not-for-profit groups can advertise for free.



Merry Christmas...

We appreciate your Support during the past year and look forward to seeing you in 2024.

Christmas & New Year 2023 / 24

Monday 18th December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Tuesday 19th December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Wednesday 20th December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Thursday 21st December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Friday 22nd December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Monday 25th December Closed. Public Holiday

Tuesday 26th December Closed. Public Holiday

Wednesday 27th December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Thursday 28th December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Friday 29th December Open 8.30 to 5pm

Monday 1st January Closed. Public Holiday

Tuesday 2nd January Closed. Public Holiday

Wednesday 3rd January Normal hours resume. Open 8.30 to 5pm



Season Greetings from all of us at

The Twizel Medical Centre

In an Emergency,

please dial 111, ask for an Ambulance.

Merry Christmas from Kurow Medical Centre and Mackenzie Health Centre!



Kurow Medical Centre, Mackenzie Health Centre and Omarama Hall

Opening and closing dates for Christmas and New Year 2023/24

Monday 25 Dec	CLOSED
Tuesday 26 Dec	CLOSED
Wednesday 23 Dec	OPEN in Kurow, Twizel
Thursday 24 Dec	OPEN in Kurow, Twizel and Omarama
Friday 25 Dec	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Saturday 26 Dec	CLOSED
Monday 01 Jan	CLOSED
Tuesday 02 Jan	CLOSED
Wednesday 03 Jan	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Thursday 04 Jan	OPEN in Kurow, Twizel and Omarama
Friday 05 Jan	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Saturday 06 Jan	CLOSED

24/7 ON CALL COVER WILL BE PROVIDED AS USUAL TO ALL OUR REGISTERED AND CASUAL PATIENTS BY OUR DOCTORS AND PRIME TRAINED NURSES

Call Kurow: 03 4360 760 or Twizel: 03 976 0566

Dr Tim, Juliet and all the staff at Kurow Medical Centre & Mackenzie Health Centre would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy & Safe New Year!

wishing you a very
WAITAKI
Christmas
& *Happy*
NEW YEAR
from **WAITAKI**
DISTRICT COUNCIL



CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR HOLIDAY SERVICES

We'll be taking a break over Christmas and closing our office doors from 12 noon on Friday 22 December 2023, re-opening Monday 8 January 2024.

All Council facility hours can be found on our website.

Phone **03 433 0300** or **0800 108 081** to contact Council services over the holiday period.



Waitaki
DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIMERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

www.waitaki.govt.nz

FACILITIES HOLIDAY HOURS

Kurow Library

Friday 22 December 2023 12.30pm - 4pm

Thursday 28 December 2023
& Thursday 4 January 2024 1pm - 3pm

Saturday 23 December 2023
Saturday 30 December 2023 10.30am - 12pm

Closed all other days until Saturday 6 January
then open Tuesday and Thursday 1pm - 3pm

Normal hours resume Tuesday 23 January 2024

Ōmārama Library

Closed Friday 22 December 2023 to Friday 5
January 2024 **except:**

Saturday 30 December (9.30am - 11am) and
Wednesday 3 January (9.30am - 11am).

Normal hours resume Saturday 6 January 2024

Otematata Library

Saturday 23 December 10.30am - 12pm

Thursday 28 December 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Saturday 30 December 10.30am - 12pm

Tuesday 2 January 2024 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Thursday 4 January 2024 2.30pm - 3.30pm

*Closed all other days until Saturday 6 January
2024 when normal hours resume*

Ahuriri Rural Transfer Stations

Ōmārama / Otematata / Kurow

Usual hours until 24 December 2023.

Closed Christmas Day

7 days a week from 26 December 2023 (First Day) thru 21 January 2024 (Final Day) with extended hours below:

- **Ōmārama:** 8.30am - 12.30pm
- **Otematata:** 1pm - 5pm
- **Kurow:** 1pm - 5pm

Oamarama

Veterinary Centre

by the Big Blue Cross

Holiday Hours

OPEN

19-22 December
8.30am - 4.00pm

OPEN

27-29 December
8.30am - 4.00pm

CLOSED

23-26 December

CLOSED

30 Dec-2 Jan

RE-OPEN

3 Jan
(8.30am - 4pm)



0800 VET 111 www.vet111.co.nz

The Community Reports

Fenz Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Merry Christmas to you all,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade for their dedication for the year.

Also thanks to all of you that have supported us throughout the year.

We have been busy training and as of December 10 we have five new first responders (see the photo below), so don't be surprised if you see some new faces if you are unfortunate enough to require our service.

We all hope you have great break with your family. If you are travelling please allow plenty time for your journey. The roads will be busy.

Time to kick back and relax doing whatever it is that ticks the box for you.

Enjoy some time with friends and family.

Stay Safe and we will see you in the New Year.

Greg Harper and the team at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade

Greg Harper

Chief Fire Officer

021 293 1171

greg.harper@fireandemergency.nz

Facebook: /Omaramafirebrigade

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



Boots and Jandals Hotel Social Club



BOOTS AND JANDAL HOTEL SOCIAL CLUB FOUR WHEEL DRIVE TRIP OVER NORTHBURN STATION WHEN SUNDAY 25/02/2024



Tom Pinckney the owner of Northburn Station has kindly offered to take us over his Property, we would need to meet at the Boots and Jandals Hotel carpark at 7:30am and would be leaving at 8:00am sharp, it will take us approximately 1 hr 20 min arriving at Northburn Station about 9:20am the drive over the Station will take us about 5 hrs and has been described as moderate although 4WD is needed for clearance.

We would stop at an historic stone hut for lunch and there is a 5min walk to view an old gold stamping plant if you wish.

Two way radios will be provided by the club and Tom will give us a commentary as we travel

We would come out at Ardgor just behind Tarras and if time allows we could meet with a cherry grower in there who would talk to us about the trials and tribulations of growing cherries .

I expect that we would be back in Omarama about 5pm for our usual food etc .

This is a grand opportunity for our people to get into a property that is not very often open to the public.

So a good turn out would be good , this is a oncer , we won't get back in here again.



4X4 TRIP



Ōmārama Community Library

🌿 CHRISTMAS HOURS 🌿

**The library will be closed on
Saturday, December 23, 2023
and Wednesday, December 27, 2023**

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

Email: omaramalibrary@gmail.com

A message from Whalan Lodge

By Ethel Gray

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year from the Whalan Lodge Trust, who operate the aged care facility in Kurow named Whalan Lodge.

Whalan Lodge provides care for frail elderly, either on a permanent basis or short term stay to allow full time carer to have a break.

Rooms are available at present.

Also available are daycare facilities, meals on wheels delivered hot five days a week.

Available after February shall be a further five rooms which are being built at present.

These rooms shall be fully furnished, with a hand basin in each room.

Once alterations are completed a new pamphlet will be printed and shall be available.

Inquiries to the manager, Susan, phone 03 436 0578 or 020 416 2 4474



Twizel Community
Care Centre

We are closed for the holidays
12pm Friday 22nd December 2023 until
Monday 8th January 2024

For the Twizel Tekapo Community
Vehicle – Please phone 027 4777052 for
emergency medical and dental
appointments only.

Wishing you a safe and happy
Christmas and look forward to seeing
you in the New Year. 😊

Ōmārama Golf Club

By Christine Bowman

The golf club would like to say a huge thanks to everyone that has supported us over the last 12 months.

We are looking forward to the festive season, as many of our holiday house owners and camping members return to play, and the golf course is well utilised by green fee players.

Remember, we have twilight 9-hole golf over the holiday period, Thursday nights 5pm to 5.15 pm tee off, all welcome.

Any visitors are also welcome to join our club day on Saturdays cards in 12.30 p.m. tee off 1.00 p.m. Don't be shy!!!!

Have a safe Christmas and New Year. Happy golfing.

Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club



By Kayla Calder

Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club would like to thank our amazing community far and wide for an awesome year we have had!

We have 41 active memberships and a strong social network based in Kurow where we have enjoyed our annual Bark-up, monthly meetings, mystery bus trips, farm tours, 4x4 Christmas trip, and we successfully hosted our first ball in Winter! We immensely appreciate the district's ongoing support.

We would like to welcome new and existing Young Farmers to our first catchup of 2024 at the **Kurow Hotel, Monday 8th January, 7.30pm.**

Don't forget to keep up with our social media over summer!

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperWaitakiYFC>

**There is to be a meeting with
Waitaki District Council
placemaking lead Cyndi Christensen
at the Ōmārama Community Centre
at 1pm Monday, December 18, 2023**



New Potatoes For Xmas

Omarama/Twizel/Otematata

delivery afternoon/early evening – collections welcome

Sunday 24th December 2023



Contact: Jo Golder 0274584858

Or Donna Hardie 0274518585

Direct Debit to: SCTETM 03-0887-0246596-02

Surname in Reference

Thank you for supporting our club!! Merry Xmas

Rural Support

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

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)



Oamaru Office Holiday hours

10am – 2pm

Wednesday 27 December – Friday 5 January

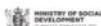
You can do most things online yourself using
MyMSD (my.msd.govt.nz)



Work and Income – workandincome.govt.nz or 0800 559 009

Over 65 – seniors.msd.govt.nz or 0800 552 002

StudyLink – studylink.govt.nz or 0800 88 99 00



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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Phone Matt 027 227 8256
Email: info@csihelicopters.co.nz



the
PINK GLIDER
cafe

FROM LABOUR WEEKEND

Open: Wednesday to Sunday

Hours may vary, please check our Facebook page
Dinner bookings available by reservation, please

Phone: Tanya 027 673 1381



 LJ Hooker

Team

Karan & Jess

Karan MacDiarmid

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karan@mcre.co.nz

Jess Mackay

027 902 5529

karan@mcre.co.nz

20 Ruataniwha Road, Twizel

Mackenzie Country Real Estate Ltd Licensed REA 2008

Happy Holidays
from LJ Hooker Twizel

 LJ Hooker



Adam, Eddie and family
would like to wish everyone a relaxing holiday
season and to extend our sincere thanks for your
support over 2023.

For our whereabouts over the Christmas, and New Year holiday
period, keep an eye on our Facebook page.




Proudly Sponsoring
36th Annual Omarama Rodeo
DECEMBER 28TH 2023 10AM START
Admission: Adults \$20 10-15years \$5, Under 10 free, No EFTPOS.
Cash Entry & Bar
Turn right after the Ahuriri bridge heading North





Many thanks to all in the waitaki who have given me their support this year and Have a very merry & safe christmas with family & friends.

Gary is proud to be covering the Waitaki Valley - with over **three decades in the Real Estate industry** in the Waitaki, Central Otago and Mackenzie Country, using the traditional real estate model.

Living in Omarama, Gary is proud to offer New Zealand's **#1 FREE marketing package and fair flat fees.**

With one centralised national office, we keep overheads low and savings where they belong - in your pocket!

Thinking of selling? **Call Gary today.**



Gary Sutherland
027 432 6615
gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

For appraisals & viewings over the holidays call me anytime

You make all this possible ...

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

Some of you know there's been a bit of kickback against the Ōmārama Gazette shining light in those dustier corners of some agencies this year.

You may take the pen and notebook off the reporter but you will never take the reporter out of this woman. I suspect I was born with the propensity to get into this kind of trouble!

It might not always seem like it but I do follow a code of ethics. This is what I hope to live up to.

These are known as the Jim Lehrer Rules for being a journalist with integrity.

- Do nothing I cannot defend.
- Do not distort, lie, slant, or hype.
- Do not falsify facts or make up quotes.
- Cover, write, and present every story with the care I would want if the story were about me.
- Assume there is at least one other side or version to every story.
- Assume the reader is as smart and caring and as good a person as I am.
- Assume the same about all people on whom I report.
- Assume everyone is innocent until proven guilty.
- Assume personal lives are a private matter until a legitimate turn in the story mandates otherwise.
- Carefully separate opinion and analysis from straight news stories and clearly label them as such.
- Do not use anonymous sources or blind quotes except on rare and monumental occasions. No one should ever be allowed to attack another anonymously.
- Do not broadcast profanity or the end result of violence unless it is an integral and necessary part of the story and/or crucial to understanding the story.
- Acknowledge that objectivity may be impossible but fairness never is.
- My readers have a right to know what principles guide my work and the process I use in their practice.
- I am not in the entertainment business.

You are the motivation I need to make sure I never settle for less. It is a privilege to put the Gazette together.

A world of good wishes to you all - the Gazette is back February 7, 2024.

- Ruth Grundy, editor.

The Omarama Gazette
Omarama's news delivered to your inbox
the first Wednesday of each month
To subscribe email:
omaramagazette@gmail.com