



Omarama Gazette

Christmas 2024



Goodwill to all

It is the little things ...

Christmas editorial 2024, by Ruth Grundy

It is the little things.

The little things that tip us over the edge. The little things that niggle into a full-blown rage. The weight of the little things that tips the balance. Death by a thousand little cuts.

It is the little things that we laugh about together, the little things that lift us up. It is the little things that help us tackle the step-by-step that is grim reality with hope. At times it takes courage to step forward and make that smallest of gestures. To reach out a helping hand, to share a warm, welcoming smile.

It is all this which builds our community.
And it is the many little things we each give with willing hearts that builds a caring and strong community.

Last month, we acknowledged and recognised particular acts of selflessness and unbelievable bravery during the Ōhau Wildfire. These individuals, as was said in the tributes, were from all walks of life.

Those awarded would probably tell you they didn't consciously set out to do a brave thing.

There were no spare moments to think it through.

It was spontaneous.

Theirs were acts of "self-forgetfulness".

Some might say it was training which guided their choice.

I dare say it was a factor.

I would be more daring and say it was driven by their innate respect for the worthiness of another human being, and their unconscious but unshakeable faith in community.

Defiantly ignoring the risk to self, scrambling into the unknown, a hand reached out to grasp another's, then the long haul up and out.

The smoke, the embers, the heat, the flames, the noise, the dark.

We are in this together, we all need to leave together.

Without you I am less.

It takes all sorts.

Each unique, we each have a world within to contribute.

Let's not silence the voice of another, deeming our way to be absolute. The only one.

Let's stand against that bullying.

And the shifting quicksand of deceit in all its many disguises is built on cowardice. It offers no place to stand.

This is no foundation for our tūrangawaewae, our place in the world, our home and our children and grandchildren's home.

We shouldn't settle for less.

And we do need courage to step forward.

History tells us all it takes for evil to triumph is when good people – that's us - look on and do nothing.

The pages of our 2024 album (over) record hours of hard work, selfless service and so, so much fun.

This is our Ōmārama community. Te Ao Marama, the place of light.

Here is our tūrangawaewae, our foundation, our place in the world.

"Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things." St David, patron saint of Wales.

Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Ruth

Photo (below): Created with love at our Community Garden.



A special request from our emergency services

Would all residents please make sure their house number or rural rapid number is clearly visible at the entrance to their property so services can find you quickly and easily in an emergency - day or night.

Celebrating a successful school year

OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO...

"Congratulations to you all on a year's hard work.

We'll miss you guys, come visit often and tell us all about your adventures.

A special farewell to Clair Winslade and all the very best.

And here is the last word for 2024 from Ōmārama School Principal Alison Holden, with thanks to Petrina Paton for the photos

Happy Holidays !!! "

The following senior students read their leaving speeches as they prepare for the next year:

Arlo Zeestraton and Angus Gloag go to Waihi School, Amelia Wilson and Eira Warnock to Twizel Area School.

Remy Watson will go to Glenorchy School, Eve McKerchar to Craighead Diocesan School, Amelia Paton and Paige Hunter to Twizel Area School



Farewell to Clay Cliffs class teacher Clair Winslade who is moving back to her hometown of Glenorchy. Ahuriri Class teacher Bailey Smith presented Clair with a beautiful gift from the staff and the board. We wish Clair all the best. Clair will be greatly missed from Omarama School and we appreciate all the effort and hard work she has put in while at Omarama School.

Our students will miss her humour, energy and expertise.

Headstart

Please remember Ōmārama community that Ōmārama School runs a Headstart programme for four year olds on a Wednesday. Please contact the school, if you are keen to come along.

Email: office@omarama.school.nz Ph: 03 438 9815

The school term for 2025 begins on Monday, February 3.

New enrolments are welcome, please contact Alison Holden:
principal@omarama.school.nz

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

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

www.omarama.school.nz







They've all been so very good, Santa!

Ho, ho, ho!

Ōmārama Playgroup had visitors from throughout the country including a very special visitor from even further north than Auckland, who arrived via reindeer-drawn sleigh for the end-of-year Christmas Party at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

Oh, what fun they all had!

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.





From our 2024 album ...

January

The new year began with our volunteers quietly going about making Ōmārama the vibrant and caring community it is.

Oamaru Street artist Wicksey was commissioned by the Residents' Association of Ōmārama who received a grant to help pay for him to create this mural at the Ōmārama Sports Courts.



February

If it's February then it's also time to harvest those 'spud in a bucket' entries. This year two dapper hounds - Clyde and Patrick - adjudicated at proceedings.

Waitaki District Mayor Gary Kircher and Residents' Association chairperson Lindsay Purvis argue the toss over how tax and rate payer funds would be best spent in Ōmārama.

We welcome new cycle tour operators Trail Journeys to town and farewell Vaughan and Aimee of Trail Adventures.

Young people who want to enter the world of gliding continue to enjoy mentorship and adventure in Ōmārama under the adult wings of Youth Glide New Zealand's leaders with one such course held at the airfield at Waitangi weekend.



From the 2024 album ... continued

March

Ōmārama's Merino Ram was 30 and celebrated the significant birthday with a bit of a makeover.

Our Ōmārama rowers continued to punch well above their weight with medal winning performances at the Maadi Cup Regatta. Sadie Mason went on to be supreme winner of the Sport Twizel 2024 awards for her contribution to rowing and netball.

There is one essential task for volunteers at each dog trial competition and that is to feed the judges. Paddy Henwood, of Ben Omar, brings in the lunch basket.



April

Ōmārama honours the sacrifice of our servicemen and women at the annual Anzac Day Service at the Memorial Rock at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall.

Te Runanga o Waihao buys part of the former block of Rabbit Board land in the centre of Ōmārama

There was a long queue of those who gathered to thank and farewell much-loved community member and tireless volunteer Liz Komen at a function at the Ōmārama Fire Station. Two of Liz's four daughters and their children were there to see their mother and grandmother honoured. Leading into the evening event Fire and Emergency New Zealand group manager Michael Harrison presented Liz with the Long Service, Good Conduct Medal. Liz and husband Mike moved to Oamaru.

Ōmārama hosted the Otago Southland Provincial Fire Brigade Association Conference in April when brigade chief Greg Harper was formerly sworn in as the new president for the Otago Southland Provincial Fire Brigade Association.



From the 2024 album ... continued

May

It was cheese roll fundraiser time with Friends of School volunteers and parents. Made to that time-honoured recipe – yeah, that one – with 335 loaves of brown bread or white – cheese, secret tasty ingredients and still more cheese - 140kg in all - and that other all important ingredient - lots of love.

Omarama School ended its first term with an opportunity to view the science display. Pupils followed six steps of a science inquiry to complete their investigations which enthralled the many who gathered to view them. Teachers and pupils took a stand in pink against bullying on Pink Shirt Day.

Two events were held to raise funds for Breast Cancer Research. An amazing afternoon 'in the pink' was held at the Age Concern 'Pop-Up' Cafe and more than 60 people gathered at Boots & Jandals Hotel Ōmārama to enjoy great food and each other's company. Jenny Mollard won one of the raffles. And it snowed...It was a chilly close to autumn.



June

The New Zealand Dog Trial Association Trans-Tasman Test team to defend the Wayleggo Cup in September included Ōmārama triallist Scott Hunter and Lucy (Ōmārama) in the selection.

If you plan to build an unsinkable boat you'd do worse than asking one of the Ōmārama School junior class for their tips. Their entries in the 'Float Your Boat' technology challenge proved persistently buoyant.

The older pupils had a different challenge. They had to build a ping-pong ball launcher that would fit in a shoe box and be powered only by a rubber band.

The Ōmārama Volunteer Fire brigade reported through out the year that they continued to be hard at work to make sure they were well-prepared for any eventuality.

Network Waitaki commissioned two electric vehicle charging units, providing four new charging bays for EV owners at Ōmārama's Sutherland Rd car park. However, it appears Jump Charging Ltd - which specialises in the supply of commercial electric and hydrogen vehicle charging infrastructure, has so far been unsuccessful in finding a location for its commercial transport hub.

Omarama Search and Rescue held its inaugural quiz night at a packed out Boots and Jandals Hotel raising about \$3000 for the volunteer group.

A growing enterprise is well along the road to success at Ōmārama School. The school garden club run by Ōmārama School parent Jennie Hales is held weekly at lunchtimes for interested pupils.

And lil' ol' Ōmārama made it in the world and (briefly) gained a set of traffic lights at the corner of Clay Cliff Lane and Ahuriri Drive - taking care of safety while South Roads fixed a burst pipe.



From the 2024 album ... continued

July

Unsurprisingly, wintry weather dominated. The strongest high pressure system on the planet came to rest over New Zealand and set a new national air pressure record for July. We didn't feel a thing!

The Ōmārama Rodeo Club's annual Mid-Winter Quiz Night and Hill Billy Hunt attracted a good crowd.

Jan and Lexie and the awesome crew that is Oasis Café, Bar and Restaurant took us back to the summer of '69 for an evening to blow away those wintry blues!



August

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

And I signed off from reporting or promoting any Waitaki District Council matters because of the policy which it put in place to require any questions I put to them on behalf of residents and ratepayers to go through its the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act process at a charge-out rate of \$55 an hour.

The Ahuriri Community Catchment Group has been busy throughout the year and one project was to plant natives along the Ōmārama Stream, courtesy of a grant from Environment Canterbury, to enhance the environment for the long fin tuna (eels).



From the 2024 album ... continued

September

We reminisced over 50 years since the first meeting to decide if there was enough interest to form a golf club in Ōmārama.

A successful Emergency Services Expo was hosted at the Ōmārama Fire Station. The action-packed day included live presentations by the Police Armed Offenders Squad and dogs, a fire safety demonstration and a motor vehicle extraction using 'jaws-of-life' cutting equipment.

On the international stage competition ended for the New Zealand team entered in the World Gliding Championships in Uvalde, Texas after seven days of flying despite an excellent start. Former Ōmārama residents and glider pilots Keith Essex and Marju Rossi entered in their ASG 32 mi in the 20 Metre 2-Seat class, with Marju's daughter Tuulianna and Hannariina Laukkanen as crew, and Hugh Colton as the team captain.

A sunny spring afternoon called for a working bee at the Ōmārama Community Gardens. And the arrival of spring signals the end of winter activities like housie as does the arrival of campers at Sailors Cutting.



October

By October preparation had been well underway for New Zealand Chef and entrepreneur Simon Gault's visit to town for a cooking demonstration at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall. This month publicity about the community event made the main centre's papers.

Omarama School's focus on music and dance saw them show off their skills at the end-of-term assembly when Lockey and Amelia Harding were farewelled.

And we did it. Never underestimate the power of community! Thanks to funding grants and more than \$10,000 of individual donations the Ōmārama Community raised the approximately \$40,000 needed to buy a 40KVA generator to run the Community Centre, hall and kitchen. The Centre is the nominated community shelter in case of an emergency. The generator will also be used to provide power to the Ōmārama MenzShed facility adjacent to the Centre. We look forward to welcoming it to town in the early new year.

About 120 members of the Southern Classic Commercial Trucks club enjoyed a day and wowed the crowds at Murray and Sharon Stuart's property Omaradise as part of their central South Island truck run



From the 2024 album ... continued

November

Three young Ōmārama jazz ballet pupils were hard at work preparing for their end of year performance showcasing a year of learning dance in Twizel. They were "Fabulous Darling".

We gathered along with the dignitaries to honour our local heroes as their bravery was acknowledge with the presentation of medals.

It was also our neighbours, the Twizel Volunteer Fire Brigade's chief fire officer, Simon Fox's last outing in his official role. He retired this month.

There were a lot of uniforms - could hardly recognise you, Bruce! :)

It was that time of the year and the Ōmārama crowd put their styliest feet forward and came together at their local to watch a horse win the Melbourne Cup.

There was a changing of the guard at Four Square Ōmārama with Kim and David MacKenzie taking over from Blair and Alona Shaw.

Simon Gault arrived and wowed the crowd and the town during his visit. His subsequent publicity has put Ōmārama on the radar nationally and internationally.

Volunteers were once again hard at work making the community centre a little more accessible and donating time and materials to add to a tax-payer sum to pull together an attractive picnic area beside the Sports Courts



December

There was all the fun of a summertime gala day at Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park community day last month – and everyone just wanted to be a kid again!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa looked stunning for his annual outing to the Ōmārama Housie Christmas Party.

And ho, ho, ho there was a mischief-a-making at the annual emergency services golf tournament.

Census figures are out and Omarama's total head count or 'usually resident population' in March 2023 was 354. We've grown a whopping 23% since the last census in 2018.

Merry Christmas to you all!





OMARAMA GOLF CLUB

NEW YEARS TOURNAMENT

ALL WELCOME

Saturday, 04th January 2025

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 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

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

Entries to be received by Thursday 02nd January 2025
CAMPERVANS WELCOME TO STAY OVERNIGHT

EFTPOS Available for Bar and Entries

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

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

OMARAMA FIRE BRIGADE GOLF TOURNAMENT

NEW DATE

Stableford Tournament



Proceeds to Omarama Fire Brigade

EVERYONE WELCOME – Golfers and Non-Golfers
(don't be shy, come have a go and support a great cause)

Saturday the 25th January, 2025

ENTRY \$45 Per Person

Cards in by 12.30pm Tee Off 1.00pm

BBQ on-course and Meal afterwards

Prizes and Raffles

Entries and Enquiries to:

Arron Chambers

secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz

0272032340

The Noticeboard

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

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

House for rent: House becoming available at the beginning of January 2025 for permanent rental. Permanent material four double bedroom home. Good log burner. Aluminium windows and a large bathroom with wet floor shower and a bath. Separate toilet and laundry. Dishwasher in a modern kitchen. Rental price on application. Happy to answer any queries – Leanne 027 411 2726

Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Tuesdays 9am to 5pm (Nurse only) and Thursday 8.30am to 1pm with Dr Tim Gardner.

NB The Omarama Nurse-only clinic will be closed Tuesday, December 31, 2024 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 moving to summer hours, 9 am to 10 am from Wednesday January 8, 2025. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays, at the Ōmārama Community Centre. omaramalibrary@gmail.com 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. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340. Twilight golf is each Thursday throughout summer www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

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

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

Ōmārama Playgroup meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Ōmārama Community Centre. For more information phone 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 Ann Patterson 438 9493.

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

FENZ Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 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

Plunket Line: 0800 933 922

Waitaki Newcomers Network: E: waitaki@newcomers.co.nz

W: www.newcomers.co.nz F: facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/

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 5, 2024.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, January 30, 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.



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*Dave, Prue, Samantha, Jack and the team would like to wish all
our clients and community a very*

Merry Christmas with family and friends

We hope you have a happy and safe New Year over the holidays.

We thank you for all your support and business throughout 2024



**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 2024/25

Monday 23 Dec	Open in Kurow, Twizel
Tuesday 24 Dec	OPEN in Kurow, Twizel and Omarama
Wednesday 25 Dec	CLOSED
Thursday 26 Dec	CLOSED
Friday 27 Dec	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Saturday 28 Dec	OPEN in Twizel
Monday 30 Dec	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Tuesday 31 Dec	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Wednesday 01 Jan	CLOSED
Thursday 02 Jan	CLOSED
Friday 03 Jan	OPEN in Kurow and Twizel
Saturday 04 Jan	OPEN in Twizel

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!

The Community Reports

Fenz Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Ho, Ho, Ho, Everyone,

2024 is almost done and dusted. We all hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole team at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade for their hard work and dedicated service to our community. I know how much effort you have all put into training and the professional way you conduct yourselves at callouts. It is a credit to you all.

To our Ōmārama First Response trustees, many thanks for your efforts this year with your fundraising efforts. Also, a huge thanks to all our local employers for the support you give us letting your employees attend calls during working hours which can be a big disruption to you all.

Thank you to all of our wonderful supporters who donated prizes for various fundraising events and to our other fundraising causes.

Please enjoy your break. If you are travelling allow some extra time to get to your destination.

The roads will be busy and we want to see your smiling faces here in the New Year. Please check the website www.checkitsalright.nz before deciding to light. It is very dry out there.

From all at Ōmārama Fire and First Response, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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.



Thank you from Oamaru churches' foodbank

We were once again amazed at the amount of Food we received from your areas. Thankyou to the residents & collectors of Omarama, Ohau, Otematata, Kurow & Duntroun.

It has been a difficult year for many and we truly appreciate your support so we can continue our work in the community.

Our shelves are now well stocked for the coming year.

The Oamaru Churches Foodbank is open every Friday from 10am to noon, at 4 France St, Oamaru.

We wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas.

Thankyou from

THE OAMARU COMBINED CHURCHES FOODBANK TEAM.

Ōmārama Community Library

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR HOURS

**Wednesday, December 25
Christmas Day - CLOSED**

Saturday, December 28, open 9.30am to 11am

**Wednesday, January 1 - New Year's Day - CLOSED
Saturday, January 4, open 9.30am to 11am**

**The Ōmārama Community Library
is moving to summer hours, 9 am to 10 am
from Wednesday January 8, 2025.**

**Open Wednesdays and Saturdays,
at the Ōmārama Community Centre.
omaramalibrary@gmail.com**

Contact Yvonne 027 476 7473

Boots and Jandals Hotel Social Club



A special presentation was made to an honoured member of the Boots and Jandals Hotel Social Club at its Christmas function earlier this month. Pat - Wingy - Leopold was presented with a birthday cake to celebrate the occasion of his 90th birthday. The birthday cake was made and decorated by Simon, of U-Bake, Timaru.

Photo: Supplied

Ōmārama Community Garden

Open All Hours!

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

The group receives sponsorship from Age Concern.

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

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

And watch this growing space.

Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com



Ōmārama Gliding Club

By Rod Stuart, Omarama Gliding Club Captain

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Time to sit back, relax and enjoy the peace and love Christmas brings.

The Omarama Gliding Club has had a stunning start to the season!

There are so many great flying stories to report on.

Thank you: A heart felt thank you to all the 'OGC Team' who work hard to keep the club flying. The executive members, instructors, tow pilots, winch crew, ground crew, accounts team, IT team, maintenance team, competition organizers, scorers, pilots, tea boys and dancing girls. And a very special thank you to our visiting Instructor, Michael from Germany, who has been a joy to fly with for many club members.

A special word to Griz [Gavin Wrigley] who has resigned as our Chief Flying Instructor for health reasons. He has preserved some great OGC traditions and kept the club flying and safe through an interesting period of evolution. Griz has helped many students progress their flying over many years. He always instructs in such a helpful and knowledgeable way. Thank you for all you have done and wishing you better days ahead.

The South Island Regionals: A staggering 30 gliders and over 40 pilots flew during this competition! We completed five tasks over a possible seven days. It was so cool to see so many pilots from other clubs and overseas visit Ōmārama.

The weather played ball, and the rest days came at the right time! The flying was superb, and it was an accident-free week. The organisers put on a class act and the pilots had a ball!

The week ended with a lively prize giving at the Discovery Countrytime Hotel.

It felt so good to see the SI Regionals back to full strength again.

Results: Open: 1st Dane Dickinson, 2nd Nick Oakley, 3rd Grae Harrison

Racing: 1st Davy and NS, 2nd John Smith, 3rd Mclver & Bilby

Open: 1st Dane Dickinson, 2nd Grae3 Harrison, 3rd Nick Oakley

Link to see the full results: https://www.soaringspot.com/en_gb/south-island-gliding-championships-2024/results

The Nationals: January 2 to 11, 2025. "Ground hog day!" Hot on the heels of a very enjoyable Enterprise Competition at Springfield, the OGC is now hosting the New Zealand Nationals! It looks like being another great competition with 19 entries confirmed so far. I think it is important that the OGC encourage people from other clubs to help us with this competition. Let's ask for help and lighten the load for Team OGC. May the best pilot win!

That's it for now from me.

Merry Christmas and Happy Landings in 2025




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10.00 AM

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BEN OMAR ROAD-TURN RIGHT AFTER AHURIRI BRIDGE HEADING NORTH


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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

Donate Today!



Firefighters are coming together from across the globe to climb the 1,103 steps in the Sky Tower in full firefighter gear to raise money for those affected by blood cancer in Aotearoa.

**Help support their cause and
donate through the QR code!**

BINGO

Fundraiser

AND BAKING AUCTION

04.JAN.2025 FROM 3PM ONWARDS

HELD AT OMARAMA HALL,
35 Chain Hills Highway, Omarama 9412



Gemma Patterson of Omarama and Oamaru Fire Brigades is going to attempt the firefighters sky tower challenge to raise money for this great cause, your support would be greatly appreciated, see you there for a fun afternoon, if your unable to make it and would still like to show your support there is a barcode below you can scan to donate online.

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT LEUKAEMIA & BLOOD CANCER NZ

<https://firefighterschallenge.org.nz/about>

You make all this possible ...

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

This year I have faced the toughest time in the best part of 20 years as a reporter. The fact that the 'powers that be' have gone to considerable lengths [Read more in the August issue] to prevent me asking the questions and having access to the public information that affects each of us suggests, unpleasant though the process may have been, that I have been doing my job.

But we each have a responsibility to diligently protect one of our most important freedoms - the freedom of information.

I often think of that quote: "First they came for the reporter, we don't know what happened after that". The Ōmārama Gazette may seem like an insignificant contributor to news in the scheme of things. Nonetheless, there is news and information relevant to the healthy functioning of this community and which you will get from nowhere else. I take the responsibility of collecting and sharing that seriously.

It might not always seem like it but I do follow a code of ethics. This is in case you missed it. 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.

Not only that, you make all of this possible.

It is a privilege to put the Gazette together.

*A world of good wishes to you all - the Gazette is back February 5, 2025.
- Ruth Grundy, editor.*