



Ōmārama Gazette

December 2024

Ōmārama and the Aotearoa Village of 100

The Census 2023 figures are out, so just who is the average Ōmārama villager and how do we stack up against the rest of good ol' NZ?

This is just a quick snapshot drawn from the recently published material covering the very basics of who we all are.

[See the map posted overleaf to see where the stats used in this story were collected in the 2023 Census. The majority of Ōmārama's population is split roughly in two halves within Stats NZ boundaries. Block 7036621, which I have called Ōmārama South, lies south of SH 83 and Ōmārama North, block 7036622, is to the north.]

Firstly, we've grown, and grown and grown.

Our total head count or 'usually resident population' for 2023 was 354.

The census of 2018 recorded 288 people usually lived here and in the one before that, 2013, our final muster was 267.

We've grown a whopping 23% since 2018.

Compare that to the national figure which is a mere 6.3%.

Unsurprising if we've got growing pains.

- continued over



Ōmārama and the Aotearoa Village of 100 - continued

StatsNZ has introduced a simple way to help us make those all-important comparisons, and don't we just love comparisons, with the rest of Aotearoa.

Let me introduce to you the StatsNZ Aotearoa New Zealand Village of 100 where it has broken down the national data into something a bit easier to grasp.

Let me show you what that means for us:

In Ōmārama, in 2023, 52% of our population identified as female and 48% as male. Nationally, 49.3% of the village of 100 identified as male and 50.3% identified as female.

In the Village of 100 the median age was 38.1 years.

In Ōmārama South it was 48.2 years and 52.9 years in Ōmārama North. Obviously crossing that State Highway ages you overnight!

StatsNZ breaks other age groups statistics down in various ways and one of those is into what it calls four 'life cycle groups'.

So, in the village of 100, 19 are under the age of 15, 19 are in the 15 to 29 category, 45 are 30 to 64 years-of age and 17 are 65 years and over.

Converting the Omarama Stats to percentages shows that, in 2023, 11% of us were under 15, 15% were in the 15 to 29 age group, 48% were 30 to 64, and 23% were 65 plus.

Overall we have more than average over 30 years of age and we have below average numbers for 0 to 30 year olds.

In Ōmārama just under $\frac{3}{4}$ (75%) of us were born in New Zealand.

Just over a $\frac{1}{4}$ (25%) of us were born overseas with most of those born in the UK or Europe. This is unlike our village of 100 where most of those born overseas had their birth place in Asia - 12 - and seven were born in the UK or Europe.

The majority of us of working age own our own homes or it is held in a family trust but about 40% do not, which is just a bit higher than the 37 living in the village of 100.

The average income in Omarama sat around \$40,000. The average worker in the NZ village earns \$41,500. The living wage has been calculated to be \$57,824.

Just over half of us were receiving income from salaries and wages, 19.5% were self-employed, 23% were receiving superannuation or another pension, 2.5% were receiving job seeker support and 7.6% were receiving other benefits or support payments.

Only 42 (less than half) in the Village of 100 were in full-time employment and there were two people looking for work.

In the Village 26 people said they were not in the labour force – In Ōmārama it was 24% or 24 people out of a hundred.

Let's zoom out again to our usual resident Ōmārama population – the 354.

There were 42 who said they were working 60 hours or more a week, Woah!

Thirty-six listed themselves as employers. This was up from 27 in 2013.

Twenty-four said they were looking after a member of their own household who was ill or had a disability, 27 were helping someone who was ill or had a disability who does not live with them, 222 were "engaged in household work", with 54 looking after children and 27 looking after a child who did not live with them.

We may have patted ourselves on the back about our volunteerism thinking we were

above average but 57 of us or 16% said they engaged in voluntary work, the same percentage as the Aotearoa Village of 100, 16 of them were engaged in voluntary work.

Our biggest employers were accommodation and food services followed by the agriculture forestry and fishing sector and retail trade – no surprises there. These figures include those who usually reside here but may work out of town. And most, by far, drive their own or take a company vehicle to work.

In Ōmārama, we welcomed 21 babies into the world between the 2018 census and 2023, and it was also a warm welcome to the 198 who have moved here from elsewhere in New Zealand, or from overseas.

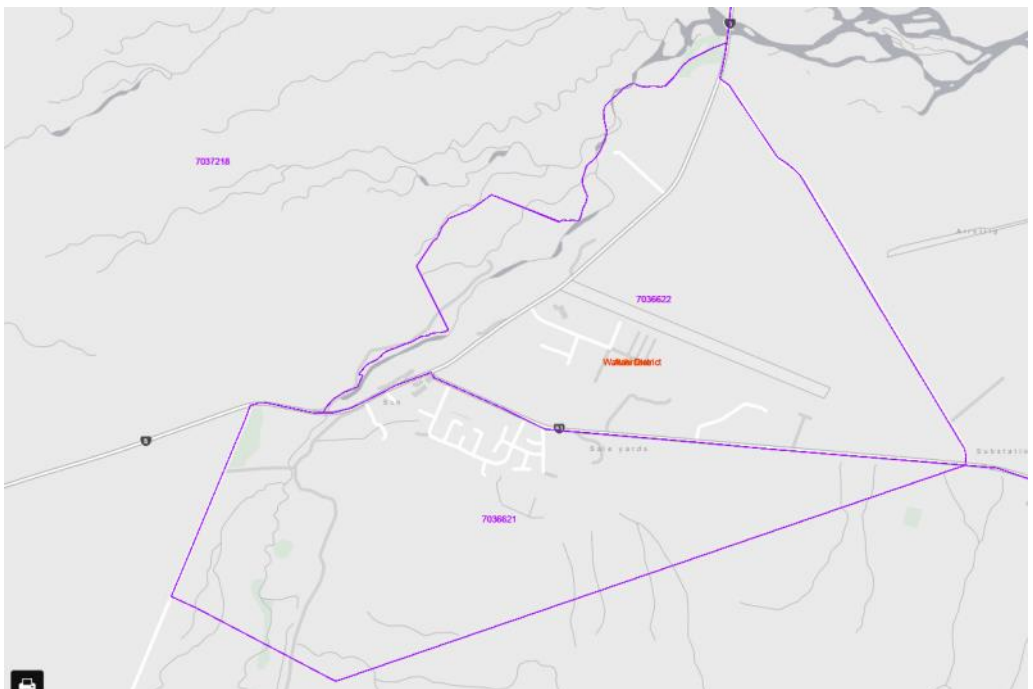
In all, 27 of us (of the 354) said we had lived here 30 years or more... but are we locals yet?

NOTES TO THE READER

Because Ōmārama has a small population it is not separated into its own category in the census.

However there are two 'SA1s' - mapped statistical areas - that traditionally make up the Ōmārama head count – 7036621 and 7036622. (They don't have names because there are so many of them across the country!)

These can be directly compared to the same 2018 and 2023 Census maps of the areas.



Let's make this happen



**Meeting postponed until the new year,
date to be confirmed.**

The Residents' Association of Ōmārama
will hold a public meeting at
**Saturday, November 30,
Ōmārama Memorial Hall.**

The aim is to call for interest to set up a group to initiate and manage
the re-formation of the Ōmārama sports fields.

The RAOI-led meeting is to discuss ways to fundraise and to use volunteer-power to
achieve this, possibly through a staged process, and is calling on expertise from
within the community to form the project group to make it happen.

If you are unable to attend the meeting and would like to contribute
please email RAOI secretary
Vicky Chambers at omaramasecretary@gmail.com

The Residents' Association of Ōmārama will hold a public meeting in the new year at
at date to be confirmed to call for interest to set up a group to initiate and manage the
re-formation of the Ōmārama sports fields.

The meeting was postponed from last month because of the number of events
scheduled at what is the busiest time of the year. The aim is to set a time when as
many as possible, including holiday home owners can attend.

This RAOI-led meeting is to discuss ways to fundraise and to use volunteer-power to
achieve this, possibly through a staged process, and is calling on expertise from
within the community to form the project group to make it happen.

In the meantime why not take a walk down to the old grounds and have a look.
And watch this space...

P.S Check out 'Back in the Day - Planning a Gala day at the Domain, January 1974' -
over leaf

Back in the Day - a gala day at the domain.

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Omarama Gala Day Committee held in the School at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 26 September, 1973. [abridged]

Present: Mrs. Nehoff, Messrs T Innes, W McAughtrie, D Paulson, G Butt, D Hasler.

*After discussion it was resolved that subject to inquiry indicating no conflict of date with other local events, the Gala Day be held on either 2nd or 3rd of January 1974.

***Location:** Collie Club Area of Domain – inquiry to be made re availability of Buildings and Facilities there.

***Insurance:** A Public Liability Policy to be taken out.

***Admission:** Tentatively – 50c Adults, 20c Children or \$1 per car. The School Committee to be asked to provide gatekeepers - The School to receive the Gate Takings. Tickets or pass-outs to be issued.

***First Aid & Doctor:** Kurow Ambulance and Doctor to be contacted. Alternatively, Twizel Ambulance or Doctor.

***Parking:** Subject to investigation. Possibility of using Cocks' property.

***Toilets:** It was considered that temporary corrugated iron or scrim shelters would be required.

***Seating:** If later considered necessary – hay bales.

***Horse line:** considered that use could be made of Sale Yards – water available.

***Equalisator:** Not considered worthwhile having it.

***Advertising:** Offers from Mr Paulson – School to print any tickets – Posters in Omarama, Twizel, Kurow.

***Programme of events:** Hack events, pony events, Farm bike events, Wether Riding, Fly Casting, Land Rover and Haybale race & wool press teams etc. etc.

Police and Internal Affairs Dept: To be contacted re requirements etc and tax.

***Chairman of Cttee:** Mr W McAughtrie **Secretary:** Mr D Hasler

***Additional members to be co-opted:** Suggested Messrs Aubrey Bros, Dick, Patterson, K Anderson, R Williamson.

***Stalls etc:** A circular is to be distributed locally. It is to give an outline of proposed Gala Day and invite interested organisations to apply to the Cttee for right to run stalls, raffles, chocolate wheel etc. All profits made by these groups is to be kept by them apart from a proportionate share of the expenses. *Mr G Butt was asked to inquire if the Fire Brigade would consider running a license booth.

***Pony events:** Mrs Nehoff to look after programme of events for these.

***Wether riding:** Mr T Innes to make initial arrangements.

***Domain Board:** Mr D Paulson to act as liaison man.

***Inspection of site:** Mr Innes to arrange for an inspection of the site – work required – suitability of area for some events etc and report findings as soon as he conveniently can.

***Dust problem:** Consideration will need to be given to using a spray irrigation plant perhaps a week prior to Gala day with possibly a wetting with a water cart on the truck the night before.

***Farm Bike events:** Mr G Butt agreed to investigate possibilities – suggested on hillside behind Collie Club Ground – Motocross

***Dog Trial display:** Considered worthwhile – Mr K Anderson to be consulted and persuaded.

***Work Force:** Organisations accepting job of running stalls etc to be expected to provide manpower prior to the day for such jobs as laying out the course etc. quite apart from setting up own facilities.

***Next meeting:** not scheduled – Chairman & Secretary to consult and advise when next meeting is to be held.

*(Asterisked items require action as soon as possible, prior to next meeting)

Acts of bravery acknowledged

Communities came together last month to acknowledge five acts of true heroism - five who endangered their own lives to save the lives of others in the 2020 Lake Ōhau wildfire.

About 130 people gathered at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall from Ōmārama, Lake Ōhau, Twizel and from further afield to witness Twizel volunteer firefighters Logan Cunningham and Keri Jackson, Ōhau Snow Fields Ltd field manager Craig Ovenden, its maintenance manager and former rural fire officer and advisor Mark Paulson, and Ōmārama Police's Senior Constable Nayland Smith receive Royal Humane Society of New Zealand Bronze Medals.

All present at the hour-long medal ceremony acknowledged that the dangers the five faced in the early hours of the fire storm was the "stuff of legends".

Master of ceremonies Mat Bayliss said it was the "Kiwi way" for those receiving such awards to deflect recognition from themselves to honour the team contribution - It was achieved with support from family friends and fellow volunteers.

"If any of our recipients are feeling a little uncomfortable for the attention you are receiving – that's the kiwi way. Please be assured that we know that you are also representing those that support you. Also know that your community chose you for good reason and accepting the citation is yet another valued thing you are doing for your community and for the people that support you. So, thank you," Mr Bayliss said.

Proceedings began with a poetic tribute to Fire and Emergency New Zealand wildfire specialist Graeme Still read by Miss Jackson. Mr Still, who led the firefighting response in the days following that emergency 111 call died suddenly in September and his contribution was recalled throughout the ceremony. The poem – The Fire Manager – was written by Fenz community readiness and recovery advisor Steve Ochsner.

Twizel Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Simon Fox congratulated the five recipients nominated by police and civilians in what was the community's tribute. In putting forward the five to receive recognition for their acts of bravery "the people have spoken", Mr Fox said.

Others who spoke were; Ōhau resident Tim Mueller, Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade deputy fire chief Jack Zorab, Senior Sergeant Jason McCoy, of Oamaru Police, and Fenz Waitaki group manager Mike Harrison. Mr Paulson and Mr Cunningham spoke on behalf of the medal recipients.

In all, the fire destroyed 49 homes and 5000ha of land before it was brought under control.

All agreed that the fact there was no loss of life or serious injury was largely down to the actions and leadership shown by those first on the scene in the early hours of Sunday, October 4.

Despite it being quite a sombre occasion as the trauma of the event was recalled the ceremony was punctuated with joking and laughter.

At the close of speeches Waitaki mayor Gary Kircher and Mackenzie deputy mayor Karen Morgan read the citations and presented the medals on behalf of the Royal Society whose patron is Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro.

The Royal Humane Society, which has been part of New Zealand's formal acknowledgement and recognition system since October 1898 was formed to recognise acts of bravery and humanity

A video of the ceremony is available to view on YouTube: https://youtu.be/LX7_mA2SMiY

Copies of the video are available on request from Maurice Cowie
mauricecowie8@gmail.com

As well the slide show depicting the first few hours of the emergency response will be made available shortly.

Photos, video and copy by Ruth Grundy, Ōmārama Gazette

Right: Five people (from left; Keri Jackson, Senior Constable Nayland Smith, Mark Paulson, Logan Cunningham and Craig Ovenden were awarded Royal Humane Society bronze medals last month for their acts of bravery in the face of the Lake Ohau Wildfire in 2020,

A crowd of about 130 gathered at the Omarama Memorial Hall to witness the occasion.



It truly was epic! Thank you.

Yes, we are blowing our own trumpet, just a little bit. :)

We were told we would fail...

Instead, thanks to the hard work of too many to name, This Was Epic!

New Zealand celebrity chef Simon Gault's visit to Omarama last month was declared an outstanding success, and we had so much fun!

Some of you will already know all of this but let's relive the highlights.

About 120 gathered at the Omarama Memorial Hall on the Saturday evening for Simon's cooking demonstration.

He took us through his tips and tricks for whipping up risotto from whatever is in your fridge; the technique for preparing reverse-seared steaks for that special 'wow' factor', the cheesy smoked paprika potatoes roasted in duck fat were to die for, and who has bought a store-bought pizza since? – especially not when Four Square Omarama (aka "the superette) have the Dough Council's Frozen Pizza Dough ready to roll.

The fun started early on Saturday as all our volunteers clubbed together to help Simon prep for the evening. He made the hard work a delight.

Then, despite the inevitable moment or two – yes, the shop was raided of its bamboo teaspoons around 6.30pm - it all came together for one tremendous night celebrating community.

And those dishes were the talk of the town for days.

On the Sunday, Simon was taken mountain soaring in our big sky by Kahu Soaring's Milan Kmetovics and was treated to spectacular views of our 'local' showstopper Aoraki Mount Cook.

The Omarama Gliding Club hosted an open day at the airfield and people were encouraged to take advantage of discounted flights to share in the soaring experience.

Our own Gary Sutherland was one who did just that having never taken a glider flight before. What's more, after overcoming those nerves he says he'd "highly recommend it" ..

In other news, the Fire Brigade Art Auction raised \$1670 and seven households booked for Home Fire Safety visits.

The Omarama School Garden Club sold out of a range of its plants and accepted forward orders.

Nurse Tracy Young reported that there was a queue of those who wanted a pre-diabetes finger prick indicator test.

And we made the national NZ Mens' Sheds News.

While Simon was here, he made the most of his time exploring our wee town and vlogged about it giving us international coverage! [See link to Simon's Vlog below]

Debs had a special visit – her favourite MasterChef popped in for a kebab.

He enjoyed the best pie ever at Wrinkly Rams and discovered hidden talent chef Joshua Willis at Boots and Jandals Hotel.

And, no, Simon, no-one is allowed to lure our Josh away.

A special thanks goes to the technical team lead by Steve and Dan, and ably assisted by Hank, Malcolm and Neville, it would not have been the same without you.

The Omarama Resident's Association has been gifted additional audio-visual equipment for future community use by way of a thank you from the team for the hall and kitchen hire.

As expected and budgeted, a modest profit was made and after paying some expenses the balance will be donated to the MenzShed along with the receipt of 10% of the online sales made from <https://www.gaultsdeli.co.nz/> (Codeword 'OMARAMA') until Christmas. Just plunk in our name, 'Omarama', as you check out and Ōmārama MenzShed will receive 10% of sales.

And so, we'll leave the [almost] last word to Simon
In the week after the event, he sent us all – yes, this is to all - this thank you:

Heartfelt Thanks for a Wonderful Experience

Hi Georgie and Ruth

I apologize for the delay in reaching out, but since arriving back in Auckland, I've been hitting the ground running.

I wanted to personally thank you for hosting me.

Your event was one of the best-organized I've ever attended.

From the two exceptional assistants, Josh and Rudi, to the AV team and the fire brigade who lent a hand with serving, everything ran smoothly.

The accommodation at Ann's was absolutely delightful—definitely 5+ stars! I had a wonderful stay and appreciated all the thoughtful details.

On a high note, I had the most incredible flight on Sunday, soaring over Mt. Cook, for which I am very grateful.

I'm also working on a vlog video of my trip to Omarama and will let you know when it's posted—hopefully, it will serve as good promotion for the area.

Happy pizza, steak & risotto cooking, and thank you once again.

Please pass on my gratitude to your amazing team and Ann for the wonderful accommodation.

*Kind regards,
Simon.*

A very special thank you goes to our event sponsors who really went the extra mile: The Lindis, ANZ Bank, Merino Lodge, Boots and Jandals Hotel Ōmārama, Kahu Soaring, Big Sky Motel, Ōmārama Station, Four Square Ōmārama, the Ōmārama Gliding Club, GlenCraigs, Mobil Twizel, MenzShed Ōmārama.

And to High Country Salmon, Wrinkly Rams, and Ventia whose help behind the scenes was invaluable.

But it was all of you who made it one out of the box.

We live in an amazing community and without you this would not have been possible. Did we say that already?!

Please, each and every one, accept our sincerest thanks for everything that you did for us. Please know it did not go unnoticed and contributed to making this event the success it was. You made this possible, Thank You.

From the organising team; Malcolm and Jenny, Grizz and Pam, Hank and Kay, Bruce and Julie, Georgie and Tim, Ruth, and the Omarama MenzShed.

Scenes from the show



A bit of a knees-up for Christmas housie.

Ho! Ho! Ho! Santa looked stunning for his annual outing to the Ōmārama Housie Christmas Party. Santa - the guest caller - chose to debut a summery little festive number at the Christmas session which about 25 ladies from Otematata and Ōmārama attended at the Wrinkly Rams Café. I guess those knees don't see a lot of sun at the South Pole, Santa ?!

The regular group of about 10 meet each Wednesday at the Ōmārama Community Centre for fun and friendship. A special thanks to organiser Ann Patterson and to Age Concern Waitaki. Housie will resume in June.



Didn't we have a lovely day?!

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! Natalie, Erwin, Elora, Wesley and the newest member of the Beiboer clan – Charlie – opened the park to the community for a day of good old-fashioned fun and fundraising.

The Omārama weather joined in and pulled out a stunner on summer's-eve. There was go kart racing, mini golf, a sausage sizzle, Mr Whippy, raffles and silent auctions, but most of all there was the big red truck with all its bells and whistles and whooshing hoses.

The Beiboers held the event as a fundraiser and raised \$3,000 for the Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade from the activities and a further \$1,000 for the Child Cancer Foundation from bookings at the camp for the day.

They extended their thanks to all who made the day possible including: Valley Views Glamping, Trail Journeys, Glide Queenstown, A&J Wiegiersma, Bidfood, GlenCraigs, The Wrinkly Rams, Bell Family, R&P Findlay, The Veterinary Centre, Carpet Plus Omarama, Oasis Cafe, Vendella, 4 Square Omarama and Julie Grant.



Fenz hit the fairways in fine form

It was bound to happen at least once in the history of the tournament.

But mystery continues to surround an incident which led to Fenz golfers being called from the field mid-tournament at this year's Emergency Services Golf Tournament.

The unscheduled interruption of the fire siren – “It wasn't us” – it failed to put Fenz players off their winning form.

The Emergency Services 'friendly' Ambrose golf tournament at the Omarama Golf Club attracted a reduced field this year with only teams from Omarama Search and Rescue – last year's champions - and Fenz's Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade, entered. Police failed to field a team this year. Enquiries are continuing.

As far as final results go players were keeping their cards close to their chests. (But I thought you guys said you were playing golf not cards?)

And when cross examined – ahem, interviewed - about the final result the following day, the organiser, who was also a Sar team representative and member of the constabulary - Bean - reluctantly admitted that Fenz probably “took it away this year”.

“Although, I still have the trophy. So, possession being 9/10ths of the law maybe SAR took it after all.”

A trophy was introduced to the annual competition in 2022 and went first to Fenz. Last year Sar won the bragging rights and this year they may (or may not) return to Fenz.

With thanks to: The Omarama Golf Club and Boots and Jandals Hotel



The Noticeboard

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



MANY HAPPY RETURNS, WINGY on your 90th birthday on Sunday from all of us. Hope you had just the best day!

Many happy returns from all of us to Jeannette de Ridder, who also celebrated a milestone birthday - 80 years - last month.

Boots and Jandals Hotel Ōmārama will be closing at 2pm, Sunday December 15 for the staff Christmas Party.

A warm Ōmārama welcome to Nicola and Campbell Barbour and Tony and Teisha Cosgriff of Ōmārama Lodge.

And check out this link. We've made it to the top 10 trending destinations <https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/360499475/region-dominating-top-10-trending-destinations-new-zealand>

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. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340. www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz

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

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday of each month at the '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 Christmas Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Monday, December 16, 2024.**

Please submit copy
by noon, Friday, December 13, 2024

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Police



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

Usual office contact details:

Senior Constable Nayland Smith
Sole charge Constable / Omarama /
PO Box 101, Omarama 9448.
Phone: (03) 438 9559 /
Ext: 34580 / mailto:
nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

Ōmārama Golf Club

**Saturday Club Day,
cards in 12.30 and tee-off at 1pm.**

**Twilight Golf
Thursdays, tee-off 5pm to 5.30pm.**

**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

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Arron Chambers

It's been another busy month for our brigade, with 16 callouts so far. These have included motor vehicle crashes, medical emergencies, and alarm activations.

We had a fantastic time at the Simon Gault evening, and our Silent Auction for artwork, generously donated to the brigade, drew a lot of attention. It's great to know that some stunning pieces are now proudly displayed in their new homes.

During the event, we also promoted Home Fire Safety visits, which were well-received. We're following up on these over the coming weeks.

These visits are an opportunity to check your smoke alarms, review exit plans, and discuss general fire safety. We're always happy to hear from anyone in the local area who'd like to arrange a visit.

Our new recruits are progressing well, and we're thrilled to welcome a couple of additional members to the team. They bring valuable experience from previous roles in the Fire Service, which is a huge asset to the brigade.

We also had a blast at the Omarama Top 10 Fun Day, where we brought out the hoses for some fun, competitive games for both kids and adults. There was plenty of laughter (and a little overspray)! A big thank-you to Erwin and Natalie for organizing such a fantastic day and for including the brigade.

As always, we'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to our volunteer employers and the community for their unwavering support. Your encouragement makes a huge difference to us.

Stay safe, everyone, and please be mindful of the dry conditions we're heading into.

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



Antony Ford CA



- Farm Accounting Expertise
- Business Advice
- Family and Succession Planning

If you would like us to visit you, please call and arrange a time.

e. office@fordsimpson.co.nz

w. www.fordsimpson.co.nz

PHONE 03 687 2080



Brodie Craig CA

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



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



The home of South Canterbury Traction Engine & Transport Museum

New Potatoes For Xmas

Omarama/Twizel/Otematata

delivery afternoon/early evening – collections welcome

**Monday 23rd or Tuesday 24th
December 2024**



5kg \$23.00

To order contact:

Jo Golder 0274 584828

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

Surname in Reference

Thank you for supporting our club!! Merry Xmas



**Help us find
the needle in
a haystack**

Chilean needle grass (CNG) is an invasive grass that can grow up to one metre tall. It has bright green leaves and distinctive long-tailed seeds with a pointed base. CNG has flowerheads between October-December that are drooped with a red-purple tinge.

CNG can be tricky to identify but our team is here to help. If you have seen CNG or think you have it on your property, contact us on **0800 324 636** or email biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz

ecan.govt.nz/chilean-needle-grass

Ōmārama Community Garden

The veggie plots are filling out fast.

There are lettuces and spinach and silver beet ready for the picking.

Please pick the outer leaves and then they will keep growing for others.

There are new plants being popped into the gaps.

If anyone has spare seedlings or plants all will be gratefully accepted!

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.

And watch this space ...

Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com

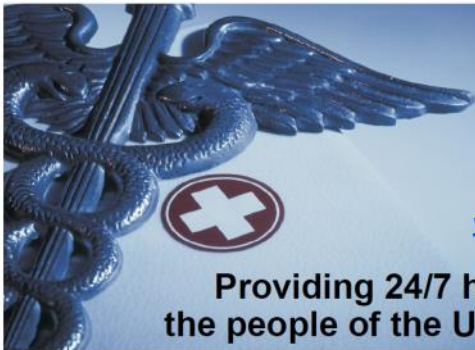
Let's get growing together!

Ōmārama MenzShed



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

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



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

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- * 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*

Whooping cough (Pertussis)

On 22 November New Zealand health authorities declared an epidemic of whooping cough. Whooping cough is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection. In many people, it's marked by a severe hacking cough followed by a high-pitched intake of breath that sounds like "whoop." More than half of babies under 12 months old who catch it need to go to hospital, and up to 1 in 50 of these babies die. For those who do live it can cause long lasting disability. Prevention is key and on time vaccination for all is important and free at your primary care provider for the following groups;

- Babies at 6 weeks and as part of their childhood immunisation schedule
- Under 18 years
- Pregnant people – ideally at 16 to 26 weeks
- Adults from 45 & 65 years

Anyone in contact with babies should be vaccinated with a booster every 10 years (fee for some). You can find our more here;

www.info.health.nz/conditions-treatments/infectious-diseases/whooping-cough

Merry Christmas

Another year is almost over, and the festive season is once more upon us. The shops are putting up decorations, those Christmas songs are playing on repeat, presents are being bought and excitement is in the air. With this it is also important to recognise the potential stress of the season and gift yourself moments of self-care, finding a balance that lets you revel in the joy of the season while cherishing your well-being.

If you do need support, it is okay to reach out for help. If you or someone you know is struggling, however you or they are feeling, there is someone to talk to and free help is available.

In an emergency and if anyone is in immediate physical danger, phone 111.

For urgent mental health crisis support - Twizel 0800 277 997 or for Omarama/Kurow 0800 467 846

If you need to talk to someone free call or text 1737 any time for support from a trained counsellor

Puawaitanga is a new alternative to face-to-face counselling for those facing challenges in accessing traditional counselling. Staff are trained counsellors and sessions are private, confidential, and free. Check online for eligibility or ask your doctor or nurse for a referral www.puawaitanga.nz

Other free specialist support services for children, youth and adults are listed here www.mhwc.govt.nz/where-to-get-support

Notices

Our Ōmārama clinic is open 9am-5pm on Tuesdays (nurse) and 9am-1pm on Thursdays (nurse and doctor) in the Ōmārama Community Centre clinic. All welcome. Please request repeat prescriptions in advance of Christmas week. Setting a reminder and letting us know at least 48 hours before your meds run out can help reduce the stress caused by late requests. Then it's a win for you, for us and for the pharmacy! Our free easy to use online portal myndici allows you to request long-term medication repeats online. Secure access can be requested via reception, and you need an email address. Our opening hours are as usual through the holiday period with the exception the statutory holidays when we are closed and as always, we are available after hours 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Please don't hesitate to call to be connected to our clinician on call for your urgent needs.

From the team at Kurow Medical Centre and MacKenzie Health Centre – Seasons Greetings to one and all. We hope it is fun, memorable and above all stress-free and happy.

Ōmārama School



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

Last week Omarama School went to Danseys Pass camping ground for their annual whole school camp. We were very fortunate with the weather and our students had a wonderful time and great experiences.

On day one we rode on the A2O bike trail (section seven) from Kurow to just past the Campbell Park estate turn off on the left. Older students biked 15 km, middle school biked 10 km and some of our younger students biked around the Kurow bike park. Upon arrival at camp we had Youthtown, from Oamaru join us on camp to run many fun sporting activities. This included Flintstone carts, Orienteering and Adventure Based Learning challenges, like the human knot.

Our second day included a morning swim at Oamaru pool and in the afternoon we had a visit from Education Te Ana Rock Art, based in Timaru. Students learnt about the resources that Maori once used in the area and participated in some artwork. With the weather being so beautiful, students spent an afternoon swimming and playing in the Maerewhenua River. We then finished off the evening by toasting marshmallows in the lovely open fire pit.

On our last day of camp students were looking quite tired and so we had a quieter day exploring Elephant rocks, a play at Otematata playground and some students completed their camp by biking from Pumpkin Point back to school.

A fun time was held by all and our students as usual displayed their very best behaviour, relational skills and showed respect.

A very big thank you to our wonderful parents helpers, who made this camp possible. Ōmārama school is fortunate to have such dedicated parents who give up their valuable time to support camp.

*Alison, Clair, Bailey, Kay and Ange
Ōmārama School staff.*

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

principal@omarama.school.nz,

office@omarama.school.nz

www.omarama.school.nz



Age Concern in Ōmārama

The 'Pop Up Café' will reopen February 2025

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

COMING NEXT YEAR...

Van Outings - Wednesday February 19, Wednesday, March 12,
and Wednesday, April 16.

**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

Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki



*Wishing you a happy summer break, I hope you can enjoy
time with family and friends. Travel safe over the Christmas
and New Year period.*

*Our Wanaka and Oamaru Offices will be closed from
20th December 2024 and reopen on 8 January 2025.*

 Waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

Oamaru

127 Thames Street
03 434 7325

Wanaka

Spencer House Mall
12/31 Dunmore Street
03 443 4820

Authorised by M Anderson, Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.



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

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473



Hi Ōmārama

Looking for a Tranquil Space to Teach Yoga

I'm on the hunt for a serene, peaceful location in or around Ōmārama to hold yoga classes, meditation, and breath coaching. Ideally the space would offer:

- * Room for small to medium-sized groups
- * Ability to hold different types of classes, including fitness
- * A calm and quiet atmosphere
- * A welcoming environment for connection and mindfulness

If you know of a venue or a suitable space that might be a good fit, where we can create a space for movement, breath and tranquillity, I'd love to hear from you.

*Thanks!
Lisa*

Ōmārama Residents' Association

Residents' Association of Ōmārama committee 2024-25

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

The Christmas meeting
of the Ōmārama Residents' Association is
6pm, Thursday, December 16, 2024
at the Oasis Café, Bar, Grill.

A short meeting will be followed by the Christmas Function

The minutes of the November meeting are available from Vicky

THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

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

The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.

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

ŌMĀRAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE

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



Ōmārama Playgroup

The Ōmārama Playgroup Christmas party will be at 10am Wednesday, December 11 at the Ōmārama Community Centre.

There will be a bouncy castle and fun treats to enjoy.

Santa will be the special guest.

Please bring a small (less than \$10) wrapped and named gift for your own child.

The Omarama Playgroup annual meeting will be at 6.30pm at the Distinction Heritage Gateway Hotel followed by dinner which is open to all ladies of the district. (See poster above) Please RSVP to Nicola, 022 612 7570, rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com for catering purposes.

*Photos: Last week playgroup put up their Christmas tree and decorations.
By: Nicola McKerchar*

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,



A decorative border of watercolor-style autumn leaves and flowers in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green surrounds a central white oval containing text.

**OMARAMA
PLAYGROUP AGM
FOLLOWED BY A
LADIES DINNER**

**FRIDAY 6TH OF
DECEMBER -6:30PM**

DINNER AT THE
HERITAGE, ALL
LADIES OF THE
DISTRICT WELCOME

12 OMARAMA AVENUE,
OMARAMA



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Ōmārama Rodeo Club

By Charlotte Montgomery

This year, on December 28, the club will host its 38th annual Ōmārama Rodeo. The rodeo is shaping up to be action-packed, with contestants coming from all over NZ! We have hired the best stock in the South Island (with many of these actually being the best NZ Wide).

There will be plenty of food vendors, with a bouncy castle and face painting for the kids along with the favourite Lolly Mania Tent.

A public bar will be operating, with ice cold alcoholic and non-alcoholic options.

There will also be a local barrel race for those who want to bring their own horse along for a run around. You'll find the entry form on our facebook page.

The rodeo grounds have not been sitting idle since last year- there have been more improvements made. It really is looking like a whole new rodeo facility.

If you'd like to get your gazebo up, then you'll have to be lined up nice and early to get one of the terrace spots.

Our gates will open at 9am, Rodeo starting at 10am sharp, Please no BYO, glass or dogs. Eftpos is available.

Entry Prices: adults \$20, youth \$5 (up to 15yrs), under 5yrs free.

Lock it in and we will see you there, December 28, 2024.

CAN I SWIM HERE?

We monitor water quality at popular river, lakes and beaches over summer.

Check the water quality at

lawa.org.nz/swim



 Environment
Canterbury
Regional Council
Kaitiaki Takekōwhiri

LAWA
LAND AIR WATER AOTEAROA





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20 24



DEC 28TH

10.00 AM

GATES OPEN 9AM

NO GLASS

NO BYO

NO DOGS

ROAR

EFTPOS AVAIL

ADULTS \$20
YOUTH \$5
UNDER 5 FREE



BEN OMAR ROAD-TURN RIGHT AFTER AHURIRI BRIDGE HEADING NORTH

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Steve 021 99 33 52



Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

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

All welcome.

Join the Facebook group.



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027 433 0679

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



**Boots and Jandals Social Club
Christmas function
3pm, Sunday, December 8, 2024
at the Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama
Light meal to be provided later in the afternoon.
Hope to see you there.**

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Contact Bridget – bridgesp@xtra.co.nz
or Ph /txt 021572798

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

Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com



TELCO PLAYGROUP

Thursday's 11am - 12pm

Come and join us for an hour of exploration and play at the Twizel Early Learning Centre.
Nurturing young minds.

1 Market Place, Twizel | (03) 435 0640



LICENSED AGENT

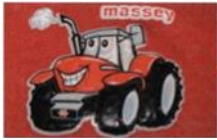
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Rachel Sheridan | Property Management | 027 435 0187 | rentals@mcre.co.nz

LJ Hooker Twizel | 03 435 0170 | twizel@mcre.co.nz

A photograph of an office interior. On the left, there are vertical wooden blinds. In the center, a potted plant sits on a table. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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The New Garden Diary - A bit on the shady side

In my collection of clippings, saved as inspiration for the new garden, there are ideas for something I've always wanted to try – a sunken, shade garden - tranquil, lush and cool, respite from mid-summer's heat, a place to hide when the nor' wester boils over the hill.

Gardening for shade in what is virtually gravel and competing against the roots of a thick hornbeam hedge and a large red oak, in our extremes of temperature and lack of rainfall is going to be a challenge.

But I think it will work. This is not your instant makeover landscaping story and like they say it may not happen overnight. I am also firmly reminded, often, that 'landscaping' is not about the plants!

I have the sunken bit already – the new house with its dark brick walls sits proudly on its bank above the hedge. I'm in love with how those dark walls showcase green.

Sunken gardens imply 'damp', a pool even, mmm, not going to happen.

But once there was a river here...hence the ancient gravelly footprint it left behind.

We could barrow and barrow, and barrow again, truck loads of it away and still never reach the Pliocene era.

Instead, what we might do, is follow its lead and create a 'riverstone' path braiding through at the lowest point.

And until enough leaf litter builds up on its own, we'll barrow that in around the hedges and edges and slip in those shade lovers.

I'm dreaming of the neglect-proof, tough as boots but softly moss-like scleranthus, hostas and ferns – I have one, provenance unknown, which pushed its bronzy fronds up between old railway sleepers and has survived it all!

And although no-one talks about it much because their leaves steal the show, hostas also quietly push up waxy lavender flower spires in early summer.

Then there's a ligularia with large luxe leaves – it doesn't mind the cold but it probably prefers it damper than what I have here. I might start that off in a pot, or pop directly under the outdoor tap.

I know they're the 'in look' right now but I've always coveted hydrangeas. There are only a couple of varieties that survive here – or maybe there are more that would now winters get milder ? But then that's how we get fooled.

To complete the summertime picture that I see in my mind's eye there will be Clematis viticella 'Polish Spirit' weaving its way through the hornbeam, elegantly

sporting dark velvet cardinal-coloured blooms. Each four-petalled star discretely pinned with a coppery brooch of stamen.

Enough dreaming there is still a bit of barrowing to be done, the retaining walls to put in and, ahem, the hedge needs a bit of a trim.

*By Ruth Grundy,
I garden a small space under the big
sky in Ōmārama.*





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

0800 RURAL HELP (0800 787 254)

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

November 2024

Highest temperature: November 26, 27.4C

Lowest temperature: November 3, -2.6C

Most rainfall: November 14, 4.8 mm

Total rainfall for November: 18.1 mm

The Ōmārama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

omaramagazette@gmail.com

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