



# Omarama Gazette

March 2021



## Stepping down after 50 years

It never rains on sales days.

Some years it can come down either side but it doesn't rain on the day.

He should know he has hardly missed a sale in 50 years.

Omarama saleyards company director Tony Gloag, of Buscot Station, is stepping down from the role he took over from his father, Jim Gloag, in 1971.

In that time, he has attended “almost every” sale.

It was time for “new blood”, he said.

The Omarama saleyards were gradually becoming the South Island centre for fine wool stock sales, Tony said.

Stock numbers moved up from an average of 8,000 to just over \$20,000 at 2018's lamb sale; Omarama had benefited from the closure of the Cromwell yards.

This year there had been entries from the Mackenzie Country as well as Central Otago.

Both Cromwell and the Tekapo saleyards had been affected by encroaching urban expansion, Tony said.

Last year, because of the Covid-19 situation Omarama's calf sale was cancelled and the company was hit hard.

“We've never lost a sale before. We try to keep the yard dues down, so sales are important.

“Every sale counts for maintenance costs.”

Tony was elected as director in September 1972 when his father retired from farming. It was a “baptism under fire”.

A year earlier the saleyards committee had decided, because the yard could not

*- continued over*

## *Stepping down after 50 years, continued*

accommodate the rapidly increasing calf numbers, the area of supply would be split, with the Ahuriri and Waitaki Rivers as the dividing line.

The resolution was supposed to stand for two years but by that same September vendors – some the same ones who had put forward the motion – were disgruntled with the arrangement and moved to have it changed back.

The directors stood firm. “It was a matter of principle” and there was “bitter and heated debate at a well-attended meeting”. The directors won that round.

“Passions and attendance at meetings have never risen to the same extent again.”

The original saleyards were immediately adjacent to the Omarama Hotel.

But they were in a poor state, Tony said. Stock could drift between pens and move around the yards, even out of the yards during the auction.

“It was a nightmare for vendors, buyers and stock agents.”

Although it was quite good for the publican because the pub would remain full until such time as all stock was drafted into the correct lots after the sale.

In late 1963, once the rebuild of the Omarama Memorial Hall was complete – the original hall was destroyed by fire – a small company was formed with the late Stuart Dick, of Ribbonwood Station, as chairman, to construct the saleyards at its present location.

The capital required was raised from the sale of shares to prospective users; Benmore, Omarama, Otematata, Ben Dhu, Berwen – the full list is a roll call of established stations in the area. Tactfully, shares were also offered to the hotel proprietors, at that time the Woods family, Tony said.

Stuart Dick was succeeded by the late Bob Aubrey (Berwen Station) – both former World War II fighter pilots.

“Both were intelligent, articulate, tenacious, determined and formidable in the pursuit of objectives. For me it was an honour to have been associated with them.”

Other directors on that first board were Jim Sutherland (Benmore Station), and three directors representing the North Otago Stock and Station Agents Association.

The saleyards were built for 30,000 sheep and 200 calves, which at the time was considered ambitious and “terribly optimistic”.

But every chairperson since has had an “expansion programme”.

Construction was not all plain sailing. The contractor hired to drive in the railway iron posts did the job. But went on to argue there had been nothing in his contract to say the posts had to be in a straight line.

After that the directors became “much more closely involved”.

With the services of the late WA (Allan) Blackie as engineer the yards were completed.

In the 1970s, while Jim Sutherland was chair, the cattle yards were extended.

Jim also devoted many hours and the use of the Benmore truck to expand the capacity of the yards. In March 1974, the selling ring for cattle was built by the late Peter Patterson and volunteers. In March 1977, 48 pens were added.

Joe and later Hugh Cameron, of Otematata Station, always made staff available to help with the work.

Dick Wardell and Omarama Station staff, being the closest, often inherited the job of handling any immediate problems arising at sale time, he said.

Tony was chairman from 1982 until 1995.

In that time the emphasis changed from cattle to sheep.

And the farmer directors were to come under fire a second time. To maintain the highest standard of stock on offer they decided to restrict entries to only those who farmed in the district. The company did not want the Omarama sale to become the “dumping ground” for aged or difficult to sell stock, Tony said. The stock bred in the district are renowned for their “shifting quality”. “The stock off some of the hard country back toward the southern Alps has terrific potential to grow and develop.” But the new rule penalised some traditional vendors from outside the area while not stopping substandard stock from the Omarama area from being put up for sale. “Many hours were spent on the phone speaking to upset clients.” The decision was reversed and right of access was from then on determined by quality alone. Pens would be labelled clearly with point of origin and the market and cost of freight would decide how worthwhile it was for the vendor to send stock to Omarama, he said. The annual sales have always been subject to outside influences and changing farming practices. “Some years, drought years, it has been almost impossible to sell old sheep. “Today irrigation has made a big difference. “Even in dry years, it has given us much more security. Farmer could buy store stock with the confidence they could grow enough feed to carry them through and fatten them, Tony said. Conversely, and with the new merino lamb contracts, there were fewer lambs put forward for sale because farmers could now carry them through. “Prices are as high as they have ever been.” Hybrid lambs “with that hybrid vigour” had increased in popularity. “Most farms have a small number of hybrid lambs as well. “They reach prime carcass weights at six months as opposed to merinos which take a year,” Tony said.



# Opportunity offered to developers

An “exceptional slice of South Island high country sitting on the water’s edge of Lake Benmore” has been put up for sale by Bog Roy Station owned by David and Lisa Anderson.

The 35.7ha block which sits on the western edge of the high country sheep and beef station on the shore of Lake Benmore and alongside the newly-constructed Sailors Cutting to Benmore section of the Alps 2 Ocean cycle trail was listed for sale by tender by Sotheby’s International Realty, last month.

The “Blue Water Block” offered “a very special opportunity to create an inspiring true lakeside lifestyle development,” the listing said.

“With zoning and covenants in place to protect the future of this unique block, there are up to 16 rural lifestyle sites to be developed across the 35.7 hectares.”

The offer is pitched at “a developer, legacy investment or syndicate of friends”.

Mr Anderson declined to comment on the move save to say the couple had been working with the Waitaki District Council for the past few years to ready the block for sale and development.

“It is in the District Plan and the area has been zone rural residential for more than 30 years.

“It went through the District Plan process at the time.”

“We’ve decided to take up the option and sell a parcel of land,” he said

Tenders close 4pm Thursday 22 April 22.



Right: A slice of Bog Roy Station on the side of Lake Benmore has been put up development. Photo: Sotheby International Realty

Below: The section of the Waitaki District Plan Map 7 Benmore- Ahuriri which shows the areas zoned Rural Residential in purple.



<b>O-B</b> Oamaru Airfield A	<b>B1a</b> Business 1A	Oamaru Airport	Noise Control Boundaries	Water
<b>T</b> Township	<b>B2</b> Business 2	Macraes Mining	Conical or Horizontal Surface Boundaries	Coastal Protection
<b>RR</b> Rural Residential	<b>B3</b> Business 3	Cement Policy	Approach & Site Surface Guidelines	Private
<b>R1</b> Residential 1	<b>B3a</b> Business 3A	Designation Area or Site	Flight Protection Area	Water
<b>R</b> Residential	<b>B4</b> Business 4	The Oamaru Flight Protection Area is not shown on Maps below 1:50000	Railway	Local
<b>BH</b> Business H	<b>B5</b> Business 5		High Voltage Power Line	Other
<b>B1</b> Business 1	<b>B6</b> Business 6			Water

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# US gliding record falls in New Zealand

A United States gliding speed record has been broken here in Omarama, New Zealand.

Glider pilots Keith Essex and Marju Rossi flying a two-seater ASG 32 broke the US record for speed over a triangle course of 300km, in January.

While it had been “provisionally approved” official confirmation routinely takes some months, Keith said.

The record, previously held by American’s Jim and Jackie Payne, was set in 1998. Keith and Marju set the new bar at 171kph, about 40kph faster than the Paynes.

Omarama Gliding Club member Martin Katschner was the official observer.

Record attempts must be declared prior to the flight and, in this case, also where the turn points were going to be, Keith said.

The pair, with Keith flying and Marju as tactician, made two attempts at the record.

In the end it was the first attempt which proved to be the record breaker.

From the Omarama Saddle they made their way to the Tasman Glacier out to Fairlie and back.

“The weather conditions were difficult.

“We weren’t really optimistic we were going to do it, but we persevered and plugged through it and made it happen made it on our first attempt.

“By the second attempt conditions fell apart so we couldn’t finish,” he said.

While it was Marju’s first record, Keith has a score of unequalled runs under his belt.

The flights require intense focus, he said.

“You can make no mistakes. You’re so focused.

“All it takes is one mistake.”

“You have to think about what’s happening now, in the next 10 seconds, in the next minute, in the next hour.”

While Keith, who hails from Alaska, has been flying since a young age he took to gliding much later. Marju is a third generation glider pilot. Her late father and late grandfather flew gliders in Finland.

And just last month the family tradition continued with daughter Tuulianna at age 14 becoming the fourth generation of solo glider pilots in her family.

Marju said she remembered wondering when Tuulianna was about two years old if she would inherit the love of gliding.

“Tuulianna’s grandfather and great grand father would have been really proud.”

The next goal is the 100km triangle, in fact they have a few more of Jim Payne’s records in their sights, Keith said.



*Read about Tuulianna’s first solo flight in Youth Glide news overleaf.*

*Left: Omarama glider pilots Keith Essex and Marju Rossi celebrate their record breaking flight last month. Photo: supplied*

# Half-breds fetch best prices at sales

Demand saw prices for half-breds top prices for merino lambs and ewes at this year's Omarama sales.

This year's Omarama Fine Wool Lamb sale featured a "bit of a spread" of merino, half bred and terminal sired lambs, PGG Wrightson area livestock manager Mark Yeates said.

It was a "very good" yarding of more than 19,000 lambs which sold to buyers spread from Central Otago to North Canterbury.

Of the merino wethers, the top line went to Tara Hills Station for a draft of 269 at \$120.

The second draft of 504 made \$115

The top price for merino ewe lambs - a line of 213 at \$136 - also went to Tara Hills.

There was "very strong demand" for half-bred lambs, Mr Yeates said.

Longslip Station featured with a draft of 101 wether lambs which made \$199 and its top two draftings of ewe lambs went for \$126 and \$115.

Of the terminal sire lambs Shirlmar Station's top two drafts of Southdown merino cross lambs made \$100 and \$91 Mt Otekaike Station's top two drafts of black face half-breds made \$102 and \$89.

The adult ewe fair, a week later, attracted a yarding of 6,500 and featured a capital stock line of 1200 mixed age ewes from Rugged Ridges Station.

Once again Tara Hills had the top line – a draft of 200 six-year-old ewes sold for \$134.

Lines from Benmore Station and Rostriever Run made \$126.

And a line from Glenbrook Station made \$125.

Last year, top price at the adult ewe fair was \$126 and the top line of half-bred ewe lambs made \$150.



# Soaring on to new adventures

When one door closes sometimes it is a canopy that opens to new opportunities. Omarama glider pilot Milan Kmetovics obtained his Commercial Pilot's Licence (Gliding) about six months ago and launched his own "brand" Kahu Soaring - offering professional gliding lessons, professional photographic keepsakes, and a little home-grown philosophy thrown in. He operates in partnership with the Omarama and the GlideOmarama gliding clubs and now, as a qualified professional gliding instructor, can charge customers directly for services.

Milan took up gliding at the age of 15 in 1999 in his home country, Hungary. He moved to New Zealand six years ago and began as an instructor for Glide Omarama five years ago.

The closure of Glide Omarama had been "very hard" for many and "very sad", he said. But it had been the motivation needed to set up on his own and his first season while relatively quiet had been successful.

He does not operate under the problematic Civil Aviation rule - part 115 - which governs adventure flying but rather under part 149 - 'recreational'.

His focus was on instruction rather than scenic flights and his market was "people with an aviation interest", he said.

"Day long experiences rather than short joy rides - a high end product."

Not only had the season been marked by the absence of international visitors who would otherwise be the mainstay of a business like his but it had also been a "weird season for weather".

But he had enjoyed having more time on his hands to pursue other interests - tramping and photography.

"I am an avid aviation photographer."

While working at Glide Omarama Milan also set up a small aviation photography and fine-art framing business.

Through both gliding and photography he is a passionate advocate for adventure and exploring the "wonders of our planet" right here in Omarama.

As well as introducing powered aircraft pilots to the practicalities and challenges of mountain soaring he wanted to give people the chance to "appreciate the beauty" and give "insight into our surroundings that enhance our spiritual and everyday being", he said.

In comparison with how hard his home country had been hit by Covid-19 New Zealand had been "very lucky" and the outlook here was good, he said.



"The Aussie are just standing by for the moment the borders open.

"It will be good for Omarama. They will bring their families and stay and eat local."

*Milan Kmetovics (right) of Kahu Soaring marks the occasion of his first flight as a commercial glider pilot with his first client. Photo: supplied*

# Enjoying the rough ride to success

That the Omarama Rodeo Club's 2020 event was the success it was had to be a reflection, not only of the hard work of volunteers, but their sheer enthusiasm.

And two of the most driven to see the club win through and stage a successful rodeo, despite the year that was, had to be Marcia Green and Lachie Wettenhall.

Glenburn Station stock manager Marcia joined the club about three years ago only to find herself fast tracked to the secretary role.

She had gone along to a fundraiser – the Mrs Brownz Boys tribute show – realised numbers were short so asked if they might need a hand.

She was invited to the next meeting and ...as the saying goes ...next minute.

At first, she was handed the vice president role. Then there was a “swap around and I was literally roped in” as secretary, Marcia said laughing.

The club did not just rope in a secretary with that nifty move but also managed to land Marcia's partner Lachie, stock manager at Glencairn Station, who joined the committee. “And I do what I'm told,” he said.

This past year all plans have had to navigate several Covid-19 alerts but despite that the club met their aim of pulling together a “sharp” event for Rodeo Day with the event attracting the biggest number of contestants since 2015, Marcia said.

“It just flowed. There was great weather. It was a great event, with everyone on the hill to watch and having the new system really made the day.”

That ‘new system’ is the Matt Parsons timed-event area, named for the local contractor who gave so much to see it built, helped by various volunteers on Sunday working bees, Marcia said.

The bank above the Omarama Rodeo grounds creates a natural amphitheatre and the rebuild and widening the arena at one end helped with the flow and directed the action to centre stage. “It worked better than we thought.”

Organising for Rodeo day – December 28 - means trying to think of everything.

It means skipping the Christmas break with family because Marcia and Lachie are just too busy. And on the day Marcia is harnessed to the office so she is on hand to deal with all those “niggly” matters. “I get to delegate”.

“[But] It just pulls itself together. If we didn't have the members we've got ...the team flows really nicely.”

As well the Omarama club was fortunate in the number of former members who still help out, she said. The club has a broad reach of members, from Duntroon through to Fairlie. The youngest is 17 years-of-age. Last year the club elected Daniel Montgomery, of Duntroon, as its new president to replace the long-serving Jamie Brice who stood down.

The volunteers already have their eyes on the next task.

That will be to replace the “Bird Box” – the judges present perch above the arena.

“It will cost us a little bit of coin.

We'll have to see how this year goes fundraising-wise.” Marcia said.

Next year the club will hold its 35th rodeo.



# One year on, look how far we've come

We're not out of the woods yet, but we are one year further along the path.

With us all hunkered down Covid-19 Level 4 – 'lock down' officially began Thursday, March 26, 2020.

For most we were home safe, but some were stranded far from home.

The lock down did not come as a complete surprise because of preceding events but it was a shock, unprecedented and, yes, scary.

We were living differently to save lives.

The Omarama Gazette's first issue of its Daily Wire publication was introduced a day earlier and continued until the country reached level 2 - the last issue was Friday, May 15.

It was a place where each day we could all share the serious stuff, the stuff we needed to know, and the lighter side of 'life in lock-down' too.

Maybe I'm right in thinking we all would have all imagined it could be 'over' by now. There are times we seem to be space-walking through a kind of limbo, just waiting. At other times we're on that unwanted roller coaster ride.

We're starting to feel a bit battered and bruised from this ride, Dr Ashley.

It's still not easy and we're all a little fragile.

This is the new 'abnormal'.

There's almost a sense of déjà vu as events we thought would surely be all go for March 2021 are cancelled again.

Remember?

We had just squeezed in the Wanaka Show and Wajax 2020 but then we missed Maadi.

But we were blessed.

Omarama turned on one of its stunning autumns.

And what we can 'celebrate' this year this is the foundation we built back then and from which we moved forward at lockdown's end.

We got more exercise.

We had time - for each other, for the things that mattered to us.

We made a point of staying in touch.

We made a point of looking out for each other and helping in all the little ways we could.

We laughed together often, we cried together sometimes.



We 'reset' and resolved to let the things we value take priority.

For some, particularly our business people, it has been predicted that 'now' is the time it will get harder - before we turn that corner to better times.

Know that we have got your back. Omarama is here for you.

On the days the sun does not shine sunflowers turn to each other.

We're going to be okay.

# Farewell to a friend

Many of you know our dear friend Frank Monaghan.

He has come here from his Californian home each summer to fish for as long as we all can remember. He had hoped against hope he would be able to return once again this summer to tease the trout as he has always done, and have a beer or two at the pub. But he was frustrated Covid had put an end to the visit this year.

Early last month he emailed to say he had sad news.

“The doctors say I have terminal cancer and will so I will not be able to visit your beautiful town anymore. I wish to thank you all for the lovely hospitality and the grand times I have had there for the last 20 years. Take care.”

Frank died shortly afterwards.

We will miss you Frank... as always ... we raise our glasses to you and a life well lived, cheers mate!

Below is the first story I wrote about Frank, back in February 2016.

It tells only a little about his visits to Omarama and his life in California.

## **Gone Fishin', Omarama Gazette, February 2016**

For the past 21 years, in the midst of rainy Californian winters, Frank Monaghan (79) counts down the days until he can hang up the 'gone fishin' sign on his Napa home and set off for Omarama to “have a beer at the pub” and give the fish a “bit of a scare”.

His first visit was with friend and fishing guide Matt Minch, of Montana, in 1995, and they were joined by Bob Sharrer, of Alaska.

Bob was as keen about gliding as he was about fishing and would keep an eye on the clouds before making up his mind what he would do on a day – fish or fly. The men would often stay with Adrienne and Nevin Risk, now of Geraldine, and who are still close friends. Arthritis prevents Matt from taking on the annual trek and Bob passed away some years ago.

The Omarama Gazette caught up with Frank enjoying a beer and telling fisherman's tales at the pub. He joked he was told by a former publican that after 10 years he would qualify for the “local” price for beer. He still lives in hope, he said.

The story goes, on one occasion, when Matt and Bob were getting in rounds Frank noticed they were given a 'local' price but when it was his round he was charged another more expensive price. He travels widely including to South America once or twice a year. Once “inoculated” he “got the travel bug”, he said.

These days he arrives in Omarama at New Year and stays nine weeks.

He has been fishing since he was a boy in Philadelphia and later in the San Francisco Bay area and took up fly-fishing in 1980.

The semi-retired marine chemist works with friends throughout the Californian summer to pick and crush grapes and bottle red and white wine.

The wine, under the Château Garnier of Napa label, is given away, especially to those “who let me fish”. Frank's mother's family – the Garniers – were a wine-making family from the Alsace region of France.

His retirement often gets interrupted by calls to work to inspect ships and associated marine industry to identify any health risks, fire or explosion hazards posed by various vapours. There are few left with the knowledge to work in this field, he said.

Fishing the high country waters had changed over the years. In the early years, he would not see a “no trespassing” sign, now “every place you see them”.

Didymo was present and “gunked up the lines”. His favourite fishing spot was near Ben Avon. This too might change with the building of the lodge. Overall he did not see as many fish these days.

“I don't think the dairy farms are doing the fishing any good,” Frank said.

# The Noticeboard



To have your community notice included here email: [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

**Our congratulations to Jessica Gallagher and Daniel Bottle on the occasion of their marriage.**

**Upper Waitaki Returned and Services Assoc 2021 Annual meeting**, 2pm Saturday, March 20 at the back bar of the Kurow Hotel. Karen Hofman 027 208 2669, Bill Wallace 03 436 0463

**Kurow Medical Centre \* NOTE CHANGE OF DAY \*** Omarama Clinic at the Omarama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 5pm. 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](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

**St Thomas' Omarama Church Community:** Services and communion are held on a regular basis, usually monthly at 10.30am on the Friday of the second weekend of the month at the home of a parishioner. Contact: Kay Verheul 03 438 9538.

**The Omarama Community Library** is open 9am to 10am Wednesdays and Saturdays, Library hours can change. Contact Yvonne: 027 476 7473.

**The Omarama Golf Club** Saturdays, cards in 12.30pm, tee-off 1pm. Club captain James Moynihan phone: 027 215 8266; email [jwmoynihn@2yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jwmoynihn@2yahoo.co.nz). [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz)

**Omarama Playgroup** meets at 9.30am each Wednesday during the primary school term at the Omarama Community Centre. For more information phone president Tarryn Benton 027 201 7065 or secretary Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536 [aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)

**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.

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

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

**Plunket Line:** 0800 933 922

**Omarama Plunket Committee:** Aimee Snelgrove 022 350 5536

**Car Seat Rentals:** Christine, phone: 03 435 0557 or 027 208 0362

**Breastfeeding Works:** Claire Hargest-Slade 03 684 3625, 021 493 863  
clairhs@me.com

**In case of emergency:** to prevent any confusion about the location of Lake Ohau Alpine Village in an emergency, the following points should be noted:  
When phoning 111, advise that Lake Ohau is in South Island and the nearest cross road is State Highway 8 and Lake Ohau Road. Also mention that Lake Ohau Alpine Village is on the shore of Lake Ohau, and is 20 mins (40 km) from both Twizel and Omarama. This will assist the operator to find the required information to enter location in the system and allowing the call to progress to the next screen in the system.

**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](http://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](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com) and put 'Local List' in the subject line.**

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

**The April issue of the  
Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, April 7, 2021.**

Please submit copy  
by Friday, April 2, 2021

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# The Community Reports

## Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade



Here we are March 2021. Twelve months ago we were hearing a lot about Corona-virus (Covid 19). Not long then and we were in lockdown. For some it was extremely tough, for others it was a time to reflect on what life used to be like. A slower pace of life, foraging for ingredients for pickles, preserves etc. purchasing ridiculous amounts of toilet paper, flour, yeast and D.I.Y. requirements. I wonder if it has all been used ?

Well, it is now time to take all the same cautions we were taking 12 months ago or we could end up back in that situation.

I was heading off to Wellington next weekend to [judge] a Fire Brigade Challenge which is now cancelled due to the fact we have moved into Level 2.

On a more positive note we had some of our team taking part in the Southern Challenge [Combat Challenge] in Cromwell, on Saturday. This event is often called the toughest two minutes in sport. Wearing full fire-fighting gear including breathing apparatus they do a number of tasks including climbing three flights of stairs and finish by dragging an 82kg mannequin 30m to the finish line. Well done Jacob Cook, 9th in the men's Open, Jack Zorab, 13th men's Open and let's not forget Charlotte Derosa who climbed to heights she has never done before, three stories high, not the usual three steps up a ladder, and helped the two lads in the relay.

Two of the brigades new recruits are currently away at the S.I. training centre in Christchurch doing their recruits' course, which will be a huge boost for the Brigade. Well done Tania Innes and Jessie Chapman. We look forward to you both riding the truck as fully qualified firefighters.

Remember we are still in a restricted fire season - check the website [checkitsalright.nz/](http://checkitsalright.nz/) before lighting.

*Stay Safe, Chief Fire Officer Greg Harper*



**FENZ Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade meets 7pm each Wednesday and has its meeting at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month.**

*Left Omarama volunteer fire fighters Jacob Cook, Charlotte Derosa and Jack Zorab compete at the Southern Challenge (fire fighters combat challenge) in Cromwell, on Saturday. Photo: supplied.*

# Omarama Community Library



**We are Open**

**The Omarama Community Library  
is open 9am to 10am,  
Wednesdays and Saturdays  
at the  
Omarama Community Centre  
[omaramalibrary@gmail.com](mailto:omaramalibrary@gmail.com)**

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## St Thomas's Church Community

### Thanks to Kay Verheul

The St Thomas Church Management Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution Kay has made since the Church ceased to operate out of the Church Building.

Kay was the person from our Community who took on the official role of Treasurer, but unofficially Kay also organised the Church Services and supported the Minister taking those services now held in the Community Hall. Kay also organised and oversaw the removal and storage of all the Church furniture as well as keeping an eye on the Church building and employing people to carry out maintenance work as needed. Kay helped first Tourism Waitaki and then Trail Adventures settle into the building, sorting keys and cleaning issues.

In amongst these obvious deeds I believe she has carried the Church in her heart and hoped for a future brighter than the one we face at present. We as a committee are very grateful for Kay's contribution and we will miss her input at our committee meetings.

Thank you to Kay on behalf of our Committee and our Community.

*Jan Thomas  
Chairperson*

Contacts:

Chairperson

Jan Thomas

Committee secretary (Presbyterian)

Lee Kearon, phone: 021 250 1060

or email: [lee.kearon@gmail.com](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com)

Anglican representative Ven Dr Michael Godfrey,  
phone 022 342 9977



# Boots & Jandals Hotel Social Club

## Spud in a bucket 2021

'HOT POTATO' LOVE IN THE KITCHEN!

There were limited entries in this year's Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama Social club's Spud in a Bucket competition – but enough to get things hotting up in the kitchen.

Of what there were, reportedly it was a quality harvest, a spokesperson said. Well, except for Rosco's, and then again there were Colin's – or actually not, according to reports.

About 25 entries were presented for judging in the annual competition, adjudicator Philip Jannick said. [It was Sunday, February 14, 2020, at 2pm not 4pm RUTH!]

He was ably assisted by event stewards Laurie Ruddenklau and Ross (Rosco) Kelman, with Patrick. When asked if they were any help whatsoever – Philip declined to comment. "No comment from the bench," he said.

This year's title was another first - a joint win by a couple of hot potatoes themselves ...Omarama's only chief and chiefette, drum roll, please... Greg and Adrienne Harper. It was Valentine's Day after all! Rumour has it they spent the entire time of lockdown in their caravan in the backyard going over and over and over and over plans and tactics and strategies, and reviewing movies of inspirational competitors - like Burt Munro - to ensure they would wrest the trophy back for New Zealand. If you remember it was Aussie-born Jill Crawford-Ferguson - their neighbour - who won Spud in the Bucket 2020.

The Harper's preparation and practice paid off, for not only did they take out the title, but they also won the prize for best looking potatoes. [You thought I was going to say couple didn't you, mmm.]

In a romantic move fitting for the day, Greg took a break from the bar to go check on Adrienne, who was busy peeling the spuds for dinner, to see if he could get her a drink. Aaaw, 'ain't that just love for ya?!

In the children's competition, Kobie Sole retained his position in top rankings, once again taking out the title. Well done, lad!

In other entries of note –

Despite big promises and the size of the bucket, surprisingly (?) on the day Rosco failed to perform.

Disappointingly, a former title holder, Colin Herd, who was 2019's champ, came – are we allowed to say it? LAST! He grew zero, zip, nada, no potatoes, none whatsoever!!

Disappointing, Colin!

Oh well, there's always next year.

The potatoes and buckets were supplied to contestants – members of Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama Social Club at the end of last year.

Social Club members were treated to a barbeque tea with buckets of new spuds on the side.

*Photos: Supplied*

**Social Club Trip**  
**to Mount Cook National Park**

**Sunday, April 11, 2021**

Tour package includes a basic lunch,  
return transport from Omarama  
to Glentanner  
and a twenty minute scenic flight with  
the Helicopter Line including  
a snow landing

If you are interested in attending,  
the tour package  
must be booked and paid for by  
March 31, 2021.

For further details, costs involved,  
bookings etc  
**please contact Philip Jannink**  
**027 410 6524**



*Photos: (clockwise from top) Kobie Sole was the winner of the children's section, Adrienne and Greg Harpers also won the best b looking spuds; Colin Herd is congratulated for growing no spuds!*





### *Kia Ora Omarama Community,*

What a busy start of term we have had with a number of new enrolments and smiling faces. We welcomed Georgina Morgan, Ashlee Golder, and Mazie Paton and families to the junior room and Harlen Poshvay and his whanau to the senior room.



Across the school, all the children have been developing their swimming abilities in preparation for the upper Waitaki swimming sports to be held later in the term and we have been investigating where we come from, including our ancestry. We have had some amazing family treasures shared with us and look forward to seeing more of them as we journey through this inquiry.

In Huxley and Ahuriri a few weeks ago we were given two swan plants with four monarch caterpillars on each from Ashlee Golder's family. Over last week we watched as the caterpillars formed chrysalises and then over the weekend and today they have all hatched out as beautiful monarch butterflies and as the day was so warm today they have all flown. It was amazing to watch them come out and slowly open their wings.

Class Huxley has done some research noting the differences between butterflies and moths. We have also looked at the life cycle of butterflies. It was amazing to look at butterflies congregating on trees in Mexico and to find out that there are places in the North Island that Monarchs fly to.

The Year 7 and 8 students have been attending Twizel School for Technology. This term the students have been developing their ability in cooking and they have cooked some tasty cheese scones and fruit muffins. They have been learning kitchen safety practices, how to rub in butter and other related terminology including reading measurement symbols and degrees and how to use different cooking equipment. Most importantly of all they are having fun!

While the seniors were away at Food Technology, the Year 5 and 6 students attended the ewe sale to observe an auction in action and make links to events that have historical significance to our area.

Below are some recounts written of their time at the ewe sales and photos taken by the Clay Cliffs class.

*Ewe sale by Maggie Radford.*

Thursday 25th February

I'm in my mum's car and I'm so excited for the new sale. I get out and see so many people you can hardly even see the ewes. As I get out of the car I hear so much yelling I can hardly even hear myself think, I start to look around.

In my group we were told to pick a pen of ewes that we would like to buy. I wanted to buy my Dad's ewes, personally. I didn't know why he was selling them. Then we got to go on a stock truck. The design was very clever. Then we got to talk to one of the people that sold some of the sheep and we sold Wilfred, he sold for \$11,000. Then we went to the Hall and we got ice blocks. I was surprised how cold it was.

*Ewe sale by Saedy Zeestraten.*

Thursday 25th February

First we got a ride to the ewe sale. Then we saw some sheep being auctioned and the auctioneer talked really fast. We walked around for about 35 minutes and we saw lots of sheep. After that we got to go in the stock truck and honk the horn, then we got to see in the back of the stock truck, they use two layers for cows and four layers for sheep. Then we asked Madison (one of the auctioneers) some questions, we asked him to auction Wilfred he was talking so fast. After the ewe sale we went down to the park and had ice blocks and chips.

*Ewe Sale by Robbie Anderson.*

Thursday 25th February

On Thursday the year 5 and 6 went to the Omarama ewe sale. First when we got there we watched some of the pens getting sold, then we went to go and look at the other ewe pens. After we watched the ewes we got to go in one of the stock trucks. It was really cool looking in it. After we looked in the truck we got to take turns going in the front cab of the truck and honk the horn. Then we went outside and asked Maddison Taylor, one of the auctioneers some questions and had a mini auction and Jacob brought Wilfred for \$11,000 dollars. After that we went to the Omarama Hall. At the Hall we got an ice block each and shared a couple of packets of chips. Then back to school and played Kahoot (a quiz game). It was really interesting at the ewe sale and I had heaps of fun.

It has been nice stepping in as acting principal for the last five weeks but I am looking forward to dedicating my full attention back to my friends in Room Ahuriri. The staff and I would like to welcome Michelle Green who starts next week as our Principal to Omarama and the Omarama School community.

*Keep smiling,  
Acting Principal  
Kim McKenzie*



# Here's something to make a 'racquet' about

Tennis lessons designed with little people in mind have begun at the Omarama Sports Courts thanks to a national starter tennis programme for New Zealand children.

Omarama adult players Becky Martin and Jackson Kerr have been trained as coaches in the programme run under the umbrella of North Otago Tennis. They, together with fellow player Ollie Mason, have begun regular coaching sessions for 22 local children, aged five to 12, each Wednesday after school at the courts.

The Tennis Hot Shots programme uses 'smaller' courts, shorter racquets and softer balls to help children play a proper game of tennis from the moment they step on court.

Using the modified equipment means young players develop the technical, tactical, physical and mental skills without being put off by huge courts, heavy racquets and balls that bounce too high.



*Photos: supplied*



# Ahuriri Catchment Community Group

The Essential Freshwater policy talk  
with Lauren Phillips of Beef + Lamb New Zealand  
at the Wrinkly Rams

**is now 3pm Wednesday, March 31**

This is an event for everyone in the community  
who wishes to learn more about how it may affect them.

Contacts:

Chairperson: Trent Spittle

Vice-chairperson: Michael Doree

Secretary/Treasurer: Tania Innes

Facilitator: Stevie Young

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## Omarama Playgroup

Last month, the Omarama Playgroup held its annual meeting and there have been several changes to the make up of the committee.

Andrea Aubrey stepped down as president after two years in the role.

She will take on the role of treasurer which has been vacated by Jemma Gloag after six-and-a-half years.

Tarryn Benton has been elected president.

Aimee Snelgrove takes over the secretarial role from Tarryn Benton and will also be the Plunket contact now Petrina Paton has left the role.

The committee members are; Andrea Aubrey, Zoe White, Jemma Gloag, Tarryn Benton, Jessica Sloan, Beky Nilson, Michaela Duffell and Ashleigh Roebuck.

### Contact

**President Tarryn Benton**

**027 201 7065**

**Secretary Aimee Snelgrove**

**022 350 5536**

**email: [aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com](mailto:aimeesnelgrove@hotmail.com)**



# Youth Glide

## GREAT WORK, TUULIANNA!

As far as mother and daughter moments go, this one must be pretty unique. Being drenched with water - two bucketful's no less – marked the moment Tuulianna Laukkanen (14) became the fourth generation in her family to take to the sky and fly a glider solo.

After several months of lessons and hard work, and some final words from Omarama Gliding Club instructor Gavin Wrigley, Tuulianna was towed into the skies and released to take the controls of the GI03. She made what was deemed to be the “perfect” flight and textbook landing by those supporters gathered to watch the teenage pilot's first real test and a ‘rite of passage’ for all glider pilots.

Her staunchest supporter, mother Marju Rossi, also a glider pilot, said despite her experience, still, her heart was in her mouth as she watched her daughter leave the ground.



# Omarama Collie Dog Club

Omarama Collie Dog Club trials  
March 7 and 8, 2021  
commencing at 7am

Morning Tea, Lunch and BBQ Dinner Available  
Licensed Cash Bar

There will be a race from the Dog Trial Building up the Zig Zag Course and back down, taking place at 12.30pm on Sunday with \$250 up for grabs thanks to the Omarama Hot Tubs.

Look forward to seeing you there!  
2180 Omarama/Tarras Rd  
Dalrachney Station

**Secretary: Carla Hunter 03 976 0504**  
**Email: [smithyc66@gmail.com](mailto:smithyc66@gmail.com)**  
Entries close 10am on the second day



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## The Waitaki Newcomers Network

Contact: Christine Dorsey  
027 242 8643.  
[waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz)  
Abacus House,  
102 Thames Street,  
Oamaru  
03 434 7544.

**[www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz)**

# Kurow Medical Centre

8 Wynyard St, Kurow  
P: 03 4360760 F: 03 4360780

E: [info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](mailto:info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

W: [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz)

[www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre](http://www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre)

**Providing 24/7 health care and support to  
the people of the Upper Waitaki and Mackenzie**

**Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinic  
in Twizel Mackenzie Health Centre and  
Outreach Clinic at Omarama Community Hall**

**are proud to offer our registered and casual patients the following services:**

- \* Ultrasound performed by a qualified clinician (great for minor fractures, gall stones, kidney stones, heart and lung problems, foreign bodies, blood clots, detecting early pregnancy and much more!)
- \* Minor surgery \* Vasectomies
- \* Mole checks 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 \$41.00  
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)

## **Open**

Kurow: Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm. Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 5pm.

Twizel: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8.30am 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.*



# 10km Fun Run or Walk

**Sunday 21st March 2021**

**Runners - 10.00am      Walkers - 10.15am**

\$25 adult, \$10 child, \$50 family 2 adults and 3 children

Email Stacey at - [sdtipa@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sdtipa@xtra.co.nz) for an entry form

**Fundraiser for Otematata Volunteer Fire Brigade**

 *for community*

**GRANTS & AWARDS**

WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Apply for the SPORT NEW ZEALAND RURAL TRAVEL FUND

Grants to help subsidise rural travel to local sport competitions for junior sports teams aged between 5-19 years.

**APPLICATIONS OPEN  
15 MARCH 2021**

Applications close 16 April 2021

Could some extra funds make it easier for your kids' team to get to competitions around the Waitaki district?

More information, including application forms, can be found at [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz), Council offices and at Waitaki District Libraries.

[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)





# OMARAMA GOLF CLUB

## EASTER TOURNAMENT

### ALL WELCOME

**Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2021**

**Numbers strictly limited to 64 per session – First in first Serve**

**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: \$40.00 - Two's \$2.00

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

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

Christine Bowman (Secretary) email [secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz) or Txt/Phone  
James Moynihan (Club Captain) 0272158266

Entries to be received by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

**PLEASE NOTE: NO Eftpos available**

# Omarama Residents' Association

## From the February meeting

By Yvonne Jones

There were 12 people present

**Waitaki District Libraries manager** Philip Van Zijl paid another visit to measure up for library shelving. The shelving and library should be completed in the next two weeks.

**The insurance for the Hall** is with FMG and the playgroup also have their own insurance. It could be a better option for all concerned to look at combining both policies and getting other quotes from insurance companies.

**Interest rates at the moment** are so low it was suggested that we pay off the Hall loan with the Waitaki District Council. We could be paying more in interest than we would get on a term deposit. More information is to be sought from the council and if interest is being accrued on this loan the committee has agreed to pay it off.

**Hall curator Michelle Kitchen** presented her report to the committee. Health and Safety issues were discussed for hirers of the Hall. Michelle had sourced a health and safety policy used by another community for the hall hire which with a few changes and additions we could perhaps use. A copy of this will be emailed to committee members. A template of a contract for hall users was also tabled. An appendix to the terms and conditions was agreed and accepted. Noise and alcohol issues were discussed. Cr Ross McRobie offered to look into the by-laws for noise. Hall users will have to acquire a alcohol licence if required. A notice will also be placed on the door advising - "No alcohol past this point". Electrical appliances have been tagged and tested. The maximum number for the hall capacity is 254.

**Council roading manager Michael Harrison** will be present at the Ahuriri Community Board meeting, March 8 (see notice over). All members are urged to be present and a notice is to be put out via the Omarama Gazette. Ahuriri community Board chairperson Vicky Munro hopes to be able to arrange a meeting with committee members prior to the Board meeting.

**Vicky also told the committee** measures had been taken to remedy the situation regarding the smelly, unemptied skip beside the public toilets. It is now clean and locked. Due to low tourist numbers at the moment the three rubbish bins in the area may be sufficient in the meantime. The committee pointed out that it took a considerable amount of time to get the skip placed by the toilets and was concerned that if it is taken away it will be difficult to get it back when tourism restarts. The skip was only being emptied when requested. Vicky will check out the cost for emptying on a regular basis and report back to the committee. The two big belly bins by the Campervan Dump Station are emptied on a regular basis but are costing \$1,000 each per month.

**Friend of the School representative** Emma Moore was to have spoken to the meeting but was unable to attend. Cr McRobie and committee member Hank Verheul spoke on her behalf to advocate for the library to be moved to the St Thomas Church building. It was explained that it was not the committee which had made the decision. The Waitaki District Libraries was offered the choice of buildings and had chosen to remain at the Community Hall.

**Now that funding is available for the History Wall**, Ann Patterson will contact a small group to help with contributions relating to the history of the area. It will also be publicised through the Omarama Gazette and people invited to contribute. Final decisions will be made at the April meeting.

**Buying outdoor exercise equipment** has previously been discussed and it was decided to apply for grants to fund this equipment as it was felt it would be of value to the community and also visitors to the area.

**No funds had been received from the council** at the time of the meeting for our previously successful applications - History Wall, Spider Swing, Hockey Goals, Community Hall Block Wall/Gate. The Community Hall block wall/gate will be discussed at the March meeting as we had to resubmit another quote.

The next meeting of the Omarama Residents' Association  
**is 7.30pm March, March 18, 2021**

at the Omarama Community Centre

An invitation is extended to all

Contacts: Tony Chapman, chairperson, 027 242 8605.  
Yvonne Jones, secretary, 027 476 7473.

**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, Omarama 9448.**

**The association's email address is [omarama.committee@gmail.com](mailto:omarama.committee@gmail.com)**

**OMARAMA 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 54446 or email [hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz)



**The Otematata Chronicle**

is published on the third Wednesday of each month.

**The next issue is Wednesday, March 17, 2021**

**The close-off for this is Friday, March 12, 2020**

The Chronicle is emailed to subscribers.

If you would like to subscribe please:

email [otematatachronicle@gmail.com](mailto:otematatachronicle@gmail.com) or phone 021 294 8002





# TWIZEL MEDICAL CENTRE

Community Owned, Community Focussed,  
Community Operated

Twizel Medical Centre is your local Ministry of Health funded, enrolling practice. Contracted by SCDHB for General Practice, District Nursing and 24/7 Urgent Care, contracted by St John for PRIME (Primary Emergency Response) Services across the greater MacKenzie area.

**Hours:** Monday to Friday 08:30 - 5:00 pm with extended hours over the summer months  
**Urgent and emergency care 24/7**

**Our Team:** NP Gemma, GPs Drs Peter and George, Admin/Receptionists Donna, Jacqui, Annie and Sue, Nurses Paula, Ann, Zoe, Holly and District Nurses Libby and Jess are passionate about our community accessing a high quality service.

**Twizel Medical Centre has charitable status so any surpluses are reinvested to ensure our community has access to sustainable general and urgent care services.**

**15 MacKenzie Drive, Phone: (03) 4350777**

# 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



## Notary Public Services Affidavits and Declarations

David Stone, Lake Ohau

03 438 9653, 027 490 9118, [david@stone.org.nz](mailto:david@stone.org.nz)



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 Community Reports' is  
dedicated to news  
from clubs, groups and sports teams.  
Contributions are welcome.  
omaramagazette@gmail.com**

**OTEMATATA VS ASHLEY + AFTER MATCH  
SATURDAY 27 MARCH OTEMATATA DOMAIN**



**OTEMATATA  
RUGBY MATCH  
& FUNDRAISER**

**SATURDAY 27 MARCH  
OTEMATATA DOMAIN  
FROM 1PM**

**TOUCH GAMES PRIOR WITH  
FOOD, BAR &  
ENTERTAINMENT  
BOUNCY CASTLE  
FOR KIDS**



**ALL PROCEEDS GO  
TOWARDS THE  
INSTALLATION OF  
LIGHTS FOR THE FEILD  
AND NEW CLUB  
EQUIPMENT**

**1ST GAME ON THE  
OTEMATATA DOMAIN IN  
25 YEARS WITH KUROW  
WEARING THE UPPER  
WAITAKI RUGBY STRIPES**

**AFTER MATCH FUNCTION FROM \$70 PP  
WWW.BESTDAMPUB.CO.NZ/RUGBY  
OR CALL 027 5255505**

**AFTER MATCH  
GUEST SPEAKER  
GARY MCCORMICK**

**TWO COURSE BUFFET  
DINNER WITH CASH BAR**

**AUCTION OF OTEMATATA  
RUGBY SHIRTS & OTHER  
AWESOME ITEMS WITH  
BAND SUBURBAN SONS  
PLAYING AFTER**



The next meeting of ECan's  
Upper Waitaki Water Zone Committee meeting  
is Friday, March 19, 2021

Venue to be confirmed

Minutes and agendas are posted at:  
<https://ecan.govt.nz/your-region/your-environment/water/whats-happening-in-my-water-zone/upper-waitaki-water-zone/>

**[www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz)**

# Waitaki District Council

**Waitaki District Council's Economic Development team**, in collaboration with the Waitaki Tourism Association, Tourism Waitaki and the Oamaru Business Collective are inviting businesses in Waitaki who are involved in tourism-related activity to take a mid-season temperature check by completing a survey that will help everyone better understand how businesses are doing in the district and how the Economic Development team can assist them.

**Emergency Management Otago** is encouraging residents across the region to sign up to Gets Ready, a proven two-way communication tool which helps people better prepare for emergencies and be more informed, co-ordinated and resilient when they occur.

**The council is looking at ways to address** the future effects of production and carbon forestry plantings through its District Plan which is under review. It would like to hear about what people think.

**Pottery on Tyne is marking 50 years** of the North Otago potters group with an exhibition at the Forrester Gallery, Oamaru. The exhibition opened February 20 and continues until April 4.

**Waitaki has recently been reaccredited as a 'Safe Community'**, part of a New Zealand-wide network that supports wellbeing, placemaking, resilience and community safety initiatives.

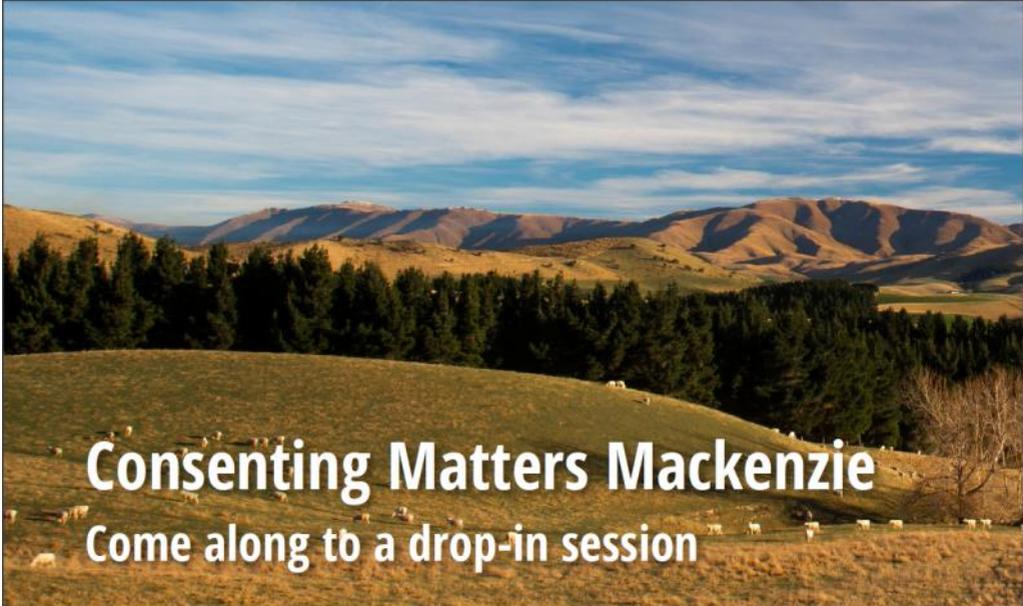
**Tourism Waitaki** has released a 'Perfect Waitaki Summer' playlist put together with selections from the Waitaki community, local businesses, and Kiwi musicians including Stan Walker, Anna Coddington, Delaney Davidson, Mel Parsons and others.

**If you're a business or organisation** that experienced a revenue drop of at least 30% due to the recent rise in COVID-19 alert levels, you may be eligible for a Resurgence Support Payment. It's not a loan and doesn't need to be paid back. You can find out more here: <https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/financial-support-for-businesses>

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Phone: 03 433 0300  
Automated options after hours  
E-mail: [service@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:service@waitaki.govt.nz)

**[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)**



# Consenting Matters Mackenzie

## Come along to a drop-in session

Do you have questions about the consenting process in the Mackenzie Basin area?

- What activities require a consent or other permission?
- Which government agency or council should I talk to?
- What information do I need to apply for a consent?

Come along to an informal drop-in event in Twizel, where people from the relevant agencies will be in one place to talk to you. Get advice from Mackenzie District Council, Waitaki District Council, Department of Conservation, Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and Environment Canterbury.

### Consenting Matters Mackenzie

Friday 19 March, 10.00am to 3.00pm

Heartlands Resource Centre, Mount Cook Street, Twizel

You don't need to RSVP, just come along with your questions.  
Refreshments provided.



# Ahuriri Community Board

Waitaki District Council  
roading manager  
Michael Harrison  
will be

at the Ahuriri Community Board  
meeting, in Omarama, March 8.  
*(See below)*

Residents are urged to come  
along and hear what may be  
planned to remedy  
the town centre traffic issues.

The next Ahuriri Community Board meeting  
is **3.15pm Monday, March 8, 2021**  
at the **Otematata Community Centre**

Minutes and agendas can be found here

<http://www.waitaki.govt.nz/our-council/council-meetings/agendas-and-minutes/Pages/default.aspx>

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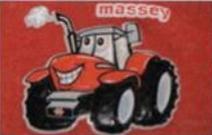
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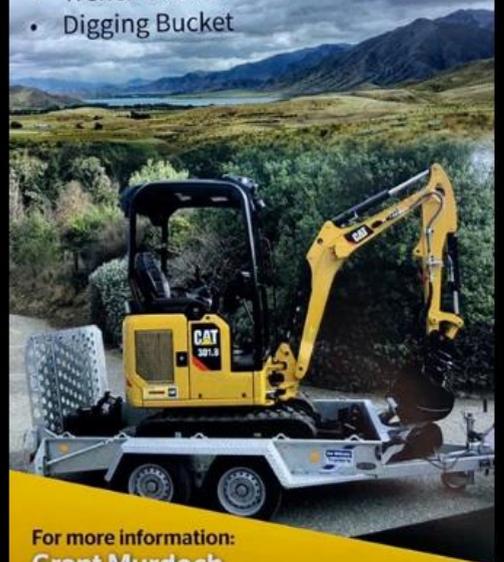
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# The View from the Chook House



*"Remember when we were all told the sky was falling?  
Turns out, looking back, it was only an acorn."*

---

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

**February 2021**

**Highest temperature: February 20, 31.8C**

**Lowest temperature: February 17 0.9C**

**Most rainfall: February 10, 3.6 mm**

**Total rainfall for February: 8.6mm**

# The Garden Diary - The Centre of the Universe

It's not often the magnolia grandiflora gets to flower and flower well in this garden. But if the blooms are not turned mushy brown by a sniper frost or a rogue downpour or the scorching breath of a nor'wester then the occasion is awe-inspiring.

Grandiflora – sometimes called the 'Bull Bay' because of its large tough and leathery evergreen leaves – will not be rushed.

Out of the great rosette of bronze-backed leaves the tapering tightly-closed bud reaches for the sky.

A light, pale citrusy scent floats silk-like in humid air signalling the change from bud to bloom.

Ever so gradually the creamy, waxy and overlapping petals unlock and open to reveal its intricate centrepiece.

The botanical terms are totally inadequate and, if I was a bee, you had me at 'scent'. I swear this total extravagance must have been the inspiration for an intricate piece by Faberge.

If not, it should have been.

For me, looking down into the deep bowl of petals brings on the same awestruck feeling as when, gazing up into the night sky, I'm drawn into the infinite depths of the Milky Way.

Lost in the wonder of it all I feel, oh, so small.

It's not the only flower's bud which unlocks to reveal interior decorating like nothing you've seen.

Some plants don't bother much – why would you if you can get the job done with even half the effort and fuss.

But I have single peonies which do the same, opening to an all plush grey velvet, lipstick pink and gold boudoir.

There are a couple of hellebores which go all out, too, in cold mid-winter when there can be hardly any pollinators still awake to notice. But to me their scent is hardly alluring. It's more of a warning. Every bit of me is toxic, it declares.

Fingers' crossed winter is still a way off.

But the calendar has clicked over into autumn and signs are building.

It's chill in the mornings.

Te Taumata o Patuki draws his cloak of mists around his shoulders, and the dew falls heavily.

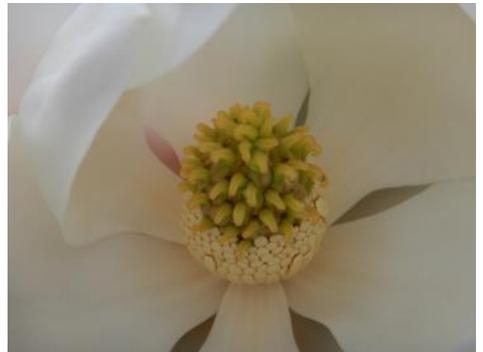
The first thistledown fairy has floated into the garden and settled, wispy, in a spider's web, silk on silk.

The Japanese windflowers (anemones) lift their exquisite heads in the back of the borders.

While a rose's summer flowering is welcome and frivolous, the autumn flowerings are bountiful, the colours and perfume mature and richer somehow. It is harvest.

Dainty Bess with her single china pink petals and red and gold stamens glows prettily under the Cornus – Dogwood which is just tinting with colour.

- Ruth Grundy  
(I garden a small space under a big sky in Omarama)



# The Last Page is Classifieds

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