



Ōmārama Gazette

November 2024

Let's make this happen!

The Residents' Association of Ōmārama will hold a public meeting this month to call for interest to set up a group to initiate and manage the re-formation of the Ōmārama sports fields.

The former sports field is on Waitaki District Council recreation reserve adjacent to and to the north of the Ōmārama Memorial Hall and Sports courts.

In its 2025-2034 Long Term Plan Preliminary Decisions report - as published in agenda papers for its October 29 meeting - the council has said it will drop its plans to build a \$400,000 loan-and-ratepayer- funded adventure park on the land, after 21 submissions against the proposal were logged at its annual plan hearings earlier this year.

As well, in a list of initiatives that it proposed should be included for LTP consultation, council staff have recommended a business case be drawn up for a sports pitch before it is approved. There is no date set for this.

In the LTP \$350K from rates may possibly be made available for the sports pitch project in 2030/31, with \$30,000 allocated from rates to it in following years.



First steps - Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King puts in the volunteer hours to mow the former Ōmārama sports field.

Let's make this happen! continued

The LTP is the Waitaki District Council's budget for the next nine years.

The RAOI-led meeting later this month about the sports field redevelopment will potentially discuss ways to fundraise and to use volunteer-power to achieve this sooner, possibly through a staged process, and will call on expertise from within the community to form the project group to make it happen.

The meeting to discuss the re-formation of the Omarama sports field will be 11am Saturday, November 30, at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall.

All are welcome

Playground seating completed with help of volunteers

RAOI Building and Projects team convenor Hank Verheul said, on behalf of the playground shelter project team - which was himself, Michelle Kitchen and Maurice Cowie, together with Malcom Cameron, on behalf of MenzShed Ōmārama - would like to thank the following for their donation of time and materials towards the completion of the project:

- Andrew Burns of Wanaka Landscapes for donating time and creating the design.
- Dave Ellis – Ellislea Farms - for donated materials.

Local contractors Buildmoore and T&J Golder were selected by the council to build the design adjacent to sports courts and the new town mural created by Wicksey – Matthew Wicks. Both of those projects were paid for with funds raised by the RAOI. Apex Engineering, of Oamaru, designed and built the shelters and picnic tables. The project received funding of \$55,000 from the Government's Three Waters Better Off Funding grant.

This information was omitted from the Waitaki District Council media release about the project.



Please RSVP for catering purposes

In Recognition

The Royal Humane Society of New Zealand Inc



Royal Humane Society of New Zealand
Bronze Medals
are to be presented to,

Craig Ovenden
Mark Paulson
Senior Constable Nayland Smith

to acknowledge each of their
exceptional acts of bravery at the
October 2020 Ohau Fire.

The presentation by
Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher
will take place at
2pm Saturday, November 23,
at the
Omarama Memorial Hall.

The communities of Lake Ohau Alpine Village,
Omarama,
and the surrounding district
are invited to
witness the occasion.

Please RSVP to Maurice Cowie, 027 424 9987
or email thevillagecollie@gmail.com
for catering purposes.

"Transparency", "accountability" called for

There was a call for a return to greater transparency and accountability at this year's Residents' Association of Omarama's annual meeting after what was said to have been a "frustratingly under-productive" year.

There were 13 people at the meeting last month which was at the Omarama Community Centre which the association administers.

Chairperson Lindsay Purvis gave his report which highlighted the work of the MenzShed, the completion of the mural adjacent to the tennis courts – a project initiated by Ann Patterson, the completion of the basketball half court and the picnic shelters.

Looking to the future, the association had committed monies [\$10,000] as seed funding towards resurfacing of the carpark area after residents pointed out it did not allow for easy accessibility to the buildings, he said.

Planning was also underway to establish an irrigation system for the playground.

In another move during the year the RAOI had taken possession of the furniture from the former St Thomas' Church. It was awaiting the decision of the Synod of Otago as to what portion of the proceeds of the sale would be returned to the community, he said.

He thanked the treasurer, secretary, hall curator and committee for their year's work.

Lindsay has stepped down as chairperson as is required by the RAOI constitution after the completion of three terms – three years' service – in the role. He nominated Michelle Kitchen as chairperson which was agreed to unanimously.

Michelle thanked Lindsay for his work.

Treasurer Stephen Grundy presented the annual financial report highlighting income received from hall hires, donations and grants.

He noted the completion of the basketball half court from funds raised which was then handed by the RAOI to the Waitaki District Council to be included as its asset. He also noted monies being held in the accounts for projects which were underway.

In her report hall curator Michelle Kitchen said the hall was used on a regular basis and often hired out at no cost for community use. The facilities often drew praise from users, she said.

In his report of the building and projects subcommittee Hank Verheul said it had been an "extremely busy yet frustratingly under-productive year".

Three significant projects had been completed with the help of MenzShed Ōmārama and from the Association's own fundraising efforts -the basketball half court project, the stone base at foot of the war memorial soldier, and a compacted smooth hard surface had been placed by Menzshed adjacent to the hall front door ramp as a temporary fix to improve accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers.

Hank praised the seating and landscaping project which was undertaken with funding from the Government's better-off funds administered by the Waitaki District Council " - a great facility which really does smarten up the streetscape," he said.

However, it had been "especially disheartening to feel that the hard work of volunteers and committee members isn't being properly recognized, while paid contractors outside of our community are being singled out for praise", referring to the recent council media release about the project. (See follow-up below.)

"An incredible amount of time and effort has been spent working with the WDC and the Better-off funding team following the initial promise of the RAOI receiving approx.

\$225,000 to spend towards initiatives to make improvements within our community. "To date we have spent approx. \$55,000 of this for the seating area, but [there is] no further prospect of receiving the balance.

"Our volunteers sought the wishes of the community [through the survey conducted by Ahuriri Community Board member Mike King], gained majority support and submitted our prioritised plan to WDC Parks and Recreation and the Better-off Funding teams."

The feeling was the council had proceeded to "undermine" the group's plan in favour of its own agenda, he said.

"It has become apparent the agenda of the WDC doesn't align with what the community wants.

Hank said the stated priorities were:

- 1 Landscaping and seating adjacent to tennis court.
- 2 Removing trees between playground and reserve ground.
- 3 Installing irrigation and a water bore in playground area and onto reserve ground for a football sports ground.
- 4 Tidying and regressing the playground surface areas affected by the installation of the basketball court, tree removal and irrigation.

"Our building/projects team has invested a lot of time and effort only to be undermined by decisions made behind closed doors and the apparent agenda of the WDC that doesn't align with what the community wants.

"We are concerned about the lack of transparency, the manipulation of the community and its wishes, being railroaded into WDC's version of [the Long Term Plan] and pushing the development of the adventure playground which, if it goes ahead will incur an enormous debt for our ratepayers to service."

It was time elected officials and staff "were held accountable", Hank said.

In the monthly meeting which followed the annual meeting Hank continued to urge the committee to return to that original list of priorities which might mean that the project to seal the carpark in its entirety would need to be pushed back, he said. [See the Community Reports section for further details of the RAOI's meetings]

Former chairperson Ann Patterson commended the committee on its work "at such a professional level". All current committee members were returned for a new term.

Resident Natalie Beiboer was voted on to the committee.

The 2024/25 committee is:

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

[NB The RAOI annual and monthly meetings were held on October 17, the week prior to the council meeting of October 29 at which council staff officially dropped plans to build the \$400,000 loan and ratepayer funded adventure park after 21 submissions against the proposal were logged at its annual plan hearings earlier this year.]

About your residents' association

This is grass-roots democracy in action.

The Residents' Association of Ōmārama Inc [Ōmārama Inc] is an incorporated society and charitable trust which has as its members all of those who pay the Ōmārama Hall rate to the Waitaki District Council. Plus it includes those who rent properties - all Residents.

This stood at 309 dwellings at June 30 this year.

It acts independently of the council although, like any of its ratepayer members, it must consult with the council before proceeding to undertake certain matters. Its primary role is to manage the community hall and amenities as is deemed appropriate, and to act as an advocate for its members.

A committee of between six and 12 can be elected and nominations are taken yearly at the annual meeting.

It is this group of dedicated volunteers which put in the hard yards and work to further the aims of the association of residents.

In the past 10 years there has been no actual 'election' as such, except for the election of officers, because those who put their hands up to serve have numbered equal to or less than the six to 12 required as committee members.

It is important to note the vote of a committee member carries no more weight than that of any other hall ratepaying member. We all count. All members are free to give notice that certain business is attended to at a particular meeting.

Those elected to the role of president/chairperson may hold the role for a maximum of three terms – three years. The longest serving member at present is Hank Verheul at 15 years.

Grounds for suspension or termination are clearly laid out in the constitution and they are "generally ...that the member's actions have brought discredit" on the association or "have acted in Ōmārama Inc's name without authorisation".

This is why it has been the practice to clearly publish an agenda – sometimes more than once - for anything outside of business- as- usual to ensure the committee has a mandate from as many of the 309 as possible to carry out the proposal.

Regular communication, with the community, particularly over larger projects, is a necessary part of the deal because members are holiday makers or may not be able to attend meetings. This was the case with the decisions regarding the development of the sports courts and the Ahuriri Camping Ground forum.

Incorporated society and charitable trust regulations mean that the RAOI's finances are effectively audited by two independent parties annually.

Together we make it happen.

Our girls out there being "fabulous, darling"!

It's almost show time!

The excitement is ramping up for three young Omarama jazz ballet pupils prepare for their end of year performance next month showcasing a year of learning dance.

Mazie Paton, Briar McKerchar and Maddy McCabe travel to Twizel weekly for dance classes at Lakes Ballet with director Miss A'ndrea – Andrea Inglis.

Last week the girls got together to strike a few poses for the Omarama Gazette as they prepared for dance practice.

Too excited for nerves the three said their dance lessons were great fun and they enjoyed perfecting routines with others who attended the lessons.

The annual performance regularly plays to a packed house of parents, friends and supporters. This year the show is titled "Fabulous Darling". It is at 2pm Sunday December 8 at the Twizel Events Centre.

Lakes Ballet dance pupils Mazie Paton, Briar McKerchar and Maddy McCabe are busy at practice before their end of year show.



Everyone's a winner on cup day!

The Ōmārama crowd put their styliest feet forward - wish I had those shoes, Julz - and came together at their local to watch a horse win the Melbourne Cup at Flemington yesterday. Did anyone catch the name??? Who? Yes, it was a rank outsider 'Knight's Choice'!

And the other winners on the day: Best dressed couple, Terry and Michelle Walsh
Best dressed man, Neville Kitchen, Best dressed lady, Jan Perriam with her handmade fascinating fascinator

And thanks to Boots and Jandals Hotel Omarama for hosting another wonderful event.



Community at the heart of decision

This week Kim and Dave MacKenzie realised a long held dream and are now exactly where they want to be.

Even if that has move has been accompanied, understandably, by a little anxiety. “If by this time next week, we haven’t blown this place up we’ll be grateful,” Kim said.

Kim and Dave are the new owner-operators of Four Square Ōmārama. Not that the couple are new to the scene or the town.

One or both of them has spent best part of almost three decades in various roles within Foodstuffs and so had been considering the future and looking for just the right opportunity to take the next step.

“We have about 10 years until retirement, and the kids are older now,” Kim said.

For the past two years the couple has worked, Dave as store manager and Kim in the office, for Ashburton New World.

It has been a long-time dream for Dave and Kim to be owner operators and an important step towards that was time spent in store management.

“We are very grateful we were given the opportunity in Ashburton by Jeremy and the late Emma Rooney,” Dave said.

So, they feel well prepared for this new phase, better yet the fact it was the Ōmārama Store “ticked a couple of extra boxes,” Kim said.

Kim and Dave MacKenzie (centre) are welcomed as new owner operators of Four Square Ōmārama by departing owners Blair and Alona Shaw.



“We’re super excited,” she said.

This despite the approach of the busiest time of the year.

Growing up in small-town, Central Otago, Dave’s first real taste of the grocery industry was as the dairy and chilled manager for New World Alexandra, progressing from that role to grocery manager, then to 2IC so he fully understand the highs and lows of entrepreneurship in a holiday town.

Kim and Dave own their home in Ōmārama where they themselves have holidayed for the past eight years.

A big part of the attraction to the move was the small town atmosphere and being part of and fully involved in the community, Dave said.

For departing owner operators Alona and Blair Shaw there have been too many highlights to name.

“You can own a supermarket anywhere ...here it was the people you got to know along the way [that made it special] , Alona said.

Where else would the local cop do a little dance for the security cameras because nothing was happening on a stake-out, she said.

The “scariest time” was during the Covid-19 crisis with all of the uncertainty that bought.

“That hurt a lot, it was real tough.”

They hadn’t initially intended to stay long term.

“We had a circle around the three-year mark. By then we gelled.”

They really knew they had “made it” in Ōmārama when at the mailboxes one morning about a year into the job Casso [Peter Casserly] called to collect his mail and said they had been discussing it at the pub the night before and “we’ve decided you’re okay”, Alona said, laughing.

Their tenure has seen major changes in the grocery scene and significant refurbishments largely brought about by all that new technology was capable of.

Shopping trends had changed and with it the move from old-fashioned counter service to faster moving checkouts and the introduction of self-checkouts.

How products were barcoded, making for streamlined and informed ordering and stock taking had also changed markedly.

Blair and Alona also managed mail delivery services for many years only recently handing that back to NZPost.

They still love what they do, Alona said, but had decided it was time “to get off the Gordon and Gertrude hamster wheel”.

They were appreciative of the “great staff” who had worked for them over the years, they said.

Rest assured there’ll be the same smiling faces ready to serve as Dave and Kim are taking all existing staff on.

Four Square Ōmārama is on Facebook

ICYMI - It's all power to the people!!

The Meridian Energy Waitaki Power Up Community Fund has approved a grant of \$10,000 to the Ōmārama Community Centre generator project.

As well, Waitaki Emergency Management advisor Danny Fountaine has approved payment to A2O Electrical to install the necessary change-over switch. This installation will complete the project.

The New Zealand Community Trust and Otago Community Trust have pledged \$10,000 each to the fund and in the past month donations from our fabulously generous community have reached \$15,000 – this in just on five months since fundraising began. You guys are just awesome.

A huge thank you to you all.

Quotes for a change-over switch to be installed at the Hall have been obtained and forwarded to Waitaki Emergency Management advisor Danny Fountaine for consideration. This installation would complete the project.

Our generous generator fund donors are

- * Sierra Motels
- * Ōmārama Rodeo Club
- * Merino Lodge
- * Ian and Jan Mckie
- * Peter and Adrienne Borrie
- * Graeme and Andy Oxley
- * Jenny Mollard
- *The New Zealand Community Trust
- *The Otago Community Trust
- *Ruth Dolan
- *Blair and Alona Shaw

And last, but by no means least and bringing it all together... Meridian Energy





TOP
Holiday
Parks
Classic

Omarama



Community DAY

30 NOVEMBER 2024

12-2PM



PLAYGROUND | CAMPING GOLF | SAUSAGE
SIZZLE | GO KART RACES | FIRE TRUCK |
MR WHIPPY | RAFFLES | SILENT AUCTIONS
AND MORE!

*All donations will go to the
Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade*

Omarama TOP10 Holiday Park - 1 Omarama Ave, Omarama

The Noticeboard

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

Our sincerest condolences to Nichola, Dale, Kelly and Jarmen on the death of husband and father Paul Whearty, who passed away last month.

This year's South Island gliding championships begin at the Ōmārama Airfield on Sunday, November 17, and continue until Saturday, November 23.

This week the Ōmārama Gliding Club holds the annual Mountain Soaring Course.

The Whalan Lodge Trust would like to advise Ōmārama residents that the new rooms at the home are finished. The public are welcome to visit to inspect the facility. Please check with the manager first to arrange a convenient time to view. The phone number is 03 46 0578. The Trust will hold a public opening on December at a time to be confirmed. - Ethel Gray (trustee)

Congratulations to Maurice and Liz Cowie on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Many happy returns to Elaine Hill on the occasion of her 84th birthday last month.

Congratulations to Charlotte Stuart who was placed third in the South Island Woolhandling Circuit Senior competition at the NZ Spring Shearing Competition at Waimate.

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

Please submit copy
by Thursday, November 28, 2024

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Police



Hi everyone,

The last few months have been fairly quiet which has been good.

I have processed a couple of drink drivers in recent months and it's evident to me that the message is not getting out there, so expect more.

The speed camera van was in town one day in early October and reports were that they had 1200 vehicles go past with 86 issued speeding fines. The highest speed was 76kph which is a lot slower than I would have expected. It's also worth noting that two of the speeding tickets were for locally registered vehicles.

Labour weekend was fairly low key both on the roads and at Otematata, although there were about 20 youths that camped at Boat Harbour camp site. They ranged in age from about 16 to 18 years-of-age and were seen walking around the township unsupervised.

I received information that one young male was "king hit" by another male. This has not been reported to the police but still concerns me.

Unfortunately, I had presumed that council would be putting in place the liquor ban for the township in the same way as previous years. This wasn't the case and that meant I had no power to do anything when I saw a group of teens wantonly walking around with alcohol. As they're 18 years-of-age there was nothing I could do. This same group of teens was the same lot from Boat Harbour. Bored with their camping they decided to go to town to see what was happening there. I'm almost certain the same group will no doubt be responsible for the assault.

This is something I will work on once again next year with the council, who in the past have been awesome in supporting Police and providing us with the tools such as a liquor ban for the town and other areas of concern to ensure the safety of all.

I will be in contact with the council to ensure that there is a liquor ban in the area for the Christmas period.

It was great to see everyone turn up for the Ōmārama Emergency services day in September. We were pretty lucky to get some of our AOS and Dog squad members here as it's not very often that they're free to make a special trip away so I was stoked we had a good turnout.

The FENZ display was awesome as well. I wasn't lucky enough to have a go with the hoses, although some of the fireys did offer me a chance to try one of their bigger hoses, but I had the feeling they were setting me up to fail and you all would have been treated to a tall lanky git holding onto a runaway hose for dear life.

While I'm at it, congratulations to Ōmārama's newly appointed Deputy Chief Jack ZORAB! Well done Jack. The Brigade is lucky to have you, I'm sure you'll do great as long as you can get those older buggers to listen and do as they're told!

That's it from me, stay safe.
Bean

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>

Spotted recently on community service!



The Community Reports

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*By Jack Zorab, deputy chief fire officer.
(Congratulations, Jack, on your new role!!)*

It's been a busy month for the brigade, with call numbers just above average for the month but well above average for the calendar year. Those who know me know I'm a sucker for numbers, and after a bit of data crunching, it looks like this year will be one of the busiest on record if things carry on the way they have been.

It's not just calls that have kept us busy. Our four new recruits—Azza, Ema, Junn, and Maddy—have dived into their training and are progressing well. It's great to see their commitment!

With the wet weather causing our golf tournament to be postponed, we took the opportunity to practice our response to an extended power cut or natural disaster. We got the station back online with generators and cooked up a feast on the gas BBQ. Power cuts have been a reality for us twice in the last year, so it's good to be prepared!



The cycle trail is cranking up again for the summer and the team used a recent training night to head out past Sailor's Cutting to practice rescuing an injured cyclist. It's no small feat getting crew and equipment into some areas of the trail, so it was valuable learning for us all in preparation for what promises to be a busy season.

If you follow us on Facebook, you'll have seen that we've been visiting some of the employers of our volunteers to thank them for the huge amount of support they provide the community by allowing their people to volunteer.

If you see the 'Proud Employer' mark in any of the windows in town, please say 'thank you' from us!



Some of the crew will be heading down to the Simon Gault night to share some home fire safety tips and offer free fire safety visits to your home so, look out for the team—they'll have some goodies to give away! Thanks to Ruth and Georgie for organising what promises to be a great night.

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**



THANK YOU TO EMPLOYERS OF VOLUNTEERS

By supporting your employee's decision to volunteer, you're directly responsible for making your community a safer place to live.

- Ahuriri Motels
- Boots and Jandals Hotel
- Distinction Heritage Gateway Hotel Omarama
- Dredge NZ
- Dunstan Downs
- Glencaigs Clothing
- Launch Bookkeeping
- Little Ben Limited
- Longslip Station
- Meridian Energy
- Meridian Energy
- Merino Lodge
- Mobil Twizel
- Mountainbase Animal Homestay
- Norwood
- Omarama Four Square
- Red Hand Scaffolding
- Rockgas Mackenzie
- Skyscape NZ
- Twinburn

Through the invaluable support of employers, Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade and other Volunteer Fire Brigades throughout New Zealand can continue to respond to emergencies in our communities.

**WHAKARATONGA IWI
FIREANDEMERGENCY.NZ**

Ōmārama Golf Club

Last month volunteers put in the hard yards to get the golf club greens cored and fairways, roughs and trees manicured in preparation for the new season.

Twilight Golf has started again for the summer on Thursdays between 5pm and 5.30pm and the club is welcoming all players and visitors, to the course for this Spring and Summer.

Unfortunately the weather at Labour Weekend forced the postponement of the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade fundraising tournament.

There is a possibility this could be held at Waitangi Weekend, February 8, 2025, but this will be confirmed.

**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

 <p>Antony Ford CA</p>	 <p>Ford Simpson Ltd Chartered Accountants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm Accounting Expertise• Business Advice• Family and Succession Planning <p><i>If you would like us to visit you, please call and arrange a time.</i></p> <p>e. office@fordsimpson.co.nz w. www.fordsimpson.co.nz PHONE 03 687 2080</p> 	 <p>Brodie Craig CA</p>
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Ōmārama Community Garden

Things are growing down at the community gardens.

The seedlings planted out last month have taken off and it will only be a few weeks until the lettuces are ready for harvest.

The parsley and chives are ready now.

A Gubba net tunnel has been put up on one bed to protect the cabbage and broccoli seedlings from insects and the strawberries from the birds.

There is to be a weeding bee at 1pm tomorrow, Thursday, if anyone keen to lend a hand.

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

And many thanks to Krissy Jarvis for keeping an eye on the watering.

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

The group receives sponsorship from Age Concern.

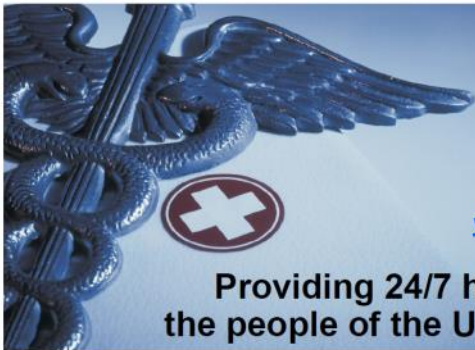
Anyone is welcome to pop along to the Community Centre and have a potter, and also to pop in any plants they may have ready to go in. Join the Facebook group.

And watch this space ...

Contact: Jennie Hales, jenniehollows@hotmail.com

Let's get growing together!





Kurow Medical Centre

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

E: info@kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz

W: www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz
www.facebook.com/kurowmedicalcentre

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

Kurow Medical Centre and its satellite clinics in Twizel (Mackenzie Health Centre Private Clinic) and Omarama (Community Hall)

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

- * Ultrasound performed by a qualified clinician (great for minor fractures, gall stones, kidney stones, heart and lung problems, foreign bodies, blood clots, detecting early pregnancy and much more!)
- * Minor surgery
- * Vasectomies
- * Mole checking and removal
- * Steroid injections
- * Venesection
- * Aviation, workplace and driving medicals
- * Botox for Wrinkle reduction
- * Workplace health screening
- * Counselling
- * Spirometry to diagnose asthma and COPD
- * Hearing and sight tests for adults and children
- * Ear syringing
- * Liquid nitrogen for warts, verruca's and skin lesions
- * Cardiovascular risk assessment and diabetic checks (funded for eligible patients)
- * Travel advice and vaccination
- * Cervical smears (funded for eligible patients)
- * Seasonal flu shots and shingles vaccine (funded for eligible patients)
- * Childhood immunisation
- * Before school checks
- * Postnatal and six-week baby health check

And much more!

**GP consult fees: Under 14yrs Free; Adult \$45.00
Care Plus – Free to eligible patients only**

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

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

Opening hours

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

Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm

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

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

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

-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner

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

Ōmārama MenzShed

MenzShed Ōmārama have been hard at work to create a practical and convenient solution to ease access to the Ōmārama Memorial Hall and Community Centre. Also, the 'Disabled Parking' sign has been moved to mark the relevant parking area.

The solution is a short-term fix until the Residents' Association of Ōmārama is able to raise the funds to seal the car park.

This is one of its longer-term projects. Materials were donated with thanks to Ellislea Farms.



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

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

Ōmārama School



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

Keeping in touch with Ōmārama School

- Ōmārama School is open for new enrolments for the 2025 school year. We are a full primary school catering for students from Year 1 through to Year 8 .Please view our school website to find out what we can offer your child and learn more about our unique rural school at Omarama School
- Omarama school also runs a programme called Headstart that caters for any 4 year olds in the surrounding areas. This programme runs on a Wednesday afternoon.
- In 2025 we will be looking to employ a new cleaner for 10 hours a week. Please contact Ōmārama School on 03 4389815 or email Alison Holden at principal@omarama.school.nz or contact Ange at office@omarama.school.nz, if you require additional information.

*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







Omarama School

All 4 year olds welcome - Wednesday 2:00 - 3:00 pm

Headstart programme

Come and meet us and have some fun at school



Information	Activities	Social Skills	Our School
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Headstart is an afternoon for 4 year olds<input type="checkbox"/> Come and meet the friendly team<input type="checkbox"/> Mingle with other parents / students<input type="checkbox"/> Information booklet available to read<input type="checkbox"/> View our learning spaces<input type="checkbox"/> Parents may stay or leave their child<input type="checkbox"/> Learning needs can be discussed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Creative early language tasks<input type="checkbox"/> Bubble painting<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening experiences<input type="checkbox"/> Fun with Science<input type="checkbox"/> Cooperative games & Fitness<input type="checkbox"/> Stories and artwork<input type="checkbox"/> Musical instruments<input type="checkbox"/> Number fun with counting games<input type="checkbox"/> Colouring activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Social routines<input type="checkbox"/> Organisational skills - following instructions<input type="checkbox"/> Manipulative skills - blocks, threading, scissors, puzzles<input type="checkbox"/> Gross Motor skills - climbing & swinging<input type="checkbox"/> Fine Motor skills - holding a pencil<input type="checkbox"/> Early language knowledge - talking about books<input type="checkbox"/> Numeracy knowledge - counting, dice, cards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Y1 - Y8 students<input type="checkbox"/> Rural school, 37 students, 2 rooms<input type="checkbox"/> Fun Hub for Art(s)<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool<input type="checkbox"/> Gardening Club<input type="checkbox"/> Ski Club<input type="checkbox"/> Strong sporting culture<input type="checkbox"/> Home Economics area<input type="checkbox"/> Snr Option classes<input type="checkbox"/> William Pike Challenge school 

Transition to school

Please contact us on **03 4389815** or email office@omarama.school to arrange a school visit.

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

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

For copies of the minutes and annual reports contact 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



Christmas Housie

at the

!!* Wrinkly Rams*!!

1pm, Wednesday, December 4

All the usual fun

Plus just a few little surprises

A warm welcome to all



Age Concern in Ōmārama

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

The final Pop Up Café for 2024
is 1pm to 3pm, Tuesday November 12, 2024

**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

**Your local MP welcomes
all enquiries.**

waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

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Wanaka

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Jess Mackay | Sales Consultant | 027 902 5529 | jess@mcre.co.nz

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

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

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🌐 twizel.ljhooker.co.nz

🏠 20 Ruataniwha Road,
Twizel, 7901

Ōmārama Community Library

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

Contact: Yvonne 027 476 7473

Ōmārama Playgroup

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

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

Nassella tussock

Not just a northern issue

The invasive grass nassella tussock has predominantly been classed as a North Canterbury issue, but recent significant finds around Duntroon and Kurow mean South Canterbury communities should be on the lookout too.

Nassella grows to around 1 metre tall with drooping purplish flowerheads and shallot-like stem bases. It is unpalatable to livestock and displaces valuable grasses. Nassella can be tricky to identify and is often confused with native tussocks. Our team are here to help. If you think you have nassella tussock or have seen it in South Canterbury, get in touch on **0800 324 363** or email biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz ecan.govt.nz/nassella



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Steve 021 99 33 52



Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club
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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



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SATURDAY SESSIONS



CUT WILDING PINES & ENJOY A FREE BBQ

- Wear sturdy covered footwear
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- Check Wilding Free Mackenzie website or social media for maps and cancellation info.

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SAT 5 & 12 APRIL
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EVENTS RUN FROM 10AM TIL 3PM



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Direct descendants of service personnel from North Otago who served in New Zealand or Commonwealth forces during the **Second World War or in combat since**, may apply to be considered for a scholarship/grant for health, education or special needs. The applicant must have resided in North Otago for the majority of their life time.

Application forms are available from the Secretary, June Jones, 61 Wharfe Street, Oamaru. Phone 027 260 7133 or email: junejonesnz@gmail.com

APPLICATIONS CLOSE with the Secretary by 5pm FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2024.

J.E. Jones
HON. SECRETARY

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or Ph /txt 021572798

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dedicated to news
from clubs, groups and sports teams.

Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com



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Gary Sutherland

Business Partner & Sales Consultant

027 432 6615

gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz



RELIEVER TEACHER POSITION

We are seeking qualified and unqualified teachers for our Twizel Early Learning Centre relievers pool. Although qualifications are not essential you must have a passion for caring for young children.

We are a well-established community based Early Childhood Centre, based in Twizel offering high quality education and care in a safe and stimulating, play based environment catering for up to 39 children aged from 3 months to 6 years of age.

As a Reliever Teacher, you will be working alongside the permanent staff and be involved in the day-to-day activities of the class. Looking for guidance of where you may be needed but also using your initiative to see opportunities to be helpful and a part of the team.

Qualities we look for in a Teacher:

- Passion and interest for working with children and their families.
- Reliable, responsive and flexible.
- Initiative and having a proactive attitude towards work.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Caring and respectful attitude towards children.
- Approachable and fun loving.
- Ability to work effectively within a team.

How to apply:

Applications can be emailed to manager@telc.org.nz.

Please include a copy of your current CV and a cover letter.

Please Note: Applicants for this position should have NZ residency or a valid NZ work visa. All applicants will be subject to full safety checking and required to complete a NZ Police Check.

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



TELC 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



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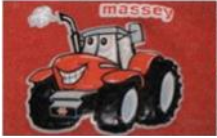
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The New Garden Diary - Red in tooth and claw

Spring ...

Hope is that thing where you get up in the sparkling sunshiny morning, pull on your gardening clothes with the promise of all day in the garden. It would be time well spent.

But then there is the rush for that emergency trip to the vet, (She's up and running again now.) nipping into the shop to grab something for tea, stopping to pick up the mail, being pleasantly waylaid for a quick coffee...long day but short story – it's sunset and you never so much as pulled even one weed.

Springtime is the prettiest time, there has been rain and this year, snow.

The landscape has turned 'verdant' overnight.

Sunlight dances through granny bonnets hanging out in the breeze in all shades of pastel, and the flowering cherries flounce in their frothy, lacy gowns like princess brides.

The sky is soft blue with puffy, billowy clouds. Some afternoons they tower high until they can climb no more, topple over and let loose their great weight, a power house of lightning and thunder and thrashing weather - a dose of realism to counter the fantasy.

As I watch the hostas are unfurling their giant elephant ears among the forget me nots at their feet.

The shy paeonia mlokosewitschii opens out to draw the pollinators in only to be destroyed in an instant by the passing hailstorm. Happens every year!

The wisteria which winds its way through the cherry plum flowers spectacularly hiding the evidence it is slowly strangling its host.

In the dry shade garden pink lily of the valley is spread out in the leaf mulch under the dogwood, Cornus Cherokee Chief, and it's just begging for a deep pink tulip for company.

Also, on the shopping list, more Tulip Spring Green. They're just entrancing in the spring sunlight.

There are blackbirds nesting in the honeysuckle which is now over-growing the front door. So, I can't bear to cut that back yet. Afraid of none of us they get as mad as magpies tutting loudly and swooping at the dog as she dares to come in and out. It's her home too, I remind them. She will also do her duty by the wee family and save them from cats.

The untended jungle of 'veggie garden' is a veritable bee-loud glade on this sunshiny morning. Cuppa in hand, I do nothing. I stand, dream and grieve. The broccoli tower is toppling too and flowering, now on its way to setting seed, and alive and humming.

You get the feeling the high country is not entirely comfortable with pretty. It doesn't last long and is quickly shrugged off as the drying nor'westers return home for summer. It will be browning-off in a month.

And then maybe the annihilating frosts will ease off for a bit. After cossetting my tomato plants and dragging them inside and out for the past month or more I forgot. It froze. Yep, copped the lot!

What a spring it's been.

But I saw the first red admiral the other day. Fluttering in and out of the wisteria. It was gone in a red flash - too quick for me to grab the camera.

So, I went looking for an older photo.

And there it was, another reminder of "Nature, red in tooth and claw".

A shimmering satin-green praying mantis devouring its prey. In its jaws were scarlet wings, the butterfly

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

"Nature, red in tooth and claw" appears in Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem In Memoriam A.H.H is an elegy for his Cambridge friend Arthur Henry Hallam, who died of cerebral haemorrhage at the age of twenty-two years, in Vienna in 1833." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_Memoriam_A.H.H





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

October 2024

Highest temperature: October 22, 24.3C

Lowest temperature: October 16, -2.3C

Most rainfall: October 26, 63 mm

Total rainfall for October: 131.3 mm
(Highest rainfall since July 2022)

The Ōmārama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

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