



-Omarama Gazette -

February 2016

sponsored by

GlenCraig's Clothing



Omarama School's New Face

Like most 'new starts' she was "really excited" and "just a wee bit nervous" about her first day at Omarama school.

Day one of term one 2016 marked the arrival of at least two new pupils and new principal Sue Fleming. Sue has moved to Omarama after 17 years living and teaching in Riverton. During her time there she worked at three primary schools teaching pupils at various levels from junior to year six, and with a

special focus on literacy. "Building relationships that help children to be successful is very important to me...My vision is that I can make a difference in a child's life," Sue said.

She is going to "really miss" Riverton. However, part of the reason she moved to Omarama was so she could still be part of a rural community. She had taught in the "metropolis", Auckland, and did not want to return to that. As well, Omarama was a place friends and her adult family – in Christchurch and Riverton - liked to visit and go boating. Her face will not be completely new to pupils or staff. Some she met at last year's Camp Columba, at Pukerau and she has paid several visits to Omarama. She was looking forward to the challenges. The new build, once completed would "breathe new life into the school", and be "fantastic" for the community.

This term, all at the two-teacher 42-pupil school will get to know each other and their community a little better. The first task she has set is to explore and discover "who am I in the world"- a project to learn more about families and the community.

Sue replaces Dion Stechmann who left to take up a position at Glentunnel, last term.

The Sponsor's Say GlenCraig's Clothing Est. 1999



Glenys and Craig welcome all to GlenCraig's which they established in Omarama in 1999.



Wini displays clothing from the Canterbury range.



Glen is on hand to help select from a full range of ladies', men's and children's wear.

It's that distinctive blue and gold country store at the heart of Omarama.

It is more than 15 years since Glenys and Craig opened their store in what was the Omarama Post Office. And for more than fifteen years they have brought country service and quality to the town "... in fact, since last century," Glenys laughs. Kiwi's and travellers alike appreciate the little store with the big, friendly heart.

Something regular shoppers know is those stylish ladies – Glenys, Glen, Wini, and Bronwen (at present on leave), and the stylish gent (Hey, Craig did win the Melbourne Cup Day in Omarama, Best Dressed Man 2015!) are on hand to should you need advice on adding an individual and stylish twist to the hard-working, quality labels they have on offer. Hard working, country style which moves effortlessly to city streets is what denotes the brands GlenCraig's offers men, ladies and children. There is a full range of New Zealand and international brands; summer and winter wear for indoors or outdoors, sportswear, hats, accessories, fashion jewellery and footwear for all seasons.

They are now unpacking new season styles from Canterbury and filling the shop with the rich autumn colours of merino ladies fashion.

Take advantage of their competitive and reasonable prices, often below recommended retail prices.

Call in soon and refresh your summer look. They're open seven days.

Phone: 03 438 9816
www.glencraig.co.nz



Gone Fishin'

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". 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

Omarama Playgroup starts the new term today, Wednesday, February 3, at the Omarama Community Centre. The hall is open from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. New members are always welcome. Contact: Liz (president) on 021 438978 or Jess (secretary) on 021 02053242 for further information

The Omarama Hotel Social Club will judge the 'spud in the bucket' competition at 4 pm Sunday, February 28, in the Beer Garden. See more details below.

The Omarama Collie Dog Club holds its annual trials March 9 and 10 and will host the Tux South Island and New Zealand Championships from May 30. Look for further information in upcoming issues of the Omarama Gazette.

Literacy North Otago works throughout the Waitaki Valley to provide skills to adult learners. Work with the support of a tutor at your own pace to achieve skills like literacy and numeracy for NCEA level 1 and 2, employment and computing skills, driver licence theory - more skills, more choice. In most cases services are free. A workplace-based literacy training programme is available to employers.

Contact Helen Jansen 03 434 2236, email: literacynorthotago@xtra.co.nz.

The Waitaki Valley Community Car, based in Kurow, is available for hire. Remember the vehicle is not just about going to hospital. Drivers are happy to take you around the place you choose to visit and to detour as necessary. In July the Trust should receive funding from Environment Canterbury which will allow it to look at purchasing a vehicle for the long term.

Phone or text Carron Cossens on 027 282 0615 for more information.

Plunket provides a service for those living in the area bordered by the Rakaia and Waitaki Rivers and the Southern Alps. There are 19 clinics throughout and a family centre which is located in Timaru. Clinic services are provided by eight Plunket nurses and four Karitane staff. Many services are funded and coordinated by an active group of volunteers. These include PEPE parenting courses, coffee groups, toy libraries and car seat rental schemes. Phone: 03 688 3520; 03 684 3620; jill.milward@plunket.org.nz
14 Butler Street, Timaru.

The Kurow and Districts Flower Show is on February 20 at the Kurow Memorial Hall. Schedules are available at Kurow Four Square, Kurow Autos and Kurow Information Centre.

Continues...

Environment Canterbury's two Waitaki water management committees are combining to host a meeting at the Omarama Community Centre at 4 pm on Monday, February 22, so people can find out about proposed changes to rules about water management in the area. See more information below.

For a copy of the costs to advertise, and publication and close-off dates for the Omarama Gazette for 2016 please phone 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766 or email omaramagazette@gmail.com

Techy Tip: Add Omarama Gazette's email address: omaramagazette@gmail.com to your address book so your server knows we are friends and does not direct the email to your spam folder.

**The next issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, March 2, 2016.
Please submit copy by Friday, February 26**



Breastfeeding Works!

Having a baby? Already breastfeeding a baby of any age? Then contacting a Volunteer breastfeeding counsellor will be positive for you.

These counsellors are mums, who have been trained to support breastfeeding mothers. "Breastfeeding Works!" counsellors are able to help you with the ups and downs of breastfeeding. No question is too small! There are three local Breastfeeding Works counsellors local to Twizel and Omarama. We are just a phone call away. Sarah 021 326 909, Liko 0272 497 555 or Deidre 0276868879



ST THOMAS COMBINED CHURCH SERVICES

(on fourth Sunday of each month at 3pm)

All Welcome

Clergy Contacts:

Rev Ken Light, Anglican Vicar for Waitaki.
Anglican Parish (Waitaki - North Oamaru)
03 437 0064

Kurow Presbyterian Church 03 436 0773

The Community Reports



Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade

It has been a while since I have dived into print so to bring you up to date...

The Fire Service has delivered an 80KVA generator which has the capacity to run the fire station with a heap of capacity to spare, we have been running this on the third Wednesday each month to ensure it is ready to go if and when it is required.

Training and Progression within the Brigade: Mike is away to Rotorua Training Centre to do his station officers' course on February

10. Zane has completed his fire-fighters' course. Steph has completed her qualified fire-fighters' course. We have four new recruits who are working through their training before attending-seven-day recruit course with the first one away in early March. We now have 17 members but we are going to lose two in the next month or two as they are moving on due to work and family changes. We still have some space in the locker room if there is anybody out there keen to join, just talk to any brigade member and they will steer you in the right direction and give you a clue of what you are thinking of signing up to. We have been busy with 21 calls in December and by January 28 made up of the following: 12 medical, three motor vehicle accidents, three private fire alarms - one to Twizel and two to Otematata, and three vegetation fires.

Looking back at the medical calls we have noticed that we are now getting called to most of the 111 calls to our area, which is good. If you have called 111 and asked for an ambulance and we do not get called ring 111 again and ask for fire then if we don't get called please get hold me so that we can find out why we did not get called. Please try 111 first and do not call members of the Brigade directly as this slows down the response times as you will be asked to ring 111 yourself. On June 4 we will celebrate 50 years as a brigade and you will see more about this in future issues of the Gazette.

*Howard Williams, Chief Fire Officer
cell 021 408202*

The Omarama Rodeo Club

The club enjoyed a successful Biscuits Bark-up followed by a hot and successful rodeo. For more details see: [://www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/368249/strong-entries-happy-crowd-rodeo](http://www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/368249/strong-entries-happy-crowd-rodeo)

Continues...



Omarama Inc - Residents and Ratepayers Association

The group's final meeting for 2015 was held at Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park and long-time committee member Arda was farewelled. Chairman Ross Gold and committee member Cathy Ferguson paid tribute to Arda and thanked her for her many years of commitment to the

town. Arda has moved to Luggate. Organisation is underway for a 4WD fundraiser on Sunday, April 3. The next meeting is 8 pm, Thursday, February 11 at the Omarama Community Centre.

Chairman: Ross Gold. Secretary: Craig Dawson 03 438 9755

Friends of the School

Thank you to those who helped out with the first fundraising event of the year. Last month there were a few who drove horse vehicles from the Ahuriri Valley over to the Hunter Valley as a fundraiser - they had a fun trip home by the sounds of things. A 'Calendar of Fundraising Events' will be published in the next Gazette. A reminder: Friends of the School holds its meetings at 2pm on the last Thursday of the month.

*Contact: Lisa Anderson 03 438 9400, Cell 021 243 8940,
email: bogroystation@gmail.com*

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

**Contact Ruth Grundy, 021 294 8002, 03 438 9766
Email: omaramagazette@gmail.com**

**The Omarama Gazette is run on a volunteer basis
with support from businesses to meet costs.
www.discoveromarama.co.nz**



**OMARAMA
SCHOOL**

The School News

Term one 2016 begins with a roll of 42 and includes 2 new pupils. (*Numbers given at the time the Omarama Gazette went to print*)

And the school welcomes new principal Sue Fleming.

Regular school news will resume next month. But as new exciting days of learning unfold we look back on some of last terms highlights.



LAKE OHAU LODGE

GENERAL HAND PERMANENT POSITION

The position has become available for a General Hand at Lake Ohau.
You would be required to work 5-6 days per week, 8-4pm.

This person is responsible for the general maintenance around the Lodge building and grounds but you can be asked to assist on the Snow Fields as well
A particular skill or qualification is of advantage.

An example of the list of tasks in addition to general maintenance are: taking care of all the rubbish and recycling, maintaining spa pools, mowing lawns, splitting wood, driving to Twizel twice weekly for supply trips, assisting with housekeeping and delivering and picking up laundry, guest portering, pouring petrol and in winter fitting chains. You need to have a current drivers license and fork lift OSH certificate or willing to obtain.

Wage rate is negotiable, accommodation is provided at \$65 per week plus power.

OHAU
SNOW FIELDS | LAKE OHAU LODGE

Please send a covering letter with your CV and photo to louise@ohau.co.nz describing why you would like to work at Ohau.

Applicants should be a NZ resident.

Omarama Playgroup would like to thank the following sponsors for their amazing contributions towards our Ladies Shopping Night Fundraiser.

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Wrinkly Rams

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David O'Neill
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Benmore
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Blue Cross
Vets

Mobil
Omarama

The Omarama
Hotel

Ladybird Hill
Winery

Tinplate
Tekapo

Seirra Motel

Bushworks

Tekapo
Springs

THANK YOU

Your generosity helped make our annual fundraiser such a success. Thank you from the parents and children of Omarama Playgroup.



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL

TE KAUNIHĒRA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

Growing strong communities.

A new Urban Fire Prevention bylaw

came into force on Sunday after public discussion and a review of the feedback. Waitaki District Emergency Management manager Jane Lodge said the new by-law sets out the rules for urban fires and

at the same time complies with other local body plans, like the Otago Regional Council's Air for Otago Plan and the Canterbury Air Regional Plan. People need to apply for a permit from the council before lighting an outdoor fire. This allows them to light an open fire so long as there is not a total fire ban. Fires must not be lit within 50 metres of the closest part of a property boundary. Other conditions must also be met. These include restrictions on what can be burnt. For example, any wood to be burn must be dry and untreated. Paper and cardboard is permitted as is vegetation, however, it must not be green.

Fires cannot be lit before sunrise and must be completely extinguished by sunset – fires cannot be left to burn indefinitely.

The bylaw recognises solid fuel barbecues, pizza ovens and traditional cooking fires as legitimate outdoor cooking facilities.

However, these must not be within three metres of any part of a building, tree, hedge, fence or any combustible material.

They will only require a permit during a total fire ban.

The Urban Fire Prevention Bylaw can be viewed at www.waitaki.govt.nz.

The new public refuse transfer station in North Oamaru is expected to be commissioned in August. The station is being developed by Waste Management Ltd because the Oamaru Landfill resource consent will expire soon and it will close.

Water Services and Waste manager Martin Pacey said council staff had been working closely with Waste Management Ltd and the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust (WRRT) to make sure present and future demands for waste services could be met. Once fully operational, the refuse transfer station will predominantly cater for more commercial or larger volume wastes, whereas the WRRT will cater for smaller quantities and mostly domestic waste.

www.waitaki.govt.nz email:service@waitaki.govt.nz

Telephone +64 3 433 0300 Freephone 0800 108 081 (from landlines)



Waitaki Sub-regional Plan Community Meetings

The Waitaki's two water management zone committees are hosting community meetings to provide information on changes to local water management rules.

The plan change to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan addresses recommendations developed by the Lower Waitaki and Upper Waitaki Zone Committees to deliver the community's aspirations for water.

Come along to hear about how the soon to be notified plan change works, how to make a submission, find out how the new Online Farm Portal works, and ask any questions.

Monday 22 February

Tekapo Community Centre 12-2pm
Omarama Community Centre 4-6pm

Tuesday 23 February

Ikawai Community Hall 12-2pm
Kurow Golf Club 4-6pm

Brought to you by Environment Canterbury working with



Upholstery Course

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at the Omarama Community Centre

9-4pm each day

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Omarama Gazette

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Phone
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03 438 9766
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or call in to the kindergarten

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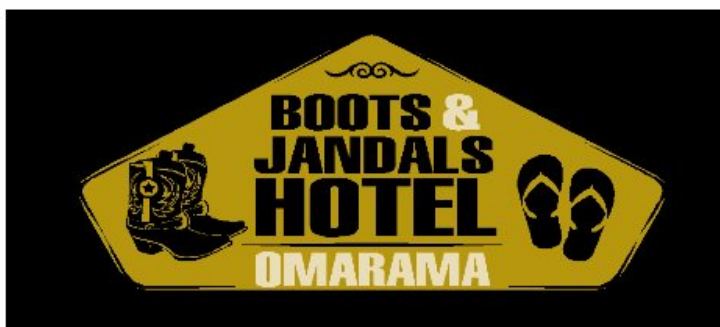
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Contact Bridget – bridgesp@xtra.co.nz or Ph /txt 021572798



New Lunch Menu- Something tasty for everyone

Enjoy your favourite cold beverage, and soak up the sun in our beer garden while snacking on one of our new yummy platters available from
11.00am-4.00pm

COMING EVENTS

Happy Hour every night between 5pm-6pm

Every Friday night Meat Raffles at 6.30pm

Join our social club \$5.00 per member

Free Pool Table every Tuesday 11.00am till 10.00pm

Saturday 6th Feb Band "The Bandits" Country Music/Classic Rock

Saturday 13th Feb Band to be confirmed

Spud in the bucket competition Sunday 28th February at 4.00pm in the Beer Garden join the social club for a fun afternoon of potato judging and BBQ don't forget to bring your impressive spuds with you.

CHEERS FROM THE TEAM AT BOOTS AND JANDALS



The FAQs - The Five Awkward Questions with...

Tony and Amanda Chapman Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park

1. What is the best advice you have ever been given?

Never stop dreaming

2. What was your best impulse buy?

My wee VW

3. Best day outside the office? *Following sport*

4. Omarama is the place to be. Why? *Everyone is on holiday*

5. What is one thing that would make the world a better place?

If people went camping and enjoyed time out!

Read more about the Chapmans at <http://www.odt.co.nz/regions/north-otago/370690/farmer-becomes-camp-owner-and-loves-it>



The view from the chook house

Roses are red,
The grass is so green,
We know
we're the hottest chicks
you've ever seen.

Happy Valentine's Day

Oma Rapeti

If you thought you'd seen more back ends of bunnies disappearing out of sight this season you'd be right.



Environment Canterbury (ECan) Biosecurity team leader Brent Glentworth says rabbit numbers are up in the town and surrounding area.

ECan night counts, which are used to monitor trends, have recorded an increase of about half a rabbit per kilometre, Brent said.

Numbers are consistent with other rabbit-prone areas and are as a consequence of two dry years which suit breeding and survival patterns. The rabbit 'kittens' which arrived in spring are now producing litters and this contributes to a spike in numbers. The recent rain has encouraged grass growth which aids lactation and subsequent breeding, he said.

Landowners outside the town boundary would receive a notice requiring them to control the pests once numbers reached "trigger levels".

Control in town rabbit populations is a "little more problematic". In the past when numbers have reached high levels ECan has encouraged district councils to engage rabbit shooters to control the pest. However, understandably that can create a few issues. And it is illegal for individuals to discharge a firearm in town.

The best way to stop them getting into your property is to use rabbit netting. If you know where there are rabbit holes you can fumigate and the appropriate toxin is available from stock and station agents, he said.

Rabbit haemorrhagic disease also known as rabbit calicivirus disease is still a useful control and starts to become active from now and through autumn so "there is light at the end of the tunnel".

In the meantime, Brent suggests riffling through the recipe books.



We wish you good fortune in the Year of the Monkey

Celebrations to ring in the Chinese New Year of the Red Fire Monkey begin around the country this month.

Many visitors are expected to arrive in the country to celebrate the New Year here, along with many New Zealanders.

Here are some things you may like to know.

- February 8 marks the official start of the year which continues until January 27, 2017.

The dates are based on the lunar calendar so the New Year falls on a different day every

year and follows ancient tradition. Each year is represented by an animal. There are twelve animals that repeat every twelve years; 2016 represents the ninth animal of the Chinese zodiac.

- Often known as the Spring Festival, it is a time for family, reunion, good food, and steeped in many traditions and themes of good luck, fortune, happiness, wealth and longevity.

- The monkey is an intelligent, witty, and inventive animal. Monkeys are problem solvers, working with their group while simultaneously demonstrating independence associated with achievers. The nimble monkey is playful, youthful in nature, and is a joy to watch as it moves from activity to activity.

- People with this zodiac sign are considered to be smart, clever and intelligent, especially in their career and wealth. They are lively, flexible, quick-witted and versatile. In addition, their gentleness and honesty bring them an everlasting love life. Although they were born with enviable skills, they still have several shortcomings, such as an impetuous temper and a tendency to look down upon others.

Strengths: enthusiastic, self-assured, sociable, innovative

Weaknesses: jealous, suspicious, cunning, selfish, arrogant

Perfect Match: Ox, Rabbit. Bad Match: Tiger, Pig

The Years of the Monkey include 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004,

New Year traditions include spring cleaning to sweep away bad luck from the previous year to make room for the good, to settle debts and relationship troubles, to feast with family, Hoong Bouw (red envelopes filled with cash) are given to children and the unmarried, red and gold predominate, and no festival would complete without a lion dance bringing good luck and prosperity and driving away evil.

TACKLESHOP AT ASURE SIERRA MOTEL-

Omarama



We still have in stock a good selection of lures and flies for local rivers and lakes.

OPENING HOURS:

7.30 AM TO 7.30 PM.

**The weather that was
@ 44°29'29.4"S 169°58'19.7"E**

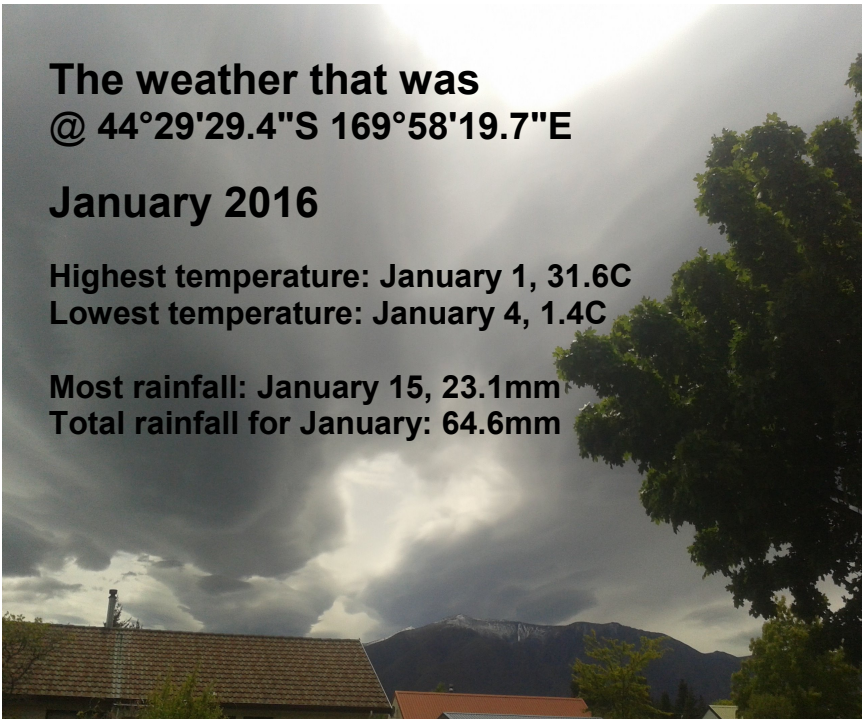
January 2016

Highest temperature: January 1, 31.6C

Lowest temperature: January 4, 1.4C

Most rainfall: January 15, 23.1mm

Total rainfall for January: 64.6mm





The Garden Diary

It's a whisker away from high summer. The garden is tired, dusty and hung-over.

Heat rises to meet me as I step barefoot across baked-hard ground and crispy brown lawn.

A week or so ago my toes would sink down into dewy, cool lushness.

It was then the garden reached peak party mode. Gradually vibrant, lively blooms arrived to join the summer revelry. Then more and more stars crowded onto the dance floor, jostling, clashing, vying for attention. The air was saturated with fragrance.

But now, party over, I am in clean-up mode, clearing, biffing out, and restoring order, making way for the A-listers who will, all too soon, arrive in splendour for Autumn's carnival ball.

Right now I have dependable friends at my side. You know, the ones that hang back after others have gone to help with the clean-up, share gossip and a laugh at the kitchen table over that one last glass of wine.

In my garden, these are the geraniums. (Not the pelargonium but the hardy perennial 'cranesbill'.) I seek out these easy, dependable beauties to add to my collection. I most often find them hanging out incognito at plant stalls and so not always named.

The first member of the family I met was Johnson's Blue. It rambles good-naturedly over dusty dry spots gathering ratty leaves of late bulbs under its fresh green skirts. When it looks tired it favours the 'cut and come again' treatment. With a bit of summer warmth and a good watering, it's back to its lively and vivacious self in no time. I love dark-eyed, hot pink Geranium psilostemon. Its Mediterranean-hot colour 'pops' against any olive, terracotta or white backdrop. Geranium renardii's mound of leaves, dimpled and soft like a fine skin, draws you in to admire the intricate cardinal-purple sketching and fat yellow anthers pinned into crumpled tissue petals. Each variety has a distinctive leaf - textured and cut, some as fine as Brussels' lace. It must have taken someone hours to craft them.

Ruth Grundy

(I garden a small space under a big sky in Omarama