

# **Ōmārama Gazette**June 2024

## 'Honour' to be selected for team

The New Zealand Dog Trial Association Trans- Tasman Test team to defend the Wayleggo Cup in September was announced last week.

Joining Scott Hunter and Lucy (Ōmārama) are Leo Edginton and Roxy (team captain, Tolaga Bay), Ben Millar and King (Waimarama-Elsthorpe), Stuart Child and Diesel (Te Anga), and Paul Collins and Sky (Tahatika) as reserve. Paul Collins is a former Ōmārama club member.

This year's team is made up of Island championship winners and a New Zealand Championship winner. Scott and Lucy are the only South Islanders to make the team.

Scott, Carla and children, Paige and James, manage Berwen Station.



## 'Honour' to be selected for team, continued

It has capped a successful year for Scott who won his first island title, the short head and yard, with Lucy at the South Island sheep dog trial championships in Marlborough at the beginning of last month.

A five-year-old, Lucy now has a "bit of experience under her belt", Scott said.

He was chosen to judge the long head at the North Island and New Zealand championships the week later at Mangamingi, in Taranaki which meant he was not able to run his own dogs at the events.

Judging at the nationals had been a "privilege", hard work but also "really enjoyable," he said. "It was full on... a big week." Scott judged the 248 runs of the Long Head in the week-long trials.

He was pleased to be able to "give something back" to the sport through judging but was also looking forward to taking a break for now and returning to the more relaxed pace of campaigning his dogs at trials.

Once they reach Melbourne the team drives to Geelong in time for the Australian Sheepdog Championship which are hosted by the Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association.

Before they left the team would get together several times for practice sessions, Scott said. The competition is conducted over a special course with its own rules, developed specifically for the Trans-Tasman competition and which are a mix of both New Zealand and Australian rules.

The course consists of four obstacles – a gate, a Maltese cross, a ramp, and a pen and the teams will be pitted against the wiliest of those ovine opponents – the merino. The course must be completed in 15 minutes. There are two judges, one from each country, whose scores are averaged. The Kiwi triallists hold the cup at present.

The Wayleggo Cup Trans-Tasman Test Series was introduced in 1985.

It is an annual test match which alternates between the two countries and has only been cancelled twice and that because of the Covid 19 border closures

Below: The NZ Trans-Tasman Test Team who competed in Ashburton in 2023. Photo: NZDTA



## Season success for all

#### - pilots head for worlds

The Ōmārama Gliding Club has just enjoyed one of its most successful seasons since Covid 19 disruptions forced a change of direction, president Alex Boyes says. "It's been great"

The club continued to grow in membership and was now the biggest club in New Zealand. It has had a 25% growth in membership in the past three years, he said. Many of the overseas members had moved to a social membership when the pandemic close borders but now the international members were back and came to stay in the town for two to three weeks at a time through the season.

The youth membership was also strong, with 25 under 24-year-olds in training. The first from that group – Sondre Langvik-Owen - had qualified as an instructor "which was fantastic".

There had also been a "phenomenal amount of flying" over the past season, he said. And although it would be difficult for most members to even attempt to compete with pilot Justin Wills who had flown to "all parts of New Zealand" including South Westland and to the North Island, club members had still manged to put in an impressive number of flying hours, he said.

This year the club had employed a development officer, Brian Sharpe, and the move had been "really well received".

He signed up for a year in the voluntary role which was to help the club transition from a syndicate-type operation to more of a "full service" gliding club, more heavily involved in training, and it meant there was a permanent person at the airfield who could be a point of contact if needed.

Coming up, club members Keith Essex and Marju Rossi would fly in the two-seater class at the 38th World Gliding Championships in Uvalde in the United States, in August, so there would be Ōmārama club representation there.

During the past season 'summer crews' of overseas gliding instructors had volunteered their time to run the club's airfield operations.

Next year the club was looking to expand its horizons further with, hopefully, one full time instructor and more semi-permanent instructors and "get the winch going all the

time", Mr Boyes said.

Omarama Gliding Club members Keith Essex and Marju Rossi will fly in the twoseater class at the 38th World Gliding Championships in Uvalde in the United States, in August. Photo: Supplied.



## Learning experience 'invaluable'

"Inspiring", "thought provoking" and "so valuable" are just some of the ways Ōmārama School principal Alison Holden describes her recent learning experience at a principal's leadership conference in Canada.

The conference in Banff, Alberta, Canada was the u-Lead conference which focused on innovative leadership. About 200 New Zealand school principals joined others from around the world at the three-day, 1100-strong conference which was followed by the opportunity to visit educational facilities and schools in nearby Calgary.

Alison's lasting impression was that the most successful educators now took a holistic approach to teaching, and putting the well-being of staff and pupils first, was key.

It was about "just knowing the students" and providing wrap-around support that enabled learning to flourish, she said.

"Are they happy, do they have friends, enough food?"

And it was about "lowering the mask" and sharing a "bit of yourself" with the child to allow a more collaborative approach to learning.

The conference attendees did a lot of work on questioning skills, building rapport and making inroads into building relationships, gaining insight into just how powerful a teacher's words were to the child, she said.

Some time was given to exploring attendance issues, something topical in New Zealand right now.

The principals were told the answers often boiled down to four things – did the child feel physically safe at school, did they feel emotionally safe, was the lesson pitched at the right level, and was it inclusive and meaningful.

There was work done on how to de-escalate difficult situations. Schools were introducing 'sensory rooms' - calming spaces for those who needed a break.

It was not all about focus on student well-being.

Principals were reminded that as leaders they needed to "celebrate the highs and lows" with staff as they worked as a team, and to look after their wellbeing too. "A school was only as good as its staff," Alison said.

For someone like herself, who had not long been in the job, meeting with other New Zealand principals, who she may not otherwise have met, had been extremely valuable.

Alison said at the conference she had got to know several experienced principals working in similar situations who had become her "go to" people.

A poignant session was a traditional First Nations ceremony called the smudge ceremony – the burning of sage on a paua shell - which was comparable with the traditional Maori greeting ceremony, the Hongi.

What struck Alison about her visits to schools was how non-descript they were – there was little colour on buildings and displays were kept to hallways, for example. She put this down to the fact that aesthetics were given a lesser priority. "There is just such a focus on students well being," she said.

And, while she could not take them with her, Alison did not forget the pupils. Tigger, who they are all fond of, went as a stand-in and 'blogged' about his trip to share with the children.

Alison said she was grateful to the Ōmārama School Board of Trustees for allowing her to attend.

What she learned had been of great value and certainly aligned with Ōmārama Schools strategic goals, she said.

Photos: Friend of Ōmārama School 'Tigger' returned with souvenirs for all from his recent trip to Canada with principal Alison Holden.

Conference scenes, Tigger meets Amelia and Maizie Paton's aunty, also a New Zealand School principal, at the conference, Alison takes in some winter sight-seeing. Photos: Supplied









## Council catch-up, May 2024

The Waitaki District Council staff and councillors have been busy this month deciding what to include and what not to include in its annual plan budget.

Below is the third story written this month about aspects of the process which affect Omarama Ratepayers.

The first two were published on the Ōmārama Gazette Facebook page earlier this month. - If you would like to read these use the page's search function to go to:

#### ŌMĀRAMA HAS ITS SAY

- A summary of Ōmārama submissions to the Waitaki District Council annual plan published on Facebook. May 9, 2024

#### IS IT ON THE TABLE? OFF AGAIN? ON AGAIN?

- a transcript of the councillor discussion about the submissions on the Ōmārama Adventure Playground at the Waitaki District Council Annual Plan hearings held Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

If you are not on Facebook and would like copies please email omaramagazette@gmail.com and I will get those to you.

This third story is from the council's Deliberations Session held late last month.

#### CFO warns councillors about impacts of borrowing on rates

While councillors did not debate the inclusion of the proposed Ōmārama adventure playground in its upcoming annual plan at its deliberations on the budget changes last month [May 20, 2024], the council's chief financial officer had some stern words for them regarding borrowing to fund new projects.

It has been proposed the \$400K adventure playground could be loan-funded and paid back by Omarama ratepayers with interest, over time.

Waitaki District Council chief financial officer Amanda Nicholls delivered the stern warning to councillors about the council's "debt situation" at the start of the deliberations.

This year's proposed rates increase should not be considered in isolation, she said. Councillors needed to be mindful of the indirect impact on rates of interest rates on loans and, in particular, how this might impact smaller communities.

"We've got the 10-year projections in our annual plan. We'll obviously be bringing back our 10-year budgets in the next few months to start working on the Long term Plan but our debt levels are not achievable.

"So while we're talking here about rates impacts of these proposals just bear in mind that there is an indirect rates impact as well. A lot of these [projects] are debt-funded so when you add the debt there is the cost of borrowing and that is rates funded.

"Just keep that in mind we're sticking to the 'must do's' not the nice-to-haves'.

"I just wanted to re-emphasis the debt situation as well. It's not all about the rates increase."

Ms Nicholls went on to discuss the "carry forwards", reminding councillors the council was about \$30million behind in its 2024 capital expenditure programme.

"That \$30m of capex that is in the 2024 budget will need to be brought into the 2025 budget so bear in mind that's debt-funded, and that interest will be added to the 2025 budget as well. Sorry to be so negative but that is the facts."

Ms Nicholls said it was a given that some projects spanned multiple years but there was simply not the capacity to "do it all".

"When we get into the Long Term Plan [next year] the auditors are going to really scrutinise how much we can actually achieve.

"We want our Long Term Plan to be zero-ed out and we may even come back to you [councillors] and say, forget everything you've approved in the past, any that are spanning into this financial year, and go back to zero, and work out exactly what we can achieve.

"Because obviously last year our \$60M capex budget [was] not achievable - we can't just keep adding to it."

Council chief executive officer Alex Parmley said it was not a new issue.

"Since before I came here we serially under delivered on the capital programme because we had a capital programme that was beyond our resources to actually deliver.

"We're trying to pare that back down.

"What is currently proposed in the draft is a lot slimmer than it was but once you add in what is a long-term hangover, a hangover from many years back that keeps rolling forward, there will be a pressure in terms of resources to actually deliver that programme.

"Whatever you agree in the carry-forward is adding to the programme which is already fully committing our resources," Mr Parmley said.

The council will approve the 'key directions' of the Annual Plan on June 11. The 2024-25 Annual Plan will be adopted by the council on June 25.

Below: Excerpt from the list of additional information councillors ask staff to provide after the hearings into submissions in the middle of the month. This list was what was discussed at the deliberations session on May 20.

#### Additional Information Requested from AP Hearings

er	Information sought in relation to submission	Officer response
	Omärama adventure playground     Information sought on Better- Off funding     Discuss next steps for Omarama Playground at deliberations	No decision has been made on how Better-Off funding approved for Ömärama will be allocated to specific projects.  If project was deferred for a year this wouldn't impact the masterplar or Parks and Recreation team project plan.  Currently loan funded, if delay proposal there is potential to investigate grant funding.

## Time to nominate a sporting 'good sort'

The organisation representing our district's sports groups wants to acknowledge our sports volunteers.

The Oamaru-based North Otago Sports' Bodies Association promotes and recognises achievement, participation and contribution to sports through North Otago in its annual sports awards, its sports' volunteer acknowledgments and its Sports Hall of Fame, which is housed at the Waitaki Recreation Centre, in Oamaru.

However, each month it also acknowledges a volunteer, association treasurer Sandra Kitto says.

Organisers would like to know of volunteers from throughout the district, including the Omarama area who are "dedicated, passionate, committed to their sport".

It wants to recognise those who "go above and beyond. It might be someone who works diligently behind the scenes, someone who is always there on the sidelines, someone who coaches. trains, supports and inspires others," Mrs Kitto said.

To read more about what the association does:

Website: https://www.sporty.co.nz/northotagosportsbodies Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/SportWaitaki/

To nominate a volunteer contact: nosb1950@gmail.com or phone Sandra 027 358 8009



## Out working back in the day

- from the recollections of former New Zealand Post Office Construction staff member Paul Winter.

Ahuriri Valley, North Otago.....west of Ōmārama. Probably 1990-ish.

"This was pretty much an annual occurrence - heavy snow and wires down all over the show.

"It was an M party line that went for miles with two large stations, Ben Avon Run, and Birchwood Station feeding off it.

"A party line was a shared landline connection between a group of homes in a neighbourhood.

[Making the necessary repairs] was often a few days work for myself, based in Kurow, and a line gang hauled in from Oamaru.

"The power board [Waitaki Electric Power Board] would often be up there too doing their thing.

"Eventually the line was replaced by country radio link.

"Back then, once everything was up and running again, it was common for everyone involved to be invited in for a hot feed (courtesy of the coal range) and a cuppa at the Williamsons at Birchwood.

"Good times, good people."

Copy and photos shared with the permission of Paul Winter







## One great cause ... two special events

#### COMING TOGETHER FOR GOOD

An amazing afternoon 'in the pink' raising funds for Breast Cancer Research was held on a Tuesday Afternoon last month.

Congratulations and thank you so much to organiser Sheryl McNaughton and her team of hard-working helpers.

And to Age Concern Otago-Waitaki and guest speaker Fliss Butcher who spoke about the challenges posed by alopecia.

The event raised \$780 for Breast cancer research and support.

Photos: Michelle Kitchen







### LOVE, LAUGHTER AND ALL THINGS PINK

More than 60 people gathered at Boots & Jandals Hotel Omarama last month to enjoy great food, each other's company and to raise funds for Breast Cancer Research.

It was also a time to hold those we love who we have lost, and those battling the insidious disease that is cancer, close to our hearts with fun, laughter and hope. The crowd enjoyed a varied brunch menu, bubbles, and fun quizzes all in the pink, of course.

Generous sponsors from throughout the community donated goods and baskets for the many raffles.

The annual fundraising event is hosted by Bruce and Julie Dyson and their staff and friends.

To find out more about where the money goes or if you would like to make a donation on Julie's page go to:







## ICYMI Network Waitaki installs new chargers

Network Waitaki has recently commissioned two electric vehicle charging units, providing four new charging bays for EV owners at Ōmārama's Sutherland Rd car park.

This new installation was made possible through a co-funded arrangement with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA)

Meanwhile, Jump Charging Ltd - which specialises in the supply of commercial electric and hydrogen vehicle charging infrastructure – and who has also been granted funding from the EECA to set up set up two rapid EV chargers in Omarama – with plans for this to grow into a commercial transport hub - has yet to confirm a location.

Jump Charging Ltd director Alex Watson said he had met with Ahuriri Community Board and Ōmārama Residents' Association members and had received "unanimous support for our charging proposal".

"Waitaki District Council had advised that approval from the Community Board/ Residents Association was a necessary first step in the process of utilising council owned land, hence we were very pleased to receive this not to mention spend the time speaking with those community members," Mr Watson said.

"At this point we're working through next steps in the process with Waitaki District Council and will hopefully have more to report soon," he said.

The EECA wants to support the growth of the EV charging infrastructure through the country and has identified Ōmārama as one of 25 specific locations on 14 major holiday journey routes where it wanted to add to the network of public EV charging sites.

Network Waitaki chief executive Dylan Andrews said in a statement that with the addition of the two chargers the region now had the highest number of public charging facilities per capita.

The two new units complement the original 2017 charger and increased the total site capacity from 50 to 410 kW. The site has "dynamic synchronised charging" which gives it the ability to charge up to five vehicles at a time.

The chargers are wrapped in custom-designed artwork from Ōamaru-based artist, Wicksey. Wickey is creator of the Omarama Mural which stands at the Ōmārama Community Centre on SH 83.

EECA Delivery and Partnerships general manager Richard Briggs said charger hubs like these were essential to giving people the confidence that an EV will work for them every day and on longer trips.

"Placing more high-speed chargers on popular journey routes means drivers can plan their trips without worrying about queueing, or not being able to charge at all" he said.

Location was key and Ōmārama was perfectly placed for a charging station located mid-journey between Christchurch and Queenstown and at the foot of the Lindis Pass, he said.



Tell us how you think Council has been doing over the last 12 months, and you can go in the draw to win a \$500 Prezzy Card\*



Every year we ask residents for feedback on the services and amenities Waitaki District Council provides.

Your feedback is more important than ever this year, as we continue on our transformation journey, which aims to change the way we work for, and with, Waitaki's communities. The survey results will be a key part of informing what we can do differently.





go here or scan here

www.letstalk.waitaki.govt.nz/residents-survey-2024

\*To be eligible to win the \$500 Prezzy Card, you must be provide your contact details in the survey form. Limited to one entry per person.



## The Noticeboard

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

**Congratulations to Craig and Glenys Dawson** on 25 years of GlenCraigs Clothing Ōmārama, Est. 1999! And thank you for brightening up our corner of the country.

Congratulations Sharon Herd on the occasion of your 70th Birthday.



**Wishing a fond farewell** to Big Sky Motel managers Sheryl and Rob McNaughton. All the best for your new adventures.

**Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic** at the Ōmārama Community Centre, is open Thursdays, 8.30am to 12.30pm. 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.

**Ömārama 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. NB from Sunday April 7, when daylight saving ends, it will be cards in at 12 noon and tee-off at 12.30pm. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340. Twilight golf has finished for the season. ww.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 Don Selbie on 027 435 5516.

**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. The exercises are run with the guidance of personal trainer Lauren Maree. 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 July Issue of the Omarama Gazette is Wednesday, July 3, 2024.

Please submit copy by Thursday, May 30, 2024

## **The Community Reports**

**Upper Waitaki Police news** 



Hi all,

It's been a wee while since my last report.

It would be fair to say that I've been pretty busy trying to keep a head of all the paperwork that's generated from serious or fatal crashes, serious domestic assaults and then the normal run of the day stuff.

In March, I processed a local young fella from these parts for drink driving where he blew 808mgms. He immediately had his licence suspended for 28 days, had to go to Court and is now beating his feet for pretty much the rest of the year. For me it's disappointing to know this is still happening

and something I will be trying to concentrate more on now that I've almost caught up with all the paperwork.

Civil Defence – Did you know that the civil defence shelter is the Ōmārama Community Hall? A few years back we started a small group to develop an emergency plan for any major disasters that may occur. The Hall was designated the community shelter due to it recently being earthquake strengthened and having all of the amenities required to house a large number of people.

In conjunction with that we are still working on getting a generator large enough to run the entire hall including heating should the brown stuff hit the fan.

In 2019 Civil Defence Otago (Waitaki) generously agreed to install an isolating switch so that the generator could be plugged in directly to the main switch board. I recently (16/05) sent an email to the new Emergency Management advisor for the Waitaki region asking them to confirm this was still happening, as it's been a while.

I'm sure I will hear back soon and be able to update you all.

My understanding is that the Ōmārama Residents' Association has also sought major funding for the generator. I know Stephen Grundy is the man behind the applications and anyone who's done a grant application will know how much is involved. So just a quick shout out to Steve especially when we're all sitting around a nice warm heater in the Hall when Armageddon has struck.

**King's Birthday weekend** was pretty good for me. I did catch a few speeders on Saturday. I only spent a few hours on the Twizzle-Ōmārama Rd but managed to get for speeders of note. 136 kph, 139kph and then a clown at 171kph plus a campervan at 118kph.

The fine gentleman doing 171kph thought if he laughed and asked for a warning he might get off. He even asked me for "fist bump".

He was a likeable fella so I drove him to Twizel and showed him where he could stay the night now that I had suspended his licence and impounded his car for 28 days. I also gave him some paperwork so that he could go and visit the architectural wonder that is the Oamaru Court House.

**School Speeds** -Initially I was pleased when I was advised that the speed zone near the school was going to be dropped to 30Kph. What I didn't realise was that this was for the two side streets beside our school namely TA Munro Lane and Pinot Nior Court which is about as useful as bacon in Baghdad.

Both are dead end streets and barely more than 50 metres long so dropping the speed there is a complete waste of time. Hopefully common sense prevails, and we see more done in the future.

**Winter – It's coming!** I see that CMA (Calcium Magnesium Acetate) has been sprayed in some parts already, which is great. But don't rely on it to mean that there's no ice. It does slowly wash away and, if wet, can be quite slippery on its own. Take it easy and be wary, speaking of which I almost had a head on collision myself a few weeks ago near the corner by Sailors Cutting.

A gent from Timaru was coming the other way, saw the beautiful glassy Lake Benmore and started to cross into my lane.

Luckily he woke up while only half his car was in my lane, and we were able to avoid a crash. He didn't avoid the \$150 ticket for failing to drive within his lane.

That's it from me keep safe.

Bean

Senior Constable Navland Smith

Sole charge Constable / Ōmārama / Po Box 101, Ōmārama 9448.

Phone: (03) 438 9559 / Ext: 34580 / mailto:nayland.smith@police.govt.nz

Anyone who would like to donate to the emergency generator project may make a deposit to the Residents' Association Bank account:

06-0927-0054362-02 reference: generator.

So far \$8,500 has been raised from individual donations.



## **Ömārama Volunteer Fire Brigade**



By Jason Pryde

For the month of May, the Ōmārama Fire Brigade has attended 10 call-outs, five motor vehicle accidents, two alarm activations, two medical events, and one to assist with a structure fire in Twizel.

We have recently had three new recruits that have joined the Ōmārama brigade, and I'm pleased to acknowledge and welcome Ema Maramanikalou, Junn Pogoy and Madison Innes to the team

We look forward to supporting them on their journey. Big thanks also to their employers at the Distinction Hotel, and Boots and Jandals for supporting them to volunteer.

Training has been busy for the First Response team, including driver training under lights and sirens. We have also recently completed a six-monthly refresher CCE (Continuing Clinical Education) training for the First Responders which allows us to keep up with the latest first response medical care. (See photo at right)

At the end of May, we also held our first employer recognition event, welcoming a team from Meridian to the station where they were put through their paces on the hydraulic cutting gear. Meridian employs a number of volunteers in the area, including two in our brigade, and we thank them for their continued support to the local emergency services.

We're looking forward to recognising more of our fantastic employers over the next few months!

The First Response Trust is currently fundraising for a new defibrillator with upgraded features, including a 12-lead ECG. This is expected to cost around \$35k and we have made good progress on our way to achieving this. Our fundraising efforts were further boosted by the recent Mainland Mustang Muster car gathering in town. The Canterbury and Southern clubs' donations were greatly appreciated after an informative presentation from our First Response team. (See more at right

Please take care on the roads now that winter is well and truly here, looking forward to the shortest day!

You can follow us on Facebook (Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade) to see what we have been up to.

Fenz Ömärama 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.

Ömärama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Greg Harper, 021 293 1171



## **Ömārama First Response Trust**

By Lynley Pryde

The Ōmārama and Districts Community Co-Response Trust are currently fundraising for a new 12-lead Zoll X series advanced defibrillator - at a cost of approximately \$35,000 and thanks to donations received we are now half way there. A big thank you to the New Zealand Community Trust, Mary Lou Blue, The Ōmārama Hotel Social Club, Ōmārama Rodeo Club, The Southern and Canterbury Mustang Clubs as well as the individuals from the club who also generously donated.

If you would like to donate to this fundraiser the bank account number is 06-0927-0074355-00, please add your name and Defib in the reference or contact Trust treasurer Lynley Pryde on 021 333 942.





Congratulations to Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade volunteers Jason Pryde and Vicky Chambers on the completion of the Fenz Operational Support TAPS course at Woolston Training Centre, Christchurch, last month.

The 16 students from both the North and South Islands were keen and enthusiastic, learning a variety of skills - including traffic management, lighting, fire ground duties, and salvage. Copy and photo: New Zealand Operational Support

Below: At the recent Mainland Mustang Muster the Canterbury and Southern clubs' donated to the Omarama First Response's defibrillator fundraising project.





Gary is proud to be covering the Waitaki Valley - with over three decades in the Real Estate industry in the Waitaki, Central Otago and Mackenzie Country, using the traditional real estate model.

Living in Omarama, Gary is proud to offer New Zealand's #1 FREE marketing package and fair flat fees.

With one centralised national office, we keep overheads low and savings where they belong - in your pocket!

Thinking of selling? Call Gary today.



Gary Sutherland

Business Partner & Sales Consultant

027 432 6615

gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

### **Ömārama Golf Club**

by Arron Chambers

May 2024 - Another great month of golfing in Ōmārama.

A quick change into our 'frosty' fairways have seen some fun conditions with the hardness of the course fairways and greens but makes for some beautiful days on course.

- plenty of guests this month using our overnight campervan/caravan status, for self-contained stays, with free green fees for one person per night.

Our Club Championship rounds came to completion this month with the following members taking to the finals for their relative divisions:

#### Senior Club Champion – James Moynihan wins over Johnny Anderson



#### Intermediate Club Champion – Greg Harper wins over Greg Stuart



#### Junior Club Champion - Ian Niles wins over Andy Moore



Our pennants team also competed on May 19, against Tokarahi, down at Lower Waitaki and they all enjoyed a good day in the sun. Sadly, results didn't follow but some strong games were played with some close finishes.

Look forward to seeing you on the course.

Saturday Club Day, cards in 12 noon and tee-off at 12.30pm.

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





- **Business Advice**
- Family and Succession Planning

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

- e. office@fordsimpson.co.nz
- w. www.fordsimpson.co.nz

PHONE 03 687 2080





**Brodie Craig CA** 



## Winter Housie

From Wednesday, June 5

1pm each Wednesday @ the Omarama Community Centre

\*20 Houses \*Super House \*Afternoon Tea \*Raffles \*Supported by Age Concern (Please bring cash)

## A warm welcome to all



HOU IE EACH WEDNESDA

## Age Concern in Ōmārama

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

The next Pop Up Café is 1pm to 3pm, Tuesday, June 11

This month find out about your superannuation entitlements

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





#### 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

#### **Wellness matters**

A health column from the Kurow Medical/Mackenzie Health Centre Team - By Fiona Chamberlain

It's winter and the cold weather is here and with it comes flus and colds - but is it the flu or a cold, or something else?

Flu and the common cold are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they are caused by different viruses. Flu is caused by influenza viruses only, whereas the common cold can be caused by a number of different viruses. Because flu and the common cold have similar symptoms, it can be difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. Generally, flu is worse than the common cold, and symptoms are typically more intense and begin more abruptly. Colds are usually milder than flu. People with colds are more likely to have a runny or stuffy nose than people who have flu. Colds generally do not result in serious health problems, but flu can have serious complications and prevention with vaccination is recommended.

Cold symptoms usually include congestion, runny nose, sore throat, cough, sneezing and fever often lasting a week and sometimes as long as 2 weeks. Antibiotics are not appropriate for the treatment of colds and flus because they are caused by a range of viruses and antibiotics make no difference to viruses. Studies show that simple over the counter remedies can provide relief from respiratory virus symptoms. Decongestant nasal spray can improve airflow and symptoms of congestion, honey can significantly improve symptoms of cough frequency and severity and VapoRub applied before bedtime to the neck and chest can reduce cough frequency and severity as well as nasal congestion. (Source - Antibiotic Conservation Aotearoa.) Do not give honey to children under 1 year of age. Simple analgesia like paracetamol can also help reduce pain and fever.

Those most at risk of more severe illness are children, older adults, pregnant women or people with long-term health conditions and although most colds and flus can be managed at home, it is important to seek urgent advice or call an ambulance (dial 111), if you or your child develop any of these symptoms:

• It is hard or painful to breathe or talk • Clammy skin • Lips or tongue turn bluish • A very high fever (over 40 degrees C) • Coughing up blood • A severe headache or neck pain, lights hurting your eyes • Confusion or struggling to wake up • Rash with purple or red spots or bruises• Chest pain • Not peeing, or dark coloured urine • Severe shaking, chills • Feeling faint or fainting

The flu vaccine is free for those 65 years and over and people who are most vulnerable to becoming very sick if they get the flu. If you do not meet the eligibility criteria, the flu vaccine is available for a fee. COVID-19 vaccines are free for everyone aged 5 and over and those over 30 can have 6 monthly boosters. Individuals in other ages at a higher risk of more severe illness may also be eligible. COVID-19 RAT tests are available free to everyone until 30 June from participating pharmacies.

For all vaccine eligibility you can check online. Some useful websites for information on winter illnesses

www.healthify.nz/health-a-z/c/cold-the-flu-or-covid-19/www.info.health.nz/planning-for-winter

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn!" Hal Borlund.

## **Ōmārama School**



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

#### By Ruth Grundy,

Have you checked out the newly refreshed Ōmārama School website? - it's vibrant, newsy and easy to navigate and keeps you in touch with all the happenings at our busy wee rural school.

Last month in what has become an annual event School pupils investigated what lives in the local waterways (with help from the EOS Ecology Wai Connection team), learned to weave harakeke and sang a beautiful waiata.

Read more here:

https://www.ecan.govt.nz/get-involved/news-and-events/zone-news/upper-waitaki/high-country-hangi/

Friends of the School were rolling cheesy snacks out the door... Close to 7500 of those traditional cheesy snacks – 613 dozen - rolled off the production line by the time parent helpers finished work in the Community Centre kitchen on an afternoon last month.

Made to that time-honoured recipe – yeah, that one – with 335 loaves of brown bread or white – cheese, secret tasty ingredients and still more cheese - 140kg in all - and that other all important ingredient - lots of love - the cheese were made to raise funds for Ōmārama School Parent helpers began work on the task at noon preparing the orders to have them ready to roll out the door through the afternoon and they hope finished their work well after 5pm.

The popular fundraiser has been organised by Ōmārama Friends of the School. Spokesperson Petrina Paton said the group wanted to thank the community for their cheese rolls orders and for supporting the school.

Coming up this month:

Friday, June 7, at 11am, pupils will be showcasing the results of their technology challenge.

Friday, June 14, at 11am, is Speech Day - a chance to hear about the topics of the day through the voice of our youngest residents.

Ōmārama School contact details

Phone: 03 438 9815

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

## **Ahuriri Catchment Community Group**

By Bridget Pringle

During May the Ahuriri Catchment Community Group (ACCG) held a Field Day where EOS Ecology demonstrated how to collect samples for a comprehensive eDNA test and a stream health assessment. The test kit and training has been supported by the [Environment Canterbury] Wai Connection funding that the ACCG secured last year.

We covered two methods of assessing stream ecology: environmental DNA sampling (eDNA) and manual sampling for macroinvertebrates as indicators of water quality. Whilst we do not have the final eDNA results yet - there are high sensitivity macroinvertebrates living in the Ōmarama Stream, indicating that the water is pretty good. eDNA is a great engagement tool, and is now being used effectively across the catchment. If you are interested in eDNA, check out the Wilderlab website at www.wilderlab.co.nz You can see other samples that have been taken on here from all over the country. Your results should be back in a couple of weeks and will not be made public unless you chose to make them visible. eDNA is just one tool in many to assess water quality.

We also learned about using a clarity tube. This is a quick method to see how well light can travel through water (up to 1 m) and is used to assess how much suspended sediment there is. Low water clarity can have an impact on ecosystems living in the water. This will change quickly over time, so can be a good test to be doing regularly, and after rain events.

Monitoring is more than just meeting resource consent conditions. It can celebrate the things living in our waterways and helps to assess long-term impacts of the onfarm actions that are occurring in the Ahuriri Catchment, for example, riparian plantings, stock exclusion or setbacks from farming landuse activities.

The ACCG also applied to ECan's Upper Waitaki Zone Committee for a funding grant. Their meeting was held on Friday, May 17 (prior to the Hangi at Omarama Station) and ACCG was successful in their application.

We now have another \$12,000 towards our administration and Project Lead costs.

If anyone is interested in learning more or being involved, please email Bridget Pringle on bridget@irricon.co.nz

We are happy to add you to our mailing list of updates/information.





## **Ömārama Stream Water Group**

#### By Bridget Pringle

During May the Ōmārama Stream Water Group and the Wairepo Water Quality Group joined forces and held a joint meeting at the Mt Cook Alpine Salmon boardroom with guest speaker Dr Gordon Rajendram "The Soil Scientist". The topic for the talk was Advancing Sustainable Agriculture in New Zealand and Dr Rajendram and Agraforum Managing Director Allan Piercy presented El-I Tech's Biodynamic Nitrogen.

Biodynamic Nitrogen facilitates the biological fixation of nitrogen from the atmosphere for plant utilisation and requires less application for equal or better results than commonly used urea. It works by applying microbes to the plant. It was a well attended and informative presentation that was very thought provoking.



Dr Gordon Rajendram. Photo: supplied



## UPPER WAITAKI YOUNG FARMERS QUIZ NIGHT

## FRI 21ST JUNE

7pm Start

\$50 table - 5 people per

table

## Kurow Hotel

Book a table by contacting Upper Waitaki Young

Farmers on:

Email - upperwaitaki@youngfarmers.co.nz

Phone - 0278009003







eam Karan & Jess

Karan MacDiarmid 027 517 7959 karan@mcre.co.nz

> Jess Mackay 027 902 5529 karan@mcre.co.nz

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YOUNG FARMERS CLUB
PRESENTS

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Ball 2024

Doors open at 6.30pm | Formal attire
Tickets \$80.00

Kurow Memorial Hall

SIT DOWN MEAL PROVIDED • CASH BAR • SOBER DRIVERS LOCALLY • R18 EVENT • ID REQUIRED ON ENTRY





# Are your stock fenced from waterways?

Have you got a plan to exclude stock from sensitive environments on your property? Are you hotwiring these areas in the interim?

Although some new national regulations will no longer be introduced, existing regional stock exclusion rules still apply.

Contact our local team for free advice and more detail on regional rules and best practice.

- Intensively farmed stock needs to be kept out of rivers and lakes, and all farmed cattle, deer and pigs need to be excluded from sensitive areas within waterways, including bathing sites and salmon and inanga (whitebait) spawning sites. In some cases a 3-metre setback may be required.
- Keeping stock out of waterways reduces nutrients and faecal bacteria from impacting natural habitats.
- Lake water quality can change rapidly – let's keep our southern lakes healthy and swimmable.

For more information visit ecan.govt.nz/stock-exclusion or Call 0800 324 636 and ask for our local Twizel team.

#### Reporting issues is a snap with our Snap Send Solve App Snap Did you know Waitaki District Council has a FREE smart phone Send app to help make reporting issues easy? If you spot a pothole Solve on a local road, damage to a footpath, a water leak or any other issue that you think Council may be able to sort, then you can use this clever app to report it by taking a photo (SNAP) and sending (SEND) it to the Council (SOLVE). The app works by identifying the location of where the photo is taken using your phone's GPS data. You can fill in a few details then hit send. A report is then allocated to the relevant Council department. Find more info and a link to the app on our website. Scan for more info and app downlor Waitaki www.waitaki.govt.nz

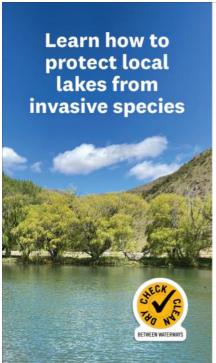




One mature **nassella tussock** plant can produce over **100,000 seeds**.

How many of these plants are you prepared to leave uncontrolled on your property?

Learn how to control nassella, available contractors and how we can help, visit ecan.govt.nz/nassella



Aquatic pests pose a significant threat to freshwater bodies in New Zealand. They also have the potential to seriously impact holiday destinations and local economies.

Many of our local lakes and rivers remain pest-free thanks to communities like Ōtematata taking action.

Join Environment Canterbury biosecurity staff for an information evening to:

- Discuss how to continue protecting local lakes from invasive species
- · Learn what species to look out for
- Hear about the Lagarosiphon Management and Check Clean Dry programmes.

Wednesday 12th June, 5:30pm - 7:00pm Ōtematata Community Hall, 1 West Road, Ōtematata

Light refreshments provided, everyone welcome. Email biosecurity@ecan.govt.nz with any questions.



#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### East Ahuriri Rabbit Control Winter 2024

During June-July 2024, the Department of Conservation, Te Manahuna/Twizel Office, intends to apply Pindone cereal baits aerially on public conservation land (PCL) and unallocated Crown land (UCL) to control rabbits.

#### Location

The treatment block (641ha of PCL and 37ha of UCL) is part of the East Branch of the Ahuriri, within the Ahuriri Conservation Park.

The treatment block consists of 623ha on the true left side of the Ahuriri River with 55ha on the true right of the River. The block is approximately 25km Northwest of Omarama.

#### Method of Control

Poisoning will occur at sites of high rabbit densities throughout the treatment areas. Pindone baits will be aerially applied by helicopter using GPS and trickle feed and broadcast buckets.

Pindone baits are cylindrical in shape, about 1cm in diameter, and dyed green.

Pindone is poisonous to humans and domestic animals. Always remember:

DO NOT touch any bait.

WATCH CHILDRÉN at all times.

DO NOT bring DOGS into this area.

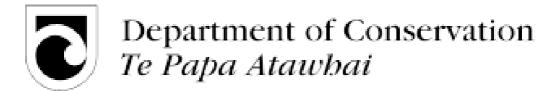
DO NOT EAT animals from this area.

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about Pesticides. Warning signs will be placed at all recognised points of entry to the treatment area.

For an Operational Factsheet contact; Te Manahuna/Twizel Office, Wairepo Road, Twizel 7901.

Tel: 0800 275 362

A detailed map of the treatment areas may be viewed on the DOC website www.doc.govt.nz under the Eastern South Island pesticide summary section, and is available from the Te Manahuna/Twizel Office, Wairepo Road, Twizel.



## **Ōmārama Residents' Association**

The next meeting of the Ōmārama Residents' Association is 7pm, Thursday, June 20, 2024 at the Ōmārama Community Centre

#### **Contacts:**

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630 Vicky Chambers, secretary, 021 296 5782

(Minutes of the previous meetings are available from Vicky)

#### THE ASSOCIATION HAS ITS OWN POST OFFICE BOX

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

The Secretary, P O Box 93, Ōmārama 9448.
The association's email address is omarama.committee@gmail.com

#### **ŌMĀRAMA COMMUNITY CENTRE HALL HIRE**

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



## **Ōmārama MenzShed**

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

For further information contact:

Malcolm Cameron 022 476 2225

## **Ömārama 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.

## **Ömārama Community Garden**

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

Anyone is welcome to pop along to the Community Centre and enjoy

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

Contact Heather Smith, 027 330 0249

## **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

#### **Ohau Conservation Trust**

The firefighter planting event last month in Avoca Forest was the culmination of support, work and input from many people.

It was a huge success - with big smiles on the faces of the over 60 volunteers who planted 920 plants

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a very special day, for very special people - our firefighter heroes.

Ngā manaakitanga / best wishes

Viv, Helen and Katrina, Trustees of Ohau Conservation Trust

#### Below:

The wording on the two plaques - sitting on the beautiful large macrocarpa posts in Avoca Forest. Photo: Supplied

Firefighters - Ian, Charlotte, Jack, Graeme, Mike and Rupert (with Tank) after planting six kōwhai at the firefighter plaques in Avoca Forest. Photo: Supplied.







## 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.



If you need any of the services listed below please contact:

Twizel Community Care Centre

Mount Cook St, Twizel, Phone: 03 435 0687

Open: Monday - Friday 9am to 2pm

• A reminder we have a food bank available with no questions asked With the lead up to Christmas, it can be a particularly difficult time for people so please call in to the Twizel Community Care Centre on Mt Cook Street if you are in need of food.

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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
- Assistance with finding jobs in the area.
- Foodbank donations, and supply people with food parcels when in need
- Any other government services ACC, Department of Corrections, etc
- Arowhenua Whanau services Free health clinic on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Computer/cellphone assistance needing help with something on your computer or cellphone. Free WiFi
- Rat tests/Mask supply free of charge
- · Assistance with filling in any forms or paperwork.
- Offer room hire to community groups and businesses.

#### 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



03 438 9554 027 4861525





Vicky Munro Otematata 03 438 7855 021 438745



Alona Shaw Omarama 027 773 4214

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

## **Omarama Storage**



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- 3.6m h x 3m w entry
- Short & Long term

Don't let the weather deteriorate your caravan, boat or motorhome over winter. Spaces available now.

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Thursday's 11am - 12pm

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Ōmārama's news delivered to your inbox

the first Wednesday of each month
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