



Ōmārama Gazette

July 2024

This is going to be epic!

The night's challenge will be a very simple challenge...

Nothing fussy, nothing fancy and will they be just a little bit impressed? You betcha!

He's a former MasterChef New Zealand judge, a renowned restaurateur, an architect of stocks and seasonings, purveyor of top quality artisan foods, but did you also know Ōmārama holds a special place in Simon Gault's heart?

Simon's dad, Bryan, was a former RNZAF instructor and Air New Zealand training captain, and both his parents loved cooking.

When he decided he wanted to be a pilot too, his dad insisted he learn how to fly a glider first – he's been gliding since he was 16 years old.

Whether you're trying to read the big skies or gauging what you can prepare from your kitchen the judgement calls are similar, he says in a recent interview with Radio New Zealand's Kathryn Ryan. Just like flying a glider, in the kitchen "it's you against the elements".

This spring Omarama MenzShed and Friends are bringing Simon to town. He will show us all how to master sensible, no fuss and fun everyday meals – guaranteed to get the whole family – we're looking at you blokes - young and the young at heart – excited to get into the kitchen.

Maybe you've just started exploring that distant planet called the kitchen, or maybe you've been chucked in the deep end and mince on toast – while a gourmet dish in its own right – just won't cut it every night of the week. "Oh Dad, not again!"

- continued over

Chef and glider pilot Simon Gault will visit Omarama in Spring for a cooking demonstration. Photo: Supplied



Continued from front page ...

Who knows, you may even want to 'spoil your baby with an upgrade' and whip up 'something fancy like!'

Whatever your skills you won't want to miss this fun community event.

While Simon is here, we will be showing him some of our fabulous high-country hospitality with our community groups and businesses stepping forward to welcome him to town and support this event and our MenzShed.

We'd love it if you could help in any way.

A bit more about Simon's visit ...

When Covid 19 moved into town in February 2022 volunteers sprang into action making food and putting together care packs for those isolating.

What came to light was that many of our menfolk, of all ages, were at a loss as to how to cook for themselves or the family when the women of the household were out of action. It can be quite an overwhelming feeling when you're unable to provide for those you love when they need you the most.

Out of this sprang an idea to perhaps combine a little learning and a lot of fun to show easy ways ... nothing fussy, nothing fancy... to cook up heartwarming meals from your own kitchen. The idea to invite well-known MasterChef personality and glider pilot Simon Gault to town was born.

This is not a fundraiser. It follows in the best tradition of bringing guests to our place for a little inspiration and a lot of fun – remember Sir John Kirwan, Dr Dave, the Flying Doctor, and just last year Lance Burdett (to Kurow)***.

It will be a ticketed event run by volunteers – Omarama MenzShed and Friends.

The organising group hope to get sponsorship to subsidise ticket prices so as many of our community can be included as possible.

The event will also offer a way to promote our volunteer community groups.

Sponsors so far include:

* Simon's accommodation will be provided by Merino Lodge

* Kahu Soaring's Milan Kmetovics will take our guest for a unique mountain soaring experience.

* GlenCraigs Clothing is supporting the event.

* Boots and Jandals Hotel Ōmārama will provide equipment and a sous chef

Watch this space...

To discuss sponsorship opportunities phone or email:

Georgie Robertson

027 486 1525

huntly@xtra.co.nz

The bank account number is: Simon Gault Event 06-0939-0054263-10

More information on ticket prices and how to register will be in next month's Ōmārama Gazette.

*[***The Ōmārama Gazette has wholeheartedly given volunteer time and energy, and promoted these community events free of any charge. In the same way it will also not benefit financially in any way from Simon's visit and is involved in promotion and publicity only.]*

Proposed health hub a step closer

A new purpose-built building to house a health and wellness hub to serve the Waitaki Valley is almost over the line in securing the site for the centre and the helipad for emergency helicopter transport.

An application to get resource consent for use of the site has been publicly notified and consultation is under way.

Waitaki Valley Medical Trust chairman Jim Jerram said the proposal had been some years in the planning and this was the last hurdle before the “big task” of fundraising for the build began. “Concept plans are well advanced and will be modified after the fourth consultation with the community and health service providers,” Dr Jerram said. It was a timely undertaking.

“We at a critical stage of the New Zealand Health Care system. We plan to be future-proofed and sufficiently utilitarian in nature to have the broadest possible brief for the future,” he said.

Last year the Trust held a public meeting in Ōmārama as one of several in the Waitaki Valley to present the concept for the Community Health and Wellness Hub to the surrounding community.

The Trust, which is the landlord of the present premises in Kurow, has the full support of Dr Tim Gardner and wife Juliet Gardner who bought the Kurow-based general practice in 2016.

The existing facility was a collection of 1960’s Catchment Commission buildings and an upgrade had long been needed, Dr Jerram said.

At present, disability and ambulance access was poor. The general lack of space, configuration of rooms and offices, inadequate insulation, heating and cooling plus constant maintenance issues all posed significant barriers to efficient management and progress.

The new facility will include health and social services, meeting rooms, community/iwi rooms, accident and emergency facilities, two parking areas as well as the helicopter landing area.

“In addition to bringing health services to the region it will also operate as an emergency centre in a disaster” - the Alpine Fault rupture, a flood or fire, he said.

Permission is being sought to build the new complex on a 730sqm site which is known as the Kurow Railway Reserve at the corner of Gordon and Wynyard streets. The Trust’s proposal was accepted by the Waitaki District Council in October. However, it requires this final step; to subdivide the land into two lots and for the plans for the hub, carparks and helipad, to be approved, before it can go ahead.

Because the proposal cannot comply with hours of operation, employs people who reside off site, and will result in non-compliant noise levels at times due to emergency helicopter movements, the proposal requires non-complying resource consent overall.

Public consultation was needed to confirm the reserve status change from ‘Local Purpose (passive recreation) Reserve’ to ‘Local Purpose (community buildings) Reserve’ , and simultaneously apply for resource consent.

Once consultation closes a hearing will be held.

Submissions close 5pm, Wednesday, July 10, 2024 www.waitaki.govt.nz

Garden club a growing enterprise

A growing enterprise is well along the road to success at Ōmārama School.

Last year, Ōmārama School parent Jennie Hales introduced a school garden club held weekly at lunchtimes for interested pupils.

More than 18 pupils joined in the first sessions with more than 10 attending regularly each time since. The pupils engage with sheer enthusiasm and delight in that “one hour of chaos”, Jennie said.

Last week, Mitre 10 Mega’s Liz Glasier, who runs a primary school gardening programme, visited Ōmārama School at the request of fellow Ōmārama parent volunteer Nicole Leopold. Under Liz’s guidance pupils potted up garlic and planted bulbs in the school gardens.

Winter has slowed things down a little, of course but last spring and summer the wee gardens bloomed.

Omarama MenzShed volunteers modified the school tunnel house to be more user-friendly for little people, and it has been put to good use. Last season they grew popcorn corn, sunflowers, carrots, peas, radishes and most popular of all – strawberries which the workers could feast on at the end of a session.

Apples from the school orchard were picked for crumbles and turnovers.

More work – pruning and plantings - is planned to rejuvenate the old orchard.

And although the courgettes were not embraced with quite such delight, short work was made of the Courgette Chocolate Cake made from that harvest, Jennie said.

MenzShed has also built raised beds with timber donated by Little Ben Dairy Farms for new projects.

Building on the popularity of berries, Jennie is planning a “big berry patch” for spring. Newly acquired plant propagation skills will be put to good use as pupils plan to sell surplus plants to raise funds to for equipment and new projects.

Next month, Liz will return and take the pupils through the steps to make their own bird feeders.

One request Jennie has is if anyone has topsoil available, the club would welcome it to fill the new raised beds.

PHOTOS ABOVE AND BELOW: Popcorn corn is popping out to be popped (Photo: Jennie Hales); MenzShed volunteers create garden plots from donated timber (Photo: Malcolm Cameron); Mitre 10's Liz Glasier demonstrates garlic planting (Photo: Ruth Grundy)





For \$3,000, could you do better than that?

If you knew that Maureen Cowie was not a winner of a Nobel prize but Omarama's own Maurice Cowie was recipient of a Queen's Service Medal for services to Search and Rescue, then you were probably clever enough.

Last month, Omarama Search and Rescue held its inaugural quiz night at a packed out Boots and Jandals Hotel raising about \$3000 for the volunteer group and ending with the promise to go bigger, better and harder next year.

In what was a surprise revelation, and one not leaked to local paparazzi, celebrity Michael Jackson – no not that one, the other one - took to the floor to MC for the occasion. Cameras were clicking to capture the moment. There was a lot of flashing...no, not that sort!

Adjudicators were brought in on only one occasion - plucked from the crowd for their age, not their shoe size (we have quite small feet, don't we Ann?) And deliberated at length on the exact answer to the question – Who was the first cop in Ōmārama? Aaah, oops we got it wrong!

In the interests of not re-writing Ōmārama history investigations following the show, and in consultation with local experts Lex and Jan Perriam, it was decided the definitive answer was that Brian, May and Stephen Seagar were the first police family to live and work in Omarama.

They were followed by Dave and Sue, Sarah and Emily Garlick.

Dave Garlick then became the first police officer to occupy the original Ōmārama Community Policing Centre which was the former Information Centre and prior to that the New Zealand Forest Service headquarters.

Quiz night results do not change in light of the new info.

Next year come join the fun!

PHOTOS: South Canterbury Museum, and Julie Dyson, Boots and Jandals Hotel.



(Left) Brian, May and Stephen Seagar

(Below) Constable Dave Garlick prepares to move into the 'new' Ōmārama Policing Centre in 1995



Right: A quiz night was held to raise money for Omarama Sar - well, that's the long and the short of it!



Below: Best not get lost or this lot will come looking for you! Members of Ōmārama LandSar organised last month's successful quiz night fundraiser for the volunteer group.



St Thomas's Church

Notice from the St Thomas's Management Committee.

There will be a meeting 1.30pm, Friday, August 2, at the Ōmārama Memorial Hall meeting room to discuss what best to do with items from the church, (furniture, etc.)

This process will help inform the committee of the best way forward. It is planned that the chattels will be directed accordingly after this meeting, and any chattels which remain in storage after August 20 will be disbursed by the committee in an appropriate way.

For those who are not able to attend this meeting, apologies and submissions for discussion prior to the meeting are to be emailed to the Chairman, Dr Michael Godfrey, email: Michael.dylanfreak@gmail.com

Rev Lee Kearon, Secretary, St Thomas's Management Committee.

**It's time,
Canterbury**

Our climate change
conversation

**Let's take
action for
our climate.**



Make a change in how you consume / whakatange

Manufacturing is one of our biggest sources of emissions. Repairing instead of replacing damaged items reduces emissions from the energy, resources and shipping used to create new products.

itstimecanterbury.co.nz



Generator-ing Goodwill

In breaking news ...

Individual donations have reached \$8850.00 Your generosity is unbelievable !!

With thanks to...

- * Sierra Motels
- * Ōmārama Rodeo Club
- * Merino Lodge
- * Ian and Jan Mckie
- * Peter and Adrienne Borrie

As well, funding applications have been made to several agencies.

FAQs

* The Omarama Emergency Management Group (Fenz, SAR volunteers and Omarama Police) - decided, in the case of disaster, a 40KVA generator is required to run the Community Centre, hall and kitchen. The Centre is the nominated community shelter in case of an emergency. The Centre is owned by the Residents' Association of Omarama. The generator will also be used to provide power to the MenzShed facility adjacent to the Centre. This will allow the group to work at other sites on community projects. In return MenzShed will maintain and service the generator.

* Electrician Brent Fokkens carried out the initial assessment of the size of generator needed to run the community centre, which includes heating, lighting and the kitchen, as well as medical centre. He recommended a 40KVA diesel generator.

* For it to be used by Ōmārama MenzShed and for other community projects it needs to be portable – on a trailer. Quotes provided for both the trailer and generator plus delivery to Omarama run from around \$30K to \$40k. Four quotes have been obtained.

*There is at present no generator in Ōmārama with the capacity to run the necessary facilities at the Ōmārama Community Centre in an emergency.

*Because of Ōmārama's location it is considered highly likely that during a disaster - the Alpine Fault rupture, flooding or snow, the township may be cut off from help for some days, if not weeks. Should power be cut it could be some time before this could be restored. The concern is during winter months people could be at risk with not having warm shelter. Along with warmth, there is a need for cooking facilities to heat and refrigerate food to cater for a large number for a length of time.

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.

(A receipt can be provided so you can claim a IRD tax credit of up to 33% of the amount donated.)



Council catch-up June 2024

UNSPENT BETTER OFF FUNDS TO BE REALLOCATED TO WATER

\$100K of Better Off funding allocated to Omarama to be shifted to Local Water Done Well leaving \$56K “contractually committed” to the “community hub shelters and seating amenity” and \$64,000 remaining for the other two projects; improving safety for pedestrians and A2O cyclists through an alternative route around the junction of SH8 and SH83, and parking improvements in the town centre.

Read more of the debate and decision making process here:

The Waitaki District Council has decided \$650K of unspent Better Off Funding – including \$100K from the Omarama allocation - will be redirected to water infrastructure and services on the recommendation of its staff.

After considerable debate at its June 11 meeting, councillors decided to let asset operations manager Joshua Rendell’s late report recommending the reallocation of Better Off funds ‘lie on the table’ for lack of information.

But at the June 25 council meeting, despite no further information being provided, councillors decided to go ahead with the report’s recommended reallocations.

However, it did agree to one change in wording so ostensibly the matter could be revisited.

In April, the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) wrote to councils directing them to consider reallocating unspent Better Off monies to the new “Local Water Done Well” (LWDW) programme. It wanted to hear back from councils about their decisions by May 31. However, the report setting out the WDC staff recommendations was not tabled until the council’s June 11 meeting.

LWDW is the National-led Government’s plan to address water quality and water services’ infrastructure investment .

The Better Off Fund was introduced in 2022 as part of the Labour Government’s Three Waters Reform – then Affordable Water – package.

The fund was put in place to make sure councils could ensure their communities were in a better position after the water services reform process than they were before it.

Under the plan the council was allocated \$3.71 million - \$240K of which was allocated to Omarama Masterplan projects.

The fund is a ‘draw-down’ fund which means projects which the DIA has approved must be completed before the grants are made.

Of the \$240k allocated to Omarama, \$20K has been spent on support costs , \$56,000 has been “contractually committed” to the “community hub shelters and seating amenity”, and the reallocation of \$100K means \$64,000 remains for the other two projects tagged for the spending – the project to improve safety for pedestrians and A2O cyclists through an alternative route around the junction of SH8 and SH83, and improvements to parking in the town centre.

At the June 11 meeting council chief executive Alex Parmley said staff had considered contractual commitments already made when looking at what monies could be moved. Staff had also considered possible other ways to make up the difference should shifting the funds cause a shortfall. He said it was important to note

that this decision did not indicate staff's lack of commitment to the projects but rather they had looked at opportunities to "maybe fund those in different ways".

There followed an intense and somewhat heated discussion as councillors claimed they did not have enough information about the various projects involved to be able to make considered decisions about how reallocating funds might affect those.

Mayor Gary Kircher led the debate, saying he would "push back" against taking \$100K away from the Omarama town centre.

"There have been very clear indications from them that they want progress made on their sports field, redeveloping the sportsground that they have got and creating a good green space.

"It is a project that I think we would be able to progress quite quickly and my thought is we don't get very many opportunities to do projects like this using someone else's money.

"It would be good to leave that \$100K in there and work with that community to deliver something that they have expressed a clear wish to do which is part of the masterplan. "

He suggested taking out an equivalent amount from other Better Off Funding projects instead. However, he later said he did not know whether this was feasible because councillors had not been involved in "allocating the money to those particular activities".

He said, because funding had been allocated to a "broad area of activities", he had thought "a lot of these decisions" would return to the council for it to see what it was being spent on and so could prioritise the spending decisions.

"I'm hearing some questions today which I wouldn't have expected if we had been a bit more involved in this process," Mr Kircher said.

Mr Parmley responded saying he did not know what the effect would be on the other projects if councillors decided at the meeting to change how the reallocation of \$650K was divided up.

Mr Kircher proceeded to give examples of where he felt, he, the deputy mayor and other councillors had been left out of the loop and noted some of these concerned the portfolios they held.

"Again, we're flying blind here and we do rely on officer advice but it's also necessary for us to ask questions and when we don't know some of the aspects it's really hard to make decisions," he said.

Mr Parmley said he believed the councillors had been involved through various meetings and briefings.

"Is that a 'no' to leaving Ōmārama with its money?" Mr Kircher said.

Business attraction and recovery manager Melanie Jones proceeded to detail where the Ōmārama spending was at.

"In Omarama we have completed the shelters – that was one of the first of the key projects and actually the total costs aren't quite reflected in these monies so there is actually slightly less left there than is indicated [i.e. more than \$56K has been spent] but that shelter project is going ahead in August and the team do not yet have the next project ready to roll and that was part of the implications around the timing of this," Ms Jones said.

Mr Parmley said that as yet nothing had been agreed with the DIA "you could restore that Omarama funding without taking it from anywhere else".

"We were asked to consider it [reallocating funds]. There wasn't a target amount that was set in there."

Council catch-up continues...

Ms Jones said it had been proposed to spend the Better Off Funds allocated to Omarama on three projects.

“The first was a shelter and new assets in the community hub. That is now in the process of being implemented.”

Of the other two which had not been started, one was improving the parking area and the second was creating a purpose-built A2O cycle plus pedestrian way at the junction of SH8 and SH83, she said.

They had not been considering the sports field because that was in the Long-Term Plan “and I think that was where everything has got very complicated,” Ms Jones said.

Mr Kircher said, his understanding from his discussions with the Omarama community was that the proposed carpark project was not one that benefited the “people that actually live in the area” but was more of a benefit to tourists.

And further, his understanding was the landowner did not want the A2O cycle trail to go outside of the carpark but rather for it to go through the carpark “so I don’t know whether that’s going to get any traction”.

“The sports field used to be there. The locals are very confident that they will get local input to reinstate what’s needed.

“They probably do need to have a water source so if that needs resource consent and a bore put in that’s something they could enable with the help of our funding to make that happen. “There’re some very capable people in that community and we don’t need to do everything for them but we do need to listen to them.

“I feel and that’s where I’m coming from when I mention the sports field

“It’s the thing that there seems to be more support for rather than an adventure playground, rather than a car park and rather than a track around the area which we don’t know that we’ve even got access to or believe we won’t get access to.

“That’s why I’m pushing to keep this money in that community because they have been pretty clear with me about what they actually want. [Although] I know there’s contradictory voices amongst it,” Mr Kircher said.

Mr Rendell suggest the total amount to be reallocated could be reduced by \$100k to allow that money to “remain within the Ōmārama books”.

Councillors Tim Blackler and John McCone said their view was the whole \$650k should be reallocated and perhaps more, suggesting a figure of \$1.25million be shifted to LWDW.

“Considering capital indebtedness at the minute anything that pays off capital borrowings has got to be beneficial...if we have the opportunity to reduce that debt level then I think we should take it,” Cr McCone said.

Motions were put and lost and new motions moved.

More than an hour into the debate Deputy Mayor Hana Halalele moved the report and recommendations ‘lie on the table’ until staff provided more information, and this was subsequently carried unanimously.

Nonetheless, the report’s original recommendations were passed at the council’s June 25 meeting despite apparently no further information being produced or discussion having taken place.

Mr Parmley said it was a procedural requirement for the report to be referred to the next council meeting.

“Officers have not yet received a specified request for the type of additional

information required, so the agenda item is being referred to this, the next council meeting as is required for items left to lie on the table, but without any additional information attached," the updated report said.

Mr Kircher left part way through the new discussion to meet with antifluoride protesters.

Before he left, he said he believed the consensus was councillors were in a "no better position to make a call on things" at that meeting and they would like further discussions with staff.

Mr Kircher also relayed a message from the DIA that a decision about how the Better Off Funding would be reallocated would not actually be needed until August.

Cr Hopkins then moved that decision be deferred until the July 30 meeting with the intention to consider other opportunities to reallocate and discuss further.

Waihemo ward councillor Jim Thomson voted against that motion because he felt the reallocations had been a recommendation from staff and it would be a "shift of governance into operational space" to reconsider this. He said was not comfortable with that process.

Ahuriri Ward councillor Brent Cowles, who did not attend the June 11 meeting, said he would be voting against it as well.

As he read the situation staff had agreed to go back to community boards and groups and work to find alternative funds to meet any shortfall.

"I believe that is for the staff and team to find and we have to trust that that will happen. If, then, we feel that hasn't happened correctly then it's up to us to hold that to account.

"But we've got a very clear path set here as to how we could move forward.

"As you know I wasn't party to the original meeting on this but reading through this report, to my mind I feel that we've had a requirement to move some funding. We have, in discussion with community boards and community groups, agreed to commence work to find alternative funding for those sources," Cr Cowles said.

Cr Hopkins said he did not believe the council was "moving into operational space" and that the governance team could be involved in discussing how the funds could be reallocated.

"It seems to me we are perfectly entitled to discuss whether we want to take some more money out of funds to increase the amount available for Local Water Done Well," he said.

Cr Blacker said "in view of the changing landscape" there was an opportunity to redirect more funds to water and he felt the council could and should do better so he would vote against the proposal to make the decision without further consideration.

Ultimately, the report's original recommendations won the day with one small change to the wording.

Cr Hopkins asked that recommendation 1. be changed to read that council approve the "current" reallocation of funds as per the proposal put forward by officers and consider other funding sources (in the future) to meet the remaining aspirations of the 'Place' projects.

This might give the council the option of reconsidering the decision before the end of July, he said

Council catch-up continues...

RATES SET FOR 2024-2025 YEAR

The Waitaki District Council has unanimously agreed to increase rates by 13.43% from this month.

But in an example of an average calculated for Ōmārama residential properties (see graphic above) that increase is likely to sit at about 19%.

In the corresponding example given for commercial properties in Ōmārama the calculation shows an increase of about 9.7% on last year.

The council's enhanced 2024/25 annual plan, budget and rates rise was set by councillors at a meeting last week.

The increase is for this financial year and takes effect on July 1.

Changes to council fees and charges also come into effect from that date.

The increase compares unfavourably to the forecasted rates increase of 6.29% for this year which is year 4 of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

This is largely due to unforeseen rises in water costs, because of the changes to water reform, and roading infrastructure costs, of which more are now to be borne by local authorities rather than by national government.

Earlier this year, in line with the new Government's guidelines, the council opted to put together an 'enhanced annual plan' for the 2024-25 financial year and defer its 2024-34 Long-Term Plan by 12 months to manage the changes.

Apart from business-as-usual budgets and among the approved projects put forward for this year ratepayers will put \$5,000 towards a new project - the Ōmārama Stream Reserve Future Management - described as a review of the future maintenance and management of the reserve.

And Ōmārama will get some of the \$10,000 allocated to cemeteries signage and maps.

EXAMPLE OF RESIDENTIAL RATES (ŌMĀRAMA)



	2023/2024	2024/2025
Capital Value	\$390,000	\$490,000
Land Value	\$205,000	\$260,000
General & Roding rates	\$731	\$830
UAGC	\$515	\$529
Targeted rates	\$1,276	\$1,650
Total Rates	\$2,522	\$3,009
Total \$ increase		▲ \$487
Total % increase		▲ 19.31%
an extra \$1.33	per day	\$9.36
		per week

OMARAMA
RODEO CLUB

Hill Billy Hunt



Friday July 12-14

Registrations from 6.30pm Friday

The Wrinkly Rams Omarama

\$50 Teams of 2-4, Weigh in Sunday 3.30pm

Awesome Prizes - New hunting Categories - All ages Welcome



OMARAMA RODEO CLUB

MID WINTER QUIZ NIGHT

TEAMS OF 4 \$50 ENTRY FEE

The Wrinkly Rams Omarama

7.30pm July 12

The Noticeboard

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

A belated Many Happy Returns for last month's birthday, Ange Smith!



Postcard from Vietnam: Malcolm and Jenny Cameron have taken a trip to warmer climes and have sent this 'postcard' home (below) taken while exploring Vietnam War relics. Those knees would freeze here, Malcolm! Seriously, both of you, we wish we were there!



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.

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. 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. 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 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. 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 August Issue of the Omarama Gazette
is Wednesday, August 7, 2024.**

Please submit copy
by Thursday, August 1, 2024

The Community Reports

Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



By Tania Innes

It has been a quiet month, with only seven callouts. Three of which were all in one day. Three were motor vehicle accidents, two were medical incidents and there were three vegetation fires.

Congratulations to Vicky and Jason for completing their Operational Support course at Woolston Training Facility in Christchurch last month.

A big welcome to Aaron Wood who has joined the brigade as a recruit firefighter, he along with our other three recruits will be starting training in preparation for their own

recruit courses.

We celebrated National Volunteer week last month and I would like to thank all fellow volunteers in the brigade and other volunteers in the wider community for the valuable work you do.

Fire and Emergency's national campaign this month is "See a fire before it starts".

There are three safety actions you can take to help avoid a fire.

- A metre from the heater – keep everything at a safe distance
- Cool ash before you stash – soak with water in a metal bucket
- A clean dryer avoids fire – remove lint before every use

Also take note that Fire and Emergency has revoked the restricted fire season in Upper Waitaki as of June 10 until further notice. However, caution should still be taken when lighting outdoor fires especially if it's windy. Before lighting a fire head to www.checkitsalright.nz to make sure conditions are safe.

Although permits are no longer required, if you are planning a controlled burn please contact a local Fire and Emergency fire permit issuer for advice. This also lets everyone know that it is a planned burn if Joe Public calls it in on 111.

Finally, whilst we have been having some very variable weather conditions, we still need to remember to watch out for ice and grit in the usual places, bridges, dark sections etc.

Stay warm and don't forget to make sure your chimney is clean.

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**

Ōmārama Golf Club

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**

Network Waitaki is 100% owned by the Waitaki Power Trust and together we are dedicated to giving back to our community. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2024 Network Waitaki Sponsorship Programme.

POWERING —OUR— COMMUNITY

From education, community, health, science, sports and the arts, Network Waitaki is proud to support projects and initiatives that contribute to the wellbeing and growth of the Waitaki Region.

We wish the following recipients of the 2024 Network Waitaki sponsorship grants all the best in their future endeavours.

Thank you to everyone who applied to the 2024 sponsorship programme.

Applications for 2025 programme will open early next year.



2024 NETWORK WAITAKI SPONSORSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Albion Richmond Cricket Club
- Ardgowan Primary School
- Awakino Alpine Charitable Trust
- Awamoa Football Club
- Awamoa Gardens Croquet Club Inc
- Camp Iona Charitable Trust
- CCS Disability Action Waitaki
- Excelsior Sports Club
- Five Forks Community Hall
- Friends of the Forrester Gallery Society Inc
- Gospel Chapel Orwell Street Oamaru Board
- Hampden Community Energy Society
- Harbour Street Jazz Inc
- IHC North Otago
- Maheno Junior Rugby Club
- Maheno Netball Club (Maheno Junior Netball)
- Maheno Public Hall Society Inc
- Maheno School
- North Otago Basketball Association
- North Otago Bird Fanciers Club
- North Otago Cricket Association
- North Otago Matariki Hui Ako 2024
- North Otago Principals' Association
- North Otago Recreational Turf Trust
- North Otago Riding for the Disabled
- North Otago Rugby Football Union Inc
- North Otago Sports Bodies Association
- North Otago Toy Library
- North Otago Youth Support (The Youth Centre)
- Oamaru Athletic Marist Rugby Football Club Inc
- Oamaru Blue Light Ventures Inc
- Oamaru Combined Churches Christmas Parcels Trust
- Oamaru Intermediate School
- Oamaru Old Boys Rugby Football Club
- Oamaru Rowing Club Inc
- Oamaru Steam and Rail Restoration Society Inc
- Oamaru Tap Dancing Association
- Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust
- Old Boys Netball Oamaru Inc
- Oamaru and Districts Community Co Response Trust
- Otago Neighbourhood Support - Waitaki
- Our Hub Oamaru Creative Arts Space
- Royal New Zealand Plunket Trust
- Scotts Own Sea Scouts
- Special Olympics North Otago Trust
- Sport Otago
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
- Steampunk NZ Trust
- Valley Football Club
- Waitaki Arts Trail
- Waitaki Collie Dog Club
- Waitaki Girls' High School
- Waitaki Multicultural Inc
- Weston School
- Youthtown Archery Tag Series



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



HOUSIE EACH WEDNESDAY

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, July 9

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



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Brodie Craig CA

What's our plan?

- ▶ **More investment in the environment**
- ▶ **Resilient communities**
- ▶ **Reduced congestion and emissions**

Council have finalised the Long-Term Plan, balancing the need to invest in our environment against cost pressures faced by us all. Find out what we'll be doing, and how feedback influenced the decisions.

ecan.govt.nz/whatsthecost



Environment
Canterbury
Regional Council
Resilience. Trust & Inclusion



THE UPPER WAITAKI
YOUNG FARMERS CLUB
PRESENTS

*The Kurow Winter
Ball 2024*

17th of August 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

Winter housie at the Wrinkly Rams Café

It was all eyes down in deep concentration as Ōmārama's bingo master Gary Sutherland began the afternoon session at the Wrinkly Rams Café last week. While weekly Wednesday housie sessions are held at the Ōmārama Community Centre during the month, on the last Wednesday of each month the regulars move to a local café for a spot of lunch followed by the game of numbers and probabilities, colourful dabbers and jackpots.

Housie is thought to have begun in Italy in the 1500s, before migrating through Europe, played by the French aristocracy along the way.

In Ōmārama Housie is brought to you with the assistance of Age Concern Waitaki.





 LJ Hooker

Team

Karan & Jess

Karan MacDiarmid

027 517 7959

karan@mcre.co.nz

Jess Mackay

027 902 5529

karan@mcre.co.nz

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waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz

Oamaru

127 Thames Street

03 434 7325

Wanaka

Spencer House Mall

12/31 Dunmore St

03 443 4820



Authorised by M Anderson,
Parliament Buildings, Wgtn.





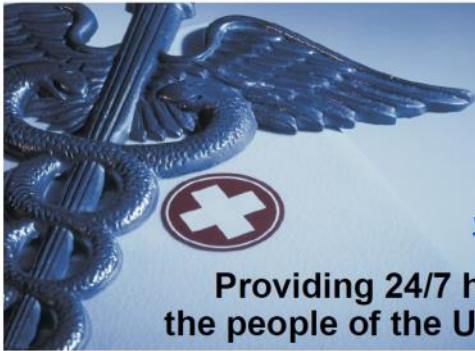
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Kurow Medical Centre

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



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gary.sutherland@tallpoppy.co.nz

Ōmārama School



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

Ōmārama School contact details:

Phone: 03 438 9815

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



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 Rodeo Club

ANNUAL MEETING

The Ōmārama Rodeo Club annual meeting is
6.30pm, Thursday, July 18, at the Otematata Pub.

Come early and get some dinner, then we will start the meeting at 6.30pm.
Anyone interested in rodeo or joining our awesome community club
is welcome to come along.

If you want more info ph secretary: Charlotte Montgomery 027 347 0329

Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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

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.



2024 Waitaki Residents' Survey

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.

Survey closes 14 July 2024



go here or scan here

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

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



Ōmārama Residents' Association

The next meeting of the
Ōmārama Residents' Association is
7pm, Thursday, July 18, 2024
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

Residents' Association committee:

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

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



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

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

Contributions are welcome.
omaramagazette@gmail.com

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JPs are available by appointment to:

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- * Certify copies
- * Take declarations, affidavits and affirmations

The service is free of charge

To make your visit quick and easy:

- * Do not sign anything beforehand
- * Do take photo identification
- * Remember to take the original as well as the copy to be certified
- * Check that a New Zealand Justice of the Peace can complete your documentation



Georgie Robertson
Omarama
03 438 9554 027 4861525



Vicky Munro
Otematata
03 438 7855 021 438745



Alona Shaw
Omarama
027 773 4214

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***Gotta light?
Do it right!***

Planning an outdoor burn? Consider alternatives instead:

- composting
- mulching
- take your green waste to a transfer station

Burning outdoors is not permitted on properties under 2ha. On properties over 2ha, nothing but paper, cardboard and dry green waste (less than 25% moisture content) can be burnt. Never burn rubbish or inorganic material. For outdoor burning rules visit ecan.govt.nz/outdoorburning

Always check Fire and Emergency NZ restrictions at
checkitsalright.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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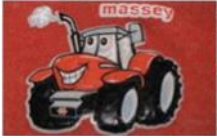
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The weather that was @ 44°29'30.1"S 169°58'20.3"E

June 2024

Highest temperature: June 6, 18.6C

Lowest temperature: June 12, -6.4C

Most rainfall: June 1, 10.9 mm

Total rainfall for June: 39.9mm

The Ōmārama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

omaramagazette@gmail.com

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