



# Ōmārama Gazette

October 2024

## Sadie takes supreme award

Omarama's Sadie Mason is supreme winner of the Sport Twizel 2024 awards.

The naming of the Breen Supreme Award winner was made at Sport Twizel's gala dinner on Saturday.

Sadie was awarded supreme over the winners of five award categories.

She was the winner of this year's athlete of the year award for her rowing success as well as her contribution to netball, basketball and volleyball. There were five nominations for that award with rowing heavily represented.

Sadie was also a member of the Team of the Year – Twizel Youth Rowing - as was sister Hazel.

She could not fail to win this as she was also a member of the other nominated team – netball's Twizel Energy.

The teams were described by Sport Twizel this year as a lineup of young successful accomplished athletes.

In her citation Sadie was described as a “natural born athlete who excels in all aspects of sport”.

“Her incredible attitude plays a major part in her overwhelming success in her chosen sports. She works extremely hard and actively seeks out challenges.”

On the courts she was described as a “force to be reckoned with”.

“We have seen Sadie step into a leadership role helping younger less experienced netballers in the senior netball squad...Sadie Mason chases her personal goals but also makes sure her fellow teammates are supported with her continual encouragement on and off the court and on the water.

*-continued over*



## Sadie takes supreme award, continued

“Sadie is an incredible young person and an outstanding athlete,” the citation said.

*Photos: (front page) Sport Twizel's Sadie Mason is Breen Supreme Awards winner 2024; (below) Twizel Area School rowing girls under 17 coxed sculls raced in the Aon Maddi Cup Regatta at Lake Ruataniwha earlier this year.*



### And here's cheers to our upcoming younger Omarama athletes:

Ōmārama school pupils achieved success at last term's North Otago Primary Schools Cross Country competitions in Oamaru.

Those who represented Ōmārama school were:

Briar McKerchar, Paige Hunter, Tom Aubrey, James Mason, placed fifth in his age bracket, Nicole McMurtrie, who was placed 3rd and Jimmy Moore who won his year

*Omarama School pupils who achieved success in the districts cross country events were awarded certificates at the end of term assembly.*



# Bravery to be officially recognised

*Sometimes the most important words we need to say fall short.*

*How does 'thank you' encompass the overwhelming gratitude felt by so many for the brave actions taken that October day four years ago.*

*Yet there are no other words.*

## *Thank you Bean, Craig and Mark*

*Next month, we have the chance to gather and officially acknowledge these three who acted selflessly and with courage in the face of grave danger to themselves to save the lives of others.*

*This is long overdue.*

*This Friday will mark four years since fire broke out in the early hours of the morning at Lake Ōhau.*

*Fire and Emergency New Zealand received the first 111 call at 3am on October 4, 2020.*

*Fanned by severe winds, the fire swept across country and through the Lake Ōhau Village, destroying 49 homes and buildings, and damaging 5043 hectares of land, making it one of New Zealand's most significant wildfires in recent history.*

*That no lives were lost was acknowledged to be thanks to the quick actions of residents of the Lake Ōhau Village and the swift response and evacuations by the Twizel and Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigades and Ōmārama Police.*

*We know, those of us closest to the events of that day, that there are others equally deserving who have not, as yet, been publicly acknowledged for their actions. It appears those wheels grind slowly.*

*Among them are the fire crews of OMAR567 and TWIZ9011 who were also caught in what was one of the most dangerous episodes of the event being engulfed in flames as they also headed toward the Ōhau Lodge.*

*Below is an account of the event and the actions of Bean, Craig and Mark which led to their medal nominations.*

## **THREE BRAVERY AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED IN ŌMĀRAMA**

Three of those who saved lives and properties from the October 2020 Ōhau Wildfire are to have their acts of selflessness and courage rewarded at an upcoming community event in Ōmārama.

Senior Constable Smith and two civilians, Mark Paulson and Craig Ovenden, will receive their bronze medals for bravery from The Royal Humane Society of New Zealand at the afternoon function in November.

Waitaki Mayor Gary Kircher will present the awards on behalf of the society whose patron is the Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro.

The awards are given for acts of bravery which save lives and where the rescuer's own life is endangered or put at risk.

*-continued over*

# In Recognition

The Royal Humane Society of New Zealand Inc



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

**Craig Ovenden**  
**Mark Paulson**  
**Senior Constable Nayland Smith**

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

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

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

Please RSVP to Maurice Cowie, 027 424 9987  
or email [thevillagecollie@gmail.com](mailto:thevillagecollie@gmail.com)  
for catering purposes.



# *Bravery to be officially recognised, continued*

In the early hours of October 4, 2020, emergency services were called to a large wildfire spreading quickly towards Lake Ohau Village driven by gale force winds.

The fire was destroying everything in its path. In the remote village of about 100 houses, 49 were destroyed by the fire. In the event all occupants were evacuated without incident.

While all who arrived to help battled flames and flying embers to affect safe evacuation, Snr Const Smith , Mr Paulson and Mr Ovenden have been especially commended for several particular acts of bravery on that morning.

Travelling in and around the village was dangerous with flames crossing the roads at multiple points, embers falling and debris flying about.

Snr Const Smith, with 19 years' service, the past 10 of those years working as Sole Charge Officer in Omarama was on his rostered day off, *-continued over*



## *Bravery to be officially recognised, continued*

nevertheless responded when he heard the fire siren in Omarama and headed to the incident. When he arrived, he was told by the fire personnel they were pulling back because of the danger of the approaching fire.

Long-time Lake Ohau resident Craig Ovenden, who was one who had helped draw up a fire plan for the village, initially drove out from the village toward the wildfire to access the long driveways of multiple lifestyle blocks where he roused residents by whatever means possible to alert them to the danger.

Mr Ovenden informed Snr Const Smith about an elderly resident who was unaccounted for he and Mr Ovenden went to his address, broke in and helped him out of the house.

As they left the village to escort him to safety both Snr Const Smith's and Mr Ovenden's vehicles were at times surrounded by disorientating smoke and flames. They made it out of the village which was now overrun by the fire.

Mark Paulson, who was Lake Ohau Lodge maintenance manager, using his previous experience as a rural fire officer and advisor, first reassured Lake Ohau Lodge residents and was then met by Snr Const Smith who asked him to help with 'clearing' surrounding rural properties.

He agreed and the pair headed towards the blaze to check surrounding rural properties to evacuate any remaining residents and to identify houses that could be saved.

During this process they were often driving with the fire on both sides of the road and with limited visibility.

They arrived at a house with no working water supply, and the flames had reached the deck and wall. No one was in the house.

After some frustration at trying to find a source of water Snr Const Smith told Mr Paulson to grab a bottle of Sauvignon Blanc wine that was at hand which he did and tipped it onto the fire in an attempt to put it out.

Snr Const Smith located a small amount of water to also put on the fire.

The pair's actions slowed the fire enough to give time for fire crews to arrive and extinguish it.

At a second home between Ohau Village and the Lodge Snr Const Smith found a vehicle up the drive, and footwear on the deck. The house was on fire with smoke and flames coming out of the roof.

He informed the fire brigade and believing people were still inside he tried to enter the house but was driven back by smoke.

A fire crew arrived soon after and saved the home.

The medal citation commends Mr Ovenden, Mr Paulson and Snr Const Smith, for their "timely and courageous" actions.

The Royal Humane Society, which has been part of New Zealand's formal acknowledgement and recognition system since October 1898 was formed to recognise acts of bravery and humanity.

*With thanks to Louis Campbell, Lake Ohau Alpine Village, and for the photo of Craig.*

The Otago Daily Times has a subscriber-only story which includes an interview with Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade station officer Maurice Cowie QSM.

*[BTW it was Wither Hills Sauvignon Blanc, you're welcome :)]*

# Service recognised at honours night

Last month, the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade family gathered with friends to celebrate the volunteer service and achievements of the past year.

The event took place at the Fire Station after the successful Emergency Services Expo and a meal at the Distinction Heritage Gateway Hotel.

In his speech Fire and Emergency New Zealand group manager Mike Harrison acknowledged the sudden death of Fenz wildfire specialist Graeme Still.

Along with congratulating the volunteers Mr Harrison also thanked the families for their support.

Mr Harrison said he and the brigade had not always seen eye-to-eye on operational matters but Mr Harper had been a strong advocate for the Ōmārama volunteers' views. Mr Harrison, who doubtless has extensive media training for his role, then paused. And addressed the Omarama Gazette and said that it was not report that last statement and questioned the reporter as to whether a recording device was being used and ,if so, asked that it be switched off. He went on to commend the examples set by Fenz leadership, including his own, to the newer members and recruits. Always carry an extra button and safety pin because you never know when these might be needed, he said.

The Omarama Gazette was invited along with other guests, as a friend of the Ōmārama Brigade to attend the dinner and honours event. It was also asked to take photographs and cover the awards for the community news.

The awards for 2024 were presented by Mr Harrison, Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade chief fire officer Greg Harper (and also in his role as Otago/Southland Provincial Fire Brigades' Association president) and United Fire Brigades Association North Otago Sub Assn president Shane Bungard.

*- continued over*

*Below: Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade 2024. Photo by Ruth Grundy*



# Service recognised at honours night -continued

## Fire Brigade Awards:

Firefighter of the Year – Tania Innes

Most Improved Firefighter – Vaughan Williams

Best Operational Support – Jason Pryde

Most Musters – Greg Harper and Maurice Cowie.

Co-responder of the year – Vicky Chambers

Clay Cliffs Trophy for outstanding service – Former Q.F.F. Michaela Kennedy

Lip-sync Trophy – Jack Zorab

## Service awards:

C.F.O. Greg Harper, gold bar; S.F.F. Glen Smith, silver bar; Brigade Support

Georgie Robertson, silver bar; S.O. Jack Zorab, silver bar; Ops Support/First

Responder Sonya Trusler, 5yr Medal; Brigade Support Adrienne Harper, 5yr

Medal; Ops Support Aaron Ferguson, 5yr Medal; Secretary/ Brigade Support Ken

Rogers, 3-yr cert; Treasurer/First Responder Lynley Pryde, 3-yr cert.





# Help to navigate life's journey

A unique coaching business designed to improve mental wellbeing and offer support on life's journey starts up this month in Ōmārama.

Sacred Healing Journeys takes a “holistic” approach to self care and personal growth, a “body-mind-soul” approach and is born out of her own recent experiences, coach Sabrina Schels said.

Sabrina, a former glider pilot, said she had recently experienced some struggles with her mental health following the birth of her daughter.

While counselling was the first step she took to address this, it was this together with attending the yoga classes run locally by Lisa Anderson, of Hare and Now, which was key to her turning the corner. They “helped me back into my body”.

“[It] gave me the tools to cope, strategies for making decisions.”

Talk therapy together with yoga was “extremely powerful”, she said.

She also underwent hypnotherapy and practiced meditation and journaling.

“[for her] Putting it all together into a holistic picture was the most powerful thing to create change on a vast pace,” she said.

Thinking others might potentially benefit from this led Sabrina to seek out further training with a view to instructing others in what she had learnt and put into practice.

She began her training about a year-and-a-half-ago and now has a Diploma in Psychology and Counselling, and has completed 100 hours of trauma-informed Yin Yoga training and 200 hours of Vinyasa Yoga Teacher Training.

She plans to include various elements and different styles of yoga in the sessions she runs. “During restorative yin yoga, we will hold poses for a few minutes while the body is fully supported by props, making those classes suitable for all ages and levels of mobility.”

It can be quite different to more traditional yoga classes, Sabrina said.

“Mindful flow classes derived from Vinyasa yoga will also focus on enhancing our body awareness but will require some physical fitness.

This will be complemented with “written self-coaching” or journaling. Unlike “talk therapy” thoughts are not shared with others.

“We write them out in private, allowing us to be more honest with ourselves, and take the time to think through our answers.”

*-continued over*



## Help to navigate life's journey - continued

Sabrina said it was exciting personally and professionally to be starting up these classes. It had been a long journey to this point, Sabrina said. "Nothing is anymore as it was."

Sessions are pitched at any who wish to "grow themselves" and as an "add-on" for those who have completed or are at present in counselling or psychotherapy. But Sabrina stresses she is not a trained therapist or counsellor.

"My offerings do not include counselling, trauma work, or emotional release, and they are not suited for individuals with severe mental health issues.

"For me, it's about providing people the opportunity to experiment with tools on the mat, discover what works for them, and then translate those tools for use off the mat in real-life situations."

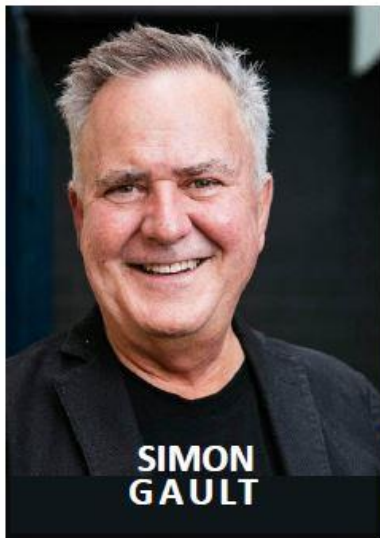
She will begin running classes at the Omarama Airfield upstairs room this month. Gradually building up and maybe adding one-on-one training "as is sustainable", she said.. She is aiming to make classes affordable acknowledging that free counselling services previously available are being cut. The first official classes will start in Omarama this month.

To find out more email: [info.sacredhealingjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:info.sacredhealingjourneys@gmail.com)

*Photos: (overleaf) During restorative yin yoga sessions poses are held for a few minutes while the body is fully supported by props; (This page) Mindful flow classes derived from Vinyasa yoga will also focus on enhancing body awareness but will require some physical fitness; This will be complemented with "written self-coaching" or journaling. Photos: supplied*







**7PM SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2024**

**AT THE ŌMĀRAMA MEMORIAL HALL**

Omarama MenzShed and friends are bringing renowned chef Simon Gault to town for a unique community event.

Combining a little learning and a lot of fun he will show easy ways ... nothing fussy, nothing fancy... to cook up heartwarming meals from your own kitchen. This is going to be epic!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW \$50 PER PERSON

Tickets are strictly limited

To secure your e-ticket register now. Email: Georgie Robertson, huntly@xtra.co.nz



*You make this possible, thank you.*



**Our Event Sponsors**



OMARAMA  
FOUR SQUARE



# Only a month to go...

It's just over a month until a fun-filled family Saturday night with our special guest chef Simon Gault.

Those helping organise the event are 'heads down' making sure 'I's are dotted and 'T's crossed before the big day.

As well, community groups participating have been planning their displays to showcase the best of what Ōmārama has to offer – our volunteer power! You should see the new work by our littlest artists- Playgroup. Oh, that's right you will, if you're there. It is epic!

And the chores have been delegated.

Last month, the organising group met at the hall to discuss layout and where the big TV screens mics and lighting will be placed so everyone has the best vantage point not only for visibility but so that Simon has the opportunity to mix and mingle with us all throughout his demonstration.

Just to clarify, this is not a seated meal at tables. Combining a little learning and a lot of fun Simon will be demonstrating easy ways ... nothing fussy, nothing fancy... to cook up heartwarming meals from your own kitchen.

Stephen Grundy and Dan McCormack have generously agreed to manage technology requirements for the evening.

We would like to thank Julie Grant for holding a kitchen 'familiarisation' session with the team so that we are all up to speed with the equipment and we know where the tea towels are! There have also been generous offers to loan us equipment if needed.

Later this month community groups that have registered to showcase their work after the main event will be sent a floor plan with sites allocated. We will be letting them know they can set up between 3pm and 5pm on Friday, November 8, and take down either Saturday night once the event is over, or early Sunday – before 10am – so we can clean-up.

**ICYMI: here some reminders for those who may have missed previous public service announcements. Plus some new info...**

Simon Gault's visit to Ōmārama in November promises to be an evening when we can take time out for family, take time out for friends and workmates but most of all when we can take time out for an evening of fun.

It will be held 7pm Saturday, November 9, at the Omarama Memorial Hall. (See *poster on previous page.*)

**Please bring cash** – Although tickets are prepaid, following the event there will be a cash bar available, Friends of the School will be selling mini charcuterie boards, the School Garden Club will have plants for sale, and the other stalls will have various fundraisers including raffles available.

Yes, tickets are walking out the door for Simon's cooking demonstration – so, if you're at all keen to come along then now is good! See the poster below for details about how to book.

Our community groups are embracing the opportunity to come together after Simon's demonstration to share what it is they 'bring to the table'.



## Those involved will include:

- On the night the Ōmārama Gliding Club will take registrations from ticket holders who are interested in taking a discounted glider flight at its open day at the airfield the next day.
- The Omarama Volunteer Fire Brigade will have artwork by local artists donated by Sally Fodie on display in the library and those interested in a piece will be able to register their interest.
- The Fire Brigade/First Response will also have a stall with the focus on fire safety in the home.
- The Ōmārama School Garden Club has begun growing pots of culinary herbs and flowers for sale on the night.
- MenzShed will have a stall as will Age Concern Ōmārama.
- Nurse Tracy Young will be present with health information especially with regards to living with pre-diabetes.
- And the ANZ Bank will give a presentation and have rural representatives at the event.

**If your group would like to be part of this, it is not too late – contact Georgie huntly@xtra.co.nz**

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**Thank you to these awesome businesses who are making this event possible.**

**Your support means so much.**

- \* The ANZ Bank
  - \* The Lindis
  - \* Kahu Soaring
- \* Merino Lodge, Ōmārama
- \* Boots and Jandals hotel
  - \* Big Sky Motel
- \* Four Square Ōmārama
  - \* Ōmārama Station
  - \* GlenCraigs
  - \* Mobil Twizel
- \* Ōmārama Gliding Club
- \* Ōmārama MenzShed

# The Noticeboard

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

## Following in their flight path

Congratulations to Sam Patterson who has become the third generation of his family to gain his Private Pilot's Licence, Helicopter. He follows in dad Bryan's and Grandfather Peter's footsteps, or flight path should we say!

**We wish a fond farewell** to the Harding family - Nick, Beky, Amelia and Lockey who have been farming at Glenburn these past few years and are moving to Te Anau. Beky's is one of the smiling faces at the Ōmārama Postal Centre. They have promised to visit often.

**In Case You Missed It:** Omarama's own legend Ginger Anderson, of Ben Omar Station and his dog team appeared on TVNZ last month in an episode of National Treasures. The link is here: <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/shows/national-treasures/episodes/s2-e2> Ginger story starts at 28min 40sec.

**Also last month:** It was not the best of news for the New Zealand Sheep Dog Trial Association's team competing in the Wayleggo Cup hosted by the Victorian Working Sheep Dog Association at Geelong. Australia won the series. But, although not winners on the day Omarama's Scott Hunter and Lucy gave memorable performances in the three test competition. Here is a link to one: <https://fb.watch/uWlww1yCOM/>

**Kurow Medical Centre Ōmārama Clinic at the Ōmārama Community Centre**, is now open Tuesdays 9am to 5pm (Nurse only) and Thursday 8.30am to 1pm with Dr Tim Gardner. To make appointments for all clinics, order repeat scripts or make enquiries please contact Kurow Medical Centre 03 436 0760 (Monday to Thursdays). [www.kurowmedicalcentre.org.nz](http://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](mailto:lee.kearon@gmail.com)

**The Ōmārama Golf Club** Saturdays cards in 12.30pm, tee-off 1pm. Club captain: Greg Stuart 027 438 9018, secretary: Arron Chambers 027 203 2340. [www.omaramagolfclub.co.nz](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:rn.mckerchar@hotmail.com) or secretary Olivia Black, 027 833 0869.

**Bridge Club** - The Ōmārama Bridge Club meets on a regular basis and would welcome new members. If you are interested please phone Sylvia Anderson 438 9784 or Ann Patterson 438 9493.

**The Ōmārama Model Aircraft Club** meets on Saturdays from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon at its flying ground at the Ōmārama airfield. All welcome - Contact Bevan Allan [bjallan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bjallan@xtra.co.nz)

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

**A gentle exercises and social afternoon group** meets at the Otematata District Club at 1.30pm Thursday afternoons. Gold coin donation and a cuppa after the exercises. Contact Ethel Gray 03 438 7764.

**Waitaki Newcomers Network:** For more information about this group send contact details to E: [waitaki@newcomers.co.nz](mailto:waitaki@newcomers.co.nz) W: [www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz) F: [facebook.com/WaitakiNewcomersNetwork/](https://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/](http://www.facebook.com/omaramagazette/)  
[omaramagazette.nz](http://omaramagazette.nz)

To receive email alerts between monthly editions of the Omarama Gazette sign up to our 'Local List'. Email [omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)

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

**The November Issue of the Omarama Gazette  
is Wednesday, November 6, 2024.**

Please submit copy  
by Thursday, October 31, 2024

# The Community Reports

## Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade



*By Greg Harper*

*Hello all,*

Spring has arrived and the usual Spring weather. That also means that daylight savings has arrived and it's time to check our smoke alarms.

Remember, if you find it to difficult please contact us and we will gladly assist you.

It's still an open fire season but please check the [www.checkitsalright.nz](http://www.checkitsalright.nz) website, just follow the prompts.

Also, remember to check the weather forecast.

The Tokarahi Fire a couple of weeks ago was an

unfortunate reminder.

Last but by no means least , a big thanks to our Brigade team for their efforts at the open day. It was a great day enjoyed by the all people attending and by all those involved.

*Stay safe*

*Greg Harper and the team at the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade*

**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**





# Skills on show at expo

THERE WERE SIRENS, FLASHY LIGHTS, PLUS ALL THE DRAMA

It's all in a day's work for our emergency services.

A large crowd gathered to watch various skills on display at the Ōmārama Emergency Services Expo at the Ōmārama Fire Station, last month.

There were displays from the Ōmārama Volunteer Fire Brigade, the First Response, St John Ambulance, Police, the Armed Offenders Squad and the Dog Squad, with special thanks to Leo and Tim.

*Photo at left: Ōmārama Fire Brigade volunteers, Fire and First Response demonstrate techniques used to assist at a motor vehicle crash. Photo: madd.yphotography*

*Photos below by Ruth Grundy.*



# Ōmārama Golf Club

## **A thank you to...**

*By Paul Bowman, Ōmārama Golf Club president.*

The Ōmārama Golf club would like to thank Omarama Top 10 Holiday Park for allowing our new water supply to be laid down the walkway beside the campground. This has been a great help to the club, as our previous town water supply had a major leak, and we were unable to use it.

The campground has always been supportive of the golf club, holding a Christmas campers' tournament each year and also through support of a Tee sign.

## **September report, by Arron Chambers**

We're starting to see some colour coming back to the course and it's nice to have the growth and condition returning to fairways and greens.

The numbers have been great through Winter with strong fields and a great mix of players. The ladies are becoming a force to be reckoned with on Club Days with some great scores coming in. We hosted the annual Generation Disc Golf tournament earlier in year, and a great weekend was had by all contestants.

The Labour Weekend Tournament fast approaching and is being hosted by the Ōmārama Fire Brigade. This tournament is open to everyone and is always a fun day on the course and afterwards at the 19th hole. BBQ, Raffles, Prizes and an evening meal are all available. Places fill up quickly so please get your entries in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Twilight Golf will commence on the first Thursday of November and, again, all golfers are welcome. Details will be on website soon.

September will see some work to the greens completed and general conditioning of fairways and tee's continuing.

Our newly planted trees are growing well.

Our Club days are on Saturday and, with daylight savings now with us, the new tee time is 1pm with a 12.30 muster.

Look forward to seeing you on the course.

**Saturday Club Day,  
cards in 12.30 and tee-off at 1pm.**

**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**

# OMARAMA GOLF CLUB

## Labour Weekend Fun Day Stableford Tournament



### **Proceeds to Omarama Fire Brigade**

EVERYONE WELCOME – Golfers and Non-Golfers  
(don't be shy, come have a go and support a great cause)

**Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2024**

**ENTRY \$45 Per Person**

**Cards in by 12.30pm Tee Off 1.00pm**

**BBQ on-course and Meal afterwards**

**Prizes and Raffles**

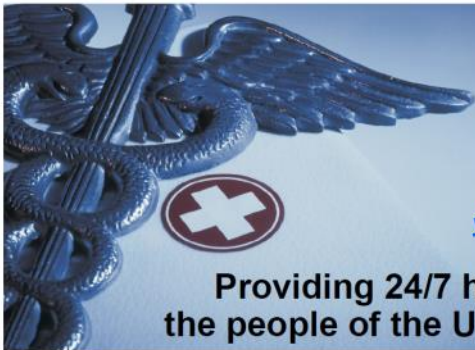
**Entries and Enquiries to:**

**Arron Chambers**

**[secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz](mailto:secretary@omaramagolfclub.co.nz)**

**0272032340**





## Kurow Medical Centre

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**And much more!**

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

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

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

#### **Opening hours**

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

Omarama: Thursday 8.30am to 12.30pm

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

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

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

*-Dr Tim and Juliet Gardner*

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



# Ōmārama Community Gardens

It's spring and green fingers around the town have been itching to get stuck in and start planting.

Last week a small group spent a sunny afternoon giving the community garden beds at the Omarama Community Centre a bit of spring clean-up, and started planting.

There was a salad bowl of veggie plants that went in; lettuces, silver beet, cabbages and broccoli, plus sunflowers and pansies to join the herbs, rhubarb and strawberries and brighten the space.

Last season's amazing harvests (photo below) were due to the hard work of volunteers Heather Smith and Michelle Hancox (and their helpers).

\*\*\*\*\*

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

The group receives sponsorship from Age Concern.

Anyone is welcome to pop along to the Community Centre and have a potter, and also to pop in any plants they may have ready to go in. Join the Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/742877880594146>

And watch this space

**Contact: Jennie Hales, [jenniehollows@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniehollows@hotmail.com)**



# Ōmārama School



Omarama School 2024. Photo: [www.omarama.school.nz](http://www.omarama.school.nz)

Omarama School ended the third term on a high note celebrating achievements in song, dance and Te Reo.

School principal Alison Holden said cultural experiences, discovering more about stories from Omarama's past, and learning about keeping safe were among the many learning highlights of the term.

It had also offered opportunities to "strengthen and deepen relationships" with the community.

Ms Holden paid tribute especially to parents for their support saying that this kind of collaboration was unique to a smaller rural school.

Board of Trustees chairperson Karl French thanked retiring member Shane Leopold for his help and encouraged members of the community to come along to the meeting later this month and find out more about what was involved in helping the school in this role.

He said the board planned to do more in the area of "funding and property" and would work closely with Friends of the School to achieve these goals.

He thanked that group for all its fundraising effort.

The board encouraged parents to participate in the working bee planned for the last weekend of the school holidays, he said.

Pupils told the many parents present about the highlights and challenges for them in technology, music and Maori language classes; from learning to use a sewing machine to navigating a bandsaw.

Lockey and Amelia Harding and parents Nick and Beky were farewelled at the event and thanked for their contributions.

End of term awards for academic and sporting achievements (See lead story) were presented.

*LIGHT awards for term three:*

*Clay Cliffs Class, taught by Clair Winslade*

*Learner; Amelia Wilson*

*Inclusive; Briar McKerchar*

*Growth; Liam McLeod*

*Helper; Maddie McCabe*

*Truthfulness; Nicole McMurtrie*

*Ahuriri Class, taught by Bailey Smith  
Learner; Lucy Newfield  
Inclusive; Thorin Leopold  
Growth; Carter Growth  
Helper; Sienna Nelson  
Truthfulness; Gray Warnock*



**Ōmārama School contact details:  
Phone: 03 438 9815  
[principal@omarama.school.nz](mailto:principal@omarama.school.nz), [office@omarama.school.nz](mailto:office@omarama.school.nz)**





# Ōmārama School Garden Club

*By Jennie Hales, school garden coordinator.*

Last month 12 pupils from the Ōmārama School Garden club were invited to attend and help with the spring planting at High Country Salmon.

The children loved the hands-on experience and seeing the different herbs that will be used on the menu over the upcoming summer season.

Many of the children had previously participated in the catch-a-fish activity and they were very excited to hear that High Country Salmon will be opening for evening dining in the future.

Lunch was provided it was delicious and well received.

*All photos supplied*





# Ahuriri Community Catchment group

*By Annabelle Subtil*

The Ahuriri Community Catchment held their AGM last month.

Since its creation the group has delivered a whole catchment Map Series Project, held a Stream Ecology Workshop, completed an invertebrate sampling demonstration at the Ōmārama Station hāngī, set up seven individual sub-catchment representatives, successfully secured funded eDNA sampling kits and Zone Committee funding to 'keep the lights on', represented the catchment in regional and national capacity through over-arching catchment group bodies and improved relationships with Environment Canterbury. These actions have made a real difference to the awareness in the community around, water quality, biodiversity, land use best practice and rural welfare.

ACCG is one of the few catchment groups in the ECan region that was successful in getting funding from the Wai Connection allowing us to access support from EOS, a water ecology and public engagement service. This relationship has allowed us to achieve much of the work detailed above and has confirmed just how complex the relationship is between ground and surface water in this region.

We were one of ten successful groups in New Zealand out of over 70 applications to receive free eDNA sampling kits and we are currently focussed on securing more funding to start our next round of projects - water quality data analysis.

We will be holding a Native Fish Celebration Day in early December so keep an eye out for updates - we would love to see you there!

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank ECan for their grant towards native plantings along the Ōmārama Stream to enhance the environment for the long fin tuna (eels). This is part of the protection and promotion of the eels.

Also a big shout out to the local Growing Future Farmer students who helped with the planting in possibly not the most ideal conditions (See photo below).

We would also like to thank the ECan Zone Committee for its recent financial support.

If you would like to know more about the ACCG please contact Gundy (David) Anderson, chairman, 021 457 073, or Nicola McKerchar, Secretary/Treasurer, on 022 612 7570



# Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club

The Upper Waitaki Young Farmers Club  
meets at  
7.30pm on the first Monday  
of each month  
at the Kurow Hotel.

All welcome.

Join the Facebook group.

## Miles Anderson MP for Waitaki

Your local MP welcomes  
all enquiries.

[waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz)

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03 434 7325

### Wanaka

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Rachel Sheridan | Property Management | 027 435 0187 | [rentals@mcre.co.nz](mailto:rentals@mcre.co.nz)

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🏠 20 Ruataniwha Road,  
Twizel, 7901

# Ōmārama MenzShed

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

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

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# 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.

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# 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 Residents' Association

The annual meeting and next meeting of the  
Ōmārama Residents' Association is  
7pm, Thursday, October 17, 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](mailto:omarama.committee@gmail.com)**

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## 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](mailto:hallhire.omarama@xtra.co.nz)



# Annual meeting

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Residents Association of Ōmārama Inc

7pm, Thursday, October 17, 2024  
at the Ōmārama Community Centre

An invitation is extended to all

## To include:

Election of Officers

Presentation of Annual and Financial Reports

Contacts:

Lindsay Purvis, chairperson, 027 438 9630

Vicky Chambers, secretary, 021 296 5782

The minutes of the previous meeting are available from Vicky.



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# 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, October 8

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](mailto:NthOtago@ageconcernotago.co.nz)

Hours: Mon-Wed 9- 4.30pm / Thur- Fri 9-12.30pm

## OMARAMA Pop Up Café

COME ALONG FOR A MEET AND GREET  
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MILES ANDERSON

MILES WILL BE AT THE POP UP CAFE  
FROM 1PM



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Tuesday 8th October 1pm to 3pm  
Oamaru Community Centre



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

**PHONE 03 687 2080**



Brodie Craig CA

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



# MEET THE RURAL BOYS



**Doug Pile**  
027 663 8833  
doug@ljoamaru.co.nz



**Mitchell Laughton**  
027 351 8118  
mitchell@ljoamaru.co.nz

## Combining our rural passions with real estate!

True North Otago locals, Doug & Mitchell have great knowledge about the land & people in the community. From sheep & livestock farms, runoffs & to dairy farms, lifestyle & hobby farms, the LJ Hooker Rural boys are here with you at the heart of agriculture within the Waitaki district. Contact them today for a free assessment of your property & they will help you every step of the way through your real estate journey.

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From the last month, 5 lifestyle blocks have sold in the Waitaki district with a median sale price of \$660,000. The last quarter has seen 3 properties sold with a median price of \$1,650,000.



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Promoter LJ Hooker New Zealand Limited (NZBN 942030660084) of 111, 81 Customs Street West, Auckland 1010

Promotion Period: This period begins 10:00am 10th August 2024 to 11:59pm 30th November 2024.

Entry is only open to New Zealand residents who are 18 years and over and own at least one residential property in New Zealand

\*Please visit ljhookeer.co.nz/property-appraisal to view the full terms & conditions



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

Contributions are welcome.  
[omaramagazette@gmail.com](mailto:omaramagazette@gmail.com)



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, selling residential, lifestyle & commercial property.

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## RELIEVER TEACHER POSITION

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

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

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

### Qualities we look for in a Teacher:

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

### How to apply:

Applications can be emailed to [manager@telc.org.nz](mailto:manager@telc.org.nz).

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

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

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## TELC PLAYGROUP

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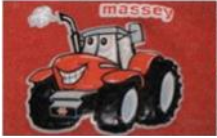
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which they find themselves...

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“This is why a gardener can grow new plants from cuttings, with roots sprouting from what was once a stem or leaf.

“... if life-sustaining resources are in abundant enough supply and burdens are not fatal, then life will flourish.”

It's never an empty land. Hope in a hopeless place finds a way back.

Right now the building site is a landscape of broken things, of rubble and debris.

But it will never be a garden that will “garner prizes” for “shimmering and pert and quick and smart as Head Girls or Double Duxes” flowers and tidy borders\*

This is will never be a garden of rows, shrubs pruned into shape, don't dare step out of line borders. There is “gratitude for the blunt statement”\* of unholy mess.

It gets me thinking of the big picture; of Flanders Fields and Chernobyl, and back to right here and now in our small world.

“...sometimes things get broken, or burnt, are ugly, don't work, they hurt, the head and heart overwhelmed, a tangled, rat-king paradox of sorrow, anger, loss, and who gives a toss, who cares, who cares who sees?” \*

Out of honesty grows hope. There is rubble. But the peach blossom is out, and the flowering cherry. The lipstick pink buds of the apple tree, still in its carry bag, are more slowly pushing their petals out into the warmth. A song thrush picks its way through the accrual carefully selecting from the range of building detritus displayed. Beak laden, it heads to the hedge and tucks it all in, building its new home to its own design.

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

\*\*\*These words were written by poet Emma Neale; Rootstock, from The Truth Garden.

---

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## Coming up...

# \*! Christmas Housie !\*

All the usual fun,  
plus so much more

Date and venue to be confirmed



# The New Garden Diary - honesty and hope

In the rubble of the new build and the churned up soils left by the excavators Welsh Poppy seeds which have lain dormant for years have germinated, their cutout rosettes of fresh green leaves reaching each-to-each to cover the bare soil and capture the spring sunshine.

In just a few weeks, rising above the rosettes, their crinkled yellow-orange tissue petals will unfold from neat capsules like butterfly wings and reflect that stored sunshine right back out there.

Where there might be a gap of bare dirt between the poppies borage seedlings have filled that and shoved in, pushing up blue-grey bristly leaves for their spot of sunlight. Their blue starry flowers will also shine in sunny skies. In summer out in the landscape newly-ploughed land quickly fills to shimmering with metallic- blue Vipers bugloss flowers punctuated with the golden spires of verbascum. The land is never is just bare dirt.

We're all familiar with the stories of the soldier poppies on Flanders Fields. The dormant poppy seeds were woken in that soil churned up by fighting and shelling and killing – the dead land. They bloomed in profusion – their petals spreading their scarlet cloak over the barren, scarred land, and through the cemeteries – signalling healing and hope. Or so it seemed.

In April 1986, on what dawned a crisp autumn day in Ōmārama, on the other side of the world an environmental disaster of epic proportions was unfolding at Chernobyl. Scientist wondered what would become of that scared and poisoned land. What has happened surprised them.

In July 2019 Stuart Thompson of the BBC wrote:

“Even in the most radioactive areas of the zone, vegetation was recovering within three years of the disaster.”

“Humans and other mammals and birds would have been killed many times over by the radiation that plants in the most contaminated areas received.”

Scientists reasoned the plants survived because they “develop in a much more flexible way”.

“Because they can't move, they have no choice but to adapt to the circumstances in

*- continued at left*







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

### September 2024

Highest temperature: September 30, 22.9C

Lowest temperature: September 11, -2.2C

Most rainfall: September 13, 22.1 mm

Total rainfall for September: 69.1 mm

## The Ōmārama Gazette

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

To subscribe email:

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