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12th December 2017

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Issue 373

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It is always important to keep yourself safe while driving. It is just as important to be mindful of other road users.

I see too many people driving very slow and failing to let others know what they are doing. Remember to indicate... Driving too slow is frustrating and can also cause accidents. Next week's Telegram will be the last for this year - note our deadline for this issue is Thursday 15th...

Enjoy the warm weather, Regards The Telegram.

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It's dead heading Roses time again, I have been laying the Rose petals out on a trestle table to dry for potpourri. The fragrance as they dry is wonderful - It is 6 weeks from cut to new bud at this time of the year.

I have found old Hellebore leaves that had not been removed absolutely loaded in Green fly!! I will cut every last one out and dispose of, so Green fly do not fly off onto my waiting Roses. It is so important right now to keep the water up to the Roses. Constant feeding and deep soaking at the roots will keep them healthy and not in need of spraying. A Rose that is struggling will be susceptible to everything bad.

NIGHT BEETLES are on the wing again - newly planted young trees are the worst targeted... they can strip leaves right off. If this happens don't be alarmed, because another lot of leaves will grow. The way I dealt to them when our trees were young, was to wait until just on dusk when they were thick on the trees tucking in. I then sprayed them with a kill-on contact spray - this way you get rid of heaps of Beetles and keep the future grass grub numbers down. Night Beetles usually sleep through the day under a tree they are feeding on.

Get rid of weeds like Biddy bid, while seeds are still green - wherever you see it pull it out - don't let the seeds ripen and drop. Convolvulus is a battle here for me, popping up through plants everywhere. Next Winter I will make an effort to get to the roots while the garden is resting. Some gardeners have had success with soaking long Convolvulus runners in weed spray solution, which should kill well down through that net work of roots. Fat-hen is another weed that spreads quickly - it will now need to be pulled before seeds drop.

FLAG IRIS have flowered now, so large clumps can be broken up and transplanted in a sunny spot. Prepare the bed by digging in fresh compost and some lime - then plant, leaving half the rhizome (root) exposed to bake in the sun over Summer. Long leaves can be cut half way back to reduce transpiration while re-establishing. While you can still see where Spring bulbs have been, cover them with mulch to stop them drying out over Summer. Weed free compost is fine - then you can plant annuals on top to fill gaps. If large clumps of Bulbs flowered poorly, this is a good time to break them up and plant out into smaller groups, using fresh compost to give them a good start.

MONTANA CLEMATIS have finished flowering, wait a little before trimming back as they have not finished their growth spurt. If you trim now you will have to do it all over again in a couple of weeks.

However Wisterias can be dealt to now. if your Wisteria has nice strong flowering hard wood branches that flower well, then no more will be required. Remove all the new long trailers - most of these if left will in time grow into hard wood branches. A Wisteria is like a climbing tree and will take over and out grow it's place in no time and become very heavy if you let too many leaders grow.

LAWNS: are suffering with new growth being scorched in heat we have experienced. Keep the mower blade up a little higher and mow in the cooler part of the day to help with recovery. Mow without the catcher sometimes and give deep waterings - rather than a light sprinkle. New lawns will need feeding and water kept up to help them to strengthen to cope with this Summer. If spraying lawn weeds, add liquid fertiliser and feed the grass at the same time. Don't use sprayed grass clippings around the garden or in compost - spray containers have printed information on how long the withholding time is.

HERBS: Culinary Herbs are the original cut-and-come-again crop - if you grow them get snipping and picking. The plants really will benefit from it and you'll have wonderful flavours to add to dishes. Most Herbs and leafy plants naturally want to create seeds and once they get to that stage, it means the end of a Herb like Parsley, Chives or Basil, so pick leaves early and often, to encourage the plant to put out more foliage and prevent it from running to seed. It may be cheating Nature, but it extends the life of your plants and gives you handfuls of Herbs to enjoy. Pick bunch and dry

VEGETABLES: Don't feed leaf veg now or have the soil too rich, as they will put out too much soft growth and bolt. All that is needed is moisture when dry. I am experimenting with some plant concoctions to keep the white Butterfly and aphids away.

ORGANIC BUG SPRAY; 1/2 cup hot peppers - diced, 6 cloves garlic - peeled, 2 cups water. Blast in a food processor, strain, add 2 teaspoons liquid soap (without bleach) Fill a plastic spray bottle and mist spray affected plants. Cheers, Linda.

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Rights, Rules & Remedies

A Column by Consumer Affairs Writer, Jordan Kelly.

Selling? Here's How to 'Interview' A Real Estate Agent

I recently sold property through local agent, Heather Burgher, of Southern Wide Real Estate. It contrasted markedly with other real estate experiences I've had, so – as promised in my previous column – in this issue, I interview Heather to uncover the selection process this seasoned industry veteran would undertake if she were selling her own property . . . but through another agent.

First, let me say, I like Heather – both as a real estate agent, and as a fellow professional. I like her style; she's accomplished (highly) but not self-glorified. She's results-driven, but not pushy. She's direct, but always respectful. It doesn't get any better than that – as I found out from my dealings with her . . . and comparing both the results and the experience to other transactions.

Kelly: So how can a seller have a happy and rewarding outcome, especially those of us who have had unhappy past experiences? Over to you.

Burgher: My key recommendation: Choose the agent first, the company second, and the method of selling third. As an agent who has been in real estate since 1986, if I was going to employ another agent to sell my home I would do some serious homework.

And I wouldn't, under any circumstances, just go with the first agent who claimed to have a buyer for my home.

Kelly: OK. Cringe. That's the exact mistake I made in another transaction.

Burgher: Please don't do that again! It's all too easy for an agent to claim to have a buyer in waiting. In my opinion, the buyer is led to the right property for them. Our job - as agents - is to promote appropriately and to negotiate the highest possible price in the shortest possible time with the least amount of stress for the vendor.

So, firstly, I would secretly shop three active agents by visiting two or more of their open homes and establishing how they conduct themselves. How do they present and promote somebody else's home? I would then choose two agents to interview as if I were employing them for a job.

Kelly: What specific questions would you ask?

Burgher: I would go broader than you would imagine - their attitude to life, to me as a potential vendor, and to my home itself. Am I getting spiel and self-promotion? Or are they truly focused on ME as a person and as a vendor? Do they establish what's best for ME? Do they respect my situation, my fears and my wishes? Importantly, I would be wary of somebody who is defensive or self-righteous in responding to any of my questions.

Further, is their presentation tailored to me as an individual or are they just spouting marketing spiel full of generic sales data that I don't understand? Or have they supplied me with good, easy-to-understand information relevant to my property specifically? What specific marketing methods are they recommending for my property and what is their rationale for these recommendations? And the basics: Are they full-time professionals? How long have they been in real estate? (Ask to see their licence.) What will it cost to employ them; are there hidden costs?

Note to reader: The space constraints of this column meant further valuable advice had to be edited out. Readers wanting to avail themselves of more of the above wisdom, may call Heather Burgher direct at Southern Wide Real Estate on 03 434 7422.

In my next column, I'm going to investigate the privacy obligations of service providers - professional and domestic.

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Yellow-Eyed Penguin Donations

It has been a year since Mainland decided to stop collecting butter and cheese barcodes and just donate money straight to the yellow-eyed penguin Trust.

A huge thank you to all those who collected and dropped off barcodes to me from Oamaru Cafes to the N.O. Women's Group. There were so many - far too many to mention and those unknown.

Grateful thanks to the Kitto family - a job well done with a sense of fun.

Over the years, a total of \$3050 has been raised for the Yellow-Eyed Penguin Trust - Amazing!

My sincere thanks Moira Newton.



The lovely display this year at the North Otago Rose Society held in the Blind foundation hall.

Market Spudtacular!

Did you know that a potato (skin on) contains more potassium than a banana, nearly half your daily vitamin C, and almost as much fibre as an apple?

Oamaru's annual Spud-in-a-Bag potato growing competition is a fun, family friendly activity and a great introduction to gardening and food production for kids. The competition's Weigh-In is at Oamaru Farmers' Market next to Scott's Brewery from 9.30am-11am on Sunday December 17, with winners being announced around 11.30am.

Entry kits were distributed to local kids and families during August and September, with kits including a bag, a seed potato and some handy tips on growing a bag-full of spuds. Contestants can have fun trying to work out optimal growing conditions for their potato crop, or just leave it up to a bit of water and a bit of luck. Robertsons Mitre 10 Oamaru sponsored the 2017 competition with seed potatoes and grow bags.

Great prizes are up for grabs with First Prize going to the heaviest crop of potatoes, and other prizes awarded for 'Super Spud' (biggest potato) and 'Mr Potato Head' (ugliest/weirdest potato). The market will be celebrating the humble spud throughout the day with potato themed kids activities and with recipes and nutritional information available for customers to take home.





2017 *Twilight*
Christmas
MARKET

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FRIDAY : LIVE MUSIC

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HARBOUR AREA : KIDS ACTIVITIES

OAMARU : CRAFT STALLS

: GOURMET GIFTS



Community Diary

Wednesday 13th

Cancer Society Support Group Meeting, Community House Meeting Room, 100 Thames St at 10.30am. All welcome.
Excelsior Petanque Club Day, 1pm. Ph. 437 1590 or 437 0388.

N.O. Patchers & Quilters meeting - St.

John's Hall, Exe St. at 7.30pm. New members welcome. Ph. Helen 434 5680.

Parents Centre Playgroup (0-6yr) 10am, Salvation Army Hall.

Waitaki Community Gardens Working Bee, Wednesdays 1-3pm. All welcome! Call Ra on 021 115 4884 for 2 hours of fun!

Thursday 14th

Diabetes Walking Group Chelmer St Gardens carpark 10.30am. Ph Jan 437 2348.

Kakanui Playgroup 9am-12pm, Kakanui School. 1st 3 visits free.

Grey Power N.O. Office open 12.30 - 3.30pm, 2nd floor, Community House. Other times, Ph. Graeme 437 2220.

N.O. Rose Society - meet at the Vintage Car Club Rooms at 7.30, Ph. Christine 4342223

Mainly Music - pre-schoolers/parents.

10am Oamaru Baptist, 14 Sandringham St. \$3. Ph Angela 437 0911.

mainlymusic.org.nz

N.O. Asthma Society Respiratory

Exercise Class, 10am, St John Hall Lounge, Exe St. Ph. 434 3202.

Friday 15th

AA Meeting, Orwell St Chapel, 12 noon. Ph. 432 4191 or 437 2928

Meadowbank Bowling Club Friendly Bowls 2pm. All bowlers & Non bowlers welcome. 14 Conway St. Enquiries 434 7196.

Summer Indoor Bowls at Centre, 7pm start. Ph Bob 437 1704

Sunday 17th

Excelsior Petanque Club Day, 1pm. Ph. 437 1590 or 437 2557.

St Paul's Church, Coquet St, 10am.

AA Meeting, Orwell St Chapel, 6pm. Ph. 437 2928 or 437 2337.

Market Spudtacular! at Oamaru Farmers Market. Spud-in-a-Bag judging from 9.30 - Winners announced at 11am, cnr Wansbeck & Tyne St.

Monday 18th

Kakanui Playgroup 9am-12pm, Kakanui school. 1st 3 visits free.

Tokarahi Spinners & Weavers, Tokarahi Hall at 10am. Ph. Christine 434 2223.

SeniorNet Oamaru 10am, 2 Trent St, Ph. Dorothy 434 7278.

Woodturners, 1pm @ Clubrooms, Oamaru Racecourse. Ph. 439 5795.

Tuesday 19th

AA Meeting, Orwell St Chapel, 7.30pm. Ph. 4324191 or 4372337.

Barnardos Kidstart Playgroup 9-12noon, preschool children & parents, St Mary's Anglican Church Hall, Bring morning tea. Diabetes Walking Group, Chelmer St Gardens carpark 10.30. Ph Jan 437 2348.

Justice of the Peace, 11am-1pm, W.I.N.Z building, Coquet St.

Oamaru Garrison Band Practise Nights, Band Rooms, Cnr Severn & Isis St, 7.30pm.

St Paul's Indoor Bowls, 2pm Church Hall. Ph. Mike 434 6722.

U3A Waitaki St Johns Hall Lounge, 2-4pm. Ph. Linda 434 6613.

Up & Coming

Triathlon, Duathlon & Fun Walk / Run series - 6pm Wed, 7th, 14th, 21st February 2018. Friendly Bay. Oamaru Triathlon & Duathlon and SISS Champs, Sunday 4th March 2018 at 10am, Friendly Bay. Kiwikids Tryathlon - Thurs 8th March, 4pm at OIS. Ph. Oamaru Multisport Club, Adair 021 309439 or Diane 021 08150688. Enter online www.sporty.co.nz/oamarumultisportclub.

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Waitaki District Community Group Directory 2017, updated version \$3 avail Citizens Advice Bureau N.O, 100 Thames St.

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Garage Sales

Sat 16th Dec, Garrison Hall 10am, Deceased Estate plus.

Sat 16th Dec, Weston Rd, Signs Out 8am.

Sun 17th Dec, 5 Lea St, 10 - 2pm.

Raffle results

N.O. Christmas, drawn under Police Supervision. Winners notified. Thanks for your support.

Pakeke Lions Grocery Hamper: 54 Sandy, 44 Sue, 445 Bev. Winners have been notified. Thanks to everyone for your support.

Waitaki Hospice Care Trust Christmas; Winners No.260 Heather, No.329 Julie, No.274 Angela Vegar, No.212 Peg Glover. Bonus Prizes of a dozen Cup Cakes each - No.191 Sherryn Brown, No.246 Brian Denny, No.315 Margery Uttley. All winners have been notified - Grateful thanks to everyone for their support.

Toot for Tucker

Once again thank you citizens of Oamaru for your donation's to the annual Toot for Tucker collection,



which was held on Monday evening to gather non-perishable foods for disadvantaged North Otago families. A mountain of non-perishable food was collected during the annual Toot for Tucker collection, organised by the Combined Churches Food Bank in association with other Lions clubs in the North Otago area and helped by St John Ambulance, the Fire Service, Oamaru Police, Air Training Corp Cadets, Scouts, St John Youth, Driving Miss Daisy and Southern Wide Real Estate, vehicles and runners for Toot for Tucker. We do appreciate your support.

It took drivers and runners about an hour and a half to cover the streets of Oamaru and Weston to pick up donations and thank the donors.

The response to the event shows the remarkable generosity of the community to help those in need.

This is a short-term help for people who are struggling to make ends meet. The ages may vary from 16 to 80 and the recipients range from single mothers, people without jobs, and people with financial problems.

The Oamaru Churches Foodbank is open every Friday from 10am until noon, including every Friday throughout the holidays.

The Foodbank is located at 4 France St.

For information on donating food, phone Bernard Wilkinson on 434 5514.

The Food Bank and North Otago Lions club would like to thank all those who helped and those who gave so generously.

Indulge your tastebuds with this mouthwatering new twist on the classic pavlova recipe, adding pink marshmallows and dessicated coconut.

Pavlova Roll

1 tbsp desiccated coconut, 2 tbsp icing sugar, 3 egg whites, pinch salt, 2/3 cup caster sugar, 300ml thickened cream, 1 tsp vanilla extract, 1/3 cup diced



strawberries, 1/3 cup fresh or thawed raspberries, 8 pink marshmallows, quartered

1 Preheat oven to 160C. Grease and line a 29.5cm x 24cm (base) lamington pan with baking paper. Put another sheet of baking paper on a flat surface. Sprinkle paper with coconut and 1 tbsp sifted icing sugar. Using an electric beater, beat egg whites and salt until stiff peaks form. Add caster sugar, 1 tbsp at a time, beating well after each addition until sugar is dissolved. Spread meringue evenly in prepared baking pan. Bake for 10 minutes. Turn hot pavlova onto prepared baking paper, then peel off baking paper.

2 Using an electric beater, beat cream, remaining icing sugar and vanilla until soft peaks form. Spread cream over pavlova. Put strawberries, raspberries and marshmallow over cream. Gently roll pavlova from the long side to form a roll. Transfer to a platter and serve.

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Oamaru's Community Christmas Dinner 2017

Orwell Street, Oamaru - Each year, the annual Oamaru Christmas

Dinner is held in the Orwell Street Church Hall. It is an event which has catered to large numbers over many years and early indications are the 2017 version will continue that tradition.

It is especially intended to help those who have no one else to be with on Christmas Day, or have lost loved ones and don't wish to be on their own, or perhaps cannot easily afford Christmas food. It is a good way to get to know and meet some beautiful people in our community and have lots of fun. Families are welcome.

Co-organiser Tony Dudley says, "The past few years have shown how generous local businesses and the community are with donating towards the dinner and we hope it will be the same this year"

Provision for this event relies on the generosity of others, so all those who are able to assist, either by volunteering, or donating food or finances are welcome.

Without the help of volunteers this event could not happen. These people give of their free time to bring cheer to others on this special day.

The event, which last year catered to over 120 people, has already started to attract a team of "lovely volunteers" willing to scrub potatoes, help with the meal preparation & venue set up. Items still required include ham, cold meats, new potatoes, juice, and pavlovas. If people would like to make donations, gift cards from New World or Countdown are best. All donations are appreciated ... no matter how small it all helps.

Mr. Dudley said about 25 people wanting to attend the dinner had already booked in.

Anyone who wants to make a booking, or to donate food or money for the Community Christmas Dinner 2017 can call Carolyn on (03)434-6168 or (022)-192-4415 and leave a message, or email: contact@orwell.co.nz



Purton's Cafe & Bar

**Merry Christmas
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Saturday, 16 December 2017

Christmas dinner & show with the Groove

We offer our second sitting of our very special Christmas Dinner and Show with the Groove playing from 8:30pm to 12:00pm. Dinner is \$35 per person seating is limited. Get your work group together or family and friends for this feel good meal and music night. Dinner served at 6:30pm. Doors are open from 8:30pm for the band.

Monday, 25 December 2017

CHRISTMAS DAY – CLOSED GENERAL PUBLIC



**Monday, 25 December 2017
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCHEON**

Our great family luncheon with an amazing selection of foods to tempt every palette. Sold out for the last three years and limited seating available \$50.00 per person

Boxing Day - Open All Day



**Sunday, 31 December 2017
New Year's Eve Karaoke
Showdown**

Join us in our annual Karaoke showdown. Sing away the night with supper provided and the compulsory hokey pokey and auld lang sine.

Monday, 1 January 2018

**New Year's Day Country Music
Blackboard Concert**

Our annual Country Music Blackboard day is back. Come on and spend the day with us. We have a great band along with special guest artists. Everyone is welcome. Food is available all day with a Barbie Lunch and Roast Dinner. See you there. Plenty of room to park up if you have a camper or caravan.

Monday, 7th January 2018

the first Sunday of the month

Petrol Head Breakfast from 9:00am to 11:00am

Come along and check out the cars, meet the owners of the cars and join in with the biggest buffet breakfast around. Everyone is welcome – Breakfast is \$18.00 per person

General Opening Hours

MONDAY	Closed
TUESDAY	10am - 8pm
WEDNESDAY	10am - 9pm
THURSDAY	10am - 9pm
FRIDAY	10am - 12pm
SATURDAY	10am - 12pm
SUNDAY	10am - 8pm

Phone: 03 439 5828
6 Maheno Kakanui Roads, Maheno, RD9D
Email: info@purtons.co.nz

