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Happy New Year ! We are back and looking forward to the New Year. The Oamaru Telegram will give away over \$8,000 this year on free advertising in the community diary, public notices and classifieds! This will be shared and available to registered charities, non-profit groups - or by our discretion.

These groups will need to apply by email, or call into our shop when placing their Community Diary entries. My guess is, it will not take long before it is all used up - so be quick!

Regards, *The Telegram.*

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Happy New Gardening year to all! I trust all produce from last year's efforts is still being enjoyed during this holiday period - and at last a real Summer with some long sunny spells for the campers.

Roses: All Roses should have had a Summer pruning after their first flowering.

Cut a spent flower stem down to an out facing bud on a thick part of stem. If it is just the flower removed, the remaining stem will die back to only the first bud - that part of the stem will be too weak to support new blooms. Last year, dull days and mildew were a problem for Roses, but this year it is Rust that attacked a few of mine after the first flowering. I pulled all the affected leaves off and destroyed them as I dead headed. This left bushes quite bare, but it takes no time at all for new leaves and buds to grow back after a feed and consistent watering to keep the Rust at bay. Deep watering around the roots is the thing for Roses during these hot months.

Cut back Summer flowering Perennials and Shrubs to encourage continuous flowering. I have just cut back my Daisy bushes, Delphiniums, Lavaterias, Dianthus, Lupins and most of the Herbs, because they were all going to seed. Feed with slow release or a liquid fertiliser and they will all come back fresh and most will flower again. I have cut some Chrysanthemums back for the second time - they flower in Autumn on shorter stems by doing this. Plant some tip growth from Chrysanthemums into river sand and they should root well to become next years gap fillers. Put stakes in now to support all Chrysanthemums. Foliar feeding is very important to encourage fresh new growth after cutting back anything at this dry time of the year. Fill gaps in the flower garden with Annuals. Front planting full sun: Impatiens, small type Petunias, Begonia, small Marigolds, Lobelia, Alyssum. Mid plantings: Nicotina, Coriopsis, tall Petunias, tall Marigolds, bedding Dahlia, Salvia, Nemesis. Tall plantings: Cosmos, Lavatera, Sunflowers, Canterbury Bells, Ives in the Mist. Semi shade (with good light) plantings: Impatiens, Bedding Begonias, Ibelia & Foxgloves.

I am still lifting lower new branches on the large spreading trees to let more light in for plants growing under them. Oaks, Flowering Cherries, Ash, Elms and Maples, put on a lot of new growth each year and most want to grow to the ground to shade their roots if left. Remove crossover branches and any branches you feel are not required - dappled light is much nicer than dense shade.

My ponds get topped up regularly at this time of the year, due to evaporation. Shallow ponds tend to green up a bit as the water warms. I added half a bale of straw to one end of the large pond, weighed down with a rock to keep slime from growing. With the topping up and the straw doing it's job, the water stays clear for the fish and the Lillies.

When the next heavy rain arrives, feed lawns and they will bounce back - then spot-spray weeds as new weed seeds will have germinated.


My Gooseberries, Strawberries, Raspberries and Currants ripened fast during the busy Christmas rush, so the birds nabbed a lot and little fingers helped me with mumbles of "This is boring Nana", but making the Blackcurrant pies, Fruit Trifle and Gooseberry sponge puddings was a different story ... too many cooks in the kitchen! Prune back all older Blackcurrant branches that fruited now, then give a good clean out of old wood during Winter. Pruning summer

fruiting Raspberries: Fruit is produced on one year old canes. In Autumn, cut all brown canes that bore fruit down to soil level - new seasons canes are green. Leave 6-8 strong new canes and remove the rest. Space new canes 10cm (4in) apart to allow light and air. Gooseberry new growth can be tip pruned, then left for a Winter pruning and shaping pruning


Renovate Strawberry patches for higher yields next year: Stimulate next years growth by removing old leaves with hedge clippers after fruiting without damaging crowns. Most plants remain highly productive for only 3 or 4 fruiting years. Thin out old weak plants, leave 5 - 6 of the vigorous per square foot of row. After plants first growing season, there are two critical times when good soil moisture is important - from bloom through to harvest and from late December through to the end of Autumn.

Tomatoes need water kept up and some leaves removed to let more light in - too many leaves take up nitrogen that should be used by the fruit. Corn and Pumpkins are making good growth and the Potatoes I thought were all top and no Potatoes, proved me wrong by being just the opposite. Keep planting all veg - we have the best growing and ripening time ahead.

Cheers, Linda



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Rights, Rules & Remedies

A Column by Consumer Affairs Writer, Jordan Kelly.

Exercising Self-Responsibility When Hiring Tradespersons

Neglecting to exercise one's rights and self-responsibilities when hiring tradespersons or similar, sets up a situation in which the only loser is you and your own household. To some degree, self-protection comes down to common sense and the required degree of assertiveness.

There are also some basic principles of which a householder should be aware.

1) The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that, when you hire a plumber, electrical worker, builder, engineer or the like, you ask to see his or her occupational body's authorisation card.

Check the card's expiry date for currency and to see what work they are authorised to do. If they are not appropriately registered and qualified, you might not be insured for damage and the work might also be illegal.

2) If you are using a larger firm, find out the level of qualification of the specific individual the company plans to assign to your job.

I have experienced a situation whereby complex electrical works were performed at my property by not only an apprentice, but an *unsupervised apprentice*. This became one of the aspects of an investigation by the Electrical Workers' Registration Board, which had to send an inspector all the way from Auckland to identify necessary and urgent remedial work.

The many findings of the investigation resulted in a lengthy report back to the Board. There were problems all the way through this major work, but I had chosen not to say anything until the dangers of the work became obvious. Clearly, this decision was not my smartest.

3) Get a quote.

If it's a relatively small need, ask the service provider what information is needed to provide you with a verbal estimate. Decide on a figure that represents the upper level you are prepared to pay before you require a formal, written quote. (NB: A verbal quote is a valid quote but get it in writing anyway.)

4) A quote is a quote.

Tell the tradesperson or other service/product provider, that if there is to be any material variation to this amount, they must provide you with a detailed, written explanation. And *challenge* any unexplained variation.

A firm I had hired to produce a series of custom-made building-related products provided a verbal quote for "about \$2,200" for the first in the series. When the first product was installed, the invoice was almost exactly double (no indication ever having been given of this likely eventuality). I paid it without question, only to find the experience repeated by the same provider some months later with the next custom product I ordered.

5) Quality.

Speak up. Don't allow a supplier to force you to accept substandard workmanship. It's an unfortunate fact that some suppliers' standards are only as high as you, the customer, insist upon as a minimum.



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Glenavy Women's Institute – December Meeting

Members of Glenavy WI met at the hall at 11.00am to pool transport for travelling to The Waihao Forks Hotel for their December meeting.

It is always a pleasant drive up there and before long people are all gathering and the chattering has begun !!

President, Hermien van't Klooster then welcomed everyone. There have been 29 mini Christmas cakes and chocolates delivered to some in our district. These have been very much appreciated by the recipients.

The bowling team heading to Wellington in February for the national competition have been helped with a donation from the Waimate Council. This will be a great help and is appreciated by the team.

It never ceases to amaze me what talented and creative people we have amongst our group of ladies. A real inspiration to us others who have lesser creativity within us. It was time to pull the Christmas crackers. By then the meal was set out and what a selection.

Hermien, then playing Santa brought around the sack of presents for people to dip into and select a gift.

Thank you to the staff at The Forks for looking after us so well and serving us such a wonderful meal. A lovely way to finish our year of WI - amongst good food and good company with plenty of talk, banter and friendship.

Water safety Tips - Under Fives



Eight ways to keep babies and toddlers water safe:

Adult supervision is imperative. Always keep them within arms' reach around water.

If you're in a group, have an active adult supervision roster. Don't rely on children or teenagers, they are easily distracted.

Identify water hazards in and around the home. Empty water from unused paddling pools and buckets.

Use your Water Safety bathmat at bath times.

Put your phone away. Avoid distractions such as texting and using social media.

Teach your children water safety behaviour.

Lifejackets. These are essential on a boat, must fit snugly and have a crotch strap.

Support your child to have enjoyable and positive early experiences around water.

www.watersafety.org.nz

Tests confirm cattle disease Mycoplasma bovis on Ashburton farm



The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) confirms that the bacterial cattle disease *Mycoplasma bovis* is present on a farm in the Ashburton area.

The Ministry's response incident controller David Yard says milk sampling carried out by the dairy industry just before Christmas revealed a suspected positive result and MPI's Animal Health Laboratory testing has just confirmed this.

"The affected farm and an associated property have been under controls since Christmas Eve as a precautionary measure. No animals or other risk goods such as used farm equipment have been allowed on or off the property during this time and these controls stand," Mr Yard says.

There has been no sign of any illness in any of the approximately 600 animals on the property.

Mr Yard says that as a result of the new find, MPI is now tracing animal movements on and off the farm to determine if there are links to other affected properties. MPI will now carry out checks and testing on some 30 other farms that have had some association with the new affected property.

"Farmers in the area who have had some connection with the affected property will be contacted and those who do not hear from us in the next couple of weeks should consider they are under no increased risk from this most recent detection. However, if they have concerns or questions, they can contact us on 0800 00 83 33 or by emailing info@mpi.govt.nz."


MPI is also continuing tests on another Ashburton area farm that had previously returned inconclusive results. As yet, this farm is not regarded as positive, although it is under controls just in case.

"MPI and its industry partners in the response understand how worrying this new detection is to the farming community. Planning is underway for two public meetings in Methven and Ashburton on Thursday 11 January to outline the situation. In addition, the meetings will cover plans to test bulk milk and 'discard milk' (milk unsuitable for collection, e.g. from cows with mastitis) from farms in the area."

Further details of the meetings will be provided when arrangements are finalised.

The current number of infected properties now stands at 14 – nine in South Canterbury, three in Southland, one in Ashburton and one in Hawkes Bay.

Full information about *Mycoplasma bovis* is at: www.mpi.govt.nz



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Community Diary

Thursday 18th

Diabetes Walking Group: Chelmer St Gardens Car Park, 10.30a.m. Tuesday & Thursday. Everyone welcome. Ph. Jan 437 2348.

Waitoa Park Golf Club, Ladies Opening Day, Start time: 9.30am Combined Stableford, Members a Plate and a Raffle Prize please.

Friday 19th

Indoor Summer Bowls 7pm, indoor bowls centre Centennial Park. Ph. Bob 4371704.

Newcomers Coffee Group 10.30am at the Opera House. Ph. Christine 027 242 8643.

Saturday 20th

Waitoa Park Golf Club, Men's Opening Day, Start Time 12.30p.m. Stableford.

Sunday 21st

Excelsior Petanque Opening day, 1pm. Ph. 437 2557 or 437 1590.

Oamaru Farmers Market fresh local produce, 9.30 - 1pm, Cnr Wansbeck & Tyne St.

Monday 22nd

Waitaki Woodturners, 1-5pm, clubrooms, Oamaru Race course. Ph. 439 5795.

Tuesday 23rd

Age Concern Gentle Exercise Programme, Orwell St Church Hall Tuesdays 1.30 - 3pm, \$3 per person. Contact: 434 7008.

Diabetes Walking Group: Chelmer St Gardens Car Park, 10.30a.m. Tuesday & Thursday. Everyone welcome. Ph. Jan 437 2348

Justice of the Peace 11am - 1pm, WINZ Building, Coquet St

Classifieds

For Free

Horse Manure, Ph 434 5607.

Small music system (Phillips), carpet for weed matting. Ph. 434 3489 in the evenings.

Cherry Trees available from Monday to Sunday 9am-9pm; 296 Teschemakers Road Oamaru. Ph 027 539 5961.

For Sale

Heaps of Clothing - 6 items for \$1 on selected racks. At The Charity Shop, Eden St car park

Natural Fish Fertiliser - Feed it to your plants & watch them flourish, only 15mls to 1 litre for foliage & soil, \$8 ltr, deliver or pick up from 4 Towey St Oamaru. Ph 434 3044.

Pig manure compost, \$7 per bag delivered. Ph. Jared 027 443 1716 or 434 2345.

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

Services

General Gardening - everything considered. Ph. 021 450 405.

Smash Palace, for rental cars/vans/bikes, car parts and shuttle service. Ph. 433 1444.

Yoga Term 1 - 2018, Classes Tues morning & evening, Thurs morning. \$121 term fee (\$16 casual) & Thursday evening \$88 term fee (\$12 casual). Beginning from Jan 30th. Ph. John or Dominique 03 689 7586 or email karunaayoga@kinect.co.nz

Wanted

Books - always buying at Oasis Oamaru, 10 Harbour St. Ph 4346878.

Farming

Grazing Available, up to 300, Ngapara, by experienced farmer. Suitable R1 or older, 40 ha of Moata to be sown. Ph. 027 600 0215.

Raffle results

Excelsior Petanque Christmas Raffle, drawn under Police supervision, 1st No. 1423 - C. Brake, 2nd No. 403 - K. Fellows, 3rd No. 2208 - S. Tonkin, 4th No. 115 - B. Kelly. All prize winners have been notified.

Meadowbank Bowling Club Raffle - 1st John McKenzie, 2nd Natalie Johnston, 3rd Dianne Allan, 4th Janet Paterson, 5th P. Kennedy, 6th Margaret Anderson, 7th Carol, 8th Quesha Sage. Thank you all for your support.

Oamaru Farmers Market Xmas Hamper Raffle drawn 22/12/17 won by A. Hooper.

Tuesday Patchers & Quilters Quilt Raffle, drawn 18/12/17 - winners have been notified.

Notices

For additions, updates and corrections for the Community Diary please call in to our office or email us at; 146 Thames St, 03 434 9651, email: telegram@oamaru.net.nz

Petanque News 2018

Had a good Christmas but ate too much??? Playing Petanque out in the fresh air gives you a good workout. Play Petanque at Excelsior Piste behind the Excelsior Rugby Clubrooms, Centennial Park. Club days are Sunday & Wed at 1pm. All most welcome. Boules provided.



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Letters to the Editor

Articles published in this section are necessarily the views of the Oamaru Telegram or its staff.

Please feel free to express your views.

Email telegram@oamaru.net.nz



Museum?

What Museum?

Not so long ago we had a good small-town museum. Now we have a few exhibits displayed in a dimly lit back room down a side street, as yet another tourist season passes by.

Finding the money to pay for the new combined facility doesn't seem to be going as planned, which suggests that its opening is at least another two years away. Will the front doors of our existing museum remain closed all that time?

A publicly owned museum is always going to be a cost to ratepayers, but surely museum management is duty bound to make every effort to minimise that cost by encouraging donations and participation. Closing the doors to the bulk of our heritage is not doing that. Let's stop pretending we don't have a museum when we have a very acceptable one we can be proud of. BGL



A REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Latest Canstar Blue research of 1,104 Kiwis shows only 4% of buyers holding out for 'the crash'

Commenting on the latest findings, Canstar Blue general manager Jose George says:

"The same survey in 2016 showed significantly more people - 11% - were holding out for substantial price drops in the property market but it's a very different sentiment filtering through this year. In Auckland and Wellington the drop is even bigger going from 15% of people in both areas last year to 6% and 5%, respectively, this year.

"It's an interesting scenario because although the property market is definitely more challenging for buyers than this time 12 months ago, the latest data from the Real Estate Institute of New Zealand shows that prices continue to rise, albeit at a slower rate. The drop in the number of people holding out for property prices to reduce suggests that people could be facing up to the strong possibility that prices are not going to crash."

"Although it's clear that LVR and bank lending restrictions are having an effect on the market, it's also clear that the pressure and challenges facing home buyers continues. However, there does look to be a change in attitude with more buyers working with the realities of today's market instead of holding on and hoping for major change in the future.

Satisfied Customers

As part of the survey, Canstar Blue also asks consumers to rate their real estate agent against a number of 'drivers of satisfaction'. We are delighted to announce that for 2017, our Customer Satisfaction Award goes to LJ Hooker.

Accepting the award Keith Niederer, General Manager said:

"This award is testament to the professionalism, dedication and commitment to superior customer service from our entire network across New Zealand. In today's competitive marketplace to become the market leaders in customer satisfaction is an achievement that all at LJ Hooker can be proud of. Hard work, open honest communication and persistence certainly pays off. Congratulations to the entire team at LJ Hooker."

Rated brands	Overall satisfaction*	Communication & advice	Marketing	Contract handling	Problem resolution	Value for money	Financial paperwork	Moving services
<u>LJ Hooker</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
<u>Bayleys</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
<u>Professionals</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
<u>Barfoot & Thompson</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
<u>First National</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
<u>Harcourts</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★
<u>Property Brokers</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	N/A
<u>Ray White</u>	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★

* Overall satisfaction is an individual rating and not a combined total of all ratings. Brands with equal overall satisfaction ratings are listed in alphabetical order.

**IT PAYS TO DEAL WITH THE BEST! CONTACT THE TEAM AT LJ HOOKER OAMARU
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