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Issue 385

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Winter is fast approaching - so make sure you get up and enjoy the last of the Autumn Weekend events. We have a long weekend so remember to get your Telegram articles and adverts in before Wednesday midday. The following issue will not be affected, so our normal deadline of Thursday lunchtime applies.

We still get customers coming in asking if we do printing and photocopying... The answer is Yes!! The Telegram is produced by us (*Oamaru Print*), and we do all sorts of printing from A4 to Large banners... **enjoy your week, regards The Telegram.**

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Friday 30th closed,  
Sat 31st 10am- 3pm,  
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More like Autumn weather last week - with still warm days and then rain and weeds growing like they do in Spring. But if the hoe is kept on the go while weeds are small, they wont get away on us like they do in Spring. ( wishful thinking?) I am still cutting back

heaps because everything is really tired now. Once I start chopping back at this time of the year, there is no stopping me leaving destruction in my wake. Cut back, lift and divide Summer flowering Perennials and Shrubs, remove seed heads from ornamental grass if you have not already done so. Clumps will look a lot tidier.

I have received a load of that lovely black garden mulch from Alliance works Pukeuri. I find this perfect to build up my ornamental gardens and keep weeds down after an intensive growing season. I also use it around established plants in the veg garden and as layers on compost heaps. (too strong for seeds or young seedlings) Every plant, Shrub, tree gets a dressing before pea straw beds the garden for Winter. Inquiries to Gregg on 0272293215

Ponds have been overheating this Summer, encouraging oxygen weed and slime to grow rapidly. I use a leaf rake to lift it out where I can get at it. The straw I put in the pond at the start of Summer to help pond life, broke down quicker than it should, so I have just added more and also pulled out Water Iris as they escaped pots and seemed set to take over my pond. To re-pot Water Iris, line a plastic pot ( large enough to stand the top heaviness of the Iris when tall) with sacking or even a chux cloth. Place a generous amount of gravel on top, then some soil, a little stable manure, or slow release fertiliser granules. Plant Iris, then add another layer of gravel. The gravel on the bottom and top helps to prevent manure or fertiliser leaching from the pot, while at the same time weighting the pot down when the Iris becomes top heavy. Topping ponds up often during hot weather, helps to cool water and keep ponds cleaner. Lawns Get new lawns sown now - the cooler nights and mornings are allowing moisture to remain longer after watering and a strike will happen pretty fast in the warm ground. For established lawns, dry weather encourages thatch to build up around grass roots and lawns can become thick with it killing out good grass. If you feel your lawn is being choked by thatch, this is the time to address the problem - a de-thatcher can be hired from our local garden hire business. Once a good portion of thatch is removed, good grass gets a chance to grow strongly again. Scarification will also help remove moss and an added bonus is that removed thatch can be added to compost heaps. Grass grub are on the go munching grass roots and leaving dead patches. Treat lawns from now until May.

**Vegetables.** March is an important month for planting Winter veg. Prepare soil prior to planting with compost, general garden fertiliser and lime (only if needed to bring the Ph up) - I add lime to my compost. Keep planting all veg seedlings on offer, but as I suggested last week, cover from birds and white butterfly - I had several punnets of Broccoli seedlings grown from seed completely chewed off before I could get them planted!! Prepare Garlic beds with compost/ manure worked in, then left to settle until planting out in June. Heartease (small wild pansy) ia a companion plant to Garlic and Onions. Fruit: Weed, manure, mulch/compost around Fruit trees while ground is warm. Citrus should be producing flowers and fruit well this season - give them Citrus food as a reward...

② Cheers, Linda



# Trees Need Trimmed?



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## Whitestone Wipe Out - April 7th

Did someone say "Waterslide, jumps and family friendly fun, run or walk! I'm in!"

On Saturday April 7th starting at 10.30am you will want to join in our first ever fabulous fun event "Whitestone Wipeout". It will take place on a 5km track at the Oamaru Race Course. We also have a Peewee track (3km) of slip sliding fun for the younger children.

Two very clever, enthusiastic and dynamic ladies with children from St Joseph School came up with the event while at a meeting. From there the energy and excitement grew with everyone jumping into it. Who doesn't want to have fun in the Autumn come sun, rain, hail or shine, we are on!

On the course there will be natural obstacles that our dynamic team have dreamed up. There will be horse jumps, hay bales, some water and a little mud and slippery slide. We have spot prizes for the wackiest dressed and the furthest distance travelled.

\$10 per person, \$40 per family (2 adults, 2 children), extra children \$5. Entries close Thursday April 5th at 12pm.

Entries on the day \$15 per person.

So please get onto our facebook page - Whitestone Wipeout, registration forms are on there for teams and individuals. Challenge your family, friends, colleagues to a fun filled day. there will be a sausage sizzle \$2 to warm you up afterwards. All funds go towards our school improvements. See you all at the Whitestone Wipeout!

## Unusual rainfall is causing mowing delays in Waitaki district reserves

Mowing of reserves in the Waitaki district has been significantly disrupted by recent heavy and frequent rainfall and warm ground temperatures.

In February we had 238mm of rain (compared to an historic average of 15mm) – an over 1,500% increase. In March to date, we have already had 144mm compared with the historic average of 29mm (a 500% increase) and we are only halfway through the month. These are not normal Autumnal conditions. Ground temperatures are expected to drop in the coming month which should help slow the growth of grass.

These extraordinary rain events have had a number of impacts on our mowing contractor:

They may not be able to mow at all when it is wet (for example, a week of mowing was lost with Cyclone Gita.)

They may not be able to achieve a good cut when the grass is wet.

Some reserve areas remain saturated, and may continue to be too wet to mow (heavy machinery ruts and damages the ground).

The rain, combined with warm ground temperatures, is creating rapid growth.

Currently, our contractor is taking on additional temporary staff, working longer hours and weekends in order to do as much mowing as they can as weather conditions permit.

The Contractors are understandably proud of our parks, and hope to have maintenance back to normal as soon as the weather cooperates and apologise for any inconvenience caused and thank you for your co-operation and patience over this time.



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## Rights, Rules & Remedies

*A Column by Consumer Affairs Writer, Jordan Kelly.*

### Thanks for the Feedback . . . and Now, to the Matter of Wi Fi in Schools

Following the publication of my recent series of columns, I asked the Oamaru Telegram editor, Karl Illingworth, if he'd received any feedback. Are people interested in the topics I write about? Are these columns providing value to his readership?

The answer was a resounding "Yes". The editor advises that he receives community feedback every week indicating the column has developed a wide and appreciative readership. Interestingly, one of the most prevalent comments is that I investigate subjects not covered elsewhere – at least, in any standard, mainstream media vehicle.

So thank you for that feedback. And now, in what's left of this issue's column, I'd like to draw your attention to the concerning matter of wireless technology in schools.

#### Microwave Immersion is Good for Learning? Really?

I find it ironic that, despite the fact I have no children and no particular interest in children, I care more than some parents do about the impacts of "wi fi" on their kids. Perhaps it's because I've experienced the horror that is electromagnetic hypersensitivity (a very real and recognised sensitivity, despite extreme industry and lobbyist efforts to discredit it) that I've taken the time to deeply research the biological impacts of wireless technology. Or perhaps it's just sheer logic underscored by common sense.

If your child is in a school with "wi fi", he or she is subject to the prolonged and relentless beaming of microwave radiation (yes, the very same technology that cooks food) from industrial-strength routers, into their thin and still-developing skulls (and the rest of their physiologies).

How impairing their thought processes, their learning abilities, and affecting their psychologies and emotions (to say nothing of their biological processes) can be considered any sort of bonus to their education, is the ultimate irony. Think on it: You have 30 kids in a classroom all linking up to this router, with between two and five antennae per laptop or ipad . . . That's 100 antennae bouncing signals around – radiation that is being absorbed by the children's (predominantly water-composed) bodies.

#### Keen on Grandchildren One Day?

Add to that, the irradiation of their reproductive organs from the proximity of the in-built laptop and ipad antennae to these organs. (As mentioned in a previous column, anyone with a school-age daughter *must* listen to retired British microwave weaponry expert, Dr Barrie Trower, on this issue. You'll find his various presentations and interviews on YouTube.)

Concerned? Then given that there's generally no provision for parental consent for the irradiation of your children in this manner, I suggest it's time to either withdraw your children from schools insistent on foolishly employing "wi fi" – or, alternatively – for Notices of Liability to be sent to principals and boards of administrators.



## Recipe of the week - Pineapple Souffle

1 small tin Pineapple, 1tblsp Gelatine, 4oz sugar, 3eggs  
Put Gelatine in a cup and cover with cold water.  
Beat egg yolks and sugar. Beat whites until stiff.  
dissolve Gelatine in 2 tablespoons hot water, then fill cup with Pineapple juice.  
Turn into the yolks, stir well add fruit and lastly the beaten whites.  
Mix well and turn into a glass dish.  
Can also be made using 2 oranges cut up and any fruit juice.

## Petanque News

The Excelsior Petanque Club had a very successful 20th Anniversary weekend with a full field of 24 teams for the double, the competition was fierce! Seventy people enjoyed a very nice dinner on Saturday night. Two ladies who were foundation members and who are still playing - Elizabeth McCone and Daphne Bell, cut the birthday cake. Sundays drawn triples were fun and played with great enjoyment.

**Results Championships** - 1st Pat & Reed Jamison (Waikouaiti), 2nd Diane & Andrew Findlay (Chch), 3rd Ross Green & Caryll Brake (Waikouaiti), 4th Phillipa Browne & Karilyn Murray (Timaru).

**Special Plate** - 1st Alec Clarke (Excelsior) & Sharon Olsen (Caversham), 2nd Aileen Simpson & Bev Kendall (Caversham).

**Consolation Plate** - 1st Suzanne Tonkin & Ian Buchanan (Excelsior), 2nd Myrle Parsons & Elizabeth McCone.



## Oamaru Heritage Radio

*Tuesday evening, 4pm to 10pm. "Trevor's Tuesday Variety Time" Oamaru 88.3. Internet listening at [www.ohr.nz](http://www.ohr.nz)*

### Tuesday: April 3rd

- 5.30 Item for Younger Ears: The Air Adventures of Biggles - International Brigade, Part 4 of 37
- 6.00 Classic Comedy: I'm Sorry, I'll Read That Again (BBC)
- 7.30 Concert Piece: Hallelujah Music, pieces by well known composers in celebratory mood
- 9.00 Reading: The Promise Of The Wolves, by Dorothy Hearst, read by Ruth Sillers, Pt 1 of 16

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## Online payments now available

Customers can now pay rates and make other payments through Council's website ([www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)).

As well as paying rates, the online service gives customers the option of paying invoices, water charges, parking tickets and other fines.

Information Services Group Manager Bill Chou says the new online service is one that will provide greater flexibility and ease for customers to do business with Council.

"Having the ability to pay online is, for many customers, something that they quite rightly expect in this digital age," says Mr Chou. "It simply makes sense and we're pleased to be able to offer this service."

The system will mean people can make multiple payments in one go, using a 'shopping cart' facility and payments will be in a secure and confidential environment.

"It's important that our customers have confidence in the security of our system so we have been testing it to ensure it works as it should. We're confident we have a robust and efficient system."

Electronic enquiries and requests are also available and additional services such as paying dog registration fees will be offered in the future.

An introductory special to waive the 2% credit card online transaction merchant fee is being offered until 31 May 2018. The credit card fee for over-the-counter transactions will remain the same.

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## Community Diary

### Wednesday 28th March

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

### Thursday 29th

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

**N.O. Early Settlers Assn Meeting.** Early Settlers Hall, Severn St @ 1.45pm. Ph 434 1173

**Footstep Ladies Trendy group**, for chat, coffee and some crafts. 1:30pm - 4:30pm at Oamaru Baptist Church Hall. 14 Sandringham St. Ph. Chris 021 0268 7567.

**Mainly Music** - pre-schoolers/parents. 10am Oamaru Baptist, 14 Sandringham St. \$3. Ph Angela 437 0911. [mainlymusic.org.nz](http://mainlymusic.org.nz)

**N.O. Asthma Society:** Respiratory Exercise Class, 10am, St John Hall, Exe Street. Phone Fiona 03 434 3202.

**The Rubbish Trip:** The Waitaki Community Gardens and Kids are pleased to host an evening session on "zero waste living" at the famed Community Gardens' Pizza Thursday (usually Pizza Friday). Join Hannah Blumhardt and Liam Prince, the No-Waste Nomads behind The Rubbish Trip! This event is free – everyone is welcome. Zero waste pizza will be served from 6pm and the talk will begin 7pm. Community Gardens, Chelmer Street.

### Friday 30th - Good Friday

**St Andrew's Maheno**, Good Friday service St 9am service St Andrew's Maheno

**Combined Ecumenical Walk of the Cross and Service.**

People are welcome to come to any or all of it: 10am: Meeting at the Basilica (Reed St) to walk around the Stations of the Cross

10:30am: The Walk of the Cross begins, leaving the Basilica (Reed St), finishing at St Luke's in time for the Service at 11am

11am: Good Friday Service at St Luke's (corner Itchen St & Tees St), followed by hot cross buns & a cuppa.

### Reducing Our Household Rubbish:

The Zero Waste Approach + Pizza. Pizza at 6; talk at 7pm. Waitaki Community Gardens, Chelmer St, Oamaru. Free Event.

### Saturday 31st

**Richie McCaw Statue Quiz Night;** at the Kurow Hotel (Kurow) 7.30pm. To register a team call Ross Paton at 0274317053 Prizes Raffles and auction.

### Sunday 1st April

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

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

**Headstones & Stories.** Join Helen Stead's 2 hour Cemetery Walk. Meet Greta St Entrance @ 2pm. Adults \$20, Children Free.

**St Paul's Church**, Coquet St, service and kids club. All welcome, 10am.

### Tuesday 3rd

**AA Meeting**, Orwell St Chapel, 7.30pm, Ph. 432 4191 or 437 2337.

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

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

**Indoor Bowls Oamaru Club**, Severn St, 7pm, new members most welcome. Ph. Bev 434 9678 or Bede 027 201 3907.

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

**U3A Waitaki**, talks, discussions for enquiring minds, 2-4pm. St Johns Hall Lounge. Ph. Linda 434 6613.

### Up & Coming

**Musical Theatre Oamaru Proudly Presents the Network Waitaki Season of Mamma Mia!** Auditions April 5-7th Visit [www.mto.org.nz](http://www.mto.org.nz) for info.

**Cancer Society Volunteer meeting** - 1st Wednesday of each month. Dean O'Reilly Lounge, Reed St at 10.15am. All welcome. Ph Rayna Hamilton 431 7897.

**Meadowbank Indoor Bowl Opening Night**, Tuesday 3rd April, 7pm at Centennial Park Centre. Existing & new bowlers welcome. Ph. Noel 437 0217 or Bob 437 1704.

**Meadowbank Indoor Bowls Opening Days**, Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th from 1-3pm at the Centennial Park Centre. Come & see if bowls is the game for you. Ph. Bob 437 1704.

**Waitaki Hospice Care Trust AGM**, Boardroom Oamaru Hospital on Tuesday, 10th April at 6pm. All welcome!

**Yankee Bowls Opening Day**, Wednesday 11th at 1.30pm, Centennial Park Centre. Enjoy fun & friendly afternoon. Ph. Bob 437 1704.

## Classifieds

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**Carpet** - suitable for weed matting only. See Simpsons Flooring.

**Horse Manure**, Ph 434 5607.

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### Wanted

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**Books** - we pay a fair price. Slightly Foxed 11 Tyne St, Ph 434 2155 Open 7 days.

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**Trombone or trumpet player** for funky originals band oamagonne. Text/Ph. 021 044 8209 to trial on Thurs\day nights.

### Raffle Results

**Save the Children Raffle**, Firewood - 179, FAMILTON, Groceries - 147, Andrea. Thanks to all who supported.

## Trees to be removed

A number of red flowering plum trees in and around Oamaru have been identified as declining in health and, as such, will be removed by Council contractors over the next two months.

Recreation Manager Erik van der Spek says they no longer provide the enhanced street experience they were intended for, and while there is no immediate danger of them falling they do need to be cut down.

"We have identified 26 trees that will be removed in various locations around Oamaru and will discuss options for replacement with neighbours," says Erik.

"The red flowering plum trees have been carefully looked after over the years, however, they have now come to their natural end."

"Over coming months we will also be revitalising Thames Street (north of Dee Street) by replacing the patchy ground cover in the central traffic islands with a selection of suitable low growing plants."

Red flowering plum trees generally have a lifespan of about 20 years, however, the tree is susceptible to fungal diseases. They are a relatively inexpensive species and are a popular landscape tree.



Maheno RWNZ Visit the patchwork shed in Papakaio during their March meeting tour.



Helen Jansen welcomes guests to recent World Multicultural day event.



One of the fine displays at the Kurow Museum



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