

# ŌAMARU HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS

## ŌAMARU NOIR SCOUNDRELS, SECRETS & SHADOWS



NOVEMBER 13-16 2025

VHC.CO.NZ



THE ŌAMARU WHITESTONE CIVIC TRUST

Network  
Waitaki 

# VICTORIAN FETE

16TH NOVEMBER 2025 10AM TO 3PM  
ŌAMARU'S HERITAGE PRECINCT

ENTRY BY DONATION

LIVE MUSIC STALLS FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT  
COMPETITIONS GREAT FOOD

WELCOME

## ***Welcome, one and all, to the Ōamaru Heritage Celebrations 2025***

*We hope you enjoy looking through the booklet and choosing the events you'd like to attend.*

*There's something for everyone! Events are listed in two sections to make browsing easy – by Category and in a Daily Timetable to help you plan your day.*

*Dressing up in Victorian finery is a long tradition and a true highlight of the Celebrations. So, feel free to join hundreds of fellow sartorialists and come dressed in yours – but if not, all are welcome.*

*This year, we journey into the dark and lesser-known side of Ōamaru's history through the theme of Ōamaru Noir - Scoundrels, Secrets and Shadows. It's an opportunity to explore what was really going on behind the polished image of Victorian life.*

*Back then, what happened in Victorian Ōamaru pretty much stayed in Victorian Ōamaru... until now, that is!*

*Enjoy the Celebrations!*

## ***Message from the Co-Chairs***

*Welcome to Ōamaru Noir – Scoundrels, Secrets and Shadows*

*Step into the shadows with us. This year, we invite you to tiptoe past the lace curtains and into the unspoken corners of Ōamaru's history.*

*As co-chairs, we're delighted to welcome you to a season of storytelling that celebrates the intrigue behind the elegance. Ōamaru Noir is your passport to the darker delights of days gone by, and you're sure to discover something new about the past and present. So lean in, listen closely, and let's lift the veil together.*

*History was never just about the heroes—it's also about the rogues, the rebels, and the stories in the shadows.*

*Welcome. Let the noir unfold in November.*

*From your Co-Chairs, Cyndi and Wendy  
Ōamaru Victorian Heritage Celebrations Committee*



## ŌAMARU NOIR

### Scoundrels, Secrets and Shadows!

Step beyond the charming facade of Victorian Ōamaru and uncover the lesser-known side of its past.

Behind the grand limestone buildings and lace-draped windows, a scandalous story unfolds – one of scoundrels, secrets, and shadows!

From the hush-hush world of prohibition and hidden speakeasies to the grim realities of filth and hardship, you'll hear tales of feuds, mystery, chilling crimes, and the unspeakable.

So don't let the pretty streets fool you - Ōamaru has a deliciously dark past, and this year's theme is all about diving into it.

Forget the sepia tones - this is Ōamaru Noir, where history gets a scandalous twist!

#### THE VICTORIAN WARDROBE

Step out in style and add to the atmosphere by dressing in Victorian costume. Clothing and accessories are available for every member of the family from The Victorian Wardrobe.

Situated at 4B Harbour St in Ōamaru, the wardrobe will be open as follows:

##### For fittings and bookings:

- From 5 October onwards:  
Sundays (10am–2pm) and Thursdays (10am–4pm)
- 9–17 November: Open daily (10am–4pm)

##### Facebook:

The Victorian Wardrobe

##### Wardrobe Mistress:

Dawn Sutherland  
027 426 7930



#### BOOKINGS AND TICKETS

Details about entry fees (if any), bookings, and ticket purchases for events, can be found in this booklet and on our website ([vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)). Be sure to refer to the specific event listing to get precise booking information, as the details vary.

OVHC would like to extend special thanks to Rose's General Store for helping various groups and organisations with ticketing for their events. Rose's General Store is located at 5 Tyne St.



#### WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

This year's theme is Ōamaru Noir - Scoundrels, Secrets and Shadows. The Ōamaru Victorian Heritage Celebrations aim to bring a Victorian flavour to retail businesses throughout Ōamaru, and we have invited all local retailers to dress their windows in theme and show off their talents. Take a walk around Ōamaru's retail precinct and admire these displays, and meet our warm and friendly local business owners.



## EVENTS CATEGORIES

*Browse events by category to find the type of experience you're after. Once you've found your favourites, head to the Daily Guide for full details and locations. (Pages 10–43).*

*Note that some events run daily or have multiple sessions each day, and may also appear in more than one category.*

### DEMONSTRATIONS & WORKSHOPS

**Find Your Family's Story:** 11 & 14 Nov, 10am-1pm  
– Free for first 15 mins

**Ōamaru Steam and Rail Open Day:** 12 Nov, 10am-4pm

**Whiskerina Workshop:** 13 Nov, 10am-12pm

**Weaving Waitaki Stories:** 14 & 15 Nov, 10am-4.30pm – Free

### DISPLAYS & EXHIBITIONS

**The Forrester Gallery:** 11, 12, 13 & 14 Nov, 10am-4pm / 15-16 Nov, 1.30pm-4pm – Free

**Retail Window Displays:** 13-16 Nov – around Ōamaru's retail precinct – Free

**Smokey Joes at Clarks Mill:** 13 Nov, 10am-1pm / 15 Nov, 2pm-4pm / 16 Nov, 1pm-3pm

**Ōamaru Noir Exhibition:** 13, 14, 15 & 16 Nov, 10am-4.30pm – Free

**Steel Bicycle Display and Swap Meet:** 16 Nov, 10am-2pm – Free

**Customs House Gallery:** 14, 15 & 16 Nov, 10am-3pm – Free

**Ōamaru Coastal Defence:** 14 & 15 Nov, 10am-5pm / 16 Nov, 10am-3pm – Free

**Otago Floral Arts Display:** 14 Nov, 10am-3.30pm / 15 Nov, 10.30am-3.30pm / 16 Nov, 11.45am-3.30pm – Gold Coin

### TOURS & WALKS

**Janet Frame's House:** 11-16 Nov, 2pm-4pm

**Totara Estate Tour:** 13, 14 & 16 Nov, from 10.30am

**Clarks Flour Mill Tour:** 13 Nov, 10am-1pm / 15 Nov, 2pm-4pm / 16 Nov, 1pm-3pm

**St Luke's Church (Otago Floral Display):** 14 Nov, 10am-3.30pm / 15 Nov, 10.30am-3.30pm / 16 Nov, 11.45am-3.30pm – Gold Coin

**Secrets and Shadowy Tales Walk:** 13 & 14 Nov, 11am, 2pm, 4pm / 15 Nov, 2pm, 5pm

**Tour the Junction Hotel:** 13 Nov, 3.30pm-5pm / 14 Nov, 4pm-5.30pm / 15 Nov, 2pm-3.30pm

**Night at the Museum Tour:** 13 Nov, 8.30pm-9pm – Free

**Into the Vault Tour:** 13 Nov, 2.30pm-3pm – Free

**Tour the Old Cemetery Grounds:** 14 & 15 Nov, 1.45pm-3.45pm

**Masonic Lodge Tour:** 15 Nov, 1pm-4pm – Gold Coin

### OUTDOOR SPECTACLE

**Hand Trolley Racing:** 13 Nov, 1pm-3pm – Free to watch

**Heritage Bicycle Championship:** 15 Nov, 1pm-3.30pm – Free

**Grand Street Parade:** 15 Nov, 12pm-1pm – Free

**Network Waitaki Victorian Fete:** 16 Nov, 10am-3pm – Entry by donation

### HERITAGE SPORTS & GAMES

**Hand Trolley Racing:** 13 Nov, 1pm-3pm – Free to watch

**Haggis Hunt:** 14 Nov, 9am-3pm

**Croquet in the Gardens:** 14 Nov, 1.30pm-3.30pm – Free

### SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT

**Ōamaru Noir Express:** 13 Nov, 6.30pm-8pm

**Cafe Promenade:** 14 Nov, 10am-12pm – Free

**NZ Whisky Collection:** 14-15 Nov, 10am-Late / 16 Nov, 10am-4pm

**Victorian-style Spirit Readings:** 15 & 16 Nov, 10am-4pm

**Ōamaru Steam and Rail Trip:** 15 Nov, 11am-1.45pm / 16 Nov, 10am-3.15pm

### DANCING

*Take part in a wickedly fun weekend of dancing, drenched in the dark glamour of this year's Ōamaru Noir theme. Live music will serenade you as you lose yourself into the shadows of a scandalous era. Be sure to book your tickets early.*

**Masked Ball Practice:** 14 Nov, 9.30am-11am

**Victorian Gothic Horror Masked Ball:** 14 Nov, 8pm-Late

**Highland Dancing Competitions:** 15 Nov, 8.30am-3pm – Free

**Rascals Ruckus:** 15 Nov, 8pm-Late

### MUSIC/CONCERTS

**School Choir:** 12 Nov, 12.15pm-1pm – Gold Coin

**Waitaki Valley Singers:** 13 Nov, 12.15pm-1pm – Gold Coin

**Variety Concert:** 14 Nov, 12.15pm-1pm – Gold Coin

**Organ Recital:** 16 Nov, 9.45am-10.25am – Free

**Victorian Evensong:** 16 Nov, 2.45pm-3.30pm – Free

### FILMS, PERFORMANCES & SHOWS

**Ōamaru Noir Soiree – Phantom of the Opera:** 12 Nov, 6pm

**Totara Estate Short Film Screening, with Afternoon Tea:** 13, 14 & 16 Nov, 1pm-2.30pm

**The Curse of the Raven:** 14 Nov, 6pm-6.50pm

**Madame Blayde's Fashion Parade:** 15 Nov, 3.30pm-4.30pm

### HIGH TEA

**Totara Estate Tour, with Morning Tea:** 13, 14 & 16 Nov, 10.30am

**Totara Estate Short Film, with Afternoon Tea:** 13, 14 & 16 Nov, 1pm-2.30pm

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE >

## HIGH TEA

**Victorian Garden Party:** 14 Nov, 2.30pm-3.30pm – Free

**High Tea at The Brydone:** Runs Daily at 9am-3pm  
(14 Nov, 15 Nov, 16 Nov)

**High Tea at the Junction Hotel:** 15 Nov, 4.30pm-6pm

## KIDS & FAMILY

**Ōamaru Coastal Defence:** 14 Nov, 10am-5pm / 15 Nov, 10am-5pm / 16 Nov, 10am-3pm – Free

**Pennyfarthing Lessons:** 15 Nov, 10am-11am – Gold Coin

**Ōamaru Steam and Rail Trip:** 15 Nov, 11am-1.45pm / 16 Nov, 10am-3.15pm

**Network Waitaki Victorian Fete:** 16 Nov, 10am-3pm  
– Donation

## PHOTOGRAPHY & PORTRAIT STUDIOS

**Selfies at the Junction Hotel:** 13, 14 & 15 Nov, 10am-12pm

**Mistress Arnold's Pictorial Emporium:** 14, 15 & 16 Nov, 10am-3pm

**Step into the Past with a Timeless Portrait:** 14, 15 & 16 Nov 10am-4pm

## TALKS & LECTURES

*We've got a great line-up of free talks this year, featuring a range of experts from Otago - including Ōamaru's own local historians. Don't miss these fascinating topics that tie into this year's Ōamaru Noir theme.*

**Saints, Sinners & Skeletons:** 13 Nov, 1.30pm-2.30pm / 16 Nov, 1.15pm-2.15pm – Free

**The Pirate King of Ōamaru:** 13 Nov, 3.30pm-4.15pm – Free

**The Devil's Half Acre:** 14 Nov, 12.30pm-1.30pm – Free

**The Language of Flowers and Fans:** 14 Nov, 1pm-2.30pm

**Dark Doings in Victorian Ōamaru:** 14 Nov, 4pm-5pm – Free

**Tales from Darkest Ōamaru:** 15 Nov, 5pm-6pm – Free

**Victorian Filth:** 15 Nov, 10am-11am – Free

**Geologists Jostling in a Geopark:** 15 Nov, 6.30pm-7.30pm – Free

**Do Ghosts Actually Exist?:** 16 Nov, 2.30pm-3.15pm – Free

## MARKETS

**Grandma's Treasures Sale:** 15 Nov, 10am-2.30pm  
– Free Entry

**Network Waitaki Victorian Fete:** 16 Nov, 10am-3pm  
– Entry by Donation

**Steel Bicycle Display and Swap Meet:** 16 Nov, 10am-2pm  
– Free Entry

## SERVICE

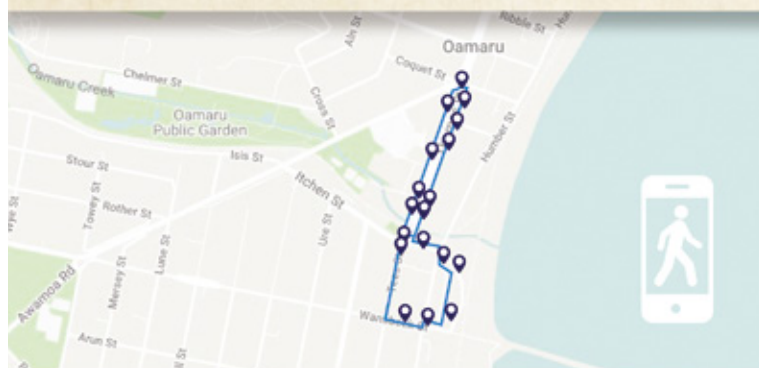
**St Luke's Heritage Service:** 16 Nov, 10.30am-11.30am – Free

*Take a step  
back in time!*

Enjoy your own walking tour of  
Ōamaru and the Historic Precinct  
with the Ōamaru Tales App:



Discover more of our rich  
history, spirited characters and  
architectural heritage.



Download the free Ōamaru Tales app\*  
from your favourite app store. Just search  
Ōamaru Tales and start your journey.

\*Network data charges may apply to  
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## TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

10.00am-1.00pm

### Find your Family's Story

Visit the Waitaki Archive during Heritage Week if you have questions about your family's history in the Waitaki district.

*Free for first 15 minutes and self-service of reference material. Research fees apply after 15 minutes.*

*Waitaki Museum & Archive, 60 Thames St*

**Free for first 15 minutes**



10.00am-4.00pm

### Visit the Forrester Gallery

Visit the Forrester Gallery to experience an iconic heritage building, originally constructed in 1884 for the Bank of New South Wales. Explore our neo-classical building and enjoy our exciting exhibition offerings.

*Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St*

**Free**

2.00pm-4.00pm

### Visit Janet Frame's House

Visit Janet Frame's childhood home to experience the home where the acclaimed New Zealand writer grew to love the written word.

*Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St*

**\$10.00**

## WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER

10.00am-4.00pm

### Ōamaru Steam and Rail Workshop Open Day

Explore the inner workings of the Ōamaru Steam and Rail Workshop. See how things are made and maintained to keep these historic engines running around the harbour. The workshop will run all day so just drop in.

*Steam and Rail Workshop behind Steampunk HQ, 1 Harbour St*

**Paper note donation**

10.00am-4.00pm

### Visit the Forrester Gallery

Experience an iconic heritage building - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St*

**Free**

12.15pm-1.00pm

### School Choir

Enjoy a lunchtime concert at St Paul's Presbyterian Church

*St Pauls Church, 5 Coquet St*

**Gold coin**

2.00pm-4.00pm

### Visit Janet Frame's House

Visit Janet Frame's childhood home to experience the home where the acclaimed New Zealand writer grew to love the written word.

*Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St*

**\$10.00**



Photo: Bernard Evangelista Manangkil



### **The Riviera Cinema: Ōamaru Noir Soiree - Phantom of the Opera**

Join us for a special 100th anniversary screening of the silent film masterpiece *The Phantom of the Opera*, with Live Music Accompanist David Beattie.

It's a stylish prelude to the Ōamaru Heritage Celebrations and the Ōamaru Noir theme.

Come prepared for an evening of eerie romance and dramatic flourishes. Dress in Victorian attire, a half-face mask... or just your fabulous face!

Enjoy a complimentary beverage upon arrival, then graze on delicious platters as you mingle and take in the pre-film entertainment. **Arrive from 6.00pm, Film starts at 7.00pm**

*Riviera Cinema, 239 Thames St*

**Bookings preferred for catering purposes. Book at:**  
[oamaru.rivieracinema.co.nz/movie/the-phantom-of-the-opera](http://oamaru.rivieracinema.co.nz/movie/the-phantom-of-the-opera)

**\$25**

## **THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER**

**9.00am-5.00pm**

### **Heritage Events at Waitaki Library**

Waitaki Library will host heritage events from 13th to 15th Nov. To see the full list of events, visit the Waitaki Library website at [waitaki.govt.nz/Libraries](http://waitaki.govt.nz/Libraries)

*Ōamaru Public Library, 62 Thames St*

**Free**

## **THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER**

**10.00am-12.00pm**

### **Selfies at the Junction Hotel**

Bring your photographer, camera or phone for a half-hour photo shoot in the garden or ground floor public rooms.

*The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towey and Wansbeck Streets (see map).*

**To book a time, email: [fayeormandy@gmail.com](mailto:fayeormandy@gmail.com)**

**Cost: \$5 per person (per half hour)**

**10.00am-12.00pm**

### **Whiskerina Workshop**

Join Angela Gudex and Liz Ende creating beards and moustaches to wear for the Beard, Moustache and Whiskerina competition during Sunday's Victorian Fete. Glue, needles, threads, machines and materials will be supplied, as-well-as beard bases, bows, buttons, feathers and an assortment of 'bits and bobs'. Get creative and don some facial art. All clean-shaven faces welcome.

*Revamp and Revive,  
179 Thames St*

**\$30 - Pay on entry**



**10.00am-1.00pm**

### **Clarks Flour Mill Operating Tour**

Not to be missed! Marvel at four storeys of rare vintage milling machinery as it rolls into action. Arrive at least one hour before operating for a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable Visitor Hosts, who will pepper your tour with the secret stories that we don't usually tell! Machinery operating at 12pm.

*Clarks Mill, 1017 Alma-Maheno Highway (12km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

**\$20 Adults / \$17 Students & Gold Card/FREE for Heritage NZ Members & Children (under 18) Bookings recommended but not required. Phone 03 4331269 or email [clarksmill@heritage.org.nz](mailto:clarksmill@heritage.org.nz)**

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goodness



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10.00am-1.00pm

**Smokey Joes at Clarks Mill**

Explore our exhibition of original items in the Millers Cottage turned Speakeasy during North Otago's lengthy no-license era. Local recounts of Smokey Joes have always upheld the 'BYO only' story of this unassuming limestone cottage, but the recently donated original bar with in-built keg tap tells a different tale.

*Clarks Mill Complex, 1017 Alma-Maheno Highway (12km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

**Exhibition only pricing: \$10 Adults / \$5 Students & Gold Card / FREE for Heritage NZ Members & Children (under 18)**

**Purchasing a ticket to one of our operating tours also provides you access to this special exhibit at no extra cost.**

10.00am-4.00pm

**Visit the Forrester Gallery**

Experience an iconic heritage building - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St*

**Free**

10.00am-4.30pm

**Ōamaru Noir Exhibition**

Step from Ōamaru's Harbour Street into Crafted Gallery where locally made artisan wares beckon to be bought, and our Ōamaru Noir Exhibition whispers of scoundrels, secrets and shadows; deliciously dark, delightfully deceptive.

Note: Official Opening of the Ōamaru Noir Exhibition - 5pm, Fri 14 Nov

*CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St, Historic Precinct*

**Free**

Open from 10.30am

**Totara Estate Self-Guided Tour, with Morning Tea**

Listen intently as one of our passionate Visitor Hosts provides an introduction to Totara Estate, followed by a self-guided tour. Enjoy one of our famous fresh baked scones with a cup of quality leaf tea. Tour introduction starts at 10.30am.

*Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway (8km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

**\$28 Adults / \$23 Students & Gold Card / \$14 Heritage NZ Members & Children (under 18)**

**Bookings Recommended. Phone 03 433 1269 or email: [totaramanager@heritage.org.nz](mailto:totaramanager@heritage.org.nz)**



11.00am-12.00pm

### Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past

Your guide will share some of Ōamaru's darker tales of death, tragedy, lawlessness, intrigue and scandals as you walk our town's Historic Precinct.

*Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing.*

**\$30pp** To book, email: [tokarahi@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tokarahi@xtra.co.nz)  
or Phone 021 159 7904

12.15pm-1.00pm

### The Waitaki Valley Singers

Enjoy a lunchtime concert at St Paul's Presbyterian Church

*St Pauls Church, 5 Coquet St*

**Gold coin**

1.00pm-2.30pm

### Totara Estate Short Film Screening, with Afternoon Tea

Hear about the scoundrels of the Victorian era with a special screening of the 1975 short film that played a part in immortalising the infamous Swagger, Ned 'The Shiner' Slattey. After the screening, enjoy our Swagger-style billy tea with fresh baked scones.

'Winners & Losers: Shining with the Shiner' Courtesy of Roger Donaldson and Sir Ian Mune. From material made available by Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

Short film at 1pm followed by afternoon tea. Arrive by 12.45pm to ensure a timely start. Allow approx. 90mins total.

*Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway (8km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

**\$30 Adults / \$20 Heritage NZ Members / \$15 Children (under 18)** Bookings required; limited to 30 seats per screening. Phone 03 4331269 or email [totaramanager@heritage.org.nz](mailto:totaramanager@heritage.org.nz)

1.30pm-2.30pm

### Saints, Sinners & Skeletons:

Scottish Sabbaths, Sailors' Shanties, Salvationist Skeletons!

Victorian Ōamaru wasn't short on drama when it came to religion. Services kicked off in woolstores, stables, and farm estates - then moved into grand Basilicas, Cathedrals, Chapels, and Citadels as congregations grew. This enlightening talk takes you back to a time when the town was alive with godly parades, booming hymns, impressive churches, and plenty of rivalry. Discover the holy chaos behind Ōamaru's many churches... and find out what in heaven's name was going on! Presented by local historian Bruce Albiston.

*Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Ithen St*

**Free**



Hand trolley from the 1926 silent film *The General* (public domain)

1.00pm-3.00pm

### Hand Trolley Racing

Bring the whole whānau for excitement and entertainment as teams of locals and businesses race hand trolleys down the railway track - the old-fashioned way, with people power! It's a fun, family-friendly event that's all for a great cause - supporting Ōamaru Steam and Rail and the Ōamaru Heritage Celebrations. Come watch the action, cheer on your favourites, and enjoy the festive atmosphere.

Want to have a go? Put together a team of up to 4 people and give it a go.

*Register by emailing: [ev@vhc.co.nz](mailto:ev@vhc.co.nz) Racing will be at the Railway Workshop, behind Steampunk HQ, 1 Humber St*

**This is a fundraising event, so we welcome donations from race participants (\$30 per team of 4).**

2.00pm-3.00pm

### Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past

A walking tour of the heritage precinct - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

*Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing.*

2.00pm-4.00pm

### Visit Janet Frame's house

The childhood home of the acclaimed NZ writer - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St*

**\$10.00**

2.30pm-3.00pm

### Into the Vault

Ever wondered what a museum doesn't put on display? Now's your chance to go behind the scenes! Join Curator Tracey Kearns for an exclusive tour of the Waitaki Museum's collection store.

*60 Thames St*

**Limited to 12 people. Bookings are essential. Not suitable for children under 16. To book, email: [museum@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:museum@waitaki.govt.nz) using subject line: Into the Vault. Free**

3.30pm-4.15pm

### The Pirate King of Ōamaru

In November 1883, an enthusiastic group of amateurs put on a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'The Pirates of Penzance'. The result was a spectacular success, which lived long in the memories of Ōamaru locals. The cast members were a multitalented bunch, who contributed to many aspects of the Ōamaru community.

For one man, appearing in the show was a life-changing experience. But along with the plaudits, darker forces were unleashed: deception, adultery and death in the Klondike.

*Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Ichen St*  
**Free**

3.30pm-5.00pm

### Tour the Restored Junction Hotel

The 1879 Junction Hotel stands tall and proud at the southern entrance to Ōamaru, on the corner of Wansbeck and Towey Streets. Fully restored and fabulously furnished it is a 'must do' to visit this year.

Enjoy a tour of the Junction's 34 rooms and thoughtfully laid out gardens. Refreshments will be served.

*The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towey and Wansbeck Streets (see map)*

**Tickets \$20 (includes refreshments). Tickets available at Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne 'St or book online at: [vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)**

4.00pm-5.00pm

### Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past

A walking tour of the heritage precinct - refer to earlier entry for full details - page 16.

*Meet at 1 Thames 'St, near railway crossing*



Photo: Tom Davies Photography

6.30pm-8.00pm

### Ōamaru Noir Express

Step aboard the Ōamaru Noir Express for an unforgettable journey into the past.

Be transported to a time of elegance and refinement, and enjoy a dining experience reminiscent of what Victorian travellers once savoured in Ōamaru.

As you arrive, you'll be serenaded by live singers on the platform, then welcomed with a glass of bubbles before settling in for a delicious entree, main, and dessert.

Seats are limited, so book early to secure your place aboard the Ōamaru Noir Express.

*Harbourside Station, pedestrian access via Ichen St*

**\$95 Bookings essential. Book online at [vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)**

8.30pm-9pm

### Night at the Museum

Join Curator Tracey Kearns for a flashlight tour of the museum. Hear stories of lost love, childhoods cut short, and objects made of human hair. And, if you're lucky, you might even meet the resident ghost!

*60 Thames 'St*

**Bookings are essential. Not suitable for children under 16. To book, email [museum@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:museum@waitaki.govt.nz) using subject line: Night at the Museum**

9.00am-3.00pm

### Haggis Hunt

Put on some Tartan and help keep the ballooning numbers of Haggis under control in North Otago. Experience the thrill of trialling authentic 17th to 19th century era Black Powder flintlock weapons. Lunch provided. Limited numbers. R18.

**Enquiries Ph 027 2931059**

**\$45**



9.00am-3.00pm

### High Tea @ The Brydone

Indulge in a hot or cold beverage of your choice (excluding alcohol), accompanied by an array of Victorian-themed bite-sized delicacies.

**Brydone Hotel, 115 Thames St**

**\$32pp (paid 24 hours notice in advance). Minimum 2 pax booking. Bookings Essential: 24 hour notice period bookings via email to [Brydone.functions@olt.co.nz](mailto:Brydone.functions@olt.co.nz)**

9.00am-5.00pm

### Heritage Events at Waitaki Library

To see the full list of heritage events, visit: [waitaki.govt.nz/libraries](http://waitaki.govt.nz/libraries)

**Ōamaru Public Library, 62 Thames St**

**Free**

9.30am-11.00am

### Masked Ball Practice

Creatures of the Night, don your daytime disguise and join us to learn or practice the dances for the evening Ball.

**Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St**

**Gold coin donation**



Photo: Everall Deans

10.00am-12.00pm

### Cafe Promenade

Take a leisurely walkabout along the Cafe Promenade, where you can elegantly flaunt your Victorian attire.

View the splendid Victorian window displays along Thames Street, get your portrait taken at Mistress Arnold's Pictorial Emporium (169 Thames St), and indulge in a delightful morning tea at your choice of Ōamaru's finest cafes.

**Thames St**

**Free**

10.00am-12.00pm

### Selfies at the Junction Hotel

Book a half-hour photo shoot in this fabulously furnished house - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 13.

**The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towey and Wansbeck Streets (see map).**

10.00am-1.00pm

### Find your Family's Story

Research your family's history - refer to earlier entry for full details – Pg 10.

**Waitaki Museum & Archive, 60 Thames St**

10.00am-3.00pm

### Customs House Gallery

Home to the North Otago Art Society, this beautiful Victorian Heritage 1880s Customs House showcases a vibrant collection of local and quirky art. On Sunday visit our Cafe for tea, coffee and treats and browse our art gallery and shop.

**29 Tyne St (by the Tyne/Wansbeck roundabout)**

**Free**



10.00am-3.00pm

### **Mistress Arnold's Pictorial Emporium**

Welcome to a genuine reproduction Victorian photography studio. Immortalise your weekend with one of our genuine-ish sets and sort-of authentic props. Come and be immortalised!

We have a high-quality printer on site. Get an A4 print plus a digital file for \$10, or just the digital file for \$5.

Pop in if you're on the Cafe Promenade on Friday, or at any other time during heritage weekend.

*Maneland on Main, 169 Thames St*

10.00am-3.30pm

### **North Otago Floral Arts Display**

Come and see St Luke's Church (est.1865) which towers over lower Thames St, filled with wonderful floral art displays that set off the majesty of this historic building and the beauty of the stained glass windows.

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner Tees St & Itchen St*

**Gold Coin**

10.00am-4.00pm

### **Visit the Forrester Gallery**

Experience an iconic heritage building - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St*

**Free**

10.00am-4.00pm

### **Step into the Past with a Timeless Portrait**

Tom Davies Photography will be offering portraits, professionally edited and printed in 6x4 postcard while you wait. Choose from Colour, Black and White or Sepia tone for the classic Victorian era look. Open throughout the whole of heritage weekend, and located right in the heritage precinct.

Come get a unique keepsake from this memorable event.

*Located at Meeks Grain Store on the right-hand side of Cycle Journeys, 6 Harbour St*

**\$20 per print, or mix up the styles with 2 for \$30.**

10.00am-4.30pm

### **Ōamaru Noir Exhibition**

Locally-made artisan wares and exhibition - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 15.

Note: Official Opening of the Ōamaru Noir Exhibition – 5.00pm, Fri 14 Nov

*CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St, Historic Precinct*

**Free**

10.00am-4.30pm

### **Weaving Waitaki Stories**

Weaving stories from Waitaki into a tartan fabric is an honour; it's complex, and it's our legacy to the people who call or have called Waitaki home. Visit our weaving shed to see Rod McLean weaving the Waitaki tartan on a c1895 cast iron Hattersley loom - no electricity, only person power, beautiful Waitaki yarn, lots of passion, and a few stories.

*McLean & Co Weaving Shed, 37 Greta St*

**Free**

10.00am-5.00pm

### **Ōamaru Coastal Defence Group**

Are you a keen military enthusiast or want to step back into wartime 1940's. Come interact with the crew from Ōamaru Coastal Defence Group and other reenactors around the country. We will be located near the Galley Cafe and Scotts Brewery at Friendly Bay. Not only can you interact with the soldiers but you can check out the equipment they use and jump in the military vehicles to get your photo taken. The Gun Crew will be firing the 25-pounder at Midday both Saturday and Sunday so don't miss out!

*Friendly Bay Reserve (by the Children's playground), Wansbeck St*

**Free**

10.00am-Late

### **The New Zealand Whisky Collection Cellar Door**

Delve into the Whisky Cellar Door, try our locally created whisky and unleash your taste buds. Or for the slightly more daring, enter our Speakeasy on Friday and Saturday 4pm until late, and maybe leave with a sneaky bottle of Bootlegger Whisky to take on your travels.

*NZ Whisky Collection, Smiths Grainstore, 9 Tyne St*

Open from 10.30am

### **Totara Estate Self-Guided Tour, with Morning Tea**

Tour one of NZ's most important historic places, with tour introduction at 10.30am. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 15.

*Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway (8km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

The Penguin Club, 1 Emulsion Lane  
 Sumpter's Grain Store, 1878  
 J & T Meek's Grain Store, 1875  
 Lane's Emulsion Building 1876  
 Harbour Board Offices, 1876

Whitstone City

Copyright © Allan J Kynaston (03 976 2066)

Cape Wanbrow

Yellow Eyed  
 Penguin (Hoiho)  
 Bushy Beach  
 Yellow Eyed  
 Penguin Colony



# SYMBOL KEY

- State Highway One
- Visitor Information
- Public Toilets
- Off Street Parking
- Service Station
- Post Shop
- Supermarket
- ATM Machines
- Parade Route

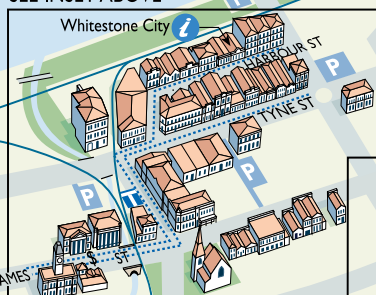
## KEY TO NUMBERED BUILDINGS ON INSET MAP ABOVE

1. First Post Office, c1864
2. Former Colonial Bank, c1878
3. AMP Building, 1874
4. Star & Garter
5. Criterion Hotel, 1877
6. Union Office, c1878
7. Smith's Grain Store, 1882
8. National Mortgage & Agency c1875
9. Exchange Chambers, 1889

## KEY TO NUMBERED BUILDINGS ON MAP BELOW

10. Museum, 1882
11. Courthouse, 1883
12. Oamaru Opera House, 1907
13. Community House
14. Brydone Hotel, 1880s

SEE INSET ABOVE



To Bushy Beach  
 Yellow Eyed  
 Penguin Colony

To Totara Estate,  
 Clarke's Mill, Weston  
 & Dunedin



11.00am-12.00pm

### Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past

A walking tour of the heritage precinct - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

*Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing.*

12.15pm-1.00pm

### Variety Concert

Enjoy a lunchtime concert at St Paul's Presbyterian Church

*St Pauls Church, 5 Coquet 'St*

**Gold coin**

12.30pm-1.30pm

### The Devil's Half Acre: Slums, Sleaze and Sludge in 19th-century Dunedin

Dunedin had a 'dark side' even at its peak as New Zealand's leading city. The city's scrappy emergence from the original pioneer village was haphazard, with no provision of drainage, sewerage or sanitation systems until the 1900s. The jerry-built shanty housing run up during the gold rushes survived in key parts of the inner city, deteriorating into dank and rundown slums overdue for demolition. Here were clustered the poor and outcast of colonial society: prostitutes and derelicts, 'Asiatics' (Chinese and Lebanese) and criminals, waifs and strays of every description. Presented by Sean Brosnahan.

*Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Itchen St* **Free**



An Assyrian man and children in Carroll St, Otago Witness 1904

1.00pm-2.30pm

### The Language of Flowers and Fans at the Junction Hotel

The Victorian secret language of fans, flowers and making pot pourri.

*The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towe and Wansbeck Streets (see map).*

**Tickets \$20 (includes refreshments).** Tickets available at Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or book online at: [vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)

1.00pm-2.30pm

### Totara Estate Short Film Screening, with Afternoon Tea

Hear about the scoundrels of the Victorian era with a special screening of the 1975 short film that played a part in immortalising the infamous Swagger, Ned 'The Shiner' Slattery. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

*Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway  
(8km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

1.30pm-3.30pm

### Croquet in the Gardens

Have a go at the popular Victorian pastime of croquet, with assistance from Awamoa Gardens Croquet Club members.

*Ōamaru Public Gardens, Chelmer St*

**Free**

1.45pm-3.45pm

### Enter the Shadows of Ōamaru's Old Cemetery Grounds

Join us on a haunting wander among the graves of those who came before. Beneath weathered stones and fading names lie stories of early settlers. Laid out in denominational blocks and sections, stories of individuals, family and district endeavour, live on through carved names and dates.

Receive a free CD with inscriptions for both the Old and Lawn cemeteries compiled by the Waitaki Society of Genealogists. Tour led by Beryl Miller.

*Meeting point: Ōamaru Old Cemetery, meet at Greta St Gate, opposite 63 Greta St.*

**\$20.00 per adult. Children free. To book, visit [vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)**

2.00pm-3.00pm

### Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past

A walking tour of the heritage precinct - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

*Meet at 1 Thames 'St, near railway crossing.*

2.00pm-4.00pm

### Visit Janet Frame's house

The childhood home of the acclaimed NZ writer - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St.*

**\$10.00**





2.30pm-3.30pm

### Victorian Garden Party

Enjoy the delightful elegance of the ever-popular Victorian Garden Party at the Ōamaru Public Gardens. Partake in light refreshments and entertainment while admiring the costumes.

\*Rain day - we're happy to announce that, in the event of bad weather, the Garden Party will move to the Ōamaru Squash and Badminton Club at 14 Tyne Street for refreshment ticketholders only. We hope to make this decision on Thursday evening and announce it on our social media platforms and website.

*Ōamaru Public Gardens, 17 Chelmer St.*

**Free event- optional \$10 ticket for refreshments - payable online at: [vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)**

4.00pm-5.00pm

### Dark Doings in Victorian Ōamaru

What did naughty Ōamaruvians get up to after dark? What crimes did they commit? How did the not so respectable populous spend their time and where did they gather after the decent folk went home? Historian and archivist Kathleen Stringer will take us on a walk on the wild side, delving into some of the stories of our port town.

*Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Iichen St*

**Free**

4.00pm-5.00pm

### Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past

A walking tour of the heritage precinct - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

*Meet at 1 Thames 'St, near railway crossing.*

4.00pm-5.30pm

### Tour the Restored Junction Hotel

Fully restored and fabulously furnished - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 18.

*The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towey and Wansbeck Streets (see map).*



6.00pm-6.50pm

### The Curse of the Raven

Staging Gothic shows is a dangerous business! With the initial cast of ten now reduced to a desperate duo, Nataliya and David are doing their best to avoid the dark curse hanging over the production. What can possibly go right? The Curse of the Raven is a sparkling new work by NO Productions Theatre, famous for their theatrical ghost stories and immersive storytelling. "Nataliya and David have a flair for comedy which kept me cackling in my seat from start to finish" - (Jordon Jones, Backstage Christchurch).

*Ōamaru Opera House, The Footlight Stage, 94 Thames St*  
**Doors open 5.30pm.**

**\$28 + fees inclcs nibbles**

**Book at: <https://oamaruoperahouse.co.nz/shows>**

8.00pm-Late

### Victorian Gothic Horror Masked Ball hosted by Sir Francis Varney

Creatures of the night are invited to emerge from the shadows and join arch villain Sir Francis Varney at his masked ball to celebrate Ōamaru Noir. Tonica will provide music and a progressive supper of appropriate dishes will be served through the evening. A variety of liquid refreshments may be purchased. Dress code: Formal Victorian Gothic ball attire with mask.

Ballroom opens at 7.30pm. Grand Parade commences at 8.00pm.

*Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St*

**\$100 + admin fee. To book, email: [heritagedanceamaru@gmail.com](mailto:heritagedanceamaru@gmail.com) or text 0276995881**

**No door sales.**



8.30am-3.00pm

**Highland Dancing Competitions**

Come watch the local highland dancing competitions.

*St Paul's Church Hall, Wear St*

**Free**

9.00am-3.00pm

**High Tea @ The Brydone**

Enjoy an array of Victorian-themed bite-sized delicacies - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 20.

*Brydone Hotel, 115 Thames St*

9.00am-5.00pm

**Heritage Events at Waitaki Library**

To see the full list of heritage events, visit: [waitaki.govt.nz/Libraries](http://waitaki.govt.nz/Libraries)

*Ōamaru Public Library, 62 Thames St*

**Free**

10.00am-11.00am

**Penny-farthing Lessons**

Bring your child along to try riding a penny-farthing! Our tutor offers small bikes, helmets, and extensive experience in riding them.

*Lower Wansbeck St, behind the Loan & Merc building at 14 Harbour St.*

**Gold coin donation**

10.00am-11.00am

**Victorian Filth – Dirt, Danger, Disease and Dunnies**

Colonial settlers came to Otago expecting to leave behind them the grime and disease of crowded, industrial British cities. They sought a better, healthy life in clean and tidy settlements. Instead, they struggled with mud, muck and middens. This talk reveals the filth of Victorian Otago – the grimy reality of poorer settlers' homes, the stinks and sewage of settlements, the dangers of 'dirt diseases', and the stigma of filth attached to jobs often banished to the night. Presented by author and historian Pamela Wood.

*Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Itchen St*

**Free**

10.00am-12.00pm

**Selfies at the Junction Hotel**

Book a half-hour photo shoot in this fabulously furnished house - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 13.

*The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towey and Wansbeck Streets (see map)*

10.00am-2.30pm

**Grandma's Treasures Sale**

A range of Grandma's treasures have been dusted off for sale - come and see what delightful piece of china, needlework or art you might like to purchase! Home-made preserves and baking are also for sale, and a Victorian morning tea is available to sustain you while you contemplate your purchases. Morning tea \$5.

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner Tees St & Itchen St*

**Free**

10.00am-3.00pm

**Customs House Gallery**

View a collection of local and quirky art - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 21.

*29 Tyne St (by the Tyne/Wansbeck roundabout)*

**Free**

10.00am-3.00pm

**Mistress Arnold's Pictorial Emporium**

Portrait studio - come and be immortalised! Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 22

*Maneland on Main, 169 Thames St*

10.00am-4.00pm

**Victorian-Style Spirit Readings**

Enter a world of mystery and wonder in this Victorian-style experience. Step into the shadowy elegance of the parlour and explore the mysterious art of spirit communication. Whether through clairvoyance, mediumship, or oracle cards, receive insights whispered from beyond.

Feeling a bit off-kilter? Experience gentle, hands-on energy healing to soothe your spirit.

This is a rare chance to encounter the unseen, just as the Victorians once did. Dare you step inside?

*MacKenzie Room, Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St*

**Mini Sessions (20 mins): \$25 Walk-ins welcome**

10.00am-4.00pm

### **Step into the Past with a Timeless Portrait**

Get a professionally edited and printed photo while you wait – refer to the earlier entry for full details – page 22.

*Tom Davies Photography - located at Meeks Grain Store on the right-hand side of Cycle Journeys, 6 Harbour St*

10.00am-4.30pm

### **Ōamaru Noir Exhibition**

Locally-made artisan wares and exhibition - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 15.

*CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St*

**Free**

10.00am-4.30pm

### **Weaving Waitaki Stories**

Weaving stories from Waitaki into a tartan fabric is an honour; it's complex, and it's our legacy to the people who call or have called Waitaki home. Visit our weaving shed to see Rod McLean weaving the Waitaki tartan on a c1895 cast iron Hattersley loom - no electricity, only person power, beautiful Waitaki yarn, lots of passion, and a few stories.

*McLean & Co Weaving Shed, 37 Greta St*

**Free**

10.00am-5.00pm

### **Ōamaru Coastal Defence Group**

Enjoy a family-friendly military exhibition, with the Gun Crew firing the 25-pounder at midday.

Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 23.

*Friendly Bay Reserve (by the Children's playground), Wansbeck St*

**Free**

10.00am-Late

### **The New Zealand Whisky Collection Cellar Door**

Experience locally created whisky and Speakeasy - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 23.

*NZ Whisky Collection, Smiths Grainstore, 9 Tyne St*

10.30am-3.30pm

### **North Otago Floral Arts Display**

View inside the historic St Luke's Church and its floral art displays. See full details – page 22.

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner Tees St & Itchen St*  
**Gold Coin**

11.00am-1.45pm

### **Ōamaru Steam and Rail Trip**

Welcome aboard the vintage train that will take you on a return trip from the Harbourside Station to the Quarry Siding in the harbour area. Train leaves at 11.00am, 11.45am, 1.00pm and 1.45pm. Weather dependent

*Tickets at Harbourside Station, pedestrian access via Itchen St.*

**Adults \$12, children under 16 \$5, children under 5 free.**

**Family (2 adults + 2 childrenx) \$28. EFTPOS available**



Photo: Bernard Evangelista Manangkil

12.00pm-1.00pm

### **Grand Street Parade & Photo Opportunity**

Come enjoy the spectacle of the Street Parade. Expect to see Victorian costumes, pipe bands, penny farthings, and much more! (Want to take part? Join in and walk with us in costume as the procession travels through the Victorian Precinct and Lower Thames St. Register online at: [vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz))

*Parade begins at Tyne St to Thames St and ends at Harbour St*

**Free**





1.00pm-3.30pm

### **Heritage Bicycle Championship**

Experience New Zealand's foremost Heritage cycling event for penny farthings and traditional Steel Bikes. Expect high drama and action which attracts riders from all around the globe.

Sprints, slaloms, slow races and circuit race. Finishes with the ghastly 'Tyne St Grunter'.

Riders can register through the club email below or prior to 1.00pm on the day on Tyne St.

Riders are encouraged to match their attire to the period of their mount with emphasis on participation and enjoyment. Prize giving venue will be announced on the day. For enquiries and registration, email: oamaruordinary@gmail.com or phone 027 293 1059.

*Tyne St*

**Free**

1.00pm-4.00pm

### **Masonic Lodge Open to Visit**

No secrets here, just answers to your questions.

Come and satisfy your curiosity and explore the mystique associated with Freemasonry and learn the history of its architecture, both the brotherhood and the building. Light refreshments available.

*Masonic Lodge, Wansbeck St*

**Gold coin donation**

1.30pm-4.00pm

### **Visit the Forrester Gallery**

Experience an iconic heritage building - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St*

**Free**

1.45pm-3.45pm

### **Enter the Shadows of Ōamaru's Old Cemetery Grounds**

Join us on a haunting wander among the graves of those who came before us. Tour led by Beryl Miller. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 27.

*Ōamaru Old Cemetery, meet at Greta St Gate, opposite 63 Greta St.*

2.00pm-3.00pm

### **Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past**

A walking tour of the heritage precinct - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

*Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing.*

2.00pm-3.30pm

### **Tour the Restored Junction Hotel**

Fully restored and fabulously furnished - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 18.

*The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towey and Wansbeck Streets (see map)*

2.00pm-3.00pm

### **Oamaru Whitestone Civic Trust presents: The Forrester and Lemon Lecture Series**

#### **Oamaru to the Ends of the Earth**

We're pleased to bring back the popular Forrester and Lemon Lecture Series, which this year explores Oamaru's polar story.

Discover the town's remarkable connection to the early polar expeditions and today's groundbreaking Antarctic research. This fascinating talk will take you on a journey through history, science, and exploration, presented by Professor Christina Hulbe, a leading authority in polar glaciology, Antarctic science, and spatial analysis at the University of Otago.

*Oamaru Opera House, 94 Thames St*

*No need to book - just come along.*

**Free**

2.00pm-4.00pm

### **Clarks Flour Mill Operating Tour**

Marvel at four storeys of rare vintage milling machinery as it rolls into action. Machinery operating at 3pm - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 13.

*Clarks Mill, 1017 Alma-Maheno Highway (12km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

2.00pm-4.00pm

### **Smokey Joes at Clarks Mill**

Explore our exhibition of original items in the Millers Cottage turned Speakeasy during North Otago's lengthy no-license era. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 15.

**Clarks Mill Complex, 1017 Alma-Maheno Highway**  
(12km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)

2.00pm-4.00pm

### **Visit Janet Frame's house**

The childhood home of the acclaimed NZ writer - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

**Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St**

**\$10.00**



3.30pm-4.30pm

### **Madame Blayde's Fashion Parade**

This year's fashion show will be a take on the Victorian silhouette, unveiling the darker side of Victorian elegance. Here, fashion is mysterious, dramatic, secretive, and a little unconventional. Imagine crinolines rustling with hidden plots, bustles concealing whispered secrets, and the cutaway coat becoming a symbol of both grandeur and rebellion. It's sure to be a feast for the eyes!

**Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St**

**\$15 - Glass of bubbles with entry. Book online at: vhc.co.nz**

4.30pm-6.00pm

### **High Tea at the Junction Hotel**

A time to relax before the festivities of the evening. Gentlemen may like to take a tour of the basement, but only for the adventurous.

**The Junction Hotel, Cnr Towey and Wansbeck Streets (see map)**

**Tickets \$25 Tickets available at Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or book online at: vhc.co.nz**

5.00pm-6.00pm

### **Secrets and Shadowy Tales from Ōamaru's Past**

A walking tour of the heritage precinct - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

**Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing.**

5.00pm-6.00pm

### **Tales from Darkest Ōamaru**

Dunedin historian Gregor Campbell has walked the lines of local cemeteries and found stories of tragedy, mystery and pathos from bygone years. Join him to find that truth is truly stranger than fiction.

**Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Itchen St**

**Free**

6.30pm-7.30pm

### **Geologists Jostling in a Geopark: Controversies in the Waitaki Rock Record**

Controversies amongst early scientists about the geology of the Waitaki region, and the question: has the dust yet settled? The characters, the drama, the scientific outcomes... come and hear some geo-gossip! Presented by Marcus Richards.

**Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Itchen St**

**Free**



Photo: Martyn Buyck

## SATURDAY 15 NOVEMBER



8.00pm-Late

### **Rascals Ruckus**

We promise a fun night of Ceilidh dancing, so let you hair down and join us for a right ol' knees-up! Dunedin's Scottish Fiddle Orchestra will provide the music and call the dances to help you romp through the evening. Light supper included. Cash/Eftpos Bar Scoundrels dress encouraged, but not required.

*Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St*

**\$55 Purchase tickets online at [vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)**

9.00am-3.00pm

### **High Tea @ The Brydone**

Enjoy an array of Victorian-themed bite-sized delicacies - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 20.

*Brydone Hotel, 115 Thames St*

9.45am-10.25am

### **Organ Recital**

Enjoy the magnificent sound of the organ at the historic St Luke's Anglican Church, as Dr Ron Newton plays a selection of music that would have been popular in the Victorian era. You are welcome to stay for the heritage service that follows at 10.30am.

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner of Tees St & Ichen St*

**Free**

10.00am-2.00pm

### **Steel Bicycle Heritage Celebration Display and Swap Meet**

Vintage bicycle display (open to the public) and swap meet. For visitors, this is a great chance to see a collection of stunning old bicycles from about 1910 to 1990. These include a number of racing bikes once raced by some of our top cyclists.

*Cycle Journeys, Harbour St*

**Free**

## SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER



10.00am-3.00pm

### **The Network Waitaki Victorian Fete**

This is a day jam-packed with fun for the whole family. You will be thrilled with the incredible Victorian costumes, street performers, magicians and stilt walkers around every corner, ensuring the day is one to remember. Come along and join in all the fun of the fair! Dress up in your Victorian best and support a great cause - this event is the annual fundraiser for the Ōamaru Whitestone Civic Trust with proceeds going towards preserving New Zealand's best collection of Victorian heritage buildings here in Ōamaru.

*Harbour St*

**Entry by donation**

10.00am-3.00pm

### **Customs House Gallery**

View a collection of local and quirky art. Café is open on Sunday. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 21.

*29 Tyne St (by the Tyne/Wansbeck roundabout)*

**Free**

10.00am-3.00pm

### **Mistress Arnold's Pictorial Emporium**

Portrait studio - come and be immortalised! Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 22.

*Maneland on Main, 169 Thames St*



10.00am-3.00pm

### Ōamaru Coastal Defence Group

Enjoy a family-friendly military exhibition, with the Gun Crew firing the 25-pounder at midday.

Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 23.

*Friendly Bay Reserve (by the Children's playground),  
Wansbeck St*

**Free**

10.30am-11.30am

### St Luke's Heritage Service

Dress up in your finery and enjoy a church service that moves from Victorian liturgy to modern times, followed by a Victorian morning tea, with singing led by St Paul's Catholic Choir and the Tongan Siasi Mouifoou ia Kalaisi Choir. Preacher: Very Rev Dr Tony Curtis, Dean of St Paul's cathedral Dunedin

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner Tees St & Itchen St*

**Free**

10.00am-3.00pm

### Workhouse Revelry

Hear ye, hear ye! Word has it that the master and matron of our humble workhouse have taken their leave for the day- so let's seize the moment!

We workhouse folk are breaking free to mingle with the so-called genteel class for a lively time of upbeat tunes.

Take a break - chill out, or have a dance before order is restored. Bring the little ones and join us - before the killjoys return! Suitable for all ages.

*Penguin Club, Penguin Club, 1 Emulsion Lane (See Map)*

**Free Entry**

10.00am-3.15pm

### Ōamaru Steam and Rail Trip

Welcome aboard the vintage train that will take you on a return trip from the Harbourside Station to the Quarry Siding in the harbour area. Train leaves at 10.00am, 10.45am, 11.30am, 12.15pm, 1.00pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm, 3.15pm. Weather dependent

*Tickets at Harbourside Station, pedestrian access via Itchen St.*

**Adults \$12, children under 16 \$5, children under 5 free.**

**Family (2 adults + 2 children) \$28. EFTPOS available**

10.00am-4.00pm

### Step into the Past with a Timeless Portrait

Get a professionally edited and printed photo while you wait – refer to the earlier entry for full details – page 22.

*Tom Davies Photography - located at Meeks Grain Store on the right-hand side of Cycle Journeys, 6 Harbour St*

10.00am-4.00pm

### Victorian-Style Spirit Readings

Explore the mysterious art of spirit communication. Walk-ins welcome. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 31.

*MacKenzie Room, Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St*

10.00am-4.00pm

### The New Zealand Whisky Collection Cellar Door

Experience locally created whisky and Speakeasy - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 23.

*NZ Whisky Collection, Smiths Grainstore, 9 Tyne St*

10.00am-4.30pm

### Ōamaru Noir Exhibition

Locally-made artisan wares and exhibition - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 15.

*CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St,  
Historic Precinct*

**Free**

Open from 10.30am

### Totara Estate Self-Guided Tour, with Morning Tea

Tour one of NZ's most important historic places, with tour introduction at 10.30am. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 15.

*Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway (8km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

11.45am-3.30pm

### North Otago Floral Arts Display

View inside the historic St Luke's Church and its floral art displays. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 22.

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner of Tees St & Itchen St*  
**Gold Coin**

1.00pm-2.30pm

**Totara Estate Short Film Screening, with Afternoon Tea**

Hear about the scoundrels of the Victorian era with a special screening of the 1975 short film that played a part in immortalising the infamous Swagger, Ned 'The Shiner' Slattery.

Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16

*Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway (8km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

1.00pm-3.00pm

**Clarks Flour Mill Operating Tour**

Marvel at four storeys of rare vintage milling machinery as it rolls into action. Machinery operating at 2pm - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 13.

*Clarks Mill, 1017 Alma-Maheno Highway (12km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

1.00pm-3.00pm

**Smokey Joes at Clarks Mill**

Explore our exhibition of original items in the Millers Cottage turned Speakeasy during North Otago's lengthy no-license era. Refer to earlier entry for full details – page 15.

*Clarks Mill Complex, 1017 Alma-Maheno Highway (12km south of Ōamaru, parking available on site)*

1.15pm-2.15pm

**Saints, Sinners & Skeletons: The Divine (and Slightly Chaotic) Origins of Ōamaru's Churches**

Discover the holy chaos behind Ōamaru's many churches - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 16.

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner Tees St & Itchen St*

Free

1.30pm-4.00pm

**Visit the Forrester Gallery**

Experience an iconic heritage building - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St*

Free

2.00pm-4.00pm

**Visit Janet Frame's House**

The childhood home of the acclaimed NZ writer - refer to earlier entry for full details – page 10.

*Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St*

\$10.00

2.30pm-3.15pm

**Do Ghosts Actually Exist? An Historical Outlook from 1848-2025**

The Victorian age was captivated by the dark and scandalous world of the supernatural, with ghosts widely discussed and debated. Join us for a compelling talk that delves into the fascinating history of the paranormal - from the intense interest in spirits that began in the Mid-19th century to the modern ways we investigate ghosts today. Presented by Bruce Mahalski from the Dunedin Museum of Natural Mystery.

*Ōamaru Repertory Theatre, Itchen St*

Free

2.45pm-3.30pm

**Victorian Evensong**

Come along and join us as the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral Dunedin and the Cathedral Dean Very Rev Dr Tony Curtis lead us in a beautiful evensong. Organist: Dr Ron Newton

*St Luke's Anglican Church, corner of Tees St & Itchen St*

Free



Photo: Bernard Evangelista Manangkil



## Should historic Ōamaru Town Centre and Port be a National Historic Landmark?

As a place of outstanding national heritage value, we're proposing to recognise this unique taonga as a National Historic Landmark Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa Me Ōna Kōrero Tūturu.

Use the QR code to register your interest and stay up to date with the project or enter the address below in your browser <https://bit.ly/OamaruNHL>

Image courtesy of Reframed Media/Tohu Whenua



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND  
POUHERE TAONGA



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Ōamaru Heritage Celebrations 2025 is made possible by the generous contributions of numerous groups and individuals.

A heartfelt thanks to the committee members for their time and effort in helping to organise this iconic event, allowing us all to come together each year and celebrate the wonderful heritage of Ōamaru.

The committee members are: Cyndi Christensen and Wendy Jones (Co-Chairs), Marijn Dogterom (Treasurer), Joanne Rose (Secretary), Natalie Wilson, Blayde Forbes and Bronnie Inwood.

Special thanks to the wonderful Everall Deans our Festival Coordinator.

Our sincere gratitude to all the associates, businesses, volunteers, and other supporters - too numerous to name individually.



L to R: Joanne Rose, Blayde Forbes, Wendy Jones, and Cyndi Christensen

### LET'S NOT FORGET THE PHOTOGRAPHERS!

A huge thanks to the wonderful photographers who've shared their amazing photos with us. You'll see their work throughout this booklet, on our website, and in our social media posts. Thanks for helping us capture the moments that make our Celebrations special!

### Thanks to:

Bernard Evangelista Manangkil  
Martin Robot-Man Horspool

Martyn Buyck  
Tom Davies

### CREDITS

Booklet design by Kelvin Cunningham

Cover illustration by Martin Robot-Man Horspool



## EVENT SPONSORS

The OVHC committee is enormously grateful to all our sponsors and partners for helping make the 2025 Celebrations possible.

We thank all our sponsors and partners, both past and present, for their support of the Celebrations.

Proudly supported by



### Feedback

If you have any feedback or would like to share your ideas for future Celebrations, send us an email at [ovhcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ovhcommittee@gmail.com)

### CONTACT US

#### Ōamaru Victorian Heritage Celebrations

[vhc.co.nz](http://vhc.co.nz)

[ovhcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:ovhcommittee@gmail.com)

#### Network Waitaki Victorian Fête

[victorianoamaru.co.nz](http://victorianoamaru.co.nz)

[fete@victorianoamaru.co.nz](mailto:fete@victorianoamaru.co.nz)



Historic Ōamaru

## SOMETHING FOR EVERY EXPLORER

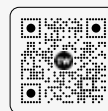
Homes of invention and innovation, ancestral landscapes and cycle trails bursting with history are just some of the must-dos you'll find in our Otago itinerary.

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**TOHU WHENUA**

Landmarks that tell our stories



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