

VICTORIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS

ŌAMARU NEW ZEALAND

Celebration! Fun, frolics & festivities



12-15
NOVEMBER



2026
VHC.CO.NZ

THE ŌAMARU WHITESTONE CIVIC TRUST



VICTORIAN FETE

15TH NOVEMBER 2026 10AM TO 3PM

ŌAMARU'S HERITAGE PRECINCT

IT'S FAMOUS BECAUSE IT'S GOOD

ENTRY BY DONATION

LIVE MUSIC STALLS
FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
COMPETITIONS GREAT FOOD

ALL DONATIONS SUPPORT THE CONSERVATION OF THE
HERITAGE PRECINCT

Kia Ora and Welcome

Once again, the Ōamaru Heritage Celebrations offer a wonderful opportunity for locals and visitors alike to come together and embrace our town's rich history and heritage.

Together, we are the kaitiaki of our heritage stories, guardians and champions of the people, places, and memories that make Ōamaru so special.

Join us in celebrating our shared heritage and help keep these stories alive for generations to come.

We hope you enjoy browsing the programme and discovering the events that spark your interest. With something for everyone, you're sure to find plenty to celebrate.

To make planning easy, events are listed both by category and in a daily timetable, making it simple to plan your day.

And don't forget: dressing up in Victorian costume is one of the true highlights of the Celebrations.

Whether you're a lady or lord, maid or miner, chimney sweep or shopkeeper, dressing up (or down!) is all part of the fun and helps bring the festivities to life.

If costumes aren't your thing, simply come along as you are. Everyone is welcome.

Here's to fun, frolics and festivities!

Co-chairs' Message

You are cordially invited to join us for the Celebrations – the Fun, the Frolics and the Festivities!

Come one, come all and join in the merriment.

This November, we invite you to embrace the lighter side of history, where laughter echoes through the streets, music fills the air, and every corner offers the promise of delight.

As co-chairs, along with a brilliant committee of volunteers, we are thrilled to welcome you to a celebration of the playful spirits and enduring rituals that have always brought communities together.

Our 2026 theme, Celebrations - Fun, Frolics and Festivities, honours the joy of gathering, the pleasure of simple entertainments, and the timeless traditions that turn ordinary days into cherished memories. From grand occasions to sporting valour, from lively revelries to moments of shared wonder, there is something here for everyone, whether it be discovering, dancing, dining, dressing up or simply indulging.

So, gather your companions and step into a festival where smiles are plentiful, spirits are high, and every day holds the possibility of a little magic.

Welcome. Let the celebrations begin.

Ngā manaakitanga, Zara and Bronnie

2026 THEME

Celebration! Fun, frolics & festivities

2026 is a year of remarkable anniversaries for Ōamaru, and many of these milestones are reflected in this year's theme: **CELEBRATION! Fun, Frolics & Festivities.**

This year, we're shining a light on the people, places, and stories that shape our heritage—from well-known landmarks to lesser-known histories, special milestones, and even a touch of yuletide cheer.

We invite you to experience the spirit of celebration just as locals once did, when grand balls, sporting contests, brass bands, and community gatherings filled the town. Every corner of Ōamaru has a tale to tell, and every story is worth celebrating.

This is your invitation to come learn, laugh, and rediscover our heritage through a lens of pure jubilation and fun.

THE VICTORIAN WARDROBE

Dress the part and become part of the celebration! The Victorian Wardrobe offers a wonderful selection of Victorian costumes and accessories for every member of the family.

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

For fittings and bookings:

- From 4 October onwards:
Sundays (10am-2pm) and
Thursdays (10am-4pm)
- 8-16 November:
Open daily (10am-4pm)

Facebook:

The Victorian Wardrobe

Wardrobe Mistress:

Dawn Sutherland
027 426 7930



REGISTRATIONS AND BUYING TICKETS

Details about entry fees (if any), registrations and ticket purchases can be found in the events listings section of this booklet and on our website (vhc.co.nz). Be sure to refer to the specific listing to get precise booking information, as the details vary.

Scammers

IMPORTANT: Only purchase tickets through the source specified in the event listing. Ticket scammers are prolific on social media, and buying from any other seller puts you at serious risk of losing your money. If someone claims they're on-selling a ticket because they can no longer attend an event, be cautious. This is a common tactic used by scammers.

Ticket Refunds

Refunds are available for tickets purchased via the vhc.co.nz website. Simply email us with your request and our team will assist you. Please don't on-sell or transfer your ticket. If you're no longer able to use it, contact us directly so we can help arrange the next steps.

Rose's General Store

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.



INFORMATION HUB

An information hub will be set up in the Grainstore during the festivities. It will be your place to discover what's happening. Pop in for a browse and a chat!

The Hub won't be manned all the time, but you're welcome to drop in and browse the information on display. Have a question? You can leave it for us and we'll point you in the right direction.

There'll also be displays to explore, along with an opportunity to take part in our colouring competition - so make sure you stop by and have a look!

Location: Smith's Grainstore, 9 Tyne St

PROGRAMME UPDATES

As planning begins many months in advance, some programme changes are inevitable, and new events are often added after this brochure goes to print. For the latest programme updates and additions, please visit vhc.co.nz, especially in the days leading up to the festival.

COMPETITIONS

Ready for a friendly challenge? Browse the events below and dive into some frivolous fun, with prizes up for grabs!

Christmas Stocking Competition

The Junction Hotel is pleased to present this year's Christmas Stocking Competition.

Download the pattern and competition instructions from the 'Competitions' tab at vhc.co.nz, and then let your imagination run wild.

Use any material you wish and embellish your stocking with embroidery, patchwork, beading, artwork or anything else that takes your fancy. Be creative!

The deadline is 12 noon on Friday 13 November. Be sure to check the Competitions tab on our website for the full details.

Colouring Competition

Call in to the Grainstore Information Hub and enter the colouring competition. Pull up a chair and colour while you visit! There are prizes for all ages, so don't be shy - you've got to be in to win! Winners will be drawn at the Fete (on Sunday).

Competition information is coming soon. Check the Competitions tab on our website and follow our social media for further details.

Grand Victorian Scone Competition

Take part in The Grand Victorian Scone Competition, a light-hearted celebration of baking and tradition.

See page 47 for more details



Photo: Tourism Waitaki

CATEGORIES

Browse events by category, listed alphabetically. Once you find an event, check the Daily Guide (pages 11-50) for full details and venues. Note: Daily or multi-session events may appear in more than one category.

CHURCH CONCERTS & SERVICES

Organ Recital: 15 Nov (9.45am-10.25am)

School Choir: 11 Nov (12.15pm-1pm)

St Luke's Heritage Service: 15 Nov (10.30am-11.30am)

The Waitaki Valley Singers: 12 Nov (12.15pm-1pm)

Variety Concert: 13 Nov (12.15pm-1pm)

Victorian Evensong: 15 Nov (2.45pm-3.30pm)

DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS

10 Years of CRAFTED: 12-15 Nov (10am-4.30pm)

150 Years of the Ōamaru Mail: 12-14 Nov (10am-3pm)

Caledonian Society Exhibition: 12-15 Nov (10am-3pm)

Customs House Gallery: 13-15 Nov (10am-3pm)

Floral Arts Display: 13 Nov (10am-3.30pm), 14 Nov (10.30am-3.30pm) & 15 Nov (11.45am-3.30pm)

Steel Bicycle Display and Swap Meet: 15 Nov (10am-2pm)

Unidentified Woman: 10-13 Nov (10am-4pm) & 14-15 Nov (10am-12.30pm)

Visit the Forrester Gallery: 10-13 Nov (10am-4pm) & 14-15 Nov (1.30pm-4pm)

FILM, SHOWS & PERFORMANCES

125th Anniversary of the Highland Pipe Band: 14 Nov (12.30pm-1pm)

Celebrations Soiree: The General: 11 Nov (6pm)

Fashion Parade - Victorian Vogue: 14 Nov (3.30pm-4.30pm)

HANDS-ON HERITAGE

All That Glitters: 14 Nov (1.30pm-3pm)

Celebrating Looms and Yarns: 12 & 13 Nov (10am-4pm)

Creative Writing Workshop with a Victorian Twist: 12 Nov (6pm-8.30pm)

Find Your Family's Story: 10 & 13 Nov (10am-1pm)

Impromptu Ball Practice: 13 Nov (9.30am-11am)

Making a Big Bang!: 13 Nov (10.30am-12pm)

Tottering Toes Dance Academy: 14 Nov (5pm-6.30pm)

Victorian Zine Station: 15 Nov (11am-2pm)

Whiskerina Open Workshop: 12 Nov (10am-4pm)

OLD-TIME SPORT AND GAMES

Croquet in the Gardens: 13 Nov (1.30pm-3.30pm)
Haggis Hunt: 13 Nov (9am-3pm)
Hand Trolley Racing: 12 Nov (3.30pm-5.30pm)
Lawn Bowls - Victorian Style: 13 Nov (10am-12.30pm)
National Horseshoe Throwing: 15 Nov (12.15pm)
Pennyfarthing Lessons: 14 Nov (10am-11am)

HIGH TEA, DINING & REFRESHMENTS

Breakfasts at The Junction: 13-15 Nov (8am-10am)
High Tea @ The Brydone: 13-15 Nov (9am-3pm)
High Tea at The Junction: 14 Nov (4.45pm-6.30pm)
The Grand Garden Gaiety: 13 Nov (2.30pm-3.30pm)
The Grand Victorian Christmas Dinner: 13 Nov (5.30pm & 7.15pm)
The Seaside Supper Express: 12 Nov (6.30pm-8pm)

MARKETS

Art & Craft Market: 15 Nov (9am-1pm)
Grandma's Treasures Sale: 14 Nov (10am-2.30pm)
Steel Bicycle Display and Swap Meet: 15 Nov (10am-2pm)

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Harbour Street Parade: 14 Nov (12pm-1pm)
Heritage Bicycle Championship: 14 Nov (1pm-3.30pm)
Network Waitaki Victorian Fete: 15 Nov (10am-3pm)
Ōamaru Steam and Rail Trip: 14 Nov (11am-1.45pm) & 15 Nov (10am-3.15pm)
Ōamaru Steam and Rail Workshop Open Day: 11 Nov (10am-4pm)
Scones, Zines & Horseshoes at Totara Estate: 15 Nov (11am-2pm)
The Grand Garden Gaiety: 13 Nov (2.30pm-3.30pm)

SOCIAL DANCING

Crinolines and Capers: 14 Nov (8pm-late)
Impromptu Ball Practice: 13 Nov (9.30am-11am)
The Duke and Duchess of Deborah Impromptu Ball: 13 Nov (8pm-late)
Tottering Toes Dance Academy: 14 Nov (5pm-6.30pm)

SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT

Café Promenade: 13 Nov (10am-12pm)
The Seaside Supper Express: 12 Nov (6.30pm-8pm)
Victorian-style Spirit Readings: 14 Nov (10am-4pm) & 15 Nov (10am-3.30pm)
Whisky, Poetry and Shanties!: 13 Nov (4pm)

TALKS

A Restoration Challenge Worthy of a Celebration: 13 Nov (4pm-5pm)
Breaking Boundaries: Women of My Heritage: 11 Nov (6pm)
Celebrating Heritage with Waitaki Students: 12 Nov (10am-11.30am)
Celebrating Our Public Gardens: 13 Nov (1pm-2pm)
Celebrating the Otago Daily Times: 15 Nov (10.30am-11.30am)
Celebrations, Commemorations and Commiserations: 15 Nov (2.30pm-3.30pm)
Customs House Gallery with Henk Van Lier: 15 Nov (12.30pm-1.30pm)
Floor Talk, with Peter Cleverley: 14 Nov (3pm)
Forrester and Lemon Lecture: 14 Nov (2pm-3pm)
History of Whisky and Licensing in North Otago: 14 Nov (6.30pm)
Ōamaru on Screen: 14 Nov (10.30am-11.30am)
Ōamaru's Railway Story, with Harry Andrew: 13 Nov (11.30am-12.30pm)
The Greatest Spectacle of Its Kind: 12 Nov (2pm-3pm)

TOURS & GUIDED WALKS

Birthplace of NZ's Frozen Meat Industry: 12 & 13 Nov (10.30am, 2pm)
Celebrate Ōamaru Guided Walk: 12 & 13 Nov (11am, 4pm) & 14 Nov (4pm)
Celebrating Heritage in Motion at Clarks Mill: 12 Nov (10am-1pm) & 15 Nov (1pm-3pm)
Cemetery Walk - Histories Etched in Stone: 13-15 Nov (1.30pm-3pm)
Historic Harbour Walk: 15 Nov (1.30pm-2.30pm)
Historic Pub Crawl: 12 Nov (12pm-1.30pm)
Janet Frame's House Tour: 10 Nov (2pm-4pm) & 11-15 Nov (2pm-4pm)
Junction Hotel Tour: 12 Nov (10am-11.30am), 13 Nov (3.30pm-5pm), 14 Nov (10.30am-12pm) & 15 Nov (2pm-3.30pm)
Ōamaru Stone Quarry Tour: 12 Nov (10.30am, 2.30pm), 13 Nov (9.30am, 11.30am), 14 Nov (9.30am, 3pm) & 15 Nov (10.30am, 2.30pm)

SCONES, ZINES & HORSESHOES

AT TOTARA ESTATE



Victorian Zine Station

Sunday 15th
11am-2pm

Drop in and create your own miniature masterpiece at our Victorian Zine Station. Inspired by the pamphlets, penny publications, illustrations, and printed ephemera of the past, visitors are encouraged to experiment with words, drawings, collage, and design.



Grand Victorian Scone Competition

Sunday 15th
12pm

Bring along your best scones for The Grand Victorian Scone Competition — a light-hearted celebration of baking and tradition. For competition details, visit the Totara Estate Facebook page.



National Horseshoe Throwing Championship

Sunday 15th
12.15pm

Step into the ring and test your aim as you compete head-to-head for the chance to be crowned National Horseshoe Throwing Champion! Open to all ages and skill levels.

TOTARA ESTATE • 565 ALMA-MAHENO HIGHWAY • 8KM SOUTH OF ŌAMARU



Proudly cared for by
HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

TOHU WHENUA

Landmarks that tell our stories



TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER

If you'd prefer a visual snapshot of each day, you can download the Event Calendar Grid from our website at vhc.co.nz.

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

Unidentified Woman

A photographic exhibition bringing the nameless women of the *Waitaki Archive Te Whare Taoka o Waitaki* out of the collection store and onto the museum floor. Join us as we celebrate these women, whose names may be forgotten, but whose photographs survive as evidence of lives once lived and stories waiting to be told.

Waitaki Museum and Archive Te Whare Taoka o Waitaki, 60 Thames St

Free



10.00am-4.00pm

Visit the Forrester Gallery

Visit the Forrester Gallery to view art exhibitions in an iconic heritage building, originally constructed in 1884 for the Bank of New South Wales. Then explore the new building extension, Mahika Kai Mahika Toi, that opened earlier this year.

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

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, 1B Humber St

Paper note donation

10.00am-4.00pm

Unidentified Woman

A photographic exhibition bringing the nameless women of the *Waitaki Archive Te Whare Taoka o Waitaki* out of the collection store and onto the museum floor. Join us as we celebrate these women, whose names may be forgotten, but whose photographs survive as evidence of lives once lived and stories waiting to be told.

Waitaki Museum and Archive Te Whare Taoka o Waitaki, 60 Thames St

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

Visit the Forrester Gallery

Explore current exhibitions in the beautifully restored former Bank of New South Wales building, including the Mahika Kai Mahika Toi extension.

Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St

Free

12.15pm-1.00pm

School Choir

Enjoy a lunchtime concert at St Paul's Presbyterian Church.

St Paul's 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

6.00pm

Breaking Boundaries: Women of my Heritage

Author Susan Cambridge will describe the background, research, writing and publication of her book "Breaking Boundaries: Women of my Heritage." The book is a collection of 21 creative non-fiction stories depicting the lives of courageous women making homes in unfamiliar worlds, challenging society, defying convention. The stories, seven of which relate to Ōamaru or Otago, together form a family saga, and a history of women settlers in Australia and New Zealand.

Ōamaru Library, 62 Thames St.

Free



The General

6.00pm (Film starts 7.00pm)

The Riviera Cinema - Celebrations Soiree: The General

Celebrate with us at a special centenary screening of Buster Keaton's classic *The General* - 100 years of cinematic brilliance brought to life with live accompaniment by David Beattie.

Come prepared for an evening of full steam, full laughs, and a full century of silent-film magic. Dress in Victorian attire and honour this iconic classic as part of this year's Celebrations.

Following the success of last year's soiree, enjoy a complimentary beverage on arrival, graze on delicious platters, and soak up the pre-film entertainment before settling in for this unforgettable cinematic experience.

Riviera Cinema, 239 Thames St

**\$25 Booking recommended for catering purposes:
oamaru.rivieracinema.co.nz/movie/the-general**



Junction Hotel

10.00am-11.30am

Junction Hotel tour

Coming from the southern entrance to Ōamaru, the 1879 Junction Hotel, on the corner of State Highway 1 and Awamoa Road, heralds the promise of Ōamaru's Victorian architecture and history. Enjoy a tour of the Junction's thirty four rooms and thoughtfully laid out gardens. Refreshments will be served.

62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

Tickets \$20 (includes refreshments). Booking required: Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

10.00am-11.30am

Celebrating Heritage with Waitaki Students

We're pleased to welcome students from Waitaki Girls' and Waitaki Boys' High Schools as they share fresh perspectives on Ōamaru's past. Come along and support our young historians.

Ōamaru Heritage Stories — Speeches by Waitaki Girls' High School Students

Poppy Ludemann (Year 10) explores Ōamaru's historic architecture, the legacy of Thomas Forrester, the strength of Ōamaru stone, and how a 19th-century economic crash helped shape the town's heritage.

Lilly Sitake (Year 10) celebrates Ōamaru's multicultural community, focusing on Tongan cultural traditions and how families and community groups share their language, identity, and culture across the town.

Sana Ishikawa (Year 12) reflects on her year in Ōamaru, highlighting its cafés, galleries, whitestone buildings, prosperous past, and the Historic Precinct at the heart of its Victorian heritage. *Talk details continued on next page.*

Waitaki: Writers of the Past —Speeches by Waitaki Boys' High School Students

Discover the rich literary legacy of Waitaki Boys' High School as students celebrate the lives and works of distinguished former pupils, including James Bertram, Ian Milner, Angus Ross, Charles Brasch, and others.

Join us in celebrating these remarkable Old Boys, whose journeys began here in Ōamaru and who went on to help shape New Zealand's literary landscape.

Ceremonial Hall, Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St

Free. Booking recommended - Register online at vhc.co.nz

10.00am-1.00pm

Celebrating Heritage in Motion at Clarks Mill

Marvel at four storeys of rare vintage machinery as it rolls into action. Arrive at least one hour before operating for a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable Visitor Hosts. Machinery operates 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

10.00am-3.00pm

Ōamaru Caledonian Society Exhibition

Did you know? Christmas Day did not become a statutory holiday until 1910. Although it was declared a Bank Holiday in 1873, many people still had to work.

With a strong Scottish community in Victorian Ōamaru, New Year was the biggest celebration. Founded in 1869, the Ōamaru Caledonian Society attracted thousands to its spectacular New Year festivities, featuring sporting competitions, concerts, fireworks, and a grand ball.

This Scottish tradition remains strong today. Waimate celebrated its 150th Caledonian Games in January this year, while in Ōamaru the North Otago Scottish Society continues the tradition with events such as Burns Night. This year also marks the 125th anniversary of the North Otago Highland Pipe Band.

Discover the story of North Otago's Scottish heritage at our Scottish Celebrations display in the Grainstore Information Hub. Curated by Natalie Wilson.

Smith's Grainstore, 9 Tyne St, at the Information Hub

Free

10.00am-3.00pm

Celebrating 150 Years of the Ōamaru Mail

Celebrate this massive milestone for our local newspaper. Pop in and discover some of the equipment that helped bring the news to life, from early typesetting tools to the heavy machinery now on display. Exhibition material courtesy of Waitaki Museum & Archive.

Livery Stables, 5 Harbour St

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

CELEBRATING Looms and Yarns (both anecdotal and woollen)

This year, McLean & Co. celebrate 80 years since their c. 1895 Hattersley Weaving System was imported from the UK to New Zealand, and 20 years since the looms arrived in Ōamaru.

It's been 20 years of learning-how to restore and maintain the machinery, how to weave purposeful textiles, and how to create a sustainable business.

Celebrating life in the slow textile lane: no electricity, only heritage machinery, people power, beautiful New Zealand yarn, lots of passion, quite a few stories, and many celebrations. Celebrate with us-visit our weaving shed.

McLean & Co Weaving Shed, 37 Greta St

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

Whiskerina Open Workshop

Liz Ende is a trained milliner with over 40 years' experience in hats, costumes, and textile art. She's opening her workroom to anyone with an interest in costume and millinery, or to those who'd like to make a beard for the Whiskerina Competition at Sunday's Victorian Fete. Materials are provided for beards. Come along and get creative.

Liz Ende Hats, 1 School Rd, Kakanui

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

Visit the Forrester Gallery

Explore current exhibitions in the beautifully restored former Bank of New South Wales building, including the Mahika Kai Mahika Toi extension. Check Tuesday's Daily Guide for full details.

Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

Unidentified Woman

A photographic exhibition celebrating the unnamed women of the Waitaki Archive's collection. Check Tuesday's Daily Guide for full details.

Waitaki Museum and Archive, 60 Thames St

Free

10.00am-4.30pm

Celebrate 10 years of CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery

Join us at CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery as we embrace the 2026 Heritage Celebrations theme of Celebration and mark 10 years of creativity, community, and craftsmanship. An exhibition of members' celebratory creations is on display daily, with a special 10th birthday celebration on Saturday evening. This special occasion honours the artists and artisans whose passion and skill have shaped our gallery's story. Come raise a glass, share in the festivities, and celebrate a decade of making, heritage, and connection in the heart of Waitaki.

CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St

Free



Quarry Stone Saw

10.30am

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage – Quarry Tour

Quarried locally, Ōamaru Stone became the foundation of Ōamaru's architectural legacy, shaping the magnificent buildings we celebrate as the heart of our historic streetscape.

Explore the remarkable limestone quarry pits where this iconic stone has been extracted for generations, and discover the story of Ōamaru Stone and its people in Joe's Shed, the onsite museum.

Travel by 12-seater bus to the Weston Quarry with tour guide and historian Judy Mitchell-Oats, and experience the only active quarry in New Zealand still producing Ōamaru Stone building blocks.

This tour is also offered on other mornings and afternoons throughout the Celebrations. See each day's listings for additional sessions.

Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park

\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 027 668 8032 or email: judy@oamarustone.co.nz

10.00am-4.00pm

Celebrating the Birthplace of NZ's Frozen Meat Industry

Hear the story of Totara Estate from a different perspective. Explore the Estate as it comes to life through stories, then celebrate afterwards with freshly baked scones and billy tea.

Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway, 8km south of Ōamaru. Parking available on site.

\$30pp, scones and tea included. Booking recommended - Phone 03 433 126 or email: totaramanager@heritage.org.nz

11.00am

Celebrate Ōamaru - Get the inside story!

Don't just wander the historic area and be left wondering! Join a Walking Tour with a professional guide who will bring your experience alive by providing local expertise, historical context and interesting stories that transforms your visit into an enriching memorable adventure.

Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing

\$30pp Booking required - Email: tokarahi@xtra.co.nz or Phone 021 159 7904



Former Queen's Hotel (now Brydone Hotel). Waitaki Museum & Archive, 1206P

12.00pm-1.30pm

The Ōamaru Historic Pub Crawl

In the 1880s, Ōamaru boasted 17 hotels. Just twenty years later, prohibition arrived and held firm for more than half a century. What became of those lively establishments during that long dry spell? Join historian Brian Robertson on a walking tour to find out. This is far more than grabbing a pint. Wander through decades of local history, weaving in and out of Ōamaru's oldest public houses.

Who doesn't love a good tale... with a well-earned pint at the end - and maybe one at the beginning, too!

Meet outside the Loan and Merc, 14 Harbour St

Free. Booking recommended - Register at vhc.co.nz

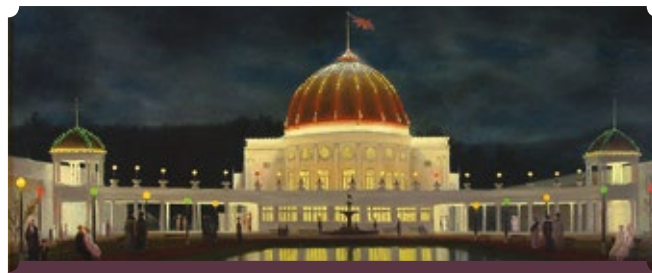
12.15pm-1.00pm

The Waitaki Valley Singers

Enjoy a lunchtime concert at St Paul's Presbyterian Church for an uplifting escape in the middle of the day.

St Paul's Church, 5 Coquet St

Gold coin



The Greatest Spectacle of Its Kind

2.00pm-3.00pm

The Greatest Spectacle of its kind

This year marks the centenary of Dunedin's New Zealand & South Seas International Exhibition of 1925/26 - a dazzling event that captured imaginations across the country and became the talk of the town. Many Ōamaruvians would have visited, as travel was much easier then.

Join Toitū Otago Settlers Museum curator Peter Read for a peep inside the pavilions and a roller-coaster ride through the ins and outs, and ups and downs, of what was hailed as "the greatest spectacle of its kind."

Ceremonial Hall, Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St

Free. Booking recommended - Register at vhc.co.nz

2.00pm-4.00pm

Visit Janet Frame's house

Visit the childhood home of celebrated New Zealand author Janet Frame

Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St

\$10

2.00pm

Celebrating the Birthplace of NZ's Frozen Meat Industry

Afternoon tour of Totara Estate, including storytelling, freshly baked scones and billy tea. See today's 10.30am session for full details.

Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway, 8km south of Ōamaru. Parking available on site.

\$30pp, scones and tea included. Booking recommended - Phone 03 433 126 or email: totaramanager@heritage.org.nz

2.30pm

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage - Quarry Tour

Join the afternoon quarry tour with historian Judy Mitchell-Oats. See today's 10.30am session for full details.

Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park

\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 027 668 8032 or email: judy@oamarustone.co.nz



Hand Trolley Race

3.30pm-5.30pm

Hand Trolley Racing

Bring the whole whānau for excitement and entertainment as teams of locals, visitors and businesses race hand trolleys down the railway track - the old-fashioned way, with people power!

Cheer on your favourites, soak up the atmosphere, and support a great cause - Ōamaru Steam and Rail and the Ōamaru Heritage Celebrations.

Want to have a go? Put together a team of up to 4 people and give it a go. This is a fundraising event, so we welcome donations from race participants (\$30 per team of 4).

Racing will be at the Railway Workshop, behind Steampunk HQ, 1B Humber St

Free to watch. Booking required - Teams can register and pay online at vhc.co.nz, or email ev@vhc.co.nz if you prefer to be invoiced.

4.00pm

Celebrate Ōamaru - Get the inside story!

Join a guided walking tour of the Victorian Precinct. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details

Meet at 1 Thames St, near the railway crossing

\$30pp Booking required - Email: tokarahi@xtra.co.nz or Phone 021 159 7904



Western House

6.00pm-8.30pm

Creative writing workshop with a Victorian twist

Lynda Scott Araya is a writer published both within Aotearoa and internationally. Come and enjoy a creative writing workshop inspired by her heritage home, Western House, est. 1861. The event will involve a short tour of the homestead, tea/refreshments, and a writing workshop. You will need to bring paper and a pen or a laptop.

Western House, 5469 Kurow-Duntroon Road, Kurow

Koha which will go towards a mental health organisation.

Booking required - Email: westernhouse.kurow@gmail.com



The Seaside Supper Express

6.30pm-8.00pm

The Seaside Supper Express

The Victorians loved to holiday at the seaside, so climb aboard the Seaside Supper Express for a delightful evening of seaside fun! Enjoy a scenic train ride, a classic fish and chip supper, ice cream, and lashings of ginger beer and lemonade (the adult kind). The Barnacle Brothers will keep the good times rolling with plenty of sing-along entertainment along the way. It's a wonderful evening out, filled with laughter, music, and seaside charm. Seats are limited, so book early to secure your place aboard.

Harbourside Station, pedestrian access via Itchen St

\$75 Booking essential - online at vhc.co.nz

8.00am-10.00am

Breakfasts at the Junction

Start the day with a Victorian continental breakfast at the Junction Hotel.

62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

\$25 Booking essential - online at vhc.co.nz

9.00am-3.00pm

Haggis Hunt

Put on some tartan and help keep North Otago's booming haggis population under control. Experience the thrill of trialling authentic 17th- to 19th-century black-powder flintlock weapons. Lunch provided. Limited numbers. Adults only (18+).

**Booking required -
Phone 027 293 1059**



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-size delicacies.

Brydone Hotel, 115 Thames St

42pp (minimum 2 people) Booking required at least 24 hours in advance - Brydone.functions@olt.co.nz

9.30am-11.00am

Impromptu Ball Practice

The Duchess invites you to join us to learn or practice the dances for the evening Ball.

Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St

Gold coin donation

9.30am

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage - Quarry Tour

Join the morning quarry tour with historian Judy Mitchell-Oats. For details see Thursday's listing.

Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park

\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 027 668 8032 or email: judy@oamarustone.co.nz



10.00am-12.00pm

Café Promenade

Take a leisurely walkabout along the Cafe Promenade, where you can elegantly flaunt your Victorian attire, and indulge in a delightful morning tea at one of Ōamaru's finest cafes.

Thames St

Free

10.00am-12.30pm

Have a Go at Lawn Bowls - Victorian Style

You're invited to join us for Victorian-style lawn bowls. Bowls supplied, tuition available to make sure you enjoy your morning, plus Devonshire morning tea provided. Victorian dress optional. Flat-soled shoes essential.

Come join us at the most picturesque bowling green in town. Established in 1886, the club is still in the same building.

Phoenix Lawn Bowling Club, behind the Skateboard Park. Access from Meek St or via Wairere Dell, beside the Drill Hall on Itchen St.

\$5 (pay on entry)

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 the first 15 minutes and self-service of reference material.

Waitaki Museum & Archive, 60 Thames St

Research fees apply after 15 minutes

10.00am-3.00pm

Celebrating 150 Years of the Ōamaru Mail

Celebrate the newspaper's 150th anniversary with a display of original typesetting equipment and historic printing machinery. Exhibition material courtesy of Waitaki Museum & Archive.

Livery Stables, 5 Harbour St

Free

10.00am-3.00pm

Victorian Celebrations at Customs House Gallery

The gallery is home to the North Otago Art Society Inc. We showcase a vibrant collection of local and regional artwork on behalf of our artists. During the Celebrations weekend, we will be presenting a new exhibition inspired by the theme Festivals and Celebrations.

We'll also be running a raffle and hosting a goodies table featuring traditional sweet treats.

29 Tyne St (by the Tyne/Wansbeck roundabout)

Free

10.00am-3.00pm

Ōamaru Caledonian Society Exhibition

Discover the story of North Otago's Scottish heritage at our Scottish Celebrations display in the Grainstore Information Hub. See Thursday's listing for details.

Smith's Grainstore, 9 Tyne St, at the Information Hub

Free

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

CELEBRATING Looms and Yarns (both anecdotal and woollen)

Celebrate heritage weaving and discover the stories behind McLean & Co.'s historic Hattersley weaving system. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

McLean & Co Weaving Shed, 37 Greta St

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

Unidentified Woman

A photographic exhibition celebrating the unnamed women of the Waitaki Archive's collection. Check Tuesday's Daily Guide for full details.

Waitaki Museum and Archive, 60 Thames St

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

Visit the Forrester Gallery

Explore current exhibitions in the beautifully restored former Bank of New South Wales building, including the Mahika Kai Mahika Toi extension.

Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St

Free

10.00am-4.30pm

Celebrate 10 years of CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery

Celebrate a decade of creativity and craftsmanship with exhibitions and displays by local artists and artisans.

Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St

Free

10.00am-Late

The New Zealand Whisky Collection

Celebrating fun and festivities, NZ Whisky has a fabulous selection of Ōamaru-aged whisky to wet your whistle.

Friday at 4pm, we'll keep the doors open until late, with Whisky, Poetry and Shanties to put a smile on your face.

Operating from new premises at 4 Wansbeck St

10.30am-12.00pm

Workshop with Tea and Cake: Making a Big Bang!

A hands-on workshop about making your own Christmas crackers. Materials supplied. If your cracker is for someone special and you'd like to include a small gift in it, do bring it with you to the workshop.

Junction Hotel, 62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

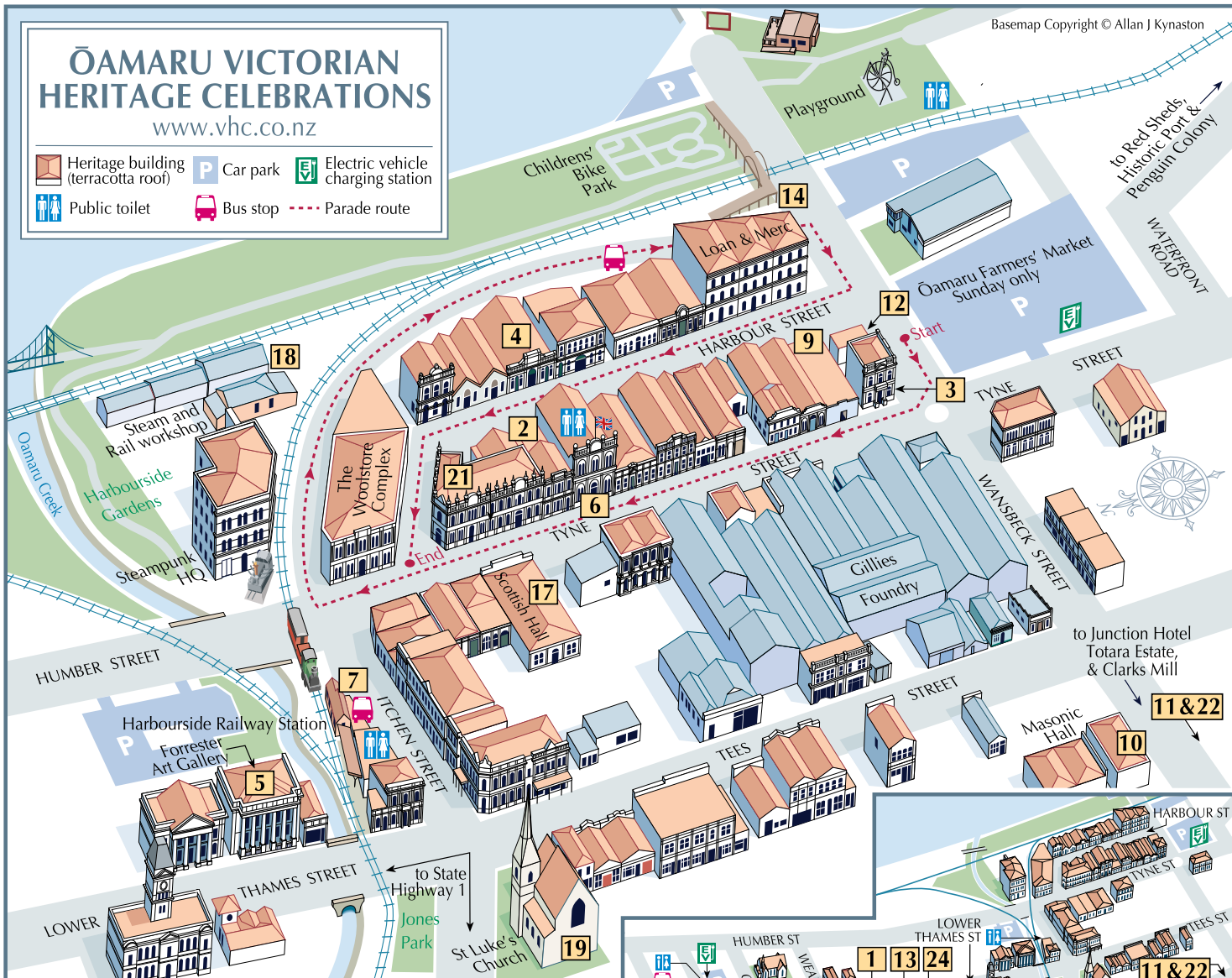
\$25 Booking required - Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

ŌAMARU VICTORIAN HERITAGE CELEBRATIONS

www.vhc.co.nz

-  Heritage building (terracotta roof)
-  Car park
-  Electric vehicle charging station
-  Public toilet
-  Bus stop
-  Parade route

Basemap Copyright © Allan J Kynaston



VENUE INDEX (numbers in orange rectangles)

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| 3. Customs House Gallery | 11. McLean & Co | 19. St Luke's Church |
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| 6. Grainstore (Smiths) | 14. Penny Farthing Lessons | 22. Oamaru Old Cemetery |
| 7. Harbourside Station | 15. Phoenix Bowling Club | 23. Oamaru Public Gardens |
| 8. Janet Frame House | 16. Riviera Cinema | 24. Waitaki Museum & Archive |



10.30am

Celebrating the Birthplace of NZ's Frozen Meat Industry
Hear the story of Totara Estate, explore the property through guided storytelling, then enjoy freshly baked scones and billy tea. See Thursday's 10.30am listing in the Daily Guide for details.

Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway, 8km south of Ōamaru. Parking available on site.

\$30pp, scones and tea included. Booking recommended - Phone 03 433 126 or email: totaramanager@heritage.org.nz

11.00am

Celebrate Ōamaru - Get the inside story!
Join a guided walking tour of the Victorian Precinct. (For details see Thursday's listing.)

Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing

\$30pp Booking required - Email: tokarahi@xtra.co.nz or Phone 021 159 7904



Harry Andrew

11.30am-12.30pm

Full Steam Ahead - Ōamaru's Railway Story, with Harry Andrew

Ōamaru's railway history tells the story of the town's boom as a major agricultural, wool, and frozen-meat hub.

Join local icon Harry Andrew for an engaging talk on the rise of the railway in Ōamaru and how it transformed the town forever. There will be a Q&A session at the end, so come along with your questions and curiosity.

Ceremonial Hall, Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St

Free. Booking recommended - Register online at vhc.co.nz

11.30am

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage - Quarry Tour

Join the second quarry tour this morning with historian Judy Mitchell-Oats. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park

\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 027 668 8032 or email: judy@oamarustone.co.nz

12.15pm-1.00pm

Variety Concert

Enjoy beautiful live music at the Lunchtime Concert at St Paul's Presbyterian Church.

St Paul's Church, 5 Coquet St

Gold coin



Waitaki Museum and Archive, P0105.37

1.00pm-2.00pm

Celebrating our Public Gardens, with Graeme Hall

Graeme will present his perspective on the history of Ōamaru's much-loved public gardens, which have reached the grand old age of 150 years. He will speak about some of the key people who created and developed the area, highlighting why it is such a special and renowned garden and covering the challenges of managing and caring for a living public facility.

Graeme started as Superintendent of Parks & Reserves in 1982 with the Ōamaru Public Gardens coming under his portfolio of responsibilities. The gardens remained a constant responsibility throughout many changes in roles and titles during his tenure with both Ōamaru Borough and Waitaki District Council.

It's an ideal talk to enjoy before heading to the gardens later for the Grand Garden Gaiety

Ceremonial Hall, Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St

Free. Booking recommended - Register online at vhc.co.nz

1.30pm-3.00pm

Cemetery Walk: Histories etched in stone

Members of the Waitaki Society of Genealogists will take you on a journey through the historic Ōamaru Old Cemetery.

Every road we travel today exists because early settlers risked everything to build a future here. They faced untamed wilderness, harsh winters, and not a single modern convenience: no hot showers, no flat whites, and definitely no GPS to guide them.

Discover the lives that shaped our district. Every engraved name has a story. Whether marked by an ornate marble angel or a simple, fading inscription, each soul played a vital part in weaving the fabric of the community we have today.

Tour participants will receive a complimentary genealogical information resource compiled by the Waitaki Society of Genealogists Inc.

Please wear comfortable walking shoes for uneven terrain.

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

\$20 per adult. Children free. Booking recommended - online at vhc.co.nz or pay on the day with cash

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. Choose a lawn/time slot on arrival

2.00pm-4.00pm

Visit Janet Frame's house

Visit the childhood home of celebrated New Zealand author Janet Frame.

Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St

\$10

2.00pm

Celebrating the Birthplace of NZ's Frozen Meat Industry

Hear the story of Totara Estate, explore the property through guided storytelling, then enjoy freshly baked scones and billy tea. For details see Thursday's 2pm listing.

Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway, 8km south of Ōamaru. Parking available on site.

\$30pp, scones and tea included. Booking recommended - Phone 03 433 126 or email: totaramanager@heritage.org.nz



Garden Gaiety

2.30pm-3.30pm

The Grand Garden Gaiety

Delight in the timeless charm and elegance of the much-loved Victorian Garden Party at the beautiful Ōamaru Public Gardens.

Stroll amongst splendidly attired ladies and gentlemen, savour a selection of light refreshments, and enjoy delightful entertainment in the enchanting surroundings of the Gardens.

Wet Weather Contingency: Should inclement weather prevail, the Garden Party will be relocated to the Masonic Hall on Wansbeck St and will be available to refreshment ticket holders only.

We anticipate making this decision on Thursday evening and will advise attendees via our website and social media channels.

Ōamaru Public Gardens, 17 Chelmer St

Admission is free for everyone, with optional refreshments available for \$12. Booking essential for refreshments - payable online at: vhc.co.nz

3.30pm-5.00pm

Junction Hotel tour

Explore the historic 1879 Junction Hotel with a guided tour, followed by refreshments. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

Tickets \$20 (includes refreshments).

4.00pm-5.00pm

A Restoration Challenge Worthy of a Celebration

Join Mike and Lyn Gray as they look back 30 years and celebrate the achievement of restoring a slice of local history for posterity. The illustrated presentation will take you through the challenges of restoring an historic homestead back to its Victorian splendour. Refreshments available at the bar.

Seating is limited - so book ahead.

The Criterion Hotel, 3 Tyne St

Free. Booking required - Register online at: vhc.co.nz

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER

4.00pm

Celebrate Ōamaru - Get the inside story!

Join a guided walking tour of the Victorian Precinct. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

Meet at 1 Thames St, near railway crossing

\$30pp Booking required - Email: tokarahi@xtra.co.nz or Phone 021 159 7904

4.00pm-late

Whisky, Poetry and Shanties!

Join us for an evening of whisky, poetry and lively sea shanties. Enjoy a relaxed celebration of good spirits, good words and good company.

The New Zealand Whisky Collection, 4 Wansbeck St



The Criterion

5.30pm & 7.15pm

The Grand Victorian Christmas Dinner

Celebrate Christmas the Victorian way with a sumptuous festive feast at the historic Criterion Hotel. Savour a menu inspired by traditional Victorian favourites, featuring classics such as Mulled Wine, Potage à la Cressy, Scotch Eggs, Shepherd's Pie, a roast joint with all the trimmings, Apple Charlotte, and Christmas Pudding. Special dietary requirements are happily catered for.

Inspired by this year's theme, "Celebration! Fun, Frolics & Festivities!", the event offers entertainment and a warm, festive setting. It's the perfect beginning to your evening before the Victorian Ball (Scottish Hall) or a delightful way to end your day in a relaxed, joy-filled Victorian Christmas atmosphere with friends.

Criterion Hotel, 3 Tyne St

Two dining sessions available: 5.30pm and 7.15pm. \$65 pp for a three-course meal. Choose your preferred session and meal when booking. Booking required - online at: vhc.co.nz.

8.00pm-late

The Duke and Duchess of Deborah Impromptu Ball

The Duke and Duchess of Deborah cordially summon you to their Impromptu Ball. The evening will consist of dancing, dining and parlour games. Local musicians have been engaged and a progressive supper from local purveyors will be served through the evening. A variety of liquid refreshments may be purchased (Cash bar / No EFTPOS). Dress code: Formal Victorian ball attire or dress uniform. Limited places, no door sales.

Ballroom opens at 7.30pm. Grand Parade commences at 8pm.

Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St

\$100 + admin fee. Booking required - email: heritagedanceoamaru@gmail.com or text to 027 699 5881

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

8.00am-10.00am

Breakfasts at the Junction

Start the day with a Victorian continental breakfast at the Junction Hotel.

62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

\$25 Booking required (10 places only) - Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

9.00am-3.00pm

High Tea @ The Brydone

Enjoy a Victorian-inspired high tea with a hot or cold drink and bite-sized delicacies.

Brydone Hotel, 115 Thames St

\$42pp (minimum 2 people) Booking required - at least 24 hours in advance - email: Brydone.functions@olt.co.nz

9.30am

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage - Quarry Tour

Join the morning quarry tour with historian Judy Mitchell-Oats. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park

\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 027 668 8032 or email: judy@oamarustone.co.nz

10.00am-11.00am

Pennyfarthing lessons

Bring your child along for a turn on a penny-farthing! Our friendly tutor has small bikes, helmets, and heaps of know-how, so children can have a go and enjoy the thrill of riding these quirky old-time wheels.

Lower Wansbeck St, behind the Loan & Merc building. (14 Harbour St - see map)

Gold coin donation

10.00am-12.30pm

Unidentified Woman

A photographic exhibition celebrating the unnamed women of the Waitaki Archive's collection. Check Tuesday's Daily Guide for full details.

Waitaki Museum and Archive, 60 Thames St

Free

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.

St Luke's Hall, behind St Luke's Church, Corner of Tees St & Itchen St

Free entry. Morning tea \$5

10.00am-3.00pm

Celebrating 150 Years of the Ōamaru Mail

Explore the newspaper's history through original equipment and historic printing machinery. Exhibition material courtesy of Waitaki Museum & Archive.

Livery Stables, 5 Harbour St

Free

10.00am-3.00pm

Victorian Celebrations at Customs House Gallery

Browse a special exhibition inspired by this year's theme of Festivals and Celebrations, along with raffles and traditional sweet treats. See Friday's listing for more details.

29 Tyne St (by the Tyne/Wansbeck roundabout)

Free

10.00am-3.00pm

Ōamaru Caledonian Society Exhibition

Discover the story of North Ōtago's Scottish heritage at our Scottish Celebrations display in the Grainstore Information Hub. See Thursday's listing for details.

Smith's Grainstore, 9 Tyne St, in the Information Hub

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

Victorian-style Spirit Readings

The Victorians adored the mysterious arts - psychic readings, clairvoyance, oracle cards and spirit communication - not only for those who believed, but for the irresistible thrill of asking, "What if?"

Back by popular request, you're invited to step into the shadowy elegance of the parlour and sample the age-old practices that once captivated Victorian drawing rooms.

Feeling a little out of sorts? Experience gentle, hands-on energy healing designed to soothe both body and spirit.

Explore the unseen, just as the Victorians once did. Dare you step inside?

MacKenzie Room, Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St

Mini Sessions (20 mins): \$25

10.00am-4.30pm

Celebrate 10 years of CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery

Celebrate a decade of creativity and craftsmanship with exhibitions and displays by local artists and artisans. Join our special 10th birthday celebration this evening (Saturday at 5pm, see listing below).

CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St

Free

10.00am-late

The New Zealand Whisky Collection

Celebrating fun and festivities, NZ Whisky has a fabulous selection of Ōamaru-aged whisky to wet your whistle. Saturday from 6.30pm will be a late one, with a little history thrown in! Grab a dram, take a seat and prepare to learn something new with a talk exploring the history of whisky and the licensed premises of North Ōtago.

4 Wansbeck St (new premises)



East of Eden — filmed in Ōamaru. Credit: Stefan Roesch

10.30am-11.30am

Ōamaru on Screen: Celebrating Our Heritage as a Film Set
Ōamaru's limestone streets and Victorian architecture have long captivated filmmakers searching for a location with character, charm, and a touch of time travel.

Stefan Roesch (Head of Film Dunedin and Co-Manager of Film Otago Southland) will discuss why heritage towns like Ōamaru consistently attract filmmakers, and the creative and practical considerations behind choosing a location.

He'll also touch on international examples of screen tourism, Ōamaru's rising visibility through Netflix's *East of Eden*, and the economic, cultural, and tourism impacts of filming, along with what the future of filmmaking in Ōamaru and our region might hold.

Ceremonial Hall, Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St

Free. Booking recommended - Register online at vhc.co.nz

10.30am-12.00pm

Junction Hotel tour

Explore the historic 1879 Junction Hotel with a guided tour, followed by refreshments. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

Tickets \$20 (includes refreshments). Booking required - Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

10.30am-3.30pm

North Otago Floral Arts Display

Admire stunning floral displays inside the historic St Luke's Church. Check Friday's Daily Guide for full details.

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

Gold coin



Ōamaru Steam and Rail

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 11am, 11.45am, 1pm 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 children) \$28. EFTPOS available

12.00pm-1.00pm

Harbour Street Parade

Come enjoy the spectacle of the Street Parade. Expect to see Victorian costumes, pipe bands, pennyfarthings, and much more! Want to take part? Join in and walk with us in costume as the procession travels through the Victorian Precinct. Register online at: vhc.co.nz.

Check out the new parade route, which begins on Tyne Street, turning into the Harbour Street service lane (Harry's lane for those in the know), and finishes on Harbour Street.

Join us opposite The Criterion Hotel after the parade to celebrate 125 years of the North Otago Highland Pipe Band.

Route: Tyne St → Harbour St service lane → Harbour St
Free



12.30pm-1.00pm

Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the North Otago Highland Pipe Band

Join the band immediately after the parade for a short celebration marking this significant anniversary.

There'll be brief speeches acknowledging their long history of music and service to the community, followed by a couple of performances. Yes, the pipes will be calling as we celebrate yet another wonderful milestone in Ōamaru.

Tyne/Harbour St (opposite the Criterion Hotel)

Gold coin



Credit: Loga Creatives Photography

1.00pm-3.30pm

Heritage Bicycle Championship

Experience New Zealand's foremost heritage cycling event for penny farthings and traditional steel bikes including everyday cycles to high-performance racing bikes once raced by some of our top New Zealand cyclists.

You'll witness high drama and action as the riders compete in a number of breathtaking events including Sprints, Slaloms, Slow races, Circuit race, all followed by the 'Tyne St Grunter' which will grind the riders down to a standstill as the road ramps up to a very steep gradient.

Riders can register through the club email below or prior to 1pm on the day on Tyne St.

During the day there will be a number of cycles on display at Cycle Journeys.

Prize giving will be at Cycle Journeys approximately 1-2 hours after the event. This will be confirmed at the conclusion of the programme of events.

Tyne St

Free. Book for rider registrations, email:

oamaruordinary@gmail.com or phone 027 293 1059.

1.30pm-3.00pm

Cemetery Walk: Histories etched in stone

Discover the stories of Ōamaru's early settlers on this guided cemetery walk led by the Waitaki Society of Genealogists. For more details, see Friday's listing.

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

\$20 per adult. Children free. Booking recommended - (this is a popular walk!) - online at: vhc.co.nz or pay exact cash on the day

1.30pm-3.00pm

Workshop with Tea and Cake: 'All that Glitters'

An informative chat with Iain Clark, a manufacturing jeweller, on caring for estate jewellery, remodelling and repairing your precious heirlooms. You are welcome to bring your own pieces to share in the discussion.

Junction Hotel, 62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World).

\$25 Booking required - Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

1.30pm-4.00pm

Visit the Forrester Gallery

Explore current exhibitions in the beautifully restored former Bank of New South Wales building, including the Mahika Kai Mahika Toi extension.

Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St

Free

2.00pm-3.00pm

Ōamaru Whitestone Civic Trust presents:

The Forrester and Lemon Lecture Series

Guest speaker Roselyn Cloake — full lecture details will be posted on vhc.co.nz closer to the day.

Ōamaru Opera House, 94 Thames St

Free

2.00pm-4.00pm

Visit Janet Frame's house

Visit the childhood home of celebrated New Zealand author Janet Frame.

Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St

\$10

3.00pm

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage – Quarry Tour

A repeat of the morning quarry tour with historian Judy Mitchell-Oats. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park

\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 027 668 8032 or email: judy@oamarustone.co.nz

3.00pm

Floor Talk, with Peter Cleverley

Join artist Peter Cleverley for a floor talk for his latest exhibition Peter Cleverley: Dreams are Free.

Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St

Free

SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER

3.30pm-4.30pm

Fashion Parade - Victorian Vogue | A celebration of special occasions

Step into a world of elegance, craftsmanship, and timeless style as Victorian Vogue brings history to life on the runway. Whether you're a devoted history enthusiast, a lover of fashion, or simply curious about the glamour of bygone eras, Victorian Vogue promises an afternoon of inspiration, storytelling, and style. We invite you to cut a fine figure and exhibit your elegance. Either made, hired, brought or borrowed. All welcome.

Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St

\$15 - Glass of bubbles with entry. Booking required - vhc.co.nz

4.00pm

Celebrate Ōamaru - Get the inside story!

Join a guided walking tour of the Victorian Precinct. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details

Meet at 1 Thames St, near the railway crossing

\$30pp Booking required - Email: tokarahi@xtra.co.nz or Phone 021 159 7904

4.45pm-6.30pm

High Tea at the Junction

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!

Junction Hotel, 62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

\$40 Booking required - Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

5.00pm-6.30pm

Tottering Toes Dance Academy

We are delighted to offer a dance session for those who wish to have a go at Victorian-era dancing, formal and informal. The fee is a small donation. Teaching people with two left feet is our specialty!

Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St

Koha

5.00pm-7.00pm

CRAFTED: Celebrating 10 Years

Join us this evening (Saturday) as CRAFTED celebrates its 10th birthday. This occasion honours the artists and artisans whose passion and skill have shaped the gallery's story. Come raise a glass, share in the festivities, and celebrate a decade of making, heritage and connection in the heart of Waitaki.

CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St

Free



8.00pm-late

Crinolines and Capers

Gather your clan, lace up your dancing shoes, and join us for a night of lively ceilidh dancing, laughter, and a wee bit of Scottish mischief!

The Dunedin Scottish Fiddle Orchestra will be providing the music and calling the dances, so whether you're a seasoned dancer or have two left feet, you'll be twirling, stomping, and laughing your way through the evening in no time.

Expect plenty of fun, a dash of chaos, and the occasional accidental spin of the wrong partner as we romp our way through an unforgettable Scottish knees-up.

Fun and frolic attire is encouraged (tartan welcome!) but not required—just bring your sense of humour and a willingness to join the shenanigans. Cash and PayWave accepted at the bar.

Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St

\$65 Booking required - Purchase tickets online at vhc.co.nz

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER

8.00am-10.00am

Breakfast at the Junction

Start the day with a Victorian continental breakfast at the Junction Hotel.

62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

\$25 Booking required (10 places only) - Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

9.00am-1.00pm

Art & Craft Market

Discover a wonderful selection of handmade treasures. Browse unique crystals, original paintings, crocheted creations, handcrafted gifts, and so much more. (For enquiries, email: artandcrafttoamaru@gmail.com)

Harbourside Park, Wansbeck St



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9.00am-3.00pm

High Tea @ The Brydone

Enjoy a Victorian-inspired high tea with a hot or cold drink and bite-sized delicacies.

Brydone Hotel, 115 Thames St

\$42pp (minimum 2 people) Booking required - at least 24 hours in advance – email: Brydone.functions@olt.co.nz

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 (see below).

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

Free

10.00am-12.30pm

Unidentified Woman

A photographic exhibition celebrating the unnamed women of the Waitaki Archive's collection. Check Tuesday's Daily Guide for full details.

Waitaki Museum, 60 Thames St

Free



10.00am-2.00pm

Steel Bicycle 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 pennyfarthings and steel commuter bikes to an impressive collection of racing bikes. You may also find that elusive part you've been looking for at the swap meet.

Cycle Journeys, Harbour St

Free

10.00am-3.00pm

Victorian Celebrations at Customs House Gallery

Browse a special exhibition inspired by this year's theme of Festivals and Celebrations, and enjoy raffles and traditional sweet treats. This afternoon, come along to a talk about Customs House and its fascinating history. See the 12.30pm listing below.

29 Tyne St (by the Tyne/Wansbeck roundabout)

Free



Waitaki Victorian Fete

10.00am-3.00pm

Network Waitaki Victorian Fete

The Network Waitaki Victorian Fete is a full day of family fun, packed with old-world charm. Enjoy the spectacle of Victorian costumes, lively street performers, magicians, the stone-sawing competition, market stalls and live music — all creating a festive atmosphere you won't forget.

Dress in your Victorian outfit and join in the fun of the fair while supporting a great cause. This annual event raises funds for the Ōamaru Whitestone Civic Trust, helping preserve New Zealand's finest collection of Victorian heritage buildings right here in Ōamaru.

Harbour St

Entry by donation

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 10am, 10.45am, 11.30am, 12.15pm, 1pm, 1.45pm, 2.30pm, 3.15pm, weather dependent

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-3.30pm

Victorian-style Spirit Readings

The Victorians adored the mysterious arts—psychic readings, clairvoyance, oracle cards and spirit communication. You're invited to step into the shadowy elegance of the parlour and sample the age-old practices that once captivated Victorian drawing rooms.

Feeling a little out of sorts? Experience gentle, hands-on energy healing designed to soothe both body and spirit.

MacKenzie Room, Scottish Hall, 10 Tyne St

Mini Sessions (20 mins): \$25

10.00am-3.00pm

Ōamaru Caledonian Society Exhibition

Discover the story of North Otago's Scottish heritage at our Scottish Celebrations display in the Grainstore Information Hub. See Thursday's listing for details.

Smith's Grainstore, 9 Tyne St

Free

10.00am-4.00pm

The New Zealand Whisky Collection

Celebrating fun and festivities, NZ Whisky has a fabulous selection of Ōamaru-aged whisky to wet your whistle. Enjoy a tasting and pick up a bottle to savour at home, a spirited souvenir of your time at the Celebrations.

4 Wansbeck St (new premises)

10.00am-4.30pm

Celebrate 10 years of CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery

Celebrate a decade of creativity and craftsmanship with exhibitions and displays by local artists and artisans. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

CRAFTED: Waitaki Artisan Gallery, 3 Harbour St

Free



10.30am-11.30am

Extra! Extra! Celebrating the Otago Daily Times
Hear from the Otago Daily Times as New Zealand's oldest daily newspaper celebrates 165 years. Learn about the fascinating history of newspapers in the region, why local news still matters, and what it takes to put a paper together each day.

Ceremonial Hall, Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St
Free. Booking recommended - Register online at vhc.co.nz

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 Cathedral Choir and the Tongan Siasi Mouifouou ia Kalaisi Choir. Preacher: Very Rev Dr Tony Curtis, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin. The church will be resplendent with floral arrangements from the North Otago Floral Arts Society and decorations from the Tongan church.

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

10.30am

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage – Quarry Tour
Join the morning quarry tour with historian Judy Mitchell-Oats. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.
Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park
\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 0276688032 or email - judy@oamarustone.co.nz

Scones, Zines & Horseshoes at Totara Estate

Join us at Totara Estate for some creative and competitive endeavours! Bring a picnic or celebrate with a freshly baked scone.

11.00am-2.00pm

Victorian Zine Station

Drop in and create your own miniature masterpiece at our Victorian Zine Station.

Inspired by the pamphlets, penny publications, illustrations, and printed ephemera of the past, visitors are encouraged to experiment with words, drawings, collage, and design. Create your own small publication to take home.

12.00pm-1.00pm

Grand Victorian Scone Competition

Visitors are invited to take part in The Grand Victorian Scone Competition, a light-hearted celebration of baking and tradition.

Scones will be judged by local personalities, with prizes awarded across three categories:

- (1) Traditional
- (2) Cheese
- (3) Fancy/Creative

Bring your entry to Totara Estate by 12pm on Sunday.

12.15pm

National Horseshoe Throwing Championship

Step into the ring and test your aim as you compete head-to-head for the chance to be crowned National Horseshoe Throwing Champion!

Open to all ages and skill levels, the competition is a celebration of traditional outdoor games. Have a go at some other lawn or parlour games in between rounds!

Totara Estate, 565 Alma-Maheno Highway, 8km south of Ōamaru. Parking available on site.

One gold coin entry gives you access to all activities

11.45am-3.30pm

North Otago Floral Arts Display

Admire beautiful floral displays inside the historic St Luke's Church. Check Friday's Daily Guide for full details.

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

Gold coin

12.30pm-1.30pm

Customs House Gallery Talk

Enjoy a talk about Customs House and its fascinating history, presented by Henk Van Lier. While you're there, check out a new exhibition inspired by the theme Festivals and Celebrations.

29 Tyne St (by the Tyne/Wansbeck roundabout)

Free

1.00pm-3.00pm

Celebrating Heritage in Motion at Clarks Mill

Marvel at four storeys of rare vintage machinery as it rolls into action. Arrive at least one hour before operating for a guided tour with one of our knowledgeable Visitor Hosts. Machinery operates at 2pm.

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

1.30pm-2.30pm

Historic Harbour Walk: Celebrating Its Golden Age

Ōamaru Harbour remains, in many ways, a Victorian creation — from the breakwater to the wharves, from shipwrecks and the Rocket Brigade to the rise and fall of coastal trade and today's leisure craft. Friendly Bay still welcomes visitors, but the real stars are the blue penguins and seals that make the harbour their home.

Join historian Brian Robertson for a lively walking tour of New Zealand's only surviving authentic Victorian and Edwardian deepwater port. Nowhere else in the country shows so vividly just how vital sea transport once was to every community, every industry, and every journey.

Meet outside the Loan and Merc, 14 Harbour St

Free. Booking recommended - Register at vhc.co.nz



Credit: Collection of the Waitaki Archive. ID 287P

1.30pm-3.00pm

Cemetery Walk: Histories etched in stone

Discover the stories of Ōamaru's early settlers on this guided cemetery walk led by the Waitaki Society of Genealogists. For details see Friday's listing.

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

\$20 per adult. Children free. Booking recommended (This is a popular walk!) - pay online at vhc.co.nz or pay cash on the day

1.30pm-4.00pm

Visit the Forrester Gallery

Explore current exhibitions in the beautifully restored former Bank of New South Wales building, including the Mahika Kai Mahika Toi extension.

Forrester Gallery, 9 Thames St

Free

2.00pm-3.30pm

Junction Hotel tour

Explore the historic 1879 Junction Hotel with a guided tour, followed by refreshments.

62 Wansbeck St (cnr Towey & Wansbeck, next to South Hill New World)

Tickets \$20 (includes refreshments). Booking required - Rose's General Store, 5 Tyne St or online at vhc.co.nz

2.00pm-4.00pm

Visit Janet Frame's house

Visit the childhood home of celebrated New Zealand author Janet Frame.

Janet Frame House, 56 Eden St

\$10



2.30pm-3.30pm

**Celebrations,
Commemorations
and Commiserations**

North Otago has plenty of anniversaries to recognise this year, and each one comes with its own story. Join historian Kathleen Stringer for a lively exploration of how our district has marked and remembered key moments in its past.

Discover the stories behind this year's Celebrations as we Celebrate, Commemorate and Commiserate - exploring the milestones that have shaped Ōamaru's identity and heritage.

Ceremonial Hall, Masonic Hall, 10 Wansbeck St

Free. Booking recommended - Register online at vhc.co.nz



Kathleen Stringer

2.30pm

Celebrating Ōamaru Stone Heritage - Quarry Tour

Join the final quarry tour with historian Judy Mitchell-Oats. Check Thursday's Daily Guide for full details.

Pick up at Scott's Brewery car park

\$25pp. Booking required - Ring Judy on 027 668 8032 or email - judy@oamarustone.co.nz

2.45pm-3.30pm

Victorian Evensong

Finish the Celebrations with a beautiful Evensong led by the Choir of St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin, and Cathedral Dean, the Very Rev Dr Tony Curtis.

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

Free



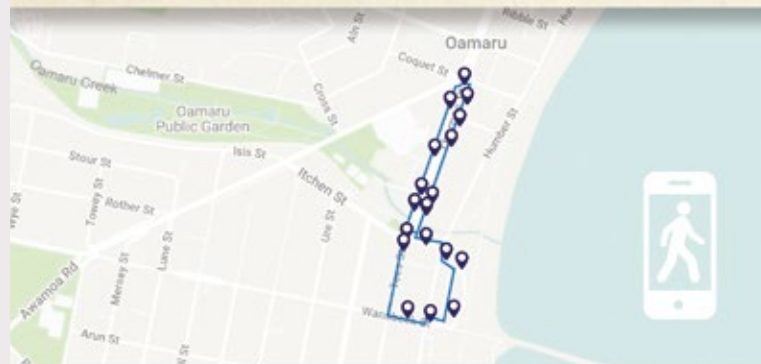
Credit: Tourism Waitaki

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The 2026 Victorian Heritage Celebrations are made possible through the generous contributions of numerous groups and individuals.

A heartfelt thank you to the committee members for their time and efforts in helping to coordinate this iconic event.

The committee members are: Bronnie Inwood and Zara Murphy (Co-Chairs), Marijn Dogterom (Treasurer), Laura Byars (Secretary), Blayde Forbes and Andrew Allardice.

A big thanks to Natalie Wilson for her valuable contribution to the talks programme and exhibitions, and for suggesting this year's theme based on her research.

Special thanks to the brilliant mind of Everall Deans, our festival coordinator.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to all the associates, businesses, community groups, volunteers and other supporters - too many to name individually - but truly valued.

We owe a very special thanks to the Whitestone Arts Council and Helen Stead for a generous donation of funds, with the intention that they support meaningful commemoration and community outcomes. The events that these funds support, honour the people and places of Waitaki, past, present, and future.



LET'S NOT FORGET THE PHOTOGRAPHERS!

A huge thank you to the wonderful photographers who've shared their amazing photos with us. Their work is shared throughout this booklet, across social media and on our website. Thank you for helping us capture the moments that make our Celebrations memorable!

Thanks to:

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CREDITS

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50

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The OVHC committee is enormously grateful to all our sponsors and partners for helping make the 2026 Celebrations possible.

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



Feedback

If you have any feedback or you would like to share your ideas for future celebrations, send us an email at ovhcommittee@gmail.com

CONTACT US

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