

# Community

## *Welcome to Oamaru & Waitaki District*

**Government-** The NZ elections are every three years and are based on the MMP (mixed member proportional representation) system.

**Waitaki-** The population of the Waitaki District is approximately 23000 with 14000 people residing in the town of Oamaru. Diversity is increasing with 50+ different ethnicities.

**Waitaki District Council-** The Waitaki District is governed by the Waitaki District Council. The council comprises of the Mayor and 10 Councillors. Elections are held every three years. The Oamaru offices are on Lower Thames Street and there is also a service centre in Palmerston. You can go in, phone or use the website. [www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)

If you own a home or property, you will have to pay rates to the Waitaki District Council and the Otago Regional Council. Water charges are included in the general rates.

Councils manage libraries, swimming pools, parks, roads, dogs, noise control, building consents, art galleries, playgrounds and much more.

**Stronger Waitaki-** A community development project with a focus on community safety and wellbeing [www.saferwaitaki.co.nz](http://www.saferwaitaki.co.nz)

**Rubbish-** The Waitaki District Council doesn't provide a kerbside rubbish or recycling collection service. Kerbside rubbish and recycling collection is instead provided by private contractors Awamoa Bins, Waste Management and Wasteco.

In Oamaru, recycling can be dropped off to the Resource Recovery Park on Chelmer Street for a small cost. Most garden waste and all general waste must be taken to the Refuse Transfer Station out the northern end of Oamaru. There are also recycling depots in Hampden, Kurow, Otematata, Omarama and Palmerston (Waihemo Wastebusters).

Recycling bins are provided in Papakaio, Enfield and Herbert.

**Libraries-** Are a place where you can borrow books, use wifi, learn computer skills, attend childrens' activities, community talks, book chat groups etc. They also stock copies of most of the main NZ newspapers. Go and visit the friendly teams in Oamaru, Palmerston, Kurow, Otematata and Omarama

**Budget Advice-** Provides a free confidential non-judgemental, one to one financial management service and advocacy. Situated in Community House at 100 Thames Street. Ph 434 6196

**Inland Revenue(IRD)-** Usually visit the Oamaru Work & Income office on the third Thursday of every month. Phone 0800775247 for an appointment.

**Food Bank-** Emergency food. 4 France Street. Ph 434 5514

**The Salvation Army-** can assist with emergency food, furniture and clothing and also has free counselling. All by appointment. Phone 434 8413







### Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)-

Is a voluntary organisation which provides free, confidential information and advice to anyone about any query or problem. Community House, 100 Thames Street. Ph 434 9743

**Waitaki Newcomers Network and Migrant Support-** Providing free assistance and activities for newcomers and migrants. Abacus House, 102 Thames Street. Ph 027 325 6151.

**North Otago Toy Library-** Toys for hire. 109 Thames Street. 0277535046

**Community Gardens-** For advice and education with gardening. Chelmer Street. Ph 0211 154 884

**Free Legal Advice-** Ring CAB(Citizens Advice Bureau) 4349743 to book a free 15 minute appointment with a lawyer.

**JP Services-** are available free of charge at the Oamaru Public Library on Wednesdays from 11am-1pm. No bookings required.



**Driving-** To find out about driving licensing, look online [www.aa.co.nz](http://www.aa.co.nz) or call the AA (Automobile Association) 4331047 or visit the office at 273 Thames Street.

**Newspapers-** In Waitaki, the Oamaru Mail is a free community newspaper distributed each Friday. A copy can be collected from the Otago Daily Times office at 59 Thames Street. The Otago Daily Times is the regional newspaper and is printed daily.

**Phone Books-** Free at NZ Post shop.

**Volunteering-** This is a great way to fill your time, gain skills, make links into the local community and get a reference. Contact Volunteer South at [volunteersouth.org.nz](http://volunteersouth.org.nz) to find out about available volunteering positions.

**Public Transport-** There is none in Waitaki, so walking, biking and using taxis are the only option.

### Migrant Tip-

If an event starts at a specific time, it is the New Zealand way to arrive at that time or no later than 30 minutes. If you arrive any later, you may miss the event.

**NZ Now-** Provides a wealth of information on life in New Zealand [www.newzealandnow.govt.nz](http://www.newzealandnow.govt.nz)

**NZ Laws-** Children cannot be left at home unsupervised unless they are 14 years of age.

- A babysitter must be 14 and capable of caring for others.
- All children up to the age of seven must be in a car seat appropriate to their age and size
- Children must attend school from age 6-16.
- You must be 16 to get a learner driving license and to have a sexual relationship.
- You must be 18 to vote, to purchase alcohol and to get married.

**Explore Waitaki -**  
[www.waitakinz.com](http://www.waitakinz.com)

**Ezispak-** a translation service  
[www.ezispak.nz](http://www.ezispak.nz)



WAITAKI  
MULTICULTURAL



Waitaki  
Newcomers Network  
Connecting People