Ophir Info

January 2022

The Tatler

Val Butcher (Motor Mouth)

Well so far this month nobody has fallen over, been run over, arrested or disappeared so that is an excellent start for 2022. Those four options you have avoided. However the down side is you have eaten too much, drunk too much and not adhered to your New Year resolutions. How do I know. I didn't do all this stuff by myself I had company. I just can't remember who's.

If our community continues to have sell out shows like Mercury Rising we will be the Las Vegas of the South. Despite the crowded venue the entertainer managed to come down into the audience and involve them in the show always a winner. I think getting people up and dancing at the end also made it a great evening as everyone will have gone home buzzing. I did. Congratulations all involved.

Also this month in the hall was a gathering of film buffs to watch the movie "Chocolat". They just happen to drink gin and eat chocolate They were also celebrating with Heather Worth her new job. Heather leaves on February 9th for Rarotonga on a years contract as Director of the Cook Islands Research and Policy Centre at the University of the South Pacific. She will be sorely missed by us all as she has been a great addition to this village and not just because she was making the gin. The good news is that she is leaving her still behind for her Second Lieutenant to carry on the good work till she gets back. Who is her Second Lieutenant. My lips are sealed but I am easily bribed for a small price which will be relative to the information given.

Henry Querel turned 6 years old on the 18th of this month. Happy Birthday Henry. You are a lovely young man.

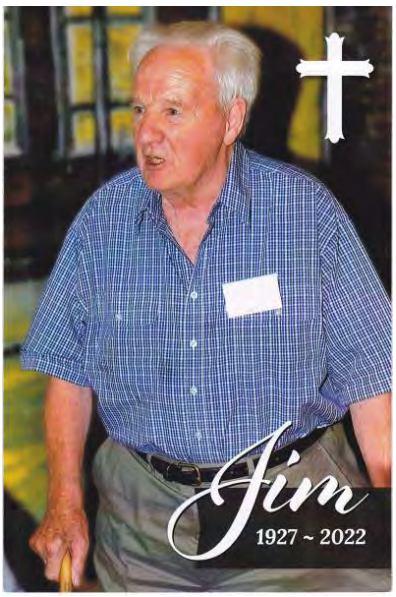
Covid has reared its ugly head again so the general feeling is that we ring fence our village and only allow dogs, cats and boyfriends in because they will be impossible to keep out. But they must wear masks and show their credentials!

Keep safe and enjoy the rest of the summer.

Eulogy

Herman (Jim) Jannink 1937 - Jan 2022

Sam Leask, with help from Gordon Jannink



Herman Jannink was born in the Haig, Holland, in 1937 and grew up there with 9 siblings. As a young man he trained as a Blacksmith and engineer. He joined the Dutch air force and after training in England was sent to Indonesia (Then a Dutch Colony) as an armourer. Jim was cut off from his homeland and family in Indonesia. After the war Jim contacted his father in Holland who told him Holland was completely pillaged by the Nazis and

he would be better off to stay out there in the Pacific. Jim was given the choice of 3 countries to immigrate to and he chose New Zealand.

He arrived in NZ in the late 1940's as an assisted immigrant and had to work 2 years on NZ farms before he could apply for NZ citizenship. Jim came to Roxburgh first where he worked milking cows for the Kinaston family. In the early 1950's he moved to Matakanui Station as a cowman and general farm hand under Mr Bill Scoular. Mr Scoular took a liking to Jim and assisted him to start a Blacksmith business in the area.

Jim Jannink was a real icon in this district and as well as being friendly and a caring bloke he had a real interest in the community and there wouldn't be any club or committee in the whole district that he didn't influence in some helpful way.

Jim started out on his own in the Ophir Blacksmith shop which was right behind the Old Blacks Hotel right where the street turns halfway up. Both these buildings are now gone, and a nice Oamaru stone house occupies the site. After a good start there he soon moved to new premises in Omakau and formed his company Central Otago Implement Exchange. He rented a house off my father Ken Leask for some years and lived there with his first wife Nancy. Shortly after Gordon was born, he bought Coulson's old house which had been originally the Bank of New South Wales. Unfortunately, Nancy passed away with leukaemia and Gordon was sent to live with his grandparents in Tapanui. Jim then was forced to plan his next steps and 3 years later he married Phyllis Heaney who came from the Cromwell area. Gordon then came home, and they went onto have 3 more sons, Anthony, Christopher and Phillip.

Jim and Phyllis did the old home up quite extensively and really turned the place into a comfortable home. This is where the Jannink family lived for 45 years. It is very ironic that this house was destroyed in a fire during a gale of wind in September last year, so now they are both gone.

Jim Jannink in the 1960's in partnership with a prominent local farmer started up an agricultural contracting business doing all sorts of cultivation, ploughing work and cutting and baling hay. He later moved into heading and selling wheat. These business moves were very successful and went on for nearly 20 years until they were taken over by others in the community or phased out by farming changing methods. Jim's Engineering Business is still going strong today under the ownership of Steve and Kim Hore.

Jim was always a great supporter of the community in which he lived, and he was a foundation member of the Ophir Welfare Committee in 1957. He was its President from 1961 till 1963, 1973-1988, 1997, total of 18 years. He served on the committee for most other years till about 2000.

He was on the Blacks School committee for many years and was still there when the school closed in 1975. There are no records as they have been lost but he would have been chairman at times for sure.

Jim was also on the Ophir town water committee back in the days when the water was pumped from the Ophir channel (an open creek) to the reservoir, above where the council tanks are today. This was on a roster system and each person had their turn at starting the pump to fill the reservoir. Jim was an important person as his expertise was called on lots to keep the old pump going. He had many welding jobs, when someone didn't drain the pump!

In 1999 Ophir township was picked as the host town for the Goldfields Cavalcade. As well as promoting the town for the event Jim was on the organising committee. He served as our treasurer and mark my words you could search for 100 years and never find a better treasurer; everything was run meticulously and even with a washed-out day we still managed to bank $7000.00 for the district.

Jim was also a formative member of the Omakau Volunteer Fire Brigade in 1957 where he would have fought many local fires. He was instrumental in fighting Harry Oatens Omakau shop fire where he and his mates saved the Post Office and BNZ with only garden hoses and buckets. He spent 11 years in the Fire Brigade retiring in 1968. Quite a good effort.

Jim was a member of Omakau Musical Society in the 1950s where he spent a few happy years supporting the local productions. He was able to join us all for a grand final reunion of the society in 2015. He was not a keen singer, but if you ever heard him sing the Old Dutch Love song. "Sailor Stop You're roaming "in his native tongue you were very pleasantly surprised.

Phyllis too was on the Ophir Hall Committee for over 20years. When Jim retired to Alexandra 20 years ago the town lost a real stalwart of the community for over the years, he would have had a big influence on the way the community was run and shaped the town into the great little town it is today.

As an engineer, Jim could fix anything and anything he couldn't fix would not be worth fixing anyway.

Jim was a charter member of the Omakau and District Lions Club. He was President for a term and was many years their Treasurer and secretary for a time. At the age of 78 years, he resigned in 2006 after 29 years of service. He was a committee member of the Central Otago A&P Association for many years, more than I can remember and was President in 1967-1968 years. Jim was also made a life member of the Association.

The Omakau Domain Board also had Jim's service on its management of the Domain for many years.

They say you must live in a district 20 years, to become a local Jim did miles better than that as the name Jannink became synonymous with Ophir especially when Gordon, Ant, Rock, and Phil came on the scenes and when anyone mentioned Ophir you naturally thought of Jannink.

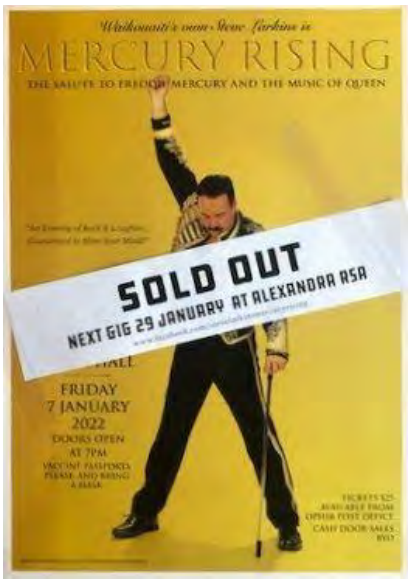
When Jim retired in 1995, he was given a Community Service award by the Central Otago District Council for all the work he had done for the Community.

On behalf of the Ophir Community, I would like to pass on our sincere condolences to Gordon, Ant, Chris, and Phil and your families.

Jim was a great friend of our family as he was of most families in the district. He has left the district so much richer by choosing Ophir as his New Zealand home and all of us are richer by having known him. Farewell Jim and may you take a well-earned rest.

Mercury Rising Raises the Roof

Ophir Hall Committee



Congratulations to all involved (with special thanks to James Columb for getting the ball rolling, Gary Stewart for tickets and promotion, Peter Lorimer and Troy Anderson for technical and sound support) in organising this amazing gig. Steve Larkins put on a very polished performance ... a real salute to Freddie Mercury. The hall rocked!

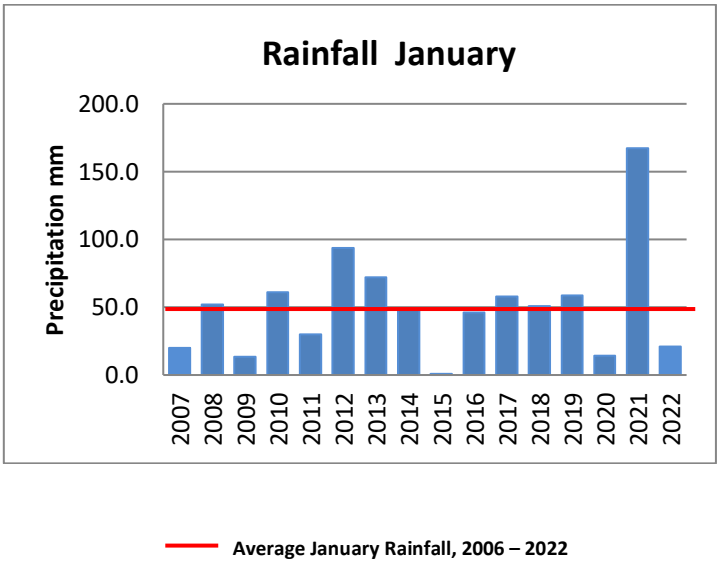
And not only that, a whopping $2380 profit was raised which was donated to the Ophir Hall Committee ... AWESOME job much appreciated.

Steve Larkins delivers a polished performance as Freddie Mercury in Mercury Rising Ophir Peace Memorial Hall, January 2022

Ophir Community Annual Pétanque Tournament and Long BBQ Lunch

Ophir Welfare Committee

Unfortunately had to be postponed due to the current Covid Protection Framework of Red "traffic light" across the country, making the running of the tournament and lunch while following the guidelines difficult. We will reschedule this popular community event for Labour Weekend.



For those of you with an eagle eye, yes the weather graphs this year are from 2007 – 2022 to fit the column however the average will still include 2006.

Central App News Item

The Central App published a news item this week "Ophir Community's perseverance pays off" about the "perseverance from many in the tiny community to complete a major bathroom makeover at their town hall".

A great little article giving credit to the volunteers for making the project possible ... so once again a big shoutout to all that helped.

You should download this app if you don't already have it but can also access the article by googling "Ophir Community's perseverance pays off"

The Weather

Sam Leask

This month was a big contrast to December where it was cool and wet. January started the year 2022 off with hot and dry conditions ... the hills drying out fast and the Manuherikia River really low.

The average daytime temperature was 4°C hotter than this time last year with the average night-time temperatures about 1°C warmer.

Data for January 2022:

Maximum Temp:	32.3°C	Tuesday 18th
Minimum Temp:	0.5°C	Thursday 13th
Rain/Precipitation:	21.0 mm	