

WELCOME TO KARAMEA



On the north-west corner of the great South Island of New Zealand lies the beautiful little seaside community of Karamea. The wider township includes Corbyvale, Little Wanganui, Market Cross, North Beach and Kohaihai. Karamea is a vibrant region, and enjoys a temperate, sub-tropical climate. The main industries are dairy, tourism and horticulture. There are also many entrepreneurial businesses running in the area. Leisure activities include fishing, camping, mountaineering, caving, hunting, river rafting, tramping, white-baiting, biking and relaxing.



The town boasts a seaside golf course, airport, grocery, hardware store, recycled clothing & gallery, restaurants, cafes, motels, backpackers, service garage and centrally located Information Centre complete with fuel pumps. A well-managed museum holds most of the historic information and artifacts from and about the region. Capable emergency services such as the Karamea-Little Wanganui Fire Brigade, St. John Ambulance and Medical Centre support the health and well-being of the community.

There are many clubs and organisations to keep people socially involved and interconnected. Organisations include the local Arts Council, arts & crafts groups, Plunket, Bowling Club, Golf Club, Axemen's Club, Calf Day Committee and Christmas in the Park Committee, just to name a few

The region is serviced educationally by the Karamea Area School and School Board and regional library. Playcentres in central Karamea and Little Wanganui provide activities for children and their parents. A community news letter, the Karamea Chronicle, the Karamea Community Website and a community radio station provide news, music and entertainment on a local level. Karamea has a little something for everyone who desires a better way of living and a break from the external demands of faster-paced districts.

Local Government

The Karamea region falls under the jurisdiction of the Buller District Council as well as the wider West Coast Regional Council. Karamea is currently represented by Rosalie Sampson and Fred Ratahi who are elected from voters in the northern 'Seddon Ward'. Rosalie lives in Karamea and Fred lives in Granity.

Councils are made up of members of the public elected in local authority elections held every three years. The Council is led by the Mayor, who provides leadership and direction to the council and community, and chairs the meetings. Elected representatives represent and lead the community, setting policy, making decisions in the best interests of their communities. The Buller District Council consists of 11 elected members, the Mayor and ten Councillors. The district is divided into three wards - Seddon (2 elected representatives), Westport (6 elected representatives) and Inangahua (2 elected representatives). The Mayor is elected at large.

Buller District Council

Brougham Street, PO Box 21

Westport 7825

Free Phone: 0800 807 239

Phone: (03) 788 9111

Email: customerservice@bdc.govt.nz

www.bullerdc.govt.nz/main/contactus

www.bullerdc.govt.nz

Buller District Mayor: Pat McManus

Home Ph: 03 789 7013

Email: mayor@bdc.govt.nz

Karamea Councillor: Rosalie Sampson

Home Ph: 03 782 6745

Email: peterandrosalie@xtra.co.nz

Frequently Used Phone Numbers

(A complete local phone directory is available at the Information Centre, Market Cross.)

Emergency (ambulance/doctor/police) 111

Karamea Information Centre 782 6652

Karamea Medical Centre 782 6710

Karamea Police Station 782 6801

Karamea Area School 782 6717

Bakers Creek Automotive (WoF) 782 6949

Karamea Transport Ltd. 782 6110

Karamea Express Shuttle 782 6757

Karamea Four Square 782 6701

Karamea Hardware Store 782 6700

and Post Office

Electrician(s) John Lodge 782 6868

Stu Mollison 782 6909

Mowing/Gardens Brett Mawson 782 6174

Buller Pharmacy 03 789 7629

Market Cross Hours: 9-5 wkdays 9-12 wkends

Waverley St. Hours: 9-5 wkdays varies wkends

Wharf Rd.

Waverley St. Hours: 9-4 wkdays

Oparara Rd. Hours: 9-5 wkdays 9-12 Sat

Market Cross Hours: 9-5 (varies) 7 days

Market Cross Hours: 9-5 wkdays 9-12 wkends

Oparara Road

Little Wanganui

Umere Rd.

Palmerston St., Westport

Population (2006 Census)

Karamea Area

Male 324

Female 300

Total 624

West Coast Region

15,909

15,417

31,326

Climate

Karamea enjoys a sub-tropical climate more attuned to the Nelson-Tasman region than the rest of the West Coast, evidenced by lush groves of nikau palms and thriving subtropical plantings. Rainfall is higher than many other areas of New Zealand, to which Karamea attributes its lush, green (rain-forest bush) landscape. However, rainfall is lower than much of the rest of the west coast. Much sunshine is one of Karamea's best-kept secrets! Rainfall averages around 2000mm per year on the coastal areas with increasing rainfall closer to the hills. This rainfall occurs reasonably well spread over the year. Because of where Karamea is situated, the weather can often be an average of the forecasts of the Buller and Nelson regions.

West Coast Average Temperatures (°Celcius)

Summer:	(Dec - Feb)	12-25°
Autumn:	(March - May)	9-17°
Winter:	(June - August)	5-15°
Spring:	(Sept - Nov)	9-17°

History of Karamea

In the mid-eighteen hundreds explorers Charles Heaphy and James Mackay spent much effort exploring the northern west coast for signs of early indigenous culture. Evidence of oven remains, adzes, beds of pipi shells and a half-finished canoe indicate regular Māori occupation of the region. The discovery of a moa-hunter site at the Heaphy River in 1960 suggests that Māori occupation of the area began about 1500. Bones of the extinct giant New Zealand Haast Eagle (Māori name 'Hokioi') have been found in the caving systems of Karamea.

On November 3rd, 1874, 4000 acres of land on the south side of the Karamea River were set aside and reserved by for a special settlement. The land made available to European settlers in Karamea was on a high terrace, which turned out to be poor agricultural land. The settlers eventually relocated to the more fertile flats of the Karamea River.

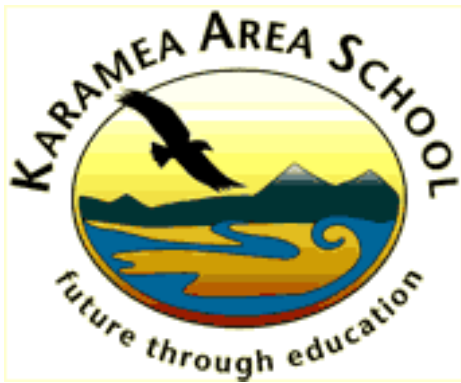
In its early days Karamea was a port town, the river mouths being deep enough to accommodate shipping vessels. The first bridge crossing the Karamea River, connecting the Karamea region by land to the rest of the West Coast, was not built until 1895. The present route over the Karamea Bluffs to Westport was not opened until 1916. After the 1929 Murchison earthquake the mouth of the Karamea River silted up, and access to the area was then only by road.

Agriculture and logging were largely at subsistence levels until the road to Westport was opened. The first co-operative butter factory was opened in 1911. The dairy industry gradually expanded, and the manufacture of milk powder started in the 1970s. Logging has ended with the establishment of the Kahurangi national park. By the 80's and 90's tourism had filled some gaps in Karamea's economy, drawing travellers and holiday-makers from all over.

Local News Sources

The Chronicle	Community Website	Hardware Store Bulletin Board	Karamea Radio
The Messenger	Westport News	Public Forums and Workshops	Public Emails
The Canary (<i>Karamea Area School Newsletter</i>)			

Karamea Community Website address: www.karamea.org.nz



Karamea Area School caters for students from school entry to year 13. KAS is an isolated, rural school situated in beautiful surroundings near the gateway to the Kahurangi National Park. A history of sound financial management has resulted in the school being very well resourced, and the envy of other teachers who visit. From 2010 the BOT, through the principal, will channel resourcing into developing modern learning environments. This includes the fixed installation of data projectors in every classroom. Currently all primary classrooms have networked and internet capable computers. A pod of 12 MAC laptops were purchased in 2009. This supplements the pod of 5 IMACS that the year 5-8 students can access.



Playcentre is an early childhood education service, run co-operatively by member families, provides a positive early childhood education option relevant to the New Zealand setting. Parents, with appropriate training and support, can expand their skills and make a positive, professional contribution to high quality early childhood education services.

Address: Waverley Street (next to Karamea Area School)

Sessions: Mon & Wed 9:30 am – 12:00 noon

Phone: Kim Donovan 7826 994 or Judith Smith 7826 863

A Few Local Social Clubs, Committees and Groups

Karamea Rural Women

Joelle Fox 7826-788

Little Wanganui Hall Committee

Janice & Stu Kulsen 7826 941

Karamea War Memorial Library Committee

Judith Stopforth 7826 873

Karamea Swimming Club

Jenny Roumieu 7826 033

Karamea Weaving Group

Carrie Snowden 7826 015

Karamea Film Club

Hamish Macbeth 7826 888

Karamea Market Day Group

Anne Smith 7826 006

Karamea/Little Wanganui Axemen's Club

Barry Chalmers 7826 749

Karamea Bowling Club

Peter Langford 7826 650

Karamea Community Arts Council

Paul Murray 7826 767

Karamea Historical Society Committee

Dulcie McNabb 7826 698

Karamea Playcentre Committee

Judith Smith 7826 863

Karamea Area School PTA

Jennifor Hislop 7826 041

Karamea Tennis Club

Pete Moynihan 7826 865

Karamea Golf Club Inc.

Jill Waines 7826 693

Over 60's Social Group

Judith Stopforth 7826 873

Karamea Refuse Facility & Recycling

Located on Oparara Road, approximately 2 kilometres north of the central Market Cross intersection, the Karamea Refuse Facility is run three days a week, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. (There is no curb side rubbish pick-up in Karamea.) Some waste disposal incurs a cost at the gate. But with thoughtful recycling most waste can be dropped off free of charge. The local Tip Manager, Tex Franken, can explain and advise newcomers about how this works.

Tip Hours: 3 days per week Wed 9am-4pm Fri 9am-4pm Sun 9am-12 noon

Karamea Information & Resource Centre

This publicly owned and run facility provides traveller advice as well as useful information for residents. Located in the heart of Market Cross the Centre is also a gift shop and a CRT satellite store. Maps and history books about the region are also available. **Phone 782 6652 Hours: 9-5 wkdays 9-12 wkends**

Karamea Medical Centre

The medical centre maintains a professional staff and up-to-date facilities. A doctor is on hand 3 days a week and two nurses are on deck throughout the week. Visits generally by appointment.

Phone: 782 6710 Address: Waverley St. Hours: 9-5 wkdays (varies wkends)

Public Domain and Sports Fields

Large, maintained sports fields are located behind the Karamea Area School on Waverley Street. There is also a small camping area within the domain for travellers to take advantage of. The fields are used by the school as well as young and old alike for personal activities.

Public Swimming Pool

Just left of the Karamea Area School on Waverley Street is a public outdoor swimming pool. The pool has changing facilities, showers and bathrooms and operates largely during the warmer months. It is overseen by a local pool committee. **Contact: Jenny Roumieu 782 6033**

Public Tennis Courts

To the right of the Karamea Area School on Waverley Street are public tennis courts. They are occasionally used by the school as well as the local tennis group. The courts are free to use by everyone in the community. **Contact: Pete Moynihan 782 6865**

Senior Resources & Services

There are two groups that cater to our seniors, one is the Rural Women's Group, the second is the Over 60's Social Group. Both are listed in the summary listing of clubs earlier in this brochure.

Two pensioner flats exist in the community and are presently occupied. The potential for building additional units is being investigated. Two care-givers operate in the Karamea-Little Wanganui region to look after those older folk in need of special, extra care. **Joelle Fox Ph: 782 6788 Nova Scarlett Ph: 782 6 781**

Public Services

Aside from local social clubs and groups the region benefits from two Fire Service Brigades (Karamea and Little Wanganui), a well-appointed Medical Centre, a St. John ambulance service, a Search & Rescue team and a Civil Defence organisation of community volunteers.

Employment

There are only a handful of employers in Karamea. They do not require large numbers of staff and often the work is seasonal. The Tomato Glasshouse employs part-time staff and many farmers and growers require labourers and woofers on an as-needed basis. The local tourism operators often need part-time help in the area of hospitality and cleaning.

Annual Events

A number of annual events are regularly scheduled for the community such as: Christmas in the Park, Little Wanganui Beach Day, Breeders Day, Solstice Music Festival and the White-Baiter's Ball.

Saturday Market

Except during the winter months the Saturday Morning Market, held on the R.S.A. lawn, is a favourite community activity on a weekly basis. Locals sell their wares, from breads, preserves, clothing, antiques, books and more. Anyone is welcome to set up a table and have a go.

Buller R.E.A.P.

REAP (Rural Education Activities Programmes) is a long-standing support service in the Buller District. Buller REAP is an Education and Community service provider who empowers people by encouraging well being, knowledge, respect and trust through its relationship with the whole community by providing support, values, learning and services for life's needs. REAP provides a cradle-to-the-grave educational resource to rural communities, implementing a life-long learning approach.

Rates

Homeowners' rates are set and collected by the Buller District Council in Westport. Council's general rates are based on the land valuation of the property plus a Uniform Annual General Charge (if applicable). Further charges are made for employment projects and services (water supply, sewage disposal, refuse collection and recycling) depending on the situation of the individual property and the ratepayer involved.

Council's rating year is 1 July to 30 June. There are four quarterly instalments covering the periods

July - September

October – December

January - March

April - June

Vehicle Warrant of Fitness

Road-use motorised vehicles must be warranted every 6 months.

In Karamea contact Baker's Creek Automotive 7826 949 79 Oparara Loop Road

Voter Registration and Elections

New Zealand is a democratic country in which the members of parliament (MPs) and local bodies (Mayors and Councillors) are chosen in free and fair elections. Citizens and permanent residents who are aged 18 years and over are required to enrol to vote, though voting is not compulsory. New Zealand also has sub-national elected government bodies including territorial local authorities, district health boards and school boards of trustees. Local body elections are also held every three years. The next 3-yearly elections for the various local and ad hoc authorities are to be held Saturday, October 9, 2010. These elections will see members elected using the First Past the Post (FPP) method, ie the highest number of votes wins. For more information on elections and voting, go to: www.elections.org.nz.

For further local information please direct all enquiries to the Electoral Officer:

Phone: (03) 788 9111

Fax: (03) 788 8041

Email: info@bdc.govt.nz

In person: Brougham House, 6-8 Brougham Street, Westport

By post: Electoral Officer, Buller District Council, PO Box 21, Westport 7866

Water Usage

Most homes in the Karamea area rely upon rain catchment tanks as a source of water for washing, drinking and other uses. This usually requires the use of an electric pump to bring water pressure to the house. A few residences have artesian well water sources. There is no public, in-ground water supply.

Worship

There are two churches in Karamea, the Catholic Church (Buller St. Canices Parish) and the Karamea Holy Trinity Community Church (Anglican/Combined Churches). Both are located along Waverley Street. Sunday Services.

Club House and R.S.A. Rentals

A variety of halls and public spaces are available for public use, by reservation and fee.

The RSA, in Market Cross, can be booked through Sarah Robinson:	7826 003
The Bowls Club rooms, Waverley Street, can be booked through Roy Galway:	7826 734
The Golf Club rooms, Oparara Rd., can be booked by contacting Jill Waines:	7826 693
The Little Wanganui Hall, next to fire station, can be booked through Jenny Smith:	7826 732

Dog Ownership & Registration

If you keep a dog then it must be registered. Puppies are required to be registered at 3months of age and thereafter before 31st July each year. Dogs can be registered at Buller District Council offices at Westport during regular business hours of: 8.30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Registered dogs moving into the district receive free registration for the remainder of the registration year provided the owner produces proof of current registration.

Dog Registration Fees 2009/2010:

Entire Dogs: \$90.00 De-sexed Dogs: \$78.00 Dangerous Dogs: \$117.00

Emergency Preparedness Civil Defence



Emergency preparedness is a personal responsibility. Civil Defence information can be found on the inside cover of your phone book. These Internet websites are helpful:

www.survive-it.co.nz www.civildefence.govt.nz www.getthru.govt.nz

In an emergency, these radio stations may broadcast information to advise & assist:

Coast FM 93.5 Scenicland AM 1287 Karamea Community Radio FM 107.5



CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Subject to Regular Changes - Updated annually

CD Emergency Ops Centre	782 6852 fax: 782 6639	DOC, Waverley St. or Dairy Factory
Karamea Fire Service:	782 6754	Waverley St.
Little Wanganui Fire Service :	782 6739	Main Rd.
Karamea D.O.C. :	782 6852	Waverley St.
Karamea Police/Constable :	782 6801	Wharf Rd.
Karamea St. Johns Ambulance:	111	Waverley St.
Medical Staff:	782 6710	Waverley St.
Karamea CD Wardens:		Area of Responsibility
Graeme Quinn Chief Warden	782 6855	Waverley St.,(tavern end)
Keith Frankish Chief Warden & Rescue Coordinator	782 6040	3946 Kongahu Straight
Reub (Bill) Simpson	782 6793	North Beach
Harold Simpson	782 6795	North Beach
Ron Taylor	782 6796	Umere
Phil Murrell	782 6653	Rongo Motels
Daniel Vos	782 6711	Market Cross
Warren Lowe	782 6856	Aerodrome/Oparara Rd.
Pat Jones	782 6799	Oparara Back Road
Darren Heal	782 6959	Arapito
Kelvin Simkin	782 6722	Arapito
Alan Sanders	782 6638	South Terrace
Tex Franken	782 6871	Otumahana
Harry Heslan	782 6670	Granite Creek Valley
Brian Jones	782 6704	Granite Creek Bridge
Jack Wilkes	782 6834	Kongahu Straight
Leigh Kees	782 6845	Wangapeka Valley
Little Wanganui CD Wardens:		
Geoff Volckman	782 6895	Little Wanganui Bridge
Tony Johnson	782 6891	Little Wanganui Township
Bill Craig	782 6851	Little Wanganui Sub-division
Corbyvale CD Warden:	Ray Maybee 782 6696	Corbyvale