

22 December 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa / Greetings to you all

It has been a journey getting to this point, but we are very pleased to share that we have reached the project milestone to [‘Reopen the Cemetery’](#) to the public!



*Before and after*



*Before and after*



*Before, during, and after*

A whakatuwhera reopening ceremony was held on Thursday 21 December to acknowledge the milestone in the Queenstown Cemetery restoration. Over 100 community members gathered on Brecon Street to share this important moment and hear from mana whenua, the Mayor, QLDC reps, and local waiata groups from Ngā Manu Hou and QLDC. The ceremony can be viewed [here](#).



*Paulette Tamati-Elliffe with Kāi Tahu opens the cemetery to the community once again (above)*

Significant thanks were given to the Mike Hurring Logging and Contracting team for the incredible achievement of clearing the cemetery of debris. Dunedin Monumental Masons were also recognised for their work to reset headstones and for contributing cleaning materials to tidy the headstones following the ceremony. Families, community members, and the QLDC Parks staff all contributed to the headstone cleaning and white roses were placed on every impacted grave. A huge thank you to everyone who came to the ceremony as well as assisted in the cleaning of monuments!



*Mayor Glyn Lewers shares words of thanks (above)*



*Ngā Manu Hou and QLDC waiata groups welcome the community back into the cemetery (above)*

While the cemetery will be open over the Christmas and New Year's holiday, further works will be required early in the new year. More logs and debris will be removed from above the cemetery, and a period of grass remediation will be scheduled in. Both of these activities will require the impacted area of the cemetery to be once again temporarily closed, but this will be communicated to everyone prior.



*Fencing remains at the top of the cemetery around the debris still to be removed (above)*

A cordon system is also still active in the event of heavy rain fall which will result in the closure of the cemetery reserve. For these reasons, the temporary fencing around the impacted area of the cemetery will remain in place.

The final task in the restoration of the cemetery will be the repair and establishment of the historic stone wall located at the top of the cemetery. This is tentatively scheduled to happen in March 2024.



*Debris remains above cemetery and the stone wall will need to be repaired (above)*

We thank everyone for their kindness and patience shown during the entire restoration process. We will continue to provide updates and communications until the cemetery works, and the clearance works in the Ben Lomond Reserve, are completely finished.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season, and as always, if anyone has questions or concerns, I am just an email or phone call away so please get in touch anytime!

Ngā mihi nui / thank you so much!

Tarsy