

# Scuttlebutt

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // DEC 2020/JAN 2021 // ISSUE 140

It's been a long and challenging year for all of us. But with 2020 drawing to a close, and a long hot, summer ahead, we hope you're able to take the opportunity to reflect and refresh with family and friends and explore what our beautiful district has to offer.



**MERI KIRIHIMETE!**

FROM THE WHOLE TEAM  
AT QUEENSTOWN LAKES  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## Here we are at the end of a challenging year.

2020 started with widespread water restrictions in January followed closely by a significant rainfall event that caused road closures locally and significant damage further afield in Milford and Southland.

None of us could have foreseen what was just around the corner.

On 28 February New Zealand's first case of COVID-19 was announced and it wasn't long after the Government was announcing border restrictions, a full border closure and news that New Zealand would go into a full lockdown. Everything changed almost overnight. International tourists were gone. Our migrant and business community faced unprecedented uncertainty and the case numbers were rising rapidly.

However, in the face of adversity, this community pulled together like no other and I couldn't be prouder. I want to take a moment to thank every single person who played a role in the COVID-19 response and for the sacrifices made by one and all to keep our community safe. I spent a lot of my time over this period lobbying government to ensure we had what we needed to stay afloat, including support for our migrant workers.

On a more positive note, in June the Prime Minister announced \$85 million in funding so we could get moving on our Queenstown Town Centre arterial road and street upgrades. While we weren't successful in obtaining funding for other shovel ready projects in the district, this did and will continue to provide a much needed boost.

Since then we've strengthened our partnership with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and established an alliance to deliver these projects as well a number of new walking and cycling trails and public transport improvements funded under the NZ Upgrade Programme. This highlights a collective commitment to providing a boost to our local economy and creating jobs.

Meanwhile our capital works programme has been full steam ahead with a number of major three waters projects either underway or about to start (you can read about these on the major projects section of the website). Our recovery programme is making outstanding inroads into supporting creative ideas for economic diversification and community wellbeing.

We're taking our commitment to zero waste seriously and supporting a range of community zero waste initiatives, not to mention our bold changes to the kerbside and public place recycling system to align with New Zealand's commitment to move away from hard-to-recycle plastics and to contribute towards better regulation of the international trade in plastic waste.

Our work on a spatial plan is continuing along with a huge effort to produce a draft Ten Year Plan that is affordable and delivers on some key priorities such as investment in three waters, roading infrastructure, our commitment to delivering on the Climate Action Plan, upgrading community facilities and much more. However this investment must be considered through the lens of a constrained environment. Like many others across the country, Council has experienced significantly reduced revenues with the loss of tourism related income - down by at least 50% - the loss of the projected \$5.8M dividend from Queenstown Airport Corporation, income from development contributions down \$4.5M and other user fees such as parking, consenting, sport and recreation down at least 20%. In total we estimate our revenue to be down by \$17.9M this year. Last year during the Annual Plan Consultation we had signaled an average rates increase of 6.76% in the district. Despite a hefty loss in income, we worked extremely hard to significantly reduce the average rates increase closer to the current rate of inflation of only 1.8%.

Subject to Council approval, we'll be formally consulting on both of these important documents in March 2021. I urge you to keep an eye out for details and take part.

This year has certainly delivered its fair share of challenges, but we have tackled them together. While the summer season might look a little different to usual, I wish you all a restful holiday period and hope you can take the opportunity to rest, reflect and recharge. Look after yourselves and check in on friends and colleagues. For some, the financial and emotional pressure on families and business will be immense. And if you are one of the many folk that keep this district humming for our summer visitors, thanks for your sacrifice and for sharing our places with pride.

**Mayor Jim Boulton**

# Check it's alright before you light this summer

In the last decade, 65% of New Zealand's wildfires have been caused by the unintended spreading of embers from agricultural burns, cooking and campfires.

An uncontrollable fire can take hold quickly, and is often caused by sudden winds or people not putting a fire out properly after its use.

If you're planning to light a fire this summer, there are a few key steps to take to ensure your safety and to reduce the risk of a wildfire running rampant through our district.

Our number one tip is to always check it's alright before you light with Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). They have information on current fire seasons and will help to clarify whether you're allowed to light a fire in your area.

It's also important to check the forecast and make sure there aren't strong winds expected. A simple campfire on a windy day can quickly spread and pose serious risk to people, animals and the environment.

When you're done with a campfire, place the back of your hand above it to detect any heat left in the embers. Rake the embers apart, allowing any remaining heat to dissipate, and flood them with water then stir the water and embers down into the soil.

A restricted fire season is now in place. This means no fires without a permit. For full details, including info about the use of backyard fires and bbqs, head to [checkitsalright.nz](http://checkitsalright.nz)

Our district has a high risk of fire. There are a number of areas under a total fire ban all year round. **This means no open-air fires or fireworks at any time:**

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# New trails proposed for Wakatipu – have your say!

Would improved trails in your neighbourhood encourage you to ditch the car and hop on your bike?

Way to Go (a partnership between Queenstown Lakes District Council, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and Otago Regional Council) is designing a network of over 80km of pathways across the Wakatipu Basin. The pathways will provide for active travel, whether by foot, bike, e-scooter or e-bike.

Although there is already a significant network of trails throughout the Wakatipu Basin, they are mostly used by recreational users and tourists. To give locals and visitors genuine choice in how they move about the Wakatipu Basin and encourage more people to cycle or walk, particularly for commuting purposes, we're planning several new pathways

as well as upgrades and improvements to some existing trails.

The work will build upon and fill some gaps in the existing trail network, providing better connections to new and emerging communities. The network of pathways will connect key destinations such as Arrowtown, Arthurs Point, Kelvin Heights, Jacks Point, Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country, Fernhill, Frankton and Queenstown.

#### **Your feedback is important!**

It will help us to improve facilities for walking and cycling in the Wakatipu. It's important to know whether the routes and

types of paths we're proposing will meet community needs and offer a genuine alternative for getting from A to B.

Check out all the details at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) and have your say online!

Feedback closes  
27 January  
2021



# Taking a dip this summer?

As the summer heat starts to take hold, sometimes the only way to cool off is with a quick dip in your nearest lake or river. And here in the Queenstown Lakes District we're spoilt for choice.

But before you slap on that sunscreen and take to the water for sweet, sweet relief, we'd recommend checking the 'Can I Swim Here?' section of the LAWA (Land Air Water Aotearoa) website to see the latest weekly water quality results.

From 1 December 2020 through to 31 March 2021, LAWA collects data on water quality and these details will help you understand whether it's safe to swim at your favourite spot.

Water quality is prone to change, and even sites with historically excellent water quality can see bacteria spike as a result of heavy rainfall washing contaminants from urban and rural land into waterways.

As a result, it's recommended to avoid swimming for two to three days after heavy rainfall, and checking the 'Can I Swim Here?' data to help determine whether you're safe to take a dip, or whether you should settle for a cold shower and shade instead.

As a general rule of thumb, if you can't see your feet when standing knee deep, it's not advisable to swim. And always avoid any contact with algal scum.

For more details on water quality at a spot near you, head to [www.lawa.org.nz/swim](http://www.lawa.org.nz/swim)

## Help protect our precious lakes and rivers

Invasive aquatic pests like Lagarosiphon, Didymo and Lake Snow may threaten the future of our lakes and rivers. Weeds and algae are very fast growing and easily spread by boats, anglers and sports equipment. All boaties have a part to play in protecting our precious lakes and rivers.

**Always CHECK, CLEAN AND DRY your gear and footwear between waterways.**

**Remember, if it's wet it's a threat.**

For further information or to report concerns about waterweeds contact the Otago Regional Council at 0800 474 082 or visit [www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)



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# From the Chambers

There's always plenty going on at our Council and Committee meetings. Here's a snapshot of some recent happenings.

## CHOICE OF ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND MĀORI WARDS

The Council decided at its meeting in early September to keep the First Past the Post system for its elections, rather than adopting the Single Transferable Vote option. The biggest advantage of First Past the Post is its familiarity and simplicity. By contrast the Single Transferable Vote system requires voters to rank candidates in their preferred order, resulting in a type of proportional representation.

At the same meeting the Council also resolved not to establish a Māori ward in the district. This was largely because the number of people enrolled on the Māori electoral roll in the district is not large enough at present to reach the necessary threshold, but clearly the position could change with future population increases.

Both questions can be revisited at any time if a petition containing the signatures of 5% of electors demands a poll on changing the electoral system or establishing a Māori ward.

## BEST PAW FORWARD FOR THE DISTRICT'S DOGS

Every year, the Council must report on its dog control policies and practices. The latest report was presented at the Council meeting held on 8 October 2020 and highlighted some great work to manage the district's pooches. In the past financial year there was a 7.05% increase in the number of registered dogs in the district (5,388 in 2019/20 compared with 5,033 in 2018/19). Despite this growth, the number of complaints was down from 1,161 in 2018-19 to 1,050 in 2019-20 which is a shift from past trends where complaints have typically increased by about 5% annually. The animal control team attributes the district's more disciplined doggies to some of its community initiatives including proactive patrols and educational posters, education at primary schools, poo bag dispensers, guidance around fireworks and dogs in hot cars as well as the first community dog walk. Thanks to our dog owners and animal control team for the hard work keeping our canine friends in such good shape.

## WORKING DAY CLOCK TO STOP TICKING FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Everyone needs a bit of a rest after the pressures of the year. For most of the principal local government pieces of legislation (Local Government Act, RMA, Building Act) 'working days' exclude any day between 20 December 2020 and 10 January 2021. So if you're waiting on a decision or lodging an application, make sure you factor in the holiday period.



# Artificial turf the real deal

A new artificial multisport turf at Queenstown Events Centre will soon serve the booming local demand for sports like hockey and football.



The proposed full-sized hockey turf will also be used as separate, smaller areas for junior games and training as well as other sports and fitness boot camps.



A main contractor will be appointed in the New Year before the detailed design and timings are confirmed.



Stay up to date on this project at [www.qldc.govt.nz/qec-artificial-turf](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/qec-artificial-turf)

*Artist's impression of a new artificial turf soon to be built at Queenstown Events Centre.*



# 'Tis the season for camping

Although international travel restrictions are still in place due to COVID-19, we're still expecting a busy local camping season this summer and are gearing up to once again help promote responsible and sustainable camping across the district.

\$509,000 of funding from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) will go towards educating campers, monitoring behaviour and enforcement where required, along with gathering data from visiting campers.

Eight Responsible Camping Ambassadors will be employed to roam the district and act as the friendly face of responsible camping, with four based in the Wakatipu area and the Upper Clutha respectively. Their focus will continue to be educating visitors on how to camp in our district in a sustainable and responsible way, while also promoting local campgrounds, gathering data and identifying trouble spots should they arise.

Sites in Queenstown and Wānaka will be made available free of charge for recycling and dumping rubbish, with signage and information boards in place across the district to ensure campers are aware of where they can and can't camp, and clear details on what constitutes a self-contained vehicle.

Enforcement resources will also be deployed over the summer period, ensuring growing coverage of Glenorchy Road and the Crown Range, along with Gibbston, Hāwea, Wānaka and the Red Bridge site near Luggate.

This year there will be no Responsible Camping Hubs. Instead, campers are encouraged to utilise the many campgrounds available throughout the Queenstown Lakes, and to support local businesses as a result.

We know that most campers in the district are responsible and treat our delicate landscape with respect, but the poor behaviour of a small minority of campers continues to be a cause of concern.

With the expectation that our district will host more domestic campers this summer compared to the usual number of international visitors, we'll soon have a better understanding of whether there are behavioural differences between these groups.



*Expect to see our Responsible Camping Ambassadors, and their snazzy electric cars, out and about this summer.*

Find out how and where to camp responsibly at [www.qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping)



# Full steam ahead for QLDC's Film Office

Our stunning district has long been a hotspot for filmmaking, featuring in everything from Hollywood blockbusters to car commercials.

We have an in-house film office that helps to support and grow the local film industry. It's an interesting time for the industry at the moment, with New Zealand in the international spotlight as a safe haven for filming. All that time indoors has also meant that the demand for content and entertainment is higher than ever.

Summer/Autumn 2021 will see the district welcome back season two of hit Kiwi drama One Lane Bridge, and there are several other film and television productions looking to film in the district and surrounds.

The film office is also putting a focus on growing the district's filming capabilities. This includes helping to support film infrastructure proposals where possible, as well as investigating training opportunities to grow our local film workforce.

Film production plays an important role in the district's economy, generating jobs for film crew and suppliers, as well as injecting business into local hotels, shops, restaurants and more.

If you're interested in learning more, get in touch with our film office at:  
[www.qldc.govt.nz/qldc-film-office](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/qldc-film-office)



Film  
Queenstown  
Lakes

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# Stage Two of Wānaka Lakefront Development taking shape

A detailed design for Stage Two of the Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan is now available, covering the area of lakefront running between McDougall Street and Dungarvon Street.

Thanks for your feedback!

This stage will feature an active travel promenade (Te Ara Wānaka) along the lakefront adjacent to Ardmore Street, with new Millennium Pathway tiles laid alongside it.

The plan includes the retention of as many existing trees as possible, and the introduction of car parking on the lakeside of Ardmore Street.

Council will now form a working group to assist with the creation of a new Millennium Pathway, with terms of reference for the group to honour and protect the original legacy of the Millennium Pathway and its content.

For more information on the Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan and to see the Detailed Design for Stage Two, head to [www.qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-lakefront-development-plan](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-lakefront-development-plan)

We'd like to thank the 176 members of our community who took a moment to share feedback on the concept designs for Stage Two of the Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan back in August 2020. While responses indicated a preference for Option 1 of the concept designs presented, a number of minor revisions have been made in response to the feedback, including:



Feature gardens will be redefined as natural shared spaces, with low-lying gardens and feature trees



Parking along the lakeside of Ardmore Street will be broken into sections to create more view shafts and access points to the lakefront



Campervan parking will be removed from the design. Instead, Council will look to assign a small portion of existing parallel parks on the Pembroke Park side of McDougall Street

Meanwhile, construction on Stage Three of the Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan is scheduled for the summer. This work includes the implementation of Te Ara Wānaka (a shared pathway) for pedestrians and cyclists and a separate boardwalk along the lake's edge.

# Don't let your hot ashes make you a hot mess!

Ashes from BBQs and fireplaces can stay hot long after a fire has gone out and can start fires in household rubbish bins, rubbish trucks, transfer stations and landfills.

Always empty ashes and ashtrays into a metal bin and pour water over them before disposal. Remember that ashes can take up to five days to cool. Once completely cold the ash can be placed your red rubbish bin.

Remember, only cold ashes go in the bin. Even warm ashes have been known to melt a plastic wheelie bin.

Did you know that ash from chemical-free firewood can be great in the garden? Contact your local garden centre to

learn more about how wood ash can be used in your garden.

Fireworks can be a lot of fun, but they also pose a high fire risk. Before disposing of used fireworks make sure these have properly cooled. Douse used

fireworks with water and leave to cool for 24 hours before disposing of these in your red rubbish bin.

If you have unused or faulty fireworks, contact our transfer stations for advice on safe disposal.

# Be water smart this summer

Remember to use water wisely to help avoid the need for water restrictions this summer. There are lots of easy ways to reduce your water use, both inside your home and in the garden.

For tips on how to conserve water, head to [www.qldc.govt.nz/water-saving-tips](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/water-saving-tips)

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# Summer in the Queenstown Lakes District

We're expecting a busy holiday period. Here are some reminders about travel, alcohol bans, Christmas kerbside collections and much more.

## Getting around the district

While it might not be quite as busy on the roads this summer, a bit of planning will mean you don't spend your gorgeous summer days stuck in traffic. Try to avoid peak travel times or consider ditching the car for shorter journeys. Every person who chooses a different way to get around helps to ease congestion on the roads. We have some great trails suitable for walkers and cyclists and if you're in Queenstown the \$2 bus is the perfect way to travel all around Wakatipu, even out to Arrowtown.

Always allow extra time for your journey over this period and avoid getting 'hangry' or worse, dehydrated, by making sure you keep plenty of snacks and water in the car - just in case you get stuck for a while.

24-hour alcohol restrictions apply in the Queenstown and Wānaka CBDs from 8.00pm, 24 December until 6.00am on 6 January.

## Alcohol bans

Did you know that alcohol restrictions apply in the Queenstown CBD, Arrowtown, Frankton, Wānaka CBD and Hāwea between 8.00pm and 8.00am every day of the year? This helps to maintain a safe, family atmosphere in busy public areas.

So if you're planning a family picnic or a couple of drinks at the lake with friends, make sure you know the rules by checking the maps on the Council website and following any signage in the area. Because anyone found drinking in public in a restricted area will be fined \$250 – and we can think of far better ways to spend your hard-earned money! Check out the alcohol restriction maps at [www.qldc.govt.nz](http://www.qldc.govt.nz)



## How to get in touch over the holiday period

Our offices will close at 3.00pm on Thursday 24 December and will reopen 8.00am on Tuesday 5 January 2021. As always we'll have a team of people on call to take care of any issues that crop up. You can still get in touch with us to report an issue 24/7 by emailing [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz) or using **Snap, Send, Solve**, a nifty new app that lets you report an issue on the spot using your mobile device. But as always, if it's urgent, the best way to get in touch is to call us on **03 441 0499** (Queenstown) or **03 443 0024** (Wānaka).

You'll find a full list of holiday hours for our libraries and sport and recreation facilities on the back page.



## Rubbish and Recycling

There will be no kerbside collections on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Collections will take place on the following day.

### So if your usual collection falls on:

- > Friday 25 December, put your bin out on Saturday 26 December.
- > Friday 1 January 2021, put your bin out on Saturday 2 January.

All other collections remain the same. If you're rubbish at remembering, why not sign up for text or email holiday alerts and kerbside collection reminders at: [reminders.saveourstuff.co.nz](http://reminders.saveourstuff.co.nz)

**Remember:** On 1 December we changed the types of materials that can go into the yellow kerbside bin. Full details at [www.qldc.govt.nz/recycling-changes](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/recycling-changes)



## New Year's celebrations

Chances are you're already planning what to do for the big countdown to 2021. For those staying local, our Queenstown and Wānaka lakefront celebrations are always a great night out, offering live entertainment, food stalls, family-friendly activities and fireworks.

To cater for the younger members of our community, there will be family-friendly activities from 2.00pm. This includes face painting, hula hooping, roaming entertainers and more.

For the Wānaka Lakefront our 'safe zones' will also be back through the night to ensure people of all ages have a safe place to enjoy the fun. These zones are made possible with the help of dedicated community volunteers – our Red Frogs.

### What's planned:

#### WĀNAKA

From 2.00-5.00pm, pre-entertainment includes:

- > Face painting
- > Roaming entertainers
- > Family-friendly games including hula hooping and bouncy castle

From 8.00pm until 1.00am at the main stage: line-up includes, Batter Than Nothing, Hamiltones, The Execs.

From 9.00pm until 1.00am at the DJ stage: JACKED DnB.

Fireworks at midnight.

#### QUEENSTOWN

From 2.00-5.00pm, pre-entertainment includes:

- > Face painting
- > Roaming entertainers

From 7.30pm until 1.00am at the main stage: line-up includes Haven, Calico, Freefall.

From 9.00pm until 1.00am at the DJ stage: line-up includes DJ Pops and DJ Cuz.

Fireworks at midnight.



# Local environmental initiatives fast-tracked thanks to community workforce

New bike trails, upgraded reserves, wilding pine removal and ecological improvements are part of a raft of environmental initiatives fast-tracked around Queenstown over the past few months thanks to a new regional partnership and a workforce of dedicated locals affected by COVID-19.

More than 50 residents from various tourism organisations who had lost their jobs or were on reduced hours, took up the call from AJ Hackett Bungy to join the newly formed Tourism Workforce Alliance and got outdoors to make a difference to their local environment and community.

Between June and October, people of all ages battled the weather to chop wilding pines, broom and gorse; dig tracks; spray and weed; wheelbarrow mulch; plant future forests; make DOC traps and remove predators.

An end-of-season celebratory BBQ to thank all those involved was held at the new Shotover Delta Track in October. The track was officially named 'Sweet Robbie', after Fraser Gordon's five-year old son, as a tribute to the time and effort Fraser put into the trail. Fraser is well-known as a local trail designer and builder and has been part of the Tourism Workforce Alliance for the past four months.

Mayor Jim Boulton said he was very proud of the "grit and initiative" shown by the community.

"This was a real demonstration of community spirit and collaboration - when the going got tough, Queenstown got going. The programme has provided a great opportunity for local organisations to work together to support social, economic and environmental goals and for residents to stay busy and positive. It was very physical work in challenging conditions and we thank them for their service which

*Grant's Farm, Frankton (left to right):  
Brandon van Lestra, Alex Sharp, Dan Fell,  
Alan Drage, Zoe Price, Dave Williams*



has provided long-lasting benefits to our community and environment. We're also delighted that the free training and skills gained have provided participants with new career pathways and qualification."

### Funding

Project and labour funding was provided via DOC's Kaimahi for Nature fund and the Queenstown Lakes 'In the Wild' Working Group. The Working Group, comprising DOC, Queenstown Lakes District Council and Otago Regional Council, was formed in June to better evaluate and co-ordinate local nature projects for the benefit of the community.

#### Thanks to the invaluable support of community groups and contractors, the following projects were completed:

A new 1.4km kids' bike trail loop at Shotover Country, a 1.5km kids' bike trail loop at Lake Hayes Estate, a 250m trail at Lakeside Estate Reserve, and upgrades to the Lower Shotover River track.

A new 1.2km kids' bike trail and links with the Queenstown Trails Trust trails at Jardine Park, Kelvin Heights, and upgrades to the Jardine Park Reserve in association with Downer NZ.

45,000 (150 hectares) of wilding pines cost-effectively removed from the local area. A number of people gained permanent employment with the local wilding pine contractor.

475 predator control traps built and donated to local trapping organisations in collaboration with the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust. In addition, Bungy NZ has laid 50 more traps in the vicinity of its operation plus cut trapping trails and enhanced the trapping network to support local trapping groups at Arrowtown, Wilsons, Lake Hayes/ Kawarau River.


Conservation support for local ecological group Friends of Tucker Beach Wildlife Management Group to enhance Tucker Beach biodiversity and nesting areas for endangered species.

# Get organised with Gets Ready

In emergencies, knowledge is key and working together is crucial. Gets Ready is an online tool to help communities connect in trying circumstances.

The tool was first rolled out in the aftermath of the first Christchurch earthquake, providing much-needed organisation and structure. It provides tools to link and support neighbourhood support groups, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), council staff and the community. Civil Defence and Emergency Management Otago will be running a campaign on the tool early next year.

In the meantime, more information can be found at [getsready.net](https://www.getsready.net). For broader information about emergency management, including community response plans, please visit QLDC's website at [www.qldc.govt.nz/community/emergency-management](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/community/emergency-management)



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# Wonderful tips for waste-free holidays

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## Did you know that Kiwis produce 30% more waste than usual over the holiday period?

This holiday season, take a moment to think about how you can celebrate in a waste-free way. Even the simplest change can make a big difference.

### Low waste ideas:

- > Instead of buying a brand new gift, consider repairing a beloved item.
- > Shop local and packaging-free at markets and second-hand stores.
- > Consider baking, making or creating something special.
- > Gift an experience instead of a product. If you want to go one step better, why not make a purchase that will benefit people in less fortunate parts of the world?
- > Discover how you can use recyclable/reusable materials to wrap gifts, use old paper packaging, kids' drawings, magazines, newspaper, fabric or scarves - check out the Japanese art of Furoshiki for cloth wrapping tips online.
- > Make your own Christmas decorations and crackers out of alternative home compostable material like flowers, twigs, salt dough or paper. This is a great way of avoiding plastic waste and spending fun time together as a family.
- > Use alternatives to plastic trees. Why not try a potted native, make your own from materials like driftwood, or source a wilding pine and compost it after use?
- > Create less food waste by planning out your food purchases and portions, and get creative with leftovers and utilise your freezer:  
**[lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/love-your-leftovers-this-christmas/](http://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/love-your-leftovers-this-christmas/)**
- > As always, make sure you empty, clean, recycle. More advice can be found here:  
**[www.qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling)**



# A Community Wellbeing Strategy

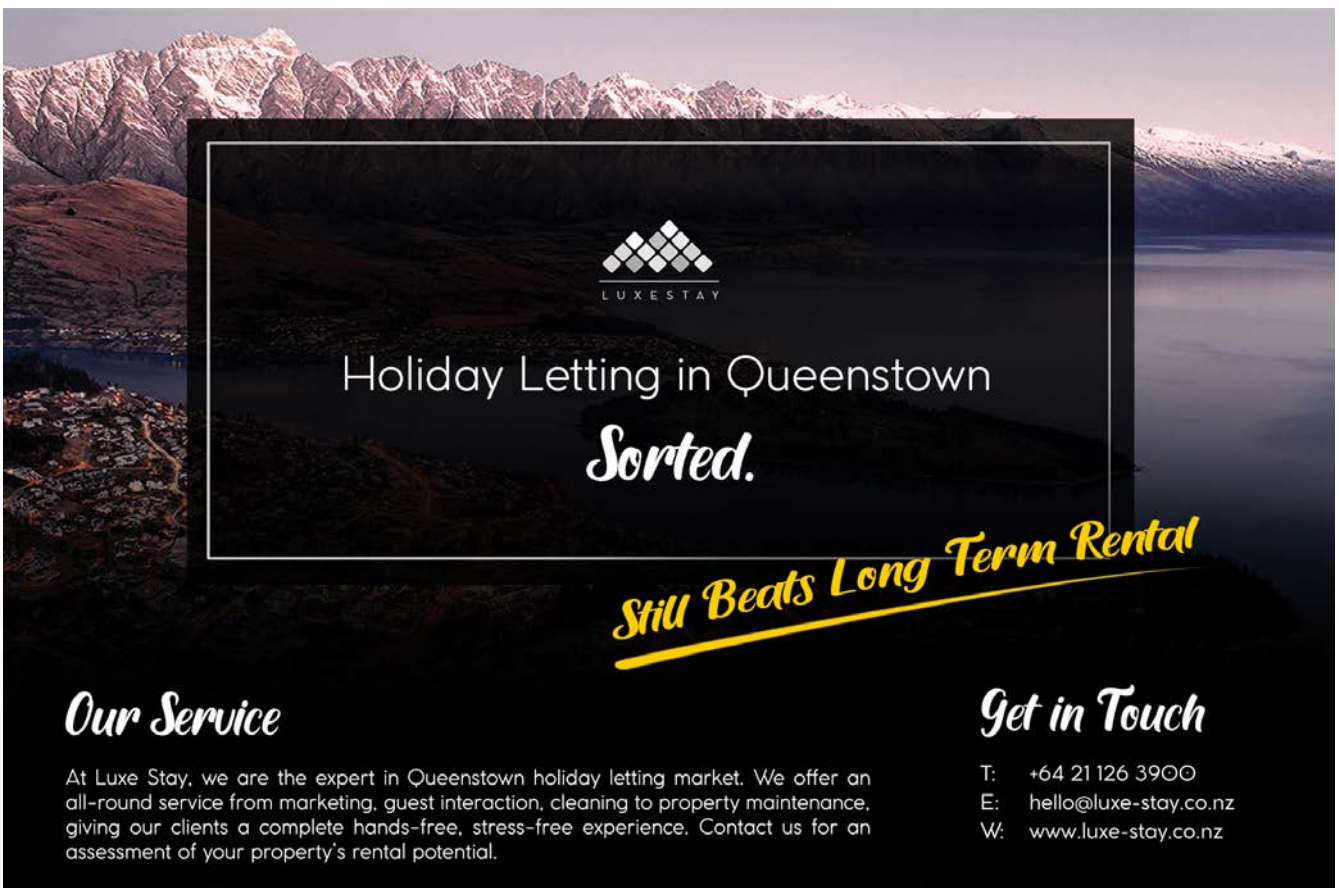
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We are in the early stages of pulling together a strategy to help understand and promote the wellbeing of communities in the Queenstown Lakes District.

As our district changes, we want to empower our communities and improve the lives of everyone living here. The strategy will help us to better understand the challenges and prioritise how we invest, support or resource community wellbeing initiatives in the future.

In February 2021 we'll be asking you to tell us what you think we've got right and what we might be missing from the draft strategy.

Keep an eye on [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) for details.



  
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# BECOME A SWIM INSTRUCTOR AND GAIN SKILLS FOR LIFE

Enjoy swimming and working with kids? Find out more about joining our swim school teams on both sides of the Crown Range.

Our Sport and Recreation Manager Simon Battrick said demand for children's learn-to-swim classes has hit record levels.

"We need more instructors to deliver our full learn-to-swim programmes in the new school year. So we're encouraging people to apply for instructor roles that would see them shadowing trained staff over the holiday programme," he said.

"We'll pay for their training course and support their ongoing professional development."

Simon welcomes expressions of interest from people of any age but said the opportunity might appeal especially to high school students who can earn a competitive hourly rate, work in a fun and social environment that fits around other commitments, and gain a skill that could enable them to earn a living anywhere in the world.

"When international travel begins again and young people look to take an 'OE' here's a chance for them to prepare by gaining a teaching qualification that's respected globally," he said.

Keen to find out more? Head to our Sport & Rec facebook page to watch a video that features some of our current swim instructors sharing their stories and explaining the benefits of working in the aquatics sector. Find out more about the roles at [qldc.qjumpersjobs.co](http://qldc.qjumpersjobs.co)



# SCHOOLS OUT!

## Check out our holiday programmes in Queenstown and Wānaka

Whatever your plans for the long summer break there could be times when it'd be nice to have someone else look after the kids.

That's where our Sport and Recreation team can help!

They're rolling out their regular holiday programmes based at Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) and Wānaka Recreation Centre (WRC) for kids aged from five to 12. Each day is packed with fun activities to keep your young ones exercised, energised and entertained.

Sessions begin before Christmas – 16-18 December in Wānaka and 21-24 December in Queenstown – with the regular programmes starting in the New Year.

For full details and how to book visit our website at [www.qldc.govt.nz/kids-recreation](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/kids-recreation)

You'll also find details there of our weekly intensive swim programmes at both QEC and WRC which start on 11 January.



# FIND WAYS TO GIVE THIS DECEMBER

'Tis the season to be jolly, and what better time to give back to a friend or family member than in December. 'Giving' is one of the five ways to wellbeing and a great way to look after the mental health and wellbeing of others.

It can be as simple as giving someone a compliment, or sharing a skill you have with someone in need. And once Christmas trees start popping up in homes around New Zealand, you might like to surprise someone with something you've made for them or bought with them in mind.

Kindness can give our mood an instant boost, and everyone has something to give. Whether it's a helping hand or sharing your Nana's *world famous* chocolate chip biscuit recipe with a buddy, these kind acts make everyone feel better and help to build connections.

For ideas on looking after yourself and others, visit [www.allright.org.nz](http://www.allright.org.nz)



# Spotlight on Queenstown Golf Club

*Queenstown Golf Club custom built a composting system as part of their Organic Waste Composting initiative.*

It's time for another recipient of our Waste Minimisation Community Fund to shine! Here Matthew Judd, General Manager of Queenstown Golf Club, shares how their Organic Waste Composting initiative came about and their drive to support other clubs in reducing their organic waste.

## **Tell us what sparked the idea to implement a system to reduce organic waste and how the waste minimisation grant from QLDC helped kick-start the project?**

Having lived onsite at the club for three years it was painful to see the amount of food waste that ends up in the bin from our café kitchen, café users, and our onsite residence. Knowing how simple it is to compost food waste inspired the idea to set up composting at the club and reduce this material unnecessarily going to landfill. The grant helped us purchase the materials and build the compost system with support from Dr Compost, aka Ben Elms.

## **What parts do different staff members play to make the project tick?**

Our greenkeeping team constructed the compost bins on site and they also provide the carbon material for the composting via leaves and woodchips. Our café staff separate the food waste from general waste and recycling and then take it to the compost bins. Everyone has been really engaged in the project, which is great!

## **We've heard you are keen to share your learnings with other golf associations, how is this going?**

We are in the process of compiling a case study outlining how we built the compost bins and the composting process. This case study will be shared with all golf clubs domestically through New Zealand Golf.

## **What is in the works for the next stage of the project?**

Our next stage is to start using some of our compost on the golf course. We are hoping to use more organic fertilisers on the course and compost tea will become part of this. We will also use the compost in gardens around the golf course and clubhouse.

## **What advice would you share with other local businesses keen to follow in your footsteps?**

Give it a go! Composting is easy to set up and implement. Not only does it save waste going into the landfill it also saves money in reduced rubbish collection costs.

**The project diverts 20 litres of organic materials per day from landfill which will equate to more than 7 tonnes for the year!**

# Gardeners' big day out

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Making a professional visit to the Dunedin Botanic Gardens had long been on the radar of QLDC Senior Gardener Beth Herren. Early last month, she finally had her chance.

On 3 November, Beth and her colleagues Pip Shelling and Kazumi Yamaguchi joined other gardeners from Dunedin, Gore, Invercargill and Christchurch for a special visit to the Gardens. For two days they learned the tips and tricks of the trade, working with local gardeners and seeing how other premier gardens operate.

Pip said the visit proved insightful.

"It was fantastic to be surrounded by like-minded gardeners, and we all agreed that what made the trip so successful was the enthusiastic participation and eagerness to learn from all attendees," she said.

"And the great weather didn't hurt either!"



*QLDC gardeners Beth Herren and Kazumi Yamaguchi enjoy their time in the Dunedin Botanic Gardens*



*The gardeners wander through the Botanic Gardens, making the most of a 'Dunner Stunner'*

# Digital library experience comes to Glenorchy

Throughout the world the digital future of libraries is looking bright.

And our local libraries are no exception. While we'll never lose the need for our physical library spaces, our digital offering is becoming more and more popular. At the invitation of the Glenorchy Book Club, the Queenstown Library team travelled down to Glenorchy to spread the word about the library's easily accessible, diverse online resource collection.

16 people attended the meeting at Camp Glenorchy, with attendees bringing their own devices to get a hands-on experience of the digital resources on offer. There was certainly no shortage of online exploring for them to do: for starters, library members can access not only e-books and e-audio, but also newspapers and magazines, as well as cutting-edge films and arthouse documentaries through the online streaming service, Beamafilm.

The meeting came at a fitting time, following an impressive recent uptake of the library's digital services. There have been 2,754 views on Beamafilm from July through mid-November, while 15,773 issues and publications were read by our library members on Press Reader during October.

The new QLDC Libraries App, a one stop shop for all things library-related, was also given special attention.

Head to [codc-qldc.govt.nz](http://codc-qldc.govt.nz) to see what's on offer.

## Be flood aware

Our district has a long history of flooding with many events recorded since first settlement. Climate change means we can expect more floods in the years to come.

This time last year heavy rainfall led to high lake levels in Wānaka and Queenstown affecting lakefront roads and businesses. Flood hazard mapping in both CBDs shows the potential for damage to buildings and infrastructure remains high.

Thankfully there are useful resources to help you prepare in advance:

- > Check lake levels on Otago Regional Council's water monitoring and alerts page at [water.orc.govt.nz](http://water.orc.govt.nz)
- > Sign up for QLDC's community text alerts at [www.qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/community-text-alert-sign-up](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/community-text-alert-sign-up)
- > For general advice on preparing for floods (and other hazards) check out the Emergency Management Otago website at [www.otagocdem.govt.nz/hazards/floods](http://www.otagocdem.govt.nz/hazards/floods)

## Shelve your fines at your local library

**Got overdue fines stacking up on your library account? We will happily shelve those fines in exchange for non-perishable food items, children's books, toiletries and vouchers.**

1 TO 31 DECEMBER



All items received go to Happiness House (Wakatipu) and Food for Love (Upper Clutha)

[libraries@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:libraries@qldc.govt.nz)   [codc-qldc.govt.nz](http://codc-qldc.govt.nz)  
[@qltlakeslibraries](https://www.facebook.com/qltlakeslibraries)   [@qldclibraries](https://www.instagram.com/qldclibraries)

Enriching minds and communities:  
 Te whakapūawai i ka hinengaro me ka hapori

**libraries**  
 Queenstown Lakes

## SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITY OPENING HOURS:

Date	Queenstown Events Centre (Alpine Aqualand, Alpine Health and Fitness and Indoor Stadium)	Queenstown Events Centre climbing wall	Frankton Golf Centre	Arrowtown Pool	Wānaka Recreation Centre	
	Opening Hours	Opening Hours	Instructor	Opening Hours	Opening Hours	
Thursday 24 Dec	6.00am-5.00pm	6.00am-5.00pm	8.30am-5.00pm	8.30am-5.00pm	11.00am-5.00pm	6.00am-5.00pm
Friday 25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 26 Dec	8.00am-8.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm
Sunday 27 Dec	8.00am-8.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm
Monday 28 Dec	8.00am-8.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm
Tuesday 29 Dec	6.00am-9.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm
Wednesday 30 Dec	6.00am-9.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm
Thursday 31 Dec	6.00am-5.00pm	6.00am-5.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-5.00pm	6.00am-5.00pm
Friday 1 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	8.30am-7.00pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 2 Jan	8.00am-8.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm
Sunday 3 Jan	8.00am-8.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm
Monday 4 Jan	8.00am-8.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm	No instructor	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	8.00am-8.00pm
Tuesday 5 Jan	6.00am-9.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm	12.00pm-9.00pm	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm
Wednesday 6 Jan	6.00am-9.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm	12.00pm-9.00pm	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm
Thursday 7 Jan	6.00am-9.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm	12.00pm-9.00pm	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm
Friday 8 Jan	6.00am-9.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm	12.00pm-9.00pm	8.30am-7.00pm	11.00am-6.00pm	6.00am-9.00pm

There will be no swim school in Queenstown or Wānaka over this period. Holiday swim sessions start on 11 January. Full details at [www.qldc.govt.nz/kids-recreation](http://www.qldc.govt.nz/kids-recreation)

## LIBRARIES OPENING HOURS:

Date	Arrowtown	Frankton	Glenorchy	Kingston	Queenstown	Wānaka	Hāwea	Makarora
Thursday 24 Dec	10.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9.00am – 5.30pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Friday 25 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 26 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sunday 27 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 28 Dec	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 29 Dec	10.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9.00am – 5.30pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	10.00am – 5.00pm (Closed 1 – 1.30pm)	11.00am – 1.00pm
Wednesday 30 Dec	10.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	1.30 – 3.30pm	6.00pm – 8.00pm	9.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	10.00am – 12noon	6.00pm – 8.00pm
Thursday 31 Dec	10.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9.00am – 5.30pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED
Friday 1 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Saturday 2 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Sunday 3 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Monday 4 Jan	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tuesday 5 Jan	10.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9.00am – 5.30pm	9.00am – 5.30pm	10.00am – 5.00pm (Closed 1 – 1.30pm)	11.00am – 1.00pm

### QLDC & SERVICE CENTRES

**Queenstown Office:**  
10 Gorge Road  
Private Bag 50072, Queenstown  
Phone: 03 441 0499

**Wānaka Office:**  
47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka  
Phone: 03 443 0024

E-mail: [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)  
[www.qldc.govt.nz](http://www.qldc.govt.nz)

Office Hours:  
Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

### QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Arrowtown Athenaeum Hall  
Queenstown Memorial Hall  
Lake Hayes Pavilion  
Lake Wānaka Centre  
Alpine Aqualand  
Sports fields  
Phone: 03 450 9005

### WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool  
Indoor Courts  
Phone: 03 443 9334

### TRANSFER STATIONS

**Wakatipu:** 110 Glenda Drive  
Frankton Industrial Area  
Phone: 03 348 5126

**Upper Clutha:** Cnr of Ballantyne  
& Riverbank Roads  
Phone: 03 348 6125

### HARBOURMASTER

Phone: 027 434 5289  
and 027 414 2270  
Email:  
[harbourmasterqt@smsl.co.nz](mailto:harbourmasterqt@smsl.co.nz)

### LIBRARIES

For library opening hours  
and locations please head to  
[codc-qldc.govt.nz](http://codc-qldc.govt.nz)

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TO ADVERTISE CONTACT:

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