

Scuttlebutt

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // OCT/NOV 2020 // ISSUE 139

GETTING THROUGH TOGETHER

WHĀIA E TĀTOU TE PAE TAWHITI



It's been a tough year for many, and a lot of what's to come is still unknown.

There are times when we might need an extra bit of help and it's important to know that however we may be feeling, support is available through a variety of online tools and helplines.

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GETTING THROUGH TOGETHER

WHĀIA E TĀTOU TE PAE TAWHITI



Getting Through Together is a national mental health and wellbeing campaign brought to you by the team at All Right? – Community and Public Health (a division of the Canterbury District Health Board) and the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand. It's all about helping New Zealanders face the challenges caused by COVID-19 — together.

The campaign has a number of resources available to help you look after your wellbeing. It's essential right now, and we can't afford not to do it.

So, here are some top tips from the Getting Through Together team on how to look after your mental health and wellbeing during COVID-19 and beyond.

FIND WAYS TO CONNECT

Connecting with others is so important for our wellbeing and helps to make us feel safer, less stressed and less anxious.

FIND WAYS TO TAKE NOTICE

Notice the beauty in the world around your home - the Queenstown Lakes district has it in excess supply. Take time to feel the sun on your skin, and breathe in fresh air whenever you can.

FIND WAYS TO BE ACTIVE

With gyms or sports back up and running, this is easier again! The pandemic has shown us plenty of free and easy ways to keep active, and something as simple as completing a daily stretch video on Youtube can work wonders.

FIND WAYS TO GIVE

Give compliments, think about a skill you have you could share with your whānau/flatmates/friends, share a favourite recipe, and let people know you're there to help.

STICK TO YOUR ROUTINE OR START A NEW ONE

Routines sound dull, but they're good for our mental health. Try to go to sleep and wake up at the same time, eat at regular times, shower, change your clothes, have regular e-meetings with colleagues or virtual coffee dates with friends, do your chores.

SPEND TIME WITH NATURE

If there's one thing we learnt during the noho rāhui / lockdown, it's that you can connect with nature even from your home. If you're not able to head off on a walk, bike or hike, can you bring some nature indoors?

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING OR YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MAY BE, THERE IS FREE HELP AVAILABLE.

Call or text 1737 to speak with a trained counsellor anytime - it's free and completely confidential. You can also call Lifeline on 0800 543 354 or text HELP to 4357. For more advice on how to stay mentally well during this time, head to www.mentalhealth.org.nz/get-help/getting-through-together/

EXPLORE DIFFERENT WAYS TO RELAX

Many of us haven't stretched our 'relaxation muscles' in far too long. It might take a bit of trial and error to find what works for you, but something as simple as a scented candle or some colouring can help to switch off and reenergise.

FIND WAYS TO KEEP LEARNING

Staying curious and engaging with the world around you is a great way to uplift your wellbeing. Pick a question you've always wondered about and take some time to look it up, research something or download a learning app like Duolingo.

IF YOU'RE CURRENTLY GETTING HELP WITH YOUR MENTAL HEALTH, CONTINUE THIS IF POSSIBLE

Talk to your GP, counsellor, case worker or mental health team about how they can continue supporting you. If you're currently taking medication, don't stop taking it without talking first to your doctor.

LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF NEWS YOU FOLLOW

Pick one source you trust (like the Ministry of Health's website) and check it once per day. If you want to keep checking in with news coverage, take notice of how it makes you feel and set time limits or restrict your news sources to just one or two if you need to.



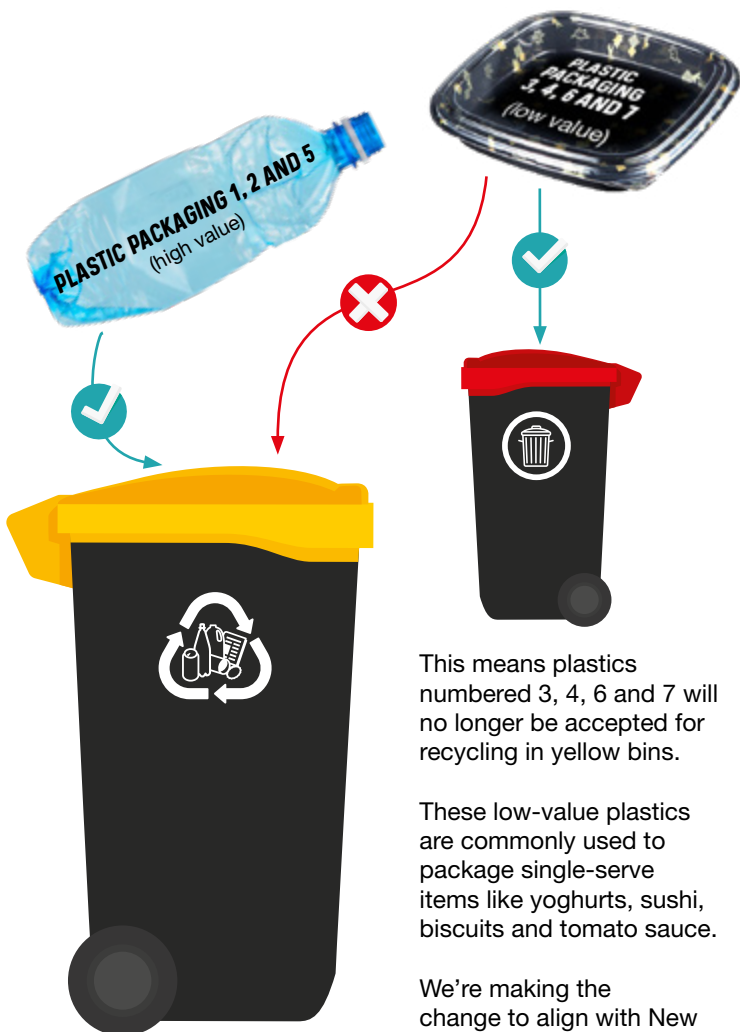
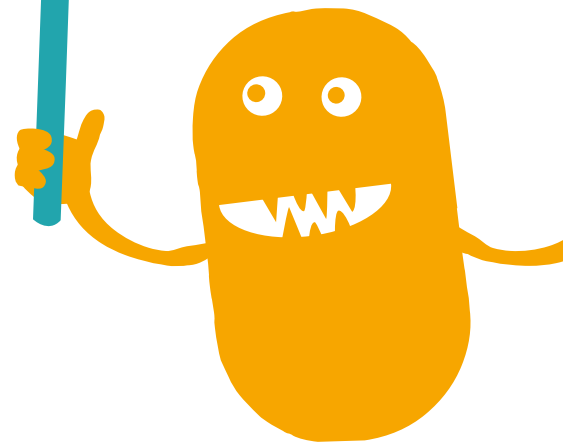
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RECYCLING CHANGES ON THE WAY FOR THE DISTRICT

WE'RE REDUCING THE TYPES OF PLASTICS WE TAKE TO THE ONES WE CAN RECYCLE ONSHORE. SO FROM 1 DECEMBER, ONLY PLASTICS 1, 2 AND 5 WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING IN YOUR YELLOW KERBSIDE BIN.

Make sure you're ready!
Read more about what's changing at
www.qldc.govt.nz/rubbish-and-recycling



This means plastics numbered 3, 4, 6 and 7 will no longer be accepted for recycling in yellow bins.

These low-value plastics are commonly used to package single-serve items like yoghurts, sushi, biscuits and tomato sauce.

We're making the change to align with New

Zealand's commitment to move away from hard-to-recycle plastics and to help better manage the international trade in plastic waste.

The good news is that you can swap out the products packaged in problematic plastics for similar ones packaged in other recyclable materials like cans, glass, or plastics 1, 2 and 5. If worst comes to worst and you can't avoid plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7, please dispose of them in the red rubbish bin.

Plastics 1, 2 and 5 make up the majority of plastics put in the district's yellow mixed recycled bins and are easily recycled and turned into other useful products here in Aotearoa New Zealand. We send

clear PET bottles to Flight Plastics in Wellington where they're made into food grade packaging, while HDPE and PP go to Comspec in Christchurch where they're turned into high quality recycled resins for resale.

By opting for high-value plastics which can be processed onshore we can be confident in a clear supply chain with obvious environmental and social outcomes. That's a win for the environment, for people involved in the recycling industry and, ultimately, for everyone throughout Aotearoa.

SIMPLE SWAPS

There are a number of easy ways to get ready for the change. Take a look at the plastic types in your shopping trolley and make the switch to easy-to-recycle products. Here are some ideas:



CHECK OUT
WWW.QLDC.GOV.T.NZ/CUT-YOUR-WASTE FOR MORE SIMPLE SWAPS TO GET YOU READY FOR THE CHANGES.

TOP TIPS!

What you put in the bin matters. Here's how you can do your bit:

1. Only recycle things you know can be recycled (if in doubt, leave it out)
2. Empty out food, tip out liquid and give bottles and containers a quick clean before recycling them
3. Remove all lids, triggers and pumps. Place these items in the rubbish bin or find a creative use for them
4. Recycling must be loose, so take it out of bags and boxes
5. Rubbish goes in the wheelie bin with the red lid

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Free community workshops launched

Kia Kaha Queenstown Lakes workshops started on Monday 5 October, offering a wide range of free sessions in Queenstown and Wānaka.

The workshops provide accurate, independent information and advice regarding current job opportunities in the district, business support, retraining and career advice, along with income support options available for those interested.

The reintroduction of Kia Kaha Queenstown Lakes workshops is an important step towards the district's recovery from COVID-19, with a number of residents looking for new work or to understand what support is available to them during this challenging time.

If you're looking for a new job, wondering about a career change or new study and looking for advice on how you should proceed, Kia Kaha Queenstown Lakes workshops can help you take your next step.

Workshops are also available for business owners looking to understand what services and financial products are available to help support their business and staff.

Workshops began in Queenstown on Monday 5 October, with more starting in Wānaka on Monday 12 October.

Take your next step

If you're interested in seeing what's on offer and which workshops are running near you, check out the timetable at www.qldc.govt.nz/kia-kaha. All sessions are free to attend and require registration beforehand.





COMMUNITY CONNECT

Honoka Hapori

Connect with your community

In light of the year we've had so far, it's now more important than ever to be connected to your community.

Community Connect is your 'one stop' shop to help you find out what's happening in the district, and how to get involved with clubs and organisations you're keen to be a part of.

Whether you're a newcomer or visitor to the district, looking to meet new people, or take up a new hobby or interest, Community Connect can help you find a place to act on your passions and meet other like-minded people.

There's also a comprehensive list of health and wellbeing services available in the district.



If you'd like your group listed on Community Connect:

Sign up at groups.qldc.govt.nz. Those registered have full access to their listings and can update their information as often as required. If you have any questions, email communityconnect@qldc.govt.nz or call the Community Connect team on 03 441 0499.



Mayor Boulton breaks first ground marking the start of Queenstown's town centre upgrades

Shovel ready projects progressing well

In September, Mayor Boulton broke ground on Lower Beach Street, marking the start of the first stage of the street upgrades in Queenstown's town centre.

With this part of the project now complete, we'd like to offer a huge thank you to all the businesses in this area. We know this work can be disruptive and we're keen to work closely with you to minimise this and keep people visiting

and spending time in the town centre.

Alongside this, work is ongoing on stage one of the Queenstown Town Centre Arterial Road. This stage will link Melbourne and Henry Streets, removing general traffic from Stanley Street and unlock a range of other investments that will vastly improve the town centre experience for everyone.

Right now we're working through a process to designate all three stages of the arterial road under the COVID Recovery Act 2020. We'll keep you updated as this process progresses.

These cornerstone projects are jointly funded through the government's Shovel Ready Fund and QLDC, and will be delivered through an alliance model with Waka Kotahi NZTA.

This is a great opportunity to use a collaborative approach to deliver key benefits to the Wakatipu area.

Anyone interested in signing up to stay up to date on the Town Centre Street upgrades can email letstalk@qldc.govt.nz. More information on the arterial and street upgrade projects can be found on our website here: www.qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects

Time to have your say on Ladies Mile

The Ladies Mile (Te Pūtahi) corridor between Shotover River (Kimi-ākau) and Lake Hayes (Te Whakata a Haki-te-kura) is an area of significance for many locals, often seen as a gateway into Queenstown. It is also an area of major strategic importance for Queenstown and the wider lakes district.

Work is progressing well on a Council-led Masterplan and District Plan Variation as a way of ensuring a holistic approach to planning for this growing area of the Wakatipu Basin.



HAVE YOUR SAY!

We'll be sharing some early Masterplan concept options with the community in November. Mark your calendar and pop along to meet the design team and provide feedback. This will help to shape a preferred Masterplan that will be released for further community feedback in February 2021.



OPEN DAY DETAILS

Thursday 12 November
3.00pm – 6.00pm
Shotover Primary School

Saturday 14 November
11.00am – 5.30pm
Shotover Primary School



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From the chambers

There's always plenty going on at QLDC's council and committee meetings. Here's a selection of some of the most noteworthy happenings.

FACILITIES AT SNOW FARM TO GROW

Snow Farm on the Pisa Range has been a wonderful community asset for a number of years and it provides access to a unique high-country environment that normally only very experienced skiers and hikers (or helicopters) can get to. There are currently two accommodation huts on the site but the Pisa Alpine Charitable Trust (PACT) that operates Snow Farm wants to add another hut to cater for a growing demand.

The Council owns the land and leases it to PACT, and a recent report to the Wānaka Community Board sought the Council's consent as landowner for this new development. The Board was pleased that PACT had been receptive to requests for accessibility improvements to the plans and gave landowner consent for the new hut which will be called the 'Musterers Hut'. The proposal still needs to get resource consent but PACT wants to have the new facilities ready for visitors by winter 2021.

FUNDING FOR LUGGATE HALL CONFIRMED

It is going to be the district's first 'passive' building, but right up until the Council meeting on 8 October full funding for the new Luggate Memorial Centre | Whare Mahana had still not been confirmed. At this meeting the Council approved a Wānaka Community Board recommendation that \$1million be allocated to the project from the Wānaka Asset Sale Reserve Fund. The Board had supported the allocation on the basis that the new centre will be a facility for all of the Upper Clutha to use and was therefore a project meriting support. There is still \$8million in the fund and the Board will make sure that this goes to a major project for the Upper Clutha area that could not otherwise be achieved without such support.

BALLANTYNE ROAD RESEAL

This project has been around the traps for a while – it's been subject to consultation, a detailed business case and funding juggles – but the good news is that physical work on site will start later in 2020. The project is to seal the unsealed section which will have multiple safety benefits – fixing inconsistent surfacing, improving forward sight distance through better vertical alignment, reducing dust causing poor visibility, adding road markings and widening the carriageway. It is hoped to award the construction contract by the end of October, with physical works starting in mid-November and the project due to be complete by April 2021.

COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW QLDC LAND DEVELOPMENT AND SUBDIVISION CODE OF PRACTICE 2020

At its meeting on 8 October the Council adopted the QLDC Land Development and Subdivision Code of Practice 2020. It's a weighty volume (207 pages plus appendices!) but an essential guide

for ensuring land development and subdivision infrastructure in the district is designed and constructed using best practice. The Code of Practice covers things like water connection requirements, vehicle crossings, earthworks and road design. Some of the key changes in the 2020 update are:

- A. a requirement for roads to achieve safe (slower) speeds;
- B. an emphasis on managing and treating stormwater 'before it gets into a pipe' together with a requirement to consider climate change; and
- C. potential use of grassed swales, natural or artificial waterways, ponds and wetlands to be part of the stormwater system, especially if it's important to have a low impact on the receiving waters downstream.

The Code of Practice is available on the Council website: www.qldc.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/land-developments-and-subdivisions#code-of-practice

**REPRESENTATION
REVIEW – WOULD YOU
LIKE TO HELP WITH
SOME ‘BLUE SKY’
THINKING?**

Did you know that QLDC had its 30th birthday last year? In 1989 major local government reform across Aotearoa New Zealand amalgamated 850 local councils down to 86 and resulted in the Queenstown Lakes District Council being formed.*

The district’s population in 1989 was about 12,000 but the basic structure of the Council (a Mayor and Councillors elected from three wards and the Wānaka Community

Board) has remained essentially unchanged since that time. About 45,000 people now live in the district and the question that Council must address before the next election is whether these arrangements are still providing fair and effective representation for the population. Should the ward system of electing councillors change in favour of an election at large? What do people think about community boards? These are questions that the Council wants to discuss with the community and there will be formal consultation on this in the first half of 2021.

As a first step the Council wants to appoint an advisory group comprising community members to assist in the development of different representation models. We are currently accepting Expressions of Interest for membership of this group and we would love to hear from you if you have an understanding of governance and electoral practice and principles and would like to help us with some ‘blue sky’ thinking. Applications are to be made to the Chief Executive by 5.00pm on 23 October.

**For the historians amongst you, Queenstown Lakes District Council was originally established in 1986 through amalgamation of the Lakes County and Queenstown Borough Councils. However, the district expanded into its current form when it was joined by the Arrowtown Borough Council in 1989.*

Save the date for Xmas fun!

It seems like Christmas creeps up more quickly every year. To beat the inevitable rush, how about saving the date for this year’s Christmas show?

Make sure you set aside Sunday 13 December for some Christmas fun. The show will take place at the Queenstown Events at 1.00pm and 5.00pm.



More details to come!

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A colourful display shines along Lake Esplanade at last year's LUMA festival. Credit: Leigh Jeffery.

Feeling artsy? We may be able to help with that!

The Queenstown Lakes District is a place of widespread creativity. Surrounded by the endless inspiration of one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most stunning landscapes, it is a place that nurtures the arts, culture and the spirit of invention.

To help foster artistic expression and creation, QLDC offers a wide range of arts funding opportunities for locals throughout the district.

Our annual events funding schedule was approved at September's Full Council meeting. A wide range of activities were funded, including the LUMA Southern Light Project to the NZ Mountain Film and Book Festival.

There are also two current arts funding opportunities up for grabs.

- > The Creative Communities Scheme, funded by Creative NZ, provides funding to encourage participation, support diversity and enable young people.
- > The Central Lakes Art Support Scheme (CLASS) works to strengthen and enhance the local art sector. Backed by the Central Lakes Trust, up to \$2,000 is available annually per applicant and per project.

Funding from both the Creative Communities Scheme and CLASS is available now. More information can be found at www.qldc.govt.nz/community/community-funding

Approved event funding at September's full Council meeting over \$30,000:

LUMA Southern Light Project 2021	\$75,000
New Zealand Open Golf 2020	\$75,000
Festival of Colour	\$50,000
Challenge Wanaka	\$40,000
Wanaka A&P Show	\$35,000
Winter Games	\$30,000

Approved event funding under \$30,000:

Wheels At Wanaka	\$29,000
NZ Sotheby's International realty Queenstown Marathon	\$25,000
Queenstown Music Festival	\$20,000
Akarua Arrowtown Autumn Festival	\$17,000
NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival	\$12,000
Lake Hayes A&P Show	\$10,500
Winter Pride	\$10,000
The Great Kiwi Walk Series	\$20,000
Wanaka Wine and Food Festival	\$15,000
Queenstown Writers Festival	\$7,500

Buzzzzzzzzing around Queenstown on the bus



Otago Regional Council (ORC) extends a big thank you to all Queenstown bus passengers.

Move over GoCard, there's a new card in town. ORC, which manages the Orbus network, has recently launched the Bee Card to be used on buses throughout Wakatipu.

The tag-on, tag-off Bee Card gives passengers cheaper fares than paying cash. It also has benefits like setting up an online profile for topping up, and you can manage more than one Bee Card with a linked account (such as topping up a child's card).

In the current COVID-19 climate less interaction enables better distancing for drivers and passengers. As an added bonus, contact tracing is in place for registered cards.

In the past several months there's been a lot of change on the Orbus network. Passengers have been asked to wear masks, to distance, to travel off-peak, and even to avoid catching the bus in order to make space for those who need buses to access essential services.

On top of this the Bee Card, and a new timetable, were launched. ORC thanks passengers for being patient, kind and accommodating throughout.

If you don't have a Bee Card yet you can get one on the bus or from ORC's Frankton office on Terrace Junction.

Find out more at www.orc.govt.nz/beecard



Get fuelled and fixed at QEC

Two new businesses opened at Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) recently to keep visitors fuelled, caffeinated and fighting fit.

Splash Café opened at the end of July, whilst **Wallis Physiotherapy** began operating a private treatment room just inside the gym the following month.

Owned and operated by the same team behind MacKenzie Coffee Co. on Cow Lane, **Splash Café** has transformed the main foyer with a fully-fitted counter, colourful seating and a huge wall mural.

The new café offers a wide range of food to eat in or take out, as well as fresh smoothies, teas, hot chocolates and of course barista-quality coffees.

And if you can't swim or work out because of an injury or just have general aches and pains then **Laura Wallis**, the new onsite physiotherapist, can get you back up and running.

Laura has been a physio for the last ten years and enjoys working with a range of people, both sporty and not-so-sporty. She offers special rates for members of the gym and pool – just \$25 for ACC claims and \$55 for private appointments.

You can contact Laura on 027 9255477 or email wallisphysionz@gmail.com

Splash Café – drop by and take a look for yourself even if you're not swimming or working out.



No referendum needed for weed in lakes and rivers

Summer's on the way and that means plenty of boating, skiing and kayaking out on our district's wonderful waterways, lakes and rivers.

And while we're sure you've got your lifejackets packed and ready for action, it's also really important to remember to check, clean and dry your boat, kayak and equipment before heading out onto the water.

Recent surveillance of Lagarosiphon in Lake

Wakatipu this year sadly showed new plants growing near Kingston, despite previous efforts to clear the entire area of the pest plant.

The Lake Wakatipu Management Group believes this new growth to be the result of a boat that wasn't cleaned after

use elsewhere, so we're asking all lake users to please remain vigilant.

Whenever you move between waterways please check, clean and dry all your gear that has made contact with the water. This is a key step in helping to prevent the spread of the freshwater

pest Lagarosiphon, but also didymo and other pest species which squeeze the life out of our country's most precious rivers and lakes.

For more information on how to check, clean and dry before heading into our lakes and rivers, head to www.biosecurity.govt.nz/travel-recreation/outdoor-activities/check-clean-dry/

Spotlight on RefillNZ

We celebrate another recipient of our Waste Minimisation Community Fund, RefillNZ, a nationwide initiative that Sustainable Queenstown and QLDC are helping to roll out across the Queenstown Lakes District.



Smiths: Matt Ward, from RefillNZ supporters Smiths Craft Beer House, points to the Refill NZ logo at the bar



The Exchange: Liam Wright stands outside RefillNZ supporters The Exchange café in Queenstown

Here we chat with Jess Larmont from Sustainable Queenstown about how the project is progressing locally.

Q. Let us know what RefillNZ is all about and what you have set out to achieve in the Queenstown Lakes District?

RefillNZ is an awesome nationwide initiative that focuses on three main issues: reducing single-use plastic, saving money on buying bottled water and promoting Aotearoa's drinkable water to locals and visitors (when they come back!).

Q. Well done on receiving a grant through the QLDC Waste Minimisation Community Fund for 2020! How has this grant helped roll out the project?

Thanks, we're thrilled to have received support from QLDC. This grant has enabled us to grow the number of RefillNZ water stations in the district far more quickly than if we'd been doing it as a side project. It's also allowed me the time to deliver the stickers and posters in person and, consequently, have great conversations with cafés, bars, restaurants and tourist attractions about their sustainability practices.

Q. It's great to hear local businesses are getting behind this sustainability initiative, tell us how

others can take part and the benefits of doing so?

So far we've contacted more than 60 businesses across the district, inviting them to join the #Refillution (as it's called!) and there's always room for more! For a \$20 sign-up fee, anywhere in Queenstown Lakes with a water station or water fountain can be added to the RefillNZ map and app and become visible to everyone looking for a place to fill up their own water bottle.

Q. I'm sure there are people out there that are keen to chip in and support the RefillNZ cause, do you have any tips for how can they make a difference?

Download the RefillNZ app on Apple or the Rankers Camping app on Android and whip it out the next time you're out of water; no doubt there will be a refill station nearby. QLDC has even signed up all the water fountains so you can find your nearest water location easily!

Q. What's your takeaway message to the local community?

One choice from one person really does make a difference. Keep a water bottle on you when you're out and about and get rid of the need to buy plastic bottles. Sustainability can actually save you money and buying a reusable bottle now will save you buying endless plastic bottles of water over time.

Snap, Send & Solve

From the end of October, you'll be able to raise any issues you spot in your community with us using Snap, Send & Solve.



The app is a simple, free and fast way to send us your 'Fix It' requests, meaning the next time you spot a pesky water leak on the road outside your house or a fallen tree blocking a trail, snap it then send it and we'll solve it.

When using the app, take a photo of an issue and Snap Send Solve will automatically tag it with the geolocation of where you were. This means we can send someone to the right area straight off the bat and resolve the issue in a timely manner.

Snap Send Solve is also smart enough to know that if you're raising an issue inside the Queenstown Lakes District, the Fix It request gets directed to QLDC. If you've ventured off to Cromwell or beyond, the app will direct your request elsewhere.

It's important to remember that if you spot something in urgent need of attention, the fastest way to get a resolution is still to give us a call on 03 441 0499. Council staff are available 24/7.

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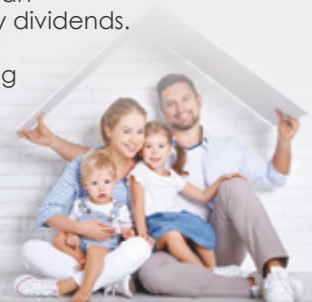
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Ka mau te wehi, Project Kaitiakitanga - thank you for your mahi.

No room for broom at Arrowtown School

It started with a letter.

Annoyed at the sight of the invasive weed broom growing behind their classrooms, and even more frustrated with the hay fever it caused their friends, Arrowtown School Project Kaitiakitanga leaders Conor, Max, Liam, Holly, Ollie, Moby and Lex decided to do something about it.

Inspired by a recent visit to the Wakatipu Reforestation Trust, the students reached out to Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Jim Boulton. The Mayor quickly responded, and it wasn't long before the hillside next to their school began to be transformed.

With help from QLDC, the weed was sprayed, cleared, and readied for planting. Project Kaitiakitanga then planned what would be planted in its place, and how they would get the materials they needed.

"We emailed local business, Wilding and Co., to ask if they would donate the mulch, and they said yes," Holly said.

"Last week we came and spread it over the entire area. At the moment we're planting it in stages."

Wakatipu Reforestation Trust also came to the party, donating 100 native plants such as harakeke and hebe.

The planting ceremony was held on September 24. Matua Darren and Councillor Heath Copland attended the event and spoke to students from rooms 25 and 26. Matua Darren began proceedings by uttering a karakia, blessing the land with water from the Arrow River and explaining the significance to the students.

"If we have water, we have life," he said. "Water is life."

Councillor Copland encouraged the students and told them to be proud of themselves. "To take this invasive species out and replant it with natives

will help beautify our town," he added.

After the students were shown the ropes they set about planting with the help of a few parents on hand. Holly and Conor shared their hopes of a pathway through the land "where the community can come and see the native plants and learn about them."

Teacher Vanessa Harwood encouraged the students to remember which plants they planted on the day.

"When they come back, even years later, they'll be able to see how they've grown and remember they were a part of it," she said.

Students Conor (kneeling) & Holly replant a native tree behind Arrowtown School

The replanting operation in full flight

Students go to work as Arrowtown School's planting operation gets underway



Experienced trio boost district's emergency response

Our district's ability to prepare for and cope with emergencies has been boosted with the appointment of three new Emergency Management Officers.

Dan Andrew and Craig Gibson are based in Queenstown Lakes full time, with Oliver Varley splitting his time between here and neighbouring Central Otago District.

The trio have taken over from Trevor Andrews and have picked up a raft of projects to support community resilience to emergencies. One of their first priorities is engaging with lakeside businesses around Lake Wakatipu and Lake Wānaka about flood risk.

They say there's already a lot of interest following last December's high lake levels and the impact of February's flooding in Glenorchy.

They are also developing the community-based Gets Ready programme, which will be launched shortly. It's a powerful tool for bringing communities together before, during and after emergencies and supports the efforts of Emergency Management Otago

and QLDC to build our community's resilience.

Oliver was previously an Emergency Management Officer on the West Coast and has relished getting to know his new turf, while Dan and Craig are both former police officers based in Queenstown and are well embedded in the local community. Dan and Oliver were part of the mammoth COVID response and saw how well the community pulled together to support those in need.

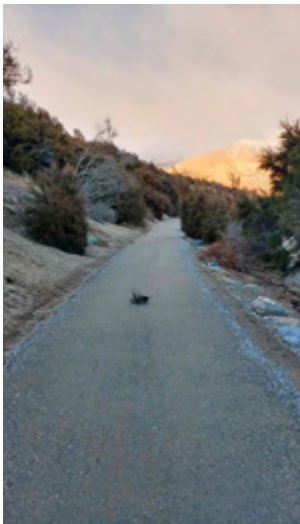
That experience has given them a head start working alongside volunteers, organisations like the Salvation Army and Council staff.

The third member of the Emergency Management trio, Oliver Varley

Craig Gibson (left) and Dan Andrew enjoy the sunshine outside QLDC's Gorge Road office



New, improved Wānaka trails free for roaming



Last December's flooding caused widespread issues throughout the Queenstown Lakes District, including extensive damage to the area's valued tracks and trails. Now, ten months later, the finishing touches are being applied to several storm-affected tracks in Wānaka.

The Glendhu Bay, Millennium Trail, Eely Point, and Wānaka Outlet tracks have all received extensive repairs.

A \$400,000 contract was signed in January that covered trail reinstatement and trail widening, reinstated naturalised retaining walls, improved drainage, helped with large scale scouring improvements and upgraded surfaces.

The upgrade work is due to finish up in late October. Finally, after months of patience, locals and tourists can once again roam the entirety of Wānaka's trails.

Feedback on sport and recreation development

Community engagement on the future development of sport and recreation facilities across the district resulted in 177 responses to an online survey and more than 75 individual pieces of direct feedback.

Around 1,300 people visited our dedicated Let's Talk webpage to view proposed masterplans for Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) and Wānaka Recreation Centre (WRC)

as well as the Queenstown Lakes-Central Otago Sub-Regional Sport and Recreation Facility Strategy. Together these documents set out a comprehensive vision for the next ten to 20 years.

The QLDC Sport and Recreation team is currently analysing all feedback before presenting its final proposals.

QLDC General Manager Community Services Thunes Cloete thanked everyone for their input.

"The level of interest in this final round of community engagement from local sports clubs, groups and individuals has been very positive," he said.

"The latest feedback brings things right up to date and allows us to take the masterplans to the next stage."

Lifelong learning with the libraries

Keen to improve your digital skills and continue your learning journey? Queenstown Lakes Libraries offer a range of in-person classes and online programmes to help you navigate the digital age.

'Better Digital Futures for Seniors' is a series of free basic computing classes from Southern REAP (Rural Education Activities Programme) currently underway at Frankton Library at Remarkables Park.

Wānaka Library is running a similar series for any age called 'Stepping Up'. Supported by Central Otago REAP, there are eight separate two-hour sessions on topics including email, Microsoft® Word, internet security, and digital banking.

Your library membership also provides access to a growing number of educational resources including:

LinkedIn Learning (formerly Lynda.com)

Online video tutorials taught by industry experts; subjects include business, photography, IT and graphic design

Mango

Choose from more than 70 languages and learn to speak and write at your own pace

KAZ

Learn to touch type! There are separate versions for adults and children, along with options for the visually impaired and people with dyslexia

Road to IELTS

If English is not your first language, this online preparation and practice resource will get you ready for IELTS (International English Language Testing System), one of the English language tests accepted by Immigration New Zealand



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Thousands of natives spruce up Jardine Park

Earlier this year, the Kelvin Peninsula Community Association and QLDC created a draft landscape plan for Jardine Park in Kelvin Heights. Of the many good ideas the community came up with, one thing came back loud and clear: more native trees.



A rainbow shimmers over Lake Wakatipu as planting continues in Jardine Park

We listened. By the end of October, with help from the Tourism Workforce Alliance, Wakatipu Reforestation Trust and Trees that Count, over 2,000 native plants and trees will have been planted in the scenic reserve.

QLDC Parks Officer Samantha Marsh said the planting was a great example of the community and QLDC working together to steward the district's natural spaces.

"The planting that's been undertaken will serve the area for years to come," she said.

"It proves what can be achieved when Council and community groups come together."

This isn't the last work that will be carried out in the park. Going forward, we'll be working with the Kelvin Peninsula Community Association and the local

community to develop stage two of the Jardine Park Landscape Plan, including upgrades such as avenue fencing and a natural playground area. Watch this space.



First round of Council's Torokiki challenges comes to a close.

The first round of challenges on Torokiki came to a close in September and we were thrilled with the response from the community.

The community-driven ideas platform was launched as a key initiative to support COVID-19 recovery across the district, with the initial six week round involving three challenges relating to diversifying the economy, building community resilience, and reducing food waste and climate change.

24 ideas were submitted by members of the community, all of which were subject to voting and comments from other interested parties.

All ideas are currently being reviewed by Torokiki Challenge Owners to assess their potential for progression. This work will involve contacting idea raisers with a network of support, or helping to identify funding to launch ideas for the benefit of the community.

Once assessed, idea submitters will be contacted about their idea and advised of the next steps.

We'd like to thank everyone who took part in the first round of Torokiki's challenges. We're looking forward to future challenges and hearing more innovative ideas and opportunities for how we can tackle the challenges of recovery from COVID-19.

To check out the first round of Torokiki challenges and ideas submitted, head to torokiki.hunchbuzz.com

Next steps for QLDC's 2021-31 Ten Year Plan

Our 2021-31 Ten Year Plan will shape a great today and an even better tomorrow.

The plan serves as a blueprint for investment in the district's infrastructure and services over the next ten years.

To start things off, we asked you to take our online survey to help us determine the community's priorities in relation to our district-wide Vision Beyond 2050. We'd like to thank everyone who took part – it's always important to have your say. Next steps:



Watch this space for more details on how to take part next year!

HOW'S LIFE?

KEI TE PĒHEA TŌU AO?



ANNUAL QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY WRAPS UP

QLDC wrapped up its third annual Quality of Life survey earlier this month. In these uncertain times, it gave people a chance to let us know 'how's life' for residents across the district, helping ensure the questions we've been asking would be useful in guiding future decisions of Council and public service providers.

We'd like to thank everyone who took part. Your contribution was invaluable, further helping Council and public service providers understand what the big issues are and where the need is greatest to help plan for a better tomorrow.

A summary of findings will be published towards the end of 2020.

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Queenstown Memorial Hall
Lake Hayes Pavilion
Lake Wānaka Centre
Alpine Aqualand
Sports fields
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WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool
Indoor Courts
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Upper Clutha: Cnr of Ballantyne
& Riverbank Roads
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LIBRARIES

For library opening hours
and locations please head to
codc-qldc.govt.nz

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