

7 December 2023

Tēnā koutou katoa / Greetings to you all

Thank you again for your patience as we finalised some details prior to distributing this latest progress update.

Exciting news as the [‘Doing The Work’ phase of our Queenstown Cemetery Restoration](#) has gone so well that we are delighted to share we are on track to [‘Reopen the Cemetery’](#) to the public before Christmas! Before we dive into those details, we would like to share a bit more about the restoration work that has continued in the cemetery since our last update.



The ‘sea of white bags’ is out of the cemetery! (above)



The cemetery burial areas are now clear of debris (above)

A crane was on site for about a week lifting all the bags of debris, as well as larger pieces of wood, up and out of the cemetery. Those bags will be stored for a period of time prior to final disposal. If you heard Mayor Glyn Lewers speak briefly on Radio New Zealand today, you will have heard him mention that all displaced headstones have also now been repaired. Two team members from Dunedin Monumental Masons came this week to reset the headstones impacted by the cemetery debris flow.



The lower area where debris was deepest has also been cleared (above)

The cemetery has remained closed while works in the upper area and along the Tiki Trail continues. There is still a fair amount of silt and logs that will need to be removed, and a temporary mitigation bund barrier was put into place toward the top of the cemetery to protect the now cleared area from any further material coming down.



Works have now moved to the upper area of the cemetery (above)



A temporary barrier was put in place to protect the recently cleared areas (above)



Lots of material still to be cleared from above the cemetery (above)

Mayor Lewers also mentioned that the cemetery will be opening to the public and will remain open through the holiday period till January 2024. We are very glad to share that we will be holding a poroporoāki reopening ceremony on the **21 December!** Poroporoāki reopening ceremony details will be sent to everyone shortly but please put this date into your calendars.

We will also organise for final headstone cleaning to take place following the poroporoāki ceremony on the 21 December, where our impacted families and community members are welcomed into the cemetery to take part in the cleaning. We look forward to having you join us for this important milestone!

One last important point to mention is that the cemetery will need to be closed again for a short period in January/February 2024. This will allow for continued log removal uphill from the cemetery and will also provide a period of undisturbed time for us to hydroseed and allow the grass to regrow. We anticipate this final closure will last for about six weeks and we will keep everyone informed of the specific dates.



Looking up the hill above the cemetery where more logs will need to be removed (above)

We thank you once again for your kindness as well as continued patience and support. 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