

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // DECEMBER 2024 JANUARY 2025 // ISSUE 164

MERRY CHRISTMAS
MERI KIRIHIMETE!

from the whole
team at QLDC

It's time to say goodbye to 2024 and welcome in the New Year. Summer is traditionally a time when we share good times with friends and whānau, and welcome others to our beautiful corner of the world. Whatever your plans, we have all the info you need for a super and safe summer inside.

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MERI KIRIHIMETE!

It's been another busy year during which, as your Mayor, I've seen plenty of highlights as well as several ongoing challenges that we've worked hard to tackle on behalf of residents and ratepayers.

They say change is the only constant. That's true for us as individuals, but can often seem like an understatement for a local council providing a huge variety of services in such a fast-moving legislative environment.

This time of year provides an important opportunity for us all to take a breath and reflect on what we've achieved since January as well as looking to the future.

I'm proud of what this Council has delivered on your behalf over the past 12 months. From community projects like Luggate playground and cricket wickets at Shotover Country to significant investment in three waters, roading (including all the underground services that nobody sees!) and active travel – Wānaka's Schools to Pool route being a great example.

We've also adopted milestone documents that set a clear pathway for the future. These include our Welcoming Plan 2024-2027, an economic diversification plan for the district and, notably, the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

A particular highlight for me has been the ongoing success of our partnership with Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust. Housing Minister Chris Bishop was able to see this for himself when he joined the trust

and I at Arrowtown's Tewa Banks in November to welcome the first residents of what will ultimately be a mix of 68 affordable rentals, rent-to-buy and secure homes.

The demand for new homes is one sign of our district's rapid growth. I'll continue to support well-planned developments in the right locations. The government recently approved Council's planning variation for Te Pūtahi Ladies Mile which aims to create more affordable housing options alongside open spaces and community facilities, active travel routes and public transport infrastructure.

Looking ahead, that word 'infrastructure' will continue to be central to our plans for 2025 and beyond. I totally appreciate that ongoing construction can be disruptive but I prefer to see those ubiquitous cones as beacons of progress rather than bright orange warning signs.

Like other councils around the country, we're addressing years of underinvestment in infrastructure. But I can assure you there is light at the end of the tunnel. I'm particularly excited by the prospect of Regional Deals: formal partnerships between local and central government, private business and iwi to align investment for maximum benefit.

I feel privileged to be in a position to help deliver Council's ambitious programme whilst continuing to provide valued services like libraries, parks and recreation facilities that keep our community connected.

For now, it just remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2025. I hope you all get a chance to relax and enjoy spending time with your friends and whānau.

Kā mihi nui,
Mayor Glyn Lewers

Lakefront New Year celebrations

Head to the Queenstown and Wānaka lakefronts for the traditional New Year celebrations. It's all free to enjoy!

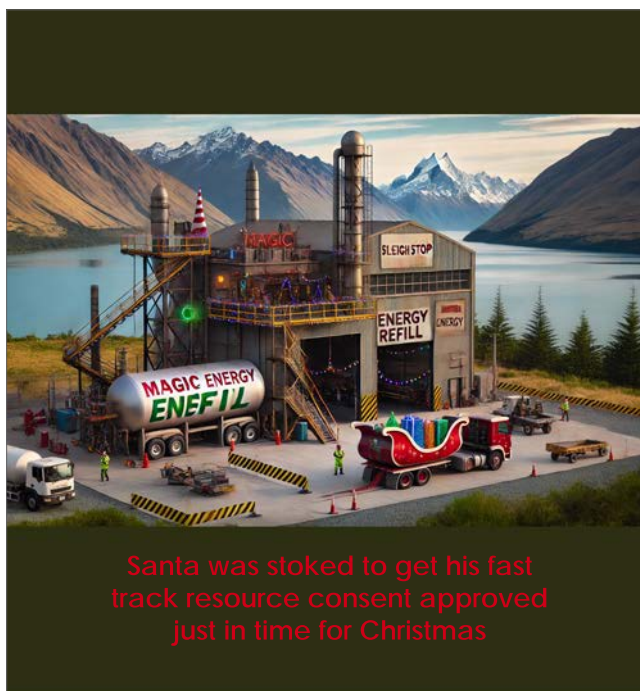
Both events kick off with family-friendly entertainment in the afternoon followed by live music and, of course, spectacular fireworks displays at midnight.

There'll be safe zones in both towns from 29 December through to the main event thanks to the awesome efforts of Red Frogs volunteers.

See page 21 for more great summer events.

QUEENSTOWN	
1.00-5.00pm	Family fun at Earnslaw Park including face painting and roaming entertainers
Main Stage: Earnslaw Park	
7.30-9.30pm	Turtle Funk
9.30-10.15pm	Mistep
11.00pm-1.00am	Freefall
DJ Stage: Marine Parade (MC – King Kapisi)	
9.00-10.30pm	DJ Pops
10.30-midnight	DJ Cuz
Midnight-1.00am	DJ Rasty
Fireworks at midnight	

WĀNAKA	
2.00-4.30pm	Family fun at Dinosaur Park including face painting, roaming entertainers and games
Main Stage: ARDMORE STREET LAYBY	
8.00-8.30pm	4BLU
8.35-10.45pm	Ginger & Tonic
10.50pm-1.00am	The Mandates
DJ Stage: ARDMORE STREET LAYBY	
9.00-11.00pm	Red Frogs DJ
11.00pm-1.00am	DJ Jordi
Fireworks at midnight	



Santa was stoked to get his fast track resource consent approved just in time for Christmas

thanks to
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Stay safe on the water

Whether you're boating, floating, swimming, skiing or otherwise enjoying our lakes and waterways this holiday season, it's vital that everyone stays safe.

BOATING

- > you're safer when sober;
- > conditions change quickly – always check the weather forecast before heading out and tell someone where you're going;
- > carry two forms of waterproof communication (the Marinemate app has plenty of helpful suggestions);
- > know what to do in an emergency – if you have a phone, dial 111 and ask for Police; if you have a VHF radio, call Channel 16 and say “mayday, mayday, mayday” then state your vessel name and location, then repeat. Channel 16 is monitored by boat users who are within range of the calling vessel; in most instances it will not be picked up by land-based monitoring stations. Download boating guides with important info at [📄 qldc.govt.nz/lakes-and-boating](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/lakes-and-boating)

SKI LANES

Please remember to travel in an anticlockwise direction within any ski lane and keep right when entering and exiting the area. You must have an observer (over 10 years old) to report any mishap to the driver. No swimming is allowed in ski lanes, nor is beaching a vessel within one, and you must not exceed 5 knots unless you're towing a skier.

YOUR HARBOURMASTER

The local harbourmaster and water patrol teams will be out and about over summer. Go say hi and learn about current conditions.

Report non-compliance of waterway rules: Phone 03 441 0499 (Queenstown) / 03 443 0024 (Wānaka) or email services@qldc.govt.nz

Please note that email address won't be monitored over our closure period so any urgent but non-emergency queries should be phoned in.

In an emergency on the water always call 111.

SAFE SWIMMING

We're asking all swimmers and anglers to please take extra precautions at rivers this summer. Follow all warning signage and do not assume that the absence of signage means you don't need to take precautions.

Take extreme care when entering the water and ask locals about the presence of any strong undertows, unstable footing and steep drop offs in our lakes. Take extra precautions around river deltas where there's often soft, shifting sand and gravel. **AVOID THESE HIGH-RISK AREAS IF POSSIBLE.**



Steep drop offs and very deep water



Strong and deep undertows



Unstable ground



Check out Land, Air, Water Aotearoa's (LAWA) handy 'Can I Swim Here?' map lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming

Managing wildfire risk

Our reserves are wonderful places to visit and enjoy over summer, but there may be days where elevated fire danger means they may be unsafe.

This may result in occasional closures to three reserves that pose the highest risk in our district: Ben Lomond, Queenstown Hill and Mount Iron. Although not a decision taken lightly, closing access means we can reduce the potential for a fire to happen and ensure people are out of harm's way if it does.

The fastest way to find out about a reserve closure is to sign up for our 'etxt' service. We'll message you when a reserve needs to close. Sign up at qldc.govt.nz/community-text-alert-sign-up

Please be aware that we won't be staffing entrance points to reserves during the closure periods; entering a reserve while it's closed will be at people's own risk.

To find out more and see the current status of each reserve head to qldc.govt.nz/managing-wildfire-risk

RESERVE CLOSED




HIGH FIRE DANGER AREA

If you see smoke or fire dial 111

Scan to read more about reserve closures on high risk days.




SUMMERDAZE

TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

We're having a Teddy Bears Picnic and your family is invited! There's plenty of entertainment for kids of all ages, with everything from musicians and interactive games to face-painting and bouncy castles.

WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

11.00am–2.00pm | Saturday 1 February

QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

11.00am–2.00pm | Sunday 2 February

Koha donations to Plunket welcome
More info qldc.govt.nz/summerdaze



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Easy ways to conserve water

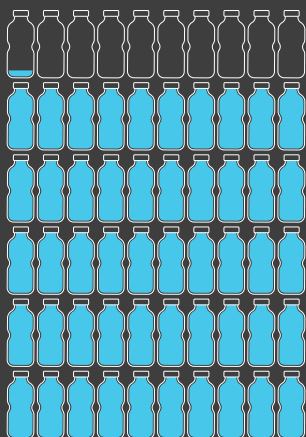
Summer's here so slip into the shade, slop on some sunscreen, slap on a hat, and try put a wrap on how much that sprinkler's running on your lawn in the middle of the day.

As temperatures soar and rain puts its feet up for the holidays, demand for water in the Queenstown Lakes skyrockets. This puts our network under strain at a time when we're facing the heightened risk of potential wildfires.

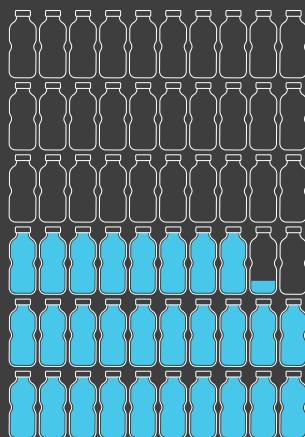
We should always treat water as a precious resource, but over summer it's especially important to consider the ways we're using it. We're asking everyone to please try some of the tips below to ensure we have the same access to water in the future that we do today.

SHOWERS

Summer may mean a shower's sometimes a place to cool off, not just scrub up, but that daily ritual can use up to 20 litres of water a minute. That's an eye-watering 200 litres of water if you enjoy a good, long ten-minute soak in there, and already half the water the average New Zealander uses in an entire day! Trimming the time you spend in the shower might not seem like much, but if everyone spent a minute or two less in there, our reservoirs would be a whole lot happier.



QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT HOUSEHOLDS USE AN AVERAGE OF 501 LITRES OF WATER PER DAY



COMPARE THAT TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 282 LITRES OF WATER PER DAY

SPRINKLERS

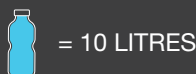
Did you know a common garden sprinkler can use up to 1,000 litres of water if left running for an hour? Shortening how long you use one at home, and only using it early in the morning or late at night to avoid evaporation, could save a significant amount of water over a long, hot summer!

LEAKS

Water might not be gushing from a cracked pipe or a dripping tap, but a small leak can waste over 1,000 litres of water each day. If you've got a leak on your property, please call a plumber to get it fixed before summer really starts to cook.

And if you spot a leak on a road or public property, report it to us immediately by calling 03 441 0499 so we can get someone out there to fix it as soon as possible.

Help save water this summer – find out how you can play your part at qldc.govt.nz/save-water



How water restrictions work

We continuously monitor water production versus reservoir levels and how much water is being used throughout the district.

If we see demand for water rising faster than we can refill our reservoirs, we'll introduce the appropriate restrictions. It's vital we have enough water in our network to respond to an emergency like a wildfire.

HERE'S WHAT TO EXPECT AT DIFFERENT WATER ALERT LEVELS:

<p>WATER ALERT LEVEL</p> <p>0</p> <p>No water restrictions, but please use water wisely at all times.</p>	<p>WATER ALERT LEVEL</p> <p>1</p> <p>Hand-held hosing kept to a minimum at any time. Sprinklers only from midnight to 6.00am.</p>	<p>WATER ALERT LEVEL</p> <p>2</p> <p>Hand-held hosing kept to a minimum at any time. No sprinklers at any time, and no contractor water takes.</p>	<p>WATER ALERT LEVEL</p> <p>3</p> <p>No use of outside water systems, no sprinklers or hand-held hoses at any time, and no contractor water takes.</p>
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Find out more about water restrictions at qldc.govt.nz/water-restrictions

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Keep our pipes flowing this Christmas

Summer's a splendid time to bust out the grill, but it's also a dangerous time for our wastewater network. Fats, oils and grease washed down your sink can cause backups in homes and damage wastewater pipes.

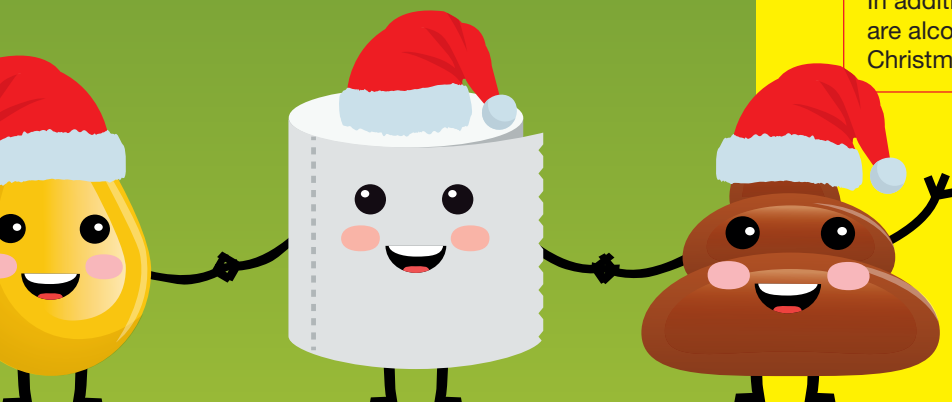
So once your BBQ or cooking utensils have cooled down, be sure to scrape any used oil, fats or grease into the bin or a non-recyclable container. Don't wash this waste down your sink!

ONLY FLUSH THE 3Ps

Plenty of products say they're flushable and biodegradable, but only pee, poo and paper should go down the loo. Flushing anything else will block our pipes and pump stations – especially wet wipes, which can cause leaks or discharges into our waterways and can be costly to repair.

We all have a part to play in protecting our environment and keeping wastewater pipes flowing smoothly through the holidays, so please think before you flush.

Make our wish come true, all we want for Christmas is no wet wipes down the loo.



Dry summer?

Planning a picnic or a few drinks down at the lake or river this summer? There's a bylaw for that!

We warmly welcome visitors and locals alike to a festive season marked by responsible enjoyment. As a friendly reminder, QLDC's Alcohol-Free Areas in Public Places Bylaw supports a family-friendly environment by reducing the potential for alcohol related offensive behaviour.

Alcohol-free areas are in place between 6.00pm and 6.00am every day in the Queenstown CBD, Arrowtown, Frankton, Wānaka CBD and Lake Hāwea.

In addition, the Queenstown and Wānaka CBDs are alcohol-free **round the clock** from 6.00am Christmas Day until 6.00am on 6 January.

Check before you go – maps showing all these locations can be found on our website:

[qldc.govt.nz/
alcohol-free-areas](https://qldc.govt.nz/alcohol-free-areas)

Jingle bins, jingle bins, jingle all the way!

**KERBSIDE COLLECTION
HOLIDAY ALERT!**



With Santa gearing up for his big night, you might be wondering about your rubbish and recycling schedule over the holidays.

HERE'S THE PLAN:

- > There will be no kerbside collections on Christmas Day or New Year's Day (both Wednesdays).
- > If your normal collection day is a Wednesday, in both cases the trucks will now be round on the following day (i.e. Thursday).
- > Scheduled collections for the rest of these two weeks will also be pushed back a day (i.e. Thursday's collections will be on the Friday, and Friday's on the Saturday).
- > Queenstown and Wānaka Transfer Stations, and the public recycling drop-off on Glenda Drive, will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL

Got a lot on your mind? Sign up for weekly bin reminders and holiday alerts via text or email at reminders.saveourstuff.co.nz.

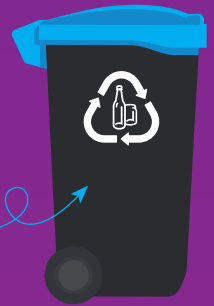
AN EXPLOSIVE REMINDER ABOUT BATTERIES

With the promise of new battery-operated gadgets and toys under the Christmas tree, remember to never toss lithium-ion batteries in kerbside or public bins – they can spark fires in trucks, bins and at our facilities. Instead, please recycle them with care via Queenstown or Wānaka transfer stations.


RECYCLING 101


Blue bin for: Clean glass bottles and jars used for food and drink only please. Lids, drinking glasses, ceramics, mirror and window glass all go in your red rubbish bin.

Yellow bin for: Clean plastic bottles, containers and trays marked ♻️, ♻️ and ♻️, aluminium and steel cans, cardboard and paper.



Let's all enjoy a clean, green holiday season!





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Splash into summer

Open air swimming has returned with Arrowtown Memorial Pool now open. Both the main and toddler pools at the much-loved facility are heated to a target temperature of 27 degrees.

Normal opening hours are 11.00am-6.00pm every day except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve when the pool will close at 5.00pm, and Christmas Day and New Year's Day when it will be closed all day.

A full list of entry prices and online membership registration are available on the QLDC website. In addition, swimmers can find the latest information regarding special events and unexpected changes to opening hours, for example due to bad weather, on QLDC Sport and Recreation's Facebook page.

Arrowtown Memorial Pool closes to humans for the season on Saturday, 1 March – but the popular Dogs Day Out event will be held the day after!

 @QLDCSportRec

 @arrowtown_memorial_pool

 qldc.govt.nz/arrowtown-pool



Hot dogs in cars are not cool

Many pet owners don't realise how quickly a car can heat up.

On a 30°C day, the temperature inside your car can reach 39°C in less than five minutes and in 30 minutes it goes up to 49°C, even in the shade!

Not only is it potentially dangerous for your dog, it's also an offence under the Animal Welfare Act to leave them in a hot vehicle if it's showing signs of heat stress and is trying to seek shade. Here's what every pet owner should know:

OPEN WINDOWS ARE NOT ENOUGH: The temperature inside a car can still soar, making it unbearable for your pet.

PETS ARE VULNERABLE: Dogs and cats are particularly vulnerable to heat as they rely on panting to regulate their body temperature – ineffective in extremely hot conditions.

BE AWARE OF THE SIGNS: These may include excessive panting, drooling, restlessness and, in severe cases, loss of consciousness. If you suspect your pet is suffering from heatstroke, seek immediate veterinary attention.

If you see a dog in immediate distress, please call the Police. Do not smash the window as this puts both you and the dog at risk. The SPCA and QLDC Animal Control (03 441 0499) are also available to offer advice and assess any potential health concerns.

Looking for the perfect dog-friendly walks this summer?

Our district has some fantastic dog-friendly walks where you can enjoy the great outdoors together. To make planning easy, check out our interactive map at qldc.govt.nz/services/animal-control which shows where you can walk your dog and when it must be on a lead.



How to spot toxic algae

Known also as cyanobacteria, toxic algae occur naturally, often blooming in warm, summertime conditions in lakes and rivers.

HOTSPOTS IN OUR DISTRICT INCLUDE THE CARDRONA AND HĀWEA RIVERS.

- > In lakes it gives the water a murky green appearance like pea soup.
- > In rivers it looks like dark brown tar mats on the riverbed and banks that can have a strong musty smell which attracts dogs.

Toxic algae can be harmful to humans, and is especially dangerous to animals, such as dogs. Please take care when walking your dog and keep them away from anything that resembles toxic algae. Don't go swimming in areas with toxic algae present.

For more info and to check for toxic algae warnings in your area click [📍 orc.govt.nz/summersafety](https://www.orc.govt.nz/summersafety)



Check, Clean, Dry

Freshwater pests can be spread by activities in and around waterways like boating and fishing. If you've been in a lake, river, stream or wetland and plan to move to another within 48 hours, you must: **CHECK:** Remove any plant matter from your gear and leave it behind, or put it in the rubbish. Don't wash plant material down any drain. **CLEAN:** Use 10% dishwashing detergent mixed with water and leave the item wet for 10 minutes. **DRY:** Ensure your gear is completely dry to touch, inside and out, then leave to dry for at least another 48 hours before you use it.

For more info visit [📍 orc.govt.nz/summersafety](https://www.orc.govt.nz/summersafety)

Happy trails this summer



Give way to pedestrians



Keep left and pass on the right



When biking, ring a bell or call out if you're approaching someone from behind



Take your rubbish home with you



Motorbikes and electric motorbikes are not permitted on trails



Keep your dog under control at all times

If you spot a hazard, please call it in on 03 441 0499. Please scan for more info on trails.



Sleigh your parking game

If you're planning to head into Queenstown or Wānaka over the break, we've got plenty of parking options available within walking distance of the town centres and lakefronts (including the former Queenstown Arts Centre site on Stanley Street). And remember, all Council-owned parking spaces in Queenstown are free after 6.00pm.

And as a 'Claus' for celebration, our free overflow parking areas will be back in action too:

Wānaka Showgrounds, off Brownston Street.

Wednesday 18 December – Sunday 12 January.

Daytime parking only – no time limit.

Queenstown Primary School, off Robins Road.

Saturday 21 December – Sunday 26 January.

Maximum stay two hours.

Stay safe on the road

THE BEST CHRISTMAS IS A CAREFUL CHRISTMAS.

Stay safe on the roads this festive season – always wear your seatbelt and don't drive tired. If you're going to enjoy a few drinks with family and friends, put plans in place for a sober driver or have an alternative and safe way home ready to go.

If you're going to be behind the wheel these holidays, please take your time and plan ahead. It's not about getting where you're going as fast as possible. It's about getting there safe and sound.

Town Centre Arterial Road project update

Thank you for bearing with us while these significant upgrades are completed in Queenstown Town Centre.

Wrapping up works for the holidays

The Kā Huanui a Tāhuna team will wrap up its work from 20 December until 6 January.

Over the holidays the work areas will be reduced as much as possible to ensure people can move around Tāhuna Queenstown easily over this busy time. The team will be back in the new year to complete some additional work to allow the main alignment to be opened to traffic in late January. Planning is underway for an opening event: we'll keep you posted in early January.

What to expect once traffic is flowing

After we've opened the arterial road to traffic, there'll still be some final work to complete.

10 February-31 March 2025 – Stormwater connection at Stanley Street intersection:

This is the final piece of the stormwater puzzle. The work involves connecting the piped stormwater network installed in upper and lower Ballarat Street within the Stanley Street intersection. Because this work is within the state highway, we won't start until the arterial road is open to traffic, to minimise disruption as much as possible.

Finishing touches for side roads:

Once the Arterial Road is open we'll be completing work on the side roads. This includes constructing a turning circle on Malaghan Street, reconstructing lower Ballarat Street between Stanley Street and the Arterial Road including a plaza area, final landscaping and de-commissioning the yard which is currently storing machinery and supplies.

Stay up-to-date

Scan to sign up for a monthly update on the Town Centre Arterial Road, and the Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvements project.



Ambassadors to champion responsible camping

You may spot our team of eight Summer Ambassadors travelling around the district. They'll be visiting freedom camping spots to share information on how to camp sustainably as well as promoting local campsites and encouraging campers to make the Tiaki promise to care for Aotearoa New Zealand. Their friendly educational approach will be supported by enforcement measures where required.

NEED TO REPORT POOR BEHAVIOUR?

Phone in urgent requests 24/7 (even over Christmas):

- > 03 441 0499 (Queenstown)
- > 03 443 0024 (Wānaka)

Email less urgent requests to services@qldc.govt.nz or use the Snap Send Solve app.

WORK UNDERWAY ON NEW BYLAW

As we covered in the last issue, a judicial review challenge resulted in a decision by the High Court to quash the Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021 as of 20 September.

Irrespective of this, work to update the 2021 bylaw was scheduled for 2025 in any case because of new rules for campers introduced by national legislation. A draft replacement bylaw will go out for public consultation in 2025, and we expect to have it in place before next summer.

For more info [📍 qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping)

In the meantime, we continue to welcome responsible campers to our district who act within the rules:

- ✓ Vehicles must be certified self-contained with a valid warrant.
- ✓ Campers should not assume they can camp on any public land without first checking whether other restrictions apply.
- ✓ Council reserves remain prohibited for freedom camping under the Reserves Act.
- ✓ Safety rules and common sense always apply.
- ✓ People should never freedom camp in a place that is unsafe to themselves or other people, or in a way that interferes with public access.
- ✓ Public land including the plants, animals, soil and water must never be damaged. People causing damage will be committing an offence.

QLDC Summer Ambassadors Ray Nee Tong, Becky Clough, Barney Braithwaite and Nicola Bell.



Wānaka Airport update

The increasing popularity of Wānaka Airport for private and commercial users will see it obtaining a Qualifying Aerodrome Operator Certificate by July 2027.

The move is the latest stage in Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) working collaboratively as the airport's owner with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA).

Becoming certified will bring the airport into line with similar facilities around the country, improving safety and providing an appropriate level of independent assurance for airport users and our wider community.

FUTURE REVIEW PROGRESSES

QLDC is also set to commence a procurement process to seek the independent delivery of the Wānaka Airport Future Review.

Confirmed details for the review and subsequent community engagement will be shared after a consultant has been appointed and a timeline agreed, which is expected by February 2025.

For more information visit qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-airport-future-review



Get me via email



This newsletter is mailed to our local residents and out-of-town, NZ-based ratepayers six times a year. If this means you, and you still want to receive a hard copy, then sweet as – you don't need to do anything.

But if you'd like to join the thousands of people who prefer to receive a digital copy via email then it's easy to switch. Just email services@qldc.govt.nz with the word "newsletter" as the subject and be sure to include your name, postal address and the address of your property in the district so we can cross you off the mailing list.

We'll send you a website link six times a year to view/download all future issues instead (and won't spam you with anything else!). You'll be helping us reduce the number of copies we print and distribute.

And remember, every issue is also on our website qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai



From the Chambers

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

QLDC APPEALING ORC REPRESENTATION DECISION

In what is a relatively rare occurrence, QLDC decided at its meeting on 12 December to appeal the Otago Regional Council's (ORC) final representation review decision for the Dunstan Constituency.

But firstly, let's quickly explain the jargon and the background: the representation review is a process undertaken by all councils every six years to consider the boundaries of each area (or 'constituency' for regional councils) and the number of councillors that the relevant population elects. The present Dunstan Constituency is the largest of the ORC's area (containing all of QLDC as well as all of Central Otago District Council). It has a population of almost 80,000 and currently elects three councillors. QLDC made a submission to ORC's original proposal and therefore has the right of appeal to the final decision.

ORC's final proposal involves retaining the present boundaries but increasing the number of councillors elected by one, bringing the total to four. However, QLDC contends that this does not go far enough and that growth and population centres of Cromwell, Wānaka and Queenstown (with its international airport) do not form a 'community of interest' with mainly rural settlements like Ranfurly and Omakau. QLDC believes that Queenstown, Wānaka and Cromwell should form its own

new constituency and elect three councillors, with the remaining – largely rural and sparsely populated – area to elect one councillor.

Because of the appeal, the issue will be referred to the Local Government Commission for a final, binding decision. The deadline for release of this decision is 10 April 2025 (although it may be earlier) and it will be the basis at least the next two ORC elections in 2025 and 2028.

NEW WAYS WITH WATER

It may seem that since the repeal of the previous government's three waters legislation, discussions about the management of water have gone off the boil. But things have still been bubbling away. The new focus is 'Local Water Done Well'. The government has moved quickly to set a new course, enacting the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 in September following a swift passage through the select committee stage. This piece of legislation gives local councils 12 months to develop Water Services Delivery Plans for their communities. These plans must outline future delivery arrangements and commit to an implementation plan. This phase prefigures the passing of the Local Government Water Services Bill, being introduced in December and passed by mid-2025, which will set the requirements for the new system.

Underpinning all these legislative changes is a recognition of the importance of local decision making and flexibility for communities and councils to determine how their water services will be delivered in the future. The topic was discussed by our Councillors at a workshop in December and the proposed model for our district will be the subject of community consultation.

AND THAT'S A WRAP...

By the time you read this, the Council will have held its final scheduled meeting for 2024. The next scheduled* Council meeting isn't until 13 February and after that there are seven more scheduled until the final meeting of the triennium prior to the local elections on 11 October.

The Council is committed to meeting in different locations around the district. Over the course of 2025 there are two Council meetings scheduled for Wānaka and one in Arrowtown. Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board is also mobile next year with meetings scheduled to take place in Wānaka, Luggate and Lake Hāwea township.

**Scheduled meetings are 'ordinary' meetings; unscheduled meetings (usually called to determine a particular issue) are 'extraordinary' meetings. In 2024, QLDC did not hold any extraordinary Council meetings although there was an extraordinary Planning and Strategy Committee meeting held in August 2024.*

Hate food waste? Chill out!

With the holiday season upon us, many of us will be gathering with family and friends to enjoy festive meals. However, with this joy often comes food waste. Last December, our friends at Love Food Hate Waste NZ surveyed over 500 households nationwide to gain insights into food waste over Christmas. While Kiwis reported wasting less food, it appears that some waste may go unnoticed, highlighting a need for awareness and action.

QLDC supports Love Food Hate Waste as part of our efforts to reduce organic waste going to landfill. One of the main barriers to minimising festive food waste is insufficient storage space, along with concerns about food safety. To combat this, it's a great idea to clear out your fridge before the holiday rush.

Setting your fridge temperature between 2-5° and your freezer to -18° will help keep your festive foods fresh. Remember, you can freeze just about anything to avoid tossing leftovers in the bin.

KEEP FOOD SAFETY IN MIND BY FOLLOWING THE 2:2:2 RULE:

Two hours to refrigerate your food after cooking.

Safe in the fridge for two days.

Frozen food can be kept for up to two months for best quality.

For more tips on how to reduce your food waste this festive season visit lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz

Happy holidays and remember to make the most of your festive food!



Tracking our progress

Curious about how QLDC is tracking toward our ambitious goals in the Long Term Plan? The latest Quarterly Report is online now, offering an in-depth look at the progress made so far.

These detailed reports are presented to Councillors and provide a snapshot of QLDC's performance against key indicators, ensuring transparency and accountability. They also complement monthly reports by diving deeper into the numbers, challenges and milestones.

Stay informed and see how we're delivering on our commitments by checking out the Quarterly Report at qldc.govt.nz/quarterly-reports

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Imogen (front row, second from right) at the final wānanga at Ōrongomai Marae in Upper Hutt.

Imogen with Mayor Glyn Lewers at a citizen ceremony in Wānaka.

Imogen's Tuia journey

Imogen Smith is just finishing her year as our local representative on the Tuia Programme.

Designed to develop the leadership capability of young Māori in communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, the programme involves local mayors selecting rangatahi (a young person) from their district to mentor on a one-to-one basis. We caught up with Imogen to find out more about her experience on the programme.

WHAT HAS YOUR YEAR INVOLVED?

Being a part of the Tuia Kaupapa this year has given me so many inspirations for my future as rangatahi Māori. I have realised how important it is to be an influence and voice for Māori within the Wānaka community.

Each wānanga has had a different kaupapa/theme. Tuia i runga 'weaving above' involved learning about our tupuna, the path they walked before us and their history. Tuia i raro 'weaving below' involved learning about the

wahua and was held in Rotorua. Tuia i roto 'weaving within' allowed us to hold space for each other to share our own personal journeys, in whatever way we felt most comfortable. Tuia i waho 'weaving outwards' was based around community outreach and contribution. Unfortunately, I was unable to go to this wānanga, but I heard some amazing things from the rangatahi who attended. Finally, Tuia te here tangata 'weaving together' was a four-day wānanga all about celebrating and reflecting on the year that has been.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS?

It's difficult to choose! There were so many. But my main highlight would be tuia i roto. All of us were encouraged to share something about ourselves, our journeys in life and who we are. This wānanga was so powerful and had such a deep impact on me and my personal growth. All

of us shared some really personal kōrero which I felt really solidified our connections with each other as a whānau. The relationships and connections made throughout this year are ones I hope to have for life.

ANY CHALLENGES YOU'VE HAD TO OVERCOME?

At the beginning of the year, I really struggled with who I was and what it meant to be Māori. I have been on a personal journey of growth with learning who I am and where I come from. This was something that I was incredibly nervous about coming into Tuia. I was worried I would be out of place or left behind. But the support and safety I felt throughout the year really encouraged me to be confident within myself.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE PARTICULAR BENEFITS OF MENTORING SESSIONS WITH THE MAYOR?

I was unsure of what to expect from the mentoring sessions with Mayor Glyn. But quickly found Glyn to be relatable, encouraging and inspiring. We have had some really great conversations together. He supported me in my journey of growing confidence by providing me with opportunities that were for sure outside of my comfort zone. I delivered the opening and closing karakia for the Welcoming Communities Hui and the Citizenship Ceremony in Wānaka. I am very grateful for these opportunities and look forward to many others.

HOW HAVE YOUR FUTURE GOALS BEEN INFLUENCED BY YOUR PARTICIPATION?

Some of my future goals have stayed the same but have been solidified in more detail thanks to Tuia and the encouragement we received. Both the Tuia kaupapa and my mahi with Kāhu Youth Trust have allowed me to express and exercise my passions for working alongside and supporting rangatahi within the Wānaka community. However, I am very excited that an opportunity has popped up where I am now able to begin a course in Te Reo Māori in person beginning in February. This is a goal that has been influenced by my participation in Tuia.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR THE PROGRAMME?

Absolutely do it! You will learn so much about yourself, grow personally and be provided with many inspirations and direction. I would say that you will learn how to navigate the uncomfortable feeling of being pushed out of your comfort zone, but we were all in the same waka! The main motto we all lived by was "trust the process". You will never find

another space like Tuia, and I say go for it! I have found it difficult to explain what it meant to be involved in the Tuia kaupapa, but coming away from each wānanga gave me a sense of pride to be Māori, inspiration and excitement for the future. You will come out of the kaupapa a different person in the best way!

ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?

I would like to mihi to Darren Rewi for encouraging me to apply for this kaupapa and share that he has been a massive support for me personally and professionally with my mahi at Kāhu Youth. I would like to share my appreciation for my manager Anna Sutherland and the amazing kaimahi at Kāhu Youth for being so supportive and enthusiastic for my journey this past year. Lastly, a massive mihi to [the Mayor's EA] Topaz for always checking in on me, and Glyn for the opportunities he has provided me with. More specifically within the Tuia whānau – our tuakana who facilitated all the wānanga and supported all of us through the kaupapa were amazing! Their mahi, logistical organisation and support were a big factor into getting me where I am today.



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'Postcards' from recent events

We thought it would be good to round-up some recent events around the district with a few photos to tell the story.



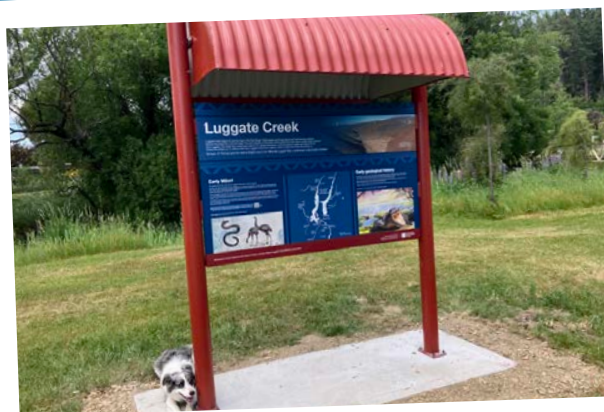
'BANKING' ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Did you know the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust (QLCHT) was set up by QLDC in 2007? The fruits of that ongoing partnership continue to grow with 180 affordable homes built by the trust across the district so far. The latest of these, at the Tewa Banks development in Arrowtown, recently welcomed their first tenants. It's the trust's biggest project to date – made possible when QLDC sold the site to it for \$1 in 2022. Pictured at the official opening: (L-R) Southland MP Joseph Mooney, QLCHT Chief Executive Julie Scott, Housing Minister Chris Bishop and Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Glyn Lewers. [Additional info and image – ODT]



STILL TIME TO SUPPORT THOSE IN NEED

It's the time for giving and hundreds of you have already brought much seasonal joy to those in need by donating goodies for Christmas hampers. There's still time to make a difference by dropping off groceries, toiletries and new, unwrapped gifts at Salvation Army Queenstown, Community Link Upper Clutha, New World Three Parks or any QLDC library (where donations can also clear your hold fees!). All donations will be collated and distributed by the nice elves at Happiness House and Community Link. Thank you and Merry Christmas!



CROCODILES IN LUGGATE CREEK!

Long before Luggate Creek existed, the area was once home to turtles and crocodiles living in an ancient sub-tropical lake. Thankfully, the locals are much friendlier 20 million years later! Local author Jenny Moss, Luggate Community Association, WAI Wānaka and QLDC have worked together to create a new information sign celebrating the creek's rich history. Located in Taylor Park, it's well worth a visit to learn more about early Māori settlement, gold prospecting and the latest efforts to support healthy ecosystems for future generations of little snappers.

Lake Hayes A&P Show

The Lake Hayes A&P Show returns on 11 January to celebrate rural life for the 109th time.

This year's theme *Back to Basics* invites attendees to celebrate timeless skills and traditions that have been valued for generations. A series of demonstrations will cover everything from composting for beginners and preserving from your garden, to floral styling and upcycling. It's a chance to reconnect with simple pleasures, learn something new and enjoy some hands-on fun.

One of the most anticipated highlights will be show jumping after its absence in 2024. The show will also feature a wide range of livestock competitions, retail stalls, food and drink, and family-friendly entertainment. See you there!

OTHER AWESOME SUMMER EVENTS

30-31 December	Rhythm & Alps
2 January	Wānaka Rodeo
4 January	Glenorchy Races
4 January	Shihad concert
18 January	Gibbston Valley concert
25 January	The Ruby Swim
1 February	Arrowtown Gin Festival
13-15 February	Challenge Wānaka
15 February	Natural Selection Bike
27 February	NZ Golf Open



Lake Hayes
A&P SHOW

SPORT 10

10 SPORTS 12 TEAMS 9 WEEKS!

KICKS OFF: 3 February **COST:** \$500 team
TEAMS: Mixed teams essential

Download your registration form through our webpage at qldc.govt.nz/wrc-sport10



Wānaka Recreation Centre
QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

Renting out your property this holiday season?

District Plan rules require everyone letting out a room or house on a short-term basis to register with QLDC and, if required, get a resource consent. This will help improve our data so we can better understand and respond to the impacts of short-term letting in the district.

If you only let for fewer than 28 consecutive days per year it won't affect your rates.

We're aware there are several unregistered properties in some suburbs. This will continue to be monitored over the coming months and we encourage people to self-comply to keep things fair and to avoid enforcement action.

MAKE SURE YOU REGISTER

More info at qldc.govt.nz/stva

Join the Waitangi Day commemoration

As we approach our national day, we're thrilled to share plans for a commemoration of Te Tiriti o Waitangi at Queenstown Recreation Ground and Memorial Centre. Building on the 2019 commemoration, our local community will co-host the event with Kāi Tahu (Kā Papatipu Rūnaka e Whitu) where we will welcome the councils of Otago and Southland along with representatives of central government and its agencies.

This year we tautoko (support) the theme of unity and partnership between Te Tiriti o Waitangi partners. This will focus on collaborative stewardship initiatives such as Project Tohu (indigenous reforestation on Coronet Peak Mauka) and Wai Whakaata Lake Hayes Catchment Programme, alongside other high-level strategic work such as the Grow Well Whaiora Spatial Plan. These efforts, developed through partnerships

with mana whenua, councils and community groups, showcase our shared commitment to the wellbeing of our taiao (natural environment).

The official ceremony will be led by Kāi Tahu, joined by Mayor Glyn Lewers. Following the formalities, we welcome the community to enjoy kai through our wonderful local food trucks or a picnic brought from home. There'll be demonstrations by community groups

alongside kapa haka and music performances.

Join us from 10.00am on Thursday 6 February for a day of reflection, unity and inspiration, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and 185 years since the signing of this foundational agreement.

Look out for more details about the programme in January.

**Kia Whakatōmuri
te haere whakamua –
We walk backwards
through life with our
eyes fixed firmly
on the past.**

Bikes on buses

There's a temporary night-time restriction on using front-fitted bus bike racks in Queenstown and across the country. That's from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise the next day. NZTA Waka Kotahi issued a safety notice as bikes on the racks can potentially obscure headlights on some bus models. While there haven't been any issues previously, Otago Regional Council (which is responsible for public transport in our district) wants to do everything it can to keep bus users and others safe. ORC will let everyone know when the night-time restriction has been lifted. To learn more go to

orc.govt.nz/bikeracks

'Reserve' your views

How would you like to see two iconic reserves in the Whakatipu Basin managed now and in the future?

A draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for Te Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond and Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill is now open for public submissions. The RMP covers policies grouped into six themes. Jump online to read the draft plan and make a submission by 17 March at

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

MOUNT IRON UPDATE

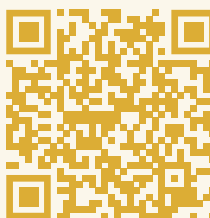
A big thank you to everyone who shared their views on this much-loved Wānaka landmark – we received more than 400 submissions to the draft RMP! A final plan that has considered all feedback will be presented to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board and Full Council for adoption in early 2025. You can view a report on all the submissions at

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

Honohono Connect

Creativity, culture and heritage belongs to all of us.

Three Lakes Cultural Trust, QLDC and the Lakes District Museum have come together to create regular newsletters, keeping you up to date on all things, arts, culture and heritage in our district.



Scan to subscribe here!



Summer hours and contacts



Our offices in Queenstown and Wānaka will close at midday on Tuesday 24 December and reopen at 8.00am on Friday 3 January.



As always, we'll still have a team of people available 24/7 to take your call and help resolve any urgent issues that crop up – just give us a call on 03 441 0499 (Queenstown) or 03 443 0024 (Wānaka).



Another option for non-urgent issues is Snap, Send, Solve – a handy little app that allows you to report issues in your local area on the spot, using your mobile device. These issues are then automatically sent QLDC's way! *Please note, these will not be monitored over the Christmas closedown.*



A full list of opening hours for our sport and recreation facilities, libraries and transfer stations can be found online at qldc.govt.nz/summer-101. You'll also find lots of other helpful info about summer in the Queenstown Lakes District.

QLDC OFFICES

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

Office Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Alpine Aqualand
Alpine Health & Fitness
Indoor Courts
Sports fields
Phone: 03 450 9005

WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool
Indoor Courts
Phone: 03 443 9334

PAETARA ASPIRING CENTRAL

Indoor Courts
Studio
Phone: 03 450 1721

VENUES

For more information on our venues please head to qldc.govt.nz/venues

LIBRARIES

For library opening hours and locations please head to qldclibraries.govt.nz

TRANSFER STATIONS

Whakatipu: 110 Glenda Drive
Frankton Industrial Area
Phone: 03 348 5126

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

HARBOURMASTER

Report non-compliance of waterway rules by phone **03 441 0499** or email services@qldc.govt.nz
In an emergency on the water always call **111**

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

Let's Talk Kōrero Mai is published bi-monthly by Queenstown Lakes District Council to inform ratepayers and residents of council activities.

Sam White ✉ communications@qldc.govt.nz

Feedback and ideas are welcome.