

News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL

A message from Mayor Scott Aronsen

Kia ora,

As your new Mayor, I want to take a moment to wish you all a very warm and heartfelt Merry Christmas.

The past couple of months have been a whirlwind — a real baptism of fire. With a mountain of emails, a steady stream of meetings, and the day-to-day demands of getting up to speed, I haven't had the chance to catch up with as many of you as I would have liked. Even so, I've appreciated every conversation, every message, and every opportunity to hear what matters to our community.

As a new council, we are very mindful of the mandate you've given us. You've asked for strong local representation, prudent stewardship, and a steady hand in a period of significant change. We intend to honour that.

With central government signalling reform in local government and the RMA, we know change is coming. This is not a time to shrink back or wait on the side lines. It's a time to step forward, protect what makes our district unique, and ensure our community's voice is firmly heard. Maintaining our local sovereignty and decision-making remains a priority.

We're also preparing for likely rates capping and considering the recent DIA notice around our water services delivery plan. Part of this work will include engaging with our neighbouring councils to look at practical and sustainable pathways for the future.

But for now, as Christmas approaches, I hope each of you gets the chance to rest, reconnect, and enjoy time with friends and whānau. Thank you for your patience, your support, and your ongoing faith in our community.

Have a safe and joyful Christmas, and I look forward to seeing more of you in the New Year.

Warm regards,

Scott Aronsen,
Mayor, Mackenzie District Council



Community Drop-in Sessions

What's important to you?

We are looking ahead and want to know what's important to you, your community, and the Mackenzie District. Look out for our MDC big blue trailer in our main town centres over the next couple of months.

Councillors and staff will be based at the trailer on the following dates:

Location	Date	Time
FAIRLIE	Wednesday 17 December 2025	9:00am – 4:00pm
TEKAPO	Thursday 18 December 2025 (at Community Hall)	9:00am – 4:00pm
TWIZEL	Thursday 22 January 2026	3:00pm – 7:00pm
TEKAPO	Wednesday 28 January 2026	3:00pm – 7:00pm
FAIRLIE	Tuesday 3 February 2026	3:00pm – 7:00pm

Drop-in and share your ideas.



Twizel Community Board vacancy

There is still time to nominate someone for the Twizel Community Board. The closing date is 22 December for the by-election February 2026.

More details are available on our website at: mackenzie.govt.nz > Council > Elections > 2025-26 Twizel Community Board By-election



Citizenship Ceremony

Mackenzie Mayor Scott Aronsen welcomed new New Zealand citizens at a ceremony held at the Mackenzie Community Centre in Fairlie on Tuesday 25 November 2025.

The new citizens are Daniel, Laura, Sebastian, and Rosie Irving; Susan Kerr; Christopher Bell; Eiligh France from the United Kingdom; Lisa Forrester from Canada; Zhongheng Lou from China; Indika Napawala Gamaladdalage from Sri Lanka; Richard Radford from the United States of America; Samuel Schijvens from Australia; and Max Viereck from Germany.



Christmas greetings from the Mayor and Councillors.
(Including from Cr Brian Finn who was unable to attend in person.)

Child Supervision Policy – Swimming Pools

Belgravia Leisure (who run council's swimming pools in Twizel and Fairlie) have amended their policy relating to the supervision of children for the current pool season.

- Children under 8 years old must be actively supervised by a caregiver.
- Children 5 years and under must be within arm's reach of their caregiver.
- Caregivers must be at least 16 years old.

Full details are available from pool staff.

2026 Bin collection calendars

Printable PDF copies of these calendars are available at our offices or from our website - mackenzie.govt.nz > Services > Rubbish and Recycling > Bin Collections



Wishing you a Happy Christmas
and a relaxing New Year from all of
us at Mackenzie District Council