

Mackenzie District Mayor, Anne Munro

It is now 10 months since the local elections were held. The results saw us with a new Mayor and 5/7 new Councillors. Our new CEO had only recently been confirmed into her role. So, how are we doing?

It has been a busy 10 months.

Central government has been driving a programme of unprecedented reform. As a Council we have made numerous submissions to the Select Committees to voice our deep concerns. As a Canterbury group of Mayors we work well together and collaborate extensively in many of these areas. Many of these topics such as the legislative reforms to three waters and the resource management act will become issues at the general election.

You will have seen some of the other achievements of the last year, including:

- We have completed flooding repair works from our spate of severe weather events, including building in some additional resilience into our road network. We are also looking at adding additional works into the next roading programme to help address the intensity and frequency of severe weather events in the future, and the impact they have on our livelihoods.
- We have made good progress on tackling some of the deferred maintenance on our buildings – the Twizel event centre seating issues, heating improvements, and fire and safety risks have been addressed, and we are currently addressing the seismic strengthening and fire risks of the Fairlie Council building.
- We have made improvements to the swimming pools in both Fairlie and Twizel. We listened to the community and are introducing accessibility and extended opening hours.
- We have made major improvements in the area of Emergency Management. We have been building relationships and training with multi-agency groups including FENZ, Hato Hone St John, volunteer groups, and community groups. We have also been undertaking exercises in each township to ensure we are able to put our training into practice when we need to.



I want to extend a particular thank you to all the members of our community who have taken the time to contribute to our rolling District Plan review. Your continued involvement is important as we work through stage 3 of the review and into stage 4.

The District Plan is the blue print that underpins everything we do, and I can't emphasise enough the importance of your input. Thank you.

It has been an exceptional 10 months for our newly elected members and I'm proud to be leading this hard working team who bring great skillsets, passion and commitment to their roles. With this team, working for the good of our community, I have every confidence that our leadership will help move our district forward.

Ngā mihi / Kind regards,

Mayor Anne

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs – Twizel Area School - Year 10

Employability Programme

Over May and June Mayors Taskforce for Jobs in (MTFJ), in partnership with Mackenzie District Council and Twizel Promotions and Development Association ran their first employability programme with Year 10 students (M4) at Twizel Area School.

This has been based around the seven fundamental employability attributes - Teamwork, positive thinking, resilience, willingness to learn, communication, self-management and thinking skills.

These sessions have been focused on practical learning exercises followed by excursions out of the classroom to practice practical skills. While all the weeks were highly enjoyed and M4 should be commended for their participation and engagement three activities stood out as highlights:



Top Hut Bar and Bistro

The Top Hut Bar and Bistro allowed the students to run a work simulation. As part of these students split into three groups and rotated between three stations, Food preparation, making a hot chocolate on the coffee machine and role-playing customer service in the restaurant.



Twizel OP Shop

An excursion to the OP Shop where on entry they were handed a piece of paper each with an occupation and given five minutes to shop for an item or outfit relating to the occupation. Once back in the classroom the students then 'speed dated' each other to guess the occupation and split off into pairs to practise interview techniques.

Kiwi Tax, Mackenzie Four Square and Foodbank

Nathan from Kiwi Tax explained the all-important questions ('like what even is Kiwi Saver?'). The students looked at three budgets relating to different common incomes - A student allowance with a part time job, full time employee on minimum wage and on an average annual wage.

After this they were given a budget of \$8 each and went over to Mackenzie Four Square with the task being to create a lunch. We were impressed with the creativity of the students, entire meals were created and purchased with a few taking the initiative to combine their budgets. We then took all the food over and donated it to the Community Food Bank. A lot of our students didn't know about this, and we reiterated the importance of the Food Bank especially in the current economic climate.

The final morning was spent building CVs, so all the students have left the programme with a workable CV document and the knowledge of employability and its importance in the work force. We hope the Rangitahi enjoyed the program and learned some valuable skills to carry them forwards in education and the workforce.

Special thanks to these individuals and businesses that donated their time and resources to making this possible. Firstly, Rachel Dacombe who was of invaluable support throughout the entire process of building the program, Top Hut Bar and Bistro (Darrin, Tracey, Phil, John, Dani and Lana), Twizel OP shop (Liz and Belinda), Kiwi Tax (Nathan Grant) Vicky Hayes (Community Care Centre), and Nick Buddajaroen. Thank you to the Twizel Area School for seeing the value in these sessions and making the time and space available for these to happen.

Hannah Beer, MTFJ Coordinator, Mackenzie District.

Rates in the Mackenzie District

Rates are the way that everyone pays for those essential community services that we all use every day. When most of you turn on the tap, drive on a local road, flush the toilet or go for a walk in the park, you're using a service you've helped pay for.

As part of the 2023/24 Annual Plan, the overall total amount of rates collected by the council has increased by 10.2%. Your individual rates bill may have increased by more than this or less depending on things like which services you receive at your property and how much your land value has increased compared to other properties.

Rates are due and payable in four equal instalments on the following dates during the year:

Instalment	Due Date
1	20 September 2023
2	20 December 2023
3	20 March 2024
4	20 June 2024

Any outstanding amount unpaid at the due dates will attract a 10% penalty.

You can choose to pay smaller amounts on a more regular basis as long as they add up the full instalment amount by the quarterly date. If you would like to pay regular small amounts, please contact our rates team to discuss the details.

You can pay your rates via direct debit (EasyPay), credit card, internet banking, online on our website, or in person at one of our offices.

Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a partial rebate for eligible, low income ratepayers who pay rates on their home to the Council.

The maximum rebate you can receive is \$750 which is available as long as your gross (before tax) income is \$30,100 or less.

Even if your income exceeds the threshold, you may still be eligible, depending on the amount of rates you pay and number of dependants.

If you think you may be eligible please contact Council on 03 685 9010.



Rural road safety improvements

Glen Lyon Road ford

Lakes Construction, assisted by Neil Sproull Earthmoving recently installed a guard rail on the downstream side of the Glen Lyon Road ford near Twizel.

This safety improvement is aimed to prevent vehicles from being washed downstream when trying to cross in times of floods. Permanently mounted signage has also been put into place to warn if the ford is closed. A further safety improvement for this ford will be the installation of ford depth markers.

Haldon Road flood recovery works

Flood Recovery works by Council's roading contractor, Fulton Hogan, on Haldon Road are now completed. Drainage works are already proving their worth with the recent rainfall keeping the water flowing and off the road.



Wheelie Bin Placement - did you know...?

We ask you to put your bin out at the edge of the pavement. but what about if you have no pavement...? In this case place your bin at the edge of the road.

Why? We are concerned that there are safety issues with bin collection when bins are positioned back near the fence, and we want to leave a space for pedestrians even when there is no pavement.



With wild weather at the start of August, it was all hands on deck by Council's roading contractor Fulton Hogan and subcontractors for another weather event. The entire district endured gales, with gales up to 100 km/hr recorded in Fairlie, though with minimal damage.

At right is a High Country Earthworks truck in action clearing snow off the highway in late evening.



RECYCLING

What goes in your yellow bin?

Rigid plastic #1, 2 & 5

Paper & magazines

Cardboard

Tins + Cans

No rubbish or food

No lids

No clothing

No Glass (glass in the blue crate)

No Soft Plastics

Want to know more?
www.mackenzie.govt.nz

RUBBISH

What goes in your red bin?

General rubbish
eg. dirty nappies.

Ashes
(wait until they are cool before putting in your red bin).

Non-recyclable plastics #3, 4, 6, 7
eg. plastic food wrap, soft plastics, plastic bags, toys, garden hoses

Clothes, pillows or shoes
(if reusable, take to a clothing bin or op-shop)

Crockery
eg. broken plates and cups

Frying pans & pots

Lids & Caps

Polystyrene
(take to the Resource Recovery Park for recycling)

Takeaway cups

Juice & milk cartons

Windscreen, mirror or plate glass

Drinking glasses

Flax, cabbage tree & rhubarb leaves

Oven-safe glassware

Light bulbs

Want to know more?
www.mackenzie.govt.nz

ORGANICS

What goes in your green bin?

Food waste
e.g. coffee grounds, eggshells, fish, fruit and vegetable scraps, cheese, meat (raw or cooked), bones and tea bags (plastic free).

Unsprayed garden waste
e.g. branches, flowers, leaves, weeds, untreated wood, and grass clippings.
NO flax, cabbage or rhubarb leaves

Paper*
*handtowels, newspaper, tissues, serviettes and non-brightly coloured shredded paper

Cardboard pizza boxes and fish and chip paper

Hair and animal fur

Animal droppings (wrapped in paper)

Want to know more?
www.mackenzie.govt.nz

RECYCLING

What goes in your blue glass crate?

Glass bottles (Rinsed, no lids)

Glass jars (Rinsed, no lids)

The below items are not for the blue glass crate - these go in the red rubbish bin

Windscreen glass

Mirror or Plate glass

Drinking glasses

Oven-safe glassware

Light bulbs

Lids & Caps

Want to know more?
www.mackenzie.govt.nz

Changes to Building Consent application processes

In order for Mackenzie District Council Building Consent Authority to effectively process building consent applications the following changes are being implemented and are effective immediately.



Ground bearing verification

Confirmation of site soil bearing capacity needs to be provided at application stage in order for the building consent officer processing the application to be satisfied on reasonable grounds the proposed foundation design is in accordance with the nominated compliance path, i.e. NZS3604:2011.

NZS3604:2011 Section 3 provides test methods for determining soil bearing capacity for buildings designed in accordance with the standard.

If a site does not comply with the definition of good ground, as described in NZS3604:2011, the foundations shall be the subject of specific engineering design (SED) and investigation as appropriate

Specific Engineering Design (SED) elements

Where building consent applications contain significant Specific Engineering Design (SED) elements supported by a PS1 statement (Design) an appropriate construction monitoring schedule, from a suitably qualified individual (CPEng) will be required to be provided as part of the Building Consent application documentation.

Minor SED elements contained within the design will be assessed for suitability of inspection by MDC Building Inspectors at time of processing.

Further information about Building Consents is at www.mackenzie.govt.nz > Rates, Building & Property > Building Consents & Applications



Elevations of the Mackenzie District

When the weather forecast tells us to expect snow down to 600m do you wonder if that means you might get some snow? These are the elevations of some key points in our district.



Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cup-full of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.



Dog Registrations due 31 August

It's that time of year again – when our canine friends get their nice new (yellow) council tags. Because the fees and charges for this financial year are adopted with the Annual Plan at the end of June, it takes a bit of time after that to update our system, generate and post the invoices. Notices were sent out over July.



Because the notices have been delayed, we are extending the payment date so dogs must be registered by 31 August, and the 50% penalty will only be imposed if your dog is not registered before 1 September. As always, if you will have difficulty paying your invoice, please contact us in confidence on 0800 685 8514 so we can discuss payment options. We're here to help.



It's been a great year in the pool at Twizel with some wonderful improvements to the pool, including the new heating system and the gorgeous mural.

Next year it would be fantastic if we could re-introduce the Swimming Club for school-age kids. This could be an opportunity to help kids train for events and learn/improve their swimming skills. Are you a parent, a teacher, or a member of the community who would be keen to help make this happen?

If this sounds like you get in touch with us on 0800 685 8514, or via the Twizel Community Pool Facebook page. We are hoping to offer a longer season next year, or extended opening hours, and we have some resources available to support the Swimming Club.

Did you know?

Updates covering current Road Closures, Water, and Civil Defence alerts are available on the mackenzie.govt.nz website, accessible from buttons on the homepage.

Updates are also placed up on the Mackenzie District Council Facebook page



Icy roads in winter

With ice often settling on road surfaces throughout the Mackenzie District at this time of year, it is recommended to drive to the conditions, and where necessary, reduce your speed.



Report an issue or problem?

Contact us on 0800 685 8514 or email info@mackenzie.govt.nz

