

Mackenzie District Mayor, Anne Munro

Hui at Arowhenua

Along with other newly elected Councillors I was recently privileged to be welcomed to Arowhenua Marae.

Here at Mackenzie District Council, we operate within the Arowhenua takiwā (area). Environment Canterbury (ECan), Ashburton District Council, Timaru District Council, and Waimate District Council also operate within the area and representatives from each council also attended the hui.

Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua Chairperson Fiona Pimm says it was the first time all four district councils and ECan had been welcomed to Arowhenua Marae as a roopu.

During the creation of Te Manahuna Ki Uta – Destination Mackenzie, our new destination management plan, we engaged with our three local rūnaka, Arowhenua, Waihao and Moeraki. We value our collaborative partnership and the work we did together to create the plan.

The weekend was an opportunity to forge and continue our collaborative partnerships and continue the work we did as part of a wider tourism journey that includes Aoraki Mt Cook National Park, the Upper Waitaki Valley and Lindis Pass.

Arowhenua and all five councils will meet quarterly moving forward to discuss mutual priorities such as social wellbeing, improving economic wellbeing for whānau, and job creation alongside environment and water related kaupapa.

Tourist Numbers

Tourist numbers have been tracking up and we've had a busy time in Mackenzie over the holiday period with lots of people enjoying the fabulous things our district has to offer.

This has caused some challenges for our tourism businesses who have been dealing with the pressure of staffing and accommodation issues. I commend them for the way they have continued to provide services during this tough time and rest assured, Council continues to work on finding pathways to improve this situation.

Farming

Many of us have also had a busy time on the farm. I recently travelled to Southland and was interested to experience their 30+ degree heat, and to see how dry they are.

Here we've had a much wetter year so far which has given us extraordinary grass growth, with the added challenge of trying to make the most of it getting hay and baleage done.



District Plan Review – Stage Three

As many of you know, we are in the process of reviewing the Mackenzie District Plan.

The District Plan is essentially the rule book that sets district-wide guidelines for managing how people use, subdivide and develop land, what and where they can build, and what kind of activities they can undertake.

We are reviewing the District Plan in stages and are just about to kick off community consultation on Stage Three. This covers some big topics, including: the district's rural areas, rural lifestyle, landscapes, and Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.

We want to make sure the plan reflects what you, our community, wants so it's important you take the time to have your say.

We know there are big changes coming for the Resource Management Act, so we need to get ahead of this and update our District Plan now to ensure it reflects the wishes of our community.

Look out for the details we'll be putting out over the next couple months. We will be holding community open days in March and there will be opportunities for you to have your say. We'll be putting information out on all our usual channels (local papers, online, social media etc).

Mayor Anne

Plan Change 20 - Strategic Direction Chapters



Pursuant to Clause 10 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 the Mackenzie District Council gives public notice of the decision of the Independent Hearing Panel on Plan Change 20 to the Mackenzie District Plan.

Plan Change 20 is Stage 1 of the review and replaces the following sections of the Mackenzie District Plan:

- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Policy and Legal
- Section 3 – Definitions (in part*)
- Section 4 – Takata Whenua

The Plan Change has been drafted in accordance with the National Planning Standards and incorporates the following components:

Part 1 – Introduction and General Provisions

- Introduction
- How the Plan Works
- Interpretation (in part*)
- National Direction Instruments
- Tangata Whenua/Mana Whenua

Part 2 – District-wide Matters

- Strategic Direction

All information on Plan Change 20 including the decision report is available online at mackenzie.govt.nz > Council > Strategies, Plans & Reports > District Plan Changes and Consultation



Appeals

Any person who made a submission on Plan Change 20 may appeal to the Environment Court against the decision. Appeals must be in the format prescribed and lodged with the Environment Court within 30 days (by 20th February 2023) of this notice being served.

The applicant must also serve a copy of the notice in the prescribed manner to the Mackenzie District Council. Attention is drawn to Clause 14 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Angela Oosthuizen
Chief Executive
On behalf of Mackenzie District Council

Notification Date: 19 December 2022

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund grants



Applications are now open for Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund grants. The fund is open to sports clubs and school teams with young people aged between 5-18 years who need help with transport expenses to attend regular, local sporting competitions.

Further information, guides and application form are available at mackenzie.govt.nz > Community > Grants and Scholarships > Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund.



Applications close on Friday, February 17, 2023, at 5pm.

Lake Tekapo/Takapō Regional Park Community Meetings

The Lake Tekapo/Takapō Regional Park is an important asset for the Mackenzie district. Unfortunately, many of the trees in the park need to be replaced as they are a source of pest tree seeds. Environment Canterbury (ECan) have developed a plan to address this issue and enhance the park's recreational and cultural values.

On Tuesday 21 February and Wednesday 22 February 2023, community meetings will take place about the proposed future development of Lake Tekapo/Takapō Regional Park. The meetings will be held at Lake Tekapo Community Hall, 8 Aorangi Crescent.

After a short presentation from ECan staff, you will have an opportunity to ask questions, share suggestions, and discuss how you would like to be involved in the development of the park.

During 2022, ECan Parks & Forests, Biosecurity, and Biodiversity teams worked on a plan to remove pest species like wilding conifers and replant areas of the park with a mixture of exotic and native trees and plants.

Working in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, ECan have created an exciting plan that will reintroduce some native plant species that were present in Takapō prior to European settlement.

ECan has also worked with Mackenzie District Council, the Lake Tekapo Recreation Society, Wilding Free Mackenzie, and other stakeholders to ensure plans meet the needs of the community, landowners, and businesses.

Not able to attend the meetings?

You can ask questions and share feedback about plans for the park online at haveyoursay.ecan.govt.nz



Change to Swimming Pool Supervision Policy

With the national discussion on swimming pool safety Mackenzie District Council staff and our contractor have taken the opportunity to review the current arrangements at our two pools at Twizel and Fairlie.



The revised policy for access and supervision requirements at MDC's pools is below, and is effective immediately. This policy aligns MDC with a number of other pools across New Zealand.

Another key reason for this review was the increasing number of incidents where younger children are dropped off at pools without appropriate supervision. This put additional strain on the lifeguards employed at our pools. The new policy will increase their ability to watch people in the pool, and will reduce the risk of drownings.

Please note, active supervision means watching the swimmers you are responsible for. It does not mean reading a book, engaging with your phone or intensely socialising with others.

Policy

Children under 12 years old: MUST be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years or over. Actively supervised means:

- Watching your children at all times to be able to provide immediate assistance.
- At a close distance where you can see, hear and be heard by your child and your child must be able to see you.

Children 5 years and under: Maximum adult to child ratios:

- Must be within arms reach of their caregiver who is 16 years old or over at all times.
- One adult to two under 5yr's
- One adult to four 5-10yr's
- One adult to one under 5 and three 5-10yr's

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.



Twizel and Fairlie Swimming Pools

Since we upgraded the heating at Twizel Community Pool and Strathconan Pool - Fairlie, the water temperature generally sits at a lovely...



Public Opening Dates and Hours

Days	Fairlie Hours	Twizel Hours
Weekday School Term	6:00am - 8:30am (Lane Swimming) 9:30am - 3:00pm (Schools) 3:00pm - 5:45pm (Public)	Monday 8:00am - 7:00pm Tuesday - Friday 8:00am - 6:00pm
Weekends and Public Holidays	12:00pm - 5:45pm (Free Play)	Monday 12:00pm - 7:00pm Tuesday - Friday 12:00pm - 6:00pm
School Holidays	12:00pm - 5:45pm	10:00am - 6:00pm

The 2022/2023 Mackenzie District Swimming Pools season runs until mid-March. Further information about swimming pools is at mackenzie.govt.nz > Services > Parks, Venues and Recreation > Swimming Pools



Do you use the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail?



We are keen to hear feedback from casual riders of the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail - from one day visitors, and those living locally that use the trail sections for fitness and recreational purposes.



Have your say, and to let us know what works (and doesn't work) at getsmartglobal.com/alps2ocean

Community Board Grants



Do you need support for a community project?

The three community boards in the Mackenzie District have grant funding to encourage and support not-for-profit organisations with a positive impact on the community. They can help local organisations pay for specific projects, events, or the maintenance of facilities that benefit the community.

It is preferable that the organisations applying for these grants are incorporated societies or trusts, but informal organisations and individuals may also apply.

How much are the grants?

Most grants are for less than \$500, although occasionally larger grants are approved.

What types of things are funded?

- Not-for-profit events and projects.
- Projects that benefit the wider community or a section of the community served by the community board.
- Projects that respond to a current or future community need.

What types of things are not funded?

- Projects or events that have already happened.
- Projects with the main purpose of promoting commercial, political or religious activity.
- Projects that are the core business of central government or another service provider.
- Debt servicing, gambling or prize money, travel costs, conference fees, or costs related to fines or disputes.
- Applications that are not complete, or do not specify an amount.

More information, and an application form is available at mackenzie.govt.nz > [Community > Grants and Scholarships > Community Board Grant](#).



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.



Fairlie Dog Park opened



The new Fairlie Dog Park is now open and available for use. You can find it next to the picnic area beside Allandale Bridge, access off Allandale Rd/SH79 on the Geraldine side of the bridge.

We will be developing the park further, when funds are available, with a focus on some agility items, tree planting and splitting the space to allow for separate areas for small and large dogs.



Civil Defence session at Tekapo



On December 1 2022, 34 representatives from Police, FENZ, St John, LandSAR, Mackenzie Lakes Coastguard, Lake Tekapo Civil Defence Welfare Team, Mackenzie District Council Civil Defence and the Lake Tekapo Lions group attended a workshop at the Lake Tekapo Community Hall to plan a multi-agency and community response to a developing incident.

The group were presented a wildfire scenario that included a possible evacuation of Lake Alexandrina Huts and Mt John areas.

This was a very real scenario that many towns in the Mackenzie District could potentially be exposed to. Being prepared and having excellent community relationships is paramount to providing a professional and coordinated response.

All emergency services and community groups had to work together in collaboration to respond to the incident, utilising local resources.

Joe Rush, Mackenzie District Emergency Management Officer was impressed by the attendance, teamwork, and professionalism the community response showed.

This was certainly not an easy scenario where time was a critical factor to preventing risks to people and property.