

# News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



## Firebreak improvement work, Hamilton Drive/Murray Place Firebreak, Tekapo

Over late April and early May contractors worked to reduce the risk of wildfire by improving the firebreak along Hamilton Drive and Murray Place in Tekapo.

Selective trees were removed, particularly wilding species and trees deemed too close to property boundaries. These increase the amount of fuel in the area, and increase the risk posed to residents.

Contractors left all oak trees in situ and were instructed to leave larch and eucalyptus trees where was safe to do so. These tree species have a greater amenity value than the wilding species, they support bird life, provide shelter to properties, and pose a lower risk of becoming a potentially problematic wilding trees.

Qualified arborists trimmed trees and removed limbs where required to lift branches higher from the ground. This is a commonly used technique to reduce the chance of fire spreading into tree canopies. They also thinned tree coverage where required.

This tree work aims to increase the size of the buffer provided by the recently installed fire break and mitigate the risk of wildfire facing Lake Tekapo's visitors, residents and properties.

## Stoneleigh Road bridge closed

Following recent flooding Stoneleigh Road, Kimbell is CLOSED at the bridge over the Ophi River.

Our contractors are working to repair the damage to its approaches and there is no access across the river for any traffic.

We anticipate the work will take until early May, as long as we don't get another significant weather event. We will re-open the road as soon as possible.

We are getting a lot of people driving down to the worksite, clearly expecting to be able to cross the river, and then having to turn around and find another route. Please note - driving on a closed road invalidates vehicle insurance.



## Mayors Taskforce for Jobs - Izzy Miles Remarkable Beauty, Fairlie

Izzy Miles has started her beauty therapy training with Haley Shaw at Remarkable Beauty. She has completed her nail training and is producing some amazing nail art.

Mackenzie District Mayor, Anne Munro, was so impressed that she booked a manicure when we visited.

Leaine Rush, Fairlie Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) coordinator, was able to assist with funding from the MTFJ Rural Community Resilience programme to assist with funding some training costs for Izzy.

Haley has been supportive of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and, supported by Leaine, has offered some fantastic opportunities for employment over the last three years.

It is heartening when local businesses build their workforce with local youth and MTFJ is happy to help support with funding and pastoral care.

Mayor Anne, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, and Ministry of Social Development wish Izzy well with her apprenticeship



## Did you know?

Updates covering current road closures and water-off notices are available on the [mackenzie.govt.nz](http://mackenzie.govt.nz) website, accessible from buttons on the homepage.

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



Water Alerts - No Current Issues



Roading Alerts - 2x Current Issues

## Tips for Winter Driving



Mackenzie District experiences severe winter driving conditions every winter. Often, these are the worst in the country, and can be life threatening.

Modern cars come with a myriad of safety features, however the most critical is the driver behind the wheel. A number of these safety features lose their effectiveness in snow, ice and driving rain. Note that 4WD vehicles do not exempt you from following these basis rules as when they provide better traction they are still susceptible to black ice, fog, snow and other hazardous winter driving conditions.

Ideally, you should avoid driving in bad weather, however it can strike unexpectedly. Check the weather forecast - if you are heading out as the weather might turn on you, and always choose the safer route over the quicker one. If you must go out be prepared, have your phone fully charged, stock your car for an emergency with items like blankets, gloves, hats, torches, first aid kit, tools and always carry a plastic window ice scraper.

### Further winter precautions include:

- Being aware of black ice, which is particularly slippery - it can appear as a glossy sheen on the road but is sometimes impossible to spot. Black ice is most common on quiet roads.
- If you're travelling at dawn, be wary of frost.
- Accelerate smoothly and brake gently.
- On stormy and windy days, take corners slowly as trees or debris may have been blown onto the road.
- If you are involved in a crash, tell the police even if no one is injured. This type of information helps us to make improvements to the road where necessary
- If you get stuck stay with your vehicle and keep everyone warm until help arrives
- In the event of an emergency call 111
- Being prepared for delays
- Drive more slowly than usual
- Watch out for maintenance vehicles, road information signs
- Not travelling unless you really need to.
- Respect of other drivers on the road to ensure we all arrive safely at our destination
- Maintain a greater following distance than you would in fine weather.
- Avoid sudden braking or sharp turns - these can cause skids.
- Dip your headlights on foggy, snowy, or very cloudy days.
- Use the lowest reasonable gear when travelling downhill, and the highest going uphill.
- Watch out for shady areas of the road on cold days, as ice will form faster and linger in these cooler spots.
- Slow down on bridges, flyovers, in tunnels, and shady patches on the road.

## Ara Business Excellence Awards 2023

The Ara Business Excellence Awards are taking place for 2023. The awards recognise and celebrate business excellence, playing an important role in promoting and strengthening economic development in the South Canterbury region. For businesses in the Mackenzie District, workshops are taking place on May 16:

Lake Tekapo Community Centre	10:00am - 11:00am	Tekapo
Mackenzie Community Centre	11:30am - 12:30pm	Fairlie

A Zoom option is also available.

Find out more, and register for the workshops at: [southcanterbury.org.nz](http://southcanterbury.org.nz) > Business > Business Excellence Awards > Workshops Key Dates

Entries close at 12:00pm on June 9. Finalists are announced on July 14, with the Business Excellence Awards Gala Event taking place on August 18.



## Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday 16 May	Extraordinary Council Meeting to adopt Annual Plan	9:30am - 10:00am	Fairlie
Monday 29 May	Tekapo Community Board meeting	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Tekapo
Tuesday 30 May	Council Meeting	9:30am - 2:00pm	Twizel
Thursday 1 June	Fairlie Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Fairlie
Monday 26 June	Twizel Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	Twizel
Tuesday 27 June	Council Meeting	9:30am - 4:00pm	Fairlie
	Citizenship Ceremony	4:00pm - 4:30pm	Fairlie

The public are welcome to attend meetings. Occasionally times and venues change so please call and check beforehand. There is a public forum at the beginning of each Council and Community Board meeting and members of the public are invited to address Elected Members on relevant matters. Agendas are available on the Council website at least two working days before each meeting.