

News & Information from Mackenzie District Council



Mackenzie
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Civil Defence Tabletop Exercises



The last of three tabletop exercises across the District took place in Fairlie in the last week of February, organised by MDC Emergency Management Officer, Joe Rush.

The scenario involved a collision within Fairlie between a tourist bus and a tanker carrying ammonia which is toxic and flammable. The response required a large cordon around the area and evacuation of several hundred residents, which would have included council's offices and the usual EOC location, so there was plenty for the groups to discuss.

Over 50 representatives attended from FENZ, St John, Fulton Hogan, Community Civil Defence Volunteers, Police, Schools, Lions and more. This was a great opportunity to build relationships across the organisations that will be called upon when local emergency services are overwhelmed by a more significant event.



Adopt a Community Scheme

We've all been seeing the devastating scenes of damage caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and many of us are helping in a variety of ways.

One way of making a meaningful contribution is via the Adopt a Community Scheme. The scheme matches our council with a council and community badly hit by the cyclone. It's a nationwide initiative that connects communities with some of the most devastated regions. For those of us who want it, it gives us a direct connection with a badly affected community. Under this scheme, Mackenzie and Ashburton Districts Councils have been matched with Masterton District.

We know that getting a community back on their feet after an event like this is a marathon not a sprint. That's especially true with a disaster at this scale. The cyclone damaged the eastern and coastal parts of Masterton District, where the small rural settlement of Tinui was particularly badly hit by flooding.

As well as a number of damaged houses in the small settlement, there is extensive flood damage to fences and pastures in the area which will take a lot of work and time to repair. In many cases, affected pastures will need to be first cleared of silt and then likely resown before they can be returned to productive use.

Their mayor, Gary Caffell said 'the damage to the coastal communities in the Masterton district has been devastating. Thank god no lives were lost but many millions of damage to roads, schools, homes and property and big stock losses as well. As Mayor of Masterton I would be extremely grateful for any extra support you can provide. Thanks absolutely heaps.'

Donations can be made to their Mayoral Relief Fund:
Masterton District Council Westpac Account 03-0687-0271682-03, using the reference 'WAISTORM'.

Heritage Protection Fund

Council are currently taking submissions for the Heritage Protection Fund. This fund is available to assist and actively encourage property owners and members of the Mackenzie community to manage, maintain, preserve and enhance the heritage values of items or areas.

It provides a partial contribution towards the costs of a specific project related to a building, item or place. The fund is allocated \$5000 each financial year by Council which is then contestable by applicants. Applications for 2023 funding close March 31.

For more information please email the planning team at planning@mackenzie.govt.nz, call us on (03) 685 9010, or view mackenzie.govt.nz > Community > Grants and Scholarships > Heritage Protection Fund.



Tips for Gravel Road Driving

Mackenzie District has over 500 km of gravel road. Driving on gravel takes more concentration and can catch out even experienced drivers. These points can help when driving on our gravel roads.

Speed

Slow down, even if you're driving a 4WD. If the gravel is really thick or loose, slow right down, especially for corners, and keep looking well ahead of you. It's easier to control your car on gravel at slower speeds and easier to react to the unexpected.

Unsealed roads can be very narrow. Reduce your speed to below 40-50 km/h (or slower, if on very narrow roads) to help you to maintain control of your vehicle. Be prepared to slow down even further when you see oncoming traffic, as the dust will obscure your vision.

Who's around

When driving on gravel roads, especially in rural/residential areas, please consider the people who live in the area or who maybe using the road.

Our gravel roads also run along the A20 cycle routes or along the Te Araroa trail routes. You may come across pedestrians, cyclists or children using the trails or the side of the road so drive at a safe speed so you can avoid or stop to ensure the safety of all users.

Always be able to stop in the space you can see.

Dust

Dust can cause a nuisance to neighbouring properties, either to homes located close to the road or crops/livestock in close proximity. Please recognise the conditions that generate dust and at times of high dust generation, such as dry spells or high winds, drive at a speed that minimises your vehicles dust plume.



If it is really dusty, or if you're following another car, press the recirc' button on the dash. This will stop air (and dust) coming into the car from outside.

Loose gravel

The gravel is usually thicker on the shoulder of the road and the slope can pull you towards the edge of the road. Use existing wheel tracks but be sure to keep left on corners and blind crests.

See and be seen

Put your lights on low beam. It helps to see, and to be seen, especially if there's lots of dust or if you're driving through shady forest areas.

Driving skills

- Give other road users plenty of space.
- Stones can flick up, breaking windscreens and headlights. Increase your following distance.
- Be considerate if you have to overtake. Accelerate and brake more slowly and smoothly than you might normally.
- Steer smoothly, with no sudden changes of direction.
- Watch out for distractions that might lead you to overreact at the wheel - spring lambs, low flying hawks, backseat drivers, stunning views...
- Watch out for the unexpected, loose stock, wild animals, farm and forestry vehicles, inappropriately parked vehicles and people shooting photos in the middle of the road.
- Take special care when driving downhill on gravel roads: slow down and don't brake suddenly.

Skidding

Try to stay relaxed. If your car skids, don't overreact and don't hit the brakes. Gently steer the way you want to go. Keep looking ahead, as far up the road as possible. When you've recovered, adjust your speed so you have more traction and better control down the road.

Drive to the conditions - not the speed limit.

Dates of Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday 22 March	Mackenzie District Plan PC21 & PC22 Hearing	9.00am - 4.00pm	Fairlie
Thursday 23 March	Mackenzie District Plan PC21 & PC22 Hearing	9.00am - 4.00pm	Twizel
Monday 27 March	Tekapo Community Board meeting	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Tekapo
Tuesday 28 March	Council Meeting	9:30am - 2:00pm	Fairlie
Thursday 30 March	Fairlie Community Board meeting	4:30pm - 6:00pm	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.

0800 685 8514

mackenzie.govt.nz

Mid-March 2023