



Scuttlebutt

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // **DECEMBER 2015 // ISSUE 112**

WANAKA SPORTS FACILITY

Wanaka's new sports facility is taking shape and is on track to open on time in the middle of next year.

The framing for the sports hall has been erected, with 200 tonnes of steel and – weather permitting – by the time you read this the concrete slab for the hall will have been poured. That involves around 45 truckloads of concrete to fill the 200m² base.

The accommodation bar that will eventually house the reception and arrivals area, ablutions, changing rooms, offices and meeting rooms is also taking shape, with the concrete for that area poured in the middle of last month.

Work on the new pool is set to begin alongside the sports facility in mid January, and programmed to be finished within 12-14 months.



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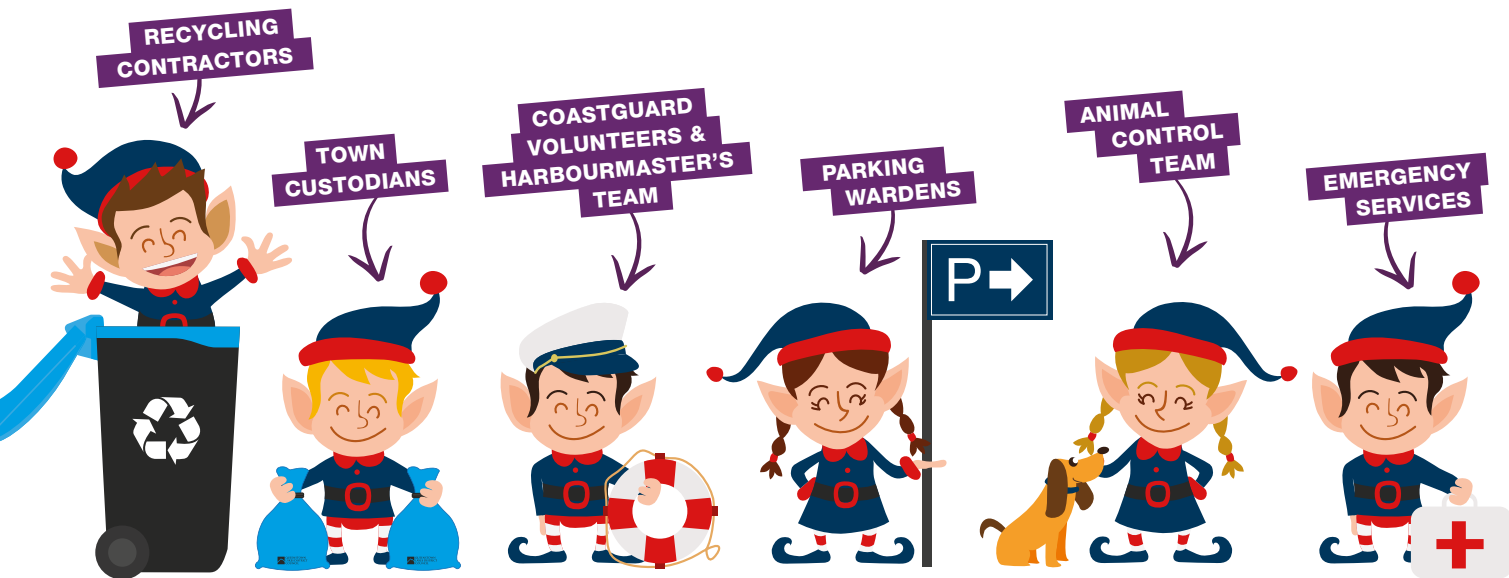
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NEW YEAR



WHILE YOU'RE ON HOLIDAY...

As we count down towards the end of the year and children eagerly tick off the number of sleeps till Christmas, spare a thought for the “elves” around our district who will be working through the holidays to provide our essential services while everyone else is relaxing.

When you've unwrapped your presents, drunk your festive ale and dropped the paper and bottles in the recycling, our contractors will be along to empty your bins.

Our town custodians will be doing the rounds while you sleep in every morning, tidying up the mess left by revellers the night before.

While you're having fun on the water, our coastguard volunteers and harbourmaster's team will be on patrol, keeping you safe.

Parking wardens will be keeping the traffic moving, so you can find a place to leave your car while you shop.

Our animal control team will be reuniting lost dogs with their owners.

And finally a big shout-out to the emergency services who will be on duty helping everyone have a safe holiday.



HOW DID WE MEASURE UP?

Last month the Council adopted the Audited Annual Report for the 2014-15 financial year. It sets out what the Council achieved and how we measured up against our performance indicators – basically, it tells you whether we did what we said we would with your money.

This year's Annual Report is presented in a really simple and visual way, making it a lot easier to understand QLDC's performance. We've also produced a pretty cool video that summarises what's in the report. **You'll find both of these on our website www.qldc.govt.nz**

FREEDOM CLAMPING

QLDC is about to start clamping down on freedom campers parking up in the wrong places, in a move that will also stop people skipping town without paying their fines.

Regulatory Manager Lee Webster says freedom camping is an increasingly popular way to see the country, and there are many places around the district where visitors can spend the night in self-contained vehicles – those that have their own toilet and water supply on board.

Problems arise when people stay overnight in vehicles without their own facilities, and also when they park in places where freedom camping isn't allowed, such as town centres and lakefront reserves.

Our early morning patrols net an average of 30 unlawful campers each week – more in the summer than in the

winter, but the more troublesome statistic is that around half of the people issued with fines leave without paying them and the Council has no legal means of recovering the money.

The government has recognised that this is a national issue, but it's more of a problem in the Queenstown Lakes District than in most other parts of the country. So far, rental companies have been reluctant to chase their clients for the unpaid fines, leaving QLDC out of pocket to the tune of about \$300,000 every year.

The solution QLDC is likely to introduce is to clamp the offending vehicles. Drivers will have to pay an up-front fee of \$200 to get the clamp removed as well as the \$200 fine for breaching the Freedom Camping Bylaw.

Provided Councillors approve the plan, signs warning of clamping will start going up in the most common problem areas within days and enforcement will start before Christmas.

AROUND
50%

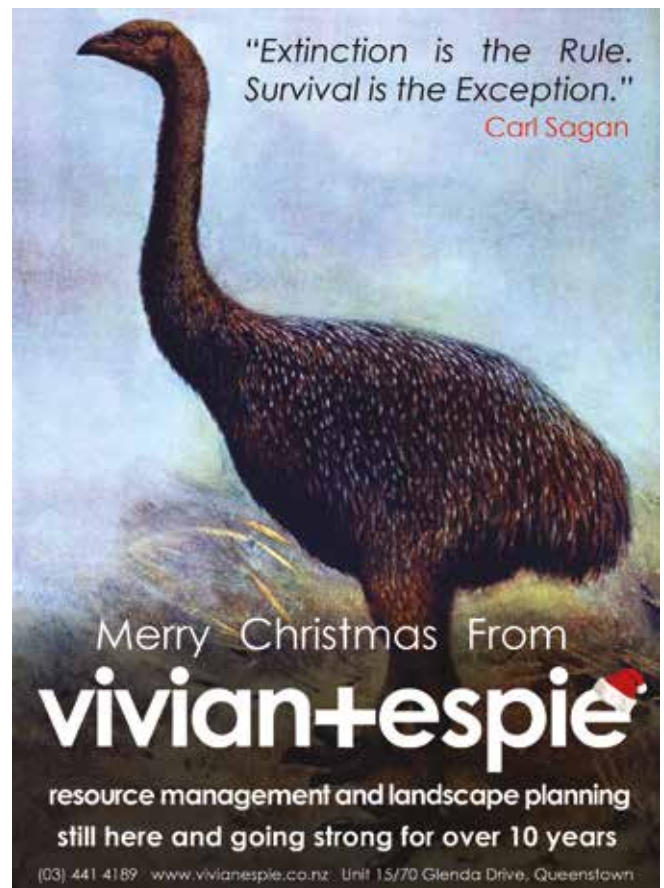
AROUND HALF
OF THE PEOPLE
ISSUED WITH FINES
LEAVE WITHOUT
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LEAVING QLDC
OUT OF POCKET
TO THE TUNE OF
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EVERY YEAR



SEARCH ON FOR NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Recruitment is underway to find our next Chief Executive, to replace Adam Feeley who resigned last month.





Consultation on Stage 1 of the Proposed District Plan closed back in October and since then council staff have been busily reviewing and summarising 837 submissions.

“We’d like to thank everyone who got involved in this important process,” District Plan Manager Matthew Paetz says. “We received a good range of submissions from people throughout the whole district.”

A wide range of issues and views came through, including on the proposed changes to residential rules, informal airports and mapping outstanding natural landscapes. A large number of submissions sought rezoning of land, particularly in rural areas. Because of

the scale and significance of some of these submissions requesting rezonings, information has been posted on the Council’s website outlining the location of the affected sites.

The submissions were recently notified for further submissions, meaning anyone with an interest greater than the general public’s can have a further say by 16 December.

You’ll find all the submissions and a summary on www.qldc.govt.nz/proposed-district-plan

You’ll also find all the details you need about how to make a further submission. Public hearings kick off in February.

Safe driving

They say nothing’s certain in this world except death and taxes, but in our district you can add that the traffic is sure to be moving slowly from December to February.

Queenstown is New Zealand’s top visitor destination and when you add our annual influx of summer holidaymakers, the roads are bound to be busy.

QLDC is supporting the national campaign to promote safe driving, alongside the Police, the NZ Transport Agency and rental car companies. While much of the focus is on visitors who are unfamiliar with our road conditions, locals also have their part to play.

Mayor Vanessa van Uden says residents and regular visitors can set a good example by being patient and considerate on the roads.

“Everyone who brings a rental car or a campervan to our district is our guest, and we want them to have a good time while they’re here and leave with happy memories. We all have stories of people driving slowly while they

work out where they’re going, or making mistakes at unfamiliar intersections. Let’s remember that when we go somewhere new we’re also likely to behave in the same way, so we could all make a point of being more tolerant and courteous this summer.”

QLDC is renewing its summer advertising campaign with two specially themed bus backs, that will be highly visible on the Frankton Road from December to February. One carries a reminder to wear seatbelts and the other carries the “Keep Left” message.



Everyone wears SEATBELTS



Keep LEFT

The Council has also reprinted its ready reference guide to driving in our district, with copies distributed to hotels and motels, rental car outlets and on our website.



FOR MORE DETAILS ON ROUTES AND PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE QUEENSTOWN TRANSPORT STRATEGY, CHECK OUT THE INTERACTIVE MAP ON OUR WEBSITE www.qldc.govt.nz

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

Improvements to key intersections in Queenstown will improve safety and traffic flows, with the first initiative underway by the time you read this.

QLDC is changing the intersection of Camp and Ballarat Sts from a T-intersection to a mini roundabout.

Principal Infrastructure Planner Denis Mander says the change will make it easier for buses and other vehicles to make the right turn from Ballarat St into Camp St.

The work will be finished before Christmas, with no physical changes to footpaths or the road at this stage. The inside circle of the roundabout will be painted on the road so large vehicles can drive over it.

The second major change is a joint project involving the Council and the NZ Transport Agency, which will see traffic lights installed at the Stanley St intersections with Ballarat St and Shotover St.

This work will begin after the busy summer season, in March or April.

The new signals will replace the pedestrian crossing at the bottom of the Stanley St hill outside the courthouse and the crossing on Shotover St just to the north of Stanley St.

When the signals are installed, pedestrians will cross the road at the lights, which will be much safer than the existing pedestrian crossings.

As well, the signals will be much more efficient at peak times and will reduce the queues of vehicles in central Queenstown by preventing the stop-start effect on traffic caused by people using the Stanley St pedestrian crossing.

In the meantime, safety patrols will be stationed at the Stanley St crossing again over the Christmas – New Year peak period, to help manage the flow of pedestrians and vehicles.



Work's well underway on stage one of the \$23.6 million upgrade of Project Shotover, the sewage treatment scheme that takes the wastewater for most of the homes and businesses in the Wakatipu. The photo shows preparations for pouring concrete at the new wastewater plant, just downstream of the Shotover River bridge outside Frankton.



Earnslaw Park in downtown Queenstown is getting its annual spring spruce-up ahead of the busy holiday season. Behind the fencing we've been carrying out turf maintenance and some minor drainage. Cooler temperatures in November slowed the regrowth but Earnslaw Park will be open again for everyone to enjoy before Christmas.

TIME FOR A CHANGE?



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HOUSE MART
HOW SMART



It's shaping up for a dry summer, which is great for holiday makers but not so good for our volunteer fire fighters.

Even though we're just at the start of summer, there's already a high risk of fire across the Wakatipu and the Upper Clutha.

This means we all need to be careful when it comes to any work outside – watch out for farm machinery, lawnmowers, scrub bars with steel blades, hot exhausts, anything that could cause a spark and ultimately a fire.

Last summer on average, the Otago Rural Fire Authority's volunteer firefighters were called out to one fire a day caused by these day-to-day operations.

Every fire carries the threat of personal injury, as well as the damage to property.

Now we're not suggesting you stop mowing your lawns but if you're doing anything outdoors that could potentially cause a fire, mitigate the risks by having suppression resources like water buckets, hoses and wet sacks on hand and ready to use.

Please respect the fire restrictions, and don't light any outdoor fires if there is a total fire ban. The only exceptions are gas bbqs and fires in permanent fireplaces. That rules out most camp fires and all bonfires.

Most importantly, stay safe out there – don't get in front or upwind of a fire and always call 111 if you see smoke.

SUMMER NIGHTS AND NOISY PARTIES

Long summer evenings are perfect for catching up with friends, having a few drinks on the lawn and enjoying your favourite music.

Sometimes, though, what starts as a mellow evening turns into the neighbourhood's night from hell, and that's when people contact noise control.

Anthony Hall, our Principal Enforcement Officer, says that while QLDC isn't a party pooper, there has to be a balance between having fun and unreasonably disturbing others.

"We always get an upswing in complaints over summer. The response depends a lot on the circumstances and the time, so we are less likely to consider

the noise from a party excessive at 8pm than later on in the evening for example. If it's 2am then that would be a different matter."

The Council contracts noise control response to Cougar Security, who have a target of responding to calls within 120 minutes. While that might seem like a long time to the people complaining, it gives time for Cougar to mobilise their staff and travel to the site, which could be anywhere in the district. The average response time is actually closer to one hour.

What happens next depends on what's happening when the officer gets there.

No noise – no action.

If there's noticeable noise, but not enough to be considered excessive, the

officer is likely to have a chat with the occupants to let them know there has been a complaint, and ask them to keep the volume down.

The same approach is usually the starting point in rowdier situations. If a polite conversation isn't enough to lower the noise level, the officer can issue an "excessive noise direction", which is effectively a legal order lasting up to 72 hours.

If that doesn't work then the next step is generally to seek assistance from the police to confiscate the stereo, or any other equipment that's causing the noise, and issue a \$500 fine.

Happily, only about 1 percent of noise complaints result in that level of action.

PAINT IN DRAINS

This is a reminder for anyone building, working on their house or washing their car over the summer that all outdoor drains connect directly with our rivers and lakes. Any paint, chemicals, concrete run-off and also the washwater when cleaning your car must not be poured down drains. QLDC provides information about any spillages or pollution to the Otago Regional Council which is responsible for enforcing unauthorised discharges to water. If you discover any water pollution in our rivers or lakes, please contact us anytime on **03 441 0499 (Queenstown)** or **03 443 0024 (Wanaka)**. Remember, drains are for rain!

WE'RE TALKING RUBBISH

If you live in a rural area and take your rubbish and recycling to one of our collection points, then this story is for you.

We've fielded a few complaints lately about the amount of rubbish lying around these areas, which have been set up as convenient places for locals to leave their blue bags and recyclables.

You can help us avoid the problem by only dropping off your material before 8am on the morning of the collection, and making sure the gate is shut again.

Unfortunately when the gate is left open, or people leave rubbish bags outside, dogs often get in and scavenge around, which leaves a mess.

Also please remember that we only collect the pre-paid blue QLDC bags, and items that are on the list of recyclables. Anything else counts as litter and could leave you open to a fine.

If you're not sure what we can accept for recycling, please check the list below, or look on our website (just type "recycling" into the search box).

THIS IS WHAT WE ACCEPT FOR RECYCLING:

- Plastics 1-7. Washed, not squashed and lids off.
- Steel tins and aluminium cans. Washed.
- Empty aerosol cans.
- Clean aluminium foil.
- Glass bottles and jars. Washed with the lids off (the lids can also go in the recycling container).
- Clean paper and cardboard. For example office paper, magazines, newspaper, egg cartons, cereal boxes, envelopes.



DOG REGISTRATION

Having your dog impounded isn't much fun - for you or the dog, though we do take very good care of them.

Owners whose dogs are unregistered face a double whammy when they go to reclaim their pets. On top of the standard pound fee of at least \$100, they're up for a \$300 penalty for having an unregistered dog, as well as having to pay the normal registration fee (around \$60) and the late fee (\$30). Ouch!

The easiest way to avoid this happening to you is to make sure your dog is registered, microchipped and your details are up to date.

If your dog does a "Houdini" and is found wandering, our animal control team will generally try and contact the owner before heading for the pound. If your contact details are in our database and we can get in touch with you, it's likely that you will get your pet back without having to make a visit to the pound. That will save you hassle, and also paying the pound fee.

It's easy to register your pet – just go on our website or drop into our Queenstown or Wanaka offices.





Love paddleboarding?

Save yourself a \$300 fine and wear your lifejacket – every time.

SUMMER BOATING

With the summer boating season upon us, our harbourmaster and his assistants will be out and about to help everyone have a safe summer on our lakes and rivers.

Before you head out, make sure you know the rules, no matter what kind of boat you use. Staying safe on the water means you'll have much more fun, and it also means you'll avoid expensive fines for putting yourself and others at risk.

HERE ARE SOME SIMPLE TIPS TO FOLLOW THIS SUMMER:

Lifejackets – wear them

Small boats can sink very quickly. Always wear a lifejacket at all times in any craft under 6m in length, including inflatables, kayaks, canoes and paddleboards.

Communications

Always have two separate ways of getting in touch with someone if you get into trouble, for example cell phone or flares.

Check the forecast

In an alpine environment like ours, weather conditions can change very quickly – even in summer. Don't get caught out - Lifejackets are important and must be worn at all times. But a lifejacket won't prevent hyperthermia or raise an alarm that you're in distress. When you're out on the water, please make sure you've got the safety equipment you need to save your own life when conditions change.

Be Prepared

Know the rules and make sure there are enough lifejackets for everyone on board. Always have an anchor, bailer, spare fuel, a torch and warm clothing on the boat.

Don't drink alcohol

Safe boating and alcohol don't mix – you always need to be alert and ready to act.

Look out for each other

If you notice someone doing something on the water that could be putting others at risk – don't be afraid to tell them or report it. Examples of unsafe activities could be overloading the boat, driving too fast or unsafe navigation, drinking alcohol or not supervising children.

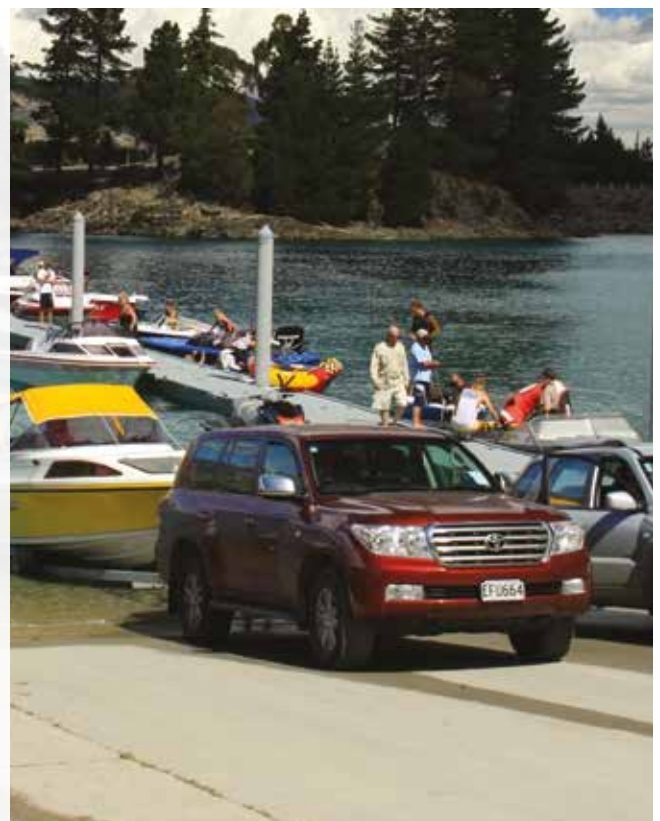
NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LAUNCH

Boaties, you can save time and money this summer by purchasing a \$50 annual ramp pass, which gives you unlimited use of the public boat ramps across the district.

You can buy a pass from any QLDC office – you'll need registration plate details for your vehicle and boat trailer. You can also pay by internet banking. Just email services@qldc.govt.nz with "boat ramp pass" in the subject line and we will email you instructions.

If you only use the ramps casually, don't forget your wallet so you can put your \$5 ramp fee in the fees box every time you launch your boat. The Council will be patrolling the ramps to remind boaties of the need to pay.

The fees help pay for the costs of the navigation safety, the harbourmaster service and the upkeep of the public ramps. These services are not paid for by rates – they are all user-pays.



MANAGING WATER DEMAND

In a district so full of lakes and rivers, it's tempting to look around and assume that water is so freely available there's no need to think twice about turning on the tap.

That's an understandable view, but it's wrong.

Rainwater is free but every other drop that runs from your tap comes at a cost.

So unless the water in your home comes from a rainwater tank or your own bore, you will be connected to a community water source and almost all of these are provided by the Council – and you're paying for it through your rates.

Our water supply systems are designed to provide up to 2100 litres of water to each household. Over summer, demand soars as people water their lawns and gardens, and some of our communities often

face water restrictions when the demand is greater than our system can supply.

This is not a new problem and in 2012 the Council committed to a long-term project to manage water demand with the intention of saving ratepayers \$10 million by deferring the need to expand the water supply network.

We have several pieces of work underway to support this long-term aim. One is a trial using water meters to understand water use across the district. Another is helping people understand that by reducing their own water consumption, they can help ease the load on our water supplies, save their household rates bills and help our environment too.

It's easy to use less water

Water your garden by hand rather than setting a sprinkler. On average, a hand-held hose uses 900 litres of water an hour – that's 400 litres less than a sprinkler.

Visit a hardware store and buy a simple timer for your sprinkler. Water your lawn for an hour between midnight and 6am, when demand on the water supply is low.

Check the arc of your sprinkler and make sure you're watering the garden or lawn, not the path and driveway.

Wash dishes and clothes when you have a full load to run your washing machine or dishwasher.

Install a low-flow head in your shower.

Fast facts – QLDC

- will spend \$8 million on supplying water to the community this year – that's 7% of our total operating expenditure
- has 12 water treatment plants
- maintains 419km of water mains
- delivers 26,500m³ of clean water to 21,885 properties every day of the year

Did you know?



A sprinkler can use up to 1300 litres an hour, so even one or two people in each street watering their lawns for a few hours a day has a huge impact on water use.



A running tap uses around 9 litres of water each minute. Turning the tap off when you're brushing your teeth can save up to 7500 litres of water per person per year. If you stop peeling the vegetables under a running tap, you can make the same kind of savings.



Around 30% of domestic water use comes from flushing the toilet. A dual flush cistern can save over 35,000 litres a year for a family of four. You can get the same result by placing a brick or plastic water bottle in the cistern.



Up to 30% of the water in our reticulation system can be lost to leaks. Just one drip can waste 60,000 litres of water a year. QLDC has been actively "leak busting" on our pipes and connections and we ask you to do the same thing.

RHYTHM&ALPS 2015



Home-grown rock superstars Shihad and renowned international house and techno DJ Carl Cox are headlining the fifth annual two-day Rhythm and Alps music festival on December 30-31, set amidst the spectacular scenery of Wanaka's iconic Cardrona Valley.

Adding to the stellar lineup are top international acts Sticky Fingers, Chali 2na and the House of Vibe, Remi and DJ Marky, plus top Kiwi talents Katchafire, Opiuo, Electric Wire Hustle and Soulsystem.

Tickets are \$159 for a two-day pass and single day passes are \$109. Add-ons including VIP, Glamping, Campervans and general camping are also available: camping is \$70 for two nights, \$95 for three nights and campervan passes are \$100. Glamping packages start from \$1770 for the ultimate, all-inclusive experience for four people.

Visit www.rhythmmandalps.co.nz for more information.

LEAVE PARKS FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM

If you ever have trouble finding a carpark, spare a thought for those with a disability.

There are 23 mobility parks in our district, and 176 people with permits in Queenstown alone.

Each of them has "earned" their parking privilege by having a condition that restricts their ability to get around, either themselves or on behalf of a member of their family.

When they find that the few parks reserved for them are occupied by vehicles with no mobility permit, their day becomes much more difficult.

Arrowtown woman Mary Lines says that she frequently has to abandon planned trips for appointments or to do messages because the only two disability parks in the main street are taken, and it's often worse when she comes into Queenstown.

Mrs Lines has a medical condition which prevents her from walking more than a short distance. She has sometimes challenged people who park in disabled parks without a permit, and says they can get "a bit snooty" when asked to make way for someone who genuinely needs the spot.

"I really feel for the people in wheelchairs who need the extra width to get themselves or their family member in and out of their car," Mrs Lines said. "It's so much harder for them."

Someone in that position is Mrs Davena Shields, who contacted QLDC recently over people parking in disability parks without being entitled to use them.

"If we can't get a disability carpark when we have our son, who is wheelchair dependent, we are very restricted as we need the extra space for mobilising our son in and out of the vehicle. We quite often are unable to park in a normal carpark due to the size of the park and having no ramps close by."

"If we are unable to find a park after driving around for a while, we have no choice but to leave and this can be quite distressing."

QLDC takes a hard line on people who park in spaces reserved for mobility permit holders. Our parking wardens issue tickets without exception, and in Arrowtown we use CCTV cameras to monitor the disability parks in the main street, backed up by members of the community who are keen to see those spaces reserved for those who really need them.



Asking for trouble. Drivers who park in spaces reserved for mobility permit holders without being entitled to use that park can expect to receive a ticket.

DOWN THE GURGLER...

Do you know how much water your household uses every day?

No – neither do we, but we can make a pretty good guess because our water supply is designed to provide up to 2100 litres of water to every property every day.

That's an average amount, because some use more and some use less. But when the reservoirs start to run low, we know that people are using more water than we planned for and sometimes we have to impose restrictions until demand drops back to a level we can supply.

If you live in Lake Hayes Estate, for example, you'll know that in summer there are usually restrictions on when and how long you can water your lawn.

We're working to improve the supply to Lake Hayes Estate, by linking the community to the new reservoir at Shotover Country. But we're still going to be asking people to think carefully about water use.

We're running a trial with water meters in a random selection of properties around the district. This is to help us better understand water use, so we can match upgrades

to the supply system with increasing demand as the district's population grows.

If you have a water meter, you'll be asked to fill in a simple questionnaire over the next few weeks. We're hoping to find out how many people usually live in each household and whether that changes during the year; if people water their lawns and gardens, or clean their cars at home; down to details about whether homes have dual flush systems for their toilets.

The answers will be compared with the water use information from the meters.

Even if you don't have a water meter, we'd be interested in how you use water at your place. Feel free to have a look on our website www.qldc.govt.nz and click on the "Water Use Survey" link on the home page to take the survey.



WOULD YOU RATHER READ THIS ONLINE?

We publish Scuttlebutt six times a year, deliver it locally through the community newspapers, and post around 7500 copies to ratepayers who live outside the district – that's a lot of paper!

You can help us reduce the number of copies we print by switching to our email distribution list.

Just email services@qldc.govt.nz with the word "newsletter" in the subject line, and be sure to include your name and postal address so we can cross you off the postal mailing list and send you the link to Scuttlebutt instead.

You'll not only receive Scuttlebutt earlier, but also help QLDC trim the amount we spend on printing and postage to keep you informed – that's a win for everyone.

Every issue of Scuttlebutt is also on our website www.qldc.govt.nz

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Don't you hate it when your device is low on battery just when you need it?

Queenstown Library now has portable device chargers available for anyone who is facing the dreaded low battery. We can cater for most devices and the service is completely free for library users.

If the charge bars are successful in Queenstown, we'll look at introducing them in Wanaka and Arrowtown soon.



Christmas is the season for giving and goodwill and our local libraries are no exception. The food for fines initiative is back – anyone with overdue fines owing can bring in a can of food and have \$5 wiped off their library fines.

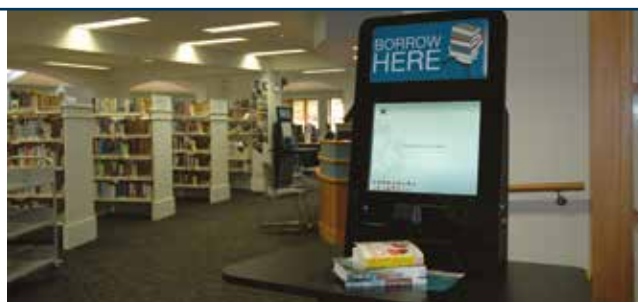
While any donation of food is much appreciated, this year we're asking that people consider giving canned fish, meats, pasta sauces and soups to help fill the pantries of those in need.

Food for Fines will run until Wednesday 16 December. Donations can be taken to any library within the Queenstown Lakes District.

All food will be donated to Happiness House in Queenstown and Community Networks in Wanaka.

SELF CHECKOUT

The self-check units are proving popular at our Queenstown, Wanaka and Arrowtown libraries – our latest stats show that in the month of October over 9000 items were checked out or renewed using the new service.



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

HO HO HO – bring the kids along to Queenstown Library at 10.30am on Monday 21 December to meet a very special Christmas visitor!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY FUN FOR KIDS!

We're running holiday sessions for kids at Queenstown, Arrowtown, Wanaka and Hawea Library for two weeks over the Summer Holidays.

Check out libraries.codc-qldc.govt.nz for all the details.

All our craft sessions are free but need to be pre-booked as spaces are limited.



BANISH BOREDOM

THESE HOLIDAYS

OUR
LIBRARY
SUMMER
READING
CHALLENGE
IS BACK!



This year we're asking kids aged 5-12 to come up with their own superhero identity and help crush the Boredom Bandits – two seriously mischievous villains who want to take the fun and imagination out of the summer holidays.

The latest intel is that reading is the only defence.

Kids are encouraged to set themselves targets and read as many books as they can during the six week period. Super Hero readers can challenge themselves even more by taking part in our Super Library Bingo challenge.

The challenge kicks off on 16 December – enrol at your local library today!

ENROL
AT YOUR
LOCAL
LIBRARY
TODAY!

LEADING LIBRARIES INTO THE FUTURE

Jo McElroy, our Manager of Library Services, has recently been appointed as the chair elect of the Association of Public Library Managers NZ (APLM).

APLM is a national body advocating for the continuous improvement of public libraries and brings together leaders in the public library sector to ensure that local services continue to meet the needs of the communities they serve.



Jo McElroy,
Manager Library
Services

"I'm excited about the opportunity to bring my experience as a professional librarian, and leader, to support the further development of Public Libraries in New Zealand," Jo says. "By building on the work of previous Chairs in cultivating a professional and positive image for public libraries, we can adapt to a rapidly changing environment – building to the future."

REMARKABLES
PRIMARY SCHOOL
COOKBOOK IS
NOW FOR SALE!

A great Christmas present at only \$35 per copy. Books can be purchased at RPS office and New World.

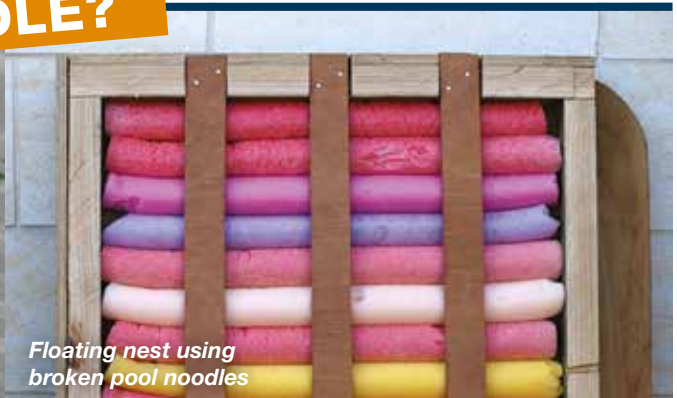
REMARKABLES FOOD PROJECT

NEW WORLD
REMARKABLES
PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHAT DO YOU DO WITH A BROKEN NOODLE?



Adult Crested Grebe carrying its chick



Floating nest using broken pool noodles

When Wanaka Zoologist John Darby approached Queenstown Events Centre asking for some broken pool noodles, we thought it was a bit unusual. “Take them,” we said – “please!”

The explanation for their use was even more improbable. They were to be used to make floating nest platforms for the Southern Crested Grebes attempting to breed in Lake Wanaka.

The Crested Grebe is a native bird species which is fully protected, rare and threatened. There are only 250-300 breeding pairs living in NZ, all in the South Island and mostly in Southern Lakes, (there are lots on Lake Hayes).

The origin of grebes goes back at least 40million years. They’re most closely related to albatross and penguins and their legs are set well back on their body. This is a problem for the grebes; it means they can barely walk on land, making it hard for them to escape predators during the breeding season. This is why they tend to build their nests on floating platforms on lake weed and debris, usually attached to submerged branches and tree roots close to the shore.

“As an antipredator strategy it works well, they just fall off the nest straight into water if they hear something approaching, but it really does not work at all well when lake or river levels change, nests become flooded or left high and dry,” John says. “And that was what happened to a pair of grebes that attempted to breed in Roys Bay in Wanaka time after time until we made an artificial nesting platform.”

The first artificial platform was built in about 2013 using broken swim noodles from the Wanaka Pool.

After a bit of trial and error and a few alternative designs using different materials, John found that the noodles offer the most reliable buoyancy.

The breeding programme is proving successful. “We started with a single pair of grebes, we now have at least 15 pairs and recently we managed to fledge chick number 53,” John says.

The programme is generating a lot of interest and requests for the nest design so it’s only the start of the pool noodle story. Watch this space!

NEW YEAR

New Year’s Eve on the waterfront – it’s the local tradition that draws thousands to Wanaka and Queenstown every year.

QLDC is hosting the parties again this New Year’s Eve, with live entertainment and a family-friendly atmosphere all leading up to the magic midnight moment when fireworks rip into the skies and we welcome in 2016.

HEAD DOWN TO THE LAKEFRONT AND ENJOY THE VIBE. HERE’S WHAT’S IN STORE:

WANAKA

- Live music from 8pm until 1am with Clone Music, Rock Felony and Rock Hopper.
- Fireworks at midnight.

QUEENSTOWN

- The main stage at Earnslaw Park has live music from 7.30pm – 1am with Fiends, Freefall, Versificator and Mojo.
- The DJ stage on Marine Parade features Ghetto Blaster, DJ Pops, DJ Doolittle and DJ Cuz.
- Fireworks at midnight.



John Gordon competing at the Kona Ironman World Championships earlier this year.

JOHN GORDON LOCAL LEGEND

To call John Gordon a legend is an understatement.

The 60 year old lifeguard from Wanaka recently competed at the Kona Ironman World Championships, finishing second in his age group and 831st overall.

One of just 48 Kiwis who competed in the race, John qualified after winning the Ironman NZ veteran race in March this year, slicing an impressive 38 minutes off the existing record.

“Getting ready for a race like this is a bit like building a puzzle – you start with a single step and slowly put it all together, working away at it over time,” John says.

Training twice a day, 6 days a week over the cold winter months as he built up to the 3.8km swim, 180km bike and 42.2km run certainly paid off.

Summer fun at Arrowtown Pool!
**OPENING
5 DECEMBER**

Open 7 days
from 11am - 6pm

Child: \$1.50
Adult: \$3

sport.rec@qldc.govt.nz
Arrowtown Memorial Pool
QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL
4 Hertford Street, Arrowtown | 03 442 0145 | arrowtownpool@qldc.govt.nz

New website now live!

Next time you visit the Sport and Recreation website you'll notice a few changes.

The new site is easier to use and mobile friendly, with more great features such as an interactive group fitness timetable and online bookings coming soon.

 sportrec.qldc.govt.nz



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Download your brochure and booking form at:
sportrec.qldc.govt.nz/kids

**December 2015 –
January 2016**





CHRISTMAS HOURS

While you're enjoying your Christmas holidays, QLDC staff will be busy maintaining our essential services plus providing recreation and leisure opportunities for you and your family.

Our offices in Queenstown and Wanaka will be closing at 3pm on Christmas Eve and will reopen at 8am on Tuesday 5 January 2016. Please ring **441 0499** (Queenstown) or **443 0024** (Wanaka) for all urgent services including animal control, parking issues, noise complaints and to report any roading or water problems.

Rubbish and recycling collections will be on the usual days except Christmas Day (if your collection day is usually a Friday, your rubbish and recycling will be collected on Saturday 26 instead). The waste transfer stations will be closed on Christmas Day and open on New Year's Day from 10am – 3pm.

LIBRARY HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

	Queenstown & Wanaka	Arrowtown	Hawea	Kingston	Makarora	Glenorchy
24/12/15	9am - 5.30pm	10am - 5pm	Closed	Closed	3pm - 5pm	Closed
25/12/15	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
26/12/15	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
27/12/15	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
28/12/15	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
29/12/15	9am - 5.30pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	Closed	11am - 1pm	Closed
30/12/15	9am - 5.30pm	10am - 5pm	10am - 5pm	Closed	Closed	1.30pm - 3.30pm
31/12/15	9am - 5.30pm	10am - 5pm	Closed	Closed	3pm - 5pm	Closed
01/01/16	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
02/01/16	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
03/01/16	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
04/01/16	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

SPORT & RECREATION FACILITY HOLIDAY OPENING HOURS

	Queenstown Events Centre	Wanaka Pool	Arrowtown Pool	Frankton Golf Centre	Holiday Programme
24/12/15	6am - 5pm	6am - 5pm	11am - 5pm	9am - 7pm	8am - 3.30pm
25/12/15	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
26/12/15	8am - 8pm	12pm - 6pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
27/12/15	8am - 8pm	12pm - 6pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
28/12/15	8am - 8pm	12pm - 6pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
29/12/15	6am - 9pm	6am - 8pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
30/12/15	6am - 9pm	6am - 8pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
31/12/15	6am - 5pm	6am - 5pm	11am - 5pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
01/01/16	Closed	Closed	Closed	9am - 7pm	Closed
02/01/16	8am - 8pm	12pm - 6pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
03/01/16	8am - 8pm	12pm - 6pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed
04/01/16	8am - 8pm	12pm - 6pm	11am - 6pm	9am - 7pm	Closed

Please note that Playtime closes at 12.30pm on 18/12/2015 and reopens 3/2/2016.

QLDC CONTACT LIST AND HOURS

QLDC & SERVICE CENTRES

Queenstown Office:

10 Gorge Road
Private Bag 50072
Queenstown

Customer Services:

Phone: 03 441 0499
E-mail: services@qldc.govt.nz
www.qldc.govt.nz

Wanaka Office:

47 Ardmore Street
Wanaka

Phone: 03 443 0024

Office Hours:

Mon – Fri 8.00am – 5.00pm

QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Arrowtown Athenaeum Hall
Queenstown Memorial Hall
Lake Hayes Pavilion
Lake Wanaka Centre
Alpine Aqualand
Wanaka Pool
Sports fields

Phone: 03 450 9005

TRANSFER STATIONS

Wakatipu: End of Glenda Drive

Frankton Industrial Area
Phone: 03 4510106

Upper Clutha: Ballantyne Road

Phone: 03 443 6063

HARBOURMASTER

Phone: 027 434 5289 and 027 414 2270

Email: harbourmasterqt@smsl.co.nz

LIBRARIES

Arrowtown Buckingham Street Phone: 03 442 1607

Hours: Monday – Friday 10.00am – 5.00pm Saturday 10.30am – 12.30pm

Glenorchy Islay Street Phone: 03 442 4378

Hours: Wednesday 1.30pm – 3.30pm Friday 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Queenstown 10 Gorge Road Phone: 03 441 0600

Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.00am – 5.30pm
Thursdays 9.00am – 7.00pm Saturdays 10.00am – 5.00pm

Wanaka Dunmore Street Phone: 03 443 0410

Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Fridays 9.00am – 5.30pm
Thursdays 9.00am – 7.00pm Saturdays 10.00am – 5.00pm

Hawea 23 Myra Street Phone: 03 443 9371

Hours: Monday & Saturday 10.00am – 12noon
Tuesday & Wednesday 10.00am – 5.00pm

Kingston Phone: Queenstown 03 441 0600

Hours: Tuesdays 3.00pm – 5.00pm Saturday 10.00am – 12noon

Makarora Phone: 03 443 8342

Hours: Tuesday 11.00am – 1.00pm & Thursday 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Scuttlebutt is published bi-monthly by Queenstown Lakes District Council to inform ratepayers and residents of council activities.

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Feedback and ideas are welcome.

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