

Mackenzie District Mayor, Anne Munro

Volunteering

I was recently delighted to recognise two amazing volunteers who have given many hours to the Fairlie community (you can read more about them on the next page of this newsletter). It made me think about the role volunteers play, especially in small rural areas like ours. Many of our organisations and groups would literally not exist if it wasn't for keen and kind people volunteering and making things happen.

Some local families have inter-generational involvement in key groups, like Fire and Emergency or St John, where the current generation have become involved in something that their parent or grandparent supported before them.

However, if you don't have a family tradition to follow, I appreciate that it can be daunting to get involved in an established group for the first time. Even finding something that you'd enjoy having a go at can be a challenge.

There are lots of reasons why people get involved in their community: some people volunteer for the good of the community while others find something that they love to do and take it from there.

There are many groups in the district who would be delighted to welcome new people. If you want to find out more about your options in Fairlie call in and have a chat with the lovely people at Heartland Centre and in Twizel go and talk to the Heartland Services at the Community Care Centre (Mt Cook Street). (Heartlands in Fairlie is where the marvellous Anne Thompson contributed so much to the community.)

Be Prepared

It is Autumn - the mornings are getting crisper before days of glorious sunshine and clear skies. The colours are particularly good this year and who can resist kicking drifts of fallen leaves...?

It's the time of year when we all check that we are prepared for the colder times to come and it's a useful reminder for us to check we are prepared for the unexpected.

By the time you read this, some of you will have attended the recent AF8 Roadshow presentation in Fairlie (or the previous one which was held in Twizel). The risk of a significant earthquake on the Alpine Fault, or other emergency event is a reality of living in this fabulous country of ours.

As we prepare for the coming winter, let's all check our preparations for an emergency. Do you have a Grab-and-Go bag? Is it time to refresh your stored water? Do you have good batteries and a family plan? Civil Defence is another way you can volunteer in your community. If you want more information about getting prepared or volunteering, do get in touch with Council's Emergency Management Officer, Joe Rush.



Three waters

You'll have seen the recent announcement from Government about the 'reset' of their 3Waters reform programme. The wave of reform is continuing with the Government now proposing 10 instead of 4 entities. The new entities will be up and running by 2026. This change does not offer any substantial benefits – assets are being taken without compensation.

Our concerns are still loss of voice to influence future investment in our district. In addition to water, RMA reforms are due to be adopted by central Government in June this year and the draft report on the Future for Local Government is due out by the end of June.

Although all Councils are overwhelmed by the numbers of reforms coming from Government, of which 3Waters is one, we remain focussed on working hard to keep delivering our planned work in our core business areas of: water, transport, and community. We will continue to work at a local and national level for the benefit of Mackenzie.

Mayor Anne

Lake Tekapo Wildfire Risk Reduction Programme



We are undertaking a programme of works around the Lake Tekapo township to help reduce the risk of wildfire threatening the town. The details below list the stages of the programme and it's approximate timing during 2023.

Selective Tree Removal & Pruning on the Hamilton Drive/Murray Place Firebreak

What: Selective tree removals will occur along the Hamilton Drive/Murray Place firebreak, focussing on removing wilding species, and trees deemed too close to property boundaries which increase the amount of fuel in the area, and the risk posed to residents.

Contractors will leave all of the oak trees and have been instructed to leave larch and eucalyptus trees where it is 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.

The trees that are going to remain will be pruned/ have limbs removed by qualified arborists, lifting branches off the ground. This is a commonly used technique to reduce the chance of fire spreading into tree canopies. They will also thin 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.

Timeline: Mid-April 2023.

Scrub Clearing

Hamilton Drive & Lochinvar subdivisions

What: Work will take place to remove broom and forestry slash left between the Hamilton Drive and Lochinvar subdivisions. Once removed, we hope to bring this area up to a standard able to be mown in future years, reducing the fire risk to residents.

Status/Timeline: Some work has started on this, and we are aiming to complete it in late 2023.

Removal of Residential Green Waste

What: Over a period of time green waste has been dumped over residential fences into the adjacent Council land. As part of this programme of works Council contractors will undertake a one-time removal of such waste from the firebreak.

All residents are asked to use their Council-provided green bins and take any excess green waste to their local Transfer Station. There is one of these in Twizel, Fairlie or Tekapo. For further information or hours, [click here](#).

Excess Green Waste on your land or dumped over your fence increases the available fuel to feed a wildfire, increasing its intensity and making it more likely to damage to your property. People caught dumping waste on Council land, or "fly dumping" will be prosecuted accordingly.

Status/Timeline: Mid-April 2023

Forestry Removal

South Eastern & South Western Banks of the Tekapo River

What: Forestry containing Corsican Pine and Pinus contorta were identified for removal on the South Eastern & South Western banks of the Tekapo River below the weir. These blocks of trees pose a significant fire risk to the Lake Tekapo township. These pine species are highly invasive and are the seed source of a substantial number of wildings pines downstream. A multi-agency operation, will be undertaken to remove these wilding conifers, the subsequent areas will be left to regenerate in native grasslands to prevent erosion.

Timeline: to be confirmed, but mid/late 2023.

The Hamilton Drive Firebreak

What: The cutting of an 8m wide firebreak. This will be mown and maintained in future years, allowing for emergency vehicle access and mitigation of risk associated with wildfire spreading into the Lake Tekapo township from the plantations behind Hamilton Drive/Murray Place.

Status/Timeline: Completed.

Fairlie Volunteers recognised

At the recent Council meeting in Fairlie the Mayor, Anne Munro, thanked two local volunteers for their contributions to the community.



Anne Thomson

Anne Thomson was recognised for over 40 years of service to the community, having started as a volunteer in Fairlie on the night after she moved here.

Anne has been the driving force behind many improvements in Fairlie, and her work has resulted in a strong and thriving community. Some of the projects she has been involved in over the years include:

- The Fairlie Village Green,
- Projects for the new millennium
- The Main Street upgrade
- Bringing arts events to Fairlie
- The 150 Years Celebration
- The Trooper Mackenzie statue
- The Mackenzie District Archive
- The new skatepark

Rit Fisher

Rit Fisher was recognised for 33 years of service on the council's Rural Travel Fund grants committee.

The Rural Travel Fund grants committee started in 1990 to distribute funding from the Hillary Commission (now Sport New Zealand) to help children in rural areas get to sports practice and events.

Since it started the committee has distributed \$370,000 to children's sports in Mackenzie. The grants have paid for team vans or buses, or fuel vouchers for parents.

Cr Fisher joined the Rural Travel Fund committee when it started 33 years ago and has taken part in the decision-making process every year as a volunteer until he resigned from the committee on becoming a councillor.

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.

mackenzie.govt.nz

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 basic 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, but 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.

Did you know?

Updates covering current road closures and water-off notices are available on the mackenzie.govt.nz website, accessible from buttons on the homepage.



Water Alerts -
No Current
Issues



Roading Alerts
- 2x Current
Issues

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

May 2023



Mackenzie DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

TOMORROW'S MACKENZIE
KA AWATEA HŌU

The Mackenzie District Plan Review continues to progress, with the first round of engagement for Stage 3 completed in mid-April.

This involved an online survey, a number of workshops with stakeholder groups, and community information sessions throughout March and April. The team are now analysing the feedback received and keep an eye out for the next round of engagement for Stage 3 over the coming months.

The team are also starting background work on Stage 4 and expect to see engagement commencing on this later this year.

To find out more visit mackenzie.govt.nz > Council > Strategies, Plans and Reports > Strategies > District Plan Review



Twizel Resource Recovery Park opening hours

The Twizel Resource Recovery Park is now open 10:00am to 4:00pm daily / 7 days per week.

The Resource Recovery Park can accept a range of waste including:

- Rubbish
- Recycling
- Glass
- Garden waste
- Metal
- Batteries
- Domestic quantities of oil
- Paint
- Herbicides
- E-waste - Electronic items
 - Cameras,
 - Computers
 - Household appliances
 - Vacuum cleaners

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.



2023 Mobile Traders Applications

Applications for Mobile Shop and Traders Licenses opened on 1 April 2023. Council has designated five sites for Mobile Trading in the Mackenzie District:

- Village Green, Fairlie
- Denmark Street Greenway, Fairlie
- Lakeside Drive Carpark, Tekapo
- Hamilton Drive Carpark, Tekapo
- Mackenzie Drive Carpark, Twizel

Applications for a Mobile Trading License will close on 31 May 2023 with granted Licenses to be issued by the 30 June. More information on how to submit an application is available on the Council website - mackenzie.govt.nz > services > food-safety



Frozen Balls are Better

Now that the weather has turned cold we start to think about freezing water in pipes and cisterns of properties that are not in constant use. Anecdotally we know that some people put anti-freeze in toilets to try and avoid frost damage.



Unfortunately, anti-freeze is fairly toxic and it's not a chemical we want in our water treatment plants where it can cause problems. Instead, how about trying one of the other solutions to this age-old problem:

- Drain your pipes. This is the BEST solution. If you're going to be away for a while this is the best long-term solution to frost damage in your water pipes.
- Float a ball in toilets/cisterns etc. As the water freezes and thaws the flexibility in the ball should take the strain. Ping pong balls may work, also tennis balls may flex or a sponge may work in the same way.
- You can also put some salt in the water remaining in your toilet before you leave.

In this case frozen balls really are better.

ALSO: Did you know that if you have anti-freeze to dispose of, it can be dropped off at one of the Resource Recovery Parks in Fairlie, Lake Tekapo or Twizel.