

# Scuttlebutt

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // **DECEMBER 2023 / JANUARY 2024 // ISSUE 158**

**MERI KIRIHIMETE!**  
From the whole team at Queenstown Lakes District Council

*Moke Lake,  
Queenstown*

It's time to say goodbye to 2023 and welcome in the New Year. Summer is traditionally a time when we share good times with friends and whānau, and celebrate all the things that make our beautiful corner of the world so special. Whatever your plans, have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## Nau Mai, Haere Mai

My first full year serving as your Mayor has seen both successes and challenges, both for our community and myself.

My own personal highlights have included the completion of Queenstown town centre street upgrades, finalising the transfer of nearly 100ha of Mount Iron in Wānaka to become the district's newest recreation reserve, and attending the 2023 KUMA Southern Māori Business Awards at the end of September.

In September we were faced with two water-related crises within days of each other. Firstly, there was the outbreak of illness caused by cryptosporidium that resulted in a boil water notice around Queenstown

and a compliance order from water regulator, Taumata Arowai.

Then, that same week, a significant rainfall event resulted in localised flooding, debris flows and road closures across the district. Very quickly that flooding receded, mess was cleared, and life returned to normal for many. Some parts of central Queenstown, notably the cemetery, were worst affected and a local state of emergency was declared and quickly refocused to an extended transition period to assist the recovery effort.

At the time of writing, the boil water notice was about to be lifted following a wider district programme of water barrier treatment, and work to restore the cemetery was well underway. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their patience and resilience

during both events. I was also impressed by the teamwork shown by different organisations and Council staff who came together on the responses.

Finding affordable and appropriate housing continues to be a challenge for many in our district. It's a complex picture but Council is committed to working with local organisations and the new government to find solutions. The Joint Housing Action Plan we endorsed in August – which also involves central government agencies and Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust, with input from Kāi Tahu and Otago Regional Council – is a great example of the collaborative approach required.

And next year? One important early project, and one on which we'd like input from as many different members of our community as possible, is the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan.

It will be no surprise that we face a challenging economic environment with rising costs, historic building defect claims, insurance increases, the need to deliver on committed projects or work that will underpin future investment, and to maintain levels of service to the community.

Council needs to keep investing to meet the needs of our growing population. That

included everything from roading infrastructure to community facilities, parks and playgrounds, through to ensuring rubbish and recycling is collected and swimming pools have lifeguards.

But we need to hear from you to know what priorities you'd like us to focus on over the next ten years. Early engagement in 2023 told us to keep focusing on getting the basics right, and we also need to consider factors like our climate change goals and how we pay for that infrastructure given the huge disparity between our resident population and the number of visitors we welcome each year.

Look out for the draft plan to be published in late March and make sure you have your say.

It continues to be my privilege to serve as your Mayor. I've enjoyed getting out and about at events in every corner of the district this year to meet a huge variety of people and listen to their views on issues big and small.

For now, it just remains for me to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, happy holidays and best wishes for 2024. I hope you all get a chance to relax and enjoy spending time with your friends and whānau.

**Kā mihi nui**  
**Mayor Glyn Lewers**

# Project Manawa update



Thanks to everyone who provided feedback on our recent Project Manawa consultation.

The consultation covered two topics: proposed land swaps to ensure the land status is appropriate for the proposed future use, and a proposed joint venture model for constructing a civic administration building.

While technical in nature, these topics are important foundational first steps, enabling future Councils to make decisions about the project when the time comes. We're grateful to those who took time to get to grips with the proposals and get involved.

A submission hearing will be held in early February 2024. Submitters will be contacted directly once a hearing date has been finalised.

Project Manawa is a long-term vision for community, cultural and public transport facilities in the heart of Tāhuna Queenstown.



# Stay safe on the water

Boating, floating, swimming or skiing, if you're heading out onto our lakes and waterways over the holiday season there are some simple precautions we can all take to keep ourselves and others safe.

## BOATING

You're safer when sober.

Conditions change quickly – always check the weather forecast before heading out and tell someone where you're going.

Carry two forms of waterproof communication (the Marinemate app has plenty of helpful suggestions).

## SKI LANES

Please remember to travel in an anti-clockwise direction within any ski lane and keep right when entering and exiting the area. You must have an observer (over 10 years old) to report any mishap to the driver. No swimming is allowed in ski lanes, nor is beaching a vessel within one, and you must not exceed 5 knots unless you're towing a skier.

## KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

How to make emergency calls on the water.

### UPPER CLUTHA LAKES AND RIVERS:

**IN EMERGENCY DIAL 111 AND ASK FOR POLICE**

**RADIO CHANNELS 66, 67 & 16. Monitored by commercial operators during operating hours only.**

Channel 16 is monitored by boat users who are within range of the calling vessel, in most instances channel 16 will not be picked up by land based monitoring stations. Channel 66 monitoring is undertaken by Lakeland Adventures and Wanaka Marine during operating hours only. Channel 67 (simplex – line-of-sight) is used by Lake Hāwea locals. Any enquiries regarding Channel 66, contact the Upper Clutha Radio Telephone Association.

### WHAKATIPU LAKES AND RIVERS:

**IN EMERGENCY DIAL 111 AND ASK FOR POLICE**

**RADIO CHANNELS 5 & 16. Monitored by commercial operators during operating hours only.**

Channel 16 is monitored by boat users who are within range of the calling vessel, in most instances channel 16 will not be picked up by land based monitoring stations.

## LIFEJACKETS

You must wear a lifejacket at all times when out on our lakes and rivers if your vessel is under 6m long, regardless of the conditions. This includes kayakers and stand-up paddle boarders. Correctly sized lifejackets must also be carried for every person on larger vessels.

## YOUR HARBOURMASTER

The local harbourmaster and water patrol teams will be out and about over summer. Go say hi and learn about current conditions.

Report non-compliance of waterway rules:  
Phone 03 441 0499  
or email [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)



# Scuttlebutt online

Scuttlebutt is distributed to our local residents and out-of-town ratepayers six times a year. That's a lot of paper and postage. You can help us reduce the number of copies we print by switching to our email distribution list.

Just email [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz) with the word "newsletter" as the subject, and be sure to include your name, postal address and the address of your property in the district so we can cross you off the mailing list. We'll send you a website link to view/download all future Scuttlebutts instead. And remember, every issue of Scuttlebutt is also on our website [qldc.govt.nz/scuttlebutt](http://qldc.govt.nz/scuttlebutt)



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## SAFE SWIMMING

We're asking all swimmers and anglers to please take extra precautions at rivers across the district this summer season.

Take extreme care when entering the water and ask locals about the presence of any strong undertows, unstable footing and steep drop offs in our lakes.

## AVOID THESE HIGH-RISK AREAS IF POSSIBLE.



Steep drop offs and very deep water

Strong and deep undertows

Unstable ground

Be careful out there and stay safe while the weather's warm and the water's welcoming.

## CAN I SWIM HERE?

Check out Land, Air, Water Aotearoa's (LAWA) handy 'Can I Swim Here?' map. LAWA provides the latest water quality information that helps you decide when and where to swim safely all year round: [lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming](http://lawa.org.nz/explore-data/swimming)

# An update on proposed changes to density

Back in August, Council notified the proposed Urban Intensification Variation (UIV) and changes which would enable increased heights and densities in some areas of the district. Giving effect to central government's National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD), the variation aims to ensure we have well-functioning urban environments that meet the diverse and changing needs of our communities and future generations.

With Christmas upon us, we've been busy processing and summarising the 1,222 submissions received on the UIV, a third of which have a specific reference to Arrowtown. Generally, feedback reflects a mix of positions with plenty of reasons given as to why people support or oppose the proposal. Some submissions argue more intensification is required here than we've proposed. But overall, we can see a clear theme around concern over the idea of

intensification in general, especially in areas like Arrowtown and Wānaka.

Other themes in the submissions include retaining character specific to some communities, concerns around increased heights and densities, and about the impact the proposed changes would have on infrastructure and our district's transport network.

We hope to finish work on the initial submissions in early 2024. Once complete, a summary report will be published to share everything we've heard since the notification in August. We'll then be taking further submissions on the topic, with a hearing on the variation likely to follow in the second half of the year.

For more info visit [qldc.govt.nz/urban-intensification](https://qldc.govt.nz/urban-intensification)

## What's happening with Inclusionary Housing?

Remember the Inclusionary Housing Variation? Council publicly notified our plan to introduce changes to help fund local affordable housing back in October 2022, receiving 181 submissions on the topic.

We're now working towards a hearing on the proposal in February/March 2024, and busily contacting anyone who said they'd like to speak to their submission.

After the hearing, a panel of four Independent Commissioners will make recommendations on the variation for Council to consider.

# Ceremony celebrates protection of wetland



(L to R) Otago Fish & Game Chief Executive Ian Hadland, Department of Corrections Senior Community Work Supervisor Dave Madden, Friends of Bullock Creek President Ben Irving, and QEII National Trust Regional Representative for Central Otago Rob Wardle.

Representatives from Otago Fish & Game, Ara Poutama Aotearoa | Department of Corrections and QEII National Trust joined Friends of Bullock Creek volunteers and other members of the community in November to celebrate the covenanting of Wānaka's Bullock Creek Hatchery Springs wetland.

A QEII National Trust open space covenant will forever protect the urban wetland which is owned by Otago Fish & Game.

"The covenant is a testament to the strong commitment of Fish & Game and our community to the preservation of urban wild spaces," said Otago Fish & Game Chief Executive Ian Hadland.

Mr Hadland thanked all who worked tirelessly to make the covenanting possible, as well as the dedicated volunteers who would continue to nurture the area he described as "a natural gem in the community".

"The covenanting of this wetland by Fish & Game would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of the Friends of Bullock Creek and the Department of Corrections."

The site is open to visitors with boardwalks, tracks, picnic tables and informative signs. For more information visit [fobc.kiwi](http://fobc.kiwi)

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# Use water wisely this summer

Summer's here so slip into the shade, slop on some sunscreen, slap on a hat, and why not try to put a wrap on how much that sprinkler's running on your lawn in the middle of the day?

Over the next few months, temperatures are going to start rising and rain will likely become a rare sighting. These are the perfect conditions for heading down to the lake with friends and family but can quickly become a bit of a drip for your garden or lawn. Much worse, a hot and dry summer heightens the risk of wildfire and greatly impacts our district's water supply too.

We'll see more and more water being taken from our reservoirs at a rate faster than they can fill. And that can lead to water restrictions.

We've said it before and we'll say it again – we use a lot of water in our district. In fact, we're one of the biggest users of water in the country. And while no one likes restrictions, they play a pretty critical part in making sure we've got enough water left in reserve in case it's needed for an emergency like a wildfire.

Our infrastructure is sufficient to produce, store, and supply enough water to meet everyone's needs, and we continue to invest across the district to keep up with population growth. But we still need to change how we're using water to help avoid the significant spikes in demand we continue to see every summer.

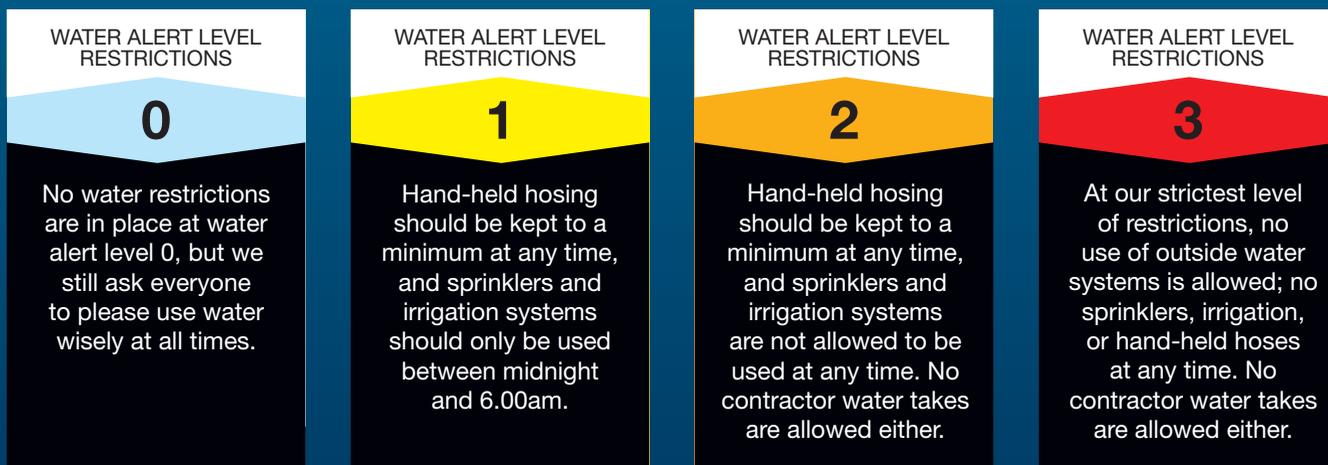
We should always treat water as a precious resource, but over summer it's especially important to consider the ways we use

it. Just like last year, we'd like to encourage everyone to get a bit more 'wai wise' at home, and if you'd like to do your part and save water in the kitchen, bathroom, or in the garden, you'll find plenty of tips and tricks online at [qldc.govt.nz/services/water-services/water-supply/water-tips](https://qldc.govt.nz/services/water-services/water-supply/water-tips)

Together, small changes can help us avoid water restrictions in future, reduce carbon emissions and be more sustainable too!

## Water restriction levels

Council continuously monitors our water production versus reservoir levels and how much water is being used across all our water schemes. In the event where reservoir levels drop, and demand for water outstrips how fast we can refill these reservoirs, restrictions are required. Look out for signs like these:



# Worms at work

An army of worms is busily munching through heaps of organic waste diverted from landfill each week thanks to Grow Wānaka's new organics drop off hub.

In the winter of 2020, a small team of like-minded locals came together to create the first community garden in Wānaka. Since then, it has evolved into a productive and vibrant food resilience hub on land gifted by the Outlet Camp.

In its 2022-23 season, the group donated an amazing 38 boxes of produce (and 161 pumpkins!) to Food for Love and the Community Networks/LINK Foodbank.

Like a similar project in Glenorchy (see Scuttlebutt #155), Grow Wānaka's volunteers received funding this past year from QLDC and the Ministry for the Environment to explore community composting operations. The result is the organics drop off hub including six large worm farms.

By September, these wriggly eco-heroes had converted around 1,000 litres of household food scraps into rich compost boosting soil health and biodiversity.

## GET INVOLVED

Grab your gumboots and join one of Grow Wānaka's Saturday morning or Wednesday evening working bees. They also welcome admin help and monetary donations. Check out [growwanaka.com](http://growwanaka.com) or email [info@growwanaka.com](mailto:info@growwanaka.com)



# Waste not, feast a lot!

Whether it's mince pies, a big slice of pavlova or a ham sandwich on Boxing Day, one of the things most of us love about Christmas is the food.

A bit of festive indulgence often goes hand-in-hand with food waste which tends to increase dramatically around this time. But it doesn't have to. With some careful planning and preparation, it's possible to throw far less food away.

Did you know that in Aotearoa New Zealand we waste 15,174 tonnes of bread every year? That's about 29 million loaves! Inspired by insights like these, Love Food Hate Waste (LFHW) has launched its Savour the Season campaign that includes heaps of great ideas for a low-waste Christmas.

For example, how about using that leftover bread to make chocolate bread bliss balls as a scrumptious edible Christmas gift?

For those short on time (or not keen on baking!), LFHW has provided a Savour the Season gift guide, focusing on sustainable presents that inspire savvy food storage throughout the holidays and beyond.

Check out its website packed with low-waste Christmas tips like how to get your fridge ready, planning your menu and how to love your leftovers: [lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/complete-guide-love-food-hate-waste-christmas](http://lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz/complete-guide-love-food-hate-waste-christmas)

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# From the chambers

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There's always plenty going on at our Council and Committee meetings, here's a snapshot of some recent happenings.

## NEW YEAR TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURES

Elsewhere in Scuttlebutt, you will have read that traditional New Year celebrations are back again at the Queenstown and Wānaka lakefronts. One often overlooked factor of these are the various temporary road closures required to ensure the safety of audience and performers. In Queenstown, they'll only impact the roads around the lakefront on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day but in Wānaka, temporary road closures start in Ardmore Street on 29 December. The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board approved the temporary closures at its meeting on 30 November and various conditions of their decision require organisers to ensure that the public are well aware of all the closures and their duration. And what better reason to walk, bike or skateboard to the lakefront? No parking hassles, better for the environment and a positive way to start the new year!

## NEW WILDING STRATEGY ADOPTED

It is one of the district's quiet achievers, but the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WWCCG) has gone from strength to strength since its formation in 2009. It was one of the first such groups formed in New Zealand and the Council recently adopted the WWCCG 2023-33 Wilding Strategy. This is the group's second strategic plan but the first to be wholly authored by the group executive. The overall aim is to protect biodiversity and the outstanding natural landscape by controlling wilding trees. Without the efforts of WWCCG, in ten years one wilding tree can become a hundred and then a thousand and our prized landscapes are changed forever. The plan will be reviewed every three years and is a guiding document for decision-making and to support the WWCCG's funding applications.

## SYNERGIES IN FRANKTON TRACK PROJECT

The Infrastructure Committee recently approved a project that will see a short section of the Frankton Track sealed. The present surface treatment of unbound gravel was users' clear favourite when the Council conducted a surfacing trial and survey earlier this year, but some e-vehicles like scooters and skateboards don't perform as well on this type of surface. For those vehicles, there is the option to use the sealed footpath but there is a section of the Frankton Track where all users have to use the track because there is no footpath. In a great synergy between a wastewater capacity upgrade and active travel improvements, two projects have been combined into one and this short section of track that all users have to take will be upgraded and sealed as part of wastewater conveyancing upgrades planned for 2025 at a minimal cost of \$35,000.

## ANNUAL VS MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Council adopted a meeting schedule for 2024 at its meeting on 31 August 2023 but despite the best will in the world, there are bound to be adjustments and amendments as the year progresses. Accordingly, if you are looking on the QLDC website for upcoming meetings, the best idea is to look at the meeting schedule for the **month** as this will provide the most up-to-date listing of upcoming meetings. And if you would like to have agendas for all meetings (Council, committee and community board) delivered straight to your inbox, email the governance team ([governance@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:governance@qldc.govt.nz)) asking to be added to the public circulation list.

# Wildfire controls for reserves

Activities like smoking, fireworks, chainsaw use or mowing in an area where the grass or scrub is dry all have a history of starting fires, and a wildfire on one of our reserves could have a devastating effect.

QLDC is working with Fire and Emergency New Zealand and wildfire experts to create protocols for anyone using or holding events in reserves during the fire season. These controls aim to reduce the chance of

ignition from activities that may cause a spark or heat, and a wildfire.

They will also be used to implement reserve closures where necessary during periods of elevated wildfire danger. Reserve

closures mitigate the risk of fires starting by removing people and their associated activities that can start fires, and prevent potential injury or loss of life by removing people from harm's way if a fire were to occur.

We'll be providing more information about this on the QLDC website later in December.

In the meantime, for general advice visit [fireandemergency.nz/outdoor-and-rural-fire-safety](https://fireandemergency.nz/outdoor-and-rural-fire-safety)

## Renting your property?

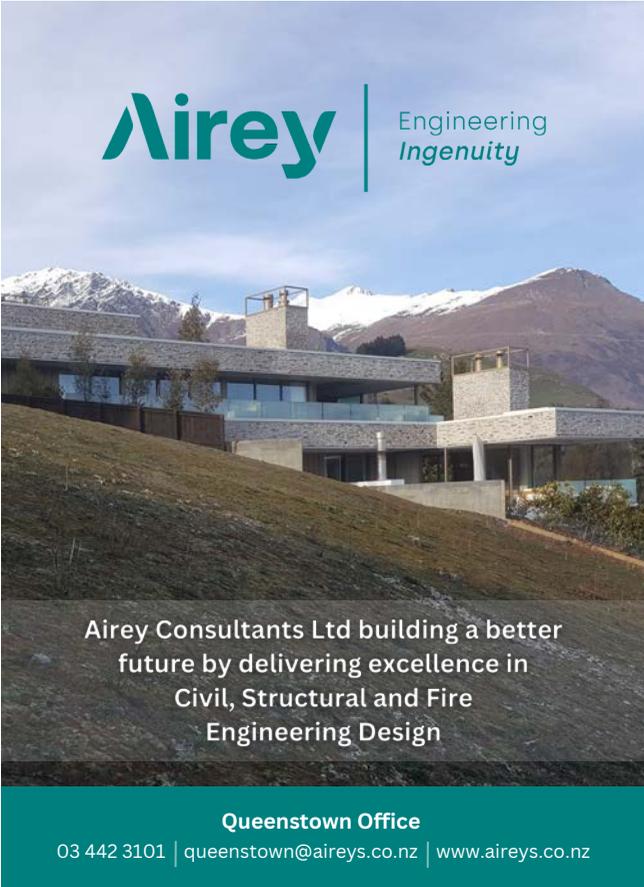
This time of year sees a lot more properties rented out as visitor accommodation.

Most people play by the rules by completing our short registration form and getting a resource consent if they need one.

It keeps things fair and gives us important data to help us to understand and address our housing challenges.

Check out [qldc.govt.nz/visitor-accommodation](https://qldc.govt.nz/visitor-accommodation) for details.

And to help ensure everyone enjoys the break, please ask your guests to be mindful of the neighbours and community.



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# 'Postcards' from recent events

We thought it would be good to round-up some recent events around the district with a few photos to tell the story.



## 21 AND STILL AT SCHOOL!

Enviroschools, the nationwide environmental action-based programme empowering young people and funded locally by QLDC, celebrated its 21st birthday by inviting schoolkids from across the district to a special party at Queenstown Events Centre. Here are students from Glenorchy School (the first to get involved locally) cutting the cake with (left) Dame Sukhi Turner, first Chair of the Enviroschools Foundation, and (right) Whakatipu Enviroschools Facilitator Nicky Gray.



## TASMIN IS SUCH A MINT VOLUNTEER

The Upper Clutha Youth Council and Kahu Youth Volunteer Awards were held recently at Kahu Youth's new home at Paetara Aspiring Central, QLDC's latest sport and community facility in Wānaka. Supreme winner Tasmin Murphy was nominated by Charlotte Jackson of the M!nt Trust that supports those with intellectual disabilities. Here's Tasmin receiving her award from Kahu Youth Trust's volunteer manager Jo Lewis. Ka pai, Tas! [With thanks to the Wanaka App and photographer Deanna Gerlach]



## DAZZLING DIWALI

Around 1,500 people lit up Queenstown Events Centre at the end of October for New Zealand's first sustainable Diwali festival. Organised by Bhartiya Samaj Charitable Trust, the event was a dazzling mix of fashion, dance and cuisine to celebrate the Indian festival of lights. It was also an opportunity to bring together members of our other migrant communities, several of whom also took to the stage to share their own cultural performances.



### ARROWTOWN MOST BEAUTIFUL

Arrowtown swept up two gongs at the prestigious Keep New Zealand Beautiful Awards in November. Held at Parliament House, our historic gem won Most Beautiful Small Town while Buckingham Street was declared Best Street. Judges were particularly impressed with the town's recent efforts towards sustainability initiatives. Here's Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association Manager Nicky Busst accepting the awards on behalf of the community.



### FIESTA TO PAY RESPECTS

Members of our Mexican migrant community organised a celebration in November for Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a traditional annual holiday when family and friends gather to remember those who have died. It all took place at Wānaka Scout Den complete with some amazing costumes, food and face painting. Pictured (L to R) are event organiser Adriana Márquez with Berenice Landeros, Mariana Robles, Marcelo González and Emi Parrado.



### LOCAL FOOD HEROES SHARE STORIES

Our Community Kai Story – a new book celebrating of food, people and connection – was launched recently at Frankton Library and Wānaka Community Hub. Available from Council offices and libraries with all proceeds to KiwiHarvest, it's the perfect Christmas prezzie! Pictured (L to R) at the Frankton event are Councillor Melissa White, QLDC Resilience and Climate Action manager Gary Hough and QLDC Community Partnerships Manager Marie Day.

# Aaliyah's year: Friends for life and many learnings

Aaliyah Fowler is just finishing her year as our local representative on the Tuia Programme.

Designed to develop the leadership capability of young Māori in communities throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, the programme involves local mayors selecting rangatahi (meaning youth or young person) from their district to mentor on a one-to-one basis. We caught up with Aaliyah to find out more about the programme and what she's learned.

## WHAT HAS YOUR YEAR INVOLVED?

This whole year of Tuia has been full of many different emotions: excitement, fear, nervousness, joy – the list goes on.

Each wānanga had a different kaupapa and meaning. Tuia i runga which translates as 'weaving above' was all about learning and knowing the history of our tupuna; tuia i raro 'weaving below' was about knowing and being one with the whenua; in tuia i roto 'weaving within' we shared our journeys with each other in a safe space you probably couldn't find anywhere else; tuia i waho 'weaving out' focused on community contribution; and finally tuia te here tangata 'weaving together' had us reflecting back on the year and all of our experiences.

## WHAT HAVE BEEN THE HIGHLIGHTS?

I have met so many like-minded rangatahi and made friends for life. I now have connections all over Aotearoa and have come out of Tuia with so much more confidence, not only in myself but also my culture.

## ANY CHALLENGES YOU'VE HAD TO OVERCOME?

I was really scared of not being able to fit in – being a fair-skinned Māori that's always been on my mind. But almost



*Aaliyah with Mayor Lewers (above), and with some of her 'friends for life' (right).*

as soon as we were all together I knew I was in the right place and everyone quickly became whanau. Tuia taught me to be proud to be Māori.

## WHAT HAVE BEEN THE PARTICULAR BENEFITS OF MENTORING SESSIONS WITH THE MAYOR?

Having Glyn as a mentor this year and just getting to know him has been really cool and something that I'll look back on with many learnings. I was able to get a glimpse of what mahi goes on behind the scenes in the community, and even spent one morning with Glyn volunteering for KiwiHarvest out in the snow!

## HOW HAVE YOUR FUTURE GOALS BEEN INFLUENCED BY YOUR PARTICIPATION?

My passion is rangatahi Māori. Meeting everyone in the kaupapa and hearing about all the amazing mahi they do, or are planning to do, was a massive eye-opener and gave me so many ideas for my future. One of my goals has always been to become fluent in te reo. Coming out of Tuia has motivated me to start my journey next year when I'll do my Level 1 and 2.

## WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE CONSIDERING APPLYING FOR THE PROGRAMME?

DO IT!! Tuia is such a beautiful kaupapa. Anyone wanting to grow – whether that be in their knowledge of Te Ao, whakapapa, how to give back to your community, leadership skills or even just growing as a person – will find all that and more in Tuia.

For more info visit [mtfj.co.nz/our-work/tuia-and-mtfj-rangatahi](https://mtfj.co.nz/our-work/tuia-and-mtfj-rangatahi) or email [topaz.river@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:topaz.river@qldc.govt.nz)

# Cemetery restoration tracking well

We're well into the 'doing the work' phase at Queenstown Cemetery | Urupā following damage during heavy rain in September.

QLDC is pleased to be partnering with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, with the support of Skyline, to restore the urupā for whānau and community access once the site can be safely reopened to the public.

For up-to-date information about the restoration head to [qldc.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/queenstown-cemetery-restoration](https://qldc.govt.nz/services/cemeteries/queenstown-cemetery-restoration)



Over 100 community members and contractors came together for a whakawātea ceremony on 3 November to acknowledge work beginning. Representatives from Kāi Tahu, Wakatipu Community Presbyterian Church and Anglican Parish of Wakatipu as well as QLDC elected members and staff spoke at the gathering.



Mike Hurring (MHL) contracting team spent two weeks delicately excavating grave features from debris. The space became a 'sea of white bags' containing over 700 tonnes of material.

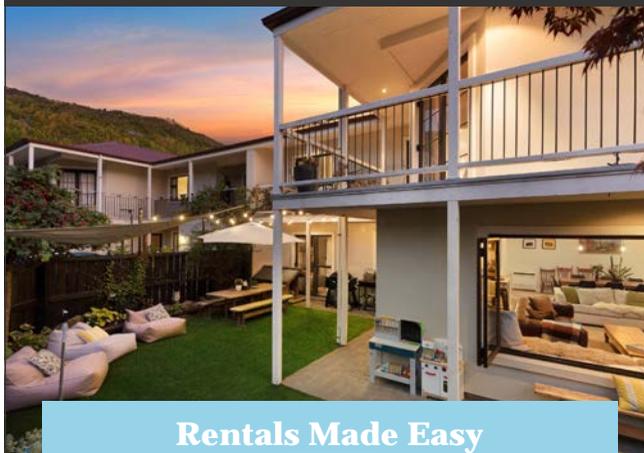


A 160-tonne crane was brought in to lift the bags onto trucks transporting them off site. All bags were marked according to their location and will be temporarily stored in case any grave items aren't accounted for. All headstones have been accounted for.

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# Lakefront New Year celebrations

Traditional New Year celebrations are back again at the Queenstown and Wānaka lakefronts. It's all free to enjoy!

Both events kick off with family-friendly entertainment from 2.00pm followed by live music and, of course, spectacular fireworks displays at midnight.

There'll be safe zones in both towns from 29 December through to the main event thanks to the awesome efforts of Red Frogs volunteers.

See page 23 for more great summer events.

## QUEENSTOWN

2.00-5.00pm	Family fun at Earnslaw Park including face painting and roaming entertainers
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### MAIN STAGE: EARNSLAW PARK

7.30-8.00pm	Estrogen
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8.00-9.30pm	Ginger & Tonic
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9.30-11.00pm	The Execs
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11.00pm-1.00am	Freefall
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### DJ STAGE: MARINE PARADE (MC – MR TAMATI)

9.00-10.30pm	DJ Pops
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10.30-midnight	DJ Cuz
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Midnight-1.00am	DJ Rasty
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### FIREWORKS AT MIDNIGHT

## WĀNAKA

2.00-4.30pm	Family fun at Dinosaur Park including face painting, roaming entertainers and games
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### MAIN STAGE

8.00-8.30pm	The Goose Pies
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8.30-10.45pm	The Mandates
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10.45pm-1.00am	LA Social
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### DJ STAGE

9.00pm-1.00am	JACKED DnB
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### FIREWORKS AT MIDNIGHT



# A better approach to managing parking

Townships throughout our district should be easy for everyone to get around, whether that's by foot, bike, car, or public transport. And when you're heading into town in a vehicle, parking should be easy to find and stress free. That means having enough parking in the right places for a variety of needs.

But as you've probably experienced, finding a convenient space that suits your purpose is becoming increasingly difficult. As our main town centres continue to experience growing demands from a range of users with different parking needs, increasing emissions and congestion, a change needs to happen now on how we manage and prioritise the use of public spaces.

Convenient timing then, because we're looking for community insight into a Draft Parking Strategy and a better approach to managing parking here.

The strategy aims to establish objectives about what we want to achieve and principles to guide decisions on how parking will be allocated and prioritised in the future.

We're also working to create Parking Guidelines and tailored Parking Management Plans to address existing issues within defined areas and town centres like Queenstown, Frankton and Wānaka. We'll be looking for community input on these plans in the near future.

Parking is just one piece of the puzzle when it comes to lowering emissions, or getting more vehicles off the road and more people to use other forms of transport. Rest assured, we continue to work with our local transport planning partners, Otago Regional Council and Waka Kotahi NZTA to improve transport networks across the district and encourage the use of other modes of travel, or to reduce the need to travel at all!

But every puzzle has a corner piece that serves as a great place to build from. Parking affects us all – whether you're heading into work, delivering goods to a store, escaping Auckland to enjoy your Christmas break down here, or visiting from overseas.

So, back to the part where we said parking should be easy to find and stress free. Chances are you've got the ideas we need to make that a reality. Check out our draft strategy and have your say at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

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MANAGEMENT**  
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# Welcome to our Responsible Camping Ambassadors

Eight responsible camping ambassadors have recently joined our team. You may spot them out and about during the summer chatting to visitors to promote ways to help care for our backyard paradise.

They'll be heading to popular freedom camping spots to share information on how to camp responsibly and minimise waste, reporting any signs of poor behaviour and promoting local campgrounds nearby.

The 2023-2024 programme launched on 8 November 2023 following \$495,000 in funding received from

the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment's (MBIE) Freedom Camping Transition Fund and will run until Easter 2024.

Some of the funding has also been used for increased enforcement to help monitor more of the district as well as managing any unlawful behaviour when required and educating visitors on camping rules, including MBIE's change in self-certification from blue stickers (warrants) to green stickers (for more on this head to [mbie.govt.nz](http://mbie.govt.nz) and search 'freedom camping changes').

There are four ambassadors based in Queenstown and four in Wānaka.

The Wānaka team will also cover Luggate, Lake Hāwea, Makarora, Cardrona Village and the Crown Range. The Queenstown team will also cover Kingston, Glenorchy, Arrowtown and Gibbston.

For more information head to [qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping](http://qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping) or grab a brochure from DOC, i-Sites and QLDC offices, libraries and sport and recreation facilities.

If you spot someone staying in an area where freedom camping is prohibited, or staying in a restricted area in a vehicle you don't think is certified self-contained, give us a call and let our officers know.

Queenstown  
03 441 0499.  
Wānaka  
03 443 0024.  
**We're available  
24/7.**

QLDC Responsible Camping  
Ambassador Becky Clough  
(and some ducks)



# Hot dogs in cars are not cool

Many pet owners don't understand how quickly a car can heat up.

In a hot car, even with the windows slightly open, panting is not enough to keep a dog's body temperature within a safe range. On a 30°C day, the temperature inside your car can reach 39°C in less than five minutes and in 30 minutes it goes up to 49°C! This occurs even in the shade.

It's an offence under the Animal Welfare Act to leave a dog in a hot vehicle if it's showing signs of heat stress and is trying to seek shade.

While it might be tempting to take your furry friend on a quick errand, the consequences of even a short period in a hot car can be severe. Here's what every pet owner should know:

#### **OPEN WINDOWS ARE NOT ENOUGH:**

The temperature inside a car can still soar, making it unbearable for your pet.

#### **PETS ARE VULNERABLE:**

Dogs and cats are particularly vulnerable to heat, as they rely on panting to regulate their body temperature, which is ineffective in extremely hot conditions.

#### **BE AWARE OF THE SIGNS:**

Recognise the signs of heat stress in your pet, which may include excessive panting, drooling, restlessness, and in severe cases, loss of consciousness. If you suspect your pet is suffering from heatstroke, seek immediate veterinary attention.

If you see a dog in immediate distress, please contact Police for assistance. Do not smash the window as this puts both you and the dog at risk. The SPCA and QLDC Animal Control are also available to offer advice and assess any potential health concerns.



#### **HAS SPOT GONE SOLO?**

Give us a call if you spot a roaming dog on your property. Our Animal Control team are available 24/7 and can help them get back home safely:

Queenstown -  
**03 441 0499**

Wānaka -  
**03 443 0024**

#### **SPECIAL LOCAL OFFER**

Only \$129\* plus get a  
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SUMMER CONCERT**

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**WWW.GREENSTONEENTERTAINMENT.CO.NZ**

\*Plus booking fee. Limited Local Tickets available until sold out.



## Dry summer?

### A reminder about alcohol free areas.

Embracing the spirit of safe and joyful celebrations, we warmly welcome visitors and locals alike to a festive season marked by responsible enjoyment. As a friendly reminder, QLDC's Alcohol-Free Areas in Public Places Bylaw supports a family-friendly environment by reducing the potential for alcohol related offensive behaviour in our district.

Specified public places in Queenstown and Wānaka will now be alcohol-free permanently on Christmas and Boxing Day, continuing through the 27 December to 6 January timeframe. The alcohol-free areas in Queenstown and Wānaka will now be from 6.00am on Christmas Day to 6.00am on January 6 the following year.

Check out updated maps on the alcohol-free areas in our district and further information on the QLDC website. If you have further queries please see the QLDC website or call our enquiries alcohol inspector who will be happy to help: [qldc.govt.nz/services/alcohol-licensing/have-your-say-on-alcohol-licence-applications](http://qldc.govt.nz/services/alcohol-licensing/have-your-say-on-alcohol-licence-applications)

Cheers to a wonderful and responsible summer season!

# KERBSIDE STANDARDISATION ACROSS AOTEAROA

The Ministry for the Environment is making it easier for people to recycle right by standardising kerbside recycling across the country.

The aims are to reduce confusion and contamination so more materials can be recycled, and to help businesses choose more easily recyclable packaging for their products.

The good news is, in our district, we're already accepting most of the items on the standardised list.

There's just one small change: from 1 February you'll be able to put more plastics marked  in your yellow mixed recycling, including meat trays, punnets and coloured bottles (like L&P). This is in addition to the plastics   and clear plastics  you can already recycle. Pizza boxes free from grease and food can also go in your yellow bin from February.

Keep using your red rubbish bin for soft plastics, coffee cups, drink cartons, lids, plastics    or , and plastic- or foil-lined paper and cardboard. These items go to landfill.

There is no change to glass recycling. Only clean glass bottles and jars used for food and drink go in your blue recycling bin. All other glass, including drinking glasses, go in your red bin along with ceramics.

If you have any recycling questions, or you would like help to reduce your waste, head to [qldc.govt.nz/rubbish-and-recycling](http://qldc.govt.nz/rubbish-and-recycling) or contact us  
E: [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)  
T: 03 441 0499 / 03 443 0024

# JINGLE BINS, JINGLE BINS, JINGLE ALL THE WAY!

**KERBSIDE  
COLLECTION  
HOLIDAY  
ALERT!**



With Santa scheduled to visit on Christmas Eve with sacks of presents, you might be wondering when kerbside collections are scheduled to take your rubbish and recycling away during the holiday break.

## HERE'S THE PLAN:

- > There will be no kerbside collection on Christmas Day or New Year's Day.
- > Kerbside collections scheduled for both these public holidays will take place on the following day, with collections for the rest of those weeks also pushed back a day (e.g. Tuesday's collection will be on Wednesday, Wednesday's collection happens on Thursday etc).
- > The Queenstown and Wānaka Transfer Stations will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- > The public recycling drop off on Glenda Drive will also be closed on Christmas Day.

Rubbish at remembering? Sign up for weekly bin day reminders and public holiday alerts via text or email at [www.reminders.saveourstuff.co.nz](http://www.reminders.saveourstuff.co.nz)

## Know your recycling from A-Z

Navigating the world of how to recycle responsibly or dispose of unwanted items safely can often feel like deciphering a code.

That's where our new A-Z Waste and Recycling directory comes to the rescue!

It helps you find out what belongs in your kerbside bins and where other unwanted items can be dropped off for reuse, recycling or safe disposal.

The directory takes centre stage on our website's rubbish and recycling pages. If there's something we haven't captured, there'll be an easy way you can suggest additions.

Check it out here

[qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling](http://qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling)

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# Splash into summer

Open air swimming has returned with Arrowtown Memorial Pool now open until 1 March.

Both the main and toddler pools at the much-loved facility are heated to a target temperature of 27 degrees.

Normal opening hours are 11.00am-6.00pm every day except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve when the pool will close at 5.00pm, and Christmas Day and New Year's Day when it will be closed all day.

A list of entry prices and a daily timetable showing aquatic programmes, special events and which lanes are reserved for public swimming are available on the QLDC website. In addition, swimmers can find the latest information regarding special events and unexpected changes to opening hours, for example due to bad weather, on social media:

 @QLDCSportRec

 @arrowtown\_memorial\_pool

 [qldc.govt.nz/arrowtown-pool](http://qldc.govt.nz/arrowtown-pool)



# Check, Clean, Dry

Freshwater pests can be spread by activities in and around waterways like boating and fishing. If you've been in a lake, river, stream or wetland and plan to move to another within 48 hours, you must clean all your gear that has been wet using the 'Check, Clean, Dry' method:

**CHECK:** Remove any plant matter from your gear and leave it at the river or lake bank, or put it in the rubbish. Don't wash plant material down any drain.

**CLEAN:** Use 10% dishwashing detergent mixed with water and leave the item wet for 10 minutes.

**DRY:** Ensure your gear is completely dry to touch, inside and out, then leave dry for at least another 48 hours before you use it (didymo can survive for months on moist gear).

For more info visit [orc.govt.nz/managing-our-environment/pest-hub/aquatic](http://orc.govt.nz/managing-our-environment/pest-hub/aquatic)

## SUMMERDAZE

### TEDDY BEARS PICNIC

We're having a Teddy Bears Picnic and your family is invited! There's plenty of entertainment for kids of all ages, with everything from musicians and interactive games to face-painting and bouncy castles. **FREE TO ATTEND.**

**QUEENSTOWN  
EVENTS CENTRE**  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Saturday 27 January

**WĀNAKA  
DINOSAUR PARK\***  
11:00am-2:00pm  
Sunday 28 January

*\*Wet weather location  
will be Wānaka  
Recreation Centre*



# Bay Dreams traffic

An expected 10,000 attendees will flock to Queenstown Events Centre in Frankton for Bay Dreams on Friday 5 January. We have the inside scoop on what this means for the roads so that a dream gig doesn't turn into a traffic nightmare!

There will be delays on the day due to the sheer number of people coming, but here are some things to consider:

- > There'll be around 30 buses in rotation from various stops across Queenstown, Wānaka and Cromwell.
- > All buses will drop off/pick up on Joe O'Connell Dr.
- > There will be no parking down Joe O'Connell Drive as that will be used for this purpose.
- > Event parking will be located on an Events Centre field accessed via Grant Road; please follow the signs.
- > **The Events Centre pools, gym and stadium will close at midday for the event.**

We recommend attendees catch a bus to the event or use the specific event parking via Grant Road. We also ask all non-attendees for a bit of patience on 5 January as there will be a large number of vehicles around the venue.

For more information, visit QLDC's social media pages or [baydreams.co.nz](http://baydreams.co.nz)

## OTHER BIG SUMMER EVENTS

Rythm and Alps, 29-31 Dec [rhythmandalps.co.nz](http://rhythmandalps.co.nz)

Lake Hayes A&P Show, 13 Jan [lakehayesshow.com](http://lakehayesshow.com)

Queenstown Bike Festival, 19-28 Jan [queenstownbikefestival.co.nz](http://queenstownbikefestival.co.nz)

Highlanders v Moana Pasifika, 2 Feb [thehighlanders.co.nz](http://thehighlanders.co.nz)

Gibbston Valley Winery Concert, 3 Feb [greenstoneentertainment.co.nz](http://greenstoneentertainment.co.nz)

Challenge Wanaka Triathlon Festival, 11-17 Feb [challenge-wanaka.com](http://challenge-wanaka.com)

**Summer is our district's busiest time of the year so plan ahead and allow extra time for your journeys.**

# Flying? Park and ride!

If you're flying away for your summer holiday consider using Queenstown Airport's Park & Ride service.

The large, secure park in Brookes Road is cheaper than the terminal parks with a free shuttle bus running to/from the airport 365 days a year. Find out more at [queenstownairport.co.nz/park-ride](http://queenstownairport.co.nz/park-ride)

**Shelve your fines at your local library**

Visit your local library during December, donate a food item, toiletries or a gift, and clear \$10 of overdue fines! All donations go to Happiness House (Whakatipu), Community Networks/LINK Food Bank (Upper Clutha) and Glenorchy Community Food Bank.

libraries  
whare pukapuka  
Queenstown Lakes

# Summer hours and contacts



Our offices in Queenstown and Wānaka will close at midday on Friday 22 December and reopen at 8.00am on Wednesday 3 January.



As always, we'll still have a team of people available 24/7 to take your call and help resolve any urgent issues that crop up – just give us a call on 03 441 0499 (Queenstown) or 03 443 0024 (Wānaka).



Another option for non-urgent issues is Snap, Send, Solve – a handy little app that allows you to report issues in your local area on the spot, using your mobile device. These issues are then automatically sent QLDC's way! *Please note, these will not be monitored over the Christmas closedown.*



A full list of opening hours for our sport and recreation facilities and libraries can be found online at [qldc.govt.nz/summer-101](http://qldc.govt.nz/summer-101)

## QLDC OFFICES

### Queenstown Office:

10 Gorge Road  
Private Bag 50072, Queenstown  
Phone: 03 441 0499

### Wānaka Office:

47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka  
Phone: 03 443 0024

E-mail: [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)

### Office Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

## QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Alpine Aqualand  
Alpine Health & Fitness  
Indoor Courts  
Sports fields  
Phone: 03 450 9005

## WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool  
Indoor Courts  
Phone: 03 443 9334

## PAETARA ASPIRING CENTRAL

Indoor Courts  
Studio  
Phone: 03 450 1721

## VENUES

For more information on our venues please head to [qldc.govt.nz/venues](http://qldc.govt.nz/venues)

## LIBRARIES

For library opening hours and locations please head to [codc-qldc.govt.nz](http://codc-qldc.govt.nz)

## TRANSFER STATIONS

**Whakatipu:** 110 Glenda Drive  
Frankton Industrial Area  
Phone: 03 348 5126

**Upper Clutha:** Cnr of Ballantyne  
& Riverbank Roads  
Phone: 03 348 6125

## HARBOURMASTER

Report non-compliance of waterway rules by phone **03 441 0499** or email [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)  
In an emergency on the water always call **111**

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

## EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

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Feedback and ideas are welcome.