

Ready for Anything

Queenstown Lakes Community Resilience Group Network - Quarterly Update October 2025

In this edition: Events and training | Prep talk: Small steps, stronger communities | CRG updates | News and views | Tools and resources | Meet your neighbour

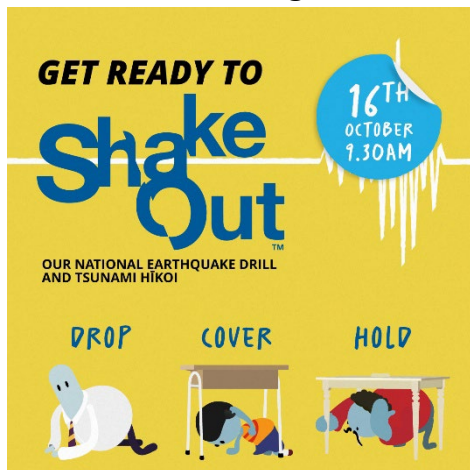
Kia ora, and welcome to our first quarterly newsletter!

We're aiming to provide a regular, one-stop update for the Queenstown Lakes District's CRG network to help create connections, share knowledge and resources, and highlight upcoming events and training opportunities.

We're keen to celebrate successes, showcase your mahi, keep you in the loop with what QLDC and Emergency Management Otago are working on, and bring you relevant tips, news and views from across the emergency management world.

It's still a work in progress, so we'd love you to send us your news, ideas, and feedback on what would be most useful to you. Plus, the next edition will much flashier in its new design template 😊.

Events and training



ShakeOut reminder

ShakeOut, Aotearoa's national earthquake drill and tsunami hikoī, is on next week – Thursday 16 October, 9:30am. It's a great opportunity for your group and community to run a quick 'Drop, Cover, and Hold' drill and have a conversation about preparedness. [Sign up here.](#)

You can also download loads of great resources like social media tiles, posters and certificates from [Share the Shakeout.](#)

And if you've got friends or whānau in coastal areas, give them a wee nudge to practise their tsunami hikoī (walking their evacuation route to higher ground). It's a small step that could make a big difference when it counts.

Wānaka CRG connects with locals through resilience walking tour

Speaking of walking... Wānaka CRG is taking a creative approach to community engagement by partnering with [WAO](#) on an immersive walking tour. On 1 November, locals will join geologist Graeme Halliday to learn about Wānaka's geology and how a large earthquake and other natural hazards could impact the township. The CRG will also showcase practical items to keep at home to help residents stay resilient in the hours, days, and weeks following a major emergency. Keen to learn more? Email wanakacrg@gmail.com.

Getting Good and Ready

QLDC Welcoming Communities and the Lakes Multicultural Collective teamed up with NZ Red Cross to run 'Good and Ready' emergency preparedness sessions in Queenstown and Wānaka last month. While these were open to all, there was a particular focus on supporting migrant communities, who may be less familiar with our local hazards and emergency systems. The sessions were really well received and more work is planned to continue raising awareness.

Save the date: District-wide radio exercise

Stay tuned for details about the 5 November district-wide radio exercise Emergency Management Otago is planning for all CRGs.

Prep talk: Small steps, stronger communities

Life's busy, and we're conscious that people may not have much spare time or cash to spend on emergency preparedness. But getting started doesn't have to be hard or expensive. Here are a few quick, free actions you can encourage people to do today – just 15 minutes now could save a lot of time and stress later!

Know your hazards:

- Check out [Emergency Management Otago's webpage](#) for a summary of Queenstown Lakes hazards.
- For more detail, view Otago Regional Council's new [natural hazard exposure map](#). It covers nine hazard types (floods, earthquakes, coastal, landslides, etc.) and estimates how many people, buildings, and critical facilities potentially lie in harm's way. It's a strategic tool (not a site-level risk assessment) designed to guide planning, resilience-building, and future investigations. [Read more](#).
- Snowmelt and unsettled weather can bring an increased risk of flooding in spring. [Find out more](#).

Stay informed:

- [Sign up to Otago Gets Ready](#) for official emergency text/email updates and advice from Emergency Management Otago, tailored to your neighbourhood. You can also help by privately listing any resources you have, like a 4WD, Starlink, or first aid training. If you have specific needs (such as health, mobility, or language support), you can include those too, so responders know how to assist you if needed.
- Follow [the QLDC Facebook page](#) and the [Emergency Management Otago Facebook page](#) for updates.
- Check out the [QLDC Emergency Management page](#) for local information, Community Resilience Group details, and links to helpful websites.

CRG news

Thanks for sending us your news! We've now refreshed your contact details, along with the links to your community communication channels and downloadable guides, on the QLDC Emergency Management page.

- Kingston CRG is rebooting, and the West Queenstown and Cardrona CRGs are in the early stages of forming so watch this space...
- A number of groups recently completed tabletop exercises and practised setting up their community emergency hubs with support from their respective Emergency Management Advisors (EMAs), Craig, Dave, Jacqui and DB.
- New/updated brochures have been developed for Wānaka, Southern Corridor, Shotover Country and Lake Hayes, and Frankton/Quail Rise.
- Glenorchy CRG has a new contact email address: glenorchycrg@gmail.com.
- Several groups, including Wānaka and Hāwea, have already adopted Emergency Management Otago's new terminology, changing their names from Community Response Group to Community Resilience Group.
- Jacks Point and Hanley's Farm has undergone a full name change and is now the Southern Corridor Community Resilience Group, better reflecting its future population catchment. They also had a great turnout to their recent radio/Starlink training run by EMA Craig Gibson – the best yet, and lots of newbies! Thanks for the photo, team.



News and views

Govt's new emergency management roadmap

The government has unveiled a five-year plan to modernise emergency response systems, improve coordination, and boost community resilience. [Read more](#).

Minister of Emergency Management visits Wānaka

Hon. Mark Mitchell, Minister for Emergency Management, recently visited Wānaka to meet with local emergency services and volunteers. Wānaka CRG representatives attended and received praise from the Minister on behalf of all CRGs across the district. He acknowledged the huge contribution volunteers make to local readiness and response, especially in supporting neighbours and connecting communities during emergencies. He also shared some insights into the upcoming Emergency Management Bill, highlighting that community groups will have a stronger, more formal role in the future Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) system.

Clued Up Kids learn emergency smarts

Earlier this year, more than 500 Year 6 students across Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago graduated from Emergency Management Otago's biggest ever *Clued Up Kids* programme, learning how to stay safe and respond in emergencies. [Read more](#).

Firefighters train for disasters in Wānaka

Over 30 volunteer firefighters from Otago and Southland recently gathered in Wānaka for a large-scale training day. Key focus areas were urban search & rescue (USAR), Alpine Fault (AF8) response, and vehicle extrication. [Read more.](#)

Queenstown tops solar returns

Queenstown offers the best return on rooftop solar in NZ, with up to 14% annual yield. EECA says rising power prices and falling panel costs make solar increasingly worthwhile. [Read more.](#)

Transpower plans \$1.1B Cook Strait cable upgrade

Transpower is proposing a \$1.1 billion investment to replace the aging Cook Strait cables connecting the North and South Islands. The upgrade will boost capacity and ensure long-term reliability of NZ's power backbone. [Read more.](#)

Digital billboards to show severe weather alerts

More than 500 digital billboards across NZ will now display real-time MetService weather warnings and NEMA safety messages during severe events, targeted by region like Emergency Mobile Alerts. [Read more.](#)

Military Police roll out new emergency response vehicles

The NZDF's Joint Military Police Unit has added 18 new Emergency Response Vehicles to its fleet. The upgrade boosts their ability to respond across camps, bases, and during civil emergencies or natural disasters. [Read more.](#)

Tools and resources

CRG Shared Resources Hub

Looking for templates or promotional tools? We're uploading these to QLDC's [CRG Shared Resources Hub](#).

It's been awesome to hear that several groups have connected with the Southern Corridor CRG (formerly Jacks Point and Hanley's Farm) to chat about the fantastic community guide they've developed. A huge thanks to Ruth and Olivia for converting the guide into an editable Word file, making it super easy for other groups to adapt it for their own communities. You can view or download it directly from the Hub (under 'Templates').

For the tamariki

"Turtle Safe" is a fun video that teaches young kids what to do in an earthquake. [Watch here.](#)

Meet your neighbour: Dave Grimes



Dave Grimes is the newest member of the Emergency Management Otago (EMO) team and is one of two Queenstown Emergency Management Advisors.

As part of his role, he looks after the Arrowtown, Arthurs Point, Frankton/Quail Rise, Gibbston, Shotover Country and Lake Hayes, and Cardrona CRGs.

Dave has 19+ years of policing and emergency management experience, including leadership roles in major events like the Canterbury quakes and wildfires.

Off duty, you'll find him training for ultra-marathons, volunteering, or spending time with his whānau. [Read more.](#)

Quote of the Quarter

"Plan for the worst, hope for the best, manage what comes."

That's it for now. Please keep in touch and share your ideas, suggestions and news with us - email Jen Andrews at jen@flyingsquad.nz.

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