



# Southern Lakes Business Response Group

COVID-19 – Update 29 – 09/07/2020 – 4.00pm

*Here's the latest update from the **Southern Lakes Business Response & Recovery team***

Winter has well and truly arrived, and the snow is a welcome sight in Queenstown and Wanaka! This fortnight's update focuses on some local initiatives that have recently launched or are in the pipeline that are aimed at keeping our talent connected with the community, and look ahead to our district's recovery. There's also some changes to Central Government policy relating to visa holders and the small business loan scheme.

Our next group update will be on 23 July. In the meantime, all updates will be posted on the Chambers of Commerce Facebook pages and through the individual organisation's regular communications.

**All Government releases and updates on funding and support [can be found here](#).**

**All QLDC announcements and updates [can be found here](#)**

## **What's new?**

**The Queenstown Chamber of Commerce** has recently launched WeAreCommunity, a free programme supported by Westpac NZ for management level employees who have recently been made redundant and wish to remain connected to the Queenstown business community. The purpose of this programme is to help support these people who will now be looking to find alternative employment, as they will be a valuable asset in our economy's recovery phase. Members can take advantage of attending the Chamber networking and education events, as well as being kept informed on employment initiatives underway across the district. To apply email [membership@queenstownchamber.org.nz](mailto:membership@queenstownchamber.org.nz)

**QLDC** will soon launch Torokiki, an online hub where the community will have the opportunity to share ideas, check out what others are suggesting, vote on your favourites and add comments to existing ideas to improve them. Council is encouraging constructive discussion on ideas to help our recovery and contribute to our district's future. Torokiki works by putting the power of ideas in the hands of community. It has two elements – Challenges and Idea Management Software. Challenges are problems or opportunities that are published on our idea management platform provided by HunchBuzz, based in Wellington ([www.hunchbuzz.com](http://www.hunchbuzz.com)). Challenges are run like campaigns and have a duration of six weeks. We run between one and three Challenge topics per cycle and will be

centred around important themes for our District such as: Economic Development, Social Innovation and Community Led Development, and Climate and Sustainability. Read more [HERE](#)

**Government** has announced a further expansion of the Small Business Cashflow Scheme.

Applications opened 12 May and can now be submitted up to and including 31 December 2020. All other conditions remain the same. For details of the loan conditions visit: [www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19](http://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19)  
Details about all our COVID-19 relief initiatives, including eligibility criteria and applying for the SBC loan, can be found at [www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19](http://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19)

**Immigration New Zealand** has also announced a six-month extension of temporary work visas.

There are three key changes for visa holders. Read more [HERE](#)

**Privacy Act** The new Privacy Act has been passed by Parliament and will come into effect on 1 December 2020. The Office of the Privacy Commissioner is preparing to implement the Privacy Act 2020 which introduces new privacy protections for individuals and changes obligations for businesses and organisations. As part of our preparation, we are planning an outreach programme to peak bodies and groups across the country. **CHANGES INCLUDE**

**Southern DHB** is preparing in the event that it is required to set up managed isolation facilities in Queenstown. A feasibility study is underway to determine Queenstown's suitability for this, and Mayor Jim Boulton has expressed concern about the proposal due to the district's limited health care capacity in the event of a localised outbreak. The Minister in charge of managed isolation, Megan Woods, is said to be visiting Queenstown next week. The SDHB chief executive Chris Fleming said in a statement that 'Dunedin has a stronger health infrastructure than Queenstown, and the All of Government team will be taking this into account in its consideration'. "However, we will need to find a way to support the decisions that are made, and this will factor into our planning," he says.

**The Three Lakes Cultural Trust** today announces plans to help renew and reinvigorate the local arts and cultural sector with two new community events in Queenstown and Wanaka this spring. The Trust – which supports and advocates for arts and culture in the Queenstown Lakes – invites all local artists to apply to showcase their work at the free RenewArt community events to be held in Queenstown on October 9-10 and Wanaka October 15-16, 2020. Three Lakes Cultural Trust general manager Jo Brown says the idea behind RenewArt was to create uplifting events to be enjoyed by the entire district post-Covid-19, while also enabling a paid work opportunity for local artists. The trust has secured more than \$150,000 to deliver the project and reward artists for their work. Applications are open from 11 July and close 23 July, when a panel of arts and cultural practitioners will select the group to showcase their work at the October events. Read more [HERE](#)

**CERTNZ**, the MBIE agency that responds to cyber security threats in New Zealand, is seeking input to a pre-campaign survey from businesses with fewer than 20 staff. The survey will be used to gain an insight into what level of online trading competence businesses in New Zealand currently have, while raising awareness among businesses that complete it. Note the survey must be completed in one session, and is only relevant for businesses with fewer than 20 staff. The link is live, only click through if you intend to complete the survey. The survey closes 12 July and can be completed [HERE](#).

A **We are Locals** exhibition on the lake front opposite Pembroke Park 8-14 July. Go and check out the free exhibition of local business owners and learn about the people behind the brand. We are encouraging people to Support Local by showing who the local people are! Over 40 businesses are on display with a photo some info about the people. Organised by Jodie James Photographer with a huge amount of help from Andy Giles from AE Giles building.

## Tourism

**Milford Opportunities Project** Want to find out more about the Milford Opportunities Project and hear what is happening? Then come along to the Novotel Queenstown Lakeside on Thursday 16 July any time between 11am and 2pm for a chat with project team members during a public drop-in session, or between 2.30pm and 4pm for a DQ drop-in session. A public survey is starting next week to get feedback on some of the ideas the team has gathered through public engagement so you can also go online at [www.milfordopportunities.nz](http://www.milfordopportunities.nz) and fill that out.

## Welfare

The **Kia Kaha Queenstown Lakes Hub** is running Community Information sessions where you can speak face to face with Immigration New Zealand and get help with legal and travel advice. Everyone is welcome at the Hub, Level 1 Queenstown Events Centre. Just head along to any of the sessions, next available is Wednesday 15 July 9.00am -11.00am and 1.00pm-3.00pm. No need to register, just drop in.

Support for foreign nationals experiencing serious hardship due to Covid-19 is now available via the **Department of Internal Affairs** and **New Zealand Red Cross**. The three-month programme commenced 1 July and will provide eligible people with in-kind support to meet basic needs such as food and accommodation. There is an emphasis on the fact this support is temporary and that returning home is the first option that should be actively pursued. The support also includes transport costs limited to moving to a new location for employment or to an airport to leave New Zealand. More [HERE](#). Following this announcement, Emergency Management Otago will stand down from its involvement in the response to Covid-19 later this week.

## Education and training opportunities

**A Reset Summit 2020** will feature Max Rashbrooke to discuss the future of democracy. Two events are scheduled for 29 and 30 July in Queenstown and Wanaka, respectively. Event partners include Ingite Wanaka, LINK Upper Clutha, Sustainable Queenstown, Catalyst and Shaping our Future. Details and tickets for **QUEENSTOWN 30th July 7pm, Queenstown Memorial Centre is [HERE](#)** and **WANAKA 29th July 7pm Wanaka Community Hub [HERE](#)**

## Reminders

### Contact tracing

Businesses and services adopting good public health practices will support our defence against the virus re-emerging. Contact tracing is integral to this.

We encourage all businesses to adhere to Alert Level 1 contact tracing requirements by actively encouraging guests and customers to keep track of their own movements. While the Alert Level 1 requirements are relatively relaxed, members should also be prepared to move back up the alert level system. For more information on Alert Level 1 and contact tracing, including how to create a QR code and other information, see [HERE](#)

### **COVID-19 Resilient Recovery Planning**

If you have not already, now is the time to ensure your team is thinking strategically about recovery.

It is easy to get overwhelmed with the response process and the complexities of adapting operations to our new normal. But it is vital for long term success to allow time for some strategic thinking. If you are a small business owner, this means extracting yourself from the operations. If you are a larger organisation it may be helpful to assign a separate team to start thinking strategically about recovery for your organisation. Read more [HERE](#)

### **Webinars and Events**

#### **Leadership**

**Queenstown Chamber** is holding its first face-to-face Building Blocks event on 16 July. Your Life Live It's Dr Amanda Foo-Ryland will cover 'How to Lead out of a Crisis', taking attendees through three mindsets to create results in power and leadership. Cost is \$34.99 for members and \$50 for non-members. Find out more [HERE](#)

#### **Tourism**

**Tourism New Zealand** Starting next week, TNZ's offshore trade marketing managers will host a series of webinars designed to update NZ industry on the following:

- A look into their trade activity over the past three to four months
- An update on the trade landscape and sentiment in-market
- A brief overview of their upcoming activity for FY21
- How can NZ industry get involved in our trade activity offshore

These webinars will be fronted by our trade marketing managers in-market and are exclusively designed for RTOs and trade-ready operators based in New Zealand.

#### **Webinar details:**

- Webinar one: NZ trade team & Australia | 14:00 – 14:45, Tuesday 14 July
- Webinar two: North America & South America | 08:30 – 09:15, Thursday 16 July
- Webinar three: Asia (excl. China) | TBC check back soon | w/c 20 July
- Webinar four: China | TBC check back soon | w/c 20 July
- Webinar five: UK and Continental Europe | 18:30 – 19:15, Thursday 30 July

Register for these webinars on the TNZ corporate website [HERE](#)

## **Discussing Tourism – What next for our workforce?**

**Thursday, 16 July 2020 / 2pm**

With the wage subsidy drawing to a close and changes coming to temporary work visa policies, we've drawn together a panel to cover employment law issues and job schemes. Learn more about employment considerations, find out what these schemes are doing to support the tourism workforce and learn how you can get involved. Register [HERE](#)

## **Discussing Tourism – TIA's Tourism Election Action Plan 2020**

**Thursday, 23 July 2020 / 2pm**

Join us on Thursday 23 July for the official launch of TIA's Tourism Election Action Plan 2020. We'll reveal the priority actions we want from the incoming Government that will revive and revitalise our tourism industry. Find out how you can use the election campaign to highlight the challenges facing our industry. You can email questions ahead of this webinar – please send to [info@tia.org.nz](mailto:info@tia.org.nz).

Register [HERE](#)

***We are here to help, so if you have any concerns, or are not getting the support you need, from the resources, please contact anyone below.***

**Destination Queenstown** – Ann Lockhart – CEO – [annl@queenstownNZ.nz](mailto:annl@queenstownNZ.nz)

**Queenstown Chamber** – Craig Douglas – Acting GM – [chair@queenstownchamber.org.nz](mailto:chair@queenstownchamber.org.nz)

**Lake Wanaka Tourism** – James Helmore – GM – [james@wanaka.co.nz](mailto:james@wanaka.co.nz)

**Ignite Wanaka Chamber** – Naomi Lindsay – Executive Officer – [naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz](mailto:naomi@ignitewanaka.co.nz)

**QLDC Economic Development** – Peter Harris – Economic Development Manager  
[peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:peter.harris@qldc.govt.nz)

**Regional Business Partners** – Tara Druce – Business Advisor – [tara@otagorbp.co.nz](mailto:tara@otagorbp.co.nz)