

Welcome to Beautiful Lake Tekapo ❤️

We hope you enjoy our small and very special community and create lifelong memories while living here.

- Lake Tekapo (also referred to as Tekapo & Takapō) has around 600 permanent residents and many short term residents. Tourism is the main industry. There are people from all over the world, many with Working Holiday Visas, living in the township.
- The closest large town is Timaru (population 27,000 & 1 hour 20 minutes drive away)
- Tekapo has a Supermarket (Four Square), Petrol station, small Hardware store, Gift shops & a variety of Cafes and Restaurants.

Most people living here are members of the Facebook group;

Lake Tekapo Community

Checking this Groups page regularly, is the most popular way to hear about News and Events happening here. It is also a great way to reach many people in our community, by simply posting a Question on the page or Sharing an Event that is happening

Emergency Services

- If there is a Medical or Health Emergency, Phone 111 immediately and ask for 'Ambulance'
- If you see smoke or fire and believe there is a risk to people or property, Phone 111 immediately and ask for 'Fire'
- If you are afraid for your safety or others, Phone 111 immediately and ask for 'Police'

For non-emergency Police advice (about theft, damage or threatening behaviour). Phone 105
Tekapo has a Community Constable and a Police Station, but it is not open 24/7

Loud Siren

- From time to time you may hear a loud siren. This is to alert members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade to an emergency (perhaps a car accident or fire)

Rental Accommodation

- Talk to your employer and other staff about accommodation available
- Talk to as many locals as you can
- Register with Discover Tekapo Accommodation
- Register with Steve Howes at L J Hooker Real Estate
- Post a message on the Lake Tekapo Community Facebook page

Travel

- Bus Services. Intercity has a bus service between Christchurch and Queenstown that stops in Tekapo. Look online for any new bus services stopping here.
- Shared transport. Post on The Community Facebook page if you are looking for a seat in a car to another town.

Community Connections and Newcomers Morning Tea/Coffee and Chat

A great way to meet more people. These informal, fun gatherings are held regularly.
Check with Julie for the next date/time.

Information Centre & Post/Courier services

Kiwi Treasures / Information Centre / Post Centre is located just off the Main Road, in the middle of the township. Open every day from 8am - 5pm.

Mail Delivery

There is no street mail delivery here. PO Boxes (a limited number) are available for a small charge to permanent residents or people intending to live here for more than 12 months. Short term residents usually use their work PO Box for mail (*ask your work if this is ok). Call into The Post Centre for more information

Courier Parcels

NZ Post courier parcels are delivered to The Post Centre. Other couriers deliver to residential addresses. Always give out your residential (or work - ask permission from your employer) address (not a PO Box as Couriers cannot deliver to a PO Box). If you are expecting mail or a parcel, ask the friendly staff at The Post Centre - they hold all mail and parcels for 1 month

Doctors - GP Services

There is no Medical Centre or Doctor in Lake Tekapo.

The closest Medical Centres are:

Twizel Medical Centre, 15 MacKenzie Drive, Twizel. Phone (03) 435 0777

or

Fairlie Medical Centre. 10 Ayr Street, Fairlie. Phone (03) 685 8211

- If you have any health conditions, it is always best to register with a local Doctor. One-off appointments are usually available, but they will be charged at a casual rate (more expensive)

For FREE Medical Advice and Information. Phone Healthline 0800 611 116 anytime, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day

Dentists

It is always best to register with a Dental Practice, However, some Dentists will see casual patients.

The closest Dental Practices include:

- Timaru Dental Care. 50 Church Street, Timaru Phone (03) 684 3451
- Silver Birches Dental Centre. 98 Sophia Street, Timaru. Phone (03) 688 9463
- Stafford Dental Centre. 14 Elizabeth Street, Timaru. Phone (03) 688 0033
- Lumino The Dentists. 186 King Street, Temuka. Phone (03) 615 7627
- Four Peaks Dental. 16 Cox Street, Geraldine. Phone (03) 281 3537

Emergency Dental Care

On the weekends, there is always a dentist available for emergencies in South Canterbury (usually in Timaru). Check the Facebook page; South Canterbury Dentists for details.

During the week, phone any Dental practice to check the availability of Emergency appointments.

Banking Services

There is an ATM (money machine) at Tekapo Four Square Supermarket

Pharmacy

Four Square Supermarket stocks basic medical supplies like panadol, plasters, sunblock....

Fairlie and Twizel both have pharmacies. Look online for opening hours. They can deliver to Tekapo.

Library Services

The Lake Tekapo Book Exchange (FREE) is at The Community Meeting Rooms, 8 Simpsons Lane. Tekapo residents can use The Mackenzie College and Community Library in Fairlie. Library books can also be collected from and dropped off in Tekapo at The Community Meeting Rooms (by arrangement)

Hairdressers

From time to time, there are hairdressers living in Tekapo (ask the locals). There are salons in Fairlie and Twizel

Beautician Services

Tekapo Springs offer some Beauty services. There are Beauty Salons in Fairlie and Twizel

Physiotherapy

Rebecca Onyet @ Total Physiotherapy – Quality Movement for Body & Mind, 21A School Road, Fairlie.

E: info@totalphysiotherapy.co.nz M: 021-0823622

Catherine Rose is a Physical Wellness Facilitator based in Albury, offering a range of treatments including Acupuncture, Reiki and Massage therapy M: 021-1319296.

Petrol Station and Mechanic/Car repairs

You can buy petrol and diesel in Tekapo. There is also a garage offering general mechanical repairs and Warrant of Fitness (WOF).

Weather extremes

Snow is common here in Winter (sometimes snow falls in Summer too!)

For up to date information on road conditions/closures go to; www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz

Always be extra cautious driving in Winter conditions. Reduce Speed and Take Care!

Veterinary Services

Aorangi Vet Services. 72 Main Street, Fairlie

Vetlife Twizel. 1/3 Benmore Place, Twizel

At the time of writing this, there is a mobile veterinary clinic visiting Tekapo from time to time; The Visiting Vet Nurse. Alex Tutty 027 362 8844

Dogs

There is a fantastic Dog Park that is fully fenced by the turnoff to Lilybank Road, beside the Disc Golf course.

BE CAUTIOUS when out walking your dog - There are many hazards to dogs in our district

- Dogs love rabbits and smaller dogs can easily get stuck or even lost in rabbit holes
- Pindone (poison) is regularly spread on bare land to lower the rabbit population
- There are traps in a range of locations for wallabies and other pests
- A dead animal may be contaminated with poison, so is a risk to dogs
- Some rivers and smaller lakes in the district can have high bacteria levels at times - this can be dangerous for dogs

The best advice is to make sure you keep your dog on a lead or under control at all times.

If you would like to meet people with dogs a similar size to yours for play dates, post a message on the Community Facebook Group page.

For Council rules and guidelines visit - mackenzie.govt.nz/services/dogs-and-animals

Tekapo Springs - Special deal for residents

Tekapo Springs are delighted to offer discounted annual passes for Residents.

Email; reception@tekaposprings.co.nz for details and an application form

Rubbish Collection / Recycling options / Wheelie Bins

We sort all our rubbish into 4 categories:

Green Bin = Plants & Garden waste and Food scraps (it is composted in Timaru)

Yellow Bin = Recycling. Clean Paper & Cardboard, Cans eg, beer/coke and food cans (must be clean) and

Plastics = clean with NO LIDS (Only plastics with #1 #2 & #5)

Blue Bin = Glass. Bottles/Jars etc. (rinsed with NO LIDS)

Red Bin = General Rubbish (everything that doesn't go in the other bins)

There is a Resource Recovery Park in Tekapo for larger items or quantities of rubbish. They also accept recyclable items including scrap metal. Visit for more information - look online for opening hours

The Mackenzie District Council website has all the latest information on rubbish and recycling

<https://www.mackenzie.govt.nz/services/rubbish-and-recycling>

The Church of the Good Shepherd - Voted 'the most beautiful church in New Zealand'
Built by the early pioneers of The Mackenzie Country and opened in 1935, it is an iconic photography site. The regular Church Services welcome worshippers from all over the world and from all Christian worship traditions.

At the time of writing this, the following regular services are held:

Sundays 4pm = Evening Worship. Mass is held on the last Sunday of the month at 6pm.

You are warmly invited to attend one of the services

FREE Activities

Stargazing - you are living in a Dark Sky Reserve 🌟🌟🌙🌟

Swimming ...in The Lake is FREE all year round

Tennis. Public courts are behind the Community Hall on Aorangi Crescent

Weather Watching - the clouds are constantly changing

Stone Skimming into The Lake. Choose a flat stone, practice and become an expert!

Walking/Hiking. Lakefront walkway, Cowans Hill, Mt John and more. - www.tekapotrails.nz

Stone Tower Building - along the Lakefront. Watch your toes, big stones are heavy!

Disc Golf (also called Frisbee Golf) - There are two courses at The Regional Park, around the Eastern side of the lake. One is by the turnoff to Lilybank Road and the other is by The Old Homestead carpark, a bit further along Lilybank Road. You can hire discs from The Post Shop, for a small charge.

Cycling/Biking. Lots of great rides in the district, including the fabulous Alps to Ocean Cycle Trail

<https://www.alps2ocean.com> You can hire bikes in town - look online for the latest information

And great mountain biking nearby at The Regional Park

<https://www.ecan.govt.nz/your-region/living-here/regional-parks/lake-tekapo-regional-park>

Orienteering Course. Lake Tekapo Regional Park. Refer to the above website.

OTHER Activities

There are two golf courses. The Cairns Golf Course is just behind town and Balmoral is a 10 minute drive.

From time to time there are a variety of activities happening in town like Community Markets, Yoga, Line Dancing, Pilates, Social Golf, Exercise classes. Plant-based Pot Luck Dinners, Language classes. These activities are usually advertised on The Lake Tekapo Community Facebook page

For more information on the wider district go to www.laketekaponz.co.nz

Clubs/Groups and Volunteering Opportunities

Community Vegetable Garden

Lake Tekapo Power Boat & Water Ski Club

Tekapo Trails Group

Trapping. Predator free NZ

Regional Park Group

Lake Tekapo Promotions and Business Association

Lake Tekapo Playgroup

Volunteer Fire Brigade

St John

Lions Club

Church of The Good Shepherd

Let's all Keep Lake Tekapo BEAUTIFUL:

We all take pride in our magnificent pristine mountain location. There are a lot of people visiting our town and inevitably, this results in some rubbish being accidentally left behind. If you see some litter on the ground, please pick it up. Tissues, receipts, wrappers etc., sometimes blow out of pockets and cars. To keep yourself safe from germs, we recommend using disposable gloves to pick up rubbish. Visit Wilma at Petronella's Bookstore and ask for some free disposable gloves to keep in your bag.

Please contact me for more information about any of the above;

Julie - Community Development worker, Lake Tekapo - 021-1594137

mackenziecommunitytekapo@gmail.com