

Liquor Licensing Newsletter

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Lakes Environmental Welcome new Liquor Licensing Inspector: Lacey McIntyre

Hi all,

Just a brief introduction. My name is Lacey McIntyre. I am the new Liquor Licensing Inspector at Lakes Environmental. I joined the team on 14th September 2009, after completing a Bachelor of Health Sciences, majoring in Environmental Health. Although I am a qualified Environmental Health Officer, I am focusing on Liquor Licensing.

You can contact me on me on (03) 450 0341 or lacey.mcintyre@lakesenv.co.nz.

I look forward to working with you all. Thanks, Lacey



Drink Safe Workshops have been scheduled



**Can you tell that these are
fake ID's?**

**Need to know the Sale of Liquor
Act?
Want to know the rules?**

Drink Safe Workshops being co-ordinated by Southern REAP and facilitated by the Police are scheduled to be held in Queenstown and Wanaka on 23rd to 25th November 2009. This year On and Off Licence presentations have been combined into one presentation.

Wanaka

Monday 23rd November 2009

Location: **Oakridge Resort**, Cnr Studholme and Cardrona Valley Road, Wanaka

Times: **9.00 am - 12noon and 1pm - 4pm**

Queenstown

Tuesday 24th November 2009 and Wednesday 25th November 2009

Location: **Hotel St Moritz**, Brunswick Street, Queenstown

Times: **9.00 am - 12noon and 1pm - 4pm**

The Queenstown Lakes District Council's liquor licensing policy requires licensees to provide staff training and the workshops are an excellent opportunity for staff to undertake a training course, and there are free!

If you have any suggestions on how the workshops could be improved please contact Libby Sudden at Lakes Environmental on 03 450 0334 or email libby.sudden@lakesenv.co.nz.

To enroll in the Drink Safe Workshops all you have to do is email Libby Sudden and advise your staff member(s) name(s) and what day they will be attending.

Comments from Sergeant K Newell - Queenstown Police

Hello. In this months report I would like just to cover some ongoing problems that Police are involved with in dealing with visitors to town.

AUSTRALIAN VISITORS

Now that the winter season has passed it is time to reflect on how some of our Australian visitors fared in the bars around Queenstown over the last few months. We processed about 40 of our "cousins" for various types of offending such as fighting, assaults, theft and general disorders and the common denominator was the over consumption of alcohol. By far, the majority of those arrests involved those who had left licensed premises immediately prior to their offending.



I have to ask, **why are they still being served alcohol in this state?**

We had one young Aussie who was arrested four hours after stepping off the plane. He had gone out immediately "socialising" and got completely wasted in 'our' bars. When some of them are processed they are that blind drunk they are completely unaware of where they are e.g. Australia or New Zealand. This is just plain wrong.

I guess the horse has already bolted for these particular visitors this year, but please continue to instruct your front line staff **NOT** to serve to intoxicated people.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Liquor abuse is routinely documented in "Family Violence" incidents reported to the Queenstown Police and currently is involved in approximately 52% of all incidents attended. The national average is around 30%.

We continue to notice an increase in the number of persons arrested for "family violence" offences, and they've indicated their last place of drink was in a licensed premises (bars and restaurants) as opposed to drinking at home. This is another area where licensed premises can assist us in managing the amount of alcohol that is being consumed by individuals.

SPECIAL LICENCES

We check each individual "special licence" application that is forwarded to us from Lakes Environmental. A reminder please that "specials" cannot be granted for an "extension of trading hours". You have to have an event. This is the law and not what the police decide. You need to explain what event you plan to promote, how you intend to promote it and how it will be run. Availability to food is a key ingredient.

Don't leave it to us to 'guess' what you want, and please don't leave the application to the last minute. If in doubt "ask", as some of the applications are very vague.

DRINK DRIVING

Queenstown once again made the headlines for a record number of drink drivers being apprehended in the last month or so. Once again I ask the question, "[what are managers doing to discourage those patrons from driving home?](#)"

Over half of those processed were visitors/ overseas people who had been out drinking in town. Maybe the locals are generally doing the right thing but we need to tell our visitors what options they have.

Remember your "host responsibility" rules.

CCTV

A big thanks to all those premises, who have , and continue to provide us with video footage of incidents that have occurred inside and outside their premises. Again we are noticing an increase in the number of offenders being "caught" on video. Simply the more offenders being caught on video makes them responsible for accountable for their actions and makes it hard for them to lie and deny what happened.

Keep up the good work.

Incidentally about 85% of all licensed premises in Queenstown, have some form of CCTV in place. To those who don't have, please continue to press home to your licensees/landlords the advantages of such systems.

If you need to discuss anything about liquor matters please give me a call on 03 441 1614.

Local Alcohol Working Party

Following a Liquor Liaison Committee meeting in June 2009, a discussion took place regarding the current review of the Sale of Liquor Act by the Law Commission. Clive Geddes proposed to formulate a Local Alcohol Plan Working Party with two main objectives:

Firstly, following the Liquor Licensing Authority (LLA) decision PH 171 – 172/2008, a list of proposals were identified (albeit not a compulsory or exhaustive list) to be considered as part of the review with the Liquor Licensing Authority for considering post 4am trading.

Secondly, to look at liquor licensing in Queenstown and to prepare a submission as to our 'ideal' to Sir Geoffrey Palmer as part of the review of the liquor licensing e.g. purchase ages, density etc as part of a local alcohol plan.

It was decided at the meeting that our community would benefit from having those that are directly involved or affected within the hospitality industry having a voice and putting together a plan that is going to be in the best interests for our District.

Consequently, we emailed all licensees to request expressions of interest in participating in the working party. This led to the following licensee participants in addition to QLDC, Lakes Environmental, Police and Public Health South:

Russell Gray - Good Group
Barry Ellis - Ellis Hospitality Group
Mike Burgess - Buffalo Club & Winnies
Anthony King - Wakatipu New World
Scott Stevens – Tardis
Brendon Quirke – Bullock Bar, Red Rock & Luggate Hotel
Simon Hendl – Subculture
Roy Thompson – Frenzi Group
David Mercer - Coronet Peak Hotel and National Board Member of HANZ.

The working party continue to meet on a fortnightly basis to conclude the above objectives and to progress the implementation of the matters discussed.

Any matters that are agreed that may lead to the ability for licensees to trade post 4am, will need to be proposed through a review of the Liquor policy (or Local Alcohol Policy) following the Special Consultative Process, and presented to full council for discussion.

During the recent LLA hearing, Judge Unwin was pleased to see the licensees working with the agencies.

If you have any questions regarding the Working Party, please contact Lee Webster on 03 450 0310 or lee.webster@lakesenv.co.nz

Comments from Ann Fowler about the Law Commission Review - Alcohol in our Lives

In 2007 in response to growing public concern about the harms associated with the misuse of alcohol, the government asked the Law Commission to review the law governing the sale and supply of alcohol. (Sale of Liquor Act 1989)

The Law Commission headed by Sir Geoffrey Palmer carried out extensive research throughout New Zealand including Queenstown Lakes District and wrote up their findings in the issues paper *Alcohol in our lives*. This paper is in two parts, Part 1 looks at the harms caused by excessive drinking and Part two examines the different options the commission has proposed to reduce alcohol related harm.

The paper sets out a range of options including:

Purchase /drinking age options
Individual and Parental Responsibility for young peoples drinking options
Licence Options
Liquor licensing Authority options
District Licensing Agency options
Licence criteria and objections options
Hours options

Prohibited days option
Types of Off licence premises options
Off licence Product options
Licence renewal Options
Options on product labelling and serving sizes
Licence renewal options
Excise tax options
Pricing Options
Advertising options
Promotion options
Enforcement and penalties options
Alcohol in public places options
Transport Options.

The Law Commission are now seeking submissions and comments on these options.

I encourage you to read the document and send in a submission. This as an opportunity for all who will be affected by any changes to the Sale of Liquor Act to **'have your say!'**

You can view the documents on line at the Law Commission's Website www.talklaw.co.nz where copies can be downloaded.

Christmas Eve/Christmas Day Trading

CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY TRADING

There are restrictions in the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, which apply to hotels and taverns on Christmas Day.

Section 14(2) of the Act imposes a condition in respect of on-licences as follows:

No liquor is to be sold in a hotel or tavern on Christmas Day to any person other than those who are:

- a) for the time being living on the premises whether as a lodger or an employee or otherwise; or
- present on the premises for the purpose of dining.

All off-licence sales are prohibited on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day starts at 12.00 midnight on 24 December 2009 incorporating the early hours of 25 December 2009.



Special Licence Applications

Daylight saving has now arrived and summer is just around the corner. Summer is also a time for many public events in the area and all applications for special licences for New Year's Eve and special events over the December and January should also be filed as soon as practicable.

If you intend to apply for a special licence for an event please tell us as much as you can about the event. Special licences **ARE NOT** granted for extending the hours of your usual trading. We need to know what your event is about and how it will be managed.

In accordance with precedent decisions, the reporting agencies will be opposing applications for extra trading on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day where a special licence is sought on the basis that it's Christmas.

The Liquor Licensing Authority has made it clear that one must be attending an event or occasion before a special licence may be issued and that one cannot attend a sacrosanct day.

However, as always all applications will be considered on their merits. The decision in respect of a special licence application rests with the District Licensing Agency. If your application is opposed, you have the opportunity to be heard at a public hearing before the Agency. If this is the case, 20 - 40 working days notice is a statutory requirement.



Need to submit your Special Licence?

All applications for special licence over the Christmas and New Years Period will need to be submitted to Lakes Environmental by **5pm Friday 20th November 2009**.



District Licensing Agency		Restaurant Association of NZ	
Lee Webster lee.webster@lakesenv.co.nz	03 450 0310 021 608 114	Southern Lakes District President Alex Boyes alex@wai.net.nz	03 442 5969
Lacey McIntyre lacey.mcintyre@lakesenv.co.nz	03 450 0341 021 608 852	Sporting Clubs Association of NZ	
Libby Sudden libby.sudden@lakesenv.co.nz	03 450 0334	Bob Clark sportingclubs@xtra.co.nz	0800 655 889 021 432 900
Public Health South		Hospitality Association of NZ	
Ann Fowler ann.fowler@phsouth.co.nz	03 442 2500	Regional Manager Fiona Lavis Fiona.Lavis@hanz.org.nz	0274 436 263
New Zealand Police		National Service Centre	03 450 0523
Sergeant Keith Newell keith.newell@police.govt.nz	03 441 1614		