

# Welcoming Communities

## Māori, Pasifika and Newcomer Group Profiles Queenstown Lakes District

May 2022



# Contents

Introduction	3
Bhartiya Samaj Queenstown	4
Central Otago Tongan Community	6
Chinese Community Queenstown Lakes	8
Czech and Slovak Club Queenstown	10
Ikatan Masyarakat Indonesia di Queenstown	12
Japanese Family Society of Queenstown	14
Korean Association of Queenstown	16
Latinos for New Zealand	18
Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust	20
Maz Islamic Education Centre	22
Ngā Manu Hou o Whakatipu	24
Queenstown Association of Migrant Pinoys Inc.	26
Queenstown Fijian Community Trust	28
Queenstown Indian Community	30
Queenstown Islamic Centre	32
Queenstown Malaysian/Singaporean/Bruneian Group	34
Queenstown Nepalese Community	36
Sri Lankan Association Queenstown	38
The Kiwi Kit Community Trust	40
Wānaka Filipino Catholic Group	42
Wānaka Nepalese Society Inc.	44
Our Other Communities	46

# Haere mai

We are delighted to celebrate the Māori, Pasifika and Newcomer groups who have made the Queenstown Lakes District their home.

Some members of these groups have been settled in the community for a number of years, many have been attracted by the environment and the whakapapa of our district, bringing valuable international experience and cultural vibrancy. Like all new settlers they are keen to embrace the lifestyle and make connections while appreciating the richness of our district.

Here we share our first edition of a collection of profiles, showcasing the cultural diversity that adds character to our community. These profiles offer a snapshot of each group, providing an insight to how each was established and operates, its membership, and all the wonderful events and activities it's involved in. There are also details on how to connect with each group and find out more information.

We encourage those in the wider community to reach out to discover more, make connections and welcome newcomers to the district we share.

This is part of our work through the Welcoming Communities programme which supports all newcomers to the district. Whether our newcomers are migrants, former refugees, international students or Kiwi's relocating to the district, our goal is to help make them feel welcome in their new home. Guiding the programme are two key Māori cultural values; Whanaungatanga, the importance of relationships, and Manaakitanga, the value of extending hospitality and caring for other people. Through the Welcoming Communities programme we'll look for ways to celebrate diversity, grow inclusive local communities and establish a sense of belonging. We hope you'll join us.

**E te iwi ō te ao,  
nau mai, haere mai, manaaki mai.**

**To the people of the world,  
we welcome you with warmth.**

# Bhartiya Samaj Queenstown

## About us

Bhartiya Samaj Queenstown began its activities in 2015 and was registered as a charitable organisation in 2018. Its purpose is to empower Aotearoa's diverse communities to become strong, confident, and in control of their lives. Bhartiya Samaj is Hindi for a person who nationally identifies with India (Bhartiya) and to socialise (Samaj). Our goal is to make our community feel connected to their culture, values, roots and feel that they have the freedom to express themselves in their new home. We encourage this sharing of knowledge with other communities so we can learn from and support each other.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We currently have 15 fee-paying members. Annual membership costs \$25 a person. We also have 1,000 followers on our Facebook page.

## Our events and activities

We celebrate the following events every year. Guests pay a donation to participate.

- ✦ Lohri is a traditional winter folk festival held in northern India in January. It is primarily celebrated by the Sikh and Hindu communities from the Punjab region. In 2022, we were joined by Dr Gaurav Sharma, Labour MP for Hamilton West. Our annual celebration usually attracts 300-500 people.
- ✦ In March, Holi is a popular ancient Hindu festival, also known as the Festival of Love, the Festival of Colours, or the Festival of Spring. The festival celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna. It is considered the second biggest Hindu festival after Diwali. On this day, people play with colours, water, flowers and more. About 300-500 people take part in our celebration each year.
- ✦ Indian Independence Day is on 15 August. It is the National Day of India marking the date in 1947 when India became an independent country.
- ✦ In October/November, Diwali is celebrated in northern India. It is known as the Festival of Lights or Deepavali in southern India and in other Asian countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. The celebration revolves around the triumph of good over evil, purity over impurity, light over darkness. It is one of the most important Hindu festivals. This is the largest of our events, regularly attracting 1,000-1,500 people.



## Keep connected

**Mangal Behal**

Mobile: 021 254 9482

Email: [info@bsq.co.nz](mailto:info@bsq.co.nz)

Facebook: [facebook.com/info.bsq](https://www.facebook.com/info.bsq)

# Central Otago Tongan Community

## About us

Mälō e lelei! The Central Otago Tongan Community group was created in 2019 to bring together Tongan families and celebrate our traditions and customs. Our community also offers support to the Tongan seasonal workers working in the horticulture and viticulture industry in Central Otago. Sharing is a big part of Tongan culture; we like to share stories, share resources, and share our blessings with joy and thanksgiving.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

Our group comprises of two families living in Queenstown and three families in Cromwell – a total of 33 people, including children. We know there are many more Tongan people living in our district and we would love to connect with them.

## Our events and activities

We organise Tongan Church services for our families and seasonal workers based in Alexandra, Roxburgh, Wānaka, Cromwell and Queenstown. We also offer settlement support to the workers as needed, e.g., explaining Aotearoa New Zealand laws and rights, grocery shopping, and healthcare. We are a point of contact for horticulture and viticulture businesses in the central north Otago region who employ seasonal workers from Tonga.

- ★ We socialise by sharing traditional Tongan food and drinking kava, which holds a special place in Tongan culture.
- ★ We have also organised sports events e.g, tennis, volleyball, netball and basketball, and have entered local sports tournaments.
- ★ In the future, we would like to celebrate Tongan Language Week in September in schools and to participate in cultural events by showcasing Tongan traditional costumes and entertainment.
- ★ In 2022, with community support, our group fundraised and managed donations to send a container of essential items to Tonga to support families who have been impacted by the volcanic eruption and tsunami.



## Keep connected

### Evelyn Nai

Where: Queenstown

Mobile: 021 625 653

Email: evelyn.nai@live.com

### Aisea Ma

Where: Cromwell/Wānaka/Alexandra/Roxburgh

Mobile: 021 033 8212

Email: fetuumoana@gmail.com

# Chinese Community Queenstown Lakes

## About us

The Chinese community of the Queenstown Lakes District has a strong connection to the hardworking spirit of the first Chinese settlers and gold miners who arrived in Central Otago during the gold rush of the 1860s. Since then, our Chinese community has added significant value to the district by being part of the business sector, welcoming visitors, and celebrating culture and traditions. We hold a lot of pride in the values instilled in our culture to work hard, provide for family and be welcoming to others. The Chinese Community of Queenstown Lakes was created to provide a sense of community and a voice to the numerous Chinese who have made this district their home.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

The Chinese community numbers about 1,000, including many families with children.

## Our events and activities

- \* A Chinese fashion show and food stall during 2021 Waitangi Day celebrations.
- \* The Arrowtown Autumn Festival parade with women wearing qipao, a Chinese dress that takes inspiration from the ethnic clothing of the Manchu people.
- \* Business events to inform and support Chinese business owners on topics such as tourism facts, subsidies, etc.
- \* Chinese New Year, which is one of the most important celebrations for Chinese people. It is centred around removing the bad and the old and welcoming the new and the good. As the district has hosted many Chinese visitors in past years, big companies and employers have come together to organise this event.
  - ▶ In 2016, musicians and lion dancers from E-PACS Dragon and Lion Dance, a professional Chinese traditional dance troupe based in Auckland, performed for Chinese New Year celebrations in Queenstown.
  - ▶ In 2019, Chinese New Year was celebrated with themed uniforms, store decorations, traditional Chinese New Year gifts and special food offerings, including delicious fresh dumplings and fragrant green tea.
- \* In the future, we would like to connect with high schools to promote Mandarin language as well as offer storytelling in Mandarin for children in the libraries.



## Keep connected

Lucia Hao

Email: [chinesecommunityqtnlakes@gmail.com](mailto:chinesecommunityqtnlakes@gmail.com)

# Czech and Slovak Club Queenstown

## About us

The Czech and Slovak Club Queenstown was established in 2016 by the Honorary Consul of the Czech Republic in the South Island. Czech Republic doesn't have an embassy or consulate in Aotearoa New Zealand. The Club's purpose is to:

- ✳ Organise cultural, social and sporting events for both the Czech and Slovakian community and the wider community.
- ✳ Keep traditions alive and to inform and educate the public about Czech and Slovakian culture, language and heritage.
- ✳ Act as a support group to help and connect the community.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

About 600 members follow our Facebook page. The Club mainly covers the Queenstown and Wānaka communities. However, there are also many Czech and Slovakian people living in and around Christchurch, Nelson and the North Island.

## Our events and activities

- ✳ In 2016, we had our first Czech Movie Festival in Aotearoa New Zealand at Dorothy Browns.
- ✳ We volunteered in the Heather Jock Hut restoration.
- ✳ We have held classical music concerts with Czech musicians.
- ✳ An "Upside-down Christmas" event is held every year in July.
- ✳ We organise traditional activities for families and children at Easter and Christmas.
- ✳ Every year on 5 December, we hold a St Nicholas event that is celebrated with three characters: St Nicholas, the Angel and the Devil.
- ✳ Our first squash tournament was held in 2021.
- ✳ In 2021, we supported the Dunedin Dog Rescue Charitable Trust by raising money.
- ✳ We have held two fundraising events for Ukraine in 2022; the Czech Quiz Night raised almost \$2,000, and the pop-up clothes sale raised more than \$4,000.
- ✳ We hope to host an exhibition of a Czech artist later in 2022.
- ✳ We hold regular Czech quiz nights at Morrison's Irish Pub in Queenstown.



## Keep connected

**Lada Nobilisova**

Mobile: 021 264 5227

Email: [lanobi@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lanobi@yahoo.co.uk)

Facebook: [facebook.com/csclubqueenstownnewzealand](https://www.facebook.com/csclubqueenstownnewzealand)

# Ikatan Masyarakat Indonesia di Queenstown

## About us

Ikatan Masyarakat Indonesia di Queenstown (IMIQ) was established in 2012 by the Indonesian Ambassador at the time. Ikatan Masyarakat means to “to bond as a group” and was originally set up to support people needing visas and passports. Over time, it evolved into a group of Indonesian people wanting to share their cultural traditions and customs with the wider Queenstown Lakes community. We are very grateful to live in this beautiful part of the world and would like to give back to the community by sharing more of the Indonesian culture in major events.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

IMIQ has about 50 members in Queenstown Lakes and Alexandra. We used to have more members, but many have moved to other cities in Aotearoa New Zealand or overseas. Our membership represents a range of religions, which are reflected in a wide range of celebrations.

## Our events and activities

- ✦ Our group performed the angklung instrument and sang during Waitangi Day celebrations in 2020 and 2021.
- ✦ We have introduced Remarkables Primary School pupils to the angklung musical instrument and hope to hold more sessions with them and other local schools in the future.
- ✦ We participated in the Arrowtown Autumn Festival parade in 2021.
- ✦ We took part in Indonesian Independence Day celebrations in Invercargill in August 2018.
- ✦ We hosted a Queenstown Indonesian Festival, an event jointly organised by the Indonesian Embassy and QLDC, in November 2015.

We would like to showcase our traditional arts, crafts, games and decorations, clothing and food.

We are looking at how to bring a batik workshop, exhibition, and fashion show to Queenstown to introduce the traditional Indonesian textile to the community.



## Keep connected

**Meilita Manusama**

Mobile: 027 634 5482

Email: [mmanusama@gmail.com](mailto:mmanusama@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/imiq.queenstown](https://facebook.com/groups/imiq.queenstown)

# Japanese Family Society of Queenstown

## About us

The Japanese Family Society of Queenstown is a non-profit organisation created in 2012 to link Japanese people with Queenstown residents. We focus on:

- ✦ Japanese language classes and storytelling activities for the children of our community
- ✦ Running a Japanese library for children and adults
- ✦ Sharing our culture with the wider community through annual cultural events.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

Our group comprises about 80 active families in our district. Many have toddlers or school-aged children, some with a mixed cultural background.

## Our events and activities

- ✦ Our main event is Natsu Matsuri, a summer festival that we have celebrated for six consecutive years in Queenstown. It is an opportunity to share our culture with the wider community. The event incorporates Japanese food, kids' games, lollies roulette, face painting, home baking, tea ceremony, and calligraphy. We have also partnered with the Kendo Club from Invercargill and the Queenstown Karate Club for martial arts demonstrations, and with O-Taiko, a Japanese drumming group.
- ✦ We run a Japanese language school for about 20 children, aged 3 to 12, with 3 teachers. Weekly classes are held at private homes or rented premises.
- ✦ We also offer a variety of children's activities held in Japanese, such as a reading club, a baseball club, and a Japanese choir.
- ✦ We have a collection of 500 Japanese books that we would like to make available to the wider community.
- ✦ In May 2022, we held a Women's Day offering a variety of workshops on wellbeing and mental health. These were presented by Japanese professionals to around 30 women in our community.
- ✦ Currently, our focus is to promote and teach Japanese culture and language to children of the Japanese community. Our referrals come from either Plunket, Citizens Advice Bureau, or word of mouth. In the future, we would like to offer Japanese language courses to non-Japanese residents interested in learning the language and culture, as well as introducing tea ceremonies.



## Keep connected

**Keiko Okumura**

Mobile: 021 204 0845

Email: [japanesefamilyqueenstown@gmail.com](mailto:japanesefamilyqueenstown@gmail.com)

Facebook: [@Japanese-Family-Society-of-Queenstown](https://www.facebook.com/Japanese-Family-Society-of-Queenstown)

Website: [japanesefamily.weebly.com](http://japanesefamily.weebly.com)



# Korean Association of Queenstown

## About us

The Korean Association of Queenstown was established in 2001 and began hosting community events in 2013. We belong to the Federation of Korean Societies in Aotearoa New Zealand and are supported by the Korean Embassy. We elect a new president every two years. Our purpose is to help immigrants, visitors, and the wider community to live peacefully and safely. We have also set up a Korean Language School to offer Korean language classes to children and adults of our community.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

It is estimated about 250 Koreans live in the Queenstown Lakes District. There are also families of mixed heritage, where one parent is Korean and the other is another ethnicity.

## Our events and activities

Each year, we hold two celebrations with financial help from the Korean Embassy.

- ★ On 10 September 2022, we celebrate Chuseok, the Korean Thanksgiving Day. It is one of the biggest and most important holidays for Koreans. On this day, all family members gather and hold a ritual with newly harvested crops and fruits to express their appreciation to their ancestors and to nature.
- ★ On 22 January 2023, we celebrate Lunar New Year's Day, when Korean people eat a special festival dish called tteokguk or rice cake soup. We believe we can grow one year older after consuming a bowl of rice cake soup on that day.
- ★ We have created our place of worship "Queenstown Full Gospel Church" at St Peter's Anglican Church, 2 Church Street.
- ★ Currently, 10 children are attending our Korean Language School, but we would like to get more children and adults to learn the language.



## Keep connected

**Josh Jung**  
Mobile: 021 143 7201  
Email: [jgodong@gmail.com](mailto:jgodong@gmail.com)

# Latinos for New Zealand

## About us

Latinos for New Zealand was created in 2022 to bring the Latino Spanish-speaking community together and support their wellbeing in the Queenstown Lakes District. Our main purpose is to give back and connect with the community we choose to belong to. Now more than ever, the world needs more integration and social collaboration. This movement embraces the power of a community that understands the value of giving! Because that positive action will have a great outcome and we know that it will come back to us in the form of great community opportunities.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We have about 1,000 members who come from a variety of Spanish-speaking Latino American countries, such as Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico and Uruguay, living in the district. Most are on temporary visas or have residence visas.

## Our events and activities

We aim to help achieve migrant social mobility by creating sustainable volunteering strategies, partnering with local and nationwide organisations and facilitating the delivery of a variety of activities and programmes. We support this by encouraging different ethnicities of our Latino community to participate in local events:

- ★ Picking for Good is an ongoing foraging programme that helps connect, pick, and give back to the community. Picked nuts and fruits are donated to local charitable organisations such as Baskets of Blessing, Living Options and Happiness House in collaboration with The Kiwi Kit Community Trust (TKKCT).
- ★ 'Discover your Inner Purpose' and 'Share your Inner Purpose' wellbeing seminars offered in collaboration with Sol Pineda Wellness.
- ★ We invite members of our community to participate in a Spanish-speaking "What's your story?" event where a person tells the story of their life however they choose. This is done in partnership with TKKCT and Bright Ink.
- ★ We support temporary visa holders to attend English classes alongside English Language Partners of NZ.
- ★ We facilitate the preparation of Latin recipes by local Latino chefs with the food being donated to community members in need. We'll be partnering with TKKCT and The Good Baking Bitches for our first event to prepare 'Pastafrola' with quince, a type of sweet tart common to Argentina.
- ★ We offer one-off financial and budgeting sessions to our community members with TKKCT and Family Works – Presbyterian Support.
- ★ We offer Latin dancing lessons for the wider community.



## Keep connected

**Carol Morgan**  
Email: [soycarolm@gmail.com](mailto:soycarolm@gmail.com)

# Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust

*Manaaki Whenua, Manaaki Tangata, Haere Whakamua*

## About us

Mana Tāhuna is a charitable trust established in June 2020 to provide support and help unite the Māori community of our district. We want our whānau to have an abundance of opportunities, to be successful, and for whānau to thrive. Our mission is to improve the overall wellbeing and livelihood of Māori people within the Tāhuna community. We focus on five areas:

- ✦ Kaupapa Māori – Te Ao Māori: Providing opportunities for whānau to connect with Te Ao Māori.
- ✦ Hauora – Health and Social: Providing health services and outcomes improving the wellbeing of Tāhuna whānau.
- ✦ Rangatahi – Youth: Delivering programmes for rangatahi hauora (youth wellbeing), resilience and career pathways.
- ✦ Mahi – Re-employment: Finding opportunities and support for employment, reskilling and training for whānau.
- ✦ Taiao – Environmental: Contributing to the restoration and enhancement of ecosystems and the environment.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

Our district has a Māori population of about 2,000. Mana Tāhuna has a team of 25 working towards improving the everyday lives of the Māori who live here. We are committed to expanding services and activities for the health and wellbeing of our tangata (people).

## Our events and activities

- ✦ Te Hoeroa – Rangatahi Hub is a safe space for rangatahi (youth) and their mātua (parents) to explore their culture through various platforms, wānanga (teachings), resources and tautoko (support).
- ✦ In 2020, Mana Tāhuna partnered with Treespace to plant 7,000 trees on Mount Dewar, providing employment for 15 whānau members. It was also an opportunity for us to exercise our role as kaitiaki (guardians) and do our part in protecting our whenua (land).
- ✦ Mau rākau is a traditional Māori martial art where one learns the practices, values and protocols of a Māori warrior. We offer this programme to kids as an opportunity to learn Māori culture and traditions, gain new skills and get fit.
- ✦ Kai to whānau is an initiative to provide food for those in need within our community. A kaupapa (principles) provided by Māori for Māori.



## Keep connected

**Ebony Webster**  
Mobile: 020 4143 4709  
Email: [info@manatahuna.co.nz](mailto:info@manatahuna.co.nz)

Website: [www.manatahuna.co.nz](http://www.manatahuna.co.nz)  
Address: 5 Sutherland Lane, Frankton

# Maz Islamic Education Centre

A project supported by the Lakes District Muslim Community Trust

## About us

The Maz Islamic Education Centre was established in March 2020 to support our local Muslim community and young people to learn about their faith. Our aim is to be a focal point where the public can come and learn about Islam, as well as providing travellers with a place to pray right in the heart of Queenstown. We have free Qurans in English and a wide variety of books and literature on Islam. We connect with local international Muslim networks such as Auckland-based Voice of Islam, visiting Imams and university professors around Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We work with the Queenstown Islamic Centre (mosque) on Gorge Rd to connect with the 70 Muslim families living in the area, including Wānaka, Alexandra and Cromwell. They are mainly from Fiji, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh.

## Our events and activities

- ★ In December 2020, we answered questions from non-Muslims on Islam, organised by the Catalyst Trust.
- ★ In January 2021 we held an open day for Queenstown's stakeholders, with Mayor Jim Boulton as a special guest.
- ★ In April 2022 we held our Welcoming Communities Iftar with Queenstown stakeholders and members of the public for a night of togetherness and to share the meaning behind a blessed dinner (Iftar).
- ★ Our focus is to:
  - ▶ raise awareness and clear stereotypes among the non-Muslims about the true values of Islam through seminars and workshops led by speakers and facilitators from across Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas
  - ▶ offer Quranic teachings to children of local Muslim families to preserve their faith
  - ▶ create a FAQ flyer on Islam for secondary students and work with teachers to address misconceptions.



## Keep connected

**Philippe Saint-Pere**  
Mobile: 021 0851 3380  
Email: MIECqueenstown@gmail.com

Website: [lakesdistrictmuslims.org](http://lakesdistrictmuslims.org)  
Facebook: @lakesdistrictmuslims  
Address: Sofitel Unit 5, Level 2/8  
Duke Street, Queenstown

# Ngā Manu Hou o Whakatipu

## About us

We are Ngā Manu Hou o Whakatipu (The Fledglings of Whakatipu), a non-profit community group made up of a diverse group of people with the common goal of supporting kaupapa Māori in the Queenstown Lakes District of Whakatipu Wai-Māori. Informally established in 2018 we became an incorporated society in 2021.

- \* Support, promote and facilitate educational opportunities through wānanga for te reo Māori me ōna tikanga (Māori language and its customs).
- \* Promote, encourage and facilitate the Māori performing arts.
- \* Acknowledge and support the tangata whenua of the region, specifically ngā iwi Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Mamoe, and Waitaha.
- \* Promote kaupapa Māori as a vehicle for personal development and physical, mental, cultural and spiritual wellbeing.
- \* Develop, strengthen and support other individuals and groups that promote te reo Māori me ōna tikanga.
- \* Liaise, collaborate and network with other organisations that enhance and assist Māori kaupapa development.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We have about 50 members who are Māori, European New Zealanders (Pākehā) and migrants (Tauīwi). We are always keen to partner with and support other groups in the region, in the South Island and throughout the country.

## Our events and activities

Our members actively participate in the local community by:

- \* Performing waiata (Māori songs) and waiata-a-ringā (Māori action songs) at public and private events.
- \* Teaching beginner level te reo Māori to individuals, community groups and local companies (based on the award-winning Kōrerotia te Reo! through Frankton Library).
- \* Providing guided walks with knowledgeable, passionate guides who know many trails and tracks and share information about places of historical significance.
- \* Practising mau rākau or Māori weaponry under the style of Te Whare Tū Taua o Aotearoa (our group works with Te Whare Tū Taua o Tāhuna, a branch based in Queenstown, to deliver wānanga to the community).



## Keep connected

**Cory Ratahi**  
**Māngai Rōpū – Group Representative**

Mobile: 0211208203  
Email: [mangai@ngamanuhou.co.nz](mailto:mangai@ngamanuhou.co.nz)  
Website: [www.ngamanuhou.co.nz](http://www.ngamanuhou.co.nz)

# Queenstown Association of Migrant Pinoys Inc.

## About us

The Queenstown Association of Migrant Pinoys Inc. (QAMPI) is a non-profit organisation established in 2008. It aims to:

- ✳ Promote friendship and respect between the Filipino community and New Zealanders.
- ✳ Keep Filipino cultural knowledge, practices, customs, and traditions alive and share these with other Kiwis.
- ✳ Organise and support non-political cultural, educational, economic, social, welfare and physical activities for the Filipino community.
- ✳ Promote Filipino as the heritage language of the Filipino community and encourage the use of all our dialects.
- ✳ Provide opportunities for members to learn English and Aotearoa New Zealand customs and cooperate with similar newcomer communities and organisations.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

QAMPI has about 1,300 Facebook group members in Queenstown and neighbouring towns, and is continuously growing.

## Our events and activities

- ✳ We hold tournaments for sports such as basketball and volleyball.
- ✳ We organise activities to keep our traditions alive for our children, e.g., Family Day, Halloween and Christmas celebrations, carol-singing in rest homes, and a monthly potluck meal.
- ✳ We continue to promote cultural traditions through regular church events with the support of the Catholic Church.
- ✳ We raise funds by selling food during festivals and other activities, which we use to help people struggling with employment and housing, to support church activities, and to support fellow Filipinos affected by calamities in the Philippines.
- ✳ We organise training sessions for things such as first aid and English language skills.
- ✳ We hold mental health awareness seminars for the Filipino community every three months through the GoodYarn programme.
- ✳ We support school activities and community outreach programmes and projects, such as the Queenstown Primary School fair, tree planting, volunteering at marathon fundraisers, New Zealand Police security and anti-violence programmes, and Happiness House.
- ✳ In 2022, we would like to organise baking and cooking lessons, and obtain financial support for eye exams and hearing tests for members of our community in need of those services.



## Keep connected

### Dennis Navasca

Mobile: Dennis Navasca

Website: 021 074 4071

Email: qampi2018@yahoo.com

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/qampi

# Queenstown Fijian Community Trust

## About us

The Queenstown Fijian Community Trust was established in September 2021 to unite Fijians and Fijian Indians to ensure our next generation will learn and keep our traditions alive. Our purpose is to facilitate educational opportunities and create cultural activities to share with the wider community. Having a community group also allows us to better support our families in Fiji during natural disasters.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We have about 300 members, including children, in Queenstown. Our membership is representative of the multi-racial and multi-cultural fabric of Fiji, with Christians, Hindus, and Muslims as part of our group.

## Our events and activities

Our events acknowledge the various belief systems of Fiji, including Diwali for the Hindus and the Eid al-Adha for the Muslims.

- ✦ Holi is a popular ancient Hindu festival held in March. On this day, people play with colours, water, flowers and more.
- ✦ The National Day of Fiji is 10 October, which marks the anniversary of both Fiji's cession to the United Kingdom in 1874 and its attainment of independence in 1970. Fiji Day was first celebrated in Queenstown in October 2021, with Mayor Jim Boulton as a special guest.
- ✦ Diwali is one of the most important Hindu festivals for Hindus around the world. The celebration in October revolves around the triumph of good over evil, purity over impurity, light over darkness.
- ✦ We also celebrate two main annual events for the Muslim Fijian community: Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha which are both celebrated after Ramadan and are considered the two major religious holidays of the Muslim calendar.
- ✦ In the future, we would like to hold classes to teach Hindi, Urdu and other languages, and offer scholarships for students.



## Keep connected

**Shailendra Kumar Dass**

Email: [shail.dass@hotmail.com](mailto:shail.dass@hotmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/Queenstown-Fijian-community-257241388328059](https://www.facebook.com/Queenstown-Fijian-community-257241388328059)

# Queenstown Indian Community

## About us

The Queenstown Indian Community was established in 2015 as a charitable non-profit organisation. Our group is affiliated with the Hindu and Sikh religions. These are among the fastest growing religions in Aotearoa New Zealand, according to the most recent Census. Our purpose is to connect and celebrate Sikh and Hindu cultural and religious festivals. The Supreme Sikh Society of NZ is the national umbrella which supports other Sikh community groups across Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

The Queenstown Indian Community has about 1,000 members. Before COVID, we had about 1,500 members, but during the pandemic some have been stuck overseas, have left the country, or have moved out of the district.

## Our events and activities

- ✦ In February or March, we celebrate Maha Shivratri – a famous Hindu festival celebrated in reverence of Lord Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction and regeneration.
- ✦ In November, we celebrate the birthday of Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism, which is one of the most significant festivals of the Sikh community.
- ✦ Charity work is a large part of the Indian community. We raise funds to support community members in need, such as cooking for more than 200 people during COVID lockdowns.
- ✦ Currently, there are no Hindu or Sikh temples in Queenstown, so worship and small gatherings are held in private homes. Our main events are usually held in one of Queenstown Lakes District Council's venues.
- ✦ We are aware that community members are leaving Queenstown because there is no specific place to preach the teachings of our religions, provide religious services and ceremonies, or arrange educational and recreational opportunities to foster a better understanding of our religions and culture among the wider community.



## Keep connected

**Vivek Verma**

Mobile: 021 116 7043

Email: [queenstownindiancommunity@gmail.com](mailto:queenstownindiancommunity@gmail.com)

Facebook: [@queenstownindiancommunity](https://www.facebook.com/queenstownindiancommunity)



# Queenstown Islamic Centre

## About us

The Queenstown Islamic Centre opened in December 2020 as a charitable organisation and a place of worship, as the nearest masjid (mosque) is in Invercargill. In recent years, there has been a huge demand for a masjid in this region to cater for the needs of the local Muslim community, Muslim tourists, and Muslim delegations coming from all over the world. Our goal is to present a correct view of Islam to the world by developing a strategy with a focus on moderation, leadership, partnership, and innovation. We are in the process of registering our masjid under the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ).

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

The Muslim community has grown to about 70 families in Queenstown, 12 in Wānaka, 3 in Alexandra and 12 in Cromwell. They are mainly from Fiji, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Pakistan, Turkey and Bangladesh. For many years, we have hired community spaces or, on occasion, taken to praying on Lake Wakatipu's shore.

## Our events and activities

- \* We celebrate two main annual events for the Islamic community, celebrated after Ramadan they are the two major religious holidays of the Muslim calendar.
  - ▶ Eid al Fitr, or the Feast of Fast-Breaking, marks the end of the Ramadan. We invite the wider community to join us in our celebrations.
  - ▶ Eid al Adha, or the Feast of Sacrifice, is celebrated by Muslims all over the world as a major holiday for a period of three to four days.
- \* Ramadan is the holy month of fasting. It begins and ends with the appearance of the crescent moon. During this time, we extend an invitation to friends and members of the community to break the fast with us with a meal called "iftār".
- \* We are developing a portfolio of activities, including a Friday service in English, educational and social activities such as Quran classes for children, Islamic classes for men, and other opportunities for women. We are also focusing on the needs of our youth community.
- \* We would like to be a platform for social cohesion to welcome other faiths who want to explore Islam and understand shared values. A way we plan to do this is by organising a football tournament with members of different ethnic communities.



## Keep connected

**Mohammed Nafiz**  
Mobile: 022 070 5061

Email: [queenstownmuslimcommunity@hotmail.com](mailto:queenstownmuslimcommunity@hotmail.com)  
Website: [queenstownislamiccentre.org.nz](http://queenstownislamiccentre.org.nz)  
Facebook: [@queenstownmuslimcommunity](https://www.facebook.com/queenstownmuslimcommunity)  
Address: 5/159 Gorge Road, Queenstown

# Queenstown Malaysian / Singaporean / Bruneian Group

## About us

The Queenstown Malaysian/Singaporean/Bruneian group was established many years ago by a Malaysian family, but has become increasingly active since 2018. As the group is representative of multi-ethnic and multicultural countries, it aims to connect all the Malaysian, Singaporean and Bruneian people in the Otago region. The purpose is to support those in need, share ideas, and communicate with one another.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We decided to consolidate because the number of each nationality living permanently in the southern region is small. Our membership includes about 80 people, mainly from around Queenstown, but also some from Wānaka, Te Anau, and Cromwell.

## Our events and activities

In the past, we have celebrated the following festivals:

- ★ The Chinese New Year celebration. Our celebrations mainly centre around food and bringing people together in a family-friendly environment. Everyone comes and celebrates the Chinese New Year Southeast Asian style, with street snacks, kuih (dessert), and other food and drinks. We also have a traditional prosperity toss called Yee Sang or Lo Shang.
- ★ Hari Raya Aidilfitri, the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast, is a religious holiday celebrated by Muslims. We share Malay food and encourage our members to wear green and play Aidilfitri songs during this gathering.
- ★ Deepavali is the most festive holiday of the year for Hindus, marking the victory of good over evil and light over darkness. Food, drinks, and dancing create an atmosphere of joy and laughter. Saree and kurta dressing codes are encouraged.
- ★ Occasional restaurant gatherings to share a meal and enjoy our camaraderie.
- ★ In the future, we would like to organise wellbeing activities for our community, such as Malaysian cooking classes, storytelling, and outdoor and nature activities adapted for the community, such as a night walk.



## Keep connected

**Eric Lim**

Mobile: 021 143 1332

Email: [eric.criemil@gmail.com](mailto:eric.criemil@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/1949969455116733](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1949969455116733)

# Queenstown Nepalese Community

## About us

The Queenstown Nepalese Community was established in 2015 by a small group of Nepalese. Our main purpose is to promote Nepalese culture and network with people who live in Queenstown. We support the wellbeing of our community through community development, wellness and mindfulness programmes, and encouraging outdoor adventures. We organise events relating to our culture and wellbeing in the for individuals and the society in which we live. These three pillars guide our work:

- ✦ Communication – provide accurate information and education material to the right people; provide guidance and support by tapping into community services.
- ✦ Connection – build a network among Nepalese members to help us reconnect with our own culture, identity and rituals; build relationships with other communities to identify issues and find solutions.
- ✦ Engagement – organise and participate in multicultural events and festivals, as well as outdoor adventures and wellness activities.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We have about 150 members in Queenstown. Most are students from the Southern Institute of Technology who hold temporary visas, along with a few residents and families. Before COVID, we had more than 300 members. At national level, the Non-Resident Nepalese Association offers emergency support to the Nepalese community.

## Our events and activities

- ✦ In 2017, we promoted Nepalese cinema at Dorothy Browns Cinema in Arrowtown.
- ✦ In 2018, we organised the Nepalese musical event Southland, in Queenstown.
- ✦ In 2019, we celebrated Dashain, which is the major religious festival in Nepal. We also celebrated Tihar, also known as the Festival of Lights.
- ✦ In 2020, we promoted “Visit Nepal” rallies in Queenstown, supported by NRNA NZ.
- ✦ Since 2021, we have concentrated our efforts on meditation and wellness programmes using Tibetan singing bowls, which offer a feeling of deep relaxation.
- ✦ Other activities include showcasing our traditions and crafts, selling Nepalese food at local markets, and teaching mindfulness.



## Keep connected

**Sumi Shrestha or Sanjay Maharjan**

Mobile: 027 902 8360

Email: [sumie.world@gmail.com](mailto:sumie.world@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/234198817101830](https://facebook.com/groups/234198817101830)

Instagram: @Shinewithsumie

# Sri Lankan Association Queenstown

## About us

The Sri Lankan Association Queenstown was established in June 2020 as a charitable non-profit organisation. We believe it is important we have a united community so we can share our culture and heritage with other communities in Queenstown. We also strive to be active in the wider community and reflect a positive image for Sri Lankans in Queenstown and beyond.

Our events are all about getting people together, and celebrating cultural events so Sri Lankan families can experience a taste of their own culture and language.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We are a growing group and have about 100 members, including children, in Queenstown and Wānaka. Members are either residents or temporary visa holders; they represent a mix of cultures, Tamil and Sinhalese; and religions, Christian, Hindu, Muslim.

## Our events and activities

- ★ We like to celebrate Sri Lanka Independence Day on 4 February.
- ★ The Sinhala and Tamil New Year is one of the most significant holidays on the Sri Lankan calendar. Usually celebrated on 13 or 14 April, it marks the beginning of the traditional calendar, according to astrology, and is a national festival of Sri Lanka.
- ★ Wesak Day is considered the holiest day on the Buddhist calendar. The Buddha's birthday is observed annually on the Sunday nearest to the full moon in May by Buddhists across the world, although the exact date may differ from country to country.
- ★ We would like to organise a cricket tournament with other teams in the future.



## Keep connected

**Lochana Kulasiri**

Mobile: 021 202 2709

Email: [lochana.kulasiri@gmail.com](mailto:lochana.kulasiri@gmail.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/1319481091530070](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1319481091530070)

# The Kiwi Kit Community Trust

## About us

The Kiwi Kit Community Trust is a charitable trust created in November 2020 to support and empower migrants, unite the whole community, and celebrate diversity in the Queenstown Lakes District. We aim to do this through events and ongoing programmes that fill the gaps identified across the community. Our core values are:

- \* Whanaungatanga – sense of belonging and connection
- \* Tiaki – taking care of people and nature
- \* Mana manaaki – encouraging people through nurture, growth, and challenge.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We are a team of three working towards an inclusive, diverse, and safe community. We aim to include members of the community, local agencies, and other stakeholders in our vision.

## Our events and activities

- \* In 2021, we organised two “Great Migrant Brainstorms” in Queenstown and Wānaka to listen to the migrant community, and to start a conversation with local agencies and stakeholders. We are planning this event again in 2022.
- \* In 2021, we organised “What’s your story”, an event where people could share their stories. We are planning this event again in 2022.
- \* In 2021, we advocated for the 2021 Resident Visa.
- \* In 2022, we are working on:
  - ▶ “Seeds For Belonging”, a community garden to inspire the community to grow healthy food together and reconnect with nature through gardening
  - ▶ Workshops to connect people through gardening, growing food and craft
  - ▶ Ethnic dinner gatherings throughout the year
  - ▶ Community Integration Project, in partnership with Volunteer South
  - ▶ Supporting community English classes in Queenstown in collaboration with English Language Partners NZ.



## Keep connected

**Franco Nobell**

Email: [franco@thekiwikitcommunity.org](mailto:franco@thekiwikitcommunity.org)  
or: [kiaora@thekiwikitcommunity.org](mailto:kiaora@thekiwikitcommunity.org)

Website: [thekiwikitcommunity.org](http://thekiwikitcommunity.org)  
Facebook: [@thekiwikitcommunitytrust](https://www.facebook.com/thekiwikitcommunitytrust)  
Instagram: [@thekiwikitcommunitytrust](https://www.instagram.com/thekiwikitcommunitytrust)

# Wānaka Filipino Catholic Group

## About us

The Wānaka Filipino Catholic Group was created in 2020 to gather the Filipino community for monthly Mass and other community activities. Our very first mass was held in February 2020 in Wānaka, officiated by Father Jaime Lalaguna (nicknamed Fr Jim), who was then assigned in Queenstown. In March 2021, Fr Jim announced his reassignment to Gore. Due to Covid restrictions, our mass continued through Zoom for a time.

Our group has been operating as a stand-alone congregation covering cost of venues, food, and fuel for travel of the priest from Gore. Going forwards, we would like to have Fr Jim come to Wānaka once a month to officiate Mass.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We have about 50 adults and children in our community. Some Filipinos are married to Kiwis or have spouses of other nationalities with children from mixed backgrounds. Our group is very informal and meets when there is a Mass and at Easter and Christmas. The Mass is performed in English to cater for the non-Filipino spouses.

## Our events and activities

- ✦ The most important events for the Filipino community are the Easter and Christmas gatherings; the Christmas celebrations start as early as September.
- ✦ We have started a church choir. Every mass, there are people assigned to be readers and offertory collectors. We also encourage our children to participate as altar servers. After mass, we usually have a shared potluck meal which gives us the opportunity to reconnect with each other.
- ✦ In December 2020, we had a Christmas party at the Wanaka Community Hub where we rented their auditorium. We exchanged gifts, shared food and had some good laughs.
- ✦ We enjoy sharing food and holding karaoke evenings. In the future, we would like to create a basketball league or other team-building activities for our community.



## Keep connected

**Gina Santos Ursua**

Mobile: 021 0224 6384

Email: [gina\\_aug112002@yahoo.com](mailto:gina_aug112002@yahoo.com)

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/181590843144175](https://facebook.com/groups/181590843144175)

# Wānaka Nepalese Society Inc.

## About us

The Wānaka Nepalese Society was created in April 2019, when there were about 100 Nepalese living in Wānaka. We aim to foster closer relationships between Nepalese people living in the Upper Clutha and other Nepalese organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand. We aspire to promote the language, culture and dignity of Nepalese people and our motherland, Nepal, in times of need. Our Society is part of the Non-Resident Nepali Association of New Zealand (NRNA NZ) which we occasionally partner with for events.

## Our Queenstown Lakes community

We have 57 members (47 adults and 10 children). The majority of adults are employed in the health, hospitality, retail and construction sectors. Many have moved to other cities in Aotearoa New Zealand for job opportunities and access to housing.

## Our events and activities

We celebrate a range of cultural events annually and also support community activities.

- ★ Nepali New Year – Bikram Sambat is the official Nepali calendar. Our first celebration was held in April 2019, and again in 2021 and 2022.
- ★ Teej is a festival of Nepali Hindu women to celebrate a happy marriage, prosperity and family values. In Wānaka, we celebrated Teej in 2019 and 2020.
- ★ Dashain and Tihar are popular holidays among both Hindus and Buddhists in Nepal. Tihar/Dipawali, also known as the Festival of Lights, is celebrated two weeks after Dashain. In October 2019, we celebrated with 70-80 attending.
- ★ Holi, known as the Festival of Colour, was celebrated in March 2021.
- ★ Christmas and New Year (A.D.) were celebrated with a BBQ party in 2019 and 2020.
- ★ We partnered with Paradiso Cinema in Wānaka for the premier of a Nepali movie titled “Kabaddi Kabaddi Kabaddi”.
- ★ In May 2021, we held a Covid-19 mental health and wellbeing workshop in partnership with the Hillary-Tenzing Centre Charitable Trust in Wānaka.
- ★ We organise badminton sessions with the support of Wānaka Recreation Centre.
- ★ We raise funds to support our motherland and Nepalese community, e.g., for SIT Queenstown students during COVID and flood victims in Nepal.



## Keep connected

**Lila Singh K C or Tila Ram Acharya**

Phone: 027 398 1677 or 022 096 1655

Email: wanakanepalesesociety2019@gmail.com

Facebook: facebook.com/groups/396995527828334

# Our Other Communities

Here we acknowledge the presence of other communities living in the district. Some are in the early stages of creating a formal group, some haven't felt the need to formalise a group, and some are not yet fully established. We welcome people to reach out and connect with them as they grow and evolve.

For more information or to get in touch with any of these groups please contact Welcoming Communities Coordinator Silvia Dancose.

**Email:** [silvia.dancose@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:silvia.dancose@qldc.govt.nz)

**Phone:** 027 772 0138

## Brazilian Community

Bem-vindo! Queenstown Lakes District is home to a large community of Brazilians, many of whom have been living in our district for many years and run their own businesses. Through Facebook, the Brazilian community shares information about workshops and events happening in our district. Some members also support their fellow countrymen on issues related to settlement and integration in Aotearoa New Zealand and provide Portuguese translation and interpretation services. There are also faith-based organisations across the district conducting their services in Portuguese with the aim of bringing the Brazilian community together.



## English speakers from around the globe

There is a growing community of English speakers from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, the United States of America and Canada who live in this district. Many of them have fully embraced the Kiwi lifestyle and culture and often get together to celebrate traditional events and sports, such as Thanksgiving Day, St Patrick's Day, Halloween, Irish and Scottish dancing, National Rugby League (NRL), Australian Football League (AFL) and ice hockey tournaments. Many residents and friends are included in these events. Despite different accents and colloquialisms, sharing the "English" language helps to bring this group together.

## French speakers from around the globe

Bonjour! Our district has a community of French speakers mainly from mainland France, but also from Switzerland, Belgium, Canada, New Caledonia, Tahiti and other French speaking countries. The group are mindful of sharing their heritage with their children and keep their language alive by socialising with food and most importantly



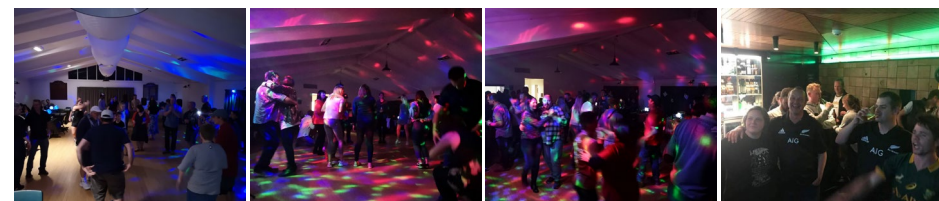
a good bottle of wine. Key events such as Bastille Day, Canada Day and Swiss National Day are celebrated with their customs. Even though there are different dialects and cultures that come with each country, speaking the "French" language helps to unite this group.

## Pasifika Community

The Welcoming Communities team is working alongside the Pasifika community to develop their profile and share it with the wider community. There is a growing community of Pasifika/Pacific Island people that come from Tuvalu, Sāmoa, Fiji/Rotuma, Tonga, Tahiti, Niuē, and the Cook Islands, who now call the Queenstown Lakes District home.

## South African Community

Howzit! South Africans make up a big part of our community with around 200 living in the district. The community hosts soppies (dances) every year and enjoy getting together for a braai (bbq) and watching rugby, which is a big part of their culture.



A warm welcome also to all the other Māori groups, nationalities and ethnicities living in our district!



