



Challenge Wānaka 19th – 21st February 2026: ROAD CLOSURE NOTIFICATION

Dear Business Owner/Resident,

The Challenge Wanaka Festival of Triathlon is celebrating 20 years in 2026! This event embodies our community's love of sport and brings thousands of participants, volunteers, and supporters to town, significantly contributing to our local economy.

This year, events will take place from 19th – 21st February, based at Pembroke Park. We have carefully planned to minimise disruption while ensuring the event's success and safety for the athletes. Below are key details about traffic delays and road closures that may affect you.

Please avoid unessential travel around these times and consider alternative transport methods (walking, biking, carpooling) where possible to reduce traffic on the roads and delays.

TRAFFIC CLOSURES, DELAYS & PARKING

- **When:** 19th – 21st February
- **Where:** Central Wānaka, especially around Pembroke Park. Ardmore St (in front of the park) will be closed for the entire festival.
- **Event Parking:** Available at the Showgrounds (access via Brownston St extension, opposite the Camping Ground). NB. Carpark access restricted during bike leg on Saturday from 7:30am until 11:30am)
- **Significant Closures/Delays:**
 - **Friday 20th Feb:** Wānaka-Mt Aspiring Rd from 12:30pm–2:30pm.
 - **Saturday 21st Feb:** Wānaka-Mt Aspiring Rd from 5am–1:30pm.
 - **Saturday 21st Feb:** McDougall Street (up to Golf Course Road) from 6:30am – 11:30am.
 - **Saturday 21st Feb:** Traffic moving across the Sargood Roundabout (between Sargood Drive and Old Station Ave) from 9am to 11am, expect significant delays of up to 30 minutes.

ROAD CLOSURES

For your convenience, further details of all road closures are listed on the following pages.

PLEASE REFER TO DIAGRAMS AND INTERACTIVE MAP OF THESE CLOSURES ON OUR WEBSITE:
<https://challenge-wanaka.com/race-information/road-closures/>



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ROAD CLOSURE	DATE AND TIME	PURPOSE	ALTERNATIVE ROUTE	OTHER INFO
Ardmore Street From McDougall St to Dungarvon St	DURATION OF FESTIVAL Wed 18 th Feb 3pm to Sat 21 st Feb 8pm	Challenge Wānaka Festival Hub	Detour via Brownston St	
Sections of McDougall St (from Brownston St to Ardmore St) and Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd (from McDougall St to end of Showgrounds)	Wed 18 th Feb 3pm – 7pm	Junior Challenge bike drop	Detour via Brownston St & Meadowstone Drive	Resident access via Meadowstone Dr
Sections of McDougall St (from Brownston St to Ardmore St) and Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd (from McDougall St to Sargood Dr roundabout)	Thurs 19 th Feb 7am to 4pm Fri 20 th Feb 7am to 2:30pm	Junior Challenge Intermediate & Secondary Challenge	Detour via Brownston St & Meadowstone Drive & Old Station Ave	Resident access via Meadowstone Dr during gaps between race waves – delays of up to half an hour. Residents are advised to park on an unaffected street should they need to use their vehicle during this time.
Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd (from Sargood Dr roundabout to just past Whare Kea Lodge)	Fri 20 th Feb 12:30pm-2:30pm	Secondary Challenge (bike leg)	Hard closure with NO vehicle access at all from 1:00pm – 2:00pm	Advisory signage will be installed 1 week prior to event. Delays of up to an hour for residents.

Wanaka-Mt Aspiring Rd (from McDougall St to Treble Cone)	Sat 21 st Feb 5am to 1:30pm	Challenge Wānaka Half (bike leg)	Public closure – resident and business access only if essential. SPECIAL PASS REQUIRED	Residents and businesses should contact CW to advise if they foresee essential travel during this time.
Section of McDougall St and side road access off this section of McDougall (from Golf Course Rd to Ardmore St)	Sat 21 st Feb 6:30am to 11:30am	Challenge Wānaka Half (bike leg)	Across town via Stone Street & Golf Course Road	Residents will have access via lefthand downhill lane, if essential. Residents on lefthand uphill lane side are advised to park on an unaffected street should they need to use their vehicle during this time.
SIGNIFICANT DELAYS OF UP TO 30 MINS: Areas located along Sargood Dr & Old Station Rd (around Sargood roundabout)	Saturday 21 st Feb 7:30am – 1:30pm with key delays from 9am – 11am (during peak of bike leg)	Challenge Wānaka Half (bike leg)	n/a	Those requiring access across the roundabout between Sargood Dr and Old Station Rd should plan around this period and ideally avoid the peak period (9am-11am). Those affected are advised to park on an unaffected street should they need to use their vehicle during this time or consider alternative transport options (cycling, walking).
One-way closure of sections of Dungarvon St and Ardmore St (from Dunmore to carpark entrance opposite Doughbin). Small section of lakefront carpark to left of entrance closed.	Sat 21 st Feb 8am to 5pm	Challenge Wānaka Half	Detour via Helwick Street	
One-way closure of Lakeside Rd (from Beacon Point Rd to Eely Point Access Rd)	Sat 21 st Feb 8am to 5pm	Challenge Wānaka Half (run leg)	Detour via Beacon Pt Rd to Eely Pt Road	Residents will have access via lefthand lane travelling in direction from Eely Point Access Rd towards town.
Beacon Point Rd (from Penrith Park Drive to end)	Sat 21 st Feb 8am to 5pm	Challenge Wānaka Half (run leg)	Public Closure.	Resident access permitted only.

Beacon Point Road Footpath on lake side of road (from Penrith Park Drive to Aubrey Rd)	Sat 21 st Feb 9am to 5pm	Challenge Wānaka Half (run leg)	n/a	This road is not closed however runners will be running in one direction on the footpath. Marshals will be stationed along this stretch – residents must take care when entering/exiting properties
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IMPORTANT - ESSENTIAL ACCESS PASS REQUESTS:

If you are a resident/business owner on Wānaka Mt Aspiring Rd or an area accessed from this road and absolutely need access during the closure on Sat 21st 5am – 1:30pm, please email jane@challenge-wanaka.com with the subject line 'Road closure special access pass' and advise the name/s of the people needing access, the approximate timing and the licence plate of the vehicle. We will add your details to the list of approved travellers for our Traffic Management Team and issue you a special pass.

We thank you for your patience and support in making this festival a success for our community. If you have any concerns, please contact the Challenge Wanaka team via event@challenge-wanaka.com or contact the Council directly. Further information on www.challenge-wanaka.com

Ngā mihi,
Jane Sharman
Trust & Event Director, Challenge Wānaka