

Scuttlebutt

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024 // ISSUE 159

Exciting
changes coming
to Scuttlebutt!
Find out more
inside.

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Our new climate and biodiversity website

We're incredibly excited to launch our new website where you can read about the district's Climate and Biodiversity Plan and see regular updates on how our actions are progressing.

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NEW GROUP
FITNESS CLASSES



Tell us if you want to save paper and read Scuttlebutt online. See page 11 for details.



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Scuttlebutt is recyclable. Please recycle me.

Our new climate and biodiversity website

We're incredibly excited to launch our new website where you can read about the Queenstown Lakes Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025 and see regular updates on how key actions are progressing.

We'll share stories from across the district and exciting new research.

You'll find info about our partnership with Kāi Tahu, links to local organisations, and profiles of members of the independent Climate Reference Group that advises Council.

We'll also provide a whole bunch of info and resources on what individuals, businesses and schools can do to

help achieve our collective goals — climate change and biodiversity loss affects everyone.

We hope this new site provides an opportunity to celebrate the collective progress being made and helps to strengthen the partnerships and collaborative efforts that'll guide our district forward.

TAKING ACTION

Taking action against climate change is vital for people's wellbeing, the planet, and for future generations.

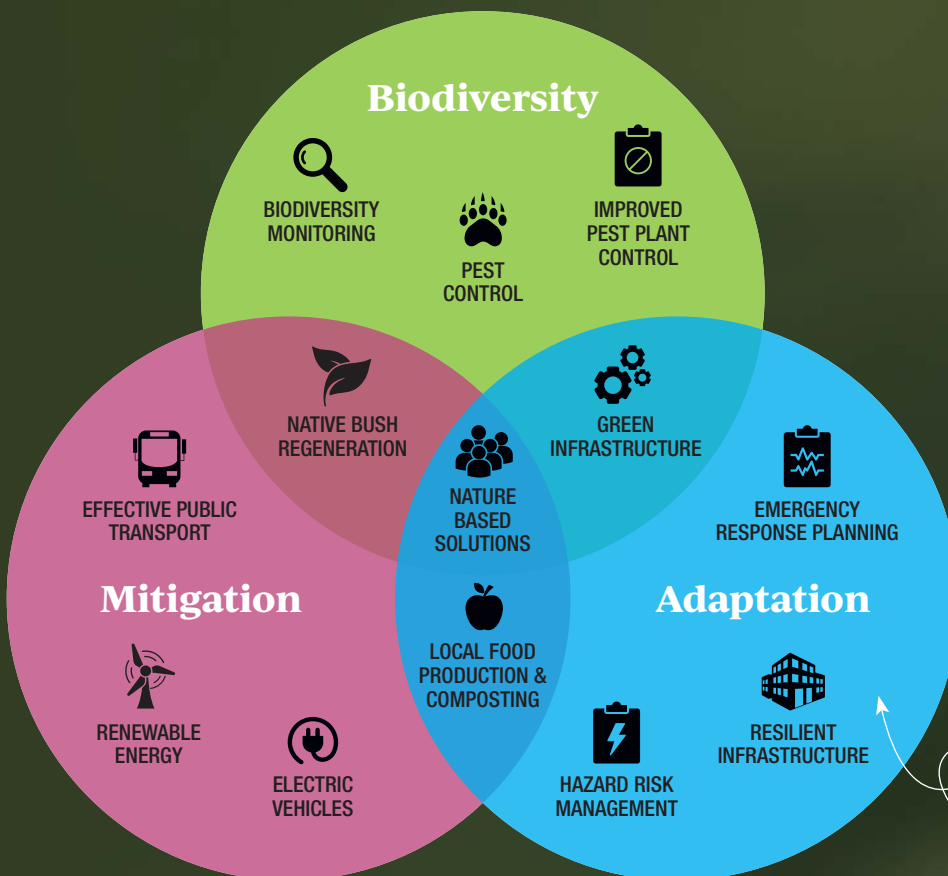
It is not just an environmental issue — it is a matter of social justice, economic stability, and global cooperation. This decade is crucial and so are our collective next steps.

To reach our goals set out in the district's Climate and Biodiversity Plan, we're working with key partners to deliver around 70 actions grouped under six overarching outcomes (see top of next page).

You can explore these on the website and we'll update them as we go so you can check our progress.

Check it out at climateaction.qldc.govt.nz

The website will explain more about the links between emissions mitigation, climate change adaptation and biodiversity restoration as illustrated here.



OUR SIX OUTCOMES

1 QLDC demonstrates ambitious climate leadership

3 Our built environment is low-emission and resilient

5 Low-emission businesses thrive

2 Our transport system is low-emission and better connected

4 Our communities are low-emission and climate resilient

6 A flourishing natural environment

Council's carbon reduction efforts officially certified

Key updates will also be in our quarterly climate e-newsletter. Head to climateaction.qldc.govt.nz to subscribe!

We're proud to report QLDC is now a Toitū carbonreduce certified organisation!

Toitū-certified organisations are required to measure their carbon emissions to international standards and provide evidence of reduction efforts to stay on the programme.

Each year Toitū undertakes audits to verify carbon emissions data and assess progress toward our Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP). The ERP identifies emission reduction opportunities such as converting the public swimming pools' LPG heating systems and implementing building energy efficiency improvements. It also explores opportunities for solar power installations, converting more of our vehicle fleet to electric, and improving water demand management and wastewater efficiencies.

We completed our most recent audit in January. The results will help track progress toward our target of reducing emissions by 44% by 2030.



Toitū means “to sustain”.

At **vivian+espie** we are agile, mindful, **ethically-sourced** consultants who are pro-active about taking a **deep-dive** into sustainable, regenerative, **cross-platform** solutions in order to enhance **intuitive**, integrated well-being **learnings** across all paradigms.

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Taking a little longer on the Long Term Plan



MAYOR GLYN LEWERS EXPLAINS:

At our February meeting, Council formally deferred its 2024-2034 Long Term Plan (LTP) process by up to three months as permitted by central government.

This decision was not taken lightly. It was necessary following the coalition government's formal direction at the end of last year to bring planning and delivery of three waters infrastructure back onto councils' books for Years 3-10 of the LTP. Under the former Labour government, councils were legislated to only include it for Years 1 and 2.

This is highly significant. We've spent countless hours working with staff to figure out how we're going to do this. And I've got to be frank, we're looking at these figures and preparing for some uncomfortable conversations and very tough decisions around priorities and what this means for rates increases.

Councils across Aotearoa New Zealand are all in the same boat and the waters are choppy – affordability is going to be a challenge for all of us. To put it into context, three waters makes up close to 60% of our capital expenditure programme. That's a huge chunk and means we simply will not be able to afford to deliver many of the projects we had previously hoped to. In particular, it will affect our ability to invest in important community facilities and services. The sad part is we need more than ever to maintain wellbeing, resilience and connection in our growing communities.

Costs are increasing across the board but revenue is not keeping pace. There is a huge body of work underway to investigate alternative funding sources. As Mayor I continue to actively lobby Wellington on the affordability challenges we have been working so hard over many years to address on behalf of our people. While a visitor levy (which 81% of those voting in the June 2019 local referendum supported) might still be on the table, it looks more likely to be collected and allocated at a national

level, meaning it may not benefit us in the ways we need. There's still a lot of uncertainty but what we do know is that we can't just keep taking extra rates from the same people, year on year. Something's got to give.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

While we'll be consulting on the draft LTP and adopting it later than usual we'll still be opening applications for community grants in April. We'll need to tighten our belts here too but it's always an important opportunity for Council to provide support to the fantastic efforts right across the district. Staff will be in touch with community groups to share more about the process and details on alternative funding opportunities that may also be available.

We're hopeful that the coalition government will begin to up the pace on discussions for local government revenue streams. In the meantime, we need to play the hand we've been dealt: do what we can to reprioritise our investment programme and limit the impact on ratepayers as much as we can. The draft LTP will be out for consultation

towards the end of June – I really encourage you all to consider what's proposed and take part in the process.

Kā mihi nui
Mayor Glyn Lewers

WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2024

Adoption:

It is proposed the LTP is adopted by 19 September 2024.

Consultation:

28 June - 29 July.

User fees and charges:

By 19 September.

Community grants:

Applications will be run as a separate process, expected in April.

Development Contributions (DC):

Consultation on the DC Policy will take place at the same time as the LTP.

Deferral of Annual Report:

Deferring the LTP will have a flow-on effect, meaning the Annual Report 2023-2024 will be adopted no later than 31 December.

Water you doing with your supply?

While weather conditions so far this year have been good for fun in the sun, an extended period of long and hot days meant water supplies throughout the Queenstown Lakes suffered. Monitoring showed reservoirs emptying faster than they could fill, leading to alert level 1 restrictions being put in to place throughout most of the district in early January.

We'd like to thank everyone who reduced their usage. And while many did the right thing and put their sprinkler into timeout, our data suggests some continued to take far more water than their fair share.

We've been running smart water meter trials in Glenorchy and Luggate, which allow us to measure in almost real time the amount of water used and to find and fix leaks faster.

Interested households have also just been given access to a dashboard where they can see how much water they're using and when they're using. In future, we'll be able to see whether this ability helps people to change and reduce their overall demand.

STATISTICS OVER THE LAST 15 MONTHS SHOW THAT ON AVERAGE:

- 10% of households in Luggate with a smart water meter are using 48% of the water we're able to measure.
- 12% of households in Glenorchy with a meter are using 55% of the water.

It takes a collective effort to save water, and it's likely the usage we're seeing in Luggate and Glenorchy is very similar to the rest of the district. So, have a chat with your neighbour, tenant or guest and help spread the word about using water wisely. By taking a few simple steps we can all help to ensure there's enough water for everyone, or in case of an emergency.

It could be as simple as mentioning to your neighbour that their irrigation is spraying directly onto the road sending water that's been treated, pumped and stored for their use straight back into the lake or river.

Find out other ways you can use water wisely at home, by heading to qldc.govt.nz/water-saving-tips



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AWARDED:
LPMA Property
Manager of the
Year 2022-23

Arterial Road update

We're entering the final year of constructing Stage 1 of Queenstown's Town Centre Arterial Road.

We know it's been a long hard road of disruption so it's great to see the road really starting to take shape.

The Ka Huanui a Tahuna team has installed over 7km of wastewater, stormwater and drinking water pipes along the Stage 1 route so far.

Further progress includes installation of large retaining walls to create the new link between Melbourne and Henry Streets and upgrades to the Henry Street/Gorge Road intersection. This progress means we're able to get stuck in to more of the 'above ground' work.

Council approved essential additional funding to complete the project at its February meeting.

Work completed on Gorge Road



Ongoing works on Frankton Road



OVER THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WE WILL:

- > Rebuild and asphalt one side of Frankton Road between Melbourne and Suburb Streets (March/April).
- > Switch our Frankton Road construction area to the other side of the road to complete the final underground service upgrades in this area; this means we can partially reopen the intersections at Dublin Street, Upper Suburb Street and Melbourne Street (April).
- > Progress underground service upgrades along Henry Street (ongoing).
- > Continue work to construct large retaining walls, creating the link between Melbourne and Henry Streets (ongoing).

The new road will remove general traffic from Stanley Street and make it safer, easier and more efficient to travel around Queenstown. We'll keep you updated as we progress towards a Christmas opening! In the meantime, you can read more about the project at qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road



SCAN TO SIGN UP
FOR REGULAR
UPDATES





Boost for environmental projects

Community-led projects that protect, enhance or promote Otago's environment will soon be able to apply for a share of \$900,000 in funding.

Otago Regional Council's ECO Fund was set up to support the local groups that put a huge amount of work into protecting and enhancing the environment.

The fund is open to projects that do a variety of work including biodiversity enhancement, water quality improvement, pest control, native planting and education.

Applications open 1 March, with a one-off large-scale biodiversity fund targeting projects between \$50,000 to \$150,000.

orc.govt.nz/eco-fund



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RECYCLING CHANGES ARE HERE

From 1 February, the Ministry for the Environment made it easier for everyone to recycle right no matter where they live by standardising kerbside recycling across the country.



YELLOW RECYCLING BIN

In our district, the following items can now be accepted in your yellow bin:

- > Clean plastic bottles, trays and containers marked , and ; this now includes meat trays, punnets and coloured bottles (like L&P).
- > Clean aluminium and steel cans.
- > Clean paper and cardboard; this now includes pizza boxes free from grease and food.



BLUE RECYCLING BIN

There is no change to glass recycling. Only clean glass bottles and jars used for food and drink go in your blue recycling bin.



RED RUBBISH BIN

Keep using your red rubbish bin for soft plastics, coffee cups, drink cartons, lids, plastics , , or , and plastic or foil lined paper and cardboard. Lids and all other glass, including drinking glasses and ceramics, go in your red rubbish bin.

REMEMBER

Just because an item is not accepted for recycling at kerbside, does not mean it cannot be recycled at all. Check out our **A-Z Rubbish & Recycling Directory** online – this directory aims to help our community find out what belongs in kerbside bins and where other unwanted items can be dropped off for reuse, recycling or safe disposal. qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling/



You can collect updated brochures and bin lid stickers from our offices on Ardmore Street (Wānaka) and Gorge Road (Queenstown), as well as libraries throughout the district.

Connect through volunteering


Are you keen to connect to your community through volunteering but not sure where to start?

The team at Volunteer South can help!

Jump online to browse roles and connect with local community organisations. There are roles to suit a range of ages, backgrounds, experience and times.

If you prefer to speak to someone, Community Connector Neha Gosalia will be happy to chat about your interests and help you find a role that works for you. Neha makes regular visits to Queenstown and Wānaka.

 neha@volunteersouth.org.nz

 027 506 5777

 volunteersouth.org.nz



Volunteer South's Central Lakes Community Connector Neha Gosalia

Swim School certified

QLDC Swim School was recently certified as a Water Skills For Life provider by Water Safety NZ. This means 1,700 students are receiving the best preparation for a safe, lifelong connection with water delivered by our committed and talented team of instructors.

The certification comes hot on the fins of the Swim School being given platinum standard by Swimming NZ last year.

Regardless of your age or ability, you can learn the life skill of swimming and water safety with our quality programmes. QLDC Swim School runs at both Alpine Aqualand and Wānaka Recreation Centre.

For more info about junior and adult lessons visit qldc.govt.nz/learntoswim

Libraries sign-up month

A library card opens a door to a wealth of resources, entertainment and information. And it's completely free to join!

The Council's eight libraries around the district are celebrating new member month. Everyone signing up for a library card in March will receive a cool lanyard and be in to win a \$100 grocery voucher.

You'll be joining thousands of existing library members enjoying access to everything from online movies and global newspapers to car repair manuals and Virtual Reality experiences.

For more info about the benefits of signing up, drop by your nearest branch or visit codc-qldc.govt.nz

From the chambers

ALL WORKSHOPS NOW PUBLIC

It's curtain up for all Council workshops to be held in the public from 1 March – a watershed moment for openness and transparency.

The Council will advertise what workshops it is planning to hold and they will be held in public unless there is good reason under Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 ('LGOIMA') for excluding the public.

Reflecting Council's commitment to transparency and accountable decision making, this is a response to an ombudsman report released in late 2023 called 'Open For Business' and many councils in New Zealand have changed their practices for workshops as a result. Most QLDC workshops will be held in the Council Chambers at 10 Gorge Road and because their start times will vary it would pay to check on the QLDC website when the workshop is due to take place. Please note that they will not be recorded or live-streamed but documents presented or discussed at the workshop will be published on the website (unless there is good reason not to do so under LGOIMA).

PROGRESS ON HOUSING

One thing everyone in the district agrees on is that the provision of affordable housing remains an ongoing challenge. Council has been actively contributing to the housing challenges since 2007 and, in August 2023, adopted a Joint Housing Action Plan (JHAP) which provided for a multi-organisational approach to a district-wide problem.

The first update report on the success of implementing the JHAP was presented at a meeting of the Planning & Strategy Committee meeting held on 13 February. Work across 34 actions is underway, including working with central government, local and nationwide organisations, and across QLDC, to improve housing outcomes in the district.

Keep a look out for this on future Planning and Strategy agendas as it will be a regular update report.

NEW TREE POLICY

Trees – their existence, location, size and species – are of interest and importance to many in our community. For this reason, although a new Tree Policy was only adopted a year ago, it was decided to review it again within the year. Further consultation was undertaken late-2023 and the new policy will be presented for adoption at April's Council meeting.

There are four major changes in the new version. There is a new 'Protection' section that provides more detail on working within tree root zones and directing when a Protection Management Plan is required. There is new flexibility to use other tree valuation processes alongside the Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM) which will help identify financial compensation for the loss or removal of trees unable to meet replacement policies. The new policy provides more clarity around what 'two-for-one' replacement means and what it's trying to achieve. Finally, the policy makes an important clarification by stating that any wilding, noxious and pest plant species that self-seeded are excluded and do not apply.

PURCHASE OF BALLANTYNE ROAD LAND

The community is much more aware now of the need to minimise waste and to curb casual throw-away habits but we still need to have ways of disposing of waste.

Staff been aware for some time that the existing Refuse Transfer Station (RTS) in Wānaka is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be redesigned. Just prior to Christmas, land next to the RTS was on the market and staff identified it as an opportunity to purchase a strategic asset for QLDC's waste facilities.

Following an investigation, and obtaining property and valuation advice, it was recommended that Council proceed with the purchase of 189 Ballantyne Road, reflecting the operational and strategic potential that the site provided for enhancing the Council's waste facilities. It was important to act with some urgency and so, under the delegation of the Chief Executive and the Mayor, an unconditional offer of \$3.36M was accepted by the vendor. The purchase was reported to Council at its meeting on 15 February.

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

/ Arrowtown / Frankton / Gibbston / Glenorchy / Kingston / Hāwea / Luggate / Makarora / Queenstown / Wānaka /

'Let's Talk' about Scuttlebutt

After 28 years and 159 issues, the QLDC residents' and ratepayers' magazine is changing its name.

This is the last issue of Scuttlebutt; the next issue will be called **Let's Talk | Kōrero Mai**.

Not only do the new name and masthead design match our existing engagement website (check out letstalk.qldc.govt.nz), they also neatly sum up what the magazine is all about. It's our way of sharing news and stories from QLDC and the organisations with which we work, and inviting you to let us know what you think.

We do try to make Scuttlebutt – oops, sorry – Let's Talk friendly and informative with links to where you can find more detail online or in person. There are heaps of ways to contact us shown on the back page.

REDUCING OUR FOOTPRINT

We'll continue printing and distributing the full 24-page magazine with the new name and masthead. However, we've also taken this opportunity to review how we distribute it.

Last year we stopped mailing printed copies to overseas ratepayers after one final mailing informing them of how to continue reading online. We're now ending the insertion of printed copies into the Mountain Scene and Wānaka Sun. Instead, we'll be taking the four centre pages of these papers each time the magazine is produced to share curated stories from the full version – something you can pull out and keep.

This change will significantly reduce our use of resources in terms of print, paper, freight and – we've all seen them – spare copies left in the newspaper distribution boxes around town.

Rest assured the full 24-page magazine will still be distributed by mail (for those who prefer a printed copy) and email, as well as being available digitally via the QLDC website and in print at Council offices and libraries.

Remember, every issue is also on our website.

You can help us reduce the number of copies we print even further by switching to our email distribution list.

Just email services@qldc.govt.nz with the word 'newsletter' as the subject, and be sure to include your name, postal address and the address of your property in the district so we can cross you off the mailing list. We'll send you a website link to view/download all future issues instead.

So it's a fond goodbye to the 'butt; next time **Let's Talk!**

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'Postcards' from recent events

We thought it would be good to round-up some recent events around the district with a few photos to tell the story.



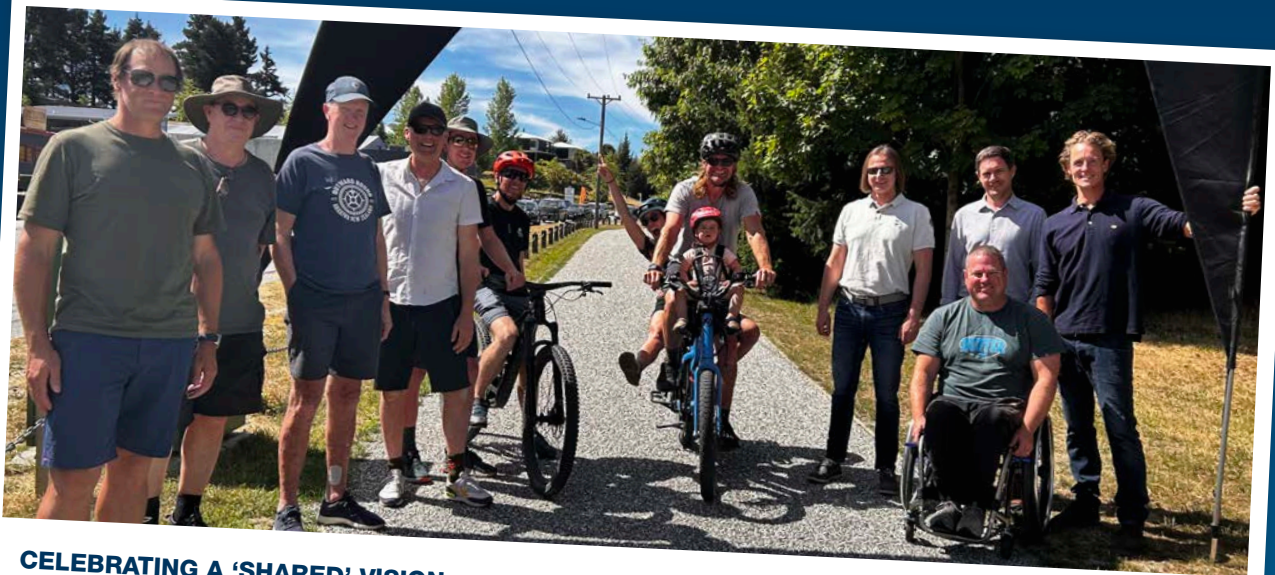
EPIC KAWARAU GORGE JOURNEY BEGINS

Building the new Kowarau Gorge Trail began with an official ceremony just before Christmas. Around 50 guests attended the gathering hosted by Southern Lakes Trails at Oxbow Adventure Co. When complete in around two years, the 32km bike route will link Queenstown to Cromwell through some awe-inspiring and often challenging terrain. Pictured turning the first turf of the trail are (L to R) MP for Southland Joseph Mooney, Central Otago District Mayor Tim Cadogan and Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Glyn Lewers.



HOWZAT FOR A SLAM-DUNK?

New opportunities for shooting hoops and hitting sixes have sprung up in the Whakatipu Basin. Council's Sport & Recreation team has installed a new outdoor basketball hoop at Queenstown Events Centre, as demonstrated here by customer service star (and budding Tall Fern) Phoebe Wallace. Across at Shotover Country, new cricket wickets are in place for organised games and knockabouts. Howzat?



CELEBRATING A 'SHARED' VISION

Those involved in creating the new shared pathway along Anderson Road in Wānaka came together to celebrate its opening just before Christmas. Local elected members joined Council staff, representatives from Bike Wānaka and other members of the community for a few words of thanks before crossing the road to B.Social. The route connects with the connection down Aubrey Road from Albert Town, running through the new roundabout at the intersection of Aubrey Road and Anderson Road. Give it a go! [Image credit: Wānaka App]



FUNDRAISING GOLFERS UP WITH THE BIRDIES

Local Blair Pattinson shot an almighty all-nighter at QLDC's Frankton Golf Centre in February. A project manager at GJ Gardener, Blair was raising awareness of mental health in the building sector by hitting golf balls non-stop for 24 hours. He was joined on the driving range by many others along the way including Fletcher Kaan, southern field officer for MATES in Construction, a charity that aims to prevent suicides in the industry and improve mental health by encouraging workers to talk about their problems. Together they raised more than \$6,000 – what an amazing effort for a great cause! Pictured (L to R) Christian Jones, Blair Pattinson, Jordan Manihera and Fletcher Kaan. [Thanks to Lakes Weekly Bulletin for info and the image]



NEW WHEELS FOR CAMPING AMBASSADORS

Our responsible camping team has had a busy summer making sure all our visitors are enjoying themselves and following the rules (see page 15). They also took delivery of some branded vehicles to help them travel around all corners of the district, even the hidden ones! Here's Joe Ody, one of our responsible camping ambassador next to his new wheels overlooking Lake Whakatipu.

Enriching creativity and culture

Our district has a rich cultural life.

It's home to a vibrant ecosystem of creative practitioners, businesses, community cultural organisations, galleries, world-class festivals and events. It's a place of breathtaking beauty steeped in whakapapa, with a long history of storytelling within Kāi Tahu culture and formidable heritage assets both natural and built.

Last year, Council partnered with Regional Arts Organisation, Three Lakes Cultural Trust, to develop Te Rautaki Auahataka me te Ahurea o Queenstown Lakes District | Queenstown Lakes District Creativity & Culture Strategy.

Seven hui were held across the district in May/June as part of the initial community engagement phase. Attendees included practitioners, educators, administrators, businesses, RTOs, community groups and students. We were

delighted to have very strong representation from our many and diverse communities from Glenorchy to Makarora.

These conversations helped reveal the untapped potential that is here and helped to guide the draft strategy. This outlines a ten-year roadmap to a future where creativity, culture and heritage play an ever-increasing role in enriching the lives of both locals and visitors. It also aims to help unlock the sector's economic, social and cultural potential.

The creative industries bring employment, create a sense of vibrancy and increase community cohesion and local identity. A coordinated approach will benefit wide and diverse groups of residents and contribute to the overall well-being of the district.

The draft strategy will open for community engagement in March and we'd love to hear your feedback. Keep an eye out for further details:

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

tewahitoi.nz

Public art in Queenstown Gardens (credit: PhotosbyLeigh)



Responsible camping check list

- ✓ Ensure your vehicle is certified self-contained
- ✓ Always use public toilets (or your own!)
- ✓ Use a designated wastewater dump station for your sewage and sink water
- ✓ Use your own facilities for showering to keep the environment pollution free
- ✓ Leave no trace! Dispose of rubbish and recycle with care at local refuse and recycling centres
- ✓ Download the CamperMate app
- ✓ Make the Tiaki Promise and magical memories!



For more information visit qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping



See you at the show!

We'll be back at the Wānaka A&P Show this year so drop by and see us at our tent. You'll find an amazing display from Wastebusters, libraries, plus heaps more – we'd love to have you pop in and have a chat!

The show is one of our district's biggest events, and it's a great way to connect with the local community. There's something for everyone, whether it's watching the equestrian events, supporting local businesses, or indulging in the large array of food options, it's always a great day out for the whole family!

Pencil the Wānaka A&P Show into your calendar today: Friday 8 and Saturday 9 March. You'll find our tent at J3, right next to the food. It's the best spot in town!

It's better by bike!

Worried about finding a carpark during the show? For those who are able, we're proud to be supporting pedal-power by providing a free and safe bike parking area right beside the entry gates. Staff will be manning the bikes all day for safety.



NEW GROUP FITNESS CLASSES



STRENGTH DEVELOPMENT

Alpine Health and Fitness (Queenstown Events Centre) is bringing a new group fitness timetable to members in March with the addition of two Les Mills classes!

Strength Development and Shapes both offer something a little different.

Strength Development is about learning to lift heavy weights, increasing strength and adding athleticism. The gym team are excited to introduce this 45-minute class. It's perfect for anyone looking to increase their strength and power with a focus on lifting heavier weights at slower tempos to generate hypertrophy.



SHAPES

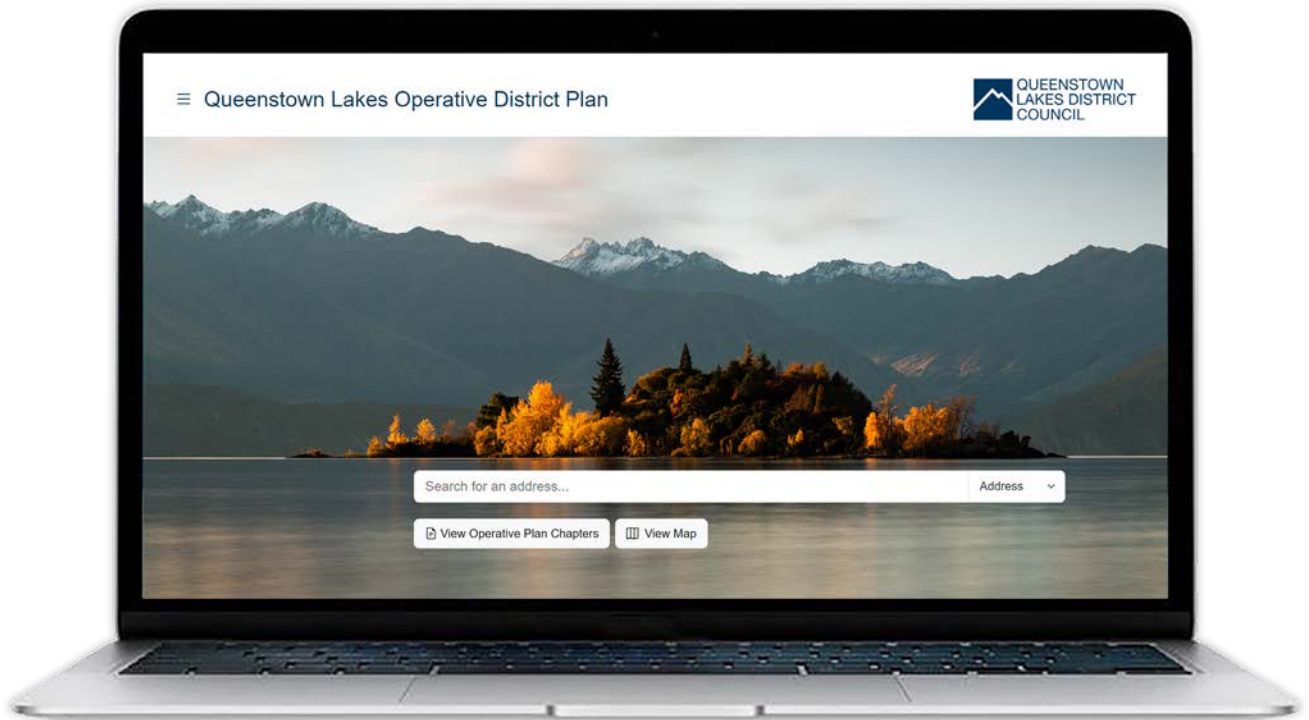
Shapes on the other hand is all about the core. It's a full-body dynamic workout that incorporates a blend of Pilates, Barre and Power Yoga. It's also 45-minutes long and perfect for those looking to tone and sculpt the body. It promises a big booty burn!

The new timetable is available now and group fitness is free with any Alpine Health and Fitness membership.

Find out more and join now at qldc.govt.nz/membership

VIEW OUR GROUP FIT TIMETABLE AND ADD IT TO YOUR SCHEDULE!





District Plan goes electronic

Do you leaf through the District Plan for work, a project you've got at home, or for just a bit of fun? If any of the above apply, then we've got some news for you!

We're currently working on new electronic formats of our Operative District Plan and Proposed District Plan, which we're calling ePlans. These will be hosted online so they provide better functionality and are easier to use. You'll also be able to use them to see all plan provisions that apply to a property in one place, instead of having to switch between online maps and a bunch of PDFs and chapters.

We're planning to launch our new ePlans in the first half of this year. In the meantime, you can find out more at qldc.govt.nz/eplan

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Capell Ave-Domain Rd roundabout
[Image credit: Tim Martin/HEB]

Safer roads in the Upper Clutha

We're upgrading several roads and intersections as part of an ongoing programme of works with NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi to improve safety.

CAPELL AVENUE / DOMAIN ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Due to be completed late March 2024

Crews are back on site working to complete the new roundabout at the intersection of Capell Avenue and Domain Road in Hawea, after making a start on the improvements late last year. The new roundabout includes a new pedestrian refuge crossing and, once complete, will improve traffic flow and safety at the intersection.

BALLANTYNE ROAD / RIVERBANK ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Due to be completed late June 2024

Work is currently underway to construct a roundabout at the intersection of Ballantyne Road and Riverbank Road. The project will enhance connectivity for active travel along a section of Ballantyne Road through to Wastebusters, and includes raised pedestrian safety tables leading into the roundabout and upgrades to stormwater management.

Please note: Temporary traffic lights will be operating at all lanes entering the intersection so we can keep as much of the road open as

possible while working in the area, and keep crews safe on site too.

Some changes are likely to traffic management in the area as we progress through construction – keep your eyes peeled on QLDC's Facebook page for updates.

ANDERSON ROAD / AUBREY ROAD ROUNDABOUT

Completed November 2023

The new roundabout at the intersection of Anderson Road and Aubrey Road includes a slightly amended layout, new raised courtesy crossings to provide safe spaces for people to cross, and a connection for completed shared pathway on Anderson Road.

These road safety improvements are partially funded by NZTA as part of New Zealand's national road safety strategy.

Are you registered for short-term letting?



Our district arguably has the country's toughest housing challenges, and those challenges aren't something Council or central government can solve on their own. Fortunately, there are some awesome people doing their part already.

Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust (QLCHT) is doing an excellent job helping people into affordable housing and many large local employers have invested in staff accommodation. These efforts are helping protect the district from an even worse situation.

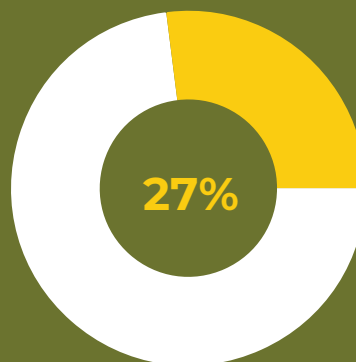
At Council we're implementing the Joint Housing Action Plan, working alongside central government, the QLCHT, iwi, and the local community. One of the things we do is advocate to central government. For example, we want to see legislation that would help us fairly manage the negative impacts of short-term letting, such as through Bookabach or Airbnb.

It's a hot topic. For some people, it's an important boost to their income, and fills gaps in commercial accommodation. But it can also take houses out of the rental market which desperately needs more homes for locals.

If you have a room or property available, please consider renting it out to a local family or worker needing a place to stay. If you're going to be renting it out short term, please play by the rules by completing our short registration form and getting resource consent if needed. It keeps things fair and provides important data. And if it's for fewer than 28 consecutive days, it won't affect your rates.

If you offer short-term accommodation, please check out qldc.govt.nz/visitor-accommodation for details and to register.

DID YOU KNOW?



Approximately 27% of our housing stock is **unoccupied**.

Source: Census 2018

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Re-Action against textile waste

Garments have been rebranded using reclaimed fabric.

Ever thought about what happens to a uniform once it has done its duty on the front line?

In New Zealand alone, approximately 220,800 tonnes of textile waste are produced annually. An estimated 2,177 tonnes of this waste is made up of branded company uniforms.

When companies rebrand, garments with the outdated logo are no longer appropriate for staff, or others in the community, to wear. This is a problem that Wastebusters has been concerned about for a long time, as they find it hard to find new homes for company branded uniforms through their reuse store.

That's where Re-Action comes in – to repurpose new and pre-loved uniforms and give them a new life of adventures.

In collaboration with Re-Action, a collective in the French alps with the mission of keeping outdoor gear out of landfill, and RealNZ who donated 200 garments for the pilot, Wastebusters brought the 'Re-Action' uniform repurposing project to life, thanks in part to a grant from QLDC's Waste Minimisation Community Fund.

"The mission of the Re-Action project is to keep outdoor gear out of landfill and add to the circular economy," said Sophie Ward, Wastebusters Project Manager.

Through the talented creative efforts of Wastebusters staff and friends, old uniforms are redesigned and given a second life with experienced local sewers covering up old branding using patches and sewing techniques. The clothes are then sold in-person and online, where staff proudly share the unique background story of each garment with customers, adding value and meaning to its second life.

"All of the 200 garments have been rebranded using reclaimed fabric from old jackets and tents

and waste fabric donated to Wastebusters and from New Zealand clothing manufacturers," said Sophie.

Beyond reducing waste, Re-Action raises awareness about textile waste, encouraging conversations around an issue that often goes unnoticed, but needs urgent attention and innovative solutions.

The sustainable business model is about more than just recycling – it's about reviving obsolete items and fostering sustainable choices in the corporate world. Sophie Ward from Wastebusters hopes this can inspire more businesses to think of sustainable options when rebranding their companies.

Re-Action has proven effective at reducing the volume of textile waste while providing affordable, sustainable garments to the community.

Wastebusters's transformative Re-Action project is made possible through the support of 16 organisations and QLDC's Waste Minimisation Community Fund.





If you have a great idea that could help our community reduce or divert waste from landfill, applications for QLDC's Waste Minimisation Community Fund open in mid-April.



For more information, visit: qldc.govt.nz/wmcf



Wānaka Guided Garden Tours

Enjoy autumn colours in outstanding private gardens

Half-day tours depart every day until April
Gift Vouchers - Group discounts (max 7)

2-gardens \$95pp 3-gardens \$129pp 4-gardens \$149pp
Includes transport, informative narrative and refreshments
All tours are carbon neutral

Call Florence 021 027 92481
or visit beautifulgardenswanaka.com

Festival returns to spark conversation

After a six-year break, Aspiring Conversations is returning to transform Wānaka into a hub of intellectual exchange and cultural celebration.

From 4-7 April, there'll be 14 events across three venues, featuring a diverse line up of forty speakers and artists.

Sessions include a literary showdown in *AI Versus the Librarians*, where artificial intelligence goes head-to-head with human librarians, and *Breakfast with the Papers* – a personalised briefing on current affairs with political journalists Paddy Gower, Susie Ferguson and Guyon Espiner (pictured below).

Gower and Espiner return to host *The Drinking Game*, espousing on giving up the booze with writer Lotta Dann, while Ferguson later joins author Byron C Clarke, microbiologist Siouxsie Wiles, and Director of the Disinformation Project Kate Hannah to explore the dangers of misinformation in *Truth and Lies*.

On the final day of the festival, a climate-themed panel discussion asks

What's the Tipping Point before musicians Julia Deans, Adam McGrath and Ebony Lamb explore Kiwi songwriting brilliance in *Tower of Song*.

Presented by the Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust, Aspiring Conversations is a great opportunity for people to come together with a pop-up café, bar service and bookshop.

The full programme and tickets are available at aspiringconversations.co.nz

NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival: Save the date!

The 22nd festival will run in Wānaka from 21-25 June and in Queenstown from 27-28 June. Audiences throughout New Zealand and Australia will also be able to watch the festival films online from 1-31 July.

Find out more at mountainfilm.nz



Milford Asset Management presents

ASPIRING CONVERSATIONS





PARKS WEEK

TIMETABLE FOR PARKS WEEK

Picnic in the Park, in collaboration with Summerdaze and Libraries. 3.00-5.00pm 7 March – Hanley’s Farm

Wānaka A&P show – 8 and 9 March

ACTIVITIES FOR PARKS WEEK

Love Letters to Trees – codc-qldc.govt.nz

Find the Fairy Doors in Queenstown Gardens – a project by Whakatipu Pippins

For more information head to www.qldc.govt.nz/community/summerdaze



TAKE PART IN FREE ACTIVITIES ACROSS THE DISTRICT DURING PARKS WEEK. SATURDAY 2 MARCH TO SUNDAY 10 MARCH

On the go and got time for a story?
Find your next eBook or eAudiobook on

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Explore more at codc-qldc.govt.nz/library-online

codc-qldc.govt.nz/library-online/ebooks-eaudiobooks-emagazines

Enriching minds and communities:
Te whakapuāwai i kā hinengaro me kā hapori

libraries
whare pukapuka
Queenstown Lakes

Share with us
Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board

Having conversations at home or work about what’s happening in the Upper Clutha? Come along and share with us, we would love to hear your ideas that benefit our community and help visualise our future.

When: 6 March, 1 May, 3 July,
4 September, 6 November.

Time: 12.00-1.30pm

Where: Paetara Aspiring Central,
35 Plantation Road, Wānaka.

Sign up to receive updates!

Let's Talk – we'd love to hear from you



Did you know we have a whole website dedicated to consultation?

Let's Talk is an easy way to contribute to local decision making by having a say on the topics and projects that matter to you and your community. Go to letstalk.qldc.govt.nz. You can even register for a bi-monthly update on current consultation topics and what's coming up. We'll also provide a snapshot in every edition of Scuttlebutt.

WHAT'S COMING UP:

CREATIVITY AND CULTURE STRATEGY

Community engagement

2024-2034 LONG TERM PLAN

Community engagement

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION BYLAW

Formal consultation

NAVIGATION SAFETY BYLAW 2024

Formal consultation

OUTDOOR DINING POLICY

Community engagement

FEES AND CHARGES

Formal consultation

MOUNT IRON RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Formal consultation

WĀNAKA TRANSPORT NETWORK OPTIMISATION BUSINESS CASE

Community engagement

RIVERSIDE ROAD RESERVES MANAGEMENT PLAN

Community engagement

AND MUCH MORE

Register and find full details of these projects and more at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

QLDC OFFICES

Queenstown Office:

10 Gorge Road
Private Bag 50072, Queenstown
Phone: 03 441 0499

Wānaka Office:

47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka
Phone: 03 443 0024

E-mail: services@qldc.govt.nz

Office Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Alpine Aqualand
Alpine Health & Fitness
Indoor Courts
Sports fields
Phone: 03 450 9005

WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool
Indoor Courts
Phone: 03 443 9334

PAETARA ASPIRING CENTRAL

Indoor Courts
Studio
Phone: 03 450 1721

VENUES

For more information on our venues please head to qldc.govt.nz/venues

LIBRARIES

For library opening hours and locations please head to codc-qldc.govt.nz

TRANSFER STATIONS

Whakatipu: 110 Glenda Drive
Frankton Industrial Area
Phone: 03 348 5126

Upper Clutha: Cnr of Ballantyne & Riverbank Roads
Phone: 03 348 6125

HARBOURMASTER

Report non-compliance of waterway rules by phone **03 441 0499** or email services@qldc.govt.nz
In an emergency on the water always call **111**

Scuttlebutt is published bi-monthly by Queenstown Lakes District Council to inform ratepayers and residents of council activities.

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

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Feedback and ideas are welcome.

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