

# LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // JUNE / JULY 2026 // ISSUE 173

## Albert Town bridge temporary closure

We're installing a new, earthquake resilient pipe under the bridge as part of significant investment in the Upper Clutha's wastewater network. To allow the work to be done as safely and quickly as possible, the bridge will be closed to vehicles (but open to pedestrians or cyclists) from 9.00am-5.30pm between 23-25 June and 3-14 August (weekdays only).

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# Your Council

Ever wondered how to contact your elected representatives for a chat about what's happening in your community? We've listed your Councillors and the areas they represent, along with members of the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board, and their email addresses so you can get in touch.

There are also opportunities to pop along and see them in person at these regular sessions:

## WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board hosts regular 'Share with Us' lunchtime drop-in sessions. Find out when and where the next ones are at [qldc.govt.nz/elected-members](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/elected-members)

## ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

Join Arrowtown-Kawarau Ward Councillor Melissa White for a relaxed cuppa and chat at Arrowtown Library. **'Meet with Mel' sessions run 11.00am-12.00pm on the last Friday of every month.**

All welcome – tea and biscuits provided!



**QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT MAYOR JOHN GLOVER**  
John.Glover@qldc.govt.nz

## ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

*Arrowtown, Gibbston, Shotover Country, Lake Hayes Estate, Dalefield and Arthurs Point.*



Councillor Heath Copland  
Heath.Copland@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Melissa White  
Melissa.White@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Samuel "Q" Belk  
Samuel.Belk@qldc.govt.nz

## QUEENSTOWN-WHAKATIPU WARD

*Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm, Kingston, Frankton, Quail Rise, Kelvin Peninsula, Glenorchy, central Queenstown and Fernhill.*



Councillor Matt Wong  
Matt.Wong@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Gavin Bartlett  
Gavin.Bartlett@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Stephen Brent  
Stephen.Brent@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Jon Mitchell  
Jon.Mitchell@qldc.govt.nz

## WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

*From the top of the Crown Range and all of the Upper Clutha area including Lake Hāwea up to just beyond Makarora and including part of the Matukituki Valley in Mt Aspiring National Park.*



Deputy Mayor Quentin Smith  
Quentin.Smith@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Nicola King  
Nicola.King@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Niki Gladding  
Niki.Gladding@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Cody Tucker  
Cody.Tucker@qldc.govt.nz

## WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA COMMUNITY BOARD



Simon Telfer (Chairperson)  
Simon.Telfer@qldc.govt.nz



Kathy Dedo (Deputy Chairperson)  
Kathy.Dedo@qldc.govt.nz



John Wellington  
John.Wellington@qldc.govt.nz



Chris Hadfield  
Chris.Hadfield@qldc.govt.nz

- Councillor King
- Councillor Gladding
- Councillor Tucker



## Electrify Queenstown leading the charge in saving our \$\$\$

I recently attended the third iteration of Electrify Queenstown, a three-day event that attracted significant interest as individuals, organisations and businesses increasingly look to electrify their homes, vehicles and workplaces.

Many early adopters of solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles (EVs) did so for environmental reasons. Increasingly it's for financial savings. And recently, following severe weather events and the prospect of a major earthquake, the conversation is about resilience. Keeping some of the lights on when things go badly.

The convergence of these 'drivers' to electrify – environmental, financial and resilience – along with rapidly falling costs of hardware has the potential to significantly shift the dial on how we regard the humble electrons that we have historically viewed just as something that we pay to use.

Our rooftops are now generating the energy that we use ourselves or supply to other consumers. We can leverage the difference between cheap off-peak and high-peak rates to earn money. One energy retailer is currently offering to pay 70c a unit to those in Arrowtown who allow their batteries to be emptied when the winter evening peak hits.

As our population grows, we will need new pylon lines to ensure we don't run out of power. That will cause significant increases to our power bills.

However, if we increase the number of panels and batteries in the district, we can delay the need to build the new lines so that when they are built the cost will be shared across a larger number of consumers.

Short term, QLDC plans to replace the LPG heating at Wānaka, Arrowtown and Queenstown swimming pools, is considering using its roofs for solar generation, and identifying potential sites for battery storage schemes. We have an annual power bill of around \$6M and currently use 21GWh of electricity a year. Investing now will save us money well into the future.

Most people don't have \$30k sitting in the bank or the ability to raise a mortgage, so we are supporting plans to offer low-cost finance to enable householders to unlock the \$1,000 typical annual saving that results from a panel and battery installation.

The next step is working with third parties to see how we best enable renters to benefit from these savings.

As the cost of everything seems to increase, it's great to be part of a movement that seeks to lower one of them!

**Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover**

# Albert Town bridge works

## NEW PIPE PART OF SIGNIFICANT WASTEWATER INVESTMENT

If you've crossed the Albert Town Bridge recently, you've probably noticed some construction work underway. This winter, crews are working on one of the most complex parts of the Upper Clutha Wastewater Conveyance Scheme – installing a pipe underneath the bridge.

Work will run for approximately three months, from June to the end of August. The first stage of the work involves installing scaffolding beneath the bridge. This is followed by placing a steel sleeve at the abutment during the three-day June closure. From there, crews will then spend July installing brackets and pipe sections under the bridge. In August, the pipe will be connected into trenches at each end of the bridge, requiring the second daytime closure period. Scaffolding will be removed later in August.

## BRIDGE CLOSURES

CLOSED

This work requires two daytime bridge closures:

**23–25 June,**  
9.00am–5.30pm.

**3–14 August**  
(weekdays only),  
9.00am–5.30pm.



Even when the bridge is closed to vehicles, it will remain open to pedestrians and cyclists.



We know any closure is disruptive, so we encourage everyone to plan ahead and allow extra travel time.



## A VERY IMPORTANT PIPE

The pipe being installed underneath the bridge is a Kurimoto Seismic Resilient Ductile Iron Pipe. This pipe is specifically designed to perform in earthquake conditions, with joints that allow for movement without separating. It can withstand compression, extension, and angular deflection, providing added resilience, and its specialised jointing system requires highly skilled installers.

## THE WIDER PROJECT

The Upper Clutha Wastewater Conveyance Scheme is a multi-year project by QLDC and Fulton Hogan to boost the capacity and resilience of wastewater systems in Hāwea, Albert Town, and Wānaka. When it's finished, it will help protect our lakes and rivers by reducing the chance of contaminants entering the environment.

Across the ward, the upgrades include a new wastewater pump station at Domain Road in Lake Hāwea, more than 20km of new pipeline stretching from Lake Hāwea to Project Pure, upgrades to the Riverbank Road pump station and the Project Pure inlet, and eventually the decommissioning of the old Hāwea Wastewater Treatment Plant. Everything is on track to wrap up by early 2027.



For more information on the project visit

[qldc.govt.nz/upper-clutha-ww](https://qldc.govt.nz/upper-clutha-ww)  
or scan the QR code here



# Meet Scout

If you've been on our website recently you may have spotted Scout, our new AI-powered website assistant. Scout has been launched to help users find information faster and more easily, acting as a digital guide across the website. Over recent months, Scout has been trained to understand QLDC content and how to direct users to the right information, whether that's bin collections, paying a fee, consent processes or local updates.

Head over to our website and feel free to start asking questions! You can read more about Scout's purpose and provide feedback via our website:

[qldc.govt.nz/scout](https://qldc.govt.nz/scout)



## Considering a Queenstown Property Investment?



**Discover which properties offer the best returns.** We provide detailed appraisals, can visit properties you're considering and offer honest, expert advice to help you make the best investment for your goals.

**Talk to our property rental experts today.**

Ph: 03 442 3815  
rentqt@housemart.co.nz  
[www.housemart.co.nz](https://www.housemart.co.nz)



# Wānaka's future: join the conversation

Work has begun on the Central and Southern Wānaka Structure Plan – a long-term roadmap for how Wānaka could grow and develop over the next thirty years.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The next step is to finalise a community involvement plan. This will include engagement with Southern Wānaka landowners and a local Citizens' Assembly – an inclusive way for our

community to help shape important decisions about Wānaka's future.

## HOW DOES A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY WORK?

It will bring together up to 50 people from across our community, carefully selected to reflect a broad mix of ages, backgrounds, and perspectives. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about the key issues, hear from experts, explore detailed

information, and discuss different options together.

## ABOUT THE PLAN

This work is an output of the Spatial Plan and related hazard work also currently underway.


It will identify key constraints, explore options and consider community needs – helping guide future decisions to protect the environment and


strengthen resilience while still upholding Wānaka's unique character.


It will help us plan for:

- > Future homes, local services and neighbourhoods.
- > Community facilities, parks and open spaces that support everyday life.
- > Infrastructure such as transport and water needed to support growth.


## CENTRAL & SOUTHERN WĀNAKA STRUCTURE PLAN MAP

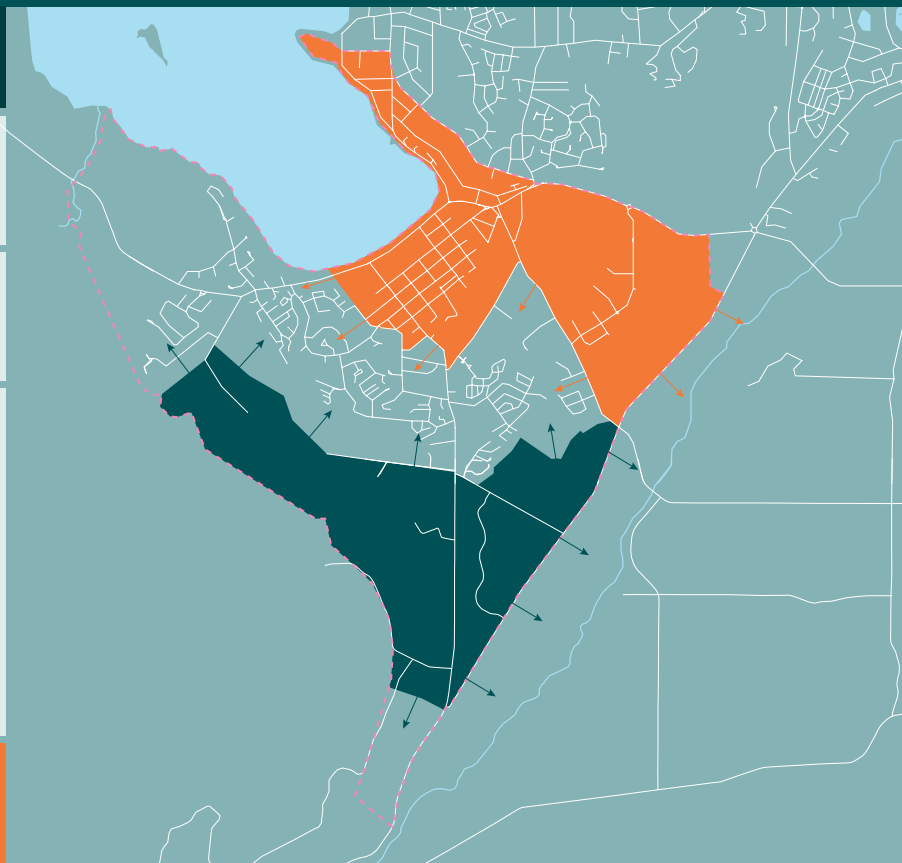
 **Area A:** Southern Priority Development Area (Future Urban Area)

 **Area B:** Wānaka Town Centre to Three Parks (Priority Development Area)

 **Area of influence:** The wider area likely to be affected by the Structure Plan. Some technical assessments will be undertaken within this area to understand constraints and improve future infrastructure and transport connections. Outstanding Natural Landscapes are excluded and are considered a hard boundary.

Find out more:

 [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/the-central-southern-wanaka-structure-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/the-central-southern-wanaka-structure-plan)



# Your place, your Council

## YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE HOME FOR COUNCIL SERVICES



There's been a lot of talk about a potential new civic administration building in Tāhuna Queenstown over the years.

And while previous Councils have committed to a preference for a town centre location we've never specifically asked the community what they think about where it should be.

That's changed, and we've just finished promoting a five-week survey to gather your feedback.

As well as inviting views on the relative merits of Queenstown CBD, Te

Kirikiri Frankton including Five Mile, or anywhere else in Whakatipu for a new Council office, we also asked how residents feel about the location of the current Wānaka office. For example, is there value in co-locating it with other facilities such as a library or a wider community and culture precinct in the future? Or is shortening the journey from the Upper Clutha to get to the Queenstown-based offices more important?

### WHAT ABOUT ALL THE REFORM?

Local government reform is creating a lot of uncertainty about how councils will operate in the future. But uncertainty isn't a reason to pause planning. If anything, it makes it more important to ensure we remain future focused and plan flexible, scalable facilities now to ensure we're ready to adapt to what's ahead.

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

With the initial survey now closed, feedback will be provided to Councillors to use as they consider next steps. Wherever we end up, the goal is to deliver a cost-effective solution which allows us to enhance the services we provide, streamline how we work together and offer a modern, welcoming space for our community and staff. Find more information at

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/cab](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/cab)



# Survey shows steady progress

Recently released results of this year's Community Insights Survey offer a snapshot of residents' views on Council performance, services and engagement.

Overall, the results point to gradual progress, with improvements across leadership, service delivery and communication.

This survey distinguishes residents' perceptions of Council performance from broader wellbeing measures captured through the annual Quality of Life Survey, providing a clear view of how QLDC is tracking.

## KEY FINDINGS

Satisfaction with the leadership of Mayor and Councillors increased from 17% to 27%.

Satisfaction with core service deliverables increased from 23% to 29%.

40% of residents were satisfied with the information they received from Council – up from 33% last year.

73% of residents were satisfied with the range of community facilities available to them.

83% of residents visited or used community parks, reserves, and gardens at least once a month, with 88% satisfied with them.

The TrustID score, measured by subtracting the negative responses from the positive responses and averaging out the score across the four trust-based questions, improved from -32.9 to -25.3.

View the full report here

[qldc.govt.nz/community-research](https://qldc.govt.nz/community-research)

**The survey was conducted using an invite-only methodology. This approach aligns with research best practice and helps ensure the results reflect the views of the broader community, rather than a self-selecting group of respondents.**

# Community feedback shapes Annual Plan

Affordability, rising cost-of-living and the cumulative effect of ongoing rates increases were the main themes that emerged from the recent Annual Plan consultation process.

Council received 422 submissions over the month-long submission period, with 47 people taking the opportunity to speak directly to elected members at public hearings in May. Councillors also connected with many more members of the community through in-person events and community meetings throughout April, ensuring a broad range of voices were heard.

Engagement levels were particularly high in Lake Hāwea and Luggate, which together accounted for around 73% of all submissions.

Across all submissions, several common themes emerged. Residents highlighted the challenges of affordability and rising cost-of-living pressures, with many expressing concern about the cumulative effect of ongoing rates increases. There was also a clear call for Council to prioritise essential infrastructure and core services, improve transparency around how rates are allocated and spent, and ensure that the costs of growth are shared in a fair and equitable way.

Elected members have carefully considered this feedback. In response, staff were directed to make several changes to the plan to reduce the rating impact and better reflect community priorities and concerns.

A revised Annual Plan 2026-2027 will be considered by Councillors at their meeting on 25 June, which coincides with the publication of this newsletter. We'll let submitters and the wider community know the outcome once Councillors have made their decision.

# Events Centre expansion proposed



The Queenstown Events Centre indoor court expansion project team is on the case working through different options based on community benefit, cost and deliverability of various designs.

Some of these options were presented to Council at a workshop in May. Following that workshop, the project team is working on six-court and four-court expansion options. It will present these options to Council before receiving further direction.

To stay up-to-date with the project visit [qldc.govt.nz/qec-indoor-court-expansion](https://qldc.govt.nz/qec-indoor-court-expansion)

# Get me via email



This newsletter is mailed to our local residents and out-of-town, NZ-based ratepayers six times a year. If this means you, and you still want to receive a hard copy, then sweet as – you don't need to do anything.

But if you'd like to join the thousands of people who prefer to receive a digital copy via email then it's easy to switch. Just email [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto: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 six times a year to view/download all future issues instead (and won't spam you with anything else!). You'll be helping us reduce the number of copies we print and distribute.

And remember, every issue is also on our website [qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai](https://qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai)

# Fuel your next move



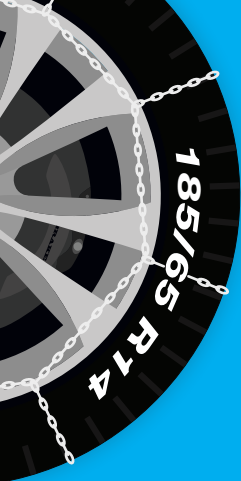
Get your residential property appraised with Colliers and go in the draw to win FREE fuel for the rest of the year.\*



*\*Terms & Conditions Apply. Prize awarded as a \$3,000 fuel card. Must be residential properties across Colliers Otago & Southland.*

[colliersotago.co.nz](https://colliersotago.co.nz)

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# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO



Know how to read your tyre and get the right chains for your car. Your tyre size will be printed on the side. Use the **Snowsweat online calculator** to find the right size chains for your vehicle.

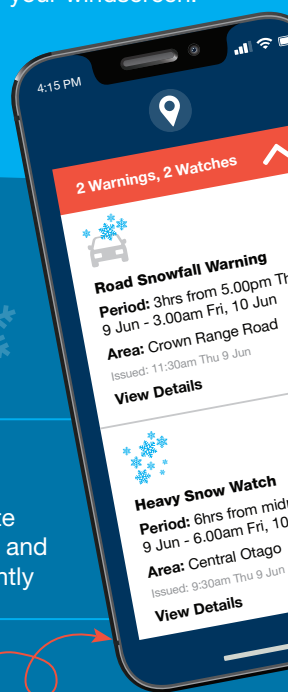
Grab a free **ice scraper** from QLDC offices, libraries and rec centres. Don't use hot water to clear your windscreen!

## THIS WINTER

Whether you're an ace behind the wheel or haven't had much experience driving in ice and snow, there's plenty you can do to keep yourself and others as safe as possible when you're out on the roads this winter.

### Here are some top tips:

- |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>Double your following distance and don't overtake grit trucks</p>   | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>Plan extra travel time and slow down</p>  | <p><b>3</b></p> <p>Take extra care on bridge surfaces and when driving through shaded areas</p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>Accelerate smoothly and brake gently</p> |
| <p><b>5</b></p> <p>Carry chains in your vehicle wherever you go, and know how and when to fit them. If you use Crown Range Road regularly, chains should be carried at all times</p> | <p><b>6</b></p> <p>If it's one of those really cold, snowy or icy days, sometimes it's just better to stay home and only travel if it's absolutely necessary</p> | <p><b>7</b></p> <p>Check road conditions before you leave the house, and make sure all vehicle windows are free of snow and ice before driving</p> |   |



Sign up to our Winter Road Reports at [qldc.govt.nz/winter-road-reports](http://qldc.govt.nz/winter-road-reports) and you'll get an email every morning before 7.00am with a heads up on what to expect.

Sign up to our community text alerts at [qldc.govt.nz/text-alerts](http://qldc.govt.nz/text-alerts) and we'll send you a txt message about any road closures due to snow or black ice warnings.

# Blue Green Network Plan adopted

CONNECTING PEOPLE,  
PLACES AND NATURE.

From lake edges to wetlands, trails to local parks, the spaces we move through every day are all connected. And now we've got a clearer plan to make sure they stay that way as we grow.

In May, elected members approved the Blue Green Network Plan, a long-term strategic framework that brings together our waterways (blue), open spaces (green) and community places (e.g. trails, playspaces and civic places) into one connected network.

It maps how these all fit together, and how they should be protected and grow alongside our towns and neighbourhoods.

## WHY IT MATTERS

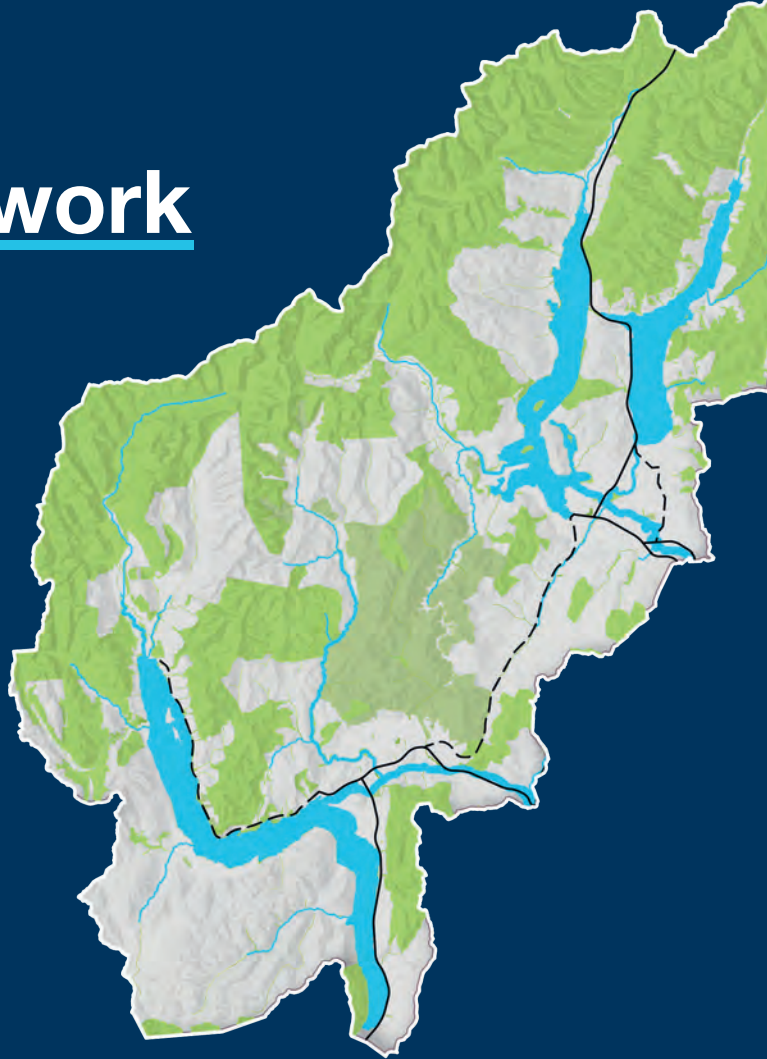
Our district is changing, and with that comes pressure on the places we love. The Plan helps us stay one step ahead by helping ensure development works with nature, not against it.

## A WHOLE-OF-LANDSCAPE APPROACH

This plan is guided by the Kāi Tahu philosophy of Ki Uta Ki Tai – from the mountains to the sea – recognising that everything is connected.

It was developed in partnership with Kāi Tahu and alongside other work like the Spatial Plan, Climate and Biodiversity Plan, and active travel planning so everything can work together, not independently.

THE BLUE GREEN NETWORK PLAN IS ABOUT  
MAKING SURE WE GROW WELL, WHILE PROTECTING  
WHAT MAKES THIS PLACE SPECIAL.



## WHAT DOES IT DO IN PRACTICE?

The plan acts as a practical tool for Council, communities and developers. It helps answer questions like:

- > where future parks, trails and connections should go;
- > how development can protect waterways and natural areas;
- > where space needs to be set aside for open space and stormwater; and
- > how neighbourhoods can be better connected for walking and cycling.

## SHAPED WITH COMMUNITY INPUT

Public feedback last year helped strengthen the plan, with strong support for protecting waterways and biodiversity, improving connections between spaces and making sure new areas include parks and trails. It will be updated over time as new opportunities are identified and delivered.

View the latest version of the plan at  
[qldc.govt.nz/blue-green-network](https://qldc.govt.nz/blue-green-network)

# '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.



## A PLACE TO REFLECT FOR A THOUSAND YEARS

Paererewā are places of significance, marked by an object, seat or bench where one can rest, each offering a message or reflection meant to be carried forward. The Paererewā Curatorial Board is leading a nationwide public art initiative to create Pae across Aotearoa New Zealand, each built to last 1,000 years. One such sculptural seat has found its home in Jardine Park on Kelvin Peninsula, set amongst native planting carried out by the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust. Funded by the Paererewā Trust and supported through a community agreement with QLDC, it was approved in late 2025 as part of the Jardine Park Development Plan. Find out more at

[1 paererewa.org.nz](https://paererewa.org.nz)



## MORE CLUED-UP KIDS!

More than 500 Year 6 students attended the biggest ever Clued-Up Kids programme this autumn. Organised by Emergency Management Otago, the annual programme helps 10 and 11-year-olds build confidence, resilience and emergency readiness through a series of fast-paced, hands-on skill sessions delivered by emergency services and community organisations. In our district, sessions were held at QLDC's Queenstown Events Centre and Wānaka Recreation Centre. Huge thanks to everyone involved and a special shoutout to all volunteers and local sponsors iFLYQueenstown, Ziptrek Ecotours and Air Milford.



## DOGS' DAY OUT

Paws in the Park was a huge success in May, bringing our community together at Jardine Park for a day full of sunshine, wagging tails, and plenty of smiles! From agility demonstrations to product stalls and giveaways, there was heaps for dogs and their humans to enjoy. As always, a standout moment was the dog/owner lookalike competition that delivered plenty of laughs and some truly brilliant outfits. Thank you to everyone who came along, took part, and helped make the day such a memorable event.



## ELECTRIFY QUEENSTOWN SPARKS NATIONAL CONVERSATION

QLDC was proud to support the third annual Electrify Queenstown summit in May, sparking new thinking across our community about how we power our homes and future. The event brought together residents, experts and businesses to explore electrification and low-emissions living, highlighting the strong momentum already building across our district. The summit included a panel discussion where leading politicians debated New Zealand's energy future, and a 'How-to Hub' (pictured) offering heaps of practical advice. [Image credit – David Oakley]



## NEW SIGNS REVEAL CARDRONA HISTORY

QLDC, the Upper Clutha History Society and Cardrona Hall Board joined forces to update and replace signage revealing aspects of the township's fascinating past. One sign brings to life the area's history after gold was discovered in 1862. Hard to imagine that Cardrona's population peaked at about 3,000 around 1870! The other sign focuses on Cardrona Hall, which acted as the local school (pictured here in 1917) and remains largely in its original condition, and neighbouring small church. This was due to be torched in the mid-1980s for fire brigade training, but local residents paid to save it and had it transported back up the valley to its current resting place. Check out [📍 wanakahistory.org](https://www.wanakahistory.org)

# From the Chambers

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There's always plenty going on at our Council and Committee meetings, here's a snapshot of some recent happenings.

## EARLY START FOR JUNE MEETING

Council agendas can be a bit like tramping packs: they look manageable until you try to lift them! The 25 June Council meeting, taking place around the date this newsletter will be published, is shaping up to be one of those deceptively hefty loads.

A packed agenda of 15 items includes four Water Services Council Controlled Organisation decisions, a new gambling venue, the Queenstown Airport Corporation Statement of Intent, and approval of the Annual Plan 2026-27.

Since 'the early bird gets the worm', it's been decided that this meeting will start at 11.00am, earlier than the usual 1.00pm. This means that the public forum part will take place shortly after 11.00am, but don't forget that speaking online is now possible.

## DOG CONTROL BYLAW & POLICY

A report due to be presented to Councillors on 25 June digs into the QLDC Dog Control Policy and Bylaw. The verdict is clear: rules are still a dog's best friend. With more than 6,000 registered dogs (and counting), plus around 1,000 dog-related complaints each year, managing our four-legged residents is no small feat.

Most locals, especially dog owners, think the current system works well, striking a balance between freedom and safety. But some issues still crop up, particularly on busy trails, where not everyone enjoys an unexpected canine encounter.

Council's preferred path forward is to stick with a bylaw, giving it the teeth (pun intended) to enforce rules like using leashes in public places and having designated off-leash zones. But don't start jumping with excitement yet – this is just a preliminary report, and the bylaw and policy will be subject to formal consultation later this year.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS SHARE THE LOVE

Another report being presented at the Council meeting on 25 June is going to give many local community groups a boost, but competition was strong. A whopping 66 groups applied for nearly \$900k in total, all vying for a slice of a \$180,000 in Council grants across four different funds.

The recommendations put forward by Council staff are a carefully carved funding pie supporting everything from mental health and youth services to wildlife protection and community gardens.

Rising costs and growing demand have made deciding on allocations an even tougher job than usual. Whilst not everyone will get what they asked for, plenty of local organisations will benefit.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Beehive is progressing local government reform aimed at simplifying structures and improving efficiency. It has confirmed

a two-pathway approach: a voluntary Head Start pathway for early-moving councils, and a later compulsory backstop process, the details of which are still to be confirmed.

Under the Head Start pathway, groups of councils may jointly develop outline proposals for structural reform, including potential unitary authority models. Proposals must be submitted by 9 August and will be assessed by Cabinet against a range of criteria.

The Otago Mayoral Forum has been taking a collaborative approach. A region-wide survey closed on 14 June and early conversations with Kāi Tahu and neighbouring councils are underway. A local online chat forum is also still available at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz).

The Mayoral Forum expects its work to conclude in late June. QLDC then plans to hold several community workshops followed by a Council meeting in July to determine its position.

# Backing diverse futures

New career and business opportunities are taking shape across the district, with recipients of the QLDC Economic Diversification Fund announced in June.

Three standout projects were selected out of six applications involving ten organisations.

The fund supports delivery of Queenstown Lake's Economic Diversification Plan – *New pathways to a thriving future*. Applications were assessed by an independent judging panel to ensure alignment with long-term economic goals, including the growth of high-value sectors such as technology, outdoor products and the creative industries.

The Community Tech Lab, a collaboration between Startup Queenstown Lakes, Queenstown Creative Collective, FLINT, Queenstown Resort College and huddl is connecting local tech talent with community organisations.

The Queenstown Lakes Innovation Campaign, a collaboration between Startup Queenstown Lakes, Mainland Angels Investors and Technology Queenstown will promote our district's innovation ecosystem by connecting people, ideas and opportunities.

Te Ara ki te Ao Auaha / The Path to the Creative World, includes Three Lakes Cultural Trust and Pivot Innovation and highlights local creative career pathways. The project will shine a light on the talent and creative energy underpinning our district's creative economy.

Funding of \$25,000 was awarded to the first two projects, with \$15,000 supporting the third. All three will be delivered by the end of 2026.

Read more about the Queenstown Lakes Economic Diversification Plan at

[qldc.govt.nz/diversifying-our-economy](https://qldc.govt.nz/diversifying-our-economy)

# Safer Speeds

Earlier this year, we asked for feedback on proposed speed limit changes across the district. Over the six-week consultation period we received 318 submissions, which shows just how important this topic is to our communities. We're now working through all the feedback, but a few early themes are already standing out:

- > People who live on or near the affected roads were generally more supportive of lower speed limits, while those who mainly travel through these areas (like commuters) prefer keeping speed limits as they are.
- > Cyclists, walkers, and horse riders were more likely to support reduced speeds.
- > Many respondents felt that tourist drivers are a key safety concern.

Feedback will help shape the final Speed Management Plan, which is expected to go to Full Council this winter.



## Your holiday home specialists

**Looking for exceptional property management? Look no further! Our expert team provides top-notch service, ensuring your holiday home is well-maintained and guest-ready. Trust us to deliver a seamless experience for you and your guests.**

- Management fee 18% - No Hidden Costs
- High Occupancy

**Experience the difference. Contact us today by emailing [info@luxuryaway.co.nz](mailto:info@luxuryaway.co.nz) or call +64 22 362 1588**

# Burn dry then cool your ashes!

Otago has several towns where air quality is known to worsen during winter. Arrowtown is one example in our district.

Otago Regional Council monitors air quality by measuring the amount of microscopic particles, for example from wood burning. Elevated levels can be harmful to your health.

So, only burn dry wood in a well-ventilated fire to reduce pollution.

## HOW TO BURN DRY AND BREATHE EASY:

Stack firewood off the ground, out of the rain and with plenty of **airflow** so it dries faster.

Use a **moisture meter** to check if your wood is dry enough to burn. Less than 25% moisture means more heat and less smoke.

**Don't** burn wet or green firewood, treated wood or household rubbish – they can release harmful toxins.

Get more tips at [orc.govt.nz/burndry](http://orc.govt.nz/burndry)

And remember to be careful when disposing of ashes.

Hot ashes can start fires in bins, trucks, and landfills, even days after the fire's out so make sure they're completely cold. Always empty ashes into a metal bin, douse with water, and leave for five days before putting them in your red rubbish bin.

For more safe disposal tips, visit our A-Z Rubbish & Recycling Directory: [qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling](http://qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling)



# New company to deliver water services

Work to establish a new company to deliver the district's water services ramped up in June, with its constitution and four director appointments presented to Council for approval. Dr Julian Elder was appointed inaugural board chair in May.

Under the dedicated Water Services Council-Controlled Organisation (CCO) model agreed by Council last year, water services will remain 100% owned by QLDC but will be delivered through a company structure, with independent expert governance.

Once the company's legally incorporated, it can appoint a chief executive (currently being recruited) and make decisions on the structure and operating model that will take over responsibility for water services on 1 July 2027.

There's a lot for Council and the new company to work through over the next year. The new company will take ownership of QLDC's water assets, along with all the associated debt and liabilities. It will have to meet new Government requirements around information disclosure, planning and accountability.

Council as sole shareholder sets the priorities and expectations of the company through its Statement of Expectations – a legal document that helps ensure it delivers for the community.

Stay up-to-date on progress at [qldc.govt.nz/our-water-done-well](http://qldc.govt.nz/our-water-done-well)

# Time to 'fetch' your dog's registration!

Pooch owners, it's that time of year again: dog registration letters will soon be hitting inboxes, and you've got until 31 July to register your furry friend or renew their annual registration. Registering your dog isn't just a legal requirement, it's also a key part of keeping your pup safe and supports a wide range of important related services in our beautiful district.

## WHAT ELSE DO YOUR QLDC DOG REGISTRATION FEES GO TOWARDS?

Three full-time Animal Control Officers

Three dedicated Animal Control vehicles

Uniforms & protective clothing for officers

24/7 after-hours response service

Two pound facilities for roaming dogs

Dog training sessions (Wānaka & Queenstown)

Yearly community dog events

Education sessions in schools about dog safety

Dog bark collar loaning service

Signage on trails & reserves

Poo bags and dispensers

Lifelong dog registration tags

We've made paying your dog registration super easy. Just head to [📍 qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/make-a-payment](https://qldc.govt.nz/do-it-online/make-a-payment)

If you and your pooch have moved recently, don't forget to update their address online at [📍 qldc.govt.nz/update-dog-details](https://qldc.govt.nz/update-dog-details) or email the team at [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz).

Subscribe to Scuttlemutt - our free twice-yearly dog-related e-newsletter: [📍 qldc.govt.nz/scuttlemutt](https://qldc.govt.nz/scuttlemutt)



REMARKABLE LAUNDRY



## Premium Linen Hire for Holiday Homes

Remarkable Laundry delivers premium commercial laundry solutions and linen hire throughout Queenstown

**Enterprise? Enquire for more details.**

[info@remarkablelaundry.co.nz](mailto:info@remarkablelaundry.co.nz) or call +64 21 6608 11

# WALKING NETBALL

**A FUN, SOCIAL  
SESSION OF NETBALL**

No team required, just turn up and play!

## SESSIONS ARE RUN:

Wānaka Recreation Centre	Thursdays	10.00 - 11.00am
Queenstown Events Centre	Tuesdays	12.15 - 1.15pm

Visit [qldc.govt.nz](http://qldc.govt.nz) and search 'Walking Netball' to find out more.

**JUST  
\$6 PER  
SESSION!**

## Aqualand closes for deep clean

Alpine Aqualand at Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) will be closed from 28 June to 5 July inclusive for its annual deep clean and maintenance.

### INFO FOR MEMBERS:

Direct debit payments will be paused.

Prepaid & visit passes will have their expiry dates extended.

Want to keep swimming? Your membership/pass will work at Wānaka Recreation Centre during the closure.

Other facilities at QEC including the gym, indoor courts and group fitness studio remain open as normal. Thanks for your patience and we'll see you back in the pool on 6 July!

## Community Resilience Survey

Emergency Management Otago (EMO) is encouraging residents to take part in its annual Community Resilience Survey and be in to win one of five emergency grab bags.

The survey helps EMO better understand how prepared local communities are for emergencies, their awareness of local hazards, and where people prefer to receive information before and during an emergency. Results will help inform future community preparedness initiatives, public education campaigns and emergency planning. The survey closes on 29 June.



**Sport & Recreation**  
QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Locals honoured

Hearty congratulations to all those from – and with connections to – our district who received King’s Birthday Honours in June.

Two recipients have particularly close ties to QLDC:

Dr Leslie Van Gelder is a Glenorchy Librarian and, amongst many other governance roles, the current chair of our Climate Reference Group. Her ONZM was awarded for conservation and dark sky sanctuaries.



Michele Poole received her MNZM for services to Fire and Emergency New Zealand. Many will remember Michele from her previous time as QLDC Communications Manager.

## Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM)

Dr Colin Mantell (Wānaka) – Health education, obstetrics and gynaecology.

Ann Smaill (Arrowtown) – Speech-language therapy.

Dr Leslie Van Gelder (Glenorchy) – Conservation and dark sky sanctuaries.

## Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM)

Barbara Beable and Michael Beable (Wānaka) – Athletics.

Michele Poole (Dunedin) – Fire and Emergency New Zealand.

## The King’s Service Medal (KSM)

Alison Price (Arrowtown) – Music education.

Jonathan Walmisley (Wānaka) – Coastguard and Search and Rescue.

# Hey buoy!

A data-collecting buoy is now floating in Lake Hāwea. Installed by Otago Regional Council (ORC), it will measure a range of environmental parameters that can help indicate changes in lake health, improve understanding of climate related impacts, and support lake management decisions.

Similar buoys have been operating in Lake Whakatipu and Lake Wānaka since 2023, and Lake Hayes since 2018. Data is available in near real time from the environmental data portal on ORC’s website.



# Growing together: Autumn planting round-up

Autumn was a busy and rewarding season for planting across the district with thousands of native trees going into the ground thanks to the incredible efforts of our QLDC Parks team, iwi, community groups, schools and volunteers.

From large-scale restoration projects to local planting days, it's been a season defined by collaboration, care and commitment to creating healthier, more resilient landscapes for future generations.

## COUNCIL PROJECTS PROGRESSING

### EELY POINT, WĀNAKA

Work is underway at Eely Point as part of the site's long-term conifer succession plan.

Over summer, teams focused on removing saplings along the lakeshore, with further tree removals carried out through autumn as part of the first stage of the programme. In total, 25 conifers have been removed and 60 new trees planted - split evenly between native and exotic species.



*Before sapling removal*



*After sapling removal*

### PENINSULA BAY RESERVE, WĀNAKA

The first community planting day at Peninsula Bay Reserve in June marked an exciting milestone for this long-term restoration project. 600 plants in the ground in one afternoon!

Led by Te Kāmano with support from QLDC, the planting day focused on establishing native vegetation near the lakeshore following earlier removal of wilding conifers.

With a strong turnout from the local community, the day was all about planting well — not fast — setting the site up for long-term ecological success.

### TE KARARO QUEENSTOWN GARDENS

Tree succession planting continues at Te Kararo Queenstown Gardens, where a long-term programme is underway to replace ageing Douglas fir trees that have historically acted as a windbreak.

Following initial planting last spring, a further 80 native and exotic trees were added in May.

These included a diverse mix of native species alongside iconic exotics such as giant redwoods and cedars, helping ensure the Gardens evolve while retaining their unique heritage.



*Newly planted redwoods and cedars*

## COMMUNITY EFFORTS MAKING AN IMPACT

### PROJECT TOHU – RESTORATION AT SCALE

Project Tohu continues to go from strength to strength, with a further 130,000 native trees planted this season by QLDC contractors Te Tapu o Tāne.

That brings the total to an impressive 210,000 trees now in the ground at the former Coronet Forest site near Arrowtown.

Read more about this Council-led project in the two previous issues of this newsletter.



*Dedicated volunteers braved the cold and wet conditions to help plant at the Project Tohu site, setting the entrance up to flourish in the years ahead.*

### WHAKATIPU HIGHLIGHTS

It's been another strong season for community planting across the Whakatipu basin, with 19 community and volunteer groups coming together to plant more than 5,200 native trees on QLDC reserves with support from the Parks team.

#### PRECIPICE CREEK RESTORATION GROUP, GLENORCHY



*A special shout-out to the Precipice Creek Restoration Group in Glenorchy, who planted a further 280 natives along the creek – continuing their ongoing commitment to restoring this important waterway.*

#### KINGSTON COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY



*There was an awesome turnout at the Kingston Pump Track planting day, with the local community coming together in force to plant 110 natives. A big thank you to the Kingston Community Association, Whakatipu Reforestation Trust and the QLDC Parks team.*

## A COLLECTIVE EFFORT WORTH CELEBRATING

This season's planting success reflects the power of partnership between Council, iwi, community organisations, schools and volunteers. Whether it's a handful of trees planted at a local reserve or tens of thousands across a landscape, every contribution plays a part in strengthening biodiversity, improving water quality, and creating spaces the community can enjoy for generations to come.

Thank you to everyone who rolled up their sleeves, braved the conditions, and helped bring these projects to life.

# SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WHAKATIPU LAKEFRONT RESERVES



Morning walks. After-work swims. Weekend bike rides.

However you use it, our lakefront matters – and now’s your chance to help shape what comes next.

We’re asking for your ideas to help shape the new Frankton Arm and Sunshine Bay Reserve Management Plan (RMP).

**WHY NOW?**

The existing plan for these reserves dates back to 1991. A lot has

changed since then. Our population’s grown, how we use these spaces has evolved, and the pressures on the lakefront have increased.

It’s time to refresh the plan so it reflects how we live, play and care for these places today – and into the future.

The plan includes walking and biking trails, recreation opportunities, commercial

activities, landscape and biodiversity values, pest control and ecological restoration (like willow removal and revegetation).

**HAVE YOUR SAY**

We’re starting early - before the draft plan is written - to hear what matters most. Share your feedback by Monday 6 July at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

Jump onto Let’s Talk and drop a pin on the map to tell us:

-  what you love;
-  what could be better; and
-  your ideas for the future.



[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/frankton-arm-and-sunshine-bay-reserve-management-plan](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/frankton-arm-and-sunshine-bay-reserve-management-plan)



# E⚡MOTO NO GO'S

**X PUBLIC ROADS X TRAILS X RESERVES**

E-motorbikes are not permitted on public roads, trails and reserves.

You could be fined up to \$400. Parents and guardians may also be liable. Call the Police on \*555 to report illegal use.

**THROTTLE-POWERED,  
NOT PEDAL-ASSIST**

**MOTOR POWER  
300W OR MORE**



FOR MORE INFO:



[qldc.govt.nz/emotorbike](http://qldc.govt.nz/emotorbike)



## A new bridge for Frankton

Work will begin soon to construct Pūāhuru, a new walking and cycling bridge over State Highway 6 (SH6) in Frankton.

Funded by central government, Pūāhuru will provide a key connection from the top of Jim's Way and Ferry Hill Drive and across SH6 to Hardware Lane, where it will tie into the recently completed shared path from the SH6/SH6A intersection. This will create a continuous connection through to Queenstown Central.

The Kā Huanui a Tāhuna Alliance will build the bridge while Queenstown Trails will upgrade the connection along Jim's Way and build the shared path connection on the southern side to Hardware Lane. QLDC will enhance the safety of the active travel network by improving the crossings at Tucker Beach Road, Hawthorne Drive and Grant Road.

Pūāhuru provides a safe crossing for people walking and cycling, including school children, while also supporting smoother traffic flow on SH6 by separating active travel users from vehicles.

The name Pūāhuru is gifted by mana whenua Kāi Tahu. It reflects the cultural significance of the area at the confluence of the Shotover River design/ Kimiākau and Kawarau Rivers. Pūāhuru means warm, particularly of weather. Kāi Tahu use it to describe basking in warmth and comfort (Tamati-Elliffe, 2024).



Register with Let's Talk and receive our monthly consultation newsletter!



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

Our Let's Talk website makes it easy to contribute to local decision making by having a say on the projects and plans that matter to you and your community. There's lots of important stuff coming up this year, so head along to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) and keep an eye on what's out for feedback or consultation. And if you register with the site, we'll send a monthly update straight to your inbox so you'll never miss a chance to have your say. We also provide a snapshot right here, on the back page of every edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Mai.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:		WHAT'S COMING UP:			
<b>FUTURE OF OUR WHAKATIPU LAKEFRONT RESERVES</b> <i>Status:</i> Early engagement underway. Your ideas will feed into a review of the Frankton Arm and Sunshine Bay Reserve Management Plan. Feedback closes 6 July.	<b>SUNSHINE BAY RESERVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN</b> <i>Status:</i> Engagement expected to start in August.	<b>CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN WĀNAKA STRUCTURE PLAN</b> <i>Status:</i> Early stakeholder engagement underway.	<b>COMPREHENSIVE PARKING MANAGEMENT PLANS</b> <i>Status:</i> Engagement expected to start later in 2026.	<b>QLDC DISABILITY POLICY REVIEW</b> <i>Status:</i> Engagement expected to start in August	<b>DOG CONTROL BYLAW</b> <i>Status:</i> Formal consultation expected later in 2026.
UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS:					
<b>FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b> See page 8.	<b>CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATION</b> See page 10.	<b>DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2026-2027</b> See page 8.	<b>SPEED LIMIT CHANGES</b> See page 15.	<b>KAWARAU RIVERSIDE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> Submissions closed 29 March and a hearing was held on 22 April. A final plan will be presented to the Community and Environment Committee on 21 July.	

FIND FULL DETAILS OF ALL THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT [LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ](http://LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ)

## 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](mailto: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](http://qldc.govt.nz/venues)

## LIBRARIES

For library opening hours and locations please head to [qldclibraries.govt.nz](http://qldclibraries.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](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)  
In an emergency on the water always call **111**

## EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

Let's Talk Kōrero Mai is published bi-monthly by Queenstown Lakes District Council to inform ratepayers and residents of council activities.

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Feedback and ideas are welcome.

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