

Regenerative Recovery Advisory Group
Update to QLDC on 28 January 2012

Since we last spoke to you we have added three new Regenerative Recovery group members – Olivia Bonifant (who brings a younger perspective), Raymond Key and Michael Sly. They now sit alongside current members Leslie van Gelder, Monique Kelly, Neil Jacobstein, Erica Seville, Kathy Dedo, Annis Somerville and Julian Knights.

Over the last three months we have provided a lot of support to the QLDC recovery team, in particular Michelle Morss and Peter Harris. This was a key requirement of our Terms of Reference. The primary input has been in relation to developing the strategic thinking that will support the development of the Economic Diversification Plan – being led by Peter Harris. It was noted that the soil analysis, which I will talk about soon, in particular will be of lasting value. Our scenario planning helped them consider an approach for future planning initiatives. Overall the feedback has been that the RRAG has provided a sound forum for stress testing ideas and concepts, and for accessing insights and contacts from across the RRAG's members network.

Our soil analysis was a solid piece of research and was themed as “Our love for this Place”. It outlines the history and conditions that have shaped our District. Helps us understand why we are who we are and assesses the conditions required for new ideas to grow roots and thrive in the region. Amongst a number of other outputs it finds the need to link leaders in the district and for them to work more collaboratively, both locally and nationally.

We have had a very productive session with Carly Green – one of the members of the Climate Reference Group. That workshop reinforced the utmost importance of addressing climate change issues alongside our regenerative recovery. We've also had Benje Paterson join us to share the findings from his April 2020 Diversification in Queenstown Lakes report. We will ensure his hard mahi is incorporated in to our thinking.

Specific initiatives continue to be incubated in the Group – the latest is the creation of a solar power grid. This sits alongside other initiatives like the Glenorchy Science Centre, and an Angel Investor Network, Natural Fibres. The Queenstown Machine Learning Institute now sits outside the RRAG but it continues to evolve towards being a viable entity.

The next six months will see the RRAG engaging far more externally. Our community engagement will start in February with a focus on meeting with, and listening to, around 20 organisations. We believe we can lend specific expertise to organisations that are seeking to become more regenerative in nature or could turbo charge parts of their work that will bring greater economic diversification.

As we head towards the conclusion of our initial 12 month term we look forward to sharing our findings with Councillors directly via a group session.

Simon Telfer
Chair