

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // APRIL / MAY 2024 // ISSUE 160

THE QLDC NEWSLETTER
FORMERLY KNOWN AS SCUTTLEBUTT!

Grants for good



We're inviting applications for three different Council grant funds covering general community funding, events and waste minimisation, along with the launch of our new online application platform.

FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 8

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ARTS CENTRE
ON THE MOVE



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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 here.



**QUEENSTOWN
LAKES DISTRICT MAYOR
GLYN LEWERS**

Glyn.Lewers@qldc.govt.nz

ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

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



Councillor Craig 'Ferg' Ferguson
Craig.Ferguson@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Lisa Guy
Lisa.Guy@qldc.govt.nz



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

QUEENSTOWN-WHAKATIPU WARD

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



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



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



Councillor Esther Whitehead
Esther.Whitehead@qldc.govt.nz



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

WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

From the top of the Crown Range and all of the Upper Clutha area including 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 Barry Bruce
Barry.Bruce@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Lyal Cocks
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Councillor Cody Tucker
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WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA COMMUNITY BOARD



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Linda Joll
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John Wellington
John.Wellington@qldc.govt.nz

Councillor Bruce

Councillor Cocks

Councillor Tucker

Ladies Mile awaits minister's decision

DID YOU KNOW?
125 submitters raised more than 1,000 submission points to help shape Te Pūtahi Ladies Mile Variation when it was publicly notified in April 2023.

Approval of variation could create 2,400 homes.

Another important step in supporting the goal of meeting future housing demand was made in March when an independent hearings panel shared its recommendation that Council's Te Pūtahi Ladies Mile Variation be approved by the Minister for the Environment.

First notified in April 2023, the variation proposes to introduce a new Special Purpose Zone to the Proposed District Plan (PDP), allowing for around 2,400 new residential units at higher densities on the northern side of SH6 opposite Lake Hayes Estate. The zone would also provide a range of open spaces and community facilities, support commercial activities through a new town centre, and focus on providing active and public transport infrastructure to support a significant shift in how people get around the Whakatipu Basin.

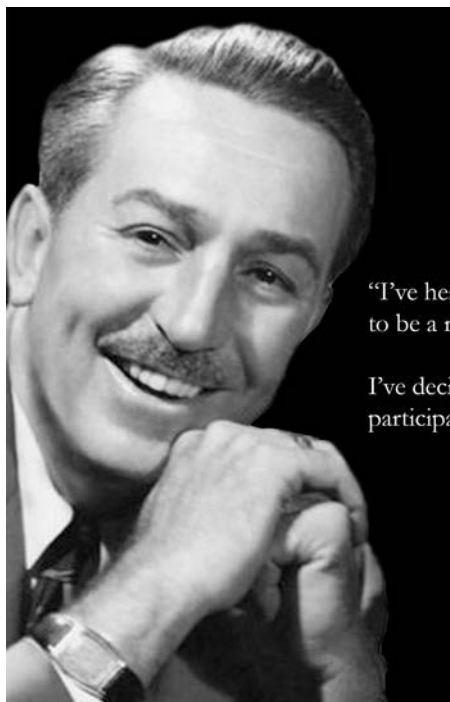
Reflecting the findings of our annual Quality of Life survey (see page 5), the independent hearing panel's draft recommendation acknowledged housing remains one of the biggest challenges faced in our district, and more land is required to accommodate increased density and more affordable types of housing.

Affordability was identified as causing significant housing pressure for short-term migrant and permanent workers alike, residents and families. Based on the evidence received, the independent panel found Te Pūtahi Ladies Mile to be an appropriate planning response to help address these issues.

A range of changes was also proposed as part of the draft recommendation, ranging from requiring a minimum density of 40 units per net hectare (for medium and higher density) over the zone, and removing parking maximums. Additional land on Lower Shotover Road has also been added to the variation as a result of the submissions process. The changes work to require higher density development than other zones locally and ensure efficient use of the land.

And if you're wondering how such an increase in housing may affect the district's roads and pathways, additional staging of infrastructure has also been added to ensure the development will be integrated with our transport network, including improvements at the intersection of Howards Drive and SH6, and safe crossings over both roads.

Council and submitters are currently being asked to identify and correct minor or technical errors/omissions in the draft recommendation before it is issued to Minister Penny Simmonds.



"I've heard there is going to be a recession
I've decided not to participate"

Walt Disney

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Defying the odds since 2004

The recloaking of Coronet Forest

The contract to deliver an aspirational regeneration project to “recloak” Coronet Forest with native planting has been awarded to charitable conservation organisation, Te Tapu o Tāne and E3 Scientific Limited. This marks the return of native species such as tawhai rauriki (mountain beech), kōwhai, kōhūhū (pittosporum) and kapuka (broadleaf) to their rightful place to restore the biodiversity values in the area.

The early harvest of Coronet Forest was carried out between January 2020 and May 2023, removing over 90,000 tonnes of timber from the site and leaving a blank canvas for regeneration.

The removal of such a vast wilding seed source is a huge win for the district as it works to eliminate the spread of the pest species Douglas fir.

Te Tapu o Tāne CEO Jana Davis says, “This project is all about partnership. It builds on the partnership between QLDC and mana whenua, Te Tapu o Tāne and Citycare Property, as well as the team at e3Scientific. He waka eke noa, we are all in this waka together.”

“On behalf of all our partners it is a privilege to be delivering this kaupapa for our hometown and building the Whakatipu Basin towards a deafening dawn chorus of taonga manu (native birds) and providing access to the largest indigenous reforestation project in the history of the basin.”

Council has also been working closely with the Coronet Recreational Working Group (representing local groups and organisations that use this area) on plans for a network of recreational trails for activities such as horse riding, biking, walking and paragliding.

We are working with our partners on the next steps for this exciting regeneration project and look forward to sharing more details soon. In the meantime, you can find out more about Te Tapu o Tāne on their website: tetapuotane.org

This project is closely aligned with our Climate and Biodiversity Plan by removing wilding source and helping to restore biodiversity in the Whakatipu basin. Visit climateaction.qldc.govt.nz for more

HOW'S LIFE? KEI TE PĒHEA TŌU AO?



More than 1,750 local residents provided valuable insights by completing our sixth annual Quality of Life survey.

The results show that housing and economic concerns continue to be the district's primary challenges.

Almost three quarters of respondents reported they had good or extremely good quality of life. Residents also have high ratings of pride in the district, and high satisfaction with community facilities and community safety.

While 21% of residents thought their general quality of life had improved over the last year, 31% responded that it had decreased. The rising cost of living was reported as a major contributing factor.

Other key issues influencing residents' wellbeing include housing insecurity and deficits in transport and health infrastructure. While those issues are outside Council control, we actively advocate to government on behalf of the community to improve the quality of these services in our district.

The environment also continues to be an increasing concern for residents, with a desire for environmental considerations to be at the forefront of Council decisions.

Council's own performance metrics have declined, with satisfaction with elected members at 15%, and overall Council performance at 15%. However, more residents are satisfied than dissatisfied with opportunities to have their say and the information we provide.

We'll continue to use insights and trends from these surveys to support improvements to community wellbeing through planning and decision-making.

The full 2023 results and those from previous surveys are available at [qldc.govt.nz/community/community-research](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/community/community-research)



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Arterial road milestones

Earlier in April there were some big milestones completed which has helped to take some of the pressure off the local roads.

Underground service upgrades are 90% complete along Frankton Road, and between Suburb and Melbourne streets. This meant the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna Alliance team was able to swap traffic over to the other

side of Frankton Road and reopen upper Suburb and Dublin streets to traffic.

Swapping traffic over on Frankton Road does require the closure of lower Suburb Street until September.

In a further milestone, the Melbourne Street / Frankton Road intersection is also expected to reopen to traffic in mid-May, reducing the construction footprint of the project for the duration of works.

By the end of this year, we expect you'll be able to drive on Stage 1 of the new arterial road in Queenstown.



Swapping traffic to the other side of the road reduces some of the pressure on our roading network.

Designs on new concrete retaining walls continue the cultural themes that were integrated into the Town Centre Upgrades. It's the result of collaboration between mana whenua, Aukaha (a mana whenua owned organisation), Kāi Tahu artists, and the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna Alliance.



SCAN TO
SIGN UP FOR
REGULAR
UPDATES



Frankton transport upgrades underway

NZTA Waka Kotahi has started work on the State Highway 6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvement project. The project kicked off with a funding announcement and ceremonial sod turning by Transport Minister Simeon Brown on 4 April.

The first phase will not include active work on the state highway during daytime hours. It will include:

- > Removing a number of trees from Frankton Golf Centre to make room for a new entrance and carpark for the facility.

- > Installing a new 1.4m diameter stormwater pipe and relocating utility services, so that they are in the right place once road layouts start changing.
- > Making a start on relocating utility services under Gray and McBride streets.

You'll still be able to walk and cycle around the area, and access to Queenstown Events Centre and playing fields will be maintained. A temporary path will be built around the side of the golf course.

Phase one is expected to run until September 2025.



The Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub improvement project is being delivered by the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna Alliance on behalf of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. You can read more at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/nz-upgrade-programme-queenstown-package/

Supporting those doing good in our 'hood



It's the time of year when we open up community funding rounds for applications. We have three funds covering general community funding, events and waste minimisation.

Our aim is to bolster community efforts to increase wellbeing, reduce or divert waste from landfill, and enhance the local economy.

There's some info about each fund here but you can find more details about funding criteria, key dates and how to apply on our website at qldc.govt.nz/community-funding



COMMUNITY FUND 2024-2027

WHAT: For organisations and projects that promote community wellbeing in our district.

WHO CAN APPLY: Local community groups and not-for-profit organisations.

WHEN: Open for applications 9 April-7 May 2024.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE: A diverse range of groups from those working in our social services sector, heritage and environment groups though to recreational projects such as building tracks and trails.

NOTE: Applications for this fund have been separated from the now-deferred Long Term Plan to ensure funding can be allocated to groups in the usual timeframe.



EVENTS FUND

WHAT: For large and small events held in all parts of the district.

WHO CAN APPLY: Event organisers.

WHEN: Open for applications 2 April-30 April 2024.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE: Wao Summit, Queenstown Marathon, Warbirds over Wānaka, New Zealand Golf Open, Arrowtown Autumn Festival.



A NEW WAY TO APPLY!

We're excited to launch a new online platform for our funding opportunities. It simplifies the application process and helps us allocate funding to initiatives that best contribute to the wellbeing of our people. Those seeking funding can use the site to apply, see the status of their application, submit required documents, and more.

More info at qldc.govt.nz/community-funding.



WASTE MINIMISATION COMMUNITY FUND

WHAT: For initiatives that reduce or divert waste from landfill and/or encourage community participation in waste minimisation.

WHO CAN APPLY: Community groups, local businesses, and individuals with great ideas that support reducing waste at the source and/or diverts material from landfill.

WHEN: Open for applications 15 April-17 May 2024.

PAST RECIPIENTS INCLUDE: Kiwi Harvest's Café Collections, Wakatipu Toy Library, Wānaka Community Workshop, Lake Hayes A&P Show.

To see more info about past recipients, check out the Waste Minimisation Community Fund page at qldc.govt.nz/wmcf

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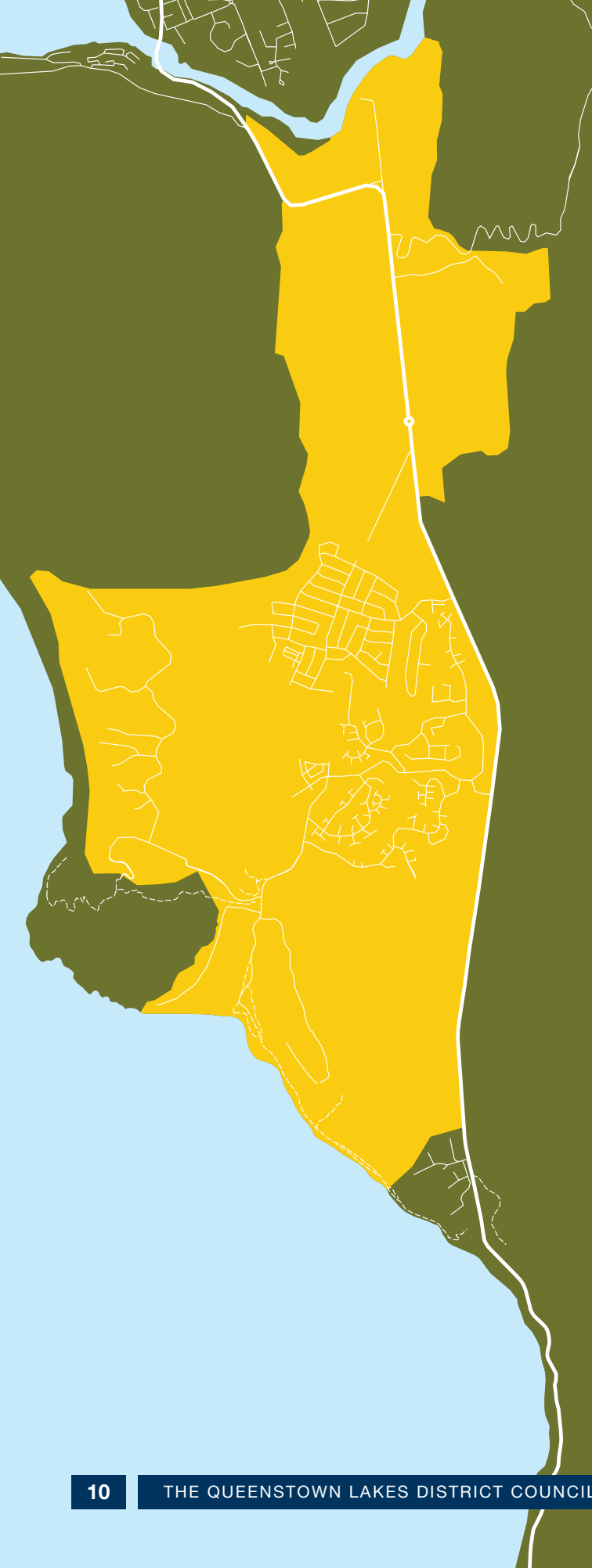


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Guiding development south of Kawarau River

We're drafting a structure plan for Te Tapuae Southern Corridor, the land that sits around Hanley's Farm, Jack's Point, and Homestead Bay.

It's one of six Priority Development Areas identified in the Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan 2021 (QLSP). To read the Spatial Plan visit qldc.govt.nz/queenstown-lakes-spatial-plan

In November 2023, we hosted public drop-in sessions in Hanley's Farm and Jack's Point to share information about the structure planning process, and collect information about community aspirations for development in the area.

WHAT'S A STRUCTURE PLAN?

A structure plan guides development in an area to make sure it includes the infrastructure and services required, and delivers what our community needs now, and will need in the future.

WHY ARE WE CREATING A STRUCTURE PLAN?

Development of land here is already underway, from Jack's Point through to Hanley's Farm and Parkridge. Creating a structure plan will make sure the houses, parks and reserves, services, and infrastructure our community needs are all considered and factored into the future of the area.

WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM OUR PUBLIC DROP-IN SESSIONS?

Participants at both drop-in sessions largely agreed that active travel trails were the most important feature needed, followed by ecological features.

We then asked those attending to share their thoughts on four key topics of future development, and found:

- > For **commercial/retail** options, participants felt there was an opportunity for some development with most interested in a small scale grocery store and/or dairy.
- > For **housing**, participants rated concepts of green and open spaces in conjunction with housing development. Low density development was the overall preference, but a third of participants were open to higher, mixed and increasing densities.
- > For **transport**, the vast majority focused on public and active travel, with frequency of future public transport raised alongside the need for cycle trails to avoid SH6.
- > And for **social infrastructure**, the majority of feedback centred around open spaces and parks, with some comments around access to the waterfront at Homestead Bay.

We also hosted a similar set of questions on our engagement platform Let's Talk, and found active travel trails continued to be a hot topic and widely supported by those sharing feedback online.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Thanks to everyone who has taken part in this process so far. Using community aspirations shared with us, we're now working to create a draft structure plan which we aim to have ready by the end of the year. We'll then share it with the public and look to hear your thoughts on what we got right, and what might need a tweak. Watch this space!

STAY IN THE LOOP

If you'd like more information on what we heard at November's drop-in sessions and online, be sure to check out our engagement report. You can find it, and register for email updates about this project, at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

Te Tapuae Southern Corridor structure plan is partially funded by the Government's Better Off Funding which was established as part of the Three Waters Reform process. Central government set aside \$500 million (nationwide) in Tranche 1 for councils to use to improve amenity and wellbeing outcomes for residents. This funding provides huge opportunity for councils to progress and accelerate projects while ensuring minimal impact to ratepayers.

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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.



SISTER CITIES STRENGTHEN BOND

QLDC, Destination Queenstown and Queenstown Business Chamber of Commerce were delighted to host a delegation from long-standing sister city Aspen, Colorado for four days in April. It was a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge about key areas of focus for both mountain destinations including regenerative tourism, housing, economic diversity, and arts and culture. Here are Mayor Lewers and City of Aspen Mayor Torre renewing the sister city proclamation at a business lunch at Sherwood. (Image credit – Jonny James Photography).



SUN SHINES FOR WHITE FERNS' WARM-UP

Summer sport might seem a distant memory when you read this but the weather certainly played ball during the White Ferns' and England A's recent stay at Queenstown Events Centre. Both sides were based there for training camps, and Sir John Davies Oval played host to two T20 warm-up matches as well as England A's three additional games against New Zealand A. Here are team captains Susie Bates (L) and Kirstie Gordon (R) before the first warm-up match.



WHAT A SHOW!

QLDC was back at the Wānaka A&P Show this year with a tent full of displays from our libraries team, Wastebusters and Dr Compost. There was also information about how to have your say on current and forthcoming Council projects via our Let's Talk community engagement website. We had a great spot next to the food area which provided plenty of opportunities for showgoers to drop by and enjoy some shade while chatting with local elected members.



SLOW FASHION A RUNWAY SUCCESS

Once again, the good folk at Wastebusters spent March celebrating Slow Fashion Month – a time for us all to think consciously about our clothing choices. Grant funding from QLDC helped them stage events like the Refashion show at Lake Wānaka Centre. Local supermodels paraded stunning second-hand outfits whilst the event also showcased local conscious designers and clothing creators with a focus on sustainability.



SPADES HIT DIRT ON TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENTS

As we reported on page 7, NZTA Waka Kotahi's SH6/6A Frankton Intersection and Bus Hub Improvement project kicked off with a ceremonial sod-turning on 4 April. Pictured (L to R) are Kāi Tahu ki Tuawhenua representative Justin Tipa, MP for Southland Joseph Mooney, Minister of Transport Hon Simeon Brown and Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Glyn Lewers. *(Image credit – Still Vision).*



PARKS WEEK POP-UP PICNIC

One of the events during Parks Week in March was a special Picnic in the Park down at Hanley's Farm. The free event featured a pop-up library, our Summerdaze games trailer and a classic Kiwi BBQ. The QLDC Libraries team also hosted the launch of the Whakatipu StoryWalk® - an initiative to encourage early literacy by taking children's picture books to places where they play outdoors.

From the Chambers

KIWI PARK RECEIVES 15-YEAR LEASE EXTENSION

Kiwi Park is a wildlife sanctuary for native animals (not just kiwi or birds!) in Queenstown and a much-loved visitor attraction.

The park has a wider conservation function and works to grow the population of threatened native species with an active breeding and wild release programme as well as planting native trees to rehabilitate the reserve on which it is built.

This land is leased from the Council and at its April meeting the Council agreed to extend the park's present lease by 15 years, until June 2047.

This extension significantly improves the park's ability to plan developments and secure investment in its activities as well as providing long-term certainty for the conservation activities it carries out.

PLAN FOR MOUNT IRON RESERVE COMING SOON

Wānaka's Mount Iron is an iconic landmark and a hugely popular recreation area that has been a Council asset since the purchase of nearly 100ha of land in December 2021.

At the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board meeting to be held on 23 May the Board will consider for public notification a draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for Mount Iron.

The draft has been developed through early discussion with the Board, interested parties and stakeholders.

It is hoped that many people will take the opportunity to submit on the plan, especially as the reserve was used by a staggering 180,000 people last year!

The draft RMP will cover such issues as preservation of the ecology, permitted recreational activities, and community management and governance of the reserve.

BYE-BYE TO SOME OLD POLICIES

Did you know that, under a policy adopted in 1995, mobile phones were not permitted to ring in Council Chambers during advertised meetings? Cell phone ownership was then in its infancy but, even so, it was perhaps a rather short-sighted policy to prohibit them in Chambers.

In a massive piece of work, Council officers gathered together all historic policies to establish if they had been superseded or were simply no longer relevant.

They discovered some quite strange policies while preparing a report for Council to consider, including a policy adopted in 2004 on QLDC's role in genetic engineering. Interesting because Council didn't then and doesn't now play any role in genetic engineering!

If you want to know more about the dozens of policies reviewed and since revoked and archived, take a look at Item 3 in the agenda reports for the Full Council meeting of 4 April. Like all agendas and minutes, it's available on our website. Look for the 'quick link' on our homepage. Or for our current policies - check out qldc.govt.nz/policies

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR RATES REMISSION OR POSTPONEMENT?

At its meeting on 4 April, Council noted the recent approval of a rates remission application by the Wānaka Community House Charitable Trust.

The trust met the definition of 'Community Sporting and Other Organisations' as per QLDC's rates remission and postponement policy.

The policy's objective is to facilitate the ongoing provision of community services or recreational opportunities for residents by supporting organisations that are not operated for private financial profit.

There are many such organisations in the district which would qualify for a rates remission, and Council also offers help for individuals under its rates postponement policy.

More information about both policies is available on our website: qldc.govt.nz/services/rates-property/rates-rebates-remission-postponement

Preparing for the worst

Did you know there's a 75% probability of an Alpine Fault earthquake in the next 50 years, and an 80% chance that it will be a magnitude 8+ event.

In such a large earthquake, civil defence and emergency responders will be overwhelmed. They will need to prioritise help to those most in need.

What does it mean for you and your household if the power is out? What if you can't get to the supermarket? How will you communicate if the internet and phone lines are down? These are all likely scenarios in an Alpine Fault earthquake.

The good news is there are free and low-cost ways you can prepare now, such as storing bottled water and making a plan with your loved ones.

- > For handy tips to get you started check out getready.govt.nz
- > Learn more about the Alpine Fault at af8.org.nz
- > Sign up to Otago Gets Ready for free emergency alerts – see below

ARE YOU READY?

Sign up to Otago Gets Ready, a two-way communication tool which helps people better prepare for emergencies and be more resilient when they occur: otago.getsready.net



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 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





Getting active at Arthurs



As you read this, we'll be putting the finishing touches on a new shared pathway that makes it safer and easier for people to walk, bike or scoot between Arthurs Point and Queenstown.

The project involved sealing the existing rural trail along Gorge Road from McChesney Bridge, linking into the Matakauri wetlands trail which received upgrades to its surface and drainage but remained unsealed. We also sealed the road shoulder that runs adjacent to the wetlands to provide a more direct option for commuters.

The shared route then starts again along Robins Road and finishes at the intersection of Memorial and Camp Streets. The team prioritised the section with safety features near Queenstown Primary School so it was completed before students returned after summer.

The project was fully funded by the previous government's Transport Choices package announced in December 2022.

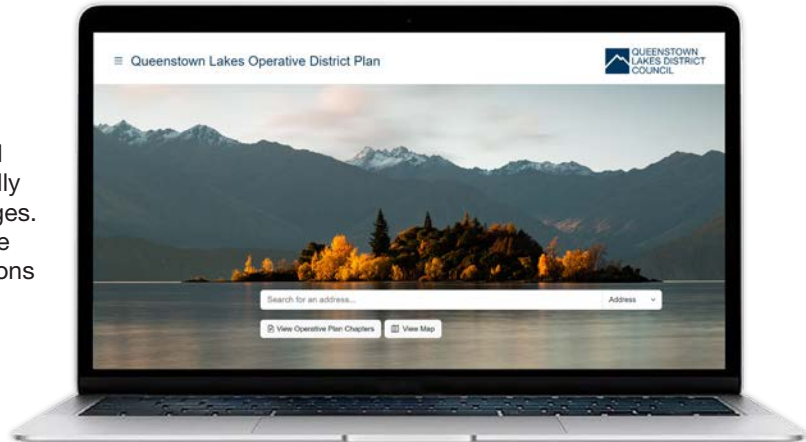
Plans are better when they're digital

By the time you read this, our brand new electronic formats of the Operative District Plan and Proposed District Plan should be live and ready for use.

These 'ePlans' (see what we did there?) can be found in the same place on our website where you'd normally access our District Plan, but you'll notice a few changes. Mainly, because these plans are hosted online, they're easier to use and you'll be able to see all plan provisions that apply to a property in one single place.

NEED HELP?

You'll find heaps of guidance and a video explaining the new ePlans here: qldc.govt.nz/eplan



Lest we forget

This issue of Let's Talk was due to be published close to Anzac Day.

To commemorate those who have died in the service of our country, and the contribution of all those who have served, Council offices and libraries will once again be closed on Thursday 25 April.

Facilities at Queenstown Events Centre and Wānaka Recreation Centre will be open from 1.00-8.00pm, and Paetara Aspiring Central from 1.00-5.00pm.



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**The old building
will be repurposed
as a visual arts hub**

Arts building on the move

If you've been out and about in central Queenstown you might have noticed that fencing has gone up around the former playcentre and arts centre buildings.

This is because contractors are getting the arts centre building ready for its relocation to Country Lane in Frankton!

Work began on 8 April to safely remove asbestos from the playcentre building. Once this is

complete, the building will be demolished.

This will allow space for the arts centre building to be split into three sections and relocated to its new home by truck. This is expected to happen by June.

Country Lane will then restore the building to its former glory and operate it as a visual arts hub with a mix of artists' studios, gallery space and arts related businesses, expected to open beginning of 2025.

Once the buildings have been removed, we'll be looking at options to expand the carpark in the medium term. We'll update more on this in the coming months.

Summer of biking

It's been an awesome summer for biking in our district with several initiatives encouraging people to switch from four wheels to two whenever they can.

QLDC worked with Lightfoot Initiative and Wao Aotearoa to promote February's Aotearoa Bike Challenge. Participants earned points by riding and encouraging others, giving them opportunities to win prizes and stoke some friendly rivalry among local employers.

Free events like maintenance sessions and 'Coffee & Kai Pitstops' helped boost the number of recorded trips by 82% and distance travelled by 64% compared to last year's results.

Council and Wao Aotearoa went tandem again by providing managed bike parking at the Wānaka A&P Show in March. More than 300 people used the service that also offered free maintenance checks and spot prizes.

Finally, huge congrats to the tamariki aged 4-10 who won our 'design a bike helmet' competition. Otis, Halo, Oti, Jojo, Jack, Aria, Isla, Kate, Emma and Joshua were chosen from hundreds of entries to have their masterpieces made into one-of-a-kind, custom-painted skid lids.



New opening hours for Kingston Library

The library at 48 Kent Street is now open a little earlier on Wednesdays:

WEDNESDAYS 3.00-5.00pm.

SATURDAYS 11.00am-1.00pm.

For any queries outside these hours, please contact Frankton Library. All details are on our libraries website codc-qldc.govt.nz



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QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

Next steps for Urban Intensification Variation

Last spring we invited public submissions on a proposed Urban Intensification Variation (UIV) to the Queenstown Lakes District Plan.

A response to a government directive to ensure urban environments are well functioning and meet the changing needs of our communities, the UIV has been designed to address the considerable growth pressure and high demand for a range of housing types faced by our district.

In short, it would enable intensification in suitable locations across the district including near commercial activities, or areas with existing or planned access to frequent public transport services.

We plan to notify the summary of decisions requested on the proposal in May. This will allow original submitters and anyone with an interest greater than the general public to make further submissions in support or opposition to any of the 1,259 original submissions made.

If you made a submission on the proposed UIV, you'll receive an email or letter notifying you when further submissions are underway. After that, you'll be able to present to a hearings panel.

Keen to understand how variations work?

You'll find a handy guide on plan changes, variations and the submission process at qldc.govt.nz/plan-changes-and-variations

Our New Zealander of the Year

Huge congratulations to Queenstown's Dr Jim Salinger CRSNZ for being named Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year 2024!

Jim, who has dedicated almost 50 years to advancing climate science, is recognised as one of the first to address global warming and was a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.

In a letter of congratulations, Mayor Glyn Lewers thanked Jim for his resilience and hope, as well as his outstanding commitment to our district's Climate Reference Group that provides independent guidance to Council.

As the Mayor wrote on behalf of the district: "We are very lucky to have you".

Find out more about the Climate Reference Group and Council's response to the climate emergency at our new, dedicated website climateaction.qldc.govt.nz



Testing private water supplies

Remember if you own a private drinking water supply it's your responsibility to maintain, monitor and treat it.

Arsenic occurs naturally in some bore water around our district so ensure you include that in testing.

For a list of IANZ accredited laboratories visit taumataarowai.govt.nz



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Liz Oh climbing in Patagonia / credit - Kim Ladiges

Epic festival returns

Get in the mood for an epic winter with this year's NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival in Wānaka, Queenstown and online.

People have been heading to the festival for 22 years to watch world-class films, listen to fascinating talks, experience the art shows and join the adventure film school. It appeals to real and armchair adventurers of all ages with free family shows and youth programmes.

Italian Simone Moro – the only alpinist to have completed four 8,000m ascents in winter – headlines the 2024 programme. He'll be joined by Australian naturalist and documentary

filmmaker Frederique Olivier speaking about her 22 seasons in the polar regions, NZ whitewater kayaker and adventurer Shannon Mast, and local legend Guy Cotter who'll be discussing his recently published memoir Everest Mountain Guide.

Organisers are committed to minimising the environmental impact of the event and raise money for related causes through an auction and a national tour.



Wānaka festival
21-25 June
Queenstown festival
27-28 June
Online festival
Films available for the whole month of July



Revamp for online education hub

Our economic development team is providing funding for a significant revamp of a website that highlights the variety of training providers and education opportunities available across the district.

The Study Queenstown website promotes the district as a place to build new skills for a range of exciting careers.

The site's listings include tourism qualifications, a flight school, AI technology training, ski and snowboard instructor training, and a range of other education options.

Domestic and international students contribute to our local economy through their spending and the internships and work they do for local businesses. Training options also give locals a chance to advance or change their career.

Check out the website
studyqueenstown.com

Small books on big issues!

BWB BRIDGET WILLIAMS BOOKS

FREE with your library card!

Explore more at govt.nz/library-online

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

libraries
whare pukapuka
Queenstown Lakes

Bus fares are changing for 13 to 24-year-olds from 1 May

The government subsidy for half-price fares will end on 30 April. Register and top up your Bee Card for discounted fares* now. Find your fare at orc.govt.nz/fares or scan the QR code.

*Fares are higher without a Bee Card. There are no changes to fares for Community Services and SuperGold card holders.

Orbus

0800 672 8778

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



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

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 these Let's Talk | Kōrero Mai newsletter.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS TOPICS:

USER FEES AND CHARGES

Formal consultation

Submissions close 5 May

FEEDBACK HAS CLOSED AND SUBMISSIONS ARE BEING REVIEWED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

OUTDOOR DINING POLICY

Community engagement closed 24 March

RIVERSIDE ROAD RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Community engagement closed 25 March

CREATIVITY AND CULTURE STRATEGY

Community engagement closed 19 April

WHAT'S COMING UP OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS:

2024-2034 LONG TERM PLAN

Formal consultation expected June/July

BROTHEL CONTROL BYLAW

Formal consultation expected May/June

MT IRON RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Formal consultation expected May/June

WĀNAKA ELDERLY HOUSING

Formal consultation expected June

WĀNAKA TRANSPORT NETWORK OPTIMISATION BUSINESS CASE

Community engagement

WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION BYLAW

Formal consultation

AND MUCH MORE

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**

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

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

Sam White ✉ sam.white@qldc.govt.nz

Feedback and ideas are welcome.

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