

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2026 // ISSUE 175

Landmark Regional Deal signed

Otago Central Lakes councils and the New Zealand Government signed a Regional Deal on 6 October aimed at ensuring the region can keep pace with growth while remaining a great place to live, work and visit.

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BYLAW



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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:

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



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Chris Hadfield
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Councillor Smith

Councillor King

Councillor Tucker



Where the rubber hits the road: spending priorities for the next 10 years

Councillors are busily working through a series of workshops to inform the preparation of Council's budget for the next ten years – looking at what should be spent but also how it should be paid for, and by who.

We were recently presented with a list of capital expenditure projects to prioritise. QLDC spends chunks of money on a range of projects for three key reasons:

1	Renewals
Something has reached the end of its life and has to be replaced. An example of this is the hydroslide facility at Queenstown Events Centre.	
2	Improved levels of service
Think of these as an upgrade. A widened footpath to cater for a wider range of users, or installing UV treatment for a community water supply where there wasn't one previously.	
3	Growth
Council needs to budget for the facilities that we know we will need across the district as our population grows. Think additional playing fields or community facilities such as halls, meeting rooms, parks and playgrounds that meet the demand from our latest suburb.	

Each year, for the past few years, QLDC has budgeted around \$100m a year to invest in these types of projects. So our starting point is a \$1bn spend over ten years.

The list that came to Councillors had a total cost of \$2bn. Of the total, around \$1.5bn were classed as 'strategic' projects. Big ticket items that had been agreed to by previous Councillors but still hadn't been implemented.

All of the projects before us were worthy of consideration, but two things stood out to me. Firstly, the cost of individual projects was quite confronting. A number of Councillors argued that we need to do further work to ensure we are getting good value for the ratepayer and I share that view.

The second thing was that a significant part of the big ticket bill was for Queenstown-based projects. Councillors rightly argued for the need to balance investment across the whole district – especially in the knowledge that the Upper Clutha is experiencing significant growth.

Did we manage to cut the list in half to fit into the \$1bn budget? No. This is still work in progress. Part of our thinking has to go to considering who else can provide funding or delivery for some of these projects.

We absolutely need to invest to enable our communities to thrive. But we can't do that at any cost.

Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover

Celebrating 150 years of library services

We're celebrating 150 years of library services across our district. For a century and a half, our libraries have been at the heart of community life, connecting people with knowledge, ideas and each other.

THE HISTORY OF QUEENSTOWN LIBRARY

In 1876 construction began on a public library. Attached to the old courthouse (now the 1876 pub), the library building ① was one of Queenstown's earliest stone buildings. It served the community for nearly 100 years before growth and maintenance challenges led to plans for its demolition. A passionate community campaign, supported by the Queenstown Historical Society and people across New Zealand, fought to save the building. Following a public referendum, preservation won and plans for a new library incorporating the historic structure moved ahead. The Malaghan Library ② opened in 1971 to great community celebration.

As Queenstown continued to grow, larger premises were eventually needed, and the current library ③ opened in 1999 following the redevelopment of the former Queenstown RSA carpark.

Today, Queenstown Library remains a place to read, learn, create, connect and share, continuing a 150-year tradition of serving the community.

Find out more at [1 qldclibraries.govt.nz/150-years](https://qldclibraries.govt.nz/150-years)

ONE LIBRARY ✦ THREE CHAPTERS ✦ 150 YEARS



Artist Alan D. Cooke '74

Building the Long Term Plan

How should we fund local services and infrastructure over the next ten years?

That's one of the big questions Councillors are working through as part of a series of workshops to help develop the draft Long Term Plan 2027–2037.

They're looking at how Council raises revenue and shares costs across the community, including:

- > How different Council activities should be funded and who should contribute.
- > Different rating and funding tools.
- > Visitor economy funding and the role visitors play in contributing to the services and infrastructure they use.
- > How infrastructure needed for growth should be funded.

No decisions are being made at this stage. Councillors are considering options and providing direction to staff as the draft plan is developed.

These workshops are public, so you can attend in person at Council Chambers (10 Gorge Road, Queenstown), or watch the recordings at [youtube.com/@qldcinfo](https://www.youtube.com/@qldcinfo)

THE LAST WORKSHOPS FOR THE YEAR WILL BE:

29 October, 1.00–4.00pm

Refinement: Refining capital project and operating expenditure planning, financial metrics.

19 November, 10.00am–1.00pm

Final Review: Review of the draft Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy, key policies and financial measures.

Formal consultation on a draft Long Term Plan is expected in March next year.

Find out more at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/ltp27

What's a Revenue and Financing Policy?

All councils must adopt a Revenue and Financing Policy. Put simply, it sets out who pays for what and why. It considers questions like:

- > Who benefits from a service, and who should contribute?
- > How should costs be shared between residents, businesses, developers, visitors and future generations?
- > What should be funded through rates?
- > What should be paid for by users through fees and charges?

As our district grows and changes, it's important to ensure the way Council funds its activities remains fair and sustainable. In previous feedback, our community told us Council's rating model was difficult to understand and raised concerns about affordability, fairness, and transparency.

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HOW SMART

Robins Road wastewater upgrades

Robins Road remains closed while crews remove sheet piles and prepare the road for a safe reopening in November ahead of the Queenstown Marathon.

We recognise the length of this project and changes to previously communicated dates have been frustrating. We sincerely thank residents, businesses and road users for their continued patience and understanding.

A detour via Gorge Road is available during the closure. Please allow extra travel time and follow traffic management signage.

For more information visit qldc.govt.nz/robins-rd-ww

Businesses in the area remain open and accessible during construction, and we encourage people to continue supporting local traders.



Pipe installation between access pits.



Final touches being applied to the Recreation Ground, including topsoil placement and grass seeding.

Otago Central Lakes Regional Deal signed



The Deal creates a long-term partnership between local and central government to work together, alongside mana whenua and the private sector to better coordinate planning and investment over the next 30 years.

Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover said it represents a significant opportunity for the region focused on making growth work better for local communities.

The Deal is built around eight interconnected priority areas that will guide investment, decision-making and delivery. Combined, these priorities enable the housing, infrastructure, services, investment and partnerships required to support thriving communities across the region.

THE EIGHT KEY PRIORITY AREAS

1		Funding and financing mechanisms to enable growth
2		Affordable, quality housing
3		Reliable transport
4		Provision of health services
5		Energy resilience and innovation
6		Attracting investment and talent
7		Enabling key sectors
8		Partnership for growth

Within six months of signing, the parties will develop an Implementation Plan that translates the commitments in the Deal into a programme of agreed actions for approval by the responsible Ministers, Mayors and Chair. Read the full story and download a copy of the Otago Central Lakes Deal brochure at qldc.govt.nz/news



From the Chambers

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

POOLS GET A CLEAN ENERGY MAKEOVER

Our district's two main aquatic facilities are preparing for a greener future, with plans to swap out LPG heating for modern electric heat pumps at Alpine Aqualand (Frankton) and Wānaka Recreation Centre. The move is expected to dramatically cut carbon emissions while also trimming energy bills, proving that even swimming pools can learn a few new tricks.

Together, the upgrades are forecast to save around \$730,000 a year in energy costs and reduce emissions by about 1,080 tonnes annually.

The projects come with a slightly larger-than-expected price tag, so the Council has agreed to move funding from other budgets to allow the project to proceed. The work is planned to take place over next year, helping Council move closer to its climate goals while keeping pool users comfortably warm.

ANNUAL REPORT GETS THE GREEN LIGHT

QLDC's Annual Report for 2025/26 was officially adopted at the 8 October Full Council meeting. The report gives the community a detailed look at how Council performed over the past year.

It shows that QLDC recorded an operating surplus of \$119.7 million, which certainly sounds impressive at first glance. But before anyone starts searching for a secret hidden vault, staff were quick to point out that much of the figure relates to \$93 million of vested assets contributed by developers. In other words, it's roads, pipes and other infrastructure rather than a giant treasure chest of spare cash. Useful? Absolutely. Spendable? Not quite. In fact, those assets also come with ongoing maintenance and depreciation costs that Council will need to fund over time.

QLDC received a clean audit opinion and received praise for delivering business as usual while navigating a period of significant change and reform. Elected members

also acknowledged the considerable work involved across the organisation to collect performance data, prepare accounts, respond to auditors and produce the final document.

SAFER WATERS THROUGH SMARTER ENFORCEMENT

The Navigation Safety Bylaw was adopted in early 2025. Since then Council officers have been working alongside the Ministry of Transport and Parliamentary Counsel Office to develop new regulations. These regulations were reported to the Council at its 8 October meeting and give the Harbourmaster a faster and more practical way to deal with breaches of the Navigation Safety Bylaw.

The new regime means some navigation offences will now result in infringement notices and fines, rather than requiring the time and expense of court action. The goal is straightforward: encourage safer behaviour on the water and improve compliance across the district.

Not every proposal made the final cut. A suggested infringement offence for vessel identification requirements was removed following government review. Vessel owners must still display identification as required, but compliance in this area will continue to rely on education, monitoring, signage, and engagement rather than fines.

The overall message is clear: there are now more consequences for skippers who ignore the rules, but the focus remains on promoting safe and responsible use of the district's lakes and rivers.

‘Peanut’ improvements to key intersection

Work to create a much-improved intersection for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians at the junction of Golf Course Road and Ballantyne Road in Wānaka began in mid-October.

The peanut-shape design – effectively two small, connected roundabouts – fits within the existing intersection better than a larger conventional one, and encourages vehicles to travel through at lower speeds, improving safety for all road users.

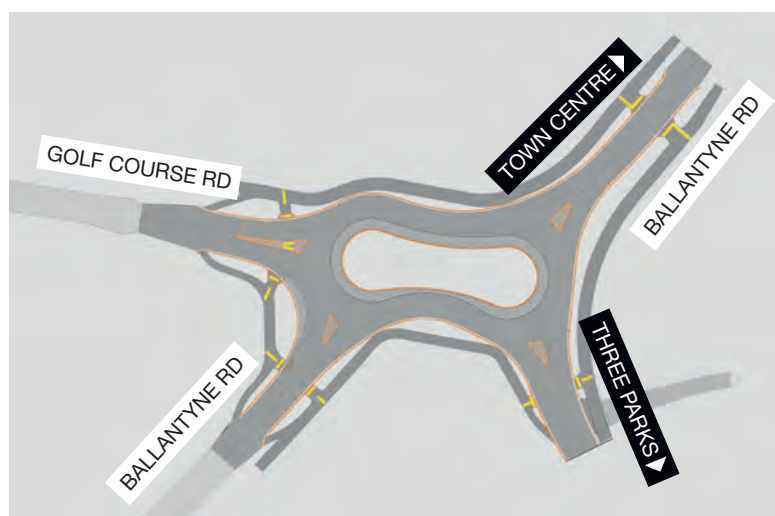
To complete the work as quickly as possible, the intersection will be closed to through traffic until December. Businesses in the area remain open and access to properties will be maintained.

A detour is in place via Wānaka-Luggate Highway and Sir Tim Wallis Drive (via Three Parks), or Brownston Street and McDougall Street. Pedestrian access remains throughout the works; cyclists will need to dismount and walk.

We expect to complete the main works in December, with the intersection open for the Christmas holiday period. Work outside the carriageway may continue in the new year, and some night work may be required to help complete the project efficiently.

As well as replacing the existing temporary roundabout, the new intersection will include a fourth leg connecting directly to Three Parks. The upgraded intersection will also enable the Schools to Pools active travel route to be extended.

We acknowledge this important, long-term upgrade will create disruption and thank residents, businesses and road users for their patience.



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Work begins on airport master plan

Work to develop a master plan for Wānaka Airport is underway, with specialist advisors appointed to support Council's project team.

The master plan builds on the independent Future Review of Wānaka Airport completed in 2025, which attracted more than 1,100 submissions after extensive community engagement.

The Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee has begun its role as the programme's community reference group, providing feedback on emerging issues, opportunities and draft outputs as the master plan develops.

Aviation consultants Egis will continue to provide specialist advice throughout the planning process, ensuring continuity between the Future Review, Council's adopted direction and preparation of the draft master plan.

The draft is expected to be presented to Council in 2027. If approved for consultation, the wider community will have an opportunity to provide feedback before Council considers adoption of a final master plan.

Read the full story at qldc.govt.nz/news



HOW'S LIFE?

KEI TE PĒHEA TŌU AO?

ज़िन्दगी कैसी चल रही है?

どんな毎日をお過ごしですか?

COMO ANDA A VIDA?

生活过得怎么样?

¿CÓMO VA TODO?

Our annual Quality of Life Survey opens on 9 November, and we'd love to hear from you.

What do you enjoy most about living in our district? What challenges are you facing, and what opportunities do you see for the future? This is your chance to share your experiences and tell us what matters most to you, your whānau and your community.

The survey will run until 7 December, so keep an eye out and have your say. Your feedback will help us build a better understanding of life for people in our district and inform future planning and decision-making. Plus, you'll go in the draw to win one of four \$250 Prezzy Cards.

Milestone for Upper Clutha wastewater scheme

The team on the Upper Clutha Wastewater Conveyance Scheme recently marked a significant milestone: laying the final major section of pipeline linking Lake Hāwea to the Project Pure Wastewater Treatment Plant near Wānaka Airport.

This marks the completion of almost 20km of pipeline installed over the past 12 months, including two crossings at Albert Town Bridge and Camp Hill Bridge.

While this is a significant achievement, work continues including pressure testing, installation of air valves, and road reinstatement. As a result, you'll still see crews working at various locations along the pipeline route.

We thank the community for your understanding, support and ongoing patience as we complete this major infrastructure project.



Fulton Hogan crews celebrated the milestone with a special cake!



Final major section of 315mm diameter pipe connected to the manifold at Mount Iron Roundabout.

Emergency tanks installed at Riverbank Road Pump Station

Riverbank Road has been a hive of activity with six emergency storage tanks successfully installed at the pump station. These will provide additional emergency storage capacity and resilience for the Upper Clutha wastewater network in the event of operational issues, maintenance activities or unexpected outages at the pump station.

Manoeuvring the emergency tanks into place.



Good news for Albert Town residents

We're also pleased to share that the pedestrian and cycle trail between Templeton Street and Monteith Road will be reinstated to a higher standard than its previous condition. At the time of writing, this work was scheduled for mid-October.

'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.



VIGIL FOR NEPAL

Queenstown Nepalese Society recently brought the community together for a candlelight vigil and memorial service following the devastating floods in Nepal. The gathering provided an opportunity to remember those who lost their lives, support those affected, and stand in solidarity with families and communities facing immense loss. The event also marked the launch of a local fundraising initiative to support disaster relief efforts in Nepal.



BEFORE



AFTER

TRAILS REPAIRS: PROGRESS ON THE GROUND

August's weather event left its mark on parts of our trail network, but the QLDC Parks team has been hard at work getting things back into shape. While some repairs are still underway, we're making solid progress ahead of the busy spring and summer season. Check out these before-and-after photos from Wharehuanui Trail that links Arrowtown and Arthurs Point.



GLORIOUS END TO PLANTING SEASON

Te Kāhano's final planting day of the season was an absolutely stunning morning at Wishbone Falls in the Matukituki Valley. Around 30 people planted 165 natives and spent time maintaining the existing plantings (as well as enjoying the scenery, sun and lovely cooling spray from the falls!). Huge thanks to all our local not-for-profit groups and volunteers for their mahi and expertise when supporting conservation and biodiversity projects across the district.



MIGRANT COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

When our migrant communities celebrate their national festivals they always throw a great party! Recent events have included Ikatan Masyarakat Indonesia di Queenstown bringing a sea of red and white to Queenstown Memorial Hall in August to celebrate the 81st anniversary of Indonesia's independence. Then, on 18 September, our local Chilean community used the same venue for *Fiestas Patrias*, their Independence Day celebrations featuring traditional Cueca dancing, tasty food and plenty of festive spirit (pictured). A few days later, Queenstown Chinese Community Association welcomed friends and families to Arrowtown Community Centre to celebrate the Moon Festival, one of China's most treasured traditions.

Alpine Waters: a first look

The name of the new council-owned water company has been revealed.

Established by QLDC under central government's Local Water Done Well reforms, Alpine Waters will start delivering the district's water services from 1 July next year.

Board of Directors chairman Dr Julian Elder said deciding on a name was an important step in building the company.

"While there is still a lot of work to be done, a name makes the company real for people, with colours and an identity drawn from the landscape and rivers that connect our communities. We have been deliberate about doing this simply and efficiently to create something that belongs to the entire district."

Dr Elder said a name was only the start – "who we are will really be shown in how we turn up and deliver for our communities".

For residents and businesses, nothing changes for now. QLDC will continue to provide drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services while working closely with Alpine Waters to ensure a smooth transition ahead of 1 July 2027.

For more information visit
qldc.govt.nz/alpine-waters



Sport & Rec round-up

QEC indoor court expansion

Indoor space at Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) could be set to expand as Councillors consider a four-court extension in November.

Interested in the project? Sign up to receive updates or ask questions via our dedicated webpage

qldc.govt.nz/qec-indoor-court-expansion



Wooden floor coming to WRC

A new sports wooden floor is set to be installed at Wānaka Recreation Centre (WRC) this summer.

Kinder to ankles and knees, the new floor is expected to encourage many in our community to return to indoor sports.

The indoor courts will need to close from 1 December until 1 February while the work is completed.

Regular user? Keep an eye out for replacement sessions at Paetara Aspiring Central, off Reece Crescent. We're extending opening hours here to accommodate as many bookings and sports as possible until the courts at WRC reopen.

Helping local businesses benefit from battery storage

A new initiative is helping medium to large energy users across Queenstown Lakes explore battery storage, with up to 40% EECA co-funding towards eligible project costs.

The Business Battery Project is being delivered by the Queenstown Electrification Accelerator (QEA) and Queenstown Lakes District Council, with funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.

The initiative brings together funding, expert advice and collective purchasing to help businesses understand whether a battery could work for them and support suitable projects through to installation

WHAT CAN BATTERIES OFFER BUSINESSES?

Batteries can help businesses lower electricity bills by storing electricity when prices are lower and using it during more expensive periods. They can also reduce peak demand charges and potentially avoid costly grid connection upgrades.

For businesses with solar, batteries store surplus generation for use when it's needed, including for EV charging and other electric equipment. With the right system design and backup capability, they can also keep essential equipment running during power outages, improving business resilience.

WHO IS THE PROGRAMME FOR?

The programme is aimed at medium to large energy users, with a minimum battery size of 125 kW. It is particularly relevant to businesses with high electricity bills. The potential savings and benefits will depend on each business's electricity use, tariff and site requirements.

QEA will undertake a free, fully funded initial assessment to help interested businesses understand the opportunity before deciding whether to progress to a detailed feasibility study.

WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE COSTS

Alongside the available co-funding, QEA and specialist partner Revolve Energy will undertake a bulk procurement process to further reduce costs for participating businesses. Bringing projects together will help negotiate competitive pricing and streamline purchasing. Businesses can work with Revolve Energy or their own

suitably qualified consultant and still access the bulk procurement arrangements.

Expressions of interest close on 10 November. If you run, or know, a business that could benefit, visit qea.nz/business-battery-project to learn more and register interest.



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How do we let the dogs out?

Have your say on the proposed Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.

Dogs are a big part of life in our district – paws down! With around 6,000 registered pooches, they're everywhere: on the trails, in the parks and snoozing on the couch. They're not just pets; they're part of the whānau.

That's why we want to hear from you as we review the rules that help keep our dogs, people and public spaces safe and enjoyable for everyone.

WHAT ARE WE CONSULTING ON?

The Dog Control Policy provides a framework for our district. The Dog Control Bylaw helps put the policy into practice.

TOGETHER, THEY COVER THINGS SUCH AS:

- where dogs can and can't go;
- when dogs need to be on a lead or under control;
- rules for keeping dogs in public places;
- the number of dogs that can be kept at a property; and
- responsibilities for dog owners, including cleaning up after their dogs.

This review is about making sure the rules continue to work as our district grows and changes.



DOG CONTROL POLICY & BYLAW REVIEW

FETCHING YOUR FEEDBACK

During early engagement last year, we heard from hundreds of you about what matters to you and your dogs.

COMMON THEMES INCLUDED:

- keeping shared trails and public spaces safe and enjoyable;
- protecting areas where children play;
- balancing the needs of dog owners with the wider community; and
- making sure the rules are practical, clear, and easy to understand.

We've taken that feedback on board and developed a new draft policy and bylaw for formal consultation.

NOW IT'S TIME TO PUT THE DRAFT PROPOSALS TO THE PACK.

Whether you're a dog owner, a dog lover, a parent, a runner, a walker, a business owner, or simply someone who shares the district's public spaces, we want to hear from you.

Formal consultation opened on 12 October and will close on 9 November.

Read the draft policy and bylaw, and make your submission at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/dog-control-bylaw

Every submission helps us understand what matters to our community before decisions are made, so don't let this one go barking up the wrong tree!



LOOKING AFTER

KAWARAU RIVERSIDE

RESERVES

One of Frankton's much-loved green spaces now has a long-term plan to help guide how it's protected, enhanced and enjoyed for years to come.

Councillors adopted the Kawarau Riverside Reserve Management Plan in August following community consultation and public hearings. Community feedback showed strong support for protecting the natural character of the reserves, enhancing biodiversity, and improving access to the river.

These priorities have been reflected throughout the final plan which also includes strengthened ecological policies and support for native planting and habitat restoration.

Work is already underway! More than 40 trees will be planted within the reserves this spring as part of wider restoration efforts across the district.

Keen to learn more?

Read the engagement summary and the final plan at

 letstalk.govt.nz



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

Building Belonging

A WELCOMING COMMUNITY IN ACTION.

From citizenship ceremonies and cultural festivals to English language classes, emergency preparedness, and newcomer and migrant support services, the past year has seen communities across our district come together to help newcomers feel welcome, connected, and included. Read our 2025-2026 Welcoming Communities Impact Story to see the difference that local organisations, volunteers, businesses and community partners are making every day. Read the report at

 qldc.govt.nz/our-welcoming-plan#progress



Century of stories at the Dam Bridge

One of Queenstown's most significant heritage landmarks is turning 100, and locals are invited to help celebrate its remarkable history.

For a century, the Kawarau Falls Dam Bridge has connected people, places and stories at its spectacular location.

While many people cross today as part of the walking and cycling trail, fewer will know the bridge and dam were built as part of an ambitious gold-mining scheme in the 1920s. The structure officially opened in August 1926 after 21 months of challenging construction work. It's recognised by Heritage New Zealand as a Category 1 Historic Place because of its historical, social, engineering and landscape significance.

On Saturday 5 December, the Wakatipu Heritage Trust and QLDC will mark the centenary with a community celebration. The centrepiece will be four new information panels telling the story of the bridge, the people who built it, and the role it has played since.

Join us from 2.00pm for an informal opportunity to reflect on a place that has witnessed everything from gold fever and engineering innovation to the growth of modern Queenstown.

Sometimes the best stories are hiding in plain sight, and few local landmarks have as many tales to tell as the Dam Bridge!

Thanks to Lakes District Museum for sharing these images.

1

LDM EL2852
Crowds gathered for the official opening in August 1926.

2

EL0448.46
Construction workers at the base of the dam.

3

LDM EL6710
Professional diver Andy Miller prepares to work at the bottom of pier 10 during construction.

1925



2



3

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Celebrating local spirit

This edition of *Let's Talk Kōrero Mai* went to print shortly before the 2026 Spirit of the Wakatipu Gala and Awards took place on 17 October. So, whilst we can't name the winners, we can congratulate all the 33 finalists and recognise the huge contribution they've made to local life.

Organised by 45South with support from QLDC and Gibbston Valley, the biennial event is a flagship community celebration, bringing together local businesses, charities, philanthropists, volunteers, community leaders and friends from across the region for an unforgettable night at Queenstown Events Centre.

Find out more at 45south.org

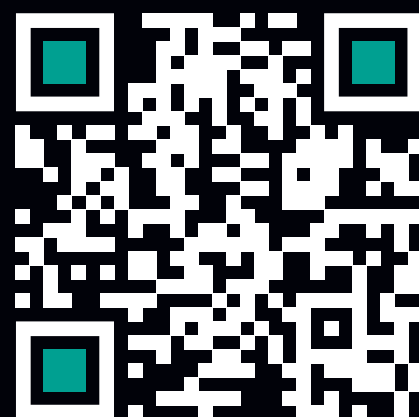


BOOK

OUR VENUE

FOR YOUR

NEXT EVENT!



The write stuff

A Booker prize winner, a rock star, legendary New Zealand writers, politicians and journalists are all set to appear at this year's Queenstown Writers Festival (5-8 November).

2022 Booker prize winner Shehan Karunatilaka, Shihad frontman Jon Toogood, former politician Kiri Allan, journalists Barbara Dreaver and Charlotte Glennie, comedian Pax Assadi and neuroscience educator Nathan Wallis are among more than 30 guests appearing at Te Atamira.

The festival also includes panel discussions and writing workshops, plus free events at QLDC's Queenstown and Frankton libraries, and two lively staged play-readings by Remarkable Theatre.

For the full programme and tickets visit qtwritersfestival.nz

QLDC
SUPPORTED
EVENT



Council venues, parks, reserves and sport fields are now bookable online!

Scan the QR Code to view our venues.

- ✓ View real-time availability
- ✓ Easily browse our available venues
- ✓ Reserve and book a venue in minutes!

Creative Spaces Project returns

This November, creativity will once again pop up in unexpected places across the district as the Creative Spaces Project returns for a second year.

Delivered in partnership by QLDC and Three Lakes Cultural Trust, the project pairs local artists, makers and performers with venues across the district, transforming everyday spaces into sites of creative expression. From cafés and shopfronts to community spaces, libraries and visitor hubs, creativity will be found well beyond traditional gallery walls.

Following a successful debut in 2025, this year's project will showcase a new collection of creative collaborations,

inviting residents and visitors to discover local talent in places they might not expect. The month-long activation celebrates the district's creative community while helping make arts and culture more visible, accessible and part of everyday life.

Running throughout November, you can explore the Creative Spaces Project via an interactive online map. Find out more and plan your creative trail at

threelakesculturaltrust.co.nz/creative-spaces-project



Visual artist Tim Klein at Roost Mortgage Brokers (credit – Deanna Gerlach).

Luggate artist Sonia Kiki Jones' work at 47 Frocks in Wānaka.



Visual Artist David Fox at the Queenstown Markets (credit – Deanna Gerlach).

Blockbuster backdrop

Grab your popcorn and get ready to spot some local landmarks as three major movie productions hit our screens.

Scenes in *Heart of the Beast*, *Klara And The Sun* and *Tenzing* were all recently filmed in our district.

Starring Brad Pitt and some stellar canine talent, *Heart of the Beast* is a gripping survival thriller shot in Queenstown and Glenorchy last year. Recognise locations from that tramp you did last summer?



WATCH THE TRAILER FOR
HEART OF THE BEAST

Klara And The Sun is written and directed by Academy-Award winner Taika Waititi and based on the best-selling novel by Kazuo Ishiguro. Jenna Ortega stars as an artificial intelligence friend who wants nothing more than to find the perfect home. Sure enough she turns up in Wānaka (or at least a location near it!).



WATCH THE TRAILER FOR
KLARA AND THE SUN

In *Tenzing*, The Remarkables' rockface doubled as the famous Hillary Step negotiated by Sir Ed (played by Tom Hiddleston) and his climbing partner Tenzing Norgay (Genden Phuntsok) as they neared the summit of Everest. The film is a rare focus on the Sherpa's real life story from Australian director Jennifer Peedom.



WATCH THE TRAILER FOR
TENZING



Congratulations to all the local crew, talent and businesses who helped bring all these productions to life.

QLDC has an in-council film office within the Economic Futures team that acts as a point of coordination for screen activity in the region. Find out more at qldc.govt.nz/film

And don't forget that season two of *A Remarkable Place to Die* is currently streaming on TVNZ+. Get ready to crack more mysteries alongside Detective Anais Mallory and team against some spectacular local backdrops.

SAVE THE DATE:

20 YEARS OF THE

CHRISTMAS SHOW

The Queenstown Lakes Christmas Show is turning 20, and this year we're reaching for the stars!

Join us for a brand new, original Christmas story written especially for this milestone year. It features amazing local talent and will be full of song, dance and holiday cheer.

There'll be three festive performances at Queenstown Events Centre:

- > Saturday, 5 December at 3.00pm.
- > Sunday, 6 December at 1.00pm and 5.00pm.

Tickets are the same great value at just \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and under 5s go free. Once again, the show is proudly supporting the Salvation Army.

Mark your calendars now. This is one star-studded celebration you won't want to miss!

More info and tickets at christmasshow.co.nz

Either way it's 20k

Slow down to 20km/h when passing a stopped school bus, even if you're on the other side of the road.



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 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:

DOG CONTROL BYLAW

Status: Submissions close 9 November. See page 16.

KAWARAU RIVERSIDE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Status: Updated plan adopted by Council on 27 August.

ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSION SURVEY

Status: Survey closed 20 September. Feedback being reviewed and will inform updates to QLDC's Disability Policy and future work in this space.

SUNSHINE BAY RESERVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Status: Feedback will be presented to the Community & Environment Committee on 1 December.

FRANKTON ARM & SUNSHINE BAY RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Status: Engagement summary published following consultation. A draft plan will be released for public consultation in early 2027.

UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS:

WHAT'S COMING UP:

QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

Share your views between 9 November and 7 December. See page 10.

LAKE HĀWEA CAMPGROUND RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Engagement expected to start late 2026.

COMPREHENSIVE PARKING MANAGEMENT PLANS

Engagement expected to start later in 2026.

PLAY SPACES STRATEGY

Engagement expected to start late 2026.

FIND FULL DETAILS OF ALL THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT [LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.T.NZ](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

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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 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
In an emergency on the water always call **111**

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

EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

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Feedback and ideas are welcome.

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI // OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2026 // ISSUE 175 // www.qldc.govt.nz

ISSN 3021-2464 (PRINT) ISSN 3021-2472 (ONLINE)