


# LET'S TALK KÖRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // APRIL / MAY 2026 // ISSUE 172



## The case for safer speed

We believe everyone should be able to travel around the district safely, no matter how they choose to do so. So, we're proposing some speed limit changes and want to hear your feedback before 10 May.

**FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 4.**

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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 on page 5.

## 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



As I write this in early April, we are facing an uncertain and volatile financial future. Regardless of what may have happened in the Middle East between now and the time you read this, we know that we are likely facing ongoing fuel and material supply impacts for some time to come.

And like every individual and household that is affected by increasing prices, your Council is no different.

Whilst we are fortunate to have mostly EVs across our vehicle lease fleet, many of our contractors (think bin collection, putting pipes in the ground, maintaining our reserves, etc) are heavily dependent on diesel fuel. Not to mention the fact that many of our workforce travel into our district from outside of our district.

The cost of materials will increase because either the goods themselves have increased or because of the cost of transporting them to our district. Our staff are monitoring this and will have the difficult task of working out our response to the situation and how it impacts our current and forecast budgets and works programmes.

I think it is possible that Councillors will have some difficult decisions to make over the next couple of months.

Your elected representatives are very mindful of the impacts of increased rates – we are all ratepayers as are many of our friends and family members – and understand the pressures on household budgets when the costs of rates, fuel and electricity rise.

Consultation on our draft Annual Plan that sets out what we will do in the year from 1 July 2026 and how much it will cost to do that will be coming to a close as this edition of our newsletter is published. We are accepting thoughts, reactions and feedback until 24 April but I know many Councillors will be happy to take your perspectives into account if you miss that deadline.

One thing that Councillors have already identified is just how complex and difficult our rating system is when it comes down to explaining, at a community level, who is paying for what and when infrastructure upgrades are made, the basis for splitting costs to existing residents vs future residents. We need to do this better.

Over the course of the calendar year, we are building the framework for the next Long Term Plan. As part of that we will be reviewing all the levers we have to ensure growth is paying its way and that the costs of tourism are captured more equitably.

**Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover**

# New speed limits proposed for the district

We believe everyone should be able to travel around the district safely, no matter how they choose to do so. So, we're proposing some speed limit changes and want to hear your feedback.

## WHAT'S PROPOSED?

40

40km/h through new residential developments areas.

50

50km/h for urban fringe areas such as Domain Road and Cemetery Road in Lake Hāwea.

60

60km/h for rural settlements such as Wilson Bay and Bob's Cove – this change has been requested by many in these local communities.

10

10km/h for Queenstown Town Centre shared spaces to give equal priority to all users.

80

80km/h for roads that cater for multiple modes of transport or are popular tourist routes, such as Malaghans Road and Glenorchy-Queenstown Road.

60

60km/h for areas of high safety concern, such as Windmill Corner in Hāwea Flat – this is another change that has been regularly requested by the local community.

If you'd like to have your say, or to find more information, including maps, and a full list of proposed changes visit [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

**CONSULTATION CLOSES 10 MAY.**



# Preferred scenario for Wānaka Airport



At their meeting in March, Councillors voted to adopt one of six potential future scenarios for Wānaka Airport that keeps it focused on general aviation while enabling small turboprop services using aircraft of up to 30 seats for scheduled flights to Christchurch, and potentially Wellington.

This option received the strongest community support during extensive engagement last year in an independent future review of the airport conducted by aviation consultants Egis.

“The review highlighted significant opportunities to improve the facility’s ability to respond to emergencies, support emerging low-emission aviation, and unlock new community and economic benefits through carefully planned, non-aviation land use at the airport,” said QLDC Strategic Projects Manager Paul Speedy.

“Those opportunities align with feedback from more than 1,100 people that took part in the review, which showed a clear preference for a low-impact, community-oriented airport that supports local needs, while boosting the airport’s role in emergency response and resilience.”

Opportunities to support local aviation businesses and training were also widely supported, without enabling large-scale growth or major infrastructure expansion.

Council officers will now report back on options for developing a revised Wānaka Airport Master Plan. Continued community involvement would form a key part of that process.

To find out more about the different scenarios and the results of community engagement visit [qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-airport](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-airport)



Share with us  
**Wānaka Upper Clutha Community Board**

Having conversations at home or work about matters happening in the Upper Clutha? Come along and share with us. The community board would love to hear your ideas.

**UPCOMING DROP-IN SESSIONS:**

Wednesday 6 May, 12.00 – 1.00pm, Lake Wānaka Centre, Armstrong Room
Tuesday 2 June, 6.00 – 7.00pm, Paetara Aspiring Central, Meeting Room
Wednesday 1 July, 12.00 – 1.00pm, Wānaka Recreation Centre, Meeting Room

More info at [qldc.govt.nz/elected-members](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/elected-members)

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# Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant update



In March, Councillors approved the recommended option to proceed with a resource consent application for the purpose of a treated wastewater discharge from Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to the Kawarau River.

Under this approach, treated wastewater will be carried through a pipe and discharged at a rock outfall structure. The estimated cost of this work is \$39M – \$44M.

As part of their decision, elected members also asked staff to continue investigating potential land-based or partially land-based options, as well as furthering engagement with Kāi Tahu, rūnaka leaders and the wider community. Elected members sought a further report to be submitted in March next year, for a final decision on the long-term solution. This would either retain the recommended option, shift to an alternative, or provide for a combination of both.

## ADDITIONAL UPGRADES TO SHOTOVER WWTP

**Treated wastewater calamity pond (project underway):** provides storage for treated wastewater during adverse events.

**Additional filtration:** improves the quality of final treated wastewater.

## TIMELINE



# Good progress on new water services body



Good progress is being made to establish a Water Services Council Controlled Organisation (WSCCO).

There's a lot to do before the WSCCO takes over responsibility for delivering water services for our district from 1 July 2027. We'll be providing regular updates for the community on this transition, including via this newsletter and our dedicated webpage (see right).

WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR AND WHAT'S COMING UP:
Recruitment for the WSCCO Board of Directors – underway.
Development of a Constitution for the company – underway.
Preparing for Day 1 operations – ongoing.
Legal Incorporation of the company – June 2026.
Development of a Statement of Expectations for the company – September 2026.

# Nau Mai Haere Mai, Mez!

Introducing Meronea ‘Mez’ Watson, our new Rangatahi Māori representative through the national Tuia leadership programme.

## KIA ORA MEZ – TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF.

I grew up in Queenstown and would return home to Waihopai every off-season. I whakapapa back to Rakiura, right at the bottom of Te Waipounamu, which means yes, I am a proud muttonbird. From a young age I’ve had a deep connection to te taiao and the reo of my people. For a long time I’ve hoped to make a positive impact on other people’s lives and in my community.

Not long after leaving school I began working with Mana Tahuna while completing my schooling online. Through that mahi I saw just how much of a difference you can make when working alongside rangatahi Māori and supporting our communities. Outside of that, I spend a lot of my spare time painting nature or going hiking, which helps me stay connected to te taiao.

## WHAT MADE YOU APPLY FOR TUIA?

A few members of my whānau have taken part in the Tuia programme in previous years, but before applying I didn’t know much about what the kaupapa actually involved. What I did see, though, was the growth in the people who had done it. They became confident, grounded and inspiring individuals, whether they were teaching te reo, leading in kapa haka, or working within their communities. Seeing that made me realise the kind of person I wanted to grow into, and that inspired me to apply.

## WHAT HAVE THE FIRST FEW MONTHS INVOLVED?

In the first few months I’ve already learnt a lot. One of the highlights has been shadowing Mayor John Glover and seeing firsthand how much work goes into running a district and supporting the community. It has been really interesting seeing how much happens within council in just a week, and I’m excited to continue learning more about how those decisions are made and how they affect people.

Another highlight has been the first Tuia wānanga, Tuia i Runga. I not only learnt a lot but also made strong connections with other rangatahi from around the motu. Being surrounded by so many like-minded people who are passionate about improving themselves and their communities has been incredibly inspiring. It’s amazing to see how much rangatahi our age are already doing to make a difference across Aotearoa.

## WHICH PARTS ARE YOU CURRENTLY ENJOYING THE MOST?

The relationships being built, both with the other Tuia recipients and with the leaders and mentors involved in the programme. I’m also really looking forward to the upcoming wānanga and opportunities to learn more about leadership, governance and how we can create positive change within our communities.

## WHAT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN/DEVELOP?

By the end of the programme I hope to continue developing my confidence, leadership skills and understanding of how systems like local government work. I want to learn how to better advocate for rangatahi Māori and help create spaces where our voices are heard and valued.

## WHAT ARE SOME GOALS YOU HAVE FOR THE FUTURE?

I hope to continue working in spaces that support rangatahi and strengthen our connection to culture, language and te taiao. I want to keep learning, growing and finding ways to contribute to my community so that future generations feel empowered to step forward and make a difference as well.



**Ka pai, Mez! We’ll check in again with him towards the end of his year on the Tuia programme.**

# From the Chambers

---

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

## A LATE AUTUMN MEETING IN ARROWTOWN FOR THE COUNCIL

It's started to become a regular fixture on the annual calendar but the next Council meeting on 7 May will take place at the Arrowtown Community Centre at Jack Reid Park, starting at 1.00pm.

Everyone is welcome to attend and amongst the items due for discussion are the Alliance Annual Report and the Blue Green Network (you can find out more about this project on our website at [qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects/blue-green-network-plan](https://qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects/blue-green-network-plan)).

## NEW ROAD MAP PUBLISHED TO INCREASE VISIBILITY OF UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

Have you ever wondered about what's due to come up at a Council or Committee meeting over the next few months?

The Council Meetings section of our website includes details of all forthcoming meetings and workshops. We also publish a quarterly schedule which shares what topics are expected to come up in the three months ahead – the current one covers April, May and June 2026.

Note that this is a guide only and items can change without notice. Actual items are only confirmed once an agenda is published.

## COUNCILLOR COMMUNITY APPOINTMENTS CONFIRMED

If they're not already busy enough with Council, Committee and workshop meetings, Councillors are also allocated as representatives on a whole host of community groups.

From sporting and cultural to environmental and social/welfare groups, a second tranche of appointments were confirmed at the Council meeting on 19 March.

You can check the full list of appointments at [qldc.govt.nz/community-appointments](https://qldc.govt.nz/community-appointments)

## INDEPENDENT RISK & ASSURANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS APPOINTED

By the time you read this the first meeting of the Risk & Assurance Committee will have taken place with the newly appointed independent members also in attendance.

The Council decided last year when establishing committees, that the Risk & Assurance Committee would contain three independent members. This is deemed best practice and serves to strengthen public accountability by providing independent scrutiny, challenge, and insights that enhance decision-making and organisational performance.

The new external members bring a broad range of expertise to the Committee and they are Alastair Hercus, Juliet Tainui-Hernandez and Matt Mouat. The Committee is scheduled to meet every quarter.

# Lest we forget



This issue of Let's Talk was due to be published close to Anzac Day (Saturday 25 April) and the observed public holiday the following Monday.

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 be closed on both days.

On 25 April, Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) and Wānaka Recreation Centre (WRC) will be open from 1.00-8.00pm (swimming pools 1.00-6.00pm). Paetara Aspiring Central (PAC) will be closed all day.

On 27 April, QEC and WRC will be open 8.00am-8.00pm; PAC from 9.00am-5.00pm.

Wānaka and Queenstown transfer stations, along with the public recycling drop-off facility on Glenda Drive will open a little later on Anzac Day (25/4) – from 1.00-5.00pm. There will be no changes to kerbside bin collections on 27 April, and the transfer stations will be open as normal.

# 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](http://qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai)

## THINKING OF INVESTING IN WANAKA?



### CONTACT US TODAY FOR A CURRENT UPDATE ON THE WANAKA RENTAL MARKET

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# Festival brings adventure for everyone

Main image credit –  
Pedro Pimentel;  
below – Sébastien  
Montaz-Rosset.

Winter is just around the corner and the NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival is back to bring a dose of adventure to the Southern Lakes.

A much-loved highlight on the local calendar for 24 years, the festival offers far more than just films. It's a chance for the community to come together, be inspired, and immerse themselves in stories from some of the world's most remote and remarkable places.

Festivalgoers can dive into a packed programme of award-winning films, guest speakers, book

readings, author talks, art exhibitions and an outdoor expo — with plenty of opportunities to meet the people behind the stories.

The festival is designed to be accessible for the whole community, with youth discounts, special sessions for local schools, and free family shows. And for those inspired to tell their own stories, the Adventure Film School offers a hands-on way to get involved.

This year, the festival welcomes internationally acclaimed filmmaker and mountain guide Sébastien Montaz-Rosset. Closer

to home, Kiwi adventurer Matheson Brown and Lake Hāwea-based mountain guide Petrouchka Steiner-Grierson bring powerful local stories to the stage.

Whether you're there for the films, the stories, the people or the ideas, the NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival is a celebration of adventure in all its forms, and a reminder that you don't have to go far to find it.

The full programme will be announced and tickets go on sale on 19 May. Find out more at [mountainfilm.nz](http://mountainfilm.nz)



Wānaka festival

19–23 June

Queenstown festival

25–26 June

Online extended programme

24 June to 31 July

QLDC  
SUPPORTED  
EVENT



# Creative and Culture Hui returns

Between 10-14 June, people will come together in Queenstown and Wānaka to share creative work, exchange ideas and connect with what's happening across the district and beyond.

The programme includes talks, workshops and open showcases, alongside more practical conversations about how creative work is made, funded and supported.

Come for the kōrero, the workshops and the connections. Leave inspired.





Programme and registrations coming soon at [threelakesculturaltrust.co.nz](https://threelakesculturaltrust.co.nz)

Proudly brought to you by Three Lakes Cultural Trust in partnership with QLDC, with support from The Mountain Club, various local and national funding bodies, and accommodation partner The Sherwood Queenstown.



## Community funding – don't miss out!

Applications close Thursday 30 April.

	COMMUNITY FUND
	HERITAGE INCENTIVE GRANT
	EVENTS FUND
	WASTE MINIMISATION COMMUNITY FUND

Not sure where to start? We've uploaded a recording of the special webinar we hosted in early April to our website. Watch it and find full details about how to apply at [qldc.govt.nz/community-funding](https://qldc.govt.nz/community-funding).

## Next steps for Annual Plan

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit on the Draft Annual Plan 2026–2027. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping the balance between affordability and the services Council provides.

With submissions closing on 24 April, just as this newsletter was being published, attention now turns to public hearings.

Submitters will have the opportunity to speak to their feedback before the Hearings Panel in May. Councillors will then consider all input before considering the final Annual Plan 2026–2027 at their meeting on 25 June.

# '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.



## ANOTHER AMAZING SUMMERDAZE

We might not have had the best weather, but that didn't stop QLDC's district-wide annual series of events – Summerdaze – bringing communities together for fun, games and good times. Highlights included the Kingston Christmas celebrations, Picnics in the Park for Makarora, Lake Hāwea and other townships, the Queenstown Teddy Bears' Picnic, and the Night 'n Day/Sport Central Rainbow Runs on both sides of the Crown Range. Here's well-known Wānaka local Ben Suncin getting even more colourful than usual! Thanks to everyone who came along, and for all the volunteers who helped make it all happen.



## ANNUAL SPOTLIGHT ON SLOW FASHION

Wastebusters' Slow Fashion Month in March was once again an opportunity to share tips and ideas around choosing well, buying less, and looking after the clothes we already have. The two Refashion Shows were, as always, spectacular celebrations of secondhand. A big thank you to Wasties, Sustainable Queenstown and all the designers, models, audience members and incredible volunteers. Our picture shows Becky Eloise at the Wānaka event modelling a stunning wedding dress designed and created by Mel Roselli (image credit – Instagram @orlaomui). Wastebusters' Resourceful Communities campaigns like this are proudly supported by QLDC's Zero Waste District Programme.



## SHOES, HOOVES, TYRES AND WINGS ENJOY TRAILS

A special open weekend in March saw locals getting their first taste of the new trail network being built as part of Project Tohu near Arrowtown. It was fantastic to see horse riders, trail runners, walkers, paragliders and mountain bikers of all ages enjoying the former Coronet Forest site. Huge thanks to everyone who helped bring it all together alongside the QLDC Parks Team, especially TRAC, Te Tapu o Tāne, Queenstown Mountain Biking Club and Flight Park. Pictured out riding are (L-R): Jean Gibson on Whiskey, Rosie Thompson on Biscuit, and Kaye Eden on Jed (*image credit – Jo Smith / TRAC*).



## GLOBAL VILLAGE COMES ALIVE

The Queenstown Multicultural Festival, now in its fourth year, was a resounding success with around 3,000 celebrating the diversity that makes our community strong. This year's theme *Whakarongo kia mārama – Listen to understand* invited people to listen openly to one another's experiences, share stories and find common ground. Taking place on 21 March, the event aligned with New Zealand Race Relations Day and welcomed Dr Melissa Derby, Race Relations Commissioner with Te Kāhui Tika Tangata | NZ Human Rights Commission. Joint hosts QLDC and Queenstown Multicultural Festival Trust hope to continue growing the festival as a chance to bring people together and experience the sounds, tastes and colours of our own global village. [*Image credit – Ara Jay Media Productions.*]



## THANKS FOR JOINING US AT THE SHOW!

It was great to see so many of you drop by the QLDC tent at this year's Wānaka A&P Show. Once again it was packed with comfy chairs, space to chat with elected members, and information about how to have your say on current and forthcoming Council projects. There were activities and displays from different Council teams including the harbourmaster, parks, climate and biodiversity, three waters, libraries and animal control (including senior animal control officers Leona and Hannah pictured with furry friend!), plus our good mates Wastebusters and Dr Compost. See you again next year!

# Join the conversation about Wānaka's future

We'll soon begin work on the Central and Southern Wānaka Structure Plan – a long-term roadmap for how Wānaka could grow and develop over the next three decades.

## 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, water, needed to support growth.

The plan will help identify the area's constraints, explore a range of options, and consider community needs, guiding future decisions to protect the environment, strengthen resilience, and uphold Wānaka's unique character.

## THE AREAS THAT MAKE UP THE URBAN SYSTEM THAT WILL SHAPE WĀNAKA'S FUTURE GROWTH INCLUDE:

- > Southern Wānaka, as a future urban area for new neighbourhoods supported by well planned infrastructure.
- > Existing urban areas of South Wānaka, including places where more housing may be allowed for.
- > The Wānaka Town Centre – Three Parks Corridor, as the main mixed use, business, and employment area.
- > Wider areas of influence, where transport, infrastructure, open space, and environmental systems connect across the town.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Early technical studies will begin from April. There'll be lots of opportunities to get involved and help inform and shape the development of the Central and Southern Wānaka Structure Plan as it evolves.

Find out more:

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

# Land deal benefits school and community

An agreement between QLDC and Mount Aspiring College (MAC) Foundation will support long-term investment in the school's hostel programme, and enable surplus land to be returned to the community.

## A 9,500sq m site between Totara Terrace and Plantation Road will be subdivided into two lots:

Lot 1, containing the existing hostel buildings, remains with MAC Foundation to ensure continued benefit for students.

Lot 2, including the old music classrooms no longer required by MAC, returns to QLDC as a community asset.

The deal is the result of almost two years' constructive engagement, with the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) playing a key role.

WUCCB Chair Simon Telfer said the agreement was a prime example of how community partnerships can work well.

"The Community Board is pleased to have championed a solution, along with MAC Foundation, that delivers positive outcomes for the Upper Clutha," he said.

MAC Foundation chairperson Matt Williams said it was a fantastic result for both the school and the wider Wānaka community.

"Not only does it clarify ownership, but it also gives MAC Foundation the freedom to reinvest in the hostel. We truly appreciate QLDC's proactive partnership and their strong support for local education."

## Flush it out

Did you know some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends you flush a mugful of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that might have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.



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# 2026 LitFest

CELEBRATING LITERACY TOGETHER

Queenstown Lakes Libraries is proud to announce the return of LitFest for 2026, featuring a wide variety of free literacy events across May and June. Expect workshops, author talks, creative sessions, family friendly gatherings and more!

May opens with a focus on neurodiversity, including an adult ADHD workshop and several understanding dyslexia sessions for adults and parents. If you're feeling creative, you can explore spoken word performance, micro fiction, poetry workshops, and even try a playful bad book cover design challenge.

Book lovers can enjoy an evening with beloved author Ruth Shaw in Glenorchy, plus the launch of Eva Wong Ng's memoir *Daughter of Two Cultures*, exploring identity and heritage.

June features rainbow storytimes across the district, community singing in Wānaka, a craft session in Frankton, and Latin kōrero for Spanish speakers navigating life in an English speaking world.

Rounding out the festival are practical sessions on crafting your pepeha, building financial confidence, and a pop up library visit in Lake Hāwea township.

Scan the QR code or visit [qldclibraries.govt.nz/whats-on](https://www.qldclibraries.govt.nz/whats-on) to book and explore more.



MAY &  
JUNE

libraries  
whare pukapuka  
Queenstown Lakes

# A word about rates

We'll be sending out the next rates instalment on 1 May; it's due by 20 May.

## THE EASIEST WAY TO PAY IS VIA DIRECT DEBIT

A direct debit automatically deducts the amount required at the specified frequency, and we offer weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly payment options.

An application form is available at [1 qldc.govt.nz/rates](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/rates), via email to [directdebit@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:directdebit@qldc.govt.nz), or by dropping into a Council office:

- > Queenstown – 10 Gorge Road.
- > Wānaka – 47 Ardmore Street.



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## GET A RATES REBATE

The government's rates rebate scheme allows an annual rebate of up to \$805 for low-income earners (below \$32,210 household income or \$45,000 for SuperGold cardholders) who have been paying rates from 1 July 2025. Applications need to be received by 30 June. Scan here to find out if you're eligible and learn how to apply.



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# Project Tohu: Early monitoring shows exceptional success

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Early monitoring of Council-led Project Tohu's first native restoration planting has returned extremely encouraging results, with an indicated survival rate of over 95% from the autumn 2025 planting programme delivered by lead contractor Te Tapu o Tāne.

Despite the site being known for its harsh, dry conditions, the unseasonably wet start to the year has given the young forest a welcome boost, helping roots establish and underground fungal networks flourish.

Achieving this level of survival across 80,000 plants at such an early stage is a hugely positive sign and gives strong confidence in establishing a healthy, resilient indigenous forest as the project progresses.

## WHY IT MATTERS

Getting young plantings well established right from the start is critical to delivering Council's long-term environmental outcomes and ensuring Project Tohu grows into a thriving, biodiverse native forest that strengthens the climate resilience of our communities for generations to come.

## AUTUMN PLANTING UNDERWAY

This autumn, a further 130,000 native trees will be planted at the Project Tohu site on the slopes of Coronet Peak near Arrowtown. Planting commenced on Monday 23 March, with crews planting between 5,000 and 7,000 trees per day. Alongside this work, over 17,000 plant guards are also being installed.

A team of 18–20 people is working on the ground, with e3Scientific auditing the planting process throughout to ensure quality and consistency. Weather permitting, planting is expected to be completed by mid-May.



# Trialling improved access to Wānaka lakefront

## WHAT IS THIS?

A Mobi-Mat has been provided for free to trial on the Wānaka lakefront by the wooden jetty.

We're wanting to make our beautiful district more accessible and this is one way that can benefit wheelchair users, families with prams and a lot of other potential lakefront enjoyers.

## WHY DOESN'T IT REACH THE SHORE?

Thanks to C1 South this Mobi-Mat has been provided free of charge.

It's a little short for our purpose, but if this trial is a success then you may see something more fitting for our location.

## WHO CAN TRAVEL DOWN THIS MAT?

Anyone can! It's best suited for those with mobility assistance and it's made of a sturdy material so you'll be able to get closer to the lakefront than what is typically possible.

## WANT TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK?

We need feedback on your experience and what you think of this Mobi-Mat.

Scan the QR Code below to fill out a short survey to share your thoughts!

PLEASE TAKE  
OUR 2-MINUTE  
SURVEY



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# Water supply milestone

Connecting Corbridge to Luggate's upgraded water network in early March this year marked the final step in a significant programme of work to provide safe and fully compliant drinking water across the district.

In response to the cryptosporidium outbreak that affected Queenstown's water supply back in October 2023, we've now installed UV treatment systems at several of our water treatment plants, ensuring the water that comes out of your tap at home or work is fresh, delicious, and fully compliant with the latest standards.

## Upgraded water treatment plants (excluding those that already had the technology) include:

Western Intake, Wānaka.

Beacon Point, Wānaka.

Wānaka Airport.

Glenorchy.

Two Mile, Queenstown.

Luggate.

Corbridge (connected to Luggate's network).

If you're wondering how UV helps to disinfect drinking water, it's a simple and effective method to address nasties like bacteria and/or protozoa that may be present in raw water. Water is pumped from a source through reactors which include several UV lamps, each emitting high frequency UV light waves that disrupt the DNA of any organisms in the water, rendering them harmless.

That high quality H<sub>2</sub>O is then pumped to a nearby reservoir before being delivered to your tap.

## MORE FILTRATION, BETTER TREATMENT

We're busy preparing to add pre-UV filtration to Kelvin Heights, Two Mile, and Wānaka's Western Intake and Beacon Point water treatment plants. This project will provide an additional layer of filtration to these plants, helping to further increase the resilience of our UV disinfection systems.

It's still early stages in planning to deliver this work, and we'll share more details in a future edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Mai.

# Dog rego fast a-pooch-ing

Made a change? Don't forget to update your furry friend's details too!

With dog registrations coming up in July, it's important that we've got your dog's current contact details. If you've moved or changed phone numbers/email, please update your info and renew at [📍 qldc.govt.nz/renew-dog-registration](https://qldc.govt.nz/renew-dog-registration)

## ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact our customer services team:

**T:** 03 441 0499 / 03 443 0024

**E:** [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)



# Sign up to Scuttlemutt

Scuttlemutt is our online newsletter sent to dog owners every six months, featuring the latest information on everything from upcoming registration periods to cool dog-related events we're hosting. We'll also feature great walks for you and your pooch, while checking in with dogs we've rehomed to see how they're doing, and much more.

Join the pack and sign up at

[📍 qldc.govt.nz/scuttlemutt](https://qldc.govt.nz/scuttlemutt)

# Please don't feed the ducks

Feeding ducks encourages them to gather in large numbers, which results in a lot of duck poo!

This can cause nasty things like E. coli, affect water quality and make it unsafe to swim in the lake.



Protect water quality and help the ducks by letting them feed naturally.

## HOLIDAY HOME MANAGEMENT

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# Two reserve plans adopted

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**A LONG-TERM VISION**

**FOR WIDGEON PARK**

Council recently adopted two new development plans for much loved open spaces in Whakatipu — Widgeon Park Reserve and Arrowtown Riverside Reserves. Both plans set out long-term visions to guide how these reserves could evolve over time, helping balance community use, environmental protection and future growth.

Importantly, both plans have been shaped through extensive community engagement, with feedback directly influencing the final outcomes adopted by Council in March.

Widgeon Park Reserve, located along the Kawarau River near Lake Hayes Estate, Bridesdale and Shotover Country, is valued for its open grassland, rural character and connections to the Twin Rivers Trail. The adopted Widgeon Park Development Plan provides a long term framework to improve access, connectivity and recreational opportunities, while protecting the park's natural and open feel.

Community feedback showed strong overall support for the draft plan, particularly its focus on retaining the reserve's rural character, improving walking and cycling connections, managing pests and restoring biodiversity. People also valued the balance between open green space and informal recreation opportunities that cater to a wide range of users.

In response to feedback, several changes were made to the final plan, including removing more formal recreation activities, relocating bike facilities to less flood prone areas, providing for a potential dog park, and recognising already consented infrastructure such as the KJet jetty.



# PROTECTING AND ENHANCING ARROWTOWN'S RIVERSIDE RESERVES

The Arrowtown Riverside Reserves Development Plan focuses on a network of reserves along the Haehaenui Arrow River — an area valued for its natural character, heritage values and recreational use. The plan guides how connections, safety and access can be improved while safeguarding the river corridor as Arrowtown continues to grow.

Community feedback strongly supported improving river health through native riparian planting, managing invasive species, and protecting pedestrian priority on the Millennium Walkway. There was agreement on the need to better manage shared use by walkers, cyclists, vehicles and horses, while maintaining the area's informal, historic feel.

Concerns about over formalisation, parking pressures, cycling safety, and the need to better recognise equestrian use informed updates to the final plan, including provision for horse riding, greater recognition of the Mahu Whenua Gateway, a refined approach to natural looking parking, and a planting strategy that supports biodiversity while retaining Arrowtown's distinctive autumn colours.

As with Widgeon Park, the plan provides long-term direction rather than committing Council to immediate development, with implementation dependent on funding and future decisions.

## THANKS FOR SHAPING THE FUTURE OF OUR RESERVES

Thanks to everyone who took part in the engagement process for both plans — by making submissions, attending drop-in sessions and sharing local knowledge. This input has helped shape development plans that reflect community values and priorities.

Engagement summaries for both plans are available online:

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/  
widgeon-park-reserve-  
development-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/widgeon-park-reserve-development-plan)

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/  
arrowtown-riverside-reserves-  
development-plan](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/arrowtown-riverside-reserves-development-plan)

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](https://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

### SPEED LIMIT CHANGES

*Status:* Engagement runs 23 March – 10 May.

## UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS:

### DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2026-2027

*Status:* Submissions closed 24 April. Hearings scheduled for 13-14 May and Councillor deliberations scheduled for 15 May. Councillors will be asked to adopt a final Annual Plan on 25 June.

### KAWARAU RIVERSIDE RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Status:* Following a submissions hearing on 22 April, the plan will go to committee in July for recommendation before Full Council considers adopting it in August.

## WHAT'S COMING UP:

### CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN WĀNAKA STRUCTURE PLAN

*Status:* Early technical investigations underway. Details on community engagement will be shared soon.

### SUNSHINE BAY RESERVE DRAFT CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

*Status:* Engagement expected to start in June.

### DOG CONTROL BYLAW

*Status:* Formal consultation expected mid-2026.

### QLDC DISABILITY POLICY REVIEW

*Status:* Engagement expected to start in August.

### COMPREHENSIVE PARKING MANAGEMENT PLANS

*Status:* Engagement expected to start in May.

### CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING LOCATION

*Status:* Engagement expected to start in May.

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

## QLDC OFFICES

### Queenstown Office:

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

### Wānaka Office:

47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka  
Phone: 03 443 0024

E-mail: [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)

### Office Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

## QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

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Wānaka Pool  
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## PAETARA ASPIRING CENTRAL

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## 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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