

## Community & Environment Committee

28 May 2026

### Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

**Department: Community Services**

**Title | Taitara: (Commemorative Tree) Memorial Plaque Request in Gibbston Community Reserve for Gibbston Community Association Celebrating 40 Years of Pinot Noir Wine Making**

#### Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to consider approving the installation of a new memorial plaque (associated with a commemorative tree) within the Gibbston Community Reserve, to commemorate 40 years of pinot noir wine making in the Gibbston Valley.

#### Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Community & Environment Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** the memorial plaque installation (associated with a commemorative tree). The plaque would be located within the Gibbston Community Reserve (ATTACHMENT A).

**Prepared by:**




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**Title:** Parks Officer, Cemeteries and Heritage  
14 May 2026

**Endorsed by:**



**Name:** Kat Banyard  
**Title:** Senior Parks Advisor  
15 May 2026

**Reviewed and Authorised by:**



**Name:** Ken Bailey  
**Title:** GM – Community Services  
18 May 2026

## Context | Horopaki

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1. An application for a memorial plaque (associated with a commemorative tree) was received on 7 May 2026 from the Gibbston Community Association. The Gibbston Community Association provided the following statement to share regarding the purpose and meaning that the plaque would have to the community:

*“Gibbston Community Association want to celebrate the efforts of those who shaped Gibbston as it is today and into the future. They intend to have a special celebration in Gibbston to commemorate 40 years of pinot wine making in the valley and want to plant a commemorative native in the reserve with a plaque to mark the occasion. They are thinking of putting the plaque on schist as its fitting for the area.”*

2. The Gibbston Community Association has requested the installation of a memorial plaque to be placed in the Gibbston Community Reserve along with a commemorative native tree planting. Due to the seasonality of tree planting, the associated commemorative tree has already been planted. Therefore, this request is for the installation of a new memorial plaque and a retroactive request to plant a commemorative tree. The Community Association already has a schist plinth as a base for the plaque which they will be providing.
3. The Parks Team supports this request, allowing for the Gibbston Community Association to contribute to community asset improvement while memorialising the distinct heritage of the area that has shaped the surrounding landscape.
4. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Plaques, Memorials and Monuments Policy assessment guidelines, allows for the following: “3.1 – Category 1 – Commemorative Trees with Plaques: This category is reserved for commemoration of dignitaries, civic and historic occasions. Commemorative trees, native or exotic must be consistent with Council’s District Tree Policy to be planted in any of the District parks or gardens and placed in a grassed location. Once planted, commemorative trees become a Council asset and are maintained to the Council standards. As with all Council managed trees, plantings need to be appropriate to the site and area, and maintenance must be according to best arboricultural practice.” The celebration of 40 years of pinot noir making in the Gibbston Valley is considered to meet this criterion as a “historic occasion.” A native tree has been planted that is appropriate to the site and the area.
5. The proposed plaque will read (mock up included in ATTACHMENT B):

*“Forty Years of Pinot Noir  
1984 – 2024*

*This tree commemorates 40 years since the first  
Pinot Noir vines were planted in Gibbston by wine  
growing pioneer Alan Brady in 1984.  
It acknowledges the passion and perseverance of all  
those who have worked to establish a worldwide  
reputation for Gibbston’s wines and shape the  
character and future of the Gibbston community.”*

## Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

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6. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002.
7. The Gibbston Community Reserve has been considered and the proposed installation of the memorial plaque (with associated commemorative tree) in this location, will enhance the reserve and improve this asset for the community to enjoy.
8. Option 1 Approve the new memorial plaque (and retrospectively, the associated commemorative tree) in the Gibbston Community Reserve from the Gibbston Community Association to commemorate 40 years of pinot noir wine making in the Gibbston Valley.

*Advantages:*

- Provides enhanced heritage value, both natural and cultural, to the reserve which can be enjoyed by all.
- Commemorates a historic occasion which contributes to the broader understanding of significance of place.

*Disadvantages:*

- Addition of new memorial plaque (with associated commemorative tree) to the reserve that will need to be maintained.

9. Option 2 Decline the request.

*Advantages:*

- No additional assets to maintain on the reserve.

*Disadvantages:*

- The natural and cultural heritage values of the reserve would not be enhanced, and the memorial requestor would not be afforded the opportunity to positively contribute to the improvement of the Gibbston community.

10. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because this will honour the unique heritage of the Gibbston Valley area while increasing the enjoyment of the reserve by the community.

## Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

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### Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi I kā Whakaaro Hiraka

11. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because the land it relates to is not identified as a significant asset, and the proposal of a new plaque (with commemorative tree) will support community enjoyment and wellbeing of the reserve.
12. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District Community and the Gibbston Community.
13. The Council has noted that the Parks Planning Manager and Parks Manager are in support of this proposed plaque (and tree) installation (and planting).

### Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

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14. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK10009 Strategy for growth fails to meet objectives within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high residual risk rating. The approval of the recommended option will reduce the risk as it will improve assets for community wellbeing within the reserve.

### Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

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15. All installation costs will be met by the applicant. Any ongoing costs associated with future maintenance will be covered from existing budgets in the Ten-Year Plan/Annual Plan.

### Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

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16. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
  - Plaques, Memorials and Monuments Policy 2010;
  - Tree Policy 2024;
  - Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021; and
  - Proposal is in alignment with the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050.
17. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.
18. This matter is included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

19. Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the Act as it will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by providing support for a community activity.

20. The recommended option:

- Can be implemented through current funding under the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Map of proposed plaque installation in the Gibbston Community Reserve
B	Mock up of proposed commemorative plaque

**Attachment A: Map of proposed plaque installation in the Gibbston Community Reserve**



Note: Sun symbol indicates approximate location of plaque (and associated commemorative tree)

**Attachment B: Mock up of proposed commemorative plaque**

