

# Scuttlebutt

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // **AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2023** // **ISSUE 156**



The Tewa Banks site in Arrowtown, gifted by QLDC to the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust last year, will provide 68 affordable homes.

## Action on housing

Council has endorsed a Joint Housing Action Plan that aims to ensure access to secure and affordable housing for our community.  
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# Tech trial to monitor wildfire risk

Our climate is changing. We're likely to see more extreme rainfall and heatwave events which will increase the risk of landslides, flooding, erosion and wildfire adversely impacting our communities.

While we can all take steps to minimise the damage to our environment by reducing emissions, we can't eliminate all impacts of climate change. We all need to take steps to learn how to adapt and build our resilience in the face of changing weather patterns.

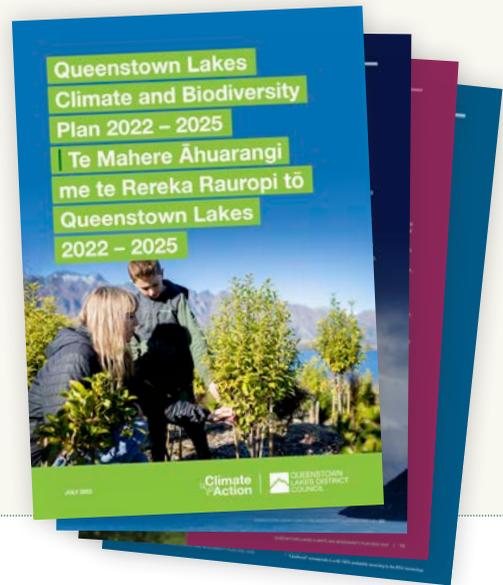
A wildfire in one of our forested reserves could have a devastating effect. As part of our work to reduce the risk and support our communities to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of climate change, we're working with Spark New Zealand and Attentis Technology to trial cutting-edge technology to monitor conditions within Ben Lomond and Mount Iron Reserves.

Five pole-mounted environmental sensor units will be installed in each location, providing live micro-climate weather updates, air quality data, and visual and thermal imaging which can also assist in early fire detection.

The information gathered by the sensors is transmitted in real-time to allow environmental conditions to be monitored and any fire ignition source to be immediately detected. The information will be available on an app to help people understand and adjust to changing conditions and be alerted if a fire event is detected.

Work to install the units will start in early September with the network expected to be up and running ahead of the 2023-2024 summer season.

You can read more about this project at [qldc.govt.nz/environmental-monitoring-system](https://qldc.govt.nz/environmental-monitoring-system)



Want to know more about what Council is doing to respond to climate change and biodiversity loss?

Download a copy of the Queenstown Lakes Climate and Biodiversity Plan 2022-2025 here [qldc.govt.nz/climate-change-and-biodiversity](https://qldc.govt.nz/climate-change-and-biodiversity)

Are you ready?

Sign up to Otago Gets Ready, a two-way communication tool which helps people better prepare for emergencies and be more resilient when they occur: [otago.getready.net](https://otago.getready.net)



# Scuttlebutt: what's in a name?

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In addition to our normal message here about how to receive Scuttlebutt online, this time we're also letting you know about a possible name change.

QLDC's residents' and ratepayers' magazine has been called Scuttlebutt since 1996 - that's more than 150 issues. Is it time for a change? What does Scuttlebutt actually mean (hint: Google it!)? Keep checking our Facebook page @QLDCinfo for how you can have a say.

Scuttlebutt is distributed to our local residents and out-of-town ratepayers six times a year. That's a lot of paper and postage.

You can help us reduce the number of copies we print by switching to our email distribution list. 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 and postal address so we can cross you off the mailing list. We'll send you a website link to view/download all future issues instead. 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/scuttlebutt](http://qldc.govt.nz/scuttlebutt)

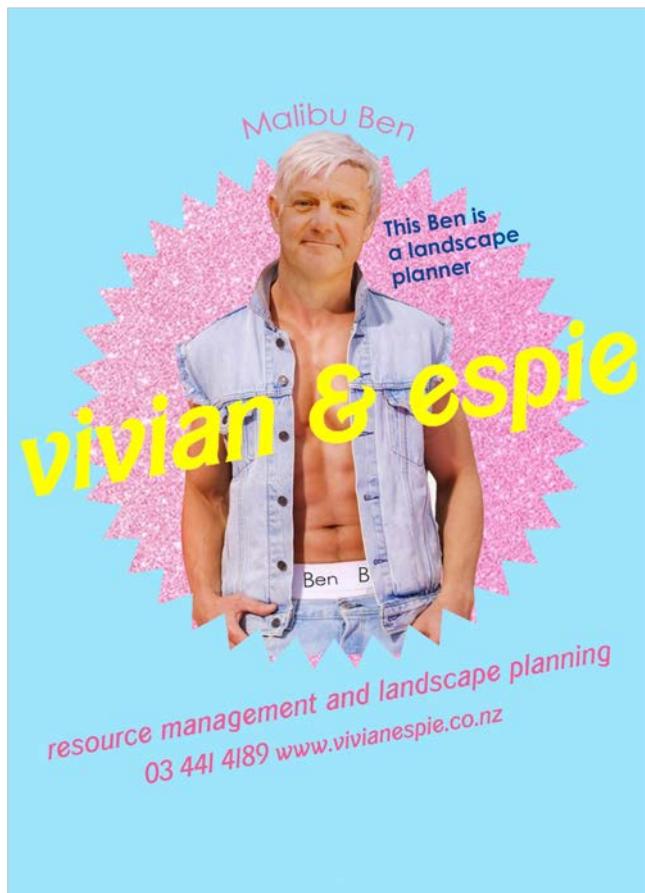
## Cool reminders about hot ashes

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Who doesn't love a roaring fire on a frosty night, but take care when disposing of the ashes.

Embers can remain hot long after the flames have died down, and can start fires in rubbish bins, collection trucks, or the landfill. Fire and Emergency New Zealand recommends ash is put into a metal bucket and soaked with water. Leave it to cool for at least five days before bagging it and disposing of it in the rubbish.

Cold ash can also be spread on a garden as a fertiliser. Just make sure you're not burning treated wood.



# Access to affordable housing a big step closer

Earlier this month, efforts to improve access to affordable housing took a big step forward, following Council endorsement of a Joint Housing Action Plan for the district.



The plan was developed by QLDC, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Kāinga Ora, and the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust (QLCHT). The goal: to ensure the community can easily access quality housing that's secure, stable, and affordable.

The plan also works toward ensuring better economic, social, cultural, and environmental outcomes.

Given the complexity of housing issues and the district's unique challenges, partnering with central government and the QLCHT significantly widens what we're capable of addressing.

The plan aligns to Kāi Tahu's values framework including the three key principles: whanaukataka (family and community focussed), haere whakamua (future

focussed), and tikaka (appropriate action).

Key performance indicators are drafted into the plan so the group's partners, and the public, will know how it's progressing.

The plan was shown in draft stage to the community earlier this year for feedback, with 71% of respondents either supportive or neutral.

The plan will next be presented to the Grow Well Whaiora Governance Group for endorsement at its next meeting.

While the plan's solutions will bear more fruit in the medium-to-long term, we continue to support QLCHT for more immediate solutions.

Read the Joint Housing Action Plan at [qldc.govt.nz/improving-housing-outcomes](http://qldc.govt.nz/improving-housing-outcomes)

<b>Nine housing solutions</b>	<b>1</b> Form a clear, evidence-based understanding of the district's housing issues and regularly monitor key indicators.	<b>2</b> Realise opportunities to purchase and develop land for the provision of affordable housing in the Queenstown Lakes District.	<b>3</b> Enable affordable housing choices through legislative and other tools.	<b>4</b> Continue to support and amplify the work of the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust and other providers.
	<b>5</b> Influence and incentivise developers to provide affordable housing.	<b>6</b> Focus on rental solutions for the district's workforce in collaboration with the community.	<b>7</b> Further develop public/private partnerships to deliver affordable housing and choice.	<b>8</b> Implement National Policy Statement on Urban Development changes and review District Plan to enable more affordable housing and choice.

# New rules for freedom campers

With new government legislation affecting freedom camping now law, now's the time to get up to speed on the rules to avoid having to pay increased infringement fees.

The Self-contained Motor Vehicles Legislation Act 2023 ('the Act') means freedom camping on any council land in a non-self-contained vehicle is no longer allowed. QLDC's existing freedom camping bylaw already prohibits this in our district.

Find maps showing where freedom camping is restricted in our district here:

[qldc.govt.nz/recreation/responsible-camping-in-the-queenstown-lakes-district](http://qldc.govt.nz/recreation/responsible-camping-in-the-queenstown-lakes-district)

The definition of 'self-contained' vehicles has also changed which means if you seek to review or apply for certification for your vehicle, it will need to have a fixed toilet in order to be considered self-contained – portable toilets are no longer sufficient. Only vehicles certified as self-contained are allowed to camp on land managed by local authorities like QLDC, as well as by Land Information New Zealand and the Department of Conservation.

A transition period means that current blue warrant cards displayed on your windscreen will continue to be evidence of self-containment until they expire (or until the end of the transition period, whichever is sooner). The new green warrant cards will be available from 7 December.

The new rules have not changed for vehicles at commercial campsites or vehicles on private land. In addition, individual infringements fees have increased. For example, the offence of freedom camping in breach of a bylaw is increasing from \$200 to \$400. Other recent changes include:

- > Failure to display a 'blue warrant' self-certification card (\$200); these blue warrants will gradually be replaced by new green warrants – see above.
- > Freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle with more people than the vehicle is certified for (\$400).
- > Interfering or damaging the flora or fauna of an area while freedom camping (\$800).

It's important to note that these infringements are not directed at people experiencing homelessness. QLDC has always applied discretion in this area and looked to direct people to appropriate social service agencies rather than penalising them.

Anyone wanting more information on the new freedom camping rules should visit the 'tourism projects' page of the relevant government website here: [mbie.govt.nz](http://mbie.govt.nz)



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HOW SMART

# More active travel options on the horizon

Commuters in Queenstown and Wānaka will soon have more opportunities to walk, cycle or scoot from A to B thanks to funding from the government's Transport Choices package.

Work has started to upgrade a shared path between McChesney Bridge at Arthurs Point and Queenstown. The project involves sealing the existing rural trail along Gorge Road, linking into the Matakauri wetlands trail which will receive upgrades to its surface and drainage but remain unsealed.

We'll also be sealing the road shoulder that runs adjacent to the wetlands to provide a more direct option for commuters. The route then starts again along Robins Road near the recreation ground, finishing at the intersection of Memorial and Camp Streets.

Over in Wānaka, we're making further progress on the much-anticipated Schools to Pool active travel route linking children, families and commuters between local schools and the Recreation Centre.

Upcoming work includes a 3m-wide shared path, raised safety platforms on Plantation Road and Hedditch Street, traffic calming on Rata Street and upgrades to its intersection with Aubrey Road.

These will make it a safer and more viable reason for people to leave the car at home and try healthier and more eco-friendly ways to get around.

Read more at [qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects](https://qldc.govt.nz/your-council/major-projects)

They are proudly funded by the Transport Choices package announced in December 2022. This is part of the Waka Kotahi Climate Emergency Response Fund (CERF) programme that aims to demonstrate what's possible for communities nationwide by quickly providing people with healthier, more affordable and safer transport choices that are good for us, and for the environment.

There's lots of investment happening to improve the safety of roads and intersections around the Upper Clutha. Find out more at [qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-road-safety-improvements](https://qldc.govt.nz/wanaka-road-safety-improvements)



# Grants for good

More details about these projects can be found online at [qldc.govt.nz/community-funding](https://qldc.govt.nz/community-funding)

## Council funding helps boost events and cut waste.

There are many ways in which our district excels. Two great examples are the huge variety of events hosted here and the affinity we have with our natural environment. Council actively supports both these different areas with annual grants through the QLDC Events Fund and Waste Minimisation Community Fund (WMCF).

### EVENTS WITH IMPACT

This year, nearly half a million dollars of grant funding will be split between 21 events ranging from international sporting extravaganzas to homegrown food and wine festivals.

Councillor Craig ‘Ferg’ Ferguson, chair of the QLDC Events Funding Panel, said it was fantastic to see the sector regrowing.

“These events lift our local economy, entertain and enlighten, and have a positive impact on our community’s wellbeing — whether it’s via residents enjoying what’s on offer or taking part as a volunteer,” he said.

2023-2024 QLDC EVENTS FUND RECIPIENTS: \$30,000 AND OVER
Challenge Wānaka
LUMA Southern Light Project
New Zealand Open (golf)
Queenstown Marathon
Warbirds over Wānaka
Winter Games NZ
UNDER \$30,000
Arrowtown Autumn Festival
Aspiring Conversations
Cyclorama E-Bike Festival
Lake Hayes A&P Show
Motatapu
NZ Mountain Film Festival
Queenstown Bike Festival
Queenstown Diwali Festival
Queenstown Multicultural Festival
Ripe
Roam
The Wild
Wānaka A&P Show
Wao Summit
Winter Pride

### FUNDING FOR FABRIC, FOOD AND FUNGI

Fifteen waste reduction projects will share grants totalling \$64,533 this financial year thanks to the WMCF.

QLDC Waste Minimisation Project Officer Kath Buttar said the ongoing aim is to support community efforts to help move the Queenstown Lakes closer to becoming a sustainable, zero-waste district.

“Every year since 2019 the fund has helped nurture new projects and enable existing ones to develop and grow. It’s really encouraging to see individuals and groups striving to make a positive impact towards reducing waste in such creative ways,” she said.

2023-2024 QLDC WASTE MINIMISATION COMMUNITY FUND RECIPIENTS:
Kiwi Harvest’s Hack Off Campaign
Mountainside Educare’s waste minimisation programme
Remarkable Fungi Qt coffee grind recovery project
Wakatipu Toy Library
SPCA Queenstown Op Shop’s purchase of an electrical testing enabler
Tikki Studio Queenstown education programme for textile sustainability
Aspiring Beginnings Early Learning Centre Kaitiaki
Kidsfirst Hāwea Composting Naturally project
Kiwi Harvest’s Café Collections
Sustainability Workshop for the community
Wānaka Community Workshop, Fabricate
Remarkables Market Journey to Zero Waste
Dumpster Dive Dinner Time
Lake Hayes A&P Show
Project Baseline Waste Audit



# Wānaka's new walk down memory lane



Take a stroll along Wānaka's lakefront and you'll once again see hundreds of historical tiles noting significant events over the past thousand years around the world, Aotearoa New Zealand and in the Upper Clutha itself.

The 1,200 newly installed tiles running next to the shared pathway between McDougall and Dungarvon Streets mark the finishing touch to Stage Two of the Wānaka Lakefront Development Plan. More than half have been laser-etched with the year and information about each event.

Named Te Ara Maumahara, the feature acts as a memory lane or path acknowledging those who have come before us and the moments that matter to our community.

It also honours the legacy of the original Millennium Pathway created by local volunteers some

20 years ago. We'd like to acknowledge their inspiration and hard work along with the dedication and generosity of everyone involved with Te Ara Maumahara, especially Dr Michael Stevens, Ed Waddington, the Upper Clutha Historical Records Society and QLDC Parks Officer Diana Manson.

# Changes to bus routes

Otago Regional Council is making changes from 4 September.

- 2** **ROUTE 2: Direct trips between Arrowtown and Arthurs Point.**
  - > No more detours through Quail Rise.
- 3** **ROUTE 3: New direct trips between Quail Rise and Kelvin Heights.**
  - > A direct connection to Frankton shopping centres for Quail Rise passengers.
  - > A direct connection between Kelvin Heights and Quail Rise.
- 5** **ROUTE 5: More choice on Lake Hayes Estate trips.**
  - > Keep your eyes open for the extended route and new bus stops in Lake Hayes Estate.
  - > Enjoy shopping at these new destinations: FiveMile Shopping Centre and Queenstown Central.



Quail Rise passengers, check out your new journey options:

### To get to Frankton shopping centres and Kelvin Heights:

1. Catch the **ROUTE 3** bus for a direct, return connection.

### To get to town centre, Arthurs Point or Sunshine Bay:

1. Catch the **ROUTE 3** bus from Quail Rise and get off at Frankton Hub to transfer to a **ROUTE 1** (Sunshine Bay), **ROUTE 2** (Arthur's Point) or **ROUTE 5** (Queenstown) bus.
2. Walk or bike to the bus stop outside Bunnings on SH6 (Hawthorne Drive) to catch a **ROUTE 2** (Arthur's Point) or **ROUTE 5** (Queenstown) bus.

### To get to Shotover Country, Lake Hayes Estate or Arrowtown:

1. Catch the **ROUTE 3** bus from Quail Rise and get off at Frankton Hub to transfer to a **ROUTE 2** (Arrowtown) or **ROUTE 5** (Lake Hayes Estate) bus.
2. Walk or bike to the bus stop opposite Bunnings on SH6 (Hawthorne Drive) to catch a **ROUTE 2** (Arrowtown) or **ROUTE 5** (Lake Hayes Estate) bus.

To see what's changed for you go to [orc.govt.nz/queenstownbuschanges](http://orc.govt.nz/queenstownbuschanges)

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# From the chambers

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## WE'LL MEET AGAIN

It's hard to believe we're more than half-way through 2023. One job before the end of the year is to adopt a schedule of future meetings. A draft is being presented for Council's consideration on 31 August. Once adopted, it will provide a general structure for Council, Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board and committee meetings as well as locations.

In 2024, Council will not only meet in Queenstown but also in Wānaka and, for the first time in recent history, Arrowtown. The Community Board also likes to vary its venues, so look out for meetings in Luggate and Lake Hāwea as well as Wānaka next year.

Anyone with questions about meetings and agendas can email them to [governance@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:governance@qldc.govt.nz)

## ON YOUR BIKE

Eminent British playwright Alan Bennett observed that with cycling "You always know when you're going to arrive. If you go by car, you don't." For that reason and others, including the health and environmental benefits of active travel, the popularity of cycling continues to grow.

Thanks to the joint efforts of Council, Queenstown Trails Trust, Upper Clutha Tracks Trust and other groups our district has an ever-growing bike network. Work is currently underway on a new track between Arthurs Point and Arrowtown, and another piece of the jigsaw got closer to completion in August when Councillors agreed to consider the acquisition of some land at the foot of Coronet Peak.

Later in August, the Infrastructure Committee was set to make biking in Arrowtown a little easier by considering plans to provide 20 bike racks at three locations on Buckingham Street and one in the laneway beside the Athenaeum Hall.

## VOLUNTEERS WITH HEART

The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board was officially presented with the Heart of Wānaka town centre plan at its meeting on 27 July.

Board Chair Simon Telfer recognised the many hours of work contributed by independent local volunteers into developing the plan, and the creative thought put into the suggested future development of central Wānaka.

Although the plan carries no statutory status it constitutes a valuable piece of work. Council officers will now consider it as reference alongside existing and planned work, particularly the next phase of the Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan (expected to begin in 2024) which will involve significant public and stakeholder consultation.

## WHAT WE DO IN PUBLIC

Council adopted two bylaws at its meeting on 10 August. Both the Alcohol-free Areas in Public Places Bylaw 2028 and the Activities in Public Places Bylaw 2023 were adopted following consultation and hearings of submissions.

One key change from the 2018 version of the first bylaw is the new alcohol-free area times of 6.00pm-6.00am (previously 8.00pm-8.00am). The second bylaw contains a new requirement for buskers, pop up stall holder and charity street collectors to carry proof of their registration, and a requirement for buskers to adhere to the online registration scheme.

Looking further ahead, Council has agreed to investigate the scope and resourcing needed to progress a smoke-free policy for the district and this will be considered at the Community & Services Committee meeting scheduled for 19 September.

MANATILING LIGTAS KAPAG NAGMAMANEHO SA TAGLAMIG

MANTENHA-SE SEGURO NAS ESTRADAS NO INVERNO

冬季行车, 注意安全

KEEP SAFE ON WINTER ROADS

Our first ever set of translated flyers is hot off the press.

To support our Māori and migrant communities through our chilliest season, some helpful winter road safety advice is now available in eight of the most common languages spoken across our district:

// Te reo Māori // Tagalog // Brazilian Portuguese  
// Mandarin // Korean // Spanish // Japanese.

Download a copy in the language of your choice (including English!) at:  
[qldc.govt.nz/winter-road-reports](http://qldc.govt.nz/winter-road-reports)

You'll also be able to pick up copies at libraries and Council offices across the district. Why not share with family and friends who might find them useful?

**Look out for more translated flyers on other topics coming soon.**

## DID YOU KNOW

We offer an interpretation service via our customer service teams for anyone less confident speaking English? This can be over the phone or in person at our Queenstown and Wānaka office receptions and is provided by Connecting Now through an agreement with the Government.



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# 'Postcards' from recent events

We thought it would be fun to round-up some recent events around the district with a few photos to tell the story.



## ON THEIR BEST BEHAVIOUR

On a recent visit to the Lakes District Museum in Arrowtown, Councillors travelled back in time with Museum Director David Clarke to get a taste of education in the early-settler years. 'Miss Grey' (aka Education Program Manager Amanda Viana) seemed to enjoy herself teaching this particular bunch of rather mature students, especially when she reminded them that the cane was regularly administered as a punishment in those days!



## EARLY MORNING HARVEST

Mayor Glyn Lewers and Rangatahi Māori (young leader) representative Aaliyah Fowler recently took time to volunteer with local food rescue organisation KiwiHarvest. During a morning round, the pair learned how KiwiHarvest collects heaps of good-quality, surplus fresh food every day that might otherwise go to waste and delivers meals to locals who are doing it tough. Aaliyah encouraged everyone to give volunteering a go: "There are so many services out there that are doing amazing mahi and being able to see what goes on behind the scenes really makes you appreciate it more."



## MOUNT IRON LIFESAVER

Walkers on Wānaka's Mt Iron now have the comfort of knowing there's an AED defibrillator near the summit. A group of regular ramblers raised the money for the new unit which is protected from the elements by a special housing made by Craig Read Building. You can read about QLDC's purchase of much of Mt Iron and Little Mt Iron in the Jun/Jul issue of Scuttlebutt. Pictured (L to R) are Wānaka St John chairperson Dell Taylor, Dan Marshall of Craig Read Builders, and donor organisers Rachel Farrant and Hailey Hall. To find your nearest AED visit [aedlocations.co.nz](http://aedlocations.co.nz)

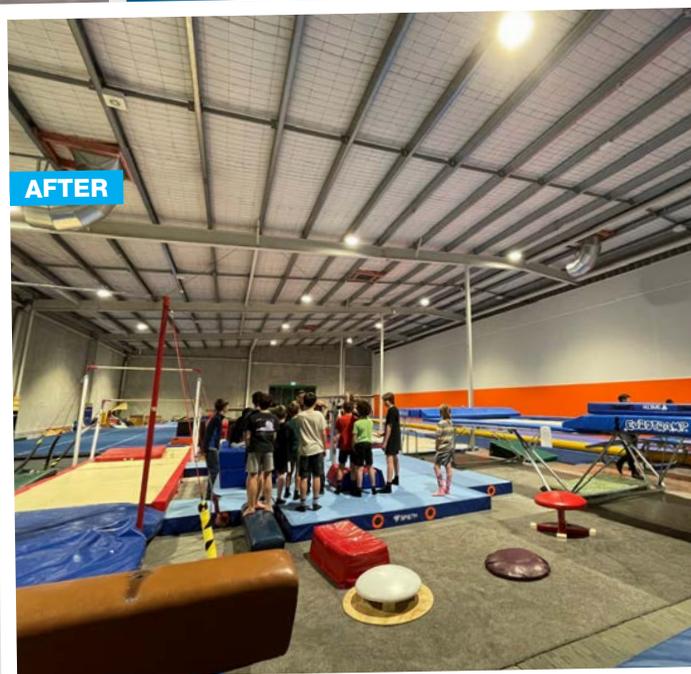


### INDIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES

Members of our district's vibrant Indian community welcomed other attendees to celebrate India's Independence Day in August. Pictured at Lake Hayes Pavilion are (L to R) QLDC Welcoming Communities Coordinator Silvia Dancose, Bhartiya Samaj Queenstown Charitable Trust members Amit Sethi, Poonam Sethi, Marveli Mongia and Mangal Behal, MP for Southland Joseph Mooney, Latinos for New Zealand founder Carol Morgan and Happiness House Manager Léna Boss.



BEFORE



AFTER

### GYMNASTS SPRING INTO NEW SPACE

Aspiring Gymsports recently moved into their new base at Aspiring Central | Paetara in Wānaka, transforming what was a cavernous empty space into a bustling, twirling, vaulting centre of excellence. The club is the first tenant of the former Mitre 10 building which Council has redesigned as new youth, community and sports facility. Kahu Youth will soon have their own dedicated space together with two multi-use indoor courts and a separate studio that can be used for dance, yoga and fitness classes, or as a meeting space.

# Queenstown's Arterial Road taking shape

You can read more about the project at [qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road](https://qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road)

Stage 1 of the Queenstown Town Centre Arterial Road is progressing well, with the new link between Melbourne and Henry Streets really starting to take shape. Here are some progress photos:



A digger works on constructing the new link between Melbourne and Henry Streets. In the foreground you can see the large steel sheets which have been dug into the ground to help form the new road.

*February 2023.*

Underground service upgrades have been completed on one side of Melbourne Street.

*May 2023.*



Work begins to construct the main retaining wall in front of St Joseph's church and school.

*July 2023.*



A steel wall is being built in front of the St Joseph's church and school, ahead of the main retaining wall construction.

June 2023.

When complete, the wall will feature cultural manifestations developed by a mana whenua artist and a story developed with students from St Joseph's school.



# Lost or found a dog?

Our Animal Control team can help find your furry friend as soon as possible as well as reuniting any wandering dogs you see out there with their owner.

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## What a recent client had to say...



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# Have your say on the future of Glenorchy Airstrip

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Did you know Council is responsible for managing Glenorchy Airstrip, a small aerodrome situated just south of the township on the banks of Lake Whakatipu?

It's now time to review the Glenorchy Airstrip Reserve Management Plan 2016. We're currently gathering insights and suggestions from users and the wider community, especially those close to Glenorchy, to help inform any future changes to the plan.

We'd like to hear your views about how the airstrip should be used, maintained, developed and managed in the future.

For more details head to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) and share your feedback by completing an online survey. It'll take just ten minutes and asks questions about flight allocation, potential growth, infrastructure and charges and emissions.

**Feedback closes at 5.00pm on Monday 18 September.**





A previous 'speed dating' event at Lake Hayes Pavilion  
Credit  @rodrigo.doingstuff

## Find your perfect match

Everyone's invited to a speed dating event for the Upper Clutha with a community twist!

QLDC has teamed up with Volunteer South and Kiwi Kit Community Trust to help connect you with some fantastic people and incredible local organisations in a fun, playful way.

Whether you're new to the district or have been here a while, volunteering can enhance personal wellbeing and strengthen your local community. You'll meet new people and develop new skills at the same time!

Head to Wānaka Community Hub, 34 McDougall Street from 4.30-6.30pm on Monday 18 September. Light refreshments provided.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page @QLDCinfo for more info or email [gillian@volunteersouth.org.nz](mailto:gillian@volunteersouth.org.nz). You can also email Gillian to register your organisation.

## Whakatipu Winter Warmers

Some winter warmth recently made its way to 110 Queenstown seniors.

Each received a delightful care package including cozy beanies, hot drinks, pampering products and heartfelt cards written by local students and delivered to doorsteps around town.

Generously supported by local businesses and schools, the packages were part of the Whakatipu Winter Warmers initiative that aims to acknowledge, cherish and connect with seniors in our community.

QLDC's Winterdaze programme partnered with sponsors including:

- > Te Hau Toka Southern Lakes Wellbeing Group
- > Queenstown Events Centre
- > Mitre10
- > BuzzStop Café
- > New World
- > Raeward Fresh
- > Mercure Hotel.



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# Mana-enhancing restoration at Lake Hayes

A kaupapa Māori organisation is restoring the regionally significant wetland at the northern end of Wai Whakaata | Lake Hayes.

Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust is improving the water quality, biodiversity and habitat by trapping pests, removing invasive vegetation and replanting native trees and plants. The area is also being fenced to protect indigenous wetland plants from rabbits.

Removing willow trees is key to the project as they're highly invasive, grow rapidly and outcompete all native species — very little can grow beneath them. Willows also prevent the

wetland from doing its job of soaking up nutrient-rich sediment from Mill Creek before it hits the lake.

In coming years, visitors will be able to enjoy public walkways through native bush and the restored wetland with its range of native birds.

The lake is home to several threatened bird species, including crake and bittern, and is a breeding ground for the peculiarly beautiful-looking crested grebes (pūteketeke).

Mana Tāhuna is doing the hard mahi with partnership and support from community group Friends of Lake Hayes, Department of Conservation and QLDC.

To learn more or find out how you can support the project contact Mana Tāhuna via [manatahuna.co.nz](http://manatahuna.co.nz). There are community planting days planned for 18-22 September.

## RESTORATION TIMELINE

July 2023
Willow removal
August 2023
Fencing & site preparation for planting
18-22 September 2023
Community planting
September-October 2023
Spring planting
April-May 2024
Autumn planting

*A future look: What Lake Hayes native bush and restored wetland could look like*



# Waste away!

What do a campground, a luxury resort, a vineyard events venue and a merino clothing company have in common?

A variety of local businesses have been joining forces with Wastebusters to take stock of the unwanted byproducts of their operation. They all put their hands up to carry out a waste audit after attending one of Wastebusters' business workshops, the whole project receiving financial support from QLDC's Waste Minimisation Community Fund (see page 4) and Zero Waste District programme.

Glendhu Bay Motor Camp, Millbrook Resort, Rippon and Mons Royale each tracked a week's worth of waste. This allowed Wastebusters to understand how it was being sorted and processed so the businesses could manage it more effectively.

For hospitality and accommodation providers this included the unenviable task of handling mountains of sausages, unfinished meals and even a whole dead fish!

"It's not glamorous but it's important and revealing work," says Sophie Ward, a member of the Wastebusters team that donned their gloves alongside the businesses' own staff.

"There's nothing like having piles of waste in front of you to get an idea of how you're tracking as a business and see both where you're winning and where there's room for improvement."

QLDC Waste Minimisation Project Officer Kath Buttar explained that "through this initiative, not only have we seen tangible progress with companies reducing their waste but have also witnessed the power of connection within the wider business community."

Others undertaking waste audits include Green Fox Landscaping, Kinross Vineyard Boutique Hotel, Wilson Contractors and Warren & Mahoney Architects with the hope of more to follow.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Wastebusters has released several case studies and short videos to inspire others to think differently about their waste streams and encourage them to manage them more effectively. Check them out at [wastebusters.co.nz/audits-and-advice/](http://wastebusters.co.nz/audits-and-advice/)



*Glendhu Bay assistant manager Tyson Hunt getting to grips with waste.*

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# Hidden history of unmarked graves

Recent work by our Parks & Reserves team has helped locate dozens of historical unmarked graves around the district.

QLDC Cemeteries and Heritage Officer Tarsy Koentges said when it comes to cemeteries, historical records don't always match up with the information held by councils.

"That's never more obvious than when a plot we think is empty and available, well... isn't," she said.

"While this doesn't happen often, we were keen to improve our records using ground penetrating radar (GPR). So far we've used GPR at Council-managed cemeteries in Albert Town, Frankton, Queenstown and Wānaka."

"It has helped us discover plenty of likely unmarked burials by features such as disturbance of the subsurface, trench features, observed parallel lines and in some cases a depression on the ground's surface."

Tarsy explained why such unmarked graves exist.

"Over the years, we've played host to different groups of people coming here to make their fortunes mining or panning for gold. When you consider how tough life was back then, it's no surprise that many may not have been able to afford permanent grave markers."

Wooden grave markers were also sometimes used (one of which is in the Lakes District Museum) but would degrade or be lost over time, she said. However, there would often be a metal plate etched with the person's name and/or a cross (depending on their religion) on the coffin lid.

"Such items can make all the difference in detecting an unmarked grave."

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

The fascinating new data helps us know which plots are actually empty. It will also help Tarsy and the team decide where to erect fencing to protect these sites and make sure they aren't disturbed in the future.

Aerial site map of Frankton Cemetery



### KEY:

-  Likely unmarked burial
-  Possible unmarked burial
-  Existing marked grave
-  High density of tree roots

**ARE YOU  
INTERESTED IN  
HOW WE PROTECT,  
MAINTAIN AND  
PRESERVE OUR  
CEMETERIES?**

The Cemeteries Bylaw 2017 is now due for review. This sets a framework for having a welcoming and accessible space for remembering your loved ones.

Council is proposing some changes to the current bylaw. We invite you to consider these and share your feedback.

To take part, head to **letstalk.qldc.govt.nz** or scan the QR code by 5.00pm 11 September 2023.



# No biking on Mt Iron

A reminder that biking is not currently allowed on Mt Iron in Wānaka. Trail building, track development and pruning/lopping is also strictly prohibited.

We're working on a draft reserve management plan for the area which will be shared with all members of the community for feedback in due course. Until then please respect existing rights of way and observe all signage. Many thanks for your co-operation.

An advertisement for Luxestay. The top half shows a scenic view of a lake and mountains with the text "HOLIDAY HOME MANAGEMENT Sorted." in white. The bottom half is a dark box with white text: "We offer all-round service from marketing, guest interaction, cleaning to property maintenance, giving our clients a complete handsfree, stress free experience. Contact us for a free assessment of your property's rental potential. Ask us about our latest referral program." At the bottom, the Luxestay logo and name are shown, along with contact information: "+64 21 126 3900 | hello@luxestay.co.nz | www.luxestay.co.nz".

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# PRIDE WEEK CELEBRATION CLASSES

We're wanting to have some fun and celebrate with our rainbow community so we're holding some special classes during Pride Week. Wearing rainbow colours encouraged!

## When

RPM: Saturday 26 August at 10.15am with Aaron  
RPM: Monday 28 August at 7.15pm with Aaron  
TONE: Wednesday 30 August at 5.30pm with Jake

## Booking

Email [qec@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:qec@qldc.govt.nz) and put 'Pride booking' in the subject line.



Special casual rate  
**\$8**  
For these classes!

# MUM STRONG!

## A POST-PREGNANCY COURSE

Return to exercise safely and become Mum strong! These sessions will offer a supportive and relaxed environment where parents can bring along their new bubs - they're great for resistance training!

### WHEN

Thursdays 12.30-1.15pm

### COST

\$8 per session during the school term

### WHERE

Queenstown Events Centre group fitness studio

### BOOKINGS

To book please visit reception to fill out a post-pregnancy pre-screening form or call (03) 450 9005. We might ask your GP for the OK before you start.



Alpine Health & Fitness  
QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

# The General Election is on 14 October

To vote, you need to be enrolled and your details need to be up to date. It's easy to enrol, check or update your details online:

**[vote.nz/enrol](https://vote.nz/enrol)**



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# Let's talk

Register and find full details of these projects and more at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)



## An update on key consultation topics happening in 2023.

We're well into another busy year with plenty of topics and projects we'd love your input on. Get the latest status update on key consultation topics here. And remember, the best way to stay informed on what's coming up for consultation is to register on Let's Talk – it's easy, head to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

### CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:

#### DRAFT CEMETERIES BYLAW

An updated bylaw that aims to protect, maintain and preserve our cemeteries.

**Status:** Submissions open until 11 September.

#### GLENORCHY AIRSTRIP RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

To inform ongoing airstrip management for users and the Glenorchy community.

**Status:** Submissions open until 18 September.

#### BROTHEL BYLAW REVIEW

A review of the bylaw that controls the location and advertising of brothels in our town centres.

**Status:** Early engagement feedback being analysed.

#### FUTURE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

A call for potential development sites to feed into a Future Development Strategy for the district.

**Status:** Submissions being analysed.

#### LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034

An early opportunity to share your thoughts on how we should prioritise resources ahead of our next Long Term Plan.

**Status:** Feedback closed. Formal consultation scheduled for March 2024.

#### QUEENSTOWN AIRPORT MASTERPLAN

A proposed series of infrastructure improvements over the next decade.

**Status:** Feedback closed, submissions being reviewed.

### UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATION TOPICS:

### WHAT'S COMING UP:

#### MOUNT IRON RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

September-November 2023

#### LISMORE PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

#### TREE POLICY REVIEW

#### NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT – URBAN DEVELOPMENT

#### PUBLIC TRANSPORT BUSINESS CASE (VIA WAY TO GO GROUP)

#### DISTRICT-WIDE PARKING STRATEGY

#### DISTRICT-WIDE SPEED REVIEW

#### PENINSULAR BAY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

#### WATERWAYS SAFETY AND NAVIGATION BYLAW REVIEW

#### ARTS AND CULTURE STRATEGY

#### AND MUCH MORE

## QLDC & SERVICE CENTRES

### 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)  
[www.qldc.govt.nz](http://www.qldc.govt.nz)

### Office Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

## QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE AND VENUES

Arrowtown Athenaeum Hall  
Queenstown Memorial Hall  
Lake Hayes Pavilion  
Lake Wānaka Centre  
Luggate Memorial Centre  
Alpine Aqualand  
Alpine Health & Fitness  
Sports fields  
Phone: 03 450 9005

## WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool  
Indoor Courts  
Phone: 03 443 9334

## TRANSFER STATIONS

**Wakatipu:** 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**

## LIBRARIES

For library opening hours and locations please head to [codc-qldc.govt.nz](http://codc-qldc.govt.nz)

## EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

Scuttlebutt 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.