

# LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2024 // ISSUE 163

THE QLDC NEWSLETTER FORMERLY KNOWN AS SCUTTLEBUTT!

## PARTY AT PAETARA!

Paetara Aspiring Central – Wānaka's newest sport and community facility – turns one in October. We're celebrating by hosting a community open day with free entry to try some new sports or just have a look around. Everyone's invited!  
**Find out more on page 3.**

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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 their email addresses so you can get in touch.

There are also opportunities to pop along and see them in person at 'share with us' sessions:

## WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

Every two months the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board hosts a lunchtime drop-in session at Paetara Aspiring Central (off Cliff Wilson Street). The next session is scheduled for **6 November, 12.00-1.00pm**.

## ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

On the last Friday of every month the Arrowtown-Kawarau ward Councillors host a drop-in session at **Arrowtown Library** from **11.00am-12.30pm**.

All welcome!



**QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT MAYOR GLYN LEWERS**  
Glyn.Lewers@qldc.govt.nz

## ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

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



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



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



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

## QUEENSTOWN-WHAKATIPU WARD

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



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



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



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



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

## WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA WARD

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



Councillor Lyal Cocks  
Lyal.Cocks@qldc.govt.nz



Councillor Cody Tucker  
Cody.Tucker@qldc.govt.nz

## WĀNAKA-UPPER CLUTHA COMMUNITY BOARD



Simon Telfer (Chairperson)  
Simon.Telfer@qldc.govt.nz



Chris Hadfield  
Chris.Hadfield@qldc.govt.nz



Linda Joll  
Linda.Joll@qldc.govt.nz



John Wellington  
John.Wellington@qldc.govt.nz

Councillor Bruce

Councillor Cocks

Councillor Tucker

# Happy birthday to Paetara!

Paetara Aspiring Central (PAC) in Wānaka has been open for a year and this community has fully embraced the new sport and community facility.

Aspiring Gymsports and Kahu Youth Trust have called PAC home since day one, and hundreds of people have been coming through the front door each week to use the studio, communal space and two multi-use indoor courts.

To date, 26 groups have hired out the meeting room and 24 have used the studio space for more than 4,000 sessions. These include dance, yoga, karate and pole dancing.

People in the Upper Clutha are loving Pickleball with nearly 2,300 sessions through the year, and that's before we've factored in additional court time for badminton, table tennis, basketball, netball and other users.

It's fair to say it's been a busy first year at PAC! We want to celebrate this milestone and invite the community to come join us on Saturday 19 October from 11.00am.

It's PAC's official birthday party and we'll be offering free entry with the courts set up for different sports to try. There'll be a sausage sizzle and maybe even some birthday cake to share!

Don't worry if you can't make the birthday bash – PAC is open every day except Sundays so feel free to drop by and take a look around. See you there!

To view the details of our birthday bash head to [qldc.govt.nz/pac-birthday](https://qldc.govt.nz/pac-birthday)

For general info and details of our regular programmes head to [qldc.govt.nz/paetara](https://qldc.govt.nz/paetara)

## SUMMERDAZE

As we head into the warmer days, our annual Summerdaze events are about to return.

Stay tuned for full event details, including the Teddy Bears Picnic and community BBQs. They're all free!

 [qldc.govt.nz/summerdaze](https://qldc.govt.nz/summerdaze)

 [@QLDCinfo](https://www.facebook.com/QLDCinfo)



Vivian+Espie Ltd was founded by Benedict Espie and Caerene Vivian in 2004, starting out humbly in a stone hut at the confluence of the Kawarau and Shotover Rivers.

Fast forward 20 years, and how times have changed! What began as a small, riverside venture has evolved into a leading consultancy, shaping landscapes and developments throughout the region. From those early days by the river, the company has grown, embracing innovation and creativity to leave a lasting impact.

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resource management and landscape planning (03) 441 4189 [www.vivianespie.co.nz](http://www.vivianespie.co.nz)

# Plan adopted

You can read the adopted LTP and a decision summary at [qldc.govt.nz/ltp](https://qldc.govt.nz/ltp)

## The Long Term Plan 2024-2034 was adopted by Councillors on 19 September.

The final plan, which has been amended following an extensive community consultation process, includes a ten-year programme of capital investment and service delivery across the district.

Its adoption confirmed a \$2.4 billion capital expenditure programme,

with the first three years mainly focused on delivering essential three waters infrastructure. It also confirmed an average increase in Council rates across the district of 15.8%.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to one of the 939 submissions we received. As well as feedback on the key consultation topics, other themes that emerged during the consultation process included requests for investment in Cardrona-based Snow Farm facilities and services, Upper Clutha

sports facilities, Wānaka performing arts and cultural centre, climate and biodiversity, infrastructure projects and active travel.

The enthusiasm from community and volunteer groups reflects the passion our people have for their local facilities, environment and a connected community, and this was seen in the submissions and requests for funding.

Unfortunately, it's never possible for Council to support all the funding requests from

the community in the current financial climate, particularly those with significant price tags and long-term operational requirements. These requests speak to a community need and we will continue to work alongside the many groups who have engaged with us through this process – the time and energy they continuously put into improving our district and quality of life is second to none and we will do what we can to continue to support their efforts.

## Need help paying your rates?

We know some in our community are doing it tough right now due to increased cost of living across the board and may face challenges paying their rates.

If you're unsure whether you can make upcoming payments, please let us know as soon as you can by emailing [rates@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:rates@qldc.govt.nz) or calling our rates team on 03 441 0499 (Queenstown) or 03 443 0024 (Wānaka). Our friendly staff will be able to discuss options available to you.



Read more about rates payment options, rebates and postponement policies and due dates at [qldc.govt.nz/rates-and-property](https://qldc.govt.nz/rates-and-property)

## How's life?

Our seventh annual Quality of Life survey is open until 10 November. We're keen to know how you feel about things like employment, housing, health, transport and the environment. Anyone local aged 18+ can take part. Share your feedback and be in to win Prezzy cards! Head to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

# Managing wildfire risk

Summer is on its way and as temperatures rise so too does the risk of wildfires in our reserves.

We've developed a set of protocols and guidelines to help us make decisions on how to manage reserves when conditions become extreme. This may result in occasional closures to ensure public safety.

We've identified three reserves that pose the highest risk in our district: Ben Lomond, Queenstown Hill and Mount Iron. When fire indices reach unsafe levels it will trigger QLDC's wildfire reserve closure plan which is supported by with FENZ. Closing access means we can reduce the potential for a fire to happen, and ensure people are out of harm's way if it does.

## How we'll let you know if a reserve is closed

The fastest way to find out about a reserve closure is to sign up for our 'etxt' service. We'll message you when a reserve needs to close. Sign up and select either Queenstown or Wānaka as your location at the website below.

### WE'LL ALSO:

talk directly with key leaseholders and groups;

put up signage;

share the message with local news outlets;

update the webpage below and publish an alert on our homepage; and

share on social media.

Please be aware that we won't be staffing entrance points to reserves during the closure periods; entering a reserve while it's closed will be at people's own risk.

To read more about the reserve closure plan, see the current status of each reserve and some FAQs head to [qldc.govt.nz/managing-wildfire-risk](https://qldc.govt.nz/managing-wildfire-risk)

## New planning newsletter

Curious about the latest in planning policy, resource consents and development engineering in our district? Our new quarterly newsletter *Planning Matters* launched in October brings you all the essential updates.

Sign up to receive future issues directly into your inbox at [qldc.govt.nz/planning-matters](https://qldc.govt.nz/planning-matters)

## Property Management Award Winners 2023!

- ★ Excellence in Customer Service
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**HOUSEMART**  
HOW SMART

# Town Centre Arterial Road project update

The confirmed opening date for the Arterial Road (stage 1) is 28 January. For more information visit [qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road](http://qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road)

## WHAT

Stormwater upgrades and construction of a new outfall structure into Horne Creek

## WHEN

14 October – 20 December

## WHERE

Lower Ballarat Street, between the Village Green and Stanley Street

## What's happening?

We're boosting the resilience of Queenstown's stormwater network by replacing approximately 90m of stormwater pipe along lower Ballarat Street, between the Village Green and Stanley Street. The upgraded pipe will be 900mm in diameter, close to double the size of the existing pipe.

This work is part of the Town Centre Arterial Road project. It will ultimately connect to the significant underground service upgrades already constructed along the route of Stage 1 and down some of the side streets into the town centre.

The piped stormwater network has been carefully designed to capture as much of the uphill water flow as possible. This

helps to reduce potential surface water on the Arterial Road, particularly during more intense rainfall events associated with a changing climate.

These upgrades will improve water quality by treating initial stormwater runoff (which has a higher concentration of pollutants) before discharging it into Horne Creek and ultimately Lake Whakatipu.

We're taking extra care to work around special heritage features in this area, including protected Wellingtonia trees on the corner of Stanley and Ballarat Streets, excavation near the historic courthouse building, and the Ballarat Street bridge. You can read more about this at [qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road](http://qldc.govt.nz/town-centre-arterial-road)

## What to expect

There will be changes to the road layout and access in this area while the work is underway. This is shown on the map. Key points include:

**HIGHWAY ACCESS:** Stanley Street (SH6A) remains two-lanes, however there will be one-way access only into lower Ballarat Street. Two lane access will be available during Queenstown Marathon weekend, Saturday 16 November.

**PEDESTRIAN ACCESS:** You'll still be able to walk around Athol and Lower Ballarat streets to access businesses, although there may be adjustments during the works. These will be clearly signposted.

**NO ACCESS TO / FROM ATHOL STREET FROM BALLARAT STREET:** Resident and business access will be maintained. Entry into Athol Street for businesses and the

KFC drive-through will be available from Shotover Street.

**COACH STOPS ON ATHOL STREET WILL BE RELOCATED TO STANLEY STREET:** There isn't enough space for coaches to turn around on Athol Street so the safest and most efficient option is to relocate the stops onto Stanley Street.

**OTHER DISRUPTION INCLUDES NOISE AND VIBRATION:** We will be monitoring noise and installing sound mats on perimeter fencing where required.

**STAY UP-TO-DATE:** These are our planned dates of work, but they may change if we're able to finish a stage of work more quickly than expected, or it takes longer due to weather, resources or other circumstances outside of our control.

We'll provide updates on the QLDC Facebook page and website if dates change

ACCESS TO KFC AND ATHOL STREET BUSINESSES VIA SHOTOVER STREET ONLY

TEMPORARY COACH STOPS ON STANLEY STREET

14 OCTOBER TO 20 DECEMBER 2024

POWER DUCTING RELOCATION, STORMWATER PIPE INSTALL, AND OUTFALL STRUCTURE PLACEMENT BY HORNE CREEK

VILLAGE GREEN

ONE WAY ENTRY ONLY FROM STANLEY STREET INTO LOWER BALLARAT STREET



SCAN FOR A VIDEO FLY THROUGH OF WHAT TO EXPECT WHILE THIS WORK IS UNDERWAY.



2024 - 2025

# Otago Property Market Review and Outlook

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SCAN TO READ

# From the Chambers

## ACCELERATED TIMEFRAME FOR BALLANTYNE ROAD OXIDATION PONDS

Upper Clutha folk love their sport! They're taking part in bigger and bigger numbers and Council's challenge is to meet this demand. A clear message from the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (LTP) hearings in Wānaka was that new sports fields are wanted urgently for different codes.

There have been informal discussions for a number of years about using the site of the old wastewater oxidation ponds on Ballantyne Road to develop a new sports hub but until recently, due to well-publicised funding constraints, waiting until Year 6 of the LTP has been the only option.

However, a new direction reported to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board at its meeting on 10 October is a proposal to enter into a commercial agreement with Willowridge Developments Ltd to clear and fill the site. It's a potential win-win for the community: if Willowridge removes nearly 150,000m<sup>3</sup> from its existing development site, the clean fill could be transferred to the former ponds to create a flat 20ha grassed area. Remediation of any contaminated material would also be considered within the agreement.

Subject to Council agreeing through a capital reforecast to bring forward just over \$5M from Year 6 to begin the project in 2025-26, Willowridge would complete the site remediation and earthworks required to provide a flat green space. This flat space will enable any future development of sports fields more easily. Watch this space for future updates.

## REVIEW OF EASTER SUNDAY TRADING POLICY

Historically, there's been a bone of contention between Wānaka and Queenstown – that shops in the Queenstown area were able to continue to trade all Easter, including on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, whilst those in the Upper Clutha had to close. Finally in 2016, the government introduced legislation allowing councils to adopt a local policy on opening on Easter Sunday\* and in early 2017 QLDC adopted a *Local Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy* which enabled businesses to determine if they wanted to trade.

This provided long-awaited consistency across the whole district but, like bylaws, these local policies have to be reviewed every five years and consulted on or they will lapse. Accordingly, a report providing an initial review of the policy was due to be presented to Council just after this newsletter was published. Look on 'Let's Talk' for more information about the proposed policy, how to make a submission and the hearing date.

*\*Note that the local policy may only apply to **Easter Sunday** and none of the other specific days identified in the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990, i.e. Christmas Day, Good Friday and Anzac Day (until 1.00pm).*

## 'OPEN FOR BUSINESS' NOW THE NORM FOR COUNCILS

It was a watershed moment earlier this year when all councils were presented with an Ombudsman report called 'Open for Business' that recommended making all\*\* workshops – hitherto just for elected members – open to the public. Since March, most QLDC workshops have been open to the public (and media), with agendas and minutes being published on our website.

This has meant a big step up for the democracy services team and has also coincided with a much more user-friendly presentation of agendas and minutes on our website. Minutes are now shown separately once they have been presented to a subsequent meeting and confirmed and signed – gone are the days when minutes seemed to be hidden because they only appeared as part of agendas. Meetings can also now be searched by month, year or type and there are video recordings of all\*\* formal standing committee, community board and full Council meetings, with the latter also **livestreamed**.

Hearings of submissions are also recorded and deliberations are now also held in public. The exception will be consent hearings (because they are open to appeal to the Environment Court) or where there are details about individuals being discussed.

*\*\*Except where there is good reason not to under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.*





# FREEDOM CAMPING UPDATE

The Freedom Camping Bylaw 2021 was due to be reviewed this year but that timing has been brought forward following a judicial review challenge by the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA).

We're in the very early stages of developing the bylaw for our district, so we've set up a Let's Talk page to share information and updates online as things progress. It includes lots of FAQs and an opportunity to ask your own question online.

Get full details at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/freedom-camping-bylaw-review-2024](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/freedom-camping-bylaw-review-2024)

## Campaign to focus on responsible camping

The 2021 bylaw restricted freedom camping in a number of areas in the district. Without it, those restrictions are lifted.

However, freedom campers should not assume that they can camp on any public land. There are still other laws and rules that apply so it's important people check before parking up.

Before the main summer season, we're updating signage, online maps and other public information to ensure it aligns with the Court decision.

We know locals want visitors to camp responsibly so our responsible camping summer programme will retain a strong focus on education, especially sustainable camping practices and the new self-containment certifications. Our summer ambassadors will head to popular spots to share information with visitors on how to camp responsibly and our local expectations as well as promoting nearby campgrounds.

More info can be found at:

[qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping](https://qldc.govt.nz/responsible-camping)

# Made an official information request?

The Chief Ombudsman has begun a routine investigation into official information and meetings (LGOIMA) policies and practices at QLDC and four other agencies. If you've made a LGOIMA request within the past two years, or if you follow Council meetings, the ombudsman would appreciate your feedback:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYZV8DR](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HYZV8DR)

An advertisement for Lux Stay featuring a scenic view of a lake and mountains. The text reads: 'HOLIDAY HOME MANAGEMENT Sorted.' Below this, it says: '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 Lux Stay logo is shown with the text 'LUXE STAY Queenstown • New Zealand' and contact information: '+64 21 126 3900 | hello@luxestay.co.nz | www.luxestay.co.nz'.



**LOVE**

**MOUNT IRON?**

In May 2023, Council completed the purchase of nearly 100 hectares of land on Mount Iron and Little Mount Iron in Wānaka. This land has been vested as Recreation Reserve and our community is now the proud owner and guardian of a cherished local landmark.

Before the end of last year, we asked for initial feedback on how everyone wanted to use, enjoy, manage, preserve and enhance this new public land. This has helped shape a draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) and it's now time to ask if the draft plan aligns with the community's vision.

Check out the draft plan and share your thoughts by 29 November.

Once public consultation has closed and people have had the opportunity to speak at a public hearing, all submissions will be considered by the hearing panel and used to make final changes to the RMP. This will then be presented to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board and Full Council for adoption early next year.

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**

**[LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.T.NZ](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)**

The Parks team is also currently updating the draft RMP for Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill Reserves. Public engagement is planned to kick off in December so keep an eye on Let's Talk for your chance to get involved.

# Housing action update

## In September, we published the first annual Joint Housing Action Plan (JHAP) monitoring report.

The JHAP was developed in partnership between QLDC, Kāi Tahu, central government and Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust (QLCHT), and is an output of the Queenstown Lakes Spatial Plan. It recognises that a lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest challenges the district faces and is an issue that impacts individuals, families, businesses and the wider community.

We know that increasing housing supply alone won't solve the problem, so the JHAP identifies 34 actions to address these challenges. Work on them is steadily underway, and key implementation highlights for the first year include:

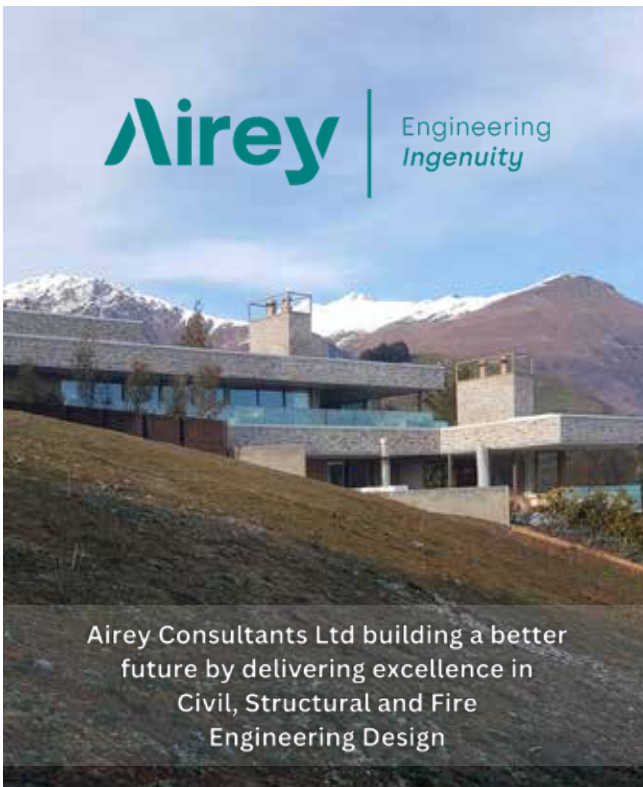
- > Facilitating over \$10M worth of Inclusionary Housing contributions (land and money) for QLCHT, bringing total contributions to \$48M.
- > Working in partnership to deliver Tewa Banks community housing in Arrowtown which involved \$10M worth of land from QLDC, \$20M worth of loans and investment from central government, and QLCHT delivering 68 homes with first stage due for completion later this year.
- > Completing the Structure Plan for Te Pūtahi Ladies Mile and sending it to the Minister for the Environment for signoff; the plan is designed to ensure high quality urban development of predominantly medium- and high-density housing.
- > Refreshing our approach and focus on agreements with developers to facilitate further contributions to QLCHT.
- > Building insights and evidence by monitoring key housing indicators, listening to the community, research, and expert analysis.
- > Creating and promoting Council's Manaaki campaign to support people with housing needs, and providing information about responsible short-term letting.

Our work will continue with a particular focus on three priority areas:

- > Monitoring and enforcing agreements with housing developers.
- > Looking at whether Council land could be used in the long term for housing.
- > Looking at the regulatory tools (such as rates and development contributions) that we can use to improve housing outcomes.

### Read more at

[qldc.govt.nz/improving-housing-outcomes](https://qldc.govt.nz/improving-housing-outcomes)



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# ‘Postcards’ from recent events

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



## SOWING THE SEEDS OF LOVE

More than 100 volunteers gathered on a rainy October day to plant 2,000 native trees at Jardine Park, Kelvin Heights. The soggy but happy crew included folk from local businesses and passionate community members committed to preserving and enhancing our unique biodiversity. A real highlight was planting Whakatipu Reforestation Trust's (WRT) 100,000th tree. Pictured from the organising team are (back row, L-R) Yvette Ridley, QLDC; Karen O'Donahoo and Jo Smith, both WRT; Pierre Poyet, Skyline Queenstown; (front row L-R) Sararose Brown, WRT; Ash Bickley, Love Queenstown/ Wānaka; Ed Tillard, Mana Tāhuna; Katarina Horackova, Skyline Queenstown. *[Image credit – David Oakley]*

## WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

That was the theme of this year's Welcoming Week featuring a series of events across the country to foster a sense of belonging and celebrate diversity, especially amongst migrant communities. In our district, QLDC joined various groups to help organise and promote film screenings, community planting days, adult swim classes, a photography exhibition and heaps more. Language Lounge sessions, including the one pictured at Wānaka's Rhyme X Reason Brewery, were hosted by Kiwi Kit Community Trust as an opportunity for people to speak and learn different languages from others in a fun, social environment.





### 300TH DEPARTURE FROM STATION PARK

Wānaka Park Run recently marked its 300th event at the Council-managed Wānaka Station Park. Fancy dress was encouraged which, whilst it may not have led to too many PBs, certainly added to the usual fun atmosphere. It was a double celebration for keen runners, walkers and doggies being also the twentieth anniversary of the first ever Park Run in London. The idea has since become a global phenomenon – a free, timed 5km community event in open spaces around the world. New participants and volunteers are always welcome in Wānaka and Queenstown. For more info visit [parkrun.co.nz](https://parkrun.co.nz)

### DARK SKIES, BRIGHT BRAINS

Our Libraries team recently kicked off a new events series with a star-studded session in Glenorchy. *Silver Science* involves free interactive workshops aimed at seniors hosted in collaboration with Tūhura Otago Museum. The museum brought along a portable planetarium (just as well, as it was raining!) allowing locals to explore constellations and learn more about New Zealand's place in space. Big thanks also to The Headwaters Eco Lodge and Glenorchy Dark Skies Group for helping bring science to life. For info on upcoming events visit

[qldclibraries.govt.nz](https://qldclibraries.govt.nz)



### PREPARING FOR THE WORST

Dozens of QLDC staff joined members of the emergency services, contractors, tourism operators and local non-profits in September for a half-day emergency management exercise. Following a similar exercise last year that practiced what 'good start' would look like, this scenario focused on likely activity on day five after a significant earthquake. An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was set up at Queenstown Memorial Centre while the Wānaka Incident Control Centre (WICC) was established at Wānaka Recreation Centre. It was a hugely valuable session in 'peacetime' to give everyone the chance to practice what they might have to do when 'it' gets real.

# DIVE INTO SAFETY

## Have your say on the draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025

Attention water lovers! It's time to make a splash and share your thoughts on the draft Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 that's designed to keep our lakes and rivers safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Navigation safety is a top priority when out on the water, and we need your help to chart the best course for our waterway rules.

Right now, we're waist-deep in the submission period which is your chance to help us steer the bylaw in the right direction. Jump onto our online survey at Let's Talk and make your voice heard!

**SUBMISSIONS  
CLOSE 31 OCTOBER  
SO GET YOURS IN  
BEFORE THEN.**

We're eager to hear your opinions on several important topics, including the use of communication devices on

vessels, the designation of ski lane locations, vessel identification and regulations for temporary water events, vessel speed limits, and access lanes at the Kawarau Dam.

So, if you're a community member, part of a recreational group, are a commercial operator, or just a shore-loving landlubber, please share your ideas. Your feedback will help us adjust our bylaw's sails to best align with both safety and recreational needs.

After the consultation wraps up, we'll carefully review all your input and hold a public hearing for those that wish to speak to their submission. The final draft of the bylaw will be presented to Councillors for adoption in early 2025.

So, Let's Talk, ahoy! Your thoughts matter, and together we can ensure our waterways remain safe and enjoyable for all.

Copies of the draft bylaw, Statement of Proposal, and a Statement of Information may be obtained from:

[letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

QLDC offices at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown, or 47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka.

Any QLDC library or recreation centre.

The current Navigation Safety Bylaw 2018 can be read at: [qldc.govt.nz/bylaws](https://qldc.govt.nz/bylaws)

This summer, our district is set to enhance water safety with three approved funding initiatives from Maritime NZ. First, we'll be adding an extra staff member for on-water compliance during the busy peak period at Clutha River and Upper Clutha lakes. We're also launching a Waterways Skipper Responsibility Campaign, aimed at educating residents and visitors about safe boating practices. Finally, our waterways staff will gather valuable data during on-water interactions to improve safety efforts. With these initiatives, we're aiming to create a safer, more enjoyable summer for everyone.



# Discharging trade waste the right way

---

Did you know any business that discharges or wants to discharge trade waste into the public wastewater system must apply for a consent?


Trade waste is any liquid or gas waste discharged into our wastewater network from commercial, industrial or educational trade premises, and could come from places like restaurants and takeaway outlets, car washes, service stations, hospitals and schools. It's different to domestic wastewater because it can contain high levels of fat, oil and grease, and may contain higher concentrations of substances that put a demand on the 'good' microbes at our treatment facilities that break down waste.

It's really important we manage trade waste so we can protect our environment and waterways from harmful and toxic substances, prevent blocked sewers and wastewater spills, encourage waste minimisation and water conservation, and protect those working on our wastewater network.

## Get your consent today

If your business operations discharge into our wastewater network, you must apply for a trade waste consent from us. We'll then be in touch for an inspection of your premises so we can assess the discharge and determine your consent category. Your consent may include conditions and/or recommendations on how to improve the discharge quality and support a collective effort to minimise our environmental footprint.

Find out more and apply at

 [qldc.govt.nz/trade-waste-discharge-consent](https://qldc.govt.nz/trade-waste-discharge-consent)

## Get me via email

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



# Project Tohu

## Recloaking the shoulders of Coronet Peak Mauka mountain.

We're delighted to announce Project Tohu as the new name for the Coronet Forest regeneration project as gifted by Ōraka-Aparima Rūnaka (tribal council).

Led by Council, Project Tohu is one of the largest revegetation programmes currently being undertaken in Aotearoa New Zealand, transitioning from an ex-Douglas fir plantation (exotic species) into native vegetation.

The project site covers 200 ha on the south-facing slopes of Coronet Peak close to Arrowtown and rises to its highest point of 930m. Over a three-year period, Project Tohu will plant over 500,000

native species of grasses, scrubs and trees. And in the future a mountain bike trail network, horse and walking trails and picnic areas will be available for the community to enjoy.

The Coronet Trail Network Plan was adopted by Council in September. This shows all proposed recreational trails for the area which we've developed working closely with the Coronet Forest Recreational Working Group. It'll be implemented in stages as funding becomes available. To view the plan head to [📍 qldc.govt.nz/project-tohu](https://qldc.govt.nz/project-tohu)

The Downstream Effect - by reintroducing native vegetation to Coronet Peak and indigenising the whenua, this project actively works to safeguard the health of our waterways reaching from the Crown basin to entering our seas in Bluff.

## Our partners

The contract to deliver an aspirational vision to recloak the shoulders of Coronet Peak Mauka mountain with native planting was awarded by QLDC to Te Tapu o Tāne, Citycare Property and e3Scientific Limited in earlier this year.

This partnership provides a unique opportunity to be a leading example of how ecological restoration can be successfully achieved within the Otago region and throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

There will be many opportunities for the community to be involved as the face of Coronet Forest is restored. QLDC and Te Tapu o Tāne look forward to sharing plans and celebrating milestones as they progress. To follow this project head to

[📍 qldc.govt.nz/project-tohu](https://qldc.govt.nz/project-tohu)

## Our project

Our Project Tohu illustration represents our three Ngāi Tahu tīpuna (ancestors) and our commitment to supporting Mana Whenua as kaitiaki (guardians) in safeguarding their taonga and the treasures of Papatūānuku (the earth mother) for future generations.

A 'Tohu' is a guide, a sign, a marker that signifies a truth.



### THE MOUNTAINS – MAUKA

Mauka **Mountains** from which we draw our mana and strength.



### THE WATER – WAI-MĀORI

Wai-māori **Freshwater** from which flows all life.



### THE PROVIDER – WHENUA

Whenua **The Provider** where we will grow our roots deep in whakapapa and rich in endemic biodiversity.



# Welcome to the Welcoming Plan!

Following public engagement and two well-attended community hui, the Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027 was adopted by the QLDC Community & Services Committee in September.

This is the result of over two years' collaboration with our community to develop a plan and set of actions that reflect the unique characteristics of our place and people, to ensure that all newcomers are able to thrive.

Through the Welcoming Communities | Te Waharoa ki ngā Hapori programme, the plan aims to provide newcomers with information to make informed decisions, language skills to help their settlement and integration goals, and the support they need to build networks within their new communities.

It also sets out actions to help overcome barriers that newcomers may face so they can participate in social, cultural, civic and economic life in our community and across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Council has led the development of the plan, but it will take a collaborative effort to bringing it to life. Partnering with Kāi Tahu to deliver key actions will be very important to enable newcomers to connect with mana whenua and learn about te ao Māori (the Māori world view).




To read the plan, find out more and learn how you can be involved head to [qldc.govt.nz/welcoming-communities](https://qldc.govt.nz/welcoming-communities)

OUR KEY ACTIONS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD:
Creating a Newcomers Guide to welcome and help those arriving in our district.
Supporting the upcoming Queenstown Multicultural Festival and Wānaka Festival of Colour.
Establishing a Welcoming Network to support settlement and integrations services.


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# Repair events return

Give your broken items a second chance at two upcoming Repair Revolution events. Whether it's a favorite shirt, a small appliance or a beloved piece of furniture, the Wastebusters and Sustainable Queenstown teams are here to help!

Skilled volunteer fixers will offer free repairs and expert guidance. Get hands-on and learn some valuable repair skills, and connect with like-minded people.

Repair Revolution events promote a culture of repair in our community, keeping waste out of landfills and extending the life of our belongings. These initiatives are proudly supported by Council's Zero Waste District Programme.

## REPAIR REVOLUTION - WĀNAKA

**DATE:** Sunday, 10 November

**TIME:** 10.00am – 2.00pm

**LOCATION:** Wānaka Community Workshop,  
15 Gordon Road

## REPAIR REVOLUTION - FRANKTON

**DATE:** Saturday, 23 November

**TIME:** 10.00am – 2.00pm

**LOCATION:** Salvation Army Community Centre,  
8 Pin Oak Avenue

For more info visit

[wastebusters.co.nz/events](https://wastebusters.co.nz/events)

### INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

If you have talents in sewing, bike repairs or other fix-it skills we'd love a helping hand. There's a sign-up form in each event's listing at the website above.

# Free guides to reducing business waste

We're excited to launch eight guides to minimising business waste, each focusing on a specific industry: hair and beauty, hospitality, landscaping, retail, tour operators, accommodation, Airbnb and holiday rentals, and offices.

Written together with our mates at Wastebusters as part of the Council-supported Resourceful Communities programme, the guides provide practical solutions and tips.

"They're a direct response to feedback we've received from the business community," said QLDC Senior Sustainability Advisor Kath Buttar.

"When we surveyed local businesses in 2023, the overwhelming message was that they wanted real-life case studies and downloadable content to help them reduce their waste. These guides do both and we've related them directly to our district's waste reduction and recycling systems."

"They're just part of our wider efforts to support businesses towards zero waste that also includes workshops, industry groups and advice, and information around recycling, green waste and composting hubs," said Kath.

Wastebusters Business Development Manager Sophie Ward adds that small actions can lead to significant changes, helping businesses feel more confident in their waste reduction efforts.

"Together we can create a more sustainable community!"

Download the guides for free at

[qldc.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-for-businesses](https://qldc.govt.nz/waste-minimisation-for-businesses)

# FREE TYRE RECYCLING

We're excited to support the new Tyre Stewardship scheme, offering free tyre recycling at our Frankton or Wānaka Transfer Stations. Bring up to five tyres at a time at no cost provided they are off their rims.

The scheme recently expanded to include registered retailers, generators, and collection sites, with councils' transfer stations now registered. Tyrewise will handle the collection and recycling of tyres using the fees collected at the tyre's point of purchase.

This initiative covers all air-filled and solid tyres from cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, aircraft, and off-road vehicles, though bike tyres and inner tubes aren't included just yet. Please note that if your tyres are still on rims, there will be a small fee of \$8.50 per car tyre and \$14.50 per truck tyre.

Let's make the most of this opportunity to tread lightly on our planet!



## Don't let a good idea go to waste!

We're inviting ideas on what you think we should be focusing on as we develop a Waste Management and Minimisation Plan for the district.

If you have an idea for how we can work together to build a low waste future and post it on our online ideas board. Sometimes even the smallest ideas can make a big impact so get involved today!

Last month we held a webinar covering the district's current waste challenges and opportunities, the process for developing a new WMMP and how you can get involved. If you missed it, we've provided a recording at [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/wmmp](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/wmmp)

**Wānaka Guided Garden Tours**  
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Gift cards, group discounts available\* (2-7 persons)

Call Florence 021 0279 2481  
or visit [beautifulgardenswanaka.com](https://beautifulgardenswanaka.com)

# Kingston upgrades underway

STAY IN THE LOOP



Spades have hit ground and crews are now busy working to deliver critical three waters infrastructure down at the foot of Lake Whakatipu in Kingston. Upgrades will include new water and wastewater treatment plants and stormwater improvements in the township. It'll all help to unlock more land for housing in the area with capacity for up to 1,200 future dwellings.

Given its proximity to fast-growing Queenstown, Kingston has long been considered an appropriate location for more housing stock but limited by the lack of supporting three waters infrastructure.

Contractor Fulton Hogan is now working to install a new bulk water supply main along Kent Street, running from Oxford Street through to SH6, before future works connect the pipes up SH6 and along Glen Nevis Station Road to the new water treatment plant and reservoir.

Delivery of the project is being staged, starting with the water supply works already underway, followed by stormwater improvements and then construction of the wastewater treatment plant.

## POTENTIAL DISRUPTIONS

As with any large construction project, there will be some disruption around Kingston while these water supply pipes are being installed. This is likely to include noise, vibration, plant movements and temporary changes along Kent Street and other nearby streets for pedestrians and drivers.

## STAY IN THE LOOP

To find all the latest info and subscribe to regular email updates head to [qldc.govt.nz/kingston-infrastructure-works](https://qldc.govt.nz/kingston-infrastructure-works) or scan the QR code above.

# Drinking water (with added sunshine!)

We're fortunate to have quality drinking water sources in our district but treatment is still required to ensure the supply at your home and business is safe.

We already treat the majority of our water sources through a combination of ultraviolet (UV) disinfection and chlorination, and we're currently in the midst of upgrading several of our remaining treatment plants to ensure your drinking water remains fresh, delicious and fully compliant with the latest standards.

## CHECK OUT THE UPGRADES WE'VE COMPLETED TO DATE, AND WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON:

### Completed:

Fernhill Reservoir (temporary upgrade).

Western Intake, Wānaka.

Beacon Point, Wānaka.

### Underway:

Wānaka Airport (October 2024).

Glenorchy (November 2024).

Two Mile, Queenstown (February 2025).

Luggate (December 2025).

## HOW DOES UV DISINFECTION WORK?

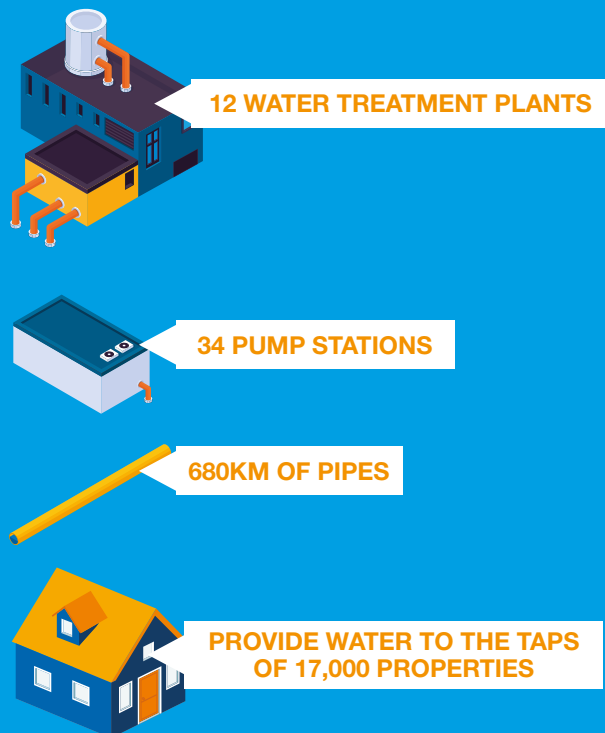
Disinfection with UV light is a simple and effective method to address nasties like bacteria and/or protozoa that may be present in raw water. Water is pumped from a source through reactors which include several UV lamps, each emitting high frequency UV light waves that disrupt the DNA of any organisms 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.

## WHAT ABOUT CHLORINE?

Adding chlorine to water provides a barrier against bacteria and viruses (but not protozoa), breaking chemical bonds in molecules that make up potential pathogens and killing them in the process. As water passes through pipes, residual chlorine hangs around and helps to address risks from potential contamination points around the network.

Regulations require a minimum 'residual' at the end of the network, and we operate treatment plants to ensure that's achieved while keeping the applied dose as low as possible.

## THE NUMBERS BEHIND QLDC'S WATER NETWORK:



## No e-motos on trails

A reminder that motocross bikes and e-motos are not allowed on our local tracks and trails. They can damage the trail surface and vegetation, and pose a danger to walkers, runners and bikers.

You can report misuse of our trail network by calling us on:

- // 03 441 0499 (Queenstown).
- // 03 443 0024 (Wānaka).



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# Festival brings readers and writers together



Image credit: Stephen Tilley

Queenstown Writers Festival (31 October–3 November) promises to be the biggest and most diverse literary festival yet.

More than 25 acclaimed writers are taking part in events including author conversations, workshops, a book launch, theatre and a media panel.

Te Atamira at Remarkables Park will once again be the festival's home, with some events at local libraries and in Wānaka for the first time.

The guest list is led by an outstanding selection of non-fiction writers who have written some of New Zealand's best-selling books of 2024.

They include journalist Steve Braunias and TV personality Jude Dobson who wrote the incredible story of WWII spy Pippa Latour. Journalist Paddy Gower (pictured) will also appear following the publication of his first book in September.

An acclaimed mix of fiction writers includes well-

known children's author Gavin Bishop, one of New Zealand's most challenging and fun writers Pip Adam, bestseller Rachael King and one of this year's newest literary sensations, Saraid de Silva.

For full details of the programme and tickets head to

[qtwritersfestival.nz](https://qtwritersfestival.nz)

# Regenerative tourism in action



The Love Wānaka and Love Queenstown Community Funds are giving platforms that invite our visitors, and the visitor industry, to help protect the environment at the heart of our home. Established in 2023 as part of the region's destination management plan, these initiatives raise critical funds for and awareness of local environmental action, ensuring tourism gives back more than it takes. Here's their impact in the first 12 months:

## 2024 IMPACT GRANT RECIPIENTS

The inaugural funding round saw seven organisations across the district receive funds totaling more than \$60,000.

For a full list of recipients visit:

[lovewanaka.co.nz](https://lovewanaka.co.nz) [loveqt.co.nz](https://loveqt.co.nz)

## HOW TO SUPPORT THIS MAHI

There are many benefits to building a strong purpose into your business and backing it up with tangible action, both for you and the environment. Find out how via the websites above.

*Love Wānaka and Love Queenstown are initiatives of Destination Southern Lakes (a collaboration between Lake Wānaka Tourism and Destination Queenstown) and are delivered in partnership with the Wakatipu Community Foundation.*



**\$60,000**  
IN IMPACT GRANTS



**\$15,000**  
INVESTED FOR THE FUTURE



**40**  
BUSINESS PARTNERS



**545**  
VISITOR DONATIONS



**4**  
INDUSTRY PLANTING DAYS



**295**  
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



**4,400+**  
NATIVE TREES PLANTED



**5 MILLION**  
PEOPLE REACHED

**CHRISTMAS**

**SHOW – SAVE**

**THE DATE!**

This year's annual Queenstown Lakes Christmas Show – *The World of Christmas* – promises to share all the joy of the season.

Characters will visit different countries and discover unique Christmas traditions from around the world. Enjoy watching our district's amazing talent as they sing, dance and act their way to a happy ending!

There'll be two fun-packed family performances at Queenstown Events Centre on Sunday 8 December: one at 1.00pm and one at 5.00pm.

Remember to get your tickets in advance as they always get snapped up quicker than a homemade mince pie!

The event will be supporting our local Salvation Army as they reach out for donations for the annual food hampers and provide a Gift Grotto for our community.

More info and tickets at [www.christmasshow.co.nz](http://www.christmasshow.co.nz)



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The Property Group offers strategic RMA planning and expert development advice for the Wānaka and Central Otago region. Our Wānaka based team works closely with you to conceptualise the subdivision and development potential of your land and to realise its maximum value.

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[wanaka@propertygroup.co.nz](mailto:wanaka@propertygroup.co.nz)  
[propertygroup.co.nz](http://propertygroup.co.nz)



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

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



Did you know we have a whole website dedicated to consultation and engagement?

Let's Talk is an easy way to contribute to local decision making by having a say on the topics and projects that matter to you and your community. You can even register for a regular update on the latest projects and what's coming up. Here's a snapshot:

## CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:

### NAVIGATION SAFETY BYLAW

Submissions open until 31 October

### MOUNT IRON DRAFT RECREATION RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submissions open until 29 November

### WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN REVIEW

Online ideas board open

## PROJECT UPDATES:

### WELCOMING PLAN 2024-2027

Adopted by Community & Services Committee 24 September

### LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034

Adopted by Full Council 19 September

### DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION POLICY UPDATES

Adopted by Full Council 19 September

## FEEDBACK HAS CLOSED AND SUBMISSIONS ARE BEING REVIEWED:

### SUBDIVISION CODE OF PRACTICE

### JARDINE PARK DRAFT DEVELOPMENT PLAN

### ELDERLY HOUSING ASSET TRANSFER

## WHAT'S COMING UP:

### BEN LOMOND AND QUEENSTOWN HILL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN

### TE TAPUAE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR STRUCTURE PLAN

### FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

### EASTER SUNDAY SHOP TRADING POLICY

### SMOKEFREE AND VAPEFREE POLICY

### EVENTS POLICY

### AND MUCH MORE

## QLDC OFFICES

### Queenstown Office:

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

### Wānaka Office:

47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka  
Phone: 03 443 0024

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

### Office Hours:

Weekdays 8.00am – 5.00pm

## QUEENSTOWN EVENTS CENTRE

Alpine Aqualand  
Alpine Health & Fitness  
Indoor Courts  
Sports fields  
Phone: 03 450 9005

## WĀNAKA RECREATION CENTRE

Wānaka Pool  
Indoor Courts  
Phone: 03 443 9334

## PAETARA ASPIRING CENTRAL

Indoor Courts  
Studio  
Phone: 03 450 1721

## VENUES

For more information on our venues please head to [qldc.govt.nz/venues](http://qldc.govt.nz/venues)

## LIBRARIES

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

## TRANSFER STATIONS

**Whakatipu:** 110 Glenda Drive  
Frankton Industrial Area  
Phone: 03 348 5126

**Upper Clutha:** Cnr of Ballantyne & Riverbank Roads  
Phone: 03 348 6125

## HARBOURMASTER

Report non-compliance of waterway rules by phone **03 441 0499** or email [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz)  
In an emergency on the water always call **111**

## EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

Sam White ✉ [communications@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:communications@qldc.govt.nz)  
Feedback and ideas are welcome.

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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