

# LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // FEBRUARY / MARCH 2025 // ISSUE 165

## Queenstown's Arterial Road opens



The Queenstown Town Centre Arterial Road (stage 1) is now open following a special blessing ceremony on 30 January. It's another step towards transforming the CBD and improving the way we move around Whakatipu.

[FIND OUT MORE ON PAGE 6](#)

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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. The next session is scheduled for **Wednesday 2 April, 12.00-1.00pm at Wānaka Recreation Centre, Three Parks.**

## 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



## Getting the deal done

This edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Mai went to print just as we were finishing our pitch to central government for a Regional Deal.

That word 'our' is important – the pitch is a combined one from QLDC together with Central Otago District Council (CODC) and Otago Regional Council (ORC). As such it represents a regionwide partnership approach on behalf of our combined communities.

There are multiple successful examples of similar localised deals across the UK and Australia. In Aotearoa New Zealand, Regional Deals are framed around the need for a 30-year vision, with negotiated ten-year plans that deliver on shared objectives between central and local government.

Last year, the government invited proposals with the stipulation that they had to come from more than one local authority and include a regional council.

Whilst Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago may have some unique challenges and priorities, we also share common long-term goals.

The priority objectives being pursued by the government are to build economic growth, deliver connected and resilient infrastructure, and improve supply of affordable, quality housing. These match key challenges we've been facing for several years in the Whakatipu and the Upper Clutha.

It's worth remembering that previous mayors and councils have tried to address these challenges with central government. Most notably, the visitor levy on short-term

accommodation proposed in 2019 to recover the costs of the local impacts of tourism. Over 80% of you who voted in the non-binding referendum supported the levy which was then, understandably, put on hold due to the pandemic.

Presented with this new opportunity of a Regional Deal, our three councils are developing a proposal around some common themes: transforming the transport system, securing local energy needs for the future, developing innovative approaches to the area's health system, building an international investment gateway into New Zealand, increasing the value of tourism, and increasing productivity through economic resilience.

I'm confident these goals will both meet and deliver on the government's objectives. All are interconnected, with the intention of benefitting all who live here by sharing the value created by growth amongst our communities.

Whilst the arrangement is first and foremost between councils and central government, if successful, there would be opportunities for collaboration with the private sector and iwi/Māori organisations.

We'll know more about the outcome of our pitch soon with the first Regional Deal expected to be signed by the end of the year.

This is an opportunity to do things differently – to break the current cycle of just getting by as a nation. Through partnership, we are presenting a proposal that lays the foundations to drive quality of life upwards, now and into the future, for all members of our combined communities.

**Mayor Glyn Lewers**

# Events Policy feedback

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From international spectaculars to small community festivals, events are a key part of what makes our district a great place to live in and visit.

Organisers do a great job of putting on quality events while also coping with challenges such as unpredictable weather and strong demand on venues and parks. Community expectations on events have also changed over time, especially when it comes to ensuring they're delivered in a low-impact, sustainable way.

We're developing an events policy to reflect these expectations around a series of clear objectives and principles that will direct the events we support. It will be most relevant to Council-run events and to organisers who request Council funding or want to use community facilities.

Head to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) before 7 March and let us know what you think of the draft policy.

# Something missing?

Eagle-eyed readers might have noticed that there's no advert from Vivian+Espie in this issue. The Frankton-based planning advisors have graced page three of this newsletter with always creative, often quirky and sometimes downright bonkers adverts for donkey's years.

As far back as we can remember they've never missed an issue, and their adverts have never missed a beat.

We'll miss the turnips, cauliflower cheese, Double (traffic) Cone and Kiwiroot bubbles, but thank them for the long-standing advertising support.

For more information about how to reach the district's residents and ratepayers by advertising in Let's Talk Kōrero Mai please email [communications@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:communications@qldc.govt.nz)



# Funding applications open soon



Three key QLDC funding rounds are just around the corner. Although the Annual Plan will not be subject to formal consultation (see page 10) you can still apply for the grants outlined below through a separate process. Mark your calendars and start preparing your applications!



## COMMUNITY FUND:

Supports not-for-profits, charities and community groups to enhance local wellbeing outcomes. Open 1-30 April.



## EVENTS FUND:

Helps deliver vibrant, inclusive events that benefit our community. Open 1-30 April.



**WASTE MINIMISATION COMMUNITY FUND:** Supports initiatives that promote sustainable use of resources and waste reduction. Open 14 April-25 May.

We're planning funding workshops to guide you through the application process, provide tips and answer questions. For more details and lists of previous recipients visit [qldc.govt.nz/community-funding](https://qldc.govt.nz/community-funding). You can also reach out to our funding team via [communityfunding@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:communityfunding@qldc.govt.nz).

### Tips for preparing a good funding application

Allow time to gather key documents like financial statements, project plans and letters of support.

Clearly define your goals and outcomes, and how they align with the fund's purpose.

Connect with your team and stakeholders to ensure everyone is aligned on the plan and budget before you begin your application.

## ORC OFFERS ECO FUNDING

Do you have a project that protects, enhances or promotes Otago's environment? If so, you may be eligible for an ECO Fund grant from Otago Regional Council.

The fund supports a range of environmental work and education including sustained rabbit management, biodiversity enhancement on protected private land, weed removal and revegetation, projects to improve water quality, and large-scale biodiversity projects.

To discuss your project, email [ecofund@orc.govt.nz](mailto:ecofund@orc.govt.nz) or phone 0800 474 082.

Applications are open from 1-31 March at [orc.govt.nz/ecofund](https://orc.govt.nz/ecofund)



Otago Regional Council



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# Queenstown's Arterial Road opens

Traffic began flowing along the Queenstown Town Centre Arterial Road (stage 1) at the end of January following a special blessing ceremony led by representatives of local iwi, Kāi Tahu.

The opening is another step towards transforming the Queenstown Town Centre and improving the way we move around Whakatipu. And while this is just the first stage of a much bigger picture, the early benefits are already coming to life.

Over time, the new link will help to reduce traffic in the town centre and unlock benefits such as improved access for public transport, opportunities for more people-friendly streets and space for the town centre to grow and flourish.

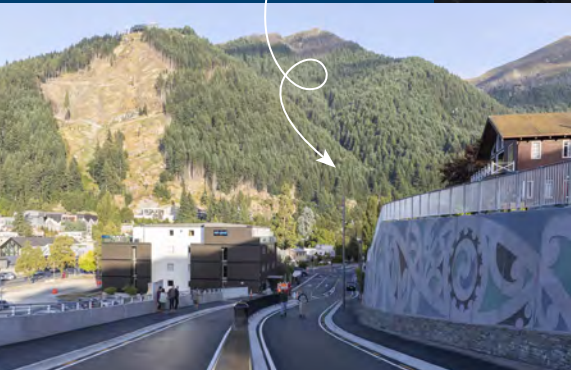
We shouldn't forget the less glamorous part of the project – the upgrades that happened underground. During stage 1, we've relocated electricity lines underground, supported improvements to fibre access and installed around 20km of water supply, stormwater and wastewater pipes.

That takes a lot of time and costs a lot of money, but it's important because it really improves our ability to cope with growth pressures and makes our infrastructure much more resilient as we head into the future.

Thank you to all the people who live and do business along this stretch of road – we acknowledge the past four years have been incredibly disruptive for you all. We hope you enjoy having your road back.

(L to R) Southland MP Joseph Mooney, Queenstown Lakes District Mayor Glyn Lewers and Kāi Tahu representative, Paulette Tamati-Elliffe cut a ribbon to officially open the Arterial Road.

The blessing ceremony was also an opportunity to acknowledge the Kāi Tahu narratives and values incorporated into stunning artworks included on the precast concrete retaining walls along the new road.



The stunning visuals were developed by Kāi Tahu artists Paulette Tamati-Elliffe, Jennifer Rendall, James York and Marlon Williams, under the Design Lead of Keri Whatiri. Elements were designed in conjunction with students from the St Joseph's school.



# Ballarat St Stormwater Upgrade

Now that traffic is flowing, the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna (Alliance) team can return to lower Ballarat and Stanley streets to complete the final stormwater upgrade required as part of the project.

This work involves replacing approximately 110m of stormwater pipe along lower Ballarat Street and within the intersection of Stanley and Ballarat streets.

The piped 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.

This work requires road closures and changes to access. Here's what you need to know:

Lower Ballarat Street closed (between Stanley and Camp streets): Until Friday 16 May.

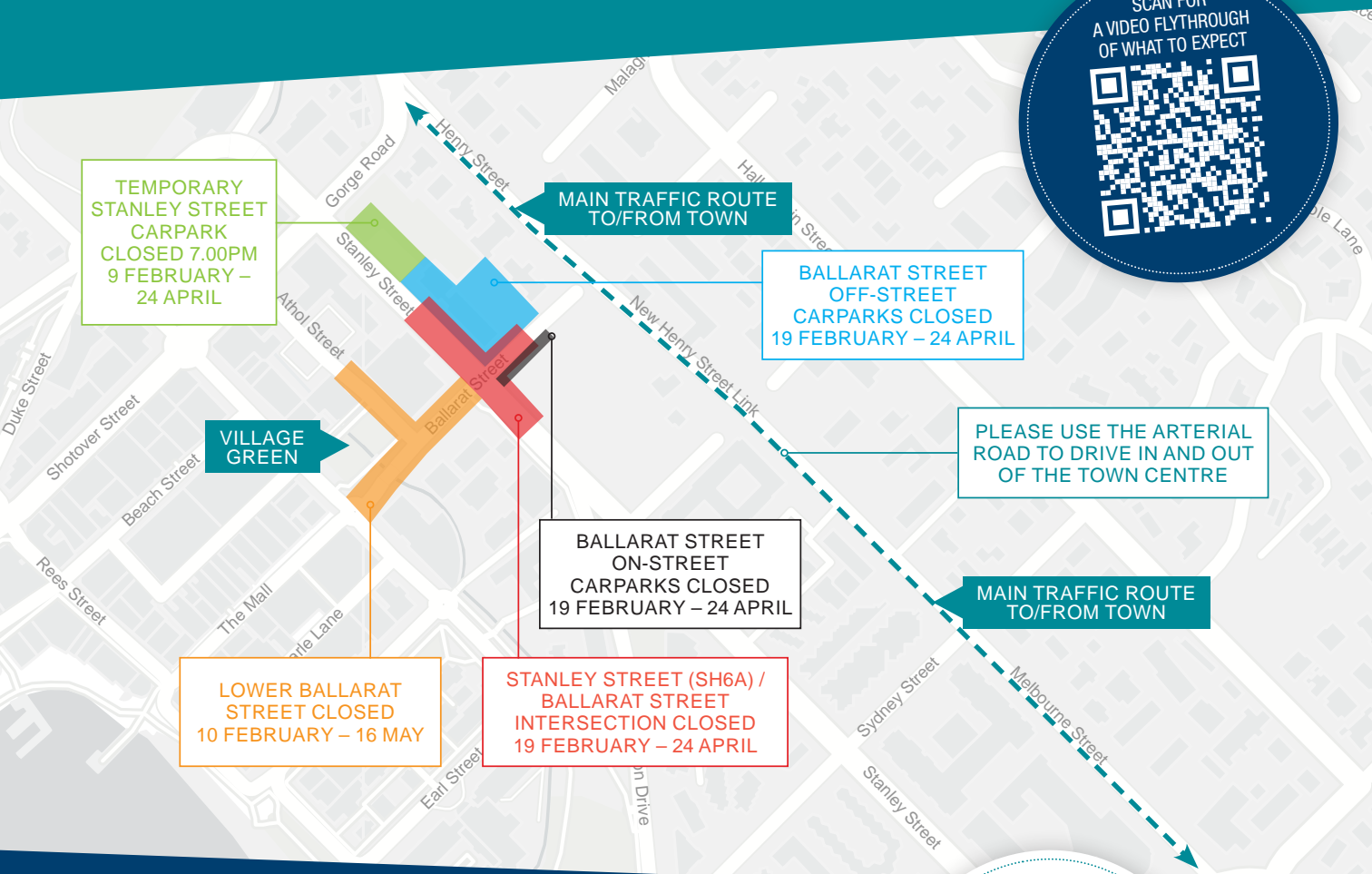
Stanley/Ballarat intersection closed: Until Thursday 24 April.

The new Arterial Road will be the main access in and out of town.

The temporary carpark at Stanley Street and on/off-street carparks on Ballarat Street will remain closed during construction.

Public bus stops on Stanley Street have been relocated during the intersection closure. Head to [facebook.com/OrbusQT](https://www.facebook.com/OrbusQT) for more on changes to the bus service.

Night works will be underway until 17 March, 10.00pm-10.00am Sundays to Thursdays, following close engagement with affected businesses.





# IT'S ELECTION YEAR!

This year is an election year for local government. That means you get to vote on who you would like to represent you in our district. It's an opportunity to vote for people that represent your views, whether that's on climate change, infrastructure, the local economy, public transport, or something else entirely.

You will have the opportunity to vote in one of our Council's three wards (Queenstown-Whakatipu, Arrowtown-Kawarau and Wānaka-Upper Clutha) and for the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (if you live in Upper Clutha), as well as Otago Regional Council.

You will receive voting papers in the mail in September for you to return by midday on Saturday 11 October. You can either post them back or deliver them to a Council office in Queenstown or Wānaka.

**The important thing to remember is you must enrol to vote.**

## WHICH WARD ARE YOU IN?

Queenstown-Whakatipu Ward	Primarily to the west of the Kimitiākau Shotover River, this ward encompasses Jacks Point, Hanley's Farm, Kingston, Frankton, Quail Rise, Kelvin Peninsula, Glenorchy, central Queenstown and Fernhill.
Arrowtown-Kawarau Ward	Largely following the line of the Kimitiākau Shotover River and covering the area to the east, with the external boundary to the north and east meeting the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward at the top of the Crown Range. The communities within this proposed ward would be Arrowtown, Gibbston Valley, Shotover Country, Lake Hayes Estate, Dalefield and Arthurs Point.
Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward	From the top of the Crown Range and all of the Upper Clutha Area including Hāwea up to just beyond Makarora and including part of the Matukituki Valley in Mt Aspiring National Park.



## WHO CAN VOTE?

### You're eligible to enrol and vote if you are:

18 years or older, **and**

a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, **and**

you've lived in Aotearoa New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more at some time in your life.

## HOW DO I ENROL?

To enrol, check or update your enrolment details, go to [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz). Freephone **0800 36 76 56** or **Freetext 3676** to get a form sent to you in the mail.

## DO YOU LIVE IN ONE AREA AND PAY RATES ON A PROPERTY IN ANOTHER AREA?

You may qualify to vote in both areas at the local authority elections in October 2025. Between 1 March and 30 April existing ratepayer electors (who own property in the district but reside permanently elsewhere in Aotearoa New Zealand) will receive their re-enrolment forms. These must be filled in and returned in order to vote.

### IMPORTANT DATES 2025

1 July	Candidate nominations open
1 August (midday)	Candidate nominations close
9 – 22 September	Voting papers delivered
11 October	Voting closes midday
11 October	Preliminary results (from midday)
16 – 22 October	Declaration of results

## CAN I STAND FOR ELECTION?

Yes! If you are a New Zealand citizen and enrolled to vote. You do not need any formal qualifications. Elected members come from all walks of life and generally have a desire to serve their community. This is your chance to champion issues you're passionate about and help create the future you want to see for our district. Candidates standing for QLDC must be nominated by two people from the ward they are standing in.

Find out more at [www.vote.nz](http://www.vote.nz) and [www.elections.nz](http://www.elections.nz)

# See you at the A&P Show

Come and say hi on **STAND J4** at this year's Wānaka A&P Show (7-8 March).

QLDC SUPPORTED EVENT

Meet your local elected members, learn about Council projects in your community and find out how you can have your say.

We'll have games and giveaways including free swim passes and reusable cups. Plus you'll get heaps of recycling and gardening tips from Wastebusters and Dr Compost.

Meet your Council and some of our amazing partners at **STAND J4** (close to the food tents!).



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### TPG Wānaka

Marc Bretherton  
027 696 9550  
[Wanaka@propertygroup.co.nz](mailto:Wanaka@propertygroup.co.nz)

### TPG Queenstown

Jo Skuse  
027 498 1745  
[JSkuse@propertygroup.co.nz](mailto:JSkuse@propertygroup.co.nz)

[propertygroup.co.nz](http://propertygroup.co.nz)

# From the Chambers

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## DECISIONS IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD

You will have read on page eight that local elections will take place in October. The current Council can continue to govern right up until the end of its term as there's no legal requirement for councils to avoid making decisions in the pre-election period.

However, there are some restraints as the QLDC Significance & Engagement Policy helps to explain.

Routine business can continue, including giving effect to decisions that have already been made such as implementing the Long Term Plan. It's also 'business as usual' for continuing to meet statutory requirements such as reviewing a bylaw that is due to expire or adopting a policy that would otherwise lapse.

Making decisions that would have a major impact on rates or commit the next Council in some unforeseen way are off the table. Key criteria here are the scale and scope of a project.

Any 'significant' project as defined in this context will have to wait until the 2025-2028 Council is in place.

The pre-election period will run from 1 July (when candidate nominations begin) until election day on 11 October.

## MINUTES NOW HAVE SEPARATE WEBPAGE

Council has had a new meetings page on its website for several months now, but you may not have observed one of the innovations – we now have a separate record of minutes.

Minutes have always been available online but only within the agenda of a meeting in which they were being confirmed. Because there is always a time lag (minutes are confirmed at a subsequent meeting) and there may be extraordinary meetings or a meeting cancelled in the interim, it can sometimes be difficult to find which agenda contains the minutes.

Moreover, the minutes in agendas are also 'draft' and may be amended during the confirmation process.

Once confirmed at a meeting, the Democracy Services team prints a physical copy of the minutes and provides them to the chair to sign, initial and date. However, in a new process, the signed minutes will then be scanned and uploaded to the website so that they appear on the same page as the agenda to which they apply.

We value your feedback – please email [governance@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:governance@qldc.govt.nz) to let us know how you find the new system.

## COMPLETING THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

We had a big flurry of consultation in late 2024 with lots of you taking the time to attend a hearing to tell us what you thought of the Mount Iron draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) or the draft Navigation Safety Bylaw.

Three items are returning following consultation, with the draft Easter Sunday Trading Policy and Navigation Safety Bylaw presented to Council for final adoption on 20 March. A week later, the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board will consider recommending that Council adopt the Mount Iron RMP at a future meeting\*.

*\* Reserve Management Plans are prepared in accordance with the Reserves Act 1977 the delegations under which sit with Council. Hence, the process is for the Board to recommend to Council (or not) the adoption of the Mt Iron RMP.*

## UPDATE ON ANNUAL PLAN

At their mid-February meeting, Councillors voted in favour of a more informal approach to engaging with the community on the proposed Annual Plan 2025-2026. Council will now seek general feedback ahead of adopting the plan in June rather than completing a formal consultation process. The decision was made on the basis there are no significant changes from the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 that Councillors adopted unanimously five months ago after receiving nearly 1,000 submissions. You can find out more at [qldc.govt.nz/annual-plans](https://qldc.govt.nz/annual-plans)

# Have your say on Ben Lomond and Queenstown Hill

SCAN TO SEE THE  
DRAFT PLAN



Our Parks team has enjoyed chatting to many of you at drop-in sessions held across Whakatipu on the draft Reserve Management Plan (RMP) for Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond and Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill.

There's another opportunity to ask questions and find out more at our Summerdaze event at the Lower Shotover Skatepark in Shotover Country on Wednesday 12 March between 3.00-5.00pm.

To read the draft plan and share your thoughts on how you'd like these landscapes to be managed, used and enjoyed, head to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) before 17 March.

## What you can expect to see in the RMP:

A long-term vision for both reserves as highly valued landscapes providing for a range of recreation and commercial activities.

Objectives such as embedding mana whenua values, protecting, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, and enabling appropriate informal and commercial recreation activities.

Policies to help achieve the objectives grouped under six topics: Kāi Tahu partnerships, effective cross-organisation management, natural values/hazards, heritage values, recreation and use, and infrastructure and reserve development.

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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.



## FOR EVERY BEAR THAT EVER THERE WAS...

Huge thanks to everyone – that’s around 1,000 humans and all their cuddly companions – who turned up to make our annual Teddy Bears Picnics in Queenstown (pictured) and Wānaka so special. There was heaps of fun including musicians and performers, face painting, bouncy castles, stalls and games. Thanks too to all events sponsors for their invaluable support. See you next year!

*[Image – Still Vision Photography]*

## POWERED BY PEDALS (AND CAFFEINE)

The national Aotearoa Bike Challenge has been cranking for several years. In 2024, bikers in our district clocked up 140,000km in just one month, saving around seven tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions! This year’s challenge was reaching the finish line just as this newsletter was hitting the streets. With funding through QLDC’s Climate & Biodiversity Plan, local active travel advocates the Lightfoot Initiative have been fuelling registered pedallers with coffee and kai pitstops (pictured), and keeping them on the road with free bike checks and repairs.



## SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON GY'S DARK SKIES

In early February, Tāhuna Glenorchy became the fifth International Dark Sky Sanctuary (IDSS) in Aotearoa New Zealand and one of only 23 worldwide. Located in the country's astronomical sweet spot on the 45th parallel, it will be one of the rare places on the planet to see the total solar eclipse in 2028 and the only IDSS in its path. Certification was the culmination of five years' work by dedicated volunteers from the Tāhuna Glenorchy Dark Sky Group supported by QLDC. Chair Dr Leslie Van Gelder (also Chair of QLDC's Climate Reference Group) thanked the township's community for its stellar support along the way. *[Image – Corrine Davis]*



## NEW INFO PANEL FIRES UP MEMORIES

A new information panel at Brian Smith Memorial Park celebrates Queenstown Volunteer Fire Brigade (QVFB) and one of its most dedicated members. The park on the corner of Shotover and Brecon streets is named after 'Smithy', a local firefighting volunteer for 26 years who tragically lost his life in 2008 when his gyrocopter crashed in Glenorchy. Assembled in 1863, Queenstown is one of the country's oldest volunteer brigades. The park site was its original HQ for over 100 years before it relocated to the Isle Street Station in 1974. The new info panel is proudly supported by QLDC with thanks to the Smith family, QVFB and author Jenny McLeod. Pictured (L-R) are Life Honorary Brigade Member Ken Tisdall, Brian's son Shane Smith, Chief Fire Officer Terry O'Connell and Brigade Support (and Smithy's mate) Bob Robertson.



## SUMMER FUN DOWN ON THE FARM

QLDC's Summerdaze series has been bringing communities together around the district with free sausage sizzles, a trailer full of games equipment, pop-up library and face painting, as well as the opportunity for informal chats with Council staff, councillors and community board members about current consultation topics. Pictured are QLDC Parks and Reserves Planners Sophie Craig and Dom Harrison chatting to locals at the recent Hanley's Farm event.



# Waitangi Day reflections

QLDC had the honour of co-hosting this year's annual Waitangi Day commemoration for the Lower South Island with our local iwi Kāi Tahu (Kā Papatipu Rūnaka e Whitu) at Queenstown Recreation Ground.

It was wonderful to feel the manaakitaka on a day of reflection, unity and inspiration, honouring Te Tiriti O Waitangi: a community coming together to share with our visitors and each other what we have here in our special corner of Aotearoa New Zealand.

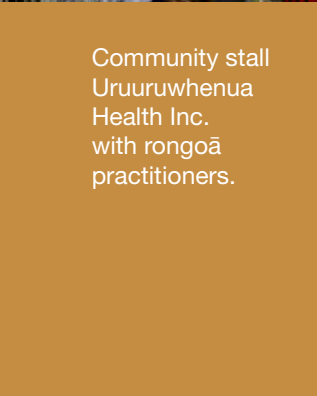
This event was kindly supported by Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Community Trust South, Otago Regional Council and other Southland and Otago councils.

Here are some images from the event (*credit – Still Vision Photography*).



Mayor Glyn Lewers and MP for Te Tai Tonga, Te Pāti Māori, Tākuta Ferris hongī.

Kapa haka performed on-stage by students from Arrowtown School.



Community stall Uruuruwhenua Health Inc. with rongoā practitioners.



Kaikaranga from hau kāinga, Paulette Tamati-Elliffe performs karanga to manuhiri.



Haka pōwhiri by mana whenua during karanga.



# Sign-up for climate action

The latest edition of the Queenstown Lakes Climate Action and Sustainability Update is out now.

The e-newsletter features stories of positive change from across the district including:

- >> Latest progress on creating the district's 2025-2028 Climate & Biodiversity Plan.
- >> A heads up about the forthcoming QLDC Waste Minimisation Community Fund application process.
- >> The inclusion of sustainability requirements in the draft policy for Council-supported events.

You can find all previous editions at

[climateaction.qldc.govt.nz/newsletters](https://climateaction.qldc.govt.nz/newsletters)



# Festival of Colour returns

The much-loved Wānaka Festival of Colour returns from 29 March to 6 April to transform the Upper Clutha into a lively hub of the arts. The 2025 programme features more than 60 events spanning theatre, cabaret, music, comedy, dance, kōrero, visual arts and community experiences.

It all kicks off with the free Community Whānau Day supported by QLDC's Welcoming Communities programme. Drop by Wānaka's Dinosaur Park and lakefront to enjoy a full day of dazzling dance and music performances along with traditional food from around the world.



Check out the full programme and how to buy tickets at [festivalofcolour.co.nz](https://festivalofcolour.co.nz)

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# RESPONSIBLE CAMPING UPDATE

Our district has been humming with visitors and locals over the summer, with many choosing to camp at commercial campgrounds, DOC sites and amongst our beautiful landscapes.

Over December and January our Summer Ambassadors clocked up 1,713 visits to popular recreational and freedom camping hot spots, taking time to educate visitors on responsible camping practices and the expectations of our local communities.

They report any issues and potentially illegal behaviour to Council officers, clear litter from our reserves and chat to

a whole load of people from around the world. More than 200 campers so far have been surveyed about their behaviours and experience. These valuable insights will help inform future Council initiatives.

The work of our ambassadors is supported by enforcement measures when required. Over December and January, Council issued 160 infringements under the Freedom Camping Act and 32 under the Reserves Act.

We've also installed additional signage after monitoring behaviour at popular freedom camping spots like Wānaka lakefront and Luggate Red Bridge.

Under current legislation, QLDC officers enforce against:

- >> freedom camping overnight in a vehicle that is not certified self-contained with a valid warrant;
- >> freedom camping on Council reserves; and
- >> anyone dumping rubbish, making excessive noise or parking illegally.

Work to develop a new freedom camping bylaw is expected to be completed in time for next summer. Find out more about the process and when you can have your say at

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

Need to report poor camping behaviour?

**PHONE IN URGENT REQUESTS 24/7:**

**03 441 0499**  
(Queenstown)

**03 443 0024**  
(Wānaka)

Email less urgent requests to [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz) or use the Snap Send Solve app.



# Partnership goes wild

Late last year, the Upper Clutha Wilding Tree Group (UCWTG) in collaboration with Mount Burke Station landowner Tim Burdon removed an astounding 1,700 wilding pines from the 2,000ha Stevenson's Peninsula on Lake Wānaka.

Totalling more than 400 hours, the work also involved the combined labour and expertise of Central Wilding Tree Control, Landcare Services, Aspiring Helicopters and Wānaka Water Taxis.

The UCWTG is a relative newcomer to the fight against wilding pines (simply put, the wrong tree in the wrong place). Supported by funding from QLDC and Otago Regional Council, this was its first major control operation in often very challenging terrain.

Left uncontrolled, this iconic peninsula would ultimately be cloaked in an exotic pine forest which would displace the native kānuka, grey shrubland and snow tussock grasslands.

For more info about the threat from wilding pines and how to volunteer with the group, head to [uppercluthawildingtreegroup.co.nz](https://uppercluthawildingtreegroup.co.nz)



## ADULT BADMINTON

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Tuesdays and Wednesdays,  
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# Three waters improvements

## Kingston

Work to deliver new water supply, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to provide capacity for new housing is progressing well:

### WATER SUPPLY

The new pipeline down Kent Street was installed before the festive season. Work has now shifted into the shoulder of SH6 as more pipes are laid up to Glen Nevis Station Road before being connected to the future water treatment plant. Work on the plant itself is progressing well, with the major task of pouring its concrete foundations completed in January.

### STORMWATER

Investigations along Oxford Street last year locked in plans for the construction of a large-diameter stormwater pipe along the length of the street onto the new subdivision. Contractors aim to start by constructing a stormwater outlet gallery (to help settle and filter sediment before it enters the lake) in early March.

Access to parts of Oxford and Kent streets will be restricted at times over the next few months. Details on what to expect will be shared with residents ahead of time and made available online.

### WASTEWATER

Approval of the final design for wastewater upgrades is expected in March. Work is then likely to begin in the second half of this year. Once complete, upgrades will include a new pump station and wastewater treatment plant.

### STAY IN THE LOOP

Get the latest information on Kingston's water works and sign up for the project newsletter at [qldc.govt.nz/kingston-infrastructure-works](https://qldc.govt.nz/kingston-infrastructure-works)

## Luggate

We've brought forward upgrades to Luggate's water supply. Work should be complete by the end of this year and will include a protozoa barrier (UV disinfection). Find out more at [qldc.govt.nz/luggate-water-upgrades](https://qldc.govt.nz/luggate-water-upgrades)

# Event embraces diversity

Here's a fantastic event to mark on your social calendar!

Queenstown Multicultural Festival	15 March, 10.00am-6.00pm	Queenstown Events Centre (QEC), Frankton
-----------------------------------	--------------------------	--

QEC will transform into a vibrant hub of cultural celebration as the Queenstown Multicultural Festival comes to life. This much anticipated annual festival will feature an array of international food stalls, cultural performances, interactive workshops and a dedicated Kids Zone.

Whether you're captivated by traditional music and dance, eager to try global flavours, or curious to learn new crafts, this family-friendly event promises a day full of discovery, connection and joy.

For more details head to [queenstownmulticulturalfestival.co.nz](https://queenstownmulticulturalfestival.co.nz)

The timing of the festival aligns with Race Relations Day celebrating and connecting our diverse communities. See more at [tikatangata.org.nz/news/renewed-call-for-unity-on-race-relations-day](https://tikatangata.org.nz/news/renewed-call-for-unity-on-race-relations-day)

Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) proudly supports this event through the Welcoming Communities programme. To find out more go to [qldc.govt.nz/welcoming-communities](https://qldc.govt.nz/welcoming-communities)



# What's getting in your road, and why it's important

Every year, crews reseal between 5-8% of roads in the district to keep them from getting tyre-d. If that seems like a lot of work, think of it this way:

The surface of the road you drive on is like paint on your house – it keeps water from reaching the structure underneath and damaging it. And much like paint, the seal will crack and deteriorate over time and if neglected long enough, it will start to let water in.

Regular resealing before deterioration occurs means less time, cost and disruption to drivers than having to rebuild a road's entire structure. There'll still be some disruption while resealing occurs but it's a case of short-term pain for long-term gain.

We do our best to keep roads well-maintained and safe by resealing them several times throughout their lifespan. However, roads built many years ago will end up needing a bit more attention, and considerably more work to get them back up to scratch. In the event the full reinstatement of a road is required, crews have to:

Remove the existing surface layers.
Depending on requirements, remove some or all of the existing basecourse and subbase, then prepare the subgrade surface.
Add a new subbase of compacted aggregate to provide stability.
Add a base course – a higher quality layer of compacted aggregate that sits closer to the surface where the majority of the road's load will be supported.
Complete the road reinstatement with a surfacing layer which can vary between chipseal or asphalt, depending on requirements.
For chipseal roads, crews return a year later once everything has settled in place to add a second coat seal.



## Get me via email

This newsletter is mailed to our local residents and out-of-town, NZ-based ratepayers six times a year. If this means you, and you still want to receive a hard copy, then sweet as – you don't need to do anything.

But if you'd like to join the thousands of people who prefer to receive a digital copy via email then it's easy to switch. Just email [services@qldc.govt.nz](mailto:services@qldc.govt.nz) with the word "newsletter" as the subject and be sure to include your name, postal address and the address of your property in the district so we can cross you off the mailing list.

We'll send you a website link six times a year to view/download all future issues instead (and won't spam you with anything else!). You'll be helping us reduce the number of copies we print and distribute.

And remember, every issue is also on our website [qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/lets-talk-korero-mai)



# Planning Matters

Did you know QLDC produces a quarterly email newsletter on all things planning? Get essential updates on policy, resource consents and development engineering in the district at [qldc.govt.nz/planning-matters](https://qldc.govt.nz/planning-matters)

## Changes to Resource Consent application payments

From 3 March, we'll be making changes to how you pay for all applications processed by the Resource Consent team, as part of ongoing efforts to improve everyone's experience of the process.

### WHAT'S CHANGING?

- > Applicants must not make any payment before lodging an application through QLDC's online Community Portal.
- > Instead, we'll issue an invoice for the initial fee once an application has been received (typically within one to two business days).
- > Payment correctly listing the application reference must be received before an application can progress further.
- > Payments must only be made on receipt of an invoice.

We'll only progress applications:

- > That are submitted using QLDC's online Community Portal (we'll no longer allow applications via email or in person).
- > When application forms have been completed correctly and all necessary supporting material is included, appropriately separated and named as per Council's requirements (see our website for these). If information is missing/incomplete or the incorrect form is used, the application will be rejected.

These changes will help remove unnecessary delays where errors need to be corrected or missing information gathered, and make it easier to allocate applications to Council planners – all meaning we can process resource consent applications faster.

Be sure to get your application right first time to avoid any unwanted rejections or delays to your project. Find out more about the application process at [qldc.govt.nz/services/resource-consents](https://qldc.govt.nz/services/resource-consents)

## Review of Special Zones coming soon

As part of QLDC's District Plan review process, **Special Zones** will be reviewed in 2025.

### WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT A SPECIAL ZONE?

A Special Zone refers to an area where specific land use and development rules apply, which differ from those in other zones within the district. Typically, these zones come about because they can't be managed under any of the frameworks established for other zones at the time, or because there are multiple areas within the zone requiring different activity uses or development densities. Examples include areas like Northlake in Wānaka and Remarkables Park in Frankton.

### WHY ARE THEY BEING REVIEWED?

These Special Zones are required to be reviewed as part of QLDC's rolling review of the District Plan. They're some

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of the last parts of the Operative District Plan to be reviewed and will be incorporated into the Proposed District Plan once this is complete.

#### WHEN CAN I GET INVOLVED?

More information about the Special Zones review and how you can make a submission will be shared in the second half of 2025.

In the meantime, you can learn more about the locations that will be reviewed by scanning the QR code below, or heading to <https://arcg.is/1GeKvr2>.



# Glenorchy lake level monitoring upgraded

Otago Regional Council (ORC) has upgraded the lake level recorder at Glenorchy boat ramp to help improve the reliability of essential data.



The existing solar-powered recorder was raised an extra 2.1m to ensure it keeps monitoring during very high lake levels. The near real-time information it provides enhances ORC's monitoring and response during heavy rainfall events and provides a longer-term dataset to analyse flooding hazards.

Data from environmental monitoring (e.g. rainfall, river flow and lake levels) is also used to alert Emergency Management Otago of potential flooding to assist with any response.

You can find data from the upgraded recorder and other environmental info at [orc.govt.nz/dataportal](https://orc.govt.nz/dataportal)



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# Little meters, big potential savings

Smart water meters help to support more sustainable water use and optimise the ongoing management of our water network. This is a pretty important task given our district is such a thirsty place – we're some of the largest water users in Aotearoa New Zealand!

Back in 2022, 254 meters were installed in Luggate, quickly followed by another 164 in Glenorchy. And right now, we're busy installing approximately 1,000 meters around Lake Hāwea township too.

Importantly, they're able to identify and help us repair leaks on both public land and private properties.

To put that into perspective, something as simple as a steadily dripping tap could result in up to 1,000 litres of water being lost every single day, which is the same as leaving the shower running for close to an hour, or flushing the toilet 166 times! Some leaks could be a lot worse than that...

Summer is traditionally a very demanding time for our water network as we try to keep lawns green and plants healthy. But it's just as important as ever to help save water, and to continue making simple changes at home to protect supplies and ensure we have enough to respond to an emergency like a wildfire.

## HELP SAVE WATER AT HOME:

- 💧 A common garden sprinkler uses up to 1,000 litres of water in an hour. Shorten how long you use one, and only use them late at night to avoid peak demand times and losing water to evaporation.
- 💧 Check in with your local hardware store about alternative ways you could keep your garden or lawn's thirst quenched, without wasting too much water.
- 💧 A ten-minute shower uses up to 200 litres of water. Every minute you cut from your shower will save 20 litres.
- 💧 A running tap while shaving or brushing your teeth can be a surprisingly significant drip for our reservoirs. Every minute you don't run a tap will save 10 litres.

Find more tips at

📍 [qldc.govt.nz/save-water](https://qldc.govt.nz/save-water)

IT'S NOT THE  
*water* WE'VE GOT,  
IT'S HOW WE'RE  
USING IT



# IF IT'S NOT A BOTTLE OR JAR, KEEP IT OUT!

A reminder that your blue glass bin is only for clean glass bottles and jars that once held food or drink.

Other items like ceramics and crockery, drinking glasses, lightbulbs, mirrors and heatproof glass like Pyrex go in the red rubbish bin as they contaminate glass recycling.

Empty, clean, recycle. Cheers to that!



**SOS**  
SAVE OUR STUFF

**QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL**

# YOUNG ARTISTS KEEP IT COOL

Budding artists aged five to 14 put their creativity to the test in QLDC's recent *Keep It Cool! Never Bin a Battery* colouring competition which ran in local papers. It was a reminder about the importance of properly recycling batteries and devices containing them. Batteries, especially those containing lithium, are highly flammable if damaged or mishandled and should never be disposed of in rubbish or recycling bins.

Household batteries and electronic waste can be recycled at Frankton and Wanaka transfer stations. For more info check out our A-Z Rubbish & Recycling Directory at [qldc.govt.nz/recycling](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/recycling)

Congratulations to all the winners and participants for their fantastic efforts in spreading this important message through art!



Bridey (aged 7) – one of our main prize winners.

# Either way it's 20k

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



Register with Let's Talk and receive our monthly consultation newsletter!



# Let's talk about what's coming up in 2025

Our Let's Talk website makes it easy to contribute to local decision making by having a say on the projects and plans that matter to you and your community.

There's lots of important stuff coming up in 2025 so head along to [letstalk.qldc.govt.nz](http://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz) and keep an eye on what's out for feedback or consultation. And if you register with the site, we'll send a monthly update straight to your inbox so you'll never miss a chance to have your say. We also provide a snapshot right here, on the back page of every edition of Let's Talk Kōrero Mai.

Keep your eyes peeled for info about the draft Annual Plan 2025-2026. Council isn't formally consulting on it but will share the draft for informal feedback ahead of adopting the plan in June. More at [qldc.govt.nz/annual-plans](http://qldc.govt.nz/annual-plans)

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:	WHAT'S COMING UP:			
<b>TE-TAUMATA-O-HAKITEKURA BEN LOMOND &amp; TE TAPUNUI QUEENSTOWN HILL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> Consultation underway. Submissions close 17 March.	<b>WĀNAKA AIRPORT FUTURE REVIEW</b>	<b>CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2025-2028</b>	<b>ARROWTOWN RIVERSIDE RESERVES DEVELOPMENT PLAN</b>	<b>WATER SERVICES DELIVERY</b>
<b>EVENTS POLICY</b> Consultation underway. Submissions close 7 March.	<b>COMMUNITY INSIGHTS SURVEY</b>	<b>SPATIAL PLAN GEN 2.0 (EARLY 2025)</b>	<b>TE TAPUAE SOUTHERN CORRIDOR STRUCTURE PLAN</b>	<b>FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW</b>
	<b>CHANGES TO USER FEES AND CHARGES</b>	<b>WIDGEON PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN</b>	<b>TE TAPUNUI QUEENSTOWN HILL RESERVE FORESTRY PLAN</b>	<b>AND MUCH MORE</b>
	<b>EELY POINT TREE SUCCESSION PLAN</b>	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN</b>	<b>TE KARARO QUEENSTOWN GARDENS TREE SUCCESSION PLAN</b>	

FIND FULL DETAILS OF THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT [LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ](http://LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ)

## 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 [qldclibraries.govt.nz](http://qldclibraries.govt.nz)

## TRANSFER STATIONS

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

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

## HARBOURMASTER

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

## EDITORIAL & ADVERTISING CONTACT

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

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

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