

Community & Services Committee

27 June 2024

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

Title | Taitara : Chair's Report

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community & Services Committee with an update on projects of interest.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Community & Services Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report.

Prepared by: Councillor Craig Ferguson



Name: Craig Ferguson

Title: Chair of Community & Services
Committee

Context | Horopaki

1. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) is at the end of the 2023/2024 financial year. QLDC and the Community Services Directorate are currently looking to conclude or carry on with the delivery of renewals and capital works projects. For the purposes of this report please note the following updates to provide overview on a sample range of different project and programme initiatives occurring across the Community Services portfolio.

Tracks and Trails

2. Tracks and trails upgrades are happening across the district. The focus in the Whakatipu is on upgrades to the Thomson Street connection in Fernhill and the Gibbston Track.
3. The Thomson Street upgrade was undertaken after Councillors shared community concerns about the condition of the track with the Parks Team. The improvements were completed in mid-June 2024 and included resurfacing, scour repairs and unblocking of culverts.
4. As part of a network-wide tracks and trails programme, the Gibbston Track will be resurfaced and widened to 2.5 metres. The track upgrade is focused on improving the trail user experience for locals and visitors alike and will be completed in July 2024.

McBride Park

5. The community sports field and rugby posts have been upgraded and installed at McBride Park in Lake Hayes Estate.
6. The new standard of field means it is available for a range of local community sport and activities. Community sport has already commenced, and the feedback from the community is that they are very grateful and supportive of this new upgrade.

Hopkins Street (Luggate Hall) Playground

7. The Hopkins Street (Luggate Hall) Playground was officially opened by his worship Mayor Glyn Lewers on Sunday 12 May 2024. QLDC invited dignitaries, community leaders and the community to attend the much-anticipated opening of the newly refurbished playground. There was a large community turn out at which members of the community enjoyed the opportunity to test the new equipment and enjoyed a barbeque to mark this significant milestone for the Luggate community.

Whakatipu Community Volunteer Groups

8. We have experienced significant community growth in the number of volunteer agreements across the Whakatipu area in regard to reforestation, planting and restoration of QLDC reserves. For context the number of agreements in place in 2022 was 13, in 2023 the number grew to 24 and QLDC have reached a milestone of 40 volunteer agreements in 2024. QLDC recognises the support and significant contribution of the volunteer sector to deliver against several strategic and reserve management plans. The work this volunteer base delivers compliments the wider environment sector which includes plant and animal pest programmes.

Sport & Recreation Update

9. Queenstown Events Centre (QEC) Alpine Aqualand is having a shutdown 29 June - 8 July 2024 for its annual shutdown with Wānaka Pool closing 21 July - 28 July 2024. The program of improvements includes concrete works, pool floor cleaning and liner repair, and filter cleaning.
10. Madi Gras will be held at the QEC on 29 June 2024.
11. There will be a Matariki celebration in Arrowtown on the 28 June 2024.
12. The NZTA NZUP work programme for the BP Roundabout has commenced on the QEC side now in addition to the works on the golf course. Aurora has also commenced work to install a high voltage line into QEC and out to Kawarau road in conjunction with these works.
13. The Friday afternoon swimming sensory sessions in Wānaka and Queenstown have been popular with our community evidenced by the positive feedback from participants and officers.
14. Paetara Aspiring Central continues to be popular with the Upper Clutha community and participation has been steadily increasing as programme development and community groups utilize the facility to its maximum.

Libraries Update

15. Two Te Hau Toka (THT) Funded Library Projects were completed this year: The StoryWalk® project (an outdoor literacy experience mounting storybook pages within frames placed along walking paths) was completed on 10 May 2024 and located at Hanley's Farm and the new Luggate Playgrounds. Local businesses provided discounted materials and QLDC Parks, Property and Communications & Engagement teams supported installation. The 1000 Books Before School Project has been funded by THT since November 2022 and is ongoing. 486 preschoolers are enrolled in the programme this year.
16. Annual Library Survey results have been received. The Community Engagement Librarians plan to share the survey results with committee members at the 24 September 2024 Community & Services Committee Workshop.
17. The new upgrade of the Central Otago & Queenstown Lakes District Libraries Website is planned for a launch at the end of June 2024.

Community Partnerships

18. The Welcoming Plan will be workshopped with the Community & Services Committee before being recommended for endorsement by the Community & Services Committee in September 2024. This is a significant milestone connecting with this community sector continues to mature. Staff are currently working on the "newcomers" guide. The aim is to distribute the guide in the first quarter of the new 2024/2025 financial year.

19. Community engagement on the draft the Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy for the Queenstown Lakes District has concluded. The final draft Strategy will be presented to Council for endorsement at the full Council meeting on 27 June 2024.
 20. The Community Partnerships team, and the Community Fund Panel (full Council) have completed the assessment of applications made to the annual community grants round for the Community Fund 2024-2027. Final Community Fund recommendations will be presented to Council for approval on the 27 June 2024.
 21. Volunteer South, the Kiwi Kit Community Trust and QLDC are running an event to connect organisations with potential new volunteers. The event (called 'Find your perfect match') is an initiative to connect community members with various organisations for volunteer opportunities.
 22. An eight-week winter wellness series, in collaboration with Happiness House and the QLDC libraries network, commences in July 2024.
 23. QLDC is collaborating with Central Lakes Family Services and Te Whatu Ora South to deliver the Winter Family Day Programme, which aims to connect new parents within the community, commencing in July 2024.
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