

LET'S TALK KŌRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // APRIL / MAY 2025 // ISSUE 166

Annual Plan



The draft QLDC Annual Plan 2025-2026 is now available on our website. While we might be taking a more informal approach to engaging with the community this year, there's still plenty to let you know about. **Find out more on page 4.**

INSIDE

06

FREEDOM CAMPING
SUMMER WRAP

11

REMEMBERING
JOHN MACDONALD

16

SHOTOVER
WASTEWATER
UPDATE

17

NEW WATERWAYS
RULES



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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 4 June, 12.00-1.00pm at Lake Wānaka Centre.**

ARROWTOWN-KAWARAU WARD

On the last Friday of every month (except public holidays) 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



Making freedom camping responsible camping.

As we come to the end of the main tourist season, I'd like to acknowledge the challenges and frustrations freedom camping has brought to some residents this summer.

No one wants to see any visitor using our pristine waterways for washing, nor do they want to see toilet paper where it shouldn't be. Sadly, that's been the experience for some. But by and large, the vast majority of campers want to act respectfully.

While Council's current powers are somewhat limited, we still have tools to address poor behaviour. The Reserves Act bans people from camping on Council reserves, whilst the Freedom Camping Act requires campers to use vehicles that are certified as self-contained. We can also lean on legislation that protects against damage to public land.

Council's responsible camping summer ambassadors travel the length and breadth of the district daily to ensure folk have the knowledge to do the right thing.

They've clocked up more than 3,000 visits to freedom camping hot spots and surveyed more than 300 campers, providing helpful insight into behaviour and intentions.

As well as reminding campers that setting up a cooking area in a carpark is neither safe nor appropriate, and washing dishes in waterways is never allowed, the ambassadors also encourage them to use established campgrounds or at least be mindful of others so everyone can enjoy the places they love.

And when education and diplomacy don't work, there's enforcement.

From December through to the end of March, Council officers issued 86 infringements under the Reserves Act (at \$800 each) and 360 under the Freedom Camping Act (\$400). This has sent a clear message that while campers are welcome in our district, there are consequences if our environment isn't respected.

Our customer service team has received more than 300 reports and queries from the community regarding freedom camping, around double last summer.

I encourage people to keep telling us when they see issues. If it's something outside Council's jurisdiction we can pass reports onto the relevant authority. At the very least, feedback will inform the development of our next freedom camping bylaw.

Work to develop a new bylaw is well underway and we expect to consult with community mid-year – there'll be plenty of opportunities to have your say before the new bylaw is adopted before the next summer holidays.

In the meantime, I can assure you we're doing everything we can to protect our little piece of paradise.

You can read more about Council's work in this space on page 6 of this edition of *Let's Talk Kōrero Mai*.

Mayor Glyn Lewers

Checking in on Annual Plan 2025-2026



The draft QLDC Annual Plan 2025-2026 is now available on our website.

Councillors made the decision in February to take a more informal approach to engaging on this year's draft plan, on the basis there are no significant changes from the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2034. And while we might be taking a more informal approach to engaging with the community, there's still plenty to let you know about, so read on!

Importantly, you can still provide feedback to Councillors on the draft plan. Just head to [1 qldc.govt.nz/annual-plans](https://qldc.govt.nz/annual-plans) and share your comments by 30 May.

It's a pretty beefy document so here's a snapshot for those with a bit less time on their hands:

THE NUMBERS:

The draft plan proposes an average rates increase of 13.5% for 2025-2026 after allowing for growth of 3.5% in the rates database. This is consistent with the forecast rates increase in the LTP 2024-2034.

If approved, proposed changes to user fees and charges will bring in an additional \$2.45M of revenue, helping to offset the rates increase (see opposite page).

The capital investment programme for 2025-2026 is valued at \$164.8M. This is a reduction of \$3.5M from the budget forecast for year 2 of the LTP.

Go to section 3 of the draft Annual Plan document for full financial statements, statement of accounting policies, disclosure and funding impact statements and detailed information about rates and charges for 2025-2026.

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR 2025-2026:

Check out pages 14-17 of the draft plan document for a list of capital projects with a proposed budget of \$500,000 or greater.

Bigger ticket projects include a focus on wastewater conveyance, treatment and disposal in both Queenstown and Wānaka, a number of stormwater upgrades for improved environmental protection, and further investment in community facilities such as Ballantyne Road oxidation ponds remediation, creating new community facilities at 516 Ladies Mile, clean energy upgrades at our community facilities, and much more.

A SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DELIVER LTP 2024-2034:

Investment in community facilities

> Ballantyne Road oxidation ponds remediation underway – an important first step towards achieving the long-term vision of developing a Ballantyne Road Sports Hub for community use, potentially earlier than current LTP funding allows (year 7-8).

> Planning work continues to redevelop the property at 516 Ladies Mile Highway in Queenstown into a new community facility. This will include a new community building, sports fields, a toilet/changing room block, parking and supporting infrastructure services.

> Improvements to the Queenstown Events Centre indoor stadium seating were completed in February. The netball and tennis courts at Queenstown Events Centre were resurfaced in March.

Delivering resilient infrastructure

> Work to upgrade the Luggate drinking water scheme is expected to begin mid-2025 and includes two new supply bores, access to a new water



For more information on our progress go to section 2 of the Annual Plan document. Or find out more about how local projects are progressing across Queenstown Lakes at qldc.govt.nz/major-projects

source, and a new ultraviolet treatment plant. This investment had been originally scheduled for 2028 but was brought forward.

- > Good progress has been made to install protozoa barriers across the district, ensuring public water supplies are compliant with drinking water standards. UV treatment to protect against protozoa such as Cryptosporidium has been installed at Glenorchy, Western Wanaka, Wanaka Airport and Two Mile in Queenstown. All drinking water supplies are expected to be fully compliant by December 2025.
- > Work continues to upgrade the Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant in Queenstown.
- > Upgrades to the Upper Clutha's wastewater network are expected to start mid-2025. This will futureproof Hāwea's wastewater needs and increase the capacity and resilience of the wider Wanaka and Albert Town network.

Planning for local water done well

- > Detailed work has been underway to respond to the requirements of the government's Local Water Done Well legislation. Council expects to consult the community on a preferred water services delivery model in June 2025.

Progress towards a Regional Deal

- > Detailed work continues to pursue opportunities to explore alternative funding streams and reduce the financial burden of infrastructure investment on ratepayers. In February QLDC partnered with Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council to submit a joint proposal to the government's Regional Deals framework. Council looks forward to sharing information about the outcome of the joint proposal in due course.

Read the full draft Annual Plan 2025-2026 and provide feedback at qldc.govt.nz/annual-plans by 30 May 2025.



We want your feedback on proposed new fees and charges for things like sports facilities, parking, Wanaka Airport fees, planning and dog rego. These help ensure Council services remain fair and sustainable. Find out more and have your say before 30 April at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

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Summer Ambassadors (L-R) Mike, Salomé, Becky & Nicky at their outdoor office.

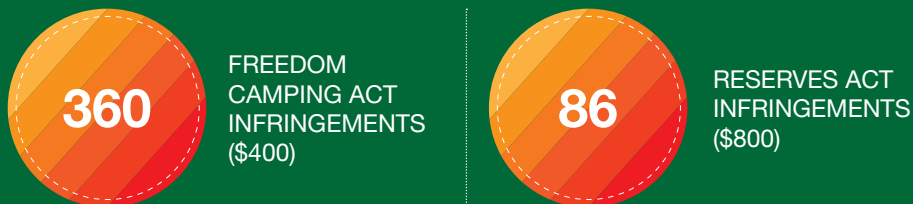
Freedom camping update

Our Summer Ambassadors have been busy engaging with freedom campers throughout the district, helping ensure our piece of paradise was being respected and protected. Thanks and farewell to them all!

Here's what they got up to between December and March:



And when education and advice wasn't enough, our enforcement team stepped in and issued:



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 or use the Snap Send Solve app.

FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW

Formal consultation on a new Freedom Camping Bylaw is planned for June. There'll be drop-in sessions for the community to chat with Council staff at key locations across the district. For more information head to

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/freedom-camping-bylaw-review-2024

Launching Project Tohu

One of the country's largest revegetation projects.

Project Tohu, Council's ambitious revegetation project at Coronet Forest, was officially launched on 3 April.

Mayor Glyn Lewers and other Council staff gathered with representatives of Mana Whenua, community planting groups, project supporters and the Project Tohu partnership to celebrate the milestone and share kōrero and kai.

One of the largest revegetation projects in Aotearoa New Zealand, Project Tohu also signals a new direction for the Coronet mauka (mountain) as an established, self-sustaining indigenous forest.

This kaupapa is a vision proudly led by QLDC and delivered by Te Tapu o Tāne, Citycare Property and e3scientific. It involves planting more than half a million indigenous grasses, shrubs and trees across 200ha on the south-facing slopes of Coronet Peak. This site was the location of Coronet Forest which was harvested to remove a major source of wilding conifers.

Since the launch, an incredible 80,000 natives have been planted. Opportunities for the community to be involved in spring planting will be announced later this year.

Scan here for more information
qldc.govt.nz/project-tohu



Green shoots as the first seedlings are planted.

Creativity and Culture Hui

Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata

Mark your calendars this 12-15 June for an inspiring multi-day gathering of artists, entrepreneurs and creative leaders.

The Creativity and Culture Hui will explore the power of the creative economy to shape our communities, drive innovation and create sustainable careers. Expect thought-provoking discussions, hands-on workshops, creative showcases and invaluable networking opportunities.

This hui is guided by our district's Creativity, Culture and Heritage Strategy | Te Muka Toi, Te Muka Tākata, which translates to the unbreakable thread connecting creativity and humanity. Read the strategy at qldc.govt.nz/creativity-culture-heritage-strategy

The hui is a free ticket event, open to all, which will run at locations in Queenstown and Wānaka. For more details and to book online go to www.threelakesculturaltrust.co.nz

Proudly brought to you by Three Lakes Cultural Trust, Queenstown Lakes District Council and Creative NZ.



From the Chambers

LOCAL ELECTION JUST ROUND THE CORNER

It's an election year and nominations for all Council positions will open in fewer than three months on 4 July.

There are 16 positions on the Council to fill (one Mayor; 11 Councillors and four community board members) and one important qualification for nomination is a requirement to be a New Zealand citizen. There was an unfortunate incident in New Zealand several years ago when a by-election was generated following a council discovering that one of its councillors was unlawful because they were not a New Zealand citizen.

So, if you've been thinking about standing for Council but have put off making that citizenship application, now is the time to act because proof of citizenship is needed alongside every nomination.

QLDC also has elections for the Otago Regional Council on its voting papers and voters in this district also vote for four regional Councillors.

NEW EASTER TRADING POLICY ADOPTED

Easter is traditionally a busy time across all the district with lots of visitors who come for the holiday. A bit of a bone of contention between Queenstown and the Upper Clutha has been that shops in Queenstown (and any shop within a 35km radius) have the right to open all Easter, whilst elsewhere, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are restricted trading days and most shops except places like dairies and service stations must remain closed.

This changed in 2016 when amendments to the Shop Trading Hours Act 1990 enabled councils to adopt a policy to permit all shops to open on Easter Sunday across the district. The Council adopted a new Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy on 20 March and this will enable Easter Sunday trading across the whole district, which is a big win for consistency and for catering to our many visitors. Importantly, employees have the right to choose not to work on Easter Sunday.

Good Friday is still a restricted trading day and any alteration of this would require a law change. In addition, an Easter Sunday trading policy does not apply to the sale or supply of alcohol so, you won't be able to shop in the wine and beer aisles of the supermarket.

NEW POLICY ADOPTED FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council policy for holding meetings in Wānaka adopted in 1994 contained a grand total of 12 words and made a commitment to meeting in 'Wanaka' (pre-macron) 'at regular intervals'. Until the recent (20 March 2025) adoption of a new policy entitled **Council Meetings Across the District**, this was QLDC policy and whilst there's something to be said for brevity, 12 words could hardly be more succinct. Council will hold its second full Council meeting in Arrowtown in May 2025 and because of the election there are (currently) only two full Council meetings scheduled for Wānaka, but this policy gives a clear commitment to making sure that Council and Committee meetings take place in all three wards of the district.

Note that the policy does not apply to the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board but the Board has been meeting in different parts of the Upper Clutha for several years now. There are regularly Board meetings in Lake Hāwea and Luggate and whilst the Board is yet to hold a meeting in Makarora, it did meet for the first time in Cardrona in 2024.

Arterial stormwater upgrade almost done

As you read this, the Kā Huanui a Tāhuna (Alliance) team will be finishing up the final stormwater upgrade required as part of the Queenstown Town Centre Arterial Road. 110m of stormwater pipe has been installed along lower Ballarat Street and connected to the upgraded network already completed as part of the road construction.

Thanks to all the nearby businesses, regional coach operators, Otago Regional Council and local residents for bearing with us over this time. The Stanley/Ballarat street intersection has now reopened and lower Ballarat Street is expected to reopen in mid-May.

Stay up to date on the Frankton intersection and bus hub upgrades

NZTA Waka Kotahi is delivering improvements to SH6 and SH6A to support an efficient and reliable transport network to address growth in Queenstown.

If you live or work in the area and would like to sign up for work notices, please email info@wtpa.co.nz with 'Work Notice' in the subject line. This is a great way to find out firsthand about the days, time and duration of specific pieces of work that may cause disruption.



EMERGENCY MOBILE ALERT NATIONWIDE TEST

The nationwide test of the Emergency Mobile Alert (EMA) system is taking place in the evening of Sunday 25 May between 6.00-7.00pm. This is a routine test conducted by NEMA (the National Emergency Management Agency) to make sure the system is working well. NEMA anticipates that over 5.5 million phones will receive the message.

A nationwide ad campaign will run closer to the time, but if you want to find out more about the Emergency Mobile Alert system, including a factsheet and list of FAQs, visit

getready.govt.nz/prepared/ema



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- **Land Development Advisory.**

TPG Wānaka

Marc Bretherton
027 696 9550
Wanaka@propertygroup.co.nz

TPG Queenstown

Jo Skuse
027 498 1745
JSkuse@propertygroup.co.nz

propertygroup.co.nz

Funding targets zero waste

Got an idea to help move our community towards zero waste? Apply for QLDC's Waste Minimisation Community Fund (WMCF)!

The WMCF is back and we're looking for passionate individuals, businesses, schools and community groups with inspirational ideas to rethink, reduce or reuse.

Up to \$60,000 is available to support initiatives that promote the sustainable use of resources and cut waste throughout the district. If you have a project in mind, the WMCF could provide the funding to make it project happen.

In previous year, projects have turned everyday materials into valuable resources. A community upcycling station kept construction materials in use, while a repair shop taught tamariki to fix and repurpose items. Workshops promoted low-waste menstrual products, and an afterschool programme empowered kids to upcycle textiles. A composting system transformed food scraps into nutrient-rich soil, fostering sustainable waste management.

From repurposing brewery grain bags into tote bags to collecting plastic lids and transforming them into disc golf discs, our past recipients have proven that small changes can make a huge impact.

Applications close on 25 May so start brainstorming, get inspired and be part of the movement towards a circular economy.

Don't let your great idea go to waste – apply now and turn your vision into action! Full details at

 qldc.govt.nz/wmcf

There are just a few days left to submit your applications for QLDC's Events Fund, Community Fund and Heritage Incentive Grant. Head to

 qldc.govt.nz/community-funding by 30 April.

HURRY!

Regional public transport plan

What's your view on public transport in our region? The draft Otago Regional Public Transport Plan is now open for consultation.

The plan guides how Otago Regional Council (ORC) will invest time and money into public transport for the next ten years (2025-2035).

It aims to provide public transport solutions that are easy to understand and meet communities' diverse needs. In other words, public transport people want to use – more often.

New government expectations mean that we have some tough choices to make. We all value access, transport options and the economic, health and environmental benefits that a convenient, reliable, and efficient public transport system delivers for our communities. However, ORC now needs to recover a greater share of public transport operating costs from private sources. This means it needs to increase things like passenger fares and advertising OR decrease its spending on services. This would mean fewer buses or removing some routes.

This is your chance to have your say on public transport topics including:

- > The draft plan's focus areas.
- > Supporting community transport services in rural areas.
- > Increasing bus fares.
- > Keeping free child fares.
- > Introducing zone fares.

Consultation closes on 2 May. Give your feedback at orc.govt.nz/rptp

Remembering John

Like many people around the district, everyone at QLDC was deeply saddened by the passing in March of former Councillor John MacDonald.

John was first elected in 2016 and served his local community as a councillor for more than four years before stepping down on health grounds in March 2021.

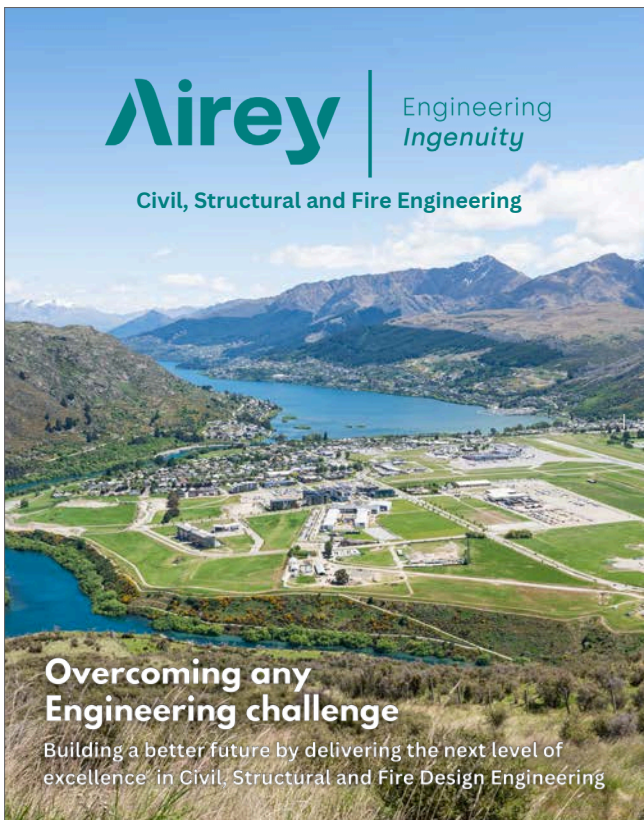
Mayor Glyn Lewers paid tribute to John's time on Council:

"I know my cohort of new Councillors in 2019 all looked up to John, not only because of his experience and governance skills but also because of the way he treated people and the issues he worked for such as mental health and the Whakatipu Community Hub."

"I always had huge respect for him and was sorry to see him retire from QLDC, albeit to carry on working tirelessly for the good of the community. He'll be missed by so many people and I'd like to extend my sympathies to his family, friends and anyone who shares the same fond memories that I do."

During his time as a Councillor, John chaired both the Audit, Finance & Risk committee and the Mayoral Housing Taskforce. He was also the founding chairman of Destination Queenstown, held various governance roles with Health New Zealand Southern Te Whatu Ora, and served on the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust board.

A memorial fund in John's name has been set up by Whakatipu Community Hub. Find out more and donate at www.johnmac.org.nz



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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.



CELEBRATING OUR GLOBAL VILLAGE

This year's Queenstown Multicultural Festival on 15 March was another awesome celebration of our district's diverse culture, community and creativity. It created a true global village at the Events Centre with food, performances, workshops and simply a chance to get to know one another better on one fun-filled day. Huge thanks to Queenstown Multicultural Festival Trust plus everyone else who contributed and all those who came along. [Image credit – Tim Shoultz Photography]



REFASHION STRIKES A PRE-LOVED POSE

Our mates at Wastebusters celebrated Slow Fashion Month in March with several great initiatives including another Refashion Show, proudly supported by QLDC's Zero Waste District Programme. Among those looking fabulous on the catwalk were Simon McKenzie, one of Wasties' front yard supervisors, and Mac the wonderful recycling superhero dog. Wastebusters would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the sustainable designers, models and incredible volunteers whose time, energy and dedication brought Refashion to life. [Image credit – Deanna Gerlach; Instagram @dgerl]



PUTTING ON A SHOW

It was great to see so many of you at this year's Wānaka A&P Show. Once again, QLDC had a tent packed with individual stalls sharing information about different local initiatives. Pictured are gardening expert Ben 'Dr Compost' Elms and QLDC Animal Control Officers Lani McIntosh (L) and Hannah Dennison (R). They were joined by Wastebusters plus members of QLDC's Libraries, Sport & Recreation and recycling/waste minimisation teams as well as local elected members who were on hand to discuss Council projects.

MAGICAL SUMMER READING ADVENTURE

This summer, our Libraries team invited children on an exciting journey with Charm Quest: Seek the Magic, a reading challenge that sparked imaginations and inspired more than 650 young readers. Charm Quest offered children the chance to collect unique shoe charms as they read their way through the holidays. The response from children and carers was overwhelmingly positive, with many noting how the challenge encouraged reluctant readers to dive into books with renewed enthusiasm. Children and their carers accounted for over 1,900 library visits and an astounding 6,235 books read this summer!



Nau Mai Haere Mai, Taylah!

Introducing our new Rangatahi Māori representative through the national Tuia leadership programme.

TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF

I'm eighteen and the eldest of four, with two brothers and a sister. I've lived in Queenstown for 16 years, growing up surrounded by my parents' close friends and their families. My whakapapa traces back to Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Arawa and Ngāi Tūhoe. Growing up in Queenstown, I have often felt disconnected from both my culture and my whānau in Rotorua. Attending a predominantly Pākehā school, where Māori students were few and far between, made it challenging to embrace and explore my identity as a young Māori. Without easy access to my marae, my reo, and the everyday presence of my whānau, I have struggled to feel fully connected to my whakapapa. However, as I've grown older and my passion for Te Ao Māori has enhanced I've realized how important it is for me to reclaim and strengthen that connection, which is why I am eager to be part of kaupapa like Tuia that foster growth, learning, and cultural belonging.

WHAT MADE YOU APPLY FOR TUIA?

I first heard about Tuia from my Aunty, who thought it would be a great programme for me to take part in during my gap year. Later, a former teacher also mentioned it and encouraged me to apply, believing I would truly benefit from the kaupapa. Learning more about the opportunities Tuia provides for Māori rangatahi across Aotearoa, I felt inspired and motivated to be a part of it.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO?

Although I'm excited about almost everything this kaupapa has to offer, I am especially looking forward to attending the wānanga and connecting with other rangatahi Māori from across the country. Being surrounded by like-minded young Māori who are also on their own journeys of growth and leadership is something I find incredibly inspiring. I am eager to build meaningful relationships, share experiences, and learn from others who come from different backgrounds but share similar aspirations. Through this, I hope to strengthen my confidence, develop my leadership skills, and deepen

my connection to my culture. I see this as an opportunity not only to grow personally but also to bring back new knowledge and perspectives to my own community.

WHAT SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN/DEVELOP BY THE END OF THE PROGRAMME?

I hope to build my confidence, improve my social skills, and develop my public speaking abilities. I see this as an opportunity to not only strengthen my communication skills but also gain a deeper understanding of myself and my cultural identity. I hope these experiences assist me to walk away with a stronger sense of cultural confidence and a deeper connection to my identity as a young Māori.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FUTURE GOALS?

In the next five years, I hope to understand and speak Te Reo Māori more fluently. Being able to speak and understand Te Reo Māori has been a goal I have aspired to achieve for many years. Taking a Te Reo Māori course will help me to build toward that goal. In the future I also see myself working in a role that allows me to make a positive impact on others. My aim is to keep learning, evolving, and finding ways to give back to my people and strengthen my connection to my culture.



Ka pai,
Taylah! We'll
check in again with
her towards the end
of her year on the
Tuia programme.

Lest we forget

This issue of Let's Talk was due to be published close to Anzac Day.

To commemorate those who have died in the service of our country, and the contribution of all those who have served, Council offices and libraries will once again be closed on Friday 25 April.



Facilities at Queenstown Events Centre and Wānaka Recreation Centre will be open from 1.00-8.00pm, and Paetara Aspiring Central from 1.00-5.00pm. Queenstown and Wānaka transfer stations, and the public recycling drop-off on Glenda Drive will be open from 1.00-5.00pm.



QLDC has completed restoration work on several war memorials across the district, including the Wānaka memorial pictured below. This has included resurfacing, repainting and re-lettering inscriptions. The Queenstown Memorial Arch will also be earthquake-strengthened after this year's commemoration.

Due a street frontage bond refund?

CLAIM IT BEFORE 30 MAY

If you lodged a street frontage bond as part of your building consent prior to 2017, have been issued a code compliance certificate (CCC), and have not yet claimed your bond back, you may be eligible for a refund. Download and complete the application form at qldc.govt.nz/building-services-forms and submit it using QLDC's online Community Portal along with proof of original payment of the bond.

Please get your application to us by 30 May.

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Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant: past, present & future

Many of you will have read about issues with the disposal field at QLDC's Shotover Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Whilst the treatment plant itself is working well (the disposal field was never part of the treatment process), we fully acknowledge how Council deals with wastewater matters hugely for our community and our environment.

On 31 March we switched the discharge of treated wastewater back from the disposal field to the Shotover River (as it was before 2019).

QLDC is committed to sharing accurate information about the WWTP. To this end, we've started publishing test results on our website. Dedicated webpages also contain some comprehensive FAQs, a recording of our onsite media stand-up of 26 March, and details about how we test treated wastewater and report to Otago Regional Council (ORC) as our regulator.

We first flagged issues at the disposal field with the community in August 2021. Since then, we've been trialling and implementing a number of measures to improve its performance, none of which have worked satisfactorily.

One of the key issues has been increased ponding water (due to the field draining slower than it was being topped up) attracting an increasing number of waterfowl. In turn, this posed an elevated risk to aircraft operations.

Hence Council's use of emergency works provisions under the Resource Management Act and our application for a retrospective resource consent from ORC. This has not been an easy decision, but it is a responsible course of action for Council to take on behalf of all residents, ratepayers and stakeholders including the airport.

Since the works began, ponding and bird numbers at the disposal field are reducing, and the actions we have taken represent significant progress on finding a long-term solution for Shotover WWTP.

For full details please visit
qldc.govt.nz/shotoverFAQs

At a glance:

At the end of March, QLDC made the difficult decision to use powers under the RMA to undertake emergency works at Shotover WWTP. The works relate to the disposal field only and not the treatment facility.

Discharge to water is not uncommon in New Zealand (or internationally): approx. 200 facilities currently take similar action.

The Shotover and Kawarau rivers are both safe for swimming and other recreational activities. The water being discharged is treated to a high quality. It consistently meets resource consent conditions and is at a level suitable for recreational activity once mixed with the river flows.

The treated wastewater is being mixed with a significant volume of water. The WWTP currently processes around 12,000m³ of wastewater per day. More than twenty times that amount passes through the Kawarau River every **hour**.

Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025

Councillors approved the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 at their March meeting with new rules coming into effect immediately.

Shaped by community input, the new bylaw reinforces our commitment to keeping the district's lakes, rivers and waterways safe for everyone to enjoy. During the consultation period, we heard from a diverse range of waterways users, including jetboaters and lake swimmers.

SKI LANES AND BRIDGE JUMPING RETAINED

Outcomes include maintaining and improving many ski lanes for better functionality and safety (several ski lanes originally proposed for removal are being retained), and new rules for vessel identification and communication devices.

While not prohibiting jumping off the Albert Town Bridge, we have introduced upstream and downstream vessel passage lanes at this location to keep everyone safe.

With growing resident and visitor numbers, these and other measures will enhance safety without being overly restrictive. New signage and educational materials addressing the changes will be rolled out over the coming months.

The adoption of the bylaw marks the culmination of a comprehensive consultation process, which included a series of public meetings in September last year, a submission period in October, and subsequent hearings and deliberations. Thanks to everyone who took part for your constructive feedback.

For more information on the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 and its implementation, including a copy of the final bylaw and key details, contact your local Council office or visit [4 qldc.govt.nz/bylaws](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/bylaws)



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Main image credit – Ross Mackay;
below – Beth Rodden.

World's best heading to festival

Beth Rodden, one of the best rock climbers of all time and a globally recognised ambassador for the outdoor community, is the headline speaker at this year's NZ Mountain Film & Book Festival.

For the past 23 years, this much-loved event has been a highlight of early winter, drawing locals and visitors from across Aotearoa New Zealand. It's a celebration of world-class films, fascinating talks, inspiring art shows, and hands-on learning at the renowned Adventure Film School.

American Beth Rodden has achieved a number of notable free climbs on El Capitan – the 1,000m monolith in Yosemite National Park – and has also established the hardest first ascent of a crack climb ever done by a woman.

Local adventurers Nick Pascoe and Sam Smoothy also feature on this year's festival programme. Nick will be speaking about his recent ski and packraft mission to cross from Raspberry Flat in Mt Aspiring National Park to the Tasman Sea. Sam,

a former Freeride World Tour competitor, will share insights about his audacious project to ski all of NZ's 3,000m peaks.

So with winter just around the corner, what better way to embrace the season than by diving into an epic adventure – no climbing gear required!

Tickets and programme details will be released on 20 May. Check out

 mountainfilm.nz



Wānaka festival

20–24 June

Queenstown festival

26–27 June

Online festival

Films available for the whole month of July



Cold Kids campaign

Is it okay that 30% of families won't be warm enough this winter?

Community Link Upper Clutha has launched the Cold Kids fundraising campaign to purchase firewood and provide heating support to local families who are struggling.

In our district, where living costs are high and wages often lower than the national average, many families don't have a financial cushion. Nearly one in three families have no buffer to handle unexpected events like losing an income or facing emergency medical costs according to QLDC's Quality of Life survey.

As the weather cools and the inversion layer arrives, these challenges become even harder to manage. The Cold Kids campaign directly addresses this issue.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate directly using the QR code below, pass forward your Winter Energy Payment, offer spare firewood, or partner on a business campaign. For more info contact Community Link on 03 443 7799.



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 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

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FIRE AT RECYCLING CENTRE SHOWS SAFE BATTERY DISPOSAL MATTERS

In late March, a serious fire broke out at QLDC's Whakatipu Recycling Centre on Glenda Drive. Thanks to the quick actions of facility staff and emergency services, everyone was safely evacuated and the fire was brought under control before it could cause major damage.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) believes the fire may have started when a battery was crushed by a loader moving material. This is the second such incident in a month, following an earlier fire at the Victoria Flats Landfill.

These events highlight just how dangerous it is to dispose of batteries incorrectly – they can easily catch fire if damaged, especially lithium ones, so even a single battery in the wrong place can lead to serious consequences.

QLDC launched its Keep it Cool campaign before Christmas to spread a simple but crucial message:

NEVER BIN

A BATTERY

HOW TO DISPOSE OF

BATTERIES SAFELY

Instead of putting batteries in the rubbish or recycling, drop them off at designated collection points. Household batteries can be recycled for free at locations such as the Frankton and Wānaka Transfer Stations and hardware stores like Mitre 10. For e-waste like laptops, take them to your local transfer station for responsible disposal (a small fee may apply). Always check if an item contains a battery before throwing it away to prevent potential fire hazards.

WHY IT MATTERS

Improperly discarded batteries are one of the biggest fire risks in our waste system. In 2024 alone, 12 of 13 waste-related fires in the district were likely caused by batteries. These fires can:

- > Damage waste collection trucks, recycling centres, and landfills.
- > Put workers, emergency responders, and the community at risk.
- > Cause costly disruptions to waste services.
- > Lead to environmental contamination.

By disposing of batteries properly, you're helping protect our community, our infrastructure and the environment.

For more information on safe battery and e-waste disposal, visit the A-Z Rubbish & Recycling Directory at

📍 qldc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling



PAWS IN THE PARK

A tail-wagging success in Wānaka & Queenstown.

Dog lovers across the district came out in force to celebrate all things canine at our Paws in the Park events in Wānaka and Queenstown. Both days in early April were packed with wagging tails, happy humans and community spirit.

The first event at Wānaka Station Park saw local pet businesses, food vendors and QLDC's Animal Control Team creating a fun, family-friendly vibe, while Dr Dog (Matt Gunn) and Wizard wowed the crowd with a live demo.

After a few early showers, the following day's event at Queenstown's Jardine Park turned sunny with everything from doggy massages to bao buns. Highlights included Top Dog's expert trainer talks and our crowd-favourite competitions.



Huge thanks to everyone who came along and supported this annual event.

Electrify Queenstown

Electrify Queenstown is back with three days of talks, workshops and field trips covering the latest advances in electrification and renewable energy.

Running from 26-28 May at Queenstown Events Centre, the event is hosted by Destination Queenstown and supported by Queenstown Chamber of Commerce.

Day two is especially relevant to anyone in the wider community keen explore practical ways to save money, become more energy efficient and decarbonise.

Free to attend but registration required. For more info head to electrifyqueenstown.co.nz. In the Upper Clutha visit facebook.com/electrifywanaka



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Queenstown
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What does your future world look like?

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future together -
one masterpiece
at a time!



Queenstown Lakes District Council is making a plan for the future, and we need your help!

We would love to see your vision for what our future could look like. Maybe it's clean air, fresh water, and native birds everywhere, safe cycleways to school, or other cool ideas that protect our environment and make our communities better places to live. Whatever your dream, bring it to life through your artwork.

Create a piece of artwork and go in to win cool prizes
and a chance to have your artwork featured in our
Climate and Biodiversity Plan or on our website.

**Climate
Action**



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LAKES DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Pick up an entry form at your local
library – or scan the QR code.
Entries close Wednesday 7 May.



2025 LitFest

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financial literacy
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author talks
and more!



libraries
whare pukapuka
Queenstown Lakes



Events Centre upgrades

Queenstown Events Centre's outdoor courts have had a big upgrade. The new surface is great for all sports and will help minimise the chance of injuries while improving performance. All six courts have markings for tennis, pickleball, badminton and netball. Let's play!



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

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

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 over the next few months, so head along to **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.

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS:	UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS:			WHAT'S COMING UP:	
PROPOSED CHANGE TO USER FEES AND CHARGES Submissions open until 30 April.	TE-TAUMATA-O-HAKITEKURA BEN LOMOND & TE TAPUNUI QUEENSTOWN HILL RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN Submissions closed 17 March. Over 100 submissions were received, and a hearing will be held on 5 May.	EVENTS POLICY Submissions closed on 9 March with 13 submissions received. These are now being considered and a revised policy is expected to be presented to Full Council in June.	COMMUNITY INSIGHTS SURVEY The survey closed on 31 March. Responses are being analysed by an independent researcher and we expect to publish the results in May.	GLENORCHY AIRSTRIP RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN Formal consultation opens 28 April.	WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN Formal consultation opens 30 May.
DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN 2025-2026 Feedback open until 30 May.				CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY PLAN 2025-2028 Feedback opens 30 May.	PREFERRED MODEL FOR FUTURE WATER SERVICES DELIVERY Formal consultation expected in June.
				SPATIAL PLAN GEN 2.0 Early engagement expected in June.	FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW Formal consultation expected in July.
FIND FULL DETAILS OF THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ					

QLDC OFFICES

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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

LIBRARIES

For library opening hours and locations please head to 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
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
Feedback and ideas are welcome.