

LET'S TALK KÖRERO MAI

THE QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER // OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2025 // ISSUE 169

Local elections 2025: the final results

Cardrona Alpine Resort's
Tina Traumann with the nation's
highest voting bin.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR FINAL RESULTS

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BUILDING A
CREATIVE DISTRICT



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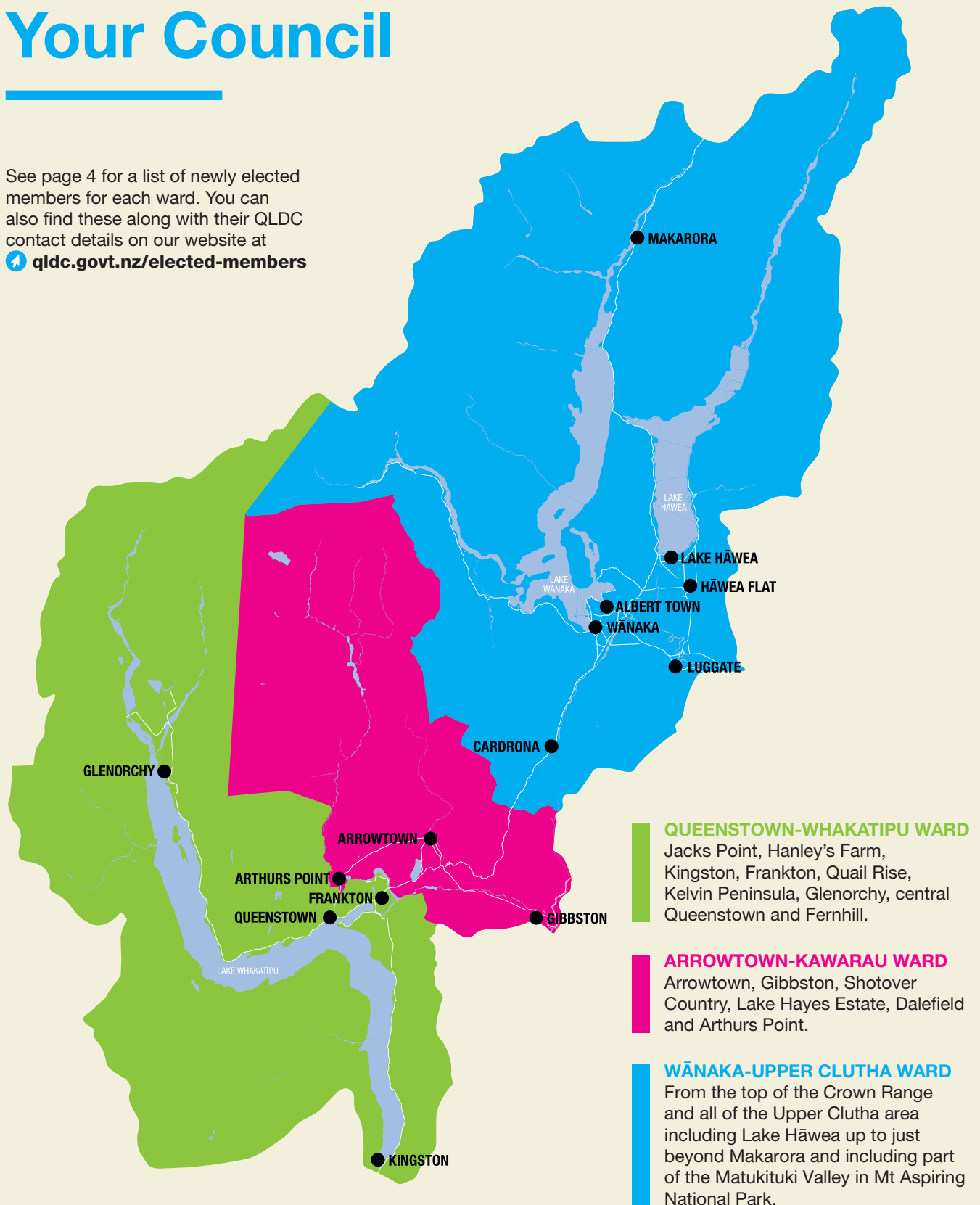
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Your Council

See page 4 for a list of newly elected members for each ward. You can also find these along with their QLDC contact details on our website at [qldc.govt.nz/elected-members](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/elected-members)





On behalf of myself, the elected councillors and community board members, thank you for trusting us to be your representatives. We know you will hold us to account, let us know how we're doing and I know we'll have to work hard to meet your expectations.

My first priority is to form a team of councillors who are equipped to be their best selves in their roles around the table and in the community.

Next is to act on key messages we heard during the election campaign – restoring trust (amongst ourselves and from the community); changes in how we communicate, and then addressing the pressures on rates. What do we spend on, how do we spend, and how do we make your \$ go further.

Delivering growth that works for us, provides new opportunities and fits with our long term vision is vital. We heard very clearly how the current rate of change isn't well balanced with all the things needed to 'grow well' and we (including our visitors) can all see how that is playing out.

As we land with our feet running, we must take the opportunity that a new long term plan provides to address these key issues.

Queenstown Lakes District Mayor John Glover

Image credit: James Allan Photography

First steps for new Council

Here's a summary of how newly elected representatives will spend the next few weeks:

OCTOBER
'Meet and greet' sessions between Councillors as a group, and with Chief Executive and Council staff.
LGNZ Mayoral Induction hui, Wellington.
LGNZ Elected Member Induction hui, Dunedin.
Inaugural Council meeting, Lake Hayes Pavillion; 30 Oct.
NOVEMBER
Inaugural Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) meeting, Lake Wānaka Centre; 4 Nov.
Briefings & info sessions hosted by Council staff & external providers.
Councillor & Mayor 'away day', Queenstown.
Upper Clutha bus tour + Councillor/WUCCB get-together.
First Ordinary Council meeting, Queenstown; 27 Nov.
DECEMBER
Queenstown bus tour.
First Ordinary WUCCB meeting, Luggate; 16 Dec.

Local elections 2025: the final results

MAYOR

John Glover has been elected as the Mayor of Queenstown Lakes District Council with 4,599 votes.

The other candidates were: Glyn Lewers (3,244 votes); Nik Kiddle (2,108); Darren Rewi (1,671); Al Angus (874); Daniel Shand (125).

COUNCIL

Arrowtown-Kawarau Ward

Heath Copland (1,927 votes)

Melissa White (1,730 votes)

'Q' (Samuel) Belk (1,703 votes)

Queenstown-Whakatipu Ward

Matt Wong (2,287 votes)

Gavin Bartlett (2,002 votes)

Stephen Brent (1,924 votes)

Jon Mitchell (1,689 votes)

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward

Nicola King (3,610 votes)

Quentin Smith (3,394 votes)

Niki Gladding (2,863 votes)

Cody Tucker (2,039 votes)

WĀNAKA-UPPER COMMUNITY BOARD

Simon Telfer (3,967 votes)

Kathy Dedo (3,803 votes)

John Wellington (2,900 votes)

Chris Hadfield (2,235 votes)

Voting for this year's local body elections closed on 11 October. The final results were confirmed a few days later once all the special votes (made by people under specific circumstances such as not receiving a voting pack in the mail, or not enrolling to vote by the cut-off date but then doing so before election day) had been counted.

QLDC's campaign to promote all stages of the election process – candidate nominations, getting enrolled to vote, providing information on all candidates and then encouraging people to vote – was all wrapped up under the slogan *The Highest Vote*.

Inspired by our district's alpine setting, *The Highest Vote* literally took local democracy to new heights with bright orange voting bins located at Cardrona and Treble Cone ski fields. We also hosted a special one-day voting bin at the Crown Range Road summit lookout that featured on 1News' main evening bulletin!

A total of 17 orange bins were located in supermarkets, sports facilities, libraries and Council offices as well as on the mountains, and we also hosted pop-up polling places at Hanley's Farm and Lake Hāwea.

Huge thanks to the nearly 13,000 of you who voted. That represented a turnout of 41.16% compared to 43.05% in 2022.

Local government in New Zealand is required by statute to conduct its elections by post but, in the 24 years since the Local Electoral Act, use of the postal system has declined hugely.

For several years, QLDC has been actively lobbying for reforms such as voting online that would make it easier for people, especially in more remote communities like ours. We look forward to actions at a national level that would address the ongoing downward trend for voter turnout and help support future local campaigns like *The Highest Vote*.

HOW'S LIFE?

KEI TE PĒHEA TŌU AO?

QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY NOW OPEN

The eighth annual Quality of Life survey is open until Sunday 16 November for residents and ratepayers to give feedback on how they feel about life in the district.

Findings from the anonymous survey will provide insights into your views on issues such as housing, health services, the environment, transport, employment and sense of community.

Over time, findings have been crucial in building a long-term picture of how the district is faring, helping QLDC and other public service providers to plan ahead and identify ways to improve the quality of life for people who live here.

While a group of people have been randomly selected from the electoral roll and invited to participate, all ratepayers and anyone living in the district (aged 18 and over) can take part.

Conducted by Versus Research on behalf of QLDC, the survey will take around 15-20 minutes to complete and is available as follows:

- > Head online at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/qol
- > Use free computers and Wi-Fi at QLDC Libraries districtwide.
- > Obtain a hard copy by contacting QLDC customer services on 03 441 0499, or by dropping into Council offices at 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown or 47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka.

You can find more info and all previous surveys at qldc.govt.nz/community-research

All respondents have an opportunity to go in the draw for one of four \$250 Prezzy cards.



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A total of 177 people attended four drop-in sessions.



Roadside signage promoting the drop-in sessions.

Big response to airport review

Earlier this year, QLDC appointed independent specialist consultancy Egis to undertake a future review of Wānaka Airport. This will set the vision, values, objectives and preferred outcomes for the much-valued community asset.

Over June and July, Egis conducted a first round of district-wide consultation to understand what living, working and playing here meant to locals and what future role the airport should play in this.

The responses then helped Egis develop several possible scenarios which were presented to the community for further feedback over August and September.

This second round of online and in-person engagement closed on 18 September and generated one of the biggest responses - more than 1,100 submissions - we've seen for a specific QLDC project.

As well as direct contact with key stakeholders, the campaign included print, online and radio advertising, prominent signage and – of course – social media.

Thank you to everyone who shared their views. Egis now has a robust set of data to inform its final recommendations that will be presented to a public workshop with the incoming Council later this year.

The Facebook campaign that supported the second round of engagement generated impressive results:

IEWS – 167,759.
REACH – 106,230.
LINK CLICKS – 1,446.

Follow progress and learn more about the Wānaka Airport Future Review at letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

New measures to manage freedom camping

QLDC's new Freedom Camping Bylaw 2025 comes into effect on 1 December in time for the summer season. It will help us manage this activity in a way that ensures public areas remain safe, protected and accessible to everyone.

We received nearly 400 submissions during a month-long period of community consultation that included drop-in sessions in Wānaka and Queenstown and an online webinar, a recording of which was available on the QLDC website.

The draft bylaw was amended as a result of feedback and then adopted by Councillors in early October.

Ours is the most popular district for overnight free camping in Aotearoa New Zealand which has led to a range of adverse impacts on land Council controls or manages. Balancing community concerns with what the Freedom Camping Act requires us to do, our new bylaw is designed to ensure visitors continue to enjoy freedom camping here while addressing the concerns of residents.

BYLAW BASICS

- > Freedom camping will be allowed in 15 specified sites, subject to conditions: four in Queenstown, three in Wānaka, two in Frankton, and one each in Arrowtown, Gibbston, Glenorchy, Kingston, Lake Hāwea and near Lake Hayes.
- > Rural roads will also allow freedom camping but include conditions such as how close to the road a camper can park.
- > Freedom camping will be prohibited on public roads within our urban areas.
- > Council reserves are not included in the bylaw and will continue to be managed under the Reserves Act. Luggate Red Bridge Reserve is currently the only reserve in the district that allows freedom camping. In October, Council approved several conditions to be introduced here including only using a certified self-

contained vehicle, using one of the 50 marked spaces, and limiting length of stay and arrival/departure times.

- > The Freedom Camping Act applies nationally and permits freedom camping by default on most council land. Local bylaws are limited in both what they can address and the specific area to which they apply.

Look out for a comprehensive responsible camping education campaign that will raise awareness of the new rules and make it clear to visitors where and how freedom camping will be permitted.

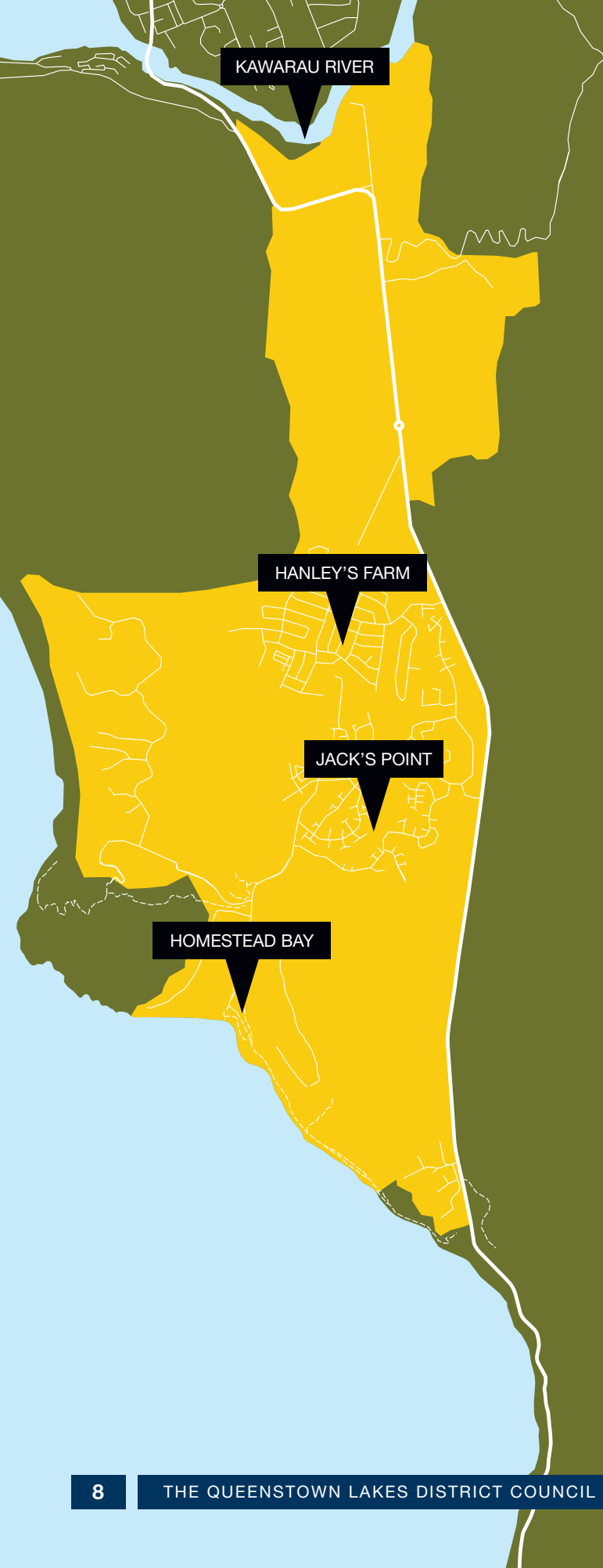
For more info including maps head to

[📍 qldc.govt.nz/bylaws](https://qldc.govt.nz/bylaws)

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

Colliers
2025 / 2026
Otago Property
Market Review
and Outlook
QUEENSTOWN, WĀNAKA, DUNEDIN & CENTRAL OTAGO

OUT NOW



KAWARAU RIVER

HANLEY'S FARM

JACK'S POINT

HOMESTEAD BAY

Plan to guide southern growth

A plan to guide development and infrastructure south of the Kawarau River around Hanley's Farm and Jack's Point is now in place.

Adopted in early September, the Structure Plan for Te Tapuae Southern Corridor is a 30-year roadmap that identifies where homes, shops and parks will go, how people will get around, and where key services will be placed and staged.

Ultimately, it aims to ensure land at the foot of the Remarkables remains a highly desirable place for people to live, work, play and visit despite predicted rapid growth.

SOME OF THE KEY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES ADDRESSED BY THE PLAN INCLUDE:

Supporting the potential future development of 9,300 mixed-density homes.

Creating three mixed-use commercial centres, new educational facilities and expanded social infrastructure such as parks, sports facilities and a library.

Delivering new/upgraded infrastructure for wastewater, stormwater and water supply.

Enhancing public transport and active travel options to help manage growth-related congestion.

Integrating Kāi Tahu and QEII Trust land values, emphasising biodiversity, mauri (life essence) and sustainable management.

What we heard from you

Adoption of the Structure Plan followed public engagement held in June and July this year.

Your feedback highlighted the need for a balanced and considered strategy that supports growth while preserving the area's unique character, with a clear aspiration for development to enhance quality of life while being supported by infrastructure when it's needed.

AS A RESULT, WE MADE AMENDMENTS TO THE FINAL PLAN THAT WAS ADOPTED BY COUNCILLORS INCLUDING:

Adjustments to proposed zoning.

Local centre locations.

Protecting a highly valued landscape strip within Jack's Point.

Additional provision for industrial land and transport infrastructure.

SCAN HERE FOR A SUMMARY
OF THE ENGAGEMENT



What's next?

Planning is underway for changes to land use rules to enable implementation of the adopted Structure Plan. Any District Plan change or variation will include further public consultation.

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



From the Chambers

2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT ADOPTED

Getting the Council's annual report approved before an election every three years always gets close to the wire.

Normally there are a whole four months after the end of the financial year (30 June) to prepare the annual report, but in an election year it needs to be ready a month early to present to the outgoing Council.

This year's team did an amazing job presenting the final report to Council on 9 October – a mere two days before election day.

The annual report is the final stage of Council's planning cycle and it's an important review of all the activities undertaken during the previous financial year.

It also provides an opportunity for the Council's auditors to provide useful feedback. This year they've made several recommendations for consideration by the QLDC Audit, Finance & Risk Committee once it's reformed after the election.

PARDON THE INTERREGNUM

Council is perpetual but all Council committees are discharged at the time of an election.

Although there are some standard committee structures that can be adopted, the new Council can decide what sort of committees it wants to establish. This doesn't necessarily need to reflect what previous structures were in place.

Once this has been decided, you can find details of all committees, their meeting dates and agendas on our website.

There's also a period immediately following an election when there are no Councillors officially in place. To safeguard against the possibility of Council being unable to respond if something extraordinary were to happen, the Chief Executive is delegated time-limited 'interregnum' powers.

STOP ME IF YOU THINK YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE

Did you know that in the first nine months of 2025 there were nearly 50% more items presented at Council meetings than in the same period last year. With that in mind, it's perhaps no wonder that not everything could be wrapped up before the election.

The new Council can't act until it's had its inaugural meeting (scheduled for 30 October) and so there'll be a familiar ring to some of the items being presented to Councillors at their first ordinary meeting in November.

Returning to be considered for final approval will be several items from the 2022-25 triennium including the Traffic and Parking Bylaw, the Glenorchy Airstrip Reserve Management Plan, the Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy, and a proposal for an easement over part of Wānaka Golf Course Recreation Reserve.

Never bin a battery

A fire at Queenstown Transfer Station in August was a close call, and a stark reminder of the danger posed by improper disposal of batteries.

Batteries are the leading cause of fires in collection trucks, landfills and waste facilities. When crushed or damaged, they can ignite and cause serious harm to infrastructure, workers and the environment.

QLDC's Solid Waste team would like to remind everyone to never put batteries (or items containing batteries) in kerbside or public rubbish and recycling bins. This includes AA/AAA, lithium-ion, car, e-scooter and e-bike batteries, vapes, and rechargeable batteries.

Before throwing anything away **always** check to see if it contains a battery. Common examples are smartphones, laptops, electric toothbrushes and remote-controlled toys.

FREE DISPOSAL OPTIONS

Did you know you can drop off batteries for free at Wānaka or Queenstown transfer stations? Or scan here to check out the WasteMINZ national battery disposal map to find other designated collection points.



A word on rates

THE EASIEST WAY TO PAY IS VIA DIRECT DEBIT

A direct debit automatically deducts the amount required at the specified frequency, and we offer weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly payment options.

An application form is available at [1 qldc.govt.nz/rates](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/rates), via email to directdebit@qldc.govt.nz, or by dropping in to a Council office:

- > Queenstown – 10 Gorge Road.
- > Wānaka – 47 Ardmore Street.

GET A RATES REBATE

The government's rates rebate scheme allows an annual rebate of up to \$790 for low-income earners (below \$64,000 household income) who have been paying rates from 1 July 2024.

Applications need to be submitted by 30 June 2026. Scan here to find out if you're eligible and learn how to apply.



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Feedback shapes **Queenstown Hill** biodiversity plan



Thanks to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and provide 92 submissions on the draft Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Forestry Management Plan during the consultation in June-July.

The plan, adopted by Council on 4 September, proposed to remove all wilding tree species on the reserve and replant the site with a mixed native/exotic forest and scrub/tussock grassland.

In response to community feedback (which showed 76% in support of the draft plan) and comments from submitters that spoke at a public hearing, several changes were made to the final plan before it was adopted, including:

- > The plan's name changing to Te Tapunui Queenstown Hill Restoration Management Plan 2025. This reflects the fact that, while forestry remains a component, the plan's primary focus is the ecological restoration of the reserve.
- > A preference for native plants where appropriate with exotic species only to be planted when they provide clear benefits to the reserve (e.g. helping natives get established by reducing exposure or suppressing invasive species). These changes, including updates to the native and exotic species lists, were made on the basis of recommendations from local ecologists and community groups.

- > Details acknowledging that mountain biking trails are unauthorised and therefore won't be protected during harvesting operations.
- > That development of new logging road infrastructure provides an opportunity to create a new network of walking trails for public use once the site is safe to access again.

Read the final plan and a summary of the engagement at

letstalk.qldc.govt.nz

NEXT STEPS

The QLDC Parks team is now working through operational details, including the requirements for a Harvest Plan and an Environmental Management Plan. Due to limited funding in the current Long Term Plan, we'll be exploring potential funding opportunities such as collaboration with the Whakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group.

Tree removals will only be approved when there is budget for replanting and ongoing maintenance along with a detailed regeneration plan that commits to sustainable restoration.

Keeping safe on our waterways

Our lakes and rivers will soon be buzzing with activity so here's a reminder that the Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 is now in force across our district. It's important that locals and visitors alike understand what's changed and how to stay within the rules.

WHY IT MATTERS

The bylaw reflects extensive community consultation and aims to address emerging safety concerns, improve clarity around waterways use, and ensure fair access for everyone. The bylaw applies to all waterways users, whether you're operating a powered vessel, paddling, swimming or spectating. It also promotes mutual respect and awareness. For example:

- > Keep your speed under 5 knots (fast walking speed) when within 200m of the shore and within 50m of any swimmers or other craft.
- > Stay clear of designated swim zones and ski lanes unless you're participating appropriately.

KEY CHANGES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Communication equipment: All powered vessels must now carry a means of communication (e.g. VHF radio or mobile phone) to ensure help can be reached in emergencies.

Vessel ID: New ID requirements mean vessels must be clearly identifiable, helping improve safety, accountability and enforcement.

Ski lanes: After public feedback, some ski lane changes have been adopted in the district. These are mapped in Schedule 1 of the bylaw and must be respected.

Albert Town bridge safety lanes: To reduce potential conflict between swimmers and vessels. Upstream and downstream passage lanes have been introduced. Jumping off the bridge isn't prohibited, but users must be aware of the new safety zones.

Event management: A new framework is in place for managing temporary water-based events, ensuring they don't compromise safety or access for others.

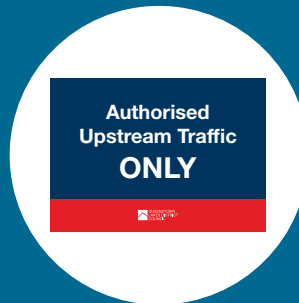
TOP TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE



Wear a life jacket - life jackets save lives - take them, wear them.



Stay sober - intoxication rules apply on the water just as they do on the road.

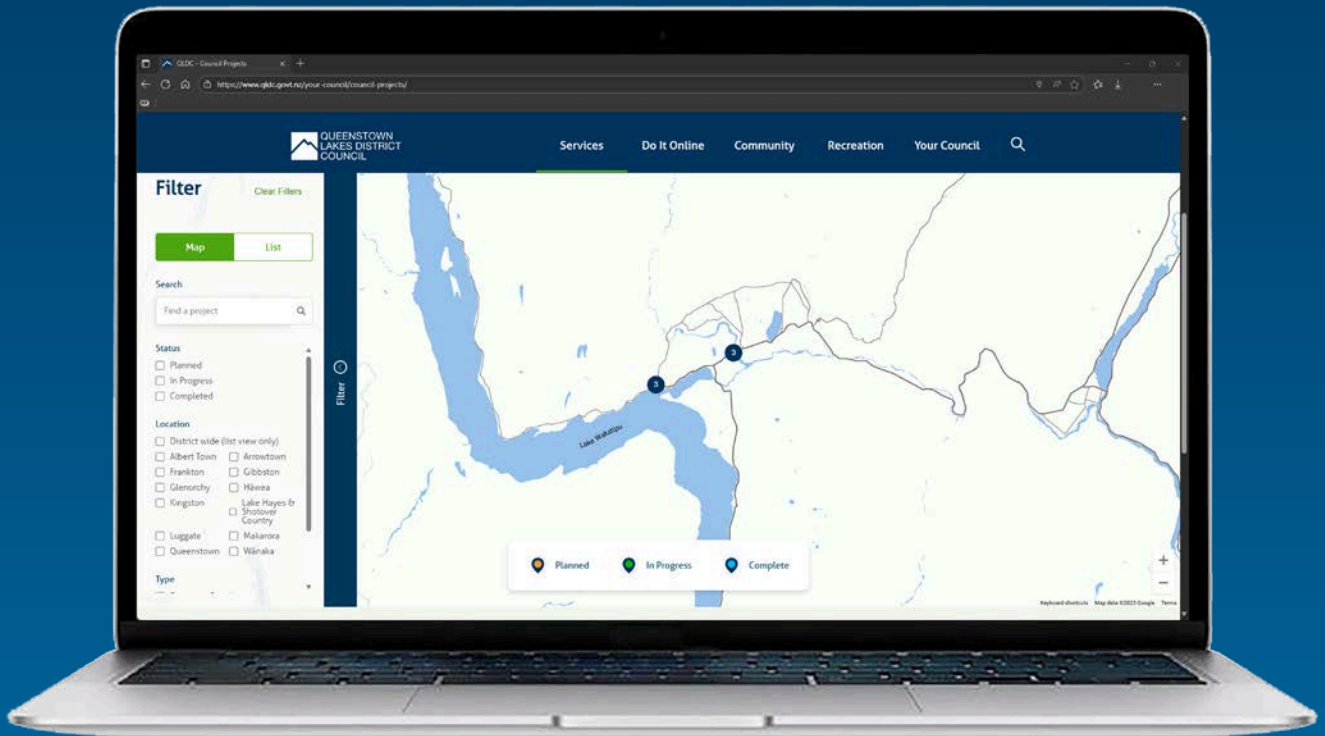


Respect signage and zones - they're there for everyone's safety.



Use communication tools - always carry communication device(s) in case of an emergency.

Find more info, including the full bylaw document, at [qldc.govt.nz/lakes-and-boating](https://www.qldc.govt.nz/lakes-and-boating)



New look for projects page

We're excited to introduce the new-look Council Projects page on the QLDC website:

[📍 qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects](https://qldc.govt.nz/your-council/council-projects)

This refreshed design and navigation gives you a clearer, more interactive view of council projects happening across the district. Whether it's a new playground, road upgrade or community facility, you can now see what's planned, underway, and already completed.

WHAT'S NEW

- > **Easy-to-use filters:** Search by location, project status and more.
- > **Visual tracking:** See whether projects are planned, in progress, or completed at a glance.
- > **Improved transparency:** Stay informed about the work shaping your neighbourhood.

Don't like the map function? There's also a more traditional list view.

Get online and start exploring! We'll continue to grow this section of the website so it's a comprehensive one-stop shop for all project updates.

CHRISTMAS SHOW

– SAVE THE DATE

This year's Queenstown Lakes Christmas Show – *Kiwi Kirihimete Adventure* – is set to bring festive magic, laughter and plenty of surprises to the stage!

Join us for an all-new Christmas story featuring amazing local talent, full of song, dance and holiday cheer.

There'll be three festive performances at Queenstown Events Centre:

- > Saturday, 6 December at 3.00pm.
- > Sunday, 7 December at 1.00pm and 5.00pm.

Tickets are still great value at just \$10 for adults, \$5 for children, and under-5s go free. Once again, the show is supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Hamper Appeal.

Mark your calendars now – this is one Christmas celebration you won't want to miss!

More info and tickets at christmasshow.co.nz

Connecting seniors

Continuing the mahi of Te Hau Toka Southern Lakes Wellbeing Group, QLDC and Community Link have taken on the publication of monthly guides for seniors.

With different guides for each side of the Crown Range, they're packed with info about activities, events, social gatherings and various support services. The aim is to keep our seniors connected, active and informed about what's happening locally.

Find out more and sign up to the Whakatipu Seniors Gig Guide and/or the Reconnecting Seniors Calendar (for the Upper Clutha) at qldc.govt.nz/seniors-guides

You can also find hard copies at community hubs, Council libraries and seniors' organisations around the district.

Huge thanks to all the amazing staff and volunteers who keep these groups and activities available for our community!



The Property Group's Wānaka and Queenstown offices provide strategic RMA planning and expert development advice.

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TPG Wānaka

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propertygroup.co.nz



Enjoy our shared trails



Give way to pedestrians



Keep left and pass on the right



When biking, ring a bell or call out if you're approaching someone from behind



Take your rubbish home with you



Motorbikes and electric motorbikes are not permitted on trails



Keep your dog under control at all times

If you spot a hazard, please call it in on 03 441 0499 (Queenstown) or 03 443 0024 (Wānaka). Please scan for more info on trails.



Tale of the travelling book

Our story starts out very simply: one of our Wānaka Library members recently borrowed a brand-new book to take on holiday. *The Governor, His Wife and His Mistress* by Sue Williams was shaping up to be a great read for this intrepid traveller's trip to sunny Australia. But halfway through their journey, disaster struck. The book was accidentally left behind at a bus stop in Noosa! Our reader returned later that day to reclaim it but it was nowhere to be seen. After returning home, they popped into the library to let staff know and a replacement charge was added to their account.

But here comes the huge plot twist...

Several weeks later, believe it or not, the book turned up back at the library! Someone had found it at that very bus stop. Not just anyone, but someone from our own district. They noticed the Queenstown Lakes Libraries stamp inside and brought it back safe and sound.

The book is no worse for wear and the charge has been removed. We even got it back to the borrower so they could finish reading it. Now that's what we call a happy ending!



Wānaka Librarian Maegan Young with the well-travelled book.

Upper Clutha wastewater upgrades

Work has started to install over 20km of new pipes between Lake Hāwea township, Albert Town, Wānaka and the Project Pure Wastewater Treatment Plant out by Wānaka Airport. This is all part of a range of significant upgrades that will:

- > respond to and future proof Lake Hāwea’s wastewater needs;
- > minimise the chance of contaminants entering the environment during the treatment and disposal process; and
- > increase the capacity and resilience of the wider Wānaka and Albert Town wastewater network.

It’s a big job designed to meet the needs of our growing population which means some disruption is likely until work is completed in early 2027.

Stay informed by signing up to our regular newsletter. Simply scan here



Trenching underway out by Wānaka Airport in September.



Each of these pipes is 18 metres long and weighs just under two tonnes.

Heads up on Frankton Track

Work on a new wastewater pipeline between Queenstown and Frankton will be underway early next year so now’s the perfect time to help us consider how this project may impact you.

Construction will affect access to Frankton Track while crews work to install sections of the new pipeline underneath the pathway.

So if you’re a regular user of the track or live nearby, please learn more about the project, register for updates, and give us your feedback all by scanning here and heading to our website.



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Spring planting makes good ground

Ka pai to all the awesome volunteers and our Parks team who've been digging, weeding, planting and protecting hundreds of native plants on reserve land.

Whakatipu Reforestation Trust and Te Kāhano Aotearoa Trust (based in the Upper Clutha) are two of the local volunteer groups supported by QLDC that in total have planted more than 8,000 natives this season.

Read on for two recent examples and also keep an eye on our Facebook page [@QLDCinfo](#) for regular updates on far more awesome projects that we can mention individually here.

WĀNAKA WETLANDS

There are many special wetlands in Wānaka including one tucked away between Beacon Point Beach and Waimana Place. Te Kāhano, Beacon Point Road Restoration Group and WAI Wānaka have been working together to protect it and in September planted 200 native species into the wetland. This time no rabbit protection was required thanks to the bunny-busting mahi of QLDC's biodiversity officer and private landowners who've worked together to reduce numbers. Can you spot the dog in the photo below?



FIRE HILL – LAKE HAYES ESTATE

Five seed islands containing 300 natives have been planted on Fire Hill in Lake Hayes Estate to help stabilise the hillside, reduce fire risk and build a habitat for returning wildlife. Special mention to Jen Smart who led this work and the support of local residents and Lake Hayes Estate and Shotover Country Community Association. Over the past year 1,000 trees have been planted between Shotover Country (Blackbird Hill) and Lake Hayes Estate.

Annual Report highlights

The QLDC Annual Report 2024–2025 is now live after being adopted by Councillors in their final meeting before the election.

Each year, it provides a transparent look at how we've performed over the past 12 months including progress on major projects, financial performance, and key achievements across the district.

Highlights from the last financial year (July 2024 to June 2025) include:

	Wānaka Lakefront Stage 5 opened.
	Arthurs Point to CBD active travel bike path opened.
	615,185 total library checkouts (an increase of 5.6% from last year).
	Water supply UV upgrades completed at Glenorchy, Two Mile and Wānaka Airport.
	95.15% of resource consents processed within statutory timeframes (best annual result in nine years).

You can find the full report online at qldc.govt.nz/annual-reports

Take the lake

With an extended timetable, it's even easier to take the lake between Kelvin Heights and central Queenstown. Orbus Ferries now offer late night trips seven days a week and hourly trips during the day.

Prices remain unchanged: \$10 per person, per trip with a Bee Card, or \$14 with a bank card (children under 5 travel for free and cash is not accepted).

NEW TIMETABLE:
Queenstown to Hilton: hourly from 8.45am (first sailing) until 9.45pm (last sailing).
Hilton to Queenstown: hourly from 8.15am (first sailing) until 9.15pm (last sailing).

Find route and timetable information at orc.govt.nz/orbus/queenstown-bus-ferry-timetables/orbus-ferries/



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Welcoming Plan – one year on

The Queenstown Lakes District Welcoming Plan 2024-2027 was endorsed and adopted by Councillors in September last year.

Here are some key highlights since then, all achieved with the support of more than 60 community partners including schools, support service organisations, NGOs, migrant community groups, and the business sector:

- > Attaining 'Established Welcoming Community' accreditation in Immigration New Zealand's Welcoming Communities programme.
- > Launching our comprehensive Newcomers Guide.
- > Hosting heaps of events during this year's Welcoming Week from 5-14 September.
- > Creating a collection of profiles for Pacific and migrant community groups.
- > Promoting cultural exchange and inclusion at 21 cultural events including Queenstown Multicultural Festival and Wānaka Festival of Colour.

Thanks to everyone who's helping make our district a welcoming place for all.

The Welcoming Communities initiative promotes the development of inclusive, connected and culturally vibrant communities by supporting new arrivals: migrants, former refugees, international students, and New Zealanders seeking a fresh start in our district.

Find out more at

qldc.govt.nz/welcoming-communities



*A performance from the Latin Kiwi Integration Festival, February 2025
[credit - Tim Shultz]*



*Queenstown Multicultural Festival, March 2025
[credit - Tim Shultz]*





New plan for lake catchments

A community-driven plan to protect and enhance the Queenstown Lakes District’s upper lakes catchments is ready for action.

The Upper Lakes Catchment Action Plan supports existing community action, setting the direction for actions to improve the area's environment. It's intended to be a 'living' plan which will be continually updated and improved as more information becomes available.

The plan was developed collaboratively by the Upper Lakes Integrated Catchment Group which includes QLDC, ORC, DOC and LINZ alongside mana whenua and community members representing the Whakatipu, Wānaka, Hāwea and Waiwhakaata/Lake Hayes catchments.

Since August 2024, the group has contributed nearly 900 hours - a significant commitment that reflects its passion and dedication to the wellbeing of the our environment and communities.

For more information go to:
orc.govt.nz/upper-lakes

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Building a creative, cultural district together

Across the district, creativity, culture and heritage are gaining momentum. From festivals and exhibitions to workshops and hui, participation continues to grow—showing what’s possible when our community works together. The creative sector now contributes an estimated \$34 million to the local economy and employs 5.64% of the workforce, second only to Wellington.*

As the district’s Regional Arts Organisation, the Three Lakes Cultural Trust (TLCT) connects people, places and resources to keep creativity visible, valued and viable. In partnership with QLDC, Lakes District Museum & Gallery and community-led groups, TLCT is building a district where creativity and culture are part of everyday life.

The Trust published its first annual report in late-September. As well as reflecting on successes like the four-day Te Muka Toi | Te Muka Tākata hui in Queenstown and Wānaka (pictured) in June, and the launch of TLCT’s digital platform Te Wāhi Toi | The Arts Place, the report also contains actions that reflect a clear community message: protect what makes this place special, create spaces of belonging, and put creativity, culture and heritage at the centre of our future.

To read the annual report and find out more about the Trust visit

 qldc.govt.nz/creativity-culture-heritage-strategy

 tewahitoinz.org.nz

**Sourced from Infometrics NZ.*

Participants at Lake Wānaka Centre during the four-day hui in June
[credit - Deanna Gerlach]



Festival celebrates writers and readers



Queenstown Writers Festival returns from 30 October to 3 November with a programme filled with award winning writers, big personalities, and a slew of talented southerners.

Guests include well-known names such as Grant Robertson, Mike McRoberts, Brodie Kane and Steve Braunias; along with crime writers, local authors, illustrators, publishers, historical fiction writers and songwriters.

There'll also be special panels with some of Aotearoa's best critics and nature writers, as well as friends and family celebrating the life of poet Brian Turner.

For the full programme and tickets visit qtwritersfestival.nz



Art in unexpected places

This November, creativity will spill out of galleries and into everyday spaces across the district. The Creative Spaces Project is a new collaboration between QLDC and Three Lakes Cultural Trust (see opposite page) all about celebrating creativity in the community and making art accessible to everyone, everywhere.

From cafés and restaurants to libraries and recreation centres, the district will become home to installations, performances and exhibitions designed to surprise and inspire. Each project reflects a unique partnership between artist and venue, creating fresh ways of experiencing local culture.

Running from 1-30 November, the exhibition will be guided by an interactive online map. Explore the trail, discover the artists, and plan visits to the venues at threelakesculturaltrust.co.nz/creative-spaces-project



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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	UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS	UPDATES ON RECENT CONSULTATIONS			
QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY <i>Status:</i> Survey open until 16 Nov.	DOG CONTROL BYLAW <i>Status:</i> Early engagement runs 31 Oct-21 Nov.	FREEDOM CAMPING BYLAW <i>Status:</i> Final bylaw adopted by Council 9 Oct; comes into effect 1 Dec.	ARROWTOWN RIVERSIDE RESERVES DRAFT CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN <i>Status:</i> Feedback closed 21 Sep and is now being reviewed before a final plan is presented to Council in early 2026.	WIDGEON PARK RESERVE DRAFT CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT PLAN <i>Status:</i> Feedback closed 14 Sep and is now being reviewed before a final plan is presented to Council in early 2026.	GLENORCHY AIRSTRIP RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2025 <i>Status:</i> Feedback closed 8 Aug. Final plan to be presented to Council on 27 Nov.
BLUE GREEN NETWORK PLAN <i>Status:</i> Feedback open until 12 Dec.	SHOTOVER RIVER BYLAW <i>Status:</i> Early engagement coming soon.				

FIND FULL DETAILS OF THESE PROJECTS AND MORE AT [LETSTALK.QLDC.GOV.TZ](https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz)

QLDC OFFICES

Queenstown Office:

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Wānaka Office:

47 Ardmore Street, Wānaka
Phone: 03 443 0024

E-mail: 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

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.

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