

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025



Focusing on the future.



Rosie Hill
Queenstown Trails
Chair

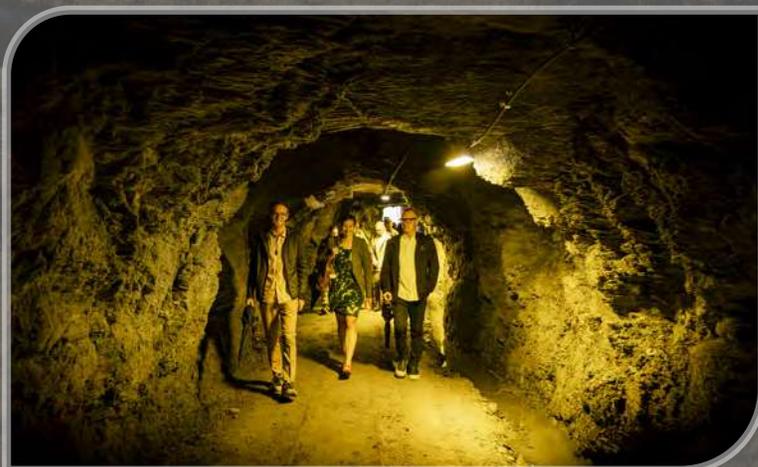


Welcome to the 2025 Queenstown Trails Annual General Meeting. As Chair, it is my pleasure to present this annual report.

Queenstown Trails has enjoyed an incredible year and it is immensely gratifying to have completed the delivery of the Enhance and Expand project, and to have seen tens of thousands of locals and visitors experiencing the new Wharehuanui and Shotover Gorge Trails.

We are proud to share that Queenstown Trails is in good shape, and that we have shifted gear over the past months, to launch into the preparation, planning and delivery of several new and exciting projects that all sit within our strategic plan.

“ The highlight of the year saw the opening of the Shotover Gorge Trail connecting Arthurs Point to Tucker Beach via the Hugo Tunnel and Kimi-ākau Bridge. Together with the Wharehuanui Trail, connecting Arthurs Point and Arrowtown, these two new trails are the culmination of nearly eight years of hard work and dedication from Queenstown Trails executive team and Board of Trustees.



Willy, Aoibhean Monaghan (Hugo Charitable Trust), Tony McQuilkin, Emily and Kat toasting the Hugo Tunnel at the naming ceremony in February.



strategic goals

I wish to thank Willy, our CEO, on behalf of the Board for his ever-lasting passion, energy and vision. Willy's dedication to delivering these latest trails is complemented by tireless planning, negotiating and advocacy for future projects.

Together with the executive team of Kat Bulk and Emily O'Leary, we are privileged to know that Queenstown Trails is in safe hands, creating a well-connected, sustainable and conservation-conscious legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Thank you, Willy and the executive team, for your service to Queenstown Trails.

The future of Queenstown Trails is bright – exciting plans are well underway for the development of some truly aspirational and courageous trail projects, as well as continuing to progress all priorities under our strategic plan.

Collaborative projects with other trails trusts, and conservation groups are developing shelters, interpretation panels, rest areas and lay-down zones to enhance the trail experience for locals, visitors, and commercial operators. An overarching project to improve mapping and wayfinding is being rolled out to improve way finding and navigation on the trails. Consultation with adaptive riders is helping to inform accessible riding on the Queenstown Trail, and we are pleased that large sections of our network are accessible to a wide range of trail users.



This AGM marks the end of Mike Walker's tenure as Chairman of Queenstown Trails. Mike's calm and thoughtful approach has led Queenstown Trails through the uncertainty of covid, and the challenges and successes of project delivery. Exemplifying passionate leadership, and offering sound advice and guidance to the Board and the executive team, Mike has dedicated countless hours behind the scenes.

Queenstown Trails' achievements of the past few years is testament to the support, knowledge and guidance that Mike has brought to the Chair role. We know that Mike will always be a supporter of the Queenstown Trails and would like to express the deepest gratitude for your service.

governance

Thanks also to those Trustees who have recently ended their tenure:

Wendy Pannett, your PR expertise and passion for the trails will be sorely missed, but we are delighted for future opportunities to collaborate on some of the exciting and audacious trails projects that are already starting to take shape.



Mark Townsley, after 8 years as a trustee for Queenstown Trails, a change of career has seen Mark step into a new role with Southern Lakes Trails Trust, and retire his position with the QTT board. We are sad to be losing Marks engineering knowledge and expertise, but very pleased that we will continue to work along side Mark and Janeen as the Kawarau Gorge Trail comes to fruition. Thank you, Mark for your service.



Queenstown Trails is very pleased to welcome Brad Rowe as a new Trustee to the Board this year. Brad brings a depth of experience in tourism and infrastructure, with a particular interest in visitor experience innovation.

Brad is passionate about creating lasting value for visitors and locals, and sees a vibrant, connected trail network as being vital to Queenstown's wellbeing and future. Outside of work, Brad is an avid mountain biker, occasional runner, and proud dad to two young children.

Welcome Brad.



I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of the Trustees and Patrons for sharing their knowledge, expertise, and being so continuously generous with their time and support. I know that Willy and the team are grateful for your steady leadership and commitment.



Funding & Financial Outlook.

It is a significant achievement to have completed the construction of major new trails, while ensuring that the financials remain in a strong position.

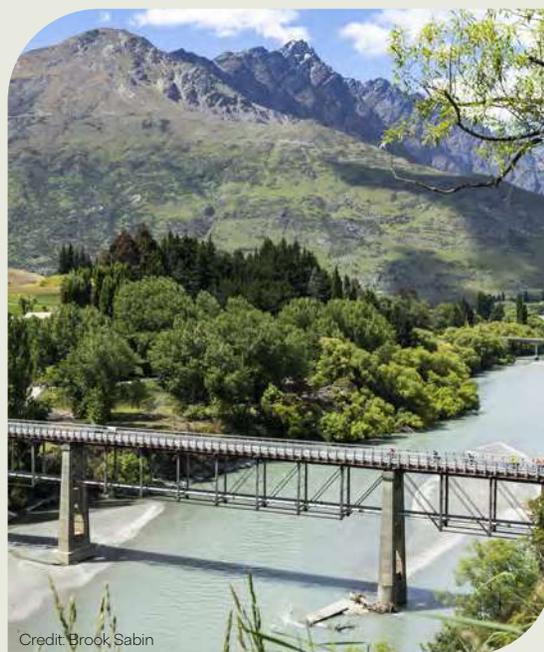
Thank you to the major funders (Hugo Charitable Trust, Alterno Foundation, Rod Drury, Scott & Rachel McLaren, Tony & Nicki McQuilkin, Scoby Ward, Ken & Judy Buck, Ian Kuperus, Mace Charitable Foundation and the Edgar Family) as well as the incredible support of the community of Trail Lovers who stepped up in our hour of need to ensure that the Shotover Gorge Trail and Wharehuanui Trail could be completed.



Navigating the changing landscape of funding and resource for cycling and pedestrian trails in New Zealand means that funding and sponsorship continues to be vital for Queenstown trails.

We are delighted to have Emily O'Leary on board with us in the Partnership's Manager Role, and are so grateful for her boundless energy, enthusiasm and love for the trails, and the skill and knowledge that she brings to the team.

We continue to be ever grateful for the generosity of major donors, corporate sponsors and the staggering support we receive from our loyal community of Trail Lovers, all of whom are helping us to realise our vision for the future of Queenstown Trails. The list of thank you's is always long, which is a reflection on how far and wide the Trails connect across everyone in our community.



We have big dreams for the next steps to enhance and expand this world class trail network, and we know that our community of supporters will be right alongside us for the journey.



Chief Executive's Report

“ At Queenstown Trails, we're incredibly proud to be delivering a legacy asset for our community and the positive impact it delivers for residents and visitors alike. From recreation, health and well being, and active transport, to access for landscape scale conservation projects, the trail network has become an essential resource for our region, as we work alongside others to leave something truly special for the next generation. ”

-Mark (Willy) Williams
Queenstown Trails
Chief Executive Officer



This time last year, we had just opened the Wharehuanui Trail connecting Arrowtown to Arthurs Point, creating a safe, off-road recreational link along the northern extent of the Whakatipu Basin and integrating perfectly with the wider backcountry and QMTBC trail networks; a significant accomplishment, but only half of the Queenstown Trail Realignment project made possible through the MBIE Great Rides and Central Lakes Trust funding, with arguably the more difficult section to follow down the Kimi-ākau Shotover Gorge.

With its technical challenges and significant infrastructure, the project was broken down into several discreet worksites. Edifice delivered the spectacular Kimi-ākau bridge, which was enabled through generous philanthropist donors (Rod Drury, Scott and Rachel McLaren, and the Alterno Foundation), as well as our fantastic community of plank sponsors who answered our funding shortfall – thank you all, I'm sure you'll agree your legacy is a spectacular trail asset for the next generation of trail lovers to enjoy well into the future.



Simultaneously, Geotech Ground Engineering were working hard to enlarge and safeguard passage through the Hugo Tunnel, and in conjunction with Fulton Hogan, have created a spectacular piece of trail infrastructure: a fitting tribute to the late Hugh Green. A huge thank you to the Hugo Charitable Trust - Maryanne, Mark and Aoiheann, who so generously enabled the restoration and re-purposing of the Hugo Tunnel.

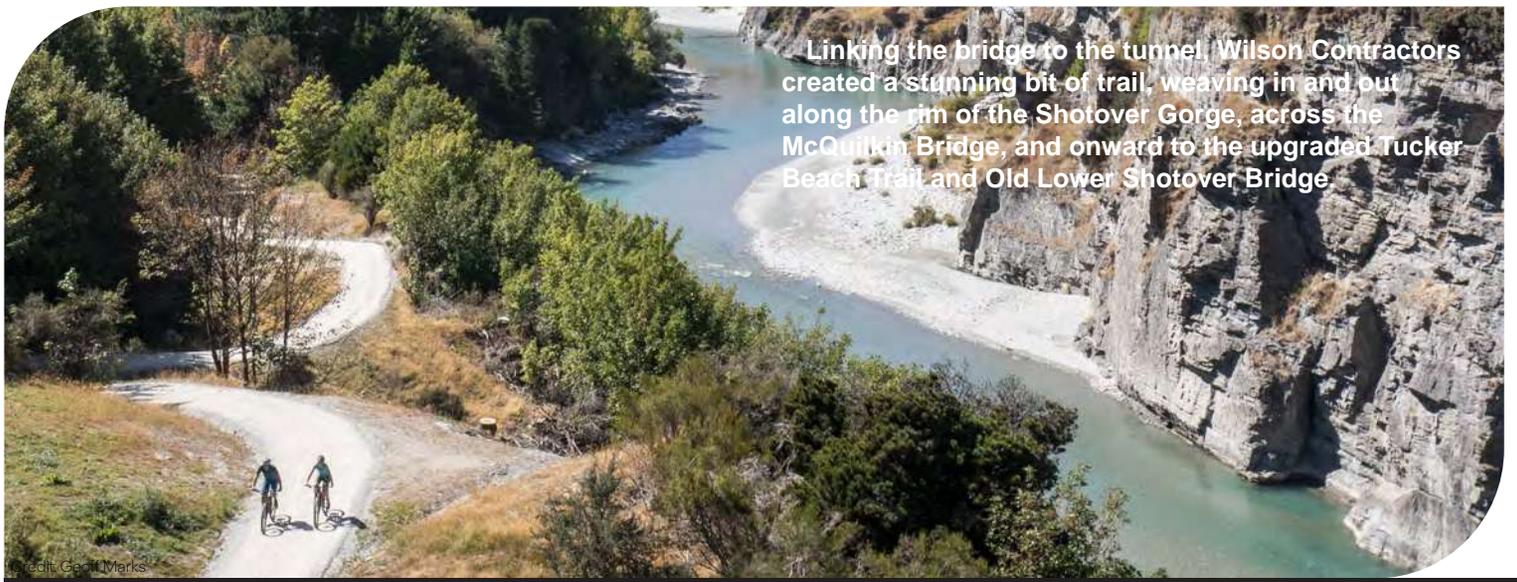
From the realignment projects inception, we've been fortunate to have an expert team of engineers, designers, and legal experts, none more so than Project Manager Giulio Chapman-Olla from Southern Civil Consulting. Thanks to Patersons, Stantec, WSP and Anderson Lloyd, as well of course to all the generous landowners, DOC and the QLDC Parks team who helped to make these trails a reality.

Linking the bridge to the tunnel, Wilson Contractors created a stunning bit of trail, weaving in and out along the rim of the Shotover Gorge, across the McQuilkin Bridge, and onward to the upgraded Tucker Beach Trail and Old Lower Shotover Bridge.



LYTTLÉ'S LADDER

A special thanks must also be given to Elevate Trails who worked their magic in some of the most challenging terrain of the entire route, threading a masterpiece of trail-building between bluffs and sheer cliff faces to create, for me at least, the highlight of the Queenstown Trail network.



Credit: Geoff Marks

shotover gorge trail

commenced 2017
completed 2025

Kimi-ākau Bridge

Edifice Structures
Constructed 2024



Hugo Tunnel

Geotech Ground
Engineering
Fulton Hogan Ltd
Restored 2025

Lyttle's Ladder

Elevate Trails
Completed 2025



Shotover Gorge Trail

Wilson Contractors
Constructed 2024-25

McQuilkin Bridge

Wilson Contracting
Constructed 2025



Grand Opening April 2025

The Shotover Gorge Trail is a standout performer, with over 35,000 enjoying the journey since it opened in April!



Things are certainly not slowing down.

Success from our completed projects has snowballed into enthusiasm for the next. The long awaited and desperately needed trail from Jacks Point to Frankton is very much in our sights, having inherited it back from NZTA earlier this year. We've been working with developers and landowners on a satisfactory route and have lodged consent to get this underway once we have secured the necessary funding.

We're also involved in several other 'active transport' projects which are simmering away in the background, including walking and cycling bridges over the Shotover at Arthurs Point and over SH6 at Jims Way. Negotiations and permissions for each of these projects are well advanced and will make a significant contribution towards the ability of our community to get around the district safely by more active modes, and most importantly escape from increasing congestion on our straining infrastructure.



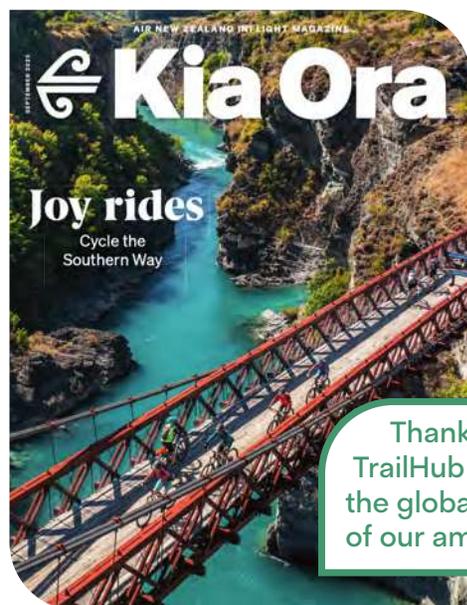
PUAHURU BRIDGE
The proposed 52m single-span triangular truss bridge, crossing above SH6 between Jims Way and Hardware Lane.

Better Together

The collaboration with other trails and trusts in Central Otago has been a huge success story, and with Destination Queenstown's support, the 'Trailhub' collective has become the marketing powerhouse amongst the NZCT network.

Further afield, great progress is being made by our friends at the Southern Lakes Trails Trust in the Kawarau Gorge, and we're looking forward to establishing a trailhead at the Nevis Bluff and making the connection to Bannockburn.

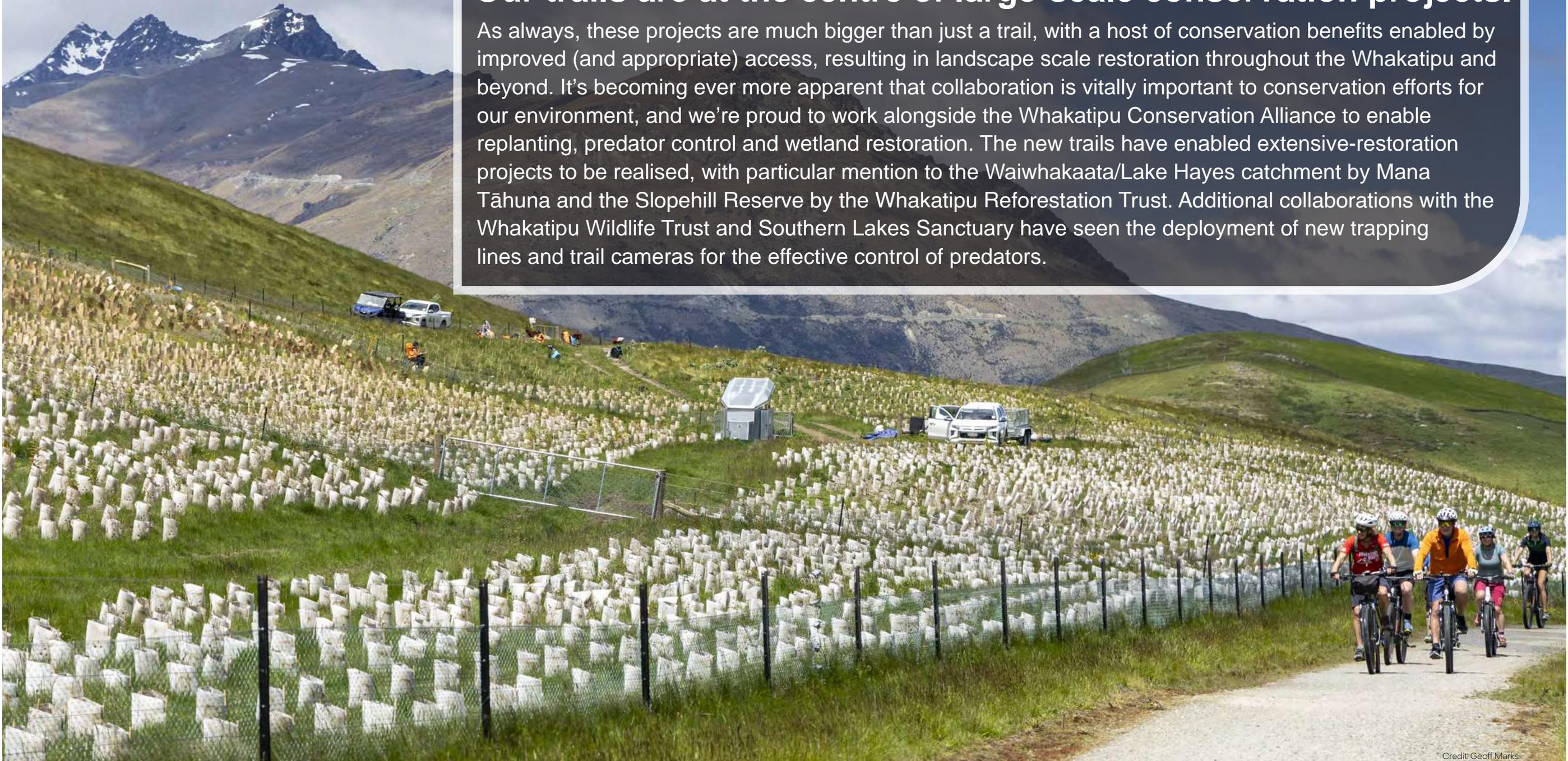
We're making good progress with similar opportunities for regional connections to the south and west, and as part of the Queenstown to Glenorchy Trail alliance we're excited to see that project gaining momentum, as well as other projects to link with the wider QMTBC trail networks. These valuable collaborations and partnerships continue to enhance our region's reputation and ensure the future success of the Queenstown Trail proposition.



Thanks to DQ and TrailHub for boosting the global recognition of our amazing trails.

Our trails are at the centre of large-scale conservation projects.

As always, these projects are much bigger than just a trail, with a host of conservation benefits enabled by improved (and appropriate) access, resulting in landscape scale restoration throughout the Whakatipu and beyond. It's becoming ever more apparent that collaboration is vitally important to conservation efforts for our environment, and we're proud to work alongside the Whakatipu Conservation Alliance to enable replanting, predator control and wetland restoration. The new trails have enabled extensive-restoration projects to be realised, with particular mention to the Waiwhakaata/Lake Hayes catchment by Mana Tāhuna and the Slopehill Reserve by the Whakatipu Reforestation Trust. Additional collaborations with the Whakatipu Wildlife Trust and Southern Lakes Sanctuary have seen the deployment of new trapping lines and trail cameras for the effective control of predators.



Credit Geoff Marks



Our partnership with QEII and Soho properties goes from strength to strength, as we improve and maintain the superb backcountry trails of the Mahu Whenua Open Space Covenants. We are currently investigating a revised ending to the Coronet Loop Trail via German Hill, as well as a direct link from the Coronet Forest back to Arrowtown in conjunction with QLDC Parks and Reserves Team who contribute to the QEII Trail Maintenance Fund, as well as managing the overall Queenstown Trail Maintenance Contract, recognising the benefits of the trails for the community.

Credit: Geoff Marks

Queenstown Trails is grateful to work closely with the QLDC Parks and Reserves Team who manage the Queenstown Trail Maintenance Contract. Timely repairs and a schedule of ongoing maintenance continues to enhance and improve the safety and enjoyment of the trails for all to enjoy.



The past year has seen improvements to trail alignment, road crossings and wayfinding signage.

QLDC has recently adopted of the maintenance of the Jacks Point and Lake Hayes Trails, resulting in upgrades to both trails.



Community benefit is realised by events like the Queenstown Marathon and Motatapu amongst others, which we support with use of the trails, course enhancements and a volunteer database to enable the events to run smoothly. We're very fortunate to have such professional event delivery teams who value the world-class trail network to host their races, and who want to give back to ensure their long-term sustainability.



Queenstown Trails is delighted to have Emily O'Leary back in the Partnerships Manager role. Emily is forging fantastic new relationships with corporate sponsors, and continues to be a valued touch point for existing partners, donors and businesses.

THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES, GENEROUS DONORS AND OFFICIAL PARTNERS SUPPORTING OUR WORK.

Our list of official partners continues to grow as businesses recognise the benefit from increased patronage from the trails – with more and more bike operators looking to contribute back towards the maintenance of the asset they build their business on.

partnerships

corporate sponsors

We're thrilled to have new Corporate Partners Luxury Real Estate, European Bakery and Forsyth Barr joining long-term supporters Pak'nSave, Aotea Gifts, Gallaghers and Skycity to ensure we can continue with the work we do to make Queenstown a better place to live, work and ride!

"At Aotea Gifts, community involvement is one of our core values — something the Hanson family has always held close. We're proud to support the Queenstown Trails Trust, an organisation that delivers lasting benefits for locals and visitors alike. The Trust's work aligns with our belief in creating experiences that users can enjoy for generations to come."

-Donald Hansen
Aotea Gifts



During the month of April, donations to the annual Trail Lovers Campaign were matched dollar for dollar by Aotea Gifts. Thanks to this generosity, Trails Lovers donations made an even greater impact for the trails.



Anthony King
Edgar Bridge

"The Queenstown trail forms an integral part of what we do at PAK'nSAVE Queenstown. Most of our team are frequent users of the trail, we have had a number of monthly challenges using the trail (e.g. 'cycle the width of

America on the trails') and more and more of our team are choosing to use the trail to commute to work.

Supporting the Trails Trust is one of our favourite sponsorships, as we love the benefit the whole community gets from the trail for a variety of uses."

-Michelle & Anthony King
Pak'nSave Queenstown



"At SkyCity Queenstown, our values shape everything we do, and one value, Better Never Stops, perfectly reflects the Trust's dedication and commitment to continuously enhancing Queenstown's trail network.

Through its ongoing expansion and improvement of trails across the region, the Trust continually seeks to enhance Queenstown's active transport routes, placing our community at the heart of every project.

This commitment is essential to preserving Queenstown's natural beauty and fostering healthier, more active communities, and as a business rooted in the heart of Queenstown, we're proud to support this ongoing effort to connect people, inspire adventures, and create experiences that benefit all."

-Amanda Youell
Sky City Queenstown





"The Queenstown Trails network remains one of the region's most treasured assets, and it's been incredible to see the recent developments that continue to enhance this world-class trail system. The progress made under the Trust's 10-year strategic plan is a testament to the power of community-led initiatives, and Gallagher Insurance is proud to play a part in supporting these efforts.

At Gallagher Insurance, we're passionate about supporting the communities we live and work in. Partnering with the Queenstown Trails Trust allows us to contribute to initiatives that not only connect people with nature but also foster a sense of belonging and wellbeing. Their conservation work and commitment to creating a sustainable future align strongly with our values, and we look forward to continuing this meaningful partnership."

-Sandy MacLeod
Gallagher Insurance



Sandy MacLeod and son Harry enjoying the Queenstown Trails



Peter Price, Amanda O'Donoghue and Luigi (the van) celebrating their corporate sponsorship of Queenstown Trails with a "Fuel Your Ride" event on Saturday 7 November: Trail users can enjoy delicious locally-made donuts & treats out on the trail. 10am -12 noon. Tucker Beach Reserve.

"It's amazing to see the expansion of the network and the positive environmental impact it is having, from conservation to trapping and planting. We're so incredibly lucky to have such pristine trails right on our doorstep to we can bike to work on."

-Amanda O'Donoghue
European Bakery

"Supporting Queenstown Trails ticks all the boxes – combining our business with our passion for biking, and making a difference."

-Peter Price
European Bakery



"It is a privilege to be back in the South and to see the continued growth of the Queenstown Trails.

The network has become a cornerstone of life in the region, enhancing the lifestyle of residents and creating significant benefits for visitors and the local economy"

-Adam Edgar
Investment Advisor
Forsyth Barr

Forsyth Barr is committed to supporting the further development and sustainability of the region's extensive trail network.



The local Forsyth Barr team is looking forward to getting out on the trails this spring for a team planting and maintenance day with Queenstown Trails.

Mark 'Willy' Williams and Adam Edgar celebrating Forsyth Barr's corporate sponsorship of Queenstown Trails.

"We're incredibly proud to be partnering with the Queenstown Trails Trust. The trail network adds immense value to our region, both in terms of encouraging people to get outside and explore and also in promoting sustainable transport options. It's a privilege to support an initiative that genuinely enriches our community."

-Nick Horton
Luxury Real Estate New Zealand



N E W Z E A L A N D



Terry Spice, Mark 'Willy' Williams & Nick Horton.

"So many of the properties we represent are directly connected to or neighbouring these iconic trails, and we've seen first-hand the appeal they hold for people investing in the area. The trails aren't just a lifestyle asset – they're a genuine drawcard for the region."

-Terry Spice
Luxury Real Estate New Zealand

TRAIL LOVERS

Sometimes:
Magic occurs.
And on a perfect,
Sun-drenched
Autumn morning,
Humans arrive
By bike,
To celebrate
This labour of love.
Our legacy trail.
And little
By little,
The world
Becomes
A better place.

-Trail Lover



Credit: Geoff Marks

The support of our community means everything.

Without a doubt, we could not do what we do without the support of the community. Thank you to everyone who donates during our annual Trail Lover campaign and trusts us to get things done.

Our 2025 Trail Lovers Annual Fundraising Appeal was all about doubling the love - thanks to the generosity of Aotea Gifts who matched donations during the month of April dollar for dollar. Our annual campaign has been wonderfully successful, raising nearly \$125,000 to date, and its fantastic to have the support of each and every one of our loyal Trail Lovers - we truly couldn't do what we do without you!

Trail Lovers 2025 coincided with the opening of the new Shotover Gorge Trail. Celebrating seven years of hard work, and sharing the stunning new trail with the community who has helped to fund, and who are getting so much enjoyment from the trails was deeply gratifying.



The Dishery

ChargeAbout
QUEENSTOWN

Better by Bike
NEW ZEALAND

Mt Rosa

CANYON
BREWING

Gantley's Tavern

KINROSS

RĀKAU

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING TRAILS LOVERS 2025 WITH ACTIVATIONS AND OFFERS DURING APRIL.

Every year we aim to boost community awareness about Queenstown Trails, encourage all trail users, both local and visitor to make a small contribution to the trails, and showcase the amazing offers that are kindly provided by official partners and sponsors.

It is with the utmost gratitude that we recognise each and every donor as esteemed supporters of Queenstown Trails, and eagerly anticipate the ongoing growth of the remarkable Queenstown Trails Trail Lover community.

Our Board

Queenstown Trails is governed by a board of trustees that includes leaders in some of the Whakatipu's most reputable business institutions active in efforts to enhance and expand the Queenstown Trails network.



Mike Walker
Board Chair



Andy Brinsley
Deputy Chair



Rosie Hill
Incoming Chair



John Edmonds
Trustee



Sarena Glass
Trustee



Benje Patterson
Trustee



Steve Hall
Trustee



Gavin Bartlett
QLDC Representative



Jonty Edgar & Edgar Family
Patron



Tony McQuilkin
Patron

The Queenstown Trail network saw 419,150 users hit the trails during the 2024-25 period, which was a 3.91% increase on the previous year.



419,150
Trail Users

1,362 Daily Average Users | 49% Pedestrians | 51% Cyclists

trail statistics 24/25

f 44% increase in Likes.
162 Posts
Facebook reach is up **152%** on last year
1,200,000 reach

WEBSITE

97k website visitors
30% increase in web traffic since 2024
68% Kiwi, 17% Australia, 6% USA, 2% UK

in LinkedIn
700 content reactions
22k content impressions
14.5k members reached
209 new followers

Instagram reach is up **46%**
401 Stories
87 Posts
56.4k reach
1.5k increase in followers.
3500 Likes, Shares, Comments.

Thanks to EA Digital for masterminding our social media strategy, and to all the Trail Lovers who Like, Share and Tag @queenstowntrails, helping to increase our visibility and share our vision.

social & digital media

Summary Statement of Financial Performance

1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
Income		
Income - Grants & Sundry		
Grants Received	2,917,761	3,211,370
Interest Received	73,803	102,692
Other Income	26,755	2,462
Total Income - Grants & Sundry	3,018,319	3,316,524
Donations & Fundraising		
Business Donations	30,598	52,420
Queenstown Trail Donations & Fundraising	404,443	1,366,940
Trail Lovers (Friends of the Trust)	125,994	87,286
Total Donations & Fundraising	561,034	1,506,645
Event Revenue		
MOT Donation- Motatapu Events	11,501	30,038
QT Marathon Donation - Ironman	31,000	30,972
Total Event Revenue	42,501	61,010
Total Income	3,621,854	4,884,179
Expenses		
Trail Planning, Development & Maintenance		
Construction & Consulting Fees	3,137,216	4,475,165
Signage	161	3,731
Track Maintenance	49,365	4,519
Total Trail Planning, Development & Maintenance	3,186,742	4,483,416
Administration, Overheads & Marketing	133,093	79,325
Staffing & Contractor Costs	319,570	265,005
Depreciation & Non Cash Expenses	6,087	6,241
Total Expenses	3,645,491	4,833,987
Net Profit	(23,637)	50,192

Summary Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2025

	30 Jun 2025	30 Jun 2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
QTT ANZ 02 Current	76,302	915,853
QTT ANZ 03 Call	653,388	539,068
QTT ANZ 04 Retentions Savings	152,800	192,660
Accounts Receivable & Other Current Assets	12,826	143,447
GST Control Account	(33,520)	253,232
Term Deposits	385,738	322,608
Total Current Assets	1,247,534	2,366,868
Fixed Assets & Investments		
Fixed Assets	9,214	15,301
Wakatipu Community Foundation Endowment	109,274	104,416
Total Fixed Assets & Investments	118,488	119,717
Total Assets	1,366,022	2,486,585
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	51,021	290,487
Grants Received in Advance	0	869,555
Other Current Liabilities, Retentions	211,677	199,582
Total Liabilities	262,699	1,359,624
Net Assets	1,103,323	1,126,961
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,126,961	1,076,769
Current Year Earnings	(23,637)	50,192
Total Equity	1,103,323	1,126,961

Summarised reports, to be read in conjunction with full Performance Report for the Queenstown Trails Trust: 16 October 2025 (as audited by KMPG 16/10/2025)



Credit: Will Nelson

“ We are humbled to have the support of our community- you are helping to build a legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come. Thank you to each and every one of you who supports us and believes in the work we do.

-Willy, Emily, Kat & The Board of Trustees

thank you

We have a small and dedicated executive team who live and breathe trails, so a personal thanks to Kat, Emily and Erin for sharing the passion.

I would like to acknowledge the consultants, contractors and legal teams who are instrumental in planning, executing and delivering our projects.

Our team is blessed to have the vision, trust and encouragement of an incredible board of volunteer trustees who guide us and advise us on all that we achieve.

A special thanks to Chairman Mike Walker, who retires at this AGM but has consistently provided us with a calm and well-considered approach to the challenges and triumphs we have encountered during the delivery of these massive trail projects.



Credit: Geoff Marks

Queenstown Trails Chair, Mike Walker, speaking at the Shotover Gorge Opening Ceremony in April.

Thanks Mike, I know we'll see you out on the trails, and thanks for such a smooth transition in handing the baton over to Rosie - who I'm sure will be chomping at the bit to continue the mahi, and legacy of your time with Queenstown Trails.

As we embark on the planning, development and delivery of future projects, I am excited as we continue to take great strides towards our strategic aspirations, face unforeseen obstacles, and transform them into opportunities.

The past few years have held plenty of unknowns, but with the relentless spirit of our team and the Board and support of our loyal trail lovers, we are proud to have turned every challenge into an achievement.



Mark Owens, Chairman, & Aoibheann Monaghan, CEO, of the Hugo Charitable Trust, cutting the ribbon at the Hugo Tunnel naming ceremony in February 2025.

Credit: Geoff Marks