

Queenstown Trails

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

TĒNĀ KOUTOU KATOA

Welcome to the 2026 Queenstown Trails Annual General Meeting.
As Chair, it is my pleasure to present this annual report.



Rosie Hill
Chair

Queenstown Trails is in safe hands, creating a well-connected, sustainable and conservation conscious legacy that will be enjoyed for generations to come.

Over the past year, Queenstown Trails has pivoted from construction and delivery, to planning and preparation of the next trail projects. With a focus on active travel, connecting communities and creating network resilience, we are well on the journey towards executing some audacious regional expansion projects. We are excited to be contributing meaningful mahi to an asset that benefits the community and visitors, and delivers economic and environmental returns for our region.



Credit: Geoff Marks

The role of alternative transport options, and connectivity of trails and active travel routes is front and centre.


Credit: Geoff Marks


Credit: Geoff Marks


Credit: Geoff Marks

We are acutely aware of how traffic congestion woes have compounded for Queenstown: an issue that affects daily life for locals and which could risk our tourist destination reputation. The role of alternative transport options, and in particular connectivity of trails and active travel routes is front and centre for Queenstown Trails and we are proud to be able to take action and be part of the solution offering safer and well-connected options for pedestrians and cyclists.

Time is of the essence for the rapidly expanding southern corridor community – providing a safe, direct pedestrian and cycling route linking Jacks Point to Frankton is long overdue. Since inheriting the project from NZTA in 2025, QTT has moved quickly to secure land access, complete planning, consenting and road safety audit requirements, and successfully raise funds to allow construction of the trail to commence. The hard work at this front end of the process has paid off, and we expect to be in the trenches of trail delivery over the coming summer season.

Elsewhere, across the network, QTT has been working closely with QLDC to make safety improvements, as well as increasing connectivity between the recreational network and the active travel network, meaning that walking or biking between home and school/work, or from the airport to accommodation is a more attractive and well utilised option for traveling around Queenstown.


Credit: Geoff Marks

RESILIENCE

Resilience has become the second watchword for Queenstown Trails as increasing instances of extreme weather events highlight vulnerabilities in the trails network, as well as emphasising our responsibility for protecting and maintaining trail infrastructure and its ability to withstand them. QTT is exploring funding initiatives that will ensure trails can be maintained and repaired with increased resilience -protecting and preserving access for the community and businesses that rely on them.

“

We recognise that the trails represent a vital asset for our community, and form the backbone of businesses who operate on the network, and who provide services for trail users. Thank you to our partners who are already supporting us to grow these funding options.


Credit: Better By Bike


Credit: Outside Sports


Credit: Geoff Marks

Our eyes also remain on the big-picture, aspirational projects that align with our long term strategic plan. Queenstown Trails is part of the Glenorchy Trails Alliance, and is working closely with Department of Conservation (DoC), Te Araroa and GYTT to progress planning, consenting, and fundraising for this exciting project that will connect Queenstown and Glenorchy, forming one of the most significant missing links in the Te Araroa Trail.

We’ve made big inroads this year in successfully obtaining a concession from DoC for stage one of this link, and announcing the Alliance’s partnership with the 45South Foundation, whose support through an impact fund and a permanent endowment will help bring the vision of this trail to life and protect it for generations to come.



In addition to trails projects, the executive team has also been developing a brand new website focused on improved wayfinding and a refreshed look and feel. For our funding partners, trail operators, official partners and trailhead towns, the new website will be a vital shop window, bringing the whole trail community together.

The past year asked the executive team of Kat, Willy, and Emily to shift gears from delivering new trails to laying the groundwork for the next wave of projects, and they've done it with tireless passion, energy, and vision. Thanks to the executive team's dedication 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.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the Trustees and Patrons for the expertise and time you give so generously. Your guidance has been invaluable as we balance the needs of today's network with an ambitious pipeline of future projects. As a Board, everything we do comes back to our 10-year strategic plan and its four pillars: trails, environment, people, and technology.

This year marked three years since the plan was adopted, so it was an opportune time for the Board to hold a strategic planning day to take stock of our progress and set an action plan for the next three years. The Board reaffirmed our strategic direction and agreed three priorities for the next three years: local trails and connections across the Wakatipu Basin, progressing the Glenorchy Trail, and strengthening our connection with the community and our role as kaitiaki of the environment. Huge thanks to Kate Smith Consulting for supporting the Board and executive team with this work.


Credit: Brook Sabin


Credit: Geoff Marks

Of course, the work we do isn't possible without the generosity of our 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.

Funding for New Zealand's cycling and walking trails is shifting, which makes sponsorship more important than ever for Queenstown Trails. We are continually grateful to the individuals, organisations, businesses, and community support we receive for the trails. The list of our supporters is too long to do it justice without leaving someone out, however special thanks this year goes to CLT, Mactodd, Parkridge, Darby Partners, the Edgar Family, the Knights Family, the Thompson Family, TRAC and the 45South Foundation.

Queenstown Trails remains in a sound financial position. After a year focused on planning and fundraising, we're well placed to swing back into construction and delivery, and I look forward to reporting on trails on the ground this time next year.


Credit: Geoff Marks



Credit: Brook Sabin



Mark (Willy) Williams
Chief Executive Officer

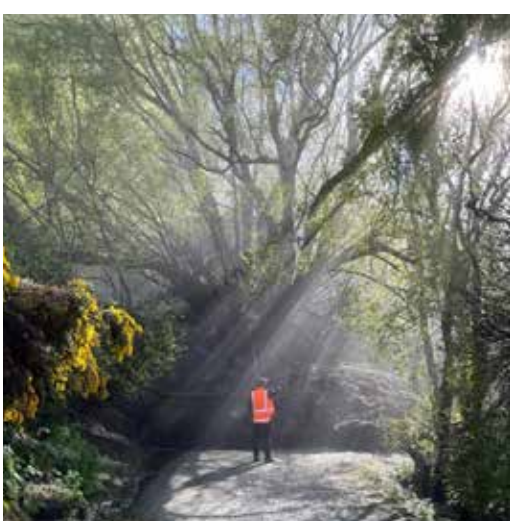
CEO REPORT

Theres nothing more exciting than new trails, and the last few years have certainly delivered on that front – Coronet Loop, Wharehuanui Trail, Shotover Gorge Trail and all the bits in between – but we can't ever take our eyes of the less glamorous aspect of maintaining existing trails; an issue which was brought sharply into focus during a particularly wet spring in October last year.

Heavy rain combined with significant snow-melt in the headwaters rapidly filled the Kimi-ākau/Shotover River catchment, with flow levels rising to 600cumecs – the highest discharge since the 1999 floods. For reference, that filled the Hugo tunnel to about head height, stripping gravel from the trail and dumping a large bed-load of silt!

Elsewhere around the network, the Kawarau flooded and scoured the Twin Rivers Trail with slips in multiple locations, Mill Creek spilled out over the Wharehuanui Trail, Lake Hayes filled up and covered the track at the wetlands, causing significant damage and requiring costly repairs.



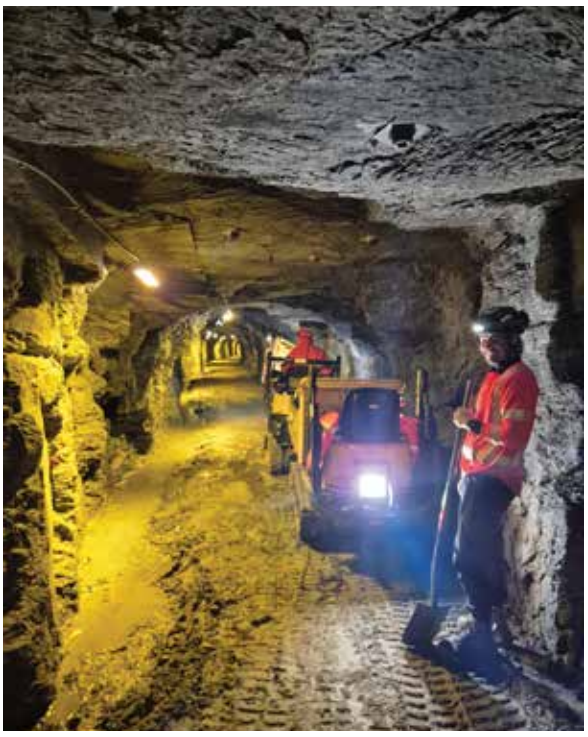





Credit: Brook Sabin

Fortunately, as one of the New Zealand Cycle Trail Nga Haerenga ‘Great Rides’, we are eligible to apply for MBIE Extreme Event Funding to cover some of these costs, and with the benefit of an extremely supportive Parks and Reserves team at QLDC, we were able to swing into action and get the repairs started asap to ensure the trails remained open for the benefit of the community and the businesses which rely on them.

“With more frequent severe weather events, investment and alternate funding streams to improve resilience will be essential as MBIE funding becomes over-subscribed.







Repairs and Resilience: New board-walk adjacent to Mill Creek on the Wharehuanui Trail (left), Trail resurfacing works at the Hugo Tunnel (top). Slip repairs and trail resurfacing on the Twin Rivers Trail (above).

A key activity for this year has been the planning and development of integrated active transport routes, providing more sustainable travel options for the community in the face of increasing congestion on our roads.

Queenstown Trails worked hard to secure easements and necessary funding to complete detailed design and get the Jacks Point to Frankton Trail out for tender recently. With sincere thanks to all the landowners and funders who made this possible, this trail will form the backbone of major active transport routes delivered in 2027.

Additionally, QTT has actively supported the development of a new bridge crossing of SH6 at Lower Shotover and designed a dedicated walking a cycling bridge at Arthurs Point, both of which will provide significant improvements to our network and the ability for our community to travel on foot or by bicycle.



M3 Contracting are commencing construction of the Jacks Point to Frankton Trail in November.

The Jacks Point to Frankton route will become the backbone of major active travel routes delivered in 2027. Huge thanks to Central Lakes Trust, Southern Corridor developers, philanthropists and TA Challenge donors - as well as the generous land owners who have enabled this trail to happen.

The Pūāhuru Bridge, crossing SH6 at Jim's Way, has been enabled with support from Queenstown Trails via a generous grant from the Mactodd Community Charitable Trust.

Collaboration is essential - the Pūāhuru Bridge is happening because a lot of people from different organisations lobbied and advocated to bring this vital piece of active travel infrastructure to fruition.


Credit: Waka Kotahi


Credit: Brook Sabin

REGIONAL CONNECTION

> **The linking of the Great Rides throughout the Otago Region cements our position of one of the finest gravel and bike-packing destinations in the world.**

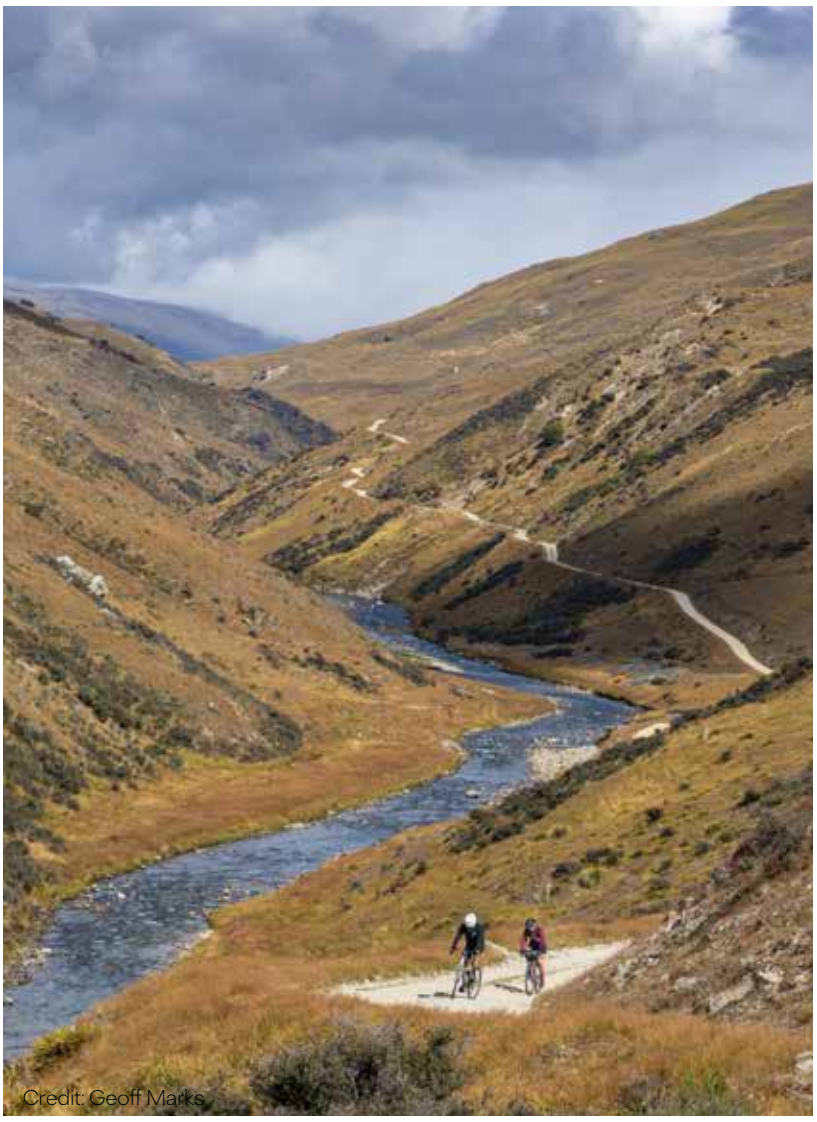
Queenstown Trails, along with neighbouring NZ Cycle Trail partners, is working to further development of links to regional Great Rides.



Credit: Geoff Marks

Huge congratulations to Southern Lakes Trails Trust who are set to open the Kawarau Gorge Trail soon, which will connect the Queenstown Trails to Lake Dunstan, Roxborough Gorge and Clutha Gold trails, and eventually all the way to Dunedin off-road!

This linking of Great Rides cements our position of one of the finest gravel and bike-packing destinations in the world, a cycle tourism success story being told exceptionally well by DQ and the Trailhub collective in Central Otago.



Credit: Geoff Marks



Credit: GYTT

Glenorchy Trail

Planning for the Glenorchy Trail has also shifted gears in partnership with the Glenorchy Trails Alliance, Te Araroa and the Department of Conservation.

Earlier this year we were granted a concession to develop stage one of the route between Sunshine Bay and Twelve Mile, with fundraising underway for the whole route thanks to support from the 45 South Community Foundation.

These regional connections will serve as the main ‘arteries’ of our network opening up further opportunities to integrate our trails with bike parks, backcountry trails and QMTBC’s trail systems, creating an even more compelling story for our district; a concept already proven with the hugely successful relationship with Soho Properties, QEII and the Mahu Whenua trails including the Coronet Loop.

Our aim was to create a polished and informative website to showcase Queenstown Trails.

NEW WEBSITE

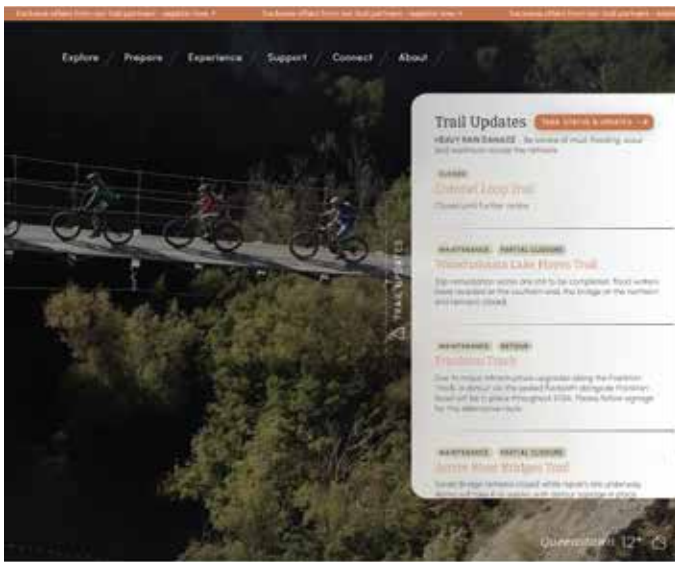
After several years of planning, and 12 months of designing, building, and refining, we are proud to share our brand new Queenstown Trails website with you.

In partnership with EA Digital, we have updated content, branding and online mapping to create an online user experience that showcases Queenstown Trails.

Creating comprehensive and user-friendly trail maps was central to the website refresh. The online maps use the same aesthetic and colourways as the paper maps and wayfinding signage on the trails. Building a bespoke mapping solution allows the showcase of Official Partners and Sponsors and points of interest along the trails, as well as trails specific facilities such as toilets, parking and water fountains.

A future project to develop an on-the-go Queenstown Trails app will complement the website providing immersive navigation and trail journey information. Telling the story of Queenstown Trails, and providing visitors with opportunity and prompting to donate to the trails, is an ongoing project to support the funding for the trails.

Huge thanks to Erin and Sam for bringing so much passion, dedication and innovation to designing and delivering this incredible website. With a focus on discovery, planning and way-finding packaged into a informative and intuitive platform, we are proud that the new website offers an improved online experience for visitors and locals wishing to learn more about Queenstown Trails.







In with the new: Screen captures from the new and improved Queenstown Trails website. A refreshed look and feel with important information east to find (top left). Official Partner listings showcasing businesses that support trail users (top right). Custom-built mapping to improve planning and wayfinding, Official Partner visibility and trail facilities (bottom).



Credit: Mana Tāhuna

> **Enhanced access, enabled by sustainable trail development, acts as a conduit for conservation outcomes.**

We are deeply proud that the trails not only showcase the environment through tourism infrastructure, but continue to be instrumental in facilitating conservation outcomes.

More than ever, the role of the trails in understanding and embodying kaitiakitanga, is vital for the protection of our precious environment for future generations.



Credit: Geoff Marks





Better Tomorrow: Extensive restoration of Mill Creek and Waiwhakaata Lake Hayes catchment adjacent to the Wharehuanui Trail (top). Restoration plantings in can be found bordering the trails across the network (middle right). Flood mitigation works to protect the Shotover Gorge Trail at Tucker Beach provided opportunity for a community planting initiative led by Tucker Beach Residents Society and Mana Tāhuna (bottom right). Predator trapping next to the Wharehuanui Trail (left).

Strong partnerships are protecting the long-term future of the trails – contributing to a legacy of recreation and conservation.

QUEENSTOWN LAKES DISTRICT COUNCIL

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.

Work continues to improve and maintain the superb backcountry trails of the Mahu Whenua Open Space Covenants in partnership with QEII and Soho properties.



With the skills of world class trail builders (Elevate Trail & Dirt Design) we're continually improving these back country trails: clearing slips, improving water management and updating signage.

We are also pleased to be part of the Macetown Road Advisory Group which has created a sustainable solution for long term access.





Credit: Arrowtown Backyard Ultra



Credit: Motatapu



Credit: Queenstown Marathon

Queenstown Marathon, Motatapu, Arrowtown Backyard Ultra, and Southern Lakes Ultra are growing every year and we support these events with use of the trails, course enhancements and a volunteer database to enable the events to run smoothly. We're very fortunate to be the charity partner of these awesome events, who value the world-class trail network and who all give back to ensure the long-term sustainability of the trails.

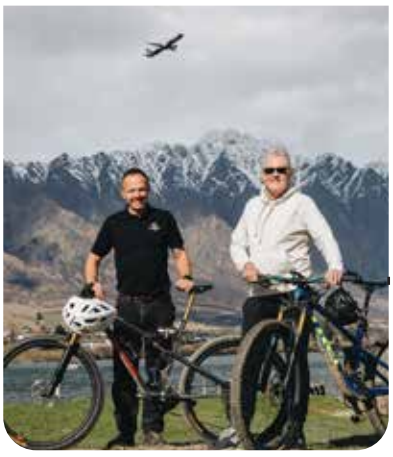
Better Together: Queenstown Trails is grateful to be the charity partner of The Arrowtown Backyard Ultra (left), Motatapu Off Road Events (centre) and New Zealand Southeby's Queenstown Marathon (right).

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Huge thanks to our incredible corporate partners whose generous support ensures we can continue the work we do to make Queenstown a better place to live, work and ride!

Sara Irvine
Queenstown Airport

"The trails are an amazing asset for our community and visitors - we're pleased to be doing our bit to ensure that the trails continue to grow and expand for future generations.



ZQN Queenstown Airport

Terry Spice & Nick Horton
Luxury Real Estate



The trails aren't just a lifestyle asset - they're a genuine draw-card for the region. Its a privilege to support an initiative the genuinely enriches our community."

"The trails are a magnificent asset for the region and enhance the experience of visiting and living here, so it's important to support them.

Donald & Richard Hanson
Aotea Gifts



Aotea Gifts



PAKn SAVE

Michelle & Anthony King
Pak'n Save Queenstown

From commuters going to work, to recreational opportunities, the trails are great for the community getting out and about in the region."

"The trails are such an asset to our region and community, we're loving being able to ride to work on world class trails and beat the traffic!

Pete Robinson & Amanda O'Donoghue
European Bakery



EUROPEAN Bakery
FOR THE LOVE OF BREAD



Amanda Youell
SkyCity Queenstown

"We're proud to support this ongoing effort to connect people, inspire adventures, and create experiences that benefit all."



Adam Edgar
Forsyth Barr

"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."

"The conservation work and commitment to creating a sustainable future align strongly with our values."

Sandy MacLeod
Gallagher





Tim Low
Cargo Collective

"It's great having the trail go right past our door - such an asset to local community of riders, runners and hikers."

"The trails provide sustainable tourism infrastructure, encouraging slower exploration, repeat visitation and meaningful engagement with the region."

Jay Errington
Aluume Wellness



CORPORATE PARTNERS

Queenstown Trails is thrilled to welcome Queenstown Airport, Cargo Brewery and Aluume as our newest corporate supporters.

OUR TEAM

Queenstown Trails has a dedicated Board of Trustees who generously give their time and expertise to guide the strategic direction of the Trust. Our small executive team is proud to action the aspirations and work hard to protect, maintain and expand the network.



Rosie Hill Chair



Andy Brinsley
Deputy Chair



Steve Hall Trustee



John Edmonds Trustee



Benje Patterson
Trustee



Sarena Glass Trustee



Brad Rowe Trustee



Jonty Edgar & Edgar Family Patron



Gavin Bartlett
QLDC Representative



Mark Williams CEO



Kat Bulk
Technical Design & Operations



Tony McQuilkin Patron

TRAIL JOURNEYS

Since opening in 2012, our trail counters have recorded more than 12 million journeys! In the 2025-2026 period, the Queenstown Trail network saw 464,895 users hit the trails - a 1.6% increase on the previous year.



464,895 Trail Users | **1,332** Daily Average Users | **49%** Pedestrians | **51%** Cyclists

SOCIAL & DIGITAL MEDIA

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.



WEBSITE

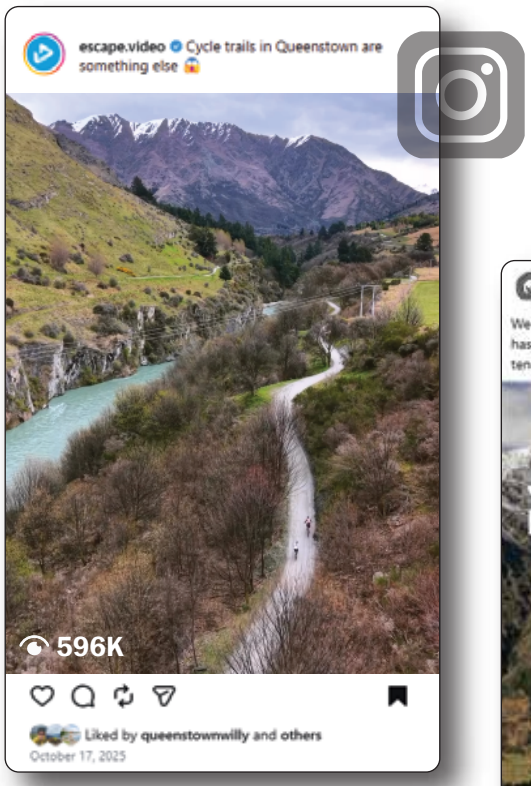
95k website visitors
70% Kiwi, 16% Australia, 4.5% USA, 2% UK

2.3M+ views across Facebook & Instagram
26.5K Likes across Facebook & Instagram
4.6K new followers on Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn



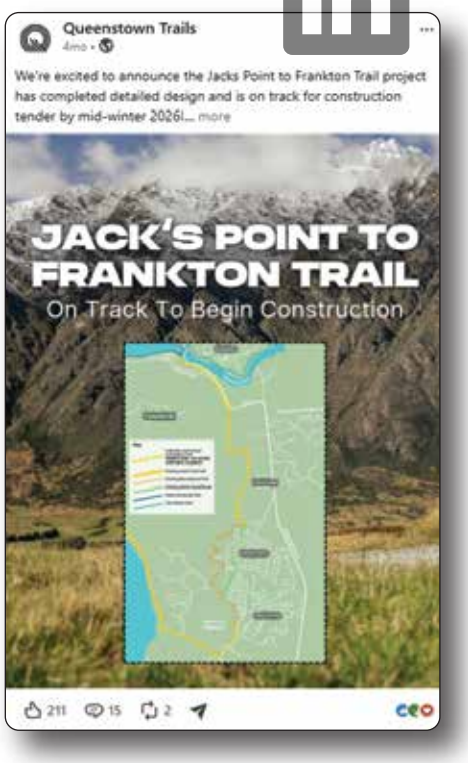
FACEBOOK

113 Posts
32% increase in followers
1.9 million views



INSTAGRAM

90% increase in reach
1.6k new followers



LINKEDIN

152 new followers
852 reactions
26.7k reach

Summary Statement of Financial Performance

1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Income		
Income - Grants & Sundry		
Grants Received	303,048	2,917,761
Interest Received	43,920	73,803
Other Income	18,813	26,755
Total Income - Grants & Sundry	**365,781**	**3,018,319**
Donations & Fundraising		
Business Donations	68,033	30,598
Queenstown Trail Donations & Fundraising	289,759	404,443
Trail Lovers (Friends of the Trust)	78,684	125,994
Total Donations & Fundraising	**436,475**	**561,034**
Event Revenue		
MOT Donation- Motatapu Events	13,976	11,501
QT Marathon Donation - Ironman	30,448	31,000
Total Event Revenue	**44,424**	**42,501**
Total Income	**846,680**	**3,621,854**
Expenses		
Trail Planning, Development & Maintenance		
Construction & Consulting Fees	147,552	3,137,216
Signage	23,972	161
Track Maintenance	216,770	49,365
Total Trail Planning, Development & Maintenance	**388,294**	**3,186,742**
Administration, Overheads & Marketing	154,174	133,093
Staffing & Contractor Costs	299,109	319,570
Depreciation & Non Cash Expenses	9,241	6,087
Total Expenses	**850,818**	**3,645,491**
Net Profit	**(4,137)**	**(23,637)**

Summary Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2026

	30 Jun 2026	30 Jun 2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
QTT ANZ 02 Current	74,275	76,302
QTT ANZ 03 Call	201,216	653,388
QTT ANZ 04 Retentions Savings	97,925	152,800
Accounts Receivable & Other Current Assets	1,212	12,826
GST Control Account	27,834	(33,520)
Term Deposits	1,009,875	385,738
Total Current Assets	**1,412,338**	**1,247,534**
Fixed Assets & Investments		
Fixed Assets	23,406	9,214
45South Community Foundation Endowment	115,424	109,274
Total Fixed Assets & Investments	**138,830**	**118,488**
Total Assets	**1,551,168**	**1,366,022**
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	44,363	68,271
Grants Received in Advance	300,000	0
Other Current Liabilities, Retentions	107,619	194,427
Total Liabilities	**451,982**	**262,699**
Net Assets	**1,099,186**	**1,103,323**
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,103,323	1,126,961
Current Year Earnings	(4,137)	(23,637)
Total Equity	**1,099,186**	**1,103,323**

Summarised reports, to be read in conjunction with full Performance Report for the Queenstown Trails Trust: 16 October 2026 (as audited by KPMG 16/10/2026)

The recognition of trail outcomes ranging from landscape restoration, conservation, reduction in emissions and congestion, improvements to health & wellbeing and economic benefit through tourism is leading to greater support from our community through Trail Lovers donations.

> **We are humbled and grateful for the generosity of our community. Huge thanks to each and every one of you who supports us and believes in the work that we do.**


Credit: Geoff Marks


Credit: DQ


Credit: Geoff Marks

Thank you to the consultants, contractors and legal teams who are instrumental in planning and delivering trails projects.

Queenstown Trails 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.

The trail funding landscape continues to require innovation. Thankfully ongoing event partnerships like the Queenstown Marathon and Motatapu give back to the trails through event proceeds and we are deeply grateful to the commercial operators who have put their hands up to support trail resilience through a per customer donation.

Additionally, our work continues to be supported by several corporates in Queenstown who have taken notice of what the trails mean for their businesses and employees and who contribute to the trails continued success.

Together, we are providing a long-term future for our trails, enhancing our region's sustainable tourism offering and contributing to a legacy of recreation and conservation. Thank you all for being part of our trail journey.

THANK YOU.