



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DRAFT MINUTES**

Date: Wednesday, October 23rd, 2019 at 5.30pm
Location: QLDC Chambers, 10 Gorge Road, Queenstown

1. APOLOGIES:

Sir Eion and Jan Edgar, John Edmonds, Thunes Cloetes, Geoff Owen, Jennifer Belmont, Laurie Martin, Russell Hamilton, Anna Mickell, Catherine Stewart, Alexa Forbes, Penny Clark, Nicole Fairweather, Miranda Spary, Sheelagh Flaws, Juli Wilding, Fiona Bersani, Diane and Rodger Kernell, Barry Robertson, Marion Borrell.

2. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME:

Chairman welcomed all to the 2019 AGM of the Queenstown Trails Trust and commented that this is QTT's 18th AGM and we'd like to give an honourable mention to Major Jim Boulton who is in attendance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Non noted

4. MINUTES:

The minutes of the last AGM held on October 17, 2018 previously approved as draft minutes at QTT meeting are now formally adopted as a true and accurate record.

Moved Mark Townsley / Seconded: Michael Walker - All in favour.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

No matters arising

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The CEO's Report was read in conjunction with a PowerPoint presentation.

As Chairman of the Queenstown Trails Trust it is my pleasure to provide this annual report. The Queenstown Trails Trust is in good shape and has come a long way since establishment in 2002.

The Queenstown Trail network saw 340,000 trail users during our financial period of 2018/19.

42% of these users are locals; the other 58% are visitors (including New Zealanders from outside the region and international visitors) and the right kind of visitors, high spending and low impact.

Continuing to improve and expand the QTT trail network will benefit both locals and visitors and will continue to boost our local economy.

It is most heartening to see the collaboration of the QLDC, ORC and NZTA committing to commuter trails as a

cornerstone of this community. The initiative was appropriately named WAY 2 GO, and has successfully secured funding of some \$14m over the next 5 years for the first stage projects in the Wakatipu Active Transport Network. This is outstanding and will deliver a huge impetus to QTT's planned trail expansion and our vision to 'Connect our communities and inspire adventures'.

I need to acknowledge the endless input from over several years by the QTT chief executives, and others for this achievement.

After a big focus advocating for commuter trails over the last two years, I anticipate that QTT will be focused more in the future on recreational trails, as the WAY 2 GO plan funds and delivers the core commuter trails, albeit assisted by the Queenstown Trails Trust. This will be work in progress.

The QTT has been spending through the year:

- \$499,000 on maintenance / building of trails, including feasibility reports for new trails
- \$214,000 on running the organisation
- Total income including grants received \$677,000
- We hold \$735,000 in liquid assets
- QTT's deficit for the year was \$51,000

THE GOOD NEWS:

- (1) People and families are having fun on the trails and this is reflected in a positive attitude towards the Queenstown Trails.
- (2) There are health and wellbeing benefits as a result of exercise on trails as well as the straight the freedom experienced by trail users.
- (3) Generally great support from landowners.
- (4) Some exceptional generosity from philanthropic landowners, community trusts and from our own community through our Friends of the Trust supporters' program.
- (5) Ongoing part funding from central government, alongside support from DOC and QLDC.
- (6) QTT expect to be lodging for consent for stage 1 of our realignment plans, with the trail from Arrowtown to Arthurs Point and thence down the Shotover River to Tuckers Beach before this Christmas.
- (7) Action upon the Coronet Loop in association with Soho Properties Ltd. Further track forming this summer up Deep Creek and into the Eight Mile.

THE NOT SO GOOD NEWS:

- (1) Not ALL landowners view trails in a positive manner, in fact some are plain negative. As appropriate and where QTT believes trails are of value, we strive to gain trail easements. We will shamelessly use whatever levers or angles of influence to deliver. We actively point out to the planning side of QLDC that in some cases trail easements must be a condition of development. Unformed Legal roads are also an important means of access.
- (2) As in most spheres today bureaucracy and general lack of common sense continue to frustrate.

PROGRESS / ACTIVITY

We are making and will make further progress on trails. Mark Williams will expand in his CEO report.

As QTT moves to a significant construction phase in 2020, we will draw in additional expertise so as to manage and control this process.

Since the financial year end 30 June 2019, the QTT invested a sum of \$25,000 with the Wakatipu Community Foundation. Trustees view this as a sound investment, cementing a relationship. Note QTT has and will benefit by way of grants from the Foundation.

QTT are also moving to Frankton and expect to share new office premises with Ironman from November 2019.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

QTT value the fantastic support from all of our Friends of the Trust and Official Partners. We value the special relationship with DOC and Soho Properties developing new trails. We appreciate the \$75,000 grant from the QLDC to assist with administration. We greatly appreciate the support from philanthropic individuals and community trusts. Ironman continues to be a core partner of the QTT, by way of events such as the Queenstown Marathon, Motatapu and Pioneer events. Volunteers freely offer their services to assist with events and thereby directly benefit the QTT. Central Govt provides major funding by way of the New Zealand Trail Grants via MBIE.

FUNDRAISING:

QTT has fundraised over \$55,000 in 2019 so far and have targeted raising a minimum of \$70,000 before the end of this year. To achieve this we have launched a new website with online donation capabilities and have planned several fundraising campaigns throughout the year to engage and recruit new and old Friends of the Trust. Lou Vicente (part time) drives the fundraising and web activities of the trust.

TRUSTEES:

The QTT is governed by a set of experienced trustees, who freely provide their time and experience and commit to assist the CEO outside of trustee meetings. Part of the strength is the diversity of trustees. Competencies include planning, legal, engineering and business skills mixed with a community base and a passion for trails. Combine this with the connections of our patron and we have a formidable team.

I would like to thank all the trustees and the deputy Chairman Lindsay Williams for their service.

THE TEAM:

QTT is so fortunate to have the service of Mark Williams who heads the organization with such passion and drive, leading to results.

I envisage in the future:

A basin where communities are connected by trails for walkers and cyclists.
Rivers with trails, often on both sides, connected by a series of bridges.
A lakeside trail around Lake Wakatipu.
Trails over our surrounding mountains and hills.

TONY MCQUILKIN

Chairman, Queenstown Trails Trust
17 October 2019

7. CEO REPORT

The CEO's Report was read in conjunction with a PowerPoint presentation.

I'm delighted to welcome you to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Queenstown Trails Trust (QTT), as we are about to embark upon a significant period of trail construction.

We've had another busy year and after what seems like endless workshops, business cases and fundraising, we are finally underway with resource consent applications for stage 1 of our major realignment project, linking Arrowtown to Arthurs Point. There will be some challenges and hurdles to clear, but we are fully committed to engaging with stakeholders and community groups to ensure concerns are considered and the trail is supported for the benefit of all Queenstown residents.

QTT was established primarily to develop a recreational trail network for locals and visitors, but recent rapid population growth in the region has highlighted the need for safe, off-road trails to serve as 'Active Transport' routes for our community, linking the residential suburbs to the commercial centres and in particular the new

high school.

The Way to Go (W2G) collaboration of QLDC, ORC and NZTA has recognised the importance of these routes in the 'Wakatipu Active Transport' Business Case, for which \$14m of funding was announced recently. These routes overlap with QTT's 10yr plan and stage 2 of our realignment project and are fully endorsed and welcomed by QTT. It is highly likely that both projects will be under construction concurrently which is great news for all trail users in our community.

Additionally, we have been actively consenting wider backcountry trails and are pleased to announce that with the generous support of Soho Properties, the second phase of construction of the Coronet Loop is underway. The Coronet Faces Water Race Trail has been a real success story and getting rave reviews, and it's great to now be in a position to start constructing stage 2 of the Coronet Loop from Greengates Saddle to Arrowtown. We've been working hard with the stakeholders of the Access Advisory Group to get consent from QLDC, Linz and Heritage NZ, and armed with an approved set of recommendations we are able to begin forming the route through Deep Creek and back to Arrowtown.

This will be a spectacular trail passing through some awesome Goldmining heritage sites and stunning landscapes of 'Mahu Whenua'. More routes are planned under the QEII covenant, and it will be exciting to see trails developed around Coronet Peak's summer operations and how these can link into the network.

Despite being busy at our desks this year and engaging with consultants to establish reports, we are pleased to be able to report that QTT has been busy maintaining our existing trails and adding some new ones;

- **Kawarau Falls** – Despite a long delay with NZTA's commitment to building a ramp to the new underpass, QTT engaged Elevate Trail Building and Wilsons Contracting to form the connection through the Kawarau Falls Scenic Reserve, bypassing Robertson Street and the Frankton Kindergarten. The trail flows between the trees and creates a direct link to the QLDC reserves further downstream and has been really well received by trail users. AJ Hackett Bungy partnered with us on this project, and a big thanks to them for allowing us to leverage MBIE funding.
- **Shotover Delta** – We have continued to work closely with the quarry operators to ensure that H&S standards are up kept along the new section of trail beside the river. Unfortunately, the crossing gates have been vandalised on several occasions which compromises safety. We now have a system in place where the gates are left open when machinery is not actively in the river but self-closing during extraction. If the crossings are damaged, then the trail will be temporarily shut at either end whilst the crossings are repaired. We have also had issues with motorbikes on this section of trail and below Shotover Country and are working on a solution to prevent this dangerous behaviour.
- **Trail repairs** – Following the successful installation of 'fall from height' barriers at Arrowtown last year, QTT partnered with QLDC Parks and Reserves again to repair several sections of trail and improve safety signage at the Lake Hayes Estate Crossing. Two sections of stacked stone wall were replaced, and a safety barrier added to the Kelvin Peninsula Trail, whilst several slumps on the Twin Rivers Trail and Arrow River Bridges Trail were repaired and retained.
- **Lower Shotover Trail** – QTT has also made further improvements to the new Lower Shotover MTB Trail in conjunction with DoC, which also included a trail re-route after the Shotover River washed a large section of track away during a flood event. Part of this trail now forms of the focus for our Arthurs Point to Tucker Beach link, and we are working with numerous stakeholders around the best location of the bridge and getting it consented.

We've also been busy finishing our awesome new website, and with big thanks to Lou Vicente the new site is now live and operational. Future development will include further integration with Google maps and real-time location ability, but the first stage was the integration of the VEGA donation platform, which makes the process of joining our 'Friends of the Trust' campaign more straightforward.

We still need more engagement and feedback about the Queenstown Trail, needing to complete up to 300 Trail User surveys annually to be eligible for further NZCT funding for the Great Ride. This allows MBIE to assess the economic impact of government investment in the trail, which is particularly important with the scale of our current project.

Complete the survey here: <https://queenstowntrail.co.nz/get-involved/trail-survey/>

QTT is very fortunate to get fantastic support from our community, council and local landowners and that support has allowed us to leverage government funding for trail development. Special thanks must go to the Central Lakes Trust for a grant of \$1.135m over the next 2 years and an extremely generous local philanthropist donor who is matching the government's contribution dollar for dollar. Funds raised through the community during our annual 'Friends of the Trust' campaign are also tagged for trail development, but more importantly, demonstrate the high regard in which our trail network is held. In recognition of that support, for 2019 onwards the Trust will now issue an annual 'Friends of the Trust' ID key-tag and bike sticker for every donation, so you can proudly show your commitment to our trails (and call out those who aren't!).

8. FINANCIAL REPORTS:

MDW (CEO) presented the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2019.

Income received from grants is substantially up by more than \$350k from the previous year; this is mainly due to successful MBIE funding applications and increased co-funding from QLDC for trail maintenance. QTT received a significant donation from Ironman via the events that QTT are the chosen charity for. QTT saw a decrease in Friends of the Trust donations for the financial period 18/19 due to a change in annual fundraising period from May 19 to July 19. QTT has so far in 2019 (calendar year) fundraised over \$70,000 from Friends of the Trust and this increase can be attributed to the new online donation software capabilities and marketing campaigns.

The financial position of QTT is very strong and this is a great comfort to trustees and the Trust has no debt owed. Collectively QTT has \$104k in a call account for the day to day operational costs and \$632K in term deposits earning interest; this is used to leverage funds from MBIE and other funding bodies as they usually will only pay 50% towards a successful funding application.

MDW advised the financials have been signed off by the QTT Chairman and trustees and accounts have been duly reviewed by KPMG of Christchurch. There were no questions from attendees. Moved: Lindsay Williams / Seconded: Mike Walker. All in favour.

9. CONFIRMATION OF AUDITORS:

Trustees to appoint KPMG of Christchurch to review QTT's financial accounts.

Chairman moved QTT to re-appoint KPMG for the period July 01, 2019 to June 30, 2018, with the indicative fee for financial review services of \$3,000+gst. Moved: Warwick Goldsmith / Seconded: Britta Taylor. All in favour.

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

TMQ informed the audience that QTT trustees are appointed for a term of 3 years, after which they stand down with an option for re-election. Both Michael Walker and Mark Townsley have served 3 years and have offered to stand again.

Lindsay Williams moved that Michael Walker be re-elected to serve a further 3 year term. Seconded by Sarena Glass – all in favour.

Warwick Goldsmith moved that Mark Townsley be re-elected to serve a further 3 year term. Seconded by Britta Taylor – all in favour.

The Chairman also informed the audience that QTT will be advertising for new trustees during the first half of 2020.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, what is QTT's most well attended AGM and then opened the floor for general business/questions:

- Mayor Jim Boulton wanted to thank QTT on behalf of everyone in the Queenstown Lakes District for the good work, planning and delivery of trails. Mayor Boulton said one of the best things we do as a council is our annual contribution to QTT operational costs and he'd like to record on behalf of Queenstown sincere thanks to trustees and the executive of QTT.

- James Paterson land owner and Farmer in the Coneburn Valley (Jack's Point to SH6). Mr Paterson expressed frustration at the handling of the easement negotiations for the proposed Jack's Point Commuter Trail and was surprised to read the recent Way 2 Go (W2G) press release from QLDC before an easement had been granted for a trail on his land. Mr Paterson said that people could safely cycle from Jack's Point to Frankton now via the road and that an off-road (next to the road) easement had previously been offered and declined. TMQ (QTT Chair) thanked Mr Paterson for his time but stated this AGM is not the place to negotiate an easement; however we want to continue to liaise with you and wholeheartedly respect your rights. MDW (QTT CEO) responded by apologising to Mr Paterson for any mixed communication but stressed that the press release regarding the proposed trail came from QLDC, not QTT and that W2G and the QTT Expansion Project are two separate projects with some common elements. MDW suggested he and Mr Paterson could take the conversation offline.
- Ange van der Laan asked QTT to expand on what and who is Way 2 Go (W2G). MDW responded by telling the audience that W2G is a collaboration between QLDC, NZTA and ORC, they are working together to provide solutions for long term, affordable, safe transport options in the Wakatipu with a key focus on active transport (walking/biking) and public transport. Ange went on to ask what department at QLDC is leading the project; MDW said it was a mix of departments including the planning, infrastructure and property teams.
- Barbara Simpson thanked QTT for the wonderful commuter trails and asked will the Trust have any involvement in promoting biking in schools? MDW told the audience about an idea QTT are exploring with WHS presently to creating a youth trust (following on from the success of Generation Give), however stressed that we cannot encourage kids to ride to school until we have the connections in place as currently it's not safe with multiple highway crossings and that this is a big driver for W2G project. Mary Jowet also commented that there are other issues including school locker space, having to carry multiple bags, uniforms etc.
- No more questions from the floor.

The Chairman commented that it was so nice to see so many people at the 2019 AGM and thanked all for attending, the meeting concluded at 6.17pm.