

Summer

FASHION 2012/13

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In your ODT
Thursday,
September 27

Otago Daily Times



Celebrated . . . Front row from left, Greg Lind, of the Department of Conservation, Queenstown Trails Trust chairman Terry Stevens, Queenstown Lakes Mayor Vanessa van Uden, Queenstown Trails Trust chief executive Kaye Parker, Deputy Prime Minister Bill English and Queenstown Lakes District Council parks manager Paul Wilson, with landowners who granted easements to the trails trust, enabling the Queenstown Trail to become a reality. The 24 landowners were celebrated during a special function at Amisfield on Friday night.

PHOTO: TRACEY ROXBURGH

Trails trust celebrates owners

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"It's absolutely wonderful.

"We've got the trail going over the most picturesque parts of the Wakatipu . . . it's because of you."

Included in the trail network, which traverses more than 110km, are bridges and tunnels, picnic and fishing spots, cafes, three international golf courses and tourism attractions.

It connects central Queenstown, Arrowtown and Gibbston, crosses the Shotover, Kawarau and Arrow Rivers and includes Lake Wakatipu and Lake Hayes.

Eight bridges, of which five were newly constructed, are included on the trail, as well as a tunnel beneath State Highway 6.

"We believe the Queenstown Trail will be an important catalyst for tourism and economic development in the area," Mrs Parker said.

"The opportunities it offers are outstanding and Queenstown is

expected to become a biking Mecca for both locals and visitors."

To mark their generosity the trust would erect a "Wall of Recognition" on the trail, listing every landowner who had granted an easement to the trust.

"The landowners are going to be there forever.

"You are the people who allowed it to happen. Forever your names are going to be recognised by this community for the wonderful thing you have given us."

The \$5.4 million Queenstown Trail is due to be officially opened on October 18 and is a joint initiative of the trust, the Queenstown Lakes District Council and the NZCT, funding by national and local government, community trusts, private sponsorship and community fundraising.

Mrs Parker said the trust was now raising the final \$195,000 hoped to complete the trail. It required to achieve the target by the official opening.