



## SCULPTURE WALKWAY ENHANCES QUEENSTOWN TRAIL

BY JENNY MCLEOD

Mark Hill with *Presence*

Queenstown is currently developing a stunning lakeside sculpture trail featuring the works of nationally renowned artists.

Due to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor the Kelvin Peninsula Loop, on the Queenstown Trail, is being transformed by the installation of a range of art works, expected to be a strong drawcard to the area.

The project is expedited for the Queenstown Lakes Council by the Queenstown Trails Trust

which has acquired the necessary consents and facilitates the installation of the sculptures.

Three outstanding pieces of work are now in place. They include *Kelvin Peninsula Goats*, three distinctive goats by Auckland artist Jeff Thomson best known for his work in corrugated iron, and a schist and steel static kinetic sculpture by Arrowtown artist Shane Woolridge located on the Kelvin Peninsula headland.

The Woolridge sculpture, named *Thru Link to Peak*, is constructed of 25 tonnes of schist and perfectly frames Walter Peak on the far side of the lake.

An imposing corten and stainless steel sculpture created by local artist Mark Hill is the most recent addition set alongside Lake Wakatipu at Kelvin Grove. Known as *Presence*, Marks says his work depicts a tree spirit. "The location is perfect and the colours of *Presence* blend with the surrounding trees. In fact the sculpture blends so well it catches you by surprise when you first see it."

Queenstown Lakes Mayor Vanessa van Uden has paid tribute to the donor of the sculptures who has strong links with the area, for his considerable foresight in "creating something so special for this community".

"This part of the Queenstown trail is going to be such a go to place for visitors."

The Queenstown Trails Trust expects up to ten sculptures will eventually line the Kelvin Peninsula Loop.

"The benefactor has indicated he is keen to provide as many as ten major public works. He personally sources the artists and commissions their work. It is exciting for everyone involved to discover each new piece as it is installed," says Trust CEO Mandy Kennedy.

She says the sculptures significantly enhance the Kelvin Peninsula Loop experience.

"Added to this we have recently upgraded this section of the Queenstown Trail with funding from both the Trust and the Government, making it more accessible for people of all ages and abilities. We are incredibly grateful for the commitment to this project, which sets the walkway apart and offers both New Zealand and overseas visitors a unique opportunity to view the work of recognised artists, in a superb setting."



Mandy Kennedy, Shane Woolridge and Vanessa van Uden



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