

# Secret sculpture takes shape

TRACEY ROXBURGH

AN anonymous art benefactor has struck again.

The benefactor paid for the sculptures of three wild goats – made by Auckland artist Jeff Thomson – to be installed on the Kelvin Peninsula headlands.

They were unveiled in November last year.

Now the benefactor has bankrolled a “static kinetic sculpture” on the peninsula, on the shores of Lake Wakatipu.

The new piece, *The Missing Link*, is by local artist Shane Woolridge.

It was unveiled on Monday by Queenstown Trails Trust.

Queenstown mayor Vanessa van Uden says it’s a special area, made more so because of the generosity of wonderful local people.

“We’re very lucky that we actually live in such a beautiful place and that a piece of art work can be put here ... and embrace the environment and be part of the environment.”

Woolridge says the brief for the sculpture was to frame Walter Peak and match its rugged beauty.

*The Missing Link* features 25 tonnes of schist.

It is held in place with 2.5 tonnes of steel and concrete, buried below the

Easy on the eye: Mandy Kennedy (left), Shane Woolridge and Vanessa van Uden at the unveiling of the sculpture



PICTURE: TRACEY ROXBURGH

Woolridge also crafted a bench seat, which is made from schist and Glenorchy slate.

From the bench the sculpture looks complete, as it frames part of Walter Peak.

But the perspective changes when the viewer moves around the sculpture. Another part of Woolridge’s brief was to “keep it as secret as possible”. Woolridge, who hails from

**Government chips in for trail upgrade**  
THE government has stumped up for an upgrade of a Kelvin Peninsula track.

During a visit to Queenstown in February, Prime Minister John Key announced an \$8 million fund over four years for cycle trail maintenance.

In the first funding round, the Queenstown Trails Trust was granted \$213,600 of the \$970,000 total – including \$38,400 for the \$70,000 upgrade.

Trust chief executive Mandy Kennedy says the

fund, administered by the Business Ministry, helped pay for work on about 2.1 kilometres of track, from near the Kelvin Heights golf course to a new sculpture, *The Missing Link*, made by local artist Shane Woolridge and unveiled on Monday.

Kennedy says Wilson Contractors took about five weeks on the work, which included grinding out tree roots, resurfacing some parts of the track and erecting stone retaining walls.

–TRACEY ROXBURGH

Arrowtown, says it took about six months to create and was taken to the site in pieces, along the track.

Trails trust chief executive Mandy Kennedy doesn’t know how much the sculpture cost.

That’s up to the donor, she says.

“It’s quite an amazing story. “It’s beautiful here anyway, but when you place a piece like that, it’s just stunning.”

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Trail work: Mandy Kennedy celebrates on the Kelvin Peninsula trail