

# QTM Magazine

*Southern Lakes Lifestyle*

## SENSATIONAL SUMMER AT MORA

*Exceptional wine and food  
experiences at Mora Wines &  
Artisan Kitchen*

## Wanaka Airshow Reaches New Heights

Warbirds over Wanaka Easter  
2026 Drawcard

## NEW ZEALAND OPEN TAKES CENTRE STAGE

*Millbrook Resort hosts  
premier golfing event*

## HOSPITALITY HIGHLIGHTS

Best places to wine and dine  
in Queenstown and Wānaka

ISSUE 130 SUMMER 2026

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## QT LIFESTYLE

QT Magazine is a contemporary lifestyle magazine covering the Southern Lakes region of New Zealand.

The information and views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the opinion of QT Publishing Ltd or its editorial contributors. Every effort is made to ensure these articles are accurate and correct however QT Publishing Ltd accepts no liability for the accuracy of the information.

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## Fresh Faces

with Jenny McLeod

### Queenstown Lakes Mayor Promises Renewed Trust

Newly elected Queenstown Lakes mayor John Glover is all about "restoring trust" in the district council.

John headed off the one-term incumbent mayor Glyn Lewers in the 2025 local body elections and says the new council will refocus to become the public service organisation it is supposed to be.

"It will serve the public not hinder them and provide information not hide it."

"We will apply a laser sharp financial focus and review the culture of financial practices in order to minimise rates increases and work to deliver smart growth where it pays its way and provides new opportunities and where it does not compromise our environment."

He says the community needs to trust the council will act on what residents say and that councillors will "spend ratepayers' money as if it was their own".

"There are myriad challenges impacting our district but by getting our own house in order and regaining the support of our communities we will be much better placed to address them."



John Glover

### Gibbston Valley Wines Head

Gibbston Valley Wines has a new leader with the recent appointment of Cristina Griffith as managing director.

Cristina replaces long-standing CEO Greg Hunt who worked for Phil Griffith and his family for 20 years and was responsible for establishing the Summer Concert Series, delivering the Gibbston Valley Lodge & Spa and the initial vision for the Gibbston Valley Resort project which includes a luxury residential neighbourhood and the all new Gibbston Valley golf course and clubhouse.



Greg Hunt & Cristina & Phil Griffith

Cristina, who has been with the company since 2022 as chief financial officer says she is "excited to lead the business into its next chapter - one that honours our legacy while embracing innovation, sustainability and continued excellence in everything we do".

Cristina's brother Alex has been a director of the company for the past decade and the company says that together the pair represent the next generation of leadership and the continuation of the Griffith family's commitment to the land and celebration of Gibbston Valley wine.



Shane O'Hare

### Airport Chief's Global Experience

Queenstown Airport's recently appointed chief executive Shane O'Hare has 40 years global experience in the tourism and aviation sector.

Replacing former CEO Glen Sowry Shane has more latterly held the role

of CEO at Launceston Airport in Tasmania with prior senior executive positions in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, the US and the Middle East.

"The Queenstown Airport is a critical social and economic infrastructure asset for the region and the country," he says. "It is entering an exciting phase and I am very pleased to be joining the team... and working to deliver for the shareholders and the community."

Queenstown Airport Corporation chair Simon Flood says the airport is "undertaking the most significant capital delivery programme in its 90-year history. Shane has a proven track record being responsible for multi-million dollar budgets and large scale infrastructure projects and has demonstrated a strong commitment to authentic community engagement."



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SABEN

# Warbirds 2026 Promises Spectacular Action

By Jenny McLeod

The Warbirds Over Wanaka International Airshow is set to roar back into action with many spectacular displays already confirmed for the 2026 event at Wānaka Airport at Easter (April 3, 4 & 5).



UK based Spitfire Mk XI



RNZAF NH 90 Helicopter

Photograph Gavin Conroy

The world-renowned airshow was the brainchild of local aviation and tourism pioneer the late Sir Tim Wallis and first held in 1988.

General manager Ed Taylor says the last edition in 2024 attracted around 65,000 people over the three days and the expectation is that the 2026 event will be just as big a drawcard.

"Headline acts include a rare Spitfire Mk XI which is coming from the UK to join local aircraft in marking the 90th anniversary of the first flight of the iconic WWII type. The American Eagles Jet Display team was one of the most popular displays in 2024 and it is exciting that these top US pilots are returning."

He says The Southern Force Pitts Special Aerobatic display team is new to the Wanaka Airshow as is the planned appearance of the world's smallest jet aircraft.

"We will be continually confirming new acts over the next few months and the aerial spectacles will be complemented by fantastic ground displays from the RNZAF camp to science exhibitions and the popular Future of Aviation area."

### Southern Force Debut

New Zealand's newest aerobatic display team makes its debut at the 2026 Warbirds Airshow.

The four-ship Southern Force Pitts Special display team will perform for the first time and their appearance follows hours of dedicated practice.

Airshow general manager Ed Taylor says "the Southern Force will be one of the surprise acts of 2026, bringing lots of daring manoeuvres, noise and smoke to Wānaka. The small, colourful bi-planes are always a crowd favourite."



Southern Force Four Ship

Photograph Gavin Conroy

### Rare Spitfire on display

A Mk XI aircraft will be one of the international stars of the 2026 Wanaka Airshow as the event marks the 90th anniversary of the first ever flight of the iconic Spitfire.

The UK based Spitfire is one of only two still flying in the world and was designed to perform high altitude, long distance photographic operations. One of its most famous exploits was to take the first images of the damage caused following the famous Dambusters raid.

Photograph Gavin Conroy



American Eagles 2024

### Eagles Rock

The famous American Eagles Jet Aerobatic Display Team is returning for the Wanaka Airshow's 2026 edition after a riveting performance in 2024.

General Manager Ed Taylor says the four pilots are the best civilian jet aerobatic pilots in the US coming together as the American Eagles for Wānaka.



RNZAF Black Falcons

### RNZAF Skills

The Royal New Zealand Air Force will have a full line-up of aircraft at the 2026 Wanaka Airshow including the new C-130J Hercules aircraft which replaces the C-130H farewelled in 2024.

The world-class Black Falcons Aerobatic Display Team which shows off the skills of some of the RNZAF's best pilots along with the Kiwi Blue parachute display team will be a highlight and the Air Force will also play a prominent role in the free community lakeside airshow on Friday April 3.



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# Millbrook Resort Hosts 105<sup>th</sup> New Zealand Open

By Penny Simpson

The 105th New Zealand Open returns to Millbrook Resort between February 26 and March 1 2026 with play across two 18-hole championship courses.

The high-profile tournament is a spectacular experience for players, fans and sponsors and is expected to draw the traditional large crowds from New Zealand and overseas.

Tournament director Michael Glading says the event brings together people of all ages over the four days of play with a range of excellent hospitality offerings, fun activations, large screens and many ideal spectator viewing areas.

"Millbrook Resort is a wonderful place to host the New Zealand Open. The event dates back to 1907 and we are proud to be presenting the 105th edition. Anticipation will again be high as to who will lift the trophy and there is always great support for the Kiwi players and the hope that one of our own will take out the win."

## Road to The Open Qualifying Series

The New Zealand Open is a Tier One event co-sanctioned by the Challenger PGA Tour of Australasia and the Asian Tour in partnership with the Japan Golf Tour and offers prize money of NZ\$2 million.

Entry is free to watch the world-class golf field of 156 professional players competing for the purse. Amateurs, including sponsors, sporting legends and celebrities will again team up with the professionals in the only national golfing Open in the world to feature a Pro-Am format.

The field will be split across Millbrook Resort's two championship courses for the first round of competition with players alternating to the other course for the second round.

Following the cut the top 60 + professionals will compete in the final two rounds of the tournament to decide the placings.

The New Zealand Open is once again part of The Open Qualifying Series offering the winner a coveted spot in the 154th Open at Royal Birkdale in 2026.

Tournament chairman John Hart says it is an honour for the New Zealand Open to provide a pathway to golf's greatest stage for the second successive year.

"We are humbled to have the continued support of The R&A and would like to extend our sincere thanks to its Championship Committee for recognising the standing of our tournament."

"To have a direct link from Queenstown to The Open at Royal Birkdale is something we're incredibly proud of and it further highlights the international significance of the New Zealand Open."



Photograph: Mogge Adamchik



## Premier Sponsor Support

The New Zealand Open has welcomed Bayleys Real Estate as a Major Sponsor and chairman John Hart says it is an exciting partnership between two iconic Kiwi brands united by a shared passion for community.

"Bayleys' national reputation and strong community values make them a perfect partner as we continue to elevate the tournament experience for players, fans and partners alike."

He says the new partnership strengthens the New Zealand Open's ongoing commitment to collaborating with leading New Zealand brands and reinforces the tournament's position on the domestic and global golfing stage.

"The New Zealand Open is one of the country's most iconic sporting events and we are thrilled to be part of it," says Bayleys Real Estate founding director John Bayley.

"We are passionate about building strong communities and celebrating the best of New Zealand. This sponsorship allows us to align with a tournament that embodies our values and inspires people both here and internationally."



Photograph: New Zealand Open  
John Hart John Bayley & Millbrook Director of Operations Brian Howie



Photograph: Addison Rudzicite

## Become a Caddie

Caddie registrations for the 2026 New Zealand Open are open for golfing enthusiasts to get involved at the 105th event.

Visit [nzopen.com](http://nzopen.com) for more information and registrations.



Photograph: Andrew Cornaga / Photosport

2024 winner Ryan Peake

## Remarkable Feat

West Australian Ryan Peake's win at the 104th New Zealand Open at Millbrook Resort was a remarkable feat considering he trailed the third round leader Korean Gunatek Koh by four strokes at the start of the final round.

Peake won the title by one stroke at 23-under par to avoid a playoff with fellow Australian Jack Thompson, Japan's Kazuki Higa and South African Ian Syman all on 22-under par. Koh finished 21-under after fading in the final holes.

Thousands of people attended the four-day event which saw Kiwi Daniel Hiller finish with a score of 17-under par as the first Kiwi on the leaderboard, one stroke ahead of Sam Jones with Michael Hendry a further shot back.

Ryan also won entry to The Open at Royal Portrush in 2025 and a tour card on the Asian Tour as part of his overall New Zealand Open title success.

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People Place & Passion

By Penny Simpson

The ongoing success of Mora Wines & Artisan Kitchen underlines its reputation for exceptional culinary experiences.

Deb and John Pickens who jointly own the business with Mora Wines say the restaurant is defined by three key attributes – people, place and passion.

"It is set in a beautiful garden with an inviting relaxed and refined alfresco atmosphere and we take great pride in delivering food and service with flair and a personal touch," says Deb.



"What truly sets Mora apart is our talented group of chefs and kitchen team who bring precision and consistency to every dish. Their dedication to hospitality, food and wine is outstanding."

During summer Mora is open every day for breakfast and lunch and the restaurant flows between open lush garden spaces, shaded dining areas and intimate interiors.

"The design is intentionally casual yet sophisticated allowing the wines and food to take centre stage with local ingredients brought together with finesse and creativity. The summer menu is inspired by the region's best produce interpreted with unexpected twists. Popular favourites include the Mt Cook Alpine Salmon, Royalburn Lamb and Kingfish Crudo all designed to highlight texture and flavour balance," she says. "The Halloumi Dish, especially for breakfast, is a favourite thanks to its vibrant flavours."

The menu purposely complements the Mora Wines range with natural pairings highlighted by the serving team.

"The Mora Rosé pairs beautifully with fresh seafood dishes while the Pinot Noir is a perfect match for the signature lamb. Guests can choose between wine tastings and platters in a casual format or opt for a full dining experience as the restaurant is designed to accommodate both approaches—whether visitors are stopping by for a tasting flight or lingering over a leisurely lunch."

**Mora Wines & Artisan Kitchen has a relaxed sophistication where outstanding food, award-winning wine and great company combine.**



Mora's accolades include:

- Rua Pinot Noir 2023: 96 points and Gold Medal, named one of the Top 50 wines at the New World Wine Awards 2025
- Mora Chardonnay 2023: Gold Medal at the National Wine Awards of Aotearoa New Zealand 2025
- Mora Brut NV: Gold Medal/95 points at the NZ International Wine Show 2025
- Mora Vintage Brut 2017: Double Gold at the Global Fine Wine Challenge 2025



Savouring Mora Wines

**Mora — Latin for "to pause or to linger" — is more than a name, it's a philosophy.**

At Mora Wines cellar door near Arrowtown guests are invited to slow down and savour the moment as the name suggests.

The winery is owned by the Skeggs family which has deep roots in Central Otago. The company operates across 90 hectares of estate vineyards located in the Bannockburn and Pisa subregions just 45 minutes from Queenstown.

"Our wines are sold predominantly direct through our cellar door, restaurant, wine club and website," says sales manager Catherine Douglas. "This limited distribution ensures a curated experience and a direct connection to the source."

She says the knowledgeable team at the cellar door bring that experience to life.

"Vicki Robinson and Walker Hamilton lead the way with a relaxed, engaging style that makes every tasting feel like a conversation amongst friends. Each 30-minute session features five estate-grown wines selected to suit the mood and preferences of the guests. No two tastings are ever the same as they tailor each one individually whether it's a couple celebrating, a group of friends exploring or someone new to wine."



Guests are invited to choose their own perfect setting to sample and enjoy Mora's wines.

"They can relax amongst the gardens under a sun umbrella, savour a tasting at the outdoor bar or unwind in cosy armchairs inside. Each space offers its own unique ambience enhancing the experience of our expressive wines," says Catherine.

She says the cellar door team adds so much more to a tasting with their storytelling and genuine passion for hospitality.

"They create a connection that lingers long after the final wine is poured, leaving guests not only with a sense of connection to the wine but to the place and the people."

The Mora Cellar Door is open seven days a week for guided tastings. Bookings are recommended.

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## Q&A

The Queenstown property market is very active with exponential growth throughout the area along with significant focus on changes in overseas investment rules. QT Magazine spoke to Sarah McBride and Sarena Glass about their take on what's happening in the sector.

### How are you finding the market currently?

This year has certainly been our busiest to date. We have been lucky to sell down some excellent development projects which has been new territory for us both. They include Park Ridge, Lakehouse Villas, The Crest Chalets and more recently the Maribel Apartments in Central Queenstown. Interest in these properties proves the first home buyer and investor market is still very active in the Queenstown area.

We are fortunate to have grown our team to include Jemima Tennekoon and Madeline Braun who bring unique skill sets to the table giving us a strong team to assist with our growing workload.

We have worked through a high turnover of sales this year while being able to retain our focus on premium lifestyle property and we are seeing steady enquiry levels across all listings, particularly for quality, well-presented properties in desirable locations. Buyers are certainly more considered in their decision-making but genuine growing interest is evident.

### What are the key changes to the overseas investment rules?

Overseas buyers will be able to purchase or build one residential property valued at \$5 million or more provided they apply and meet the investor visa conditions under the new streamlined process and invest a minimum of \$5 million into approved New Zealand schemes or funds.

### How do you see the impact of more foreign buyers locally?

First and foremost it will open up the pool of buyers for high-end listings. Since the new regulations were introduced we have seen sincere interest from overseas buyers with strong enquiry from the US and European markets.

### What do you enjoy most about working for Bayleys?

As a wider team Bayleys is an incredibly efficient work unit and committed to expanding the skills of their personnel. They recognise and celebrate success and a bonus is their solid network throughout New Zealand. The alliance with McGrath and Knight Frank internationally is also proving to be a significant part of our business moving forward.



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Birthplace of  
Central Otago Wine

By Penny Simpson



**Monte Christo Winery near Clyde traces its beginnings back to 1864 when its founder French pioneer Jean Désiré Féraud established the first vineyard in Central Otago.**

More than 150 years after the region's first wines were produced the legacy continues spearheaded by Stanely and Catherine Paris and their family.

"Some of the region's first grapevines and earliest wines were planted and produced here so every visit connects guests directly to the birthplace of Central Otago wine," says Monte Christo marketing manager Ryann Calder.

"Our wines reflect the diversity and character of Central Otago made from estate-grown fruit across three distinct subregions — Alexandra, Bannockburn and Pisa. We farm 22 hectares of vineyards under regenerative and organic practices with sustainability at the heart of our approach."

Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are Monte Christo's flagships alongside Rosé, Riesling and Pinot Gris. The winery is open every day for tastings and private tours.

"Our cellar door is housed in the original stone winery building that's been beautifully restored and brought back to life," says Ryann. "During wine tastings the team shares the history from the 1860s to the Paris family's revitalisation of the property and their stewardship of its next chapter today."

"Private tastings include a tour highlighting historic vines and key points of interest around the property. Guests can choose a flight of wines from the full portfolio and enjoy a seated tasting hosted by our knowledgeable team."

Outdoor casual dining at Monte Christo is available at Fritzzy the Food trailer.

"Fritzzy offers a seasonal menu designed to pair perfectly with our wines," says Ryann. "Guests can enjoy shareable small plates such as burrata or steak bavette, complete with wine pairing suggestions plus family-friendly options from charcuterie platters and pizzas to homemade ice cream, specialty coffee and beer on tap."

"The outdoor space is relaxed with a covered bar area, table seating, bean bags in the garden, children's play area and a pétanque court ideal for families and friends to spend the afternoon."

Walk-ins are welcome with bookings required for larger groups, private tastings in the Underground Cellar and the winery tours.

Peaceful Haven

**Monte Christo's luxury guest cottages provide a peaceful retreat for people wanting more of a taste of the winery.**

Marketing manager Ryann Calder says staying on the property is the perfect way to slow down, explore the region and enjoy all that Monte Christo has to offer.

"Our winery tours launching this summer offer a unique behind-the-scenes look at our sustainability-driven approach to winemaking. Guided by one of our team guests explore our production facility and learn about each step in the winemaking process from harvest to fermentation and barrel maturation before settling into the Underground Cellar for a private tasting."

"We're also excited to be expanding our guest experiences beyond Clyde with a new cellar door in Gibbston Valley — another opportunity for visitors to discover Monte Christo wines in one of Central Otago's most scenic subregions."



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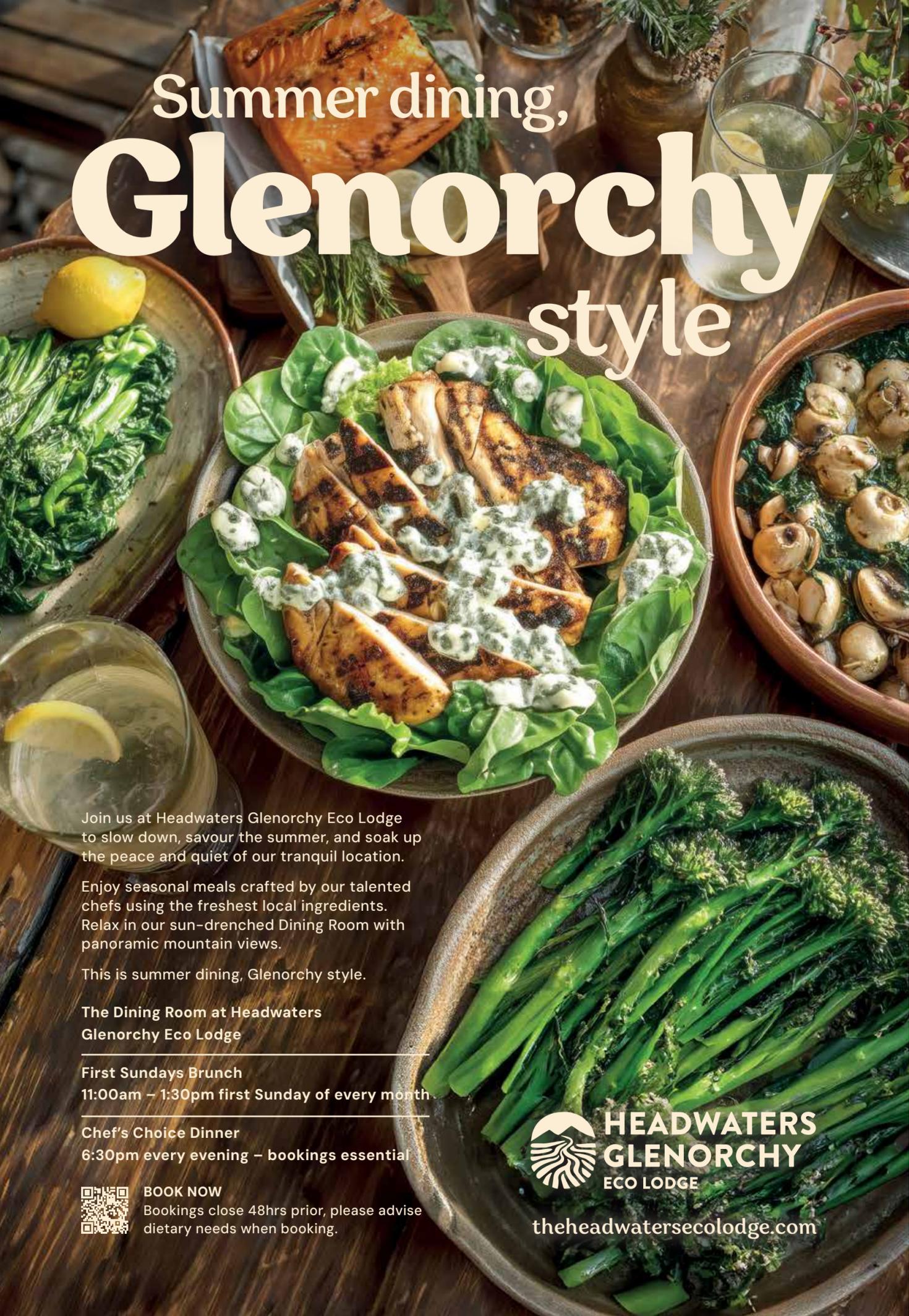
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## Food Talk

with Jo Keppel



Central Otago summer is here and that means long nights, festive dining connecting with loved ones over the table and the long awaited BBQ season.

This beautiful Summertime Berry Tiramisu is a delicious showstopper for the Christmas table or to make in advance to take out of the freezer when last minute guests arrive. The dessert only takes a few hours to defrost from frozen. Be patient when making this as the custard will take around 10-15 minutes to thicken – just boil the water gently for a perfect result.

This combination of delicate apple scented custard with tart berries and lemon zest is divine and is always a crowd pleaser.

The summer season will keep me busy in the kitchen preparing private dinners, degustations, beautiful events and intimate weddings. For effortless entertaining and divine food be sure to get in touch and let me do the hard work for you.

Have a blessed and happy festive season.

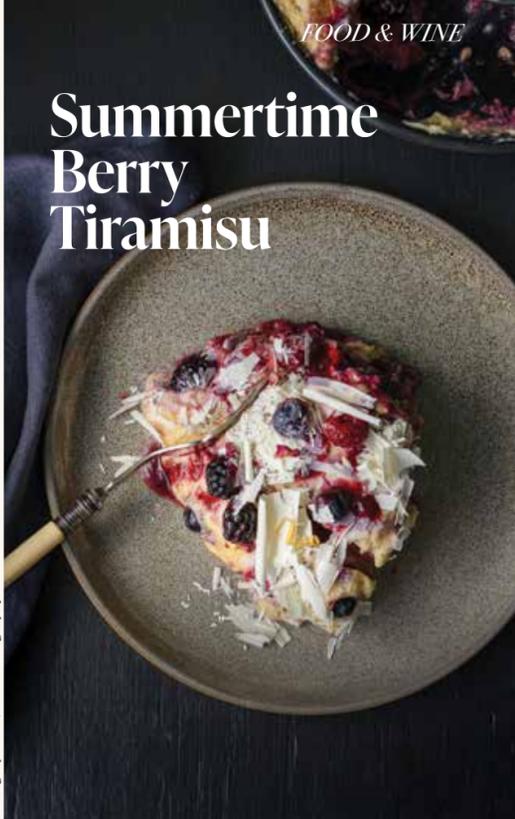
### INGREDIENTS

- 1/4 c caster sugar
- 5 eggs - separated
- 200ml red apple juice
- 100g crumbled white chocolate
- Zest 1 lemon
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 250g mascarpone
- 1 packet savoiardi biscuits
- 500g frozen mixed berries
- 1 Tbsn extra caster sugar
- 100g extra white chocolate to garnish
- 1 Tbsn Chambord – black raspberry liqueur (optional)

### METHOD

1. Place the sugar, lemon zest and egg yolks in a glass bowl and whisk to combine. Place over a double boiler and bring the water to the boil while constantly whisking the sugar and egg mix. Slowly add the apple juice and continue to whisk continuously until thickened, approximately 15 minutes. Add 100g crumbled white chocolate and whisk to melt. Remove from heat. Finally whisk in the mascarpone and vanilla very gently until combined. Cool 5 minutes
2. In a small pot take 150g berries, 1 tablespoon caster sugar and 2 tablespoons water. Bring to the boil, simmer 3 minutes and whizz to make a sauce. Pass through a sieve, set aside and stir in Chambord
3. Whisk egg white with a pinch of salt to soft peaks, fold into white chocolate custard gently
4. Layer dish with a layer of the biscuits, splatter with 2 tablespoons berry sauce. Cover with one-third of the custard onto mixture and sprinkle over the berries. Drizzle 1 tablespoon berry sauce over top
5. Pour over another third of the custard mixture and cover with another layer of the biscuits, splatter with 1 tablespoon berry sauce. Pour over the remaining custard mixture
6. Top with extra shaved white chocolate, splatter over remaining berry sauce
7. Chill 24 hours prior to serving

## Summertime Berry Tiramisu

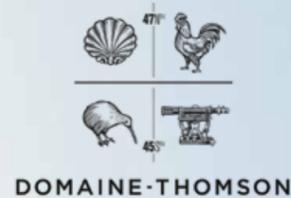


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## One Vision, Two Hemispheres

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## French Champagne Marks Winery's Milestone

By Jenny McLeod

Domaine Thomson winery has made its presence felt as a leading Central Otago wine producer during the past 25 years and is celebrating the landmark occasion with the launch of an exclusive French champagne.

"We bought the vines in the Aube region of France in 2022, grown by the same family for generations, with the purpose of having our own label champagne," says owner P M Hall-Jones. "The Aube is a less well known area in Champagne but is becoming better known for interesting small family owned houses producing what is often called 'grower Champagne'. While it has taken some time to get the necessary approvals we are delighted to have the go ahead to label our vintage as a champagne."

P M and her late husband David Hall-Jones shared a vision to create a two-hemisphere wine business which they achieved with their organic Lowburn vineyard in Central Otago and vineyards in Burgundy, both areas producing distinctive wines reflecting the southern and northern hemispheres' terroirs.

The champagne has been named J. T. Thomson after John Turnbull Thomson who was David's great-great-grandfather and the inspiration for the Domaine Thomson brand.

"Thomson was an early surveyor and surveyed and named many of the ranges and peaks in the region," she says. "He was also a prolific artist and many of his maps, sketches and paintings are featured in our cellar door."

The exterior of the cellar door is a charming, rustic building modelled on an original pioneer's cottage and the interiors make reference to Domaine Thomson's French connections, exuding warmth and authenticity. Well established on its natural platform above the vineyard it has panoramic views across Cromwell Basin to Lake Dunstan.

"It is a stunning place to sit and relax either outside in the idyllic garden or in the elegant interior and sample our Central Otago and French wines. Our signature wines from both sites are available for tasting and we have recently added our Aspiring label which is a Blanc de Noir made from specially picked Pinot Noir grapes," says P M. "This is attracting significant interest and we also expect a good following for our champagne which is an exciting mix of Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes and available at the cellar door in early 2026."



### Cellar Door Calls

Domaine Thomson's cellar door in Lowburn is close to Wānaka and Cromwell accessed from State Highway 6 and an easy one-hour drive from Queenstown.

**"It is so accessible and we encourage local residents and visitors to make the time this summer to visit our vineyard and cellar door," says owner P M Hall-Jones. "The outstanding views of our vineyard backdropped by spectacular mountain ranges invite visitors to linger over a glass of wine while sampling our platters of French cheeses."**

"Whatever wines people are drawn to every glass has a story reflecting its heritage, terroir and craftsmanship. They embody everything Domaine Thomson stands for and our cellar door is more than just a stopover — it is a place to unwind, reconnect and discover the Central Otago region's timeless beauty."



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# Team Justine & Ben



## Elite Property Performers

By Margo Berryman

*Being part of Queenstown's most prominent luxury real estate brand is a source of genuine satisfaction for sales associates Justine Burke and Ben Terry of Queenstown's Sotheby's International Realty (NZSIR).*

"This affiliation allows us to showcase some of the region's most exceptional properties and align ourselves with a brand that embodies integrity, professionalism and authentic connection," says Justine. "Our goal is always to deliver an elevated level of service while highlighting the unique lifestyle that makes Queenstown and its surrounds so special."

Since joining NZSIR Justine and Ben have been recognised nationally as platinum and high achievers in 2025 and previously as national high achievers in 2024. In the Southern Lakes they have consistently ranked at the top of their game and were named overall elite performers by NZSIR in 2024.

Justine says their Queenstown client base is diverse and includes local individuals and families as well as overseas people.

"Many are relocating to Central Otago for a lifestyle change or seeking a second home while others are investors or property buyers drawn to this premium market. Thanks to our deep local knowledge and extensive network we are equipped to connect with buyers from all locations and guide them smoothly through every step of the process."

She says delivering exceptional property results requires outstanding service and a commitment to going the extra mile.

"We adopt a highly personalised approach to understand clients' lifestyles and aspirations while guiding them with genuine care. Our focus is on creating a seamless experience that leads to finding the right property and the perfect fit."

NZSIR was founded by long-term Queenstown residents Mark Harris and Julian Brown and is recognised as a high achiever in the global brand's Asia-Pacific territory. It has dominated the luxury real estate market in Queenstown for 20 years and the Southern Lakes continues to be a pivotal focus for the brand.



Justine Burke & Ben Terry

Justine says choosing to work with NZSIR offers vendors plenty of advantages.

"Working with myself, Ben and our team offers the benefit of our extensive local market expertise and the global reach of Sotheby's. We possess an in-depth understanding of the Central Otago market and know how to position each property to attract the right buyers. Working together we offer double the insight, attention and strategic approach ensuring every opportunity is maximised."

"Last year we sold over 60 properties and this year we are averaging around one sale per week, underscoring our consistent ability to deliver outstanding results. Our recognition as national and Southern Lakes platinum achievers provides additional reassurance to vendors that they can trust us to achieve the best possible outcome from listing to settlement."

### Key properties this summer



182B Felton Road Bannockburn Central Otago

This outstanding 3.48 hectare lifestyle property blends contemporary design with spectacular views over the Kawarau River terraces. The residence includes three bedrooms, open plan living with seamless indoor-outdoor flow, polished concrete floors and a master suite with an outstanding outlook. Additional features include mature vines, private river access and a versatile cellar door building providing both lifestyle and investment potential.



335A Luggate-Cromwell Road Lowburn Central Otago

An architecturally designed residence offering expansive views over Lake Dunstan and the striking Central Otago landscape. Approximately 267 square metres the home features six generously sized bedrooms, three bathrooms and multiple open-plan living areas crafted for modern living. The property encompasses just over a hectare of landscaped grounds with feature stone retaining walls providing both privacy and scale.

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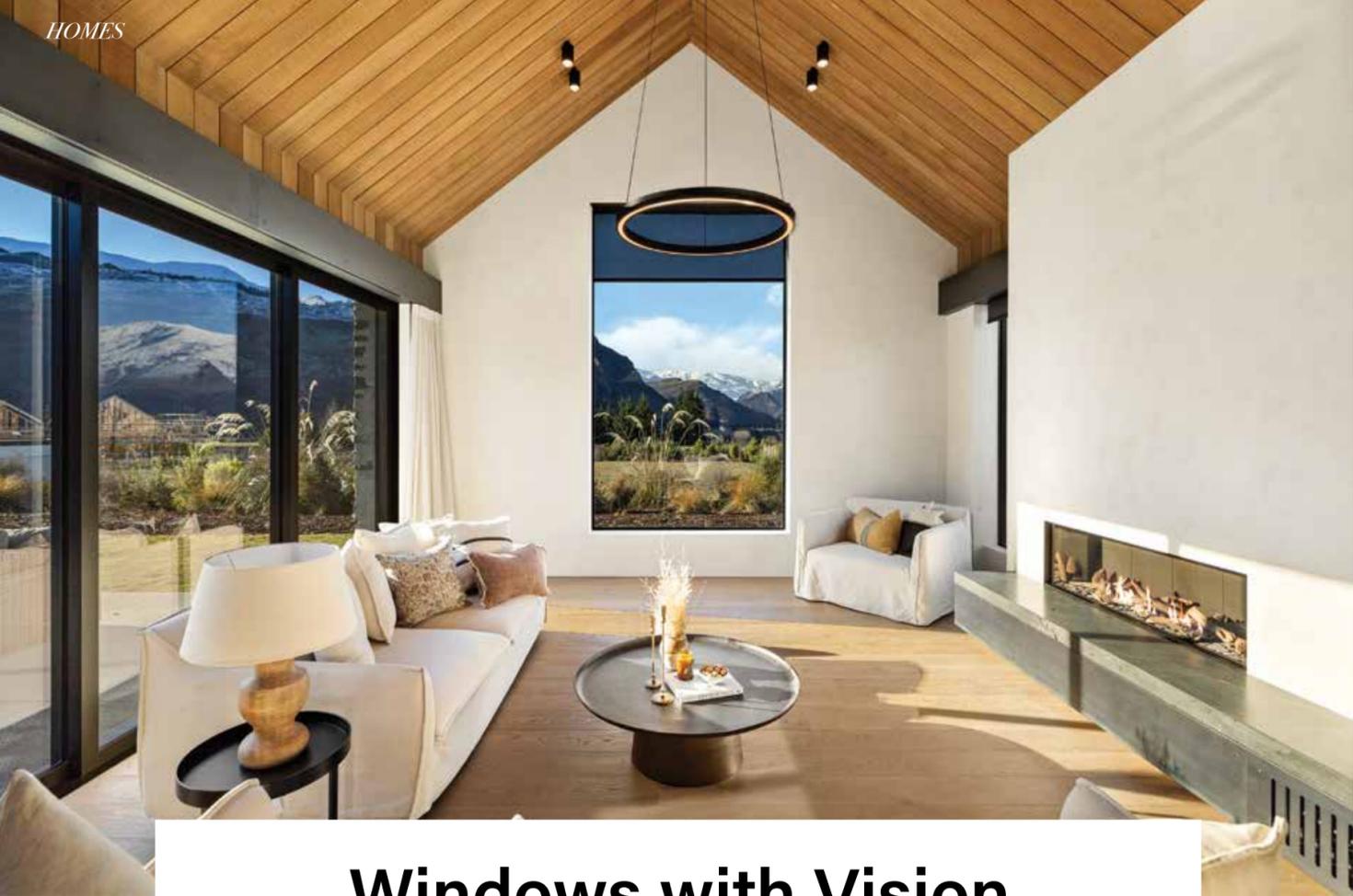
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# Windows with Vision

## Lahood's Commercial Expertise in the Southern Lakes

Windows are more than architectural features - they shape how a building connects with its surroundings. In Queenstown and across the Southern Lakes region, where views are part of the lifestyle, choosing the right window furnishings can transform how spaces are experienced. That's where Lahood® Window Furnishings steps in.

Best known as Auckland's leading retailer of custom curtains and blinds, Lahood also operates a nationwide commercial division that has been steadily expanding its footprint in Queenstown. Over the past decade, Lahood has become a trusted partner to architects, interior designers, builders, and property developers working on some of the region's most prestigious projects.

More than just a supplier of blinds and curtains, Lahood brings decades of expertise to a diverse portfolio of high-end commercial and residential projects. The team's commitment to tailored solutions is evident across luxury homes, apartments, retail environments, boutique hospitality venues, aged-care residences, and educational spaces—each benefitting from Lahood's signature blend of aesthetic refinement and technical excellence.

### An End-to-End Partnership

At the heart of Lahood's commercial division is a truly collaborative approach. Every project begins with a thorough on-site consultation, where Lahood's experts work alongside architects, designers, and builders to align on vision and practical requirements. Following detailed measurement and specification, the process continues seamlessly through proposals, costings, and liaison with construction teams, culminating in professional installation and attentive aftercare.

This holistic service allows every window furnishing - be it an elegant sheer, a robust exterior shade, or an advanced automated system - to feel purposefully integrated, elevating both the functionality and atmosphere of a space.



### The Value of Early Planning

A defining principle of Lahood's approach is timing. Window furnishings are often left until the end of a project, but making these decisions too late can restrict options or compromise the design.

"Considering window coverings at the beginning of the design phase allows for seamless integration of popular solutions like motorised and automated curtains and blinds with flush or recessed finishes," explains Clayton Sceats, Commercial Director at Lahood. "These choices require specific wiring and cavity considerations that are best addressed during the early planning stages."

By collaborating with design professionals from the outset, Lahood ensures that window treatments enhance the architectural vision rather than becoming an afterthought.



### Beyond Residential

In the commercial sphere, Lahood continues to innovate. Motorised roller blinds remain a go-to for exterior-facing windows, offering sun protection, privacy, and energy savings. But curtains are also making a comeback in office interiors, prized not just for their aesthetic qualities but also for their acoustic performance. They absorb sound, soften hard surfaces, and provide stylish, versatile ways to divide open-plan spaces - qualities increasingly valued in contemporary workplaces.

### Why work with Lahood?

Lahood understands that window furnishings are not mere finishing touches, but integral to the lived experience of a building. Every detail is considered - light, privacy, automation, and tactile comfort—enabling design professionals to achieve spaces of genuine distinction and comfort.

For those undertaking high-end projects in Queenstown and the wider Southern Lakes District, Lahood Window Furnishings offers an unmatched combination of technical know-how, design understanding, and truly comprehensive service.



### Intelligent, Automated Living

Automation is now a standard expectation in high-end projects. Lahood offers advanced motorisation and automation systems that integrate seamlessly into smart homes and building management systems. Curtains and blinds can be programmed to respond to light levels, time of day, or temperature—improving comfort, energy efficiency, and ambience while delivering the effortless luxury today's clients demand.



To discover more or collaborate on your next project visit [lahood.co.nz/commercial](http://lahood.co.nz/commercial) or call 0800 444 331

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## à la française

By Margo Berryman

*Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa epitomises refined hospitality flawlessly blending exquisite food and wine within its elegant interior.*

The hotel's style hallmark is evident in Le Salon Rouge and Le Petit Salon, the inhouse bar and restaurant inspired by original clandestine European salons featuring rich reds, velvet decor and soft candle lighting.

"Le Salon Rouge's intimate bar atmosphere is ideal for couples and small groups to savour French champagne, fine spirits, New Zealand wines and premium cocktails with a delightful array of share plates, charcuterie and cheese boards," says Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa GM Jeremy Samuels.

A distinctive and immersive supper club experience the bar's sophisticated cocktail menu boasts eight signature drinks, each with its own special back story.

"The Prospector's Dream cocktail was designed by our bar team to signify Queenstown's gold rush days featuring real gold filaments in the glass, Manuka honey, Cardrona barrel aged gin,

Grand Marnier and Pommery champagne," he says. "It's a show stopper with the champagne poured into the glass at the table creating a fun animated moment for guests."

An entire shelf is devoted to Queenstown distilled gins complemented by a selection of renowned international spirits. The bespoke menu incorporates ten boutique gins, botanicals and premium mixers empowering guests to mix and match according to their preferences.

"Each gin is accompanied by tasting notes and our expert mixologists are available to guide guests on their tasting adventure," says Jeremy. "It's an interactive experience that gin connoisseurs love."



WHERE  
appetites *alight*

This spring and summer, indulge in the rich flavours of Central Otago at Le Petit Salon - where New Zealand's finest produce is served with timeless elegance in the heart of Queenstown

FOOD & WINE



## Sophisticated & Memorable

*Le Petit Salon seats up to 16 diners and features a menu of dishes celebrating the hotel's French heritage.*

Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa GM Jeremy Samuels says executive chef Lindsay Bennett is committed to sourcing locally crafted ingredients and presenting each creation with a touch of French zest.

"It is an elegant dining experience with each handcrafted dish beautifully presented at the table with some interactive stories behind the food making it a special way to dine."

Le Salon Rouge and Le Petit Salon has achieved all that Jeremy envisioned to create lasting memories for guests.

"Our goal is to provide Queenstown with a sophisticated and memorable destination that honours both our French roots and the spirit of elegant hospitality. Summer is the perfect time to experience all we have to offer and we look forward to welcoming guests during the season."





# Flavours on Fire

By Tom Kalliber

The culinary philosophy at Steamer Wharf restaurant Sunfire is one of flavours on fire incorporating the elements of charcoal, flame and high-quality ingredients.

Owners Jonathan Bisley and Lou McDowell have designed their menu so every dish is centred on a connection to cooking with fire, expanding on the legacy of their other high-profile Queenstown restaurant Flame Bar & Grill.



Lou McDowell & Jonathan Bisley

"The kitchen takes inspiration from around the globe resulting in food that is vibrant and designed to be shared and celebrated," says Jonathan. "Much like at Flame everything is made in-house including the butchery producing apple wood smoked bacon, sausages and aged steaks while our culinary team crafts sauces, stocks and jus overnight all with an intense focus on quality."



Sunfire opened in mid-2024 with a goal to introduce a new restaurant that carried over the same warm hospitality from Flame with a fresh, modern twist.

*"We wanted to create a unique destination here on the waterfront that feels relaxed during the day and electric in the evenings, where both the food and the fire become the main attractions," says Jonathan.*

Seasonal and local produce is the starting point for the Sunfire menu including Central Otago lamb, Southland beef and South Island seafood ensuring every dish reinforces the quality and distinct character of New Zealand ingredients.

"Instead of overcomplicating the food the kitchen chooses to highlight natural flavours through smoking, charring, and grilling over charcoal," says Jonathan. "This method draws out the depth and sweetness in vegetables, tenderness in meats and adds a touch of theatre to each plate while letting the ingredients speak for themselves."

Steamer Wharf and its vibrant energy provides the perfect backdrop for Sunfire.

"This is a restaurant crafted for every moment of the day from lakeside breakfasts and leisurely lunches to lively dinners. Our team is proud to be part of the Steamer Wharf community and contributing a fresh dimension to Queenstown's dining scene."



## Lakeside Breakfast

One of the few Steamer Wharf restaurants open for breakfast Sunfire's menu is designed to kick start the day.

"Our guests can enjoy vibrant, nourishing plates that incorporate the warmth of the grill such as fire-roasted shakshuka with smoked paprika and feta, charred sourdough with blistered tomatoes and whipped avocado, a hearty breakfast skillet or a light, health-focused fitness toast," says owner Jonathan Bisley.

"Our full blast coffee is robust and flavourful and a great way to begin the day while enjoying the incredible lakeside view that feels special every morning."

Open every day for breakfast 08.30-11.45am, lunch 12.00 -5.00pm and dinner 5.00pm - 10.00pm (last orders).




**Welcome to Sunfire**

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Dinner 17:00 - 22:00 (last orders)  
Breakfast is walk-in only.

[sunfire.co.nz](http://sunfire.co.nz)



# BATHE

## Introducing Bathe *hot pools*....



### Bathe by Aluume Brings a New Kind of Wellness to Queenstown

Queenstown is turning up the heat with the arrival of Bathe by Aluume – the town’s first central hot pools experience redefining relaxation in the adventure capital. Opening in November 2025, Bathe introduces a design-led take on the ancient ritual of soaking, blending architectural calm with mountain-view serenity.



#### MEET BATHE

Located on Brecon Street, in the heart of Queenstown’s bustling precinct, Bathe features six sculptural pools – one communal, two tree-canopy view, and three mountain-view – each designed to deliver a tranquil escape framed by the surrounding alpine landscape.

“Bathe by Aluume offers an elevated experience that’s both luxurious and accessible,” says founder Tim McMahon. “It’s a space where you can pause, breathe, and connect – whether that’s with yourself, nature, or others. We wanted to make wellness something that feels indulgent yet welcoming to everyone.”

#### SOAK, SIP, & SLOW DOWN

Whether after skiing, work, or a weekend stroll, Bathe invites guests to pause. Choose a private pool for two or a communal soak for ten – each designed for comfort, connection, and calm. Light snacks and non-alcoholic drinks enhance the unhurried rhythm. “It’s about giving people permission to slow down, even just for an hour,” says McMahon.

Despite its refined design, Bathe remains intentionally inclusive, with communal sessions from \$55 and private soaks from \$95. Locals will also enjoy complimentary sessions during launch week – a gesture that reflects Aluume’s deep ties to Queenstown’s community spirit.



#### A NEW ERA OF WELLES

The launch of Bathe by Aluume marks the beginning of a broader wellness movement for Aluume Wellness – a brand devoted to design-forward, nature-connected experiences. Stage Two, adding five additional private pools, is already underway and scheduled to open in winter 2026, with future stages to follow.

Meanwhile, Thermae by Aluume – New Zealand’s first floating sauna – will debut on Lake Wakatipu in early 2026, creating a seamless circuit that connects the grounding warmth of soaking on land with the meditative calm of floating on water.

“Queenstown has long been known for exhilaration,” McMahon reflects. “Now it’s also a place for rejuvenation. Bathe by Aluume is about finding balance – a destination that invites you to slow down, warm up, and reconnect with what really matters.”

#### DESIGNING CALM

Every curve of Bathe has been shaped to harmonise with its hillside setting. The pools – custom-made in Tauranga and craned into place – combine smooth concrete, refined waterline tiles, and a soft plaster finish that mirrors the region’s earthy tones. The design moves away from the typical cedar or stainless-steel look, embracing natural textures and stillness. The communal pool, 1.8 metres deep, welcomes small gatherings, while private pools invite quiet contemplation and alpine air.

#### OPENING DETAILS

Bathe by Aluume - Opening Early Nov 2025  
Thermae by Aluume - Opening 2026

Book Now - [Aluume.com](https://aluume.com)

[@alumewellness](https://www.instagram.com/aluumewellness)

# ALUUME

## Lunch at Olivers

The summer menu at Olivers is designed to appeal to visitors pausing for a relaxing brunch or lunch in Clyde.

"Designing any seasonal menu we always look at what is available locally and focus on trying to make these elements the heroes on the plate," says owner and managing director David Ritchie. "Showcasing great local produce is critical in defining our place within a broader region and providing visitors with a memorable experience."

The lunch menu features a range of prominent regional ingredients and all bread products in both the café cabinet and on the blackboard lunch menu are made in-house by Olivers' dedicated baker.



**"Chutneys, jams and relishes are made onsite using fruit sourced locally — much of it coming from our own small orchard," says David. "These preserves not only feature in the restaurant but are also packaged for purchase at the Merchant of Clyde Café and Deli."**

Olivers' commitment to house-made ingredients is reflected in their use of beer brewed onsite to create Pale Ale caramelised onions for their popular chicken breast sandwich. The excess spent grain from the brewing process is incorporated into their sourdough bread recipe.

"For people pressed for time we have a great selection of fresh house-made food to go in our cabinet ranging from fresh salad wraps, roast beef rolls, classic Kiwi pies, sweet slices and biscuits to a selection of scones, muffins and croissants which are made in-house early everyday," says head chef James Waite.

The brunch menu is available every day from 8.30am until 2.00pm. No bookings are necessary with plenty of indoor and outdoor seating.



## Provisions – Three Years On

Provisions in Arrowtown recently celebrated its third anniversary under the ownership of Matthias Schmitt and Monika Ederer, a period which has seen the café and restaurant evolve to reflect their personalities while maintaining its heritage, charm and friendly atmosphere.

"A highlight has been Monika's new range of sticky buns and now alongside our much-loved classic version with currants, almond and apricots we have new flavours like apple crumble with cinnamon and vanilla custard, raspberry and white chocolate and dark chocolate with peanut," says Matthias.

The focus at Provisions is on fresh, seasonal food that is both comforting and inventive served in an inviting environment — whether guests are calling in for a quick coffee or enjoying a leisurely brunch in the garden.



**"A popular dish is our buttermilk waffles with bacon, banana, miso, caramel and sesame — a classic with a twist it has been a big hit. It's that perfect mix of sweet and savoury and just right for a relaxed summer brunch."**



## Seafood Supreme

Finz Seafood Bar & Grill on Queenstown's vibrant Steamer Wharf is dedicated to providing a seamless dining experience.

The restaurant features striking interiors, plush furnishings with a contemporary indoor and outdoor bar creating an inviting and sophisticated atmosphere.

"It is a relaxing setting ideal for leisurely lunches, drinks and snacks at the bar or late night dining," says co-owner Marty James.



The best of South Island seafood including famous New Zealand oysters, whole crayfish and tempura soft shell crab, steamed mussel dumplings and the restaurant's signature seafood chowder are included on the diverse menu.



"Premium free-range and grass-fed meats sourced from local suppliers including NZ Wagyu Beef Cheek, Kawakawa Rubbed Lamb Rump and Hand Picked Beef Striploin are all richly satisfying choices," says Marty. "Families especially appreciate the Finz Famous crispy beer battered fish and chips, a perennial favourite."

"Our indoor-outdoor bar, positioned within Steamer Wharf, captures the energy of the precinct's lively atmosphere making it a perfect location for cocktails, drinks, and some delicious plates. There's nothing better than relaxing with an Aperol in hand teamed up with our seafood platter or fresh sashimi plate for good summer times."



## Cocktails on the Wharf

Public Italian Kitchen brings together modern-day Italian inspired cuisine, classic cocktails, Central Otago wines and craft beers in a stunning waterfront setting.

In its unrivalled Steamer Wharf location the restaurant's outdoor deck area has one of the best views in Queenstown for lunch, drinks, snacks or evening dining beside Lake Whakatipu.

"It's picture perfect sitting under the umbrellas taking in the alpine scenery," says restaurant manager Megan Haynes. "Every day our \$12 happy hour from 3.00pm until 5.00pm offers popular options like Espresso Martini, Aperol Spritz, Peach Bellini, and Moscow Mule."



**"The Antipasti menu features delicious small plates including burrata, prawn cutlets, crudo and fresh oysters which are ideal to savour with an afternoon or early evening drink."**

## From Garden to Plate

The Headwaters Glenorchy Eco Lodge's sustainability credentials are widely recognised from its world-class accommodation which is an international showcase of regenerative design to its outstanding garden-to-table cuisine.

Executive chef DJ and his team are culinary experts providing delicious buffet brunches on the first Sunday of each month with three sittings available. Menu highlights are home-smoked salmon, eggs benedict, bacon, sausages and pancakes alongside freshly picked salads and vegetables from the lodge's extensive garden and greenhouse.

The monthly hero dish is worth the trip alone to the head of the lake and includes anything from crispy pork belly, apple sauce and confit fennel, crispy fried oyster mushrooms with braised cabbage and apricot to lamb rump with herb couscous salad and mint jus.

The lodge's Trust The Chef evening menu offers a range of ever-changing dishes.

"We have the absolute freedom to deliver seasonal garden-to-plate dishes where the ingredients speak for themselves," says DJ. "Fresh is best and our ingredients couldn't come any fresher."

Bookings essential: [theheadwatersecolodge.com](http://theheadwatersecolodge.com)



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# Tastes Like Summer

Frozen yoghurt, bubble tea, smoothies, fresh-pressed juice, iced coffee, locally-brewed beer or a cheeky cocktail in the sun.

Enjoy the taste of summer at Queenstown Central Shopping Centre.

## Queenstown Central

Open 7 days. Free 3-hour parking.  
19 Grant Road Frankton.

[queenstowncentral.co.nz](http://queenstowncentral.co.nz)

📍 @queenstowncentral

Photography: Sam Stewart.

## Summer Served Cold

Tasty drinks and delicious treats on the menu at Queenstown Central Shopping Centre.

### Drop'd – New Frozen Yoghurt Bar

Step into Drop'd – a nostalgic self-serve frozen yoghurt bar where you can dive into a world of flavours. Swirl and stack your way to the perfect bowl. Inspired by that childhood moment when your soft-serve “dropped” into a playful mess, chef Sean Connolly has reinvented the experience for kids (and big kids) to enjoy all over again.

This isn't just dessert, it's an experience waiting to be enjoyed. Drop'd – now open at Pavilion Bar & Kitchens.



### Wu Cha Bubble Tea

From iconic milky-teas to bright and flavoursome fruit blends, bubble tea is a drink trend that is here to stay. Whether you're going classic with brown sugar or bursting with popping boba, work your way through the exciting menu, one taste sensation at a time! Discover Wu Cha Bubble Tea, located on Central Street.



### Organic Juices and Smoothies

Love a fresh pressed juice or real fruit smoothie? Head to Soul Food Organic and Hustl Café in The Market for a glass of delicious fruity goodness.



### Iced Coffee and Matcha

Warmer temperatures call for caffeine on ice. From a traditional Iced Coffee to the popular Strawberry Matcha, you'll find your favourite brew at Hustl Café, Tingo Café, The Coffee Club and Social Clothing.

*Pictured top to bottom: Soul Food Organic, The Coffee Club.*



### Happy Hour

Dining with friends or family at Queenstown Central? Enjoy a cocktail, beer or wine with your meal at Bronze Elephant, Hikari Teppanyaki, Love Chicken, Noodle House and Pavilion Bar & Kitchens on Central Street, or The Meat Preachers and Hustl Café in The Market.

*Pictured left to right: Pavilion Bar and Kitchens, Hustl Café.*

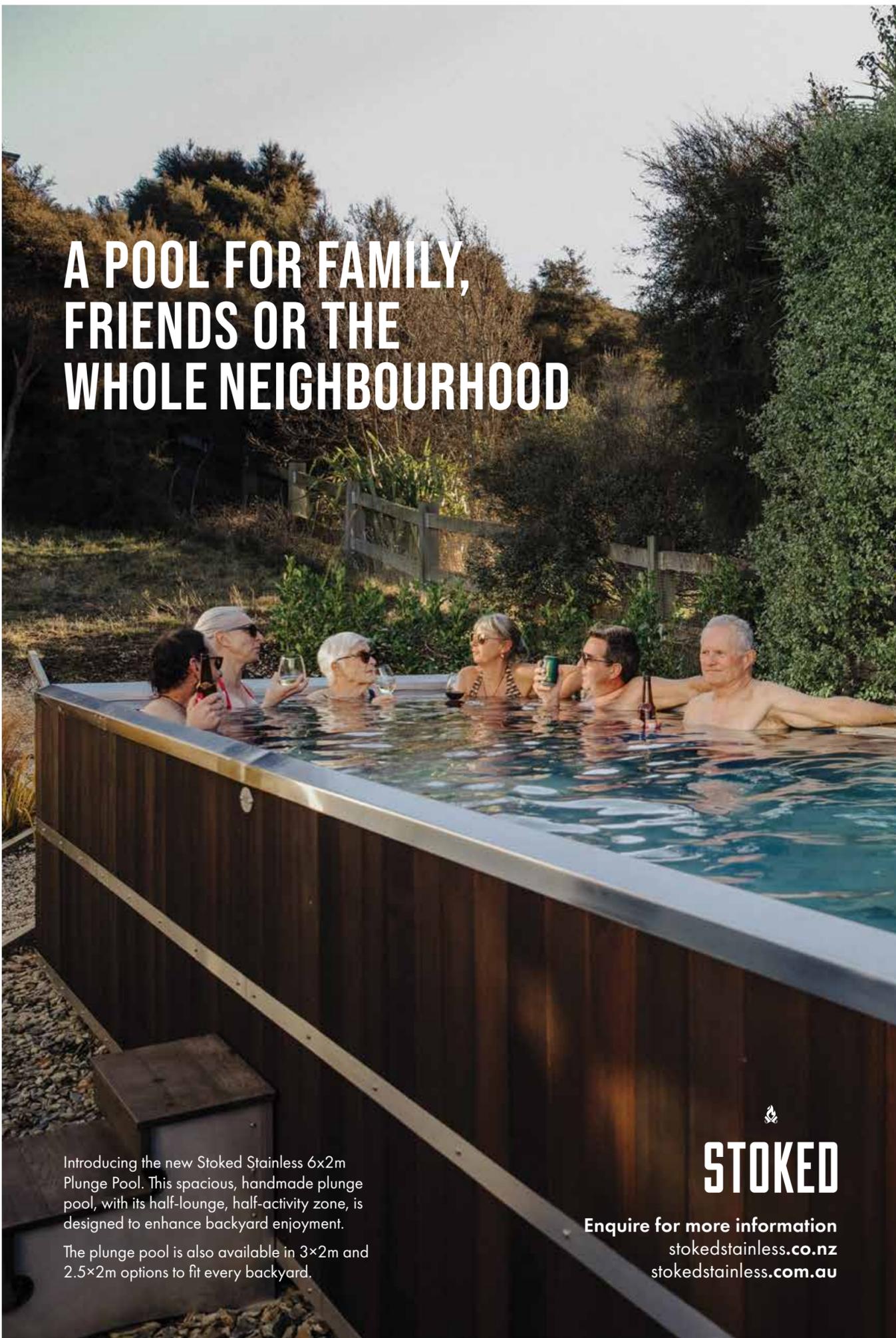


## Queenstown Central

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Introducing the new Stoked Stainless 6x2m Plunge Pool. This spacious, handmade plunge pool, with its half-lounge, half-activity zone, is designed to enhance backyard enjoyment.

The plunge pool is also available in 3x2m and 2.5x2m options to fit every backyard.

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## Drawcard Artistic Destination

By Jane Brooke

**An ever-changing selection of New Zealand artists and jewellers at Wānaka's Gallery Thirty Three makes it a drawcard destination.**

Director Vanessa George says the gallery's dynamic and ever-evolving new Summer Series exhibition will be a major attraction in December and January.

"This exhibition is well known for its depth and variety featuring new works by 20 artists including Bing Dawe, Simon Kaan, Sierra Roberts, Stephen Howard, Tessa Barringer, Neil Driver, Deborah Moss and Mark Rayner to name but a few."

Alongside the Summer Series is an exclusive collection of new handmade jewellery by leading New Zealand jewellers who include Ann Culy, Rainer Beneke, Barry Clarke, John Z. Robinson and Penelope Barnhill.

"There are many more jewellers exhibiting and their pieces are all bespoke, unique and of exceptional quality," says Vanessa. "The gallery cabinets are full of delightful creations for that extra special gift."

In February Gallery 33 launches its 2026 programme with much anticipated exhibitions by artists Sierra Roberts, Jane Shriffer and Luke Jacomb opening on Waitangi weekend (February 5).

"This exhibition will be simply stunning, with beautiful colour drenching the gallery across multiple mediums and genres."



Luke Jacomb is well established on the international art scene specialising in quality, handmade cast and blown glass artworks. He continues to push the boundaries of his medium both in regard to colour and form with works housed in a number of notable private

*Asterope - Luke Jacomb*



Wānaka artist Sierra Roberts' paintings are instantly recognisable. She combines her love of Aotearoa, its mountains and fauna and flora with a desire to explore perceptions of beauty and femininity and has gained notoriety nationally and internationally.

*Kererū, Kererū - Sierra Roberts*



*Proof is in the Pud - Jane Shriffer*

Jane Shriffer is an abstract artist living and working in Wānaka. She paints intrinsically with a flowing of intuition, response and presence culminating in a canvas of layers of colour and texture. Her use of brush and singular palette knife clearly is visible and deliciously tactile.

An exhibition by Cristina Popovici known for her energetic and expressive canvases that display bold and dramatic gestural marks will feature at Gallery 33 in March 2026.

"Quick brushwork is combined with slow, deliberate pours with vibrant, rhythmic and sensory results," says Vanessa. "With a foundation in classical Fine Arts Cristina finds freedom in abstract expressionism and has been a featured artist in exhibitions throughout New Zealand and Australia for over 30 years. Her works are celebrated in both public and private collections for their visceral power and freedom."

gallery thirty three

Gallery Thirty Three  
 33 Helwick Street Wānaka.  
 Open every day except Christmas Day  
 For all enquiries [info@gallery33.co.nz](mailto:info@gallery33.co.nz)  
 or visit [gallery33.co.nz](http://gallery33.co.nz)

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**The Gut Clinic Queenstown**

At The Gut Clinic Queenstown owner **Juliet Selbie** emphasises the importance of providing personalised health treatments for a well-balanced gut in a private, safe, and supportive environment.

“Colon Hydrotherapy at our clinic involves the gentle infusion of gravity-fed, temperature-regulated, purified water to activate and eliminate accumulated waste within the colon.”

“This process is overseen by internationally certified staff, trained by the International Association of Colon Hydrotherapy (I-Act) and utilises licensed LIBBIE Open System equipment to ensure safety and efficiency.”

The clinic’s approach is centred on holistic care and evidence-based therapies designed to support overall wellbeing.

“We are guided by the wisdom of Hippocrates who stated ‘all disease begins in the gut,’” says Juliet. “The benefits of Colon Hydrotherapy include reducing bloating, gas, and pain and the elimination of parasites and toxins.

Improved skin health, increased immune function, reduced food intolerances and improved energy and overall vitality are some of the results people experience.”



Juliet Selbie

The Gut Clinic offers Discovery™ Infrared Sauna sessions that can be booked separately to other treatments.

“This treatment is thoughtfully designed without glues, lacquers or harsh chemicals. The sauna delivers deep, radiant heat that penetrates beneath the surface, easing tension, supporting detoxification and restoring a natural glow from within,” she says. “Unlike traditional saunas infrared heat warms the body directly at a cellular level stimulating natural detoxification, improving circulation and reducing inflammation — all of which are beneficial for digestive health.”

To make a booking  
[www.thegutclinicqueenstown.co.nz](http://www.thegutclinicqueenstown.co.nz)



**Hector Salles Massage**

Queenstown based massage therapist **Hector Salles** offers a holistic approach to bodywork.

He has a deep understanding of the body as an interconnected system recognising that tension in one area often reflects broader patterns throughout the body.

“My business specialises in Myofascial Release Therapy, a technique aimed at restoring balance, alleviating pain and improving movement. I use a variety of methods to stretch and loosen the fascia, helping to restore a full range of movement and support long-term structural change.”

Hector’s treatments are tailored to the special needs of each client including athletes and individuals recovering from chronic tension or injury.

“Fascia plays a crucial role in supporting the musculoskeletal system enabling functional movements such as sitting, standing, walking, jumping and running. When dysfunction occurs the body adapts to maintain balance and minimise pain.”



Hector Salles

Myofascial release is essential in encouraging the fascia to lengthen and move more freely. This process helps restore

the fascia’s ability to support optimal movement and resilience.

Hector is dedicated to providing a safe and comfortable environment for clients and each session is designed to address specific concerns allowing them to let go of tension and reconnect with their bodies.

“Offering a calm and attentive presence and evidence informed methods have helped many clients rediscover ease, resilience and optimal function in their daily lives.”

In addition to his private practice Hector is senior massage therapist and a hiking guide at AroHa Wellness Retreat in Glenorchy.

For more information  
[www.hectorsalles.com](http://www.hectorsalles.com)



**Optimal Health Chiropractic**

Optimal Health Chiropractic founded and owned by **Maureen Stachowicz** is committed to guiding people on their journey to better health.

Maureen’s vision is rooted in a strong belief that true health originates from within.

“I want people to know that health comes from inside. It’s in all of us and expresses itself every single second.”

This philosophy is woven into every aspect of the practice from the services offered to the education provided to patients with a focus on the integral role of the nervous system in coordinating health and function.

The team believes that optimal communication between the brain and body facilitated by a healthy spine is essential for overall wellbeing.

“Regardless of age or current health status the body is naturally designed to heal, organise and regulate itself, all governed by the nervous system,” says Maureen. “However, life’s challenges can sometimes disrupt this communication, resulting in symptoms such as aches, fatigue, stress, low performance or unsettled babies.”



Maureen Stachowicz

“Our practice uses advanced technology including the INSIGHT nervous system scan to delve deeper than external symptoms. This scan provides objective evidence of how the body is functioning and adapting to a constantly changing environment.”

She says Optimal Health Chiropractic is more than a clinic, it is a supportive space created for individuals on a health journey.

“What people love most about our practice is the understanding that chiropractic is much more than a good cure for back pain or headaches. We are empowering them to understand health comes from within.”

“We love to see our patients taking ownership of their body and make healthy decisions to serve their life purpose.”

For more information  
[www.optimalchiropractic.com](http://www.optimalchiropractic.com)



**Hannah Kelly Naturopath**

Queenstown naturopath **Hannah Kelly** aims to deliver realistic, sustainable and science based care that encourages women to feel balanced and confident in their wellbeing.

“Naturopathy is a holistic healthcare model that brings together scientific understanding and traditional, natural healing practice. This integration allows for a comprehensive approach to wellness that honours both the evidence base and centuries of natural medicine wisdom.”

“I set up my naturopath business to offer women a broader, evidence informed approach to their health recognising that many women experience symptoms that they’ve had to simply get on with – even when they feel disruptive and exhausting.”



Hannah Kelly

“I work with clients to uncover and address the root causes of health issues rather than simply managing their symptoms. My philosophy is centred on empowering them to understand and work with their body not against it.”

“Each consult begins with getting to know the person, their journey and story and I use an evidence-based, individualised approach combining herbal medicine, nutrition and lifestyle interventions to help restore balance,” she says. “There is a complex interplay between bodily systems such as digestion, hormones and the nervous system and recognising that true healing occurs when the body and mind are seen as interconnected is part of the process.”

Hannah believes in guiding women to a deeper awareness of their health so they can make informed and confident choices.

“When we uncover the ‘why’ behind a women’s symptoms and support the root causes rather than just the surface real and lasting change can happen.”

For more information  
[www.hannahkellynaturopath.co.nz](http://www.hannahkellynaturopath.co.nz)



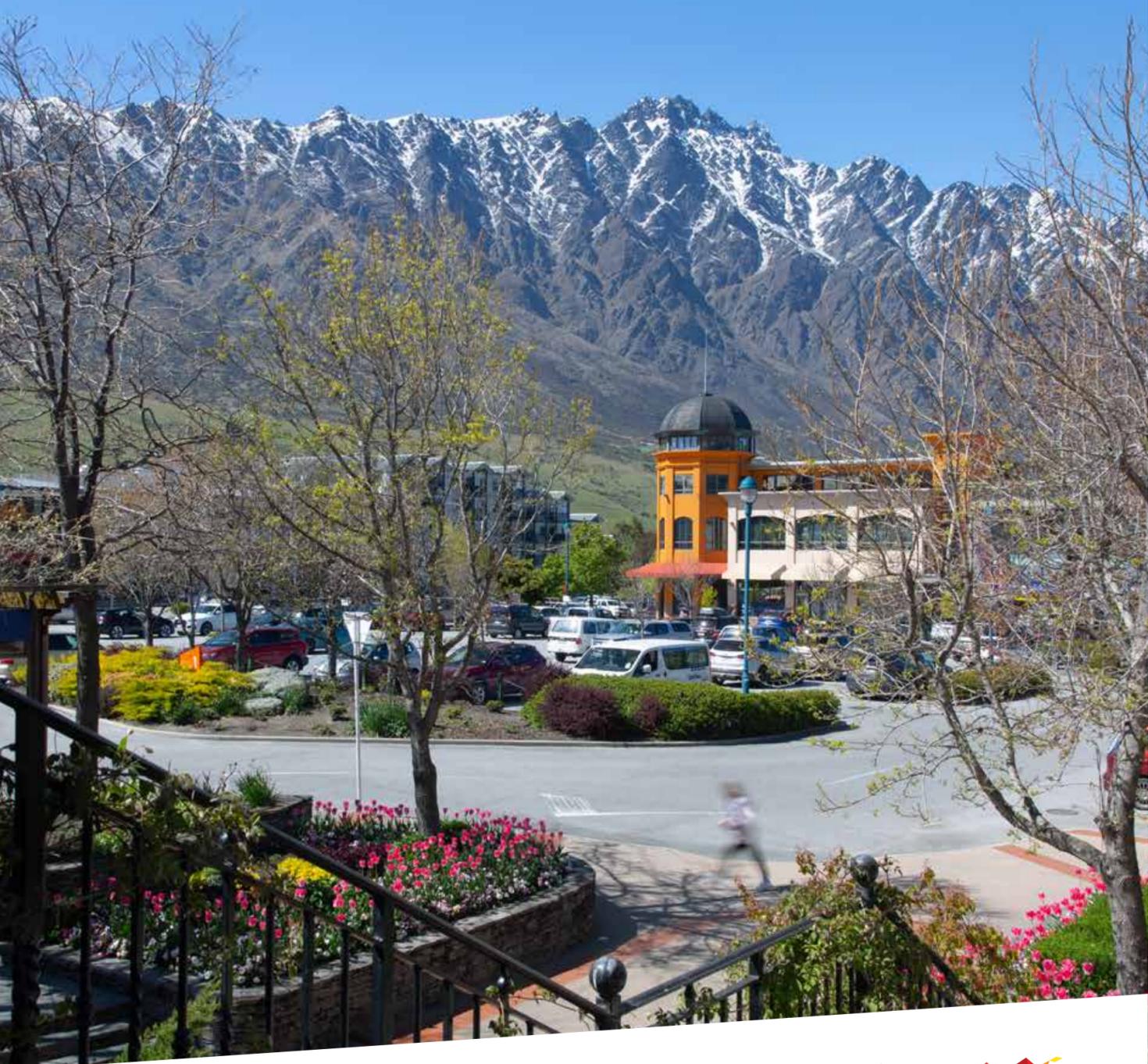
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## New chapter for Queenstown Lakes Council

By Tom Kalliber

Final results from the local body elections in October 2025 resulted in a change of mayor and a mix of new and previous elected members around the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) table.

New mayor John Glover leads a team of 11 councillors representing three separate wards:

**Arrowtown-Kawarau** – Heath Copland, Melissa White and Samuel 'Q' Belk.

**Queenstown-Whakatipu** – Matt Wong, Gavin Bartlett, Stephen Brent and Jon Mitchell.

**Wānaka-Upper Clutha** – Nicola King, Quentin Smith, Niki Gladding and Cody Tucker.

Councillors Nicola King, Niki Gladding and Cody Tucker join Simon Telfer, Kathy Dedo, John Wellington and Chris Hadfield as members of the Wānaka-Upper Community Board.



The newly elected council is pictured from left: Nicola King Jon Mitchell Quentin Smith (deputy mayor) Cody Tucker Heath Copland John Glover (mayor) Samuel 'Q' Belk Gavin Bartlett Stephen Brent Melissa White Matt Wong (absent Niki Gladding)

QLDC's campaign to promote all stages of the election process from candidate nominations and getting enrolled to vote to providing information on all candidates and then encouraging people to vote was wrapped up under the slogan *The Highest Vote*.

Chief executive Mike Theelen says the campaign was inspired by the district's alpine setting.

"The aim was to take local democracy to new heights with bright orange voting bins located not only in supermarkets, sports facilities and libraries but also at Cardrona and Treble Cone ski areas. A special one-day voting bin at the Crown Range Road summit featured on television's prime time news indicating the national interest created by the innovative voting concept."



## Freedom camping rules meet community concern

By Tom Kalliber

A new freedom camping bylaw is in place in the Queenstown Lakes District to help ensure public areas remain safe, protected and accessible to everyone during summer.

QLDC community services manager Ken Bailey says it meets a range of concerns raised by local residents in the Queenstown and Wānaka areas.

"Our district is the most popular place for overnight free camping in Aotearoa New Zealand which has led to some adverse impacts on land we manage on behalf of the community. The Freedom Camping Act applies nationally and permits it by default on most council land. Local bylaws are limited in both what they can address and the specific area to which they can apply."

"Balancing community concerns with what the Act requires us to do the new bylaw is designed to ensure visitors continue to enjoy the experience of freedom camping while addressing the concerns of residents. For example it is now prohibited to camp on public roads within our urban areas and there are conditions for rural roads too."

The council received almost 400 submissions during its community consultation on the freedom camping issue.

"The draft bylaw was amended as a result of this feedback before it was adopted by the council in October 2025," says Ken. "We have been continuing to run a comprehensive education campaign that raises awareness of the new rules and makes it clear to visitors where and how freedom camping is permitted."



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## International Violin Competition Celebrates 25 years

By Jenny McLeod

The renowned Michael Hill International Violin Competition celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2026 when 16 rising violinists from all over the world converge on Queenstown to compete in the prestigious event.

The event is supported by the Hill Family Foundation for Arts & Music and scheduled for May 29 until June 6 in both Queenstown and Auckland. It also includes a mini festival in Christchurch the week prior to the main competition.

Executive director Anne Rodda says the contest will be "particularly poignant with the recent passing of our founder Sir Michael Hill. We will miss seeing him in the front row of every performance but will be taking the opportunity to honour him".

"It was Sir Michael's vision to create a competition to launch the careers of young violinists and the triennial event has become a platform for some of the world's most successful contemporary soloists, teachers, concertmasters and ensemble players."

The 2026 selection panel is Andrew Beer (concertmaster Auckland Philharmonia), Amalia Hall (violinist NZTrio), Nikki Chooi (2013 Michael Hill winner and concertmaster Buffalo Philharmonic and Santa Fe Opera Orchestra, Mark Menzies (Professor of Music Canterbury University) and Vesa-Matti Leppänen (concertmaster NZSO) while the judging panel is a who's who of the international violin world.

"The competition takes its responsibility for setting the world's best violinists on their career paths very seriously," says Anne. "As such, judges consider all aspects of the presentation including technique, musical knowledge and maturity as well as audience engagement and communication skills."



2015 winner Suyeon Kang with Michael & Christine Hill



2013 winner Nikki Chooi with Michael & Christine Hill

The quarter-finals will be staged in Queenstown where six competitors are selected for the semi-finals in Auckland. The top three will perform on June 6 in the Grand Final with the Auckland Philharmonia.

The winner receives \$40,000, a recording contract with the Atoll label and a tour with Chamber Music New Zealand.

The prize pool is valued at over \$100,000 and a lucky competitor will also win a three-year loan of a Domenica Montagnana violin facilitated by Rare Violins of New York.

Further information [www.violincompetition.co.nz](http://www.violincompetition.co.nz)



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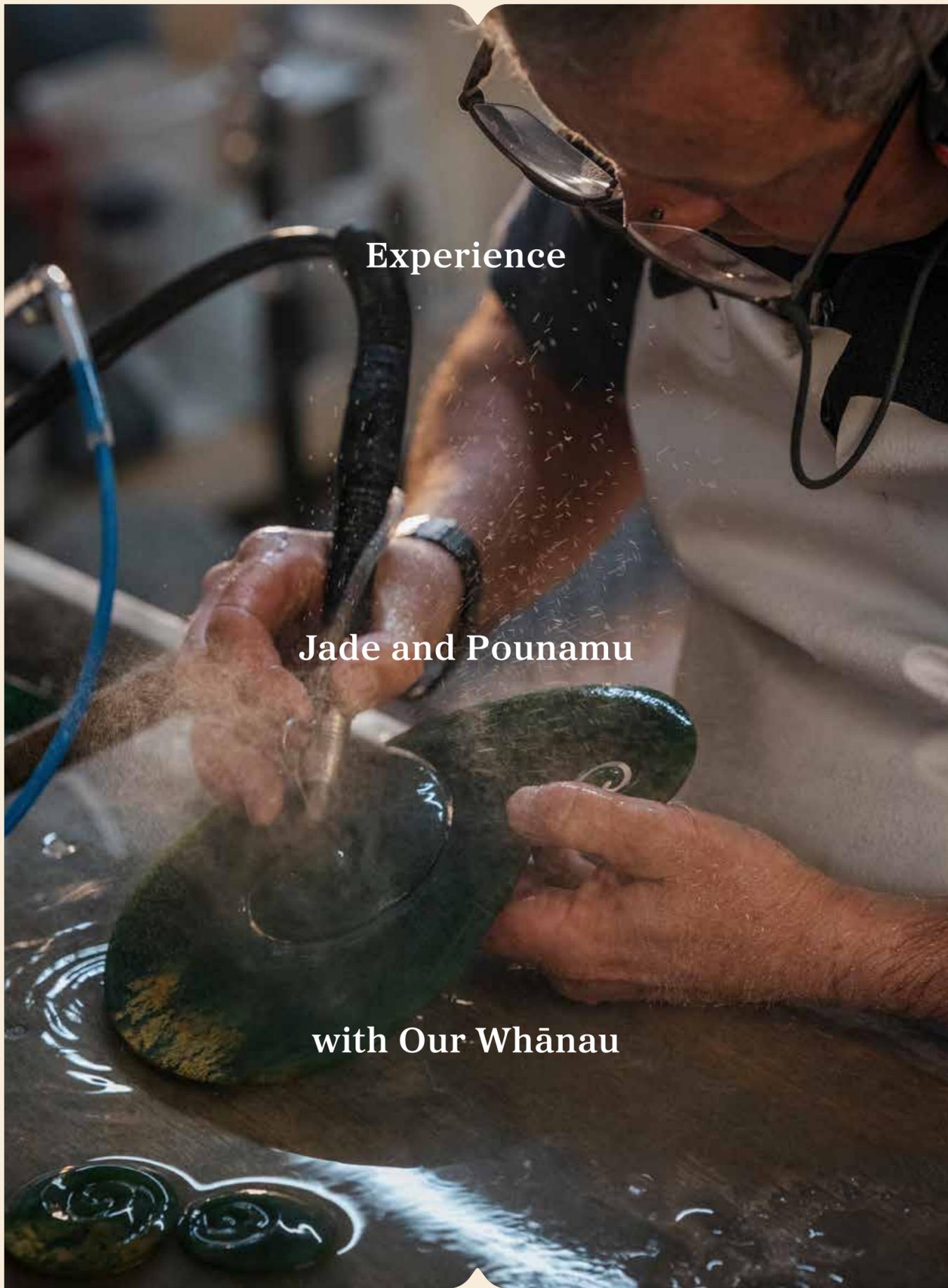
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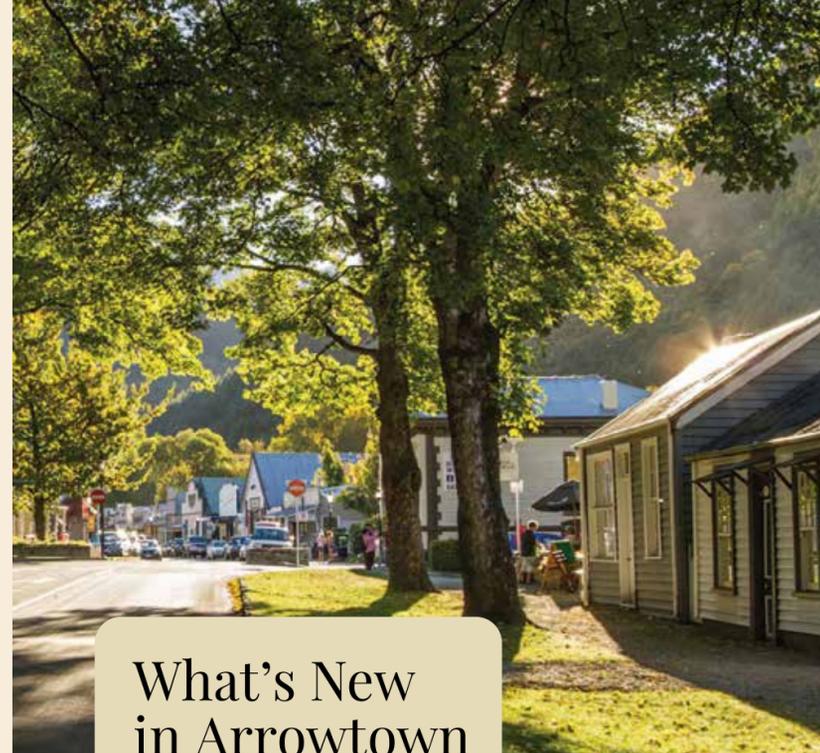
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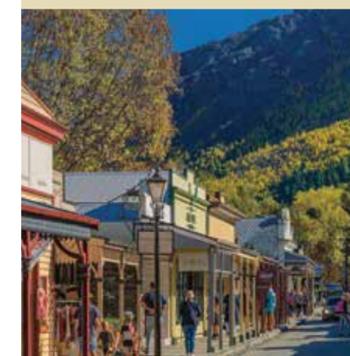


## What's New in Arrowtown

Arrowtown seamlessly blends history, natural beauty and recreational opportunities during the summer months. QT Magazine spoke to Arrowtown Promotions and Business Association manager Nicky Busst about the town's role as a leading South Island visitor destination.

"The warm weather and extended daylight set the perfect backdrop for adventures on foot, by bike or on the golf course with each route offering breathtaking scenery at every turn. We encourage visitors to explore scenic trails, play a round of golf on world-class fairways such as Millbrook Resort or the local Arrowtown Golf Course. They can also hire a gold pan from the Lakes District Museum or join a guided experience to try their hand at finding a glimmer of real gold, just as the early miners did over 160 years ago."

"By its very location nestled among mountains Arrowtown is rich in both nature and history making it the perfect destination to slow down, breathe in the fresh air and fully embrace the spirit of the season."



www.arrowtown.com

## Summertime Evening Shopping

Arrowtown's boutique shops and laneways are open later during summer with a late night shopping programme scheduled every Thursday.

The initiative celebrates community spirit and supports local businesses.

"Late night shopping gives people another reason to come into town, enjoy the atmosphere and support our businesses. Arrowtown has a special energy on summer nights and this is a great experience — especially those working during the week and looking to get some shopping done while enjoying a night out."

The town offers something different every Thursday from festive window displays and live music to pop-up events which contribute to a welcoming village atmosphere and memorable late night shopping experiences.



Photograph Destination Queenstown

## Biking Experience

Biking is one of the best ways to experience the Arrowtown environment. The options are plentiful, from gentle riverside rides along the Arrow River Trail to the impressive new Wharehuanui Trail which connects Arrowtown to Arthur's Point. With trails catering to all skill levels families can enjoy a leisurely ride while seasoned cyclists are able to seek out more challenging tracks. Along the way there are panoramic views of the Remarkables mountain range, the Crown Range and Coronet Peak ski area.

## Walking the trails

The Arrow River Trail is an easy walk past willow-lined banks and historic gold mining sites while the Lake Hayes (Waiwhakaata) loop trail offers stunning mountain and lake views. The circuit is popular with cyclists of all abilities as well as runners and walkers. For those seeking a quick climb and stunning sunset, Tobins Track is a local favourite. Meanwhile, the more challenging Sawpit Gully walk winds through schist ridges and native bush.



Photograph Martin Silva

## Arrowtown Arts Trail

The Arrowtown Arts Trail guides visitors through a collection of outdoor sculptures and galleries scattered throughout the town's historic streets and laneways. This inspiring journey offers a chance to discover the heart of local creativity. The trail celebrates Arrowtown's distinctive character through contemporary and heritage-inspired works and art lovers can visit the many galleries housed in heritage buildings, meet and talk with the artists in their studios, gain insights into their creative processes and even take home a unique piece of Arrowtown's culture.



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## Exclusive and Sustainably Sourced

By Penny Simpson

*The popular Merinomink™ brand showcases its signature garments at The WoolPress in Arrowtown.*

"We are privileged to have an excellent selection of the luxurious natural fibre garments which are enduring pieces to wear," says store co-owner Bruce Gibbs.

Merinomink™ garments are made in the company's Christchurch based manufacturing house using modern day techniques to produce high-quality knitwear from select sustainably sourced blended yarns.

"It is an exclusive blend of fine merino wool, luxurious Brushtail possum fibre and Mulberry silk created by the brand over 30 years ago," says Bruce.



*"With an exploding population of possums threatening New Zealand wildlife, Merinomink™ saw an opportunity to help protect the environment through innovation by using brushtail possum fibres to create their first ever possum garment — and the rest is history."*

"The Shell Cardi is a Merinomink™ staple and one of our most popular garments instore featuring Abalone buttons and a slimline fit in a variety of jewel toned colours. The Arianne Jacket featuring a full zip front that is made from the exclusive a Merinomink™ blend of 50 per cent ZQ Merino, 40 per cent Brushtail possum and 10 per cent Mulberry silk is also available."

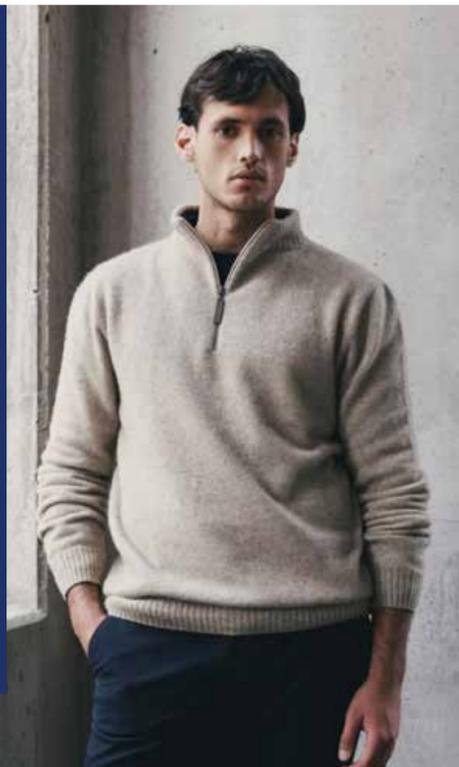
"These fine fibre garments are luxurious to wear and versatile for all situations from work, smart casual to weekend wear," says Bruce. "They make ideal gifts to take home or sendback from New Zealand"

## Possum Pest

*The Brushtail possum used in the production of Merinomink™ garments is New Zealand's largest ecological threat.*

Legally classified as a pest the animal is only found in Australasia and was introduced to New Zealand in 1837 from Australia.

- Possums eat their way through 17,000 tonnes of native vegetation each night leaving bare branches
- The damage is so severe, possums can kill entire forests by defoliation within 20 years
- With no flowers, berries or nectar left native bird populations are denied food
- Possums are omnivores and also consume the eggs and chicks of New Zealand's endangered native bird species attacking adult birds in the nest in order to reach the chicks and eggs
- Several new species of native birds have become endangered largely due to the impact of possums



## Celebrating Summer at GOALS

From active wear and resort wear to fashion and accessories GOALS store in Arrowtown celebrates the very best of the summer season ahead. Discover their curated designer looks for men and women ensuring supreme summer styling success.



### Seven Wonders

New to GOALS this summer is Aussie brand Seven Wonders featuring resort style wear. The Adalee Ruffle Texture Skirt in white is a delicate and feminine relaxed fit that can pair with Adalee Strapless Top for the complete look.



### Green with Envy

Play it cool in the Maneki 5in Spin Short from The Upside. These shorts in racing green feature contrasting blue and butter binding with printed arrow at the back. Made from recycled Eco Tech performance fabric for breathable, easy wear that is quick dry. Match with the Maneki Jetta Racerback Bra.

### Dressing Up

Shine bright with Pilgrim's gold-plated Dune hoops featuring beautiful heart charms covered in dazzling Preciosa crystals to add a touch of romance this summer. Made from 94 per cent recycled materials.



### Complete the Look

A universal selection of Le Spec eyewear is available at GOALS. New styles include the men's Le Spec Contemplation in tort and the chic Le Spec Velodrome for women in vanilla.



### Hot Girl Summer

Every day ease with a colour-block kick from The Upside with the Adesa 25in high midi pant. Featuring a V panel waistband with navy and cream binding these leggings make the perfect fit worn with Adesa Scoop Dannie Bra in merlot.



### Birds Of Gondor

The newest Birds Of Condor caps have arrived at GOALS offering an ultra-flattering look for guys this summer. Match with a Birds of Condor polo for a cool fit check.



### New Balance

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## Confronting Childhood & Climbing Challenges

By Jenny McLeod

Kim Rangiaonui Logan's name is synonymous with climbing, extreme mountaineering and search and rescue work but the Central Otago legend's recently released memoir *A Journey Between Worlds* is so much more than an adventure story.



Kim Logan with daughters Onoke & Jasmine

Interspersed with tales of mountaineering on big named mountains like Everest and K2 and his beloved Aoraki Mount Cook he tells the story of a challenging and confronting childhood, born a Māori but raised as a Pākehā.

His father, the only Māori ever to attend Sandhurst in London became a commander in the 28<sup>th</sup> Māori Battalion, but returned from war a damaged man unable to cope with his children.

He believed Kim and his brother Wilfred had to ignore their Māori heritage and fit into the Pakeha mould if they were to succeed in life.

After being left as a child with an unsympathetic caregiver Kim was sent to Kings prep school where he professes to find a family he never had.

As a small boy he saw his parents maybe once a year. It was a difficult relationship — **“but you accept your life. If it's brutal you just put your head down and try not to be noticed”**.

He was introduced to climbing while living in Nelson which literally allowed him to “climb away from my past”. It grew into a passion which subsequently took him all over the world including the notorious K2 where he was part of the ill-fated expedition in 1995 which claimed the life of his close Queenstown friend Bruce Grant.

In his memoir he claims “climbing is easier to talk about than my childhood. I'd happily bury it all. But I'm only here for a short time, so I will tell that story rather than let it die with me.”

During his book launch at the Queenstown Writers Festival he told interviewer Mike McRoberts the mountains gave him total freedom. “You're not judged in the mountains. They are trustworthy where people often are not.”

Reaching mountain summits was not just a feat but an emotional passage for Kim and his message is that everyone has their own version of Everest to climb and no matter how tough the journey they will get through it.

*A Journey Between Worlds* is published by Ugly Hill Press. Available at Central Otago bookshops.

## Artist's Summer Exhibition

By Jenny McLeod

Angus Watson is one of Queenstown's best known artists and his annual January exhibition is a drawcard event for local residents and visitors to explore his paintings which portray anything from outstanding landscapes to nude figures.



Angus Watson

He has been painting for the past 35 years from his picturesque studio in Dalefield using his preferred watercolour medium.

**“I like to experience the joy of playing with colours, of putting one colour beside another and allowing them to bounce off and bleed into each other. The effects can be unexpected and instant.”**

Whatever Angus focuses on he says the subject is not important — “it is something on which to hang the colours”.

Angus sells most of his work from his Littles Road base but also has a presence online for out of town and overseas buyers. His 2026 exhibition will be held at his studio from January 3 until January 14 and he says it is a good opportunity for people to visit him in his workplace.

“I encourage people interested in seeing and talking about my work firsthand to check out my exhibition. Alternatively I welcome visitors anytime but it is always best to book an appointment

ahead to ensure I am available. I really enjoy meeting those who have a likeminded enthusiasm for art.”

Angus also produces prints and cards as well as a stunning annual calendar of his work with the 2026 edition now available.

Angus' studio can be found on the Arrowtown Arts Trail.

## Love of Nature

By Margo Berryman

Fiona Garlick is a talented sculptor and welcomes people to her Arrowtown studio and gallery in Buckingham Street where they can engage with her, learn about her creative process and view her original works.



Fiona draws inspiration from her deep love of nature and her studio is just a short walk from Arrowtown's village centre.

“I feel fortunate to live in a charming cottage located just behind my workspace and gallery surrounded by my own sculpture garden and the beauty of Arrowtown. I love being part of this picturesque village and being able to enjoy such an inspiring environment every day.”

Fiona's gallery is part of the Arrowtown Arts Trail.

The studio features a range of pieces from small-scale bronze artworks to larger, three-dimensional sculptures displayed in the adjoining outdoor sculpture garden.

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Otago Daily Times

Five Mile comes into its own during summer with its extensive range of retail outlets, new businesses and restaurant and café options combined with easy, accessible parking.

### European vibe @ Wild Daisy Salon

New to Five Mile Wild Daisy hair salon's owner Haley Bower is excited to expand her services into her first ever dedicated premises.

Originally from Dunedin Haley has been hairdressing for 16 years spending many years developing her skills as a colour specialist in Europe and the UK before Covid-19 brought her home.

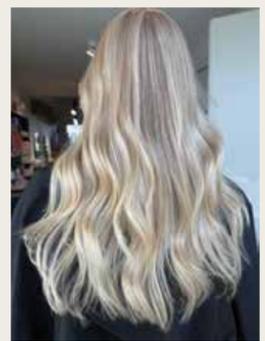
On her return she settled in Queenstown where she has built an established clientele over the past five years.

"On my travels overseas I got a lot of experience training with colour specialists and absorbing extensive knowledge and techniques and I have brought the best of Europe back to Queenstown."

Haley works with products from Amsterdam company Keune Haircosmetics which is a 100-year-old family business.

"The salon reflects this with a European look and feel and a very relaxed vibe," she says.

Open six days a week and staffed by Haley and two other stylists Wild Daisy is located alongside Reform Pilates. Bookings and consultations are by appointment only at – [www.wilddaisyhair.com](http://www.wilddaisyhair.com).



Haley Bower



### Golf Warehouse attracts record numbers

The Golf Warehouse is hot property with record numbers of people visiting New Zealand's newest golfing destination since it launched in October 2025.

Golf Warehouse director and CEO Rhys Bishop says the new Five Mile store made history for the company with more than 1500 golfers clocked through the doors during opening week.

"That incredible response shows the strength of the golf community in the Queenstown Lakes region and the growing demand for premium equipment to match the world-class courses on their doorstep. Summer is always a great time for golf and this year is extra special with the opening of our Queenstown Superstore."

Rhys says the store is packed with the latest gear from the world's best brands, including TaylorMade, Callaway, Srixon, XXIO and Cleveland Golf. New season's apparel, shoes, accessories and trundlers have wide appeal for the golfing fraternity.

"We've also created a world-class fitting experience onsite with PGA Professional custom club fitting, a state-of-the-art simulator bay and a dedicated putting green."

Led by store manager John Thwaites and his team of committed golf enthusiasts the store is a hub for local golfers and visitors with outstanding feedback and reviews.

"People can feel the team's enthusiasm and genuine love for the game the moment they walk in," says Rhys. "It's the perfect place to gear up, get fitted and get ready for summer playing Arrowtown, Queenstown, Millbrook, Jacks Point or any of the incredible courses in this region."

### Interest high in premium six-storey development

Colliers Queenstown's commercial division is receiving good levels of interest in a 7,800 square metre premium office and retail six-storey development planned for Five Mile.

Murchison Tower, on the corner of Five Mile Place and Murchison Road, will feature

outstanding alpine views and include an adjoining three-storey car park building to the rear of Woolworths supermarket with pedestrian links to retail and office space.

"We have engaged with a number of professional, financial services and retail and F&B providers with a view to finalising the pre-leasing stage," says Colliers' director Mark Simpson.



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## ON THE MAP

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## Rustic Retreat

By Aspen Bruce

Orchard Gardens in its idyllic setting between Clyde and Alexandra boasts the largest hedge maze in the South Island combined with extensive English style gardens.

Owners Frances and Bryan Raymond say the almost four-hectare property has provided the backdrop for more than 500 wedding ceremonies and is a popular stop over for cyclists on the Otago Central Rail Trail.

The couple are hospitality experts with more than 20 years' collective experience including owning the well-known Good Oil Café in Dunedin.

"When the opportunity to purchase the Orchard Garden emerged around three years ago we decided to explore it further," says Frances. "We had been living near Orchard Garden for more than eight years and had always admired its stunning vistas and location."



*"Our inspiration has been to build upon the original vision of the property to maintain and nurture the gardens. After purchasing it we closed to the public for two years to learn how to look after the venue and make adjustments to some of the gardens and the main entrance."*

"On hot summer days guests can relax outside the café under the shade of a tree or a sun umbrella. There's plenty of space to take time out, play a variety of lawn games and choose from a selection of drinks and gourmet cabinet food," says Frances. "Guests can take a peaceful stroll and scope out aviaries, the maze and various smaller gardens."

"There are three distinct indoor spaces – the café, large function room and a private room known as the Tractor Room with each embodying its own rustic character. The Tractor Room opens out onto a secluded garden and is excellent for smaller functions while the café features the original mud brick walls of the former packing shed built on site by the original owner."

Orchard Gardens has the capacity to host a wide range of events such as weddings, conferences, funerals and birthday celebrations and has a team of experienced in-house caterers providing bespoke options to suit all occasions.

**The Orchard Garden café is open Monday to Sunday 9:00 - 3:00ish, closed Saturdays. Venue and function room enquiries - enquiries@orchardgarden.co.nz**



Frances & Bryan Raymond





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# Glamping Concepts

by Safari Tents NZ

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# Q&A

## With Safari Tents NZ

Specialist outdoor company Safari Tents NZ has a reputation for the high-quality European glamping tents and other products it distributes. Director James Lamb talked to QT Magazine about the development of the venture.

### What was the impetus for starting the business?

Our original inspiration came from UK friends with a glamping business on their farm. They had an amazing set up and asked us about glamping in New Zealand which at that time was almost non-existent. There was an exciting opportunity to get involved with glamping in New Zealand at the beginning. With some brave initial clients we brought over a container of tents and got underway.

### How has the luxury glamping market developed in New Zealand?

Glamping started in Europe in the late 2000s and was slow to reach New Zealand. We launched in 2015 spending time at expos explaining the glamping phenomenon and our first clients bought tents for their own use at the beach, lake or farm.

The excellent return on investment soon encouraged farmers and landowners to create commercial glamping sites on their land providing them with a very low risk, fun secondary income.

### What glamping products does your business sell?

We became Yala's first distributor outside Europe in 2015. Their traditional African safari tent is incredibly good value for money with the Sunshine 38 safari tent with an extended roof and fire rated canvas the biggest seller for those starting a glamping business. We are New Zealand distributors for Leisurecraft's wide range of beautiful Canadian outdoor cedar saunas which are proving to be popular in Queenstown and Wānaka.



### What dome tents are available?

The Crossover Lodge by Yala is fundamentally a dome but the front opens to let the outdoors in. Made with tried and tested materials the dome offers a chic alternative to the traditional African tent style of our safari tents.

### What is the Signature ÖÖD House your business promotes?

The award winning Signature ÖÖD House is an elevated modular glamping cabin designed with modern Scandinavian architecture. It features three sides of floor to ceiling height mirrored glass. The cabin's mirrored exteriors reflect the landscape allowing the ÖÖD House to disappear within its surroundings while inside the glass walls connect to the outdoors. The cabin comes in a kitset enabling clients to mould the interior to their own requirements.



### What is the timeline for ordering glamping tents or cabins?

We advise clients to plan six months ahead as having such a wide product range we rarely hold stock. There is however significant infrastructure work to complete including deck, pathways, plumbing and electrical work before the tent and other facilities such as showers and saunas arrive.



### What do property owners need to consider when choosing a glamping location?

Accessibility, wind direction and sun are important considerations.

It is best to identify a tucked away location on a property to provide privacy, peace and great views with easy access. Ideally the site should be its own destination with sundowner seating, fire pit or wood burner, hot tub and sauna.



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# Remarkable Growth for Boutique Bookstore

By Jenny McLeod

Wānaka's independent bookstore The Next Chapter has recently celebrated its fifth anniversary — a milestone that marks more than just the passage of time.

What began as a 38 square metre container style store in the Paradiso Cinema precinct in 2020 has quietly doubled its footprint, expanded its diverse range of titles and earned recognition across the national and international book communities.

Owners Sally Battson and Jenny Ainge always envisaged the store becoming a destination experience for visitors as well as a favourite haunt for local book lovers.

"We've grown in size, stature and industry recognition from those original days when we stocked a modest but engaging book range," says Sally. "Doubling the floor area has meant room for more titles, a dedicated children's section, space for literary events and a small seating area where customers can relax and discover new reads."

"We have worked hard to maintain the intimate feel that first drew people in. Growing the store has meant we can offer

readers a wider, more adventurous selection of books without compromising what makes us unique. At the same time we have expanded our team and therefore the breadth and depth of our book knowledge."



Sally says that what began as a neighbourhood favourite has attracted attention well beyond that of a boutique bookstore with online interest in its titles from all over the world.

But above all the store remains rooted in its community.

"We are continually growing our local base and have created and cemented a niche in the Wānaka arts and cultural sector. We have increased our number of book clubs and now host clubs for fiction, non-fiction, classics and poetry. Events such as author talks, launch nights and partnerships with literary festivals bring people together and have helped attract loyal, repeat customers."

Five years on The Next Chapter is a model of how independent bookselling can grow without losing its soul. With more space, a broader range of books and a growing reputation and recognition from the business community of its achievements Sally and Jenny are upbeat about the future.



## Recommended Summer Reads

### FICTION

**The Shadow Weaver** | Ivy Cliffwater

**Gravity Let Me Go** | Trent Dalton

**The Loneliness of Sonia & Sunny** | Kiran Desai

**The Correspondent** | Virginia Evans

**The Impossible Fortune** | Richard Osman

**The Vanishing Place** | Zoe Rankin



*"The vibe in the store is friendly and relaxed and we love to go the extra mile finding books for customers that are not readily available elsewhere. It's the personal touch which is key to our success."*

### NON-FICTION

**Northbound** | Naomi Arnold

**Fly, Wild Swans** | Jung Chang

**This Way Up** | Mark Cooper-Jones

**Tunisgrad** | Saul David

**Mother Mary Comes to Me** | Arundhati Roy

**Lone Wolf** | Adam Weymouth



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# ESCAPE

68 Ardmore Street, Wanaka 03 443-8019 [www.escapeclothing.co.nz](http://www.escapeclothing.co.nz)

## Inspirational Jewellery

By Penny Simpson

Aspiring Jewellers' expansive jewellery range and customer-focused environment has been shaped under the leadership of owner Glenis Palmer who revamped the Wānaka store's look, feel and culture when she took over the business in 2021.

"We help people celebrate meaningful moments from birthdays, engagements, weddings and anniversaries to just because moments. International visitors love taking home a special piece that reminds them of their time in New Zealand and we have a very loyal domestic and international customer base who return shop with us."

The store is well-known for its wide selection of jewellery at different price points including pearls, charms and silver and gold jewellery sourced mostly from New Zealand and Australian suppliers.

Popular items include coloured stones, New Zealand blue pearls and greenstone.

"Customers from outlying areas enjoy visiting the store to buy gifts and special occasion pieces alongside essential services such as repairs, engraving, resizing, pearl rethreading, watch batteries and straps," says Glenis.

*"People also love the process of getting very special pieces custom-made by our jeweller."*



Contemporary fashion brands Stolen Girlfriend, Najo, Karen Walker, Coeur de Lion, Evolve and Rochet are sought after collections along with watches from Bulova, Boccia and Casio.

"People notice the difference when they shop with us for the welcoming hospitality and relaxed no pressure environment. We go out of our way to research and source the best jewellery for each person. Taking time to offer honest advice and ensure our customers celebrate their new piece of jewellery is super important to us."

### Above and Beyond

Aspiring Jewellers is recognised for its quality of care and ability to research and source the best jewellery for every occasion.

Owner Glenis Palmer has lived in Wānaka for 23 years having brought up her family in Lake Hawea.

"I am proud of my team who offer an engaging service, technical skills and long-term jewellery expertise with our common thread to go above and beyond. Our store has a special ambience and we really do listen to people's needs. The magic is in being ourselves, having fun and being more than just a jewellery shop in our customers' lives."



*Aspiring* JEWELLERS  
 Aspiring Jewellers 101 Ardmore Street, Wānaka  
 Open 7 days or shop online [aspiringjewellers.co.nz](http://aspiringjewellers.co.nz)



Boutique Bottle Shop & Lounge Bar  
 24 Dungarvon Street, Wanaka  
[www.pembrokewines.co.nz](http://www.pembrokewines.co.nz)

## CELEBRATE SUMMER

Each Friday from 5-7pm Pembroke Wines hosts complimentary tastings with local winemakers and distillers, offering a unique opportunity to meet the people behind the labels while sampling their creations.

For Wanaka locals, Pembroke also offers an exclusive deal: purchase any six bottles and receive 15% off, the perfect excuse to stock up on favourites or mix and match something new.






### Gear for Longer Runs

With extended daylight hours come longer runs and more time in the hills. While the packing list may get a little shorter during summer there are still some important essentials to keep runners comfortable and happy.

"We have an extensive range of nutrition to keep you fuelled and hydrated for however many hours you are out there. We also stock the mandatory kit for events from the Coast to Coast and GODZONE to trail and ultra running competitions. Our team has first-hand experience to ensure the right kit and advice for whatever adventure is planned."



## Summer Trail Running Essentials

Specialist running store Kinisi Running at Wānaka's Three Parks is the place to go for the latest gear and products that provide hydration, nourishment and comfort as the trails beckon this summer and owners Jane and Ian Evans say they have all bases covered.



03 428 4499  
info@kinisi.co.nz  
www.kinisi.co.nz  
87 Sir Tim Wallis Drive, Wānaka

### What's new for summer

Summer brings with it some exciting new products instore.

"We've got lightweight running vests from The North Face and Dynafit, ultralight running poles from Leki and Black Diamond, an extensive range of socks to keep feet happy and blister free, plus the widest selection of colourful and not so colourful running hats for sun protection. Our summer apparel range is bigger than ever from singlets to sun hoodies and wind jackets to running undies."



### Event Highlights

Kinisi Running has a busy schedule this summer packed with events and community involvement.

"We're proud to continue our role as the Run Leg sponsor for Challenge Wānaka and are thrilled to partner with Cardrona and Treble Cone to launch two brand new mountain running events across their ski fields which promise an unforgettable experience. We're also teaming up again with Snow Farm NZ to host an overnight running event with a range of trail running options suitable for all abilities and accommodation at an outback hut."

## Combating the Sleepless Spiral

By Aspen Bruce

Wānaka sleep therapist Kate Blyth is intimately aware of the challenges of insomnia and the life-changing impact of overcoming it.

Her own journey with her battle to beat chronic insomnia and its debilitating effects motivated her to establish Intuitive Sleep to help other sufferers by using evidence based therapies.

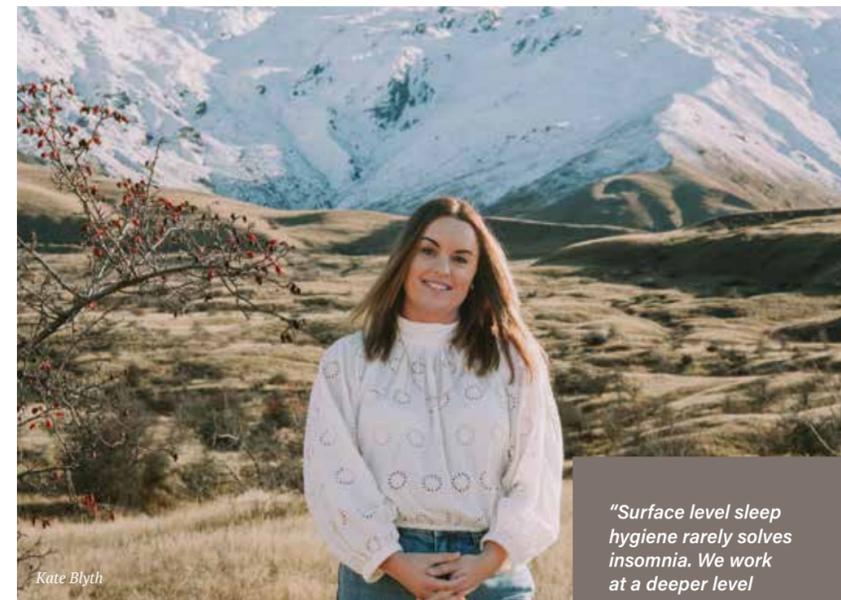
"I can vividly remember the mornings when I would wake feeling more tired than when I went to bed. The endless nights tossing and turning, exhaustion that never lifts, the way sleep feels constantly out of reach and wondering how on earth I would get through the day."

"For years I tried everything—from sleeping pills and supplements to yoga and hypnosis—but my sleep kept getting worse. It has been one of the hardest challenges I have ever faced."

Kate credits her sleep transformation to the discovery of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Insomnia (CBT-I) which is an approach that works by resetting the body's biological sleep systems and thought patterns.

"It gave me back trust in my body's innate ability to sleep. Unfortunately, access to CBT-I is still a barrier, and many people haven't heard of it, despite it being considered the gold-standard treatment for chronic insomnia."

With a background in health including a Bachelor of Health Science in Nursing and a Diploma in Yoga Kate trained in CBT-I and additional evidence-based methods including light therapy for circadian-rhythm disorders (chronotherapy). Her integrative method focuses on the root issues of sleep rather than surface-level sleep hygiene which she says often fails to resolve chronic insomnia.



Kate Blyth

"Surface level sleep hygiene rarely solves insomnia. We work at a deeper level exploring circadian rhythms, mindset and stress responses to reset sleep. The aim is to help clients shift both the biology and psychology of sleep, integrating CBT-I with chronotherapy to reframe their relationship with sleep, and break the cycle of sleepless nights."

Kate is available for consultations locally and nationally and offers one-on-one sessions, corporate workshops, retreats and personalised jet-lag optimisation protocols for high-performance athletes to help them perform at their best.

"The programmes are all designed to help people build and maintain lifelong sleep habits and I am currently developing an affordable sleep course to help with both insomnia and improving circadian health which will launch in early 2026. My true passion and speciality is giving people lifelong skills to manage their sleep rather than prescribing quick fixes that don't work."



### Keep It Short

"Explore our latest collection of running shorts, featuring new summer styles and a variety of brands for both men and women. Check out the highly anticipated Trail Tech Short by Raide Research which includes the latest 360ml soft flask."

## Legendary musician headlines festival

By Penny Simpson

Legendary New Zealand musician Sir Dave Dobbyn is billed as the headline act for the 2026 wine and food festival Ripe in Wānaka.

Festival director Nathan White says the event on Saturday March 21, bringing together wine food and live music, promises to be the most enlivening edition yet.

"Ripe is all about celebrating the region's incredible food, wine and people in one of the most beautiful festival locations in the country. To top it off, having Sir Dave Dobbyn performing makes this a very special event."

The festival clocks its fifth year in 2026 and will showcase over 20 well-known Central Otago wineries alongside locally brewed craft beers from Rhyme and Reason and premium cocktails by Scapegrace Distilling Co.



"The lineup includes award-winning Pinot Noirs, refreshing Rosés, crisp lagers and expertly mixed cocktails while the drinks menu will be matched with a mouth-watering range of food from some of the region's best foodies."

"The live entertainment includes bands like The Relatives, The Eastern and local musician Ryan Caldwell who will all bring some high music energy to the day," says Nathan. "The lakeside setting at Glendhu Bay Station is stunning and the venue is always a crowd pleaser."

Ripe won recognition taking out the Sustainability Initiative of the Year award at the 2025 New Zealand Events Association Awards highlighting the festival's commitment to minimising waste and creating an environmentally responsible event experience.



Sir Dave Dobbyn



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## White Rabbit Cakes

At Wānaka's White Rabbit Cakes Brittany Thurston and her team create custom, handcrafted cakes and dessert tables designed to appear as beautiful as they taste.

"Our style leans toward modern, refined designs with soft textures, romantic detailing with an emphasis on natural beauty from our local landscapes," says Brittany. "A combination of smooth finishes, delicate wafer paper, seasonal florals and elegant colour palettes make our cakes and desserts a centrepiece for any event."

Everything is made from scratch at the company's Albert Town studio using high-quality ingredients and small batch methods. Each cake is made to order with flavours, fillings and finishes tailored to individual celebrations.

"We bring a calm, detail focused approach to what can be a very busy part of wedding planning ensuring the process feels simple, personal and enjoyable from start to finish. People often tell us they chose us for the quality and creativity but come back for the care and consistency."

She says wedding cake bookings are best made six to 12-months in advance with each client receiving a design and flavour consultation and detailed guidance for size, style florals and delivery.

For smaller celebrations a custom range of cakes and desserts are available direct from the studio with delivery options for Wānaka and Queenstown.

"Our classic American-style donuts have quite a following alongside our giant cinnabons made fresh Tuesday to Saturday at our coffee cart in Albert Town. Think soft, fluffy rings glazed or dipped in flavoured ganaches and topped with sprinkles, Oreos and other delightfully crunchy toppings," says Brittany. "We also cater for weddings and events with custom donut towers, walls and platters that are fun and delicious alternatives to a traditional cake."

**Pick-ups & Deliveries:**  
**Tuesday - Friday 8.00am - 2:30pm Saturday 8:00 am - 1:00pm**  
**Albert Town**  
[www.whiterabbitcakes.com](http://www.whiterabbitcakes.com)



## Seasonal Sustainability

Edgewater's contemporary seasonal cuisine is centred around sustainability to match the abundance of quality ingredients found in Central Otago.

"To honour and respect the environment from paddock to plate we embrace the philosophy of not letting anything go to waste using cuts of meat that introduce guests to something they may not have tried before," says executive chef Chris Nelson.

"We endeavour to source produce that is thoughtfully grown and harvested and consciously ask questions of our suppliers to ensure our principles and philosophies match."

Edgewater is an ideal spot to linger over breakfast, a leisurely lunch or evening dining with panoramic views of Lake Wānaka.

"Breakfast in the morning sun on our patio is a wonderful way to start the day or inside our cosy alcove where floor-to-ceiling windows bring the beauty of the outdoors in," he says.

"Recent additions to the summer menu include the Salmon Gravlox — Cardrona The Source Gin & beetroot cured salmon, capers, cornichons, beetroot ketchup, horseradish cream, crostini. This is a fresh, elegant dish beautifully balanced. Making a welcome return is the much-loved Smashed Avocado on Toast and on the evening menu our slow-roasted Lumina Lamb Shoulder is made for sharing. It's a richly flavourful centrepiece, perfect for a relaxed dinner as the sun sets over Lake Wānaka."



Chris Nelson

Food and beverage manager Kenny Vaughn says the hotel's regional wine and beer list is designed to complement meals.

"We have a range of Wānaka brewery Ground Up's beers on tap including our own Edgewater Lager or there is a refreshing Edgewater Pale Ale by the can. Wine lovers will appreciate our carefully chosen regional list featuring standout Central Otago labels with a guest favourite being Mt Rosa Pinot Noir."

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best  
 Places to Eat this Summer

## The Mexican Way

Burrito Craft creates tasty tacos, burritos and sides with spicy fresh Mexican flavors at their food truck at the Brownston Street Food Truck Park.

Owners Julia and Marc Magee opened one of Wānaka's first food trucks in 2015 and have never looked back. "It's all about burritos that are assembled exactly to your liking," says Julia. "Our menu caters to a wide range of dietary needs including vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options ensuring there is something for everyone. We also strive to keep our pricing competitive and even with rising costs this year we have remained affordable."

She says there are new and exciting updates this summer improving the overall experience. "Our expanded seating area creates more space for customers to sit, relax and enjoy their food and we've upgraded our original food truck with a bigger kitchen making more room to work and streamlining the burrito-making process. This means smoother operations and faster service."



Marc & Julia Magee



"Burrito Craft is a casual, social and community-oriented venue where people can dine, meet friends and enjoy the outdoor garden setting on warm summer evenings," says Julia. "Beyond the food we are proud to support our community by backing local events, charities and schools making Burrito Craft a place that people can feel good about."

**Open 7 days 12.00pm-8.30pm. Online and phone orders available [www.burritocraft.co.nz](http://www.burritocraft.co.nz)**



## b.effect Beers

New Zealand craft beers made locally are the calling card of b.effect — a small brewery in the heart of Wānaka's Anderson Heights.

Founder James Hay launched the company in 2015 motivated by the idea of producing refreshing seasonal craft beers and in 2019 converted an old car mechanic's workshop into the brewery and taproom.

"Our taproom and eatery is an excellent locale to taste all our craft beers and non-alcoholic b.alive kombuchas plus our alcoholic ginger beer Daywalke. We serve a range of delicious brewpub food favourites like hearty burgers, grilled sandwiches and shareable plates that go great with beer."



b.effect



b.effect currently produces around 20 different beers per year at the Wānaka brewery including eight core range varieties and 12 seasonals that are brewed once or twice a year.

"The summer favourites include our Social Experiment West Coast IPA Single Hop, Beach Start Hazy IPA and Sea's The Day Mango & Salted Lime Sour," says James. "This season we will also have available Sticky Forest which is our new Hemp Beer."

He says b-effect has a relaxed style of service at the taproom and eatery.

"Barry Downey runs our bar b.social and guarantees the vibe is great with our head brewer Andrew Duke ensuring all brews are top quality. Our purpose is to bring people together and help build better communities so we look after locals and tourists alike providing a welcoming community spot they can call their own."

**Open 7 days, 60 Anderson Road, Wānaka**  
[www.beffect.nz](http://www.beffect.nz)



Crumb Bakehouse

## Boutique Bottle Store

Wānaka's boutique bottle shop, tasting room and beverage caterer Pembroke Wines & Spirits is a destination for wine, craft beer and spirits connoisseurs.

The bespoke space offers an extensive selection of exclusive fine wines and spirits from around the world — from small family-estate New Zealand and Australian wines to high-end, globally recognised brands.

"Pembroke Wines is designed to allow people to relax after a busy day in our lounge and tasting room which is a sociable space to spend time," says manager Alistair Hunt. "From Central Otago Pinot Noirs to over 80 hand-selected whiskies and 50 craft beers there is plenty to sample before purchasing a bottle to take home."

"Every Friday night from 5.00pm until 7.00pm locals are invited to enjoy complimentary tastings featuring products from Central Otago winemakers and boutique distillers — it's a popular end-of-week ritual for both Wānaka locals and visitors."

He says The Cave behind the bottlestore provides an intimate, candlelit setting perfect for private gatherings and special occasions with bookings directly through the tasting room.



**Open 7 days**  
**24 Dunganvon Street**  
**adjacent to Pembroke Park**  
**Wānaka**  
[www.pembrokewines.co.nz](http://www.pembrokewines.co.nz)



## Labour of Love

At Crumb Bakehouse Lucy Conway and her café team serve a selection of specialty pastries, breads and coffee with a focus on seasonality, quality and freshness.

"We make everything from scratch and each pastry is a labour of love showcasing the beauty of the process. Our menu items follow the same ethos with all our toasts and toasties served on homemade sourdough or brioche emphasising simplicity without sacrificing quality and highlighting seasonal and local ingredients."

Based at Shop 5 in The Precinct Crumb Bakehouse is a sister café and extension to Scroggin Coffee and Eatery on Ardmore Street.

"At the bakehouse we're a small, intimate spot — think wine bar vibe but with coffee and croissants," says Lucy. "We are serious about doing things slow and steady with the same warm hospitality and a passion for providing beautiful moments every day."

"Our summer pastry menu features all the classics such as pain au chocolat, pain raisin, ham, cheese and pickle as well as more specialty items such as our seasonal Danish which is currently a delicious banoffee pie flavour, sticky pecan brioche and some fruit Danish pastries."

The Crumb Bakehouse is open daily offering a beautiful indoor-outdoor flow into The Precinct courtyard and surrounds.

"We aim to provide an intimate and relaxed social atmosphere," says Lucy. "The café is small enough that we know all of our locals' orders and there is enough space in our sunny patio to accommodate everyone."

**Open 7 days 8.00am - 3.00pm**  
**Shop 5 The Precinct [www.crumbbakehouse.co.nz](http://www.crumbbakehouse.co.nz)**



# Sensational Summer Fruit

By Penny Simpson

*Jackson Orchards owner Kevin Jackson is a fourth-generation orchardist whose name is synonymous with the thriving Central Otago fruit growing region.*

His property on the Luggate-Cromwell highway is renowned for its variety of fruit including cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, greengages, apples and pears.

"The site was ideal for a mixed orchard and because of the diversity of our fruit we have the longest season of any orchard in New Zealand," says Kevin. "Starting with cherries, then apricots and finishing with pip fruit we are harvesting for around five months."

"The region's long sunshine hours allow us to grow such a big range of fruit and it is all sold domestically, nothing is exported."

Produce available from the orchard store includes boxes and bags of local stone fruits such as cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines and plums with other local products including honey, fruit leathers, dried fruits and artisan skincare and health supplements also in demand.

"People love to stop and see the operation, taste the fruit and other produce and our all-fruit ice-creams at our roadside kiosk sell themselves," says Kevin.



## Tours & Tastings

Kevin Jackson's ongoing enthusiasm and commitment to the Jackson Orchards venture has led to diversification beyond traditional orchard operations with guided tours and tastings providing an insight into the daily workings of the property.

"It is wonderful to be able to share our orchard with people from all over the world and for many it is a first-time and fascinating experience," says Jackson Orchards retail manager Jamie Cowie.

Tours are available throughout summer allowing visitors to experience life on an orchard during the busy season. The company runs a fleet of electric buses each with its own tour guide.

"People can take part in sample picking and eat fruit directly from the tree which can be a whole new adventure particularly for international visitors," says Jamie. "We are especially proud to show off our state-of-the-art packhouse and popular fruit stall which is the epicentre of this entire operation."



Tours last about 45 minutes and can be pre-booked online. Walk-ins are also welcome.



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