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QT LIFESTYLE

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

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b.social – Wānaka's friendly, neighbourhood craft brewery for winter socialising

COVER The Remarkables Ski Area / image supplied

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News Roundup

with Jenny McLeod

Focus on future transport options for Queenstown

Prominent Queenstown business leaders are undertaking a feasibility study and consenting pathway for an electric transport solution, known as Whoosh, to tackle the town's traffic congestion woes.

The consortium of representatives from Remarkables Park, NZSki, Skyline, Queenstown Airport Corporation, Technology Queenstown and Queenstown Resort College are considering whether a staged network of autonomous electric pods, running on cables and rails above existing roads, can significantly improve transport choices in the resort.

"Traffic congestion in Queenstown is affecting daily commutes, business productivity and the visitor experience. It has real costs for locals and the town's reputation — and there is an urgent need to explore new approaches alongside traditional public transport options," says group spokesman Matthew Day.

The Whoosh network would be staged, with an initial focus on local journeys including along Frankton Road, from downtown Queenstown to the airport through and around Remarkables Park to The Remarkables Ski Area Transport Hub.

The group has also opened discussions with Southern Infrastructure, the company promoting the Queenstown Cable Car proposal which has been granted government approval to enter the fast track process.

The fully electric, low impact cable car system proposal primarily connects Queenstown's town centre with Frankton, the airport and future residential areas and is designed to carry 3,000 passengers an hour each way.

Snow Factory Guarantees Snow

Coronet Peak's new \$2million plus Snow Factory, which allows the ski area to make snow regardless of air temperature, has contributed to the earliest opening in the history of New Zealand's longest established commercial ski resort.

Coronet Peak and TechnoAlpin crews installed the Snow Factory, capable of producing 200 cubic metres of snow each day, in time for the learners' slopes to open on May 29.

The electrically powered Snow Factory operates by freezing water and converting it into snow without added chemicals and NZSki CEO Paul Anderson says the innovation is an exciting milestone, allowing the ski resort to build a base well ahead of winter, encouraging people to book their ski holidays in advance.

Coronet Peak ski area manager Nigel Kerr says the early opening of the beginner terrain is not just about skiing and riding.

"Snow play is hugely important for families and visitors who simply want to experience snow and the Snow Factory gives us the confidence to deliver that from the start of the season."

The installation is part of a \$4million capital works programme at Coronet Peak this year and the balance of the capital works investment has been earmarked for improvements to the learners' slope, groomers, rental equipment and other snowmaking upgrades.



Snow Factory under Construction

Snow Fest launches early Queenstown Winter

Queenstown put its stamp on its earliest ever start to winter with the launch of the two-day Snow Fest at Kings Birthday weekend (May 29 & 30) bringing a fresh community take on the former Queenstown Winter Festival, held annually from 1975 until 2023.



Snow Fest Snow Dig

The event was instigated by NZSki and supported by local business and tourism partners, reviving traditional events such as the Queenstown Chamber Business Lunch and Coronet Peak's famous suitcase race, while also introducing new activities such as a polar plunge in Lake Whakatipu and a downtown Rail Jam.

"Snow Fest is about celebrating winter in a way that feels authentic to Queenstown," says NZSki CEO Paul Anderson. "Thanks to Snow Factory technology we were able to welcome winter earlier than ever and that has real benefits for our community, our businesses and our people. Snow Fest rekindled the festive spirit while highlighting how snow continues to drive confidence, connection and momentum across the region."



Snow Fest Suitcase Race



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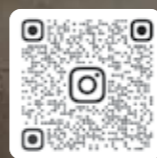


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Photograph Marius Gulliksrud



STANDOUT OLYMPIC SUCCESS

By Jenny McLeod

Alice Robinson Lillehammer

Seventeen athletes, mostly from the Southern Lakes region, represented New Zealand at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics in what has been hailed by the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) as a highly successful campaign, matching the record three-medal haul achieved in Beijing in 2022.

The athletes included Zoi Sadowski-Synnott, Alice Robinson, Ruby Star Andrews, Sylvia Trotter, Mischa Thomas, Lucia Georgalli, Luca and Ben Harrington, Ben Barclay, Cam and Fin Melville-Ives, Dane Menzies, Gustav Legnavsky, Lucas Ball, Luke Harrold, Lyon Farrell and Rocco Jamieson.

A standout performance from Wānaka's Zoi Sadowski-Synnott saw her become the world's most decorated snowboarder in Olympic history after winning silver medals in Big Air and slopestyle, adding to her gold and silver medals achieved in Beijing.

Luca Harrington, also Wānaka based, achieved the third medal of the Games winning bronze in the men's freeski slopestyle.

The NZOC referred to promising performances from many other athletes singling out snowboarder Dane Menzies and prominent alpine skier Alice Robinson who both secured top-eight finishes in their respective events.

Snow Sports NZ CEO Nick Kavanagh says the athletes represented a range of skills and experience.



Luca Harrington Steamboat

Photograph Andrew Wevers

Photograph Yoshida



Zoi Sadowski-Synnott Aspen

"From Zoi to our debutantes, some of whom made finals in their first games, many of our athletes are at the very beginning of their journey and now have Olympic experience under their belts. The youngest of our athletes is 16 and the composure and confidence these young people brought to their performances was a credit to our country."



Zoi Sadowski-Synnott

Photograph Berghoef

Legendary Paralympians

Snow Sports NZ CEO Nick Kavanagh says Paralympians Adam Hall and Corey Peters are "true legends in New Zealand sport" after flying the flag again for New Zealand at the 2026 Milano Cortina Paralympics.

Adam won silver in the men's giant slalom standing, the sixth Olympic medal of his career while Corey, competing in his fourth Olympics achieved three top-six finishes.

"They are synonymous with Paralympic success and an inspiration for future generations of adaptive athletes," says Nick. "Both have devoted so much of their lives to chasing success on the slopes and I hope there are many young snow sports enthusiasts out there thinking - 'this is possible for me.'"



Photograph Alexandra Blum

Adam Hall Winter Olympics 2026

Powerful Presence

New Zealand snow sports athletes had a big impact globally in the 2026 season making their presence felt across the board in many winter sports.

Snow Sports NZ says apart from three Olympic medals and one Paralympic medal the season's wrap reveals 21 World Cup podiums, seven World Cup wins, six X-Games medals, the FIS Freestyle Halfpipe Crystal Globe won by Fin Melville-Ives, Zoi Sadowski-Synnott's Natural Selection title, a Snow League Freeski world title won by Luke Harrold. Additionally the inaugural FIS Freeride World Championships and Freeride Tour World titles were awarded to Ben Richards.

In alpine skiing Queenstown's Alice Robinson achieved New Zealand's first ever Super G podium win, competing at St Moritz in Switzerland. She followed up her success with a Super G silver medal and is now ranked second in the world to Italy's Sofia Goggia in World Cup Super G and fifth overall in the giant slalom standings.

Photograph Li Runsheng



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Mountain Guide 2026

A snow enthusiast's guide to the Southern Lakes Ski Areas

Coronet Peak

Coronet Peak was New Zealand's first commercial ski field, established in 1947. It pioneered the country's first rope tow ski lift and almost 80 years on continues to innovate to create a world-class ski and snowboard facility. The mountain is a base for many of New Zealand's top snow athletes including World Cup alpine ski racing sensation Alice Robinson.

Terrain: Covering 280 hectares, Coronet Peak provides skiable terrain with an elevation of 1,649 metres and a vertical drop of 462 metres. The ski area has extensive gondola and chairlift access catering to all skill levels.

Getting there: Located just 20 minutes' drive from downtown Queenstown, Coronet Peak's sealed road leads to its contemporary base building and convenient carparking facilities.

What's new for 2026: Upgrades for the 2026 season include a SnowFactory, allowing snow to be made in any temperature, enhanced rental gear, new safe zones on key runs monitored by Trail Safety, a reshaped kids' zone providing more space and an improved learning environment for beginners.



Cardrona Alpine Resort

Cardrona Alpine Resort is New Zealand's largest alpine playground offering diverse terrain and experiences for skiers and snowboarders of all levels. In 2025 it was voted New Zealand's best ski field and is a world-class destination for beginners, intermediate and advanced athletes. Cardrona is home to renowned snow sports athletes such as Winter Olympians Zoi Sadowski Synnott and Luca Harrington.

Terrain: The resort features 47 pistes across 615 hectares of skiable terrain serviced by 11 lifts, including a chondola ensuring easy access to all areas.

Getting there: Cardrona is approximately a one-and-a-half hour drive from Queenstown's CBD and a 40 to 45 minute trip from Wānaka. Excellent base building and parking facilities are available at the resort.

What's new for 2026: Improvements include four new ski trails, redesigned tracks in the Soho Basin extension and extra snowmaking to boost capacity, a new arrivals area, sealed and heated courtyard amenities, an enclosed walkway from guest services to the courtyard and a new Cardrona Alpine Resort app.



The Remarkables



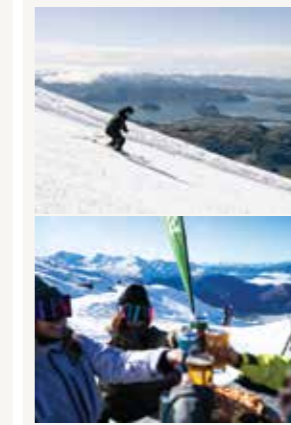
The Remarkables is an adventure playground for both skiers and snowboarders with a variety of terrain to suit all abilities. The ski area features three sunny bowls and seven terrain parks, providing extensive facilities for a wide range of snow enthusiasts. It is renowned as the Home of Freeride in New Zealand and hosts the southern hemisphere's only Freeride World Tour Academy.

Terrain: The mountain offers a balanced mix of terrain with 30 per cent designated for beginners, 40 per cent for intermediate and 30 per cent for advanced skiers and snowboarders.

Getting there: The Remarkables is a 45-minute drive from downtown Queenstown with both sealed and unsealed roads leading to the base building and parking facilities.

What's new for 2026: Enhancements this winter include an expanded café seating over 200 guests, two new groomers, upgraded rental gear and increased snowmaking capacity in the Terrain Parks.

Treble Cone



Known as a mountain for intermediate and advanced skiers, Treble Cone has some of New Zealand's most diverse and challenging in-bound terrain. The ski field overlooks Lake Wānaka and the Matukituki Base offering spectacular views from top to bottom including one of New Zealand's most scenic beginners' areas with full Snow Sports School offerings.

Terrain: Covering 550 hectares with a base elevation of 1,260 metres, Treble Cone's highest lift reaches 1,960 metres and its longest run extends for four kilometres. Ten per cent of the field is suitable for beginners, 45 per cent is designated for intermediate skiers and 45 per cent caters to advanced enthusiasts.

Getting there: Treble Cone is approximately a 20-minute drive from downtown Wānaka. Access to the base building and parking is via a scenic seven-kilometre gravel road and a complimentary mountain shuttle operates from the bottom carpark.

What's new for 2026: Treble Cone has introduced an app, developed in conjunction with Cardrona Alpine Resort, to replace physical lift pass cards for most guests. Other upgrades include a refurbishment of the base area building, a new retail space and a family area.

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New Chapter for Prolific Artist

By Penny Simpson

For more than two decades, Queenstown artist Ivan Clarke's prominent downtown gallery displayed an extensive collection of his formidable New Zealand landscapes, impressionist works and legendary Lonely Dog art.

Recently however, he has relocated to a purpose-built gallery at his property at 12 mile near Bob's Cove, overlooking Lake Whakatipu, opening a new chapter for his work.

"After more than 20 years in town it's changed with most of my amazing staff now retired. Several have been with me over 15 years and loved it. Today it's a different Queenstown, it's busier, the tone has changed and while business remained steady, increased foot traffic hasn't necessarily equated to higher turnover — we are now curating a more bespoke experience instead."

Ivan says visitors as well as locals have been a constant source of reinforcement for his large-scale works with many now owned by prominent art collectors.

Setting up his own Giclee print studio was essential for producing artworks, ranging from affordable pieces to high-end, hand-retouched limited editions.

"My brother-in-law set up the venture and we purchased one of New Zealand's first wide-format dedicated fine-art printers back in 1999."

Ivan's Lake Gallery near Bob's Cove is an exceptional gallery destination and open by appointment.



"We've had good positive feedback and press over the years. The Queenstown gallery was a big space for an artist to fill but the key to its success was the unsuspected introduction of the whimsical fantasy world of Lonely Dog. I didn't realise on the opening night that history would be made with the unveiling of a few paintings of Lonely Dog and his mates displayed on the walls."

"My vision was for our home property to enhance the gallery experience with the stunning location adding to its appeal, offering visitors the opportunity to meet me personally and even meet my dogs. Guests have the option to arrive by helicopter and we have already entertained many international visitors staying at nearby lodges."

Exploring new artistic direction is keeping Ivan currently engaged with some larger scale works soon to be revealed.

"My large impressionist paintings, with heavy brush strokes and texture on canvas often with use of subtle silver or gold leaf, have rarely been seen in public and are now becoming popular," he says.

"As another ambitious project on the side, I've been quietly developing an epic painting over the past two years. This is a complex scene as described in Revelation 19, Rider on the White Horse — the second coming, pitched in a dramatic ethereal battle scene with its powerful symbolic players that will be a very special painting."



Ivan Clarke

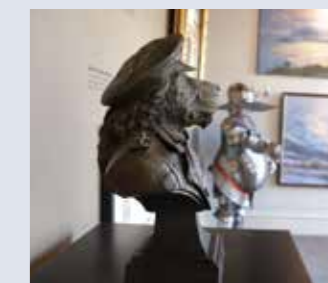
Lonely Dog Fantasy

Queenstown artist Ivan Clarke is renowned for masterminding the captivating, whimsical tale of Lonely Dog which has gained worldwide attention and even approaches from Hollywood.

He has created over 200 works featuring Lonely Dog and his friends in the fantasy town of Alveridge including prints, books, sculptures and music.

"The Lonely Dog world is sort of like having a tiger by the tail but in a good sense," says Ivan.

"Unbelievably, it's held the attention of film producers for many years, with the first deal signed with Warner Brothers. This eventually expired with only test showreels to show for it. Since then the movie or television project has always been just a step away and we've signed several deals but they haven't quite gone the distance into production — time will tell."



All the original Lonely Dog paintings are held in Ivan's private art collection and are not for sale. But, quality reproductions individually printed and signed by the artist, continue to be popular with art enthusiasts from all over the world.

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UNDER THE STARS AT THE LINDIS LODGE

One of New Zealand's most remote and refined destinations, The Lindis Lodge, is inviting winter guests to uncover a celestial secret in New Zealand's remote Ahuriri Valley with the return of their Under the Stars incentive, a seasonal celebration of the region's extraordinary night skies.



Bordering the Aoraki Mackenzie International Dark Sky Reserve, the Ahuriri Valley offers some of the clearest, darkest skies in the Southern Hemisphere.

"Throughout July and August, our guests staying at The Lindis will experience a rotating series of complimentary night-sky inspired experiences designed to slow the pace of the day and connect them with the landscape above," says Lodge manager Averil Patterson.

Included within each stay are the range of free-of-charge experiences that rotate nightly including Dining in the Dark, a multi course dinner served in the Great Hall inspired by the night sky outside, Guided Stargazing which is a 45 minute introduction to the constellations of the Southern Hemisphere, led by expert guide Joseph Pooley, and Fireside Mulled Wine to be enjoyed beside the outdoor firepit.

Private hot tubs are also available for guests to enjoy the valley after dark beneath the stars. For those wishing to explore further The Lindis offers a selection of private upgrade options, including a two-hour private stargazing session using high-powered telescopes, a three-hour private astrophotography workshop capturing the Milky Way or a Twilight Champagne and Caviar experience at the Lodge's secluded architectural private dining space, Black Diamond, which is set within the high-country landscape.



"After an overwhelming response to Under the Stars last year it felt natural to bring it back for our guests and evolve it further. The Ahuriri Valley has one of the clearest skies in the Southern Hemisphere and Under the Stars is about embracing that wonder. This winter we're inviting guests to encounter that magic again and in new ways."

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Gibbston Valley Toasts the Season

By Jane Brooke

Gibbston Valley is celebrating the arrival of its talented new executive chef and the closing of a thrilling-yet-challenging harvest.

Chef Rob Boyd joined the Gibbston Valley team in May, bringing with him a career shaped in kitchens across France, England, Hong Kong and Australia, including time in Michelin-starred restaurants.

His role is to oversee the kitchens and create menus for Gibbston Valley's three restaurant sites — Gibbston Valley Cellar Door and Restaurant, the Gibbston Valley Lodge and the Gibbston Valley Golf Club.

Gibbston Valley executive managing director Cristina Griffith says it is a pivotal moment for the brand, which brings together premium-yet-accessible wine, food, spa, golf, and accommodation experiences in one Insta-worthy location.

"What we're building here is a place where the food, wine and landscape all speak the same language," she says. "Winter is when that harmony feels most alive. People are skiing, golfing and enjoying the outdoors and Gibbston Valley is where they come to relax, connect and enjoy something special. Rob understands that instinctively and he has developed a sensational winter menu that integrates beautifully with our wines, our landscape, our place and our organic ethos."



Executive Chef Rob Boyd



Director of Golf Jesus Santos, Cristina Griffith, Head of Hospitality Ashling Swirtz & Christopher Keys

Gibbston Valley chief winemaker Christopher Keys says winter marks the close of a dramatic 2026 harvest, when adverse weather conditions made work exceptionally challenging — and it is one he will never forget.

"For day to day changeability, weather weirdness and wildness, nothing comes close to 2026 for me," he says. "A cool summer, late season rain and a strategic waiting game meant the team picked 80 per cent of their fruit in just ten days. Thankfully, we had a wonderful harvest team and the result is exceptional — deeply coloured, beautifully concentrated Pinot Noir from Bendigo and Pisa and small but powerful parcels from Gibbston's Home Block. I am intrigued to see how these wines turn out."

Meanwhile, Gibbston Valley has just released a full range of organic Pinot Noirs from 2024.



"It was wonderful to celebrate our first-ever organic lineup of 2024 Pinot Noirs with the harvest team and our wine club members."

"We deeply care about each and every wine. We love showcasing place, year and people and revel in the extraordinary expression of Central Otago. These wines will be Central Otago classics."

Cristina sees the 2026 vintage as a testament to the valley's resilience.

"This harvest reminded us that great wine is never guaranteed," she says. "It is always earned through patience, instinct and a willingness to trust the land and our people."



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Breakfast 08:30 - 11:45
Lunch 12:00 - 17:00
Dinner 17:00 - 22:00 (last orders)

sunfire.co.nz

Famous Chocolatier Marks Sweet Milestone

By Aspen Bruce

Swiss chocolatier Lindt celebrated its South Island flagship store's first anniversary in April having firmly established itself as an exclusive chocolate shop in the centre of Queenstown.

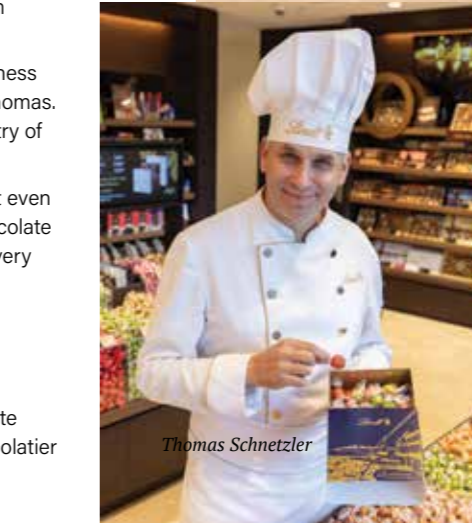
The globally-renowned brand opened its inaugural store in the south in April 2025 with Lindt maître chocolatier Thomas Schnetzler, one of only five Lindt master chocolatiers in the world, attending the launch and demonstrating the company's premium chocolate-making process.

"For me, the greatest joy comes from crafting moments of happiness that people can savour, share and take home with them," says Thomas. "Being in Queenstown for the opening and showcasing the artistry of chocolate-making was an incredible opportunity."

"Through our first South Island store it has been exciting to meet even more chocolate lovers, to introduce them to the finest Swiss chocolate and allow them to experience the craftsmanship involved with every piece."

Thomas trained in Switzerland as a pâtissier (pastry chef) and confiseur (confectioner) at the renowned Confiserie Reber in Schaffhausen near Zürich.

He mastered the craft of fine pâtisserie, pralinés, truffles, chocolate specialties and artistic chocolate showpieces under master chocolatier Laurent Perriraz during his intensive three-year apprenticeship.



Thomas Schnetzler

After being awarded a Swiss National Diploma and graduating at the top of his class he launched his career, initially moving to Australia to join a leading five-star hotel group in 1997.

In 2004 Thomas joined Lindt Australia as brand ambassador and master chocolatier.

"The role offered the perfect opportunity to combine craftsmanship and storytelling and to work collaboratively with numerous international markets including New Zealand, Australia and China," he says.

Thomas is recognised as a trusted source of chocolate insight for Lindt teams worldwide and is responsible for developing new Lindt products and sharing the company's story — its heritage, quality and Lindt Difference — around the world.



"After more than three decades devoted to chocolate, my passion for Lindt and its craft remains as strong as ever — inspired by how a simple moment with our chocolate can delight, comfort, and beautifully connect people around the world."

The Queenstown store offers a delectable selection of exquisite Lindt chocolate products and incorporates a Lindor Pick-and-Mix station, hot and cold beverages including decadent hot chocolate made from flowing Lindt chocolate as well as the Crema Gelata ice cream range.



Warm up at Lindt

Step inside and treat yourself to the ultimate chocolate experience.



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Authentic Lakeside Italian Dining

By Margo Berryman

Flavour authenticity and an ingredient-led approach are at the heart of Queenstown's Public Italian Kitchen's philosophy.

In its prime Steamer Wharf location overlooking Lake Whakatipu and the surrounding alpine scenery, the restaurant's picturesque setting is complemented by a welcoming dining culture.



"We recently refreshed both our interiors and courtyard to create a warmer and more comfortable lakeside dining experience," says restaurant manager Sofia Perez. "The new outdoor deck features a retractable awning and overhead heaters, allowing guests to enjoy the waterfront atmosphere year-round, especially during the colder winter months."

"Inside, the updated dining spaces feel more inviting and relaxed while retaining the vibrant energy and beautiful lake views that Public is known for. Customers are enjoying the cosy winter backdrop and the improved indoor-outdoor flow."

The menu is elegantly simple emphasising fresh local ingredients and genuine Italian flavours.

"Our head chef Shane Davies is celebrated for his passion and creativity focusing on dishes that reflect both classic Italian cuisine and our relaxed lakeside environment," she says. "Think freshly handmade pastas and Italian classics like our signature fettuccine, carbonara and seasonal sharing plates that bring people together around the table."

"The ambience is relaxed and informal to complement our stunning lakeside setting at Steamer Wharf. During the busy high season we generally cater for groups of up to 12 guests to ensure the best dining experience for everyone but can accommodate larger groups and special occasions."



"Seasonal highlights include beef carpaccio, slow-cooked lamb dishes and our handmade gamberi pasta. The menu centres on comforting flavours while retaining a fresh Italian style."

Winter evenings at Public are all about warmth and atmosphere. Taking in the spectacular views guests can unwind with a cocktail or a glass of Central Otago wine and enjoy the lively restaurant vibe.

"There's something truly special about watching the lake and mountains in winter while sharing good food with friends and family," says Sofia.

"Diners are loving our mulled wine, classic winter cocktails, rich espresso martinis and warming hot toddies — perfect for enjoying beside the lake on a frosty Queenstown evening."

Public is open seven days and welcomes walk-ins although bookings are recommended.



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Wharf Bar

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Below the Mountains

Queenstown Wharf Bar is made for long lunches, après drinks and evenings that stretch a little longer than planned.

Warm interiors, lakefront views and relaxed hospitality make it a natural meeting place through these colder months. Come settle in.



BOOK TODAY

Find us upstairs at The Steamer Wharf
Open Monday to Sunday, 12pm – Late

Garden to Table Philosophy

The Headwaters Dining Room offers fresh, seasonal Chef's Choice dinners from the talented team at The Headwaters Glenorchy Eco Lodge.

Inspired by produce grown in its extensive organic fruit and vegetable garden and sustainable glasshouse, the kitchen produces a range of dining experiences over winter months for lodge guests and visiting diners to enjoy alongside some of Central Otago's finest wines.

"There's nothing better than creating freshly prepared garden-to-table meals featuring fresh ingredients from our own gardens," says The Headwaters executive chef DJ Lynch.



Photograph Sam Stewart

"Taking inspiration from the seasons, we might serve something like a delectable Royalburn Farm lamb rump with pea puree, charred broccoli and a fresh mint jus, or an eggplant schnitzel with mint gremolata and oyster mushrooms to showcase the very best of the region."

"We encourage people to visit for dinner or for a beautiful weekend away. Reservations are essential."

Sustainability extends beyond the kitchen to the lodge's construction and landscaping, thoughtfully built with recycled materials including native timbers and local stone. The onsite garden includes 100 fruit trees, generously donated by a guest, further demonstrating the property's commitment to sustainable practices.

Q&A

Queenstown Wharf Bar on Steamer Wharf has recently launched, billed as "a new bar with an old soul". QT Magazine talked to venue manager Lewis Price about the stunningly located outlet.

What is Queenstown Wharf Bar's hospitality style?

Our lakeside Queenstown Wharf Bar has a relaxed, welcoming style that reflects the best of Queenstown living – warm, unpretentious and social. We focus on creating an experience that feels equally suited to locals dropping in for a casual drink, groups sharing a long lunch or visitors wanting to soak up the waterfront atmosphere.



What are some of the hero dishes?

Our hero dishes are the ones that pair fresh, crowd-pleasing flavours with a laid-back waterfront dining theme. They include our seafood-focused plates, generous share options and elevated pub favourites that work well for everything from casual lunches to evening dining.

What sets the location overlooking Queenstown Bay apart?

The location is the venue's best selling point. With panoramic windows overlooking Lake Whakatipu, the upstairs setting is as memorable as the experience itself, giving guests a unique vantage point above the waterfront. In winter especially, the bar provides a warm and appealing setting where people can enjoy the resort atmosphere, take in the spectacular scenery and sample our warming drinks such as house-made mulled wine and hot buttered rum.

Venue for all occasions

Domaine Thomson Wines cellar door is more than just a venue for tasting the estate's signature Pinot Noir and Chardonnay wines – in its superb garden setting it is gaining a reputation as an exceptional Central Otago location for weddings, corporate meetings, special occasions, classical music concerts and even yoga retreats.



The vineyard was established in 2000, named after former Surveyor General of New Zealand John Turnbull Thomson, an ancestor of one of the founders.

The cellar door references 19th century Central Otago farm buildings featuring a corrugated iron exterior and has spectacular views of Lake Dunstan

and the Cromwell Basin with Mount Pisa as a backdrop. Owner P M Hall Jones says the lavender walk to the cellar door is a highlight.

"Inside, in contrast to the exterior, can be found warm wood, chandeliers and colourful velvet chairs. Visitors can sample French cheese platters with ripe Brie and nutty Comté served with our Pinot Noir and Chardonnay labels. They can also taste French burgundies from Domaine Thomson's vineyards in Burgundy, including Gevrey-Chambertin, Saint-Aubin and Mercurey."

"We welcome enquiries about our cellar door as a venue," she says. "It is the perfect environment for so many different occasions."

For more information www.domainethomsonwines.com



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SCAN TO BOOK



Vintage Jewellery Treasures

By Jane Brooke



Sarah Austin's passion as a lifelong jewellery enthusiast has ultimately evolved into a collection of timeless, vintage and one of a kind pieces, leading to the founding of the Maebel brand.

"In a world increasingly drawn to meaning, craftsmanship and sustainability Maebel offers something rare — jewellery with a past, a story and a future."

Sarah's early journey was shaped by her fascination with collecting, wearing and even creating jewellery. Today that deep understanding of precious metals and gemstones informs every piece she selects.



Sarah Austin

"Each piece is thoughtfully chosen, each item is handpicked with intention, balancing beauty, quality and individuality. The current Maebel collection reflects this ethos. Think elegant diamond earrings set in platinum, an array of pendants spanning modern minimalism to vintage charm and a striking selection of rings designed to be worn and treasured daily."

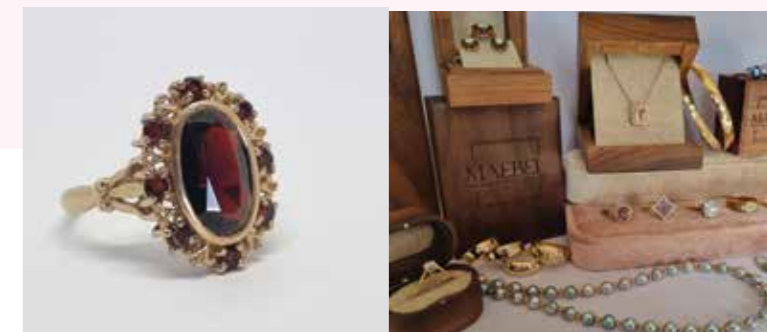


Maebel's global reach is impressive.

"Jewellery is sourced from across the world with a particular focus on the UK and Japan alongside finds from Australia, America and within New Zealand. This international network allows me to offer a diverse mix from contemporary pre-loved designs to true vintage treasures ensuring the collection never feels predictable."

Sarah says her renewed interest in vintage jewellery is no coincidence.

"As the cost of gold continues to rise alongside inflation, buyers are increasingly turning toward pre-loved pieces for both value and distinction. They often get something more unique and more for their money. It's this blend of individuality and practicality that's fuelling a quiet shift in how people shop for fine jewellery."



Maebel offers a personalised sourcing service where clients can request specific pieces — from wedding rings to rare stones. "Often, these sought-after items never make it online," she says. "Gold bangles, for instance, have been in such high demand that many are sold before reaching the website." Maebel sits firmly in the realm of fine jewellery.

"The collection focuses on gold and platinum pieces set with semi-precious and precious stones, with the occasional sterling silver addition. It's jewellery designed not just to accessorise, but to endure — to be worn, loved and passed on. At its core the brand is about sustainability, longevity and rediscovery, giving beautiful pieces a second life while offering wearers something truly distinctive. In an age of fast fashion, Maebel is a reminder that the most meaningful luxury is often the kind that already exists."



Follow Maebel on Instagram

@maebel.jewellery

or visit www.maebel.co.nz to view the current collection

Maebel Pre-loved & Vintage Jewellery will be at Remarkables Market, Matariki Market 11th July 2026, Inside the Red Barn 10am - 2pm



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Hands on experiences at Cargo Collective

By Penny Simpson

Queenstown's Cargo Brew Hall, incorporating a brewery, distillery and versatile venue, is the backdrop for Cargo Collective's acclaimed range of distinctive beers, bespoke gins and ciders combined with hands-on hospitality experiences.



The Arthurs Point based company is a superior beverage producer and event professional specialising in a range of innovative products and initiatives.

"When we designed the Brew Hall we didn't want it to be a place where people just come to drink but rather where they can experience what we do," says managing director Malcolm Blakey.

"Our popular workshops were a natural extension — we create beer, gin and cider so opening that process up and letting people get hands-on felt like the next step. It has also given us a way to connect more directly with visitors rather than just serving them across a bar."

"Queenstown is full of great activities so the goal was to create something that felt a bit different — more immersive, social and creative."

The immersive experiences and workshops take people behind the scenes either on a brewery tour or a practical gin workshop.

"We get a real mix from corporate groups, incentive travellers, locals celebrating special occasions and a growing number of independent travellers looking for something with a difference to do."

He says flexibility is key to the success of the workshops.

"We run scheduled sessions that individuals or small groups can book into, often at short notice — it's very common for visitors to book within the same week or even a day or two ahead. At the same time we also customise workshops for private groups which has been particularly popular with the conference and incentive sector."

The Cargo Collective workshops have added another dimension to the footprint of the business.

"Workshops and tours have allowed us to diversify beyond traditional venue hire and product sales creating a more balanced and resilient business model," says Malcolm. "They bring people through the door at different times of the year which helps smooth out seasonality."

"People genuinely enjoy the hands-on aspect creating something themselves, understanding the process, then actually tasting the result. It turns what could be a passive experience into something much more memorable."



Signature Workshops and Tours

- **Gin Workshop:** three-hour distilling experience guided by the brewery's expert team allowing guests to explore an array of botanicals, uncover the rich history of gin and craft their own special recipe.
- **Brewery Tour:** enjoy four unique beers while on a guided tour of the contemporary Brew Hall, brewery and distillery with behind-the-scenes access. It's the perfect blend of flavour, storytelling and discovery.



Après Ski at Cargo

- A social experience designed around sharing, slowing down and warming up after the slopes
- Après Ski package available daily — featuring melted raclette-style cheese, chocolate fondue and a warming mulled cocktail crafted with our signature gin
- Local craft beers, ciders and gins available on-site
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- Smores packs available to roast on the outdoor fire pits

"We wanted to create the kind of place people naturally drift to after their last run — somewhere warm, social and a little different from a traditional après experience."



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A Season of Diverse Exhibitions

By Tom Kalliber

A diverse suite of exhibitions by celebrated New Zealand artists will be a drawcard this winter at Gallery Thirty Three in Wānaka.



Julia Holderness | Sloped Landscape in Green



Michel Tuffery | Manu Lua Tipani, Lapita Study



Tim Main | Ruru

Director Vanessa George hopes the rich exhibition programme, featuring original paintings, sculptures and textiles will offer something for everyone from the avid collector to the quizzically curious.

"On July 3 the gallery will open a special exhibition featuring new works by Julia Holderness, Michel Tuffery and Tim Main. We are very proud to welcome Julia Holderness to Gallery Thirty Three. The Ōtautahi Christchurch-based artist is a prominent figure in the national art scene with a particular focus on alternative histories of modernism in New Zealand"

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington-based artist Michel Tuffery is a renowned New Zealand artist of Samoan, Rarotongan and Ma'ohi Tahitian heritage.

"Tuffery's practice is often centred around connecting place, community, culture and art through a new lens. His beautiful Lapita Study Paintings are layered with significant narrative and a privilege to present."

Also based in Ōtautahi Christchurch, sculptor and designer Tim Main is launching an entirely new body of work at Gallery 33. "We are incredibly thrilled to be presenting his beautiful series of Morepork sculptures," says Vanessa.



Deborah Moss | The language of small things



Belinda Griffiths | Weight of the World

The opening of new exhibitions by Belinda Griffiths, Deborah Moss and Eliza Glyn is scheduled for August 7. "Gestural, powerful and emotive, this curated collection will showcase diverse mark making techniques."

Vanessa says the gallery will come to life on September 4 with a colourful creative takeover, featuring new works by Jay Hutchinson, Stephen Martyn Welch and Mark Rayner.

"This exhibition is sure to spike people's interest from the surreal realism, edgy textiles and curiously wonderful sculptures."



Jay Hutchinson | Smile



Mark Rayner | Nervous Moon Man

Gallery Thirty Three, 33 Helwick Street Wānaka. Open every day except Christmas Day.
For all enquiries info@gallery33.co.nz or visit gallery33.co.nz



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Thermae is the second Aluume concept for Queenstown, following Bathe on Brecon Street. A floating sauna, steam room and lake plunge moored at Frankton Marina, built around the transition between hot and cold.

"This is the next evolution of the floating sauna in New Zealand," says Aluume founder Tim McMahon. "We took our time."

Designed by Christchurch studio Sheppard & Rout, the architecture is low to the lake and clad in vertical timber.

Construction begins at Frankton Marina in June. The pontoons are currently en route to Queenstown ahead of assembly on the lake, with a mid to late September 2026 opening on the horizon.

Three sauna rooms calibrated for different rhythms: a private sauna and plunge for up to six, a communal sauna for ten, and a quieter four-person room. A steam room is open to all guests. The plunge drops straight into Lake Wakatipu, with contemporary change and shower facilities back at the marina.



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One hundred memberships. One opening. Twelve months unlimited off-peak from the day Thermae opens. Parking, towels, amenity, founder previews. A founder rate locked from month thirteen onward. First refusal on whatever comes next. Once a hundred are in, the list closes. Reserve at aluume.com · [@alumewellness](https://www.instagram.com/aluumewellness) · Opening mid to late September 2026

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Mountain Ready at Five Mile

Five Mile is centrally located for a visit on the way to or from Coronet Peak, The Remarkables or Cardrona ski areas, with its range of shopping, cafés and services combined with plenty of easy, free parking.

Kickstart the Day

An early morning warm-up session at **Reform Pilates** or **Flex Fitness**, with their new equipment and technology, sets up the day ahead before coffee or breakfast at Five Mile where visitors are spoiled for choice.

Pop into **Billy's Espresso**, **Joe's Garage** or **Moinho Café** for great coffee and a filling breakfast. Billy's has its own locally-roasted coffee blend and uses farm-fresh milk and boasts an extensive cabinet range including exceptional toasted sandwiches.

Joe's Garage has dropped a new winter menu including a seriously nostalgic ham steak, egg and chips option. Moinho Café & Eatery features an innovative buffet where homemade dishes are sold by weight, including Kiwi breakfast favourites, Asian-inspired recipes and Brazilian flavours.

Lunch or freshly-prepped snacks for the mountain are available at all cafés or **Woolworth's supermarket** with handy underground parking.

Rental Gear

Stop off at Five Mile on the way to Coronet Peak, The Remarkables or Cardrona ski areas and pick up the latest season's ski and snowboard gear. **Boardertown** is renowned for its top of the line snowboard and skateboard gear, including the largest selection of Bataleon snowboards in New Zealand. The store offers a 'try before you buy' option for leading brands on the market along with a premium fitting service.



Moss Spa



Reform Pilates



Mons Royale



Billy's Espresso



Joe's Garage



Moinho Café



Podium



Boardertown

Stay Warm

For essentials like gloves, beanies, winter layers and jackets **Mons Royale**, **Bivouac Outdoor**, **Kathmandu**, **Rebel Sport**, **The Warehouse** and **North Beach** have diverse choices at a range of prices. Mons Royale was founded in the mountains surrounding Queenstown and Wānaka and is renowned internationally for high-performance merino clothing and accessories.

Wind down

There's no better way to round off a day on snow than with a float, ice bath or sauna at Five Mile's health retreat **O-Studio**, while the team at **Moss Spa** work their magic with expertly crafted treatments to leave tired and aching bodies feeling revitalised and refreshed.

Five Mile Food

Five Mile makes life easy with excellent dine in or takeout options at local eateries **Tanoshi**, **Podium at Sudima**, **Joes Garage**, **The Crown Pub and Beer Garden**, **Bollywood**, **Tank**, **Hikari Sushi** or **Domino's Pizza**.



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WHERE tranquility Flows

Signature Greenstone Massage

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More than a beautiful stone, it symbolises a spiritual connection to Papatuanuku (Earth Mother), embodying healing, strength, and protection.

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French Elegance at Sofitel Queenstown Spa

By Margo Berryman

French elegance and the timeless luxury of L'Occitane en Provence are showcased at the Sofitel Queenstown Spa where refined aesthetics, rich sensory experiences and a holistic philosophy combine to create a harmonious environment.



Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa introduced the exclusive French brand last year establishing an opulent spa environment in downtown Queenstown.

"Our exclusive partnership with international French luxury spa retailer L'Occitane, brings the essence of Provence to the mountains offering an unparalleled experience in beauty, wellness and luxury," says Sofitel Queenstown acting general manager Jo Finnigan.

The Sofitel Spa L'Occitane en Provence is the only destination in Queenstown where guests can enjoy L'Occitane's indulgent treatments and purchase their complete range of beauty products.

The spa offers a range of signature treatments and holistic wellness techniques to encourage a deeper connection with mind and body while fostering a positive impact on nature.

"Each ritual draws inspiration from the natural beauty of Provence, utilising luxurious L'Occitane en Provence products and traditional Provençal techniques," says Jo. "The spa's elegant design incorporates Provençal décor and holistic amenities including private steam rooms and jacuzzis that immerse guests in an authentically French atmosphere of indulgence."



Premium Therapies and Facilities

A team of international spa professionals delivers an extensive range of premium therapies at Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa, including invigorating body scrubs, firming treatments, rejuvenating traveller's massages, hammam steam sessions and romantic couples' treatments.

The spa features five treatment rooms, each equipped with individual showers and steam rooms, a couples' suite with a cedar wood jacuzzi and a hammam.

"Complementing the spa facilities are relaxation spaces where guests are invited to further unwind," says Sofitel Queenstown acting general manager Jo Finnigan.

"The Discovery bar within the spa offers freshly brewed tea and a healthy snack made with ingredients inspired by those used in L'Occitane signature elixirs, providing the perfect ending to an extraordinary French-inspired spa experience."



Exclusive Rituals

The Sofitel Queenstown Hotel & Spa offers exclusive rituals, specifically designed for the complex when it originally opened, reflecting the importance of culture and place in the Queenstown mountains.

Sofitel Queenstown acting general manager Jo Finnigan says included is the distinctive Signature Pounamu Greenstone Ritual which now incorporates the L'Occitane product range.

"This unique treatment harnesses the healing and harmonising properties of original Māori traditions offering a soothing experience alongside signature L'Occitane treatments."



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Luxury Resort Highlights Tourism Investment

By Jenny McLeod

The opening of the multimillion dollar Coronet Ridge Resort highlights the importance of continued investment in tourism infrastructure in the region, according to Queenstown Lakes Mayor John Glover.

The Arthur's Point property, formerly Nugget Point Hotel, has recently been redeveloped by its owners the New Bay Group.

Mayor Glover underlined the resort's contribution to the visitor economy

"The location of the hotel has always been a standout feature — the sweet spot between the countryside and easy access to a thriving downtown Queenstown. It is wonderful to see the site revamped, refreshed and renamed under new ownership that has the confidence to invest in our district."

New Bay Group executive director HC Tan says it is rewarding to see the resort transformed in such a spectacular setting.

"We believe this property will set a new standard for alpine luxury in New Zealand and become a sought after destination for discerning travellers from around the world."

Coronet Ridge Resort features 41 elegant guest rooms with private balconies or patios, while other amenities include a conference space for up to 30 people, a day spa, outdoor hot tubs, fitness centre, squash courts and private cinema.



"We visited Elevation restaurant at Coronet Ridge Resort for the first time on Valentine's Day and the food was absolutely amazing — every dish was well presented, fresh and full of flavour. There was attention to detail in both the preparation and service and the staff were warm and attentive making us feel welcome throughout the evening."

- Elevation diner



Dominic Dsouza



Elevated Experience

Elevation Bar and Restaurant in the Coronet Ridge Resort is aptly named.

Perched high above the Shotover River and backdropped by the Remarkables Mountain range the overwhelming views are matched by the standard of cuisine created by executive chef Dominic Dsouza and his team.

The emphasis is on a seasonally inspired menu using freshly sourced, local ingredients.

"We focus on the current season and our location and we aim to put every aspect of the natural essence of a season on the plate," says Dominic. "We try to source locally in Central Otago and have an excellent connection with Nadia Lim and Carlos Bagrie from Royalburn Station, whose beautiful lamb is a highlight of our dinner menu. Manuka honey is also an important ingredient for us supplied by local companies while our fresh, seasonal vegetables are grown in the area."

Born in India and trained in France, Dominique has held several key positions in the New Zealand restaurant industry and is noted for crafting refined dining experiences which marry classic French techniques with New Zealand produce.

Elevation features everything from gourmet breakfasts and leisurely brunches to delicious dinners and après-ski experiences around the intimate Library Bar fire.

Dominique's signature winter dish is Royal Burn lamb with celeriac puree, pickled radish, walnut crumble, black garlic, master stock and leek while the New Zealand Whiskey parfait is his ultimate dessert choice.

"We encourage our guests and Queenstown residents to sample our exclusive menus and our special brand of service," he says. "Our commitment to both seasonality and sustainability is reflected in everything we offer."





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ALCHEMY LIFESTYLE

By Aspen Bruce

Alchemy Equipment is carving out its own characteristic territory within New Zealand's outdoor apparel industry with stores locally in Wānaka and Queenstown.

Founded by Campbell Junor, a respected designer with almost 30 years' experience in the apparel industry, including working with Kathmandu and as creative director and co-owner of Macpac, Alchemy Equipment launched internationally in 2013 at the influential Munich ISPO trade show.

"We supplied our award-winning packs and luggage to wholesale distribution markets in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and the United States," says Campbell. "However, when Covid-19 hit, we needed to re-evaluate this category and decided to focus on our domestic market."

"Outside Sports in Queenstown became the first New Zealand retailer to stock our apparel range and locally we have Alchemy Equipment stores in Queenstown and Wānaka with nine stores now operating across the country."

The lifestyle clothing brand is known for its tailored aesthetics that can transition from elegant streetwear to durable outerwear.

"There is a level-headedness and pragmatism towards our approach that I think is often found in Kiwi-led businesses. We offer long-lasting apparel for people that move between multiple contexts and environments."

Campbell Junor

ARROWTOWN ARTIST'S FLAIR

By Penny Simpson

Arrowtown sculptor Fiona Garlick is passionate about sculpture being a public experience and welcomes visitors to view her work, created in her idyllic studio and gallery on Buckingham Street, just a short walk from the village centre.

"I like to think of my gallery as a working studio where people can find me and discuss the bronze sculptures I produce as well as watch some of the process."

After a career in documentary production in London Fiona attended Falmouth College of Art in Cornwall before completing an honours degree in Fine Arts at Elam in Auckland.

She began practicing full-time as a sculptor several years ago with nature a key focal point for her award-winning pieces.

"I enjoy making my studio and gallery available for people to view the sculpture and see what it is to be a working artist in Arrowtown."



Fiona Garlick



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"Our hope for every piece is that it lives in a wardrobe for many seasons and provides excellent value over its lifetime. We prefer to use materials and makers that share our values of fairness, quality and sustainability."

Alchemy Equipment currently achieves 90-95% of its production with accredited certified facilities, meeting internationally recognised standards for ethical labour, environmental, health and safety.

Fabrics are independently certified for sustainability, with knitwear sourced from responsible suppliers using mulesing-free merino.

"Where possible, we also use organically grown cotton. Our supply chain is intentionally narrow and deep, which allows us greater focus on ensuring consistency and quality of production," says Campbell.

"Alchemy Equipment is continuing to grow domestically and we also ship products internationally via our online store."

alchemy-equipment.com

Wilson & Dorset

Sheepskin Reimagined.

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Celebrating Sustainability and Community

By Margo Berryman

Deluxe New Zealand home brand Wilson & Dorset recently celebrated the second anniversary of its boutique Arrowtown store where the business has had a high profile since opening in Buckingham Street's historic Cowie's Cottage.

"What makes Arrowtown so unique is that wonderful blend of tight-knit community spirit combined with a constant flow of curious international visitors," says founder Amanda Dorset. "From day one the community wrapped their arms around us and we've loved every moment of being part of this special little village."

"There is a lovely energy in the store where locals pop in like old friends and travellers discover sheepskin for the very first time. Sharing that experience is something our team genuinely treasures and we're absolutely here to stay."

Known for their luxurious range of sheepskin products Wilson & Dorset continues to promote the use of natural wool in contemporary interiors offering a sustainable alternative to synthetic materials.

The brand's ongoing expansion reflects the strong demand for its superior home essentials.



"2026 is shaping up to be an exciting chapter — we are in a strong growth phase with our expansion into Australia gaining real momentum, bringing the warmth and primal comfort of sheepskin into more homes," says Amanda. "At our core we believe that doing one thing exceptionally well beats doing many things averagely and that philosophy hasn't changed. Our team remain laser-focused on what we do best — sourcing and crafting the finest quality sheepskin products on the market."



"Crafted by nature and made to last, sheepskin is a timeless investment in comfort, warmth and sustainability."



"The response to the launch of our new Wilson and Dorset Sheepskin Vest has been nothing short of overwhelming and honestly, we're not surprised. Pre-orders have opened with stock arriving this July. We designed the vest with real life in mind — whether you're hitting the trails or navigating the urban jungle, this is a piece that moves with you."



With a landmark year behind them Wilson & Dorset continues to champion wool products above all else.

"A standout moment was the opening of our beautiful new store at The Arts Centre in Ōtautahi Christchurch which feels like a natural home for our brand and it's been wonderful to see our Bowral, Arrowtown and Wānaka stores continuing to thrive," says Amanda.

"Our sheepskins are a by-product of the meat industry which we save from otherwise ending up in the landfill. It's the ultimate form of recycling and we get to champion this wonderful material."



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La Rumbla

APRÈS SKI AMBIENCE

Cosy fires and glittering night lights in Arrowtown's intimate laneway bars and restaurants offer some of the best spots in the region for après ski dining and socialising this winter.

La Rumbla in Post Office Lane recently earned a prestigious Spanish endorsement with owners Penelope (PJ) Johnson and Sam Gruar receiving the Restaurants from Spain Certification. The couple opened the restaurant in 2012 following two years living in Spain where they were inspired, after recognising a gap in the local market, to successfully introduce the shared plates concept in Arrowtown.

A newer addition to Arrowtown's vibrant food scene, **Swiftsure** is located on Arrow Lane and features a beautiful terrace, sundrenched in winter, while indoors fireside dining is an ideal space to enjoy the restaurant's award-winning Man O' War wines and excellent bistro-style menu.

Aosta, led by renowned New Zealand celebrity chef Ben Bayly, showcases his passion for Italian cuisine offering rustic Northern Italian flavours on both lunch and dinner menus. Housed in the laneway leading to the Blue Door Bar and Dorothy Brown's Boutique Cinema & Gin Bar it is a highlight on the dining scene.



Aosta

LIVE MUSIC

The Blue Door Bar is an intimate venue reflecting Arrowtown's lively social scene with award-winning Central Otago Pinot Noir, craft beers and cocktails. Serving as a popular après ski entertainment spot its regular Tiny Room concerts feature diverse, talented local musicians. A calendar of music events is posted at www.bluedoorbar.co.nz



The Blue Door

Winter in Arrowtown

By Margo Berryman

From vibrant shopping opportunities to exceptional culinary experiences winter in Arrowtown has an inviting, convivial atmosphere day and night. Arrowtown Promotion and Business Association manager Nicky Busst shares her insights into what make the historic town such a special destination.

SHOP TILL YOU DROP

From New Zealand merino winter garments and outdoor clothing to stylish gifts and homewares retail therapy in Arrowtown is well catered for.

The village has one of the largest collections of owner-operated mini boutique stores in the region with a focus on brands appealing to international visitors.

Smith & Western features a range of homewares, art and distinctive pieces along with its own clothing line created by owner and designer Francesca King that is 100 per cent New Zealand made.



Smith & Western



Te Huia

Luxury knitwear and outerwear store **Te Huia** is renowned for its prestigious New Zealand brand Untouched World, Saben handbags and international outdoor brands such as Canada Goose which are exclusive to the store in Arrowtown.

The Woolpress is a 30-year family owned Arrowtown business offering a wide selection of outdoor gear including Icebreaker clothing, all-weather jackets, socks, beanies and gifts such as sheepskins and skincare products.

Francis Patterson has a mix of quality New Zealand made and international homewares,



Francis Patterson

Danish women's clothing, childrenswear including knitwear and toys alongside ceramics, furniture and Swedish reading glasses.



Jasmine Clark

ON THE ARTS TRAIL

The recently relaunched Arrowtown Arts Trail is a popular innovation attracting art enthusiasts to local studios and galleries.

Commercial galleries such as the **Giraffe Art Gallery, MStudio and Little Hut Gallery** in the town centre are part of the creative mix while the studios of many other artists are dotted throughout the wider area. A free printed trail map is available in the Arrowtown Official Guide or scan the online QR code and follow along at www.arrowtown.com

*In June and July the Lakes District Museum presents a special winter exhibition entitled **Black, White and In-between** highlighting works by local artists including Dalene Meiring, Emma Carter and Jasmine Clark.



Dalene Meiring



Photograph Tuki Huck



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P. E Nation Venture Sherpa Jacket in Dark Navy delivers push warmth with a cosy premium feel. The regular fit jacket features raglan sleeves, contrast detailing and snap closures for a clean sport-inspired finish.

The P. E Nation Core Hoodie in Dark Olive is crafted from a soft brushed cotton blend making it the perfect post workout fit.



New Balance W327SUC

A firm fave lifestyle shoe available in a new colourway for winter.



Mens Fit



The vintage-inspired Brixton Cass Jacket is suited for work and play packed with utility features to keep essentials close at hand and quilted with a Pa coating for cold weather days.

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Winter Layers



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The Bambi Cord Bomber by All about Eve is a vintage-inspired layering piece designed with a relaxed, effortless feel crafted from stretch cotton corduroy. Fully lined for added comfort.



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Altruistic Aims

By Jenny McLeod

Altrusa International Queenstown has distinguished itself as one of the resort's longest established groups clocking 41 years of support for the local community.

Incoming president Sharron Ede says they have made an outstanding contribution and of its committed 27 members one stalwart, Julie Walker, has belonged ever since the club chartered in 1985.

"We have a particular focus on supporting women and our local community and promoting literacy," says Sharron. "To achieve this, we organise fundraising activities like our annual Quiz night, Fashion Show and Golf Tournament which is now in its 36th year."

In the past 12 months such events have seen \$12,000 donated to the Frankton Volunteer Fire Brigade and \$1,000 to Futures Whakatipu Junior Golf. Baskets of Blessing received \$10,000 and a further \$3000 was earmarked for the Satdobate School in Nepal along with \$1,000 contributed to Altrusa's literacy projects.

"Another of our current initiatives is Books for Babies, where all babies born in the Whakatipu are gifted a picture book to encourage reading and literacy. We also re-gift quality used books at local children's events such as the annual Teddy Bears' Picnic."

Sharron says working together for the community Altrusa members enjoy the benefits of fellowship which she personally can attest to. "I needed help with the loneliness I was struggling with and found so much more than I thought I would, working alongside members who are dedicated to making our part of the world a better place."

Further information: www.facebook.com/AltrusaQueenstown

On the Ice

By Penny Simpson

The Bush Creek ice rink is a popular winter venue for Arrowtown skaters after being revitalised by a group of volunteers in recent years.

The natural outdoor rink on the outskirts of Arrowtown, near the Chinese Village, relies on cold weather for ice to form on the surface.

"The rink was last used in the 1990s before it was re-established in 2023 by a small group of enthusiastic locals motivated by the challenge to bring life back to a frozen part of the village," says co-ordinator Rebecca Dobson.



When the ice is up the news is spread on social media as well as word-of-mouth.

"The rink is a free, non-profit facility that is dependent on weather conditions. We have a brazier that is usually fired up to provide warmth and we operate fun family nights when the ice is in good condition."

Follow the Bush Creek Creek Facebook page for updates and news.



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Community Commitment

By Jane Brooke

Queenstown's Remarkables Park Town Centre has a genuine commitment to the community, brought to life through moments where people come together, take part and feel connected to something larger than themselves.

Centre manager Nick Lambert says that spirit was evident at a recent event hosted at Remarkables Park, marking the beginning of a new partnership with the Otago Nuggets professional basketball team.

Hoops in the Park attracted families and young aspiring players, some picking up a ball for the first time, guided by Nuggets players.

He says the day captured the intent behind the partnership.

"It's just awesome to see the local community turn up and have fun with the Nuggets players. Most importantly, we're about health and well-being and spending time with each other."




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Photograph: David Oakley

Electrify Queenstown 2026

Goal to be world leader in electrification

By Tom Kalliber

A community-led pilot project aims to make Queenstown the world's most electrified destination city.

Queenstown Electrification Accelerator (QEA) co-lead Josh Ellison says the goal is to meet the current target for electricity's share of total local energy use in 2050 by 2030.

"Achieving this 20 years earlier would make Queenstown a lighthouse example for the world, showing that homes and businesses can achieve lower bills, lower emissions and higher resilience by upgrading fossil fuel machines to electric equivalents."

"We're making a host of resources available to locals that highlight the benefits of electrification and provide practical advice about how to do it."

Examples include securing group discounts for hot water heat pumps, solar and batteries, a 'solar for renters' trial with benefits for both landlords and tenants and a long-term vehicle-to-grid trial which enables electric vehicles (EVs) to share battery power with homes or businesses and the electricity grid.

Josh says QEA was heavily involved with the third annual Electrify Queenstown summit in May this year and is also collaborating with Electrify Wānaka.

"Electrify Wānaka is increasingly active in the Upper Clutha. One of its case studies shows how a member of its team saved around \$50,000 over seven years by switching to solar and running an EV."

QEA is a partnership between Queenstown Lakes District Council and Rewiring Aotearoa and is supported by Destination Queenstown, Central Lakes Trust and national energy innovation centre Ara Ake.

For further information www.qea.nz

Library collection encourages new endeavours

By Tom Kalliber

A new collection available to borrow from the Queenstown Lakes Libraries brings together a wide range of practical and creative tools that help people learn, create, fix, explore and thrive.

Library services manager Sue Gwilliam says the Karawhiua Collection was recently launched and includes stargazing and birdwatching packs, home energy efficiency toolkits, stud finders, eReaders, DVD players and robots for budding coders.

The name Karawhiua captures the spirit of the initiative.

"Karawhiua means 'go for it, give it heaps, have a go' — and that's exactly what we want our community to feel when they borrow from this collection. It's about giving people the confidence and opportunity to try something new."



Wānaka librarians Lesley Jones, Lucy Ferram, Dominique Behn & Rebekah Kennedy with items from the Karawhiua Collection

"With the rising cost of living it's not always realistic for households to purchase specialist tools or equipment they may only need occasionally. By sharing resources we're giving everyone an equal chance to get things done and learn new skills without the financial pressure."

She says the initiative reflects a wider shift in how libraries are evolving.

"A 'Library of Things' collection is becoming increasingly common and we're proud to join other libraries in offering items that support wellbeing and everyday life."

The Karawhiua Collection is available to all permanent adult members of Queenstown Lakes Libraries.



A touch of *Cardrona* magic.

Cardrona Distillery is nestled in the picturesque Cardrona Valley — a scenic drive over the Crown Range from Queenstown. There is a slower pace in the ancient valley and an air of magic. The Cardrona team are warm, welcoming and passionate about crafting their award-winning single malt spirits. Join us for a guided tour and tasting, then savour the view over lunch in our award-winning restaurant.

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The **Cardrona**
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NEW ZEALAND



Sills + Co is home to Sills and Caroline Sills — two of New Zealand's longest-standing fashion brands, with eight stores spanning the country. QT Magazine caught up with Toni Sills to talk about the inspiration behind the business and what continues to drive its success.



Lloyd Toni Christina & Caroline Sills

When did the fashion legacy of Sills + Co begin in New Zealand?

The fashion legacy behind Sills + Co began in 1982 when Caroline and Lloyd Sills founded the Caroline Sills brand in New Zealand's Devonport. The business was born from Caroline's search for stylish knitwear that wasn't available locally at the time. More than four decades later, knitwear remains at the heart of the house with Caroline Sills and its diffusion label, Sills, still best known for their luxurious merino and cashmere wool fibres.

How does the process start when planning each seasonal collection?

Our inspiration usually begins with travel overseas and Caroline's extensive personal archive collected over decades in fashion. Each season evolves from a blend of global inspiration and an understanding of how our customers want to dress.

What do you think women with busy lives on the go are looking for?

Women want pieces that work effortlessly with their lives — great fits, flattering shapes and quality they can rely on season after season. Delivering enduring, considered luxury to our customers is at the heart of everything we do. Longevity, in both style and quality, guides all our designs. We often get feedback from customers who still wear Sills + Co pieces they purchased 20 years ago — that's the ultimate compliment for us.

Describe Sills + Co's new seasonal range?

From lofty mohair blend yarns to incredibly intricate permanent pleats, we have focused on developing new styles in fabrics with exciting textures. The overall season style embraces the Japanese philosophy of Wabi-Sabi — finding beauty in the everyday, appreciating the passage of time and cultivating a personal and considered wardrobe. Central to the collection is our Milwood denim — our committed design team have perfected the fabric composition and fits to make the comfiest denim possible.

Why is Sills + Co one of New Zealand's most successful fashion brands?

We may actually be one of the longest standing New Zealand brands that can be attributed to staying true to the brand. Our customers are at the centre of everything we do, we design with real women and lifestyles in mind, in so doing building an incredibly loyal community over the years that we never take for granted.



Sills + Co

Open 7 days a week
80A Ardmore Street, Wānaka
www.sillsandco.com

The Friendly Local

By Penny Simpson

Wānaka's b.social Taproom & Eatery is a distinctive local neighbourhood bar with a strong community vibe.

The hospitality venue is home to both b.social Taproom & Eatery and b.effect brewery where the local brews are produced.

Owner James Hay describes it as a central hub focused on bringing people together.

"We're all about the well-deserved brew. After a big day up the mountain this is the place to come — debrief with your mates or family and chill out surrounded by good social vibes. Our outdoor beer garden has a great atmosphere and our crew are always up for a chat."

The b.social team keeps things lively throughout the winter with regular events such as new beer releases and games' nights, DJ and live music evenings and Sunday Sessions hosted by DJ's. Industry party nights and the occasional watch party for screening movies are in the mix.

"People in town for a long weekend, a ski week or just a night or two are welcome to come along and join in the fun," says James. "The bar is open every day from 12.00 pm and we feel have definitely earned our reputation as the friendly local."

"There is always something new to try for our Social Experiment IPA, we change the hops every batch. We also serve more than just beer including our freshly brewed kombucha and ginger beer."

The menu offers fresh, informal food with a perfect blend of beer paired classics.

"It features favourites like hearty burgers and pizzas, which are hugely popular, along with specialties like our famous loaded kimchi fries. Order to eat in or takeaway — it's the kind of food that pairs perfectly with our craft brews."



Seasonal Brews & Flavours

The b.effect brewery core range includes Wānaka Lager, Pilsner, Alpine Ale (Pale Ale), Hazy IPA, and Daywalker Ginger Beer.

"We work with the very best local ingredients available to us in Wānaka with the core range covering all the basics to suit most palettes," says owner James Hay.

"In addition, we're always brewing up tasty seasonal selections with unique flavour twists. Some standout brews recently have included our Flying Start Big IPA, Sticky Forest Hemp IPA and Marshmallow and Strawberry Sour, to name just a few."

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Where Art Finds Its Place

By Tom Kalliber

Collaboration is at the heart of the Wānaka Fine Art Gallery's approach and rather than simply representing artists it works alongside them, refining direction and creating space for their work to evolve.

"We're not interested in being everything to everyone," says gallery owner Shareen Shah. "It's about building something that lasts, supporting artists whose work we believe in and giving collectors a reason to trust what they find here. Many of our artists are award-winning and continue to exhibit widely, building strong individual practices alongside their gallery representation."

"In a region known for its energy, tourism and constant movement the gallery offers something slower and more considered. Its focus is centred on South Island artists, particularly from across Central Otago, Christchurch and further south alongside a broader selection of artists, whose work aligns with our curatorial direction. The result is a collection that feels cohesive, without being predictable, grounded in trust not turnover."



Alex Hodge is one of the gallery's artists who embodies this philosophy.

Shareen says when he first came to their attention, he was still developing clarity around his direction as an artist and was encouraged to continue refining his practice, exhibit and enter selected competitions before reconnecting with the gallery.

"During that period his work went on to receive significant recognition, including the People's Choice Award at both the Cleveland National Art Awards (New Zealand) and the Otago Art Society Awards. When he returned his practice had evolved with a stronger sense of identity and intent."



Alex Hodge

For Alex, the experience was less about being "taken on" by the gallery and more about feeling supported within a wider artistic journey, without pressure or rejection.

He says he also connected strongly with the gallery itself which is layered and welcoming and where a wide range of works can be encountered, explored and discovered in context.

"I felt supported, not turned away," he says. "And I really like the energy of the space...it feels vibrant and fresh. There's a lot to see and it makes you want to spend time there."

"That trust is becoming part of the gallery's identity," says Shareen. "Visitors aren't just encountering individual works — they're stepping into a curated experience where each piece has been chosen with purpose. And that, ultimately, is what sets Wānaka Fine Art Gallery apart. It's not just a place where art is shown but a place where it is understood, supported and given the space to become what it's meant to be."



Discover The South Island Through Its Artists

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From powerful landscapes to contemporary pieces, each artwork is selected for its depth, craft, and connection to place. Whether you're visiting Wānaka or living in Central Otago, explore a curated collection that captures the spirit of our region.

ON THE MAP

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Physiotherapy with a Difference

By Penny Simpson

A down-to-earth approach combined with a skilled and knowledgeable insight is the calling card for Lake Hāwea physiotherapist Annie Gummer who has a growing reputation for her intuitive approach to her clients' health needs.

She established Annie Gummer Physiotherapy earlier this year with a focus on delivering advanced, research-driven physiotherapy and face sculpting.

"My vision was to create a brand that offers a holistic approach by blending science, compassion and lifelong integration for people who, despite trying lots of things, may feel stuck in their health journey."

Annie's physiotherapy and Face Up™ sculpting massage appointments have already attracted a significant following and are intentionally designed to provide longer treatment times.

"This allows me to deeply consider a client's wellbeing and for them to feel as if they have had an experience, rather than just a treatment."

Annie practices in Lake Hawea, Arrowtown and Aro Hā Wellness Retreat in Glenorchy. She says each location brings its own unique subtleties, but all spaces are designed "to evoke restoration and reflect Central Otago's warm palette".

"All my physiotherapy sessions are a mix of hands-on, education and practices people can take home based on what we discover from their assessment."

Annie was inspired to offer Face Up™ Therapy after experiencing it multiple times herself.

"Face Up™ sessions are beautiful face sculpting massages that work with the nervous system, fascia, lymphatics and muscles to leave clients feeling rejuvenated, lifted and glowing. Alongside the massage I am working with posture and workplace ergonomic



Annie Gummer



education that includes personalised self-massage videos to help clients keep their fascia and lymph moving. The results can achieve remarkable changes."

Annie's practice welcomes anyone looking to optimise their health.



"Each person I have the privilege of seeing I learn from and am made more aware of where there may be gaps in knowledge around health for many people."

This year she plans to expand the business reach with an app being designed to transform how clients feel and look with simple quick practices tailored to their needs. "I want to help empower their health through the app, community classes and of course one-on-one appointments."

Follow @sculptedbyannie_ on instagram to be the first to sign up when the app launches.



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Next Chapter Picks for Winter Reading

FICTION

- Wonderland* Tracy Farr
- Agrippa* Robert Harris
- Land* Maggie O'Farrell
- Whistler* Ann Patchett
- The Things We Never Say* Elizabeth Strout
- John of John* Douglas Stuart

NON-FICTION

- Women Walking* Kerri Andrews
- The Grip of the Ice* Ed Armston-Sheret
- Overland to the Island* Hannah Bulloch
- The Finest Hotel in Kabul* Lyse Doucet
- London Falling* Patrick Radden Keefe
- Mother Mary Comes to Me* Arundhati Roy



THE NEXT CHAPTER
wanaka bookshop



Book Chat & Connections

By Jenny McLeod

Wānaka's boutique independent bookstore, The Next Chapter, is not just a place to buy books — it is also a place to linger, chat and share ideas.

Owner Sally Battson, who originally started the boutique store with colleague Jenny Ainge and now owns the business outright, encourages people to browse the shelves for as long as they want.

"But more than that, we feel that what truly defines our bookstore is the conversations. We know some people come specifically for the 'book chat' which is something we all enjoy indulging in. A casual question about a book can unfold into a wide-ranging lively and motivating discussion about books and their authors with whoever happens to be in-store."

Staff can also glean tips from the bookshop conversations about customers' favourite authors and genres — "these may be titles we have missed and can add to our collection."

"The conversations may be spontaneous but they are often meaningful, drawing in strangers who find common ground through their shared passion for books. We love these valuable connections people can make through The Next Chapter."

Sally says staff play a central role in cultivating an atmosphere where people can browse and chat at their leisure.

"Their in-depth knowledge and recommendations are an important part of the interaction with our customers. When someone asks for a hard-to-find author, shares their excitement about a new release or identifies what they feel is missing from the shelves we are always happy to listen."



Sally Battson

The bookstore also hosts four book clubs, including fiction, non-fiction, classics and poetry, providing yet another extension to their bookshop chats. Anyone in the community is welcome to join the monthly sessions which Sally says are always animated and inspiring.

"I like to think that people keep coming back, not just for the books but for the stimulating conversations, which make them feel more connected to the store and the community."



72 Brownston Street, Wanaka, 9305
books@nextchapterwanaka.co.nz
www.nextchapterwanaka.co.nz
+64 21 0904 6330

Thermal Sanctuary for Wānaka

By Aspen Bruce

Massage in Wānaka Wellness Spa, long recognised for its exceptional massage services, has introduced Wānaka's first dedicated steam experience with its new spa which includes a purpose-built private Thermal Suite.

Founder Nicola Romeril says the first-of-its-kind thermal sanctuary has been thoughtfully designed to incorporate an infrared sauna, steam room and traditional Japanese soaking tub.

"Guests can choose how they use this dedicated space, whether it's a single steam session, a steam and soak combination or the full thermal experience. With a maximum of four people at any one time, the intention is that guests never need to share the space with others — it remains calm, unrushed and an entirely personal experience."

"It's ideal on cold winter days or for après ski to unwind following a day on the slopes or indulge in a sauna and ice bath ritual combined with the rejuvenating effects of the steam room. For added comfort and privacy the suite features a luxurious dressing room allowing guests to relax solo, as a couple or with a small group of friends," says Nicola.

Massage in Wānaka Wellness spa is close to the resort's lakefront offering a peaceful and tranquil space with elegantly appointed massage rooms and a central relaxation area where guests can enjoy a herbal tea.

"It's been a lifelong dream to create my own purpose-built spa that weaves together healing, mindfulness and restorative practices in one place, drawing from everything I have learned over the years."

Nicola says the addition of the private Thermal Suite complements Wānaka's growing sauna and wellness culture.

"Steam is better for most body types and is deeply cleansing while also supportive for the nervous system. It is especially well suited here, given Wānaka's naturally dry environment. The Japanese soaking tub offers traditional bathing rituals including contrast therapy with cold immersion, mineral-rich Epsom salt soaks, therapeutic herbal baths and New Zealand glacial clay bathing — an ancient practice I've worked with for many years for its deeply cleansing and skin-supportive qualities."



Nicola has more than four decades of experience in the wellness industry including opening and developing multiple spas for an international hotel group in Switzerland.



Savannah Wilmarth Maya Ittipol-Otam
Laura Hong Sheila Ferreira Maree Hopely
& Nicola Romeril



"Over the years, I have been deeply influenced by traditional healing systems from around the world — including Ayurveda, Hawaiian Lomi Lomi, Thai yoga massage, and Māori healing practices such as Honu Honu. These traditions taught me to work with rhythm, energy and presence and to listen more deeply to the body. That integration of science, tradition and lived experience is at the heart of everything we offer in Wānaka."

Nicola's philosophy extends to her internationally trained team of therapists who have a holistic approach to their work at the spa. "Every therapist is fully qualified and carefully chosen. Healing hands, genuine, compassionate care and an innate ability to connect — these are the qualities that cannot be taught yet define every treatment we offer."

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Wānaka Running Community Hub

By Margo Berryman

Specialist running store Kinisi Running, based in Wānaka's Three Parks retail precinct, is a standout destination for runners seeking specialist gear, hydration products and general outdoor equipment.

The store has established itself as a central hub for the local running community by hosting run clubs and events, with owners Jane and Ian Evans dedicated to creating an inviting space where people can connect.

Winter at Kinisi Running

What's new in the energy, nutrition, gel, hydration market for running and extreme sports?

"Now that the race season is over it is a good time to think about how your fuelling has worked over the summer. If things haven't quite worked out now is the time to test out a different fuel that might work better for you. We're excited to be ranging Speed On Performance Fuel, created by a high-performance gel company from Nelson. They taste great and are packed into easy-to-handle pouches. Pop into the store and chat with Piper who is a qualified sports nutritionist and athlete."



Layering is a key component for the change of season in the mountains. What are the latest base and mid layers in store for winter?

"The fundamentals of layering haven't changed much over the last few years, however the technology and performance keep improving every year. We are fully stocked with all the layers needed to keep you warm and dry over winter, from wind jackets to insulating mid layers and rain jackets to hats and gloves. We can help fine tune your layering system to provide what really counts out there in the elements. We also stock Nikwax products to properly care for your garments to make them last as long as possible."



How easy is it to shop online with the store and where do you ship to?

"Our community is spread all around New Zealand and it's great to be able to continue to support trail runners across the country. We're constantly working on our website and strive to make it intuitive and easy to navigate. We currently only ship within New Zealand as we feel we can make the biggest impact on the Aotearoa community first and foremost."

For new residents to Wānaka or newcomers to running what community activities does Kinisi Running offer to bring people together?

"The store was built on the foundation of community and movement and that continues to be our mission. Our famous green couches and free filter coffee are at the heart of what we represent. Our four weekly social runs revolve around coffee, kombucha or pastries. Check our website for the running calendar or pop into store and speak to one of the team."



Q&A

Santisuk Unsamrong (Santi) and Alistair Hunt recently purchased Pembroke Wines & Spirits in Wānaka and Santi spoke to QT Magazine about the business's ethos.



What was your motivation for taking on the popular Wānaka venue?

We took over Pembroke Wines & Spirits last year and while I didn't come from a formal hospitality background, I'm naturally drawn to people and to creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere. I have a genuine passion for wine, a passion I enjoy sharing.

Alistair brings a strong background in hospitality and business operations along with a deep connection to the local community in his role as a prominent tennis coach.

We saw an opportunity to build on something which was already quite special and take it further. The concept at Pembroke has been to create a space that's not just a bottle shop, but where people can connect, learn about and enjoy great wine and spirits. We love the idea of bringing people together and helping them discover something new.



What contributes to Pembroke Wines' reputation as a dynamic boutique enterprise?

Pembroke is designed for both locals and visitors which helps make it such a vibrant place. For locals it's a place to return to each week, whether it's for our Friday tastings to try something new or simply to enjoy a glass of wine in a relaxed setting. It's a regular weekly slot which has become something of a ritual for the community.

For visitors, especially those short on time or looking for something premium, Pembroke offers a curated Central Otago experience in the one place. It's a chance to explore the region's wines, craft beers and spirits without needing to visit multiple cellar doors. The mix of accessibility, quality and personal service brings the space to life.

What premium liquors and wines are available at Pembroke Wines?

We offer a handpicked selection of over 150 wines alongside more than 50 New Zealand craft beers and an extensive range of whiskies and spirits. There's a strong focus on Central Otago producers as well as premium international wine and spirit labels.



What events do you regularly host?

We host complimentary tastings every Friday from 5.00pm until 7.00pm often featuring local winemakers, distillers or visiting producers. We also run private tastings in our intimate space, The Cave, as well as ticketed events such as winemaker evenings and spirit tastings.

Do you cater for functions?

We provide tailored beverage solutions for weddings, private events and special occasions including consultation, supply and delivery. We also offer curated hampers, private tastings and venue hire.

At the heart of Pembroke is the idea of creating a space which people feel comfortable to explore — whether they're seasoned wine lovers or just starting their journey. We're proud to be part of the Wānaka community and to offer a place where both locals and visitors can come together over great wine, food and conversation.

Have you introduced any recent initiatives?

Since taking over Pembroke we've focused on enhancing the experience in store particularly through our tastings and private events in The Cave. We've expanded our food offering with gourmet platters designed for sharing and there are also takeaway options. We particularly love the pairing of food and wine — it's something we're continuing to develop as part of the overall Pembroke experience.



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WINES & SPIRITS WANAKA



Pembroke Wines is the go-to destination for wine and spirit lovers, with an impressive selection of Central Otago's finest reds and whites, premium local spirits, and carefully curated wines from around the world.

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.

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Outlook from all South Island ski fields.

A Modern Chapter for Historic Clyde



With Central Otago continuing to grow in population and cementing its place as one of New Zealand's most sought-after holiday destinations, the region is well and truly on the map.

Enter Ram Projects, the newest property developer in Cromwell, curating a portfolio of thoughtfully designed homes that blend everyday comfort with luxury and sophistication. Each project is carefully tailored to its surroundings, incorporating the natural landscape into the design to create homes that are both timeless and fit for purpose.

Their latest development, Rocks on Holloway, is a boutique townhouse project comprising 11 homes nestled into the hills of Clyde. This development introduces a new style of medium-density living to Clyde, with a strong emphasis on modern heritage design. Given the town's rich history and culture, preserving its charm has been central to the project's vision.

The development is split into two stages:

Stage One features six terraced, double-storey townhouses positioned on the western side of the site. Each home offers three bedrooms, two bathrooms, open-plan living, and internal garaging. A standout feature is the upper-level living space, where the kitchen, dining, and lounge areas are bathed in natural light and open out to views of the surrounding rocky landscape—perfectly capturing the essence of indoor-outdoor living. With generous storage, these homes are ideal for outdoor enthusiasts keen to explore the nearby trails.

Stage Two comprises five homes (two of which are 4 bedrooms) along the northern and southern boundaries of the development. These properties offer the same high-quality amenities as Stage One, with increased floor area and elevated design features, including expansive windows, outdoor balconies, and more spacious layouts.

Every detail of the exterior has been carefully considered for the Central Otago climate, ensuring excellent insulation, thermal efficiency, and low-maintenance living. Materials such as recycled brick, vertical timber panelling, and corrugated iron reflect the natural environment while reinforcing the heritage-inspired aesthetic.

A signature architectural feature fin—synonymous with Ram Projects—has also been seamlessly integrated into the design.

The development is framed by native planting, which extends throughout each property, creating simple yet cohesive outdoor spaces that connect each home to its surroundings.

At its core, Ram Projects is driven by a commitment to excellence—building homes that stand the test of time. This commitment is supported by their partnership with design and build experts; The Wright Build, a certified Master Builder with over 12 years of industry experience. Together, they share aligned values and a dedication to delivering homes that owners can trust and take pride in.

Rocks on Holloway – Stage One is now on the market, with construction set to begin in late autumn.



rocksonholloway.co.nz

ramprojects.co.nz

Nick 0211184574

Laura 0220353236

 ram projects
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT



Gourmet Winter Produce

By Penny Simpson



Kevin Jackson

Jackson Orchards' roadside store and pack house on the outskirts of Cromwell is a destination for quality orchard produce, locally sourced vegetables, eggs, honey and fresh butchery meat from Chopped Butchery.

"The store is a hub for winter visitors to the region, offering a massive range of on-the-go products that are quick and easy when travelling to and from the mountains," says retail manager Jamie Cowie "We have a selection of our own dried fruits and nuts and other protein conscious options and our team are on hand to help customers choose the best products for their needs."

Central Otago fruits such as cherries, apricots and peaches, nectarines, plums, greengages, apples and pears are grown, packed and processed by Jackson Orchards with the roadside store being an important part of the Cromwell enterprise.

"The diversity of the fruit grown and packed at the orchard means we have one of the longest seasons of any orchard in New Zealand. Starting with cherries and finishing with pip fruit we are harvesting for around six months with apricots being our speciality fruit," says Jamie.

"Winter is the perfect season to stock up on our orchard grown apples and pears that are hugely popular for stewing and poaching as is new season kiwifruit. We have competitive vegetable pricing with winter staples that are popular with both the local community and tourists to the region."

The roadside ice cream stall beside the orchard store is a drawcard for real fruit ice-creams and smoothies and operates throughout the winter season.



Fantastic — our guide was great. Very experienced and knowledgeable and very funny. Laughed the whole way round. Well worth it.

Sandra, Australia



Orchard Tours

Jackson Orchards operates orchard tours all year round with bookings available online.

"Visitors can see the pruning progress across the orchard which showcases the beginning of the growing process leading up to the stone fruit season," says orchard owner Kevin Jackson. "They can also witness the harvesting of our historic walnut trees which are scattered around the orchard."

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