

FRANKTONFLYER

EDITION 35 - JUNE 2016



TRUST TRIBUTES POUR IN TO **HONOUR LOVEABLE LEGEND**

An incredible response from the mountain biking fraternity around the world has already garnered almost \$30,000 for the Kelly McGarry Memorial Trust. Tragically, Queenstown-based, internationally-renowned freeride mountain bike champion Kelly McGarry died of a suspected heart arrhythmia during a filming ride on the Fernhill Loop track in February this year. The talented, larger than life Nelson-born mountain bike trickster wowed the world in 2013 with his notoriously daring back flip over a 72-foot canyon gap at the Red Bull Rampage.

Story Continues Inside...

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GET READY and start practicing for the next league - starting end of June!



Queenstown mountain biking mates, with support from Kelly's partner and family, have rallied together in his honour to form a trust to raise funds to help the mountain biking community around New Zealand. The Queenstown Mountain Bike Club has kindly set up a separate temporary trust bank account for donations until the trust is formally established.

Trust co-ordinator Fraser Gordon says they're almost at the \$30,000 mark and hope to be able to have the trust formally established in six months and be ready to call for funding applications from around the country. The aim is to aid the mountain biking community nationally and foster new talent. "We'd like to see the money used for new mountain biking trails and jumps all over New Zealand, and to fund travel for up and coming young mountain biking athletes," says Fraser.

He says so far the response to the cause in honour of the loveable Kelly has been amazing. "He was larger than life, both physically and personality wise as well."

There's been an overwhelming response with \$17,000 already raised in New Zealand and another \$US5000 donated from just one event in Bellingham in the United States organised by Kelly's former sponsors, Diamond Back Bikes. "He's got a lot of close friends in the States and Canada and they organised a big event in April in honour of Kelly." Memorabilia was auctioned and generous donations made.

In New Zealand, specially-designed 'Forever A Legend' T-shirts, created as a tribute to Kelly, have been selling extremely well. They feature a silhouette of him doing his famous Red Bull Rampage back flip, which propelled him to stardom internationally. Kelly placed second in that event, narrowly missing a win by 0.75 of a point. The T-shirts were sold at local mountain bike store Vertigo Bikes. The Queenstown Mountain Bike Club is also selling the T-shirts online and they were sold at the Rotorua Crankworx event in March. Sales have gone through the roof. "They've been a huge earner for the trust," says Fraser.

Businesses or individuals wanting to support the trust with ideas, sponsorship or donations via givealittle.co.nz/org/kellymcgarrymemorialtrust, contact Fraser Gordon by emailing: fraser79@hotmail.com or grab a tee shirt from queenstownmtb.co.nz



Kelly was a top performer at Crankworx events and his participation made him a recognisable figure in the sport. In 2015, he held the record for the most consecutive appearances at the event.

An international GoFundMe campaign has already topped \$5000 and a New Zealand 'Give A Little' campaign has netted several thousand dollars.

"We want to emulate what the Bruce Grant Youth Trust has done," says Fraser. Bruce Grant, a Queenstown mountaineering legend, died in the 1990's while climbing K2. "Bruce and Kelly were very similar," says Fraser. "Both were down-to-earth Kiwis with outgoing personalities, who had a true passion for their sport. They were loved and respected around the world."

"We'd like to mirror what the Bruce Grant Youth Trust has done and keep this trust going with ongoing sponsorship," says Fraser. He hopes that with enough support from business sponsorship, fundraising events and donations the trust could be well enough stocked to give out grants twice a year.

The closely-knit international mountain biking fraternity was rocked again last month with another tragic death of one of its stars. Canadian downhill Stevie Smith died after a motorcycle accident. "Stevie was a regular visitor to Queenstown and loved the place," says Fraser. "We're wondering what's happening in mountain biking in 2016."



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The warm weather seemed to go on for an extended period this year and I think I almost forgot how cold it really gets in winter until very recently... The battle with the ice on the windscreen in the mornings on my small car with a terrible heater is not making me miss the winter weather although the excitement of the town is beginning to rub off on me as the opening weekends for the local ski fields approach. After many years of anticipation history was

made recently when Queenstown Airport welcomed its first after dark commercial flights. There's a lot to look forward to in the month of June including Queenstown's famous Winter Festival - The Southern Hemispheres biggest party of the year! As always the program is jam packed with action on the mountain and downtown. Local talent is alive and well in the Basin as you'll see inside. We have a bunch of awesome locals doing great things, proving our community really is a great one to be a part of.

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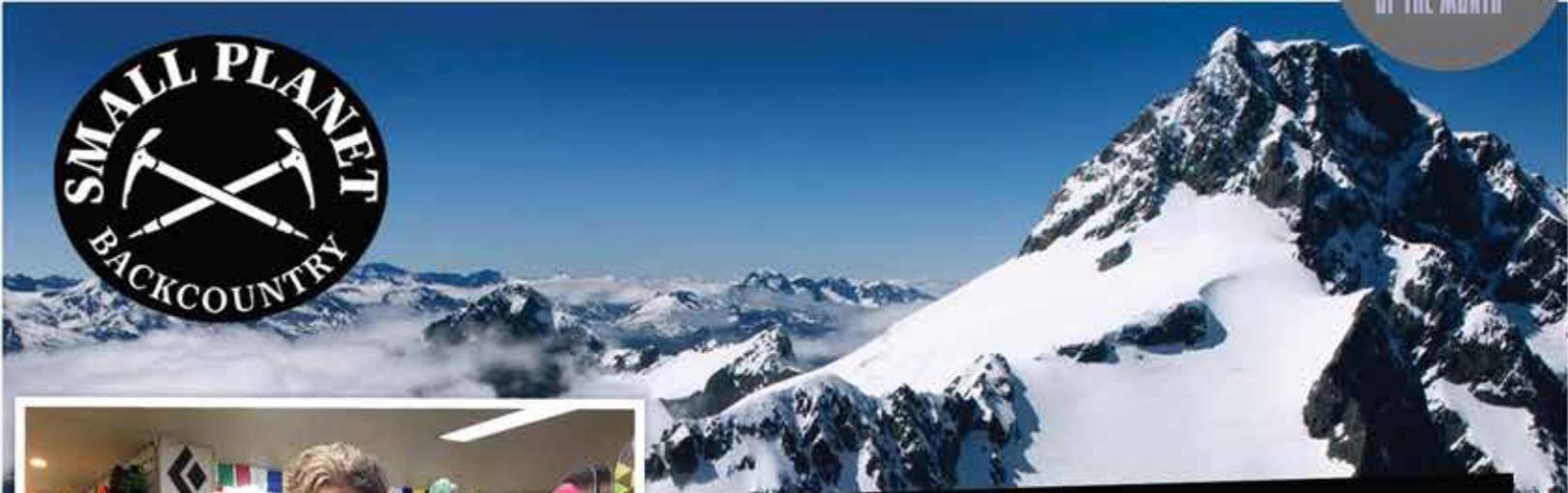
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SMALL PLANET SPORTS



Darryl Tatom on the job

"Darryl genuinely looks after the locals and not just knocking a bit of money off here or there, but with a holistic approach to service and social networking," says former employee Jim Young.

He's been doing great deals for ski bunnies for more than 30 years and carvers weren't even created when he opened in the 1980's, but the buzz of the outdoors keeps Small Planet's Darryl Tatom young.

His wonderful staff are testament to the friendly, fun, 'people first' culture he's created, which keeps drawing local families back season after season to Small Planet Sports.

Not one for the impersonal atmosphere of big corporate stores, Darryl only recently expanded his small, well-known central Queenstown store, taking over next door bakery space.



From left, Darryl Tatom, Jim Young, Rusty Wilson and Naresh Kumar ham it up at Small Planet Sports.

He's carved a unique niche for himself in the Queenstown outdoor retail market. Small Planet's roots are in used ski gear and Darryl says families, who've been bringing their children in since they were pre-schoolers, return each season to trade up or sell for a 25 percent commission.

Staff stick around this place and when you hang out

and catch the vibe it isn't surprising. No time clocks here. Staff clearly have the boss's respect and give him their best, often over a beer near closing time.

Customers can always expect a free coffee or beer while they're being fitted and Darryl even runs a generous free day up the mountain for any newcomers to ski touring. His bunch of enthusiastic staff all pile into cars and give the customers first-hand experience on the snow, climbing up with skins on and skiing down.

The store specialises in backcountry ski gear, but also stocks outdoor tramping and mountaineering equipment.

Small Planet skis can range from \$95 up to \$2000 and Darryl's known for striking a generous deal. Teenage son Louie Tatom-Cross enjoys the fun culture of the store and says his dad "doesn't push profit before people". As Darryl puts it: "You always get it back in the wash. There must always be enough on the bone for everyone."

With this kind of attitude it's hardly surprising that Small Planet Sports cleaned up again this year at the high-profile Wilderness Magazine Independent Retailer of the Year reader-voted awards. Likened to the Oscars of the outdoors, it's the second time Small Planet has scooped the award. Feedback ranged from the likes of "fab staff with all the best gear and plenty of laughs" to "if Small Planet Sports don't have it, you definitely don't need it".

A humble Darryl gives all credit for the awards to his trusty team, most of whom have worked for him for 10 years. "People vote for us because they have a good experience here. It's recognition for the good work the staff do," he says. They're all into outdoor sports, from long-distance running Indian

and ex Silicon Valley techster, Naresh Kumar, to co-managers Rusty Wilson, who's into speed flying, speed riding, base jumping and skydiving, and Edwin Hollins, who loves ski touring, mountain biking and parapenting. "Everyone here has a unique character," says Darryl, proudly. There's an Israeli on the team responsible for e-commerce, who's also the driving force behind New Zealand disc golf, and a French mountain and heli-guide. "We just allow everybody to be themselves."



Small Planet Sporting Equipment.

Small Planet, which Darryl views as a lifestyle business, has been operating for 18 years, but he's been in the outdoor retail business since 1984. He was a founding partner in Dunedin's Recycled Recreation, which went on to become R & R Sports.

In another testament cementing Small Planet Sports' success as one of the country's leading snow sports stores, it carries international prestige as the only Dynafit Competence store in the Southern Hemisphere. There are only 30 worldwide.

JUNE

AMERICAN EXPRESS QUEENSTOWN WINTER FESTIVAL

Queenstown Winter
Festival

Date: June 24th - July 3rd

Location: Downtown
Queenstown



The multi award-winning American Express Queenstown Winter Festival will take centre stage in Queenstown, New Zealand, from 24th June to 3rd July, 2016. The iconic Queenstown event, now into its 42nd year, officially kicks off winter in the stunning four-season resort with a 10-day action-packed programme of new events, established favourites and plenty of entertainment and celebration.

New Zealand's 10 Coolest Days kicks off with the American Express Opening Party and Fireworks, lighting up Lake Wakatipu and revealing big grins under bobbed hats. Whether you're five or 85, the American Express Queenstown Winter Festival has something for everyone!

See more at: www.queenstownnz.co.nz/information/event

2DEGREES BUSINESS LUNCH

Date: Jun 24, 2016

Where: Skyline Gondola,
Restaurant & Luge,
Queenstown

Brought to you by
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Destination QT, this event is an annual favourite for the Queenstown business community. This year's topic is close to home and will cover a range of industry heavyweight insights and perspectives on the growth of Queenstown as a visitor destination, looked at globally, nationally and locally. For a full list of speakers and to purchase tickets please visit queenstownchamber.org.nz



LUMA SOUTHERN LIGHT PROJECT

Date: Jun 3, -
Jun 5, Where:
Queenstown
Gardens LUMA
Southern Light
Project begins
Queen's Birthday
weekend 2016

Friday June 3rd and runs
until Sunday, June 5th.

LUMA is a new light-themed arts festival in Queenstown. Following a successful pilot project last year, light installations and sculptures by New Zealand artists will sit on the lakefront and in the beautiful Queenstown Gardens. The sculptures and art will illuminate as the sun sets (around 5:30pm), a stunning spectacle backed by Queenstown's iconic alpine vistas. The festival includes an open-air cinema, lounge and light-mapped features in the magical Queenstown Gardens. A non-profit collaboration between artists, designers and community-minded folk have made the festival possible. This is a free event. www.LUMA.nz // FB: LUMAqueenstown

MATARIKI - QUEENSTOWN COMMUNITY EVENT

MATARIKI: Queenstown's first Matariki
community event

Friday 17 June 2016

4pm doors open 5pm Showtime!

Celebrating Maori New Year & Mother

earth: This FREE Cultural community

family event is aimed at embracing our land & astronomy with a 'cultural

funpacked show at Queenstown Memorial Centre,

and lantern gathering/fire show on the Recreation Ground as finale.

Matariki song teachings and lantern making will be encouraged during

schools in preparation of the special event. The event will include local

cultural groups and schooler's participation.

Event content: Haka Pōwhiri / Karakia Whakamutunga / matariki story /

haka performances/ Fire Poi & Acro display / kai & refreshments available

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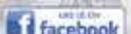
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ARE YOU SNOW FIT?

The Ski season's just about here and its obvious the mountains are loaded with snow - Yay! t's time to dig out your snowpants and rally your friends for an awesome season ahead. However while the runs are looking ready, are you? Even if you work out daily, skiing and snowboarding can be ultra taxing on your muscles. Trust us.

We've hunted around for the five best gym exercises to get you geared up for ski season. Do these and there's no way you'll wimp out after the first run this year.



Romanian Deadlift
Suggested: 4 sets of 8

Grab an 80 lb dumbbell (you can increase the weight as you up the intensity). Bend your knees slightly, keeping your back straight, then lean forward with the barbell, hinging at the hips. Push your hips forward and return to a standing position. "Hamstring strength is really important to prevent ACL injuries, which are prevalent in skiing," says Moore. By working the hamstrings, you help stabilize the knee joint and prevent injuries

Single-Leg Eccentric Leg Press
Suggested: 4 sets of 4 on each side

Load the leg press with about 60 to 70 percent of what you can lift with both legs. With one leg, lower the plate down for six seconds. When you're at the bottom, push up with two feet. Moore advises to go slowly, resisting the weight coming down on you to keep the movement smooth and in control. (If you are having to move too fast, then the weight is too heavy, says Moore.) About 80 percent of alpine skiing is eccentric, so this downward pressure helps mimic when you are going into a turn, with inertia and gravity pushing you into the ground.

Medicine Ball Pump Squat
Suggested: 3 sets of 1 minute each

Hug a heavy medicine ball (15 to 50 pounds) to your chest and lower into a squat position. Staying low, doing short pump squats (pulsing up and down about an inch or so) without coming back up to start. Your muscles should always be contracting. This exercise builds local muscular endurance in the lower back, glutes, and quads.

Squat Jump
Suggested: 4 sets of 4

Start with your feet shoulder-width apart. Squat down so your thighs are parallel to the floor, then jump high in the air. Try to land softly on your feet. "This exercise develops explosiveness in the quads and glutes, which is necessary if you want to ski fast and push hard out of your turns," says Moore.

Backwards Treadmill Walk
Suggested: 3 sets of 1 minute; build up to 3 sets of 3 minutes

Start walking very slowly on the treadmill at 2-3 miles per hour. Increase the incline as high as it goes. Very carefully, turn around so you're facing backwards—your toes should be pointing toward the end of the belt, like you're walking backwards uphill. As you walk, drop to a squat so that your knees are at nearly 90 degrees—similar to the tuck position of skiing. This exercise builds strength endurance in the quads and glutes. "It doesn't look that hard," Moore says, "but when you hop on and do it, it's brutal – thirty seconds in and your legs are on fire."



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BIG DUMP FOR MAY

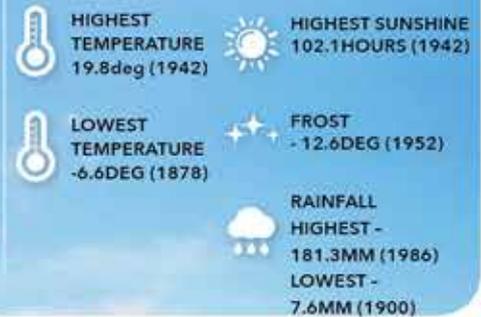
The big dump late last month (May) was just what was needed to kickstart the season and boost enthusiasm for winter after an uncharacteristically long, balmy autumn. The Wakatipu normally boasts an average 91.7 hours of sunshine during a typical May, but our weather watcher David Crow says that by late last month we'd have been lucky to have clocked about 20 hours for the whole month. By late last month there had only been two days when it didn't rain, which is very unusual, says David. "We've had 21 days with rain at some stage," he says. "It's been a very wet cloudy month with very little sunshine." However, May's temperatures were still above normal with quite a number of days featuring well above average in the high teens - one clocking in at almost 20 degrees. "I'm still predicting a slightly warmer winter than normal, but the temperatures will still be good for snowmaking and there will still be plenty of good skiing," says David.



JUNE (AVERAGES)



JUNE RECORDS



RADIOHEAD - A MOON SHAPED POOL

The continuously innovative, and arguably one of the best bands of all time, Radiohead releases a new record that comes almost out of nowhere, although they announced a tour and mysteriously deleted their internet presence. There is also a lot more electronic production than the traditional guitars and drums that were on Radiohead's earliest releases. Radiohead have received five ARIA awards, including Album of the Year.



I'LL SEE YOU IN PARIS - MICHELLE GABLE

A young American, Laurel Haley, heartbroken over losing her fiancé in the Vietnam war, takes a job in an English hamlet as a caretaker for an old, possibly insane woman who is also possibly the famous and very beautiful Duchess of Marlborough infamous for her beauty and the fact she could have "saved the world" by preventing World War 1 should she have married the man she was supposed to. Into Laurel and the now 90-something-year-old Duchess's secluded world comes a hapless writer, Win, who's keen to write the Duchess Biography, and unsurprisingly, Laurel and Win fall deeply in love.

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BAD NEIGHBOURS 2

Life is good for Mac Radner (Seth Rogen) and pregnant wife Kelly (Rose Byrne) until the unruly sisters of Kappa Nu move in next door. As the loud parties threaten the sale of their home, the couple turn to ex-neighbor and one-time enemy Teddy Sanders (Zac Efron) for help. While a subtly clawed Chloë Grace Moretz proves a worthy new foil, it's Zac Efron's tragicomic anatomy of a dudebro that remains this series' sharpest asset. Now united with the former college student, the trio devises schemes to get the wild sorority off the block. Unfortunately, the rebellious young women refuse to go down without a fight.



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Cover tender plants or young plants with **frost fleece** before the winter turns bad. Bring lemons and limes into warmer frost free places.



Clear up and dispose of any fallen leaves that showed signs of disease, like roses and fruit trees. **Avoid putting these in the compost heap.** Use a winter clean up spray like lime sulphur.



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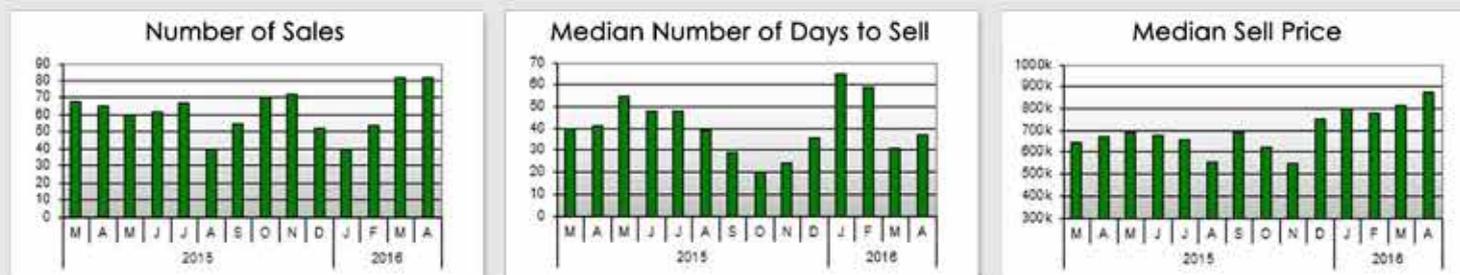
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Dave Fea

KEEPING YOU INFORMED ABOUT REAL ESTATE SALES AND TRENDS

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QUEENSTOWN REAL ESTATE SALES STATISTICS - The most recent available at time of print.



- There was a total of 82 residential Housing sales in the Queenstown and Arrowtown area during April 2016 compared with 65 in April 2015. The April five and ten year averages for the Number of Sales are 59 and 59 respectively. It took an average of 37 days to sell a dwelling in April 2016 compared with 41 days in April 2015. The Median Sale Price in April 2016 was \$877,500 compared with \$670,000 in April 2015.
- During the past six months there has been a total of 382 sales. This compares with 357 for the same period last year and 286 for the previous year. During the past twelve months there has been a total of 736 sales. This compares with 617 for the same period last year and 577 for the previous year.

These data and many more are published each month on my website queenstownrealestate.co.nz. If you would like to have them automatically delivered to your desktop as soon as they are updated each month, then simply visit queenstownrealestate.co.nz and click 'add me' (you can easily unsubscribe at any time).

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Dave Fea

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I have worked within the Queenstown real estate industry for more than 30 years. I am a senior member of the NZ Property Institute and NZ Institute of Valuers.

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BOUTIQUE JEWELLER

Tailor Turned Tinker



Kay Turner with some of her designs.

A chance dabble in jewellery making on a Queenstown street 18 years ago birthed a creative passion that has catapulted a gifted artist from the high world of fashion into a new boutique craft.

Renowned throughout the region for her creative flair, Kay Turner, of Kelvin Heights, was invited to join the prestigious Hullabaloo Artspace collective in the old Cromwell Historic Precinct late last year. "It was totally out of the blue," she says. A studio jeweller, Kay has been selling her unique handcrafted creations at the Cloakroom Gallery for some time. She'd been doing painting classes in Cromwell and heard one of the artists was leaving. "I put my portfolio forward never dreaming it would be me," she says.

She's been a regular at Colin Foster's teaching studio ever since. "He's a very accomplished goldsmith and he has the best equipped studio in the most surprising place," she says. Kay now teaches weekend 'Make A Ring' classes and loves it. "I recently had an epiphany when I melted some local gold straight out of the ground and made my first pure gold ring. It's so full of history and beautiful just in its natural state, so I make simple bands of Shotover gold," she says. "They're very cool and I could make them all day for months on end."



Some beautiful pieces designed and created by Queenstown boutique jeweller Kay Turner.

"I've been thrust headlong into a year of exhibitions and celebration so the journey so far has been fast paced." Her first solo show will be opening at Hullabaloo on June 26 and is aptly named Tinker Tailor, harking back to her fashion industry days as a pattern maker for well-known Auckland fashion designer Jane Daniels. The Hullabaloo collective is then bringing 'All That Hullabaloo' to Lakes District Museum for a month-long Arrowtown exhibition, followed by a 10th anniversary Hullabaloo celebration, Past and Present, in Cromwell in August.

"It all started when I made a ring on the street one day with Brian Adam, who had a trestle table outside VC Gallery in Beach Street," she says. "He'd teach you how to make a ring with a hammer, a gas torch and a strip of silver. I was hooked!"



Kay's jewellery design and process is greatly influenced by her fashion industry training as a pattern maker. She counts it a privilege to have worked with Jane Daniels. "Jane has the most wonderful eye for fabrics, colour, texture and form, which I soaked up."

Pattern making and jewellery are both forms of sculpture, she says. As a pattern maker Kay makes



Some beautiful pieces designed and created by Queenstown boutique jeweller Kay Turner.

flat 2D cardboard shapes come together to form a 3D shape that goes on a body. "I work out designs for jewellery in the same way and still use the same pattern paper as then," she says. "Texture is really important to me and I use fabric and a rolling mill to create texture." She has an aversion to shiny fabric, which crosses over to her metal work, which has more of a matte finish than a highly polished one. "I also think the landscape here fits into that. The hills have such a soft texture and the mountains fold and crease. Inspiration comes easy."

It's only fitting that there's a Jane Daniels link to her first show, Tinker Tailor. "Jane has generously sourced the lining fabric for the jacket I've created as the 'tailor' part of the show, and saved fabric scraps texture the pieces."

(Kay's work is available at Cloakroom Gallery, cnr Stanley and Ballarat Streets, and hullabalooart.co.nz)

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From the Glenorchy waterfront this gentle, well-formed track follows the flood bank around the Rees River and Lagoon Creek and back through the Glenorchy Golf Course.

A great place for a picnics with strategically placed tables and benches overlooking views of Mt Earnslaw. Glenorchy Lagoon Walkway offers excellent opportunities to view bird life, including black swans, paradise ducks and Canada Geese as the boardwalk traverses wetlands near Glenorchy.

AFTER NEWS ON THE NEW KAWARAU FALLS BRIDGE?



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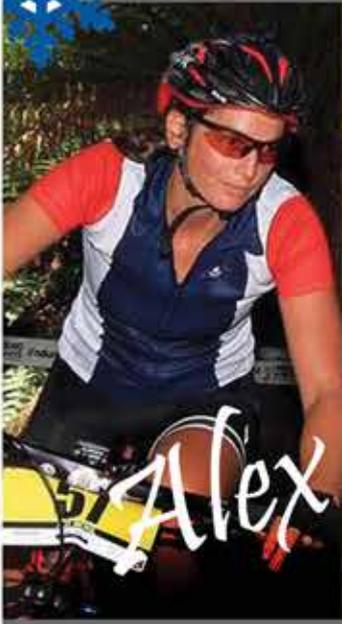
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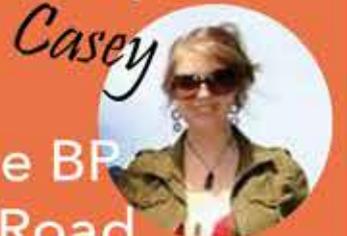
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Remarkables Park CEO Alastair Porter with the proposed convention centre site in the distance behind.

LET'S JOIN FORCES

Remarkables Park ceo Alastair Porter has offered an "olive branch" to the Queenstown Lakes District Council to join forces with revised plans for a convention centre at Frankton.

Remarkables Park is resubmitting larger plans for a convention centre - the first stage estimated to cost \$25 million to \$35 million - on a new site, which would cater for up to 1400 delegates.

Alastair says they'd be keen to form a private consortium between Remarkables Park, sponsors and hotels. They'd also be interested in pursuing a public-private partnership with the council or the government. "We're holding out an olive branch to the council to merge its conference

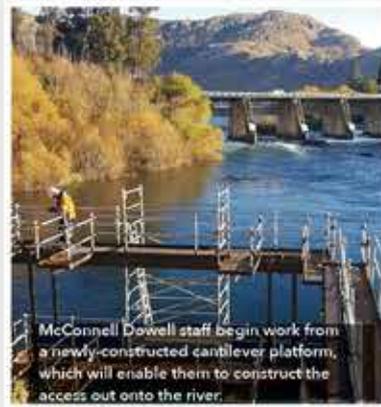
Park's plans, but not to fund that out of residential rates," says Alastair. "We would help the council to develop its Lakeview conference centre site for much-needed affordable worker housing. It would be a win-win," he says.

The first stage would provide 2560sqm in various configurations, but Alastair says that part would be large enough for 700 plenary delegates and banqueting for 500. The new design includes two adjacent ovals that will be wired for outside activities and could be covered for very large events or performances.

The Ramada opens this month and there are more Frankton hotels to come. Together with other hotels like the Hilton, Double Tree and Frankton Road visitor accommodation, these could cater for most conference delegates without displacing tourists from central Queenstown, he says.

Consent will be sought within weeks with an answer possible by spring. A consortium could potentially open the centre in 2018.

Mayor Vanessa Van Uden says there's been no "formal approach" from Remarkables Park yet. Economic studies all prefer the Lakeview site and that remains the council's focus. "Having said that, our door is always



McConnell Dowell staff begin work from a newly-constructed cantilever platform, which will enable them to construct the access out onto the river.

BIG BROTHER'S WATCHING THE WAIT!

New web cameras installed in peak traffic congestion areas should help ease frustrations a little this winter.

The New Zealand Transport Agency is installing web cameras at each end of the Kawarau Falls Bridge. NZTA journey manager Graeme Hall says the images will be linked to the agency's web bank of camera images. "People will get a reasonable idea of how busy it is at the bridge before they leave home, as those images update every four minutes," says Graeme.

A web camera has also been installed at the new central Queenstown traffic lights at the corner of Ballarat and

installed at the Shotover and Stanley Street intersection, where traffic lights will also be installed. "These will enable the traffic managers to create a more efficient journey at peak hours, or for seasonal events in Queenstown," he says. NZTA hopes to have the bridge and new traffic light web cams installed in time for the Queenstown Winter Festival which kicks off on June 24.

Web cameras will also be installed in the coming months at the bottleneck BP Roundabout at Frankton and the McBride Street pedestrian crossing on State Highway 6, facing the airport roundabout.

It's hoped the cameras will be used by motorists as a tool to gauge the length of queues and delays before they leave home or work, says Graeme.

Meanwhile, interim solutions are being investigated to try and ease Queenstown's worsening traffic delays. However, NZTA senior project manager Phil Dowsett says any long-term solutions for the bottleneck section between the BP Roundabout and Kawarau Falls Bridge need to be incorporated with plans to encourage greater use of public transport. At this stage traffic lights were not favoured as the best option to alleviate pressure at the BP Roundabout, but extra lanes and a larger roundabout could get

SNOW IS BACK!

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RUMBLINGS IN THE DARK — NIGHT FLIGHTS ARRIVE

HISTORY
IN THE MAKING



Queenstown's historic first night flight touches down on May 23rd

Frankton residents under the Queenstown Airport flight path seem to mostly be quite accepting of the fait accompli of night flights, with reports that the evening jet flights were quieter than those during the day.



Kapa haka welcome Air NZ Capt David Morgan and Mayor Vanessa Van Uden

Former Frankton

Community Association president Scott Freeman says night flights are to be expected. You kind of get used to it," he says. "We noticed during the testing that the planes going over at night seemed a bit quieter than during the day, as they weren't carrying any loadings. "It was a lot better than during the day, but they didn't have 160 people on board, a full load of luggage and fuel," says Scott. "It's happening. We can't do much about it."

McBride-Ross Street resident Barbara Williams says she found the Air New Zealand after dark flights much quieter than Jetstar's during the proving flights testing phase. "Jetstar's seemed very noisy and they're both flying the same Airbus aircraft," says Barbara.

A Jetstar spokesperson says take-off thrust was maintained for longer than normal during the two nights of Jetstar trial flights to assist with conducting as many flights as possible in the allotted time. "Normal take-off thrust times will apply when we commence regular operations from Friday, June 24."

Bookings for Jetstar's first evening flights are "in line with day time services into Queenstown from previous years", he says. At that stage, about 140 passengers were booked on the inaugural evening service from Melbourne.

An Air New Zealand spokesperson says the company's operational procedures are the same after dark as they are during daylight hours. Residents should've noticed "minimal difference" between the noise levels of the proving and the actual commercial flights. "It is worth pointing out that environmental conditions, such as temperature and wind, also impact on noise," she says. Air New Zealand began commercial evening flights into Queenstown on May 23.

Flight path resident Elaine Wells isn't too bothered about the new after dark interruptions. "When they first take off they're louder, but they're still pretty quiet around me here," she says. "I think it's a good thing as apparently the flights will be more spread out and we won't get that bottleneck of flights going over between 3 and 5pm."

Affected homeowners, who qualified and had accepted noise insulation packages, were still working through plans with the Queenstown Airport Corporation. A corporation spokeswoman says they're hoping to start work on noise insulation for eight McBride Street homes in mid-June. Tenders had been called. Some homeowners have not yet confirmed if they want to take up the offer, but were given a year to do so.



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Multisport legend Steve Gurney wants to see a whitewater park created beneath the old Kawarau Falls Bridge.

WHITewater PARK PROPOSED AT FRANKTON

Multisport legend and Frankton resident Steve Gurney is calling for the community to get on board and help launch a proposal for a whitewater park beneath the historic Kawarau Falls Bridge.

The champion endurance athlete wants to see the whitewater rapids beneath the old bridge refined and made safe again for whitewater enthusiasts, schools and the public to enjoy. Steve says it's the ideal time to do the work while the adjacent new Kawarau Falls Bridge is being built, so that there's no real time pressure to get the work consented and underway.

"Everybody's right behind the proposal, but we need help - funding, materials and donated practical and professional skills," says Steve. He's had one offer of legal assistance, but more resources, funding and expertise will be needed to get the park afloat.

"It won't be a hugely costly project, but with some safety work the Kawarau Falls rapids can become a superb training ground and venue for kayaking and other whitewater events." The rapids would also be perfect for recreational surfing, inner-tubing and general summer fun for the public.

Steve, a trained mechanical engineer, says the rapids are more dangerous now than they used to be and significantly different to what they were when the historic dam and bridge were built 100 years ago. "The rapids have been tampered with creating manmade shelves." Willow trees and weirs created beneath the bridge have introduced unsafe hazards that can easily be remedied.

The Queenstown Lakes District Council, district harbourmaster Marty Black and commercial jetboat users - Thunder Jet and Kjet - support the proposal, and club kayakers from around the region and local school groups are very keen. The proposal's being investigated as part of the council's annual plan process.



Queenstown bound - Greg and Pauline Ewen farewell Kaikoura

ALOHA SNOW-AH! BEACHES TO SNOW- CAPPED MOUNTAINS

Newcomers to Frankton, Greg and Pauline Ewen take over as the opening managers at the new 72-bed Ramada Hotel & Suites at Remarkables Park this month. Greg, who celebrates his 50th birthday on June 6, brings 20 years of hotel management experience to the role. Greg and Pauline spent the past year rebranding Choice Hotels' Quality Suites Kaikoura, bumping that property up from number three on Trip Advisor to number one. "It's great to have left there on a high note," says Greg. They're now bracing themselves for a Queenstown winter.

Prior to their stint in Kaikoura the pair enjoyed a two and a half year dream role managing Tamanu Beach Resort on the beautiful island of Aitutaki, in the Cook Islands. It was a family-owned resort, owned by the prestigious Cook Islands Henry family. "Their grandfather was the first Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, so the family has quite a bit of mana," says Greg. "It was a pretty cool gig."

Originally both North Islanders, Greg and Pauline are now firmly entrenched in the South Island. "Obviously we're extremely excited to be moving to the crown jewel of New Zealand tourism and representing a great brand like Ramada," says Greg. "It's a dream opportunity and we're looking forward to being there for the ski season, having enjoyed skiing while working for the Four Season's hotel chain in Seattle (United States)."

Before joining Greg in hotel management, Pauline's background was in property development and during the past year she sat on the Kaikoura Tourism Board and prior to that was chairperson of the Hikua School Board in Coromandel.

The Ramada is Greg's sixth hotel management role. He began his career as a member of the opening team for the Regent Auckland in 1985. "It's a huge challenge setting up a new hotel, but Queenstown is flourishing and has such a demand, and such a shortage of rooms that, from a marketing point of view, it's a professional dream come true for us," says Greg.

Bookings are looking good already for the new Ramada, which opens later this month. www.ramadaqueenstown.co.nz

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Remarkables staff celebrate the big dump in late May

Remarkables staff celebrate the big dump in late May

Snow bunnies are revving on all cylinders, dusting off and waxing gear ready to hit the slopes when the ski areas open this month.

Coronet Peak Ski Area opens on June 11 and The Remarkables Ski Area on June 18. The big dump and sub-zero temperatures that hit the south late last month (May) got skiers and boarders excited after a balmy, warm autumn. NZSki's increased snowmaking capacity at Coronet Peak has also boosted electrical capacity by 20 percent, meaning all 217 snowguns can now fire out the white stuff when temperatures are low enough.

General manager sales and marketing Craig Douglas says season pass sales were definitely up on last year, especially Earlybird deals. "We're very pleased with sales."

3-Peak (Coronet, Remarkables and Mt Hutt) adult season passes were still selling for a discounted

\$799 until May 31 - up from the \$599 Earlybird price which closed off at the end of March. Those who missed out have to pay \$999 from June 1. Earlybird youth passes were snapped up at \$399, selling for \$519 until the end of May and are now \$649 (June 1). Wakatipu schoolkids get the best deals - primary schoolkids \$100 and Wakatipu High School pupils \$165. Kids 6 and under ski free.

NZSki has added another 45.5ha of lift-accessed skiable terrain ready for this season, while Coronet Peak has a new beginners' area.

Winter arrived with a vengeance in late May and

the first big dump on May 23 was just in time for the first of the new evening flights at Queenstown Airport. Coronet Peak ski area manager Ross Copland says the timely dump gave ski area management a great base to work.

The Remarkables ski area received up to a metre of snow near the summit in 24 hours and night-time temperatures dropped to minus 8 degrees. A 40cm dump on the access road had staff struggling to get it open. "Everyone in Queenstown is fizzing, and we know we've got plenty of Australian visitors planning to head our way," says Ross.



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CLUB JACKET THIEVES ON THE PROWL

Queenstown Police are warning winter late night revellers to beware while up dancing in clubs and bars as jacket thieves are often on the prowl, with as many as 10 going missing on the worst nights.

Wakatipu community constable Zoe Albon says police are also urging people not to leave valuables like passports and cash in the pockets.

Jacket thefts from Queenstown bars, nightclubs and parties are all too common during winter when it's an acute problem with sub-zero nighttime temperatures the norm. "We've even had offenders grab jackets and take them into the toilets to rifle through pockets, or pass the doorman with six or seven jackets, saying they're for their friends," says Zoe. "People wear a warm jacket into a bar or nightclub and usually pop it on the back of a chair or a sofa while they enjoy themselves and when they go to head home it's missing." Often there are purses, money, valuables and passports, which they've taken out with them for ID, in the pockets, she says. Women often don't have pockets in their clothing in which to store valuables.

Jackets are usually worth between \$300 and \$400 and quite often they're favourites. "People regularly come into the station quite upset, as they've usually lost a jacket and valuables," says Zoe.

"It would be nice if bars and clubs would decide to offer safe storage, for \$1 or so each, even hooks under the bar." Very few bars and nightclubs have that facility and the responsibility is left to the patron, she says. "When you've had a few drinks and you've got nowhere else to leave your jacket it's understandable that you'd leave it on a chair," she says. "People out drinking are vulnerable, and it's pretty hot, noisy and dark, but you should keep your jacket over your arm." If not then at least keep an eye on it or keep it handy.



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ICE-HOCKEY NATIONAL CHAMPIONS BACK TO CLAIM THE ICE

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The boys in blue and gold are back to defend their triumphant national title of 2015, with a fresh name - Skycity Stampede - and a new man at the helm.

Canadian player Matt Schneider, a senior member of the Stampede squad for five seasons, has taken over the captaincy this season from fellow-Canadian Bert Haines. Haines, an accomplished Ice Black, led the Southern Stampede to victory, winning the national NZ Ice Hockey League Birgel Cup title last year. He's stepped down this season due to work commitments.

Team co-ordinator Ross Burns says the 26-strong squad's looking solid heading into the 2016 season with six imports on board, including Americans Mike McRae and Ryan Strayer and Canadian forward Jade Portwood. There's a wealth of experience on the ice, including the team's two assistant captains,



Skycity Stampede in action



Callum Burns and Cameron Frear, and goalie Aston Brookes. Also returning this year are Canadian goalie Adrian Volpe, who was out due to injury last season.

The Stampede has won four pre-season games against the Dunedin Thunder and launches into its first

official National League games in Auckland against Botany Swarm at Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Ice Blacks Bert, Mitchell Frear and Callum start the season fresh from representing New Zealand at the world championships in April in Mexico City.



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respectful and nurturing approach that we have. With resource consent lodged for a second centre in Shotover Country, and plans underway for more centres in the region, the timing is right to rebrand and get it right. We love the play on the word gems with the new brand, who is gem... who are the gems...?"



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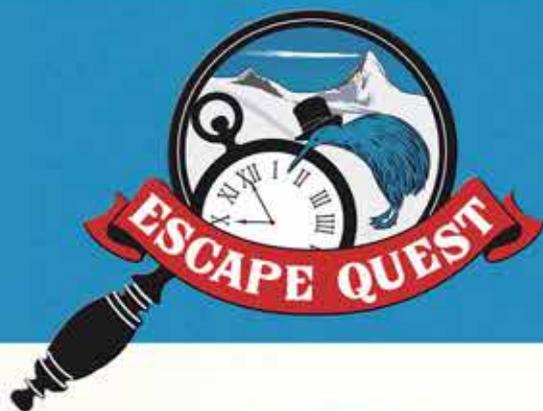
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