

BUREAU REMARKS

YOUR QUARTERLY UPDATE FROM THE QUEENSTOWN CONVENTION BUREAU TEAM

KIA ORA

Spring is a unique season in Queenstown, blossoming with new colours and surrounded by stunning views, rugged mountains, and bubbling waterfalls streams. Large, warm days provide more time to explore the region and all it has to offer.

With the arrival of [Spring](#), our business events season kicks into high gear. The coming months are packed with conferences, incentive groups, and community events. September through November is the perfect time to bring people together in our region, where the beauty of nature meets the buzz of business.

In this newsletter, you'll discover new venues, activities, and opportunities in our business events world. From connecting with our team at the Queenstown Lakes Australia Festival next month, to engaging with suppliers at M&A on steam to learn its insides, our QCB team will be out and about, showcasing why Queenstown is the ultimate business events destination.

As we look ahead to 2024 and 2025, and we now signpost forward planning and Request for Proposal (RFP) submissions, there's still time to consider Queenstown for your initial year plans. Explore our [Forward Outlook](#) and get in touch with our team today to plan those future gatherings.

Read reports:
March, June, August and June

QUEENSTOWN UPDATE

During Meeting 2024 in June, the Queenstown Convention Bureau welcomed [Queenstown New Zealand](#) and [South Islands](#) incentive travel groups for a week specialising from North America and Asia. They explored Queenstown as part of a multi-destination programme, experiencing the best offerings for corporate events and incentive groups. Below, the North American participants take to the snowy views from one of Queenstown's majestic mountain peaks.



The [Queenstown Lakes 2024](#) is set to take place on Sunday 19 November, at the Auckland Fashion Events Centre. This will be the first time in New Zealand where both national and international business events solutions will be showcased under one roof in one day. Exhibitors will represent regions from across New Zealand, along with Australia, the Pacific, Asia, and beyond.



The [Forward Outlook](#) resource indicates the current levels of forward booking accommodation capacity in Queenstown until February 2024. This interactive chart shows that October could be an ideal time for a last-minute corporate retreat or fundraising. Contact [Queenstown QCB Manager](#) or [Queenstown QCB Account Manager](#) to find out how the team can help.

TRAVEL AND AVIATION UPDATE

Here is our latest [airline news](#) resource for August 2024.

- [Jetstar NZ](#) will increase its two-stop flights between New York and Auckland to six times a week, up from four weekly flights during the summer season.
- [Air New Zealand](#) will reposition Auckland-bound service from 10 June to 28 September 2024.
- [Jetstar](#) will switch its daily two-stop flight from Queenstown to Sydney to an early morning departure beginning in November. The 8:00pm service will now depart at 7:00am.
- [Cathay Pacific](#) will resume its Hong Kong to Christchurch service for the upcoming summer season with increased frequency. From 2 December 2024, to 20 February 2025, flights will increase from three to four times per week.
- [United Airlines](#) will re-introduce its Los Francisco to Christchurch service this summer season, operating three flights per week.

REGENERATIVE TOURISM



The [2024 Queenstown Light Festival](#) is an annual light-based event that transforms Queenstown Gardens into a stunning, immersive experience. It's focused on inclusion and sustainability, with initiatives like the zero-waste program [Differing](#). Bring your own insight on how to incorporate this into your business events programme. Check out the latest episode of [Team The Storyville](#).



[Whakapapa Rejuvenation Trust](#) will host [Wāhanga Planning Day](#) on Thursday 26 September 2024, at Whakapapa Forest, Jordans Park to Selwyn Heights. To explore planning day opportunities for your next Queenstown programme, contact [Lisa Hickey](#), Community Fund Coordinator.



[New Zealand Energy](#) is promoting nature's beauty of sunlight and water. It combines solar thermal and photovoltaic systems, microhydro technology, and sustainable timber. For more details, see the new podcast [New Zealand Energy](#) with 100% renewable resources belonging to its unique local environment.



The vision behind [The Whakapapa Park Lodge](#) is to create a new tourism destination experience that supports regenerative change. Recycled and reclaimed building materials have been used giving the lodge a unique character. The property features 50% solar panels, while water saving measures like composting toilets conserve approximately 150,000 litres annually.

ACCOMMODATION UPDATE



[Sumner Palm Hotel](#), managed by Capstone Hotel Management, will undergo an extensive transformation to modernise the property to a five-star luxury standard. The property features guest rooms, each with private balconies or patios. The renovations, which also include a rebranding of the hotel, are expected to be completed by mid-2024.



[Whakapapa Lodge](#), essentially a new five-star hotel from 1988, shows historic elegance with contemporary service. Situated just a short walk from Queenstown's vibrant centre, this boutique hotel offers an exclusive setting, making it an ideal choice for a VIP incentive group seeking a unique and luxurious experience.



[Whakapapa Lodge](#) the perfect spot for your delegates to unwind after your conference programme has ended. It offers the ultimate view with its own spa, gym, massage and bar lounge. Situated next to the lake amongst the trees, it offers guests everything they need for an additional day.



[Queenstown Lakes Hotel](#) is partnering with luxury French brand [L'Orangerie](#) in France to rebrand the spa as [Sofitel Spa](#) within [Sofitel](#), making this L'Orangerie's first luxury spa in New Zealand. Open since last month, the spa offers luxury treatments, massages, and rituals using L'Orangerie products, with key-look options for incentives and groups.

VENUES UPDATE



[Queenstown Lakes Conference](#) is now offering its spacious lounge area and new, sleek service trolley to be transformed to fit any theme or style. [Queenstown Lakes Conference](#) is an impressive experience with the remarkable mountain range as a backdrop. The lounge can accommodate up to 100 guests, making it an ideal venue for large gatherings.



[Queenstown Lakes Conference](#) has a spacious open-plan area ideal for welcome functions. It also offers a variety of activities like bowling, arcade games, karaoke, virtual reality experiences, and lounge areas, making it a great option for a morning conference followed by activities. The venue accommodates up to 100 guests in a theatre setup or 150 for a standing event.



[The Assembly](#), Queenstown's new West Coast pub, formerly known as [The Bar](#) in Queenstown, opened its doors last month. Their versatile space can be tailored to suit groups of all sizes, providing a warm and inviting atmosphere. Located in the Upper Village (the extension) away from Queenstown town centre, it's the perfect spot for larger gatherings.



[The Assembly](#) offers 22 multipurpose rooms, including an art gallery, dance studio, performance areas, a recording studio, music rooms, a primary studio, an art workshop, and a community project space, making it ideal for a range of business events. The gallery with a capacity of up to 100 guests, is perfect for welcome functions or intimate board meetings.



[Inland Catering](#) is now [Queenstown Catering](#), reflecting 50 years of service to the Queenstown Lakes region. As a local proprietor aligns with the company's vision to promote more sustainable catering practices within their operations. The restaurant also supports growth and the inclusion of many long-term employees as company stakeholders.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE



Launched October 2023, [Whakapapa Forest](#) and [Queenstown Lakes](#) in collaboration between [Whakapapa Forest](#) and [Queenstown Lakes](#), is designed to deliver unparalleled nature and luxury with high panoramic windows and laptop seating, it provides a business class-style experience ideal for a VIP incentive group of up to 10 guests, offering a personalised intimate journey.



[Lakeside 21](#), a new Queenstown ultra-luxury company offers an exclusive experience with local guides, luxury transport, and small group tours. Guests exploring privately, discover hidden gems, and enjoy relaxed views. The service features flexible itineraries, sustainable practices, and direct interactions with wilderness for deeper insights.



[The Corporate Team Building Experience](#), designed to address team dynamics through fun, activities, and strategic challenges specifically tailored for corporate groups. By merging the [M&A School Playground](#) with the [Adventure Team Challenge](#), they offer a memorable experience that strengthens bonds and fosters collaboration.

INDUSTRY UPDATE

The QCB team will be at the [2024 Queenstown Lakes Australia Festival](#) in New Plymouth from 26 - 27 November. This conference connects our industry professionals, shares valuable insights, and helps shape the future of business events in New Zealand. For more information and to register visit [here](#).

Business Events Industry Australia has recently announced their [2024-2025](#) and [2026](#) will be held in Auckland. Thank you very much to 11 - 10 June 2024 and 17 - 14 June 2025 for your submissions.

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- [Beauregard](#) has won the award for Large-Scale Operator of the Year, at the [2024 QCB Awards](#).
- [Queenstown Lakes](#) has been recognised as a sustainable tourism experience, impact on the environment and their people.
- [Over The Top Helicopters](#) has been identified as a finalist in the upcoming [2024 Queenstown Lakes Awards](#).
- [Palmer Hospitality Group](#) were nominated as a finalist for their work in the recent [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#). They were finalists in Best Bar with Live Entertainment, Hospitality (out of the bar) (Best Helicopters), and Best of the Year (Best Tables).
- The [Queenstown Lakes](#) have been announced, and [Queenstown Lakes](#) has won the award for Best of the Bar with their [Whakapapa Fly-Catcher Fly](#) offering.
- [Queenstown Lakes](#) has been nominated for [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#) in the [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#) and [Queenstown Lakes](#) winners include [Queenstown Lakes](#), [Queenstown Lakes](#), and [Queenstown Lakes](#).
- At the [Queenstown Lakes Awards 2024](#), [Palmer Helicopters](#) was awarded New Zealand's leading lodge. [Whakapapa Forest](#) was awarded New Zealand's leading resort.

KEY DATES AND EVENTS

- 1 - 10 June - [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#)
- 16 June - [Queenstown Lakes Australia Festival](#) in New Plymouth
- 18 June - [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#)
- 1 July - [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#)
- 27 Feb - 2 Mar - [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#)
- 4 Mar - [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#)
- 26 - 27 Apr - [Queenstown Lakes Awards](#)

Discover more [events in Queenstown](#) with a complete guide to our best attractions.

YOUR QUEENSTOWN CONVENTION BUREAU TEAM

Sarah McInnes
QCB Manager
[03 533 8770](#)
[sarah@queenstownqcb.co.nz](#)

Yangel Zhang
Account Manager, Asia
[03 533 8770](#)
[yangel@queenstownqcb.co.nz](#)

Lisa Thompson
QCB Account Manager
[03 533 8770](#)
[lisa@queenstownqcb.co.nz](#)

Anna Corbridge
QCB Director
[03 533 8770](#)
[anna@queenstownqcb.co.nz](#)