

# Community Connection Programme

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*Corporate Social Responsibility Programme*



[queenstownNZ.nz](http://queenstownNZ.nz)





# Welcome

Destination Queenstown and the Queenstown Convention Bureau are delighted to launch the Queenstown Connection Programme. This programme seeks to create opportunities for our visitors to meaningfully contribute to the Queenstown community while they conference, visit or undertake business here.

This prospectus introduces a collection of 16 local not-for-profit organisations and Trusts already making substantial and long-lasting contributions to the local community in Queenstown. Many of these small organisations are run by volunteers, funded by the kindness of donations from the local community and would highly value contributions from visiting groups.

In the following pages, each of these organisations list a variety of ways in which groups and visitors to our region can give back to our local community and make a significant contribution during their time in Queenstown. This can take the form of donations, sponsorships or volunteering time to work within the organization.

As a destination we aim to ensure sustainability within the tourism industry, for the community, the environment and visitor experience. More deeply within this programme we seek to connect our visitors with people and community and offer opportunities to make a difference with genuine community contributions. These connections will provide much needed support for the local community, assist in preservation of the environment and continue to enhance the culture within this small community.

We plan for continued development of corporate and social responsibility programmes within Queenstown and the Wakatipu Basin and thank you for your consideration of how your next group or business trip to Queenstown can make a difference.

Should you wish to contribute to any of these worthy organisations during your visit to Queenstown, please contact the organization directly in advance via the contact details listed within the listing on the following pages.

We look forward to seeing you in Queenstown.





# Whakatipu Wildlife Trust



**CONTACT:** Leslie Van Gelder  
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## About us

The Whakatipu Wildlife Trust (WWT) is a community based conservation group whose mission is to create a predator free environment throughout the greater Wakatipu Basin so that our wildlife can flourish. We serve as the “keeper of the big picture” for over 40 trapping groups to help share resources, create synergies and to work to bring back the birds and wildlife now and for future generations.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** A DOC 200 trap with bait costs \$100 and every trap purchased can aid in bringing down our predator numbers.

**Sponsorship of Wild Places:** Many of our unpopulated areas are in dire need of trapping. While we have volunteers ready, we are looking for sponsors for areas like Moke Lake, Gorge Road and areas along the Glenorchy Road. A donation of 30 traps would give us the capacity to fill in the big gaps in the map creating larger landscapes that are predator free across the district. Thirty traps could be responsible for the removal of upwards of 200 predators in a year.



# Baskets of Blessing Charitable Trust



baskets of blessing

**CONTACT:** Lee Nicolson  
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## About us

Queenstown's Baskets of Blessing volunteer charity organisation provides a platform coordinating generous donations of products, time and money to deliver unexpected gift baskets and food packs to locals struggling from unexpected life predicaments.

Increasingly, local individuals and families are facing incredible challenges, typically without family or support networks. Those impacted range across all ages, socioeconomic groups and cultures. Severe illness or injury, financial or mental distress, separations and solo parenting all take their toll.

Baskets of Blessing create customised gift baskets to reinforce that people do care and to offer positive uplifting moments. Baskets of Blessing also receive surplus food from supermarkets that previously would have been discarded. Volunteer teams regularly collate, cook and distribute frozen meal packs. All recipients are nominated anonymously and actioned without judgement.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** Donations of any value allow expansion to reach more families. \$200-\$2500 ensure meat and essential staple ingredients can maximise the food surplus deliveries, expanding the menu of nutritious homemade meals. For baskets, supplementary items e.g. toiletries, stationery, toys, crafts etc are always needed in greater quantities.

**Sponsorship:** Petrol, supermarket or retailer gift cards added to food packs or baskets offer suffering families an enormous sense of relief, control and empowerment in difficult times.

**Volunteer Offering:** Give your team a morning out to help pack gift baskets or sort donated produce, prepare vegetables, cook, package and label meals to be frozen. Share in the volunteer spirit and passion while contributing to helping families through challenging times. Groups can range from five to fifteen people for approximately three to four hours.

# Lakes District Museum Inc



**CONTACT:** David Clarke

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[museumqueenstown.com](http://museumqueenstown.com)

## About us

The Lakes District Museum is a trust run museum and was established in 1948. It is appropriately set in the former gold mining town of Arrowtown. The museum is recognised as one of the best small museums in New Zealand. It depicts the history of the pre European Māori, the European settlers and gold miners, and the Chinese miners. Our collection area covers the whole of the Queenstown Lakes District. The museum actively stores the districts archives and photographs, curates history and art exhibitions, runs an oral history recording programme and runs a full time education programme. Our archive room is actively used by researchers, writers and students. The museum is active in protecting and restoring a number of the districts heritage buildings and owns and runs Arrowtown's historic Post Office.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** We welcome any contribution to our many projects but suggest \$10 per head. Your donations will assist in two of our very worthwhile ongoing projects. The first is the digitisation and archiving of our

photographs, slides and moving footage. We have a large collection and as we get new donations we need to appropriately store them. The second is the recording of the stories of our older residents as part of our Oral History Archive. We have achieved over 600 hours of interviews including the stories of early settler families, early tourism pioneers, war veterans and wine growers. We have a long list of other people who need to be interviewed.

**Sponsorship:** Sponsorship towards the restoration of the museum's heritage buildings.

The museum is partly housed in two heritage buildings. The former Bank of New Zealand and the bank's stables. Both buildings need seismic strengthening and restoration. This is a massive undertaking and the museum is actively fundraising to raise the \$3 million required. As part of the restoration that will take the building back to its former glory, new displays are to be installed. Your sponsorship would ensure the ongoing viability and display of the district's history and the restoration of one of the district's finest buildings.

# Queenstown Mountain Bike Club



**CONTACT:** The QMTBC President

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

## About us

The Queenstown Mountain Bike Club (QMTBC) is the main provider of mountain bike trails on the hills and mountains around Queenstown. The club builds and maintains a substantial trail network throughout the region which is open to locals and visitors at no cost. The club facilitates mountain biking events for a variety of skill and experience levels. The club also provide a youth training and coaching programme open to any members. The club was formed in 2003 and has a membership of over 1000.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** The cost to build a quality trail is approximately \$20-\$30 per metre and our trails are between 400m to 4km long. Annual maintenance of the club's network is \$50,000 per annum and there is minimal financial assistance provided toward this by local or national government.

Building and maintaining trails is the key component of the QMTBC's role in the community. Our experience, coupled with our relationship with landowners, allows us to build trails that are an asset

shared with the local community and businesses. QMTBC trails are the core of the Queenstown mountain biking experience, bringing people from around the world to experience the Queenstown mountain bike experience. For locals it is an asset that is free to all.

**Sponsorship:** Sponsor construction or maintenance of a trail to ensure the trails can remain an asset that is safe for use and open to all who wish to use them. Alternatively sponsor an event for the community to help raise funds to continue our important work in the community and supporting local mountain bikers to become members.

**Volunteer hours:** The club runs dig nights most Wednesdays, constructing and organising maintenance on our network of trails. Contact us to organise to your group to join in with our next dig night. No experience necessary, although personal protective equipment may be required by individuals.



# Central Lakes Family Services Inc



**CONTACT:** Tina Mongston  
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clfs.co.nz

## About us

We support vulnerable children, adolescents and their families that have been exposed to family harm or affected by mild/moderate mental health and behaviour issues. We provide a range of options for families and each individual will be provided with a plan to help them achieve positive results and improved outcomes. Services we deliver include:

Social Work, safety plans for victims and children, counselling & emergency accommodation. We offer behaviour change programmes for offenders, child protection and family harm training packages for businesses. We provide advocacy, support for new parents, home based social work, 24 hour sexual harm support for victims of assaults.

Each child and adult that comes into service will receive an assessment to identify needs and goals to achieve positive change. They will spend a minimum of six weeks working with a Social Worker learning communication strategies, developing skills and strategies and implementing individual safety plans designed for their personal situations.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** If children don't have a cell phone we will purchase a phone and credit, providing access to help in emergencies. We conduct home safety checks free of charge. Your donations provide this equipment and services, including safety alarms for children where necessary.

Social Workers meet with the parents, teachers and significant others to assist with achieving safety, reduce anxiety and reinforce strategies with the child.

**Sponsorship:** Sponsorship of emergency packs for clients that leave dangerous situations is a valued contribution. We provide packs containing toiletries, phones, a change of clothes and food. Support with printing & vehicle costs is also valuable as we have a large geographical area of coverage.

**Volunteer hours:** Due to the nature of the work of CLFS we don't use volunteers in our social work. However we invite you to volunteer some time to assist us with ongoing maintenance projects such as office deep cleaning, removing rubbish or painting office building.

# Wakatipu Reforestation Trust



**CONTACT:** Karen O'Donahoo  
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wrtqt.org.nz

facebook.com/wrtqt.org.nz <https://givealittle.co.nz/org/wakatipureforestationtrust>

## About us

The Wakatipu Reforestation Trust is a volunteer led, community organisation with a vision to 'protect and restore the native biodiversity of the region through revegetation projects, collaboration, education and advocacy'.

Since humans first set foot on New Zealand our native forests has reduced by 85%, while native bird species have reduced by up to 50%. The kowhai rich dry woodlands once dominant in the Wakatipu Basin along with a mosaic of other plant communities has been greatly reduced.

We work with the community to grow and plant native plants, including threatened species. This will create wildlife corridors, attracting native birds and insects back into the area, significantly enhancing the local biodiversity. We run education programmes to inspire and educate the community to take action.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** Donate \$10 per delegate to fund the purchase and associated costs of planting eco-sourced species of plants that would have once thrived naturally in

the region. The trees planted range from the mighty Kahikatea, New Zealand's tallest tree that grows to over 50m, to native grasses and tussocks. The trust grows plants in our community nursery by volunteers and plants them on public land.

**Sponsorship:** Sponsorship of \$1000 enables 100 more trees directly within the Wakatipu Basin.

We aim to grow and plant out 10,000 native plants per year. Help fund plants and the associated planting costs e.g. weed removal, predator control and maintenance, to increase the biodiversity of the Queenstown region.

Our planting project sites have been carefully chosen to represent the different ecosystems that have been lost locally due to human interference. With time these sites will start to connect to create wildlife corridors and enable a thriving habitat for native birds. They are also located close to local communities and are accessible to all who visit to enjoy and learn about our precious indigenous flora and fauna.

# Wakatipu Buddy Programme



**CONTACT:** Nanette Benington

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[familyworkssld.nz](http://familyworkssld.nz)

## About us

The Wakatipu Buddy Programme contributes to the emotional and social well-being of children by matching them with carefully selected and trained adult volunteers (Big Buddies) in a well supported buddy relationship. Life is not always easy for children and many reasons can lead them to need a little extra adult support. Our Big Buddies spend a rewarding two to three hours a week doing fun activities with one Little Buddy aged 4-12 years old. We also have group outings three to four times a year.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** Make a cash contribution towards a Buddy Programme outing. For example our Christmas Picnic is held at Lake Hayes and donations can purchase gifts for Big and Little Buddies, BBQ food and spot prizes for games. Other outings are held throughout the year and you may wish to suggest or create an event to donate towards, organise or sponsor.

**Sponsorship:** Sponsor a Buddy Programme "match" for a year. Sponsorship of a Buddy costs between \$1500-\$2000. This provides recruitment,

selection, training and on-going support for a Buddy Programme Big and Little Buddy pair for 12 months.



# Wakatipu Search & Rescue



**CONTACT:** Samantha Stirling

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

## About us

Wakatipu Search & Rescue (SAR) is an entirely volunteer based organisation who work as first responders to bring home the lost, injured, overdue or missing.

The skills of the police only go so far when it comes to rescues in a region like Queenstown and this is where Wakatipu S&R jump in – literally! These volunteers are some of the heroes of our region, as they are not only risking their lives to save a stranger – but they are doing it unpaid and often at the expense of their own clothing, personal equipment and their day job.

These volunteers are hanging off helicopters in sub-zero conditions, tramping through the wilderness in the dark – off trail and utilising extensive training, including amongst other techniques and tools, Lost Person Behaviour. These rescues range from helping experienced climbers, missing children and lost hikers to name but a few.

These heroes have literally risked their lives to save others with no thought to the conditions or the reason the person is needing our services!

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** Every dollar counts. Wakatipu SAR is only funded through cash donations or charitable grant and so any money donated will contribute to staff training, helicopter time and much needed equipment.

Ongoing volunteers training and helicopter time go to ensure the volunteers are in the best condition possible to save lives.

Rescue equipment is expensive to purchase and maintain. Without good quality equipment the volunteers are putting their lives and the lives of others at risk.

**Sponsorship:** Wakatipu Search and Rescue would be grateful to discuss sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship can be towards specific equipment or training such as on-going helicopter currency.



# Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group Inc (WCG)



**CONTACT:** Suzanne Rose  
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## About us

WCG are a volunteer non-profit charity working with the support of the community to protect our ecosystems and iconic Wakatipu landscapes from wilding conifers. These fast spreading wilding pines are New Zealand's number one introduced pest plant & create serious environmental risks. Controlling them is vital if we are to protect our native flora and fauna and safeguard our rich biodiversity.

Wilding pines threaten to smother community recreational facilities, including popular biking/walking/skiing trails and historic areas. A monoculture of pines creates shading and loss of sunlight, negatively impacting facilities and communities. With the prolific spread of wind-borne wilding pine seeds, the risk of dangerous wildfires is increased.

While faster growing pines may sequester more carbon initially, our native plant species are the long-term sequesters of carbon. If lost to encroaching wilding pines, the natural biodiversity of the Wakatipu will never be recreated.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** Invest in our unique Wakatipu environment with a donation gifted to the WCG. The cost of tree removal multiplies exponentially as trees grow larger and spread further. There is no better time than now to get rid of them. Your donation contributes to the vital resources needed for control of these pest trees. Every contribution counts!



# Queenstown Alpine Ski Team



**CONTACT:** Erika Harris  
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🌐 [qast.org.nz](http://qast.org.nz)

## About us

Queenstown Alpine Ski Team (QAST) is New Zealand's leading alpine ski racing club. Based in Queenstown, we provide programmes for athletes from NZ and around the world to enhance their alpine ski racing skills.

Our programme provides a technical and competitive pathway from introduction to ski racing right through to FIS level. QAST provides programmes for athletes to enhance their skills and compete at the highest level, and in the process of doing so, build character. It is a place to learn the core values of commitment, teamwork, loyalty, sportsmanship, humility and integrity.

Along with employing a team of talented coaches, QAST offers some of the best world-class race facilities in the world. We have a proud history of producing some of New Zealand's top alpine ski racers, World Cup racers and Olympians – including Alice Robinson.

QAST is a community-based non-profit incorporated society affiliated to Snow Sports New Zealand.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** A donation of \$600 will buy a local athlete a pair of skis for them to use for the season.

A larger donation of \$2,390 will pay for the first season of training fees for one local athlete.

**Sponsorship:** Friends of Race Arena sponsorship.

Ski racing fuels our fire and drives everything we do at QAST and sponsorship helps to support our club and develop the next generation of New Zealand ski racers. In conjunction with Coronet Peak ski area, we are offering naming rights to each and every individual T-Bar in Rocky Gully. Sign up for three years at \$300 plus GST per annum. The funds raised will help improve race facilities in the Rocky Gully race area.

# Happiness House



**CONTACT:** Robyn Francis  
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🌐 happinesshouse.org.nz

## About us

Happiness House is a community based not for profit charitable trust. We are located in Queenstown and we are the only community drop-in centre in this district. We provide a warm, friendly and confidential environment where people can meet in a homelike setting. Our aim is to provide a place where anyone can come and chat, get access to free and affordable clothing, access advice and information regarding where to go for further help and assistance. Our mission is to assist those in need by encouraging healthy empowering life choices.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation or raffles:** We run various projects throughout the year which require resources, for example our gardening group, knitting group, cooking on a budget, repair café, christmas boxes, children's parties. Your donations can support one of these activities.

**Sponsorship:** Food supplies (cans and non-perishables): we run a Produce Day every Friday for individuals and families who are going through a difficult time. Donated cans and other packaged food

is added to fresh produce to help relieve their budget. Care packages: Women's products can be very expensive. Donated care packages are made up of personal hygiene items, small snacks or treats, pen, notebook, chapstick etc. We provide these for women who may have had a health or family crisis or some other challenging time. Vouchers: petrol or grocery vouchers are a very useful form of sponsorship as families can struggle throughout the year. This sponsorship can go a long way to ease the strain for them.

**Volunteer hours:** Small groups of two to five can help out in our Resource Centre (organising donations), in the kitchen (making cups of tea and chatting to visitors) and outside in the garden and helping to maintain the property.



# Wakatipu Youth Trust



## About us

We are a local registered charity that supports and advocates for youth aged 10-24 years in the Wakatipu area.

The purpose of youth work is to guide and support our young people in their personal, social and educational development to help them reach their full potential and make a successful transition to adult life.

This involves prevention and early intervention work through to mentoring 'at risk' youth. Youth Workers are involved across all eight of our local schools from year levels 7 to 13 with most being on a weekly basis. We also provide support for 18-24 year olds.

We deliver a wide range of programmes, services, events and opportunities including a community youth centre and an LGBTTQIA+ group to help promote positive development in our youth. We are about building resiliency, inclusivity, confidence and value among our young people and engage with all youth from Glenorchy to Arrowtown.



**CONTACT:** Jacqui Moir  
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🌐 wakatipuyouthtrust.co.nz

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** A \$100 donation enables a young person to participate in a programme or receive one to one mentoring.

A \$300 donation would provide art supplies, sporting equipment or other activity related materials for a whole term.

**Sponsorship:** Sponsor a teen or child with a \$500 fund for support with a youth event or mentoring.

Sponsorship of \$1000 contributes towards the planning and delivery of educational, vocational and recreational programmes.





# Queenstown Lakes Baby Box Charitable Trust



**CONTACT:** Vanessa van Uden  
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## About us

Baby Box is a global initiative to equip parents with resources to give babies a safe, healthy start in life. Baby Box Queenstown Lakes is an independent charitable trust with the goal that every new born receives a Baby Box to welcome them to our community.

Many people assume there is not hardship in Queenstown but there is. We want to go some way towards providing essential items and provide isolated and struggling families with the feeling of community. We also use this project to connect senior residents who have creative skills. They supply knitted and sewn items such as woollen booties, hats, blankets, cardigans, quilts and bibs.

The boxes and mattresses are approved to New Zealand standards. Boxes include a book, a reusable nappy and breast pads, a toy, St John and library free membership applications plus other items. The Baby Box and contents are a gift from our community to all new residents.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** Each Baby Box costs \$250 to put together – any amount would be greatly appreciated.



# Plunket Queenstown



**CONTACT:** Belinda Ricketts  
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## About us

Wakatipu Plunket provides essential support services for the development, health and wellbeing of children under five within the Wakatipu basin. Our services include parenting education sessions, injury prevention programmes, drop in facilities in Arrowtown and Queenstown, play, support and coffee groups and well child assessments. These services provide key support to new families who are often living in the area without family support.

Both Queenstown and Arrowtown Plunket rooms are a safe family friendly place to drop in, have a cuppa and meet other families. We offer space for baby changing, feeding and both indoor and outdoor play areas.

Within the Plunket Rooms we hold a range of social, play and support groups such as; Mums for Mums, Japanese Families, Brazilian Families, Your Growing baby and three Play groups.

More information on these groups and monthly calendars can be found on our "Wakatipu Plunket" Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/Wakatipu-Plunket-111560523513/>

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** Help keep our rooms open! A cash donation towards our utilities, consumables or upkeep of our rooms is greatly appreciated. An amount a little as \$20 can be used to buy supplies to support one of our groups.

**Sponsorship:** Last year we had more than 4,000 parents plus their children attend our groups, special events, or drop by for a visit or play. Your support will help us keep our doors open, free of charge, for all families with babies and young children.

**Volunteer hours:** Groups of two to three people can help by spending an hour or more to assist keeping our rooms a friendly and inviting place to visit. For larger groups please get in touch us to see if we have any projects or fundraisers coming up.

# Wakatipu Rowing Club



**CONTACT:** Maria Thomson  
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🌐 wakatipurowingclub.co.nz

## About us

Wakatipu Rowing Club (WRC) was established in 1964 with the purpose of promoting, developing and fostering the sport of rowing in the Wakatipu Basin. The WRC operates from a boatshed situated on Lake Hayes, its membership includes school, club and masters rowers who participate at local and national regattas. The WRC is currently run and coached by an incredibly dedicated volunteer based group, working towards growing the club and providing a rowing opportunity for the entire Wakatipu community.

Coaches are invaluable volunteers whom without, the WRC can not continue to grow its membership. Coaches dedicate time to early morning, evening and weekend trainings along with coaching at weekend regattas. Throughout the rowing season coaches commit to approximately 14 hours training per week.

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** 1. Equipment. Each boat requires between two and sixteen blades at a cost of \$950 each. These blades are a vital piece of equipment for every rower and are being used up to 10 times a week

per crew. This high usage results in heavy wear and tear, causing breakage and the constant expense to replace.

2. Coaches petrol costs. Coaches commit a large number of hours to coaching and traveling - travelling up to nine times per week to Lake Hayes plus weekend travel to regatta's held in Invercargill, Clyde & Twizel during the course of the season.

**Sponsorship:** 1. Annual seat sponsorship. Available at \$350.00 per seat. We have a fleet of boats ranging from singles to eights and an octuple. Seat sponsorship aids the operation of the club and constant updating of all equipment.

2. Sponsor a rower. The cost of a school rower's sub is currently set at \$900.00 for one year. Sponsorship ensures that rowing is a sporting option available for our entire community.

3. Purchase & naming of a boat. Boats range from a single at \$20000.00 to an eight at \$80000.00. This is a large expense for our volunteer club but a necessary one to ensure our fleet is current and gives our rowers the best opportunity to compete with peers at all levels.

# Queenstown Trails Trust



**CONTACT:** Mark Williams  
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## About us

Queenstown Trails Trust are the charity making it easier to ride and walk in Queenstown. Our goal is to connect our communities and inspire adventures.

Our vision for 2025 is that the Queenstown Trail network will consist of a well-connected series of integrated commuter and recreational trails within the Queenstown Basin. This world-class network will be accessible to visitors and locals (free of charge). The obvious social and wellbeing benefits are complemented by reducing congestion and carbon footprint, as well as creating the ultimate biking destination. The trails cater for young families and beginners to the hardcore enthusiast seeking the ultimate backcountry adventure.

We see a future where Queenstown's visitors & residents have the opportunity to step out of their cars and on to the trail as their main mode of (active) transport. Imagine a car free Queenstown one day – we do!

## Ways to support

**Cash donation:** From as little as \$180 to \$600 per year you or your organisation can become a Friend of the Trust Star Funder. For less than a \$1 a day you can become a Friend of the Trust Star Funder and you or your organisation will be featured on the Wall of Recognition at the Edgar Bridge and you can feel proud to be a part of a movement to make cycling easier and safer in Queenstown.

A \$5,000 donation will get you a Corporate Gift Membership. As well as getting your organisations name on our Wall of Recognition, we'll sign your entire team up to our Friends of the Trust supporter programme (up to 50 staff), each team member will get a thank you pack including a supporter ID tag, bike sticker AND they'll feel proud to be working for a company giving back to our wonderful community.

**Sponsorship:** \$10,000 will give you Trail Guardian Sponsorship to one of our hero trails within the network. Become a Trail Guardian sponsor and you will enable the Queenstown Trails Trust to maintain the trails to a world-class standard. Signage at each end of the trail is included and plenty of PR opportunities.



*"Goodness is the only  
investment that never fails."*

**Henry David Thoreau**

