

What is the Queenstown Repair Workshop?

Queenstown Repair Workshop is a free meeting place and it's all about repairing things (together). You'll find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need. On clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances, toys, et cetera. You'll also find expert volunteers, with repair skills in all kinds of fields. Queenstown is made up of talented and highly skilled residents, many of whom have made their money and settled here in Queenstown and are willing to share skills with everybody including youths and school children.

Visitors bring their broken items from home. Together with the specialists they start making their repairs in to Queenstown Repair Workshop. It's an ongoing learning process. If you have nothing to repair, you can enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Or you can lend a hand with someone else's repair job. You can also get inspired at the reading table – by leafing through books on repairs and DIY.

There are over 1.500 Repair Cafés worldwide. This is a tried and tested model.

Why a Repair Workshop?

We throw away vast amounts of stuff. Even things with almost nothing wrong, and which could get a new lease on life after a simple repair. The trouble is, lots of people have forgotten that they can repair things themselves or they no longer know how. Knowing how to make repairs is a skill quickly lost. Society doesn't always show much appreciation for the people who still have this practical knowledge, and against their will they are often left standing on the sidelines. Their experience is never used, or hardly ever.

Queenstown Repair Workshop changes all that! People who might otherwise be sidelined are getting involved again. Valuable practical knowledge is getting passed on. Things are being used for longer and don't have to be thrown away. This reduces the volume of raw materials and energy needed to make new products. It cuts CO2 emissions, for example, because manufacturing new products and recycling old ones causes CO2 to be released.

Queenstown Repair Workshop teaches people to see their possessions in a new light. And, once again, to appreciate their value. Queenstown Repair Workshop helps change people's mindset. This is essential to kindle people's enthusiasm for a sustainable society.

But most of all, Queenstown Repair Workshop connects people through skillsharing, objects of beauty and sentiment, and enables a more resilient and resourceful community. **At this time, it's essential to rethink consumerism and connections.**

Rationale

QLDC owns a property on Ladies Mile suited to Queenstown Repair Workshop, it's a venue which adds value to the community when put into the hands of the community. Many proposals have been made for the Ladies Mile Property in the last couple of years.

Queenstown Repair Workshop would co-exist with other proposals such as community allotments etc on this site. Any consideration to this submission should be done so with that in mind.

Much research has already been invested both globally and locally into Repair workshops. Wanaka Wastebusters and Sustainable Queenstown were due to run Repair Cafes in May 2020, I was contracted to do the work for organising the Queenstown event which is now postponed.

For more, please contact Esther Whitehead. Founder of Sustainable Queenstown. **N.B. This submission has been made as an individual. The ability to start and sustain the Queenstown Repair Shop is plausible, only if QLDC is a willing partner in this proposal.**