

THE GLENORCHY MARKETPLACE

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The Glenorchy Marketplace project is underway in the picturesque township of Glenorchy, at the head of Lake Wakatipu in the Queenstown Southern Lakes. The project when completed will be a “*must see*” destination for visitors to the region while also serving Glenorchy locals with a full range of products and services for everyday needs.

This innovative and inspiring project will be undertaken in three phases over the next three to five years. Currently in the design, compliance and consenting phase, the details of the development are beginning to take shape. The overarching objective of the project is to serve both the local community and the tourism industry, by enhancing and complementing existing visitor services and local offerings.

At the heart of the project’s vision is environmental, community and financial sustainability.

The site which previously operated as a campground with cabins and a general store, will be rebuilt using green design philosophies and sustainable operating practices, thus using 50% less energy and water than traditional buildings.

When completed, The Glenorchy Marketplace will provide lodging and camping, as well as provide a Head of the Lake Adventure Bookings and Information Centre for outdoor programmes and convenience based services for the 100,000 plus visitors drawn to Glenorchy each year.

Locals, trampers, school groups, families and independent travelers, as well as business and corporate groups will find an inspiring and diverse range of offerings and services here. The design of the new buildings will ‘*educate, inspire and delight*’ and add dimension and depth to the visitors learning experience. The Marketplace will feature native flora and fauna, using abundant green space and organic gardens to create a restful experience.

When complete the three-hectare Marketplace will feature:

- General Store with products that showcase the best New Zealand has to offer, including tramping and overnight supplies, merino wool and outdoor clothing, as well as basic groceries and specialty gifts
- Marketplace Café featuring a takaway deli section with a variety of healthy food options
- Head of the Lake Activities Bookings Desk and Information Centre
- Campground that includes affordable shared accommodation and tenting
- Artist Inspired public toilets
- Self contained garden cottages with one to three bedrooms for families and groups
- Community Classroom that doubles as a public theater and meeting space for up to 100 people
- Stone cottage to host small weddings, meetings or special events for up to 25 people
- Two private outdoor hot tubs and a massage cabin
- Commercial kitchen to prepare food for the café and caterings for special events
- Organic garden to support the Marketplace Café and a seasonal farmers market

An engagement process with the community, as well as conservation and tourism groups is gathering input to integrate into the design of the Marketplace accommodations, café and general store. The financial and commercial structure for the project is a special point of difference; because The Glenorchy Marketplace will donate all profits from its commercial operations (retail, café, and overnight accommodations) to a community trust. Each year, the community trust — which will be directed by a group of local Glenorchy trustees — will invest these funds back into local projects needing financial support. This will include children’s education, conservation, healthcare and community projects.

The Glenorchy Marketplace project is the inspiration of Debbi Brainerd, founder of IslandWood, a “*School in the Woods*” in the U.S. and is being headed by she and her husband Paul, who have a home both in Glenorchy and in the U.S. They are joined by several local architects and a project team of locally-based business professionals being led by Queenstown resident Michelle Trapski.

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June 26, 2014

