

Queenstown

In the pipeline

A front page story in a September 2007 *Otago Daily Times* reported that a new commuter ferry service was planned that would offer a daily run around Lake Wakatipu.

Stat attack

The average speed of the Skyline Gondola is 3.5m per second. The vertical rise is 450m; the incline angle averages 37.1 degrees; and the total length of the journey is 730m.

Inspired!

James K Baxter's *At Queenstown* describes the view from the Chalet:

The boats like water beetles,
Wooden motels and pine tree
islands...

And later a full moon will
take

Her own photograph of the Remarkables,

Black rock veined with
August snow!

Location on the shores of Lake Wakatipu, the stunning panorama of the Remarkables mountain range, and a climate of intense summers and winters have made Queenstown one of the country's most popular tourist destinations, for New Zealanders and overseas travellers alike.

It is the largest population centre in Central Otago with booming property and tourism developments. Queenstown was a goldmining settlement in the 1860s but very few buildings from this period of its history survive. The oldest remaining residential building is the cottage built by John Williams, a pioneer mariner on the lake. The Courthouse and Library, built in the 1870s from locally quarried stone, is another rare survivor.

Adventure tourism – jet boating, bungee jumping, mountain biking, tramping and snow sports – mixed with an energetic nightlife are the face of the town in the 21st century but some classics persist. The Skyline Gondola, installed in 1967 and reputed to be the steepest lift in the southern hemisphere, is still an important attraction.

Charles Brasch wrote in the late 1930s of giving a lift to a friend en route to Queenstown who had sent their car to Cromwell by rail in order to save wear on the tyres. These days an international airport makes arrival easy for overseas visitors and those who don't have time to make the trip through Central by road.



The Queenstown lakeside



Courthouse and library, Ballarat Street, Queenstown

