

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

25 September 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [4]

Title | Taitara: Chair's Report

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is:

- a. to provide the Board with an update on projects of interest;
- b. to allow members to report on recent community engagement; and
- c. to cover other matters not listed elsewhere on the agenda.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report.

Prepared by:



Name: Simon Telfer

Title: Chair

17 September 2025

Recent Formal Engagements

5 August Full Council Workshop

Board members joined the 5 August Council Workshop to be introduced to the Draft Speed Management Plan that will be implemented across the district.

WUCCB members present at workshop: Mr Simon Telfer, Mr John Wellington, Mr Chris Hadfield, Councillor Cody Tucker, Councillor Lyal Cocks, Councillor Barry Bruce.

9 September WUCCB Workshop

Naell Crosby-Roe (Director Democracy Services) attended the recent workshop to review and discuss changes with the Board on the current WUCCB Delegations and Governance Agreement. The proposed changes will be presented to the new Community Board in the next triennium.

WUCCB members present at workshop: Mr Simon Telfer, Ms Linda Joll, Mr John Wellington, Mr Chris Hadfield, Councillor Cody Tucker, Councillor Barry Bruce, Councillor Lyal Cocks.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

1. It was special to be part of the opening of the Hāwea Flat playground and, post the ribbon cutting, to see the excitement of around 40 tamariki rushing to be the first on!
2. Gina and Aviette from Wastebusters gave elected members a tour of their facility and an overview of the support they need from Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) to relocate to bigger premises. They asked the Community Board to help secure funding from Ministry for the Environment by advocating for a Letter of Intent to be provided by QLDC to Wastebusters. This has now been actioned.
3. Our Wānaka Library team do an amazing job of connecting our community and sharing information in many shapes and forms. I met with the team to recognise the opening of a new soundproof meeting room at the library, free of charge for hire by not for profit groups. We also celebrated the success of the checking in/drop box service for library books at the Recreation Centre.
4. Community engagement on Wānaka Airport's Future Plan has drawn to a close. I was part of the Advisory Group that met regularly with the consultants to ensure the project reflected nuances of the Upper Clutha and met community expectations.
5. As part of my Education, Knowledge and Collaboration portfolio I attended the well run Wao Annual General Meeting (AGM). I took the opportunity to ask about WAO's ongoing transport focus for 2025/26 (which, pleasingly, will continue).

6. This portfolio also includes WAI Wānaka. I caught up with Cat (Chief Executive Officer) and Michaela (Trustee) around the establishment of a Centre of Freshwater Excellence, plans for hosting another Alpine Lakes Forum in November and their new partnership with Contact Energy.
7. The Wānaka Community Response Group plays an important role in ensuring we are as prepared as possible for natural disasters. I attended their AGM and was pleased to view photos of the almost completed response trailer which will be in operation soon. The trailer's construction was half funded through a donation from the G&O West Trust.
8. The Wānaka Chamber of Commerce Business held five events focused on Economic Futures - how QLDC is working hard to broaden and deepen the economy in the region.
9. An early 7am start for the Central Otago Sports breakfast had me updated on the world of sport, recreation and active play, including progress on facilities maintenance and infrastructure planning in the Upper Clutha area.
10. Later that evening I was part of a workshop that presented the rejuvenated Ballantyne Road Sports Fields master plan to the leaders of a number of local sports clubs. We are pushing very hard for new sports fields to be created in Wānaka as quickly as possible.
11. Dunstan Hospital has been missing from the regional health and hospital conversations and news stories recently. I shared some views with Warwick Deuchrass over a coffee, given his role as Chair of the newly created Dunstan Hospital Foundation.
12. Charlie Sklenar (Operations Manager - DOC Central Otago) and I discussed Department of Conservation progress over the past twelve months and ideas for a closer working relationship with the Community Board in the next triennium.
13. Wastebusters' 25th birthday celebrations was never going to be missed. Great turn out, great energy and great that they are setting up for an even bigger and better next 25 years.
14. And given local government elections are upon us, I have been to numerous public "meet the candidates" events!

Lyal's Comments

15. Electrify Wānaka continue to be very active and is working closely with Rewiring Aotearoa to formulate some 'key asks' to feed into the Regional Deal negotiations with government. A leaflet drop for the wider Wānaka area is underway promoting the cost benefit of electrifying your home.
16. Abbeyfield Wānaka is producing a promotional video to inform and gain support from the wider community for the Abbeyfield House concept and proposal for Wānaka. Acquiring suitable land for the house is the priority.

17. The Wao AGM provided a good update of what has been achieved and acknowledged, sharing the success with many partners which are listed in its website. Working groups are active in specific areas e.g. Better Building Working Group. 'Vision 2125 - What Sort of Ancestors Do We Want to Be' was highlighted. Wao is currently financially sound, but there is concern this will reduce, and future funding streams are needed.
18. Path Wānaka hosted a 'Parent Cyber Safety' presentation by Rob Cope in the Lake Wānaka Centre. Rob is an expert in this field and an excellent presenter. Around 220 attendees and from what I observed it was an extremely well received and hugely beneficial event.
19. The Queenstown Airport 90th Birthday celebration was a very enjoyable occasion with a wide range of people who have been and are involved with the airport. It was great to see the history timeline presented and how the airport has developed over the years - an airport we should all be proud of.
20. The Wānaka Community Resilience Group (WCRG) hosted a community group round table to promote how other community groups will be able to provide services and support during a disaster. It was well attended and a strong commitment to help when needed was expressed. There have also been further training sessions including a WCRG scenario training session with the Otago Regional Council Emergency Management Officer.
21. The Wānaka Yacht Club AGM attracted the largest numbers ever as there was a vote required for President - Graham Berry retained the role. The club is well organised and financially sound.
22. I attended the two Future of Wānaka Airport drop-in sessions and observed throughout. There was good feedback and contributions by those who attended. Some of the in-depth conversations were very useful.
23. Wānaka Snowsports held a tribute event to celebrate the amazing contribution Geoff and Rebecca McKeown have made to snow sports in New Zealand. Through their Volkl business they have assisted numerous athletes across snow sports disciplines with sponsorship, equipment and personal support.
24. Citizenship Ceremonies are always very satisfying and enjoyable. Cody and I gave out the plants to all the 98 new citizens sworn in at the latest ceremony in the Lake Wānaka Centre. It is always intriguing the number of different countries our new citizens come from and for some, it is a big decision if their originating country does not allow dual citizenship.
25. The Toy Library AGM highlighted a small, dedicated group effectively providing an excellent service for our communities. It is being well run and financially sound and benefits from good support by the Upper Clutha A&P Society, providing premises for the library.

Cody's Comments

26. I was lucky enough to present the Supreme Award for the Youth Volunteer Awards by Kahu Youth on 12 September. Always humbles me the amount these kids are doing in our community and their wisdom towards being of service to others, unreal.

27. I caught up with the Hāwea Community Association about all the goings on. There have been some concerns from residents who are trying to subdivide a single lot, with confusion around consent, given the lack of additional wastewater capacity. I have relayed this to the infrastructure team and they will be providing more clarity shortly.
28. Honoured to hand out native plants at Wānaka's Citizenship Ceremony, welcoming in 98 Kiwis. Always a joyous moment in this role and the vibes in Wānaka can't be beat.
29. Caught up with Wild Tech in Wānaka which are a cluster formed to help new businesses in the Outdoor Products space to diversify the district from tourism. Met with a few newbies which is always encouraging and we all helped share knowledge and ideas.
30. I met up in Queenstown to the Conservation Alliance. A consortium of the organisations and NGOs in the environmental sector, hosted by Matt Hollyer. Great to learn all the amazing work that is enduring, post government funding in some cases.
31. I met with Arthur Lee, the sustainability expert in the housing trust after a brief conversation in the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan hearings. Arthur had some simple, near free ideas to incentivise reducing waste at the design stage and how Council could be more proactive in this space.
32. I met with the leaders at Wai Wānaka to discuss their latest partnership and what's in the pipeline for them. Advocating for more proactive involvement with the yet to be formed Water Services Council Controlled Organisation, so we can better utilise Wai's skillsets for nature based stormwater solutions.
33. I'm hosting a meet up with some recipients of the Waste Minimisation Community Fund, Wai Innovation and Wastebusters to share expertise on the various plastic reuse schemes they're all working on individually. Given the upcoming investments in the Waste Facilities, it seems pertinent to nurture this cluster now to see how it can be incorporated into the master plan.
34. We opened a playground in Hāwea Flat which was unreal! Great community turnout and it was flooded with kids in seconds.

Chris's Comments

35. I met with Christine at the Lake Wānaka Centre along with Stefan Amston from the Property Team, to go over the improvements that have commenced and to go over some concerns raised by hirers of the venue. It was very productive and there have been many positive improvements.
36. I spent an enjoyable time being shown around the Bullock Creek Spring and Hatchery. The work done by the Friends of Bullock Creek is simply amazing and the volunteers should all be commended.
37. I also attended both formal and informal meetings with mayoral candidates and had a chance to hear not only their views on the Upper Clutha but also the concerns of our constituents. In all cases, they were very informative.

38. Lastly, I spent a great afternoon at the Pride Party at the Lake Wānaka Centre. Once again, this was well attended, and it is good to see people from every part of the community enjoying the diversity of entertainment and supporting the local craft makers.

John's Comments

39. I had guided tour around the Bullock Creek wetlands and hatchery and saw the work the group of volunteers were currently doing - removing invasive plants in the western end of the site. I was surprised just how large the site is. The work done here over the last year is another great example of how lucky we are as a community to have these incredibly motivated volunteers.

40. I had a meeting with the Mt Barkers Association regarding potential improvements to the Cardrona River and the need to involve other groups in this process.

41. I attended a sports breakfast meeting for an update on local sporting issues and subsequently had a meeting with Council staff and representatives of several sport codes regarding the remediation of the Ballantyne Road site. We discussed progressing the sports facility master plan to ensure we are able to take advantage of any opportunities to bring forward the development of desperately needed sports fields in the Upper Clutha.

Linda's Comments

42. Meeting with the Cardrona Community regarding the wastewater station reserve, and where the community could start with the planned restorative planting, and community works for this reserve space.

43. I engaged with the Chamber of Commerce in a casual 'meet the candidates' evening at the Community Hub.

44. The Chamber of Commerce hosted a BA5 event for the Shannon Farm development which I attended.

45. Library hosted a morning tea to celebrate the opening of their new meeting room space, which is available to non-profit organisations to use - a fantastic asset to the library.

46. My deliveries for Food for Love were busy throughout the month.

47. Wastebusters hosted the Board to a visit of the site. A very informative gathering, which clearly showed the urgent need for more space if we are going to be able to keep up with the expected growth of Wānaka.

48. I attended the Chamber of Commerce Breakfast at the Community Hub - always great to mix with the business community throughout these interesting times.

49. The Lakes District Arts Trust turns 25 this year and there will be a celebration to mark the occasion, and the joy outdoor sculptures bring to the community.

Barry's Comments

50. I gave an update on Council projects and consultations to the Luggate Community Association.

51. Attended the second round of Wānaka Airport consultations at the Recreation Centre.