

**Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board**

**19 June 2025**

**Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [3]**

**Title | Taitara : Chair's Report**

**Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko**

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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**

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That Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

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

**Prepared by:**



**Name:** Simon Telfer

**Title:** Chair

12 June 2025

### Recent Formal Engagements

#### 8 May Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB or the Board) Workshop

The Board received presentations from the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Economic Development team on the Draft Events Policy, and from the Infrastructure Operations team on the Minor Improvements budget and priorities within the Upper Clutha. Following the workshop, the Board had an informal catch up with the Katherine Harbrow, QLDC General Manager of Assurance, Finance and Risk.

#### 13 May Full Council Workshop

Board members were invited to attend this workshop to hear a presentation on options for the Traffic and Parking Bylaw presented by the QLDC Policy team.

#### 20 May WUCCB Workshop

The Board received presentations from the QLDC Community Services division to hear updates on projects across the Upper Clutha. The Parks team also briefed the board on planning for a Mount Iron trail plan and future community governance models following the recent adoption of the Mount Iron Reserve Management Plan.

#### 4 June 'Share with Us' Drop-in Session

The Board heard from members of the community on a range of issues including Contact Energy's fast track consent application, rate increases, Wānaka Airport facilities, stormwater infrastructure, flurodation of water and a business case for public transport in the Upper Clutha.

### Members' Sector Engagement Updates

#### *Simon's comments*

1. I attended the Mount Aspiring College Board of Trustees meeting to show my support following a very difficult period for the school.
2. My role as a Trustee on the Graeme & Olive West Trust has come to an end with us distributing the remainder of the Trust's funds to twelve grantees. It concludes a very successful period of around twelve years of community philanthropy which was enabled by the West's immense generosity.
3. I have been invited to be part of an advisory group for the Wānaka Airport Future Review, which is currently being undertaken. We have had two sessions where I have pushed for a far greater emphasis on online engagement with the Community rather than collecting feedback and sentiments purely from drop in sessions.
4. I continue to support Health Action Wānaka to drive attendance at Associate Health Minister Matt Doocey's Q&A event in Wānaka at 12pm on 1 July.

5. Chairs and members of the local Community Association joined me for an informal lunch and networking session. It was the first time many of them had connected and will hopefully spark further catch ups. Consistent themes across the associations included the need for reduced speed limits, emergency management and resilience in the event of a natural disaster and funding infrastructure for growth.
6. I've fielded quite a bit of correspondence on ideas for the use of the Wānaka Asset Sales Reserve fund, following our call for 'bold ideas' at the last meeting. Exploratory in nature. these ideas have ranged from botanic gardens and community halls, to support for a performing arts centre.
7. My monthly 'on air' kōrero with Radio Wānaka breakfast host Jack Van Der Heyden included the topics of Mt Iron Car Park closure, the Asset Reserve Fund, Community Link's Cold Kids campaign, placement of air monitoring units throughout the district and the nationwide test of the Emergency Mobile Alert.
8. I caught up with Howie Howard for a coffee to discuss next steps with the Heart of Wānaka town centre plan and his role on the Chamber of Commerce board.
9. Cinema Paradiso was the venue for a "Startup Women That Are Kicking A\$\$" event, hosted by Start Up Queenstown Lakes. It was an excellent opportunity to hear from three female business owners and the low points and successes in their entrepreneurial journey.
10. The Upper Clutha History Society do a wonderful job at recording, discovering and sharing the rich history of our District. The AGM was efficiently chaired by Ed Waddington, with an engaged committee re-elected and a sense of energy emanating from the gathering.
11. Mid-May saw me attending the Kahu Youth AGM. It is always inspiring what a talented and committed bunch of youth workers, management and trustees are able to achieve in a 12 month period. The Kahu Youth premises fit out at Paetara is now well embedded and the organisation's financials are in very good health.
12. Alpine Community Development Trust (Community Networks/LINK) AGM's was an intimate gathering. The organisation is having to diversify its revenue stream as funding from central government is diminishing. It's also relying more on local contributions and donations in kind. I raised questions about their treasury policy (investing surplus funds rather than simple term deposits) and if consideration had been given to renaming the Trust to avoid confusion and to more closely align with the operating entity.
13. The Wānaka Chamber of Commerce AGM was followed by a Pub Quiz. The Mitre 10 team, which I was a part of, ended up winning. My biggest contribution was heading home at half time!

### *Lyal's comments*

14. Abbeyfield House Wānaka held a very successful fundraising quiz night as a start to a fundraising strategy to establish an Abbeyfield House in Wānaka. The priorities are to promote the concept and benefits of an Abbeyfield House to the wider community and acquire land for the House and options continue to be pursued.

15. Wheels to Dunstan continues to provide a great service transporting people mainly to Cromwell to connect with the St John Health Shuttle to Dunedin Hospital, but also to Dunstan Hospital, Alexandra Eye Clinic, or Cromwell specialists.
16. At the Wānaka Rodeo Club AGM the outgoing President highlighted the very successful rodeo held on 2 January 2025. The following community groups that helped at the event received between \$1,000 and \$3,000 based on their contribution: Rowing Club, Community Patrol, Riding for the Disabled, Wānaka AFC Football Club, and Alpine Street Machine. The Club has also made a \$1,000 grant to Electrify Wānaka.
17. The reports and presentations made at the Kahu Youth Trust AGM highlighted a successful year and the ongoing service, activities and facilities available for our youth.

### *Barry's comments*

18. I have followed up with the Luggate Community Association regarding the progression of a solution to the split postal codes which affect a number of services provided to the local residents.
19. I shared contact details of the Property and Business owners group to ensure they are included in the Wānaka Airport future master planning consultation process.

### *Cody's comments*

20. Lake Hāwea had its annual Bonfire night on the beach near the Dam. It was a beautifully calm night with lots of small fires amongst the big one. Really well attended by local families and helpful oversight by the local fire department.
21. I joined in with the Mayor and Chief Executive at their meeting with Hāwea Community Association to get up to speed on council projects and help answer some questions.
22. Some big wins for Hāwea lately are the playground at Hāwea Flat that has finally broken ground and starting construction, we have secured funding in the Minor Improvements Fund to address speed/safety concerns at Kane Road Windmill corner, secured about \$1m on our second attempt from central government to build Capell Ave extension into Cemetery Rd.
23. I'm keeping across work going on to relocate an old school building onto the Domain with property and parks staff helping complete the project as well as the mediation at Longview for competitive house and land packages.
24. I met with University of Otago Master of Planning Students for an interview on their report about affordable housing in the Upper Clutha and highlighted some of the issues and bottlenecks that constrain supply and lift costs.
25. I also met with the community relations advisor at Contact Energy to help connect her with council staff and work on communications channels with locals. Also advocating for ways Contact can reinvest in Hawea to improve amenity for locals.

26. As the new deputy chair of the Infrastructure Committee, I've been having more briefings with the General Manager of Property and Infrastructure. Gavin, Lyal and I met with Wastebusters and I have been advocating to help extend their lease and footprint so they can reinvest and expand.
27. All in good timing with the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan just being approved. I was a small part of the focus group but am hugely proud of how awesome this plan has come out, incredible visuals and a really engaging (smallish) strategy that shows how the community can collaborate with us in the waste space.
28. Meeting with the team at WildTech and the efforts of economic diversification specialising in outdoor products, helping cluster local businesses in the outdoor products space to build more community and support.

### *Chris's comments*

29. Following Ollie Charlie's plea for some improvements to the Lake Wānaka Centre I spoke with Ken Bailey (QLDC Community Services General Manager) and Simon Battrick (QLDC Sport & Recreation Manager) and we are going to meet on site to go over the list that Ollie gave me. It would appear that some of the issues can be resolved relatively easily.
30. I recently assisted a local community member to resolve an ongoing plumbing issue by reaching out directly to the appropriate QLDC Officers.
31. I continue to meet with Mike Saegers from ROA to discuss the medical facility he is developing in Three Parks and bounce ideas off me for various parts of the project. Following my first meeting with him he was also very interested in the Performing Arts Centre and WACT of which I am a trustee.
32. This leads me to other ongoing conversations with regards to the location of the Arts Centre. It would be fair to say that we see there being a number of options some previously discounted that are subsequently being reconsidered. I have also met with the local Senior Associate for Warren and Mahoney and Bridget is very keen to be involved in the ongoing conversations.
33. Michael Sidey approached me and Andrew Howard to re-ignite the debate about changing the name of the District Council from Queenstown to something else such as Alpine Lakes or similar. The result so far of a poll in the Wānaka app has had close to 1000 positive responses in only a few days. This has given Michael confidence to form a "Lobby Committee" to take this idea through the next stages.
34. The Chamber of Commerce Business after 5 that I attended this month had Allan Dippie as the guest speaker. He gave an entertaining overview of Three Parks from inception to today and the vision for the future.

### *John's comments*

35. I have attended both of the Eely Point drop in sessions regarding the Tree Succession Plan.
36. I also attended a meeting regarding wilding pines on the Peninsula Bay Reserve.

### *Linda's comments*

37. The WAO green drinks evening was a very informative alternative way to consider our wastewater was presented to a lively bunch of locals at Verve café. Thanks to WAO and WAI Wānaka for getting this bunch of people together to discuss different approaches to stormwater management.
  38. Food for love remains very busy with families struggling in our community. It's always a delight to deliver these wonderful food morsels to those in need in our community. Grateful to have all those volunteers who provide this service in our community, thank you.
  39. The Eely Point Tree Succession Plan is out for public consultation. We met on a cold Saturday morning to engage, sadly it was only councillors and council staff, along with community board members who showed interest in engagement of this very valuable community asset.
  40. Luma Enchanted opened in the kiwi garden in Queenstown, I attended the opening event which was spectacular and well worth the drive over the hill, it's on until August and highly recommended to visit.
  41. Whilst on the Lakes District Arts Trust engagement we are working towards a large piece of sculpture to be installed soon in Wānaka. I will keep you all posted as to what this may be and where it might be going to be located.
  42. The Cardrona Community is applying for land use consent partnering with The Lakes District Arts Trust for use of a part of the unused space at Cardrona Reserve; I will update you on this next time.
  43. I am attending Te Muka Toi this month, very excited to learn more about this collaboration of various community groups, to support the strategy for enhancing and celebrating creativity, culture and heritage within the Queenstown Lakes District.
  44. Lake Wānaka Guardians met during the month to discuss various concerns with stormwater management, lake levels, Contact Energy's application for fast-track consent, the resource consent for Bullock Creek and communities concerns in this regard. It is fantastic to have these passionate community groups who dedicate so much of their time into our community assets, thank you.
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