

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

8 May 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

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

1 May 2025

Context | Horopaki

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's comments

1. This year's Anzac Day saw me attending the civic service at the Lake Wānaka Centre. The speeches by the four head students of Te Kura O Tititea Mount Aspiring College (MAC) were both poignant and impressive. Later on that bluebird morning I laid a wreath at the cenotaph on behalf of the Community Board, QLDC and the wider community.
2. Wasn't Festival of Colour wonderful?! I attended a number of events, starting with the official opening down at pōwhiri down at Dinosaur Park on a bright and crisp Saturday morning. I did have all good intentions to do the 7.00am Lake Wānaka dip!
3. I regularly catch up with Keith Cooper, Chair of the Upper Clutha A&P Society, to strengthen relationships between the Show and the Community Board. Over coffee we discussed the success of the recent Show, ticket pricing, transport links and plans for going better rather than bigger in future shows.
4. Every six months the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee meets to oversee airport operations and facilitate discussion around any community concerns. We were all pleased to see positive progress on the Wānaka Airport future planning process at our most recent meeting.
5. Abbey Mocke is QLDC's Community Associations Relationship Manager. Our catch up resulted in an idea for an Upper Clutha Community Association Chair's lunch in May. The plan is to help facilitate closer relationships between all the Chairs and to share progress on various projects in Cardrona, Hāwea, Makarora, Mt Barker, Albert Town and Luggate.
6. Momentum continues in conversations between MAC and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) regarding disposal of excess land around the MAC Hostel. I attended a meeting between the MAC Foundation, the Mayor and the QLDC Chief Executive.
7. I'm working with the Wānaka Primary School principal and board Chair about the implications of QLDC selling the vacant land on Ironside Drive.
8. Bike Wānaka has recently met with representatives of the beneficiaries of Sticky Forest, with a particular focus on the part of Sticky that has not been rezoned for residential development. I met with Bike Wānaka's President, Ewan Mackie, to understand the latest thinking and how we could support the continued community access and ability to recreate in Sticky Forest.
9. Community Networks do such wonderful work in the Upper Clutha and I enjoyed attending a 'thank you and update' gathering they held out at Paddons Paddock.
10. As part of ongoing discussions around the health sector, I attended an informative session by David Downs and his experience of CAR T Therapy and the excellent work being undertaken by the Malaghan Institute.

11. WAI Wānaka's Water World Day saw me chatting to the team at Dinosaur Park and Kai Whakapai about invertebrates in Bullock Creek, catchment plans and my revelations about what shouldn't go in to our drains at home, having sponsored an Adopt a Drain in nearby Waimana Place.
12. Dunedin MP, Rachel Brooking, was in Wānaka in mid-October. I took the opportunity to brief her on challenges in the Upper Clutha around health services, housing and infrastructure challenges resulting from resident and tourism growth,
13. Wānaka Football Club's first Premiers game in the 'big league' saw a tightly fought win for the home team. Club committee members continued to remind me about the need for more field space for the growing soccer population. A second attendance by me saw another win for the home team – am I the lucky charm?
14. The Kirimoko native planting around the bike tracks has really taken off over recent years, although it was disappointing to see a number of established beech trees and not survived our hot summer. I spent an hour with Bike Wānaka and WAI Wānaka supporters weeding on a pleasant, pre daylight savings, Monday evening.
15. Our six weekly Share with Us drop in session had a small turn out with discussions focusing on the Schools to Pool pathway on Hedditch St and waste water infrastructure in the Upper Clutha.
16. My monthly Radio Wānaka chat with Jack van der Heyden is always enjoyable. This time we spoke about growth pressures on the Upper Clutha, community consultation around Wānaka Airport, installation of covered bike stands at MAC, Kelly Flat and the Wānaka Recreation Centre, fees and charges consultation and I encouraged people to consider standing in the local government elections in October this year!
17. In mid-April I travelled to Queenstown to attend a workshop with Egis, the recently appointed Wānaka Airport Future Review consultants. I continue to stress the need for every resident in the Upper Clutha to be able to share their views in a simple, time efficient way.
18. Andrew Edwards is Deputy Chair of the MAC Foundation. We recently had a coffee to discuss how the Foundation can build its endowment fund to benefit future generations of students and Andrew shared the importance of the Year 13 Hostel to the diversity of the School as a whole.
19. I'm regularly engaging with Julie Scott, CEO of the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust, to help progress the transition of pensioner units on McDougall from QLDC to QLCHT.
20. My regular catch up with the Mayor canvassed the topics of regional healthcare, revitalising the Ballantyne Rd sport's fields masterplan, clarity on decision making around the Golf Course Rd roundabout and road in to 3 Parks, regional deals and QLDC's relationship with central government.

Lyal's comments

1. 'Paws in the Park' at Wānaka Station Park was well organised and reasonably well attended. A presentation by the Aspiring Avalanche Dogs coordinator Matt Gunn providing training tips was appreciated by many of the dog owners.

2. The Wānaka Abbeyfield House steering group is very active and working on land options, marketing and fundraising. The land options being pursued include an offer of private land, public land, and a Developer contribution.
3. Wānaka Business Chamber is progressing plans to establish a dedicated office space in the Spencer House Mall which would provide a training room, and workspaces and meeting room for hire. Courses organised by the Chamber for members and their employees continue to be well attended and more work is being done to identify how the Chamber can best service its members.
4. The Wānaka Community Response Group (CRG) organised AED & CPR Training provided by Hato Hone St John. The practical aspect of this training is very beneficial, and intention is to get all the CRG volunteers trained.
5. The latest Citizenship Ceremony was held in Wānaka where around 80 new residents were welcomed. It is very satisfying seeing people from such a wide range of countries choose to become citizens of New Zealand.
6. Anzac Day services at Lake Hāwea and Wānaka once again attracted large numbers of people and thankfully the weather was much better than last year! The speeches presented by the MAC Students at the Wānaka services were impressive.
7. 'Wheels at Wānaka' was a big success with greater numbers attending than may have been expected. Notwithstanding the traffic congestion on the Saturday morning, the event was well organised and enjoyed by thousands, and the Wānaka economy benefitted hugely.

Cody's comments

1. I attended the Lake Hāwea Anzac ceremony to lay a wreath with Quentin. Beautiful morning for it, if anyone remembers last year's rainstorm it was a welcome change.

Chris's comments

1. I have spent time engaging with everyone involved with the process of getting Wānaka the Performing Arts Centre it needs and deserves.
2. I also spoke with various people from the newly formed group Onstage Wānaka, their first production will be Blood Brothers. Can't wait to see it.
3. The other most time consuming part of my board involvement is talking with the public. Being easily accessible to everyone while at the café I get numerous questions and concerns from pot holes to sewers and airports to "who is going to be Mayor". Some are easily dealt with at the time. Some simply need an email or Snap, Send, Solve. Others take time such as the installation of the Dibble. All of it enriches my involvement.

John's comments

1. A highlight for me recently was attending a recent citizenship ceremony in Wānaka.
2. I recently assisted some Mount Barker residents with noise issues from unlicensed use of Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) land.

Linda's comments

1. I attended the community citizenship ceremony handing out the beautiful trees from Te Kākano to each of the new Kiwi's, a highlight of my calendar.
 2. Friends of Bullock Creek (FOBC) and residents along Bullock Creek remain concerned over the resource consent application for earthworks beside the wetlands and the lack of community transparency around this application I will continue to work through these concerns with Council and community.
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