

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

24 September 2026

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

21 September 2026

Recent Formal Engagements

20 August Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) Workshop

1. WUCCB members had a workshop, with the Community Services Team on *Community Spaces* in the Upper Clutha.
2. Community Link Upper Clutha briefed WUCCB on the mahi in their space and the challenges the community are facing.

WUCCB Share With Us

3. WUCCB held a Share With Us session on 28 August at Columbus Coffee. Twelve members of the public attended to discuss local issues and matters of interest affecting the Upper Clutha community.

Additional Workshops

4. WUCCB were invited to attend part of the Community & Environment workshop on 8 September, to participate in the *Queenstown Lakes District Council/Central Otago District Council Spaces & Places Strategy* item and *Tree Strategy* item.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

5. It was a wonderful showcasing of snow sports talent at the recent 'The Pinnacle - Celebrating Snow Sports Success' event. A great turn out and a format that felt genuinely upfront and personal with the athletes.
6. I popped in to see Catherine Little, proudly 87, at Elmslie. Catherine had been kind enough to pen the Community Board a letter around the paucity of disability parking in town.
7. The Tramping Club AGM was a well-attended affair, with an extremely informative talk by Emeritus Professor David Norton. He was both uplifting (showcasing his intrepid hikes into the north of Mt Aspiring National Park) and sobering (sharing the impact of wild deer desecration of our native flora).
8. The Freedom Camping drop-in session was attended by more staff and elected members than Upper Clutha residents.
9. My conversations continue with Heart of Wānaka, meeting again with Garth Falconer as they update suggested plans for redeveloping Lower Helwick Street and the lakefront.

10. The offer of a free coffee saw an increased turnout at our recent Community Board Share With Us session. Wide ranging matters brought up by residents included lake snot, light pollution from Three Parks, Resource Management Act reform, dog control in Luggate and cell towers in Northlake.
11. The Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee now has a key role in acting as the steering group for the development of the airport's masterplan. This month's meeting chewed over some chunky topics including community benefit priorities, the five year role of the airport, land protection versus revenue generation, and financial sustainability.
12. Wānaka Gym Sports met with me to update on the club's plans and to pick my brains on how they best manage board member succession over the coming year.
13. Each month we have numerous meetings with staff to advocate for Upper Clutha projects. During August I've tried to get prioritisation for a Ballantyne Road corridor plan. This road is going to become increasingly trafficked, with huge cross town travel (South Wānaka to Three Parks) using or intersecting with the road. There is currently no overarching plan, with roundabouts, pedestrian crossing points, cycle paths etc all being suggested but with little overall cohesion.
14. Amanda Robinson is a Queenstown based transport advocate and a member of the Mayor's Transport Taskforce. We took the time to catch up over a cup of coffee in Frankton and swap stories about shared paths, roading, infrastructure and transport governance.
15. I remain engaged with the Mt Aspiring College Foundation, this month meeting with Andrew Edwards (Trustee) to understand the outputs from their recent strategic planning session.
16. My ex-officio role with the Chamber of Commerce has seen two board meetings focused on the upcoming Chamber of Business Awards, supporting Jodie as new General Manager, simplifying Chamber's activity (quality over quantity) and discussing ways the Chamber can best advocate for the town's business community.
17. As is typical throughout each month, I received a myriad of emails and calls including matters pertaining to building new community facilities, accessing the Wānaka Asset Sales Reserve, mountain biking on Mt Iron, traffic calming on Stackbrae Avenue, volunteer maintenance on Ruby Island, disabled parking and fixing potholes on Council right of ways.

Chris' Comments

18. I attended the AGM for the Lakes District Public Art Trust last Wednesday and attended a formal function last Thursday to launch our new strategic plan.

19. Additionally, the Wānaka Arts Centre Trust (WACT) is meeting regularly and making great progress with putting the project together.

Cody's Comments

20. Councillors stayed overnight at the Ōtākou Marae in Dunedin to have a mana-to-mana conversation about Shotover Wastewater treatment plant and disposal solutions.

21. I met with the designers of the pro bono Roys Bay Jetty concepts work to talk more about their ideas for Wānaka and the project scope of the new jetty.

22. I've been meeting frequently with the Otago Regional Spatial Plan Committee as Chair of the Smart Growth Committee, who are essentially trying to build the framework for how to create a regional wide spatial plan.

23. I met with Startup Queenstown Lakes in Wānaka to see their new pitch for how to best help community members who have an idea and accelerate them through the testing and validating process.

24. I've joined the Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee to help add another community lens to the discussion. A very insightful and passionate group with great understanding of the communities needs and ambitions.

25. I visited Abbeyfield in Queenstown in light of their request for the land next to Mr Aspiring College and understand more about how it looks and works.

26. I met with representatives from Contact Energy to discuss community concerns around Flora Dora erosion, lake level limits and other reciprocal factors that could see Contact reinvesting into Lake Hāwea.

27. The Community Board hosted a Share With Us session at Columbus coffee in Mitre10 Mega. The issues raised canvassed Resource Management Act reform, to wastewater treatment, cell towers, Wānaka Tree car parking to freedom camping waste. Our best turn out yet with lots more newly engaged community members reaching out.

28. I hosted the Wānaka Citizenship Ceremony at the Lake Wānaka Centre to usher in our newest New Zealanders. It's always a special event with some incredibly magnetic people.

29. I attended an event hosted by Catalyst around the state of tourism at the Reese hotel. Long story short, we know the problems, the answers, but need the political courage to make meaningful differences.