

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

7 August 2025

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

Department: Community Services

Title | Taitara: New Seat and Memorial Plaque Request for Grant Fenton within the Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve along the Glendhu Bay Track

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to consider approving the installation of a new seat within the Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve along the Glendhu Bay Track followed by placement of a memorial plaque on the seat for Grant Fenton.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board:

1. **Note** the contents of this report; and
2. **Approve** the seat and memorial plaque installation for Grant Fenton. The seat would be located within the Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve along the Glendhu Bay Track as described in Attachment A.

Prepared by:



Name: Tarsy Koentges

Title: Parks Officer, Cemeteries and Heritage

14 July 2025

Reviewed and Authorised by:



Name: Ken Bailey

Title: General Manager Community Services

17 July 2025

Context | Horopaki

1. An application for a memorial seat and plaque was received on 6 November 2023 from Michelle Fenton, wife of the deceased, for Grant Fenton. Mrs. Fenton provided the following statement to share who Grant was and what Wānaka means to their family:

"I'm writing in support of a memorial seat for my late husband, Grant Fenton, who passed away in December 2016. Grant and I moved to Wānaka in January 2016 with our two daughters, Lucy (now 21) and Scarlett (now 19), after living overseas for 16 years. Although his time in Wānaka was short — just eleven months — it held great meaning for him and for us as a family. He was deeply grateful to be back in New Zealand, surrounded by the natural beauty he loved.

Grant had a lifelong passion for the outdoors. He found joy and purpose in fishing, hunting, mountain biking, and snowboarding — all of which made Wānaka feel like home from the moment we arrived. Grant had a successful and respected career in the international forestry industry, known for his integrity, intelligence, and calm strength. While he didn't have time to take on formal community roles in Wānaka, those who met him during that year felt the warmth and generosity that defined him.

The location we've chosen on the Millennium Track holds special significance. We have treasured photos taken very close to that spot — captured during a family bike ride, one of our happiest memories in Wānaka. A memorial seat there would not only honour Grant's love of the outdoors, but provide a peaceful place for reflection, memory, and connection — for us, and for others who pass by. Thank you sincerely for considering this request. Please also find attached two Eulogy's from Grants funeral which speak of his character. I have no doubt, if life had been kinder, Grant would have certainly made a very positive and large contribution to the Wānaka community."

2. Mrs. Fenton initially indicated that she would prefer a memorial seat in the Mount Iron Recreation Reserve. The Mount Iron Recreation Reserve Management Plan drafting was underway when Mrs. Fenton's request was received; She decided to wait for the outcome/approval of the RMP to see if seat placement on Mount Iron would be possible. In the Mount Iron RMP, memorials in the Mount Iron Reserve are restricted to only certain memorial Categories, not including Category 4. Mrs. Fenton has selected the Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve along the Glendhu Bay Track as the alternative preferred location for the requested memorial seat.
3. The Parks team supports this request, allowing for the Fenton family to contribute to community asset improvement while memorialising their family member. This provides the option for a cost-effective addition of a new parks asset to the reserve.
4. The Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Plaques, Memorials and Monuments Policy assessment guidelines, allows for the following: "2.5 – Subjects for Category 4, personalised memorial plaques on a seat, bench or picnic table will be considered by the Council on a case-by-case basis... Subjects will be limited to: Individuals who have lived in or have a special association

with the District.” Though Grant’s time in Wānaka was limited, he built his family’s “forever home” here and Wānaka holds some of his family’s most important memories prior to his passing.

5. The proposed plaque will read:

*“In loving memory of
Grant John Fenton
07.09.1969 – 06.12.2016”*

Analysis and Advice | Tatāritaka me kā Tohutohu

6. This report identifies and assesses the following reasonably practicable options for assessing the matter as required by section 77 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
7. The Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve has been considered and the proposed installation of the new seat in this location, which is situated near the lake front and along the heavily used Glendhu Bay Track, will enhance the reserve and improve this asset for the community to enjoy.
8. Option 1 Approve the new memorial plaque and seat installation in the Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve along the Glendhu Bay Track for Grant Fenton.

Advantages:

- Provides economical and efficient continued use, but also improvement to furniture in the reserve, which can be enjoyed by all.
- Commemorates individuals that are connected to or associated with Wānaka.

Disadvantages:

- Addition of new seat structure to the reserve that will need to be maintained.

9. Option 2 Decline the request.

Advantages:

- No additional asset to maintain on the reserve.

Disadvantages:

- Additional seating option not added to the reserve, and the memorial requestor would not be afforded the opportunity to positively contribute to the improvement of the Wānaka community.

10. This report recommends **Option 1** for addressing the matter because this will honour the life of Grant Fenton while increasing the utilisation and enjoyment of the reserve by the community.

Consultation Process | Hātepe Matapaki

Significance and Engagement | Te Whakamahi i kā Whakaaro Hiraka

11. This matter is of low significance, as determined by reference to the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy because the land it relates to is not identified as a significant asset, and the proposal of a new seat will support community wellbeing.
12. The persons who are affected by or interested in this matter are the residents/ratepayers of the Queenstown Lakes District Community and the Wānaka Community.
13. The Council has noted that the Parks Planning Manager and Parks Manager are in support of this proposed seat installation.

Risk and Mitigations | Kā Raru Tūpono me kā Whakamaurutaka

14. This matter relates to the Community & Wellbeing risk category. It is associated with RISK00009 Strategy for growth fails to meet objectives within the QLDC Risk Register. This risk has been assessed as having a high inherent risk rating.
15. The approval of the recommended option will support the Council by allowing us to retain the risk at its current level. This shall be achieved by improving assets for community wellbeing within the reserve.

Financial Implications | Kā Riteka ā-Pūtea

16. There are no financial implications, all costs will be met by the applicant.

Council Effects and Views | Kā Whakaaweawe me kā Tirohaka a te Kaunihera

17. The following Council policies, strategies and bylaws were considered:
 - Significance and Engagement Policy 2024;
 - Plaques, Memorials and Monuments Policy 2010;
 - Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2021; and
 - Proposal is in alignment with the principles of the Vision Beyond 2050.
18. The recommended option is consistent with the principles set out in the named policies.
19. This matter is not included in the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan and will not have any impact on it.

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions | Te Whakatureture 2002 o te Kāwanataka ā-Kiaka

20. Section 10 of the LGA states the purpose of local government is (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and (b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future. As such, the recommendation in this report is appropriate and within the ambit of Section 10 of the LGA as it will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by providing support for a community activity.

21. The recommended option:

- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not significantly alter the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

Attachments | Kā Tāpirihaka

A	Maps of Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve proposed seat location along the Glendhu Bay Track
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**Attachment A: Maps of Damper Bay Lakeside Recreation Reserve proposed
seat location along the Glendhu Bay Track**

