

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

2 July 2026

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

Click or tap to enter a date.

Recent Formal Engagements

Share With Us

Share With Us session held at Paetara Aspiring Central on 3 June.

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) Workshop

WUCCB workshop held on 10 June with an update from the Property & Infrastructure Team.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

1. Tree planting at Peninsula Bay saw around 50 volunteers plant hundreds of trees in the area, recently deforested of wilding pines and firs. Thanks to Te Kakano for a well-organised event.
2. Simon Flood, Chair of Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC), invited me to speak at their board meeting about Upper Clutha community matters that intersect with our two airports. It was a wide ranging kōrero which included discussion of local government reform, public transport, QAC's profile in the Upper Clutha and community infrastructure matters.
3. Gina Dempster, CEO of Wastebusters and I caught up for a coffee and discussed the redevelopment of the current Wastebusters site and the possibility of an education and administration centre in partnership with other environmental organisations.
4. My regular meeting with Mayor John Glover saw us canvas topics including Wānaka Master Plan, local government reform, media, and annual plan priorities for the Upper Clutha.
5. Jodie Stuart, the Chamber's new General Manager, and I caught up for a coffee to talk about Upper Clutha business community advocacy.
6. Lakeland and Paddle Wānaka owner, Jeff Grant, met with me to discuss future plans for the two commercial operations on the lakefront.
7. Corbridge Estate (on SH6 towards the airport) is subject to a plan change to become a golf course with residences and visitor accommodation. The developers asked me to meet, and I pushed the case for ensuring water quality was front of mind as well as active travel links to both Mt Iron junction and Luggate.

8. May's Share With Us session included members of the community speaking about the need for public transport and sealing of the remaining section of Outlet Road. June's session saw conversations around stormwater and community facilities.
9. My role on the Community Board sees me ex officio on the Wānaka Chamber of Commerce Board. At the most recent meeting we welcomed Jodie Stuart as the new General Manager.
10. The annual Big Bike Film night at the Community Hub allowed me to connect with many people in the biking fraternity. It's excellent to see the Cycling Without Age initiative become operationalised in Wānaka.
11. My communication with Heart of Wānaka has increased as we restart the process of reimagining the lakefront's connection with the town centre.
12. Trustees and staff of the Lake Wānaka Arts and Culture Charitable Trust met with me and Kathy Dedo to update us on the concept of a new arts precinct in Wānaka.
13. QAC hosted drinks at Edgewater, allowing the community to continue to strengthen relationships between Wānaka and the district's most important transport hub.
14. The Chamber of Commerce AGM was an efficient affair, which saw two new board members elected, unopposed, and the retirement of Jo Learmonth as Chair.
15. Members of the community have contacted me over the past six weeks to address local issues including a new cell tower on Northburn Road, a subsiding bank on the Outlet Track and surface remediation on the Anderson Road bike path.

Chris' Comments

16. These last few weeks have seen me attending a variety of meetings. Heart of Wānaka (HOW) had its first meeting for some time and Andrew Howard (Howie) kicked off this rejuvenated session with some new faces around the table including Lyal Cocks, Bridget White, from Warren & Mahoney and Brent Harridge from Base. The result of the meeting was an agreement on our focus for 2026. Given that the process of building a new jetty is underway it was agreed that this gives us an opportunity to progress improvements towards Lower Helwick Street and beyond and that some small steps by way of beautification can begin while we workshop bigger ideas and consult with the locals. With the property owners now aligned with the retailers under one umbrella, this should happen more easily and cohesively.

17. QAC had an informal meeting to give invited guests an update on the immediate changes being made to make the use of the Queenstown Airport easier, including roading improvements as well as better designed check-in facilities.
18. The Wānaka History Group, previously known as the Upper Clutha History Society, had its AGM. This was well attended and thanks was given to the hard work of all the volunteers. Special mention must go to those involved with the recording of audio stories, featuring clips of memories from Upper Clutha locals.
19. The most recent Share With Us Session had one main topic brought to us, that of stormwater. A vigorous discussion was held, and it was agreed that there are still issues from previous developments that need addressing and that for future development there should be a re-think on how stormwater is handled and what best practice should look like, given that existing protocols don't seem to cope.
20. Lakes District Arts Trust now named Lakes District Public Art Trust has been working tirelessly on our strategic plan and fitting that in with Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) and the Long Term Plan in addition to the planning of the next exciting "installations". Olivia Egerton (ex Te Atamira) has been a significant resource for our future planning.
21. This brings me to the Wānaka Arts Centre Trust (WACT), where Olivia has been of great help as well, with the focus on aligning ourselves with the QLDC, we have been working towards the best way for us to work together. Interestingly the recent thoughts by QLDC about location of future Council premises has resulted in a submission to the QLDC about combining the Arts Precinct with the Council's future needs.
22. In addition, I had a meeting with MINT with regards to their desire to have their own space designed with their needs in mind. However, it was agreed that if premises could be found or built that would meet the needs of MINT there are other community groups that could use the building for their purposes and perhaps a combination of the Arts, QLDC, MINT and other organisations could collaborate on facilities that would work for all. This would ensure that the precinct becomes a valuable asset for the whole community and would be a place that is always alive and vibrant and therefore successful.

John's Comments

23. I had a meeting with the potential developers of Corbridge Downs and discussed the importance of protecting existing public access through the site, using unformed legal roads. We discussed options for protecting a Findlay level of access through the site and also the importance of the options for active travel through the site and to Mount Iron Junction.

24. I attended a Cardrona Riverbed clean up, arranged by Wai Wānaka and was impressed both with the number of volunteers and the low amount of new rubbish in the assessment area. I was not so impressed with the piles of horse manure that had been dumped on site and also far too much green waste, especially given how close the area is to the green waste recycling facility.
25. I attended the community planting day at the lower part of the Peninsula Bay Reserve in an area that had been cleared of wilding pines by the Upper Clutha Wilding Pine group. The planting was arranged by Council Parks Team in association with Te Kakano, Bike Wānaka, The Upper Clutha Tracks Trust and the immediate community. With a turnout of about 60 to 70 volunteers, 600 plants were soon planted and mulched.
26. I had a meeting with Fulton Hogan regarding the diversion of walking and cycling tracks as a result of the Albert Town Bridge closure and associated works for the Upper Clutha conveyance pipe.
27. I attended a meeting in Cardrona to assist the Cardona community with planning a walking track they wish to create between the township towards the Cardrona Distillery.
28. I attended the share with us session at Paetara in in early June.

Cody's Comments

29. I hosted a town hall meeting for the community in Hāwea to explain the proposed rates increase and how to make an effective submission. About 130 people came along and asked questions. We were able to leverage the feedback and input into the Annual Plan 2026-27 consultation to halve the proposed rates increases for Hāwea and Luggate by renegotiating how we fund the cash flow costs of the new water infrastructure projects.
30. I directed the Future for Creativity and Culture hui at the Mountain Club, a day dedicated to learning from the biggest leaders in the space on what's worked as well. I also met separately with the team of people on the local trust who are trying to build a new precinct for the arts and potentially local community service providers.
31. In my role as Smart Growth Committee Chair, I met with Joseph Mooney and Natalie from Anori to discuss how partnering with the platform could help our district build a digital twin, with all relevant planning systems, gamifying the process, getting everyone on the same page and processing consent applications in seconds, not months.

32. The latest with the local Hāwea Community Association is concerns around Gladstone Road repairs and I am enquiring about pathways to evaluate and quantify what more substantial remediation would require.
33. I am working with the Infrastructure Team and Willowridge to ensure Cappel Avenue road can be built as soon as possible within the funding window of the allocated NZTA contribution.
34. I met with the CE of Hawkes Bay Airport, Nick Flack to discuss Wānaka Airport's future as a potential turbo prop airport. I also met with the CE of Doppelmayr to discuss gondolas as a future public transport solution and members of Startup Queenstown Lakes to discuss how they can be more effective in reaching entrepreneurs in the Upper Clutha and what help is needed to test and scale.

Kathy's Comments

35. My diary highlights since the last WUCCB meeting include a lot of kōrero about community space/facilities. It's well known that there's a long waiting list of Upper Clutha groups seeking some combination of space, land or buildings for their operations. The Community Services team is working on a comprehensive and single process for any group to express interest, so they are considered fairly - I've met twice with them to understand timeframes and progress, and they aim to have this ready by August. This is an area I'm focused on so stay tuned for updates.
36. As per the above, I met with the Wānaka Community Toy Library regarding their space and location needs. This is one of the groups that would welcome private options for locating their wonderful lending library which serves hundreds of young families - get in touch if you can help!
37. Along with Simon Telfer, I met with the Lake Wānaka Arts & Culture Charitable Trust for an update on their work developing concepts for a Wānaka performing arts centre.
38. I attended an Electrify Queenstown event which was an amazing array of speakers and exhibits, helping people understand the benefits of electrification as a sustainable and affordable energy source. Our region is fortunate to have lots of champions and mahi in this space, including Electrify Wānaka who work collaboratively across the district and region.
39. Deliberative Democracy expert Iain Walker was in town to discuss new ways of engaging with community to support local government decision-making. I attended both his meeting with QLDC staff and a Catalyst Trust community event - lots to learn about how tools like citizens' assemblies can tackle difficult issues.

40. I am the Zone 6 (Otago and Southland) representative on the Local Government New Zealand's Community Board Executive Committee. We held our first in-person hui where we discussed local government reforms and their potential impact on community boards, among other things.
41. I caught up with Jack at Radio Wānaka for our monthly review of hot topics.
42. The Albert Town Community Association Committee meeting included a check-in on a variety of safety issues the committee is advocating for.
43. I Attended a QAC session with local businesses to provide an update on renovations and upgrades in Queenstown and meet with their managers from both sides of the hill.
44. I caught up with Mayor John Glover in a walking meeting along the Wānaka lakefront, taking in the grebe boardwalk, pathway upgrades, and checking out the state of the town centre jetty, which is due for replacement.