

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

16 December 2025

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [9]

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

16 December 2025

Recent Formal Engagements

2025 Local Elections

The 2025 local elections took place in October, with one new Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Member (Kathy Dedo) elected to the Board and two new Wānaka-Upper Clutha Ward Councillors (Nicola King and Niki Gladding) appointed to the Board.

Inaugural WUCCB Meeting

The inaugural Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) meeting was held on 4 November, where Simon Telfer was re-elected as Chairperson of the Board and Kathy Dedo was elected as Deputy Chairperson.

WUCCB Planning & Review Hui

4 November Hui

Attendees: Simon Telfer, Kathy Dedo, John Wellington, Chris Hadfield, Councillor Cody Tucker, Councillor Niki Gladding, Councillor Nicola King, and Councillor Quentin Smith.

21 November Hui

Attendees: Simon Telfer, Kathy Dedo, John Wellington, Chris Hadfield, Councillor Cody Tucker, Councillor Niki Gladding, Councillor Nicola King, and Councillor Quentin Smith.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

While my lawn bowls is pretty average, it was a fun evening at Tenby Street Bowling Club to support a fundraising event for the Mt Aspiring College (MAC) Foundation. Lots of banter and laughs, with thanks going to Forsyth Barr for organising the occasion.

The turn out at the Hāwea Community Association AGM was very impressive, with Cherilyn running a very efficient meeting. The kōrero with all the attendees and exhibitors following the formalities was very engaging.

I attended the swearing in of all the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) Councillors at the Lake Hayes Pavillion on 30 October.

The Mt Aspiring College prize giving always heralds the end of the year - an event I thoroughly enjoy, probably made easier by having a tamāhine currently in senior school.

Electrify Wānaka continue to fly the flag for decarbonisation and electrification of the Upper-Clutha. Their knowledge is impressive and tenacity equally so! The evening they held at St John recently was educational and well attended.

Nicola Jacobsen, MAC Principal, provided me and the MAC Foundation Trustees with a tour of the school and the hostel. The latter is an important part of building the MAC culture as well as providing a source of donations from the Foundation to the College.

The Dunstan Hospital Foundation was launched across the district earlier this month. This healthcare facility is so important to the Upper-Clutha, and I was pleased to be able to attend, to learn more about its services and to help promote fundraising for the Foundation.

Cody's Comments

I caught up with Wai at the Bremner Bay and Lake Hāwea rubbish clean ups, helping inform a waste audit to get better data on what is entering our lakes.

I went to the Alpine Lakes Forum hosted by Wai, which brought together all the stakeholders and experts in the water space to share knowledge and values for how we can be better custodians of our Alpine Lakes.

Caught up with our local MP Miles Anderson and Rob Thorp to touch base on the greatest concerns and needs our district is facing and build a stronger working relationship to be more effective.

The Hāwea Community Association had their AGM and elected a new president, Jennie Harding. Keeping a close working relationship with the HCA as they look to prioritise their work moving forward to service a faster growing community.

Caught up for some coffee dates with some residents around the Wānaka Airport and sports fields.

Attended the Upper-Clutha Hockey AGM and helped coordinate the efforts towards a full sized artificial turf.

Kathy's Comments

Met with Lucy Mitchell from the Albert Town Community Association in my role as the ATCA liaison. As it was our first meeting, she helped me understand who is involved in the committee – an active and committed crew. They have a lot on the go, with a growing number of young families, a recent Halloween gathering at the Riverside Park facility was very popular. There has been work going into community working bees, community garden development, and consideration of a river festival. The desire for a new facility to provide space for events, meetings, classes, markets, etc is clear, and the committee has documented their thinking on this. Lucy is drafting a survey to gather input from residents on the needs and opportunities they see for 2026 to help guide the committee's work going forward.

With my social portfolio responsibility, I met with Amanda, Ben, and Craig from M!NT Charitable Trust. They have been moving from strength to strength in the breadth and depth of programme delivery and community collaboration. I note the success of the M!NT 500 Club business partnership. It was great to see the recent employment opportunities for M!NT members at Wilson & Dorset and in making artisan soap (perfect for Christmas gifts!). The Trust is seeking dedicated space for their

participants to gather for programmes, planning, and socialising – their numbers are growing, and they have outgrown their current space. Trustees are interested in both short-term rental options and long-term facility development.

I attended the Wānaka Business Chamber's November B@5 hosted by Community Link. Manager Kate Murray spoke about the many and varied requests for assistance that come through their front desk - just a few examples include foodbank parcels, separation advice, visa/immigration issues, JP appointments, and Wheels to Dunstan bookings. They have seen an exponential increase in requests for support due to cost of living pressures. They are also doing lots of work in the community development space; and have recently seen success in their fundraising and sponsorship efforts. But with government funding of social services reduced, this has become a constant pressure for this entirely local and grassroots organisation. We are fortunate to have this wonderful community support and connection centre.

I attended the 2025 Hāwea Community Association AGM and Community Connections event on 2 November. Great to see a strong turnout and committee confirmed for the next year. The Community Connections events have been an interactive and useful means of engaging locals in the various community groups and initiatives underway in Hāwea. Thanks to the many volunteers who came along to share their mahi.

I attended the QLDC Economic Snapshots event in Queenstown on 6 November. Hosted by the Economic Futures team, this showcase of 14 four minute presentations from people and businesses helping diversify our local economy and create a regenerative tourism industry. It was heavily Queenstown-focused and would be great to see more Upper-Clutha initiatives included - perhaps we offer to host one in the new year.

I attended the Food For Love end-of-year volunteer thank you event with my Central Lakes Trust hat on but was also a good chance to connect on behalf of the WUCCB and hear a summary of their work in the past year. Congratulations to this amazing group who share meals and aroha in our community.

John's Comments

I have been involved in discussions and meetings between Council, ORC, and the Mt Barker Residents Association in regard to a native planting area near the junction of Faulks Road and Ballantyne Road. This is a potential collaboration between these three parties to expand the improvements the association has made to the area by removing invasive plants, replacing them with native plants, and clearing access to the river. There is a desire to improve this area of the Cardrona River, which has been long neglected.

I also attended a meeting of the Luggate Community Association to discuss walking and cycling access opportunities in the area.

Chris' Comments

The focus of my community engagement has been on the arts. The Lakes District Trust has been busy electing a new chair and producing a strategic vision to improve the way we move forward to ensure that we focus on what is most important with regard to public art in our region.

Wānaka Arts Centre Trust (WACT) is also working hard to consolidate its position, also appointing a new chair and at least one more trustee. WACT has identified the path that it needs to follow in order to get the project into the LTP and with renewed enthusiasm and experience that is going to be the focus.

Niki's Comments

I attended Day one of Wai's Alpine Lakes Forum.