

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

12 February 2026

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [8]

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

03/02/2026

Recent Formal Engagements

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board Planning & Review Hui

5 December 2025

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

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board First Ordinary Meeting

16 December 2025

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

Other Key Updates

Kathy Dedo has been nominated as the Zone Six Representative on the Community Board Executive Committee. Community Boards within Zone Six get one vote per Board. The Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) have collectively agreed to vote for Kathy.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

Tamah Alley, Central Otago Lakes District Mayor, held a community session at the Luggate Pub. I was invited along to catch up with her and listen in on Queensberry residents' ideas and concerns, which primarily focused on resistance to the proposed gold mine at Bendigo.

Garth Falconer and I caught up to discuss advancing some of the initiatives that were a core part of the Heart of Wānaka draft town plan document. It's a priority for the current Board so our engagement with Heart of Wānaka will continue to strengthen this year.

It's always uplifting to hear of the work being undertaken by the Upper Clutha Wilding Trees group. I attended their recent presentation about recent pine eradication in the Upper Clutha and the need for increased central government funding to be able to make a long term difference.

Mt Aspiring College continues to produce amazing young human beings. At the Year 9 and 10 prize giving I was particularly impressed by the number of Bronze Duke of Edinburgh recipients - community service being a key part of that award.

The Christmas edition of the Mount Barker Classic gravel cycle event was well attended and enjoyable until a puncture had me slinking off, one lap in!

New Years eve celebrations this year seemed slightly quieter than in 2025. Red Frogs staff that I spoke with reported less need for their medical services and our whānau had a safe and enjoyable time on the waterfront through to the fireworks finale.

Former Councillor Lyal Cocks and I had a coffee and a debrief on a myriad of different topics including the success of this year's Wānaka Rodeo, updates on Path Wānaka and ongoing plans for securing land for Abbeyfield (senior living).

The Aspiring Conversations launch was a lively affair which announced an equally dynamic series of speakers and events that will be coming to town in late March.

Central Otago Health Services Inc (Dunstan Hospital's owner) continues to transform itself and I was updated on this progress via a meeting with Wānaka's representative, Leigh Overton.

Chris's Comments

Wānaka Arts Community Trust (WACT) continues to consolidate its position and is working towards a plan for the coming months so that the Performing Arts Project can eventually be cemented and budgeted for in the Long Term Plan. We have employed Olivia Egerton to assist with this process. It is also worth looking at the new regional theatre Hamilton has recently opened. The following article addresses a number of similar issues WACT are facing: <https://momentumwaikato.nz/the-case-for-the-theatre-thk5ta>.

The Lakes District Arts Trust has had a couple of meetings already this year as we too consolidate the way forward for 2026. There are some exciting opportunities ahead.

Nicola's Comments

I attended the launch of Aspiring Conversations, an event funded by QLDC which brings some inspiring and open conversations to our region.

I also attended the Luggate Community Association AGM, which was well attended with active locals. Re-elected Chair, Judy Thompson and I gave an update.

Kathy's Comments

I attended the Aspiring Conversations programme lunch. Another fantastic programme of thought-provoking speakers, kōro, music and theatre to look forward to, thanks to the Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust.

I also attended the Luggate Community Association AGM. Great as always to hear what's happening in this active community. A committee of both long-time and newer members was elected, with the meeting concluded with a WAI Wānaka-produced movie about Luggate Creek and the importance of healthy water ways.

Niki's Comments

I had my first visit to the Grow Wānaka Community gardens - a lovely morning spent weeding, chatting, and sharing a great morning tea. I'll be back.

I visited Wastebusters and the wider site - looking at where the new Transfer Station and Materials Recovery Facility might go. Thanks to Gina and Grant for taking the time to share some opportunities.

Finally, there was a discussion on gorse and broom control at Cardrona Hall. Linda and Tim organised and led a really productive meeting - with three Otago Regional councillors and Chief Executive, Richard Saunders all showing up and humbly taking the heat. The key takeaway was that you do need to make some noise if you don't want your community 'forgotten'. I think we can expect to see improvements and maybe some enforcement action from our regional council.

Discussions around our Water initiative are ongoing with WAI Wānaka and Council officers - we'll provide an update in the next report.