

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

2 April 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

20 March 2026

Recent Formal Engagements

2 April External Briefings

After the 2 April Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) workshop, Linda Joll and Glenn Dawson provided the Board with an in-person update on the activities and current priorities of the Cardrona Community Association. Representatives from WAI Wānaka also joined and gave an update of WAI Wānaka's current priorities.

16 April Full Council Workshop

WUCCB members were invited to join a Full Council workshop on 16 April, to participate in the Responsible Camping Summer Debrief item.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

1. The Saturday of ANZAC long weekend saw me attend the Civil Service at the Lake Wānaka Centre and then lay a wreath on behalf of the community up at the Cenotaph. The head students at Mt Aspiring College continued a proud tradition of excellent speeches.
2. Councillor Smtih and I met with James Caygill, the Director of Regional Relationships at Waka Kotahi. Our discussions and requests included weed maintenance around the Mt Iron roundabout, Albert Town Bridge replacement and shared path links around the SH84/Mt Iron Junction area.
3. The last Friday of the school term saw me join the School Bike Bus, picking up kids from Albert Town, through Hikuwai and Northlake down to Wānaka Primary School. It was a great reminder about how biking to school for our tamariki increases resilience, confidence and friendship connections.
4. Chloe Swarbrick, co-leader of the Green Party, visited Wānaka and invited a number of community leaders to discuss the challenges the ward is facing around access to health services.
5. I attended an excellent Strategic Urban Design discussion in Queenstown, hosted by Lighfoot and the Catalyst Trust. There were many insights that will help inform the Board's focus on reimagining Lower Helwick Street, one of our priorities for this term.
6. It's always enjoyable to attend Warbirds Over Wānaka and catch up with organisers and trustees and thank them for bringing such a great event to our part of the world.
7. A public drop in session for Queenstown Lakes District Council's (QLDC) Annual Plan consultation was held in the Lake Wānaka Centre and was sparsely attended.

8. Every six weeks the Community Board hosts a Share With Us session where members of the community are welcome to drop in to share ideas or ask questions. Stephen Schikker (Shaker) popped along to update us on his Mount Iron Junction development.
9. I attended a presentation by Qiulae Wong of The Opportunities Party to put a face to the name and hear her thoughts on the relationship between central and local government.
10. Monique Kelly from Wao instigated a meeting of community leaders around the current energy/fuel crisis. A more informed communications plan and a focus on active/public transport were two key follow-on initiatives.
11. On a trip to Ōtepoti, Dunedin I took the opportunity have lunch with Jemma Adams, CEO of Otago Community Trust, to maintain relationships and discuss ideas for community funding in the Upper Clutha.
12. Members of the community have contacted me over the past month to address minor local issues including dust suppression at Three Parks, vegetation maintenance obscuring sightlines at Anderson Road roundabout, the state of the Ballantyne Road shared path heading to Wastebusters, removal of bollards on the Lismore Park pathway, and access to Cliff Wilson Street from the Domain Park walkway off Aspinall Street.

Cody's Comments

13. I hosted a town hall meeting in Hāwea with the Hāwea Community Association to discuss the proposed 22% rates increases for Hāwea. There were 127 people in attendance, alongside all of the Upper Clutha Councillors, to discuss what makes a good submission, help answer any questions we could and talk through the frustrations the community are feeling. Hugely grateful for the turnout and curiosity - great event with great questions.
14. I was lucky enough to host the latest citizenship ceremony in Wānaka. It has to be one of the best parts of being a councillor, celebrating a momentous occasion with our new, New Zealanders.
15. I met with Ray and Matt from Fresh Choice Hāwea to discuss long-term vehicle parking options for the commercial precinct there. They are keen to work with Council to find a better solution, given the boats and campervans currently parking on private land and deteriorating the soil.
16. I met with the local community associations leaders to hear their thoughts on what Council should be looking for in our new Chief Executive with the HR agency who are leading the recruitment.

Nicola's Comments

17. The focus of my engagement this period was supporting small communities, strengthening resilience, and contributing to environmental and civic outcomes.
18. This included attending the Luggate and Hāwea rates meetings to support and advocate for local issues and participating in a Wao-organised resilience hui focussed on future community preparedness in light of the oil crisis.
19. I joined a Love Wānaka and Te Kākano tree-planting day on Plantation Road and assisted with the opening celebration marking the vesting of the Mount Iron Reserve.

Chris' Comments

20. I have been continuing to engage with Wānaka Arts & Cultural Trust and the Lakes District Arts Trust and have been providing input with their submissions to the QLDC Annual Plan.

Kathy's Comments

21. I attended the Annual Plan Drop-In Session where QLDC staff and Elected Members mostly had a conversation with each other about the draft 2026-27 Annual Plan. It was a good chance to dig into some of the detail with the finance experts.
22. Food For Love held its 10th Anniversary Celebration – congratulations to the team on achieving this milestone! Great to see dozens of volunteers recognised for their cooking and connecting with people who need support from time to time.
23. I attended the Smart Growth Committee meeting to hear about the engagement strategy for the Wānaka Structure Plan and met with QLDC staff responsible to discuss the desired option of a citizens assembly. With some background in deliberative engagement, I will be following this with interest!
24. I visited Wānaka Wastebusters' Repair Café at the Wānaka Community Workshop – it was fantastic to see the lineup of volunteers with skill in sewing, wood crafting, electrical and bicycle maintenance offering their time. A steady stream of folks brought their broken goods along for a fix and to extend their lives (the items' lives...but come to think of it the people's lives were enriched as well, thanks to the opportunity to connect!).
25. I attended the Local Government New Zealand Zone 5-6 Conference in Christchurch, along with Mayor John Glover, Councillor Melissa White, and Chief Executive Michelle Morss. It was a useful opportunity to connect with other elected members throughout the South Island and come to

grips with the tsunami of Local Government reform – this was the main topic. Speakers included experts in engagement, waste management, communication, journalism and rural healthcare. We heard from a raft of Central Government politicians and had updates from each of the 17 districts in Te Waipounamu. Challenges abound but it was inspiring to hear about positive local projects happening, including the new stadium and sport and recreation centre in Christchurch.

26. A new community group, Cycling Without Age, has formed to provide volunteer pedal power on two specially adapted electric trikes. They enable older and/or less mobile people a chance to get out and go for a ride in the fresh air. The group got in touch seeking space to store their bikes (space/facilities are an issue for many community groups).