

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

20 August 2026

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

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

6 August 2026

Recent Formal Engagements

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board (WUCCB) Workshop

WUCCB workshop held on 29 July in which the Parks Team provided an update on their mahi and projects of interest within the Upper Clutha.

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's Comments

1. Peter and Bex from Queenstown Lakes District's (QLDC) Economics Futures Team updated me on initiatives happening in Wānaka to support economic growth. I shared a number of local contacts as well as encouraging a focus on commercialisation in some of our for-purpose community organisations.
2. Central Otago District Mayor, Tamah Alley, has connected with me a couple of times to understand the views of the Upper Clutha in proposed local government amalgamation.
3. Abbeyfield Wānaka held a Winter Fayre at the Community Hub. I walked away winless in the raffle but with enough apricot kasundi and lemon curd to last a decade.
4. Representatives from Bike Wānaka, Upper Clutha Tracks Trust and I met with the Shaker (Steve Schikker) and his Mount Iron Junction advisers to discuss how the shared path network could be extended to tie into this subdivision.
5. The transfer of land from QLDC to the Mt Aspiring College Foundation (MAC) is not quite over the line yet. I met with Matt Williams, the Foundation's Chair, to understand if there is anything else we could do to move the transaction forward.
6. Nicola Jacobsen, Principal of MAC, and I had a cup of tea and shared updates on our respective community leadership roles.
7. Local safer cycling advocates and school parents met with me to share their wish list for creating better quality cycle paths and street crossings points. I was able to make internal QLDC introductions and explain how the decision making and investment process works for these types of projects.
8. Our six monthly Wānaka Airport Liaison meeting has seen a rejuvenation of the members (including more community representation) as it starts to play a greater steering role in the development of the Wānaka Airport master plan.

9. As we gather momentum for reimagining Lower Helwick Street and developing Stage 4 of the lakefront reserve, I met with Howie and Garth from Heart of Wānaka and encouraged them to refresh their plans for these areas.
10. The WAO Summit is going to be inspiring this year. I attended the launch and have diarised a couple of events to attend in October.
11. I have fielded a number of resident requests this month including a safer crossing point for Cliff Wilson Drive, public transport for Hāwea Flat and support for local government amalgamation.

Chris' Comments

12. With my Heart of Wānaka hat on I was involved in some informal talks with Andrew Howard and other Heart of Wānaka members, and I spent a very valuable hour with the trustees of WAI. As is often the case when discussing the town centre, stormwater was very much a hot topic, and we agreed to continue in depth discussions moving forward and to keep WAI informed of anything remotely relevant.
13. The progress of Wānaka Arts Centre Trust (WACT) and the Performing Arts Precinct is moving forward quickly. We submitted to QLDC about the potential to include Council facilities such as offices and library along with some form of community building. The Arts Precinct concept means not all of the potential groups need to be in or part of the main performance-based arts facility but within the greater arts site.
14. We are also progressing well with formalising the relationship between WACT and QLDC and setting up a working group along with assessing community engagement, planning, governance, and fundraising.
15. I assisted Dave Crawford of the Lake Wānaka Central Alliance Group with concerns about the state of the Dunmore Street carpark in conjunction with his meeting with Councillors regarding issues of the footpaths in town.
16. Finally, I had a fantastic Sunday afternoon in the Lake Wānaka Centre in early July watching Onstage Wānaka perform *That Bloody Woman* - once again, the entire performance was fantastic.

Nicola's Comments

17. I met with the Corbridge developer on site.
18. I attended a technology and tourism event by WiT ('Whatever It Takes') in Queenstown.

19. I attended the WAO Summit Launch event and Wastebusters Plastic Free film night.
20. I met with Wānaka locals advocating for safer crossing for children and commuters focused on school routes.
21. I met with Lake Wānaka Town Centre Alliance group and QLDC staff to discuss CBD priorities, hazards, and beautification.
22. I attended a Young Elected Members Hui in Rotorua.

Kathy's Comments

23. Our Share with Us session July 1 raised questions about pedestrian crossing safety especially for students around Paetara Aspiring Central. There is concern about safety on footpaths with multiple user groups (e.g. bikers and walkers) and questions about maintaining current trees and plants on Mount Iron (Parks and Recreation looks after this). There was positive feedback for the Communications Team who create the Winter Road Reports who work to keep us safe on winter roads.
24. I caught up with Jack at Radio Wānaka for our monthly review of hot topics - this time focused on freedom camping (consultation is now open on <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/> with a public drop-in on 20 August). I also discussed Council's decision on Head Start proposals and Otago Regional Council's approval of progressing the public transport plan for the Upper Clutha.
25. WUCCB had a briefing on the Central and Southern Wānaka Structure Plan process at our workshop on 2 July, including community engagement options (see <https://letstalk.qldc.govt.nz/> for some helpful Q&A on this).
26. On 9 July, I chatted with Joel Palmer on his breakfast radio programme, which was visiting Wānaka the day before Matariki. We discussed the fantastic community day hosted by Kahu Youth year after year and hungrily anticipated the delicious hangi to feed the hordes!
27. WUCCB had a Parks & Recreation team update at our 29 July workshop - there's a useful list of ongoing and new projects in the QLDC recording and minutes from the meeting [here](#).
28. I checked out the Albert Town Monteith Road works where contractors are fixing a problematic flooding corner and starting to install a footpath in response to pedestrian safety concerns on an increasingly busy road.
29. The Community Board's Executive Committee held its quarterly zoom call for Community Board members around the country. The focus was on the role and different models of local representation that should be considered as part of the local government amalgamation plans.