

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

20 February 2025

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

11 February 2025

Context | Horopaki

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's comments

1. The launch of Te Kaupeka Rau / Festival of Colour is always a calendar highlight. I would describe this year's programme as diverse, challenging and sophisticated. There is something for everyone: from free events and shows for rangatahi through to internationally acclaimed performances for lovers of music and theatre. Please make a commitment to attend at least one of the events!
2. Kate Cherrington and her partner Bentham Ohia are fantastic speakers. I, alongside 50 other members of the community, was privileged to listen to a presentation by Kate on her personal and whānau journey with Te Tiriti.
3. My specific portfolio on the Community Board is Knowledge, Education and Collaboration. With this hat on I spent an hour with Cat Dillon and Michaela Blacklock of WAI Wānaka, discussing the organisation's strategic priorities for 2025 and how Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) could assist them.
4. Monique Kelly (WAO) and I caught up for a coffee to discuss WAO's engagement to promote greater awareness and use of the Schools to Pool walking and biking pathway. While the pathway is frequently used by students it is open for use by anyone at any time.
5. I popped in to the GET READY WĀNAKA Community Emergency Preparedness Event at Mitre 10 on 1 February. I was specifically keen to speak with the Community Response Group to hear progress on promoting emergency awareness and construction of a response trailer.
6. My younger daughter and I spent an hour at Bullock Creek to celebrate World Wetlands Day. Highlights were seeing the baby trout at the Fish & Game stand, patting a ferret at Backyard Trapping, spotting microorganisms with WAI Wānaka and.....the sausage sizzle.
7. The Armstrong Trust has funded the LifePak 35 monitoring equipment for the Wānaka Overnight Acute Care service. I called in to speak with the doctors and nurses and to see the high-tech equipment in action....my blood pressure was pronounced as excellent!
8. Upon the announcement by Police late last year that the death of Karen White in Lake Hāwea was a homicide I fielded calls from a number of media outlets seeking comment.
9. Cliff the ambulance was in Wānaka on 22 November, soliciting support for Saving Dunedin Hospital. I signed the petition and caught up with the Health Action Wānaka team and other Save Our Southern Hospital organisers.
10. The Wānaka Airport Liaison Committee continues its six-monthly meetings. My attendance at our most recent hui saw us discussing airport operational matters, investment required for meeting Civil Aviation's stipulated upgrades and planning for the Wānaka Airport master planning.

11. There was a lot of activity in my ex officio role of Armstrong Trust trustee, including our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and annual grants meeting.
12. Just before Christmas I attended the farewell of long serving QLDC Parks employee, Diana Mason. She was wonderful to work with and exemplified the commitment and dedication that helps make our community thrive.
13. We had good weather and another great turn out in Albert Town for the combined SummerDaze and Share With Us drop in sessions. Refreshing to connect with many members of the community, especially those with younger children, and to hear of their positivity about calling the Upper Clutha home.
14. As a trustee of the Armstrong Trust we had meetings with Julie Scott, CEO of Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust and Diana McLachlan, Secretary of the Upper Clutha Children's Medical Trust, making substantive grants to both organisations.
15. I had a very constructive coffee with Dave Currie who has recently become Chair of the Hāwea Community Association. The Community Board is very keen to build stronger relationships with this important part of the Upper Clutha.
16. My regular meeting with Mayor Lewers in mid-January focussed on Community Board priorities for 2024. Our primary priorities include safe pedestrian/active transport crossings points, sports fields development, Wānaka Airport Future Planning and roading infrastructure.
17. I continued to build a deeper relationship with the Queenstown Lakes Community Housing Trust. A meeting with Phil Smith (Trustee) and Julie Scott (CEO) on McDougall St allowed us to more fully discuss the transition of management of existing elderly units as well as the construction of new senior and family units on the currently empty section.
18. On a wet Sunday afternoon I attended the Albert Town Community Association Annual AGM. Thanks goes out to Heather Thorne who stepped down as Chair and congratulations to Lucy Mitchell who has taken that leadership role.

Barry's comments

19. I attended Luggate Community Association AGM. Judy Thomson is the new Chairperson.
20. I have been working with residents in Alpine Estate regarding traffic safety issues on Avalon Station Drive.
21. I requested the Cliff Wilson Street frontage at Aspiring Central be cleaned up and regularly maintained. I have had confirmation but yet to see any action.

Lyal's comments

22. I attended the opening of our Member of Parliament's (Miles Anderson) office in Wānaka . Good to have this up and running.

23. The site visit to Mt Iron for a briefing on cliff climbing and the areas used for climbing was very informative and provided a good understanding of that activity. Having access to great ‘craggs’ so close to the centre of town is a bonus for the many climbers living here and visiting.
24. The Summerdaze Picnic in the Park at Albert Town (McMurdo Park) was a big success again. These community gatherings are well attended and enjoyed by young and old.
25. The Te Kakano hosted a BBQ brought together all those associated with this very successful and productive group and it was a pleasure to meet and interact with them.
26. The launch of the renamed Wānaka History and its renewed website drew a large number of people keen to see this group thrive. There were some good stories told and acknowledgement of the significant amount of input from all the volunteers involved.
27. There was a changing of the guard at then Luggate and Albert Town Association AGMs with new Chairs being elected. Both Associations are very active and provide a good focal point for their communities.
28. The Wānaka Community Response Group along with the emergency services held a two-day display at the Mitre 10 car park which was well attended and achieve the aim of raising awareness of the need to be prepared for a disaster.
29. World Wetlands Day Bullock Creek was well organised and provided a variety of information points relevant to water and pest control.

John’s comments

30. I attended the Bike Wānaka AGM, and the Sports Breakfast at the Lake Wānaka Centre the following morning.
31. I was also at the well supported Summerdaze event at McMurdo park in Albert Town.
32. I attended a meeting with council staff and representatives from various sports codes to discuss how to progress the Ballantyne Road Sports fields and how to prioritise the sports funding available in the early years of the Long Term Plan.
33. I attended a Council workshop on the draft Events Policy and proposed improvements, and another workshop on the New Year Eve events planning, both of these meetings being held in Queenstown with Full Council.
34. I fielded some ratepayers queries regarding the Ballantyne Road/Riverbank road roundabout.
35. I joined a large number of the local community with the Cardrona River clean up event organised by Wai Wānaka and supported by some of our local businesses. It was great to remove the rubbish but frustrating that it is still being dumped there.

Cody's comments

36. I caught up with the new Hāwea Community Association (HCA) president Dave Currie a few times to share all info I have and suggested a bunch of different ways the HCA could help serve the community depending on what volunteers are passionate about.
37. Celebrated Waitangi Day in Queenstown which was a great turn out and attracted lots of people stopping in to be a part of it. Very inclusive event and a lot of passion and positive spirit.
38. Lots of meetings and discussions around regional deals at the moment. QLD is developing a clear and comprehensive analysis/story of the issues we face in the district, which largely highlights that lack of funding and support in the core services that Central Government deliver, i.e. health, education, transport and strategic business investment etc. Will try to socialise as much as I can as it evolves; at this stage it is about presenting the overview to give us a chance at being a candidate essentially.

Chris's comments

39. I continue to work on the final details of the installation of the Dibble sculpture which should be completed before the end of February.
40. The Arts Trust had its first meeting of the year with a new trustee Deborah McCormick being appointed. It was more of a house keeping meeting where we discussed reviewing the status of all existing artworks and our strategic plan.
41. It is worth noting that the Luma festival will not be happening this year as costs have made it prohibitively costly to make the festival viable.
42. Councillors Barry Bruce, Lyal Cocks and myself spent a number of hours listening to and deliberating on the Mt Iron management plan. This has been completed and is sitting with staff as they finalise the details for final approval by the WUCCB. We believe we found common ground in almost all areas.
43. I have had several meetings with regards to the Performing Arts centre and these have been very productive. Both the Mayor and CEO are supportive and have charged Paul Speedy with assisting us with the process.
44. There have also been some discussions with a local philanthropist who is very keen and we are looking at extra opportunities with regards to the location etc. I do believe that most agree that a well-designed and significant building in the right place could change the whole dynamic of Wānaka.

Linda's comments

45. During November the Community Board was asked to join a kōrero with the climbing community and the Parks team to chat through the vision of the climbing community for Mt Iron, as the development of the management plan continues. This was a very informative discussion.

46. The final Summerdaze for 2024 was held in McMurdo Park, Albert town. It was great to see so many little people and guardians come along to enjoy the sausages, and playthings provided by the library and council staff. Awesome.
 47. Cardrona Ratepayers and Residence Association shared their concerns regarding the removal of a 25 year old mountain beech tree to install a new 50km road sign. The association chair is to share other concerns with the Chair, these items have been listed with Council and are waiting a response.
 48. Guardians of the Lake held their first meeting for 2025. Veronica Rotman presented her research on microplastics within the waterways, which was very interesting and informative. Her research can be followed by linking in through waiWānaka.nz.
 49. I attended a very informative event hosted by Otago Fish and Game, along with Te Kakano, Wai Wānaka, Friends of Bullock Creek, and others to celebrate World Wetlands Day. Great to see so many tamariki running around exploring all the exhibits. Well done everyone.
 50. The Cardrona community is continuing to develop their ideas for an amphitheater in the reserve space of the village.
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