

Wānaka-Upper Clutha Community Board

21 November 2024

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [10]

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 November 2024

Context | Horopaki

Members' Sector Engagement Updates

Simon's comments

1. Year 13 students at Mt Aspiring College volunteered over 4,000 hours of voluntary service within the Upper Clutha this year. This is an incredible effort so the Community Board hosted a thank you lunch for those 30 students who had contributed over 50 hours. A special thanks to Alexis Sofia Harvey Wills, Lily Wilson, Will Anderson and Lottie Hunt who each volunteered over 200 hours in 2024.
2. The much anticipated opening of the Wānaka Overnight Acute Care service was officially undertaken on 14 October. Given the tone of typical news out of the health sector everyone was buoyant about being able to celebrate something positive. The community advocacy for this service was noted and appreciated.
3. My monthly Radio Wānaka catch up with Jack van der Hayden saw us canvas topics ranging from Ballantyne Road Sports Hub and Mt Iron consultation to Paetara / Aspiring Central's one year celebration and whether Wānaka is more focused on being for residents or for tourists.
4. With preparations for Wānaka Airport's future planning starting to take shape, I attended a meeting with the Wānaka Stakeholders Group and Chairs of the local Community Associations to listen to their ideas for how they would like consultation to be undertaken.
5. A warm Saturday morning in October had me at Mt Iron listening to the views of the community on the Reserve Management Plan which is currently open for consultation.
6. I attended the Mt Aspiring College (MAC) senior prize giving. At the event I was invited, as an Armstrong Trust trustee, to announce the donation of \$100,000 from the Armstrong Trust to the MAC Foundation.
7. Paetara / Aspiring Central's one year anniversary was celebrated with cake and loads of families enjoying free basketball, pickleball, skateboarding and the like. We are very fortunate to have this recreation facility so central to town.
8. I was invited to a dinner with the Aurora Energy board and senior leadership team and other stakeholders. On behalf of the community I raised questions around the ability for residents to export a greater amount of energy back to the grid, whether Aurora was considering implementing variable (peak/off peak) network charges, the transparency of pricing for exporting energy back to the grid, whether Aurora is facilitating micro grids and when vehicle to grid capability was going to be available.
9. I presented at the Otago Regional Council (ORC) hearings on its Representation Review. I supported the creation of a fifth ORC constituency to encompass the urban areas of Wānaka and Queenstown.

10. In early November I popped in to Paetara to catch up with Ana and her Mexican colleagues who were preparing for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) as well as briefly visiting Kahu Youth for the celebration of their refurbished premises.
11. In April 2025 we will, again, experience the wonderful Festival of Colour. I attended their AGM to show support as well as to encourage them to continue to make the programme accessible for all people living in the Upper Clutha irrespective of ability to pay full ticket prices.
12. As noted above, there is a lot of activity happening around Wānaka Airport, including imminent investment to meet Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) requirements. I was involved in a meeting where Council staff started engagement with the Wānaka Airport Users Group. It was a very productive and respectful meeting.
13. A highlight on my social agenda is the two yearly Wānaka Chamber business awards. The evening event was held at Rippon Hall on 9 November and it was motivating and inspiring to celebrate with such a high calibre of award recipients.

Barry's comments

14. I am working with residents and the Albert Town Community Association, in conjunction with NZTA, seeking a review of the speed limit between Mt Iron Roundabout and Albert Town. Increasing traffic flows and population growth in the area have highlighted safety concerns.
15. I met with the holder of a lakefront Licence to Occupy (LTO) who was concerned that the Council's charging policy is contrary to the intent of LTOs. I am seeking clarification on the charges policy.

Lyal's comments

16. The Wānaka Business Chamber hosted the CEO of Santana Minerals (Damian Spring) at a breakfast for members. Damian provided a very good presentation on where they are at with planning and preparing a consent application for gold mining in the Bendigo ranges. Early sampling indicates a significantly lucrative site and if approved will add hugely to the local and national economy. The mining operation will employ around 250 people on a regular basis.
17. The Hāwea Picnic Race Club held its AGM and the seven committee members in attendance discussed the most suitable format to enable the event to continue to be held. There is always the issue of not knowing how many racehorses will be brought along to compete resulting in some races not being viable. It was agreed to proceed with a variety of events including trotting and pacing races, local gallop race and men and women's races.
18. Paetara / Aspiring Central had its one-year birthday party which was well attended and lots of fun had by all, including birthday cake! The facility is now complete with the installation of the retractable basketball hoops and is a huge asset for our community.
19. The Wānaka Community Response Group continues to be very active getting established and preparing to provide support when needed. A training session was held at the Presbyterian Church which is one of the venues that could be used as a support centre.
20. Another economic snapshot event was held in Frankton which was well attended by people from all over the District. This event has matured and showcased many businesses and organisations that are successfully diversifying and growing our economy.

21. We have many great young people in our community and joining some of them for lunch at Mt Aspiring College to acknowledge their service to the community, was very satisfying. Hearing what they plan to do now they have finished school is always interesting.
22. The Dia de los Muertos Celebrations (Wānaka Mexican and Latino Community event) and the Diwali Celebration (Wānaka Indian Community Event), both highlighted the diversity within our community. Their dedication and passion for their cultures and traditions and desire to share with others is commendable and a benefit to us all.
23. The General Manager, Property & Infrastructure (Tony Avery) and Property Director (Roger Davidson) met with the Wānaka Airport Users Group and provided an update on workstreams for the Airport. The three workstreams are renewal/upgrade of basic infrastructure, work to achieve CAA certification requirements, and a consultation process to determine the future of the Airport. It was a very good session which clarified the way forward and addressed the issues raised by the User Group.
24. The Albert Town Community Association committee met with Miles Anderson MP which I can talk to at the meeting.
25. The Wānaka Business Chamber Milford Asset Business Awards dinner was held at Rippon and a brief on that can also be provided at the meeting.
26. The Southern Lakes Arts Festival Trust AGM attracted five members of the public, including Simon and I. The Trust has a very experienced Board and good manager, and bank balance is reasonable. Organising and running the Festival of Colour is a big task and getting the Crystal Palace here and erected is the most challenging and costly activity. We were reminded that if we had a Performing Arts Centre there wouldn't be this challenge and cost.

John's comments

27. I attended a Citizenship Ceremony in Wānaka and enjoyed welcoming new citizens from all over the world who have chosen to become Kiwis.
28. I met with the Wānaka Stakeholders Group to discuss their views on the future of Wānaka Airport and how the development plan should be developed in conjunction with the community.
29. I greatly enjoyed meeting the Mt Aspiring College students for a lunch to celebrate their community volunteering achievements
30. I have liaised with staff regarding the Ballantyne Road/Riverbank Road roundabout works to assist members of the Mt Barker Residents Association with their queries.
31. I attended the Wānaka Mexican community's Dia de los Muertos celebration at Paetara / Aspiring Central and was impressed at the amount of work that had gone into preparing for the event, which was very well attended.
32. I attended the Diwali celebration at the Wānaka Community Hub, a highlight of which was the clear explanation of the history of the celebration. The Indian sweets were also appreciated.

33. It's great to see the diversity of our community being shared and celebrated with great support from staff working on the Welcoming Communities project.

Cody's comments

34. I was invited to be a guest speaker at Mike King's 'I am Climate Hope' in Queenstown. We talked about how widespread climate anxiety is amongst youth and the importance of showing leadership in the space.

35. I spoke at the unveiling of the Year 13 legacy piece at Wakatipu High School in my capacity as a councillor and ambassador for Welcoming Communities, but also as I was a part of helping design and visualise the project. It was a stainless-steel ring-shaped bench seat by Ed Cruikshank with hidden messages in braille called "sense of self." A great project to be a that blends my two worlds.

36. Huge news for Hāwea as our first official super Market Fresh Choice was unveiled. A stunning morning with Waiata and Kapa Haka from the local kids, sausage sizzle and a big community turn out. Massive congratulations to Matt and Dixie as well as the developer Ray, it's been a such a well needed addition to the township.

37. I met with Jo from Kahu Youth along with a bunch of other important local legends to help initiate a strong youth voice in the Upper Clutha and Queenstown Lakes by facilitating a workshop to help support rangatahi voice what's important to them and provide a platform through to council. Sadly, timing of this has been tricky so we're looking to reschedule this until the new year to get the best from it.

Chris's comments

38. I continue to work quietly in the background with regards to the performing arts centre following on from a meeting with the Mayor.

39. I attended the first of the Mt Iron Reserve Management Plan meetings where many differing views were expressed.

40. I am still fielding concerns about the location of the new traffic lights.

41. I attended the Wānaka Stakeholders' Group meeting where their views on how the airport consultation should proceed were discussed. The memo they presented contained some great ideas but there were still some around the table that expressed concerns that the process may not go as they hope.

42. I reached out to all the Medmart employees who will very soon find themselves out of work. It is sad to see such a Wānaka institution disappear.

43. Finally, in 2 days' time it will be a year since I found out exactly who Mr Dibble was, when the owner of one of his sculptures caught up with me offering to donate a Dibble sculpture to Wānaka. The process of installing it will begin in the next week or so. It has been an amazing journey and will be fantastic to see the finished work in place.