

# Upper Clutha Tracks Trust

## Report of the Chair, October 2021

2021 has been another difficult year for the Trust with impediments caused by various issues slowing progress but despite these, the Trust has made significant improvements to the track network in the Upper Clutha.

Since the last AGM the Trust has successfully funded and completed a several significant additions to the network.

The Devon Link track was opened in December 2020 with the help of funding from Central Lakes Trust, Otago Community Trust, Callis Trust, QLDC and the UCTT. This 1.4km section of fully deer fenced grade one track linking Hawea Flat with the Hawea River Track forms an important community link while at the same time providing the missing link in the Hawea recreational loop. Our thanks again to Devon Dairies Ltd for providing the easement for the link.

Templeton Street Link connecting Templeton Street in Albert Town to the recently constructed Cameron Creek/Cardrona River track gives an easy alternative route for Albert Town residents to access the rivers without having to go to either end of the existing track. Funded by QLDC with assistance from the Albert Town Community Association this short link is particularly popular with walkers.

Hawea River Track Extension (Albert Town Camp Link) provides a purpose-built bike and pedestrian connection across the QLDC owned site to the Hawea River swing bridge thus avoiding the often busy and dusty road.

Funded by the Council and UCTT, it has found considerable favour with users since it opened in August 2021.

Pawson's Crossing. The replacement of the difficult steps on either side of the bridge with easy access ramps is a huge improvement. Opened this month, the ramps make riding walking and wheelchair access a breeze compared with the previous steps which most bikers struggled to climb with their bikes and mobility access was out of the question.

Funding for the project was courtesy of the Lion Foundation, a give a little page and a very generous donation from the Jones Family Trust. Matukituki Natives are sponsoring planting in the area.

The Trust continues to advocate for improvement to the track network in various ways. These include for funding for both the Trust itself and our partner organisation the Active Transport Network, QLDC annual plan, QLDC ten-year plan, Silverlight proposal fast track consent process, Second Star Ltd (Peter Theil) consent application seeking an alternative to the alignment around Damper Bay where the Millennium Track exceeds the prescribed gradient recommendation and the Otago Conservation Management Strategy partial statutory review.

Advocacy work entails an enormous amount of time and work in the gathering of evidence, the preparation of submissions and attendance at meetings. I need to acknowledge that the lions share of this work is undertaken by John Wellington in his own time and completely voluntarily. The Trust owes a huge debt of gratitude to John for his tireless efforts in upholding the objects of the Upper Clutha Tracks Trust.

The Trust has many more projects in train for the coming years.

These include the Short Cut Road link which will be completed before the end of October 2021 to give pedestrian access to the Clutha River Track near Luggate across a short section of unformed legal road.

The lower Cardrona River track connecting the Cameron Creek Track and the Hook with the QLDC owned land upstream of SH6 bridge across the Cardrona River. Easement negotiations are under way with adjoining owners.

Dublin Bay to Maungawera Road track, alignment planning is under way.

Peninsula Bay link to the Clutha River Outlet Track, design work, negotiations with Bike Wanaka and public consultation is under way, a budget has been prepared.

SH6 Active Transport Link to Wanaka Airport and Luggate, a feasibility study and interested party negotiations are under way.

Twin Lakes Project, although this project is still largely aspirational at this stage, planning and costings are prepared for a grade three Great Ride style experience in the Upper Clutha Basin.

Trustees are aware that this will be my last attendance at the Upper Clutha Tracks Trust as my resignation as chair and as a trustee takes place tonight. I want to express my sincere thanks to my fellow trustees for their time and expertise given voluntarily in the development of assets which greatly benefit the wider community.

Also, thanks to our QLDC and DOC representatives Diana and Anita. Special thanks to Diana for her excellent work as secretary.

I feel privileged to have been involved with such a worthwhile organisation and wish the Trust well for the future.

John Hare  
Chair, Upper Clutha Tracks Trust