



Annual Report 2022

Upper Clutha Tracks Trust

10th November 2022

Chairman – David Howard

Treasurer – John Wellington

Secretary – Diana Manson

Trustees – Allan Gillespie, Tom Rowley, Brian Weedon, Quentin Smith, Grant Fyfe, Geoff Wilson, Lucy Fullerton

Representatives – Anita Middlemiss (DOC), Diana Manson (QLDC)

Vision (2021-2027)

A network that serves the needs of the local community, visitors and the natural environment.

Our vision still holds true today. The UCTT provides access to spaces for people to recreate and engage with nature. We serve those who choose to walk and/or bike as commuters or for recreation. We build tracks and trails that your community wants, and welcome visitors to share them to experience our way of life.

The Upper Clutha has a fast growing population; the preservation and expansion of a well planned trail network is essential if we are to enjoy the level amenity that we currently experience, or enhance that.

The UCTT acknowledges the benefits that trail access creates to individuals, our community, local economics and environmental outcomes. Our work has real purpose and meaningful outcomes.

We acknowledge the intent of our tourism bodies to focus on regenerative tourism.

We acknowledge the importance of environmental and climate protection and the many organisations and individuals working towards those goals.

We acknowledge the landowners who make tracks possible - " They are the true heroes" (Sir Eion Edgar, 2021).

Tracks, recreation, conservation and community wealth are great partners.

Summary of Trust Activities for 2022

The Upper Clutha Track Network Strategy 2021-2027 identified four key strategies

1. Connect communities
2. Enable recreation
3. Manage, develop and maintain tracks
4. Plan collaboratively

Summary of our activity.

Connect communities

- Commentary on the Silverlight studio development - aiming for the development of a commuter link between Luggate and Wanaka. Negotiating easements, collaborating with NZTA. This project is currently with NZTA.
- Progress on the Hawea River true right bank track - connecting Hawea and Albertown.
- Progress on the Cardrona Valley Track connecting Wanaka and Albert Town to Cardrona Village.
- Progress on the Glendhu Bay Track, connecting Bike Glendhu and Glendhu Bay campground to Wanaka.
- Urban connections that enhance our urban network: Working with Simon Telfer as an engaged partner with Active Transport Wanaka.

Enable recreation

- The UCTT identified recreation tracks as highly important in realising the benefits that tracks enable. We have adopted a 50 year view and identified the "Wanaka 8 Trails", a network of 200km of recreation trails that will sustain and enhance what it means to live in the Upper Clutha. The UCTT are working on these trails through our trail pipeline and development process. Large trail projects take time, and the first step is gaining land access. We acknowledge and thank the landowners that we are engaging with and look forward to their ongoing support.
- Negotiated continued access to the Gunn Road children's skills area with DOC.
- Negotiated improvements to the condition of the track linking Mt Aspiring Rd to the Glendhu Bay Track.
- Created the Templeton St link to the Upper Clutha Track.
- Consent submission and expert witness on the Second Star development to improve the accessibility of the Glendhu Bay track to a wider user group.
- Secured easements for lower portions of the Cardrona Valley track across private land, LINZ and NZTA.
- Secured easements for the Charteris track, Makarora.
- Submissions for public access on Lowburn Valley.
- Pawsons crossing bridge upgrade for mobility access plus track upgrades.
- Planned upgrade to the Gladstone Track (Hawea) to an all weather surface, commencing 2023.

- Hawea River True Right bank from Hawea to Camp Hill Road is nearing the construction phase.
- Devon Dairy Link completed.

Manage, develop and maintain tracks

- Transferred trail maintenance commitments to QLDC for Hawea Swing Bridge Link, Templeton St and Cameron Creek track. UCTT maintains responsibility for Devon Link and Motatapu tracks.
- Improved access to the Newcastle Track off Kane Rd and completed the extension from the Red Bridge.
- Arranged maintenance of Motatapu Track in continued collaboration with Wanaka Tramping Club.

Plan collaboratively

- Collaboration with biking organisations in Otago for a successful outcome of the Department of Conservation Partial Review of the Otago Conservation Management Strategy. This allows track developers to bring track ideas to DOC for consideration.
- Engagement with Lake Wanaka Tourism and Love Wanaka on the synergies of tracks and tourism.
- Collaboration with Cardrona Valley residents, developers and businesses for a trail connection from Wanaka to Arrowtown.
- Collaboration with the horse riding community with the establishment of their own entity and agreement for mutual support in trail development.
- Submission on QLDC annual plan and Landscape Schedule.
- Present at the Festival of Sport to elicit engagement and feedback from the community.
- Present at the Biketober market to elicit engagement and feedback from the community.
- Collaboration with Central Otago Queenstown Trail Network Trust on the Great Ride trail from Cromwell to Wanaka and the entrance to Wanaka.

Building the Trusts' Capability

Founding trustee Paul Hellebrekkers stepped down this year. Thank you Paul for many years of dedicated support. New trustees were appointed in April; welcome Lucy Fullerton.

The bureaucratic barriers to building tracks have significantly increased over the recent years. As the track network grows and the expectations of trail users increases, so do the demands on volunteers to advocate, build, manage and maintain out tracks. It is important to realise that our track network is largely volunteer lead and community funded. Tracks are a gift from our community to residents and visitors.

The Trust has decided to ramp up our capability so we can continue to serve the community long into the future. We will be exploring projects to increase our capability and capacity including:

- Friends of the trust and giving back - to build financial capacity
- Tracks benefits case - quantifying and demonstrating the benefits of the track network.
- Media and physical presence - to raise awareness of the Trust's work and track benefits.
- People capability - build capability to have paid roles in fulfilling ongoing and essential activities.

Trust Funding

The UCTT receives an annual grant from the QLDC of \$50,000. As the Trustees are all volunteers, with careful management the Trust is able to use most of these funds for seed funding for other projects as well as setting aside some reserves for future track maintenance.

- \$30k grant from Otago Community Trust towards the Gladstone Track Upgrade.
- Red Bridge River Park Trust of \$50,000. The UCTT will continue with RBRPT's vision of enhanced riverside environments.

The Trust is also extremely grateful to our principle funders, Central Lakes Trust and Otago Community Trust, both of whom have supported us from the very beginning and remain our cornerstone partners.

We would also like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their valuable contributions over the past year, without which our projects would not have succeeded:

Albert Town Residents Association	\$ 1,500
Coleen & Stuart Landsborough	\$ 5,000
Donald Greenough	\$ 150
J I & M D Barlow	\$ 400
M & S Jones Family Trust	\$ 9,500
Lion Foundation	\$19,050
Give a little campaign (various)	\$ 2,663