



# UPPER CLUTHA Tracks Trust.

## Annual Report 2024

16 October 2024

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 – Andrew Watt (DOC), Diana Manson (QLDC)

Our purpose is to preserve and expand our tracks and trails, providing Upper Clutha residents and tourists, now and in the future, access to engage for recreation as part of everyday life.

### **Dream Big**

This year we released our 10-year strategic plan and we also considered what residents may need 50 years from now. As populations and land development expands so must consideration of recreation facilities and outdoor access. The Trust has taken the role to dream big and plan for the future of Upper Clutha tracks, and encourage long term thinking and discussions.

### **Grind it out**

A lot of hard work has been performed by trustees to make incremental steps to develop our track network. We are thankful for the collective support of our key partners, The Department of Conservation (DOC) and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) who are the majority landowners for our tracks.

Collectively we will continue to plan and maintain tracks centred on serving our residents. An example is the Hawea River True Right development and True Left track upgrade. This 10km loop from the Hawea dam will serve multiple users and support ecological restoration and predator control on both banks of the Hawea River.

It has been good to see the Charteris Track in Makarora reach completion and realise the dream of landowner to preserve the exquisite native bush and allow many people to experience it. Thank you to the Gary Charteris (landowner) and trustees for years of grind to make this a reality.

We thank our business community for coming onboard to financially support track development and maintenance, and the trustees driving these relationships. Businesses are an important of our community as we work towards mutual benefits for our residents, visitors and businesses.

### **The best lubrication**

The benefits and value of tracks is often taken for granted or overlooked. The best lubrication to generate support for tracks is to tell the benefit story and show the value they bring. To this end, the Trust will work to raise awareness of the value of tracks and partner with aligned organisations. With the rise of regenerative tourism and Otago as a global cycling destination, there are many organisations wanting to tell the same story and achieve the same benefits.

## **Summary of Trust Activities for 2023-24**

### **Protect**

- Completed Ten Year Trail Development Plan, integrated with Council, Active Transport and neighbouring Trail Trusts.
- Gained several public access easements on public and private land (LINZ. NZTA) along the Cardrona River.
- Collaboration with DOC, Fish & Game, QLDC land access.
- Continued submissions on land developments and council planning process.

### **Partner**

- Renewed the Community Agreement with DOC.
- Supported developers and landowners resource consent applications with track development proposals as environmental off-sets.
- UCTT web upgrade to increase awareness and information about tracks.
- Instigated trail signage improvements with QLDC.
- Working collaboratively with Southern Lakes Trails and Cardrona Residents to track connections into Wanaka/ Albert Town.

### **Build**

- Completed Charteris Track
- Advanced planning for Hawea River true right and true left bank tracks.
- Preliminary planning for Rocky Hill poled route.

### **Sustain**

- Coordination with QLDC for priority track upgrades.
- Performed commercial and in-kind partnerships for trail maintenance.
- Instigated the trail partners programme with local businesses.

- Continued engagement with Active Transport Wanaka and NZTA on trail network planning.
- UCTT maintains responsibility for Devon Link and Motatapu tracks. Motatapu Track cleared of willows in partnership with the Wanaka Tramping Club

## 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.

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:

Otago Community Trust	\$30,000
Central Lakes trust	\$46,527
QLDC grant of towards Hawea Reiver Track Upgrade	\$15,000
Lion Foundation	\$5,000
Coleen & Stuart Landsborough	\$5,000
Outside Sports	\$1,660
NZ Bike Trails Ltd	\$ 500
J I & MD Barlow	\$ 500
Lucy Hudson	\$ 156
Jan Sipple	\$ 100

## Summary

I would like to unreservedly thank all the Trustees for their hard work and commitment in 2023/24 year. The success of the Trust and building tracks for the community is only possible through ongoing collaboration with our partners and landowners.

David Howard  
 Upper Clutha Tracks Trust - Chair  
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