

(source: WanakaApp)

Taking time to think about this community 12 Sep 2017

Community development scheme LINK Upper Clutha is encouraging people to take five minutes to think about their community, ahead of Thursday evening's public forum.

LINK facilitator Kathy Dedo said she also recommended people take five people to the forum, which is being hosted, in partnership with the Wanaka Community Board, to facilitate a community-wide conversation on growth – the opportunities it presents and the challenges we face.



The forum was developed after community feedback on LINK's 3 Questions survey showed the community wants to explore the big issues of growth, planning, connection and affordability.

"The event is for everyone," Kathy said. "We're not going to solve the world's problems, but we might solve a few of Wanaka's."

Wanaka is "a victim of its own success", Kathy said, adding she hopes the forum will build on the energy here so people can catch the excitement, rather than the fear, of the future.

The evening will incorporate video storytelling to celebrate community success and to hear from key community organisations that influence growth. A range of community leaders were videoed talking about the issues of growth raised in the 3 Questions survey.

The Wanaka App visited the film set when Kahu Youth worker Richard Elvey was preparing to talk about the success of Matariki.

"It's an awesome thing to do, giving people a platform," he said, describing Matariki as something which only happens because "everyone pulls together for the greater good of the community".

The forum will engage as well as educate, Kathy said. While there will be information given about the plans in place which will shape our town and region, there will also be opportunities for attendees to talk with the people and groups they are most interested in.

"The community equally has a role," Kathy said. The forum will look at our capability as a community, and people are encouraged to bring an idea for a project or initiative: there will be opportunities to talk about the work of your organisation in the community, get involved

with an existing project or initiative, get help turning an idea into action, and contribute your ideas to the long term planning process.

“Take five to think about our future, and take five people to the forum,” Kathy said. “We can make a difference, but we can’t make any difference if we stay on the couch.”

The forum will take place on Thursday September 14 at the Lake Wanaka Centre, from 7pm to 9:30pm.