

Background

Central Lakes Trust's origins hail from the government's electricity reforms of the 1990's. The governing body of the Otago Central Electric Power Board sold their lines business and retained the generation business (now Pioneer Energy). The funds from the sale of the lines business and the assets of the generation business were used to establish Central Lakes Trust (CLT).

Central Lakes Trust continues to have an investment in Pioneer Energy and it forms an integral part of our investment portfolio providing cash dividends to CLT.

CLT is dedicated to supporting charitable organisations within our funding region, which spans much of Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes. As a charitable trust, our focus is to fund a wide range of initiatives that help our communities to thrive.

By carefully managing and distributing funding, we strive to strengthen our region not just for today, but for future generations. Our purpose is to be a reliable, long-term source of support for the organisations and initiatives that enrich our communities.

Since our inception in 2000, CLT has had a significant impact on our communities, awarding \$158.9 million in grants as of 31 March 2025.

Vision and Mission

Our Vision is:
Our community is a better place

Our Mission:
We enhance assets and enrich lives by supporting our community

Values

Integral to delivering our vision and mission are the organisational values that underpin the way that we work. We believe very strongly in our values and the delivery of them as an organisation.

Be Prudent

Acting with wisdom and care to enhance the social and financial value of CLT

Be Fair

Being impartial

Be Open

Being transparent, approachable and collaborative

Be Proactive

Making things happen by identifying needs and opportunities and, when necessary, initiating change

Be Collaborative

Working with others to identify priorities, improve performance and achieve great outcomes

Have Integrity

Doing things well through good judgement, sound ethics, professionalism and consistency

Disclaimer statement: Each candidate profile has been provided by the applicable candidate. Central Lakes Trust and the Returning Officer accept no responsibility for the accuracy of the content contained in each candidate profile statement.

CHRISTIE Mark

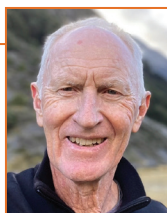
Central Otago has been my home for 25 years, 18 years in Ripponvale, and the last seven years in Bannockburn.

My background includes 40 years of corporate business experience, with 15 years in senior Australia/NZ regional leadership roles, where I developed strong skills in building effective, collaborative teams.

Alongside my professional career, I have committed significant time to governance and community leadership, serving 10 years on the board and five years as Chairperson of a National Industry Association. Locally, I am a Trustee of the Bannockburn Arts Charitable Trust, Chairperson of the Bannockburn Community Centre, and inaugural Chairperson of the Bannockburn Community Resilience Group.

I am passionate about ensuring thriving communities, recognising the powerful impact of funding on even small projects that strengthen community wellbeing. In my spare time, I enjoy hiking, mountain biking, and motorbiking.

I'd be honoured to represent the Central Otago community on the Central Lakes Trust.



CURRIE Dave

CNZM

I am in awe of this special place we are privileged to call home – mine is Lake Hawea.

I offer a sustained record of organizational leadership within both the Commercial and Not for Profit sectors.

I have gained a clear understanding of the difference between Governance and Management across a wide range of complex multifaceted organizations:

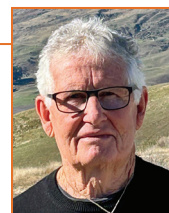
Chef de Mission New Zealand Paralympic Team Sydney
Chef de Mission New Zealand Olympic Teams in Athens, Beijing and London
Executive Director Halberg Trust
Race Director NZ Ironman Triathlon
Chair Wel Energy Trust
Manager Black Caps

I have an absolute commitment to collaboratively developing inspirational visions and identity.

Experience tells me we are most effective when we share clear goals, have a common vision, are genuine in our interactions and are proud of who we are.

What drives me is leaving a legacy of place for my grandchildren.

I would appreciate your support.



DEDO Kathy

With a vision of “our community is a better place,” I love being a CLT Trustee. It’s a privilege to serve as Deputy Chair and Audit & Risk Committee Chair, managing \$571m and supporting projects throughout our region. After six years I seek re-election to continue this mahi.

With global consulting experience in organisational development, strategic planning, and communications, I’ve served my local community for 23 years, most recently as co-manager of Community Link, Wānaka’s one-stop community support centre. I’ve focused on governance at CLT; as Chair of Sport Ōtago; and member of Kāpuia, a central government advisory group increasing social cohesion following the Christchurch attacks.

I’ve held leadership roles on over 10 local boards - from the Wānaka Business Chamber and Shaping Our Future to Mainly Music and the Regenerative Recovery Advisory Group. Offering my experience and ongoing commitment, I seek your support for re-election to CLT. Thank you.



FORBES Alexa

I have lived in this region for 40 years and care deeply about the wellbeing of our communities and environment. Alongside rapid growth, I’ve seen rising inequality and growing need for social and community support. Central Lakes Trust, with its ownership of Pioneer Energy and substantial investments, plays a vital role in meeting those needs through prudent governance and wise investment.

My work is about acting now for a better future. I bring a strong record of supporting community groups and initiatives that build cohesion, equity, and resilience, alongside a long-standing commitment to environmental restoration as a foundation for thriving communities.

I have 12 years’ governance experience as an elected member—two terms on Queenstown Lakes District Council and two on Otago Regional Council—plus experience in several not-for-profit governance roles. I bring experience, commitment, and a future-focused approach to ensure the Trust continues to deliver strong outcomes.



GILLESPIE Neil

My community involvement and experience as a Cromwell Community Board Member/ Chairman and CODC Councillor since 1998 (and Deputy Mayor since 2010) mean I have proven governance skills, common sense, and the logical approach to effectively represent the communities of the CLT area.

This, combined with 47 years in the electricity industry and 32 years as a volunteer firefighter, means I have developed an extensive governance and leadership skill set that a Trustee requires to undertake the key roles and responsibilities as a member of the Board.

CLT’s most visible activities take the form of making grants that; enable people, strengthen communities, enhance opportunities for communities, and provide an enduring environment, so it’s important that Trustees have a close connection and understanding of the community’s needs, which is what I also offer.

I seek your support to be part of the team that ensures our community is a better place.



LEPPER Tony

It would be a privilege to serve a further three-year term representing my community. I am particularly keen to stay involved as the Trust completes its Strategic Refresh, ensuring continuity and helping to shape a clear direction for the future.

Central Lakes Trust is a cornerstone of our region, supporting wellbeing through grants, social investments, and ownership of Pioneer Generation.

My background as Mayor and my work across local and national boards – including nine years as Chair of Bowls New Zealand – have built strong relationships and sound governance skills that add real value to my role on the Central Lakes Board.

I am well connected to the communities of Central Otago through sport and many years of local involvement. I am passionate about seeing our towns and rural areas flourish and ensuring the Trust’s resources are invested wisely for the benefit of future generations.

Thank you for your support.



PHOON Chris

I am the first doctor to operate at Central Lakes Trust Hospital and the only resident orthopaedic surgeon in Central Otago. With 20 years of medical experience, I understand the importance of health funding, which is the Trust’s largest area of support. I have also provided charitable surgery in Central Lakes and overseas, giving me a broad perspective on how strong communities are built through care and investment.

I live in Arrowtown with my wife and three boys who attend local schools. I am a founding member of the Mahu Whenua Traverse and value the trail networks strongly supported by the Trust. I also support initiatives such as Presbyterian Support, which provide vital aged-care services and strengthen community wellbeing.

As a member of the Institute of Directors with governance experience on national and international surgical committees, I bring knowledge, experience, and local commitment to the Trust.



REWI Michael

I am a proud Central Lakes local dedicated to strengthening the wellbeing of our people and environment throughout the region. As CEO of Mana Tāhuna Charitable Trust, I have led initiatives that restore the health of our environment, ensure whānau are thriving and build resilient communities from Queenstown to Makarora and deep into Central Otago. I bring proven governance and leadership experience, working alongside iwi, councils, government agencies and community partners to deliver positive outcomes across the region.

My vision is for a Trust that remains transparent, accountable, and responsive to the needs of our diverse communities. I am committed to ensuring CLT investments not only meet today’s challenges, but also create long-term social, cultural, environmental, and economic benefits for future generations.

Grounded in values of manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga, I offer fresh leadership, strong community connections right throughout the region and a commitment to bring community voice to the table.



WEBB Trudi

I am a current CLT trustee who would value the opportunity to continue in this community role.

I have lived in Cromwell for 25 years with my husband, Simon, together we own Webb’s Fruit, a family orchard that has been part of the community since 1914. I am actively involved in the day-to-day running of our business, as well as community and industry groups. Our children are engaged in a range of activities, and being immersed in the Central Otago community gives me a vested interest, seeing it thrive, and the next generation flourish.

I value integrity, collaboration, and building relationships that contribute to a shared vision. As an open-minded team player, I am passionate about Central Otago and see CLT as a vital asset in strengthening communities and enrich lives.

Current roles:
MG Ltd, Director
MG Remuneration & Nomination Committee
MG Charitable Trust, Trustee
Summerfruit NZ, Chair
IOD, member

