

Press Release

Monday 1 July 2019 (immediate release)

New Community Trust South Chair Announced

Community Trust South has today announced the appointment of Penny Simmonds as the new chair of Community Trust South. Simmonds takes over as the trust's chair position from Margot Hishon. Lindsay Wright will remain as the deputy chair.

Wright says "The board agreed that Penny has the right skills and experience to lead the Community Trust South board. Her governance expertise, strong leadership and commitment will serve the board and the community well".

"It is a real honour to be able to lead the Community Trust South board as we continue to work with community groups and organisations who enable growth and progress in the south. I am committed to the economic, social and cultural development of our community, and passionate about this very special part of the world we live in" Simmonds said.

Simmonds has been on the Community Trust South board since 2012 and, along with Richard Wason, is the longest serving trustee. As well as Southern Institute of Technology (SIT) chief executive for 22 years, Simmonds has held positions on the board of Hockey Southland including past chair, is also past president of Hockey New Zealand, has had significant involvement with the Southland Regional Development Strategy and governance experience across a range of community organisations.

In 2015 Simmonds was named a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit recognising her service to education, sport and community in Southland.

The positions of chair and deputy chair are elected by the trustees on a two-yearly basis.

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About Community Trust South

Community Trust South is the guardian of a community endowment of over \$224 million. The grant making organisation was created in 1988 from the community's former ownership of Trust Bank Southland. The sale of shareholdings in the Bank in 1996 formed the basis of the Trust's investment funds with income generated from these funds being distributed, through grants and scholarships, for the benefit of our communities. The funding area covers the Southland province and Queenstown, Glenorchy, Arrowtown, Tapanui and Heriot areas.

In 2007 Ngai Tahu Runanga of Murihiku gifted the name 'Te Pou Arataki Pounamu o Murihiku' meaning 'the stanchion that all pathways in Murihiku lead to where people obtain the treasures that enable them to fulfill their aspirations'. Formerly known as Community Trust Southland, the organisation renamed to Community Trust South in 2018.