

CENTRAL OTAGO HERITAGE TRUST

Minutes of the Special Meeting

5.30pm Wednesday 10 December 2025

***Online meeting**



PRESENT: Kate Goodfellow, Warwick Hawker, Russell Garbutt, David Hurd, Jenny Dixon, Ann Cowie

APOLOGIES: Pene Morris, Marco Creemers, Ross Naylor

This special online meeting was convened for the purpose of choosing a new Chair.

ELECTION OF NEW CHAIR

Russell Garbutt nominated Jenny Dixon to become the Chair for the Central Otago Heritage Trust, effective immediately.

Seconded: Warwick Hawker

Warwick indicated he had heard and read about Jenny. David Hurd acknowledged the unusual situation of appointing a new trustee to the Chair position but supported the motion due to Jenny's skills and the current environment. The group discussed the absence of other nominations and the importance of Jenny's experience. The nomination of Jenny Dixon as the new chair was then unanimously supported by the remaining attending board members, with members highlighting Jenny's relevant experience during a transitional period for the trust. Russell congratulated Jenny on behalf of the Trust. Jenny said she is looking forward to being on, and Chairing, the Trust, and expressed her commitment to enhancing the Trust's initiatives, particularly considering significant local government reforms. Jenny informed the Trust she will be absent from mid-March until early June. Russell said he is willing to step in as an interim Chair during this period.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Oral History Volunteers' Function

Ann sought approval from the Trust for a budget to cover the Oral History Volunteers' function/end-of-year get-together, which is also going to be a celebration of 100 Oral Histories published on the COHT website. Initial budget request was \$500 but David Hurd acknowledged this may be insufficient. An upper limit of \$1,000 was agreed for this event by the Trustees. The event is to be held at Orchard Garden on the afternoon of Wednesday 28 January, with Trustees also invited. Joanna and Ann to organise the specifics.

2. Next Board Meeting

Mid to late January was suggested for the first in-person board meeting of the new year. Ann to send a StrawPoll to Trustees to gauge availability.

3. DigitalNZ

Ann updated that COHT is now an official content partner with DigitalNZ, meaning content (metadata) from the COHT Oral History Catalogue can now be found on the DigitalNZ website; the content remains only on the COHT website, but thumbnails images and links appear on the DigitalNZ site, which will help increase the reach of the catalogue.

Meeting closed at 5.50pm