



17 April 2018

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Dear Peter

I would like to congratulate you on the official launch of the Southern Community Media Trust, in partnership with the University of Canterbury's School of Journalism.

Quality, balanced and accurate news is vital in a community such as ours in Queenstown Lakes District. At a time of sustained and unprecedented growth there is a need for significant investment in infrastructure and community services to meet the increasing demand from residents and visitors alike. It's essential for QLDC to be able to inform and engage with the community on very complex development projects.

Now, more than ever, we all need open debate and easy access to information about our communities, our future developments, and the key issues. Only through this can we have an informed conversation about where the Council should be investing capital budget, what services we need to be providing, and what are the issues pressuring our communities. We have a great mix of media channels in the district and the Southern Community Media Trust will no doubt add to that with a new voice.

The electronic age has made life extremely difficult for quality printed media. The traditional model for printed newspapers is a challenging one which has led to cost-cutting exercises. Quality in-depth investigative reporting is becoming a dying art due to the pressure of deadlines and diminishing resource. In these challenging but exciting times, I hope that the Southern Community Media Trust will bring that in-depth perspective on our district that is much needed alongside our existing rich media channels.

Kia kaha!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Boulton', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jim Boulton ONZM
MAYOR