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Brought to you by the Community Board Executive Committee

Dear member

The 2017, bi-annual, Community Boards Conference is just a few months away. I want to thank the Ashburton District Council and the Methven Community Board for offering to host the conference and for all the work that they have done to make it happen.

The theme of the 2017 conference is "Making 1 + 1 = 3" or, how can we as boards achieve more for our communities with the resources we are given. With the conference being held at the start of the new triennium, it is very appropriate that we challenge each other to expand our horizons in the work that we do on our boards, and in doing so, provide increased benefits to both our ratepayers and our parent councils.

We have gathered a range of exceptional speakers for the conference who are certain to inspire us and provide us, not only with confirmation that we are doing a top job in our communities, but more importantly, challenge us to do more in ways that we have not tried before.

Please mark your calendars and make sure that your community board representatives address your local councils to set aside budget for your conference attendance.

Programme and registration details will be available shortly. For more information [click here](#).

The last two conferences at Wanaka in 2013 and Waitangi in 2015 have certainly provided stimulation for those who have attended, and I am sure that what we have for you in 2017 will be bigger and better.

We will continue to update you with details in the coming months and look forward to seeing you there.

Mick Lester
Chair
Community Board Executive Committee

Sam Johnson confirmed in speaker line up

... farmboy turned disaster-recovery guru.

Sam Johnson is one of New Zealand's most inspiring young citizens. Farmboy turned disaster-recovery guru, Sam has a record of challenging the status quo, shattering stereotypes and literally shifting mountains with a few friends.

Sam has a strong vision for the positive change that can occur if the technology at our fingertips is harnessed to build stronger community relationships. To this end, he initiated the team of young people who organised the 11,000 strong Student Volunteer Army (SVA) following each of the major earthquakes in Christchurch. SVA mobilized an astonishing number of people through social media. Their legacy is drawn from one person who had the courage to build a team around their idea, moved egos out of the way, and co-created an international movement that students, boardrooms and politicians from all over the globe are learning from.



Sam led the SVA to Japan after the Great Northern Tsunami to work with a student community in Ishinomaki. He was initiated as a Global Changemaker at the British Council Asia Youth Summit in Delhi, India in July 2011. He met with the Head of the USA Red Cross Disaster Services in San Francisco, presented at the World Summit for Youth Volunteering in Colombia, and gave a keynote presentation at the Inaugural Massey University Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship Conference.

From devastation or despair, to mobilization and repair, Sam's experiences with natural disasters in Christchurch, Japan, the Philippines and while working alongside the UN have taught him a lifetime of knowledge in a few short years. He was awarded Young New Zealander of Year for his leadership, Communicator of the Year for his honest media commentary and a Sir Peter Blake Leadership Award to remind him never to rest on success. In Sam's world, there is no moment worth missing out on.

Community Board Best Practice Awards

Applications can be made for the Community Board Best Practice Awards which will be awarded at the CBEC conference dinner on 12 May 2017. Applications close on 17 March 2017. This year there are three categories as well as a supreme winner. The categories are:

Leadership: this category is focused on community boards which are exercising their leadership mandates in order to make improvement to their communities, such as:

- a successful advocacy campaign resulting in beneficial change,
- partnering with one or more agencies to improve local services, and/or
- utilising local papers or social media to successfully address a local issue.

Enhancing Communities: focuses on projects, programmes or initiatives which have been funded, commissioned or undertaken by a community board which have enhanced the quality of life and/or environment of their community. These projects may have:

- contributed to harmonious relationships and stronger community networks,
- developed local or neighbourhood amenities, and/or
- strengthened local cultural identity.

Engaging Communities: is concerned with community boards that have taken an innovative approach to consultation and engagement, such as:

- engaging with local organisations, for example Maori organisations, Hapu, business associations or community organisations, and/or
- increasing the participation of groups within their communities that have traditionally been under-represented in local affairs, such as young people and new residents.

For more information about the awards [click here](#).