



2026 CCHL Associate Directors announced

Christchurch City Holdings Limited (CCHL) is pleased to announce the appointment of nine new associate directors, as part of an ongoing programme to build governance capability in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

Established in 2014, the Associate Director programme is now in its sixth season. The programme provides 18 months of experience on one of the boards within the CCHL Group, as well as ChristchurchNZ and Venues Ōtautahi, offering valuable real-world experience to senior leaders embarking on their governance career.

Programme sponsor, CCHL Chair Bryan Pearson says the programme is designed to not only increase governance capability in the region, but also enhance the 'bench strength' of CCHL boards.

"We see the programme as a unique opportunity to not only give participants the knowledge and skills to develop their governance career, but to also create an environment where the talents of emerging directors are more visible to senior directors and chairs within the group," says Pearson.

"We'd like to congratulate this year's successful candidates, who have demonstrated their commercial acumen, strategic experience and a strong sense of civic duty, and thank them for the commitment they are making to the programme."

Selected from 197 applications, the nine successful candidates for the 2026 programme and their board placement are:

- Amanda Rooney – Christchurch City Holdings
- Anna Wilkes – EcoCentral
- Chris Selbie – Citycare
- Lawrie Saegers – Lyttelton Port
- Maria O'Halloran – Venues Ōtautahi
- Maru Rout – Christchurch International Airport
- Nick Maier – Enable Networks
- John O'Dea – Orion New Zealand
- Valentine Tauamiti – ChristchurchNZ

Programme partner Sheffield SI Limited, who were responsible for recruiting the associate directors, will provide the 18 month Cohort Learning and Delivery Programme.

Since its inception, 41 associate directors have taken part in the programme, including 26 women. Five of the CCHL Associate Director programme alumni have gone on to serve on CCHL Group boards.

"The programme has been a real success in providing a number of emerging directors with the opportunity to demonstrate their talents in an active board setting, while forging valuable connections across the group," says Pearson.

"We also recognise this programme wouldn't be possible without the commitment and support of the board chairs, mentors and each wider board."