



Huge thanks to all the students involved in bringing our Catalyst Trust Mayoral Candidate Forum to fruition last Thursday. And of course, staff supports Erin Sefo and Oded Nathan.

And thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised \$1012.80 koha, which will all be donated to the Wakatipu High School Awhi Fund.



Catalyst ran workshops with the students and Newsroom South Island editor David Williams in the weeks leading up to the forum, looking at what local councils do, how to research aspiring politicians and to question them.

Students led on sound, lighting and recording the forum for our Catalyst Trust YouTube channel. And comprised two thirds of the question panel, doing a great job of grilling the candidates with a very necessary youthful perspective.

If you missed it on the night, you can watch the forum at your leisure at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS4PeF3xMMA>

As these great students can tell you, it's worth making an informed vote. The mayor is an important shaper of our democracy. Much more than the one vote around the table that they have. If it is a tied vote, they get the decisive casting vote. This happened quite a lot, on big issues, over the past term.



They also get to shape the agenda, the information flow, how the council works together or doesn't, how inclusive council is of our community, how the council and our community is represented...

He's our only fulltime councillor. It's a big job. The candidates' answers to student, journalist and community questions might help you judge who you think would do it best. Please feel free to share the [forum link](#) and this opportunity!

Any students interested in how our community chooses its leaders, and how these leaders choose their policies, might want to pay particular attention – it could be your turn in three years. And if you can, please do vote.