



Volunteering Tasmania's Board of Directors - 2016



Rachel Steven (Chair)

Rachel is currently employed by Hydro Tasmania as the Government Relations Manager. She has worked with Hydro Tasmania for over 12 years. Her interest in volunteering was reinvigorated by the 'skills in action' program which is Hydro Tasmania's way of providing pro-bono professional expertise to community groups.

Rachel has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Tasmania and has a Masters of Regulatory economics from the ANU. She is a Company Directors graduate, graduating with an order of merit.

Rachel is passionate in developing young people and actively mentors new graduates and promotes the exiting opportunities available to them through volunteering. She is an active volunteer who derives great pleasure in sharing her skills and finds that she gains as much rewards as the people she is working with.

Michelle Ewington (Deputy)

Michelle has experience within the corporate and community sectors in Learning & Development, Project Management and Organisational Culture.

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Michelle is employed by Red Cross and in her role as Manager – Youth, Families and Communities oversees a number of staff and community related programs, with a key interest in community engagement, strengths based approaches to community development, volunteer participation and youth engagement.

Michelle has strong facilitation skills. She has a passion for people, leadership development, individual growth and the development of organisational culture. Michelle joined the VT Board in 2007.

Claire Horner (Treasurer)

Claire has been a member of the VT Board since September 2011. She holds a Bachelor of Business with First Class Honours and is presently undertaking a PhD in Accounting and Corporate Governance at the University of Tasmania, her area of research being corporate social responsibility, with a focus on social and environmental accounting and reporting.

Claire's chosen area of research reflects her personal values, as she ardently believes in the value of making a positive contribution to the community. She has held a Directorship position with Greening Australia Tasmania since October 2010, and is a member of The Golden Key International Honour Society. Having worked in the legal industry for over ten years, she also has experience in a variety of roles including compliance and management.

Chris Bennett

Christine has extensive experience as a volunteer which includes: almost 40 years in hockey (Board, committees, coaching, managing, umpiring, events, redevelopment); more than 10 years with "Look Good Feel Better"; many years on the school P&F and other committees and the Consumer Reference Group for Cancer Screening Services, as well various roles through church.

She has run a successful direct sales business for 27 years and was the volunteer Director of Operations at the Tasmanian Hockey Centre for over 13 years overseeing ground, bar, kiosk, tenants etc. This involved supervising up to 15 staff as well as dealing with local and state governments.

Christine worked with Centacare as Volunteer Manager of 150 volunteers in the Humanitarian Program for over three years and has managed many teams of volunteers in hockey and other areas of the community. Christine was awarded an OAM for services to hockey and the community.

Christine has a passion for volunteering and the important role it plays in our society.

Donald Coventry

Donald Coventry has 27 years senior executive level experience in both the arts and the environment/natural resource management (NRM) in Australia.

He has twice been a public art gallery director (Latrobe and Cairns), a radio station manager (3MBS-FM), CEO of the national scientific research and conservation organisation Birds Australia (now Birdlife Australia), CEO of Southern Gulf Catchments in Queensland, a Regional Director for

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the Department of Primary Industries in Victoria, and is currently CEO of NRM South in southern Tasmania.

He has extensive knowledge of catchment based NRM planning, project development and management, environmental management and sustainable agriculture. He recently graduated from Monash University with a Masters of Environmental Science, via a research thesis focussing on Oil Vulnerability and Agriculture.

Claire Ellis

Dr Claire Ellis runs her own consulting company focussing on strategic projects as well as those requiring a focussed analysis to find the best path forward.

Claire also is an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Tasmania actively researching in several areas including employment issues for international students, cruise shipping and volunteer tourism.

Prior to consulting, Claire was Director, Infrastructure and Industry Development, at Tourism Tasmania, and oversaw a number of key areas of work including growing the capacity of Tasmania's tourism industry in the digital environment. Claire has also been Chair of the National Long Term Tourism Strategy's Destination Management Planning Working Group. During her six years in Tourism Tasmania Claire has worked closely with key projects including the selection and development of the Three Capes Track.

Helen Geard

Helen works part time as a Natural Resource Management Facilitator / Project Officer with the Southern Midlands Council working with landholders and the wider to community to achieve positive environmental outcomes.

She enjoys volunteering for a number of organisations including Girl Guides Australia, the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania, the Uniting Church of Australia and Midlands Tree Committee. Her interest in volunteering started while she was a member of the Rural Youth Organisation of Tasmania and Agfest field days organising committee.

Helen holds a Graduate Diploma of Environmental Studies and is a graduate of the Australian Rural Leadership Program. She is a strong advocate for the role volunteers play within our community.

Liz Lester

James McAlpine

James is a business leader with experience in Australia and overseas. He is an engineer by profession and has extensive board experience, particularly in Tasmania. He recently completed tenure as a Commissioner on the bench of the Tasmanian Industrial Commission, a position he held for 8 years, prior to which he was General Manager of the then Pasminco Hobart Smelter, until 2001.

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Stephen Porter

Stephen Porter is a HR professional with a strong business background and Board experience. A founding Director of Searson Buck, he has worked at CEO level and currently provides help to organisations and people through consulting, coaching, mentoring and mediation services. His focus is on assisting people with their personal development, career and business success.

Stephen has a B.Comm, Grad Dip Mgt, and a MBA. He appreciates the value of volunteering and sits on five not for profit Boards and councils where he enjoys an active contribution.