

Volunteering Tasmania's Board of Directors - 2018



Georgie Ibbott (Chair)

Georgie Ibbott is a highly qualified executive operating a niche consulting business in Tasmania called Marketing Solutions. Prior to this Georgie successfully led a not-for-profit organisation in the health sector, orchestrated the state-wide merger project for Lifeline Tasmania, plus has extensive experience in the utilities and fast moving consumer goods sectors. She has held various high level executive and Board roles and is motivated to apply her skills to Volunteering Tasmania to ensure the organisation continues to be relevant and sustainable.

Georgie is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Marketing Institute. Her qualifications include Master of Business Administration, Bachelor of Commerce and the AICD Company Directors Course.

Donald Coventry (Deputy Chair)

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

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Donald 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.

Sonia Shimeld (Treasurer)

Dr Sonia Shimeld is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer with the University of Tasmania, actively researching in governance and accountability. Sonia's PhD focused on governance in the not-for-profit volunteer sector.

Prior to and during her extensive academic career, Sonia worked extensively assisting volunteers and small business in understanding accounting, taxation, financial management and governance. Pursuing her passion of working with volunteers, Sonia is a volunteer board member of three other boards: Chair of Women's Legal Services Tasmania and Treasurer of Mature Artists Dance Experience and the Franklin Working Waterfront.

Michelle Ewington (Volunteering Australia representative)

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

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 Ellis

Dr Claire Ellis currently runs her own company, Claire Ellis Consulting, focusing on tourism and regional development opportunities across Australia. She grew up in Tasmania, but also spent 14 years living and working overseas, mostly in Asia, working across both tourism and conservation. Her varied career includes operating a small tourism company, being an employee for tourism operators and NFP conservation agencies, working in Federal and State Government, and being

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an academic and researcher as well as working as a consultant. Her volunteering background is mostly within conservation and sport and recreation.

Claire is also a Board member of NRM South, Deputy Chair of Ecotourism Australia and a Board Member of the Australian Wildlife Collection. She is a graduate of the AICD's Company Director course, holds a PhD is from the School of Geography and Environmental Studies at UTAS (volunteer tourism) and is an Honorary Research Associate at the University of Tasmania.

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.

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.

Lauretta Stace

Lauretta is a highly experienced and commercially astute executive with three decades of leadership and senior management experience in both the not-for-profit and commercial sectors, predominantly within health-related organisations and associations.

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Lauretta moved to Tasmania from Sydney in 2017 to reap the positive benefits of a lifestyle change and is currently the Business Services Manager for Hobart City Mission. Prior to this, Lauretta held a general management role within a large, not-for-profit aged care organisation and was the CEO of Fitness Australia, the peak industry association for the health and fitness industry, for 11 years. Lauretta has qualifications in science, business and human resource management and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has also held several directorships in the not-for-profit sector. Lauretta is a passionate advocate for community health and wellbeing and sees volunteering as a major contributor to building strong, connected and resilient communities.

Ainstie Wagner

Ainstie has been the Executive Chef at Government House, Tasmania for many years. This is her fourth time back in that position with her first stint in 1987 as the first female Executive Chef as well as the youngest at 24. She has left a few times to explore other work and to refresh her skills.

On this return Ainstie has included into her role, a big involvement in the Government House new Community Engagement Program. This includes student work placements, day programs for Veteran's and teachers professional development. Ainstie is also heavily involved in community fundraisers and information sessions with local associations as well as numerous school kitchens. Here she works with students to prepare and serve the food they have grown at their schools.

Ainstie is a member, past President and board member of the Rotary Club of Salamanca and a board member of Eat Well Tasmania. She is an ardent supporter of small local produce suppliers and constantly promotes and advocates the importance and benefits of eating locally grown food. She also advocates for the value of growing and producing your own harvest.

Ainstie is deeply interested in making Tasmanian local produce accessible and affordable to all families. Because of her big involvement in the community, Ainstie is deeply aware of how important the volunteering community is to the public good.

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