



Women on Boards Networking Event

1 September 2004
Melbourne, Vic

Mentor biographies

Elizabeth Alexander AM

Elizabeth is a Director of Amcor, Boral Ltd, CSL Ltd, Winston Churchill Memorial Trust. She is Chairman of Board of Advice to the Salvation Army (Southern Command), a member of the Takeovers Panel and Financial Reporting Council. She is a former President Australian Institute of Company Directors, a former Director of Gas & Fuel Corporation of Victoria and past State and former National President Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants. She is a former Partner PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Anne Astin

Anne is the Chief Executive Officer of Dairy Food Safety Victoria and a director of Dairy Australia. She has worked in a variety of roles in environment, public health, forensic science, agriculture, minerals and corporate areas. Anne has considerable experience in leading public sector organisations through change and in customer service delivery. Anne was previously a director at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. She has chaired several committees, including DNRE's Audit Committee and the Dairy Quality Assurance Working Party.

Cheryl Batagol

Cheryl is Chair of Melbourne Water and has 30 years' experience in the waste management industry, including commercial, industrial and trade waste management and treatment. She is currently chairperson of EcoRecycle Victoria and a former director of City West Water. Ms Batagol has also been involved with EPA Victoria and the Co-operative Research Centre for Pollution Control and Waste Management.

Joh Barker

Joh has a strong commercial background with an emphasis on change management initiatives. First appointed as a director of the now privatised Victorian Egg Marketing Board, Joh quickly moved onto various Government and Statutory Boards and, more recently, was appointed CFO and Board member responsible for the listing of SMS - a major professional services company in the IT industry.

Joh currently has a portfolio of board and consulting assignments. Her strengths are finance and governance particularly complex stakeholder relations and new business initiatives.

Jay Bonnington

Jay has been CEO of the Make –A- Wish Foundation of Australia (MAWF) since November 2002. She is also Chair of Dental Health Services Victoria, a Director of Vic Power Trading and Warrnambool Dairy Co-Operative, a member of the Gippsland Water Authority and a Trustee of Health Superannuation Funds Ltd and the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Between 1999 and 2001, Jay was a National Director of CPA Australia and prior to that Head of Financial Services at NEMMCO (National Electricity Management Co.) She was Finance Director/CFO of Yallourn Energy from 1995 – 1997 (\$2.6 billion entity) and also held a range of senior management positions in construction/engineering and manufacturing industries, including ten years with the large Construction Group Transfield between 1985-1995.

Anne Dalton

Anne is a partner with the lawfirm, Blake Dawson Waldron. She has been practising in the areas of corporate/litigation and government law for more than 15 years. Anne focuses on:

- Corporate governance (including probity) issues both in the private and public sector;
- Statutory interpretation; and
- Complex corporate litigation.

Anne has lectured in law subjects at the Australian National University and at RMIT. Prior to joining BDW, Anne held senior positions in the (then) Australian Securities Commission and was a member of the Victorian Bar for six years. Anne was appointed to the RMIT Council in May 2003 and is the Chair of RMIT Innovations P/L.

Cathy Donovan

Cathy Donovan is Assistant Director in the Office of Women's Policy. Prior to joining the public service Cathy was a member of a government board as the Deputy Chairperson of the Eastern Regional Council of Adult Education and prior to this held a board position on the Southern Western Port Regional Council of Adult Education.

She is currently the Victorian co-convenor of the national women's network Women in Vocational Education and was the national convenor of this network from 2000 - 2002. Cathy has held many voluntary positions alongside her working life which have developed skills important for work on boards such as President of Binnak Park Kindergarten and Sherbourne Primary School Council.

Teresa Dyson

Teresa acts for financial institutions, financial packagers, governments, major corporate clients and responsible entities of managed investment funds, providing taxation advice in relation to a range of matters. She is a member of the Tax Subcommittee of the Australian Securitisation Forum and a fellow of the Taxation Institute of Australia. Teresa frequently presents at industry conferences and seminars and has published articles in industry journals on tax issues in relation to asset and project finance arrangements, privatisations, infrastructure and general corporate tax issues.

Mary Gillett

Mary is the Parliamentary Secretary, Volunteers and Commonwealth Games and Women's Affairs. Mary was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly in Victoria in 1996, representing the seat of Tarneil.

Jane Harvey

Jane is a former partner with Price Waterhouse Coopers who retired in 2002 to pursue a career as a non-executive director. Her current directorships include The Lyceum Club, Bayside Health Services, (The Alfred, Caulfield and Sandringham Hospitals), Rural Finance Corporation Limited, Victorian Managed Insurance Authority, Royal Flying Doctor Service (Vic), Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman and the Legal Practice Board. Jane sits on the audit and finance committees for many of these boards.

Alana Johnson

Alana is a partner in Lurg Cattle Co., which operates an innovative cattle breeding and agro forestry enterprise near Benalla in NE Victoria. In 1992, Alana co-founded the Telos group, which engages in a range of development and consultation activities with rural communities, government agencies and rural businesses.

Alana is a Director (and past National President) of the Foundation for Aust. Agricultural Women and a Director of the Victorian Women's Trust, the Benalla Hospital and the TomorrowToday Community Foundation. She is about to be inducted as a *champion* for Watermark Australia, a statewide independent civic engagement water project to be launched by the Victorian Women's Trust in September 2004.

Val Lang

Val has a strong and continuing involvement in rural women's organisations. She is a member of VICWIRC, the rural women's advisory group to the Victorian Government and a director of the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women and the National Rural Women's Coalition. Val has more than 10 years experience as a director on a series of rural hospital boards during amalgamations and the Corangamite Catchment Land Protection Board. She is a director of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

Leon L'Huillier

Leon is a Director of Woolworths Ltd, and a Director and Member of the Audit Committee of Repco, the Automotive Parts Group). He Chairs the Co-operative Research Centre for Eye Research and Technology.

Leon is an experienced Chief Executive and Company Director in the grocery manufacturing and liquor industries, most recently as the CEO of Lion Nathan Australia Pty Ltd. He was previously a Director and Audit Committee Chair of Fortis Ltd, a Director of MPG Logistics (now part of Mayne Logistics) and was the former Chair of the Australian Prime Property Fund, one of Australia's largest retail shopping centre groups. He is a former Director of MLC Ltd and Challenge Bank Ltd.

Bev O'Connor

Bev broke new ground by being the first woman appointed to the Melbourne Football Club, where she currently serves as the Vice-President. She has been on the board for five years.

Bev has been a journalist and presenter for 17 years, mainly with the ABC in Melbourne, and more recently with Channel Seven in Melbourne. She hosted ABC TV's Saturday sports coverage for seven years and remains a contributor to its VFL coverage.

As a reporter Bev specialised in economics and politics, hosting the 774 ABC Melbourne breakfast program and a late night news and current affairs program. She remains a regular contributor and relief presenter for the station. Bev presents the weekend ABC Asia Pacific news service broadcasting to 17 million households in the region.

Susan Oliver

Susan Oliver is the Managing Director of Futures Alliance, an Australian consulting practice in strategic planning, futures studies and scenario planning. She is a non-executive director and chairman of several public and private sector organisations and sits on the Boards of Transurban City Link, Medical Benefits Fund, Programmed Maintenance Services, The Smith Family, Methodist Ladies College and the Australian Foresight Institute at Swinburne University in Victoria. Susan was previously chairman of ScreenSound Australia, a founding Director of the Big Issue Australia, Managing Director of the Australian Commission for the Future, a member of the Victorian Premiers Multimedia Taskforce, Director of Interact Events, Chair of FHA Design P/L and a Director of the Victorian Institute of Marine Sciences.

Genevieve Overell

Genevieve has extensive legal expertise in major property development projects for both the public and private sectors and heads the Property, Development & Infrastructure team in the Melbourne office of Sparke Helmore. She is a Victorian Councillor of the Property Council of Australia and Chair of the Australian Property Law Group (Victoria). Genevieve holds a number of board appointments and is an active member of the Law Institute of Victoria.

Kate Palmer

Kate is Chief Executive of Netball Victoria, a not for profit State sporting organisation, governed by a volunteer Board of 9, including the CEO. Kate is a member of the Australian Institute of Management, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Deakin University Sport Management Program Advisory Group and the City of Melbourne Sport Grant Review Committee. A former State netballer, Kate now enjoys individual sports, being a keen triathlete, snow skier and golfer.

Leigh Snelling

Leigh is the Director, Projects and Policy for the Victorian Local Governance Association and represents it on Melbourne 2030 Implementation Reference Committee, the Good Governance Advisory Group and the VicHealth Board Local Government Advisory Committee. She works with the Women's Participation in Local Government Coalition where her primary objective is to strengthen the role of elected Councillors by enhancing their capacities and effectiveness.

Leigh has extensive experience as a Board member and Chair of community based and not for profit organisations. She has been Chair of the Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies (CERES) for two years and is currently also a member of the Moreland Arts Board. She was the inaugural interim Chair of the Moreland Energy Foundation Limited.

Jane Tongs

Jane is a member of the Institute of Company Directors, the Institute of Chartered Accountants and the Institute of Internal Auditors. She has a Bachelor of Business from RMIT, an MBA from Melbourne University and is a Williamson Community Leadership Fellow. Prior to 1999, Jane was a Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers specialising in the financial services sector

Her current appointments include Chairman of Netwealth Investments Limited and a Director of the Government Superannuation Office, Work cover South Australia, Leadership Victoria and the Australia East Timor Foundation. She has previously been Chairman of Australian Alpine Enterprises, Deputy Chairman Bayside Health Services as well as a Director of a number of other enterprises.

Lisa Wilson

Lisa is a senior manager and agribusiness professional with 17 years experience across a diverse range of roles. She joined AWB Limited (formerly the Australian Wheat Board) in 1991 and is currently AWB's Senior Manager Marketing & Compliance. In this capacity she manages the strategic development and delivery of the marketing and communications program for AWB International (AWB's "single desk" wheat export subsidiary) and the AWB National Pool. She also manages the corporate governance and compliance framework that underpins AWB International's relationship with AWB Limited.

Lisa is a Director of the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (since 2001), was a founding Board member of the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women (1994-1998). She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Helen Vorrath BSc BA MBA (Melb) FACS

Helen has 37 years experience as a practising IT professional, manager and consultant. Past employers include ICL, Alcoa, Fenwick Software, Computer Power, Micro-Energy and SMS Management & Technology, where she briefly held the position of MD.

Currently she specialises in strategic work including review of systems, organisations, projects and processes, working for her own company Livenet.

In the 1980s, Helen was a member of a number State and Federal Government Boards and Committees. These included the Technical Standing Committee of AIRDIB, the Administrative Review Council, the Victorian Prison Industries Commission, the Victorian Economic Development Corporation, and the Civil Aviation Authority. The last three were involved in major controversy, so perhaps it is not surprising that she has not had any Board involvement since that time.

Julie Ankers (MC)

Julie is the Founder and Managing Director of EnterTrainers & Speakers, a speakers and trainers bureau that has been working with organisations since 1992 to provide trainers, consultants, facilitators, speakers and entertainers.

As well as being a past Director of the National Foundation for Australian Women, Julie has had a long involvement with Zonta and is immediate past Area 1 Director and past President of Sydney Breakfast. She is currently on the District Nominating Committee.

The WOB Team

Claire Braund

Claire is a director of The Regional Institute Ltd, a not-for-profit publishing business. She works with professional societies, government and other not-for-profit associations to assist them integrate their communication activities and make research and educational information freely available via the Internet.

Claire is also a director of the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women and represented it on the National Rural Women's Coalition from its establishment in 2001 to 2003.

Prior to setting up her own business, Claire was the founding executive officer of the Australian Beef Association. She has worked as the Media and Communications Manager for Cotton Australia and was a journalist with Rural Press for five years, including 18 months in the Hobart press gallery.

Ruth Medd

Ruth is a President of the National Foundation for Australian Women, Chair of Australian Ethical Super Ltd, a director of The Infants Home Ashfield and a member of the NSW Casino Control Authority.

In previous roles she was the Executive Director of the Australian Association of National Advertisers and held senior positions with Telstra, the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal and the Federal government.

Karen Heck

Until her move to Sydney five years ago, Karen was CEO of her family's sugar business, the Rocky Point Sugar Mill & Distillery located outside Brisbane. She now has her own management consulting business, AJB Consulting Group, specializing in strategic planning, change management, negotiation and mediation and succession planning for family businesses.

Karen has been a director of several government organisations and private companies. She is on the board of the Foundation for Australian Agricultural Women.

Tracy Osterfield

Tracy is Managing Director of Customised Solutions Pty Ltd, a consultancy business based in Brisbane. Currently Tracy is on the Advisory Committee for the Spoon Deli/Café group. Prior to running her own business, Tracy was Group Financial Controller for Flight Centre Limited. As part of the senior executive Tracy was an integral part of the transition from private to public company and on going strategic management.