



YHA LTD BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018/19



YHA Ltd Board of Directors, 2018-19: Pictured, left to right: Bronwyn Dallow, Simon Spicer, Tracey Powell, Michael McPhail, Ross McDougall, Euan Prentice, Rob McGuirk (Chair), Julian Ledger (CEO), Leonie Clark, Matthew McNeil.

At the time of their election or appointment, each Director was invited to write a statement of not more than 125 words. The words below have been edited from those statements.

ROB MCGUIRK (Chair)

I benefited greatly from experiences with YHA and the people I met while travelling overseas after completing my law degree. I believe in making such experiences available to as many people as possible. I first joined the Board of YHA Victoria and served for many years as a Director and Chair. My experience in law, commercial property, financial services, corporate governance and IT enable me to contribute substantially to the strategic direction of YHA. I also served on the Hostelling International Board, including two terms as Vice President (2004-6 and 2010-12) and as Chair of Asia Regional committees. Understanding Asia is critical for our future it being our main source of new business.

EUAN PRENTICE (Vice-Chair)

I have had the privilege of being on the YHA Board for the last six years and am the current Vice Chair as well as sitting on the Audit & Risk and Nominations committee. I have a diverse business background having worked for airlines as well as managing internet, marketing and research businesses. These experiences will allow me to continue to contribute to YHA as it navigates rapid changes in technology and the needs and expectations of younger generations. In my view, a core part of travelling is meeting and engaging with people, and hostels facilitate this more than any other form of accommodation.

LEONIE CLARK

I joined YHA to travel Europe, and grew to love the interesting variety of hostels, locations and people in our network, and to appreciate the culture of safety and sustainability. In my current role as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, I take my duties and obligations as a director very seriously. With my accounting qualifications and experience, corporate governance qualifications and commercial outlook, I am committed to helping all directors to understand YHA's financial health, managing the risks of the organisation and embracing opportunities for the benefit of both present and future members.

BRONWYN DALLOW

I first joined YHA at twenty-one, to travel independently and safely around the world, and meet other young people. Re-joining YHA in 2012 has re-ignited my passion.

I offer extensive experience in hospitality/tourism, membership organisations, Not-for-Profit and commercial services in senior executive roles, with AICD governance training and a Master of International Management.

I believe I can make a significant contribution to addressing the challenges of a membership-based organisation staying relevant to young people in a fast changing, technology connected global market. The impacts of: new disruptive forms of competitive service offerings; government policy; market access for growth and new business; and YHA's strategies for providing the unique traveller experience Australia can offer excites me to contribute to YHA for its current and future members.

ROSS MCDUGALL

I'm an immigration and refugee lawyer with my own practice in Adelaide. I was motivated to work with refugees following my extensive backpacking experiences, particularly in developing countries. My love of travel also led me to work for YHA some years ago. As Operations Manager in Victoria I was responsible for the concept, planning and delivery of two of YHA's popular environmental hostels - Apollo Bay and the Grampians. I'm also a Registered Building Practitioner and a Certified Building Biologist with a strong interest in the design, construction and maintenance of sustainable, attractive, environmental buildings. I advocate for YHA to maintain a focus on environmentalism in its operations and new hostel developments – for the benefit of YHA members and the environment.

MATTHEW MCNEIL

Having experienced much of the world (including Australia) as a budget traveller for the last 24 years and still loving the experience of hostelling and travel, I feel I have the skills, experience and ideas to assist in the development and future of YHA. I am a registered Senior Architect, and Associate of a medium sized Sydney based architectural firm, specialising in Student Housing, Hospitality, Adaptive Reuse and Project Management. Although Sydney born, I have also previously lived and worked overseas. I am specifically interested in YHA's strategies for providing a great product, all which will encourage travel, social interaction, and the experience of new cultures throughout the world.

MICHAEL MCPHAIL

I'm based in Perth, and currently work as a commercial property marketer, marketing apartment projects on behalf of developer clients. Formerly the Vice Chair of the YHA WA Board, I joined the YHA Ltd Board on 1st September 2017 following a national merger. With a degree in Urban Planning (including studies at University College London), and as the Deputy Mayor of East Fremantle, I take an active interest in urban affairs. I'm a dual Australian/American citizen, and have travelled widely. Some of my more memorable trips include China, Morocco and North Korea. In my spare time, I enjoy paddle boarding, surfing and photography. I'm a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

SIMON SPICER (APPOINTED UNTIL 2020 AGM)

My first experience of YHA was when I stayed in a YHA hostel at Byron Bay while doing a dive course at the end of my Economics degree. Since then I have been fortunate to have travelled around Australia, Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific.

I am a chartered accountant, a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and have worked in senior executive roles in three continents across a range of businesses and industries over the last 35 years. In addition to my broad, commercial, financial and strategic experience, I also have specific expertise in property, business and digital transformation and governance, including for not-for-profit, member-based organisations.

I embrace YHA's mission and continue to be amazed at the incredible people you meet everywhere.

TRACEY POWELL

I first joined YHA as a backpacker in 1994, and my passion for travel and the YHA ethos continues to this day. With a strong corporate background, qualifications in business, marketing and HR, and education, tourism and hospitality knowledge, I also have extensive board and senior executive experience. I served as Chair of YHA SA from 2011, and was elected to the Board of YHA Australia in 2013 including being elected Vice Chair in 2014 and 2015. I have been on the YHA Ltd Board since Jan 2014 and I chair the Nominations & Remuneration Committee. I am committed to ensuring YHA has the financial health and strategic vision to successfully navigate the changing tourism landscape and benefit future generations of YHA customers.