



# Adelaide Hills

## ADELAIDE HILLS TOURISM BOARD MEMBERS

July 2021



### **Martin Radcliffe, Chair**

With a strong passion for South Australia and the Hills, Martin was appointed to the Adelaide Hills Tourism Board as Chair in July 2021. He is an accomplished business leader, with strong commercial acumen and an influential wide-reaching network. Martin brings a wealth of experience in tourism, destination marketing, and hospitality, having previously been the General Manager of Adelaide's Mayfair Hotel and Adabco Boutique Hotel. He led sales and marketing for the Adelaide Convention Bureau for over seven years, enjoying success in attracting international and domestic incentive travel, conferences and other business events to the state. He also has extensive experience in the UK, representing major corporations across the hospitality, events, and leisure sectors. Martin currently runs a business consultancy, 'A Way with Words Business Services', which assists a broad spectrum of businesses and sectors with their strategy, business development, marketing, and communications. This work includes supporting tourism and hospitality operators with their growth, marketing, and communication endeavours.



### **James Sellers, Deputy Chair**

James is an engaging business professional who has specialised in growing large site tourism destinations in the Adelaide Hills for more than 10 years. Business development driven early in his career, James moved to Melbourne working in the private equity sector where he was promoted to his first GM role, controlling large retail and B2B portfolios across Melbourne and Adelaide. James's passion, however, lay in tourism. Coupled with a desire to return to Adelaide he accepted the position of Manager at Cleland Wildlife Park. In this role James and his team achieved outstanding growth in revenue, visitor numbers and product development elevating Cleland's status as an iconic tourism site. As General Manager of Woodhouse Activity Centre now for the past four years, James has brought commercial acumen and a resurgence of visitation to the iconic property. Well on the way to developing the site into a cherished destination for locals and visitors alike, Woodhouse continues to go from strength to strength. James enjoys time spent with family and carries out a spokesperson role for the MS Society.



### **Trudy Dickson, Treasurer**

Trudy has held Senior Executive positions within large international companies over her 30-year corporate career, and established her first business within the Human Resources sector in 2009. In 2016 she co-founded their family business, Ambleside Distillers in Hahndorf, which includes both distilling and tasting bar operations. She also holds a number of Board and Executive Committee roles, including Treasurer of the Hahndorf Business and Tourism Association. Her broad business experience encompasses sales and marketing, financial management, human resources and operational management across a number of industries including health, human resources, tourism and beverage manufacturing.



### **Marc Voortman (Funding Partner Nominee)**

Marc Voortman is the General Manager Planning and Development at the Mount Barker District Council. Marc has over 15 years' experience in local government and has worked in various roles including strategic projects, strategic planning, and growth management in various management positions. During his career he has demonstrated a commitment to building positive working relationships across various sectors through a genuine interest in individuals, collaboration, partnership and desire for on ground outcomes. This approach has resulted in significant investment from the private sector in the region and contributed positively to the region. As General Manager Planning and Development Marc is responsible for Council's economic development, tourism development, strategic projects, planning, policy, environment, strategy and development assessment departments.



### **Damien Cooke**

Damien, Chief Executive Officer and Director for Regional Development Australia Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island is a prominent business leader. Damien has led various delegations to explore trade and investment opportunities for our region, a study to further investigate the Northern Rail Bypass and more recently exploring options for a study hub on the South Coast. Damien has been a long-term resident of the region and as a local business operator and primary producer he has a genuine understanding of the region and the potential of what the region has to offer.



### **David Waters (Funding Partner Nominee)**

David is the Director Community Capacity at the Adelaide Hills Council, with portfolio responsibility for economic development, events, community and cultural development, library and customer services, communications and community engagement. With 20 years' experience working in state and local governments in metropolitan and regional areas both here and interstate, David has a strong background in people leadership, project management, strategic planning and disaster recovery. In recent times, he has championed the establishment of the Fabrik arts and heritage hub at Lobethal and secured significant bushfire recovery funding for the region. As a long time Adelaide Hills local, David knows the region and is often found enjoying the local hospitality and experience offerings with his family on weekends.



### **Piers Brissenden**

Piers is General Manager of the state-wide Crown Lands Program within the Department for Environment and Water and since 2005 has worked in a variety of roles. In particular Piers has a great deal of experience in the area of National Parks and Natural Resource Management in the Adelaide Hills region. He has contributed to the planning and implementation of nature-based tourism and visitor management programs in parks within the Mount Lofty Ranges and has also had senior roles in managing the state's Native Vegetation Program, Coorong and Lower Lakes Project and the State Herbarium and Biological Survey Unit. Piers relishes his close connection to the environment, and the chance to help create opportunities for people to immerse themselves in nature is something he values greatly.



### **Damian McArdle**

Damian studied at Pedare Christian College before completing his qualifications as a heavy diesel mechanic in 2003. Damian returned to his family orchard in Paracombe in 2009 and completed his small business management certification through TAFE SA and Certificate 3 in production horticulture before taking over as CEO of Chamberlain Orchards. Damian founded Paracombe Premium Perry in 2012. He is an industry leader in agritourism with extensive experience in primary production. Since founding Paracombe Premium Perry and diversifying his family farm to be an Adelaide Hills destination with an onsite Cellar Door, Damian is achieving year on year growth of 200%. Damian was the Kersbrook Cooperative Society Vice Chairman from 2012-2015 and a member of the SA Apple & Pear Association. He is currently a Board member of Paracombe Recreational Grounds Incorporated.



### **Fiona LeSage**

Fiona joined Adelaide Hills Wine Region Association as Executive Officer in August 2020, bringing her key account management and global sales experience specialising in media and the wine industry to this important role. Fiona is highly experienced in driving results for prestigious brands while focused on providing the ultimate strategic project management of large-scale partnerships, activations and events. She has an extensive network with key relationships across a wide variety of wine industry and private sector stakeholders. Fiona is excited to further build on the close collaboration with Adelaide Hills Tourism and the region's partners to promote and drive growth of the Adelaide Hills region.

## **Adelaide Hills Tourism Wellness Project Sub-Committee**



### **Helen Edwards, Sub-Committee Chair (not an AHT Board Member)**

Helen Edwards, cofounder of The Lane Vineyard an Adelaide Hills wine and tourism business, has actively contributed to economic development and tourism in the Adelaide Hills through strategic leadership in the wine and tourism sectors for the past 13 years. As Chair of Adelaide Hills Tourism from 2011 to June 2021 and Chair of the first South Australian Regional Visitor Strategy Steering Committee since 2016 Helen has been part of collaborative industry efforts aligning the latest research on visitor trends with shared priorities about marketing, experience development, events and industry capability. Her extensive board experience in the health, education, wine and tourism sectors emphasises her ability to contribute as a team member, communicate with and engage relevant stakeholders, and use creativity and courage in strategic planning. In March 2020 Helen was appointed to the Board of the South Australian Tourism Commission. Helen was instrumental in securing significant bushfire recovery funding for the development of a wellness strategy and delivery of a wellness industry capability development event and consumer wellness event in the Adelaide Hills.

**James Sellers (AHT Deputy Chair)**

**Tanya Jarman (Project Officer)**

**Sally Smith (Project Officer)**