

# Board of Directors

An independent voluntary Board



## **Gillian Hirstman \_ President**

Gillian was an active member of the Wahroonga Auxiliary from 1997 until it closed in 2007. She joined the Board of Management in 2000 and was nominated as President in 2005. Gillian has vast experience in community fundraising, supporting charities throughout her life. She has extensive experience in administration and business operation, having run a successful family business for a number of years. Gillian has a passion for supporting young children and their families, which she has been committed to since childhood.  
Member since 2000



## **Anthea Jackson BSoc Stud, MSW \_ Senior Vice President**

Anthea is the Manager of UnitingCare Burnside's Family Services in Macarthur in South Western Sydney, which consists of two multifaceted Family Centres and an intensive child protection service. Anthea is a trained social worker with a Masters Degree and over 25 years experience working in early intervention and child protection services in both the government and non government sector. She has a particular passion for developing responsive services to meet the needs of marginalised and disadvantaged families.  
Member since 2005



## **Debbie Niulala CA, BBS (Accountancy), IIA Member**

Debbie is head of the internal audit department for Halifax Bank of Scotland Australia (HBOSA). She has over 10 years of consulting experience following a career with Deloitte based largely in the United Kingdom, although begun in New Zealand. Her experience has involved primarily the financial services sector, although she has provided consultancy and strategic risk management services to a number of higher and further education institutions (UK universities and colleges). Debbie brings a wide range of management expertise and professional skills to the organisation. Member since 2008



## **Anthony Kutra B.Ec (Hons), MBA**

Anthony has held various senior management and director positions with Australian and overseas entities, most recently being the Group Executive Strategy and Business Development at Dyno Nobel Limited. He has over 20 years experience in corporate and business development, covering the global mining services, chemical, mining and oil and gas industries. Anthony is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.  
Member since 2008



## **Chris Grundy BCom, FCA, FCIS, GAICD**

Chris has 25 years experience in commerce, and has held leading roles in general management, finance, operations, sales and marketing and investor relations in Australia, Britain and Southern Africa, and in professional services with Ernst & Young in Southern Africa. For the last 15 years he has worked in the Australian Life Sciences industry, with Bayer and other large Australian companies, including as CEO in private enterprise and CFO and Company Secretary for an ASX top 200 Company. Chris has two young children and a keen interest in contributing to the support of young children and their families.  
Member since 2009

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### **Mary Verschuer MBA, MScSoc, BAppSc \_Treasurer/ Vice President**

Mary runs her own company Sustainable Business Strategy working with organisations to embrace the principles of sustainable development within their business and coaching their senior leaders. She has over 10 years experience as a senior business manager and prior to that a number of years in sales and marketing management. Previous board experience includes charities, industry research and training bodies and overseas affiliates. Mary is able to develop interesting insights because of the wide variety of roles and industries she has been involved with. This adds to her skills and experience in management from both a people and business perspective, and sales and marketing to bring value to our Board. Member since 2008

Image to be supplied

### **Julia Sweeney Dip Apl Science (Nursing); Dip Law (LPAB)**

Julia Sweeney is a fulltime foster mother and her son attends The Infants Home. She is also a fulltime employed solicitor at Craddock Murray Neumann Lawyers specialising in medical negligence, other personal injury and general litigation. Julia has 8 years experience as a solicitor. Before her admission to the Supreme Court of New South Wales, Julia spent 16 years as an electoral assistant, a registered nurse in the NSW public health system, assistant to Kevin Connor of Counsel (as he then was), and as associate to His Honour Lance Wright, President of the NSW Industrial Relations Commission. Member since 2009



### **Michael Stilp B. Commerce**

Michael is currently Chief Executive Officer of equigroup, a technology asset finance company operating in Australia, NZ and Europe. Prior to joining equigroup Michael spent 9 years at General Electric and 10 years at HSBC. During this time he spent times in role ranging from Finance to Operations and leading a Business unit. These roles have presented opportunities to work with project teams in Hong Kong, London and the US. Michael has consistently received recognition for his outstanding leadership skills. Michael attended University of Wollongong, completing a Bachelor of Commerce. His post graduate expertise includes a Certified Practising Accountant, an Associate Diploma from the Securities Institute and a Masters of Management from MGSM. Michael lives in the Inner West. Member since 2009



### **Karen Craigie MComn, BMan**

Karen has worked across a broad range of commercial and not-for-profit sectors, both in Australia and the United Kingdom. Drawing on a diverse background of experience in the entertainment, travel, marketing, PR, environment and community service industries, Karen's expertise lies in communications, public relations, and media management. Karen has high-level experience delivering National behaviour change campaigns through mass media and communications outreach. She has a strong commitment to child welfare and protection, and is currently the Communications & Development Manager for the Child Abuse Prevention Service. Karen is also involved in developing and implementing communications strategies for Mission Australia's *Communities For Children* (Mt Druitt), and she has previous board experience in the field of family and children's services. Member since 2009

## **BOARD SUB COMMITTEES**

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Gillian Hirstman (President)  
Mary Verschuer (Chair)  
Michael Stilp

### **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:**

Gillian Hirstman (President)  
Anthea Jackson (Chair)  
Debbie Niulala

### **PROPERTY REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:**

Gillian Hirstman (President)  
Anthony Kutra (Chair)  
Anthea Jackson  
Mary Verschuer

## **HONORARY ADVISORS**

### **ARCHITECTS**

David Murray of Brewster Murray Pty. Ltd

### **AUDITORS**

Rob Peck of BDO Accountants Group

### **SOLICITOR**

John Gray of Gray & Perkins Lawyers

### **VISITING MEDICAL OFFICER**

Dr Eleanor Brumby

### **PATRON**

Sir Nicholas Shehadie AC OBE