

## **MEA ANNOUNCES NEW DIRECTORS AND OFFICE BEARERS**

**[For immediate release]**

Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) today held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), at which the results of its annual Board Director election ballot was announced.

Valid nominations were received from nine candidates whose profiles and policy statements were presented to MEA members with voting eligibility. Three positions were contested following resignations by incumbent Directors Nigel Collin, Kirsty Forbes and Paula Nolan.

The ballot produced a clear result which saw the three highest vote counts be received by:

- Megan Peters, General Manager, Lateral Event Management
- Tina Eggers, Director of Business Development, The Venues Collection
- Vicky Troptsidis, an individual member based in South Australia

A meeting of the new Board was held subsequent to the AGM, at which the offices of Chair, Deputy Chair, Treasurer and Company Secretary were determined. These office bearers moving forward are:

- Chair: Michael Firman, Harry the hirer
- Deputy Chair: Beverley Williamson, Melbourne Convention Bureau
- Treasurer: Paul Davison, SMC Conference & Function Centre
- Company Secretary: Peter McDonald, MEA CEO

Departing MEA chair Nigel Collin said “The calibre of nominations received for MEA Board positions this year is indicative of the strength and tenacity of our sector. I offer my personal congratulations to the 3 newly appointed MEA board members, and my continued support of the continuing existing members. MEA members and indeed the greater industry will benefit from their guidance, experience, and talent. MEA and its members are in safe and capable hands.”

He added “I am proud to have played a part in serving MEA members and the industry through the challenging COVID times, and for their efforts, passion, and vision I want to thank the Board members I worked alongside, Team MEA, and those others who gave their support in my time as Chair. With 2022 set to be the year of recovery and growth, I am looking forward to MEA’s continued support in helping MEA members and the sector go from strength to strength.”

Incoming MEA Chair Michael Firman said “On behalf of all continuing Directors, I congratulate Megan, Tina and Vicky on their election and look forward to their contributions to the Board as we collectively work to steward MEA in a post COVID world. Each of them brings unique experience that will add value to the strategic

leadership we seek to provide to primarily benefit MEA's members, but also in the interests and leadership of the greater events sector."

"As I reflect on what MEA means to me, MEA is the coach, the connector, the cheerleader; it is a community of industry leaders and like-minded individuals with shared experiences, challenges and aspirations. Being elected as Chair of the MEA Board is a great privilege and honour, but also incredibly humbling."

He added "The Board also wishes to acknowledge the departure of Nigel Collin, Kirsty Forbes and Paula Nolan from its ranks, and to sincerely thank them for their commitment, and loyalty to MEA during their tenures as Director. The impact of the pandemic on the MEA business has been heavy. A debt of gratitude is owed to each of them for the active hands-on role they played to keep the business operating throughout, in addition to the thought leadership they contributed during Board discussions. We wish them every success as they refocus their professional attention."

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**About MEA:** Meetings & Events Australia (MEA) is the collective voice of the events industry in Australia. With the largest network of event professionals in Australia, MEA has been supporting the careers of our members and advancing the interests of the event industry since 1975.

MEA's membership represents the largest community of businesses and individuals across the Australian events industry that employs more than 229,000 professionals who stage, produce, manage, support and supply the 480,000+ events held in Australia annually. These events include major events, festivals, conferences, meetings, exhibitions, launches, seminars, special events, community events and much more for associations, corporations, government and the general public.

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