

Candidates for Director

in the order shown on the Ballot Paper, randomly drawn.

Merilyn Bryce

Proposer: Tony Strong

Present Position: N/A

Lesley Scanlon

Proposer: Winsome Allen

Present Position: Vice President

John Michael Robinson

Proposer: Garry Wotherspoon

Present Position: N/A

Shirley Hunt

Proposer: Winsome Allen

Present Position: Director

Geoff Webb

Proposer: Lesley Scanlon

Present Position: Vice President

Eugene Stawski

Proposer: Shirley Hunt

Present Position: Treasurer

Ellen Elzey

Proposer: Helen Falconer

Present Position: N/A



MERILYN BRYCE

Standing For: Director

Proposer: Tony Strong

Present Position: N/A

Statement

I have been a member of SMSA for 25 years. In that time, I have greatly enjoyed its services and programs. The Library in particular has kept my mind alive and my spirits up. The School has aptly been called an oasis in the city. As a former member of the Board (2008 - 2011) I would like to contribute to the Schools' governance, forward planning, its services, program and membership so that it can continue to be a lively and welcoming part of a rapidly changing city.

Biography

Since 1966 I have worked in librarianship and related fields, including teaching at the School of Librarianship UNSW, for the Library Association of Australia (Continuing Education) and on large scale data base projects. This provided excellent experience working with diverse groups, coping with organisational change and IT's ever changing developments. For the last 20 years I have managed two specialist resources centres at the University of Sydney. I am passionate about history, reading, music and cats.



LESLEY SCANLON

Standing For: Director

Proposer: Winsome Allen

Present Position: Vice President

Statement

I am committed to providing quality programmes for all our members. I am Vice President of the Innovation and Programs Committee which has initiated numerous events including Christmas in July, the Festival Cook Book, A Taste of Opera, A Night at the Opera and Zoom presentations. In 2021, as coordinator of the 'Toward 200th Anniversary Project', I will be delivering the Carmichael Lecture and staging a re-enactment of an 1841 SMSA debate. In another initiative I am writing a comprehensive history of the early years of the SMSA, exploring the School's contribution to the educational and cultural life of Sydney.

Biography

I have spent my career teaching, lecturing and writing on historical and education issues. In TAFE, I coordinated programmes that encouraged women to re-enter the workforce, and disadvantaged students to re-engage with education. Before retiring I worked for twenty years in teacher education at the University of Sydney where I published books on education in disadvantaged schools. Now as an honorary lecturer of the University, I continue to research and publish on a diverse range of educational topics including the early history of the SMSA.



JOHN MICHAEL ROBINSON

Standing For: Director

Proposer: Garry Wotherspoon

Present Position: N/A

Statement

With my work and networking experience in the education, health and the NGO sectors, I bring operational and governance experience to the School. As an SMSA board member (2009 - 2016), I assisted in sourcing speakers from the museum, gallery and other cultural organisations providing diversity and interest to our events program for our members and the wider community. If elected I would like to expand our membership base to reflect our multicultural community as well as in fundraising activities.

Biography

With my political science and industrial relations studies (UNSW) and accounting and human resource management (TAFE) studies, I worked in the NSW Government, mainly in the education and health portfolios. I was also a board member of two community organisations (the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation & PLWH/A (NSW) Inc.), and have wide experience in liaising with governments and NGOs. My interests include walking, yoga, the arts and marketing of events.



SHIRLEY HUNT

Standing For: Director

Proposer: Winsome Allen

Present Position: Director

Statement

As a long-term member of the SMSA, I feel I am able to contribute my experience and knowledge of community-based organisations. Being a member has enabled me to participate and thoroughly enjoy the activities and events of the School and I have formed long-term friendships in doing so.

I have high regard for the School, and I hope to learn more about its day to day activities, and perhaps contribute my time and expertise. If re-elected to the Board, I will strive to continue the smooth and efficient running of the School.

Biography

I have been a member of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts for over 20 years and was first elected to the Board in 2012. I am an avid reader and enjoy the ambience of the Library and am a staunch supporter. I also enjoy meeting other members at SMSA events and regularly volunteer in the Tom Keneally Centre. My interests include theatre, films, swimming, walking and volunteering.



GEOFF WEBB

Standing For: Director

Proposer: Lesley Scanlon

Present Position: Vice President

Statement

I am a long time member of the SMSA and have received good services from it. As I am now retired, I can give back to the School and use my skills to further its aims and objectives. My membership of the Board provides an understanding of the School's tradition of excellent service to members through its wide selection of books to read and varied and interesting range of talks.

Biography

I have been a member of the SMSA for over 40 years, joining the School when I was a university student studying Electrical Engineering. I have served on the Board since 2009 and have been a Vice President for 10 years, being chair of the Building, Membership and Grants committees during that time. I bring an understanding of technical matters to the Board and I am happy to use my skills to maintain the School's service to members. My other interests include family and local history and enjoy reading science fiction and mystery books. I also enjoy travelling.



EUGENE STAWSKI

Standing For: Director

Proposer: Shirley Hunt

Present Position: Treasurer

Statement

I have been a member of the SMSA for 11 years. During that time, I have regularly attended talks, events and the library including the TKC. As an avid reader I enjoy history, including social history, travel, music, crime, mystery and science fiction. I have got to know a number of our amazing members, volunteers and staff. The SMSA is a terrific resource steeped in history going back some 188 years. If re-elected to the Board I will ensure that our traditions and values are preserved for generations to come.

Biography

Before retiring a number of years ago, I was the Financial Controller of Carpet Court Northern. Following my retirement, I held a part-time position with SMSA several years ago as Accounting Officer, making changes, contributions and suggestions for the improvement of the accounting system. My interests include tennis, skiing, canoeing, travelling, reading, family and friends. As a Director and Treasurer of the SMSA, I have focused on the continued success of the School financially.



ELLEN ELZEY

Standing For: Director

Proposer: Helen Falconer

Present Position: N/A

Statement

The SMSA has been an essential part of my life since the mid-1970s. I would like to use my life experiences in several fields to support the work of the SMSA as it moves towards the 200th year of its work in NSW.

Biography

Head Librarian, SMSA, January 1983 – mid-1994. Amongst other things, was responsible for putting the Library online.

Executive Officer (Secretary), SMSA, mid-1994 – Nov 2003. Oversaw purchase and rehabilitation of current building at 280 Pitt Street.

Extensive experience in finance, marketing and organisation governance.