

Disabled WinterSport Australia Board of Directors

James (Jim) Blackburn BApSci SDIAM GAICD - President

Jim comes from a research management background in fisheries, aquaculture and agribusiness. Graduating with distinction from the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania, Jim spent over ten years working in applied research as a field specialist and program manager. Jim joined Lonsec as an analyst in 2002 and after 4 years took on the role of Head of Agribusiness. In 2010, Jim completed his graduate diploma in Corporate Governance from the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Jim has been involved as a volunteer with DWA since 2001. After attaining his certification as ski guide, Jim has participated in over 50 ski camp programs. In 2007, Jim took on the role as President for Victoria, and begun his involvement as a director on the national board. He was heavily involved in the organisations transition to a national, unitary model over the period 2008 and 2009 and was elected as President for DWA in 2009, a position he currently holds. In 2010 Jim became one of the first DWA Certified Adaptive Trainers.

As the DWA delegate to Disability Sports Victoria (DSV) Jim has played a lead role with the assessment and advice of DSV options for its future structure and function.

Jim has also volunteered his time with Lord Somers Camp & Powerhouse Organisation (LSC&PH) since 2005. After working in staff and slush departments, Jim was asked to take on the role of Chef De Cuisine for the organisation in 2009. In this role Jim provides management of menus, catering, and cooking for a number of the organisations community program, working together with the LSC&PH staff and volunteers.

Joyce Parszos – Vice President

Joyce is a marketing and communications consultant with particular expertise in bringing arts, medical science and sports projects successfully into the national and international public arena.

Joyce has provided marketing and communications services to academics, journalists, medical scientific research professionals, corporate entities, universities, as well as local, state, federal and international governments.

The first Public Relations and Development Manager of the Museum of Contemporary Art Circular Quay Sydney, Joyce has also worked as a public servant, directing several key Public Affairs program with the Motor Accidents Authority of NSW.

Joyce currently serves as a director on the boards of the Australian Paralympic Committee, National Association for the Visual Arts and the Music and Opera Singers Trust Ltd and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

In 2000, Joyce was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her services to the Sydney Paralympic Games.

Eric Bickerton – Treasurer

Eric enjoyed a 20 year career with the Australian Navy achieving rank as a senior officer in the fields of Facilities and Property, and Marine Engineering. Eric gained post graduate qualifications in business and Venture Management and held positions as CEO and COO in Industry as well as consulted professionally to Corporate and Project Advisory in the areas of Asset Management , Corporate Governance and Corporate Strategy, business development.

Currently Eric's business activities include Corporate and Project Advisory roles, launch of own business venture importing and distributing and commencing a personal project for design and development of snow ski and snow boards to be custom made in Australia.

In addition to Eric's voluntary position on the DWA Board his other voluntary roles include National TD Commissioner for Ski and Snow Board Australia. Previously Eric's honorary roles have included the Board of Brave Hearts Australia, Committee of Sporting Associations within the Australian Military as well as the Australian Paralympic Winter Program.

Nicholas (Nick) Dean – Secretary

Nick Dean is a Vice President of the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) Board and Vice President of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Alpine Skiing Sport Technical Committee.

Nick's commitment to sport for people with a disability grew from his background as a ski instructor in Thredbo and his position as founding member and first Vice President of the Australian Professional Ski Instructors Association. Since then he has developed an interest in elite competition and participation for all athletes with a disability. This has had practical application in his appointment to successive winter Paralympic Teams since 1992 and to the Athens 2004 Team. Nick was a Deputy Chef de Mission of the 2008 and 2010 Paralympic Team.

Nick was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000, and is a past President of DWA (Disabled WinterSport Australia). Nick was awarded the APC's highest honour, the Paralympic Medal in 2005 for his commitment to sport for people with a disability.

Nick lives and works in Adelaide as Colliers International's consultant to the Australian Wine Industry and the current chair of Project Wine Pty Ltd, an important service provider to the wine industry. These roles compliment the Dean family's business as a major supplier of grapes to Petaluma Wines (Lion Nathan Ltd).

Alida Stanley – Director

Following her graduation from the University of New South Wales Law School in 1998, Alida worked as a solicitor at Mallesons Stephen Jaques practising telecommunications, intellectual property and information technology law. Early in her career Alida moved to New York and joined law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP where she specialised in intellectual property and information technology transactions, competition and regulatory law. Upon returning to Sydney in 2005, Alida worked as a solicitor in the arts and university sectors.

Alida has extensive experience in the not-for-profit sector as a director of Viscopy, the membership-based rights management organisation representing more than 7500 visual artists in Australia and New Zealand. She is also on the management committee of the Copyright Society of Australia and is currently Viscopy's Chief Executive. Alida is admitted to practise law in New South Wales and the State of New York and is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Alida is a keen proponent of winter sports and access for people with disabilities, having skied in Australia and around the world for more than 35 years. She was elected to the board of DWA in March 2011.

Ross Passalaqua – Director

Ross has broad commercial, operational, and technical experience ranging across multiple business sectors. After gaining his early professional experience with consulting engineers, Ross spent over 20 years with the Shell Group of Companies in a variety of technical, operational, commercial and finally senior management roles in various parts of Australia and internationally. In his most recent executive role, Ross spent over 4 years as the CEO of Falls Creek Alpine Resort. It was here that he formed an interest in DWA and an association with the DWA leadership group.

Ross also holds Board roles with South East Water and the North East Victoria Tourism Board.