

ELECTED DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

Clauses 12 & 13 of the Rowing SA Constitution state (in part):

The Board will comprise: (a) not less than five and up to seven Elected Directors elected under clause 13.

At least three (3) of the Elected Directors must retire every year.

Subject to clause 13.6(d), the term of office of each Elected Director ends at the conclusion of the second Annual General Meeting following their election, but the Elected Director is, subject to clause 13.6(e), eligible for re-election.

Nominations must be delivered to the Association not less than thirty-five (35) days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.

With four Directors due to retire from the Board this year, the Board's Skills Matrix analysis identifies the following skills and experience as the highest priority to strengthen Board representation going forward.

- Risk Management
- Business Development
- Strategic Planning
- Formal Accounting Qualifications/CPA (preferred)
- Philanthropy/Fundraising

The following are also valued by the Board, at a medium recruitment priority:

- Commercial and Partnerships
- Marketing, Branding, Public Relations and Communications
- Government and Government Relations, and Advocacy
- Community Sport and High-Performance Sport experience
- Information Technology and Digital Innovation
- Indoor Rowing, Coastal Rowing and Para-Rowing experience

Beyond technical skills, the Matrix Analysis also highlights the value the Board places on nominees who engage authentically, bring a growth mindset, collaborate well in problem-solving, and make evidence-based strategic decisions.

In line with Rowing SA's commitment to strong and contemporary governance, and the requirement to maintain at least 40% female representation on Boards to receive Government funding, we strongly encourage women to nominate.

As there have been five (5) nominations received for four (4) vacant Elected Director positions, an election will be required at the Annual General Meeting.

The following five nominations have been received (displayed in alphabetical order by surname):

- John Bentley
- Kathryn Presser AM
- Dr Richard Sawers AM
- Fearnley Szuster
- Greg Walters

Each of the nominees have provided a brief 1-page summary of their background and credentials, displayed over the following pages.

John Bentley Dip.T., B.Ed., Adv. Cert. Public Safety, OLY

I have had a long association with rowing, beginning in South Australia and extending across many levels and regions of the sport. My experience has included working as a rowing instructor at West Lakes Aquatic Centre, school rowing directorships and coaching, and representation at Olympic level. I have also been actively involved in outrigger canoeing, surfboat rowing and Americas Cup sailing.

This breadth of experience has given me a broad and considered perspective on rowing, particularly in relation to competition, coaching and high-performance rowing.

Over six seasons, I coached the South Australian State Masters Men to unprecedented success, including five consecutive Interstate Eights Championships and two Interstate Quad Sculls Championships. More recently, I coached three South Australian Masters athletes to three gold medals at the World Masters Rowing Championships in Bled.

As a proud South Australian who competed during an era of considerable State success, I am disappointed that, notwithstanding some notable achievements in male sculling and Victoria Cup competition, South Australia's Interstate rowing results over the past 25 years have generally not reflected the standard to which we should aspire.

If elected, my priorities would include:

1. **State Teams:** Review how South Australian State teams are promoted, selected and prepared, with the objective of developing a more successful and competitive State team program.
2. **Club Rowing:** Seek a review of ways to reinvigorate club rowing, with particular attention to participation, competition and the development of clear and effective competitive pathways.
3. **Development and Facilities:** I am encouraged by the major plans to redevelop the West Lakes rowing precinct. I have a number of ideas that I would like to contribute to this process, while also seeking to expand rowing opportunities, facilities and amenities throughout South Australia, particularly in regional areas.
4. **Dispute Resolution:** From my direct experience, I have formed the view that some Rowing SA internal dispute-resolution processes have not adequately reflected the principles of natural justice. I would advocate for appropriate independent external dispute-resolution mechanisms, providing members with confidence that complaints and disputes can be dealt with fairly, impartially and independently.
5. **Communication with Members:** I remain concerned about deficiencies in the way information is communicated by Rowing SA to competitive members. There have been numerous instances where important information has not reached competitors in a timely or direct manner, sometimes with significant consequences. I believe adult full-participant members should receive important Association communications directly in the first instance, rather than having to rely on information being filtered through clubs or other intermediaries. Direct feedback and input from full-participant members should also be actively sought by Rowing SA.
6. **Greater Member and Club Participation:** I believe quarterly club meetings should be more than information sessions. They should provide genuine opportunities for clubs and members to raise issues, put forward ideas and contribute to the direction of the Association. Similarly, greater transparency and member participation should be encouraged in the establishment and operation of Board subcommittees and working groups. Clubs and competitors should have a stronger voice in determining the issues considered and the priorities pursued by Rowing SA. I will also work towards the restoration of the constitutional right of full adult participants to requisition a Special General Meeting, a right previously available to them.

I have historically been prepared to speak frankly on matters where I believe improvement is needed. I regard constructive challenge as an important part of good governance. I also enjoy exploring new ideas, encouraging innovation and progressing aspirational projects.

I believe my broad experience across rowing and other aquatic sports would bring greater diversity of experience and opinion to the Board, particularly in competition and high-performance matters.

Most importantly, I would seek to strengthen the voice of Rowing SA's individual members and clubs in the governance and future direction of their Association.

Kathryn Presser AM BA (Acc), MBA, FAICD, FCGI, FCPA

Kathryn Presser AM is a Non-Executive Independent Director, Board, Financial and Governance Advisor.

Kathryn has over 30 years' experience in Executive Roles, having worked in several industries including resources, aviation, hospitality, banking and finance and accounting advisory and audit firms where she has had extensive experience in the management of financial transactions, governance, risk management and strategic planning.

Notably she had over 20 years' experience in ASX Top 200 listed Oil and Gas Company - Beach Energy as the CFO / Company Secretary until 2016, where she directed large financing transactions, major capital raising and a number of mergers and acquisitions.

Kathryn was selected for the inaugural AICD mentoring program and has completed the Harvard Leadership Program and University of Adelaide MBA Program. She has built on these programs and her Executive management roles to move into Director roles on several Federal and State Government and Financial Boards, including:

- Appointment to the Board of AEMO (the Australian Energy Monitoring Organisation), since January 2023 as well as a Member of the Audit and Risk Committee.
- The Board of the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (NRFC) and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee since September 2023.
- The Board of ASX Listed company Renascor Resources Limited, since June 2024.
- The Board of The Police Credit Union and Chair of the Board Audit Committee since 2015.
- Chair of the Walford Anglican School for Girls Foundation since 2023.
- Chair of the Risk and Performance Committee for the Department of Energy and Mining (DEM) since 2022.

She recently stepped off the following roles:

- Board Member and Chair of the Risk and Audit Committee Funds SA (since 2014).
- Walford Anglican School for Girls (since 2013) and as Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.
- The Chair of the Risk and Performance Committee for the Department of Treasury and Finance (since 2015).

Her strong leadership and communication skills have been further refined by serving nearly 42 years part-time in the Australian Army, where she currently holds the commissioned rank of Major.

Kathryn has previously served as a Member of Council at the University of Adelaide and was Chair of the Finance Committee, where she oversaw significant change to their Financial Reporting and Governance oversight to incorporate more transparency. She has previously been a member of the Advisory Board for the South Australian Government Financing Authority and a Non-Executive Director with the Australian Institute of Management.

Kathryn is a member of the International Women's Forum, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Company Secretaries, a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia, a Fellow of the Certified Practising Accounting Association, and a Fellow of the Institute of Company Directors.

She has also recently been awarded the Order of Australia (AM) in the 2022 Australia Day Awards for her commitment to Accounting and Community.

Dr Richard Sawers AM GAICD, BDS (Adel), FICD, FPFA, FADI, FACD

Dr Sawers holds and has held directorships within several sectors of business, including both public and private companies within the health and education sectors, as well as not-for-profit organisations. His chairmanships have included both health and education boards in the public and private sectors, and he has contributed his expertise as a Board member to South Australian Government enquiries into the health sector. He has also been responsible for reporting to the Board of a non-listed company within the health sector, and keeps up to date with best practice in directorships through his membership and engagement with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Key directorships include:

- Pierre Fauchard Academy: President and Director — Richard changed the governance of the organisation to make it more reflective of international expectations. He was International President in 2017-2018, the second Australian to fill this role.
- International College of Dentists (Australasia): President and Director — Richard has been responsible for altering the general fiduciary governance to better reflect recent changes in governance and financial reporting to Boards.
- St Peter's College Council of Governors: Governor — Overseeing the governance of a large and varied real estate portfolio including historic buildings and substantial grounds, fiduciary management, and cultural aspects for a large school.
- Oral Health Foundation of Pierre Fauchard Academy: Director — Richard is the first Australian director of this Board and brings a novel range of governance skills to the North American Board.
- St Peter's Cathedral Music Foundation Board: Director — Responsible for the financial support of the program, Richard's role has included developing governance skills within this new Board.

Richard has been a rowing parent and supporter of the sport in SA for many years. In 2018 he became a Boat Race Official (BRO) for Rowing SA and was awarded the 2024 Rowing SA Boat Race Official of the Year, given to an outstanding SA BRO who has put in an outstanding effort over the course of the season. Richard has been progressing through his umpiring accreditation with outstanding feedback from competitors and colleagues alike, and is always fair, unbiased, and works with a great level of professionalism.

Fearnley Szuster

Fearnley has been involved in rowing from his school days at Pulteney Grammar School in the 1960s, as a senior rower at Adelaide University in the 1970s and as a masters rower in the 2000s. Since the early 1980s, he has coached at Pulteney, AUBC, Unley High School and the Australian National University, with many of his rowers gaining National selection and becoming national standard coaches. In addition, he has been an SA and NSW State coach.

He has been an active member of the rowing community for most of his life. In the 1970s Fearnley was a Foundation Life Member that originally funded the establishment of the Aquatic Centre. In addition, in 1991/92 he was Treasurer of the then SA Rowing Association when the West Lakes shed was expanded. From 2009 to 2022 he was an SA State Team Selector, and in the last four years he has been an elected Rowing SA Board Director, including being the Rowing Australia Councillor for South Australia. From 2022 he has been the Rowing SA Selection Ombudsman.

Professionally, Fearnley is a retired statistician with an honours degree in mathematical statistics, a masters degree in Applied Social Research, national statistical accreditation and a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society. He was employed in the SA and National Governments before working for over 20 years as a health statistician at Adelaide University.

In his professional background as a statistician, he has shown that he has an independent mind, combined with a thoughtful and diligent work ethic. In his role as an SA State Team Selector, he demonstrated that he can fulfil the obligations and duties of an elected Director to the Board of Rowing SA. He will provide a well-considered and independent voice to act in the best interests of the SA rowing community.

With the many challenges that our sport faces, Fearnley brings to the RSA Board an understanding and appreciation of our sport that covers the broad community of school, club, masters, SASI, State and Interstate rowing levels.

Greg Walters FAICD

I am the current Chair of Rowing South Australia and am seeking your support to be re-elected to the board for a second term. In this last year we have sought to listen to and engage more with our membership through activities like our quarterly clubs forum, revitalised website and newsletter. We have actively supported our clubs to develop their activities and provide a program of events that will enable them to engage and grow their membership. On the high-performance front we have developed a closer collaborative relationship with SASI and undertaken a review of our State Team programs to make sure the pathway from club and school rowing through to representative honours is as strong and well-supported as it can be. Facility infrastructure remains one of our most important long-term priorities, and the Board has continued to back the vision for a redeveloped West Lakes precinct, engaging with government and stakeholders to build the case for a facility that will serve our membership and the community in this State for decades.

This year has been a year of progress, but the job is not yet done. I therefore seek your support to be re-elected to the board for a second term.

I bring over 40 years of Corporate and Senior Management experience and a driving passion to support the growth of participation in rowing in all its forms in South Australia.

I am an experienced Non-Executive Director and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. I spent seven years (2012-2018) as a director on the board of Engineers Australia (EA) where I held positions including National Vice President Finance, Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and Chair of the Board Governance Committee. I have been the Chairman of the board of EngInsure (2019-2023) an insurance company focussed on the engineering and consultancy industry. I am currently a member of the PAC School Council and a Director on the board of "Food on the Table" a not-for-profit charity dedicated to providing free, nutritious meals to the homeless and South Australians in need.

I believe in being actively involved in our sport. I rowed for PAC (1978-82) and the Royal Military College, Duntroon (1983-84). I returned to rowing in 2012 and joined the Riverside Rowing Club where I became President in 2014. I am also a founding member of the reestablished PAC Old Collegians Rowing Club. I continue to act as a regular race commentator supporting the RSA team at SA Regattas including HOR over the last few years. Importantly I am an active Masters rower and am fortunate to have been selected in our successful Interstate Masters Men's eight crew over a number of years.

I seek your endorsement to be re-elected to the RSA board for 2026-2028.