



## ADELAIDE HILLS TOURISM BOARD MEMBERS

March 2025



### **James Sellers, Chair**

With a strong passion for South Australia and the Hills, James had served as Deputy Chair for the Adelaide Hills Tourism Board since 2019 and was appointed Acting Chair in March 2024. James is an engaging business professional who has specialised in growing large site tourism destinations in the Adelaide Hills for more than 10 years. Business development driven early in his career, James moved to Melbourne working in the private equity sector where he was promoted to his first GM role, controlling large retail and B2B portfolios across Melbourne and Adelaide. James's passion, however, lay in tourism. Coupled with a desire to return to Adelaide he accepted the position of Manager at Cleland Wildlife Park. In this role James and his team achieved outstanding growth in revenue, visitor numbers and product development elevating Cleland's status as an iconic tourism site. As General Manager of Woodhouse Activity Centre for four years, and now as CEO for Scouts SA, James has brought commercial acumen and a resurgence of visitation to the iconic property. Well on the way to developing the site into a cherished destination for locals and visitors alike, Woodhouse continues to go from strength to strength. James enjoys time spent with family and carries out a spokesperson role for the MS Society.



### **Damian McArdle, Deputy Chair**

Damian has over a decade of experience in primary production and Agri-Tourism and is the CEO of Chamberlain Orchards Pty Ltd and the Founder/CEO of Paracombe Premium Perry Pty Ltd. Damian's leadership and business acumen has seen Chamberlain Orchards and Paracombe Premium Perry diversify into a leading Agri-Tourism operator, thriving in the Adelaide Hills, as well as transitioning their operations into a vertically integrated and certified organic orchard. Damian has extensive experience with regulation, development and repurposing on farm buildings as well as product identification, supply and development within Agri-tourism business. Damian has previously sat on multiple industry boards and local and state government advisory committees.



### **Trudy Dickson, Treasurer**

Trudy has been a hills resident for over 40 years and is a local Tourism Operator. She held Senior Executive positions within large international companies over her 30-year corporate career and established her first business in the Human Resources sector in 2009. In 2016 she co-founded their family business, Ambleside Distillers in Hahndorf, which includes both distilling and tasting bar operations. She holds several Board and Executive Committee roles including Chair of a Risk Committee. Her broad business experience encompasses sales and marketing, financial management, governance, risk, human resources and operational management across industries including health, human resources, tourism and beverage manufacturing and she is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



### **Greg Georgopoulos (AHC Funding Partner Nominee)**

Chief Executive Officer at Adelaide Hills Council, Greg has been involved in high-level complex leadership and major municipal and community projects within local government and private sector for over 25 years. Greg's key focus in recent years has been on executive leadership, strategic government relationships, sustainability and service delivery. In local government, Greg has had the opportunity to drive and participate in strategic thinking and planning with a focus on community benefit. He has been pivotal in the development and delivery of Council's strategic, operational, financial and master plans, and inspiring staff to achieve innovative and tangible outcomes. Greg has had significant success in positive strategic stakeholder and partnership opportunities at a federal, state and local government level on key municipal projects and community programs and has also successfully implemented corporate innovation models such as the "service excellence" program to improve productivity and best value services. Greg's key strengths are corporate innovation and strategic thinking. He is considered a leader in corporate strategy by his peers and the local government sector. Greg's tertiary qualifications include a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering, both from the University of South Australia.



### **Alison Hancock (MBDC Funding Partner Nominee)**

Alison has been working for Hills residents for over 10 years. Currently Executive Manager of Mt Barker District Council, Alison works closely with both the Mayor and CEO on regional strategic initiatives. With years of Board experience, Alison currently sits on the Board of Bendigo Bank and is a member of the Risk and Governance subcommittee. Alison is an experienced and results oriented executive with a commercially astute and pragmatic approach across both public and private sectors. She has been a leader of multi-disciplinary teams across a range of corporate and business functions to achieve alignment of strategic and operational goals. Qualifications include a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (LLB), member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Law Society and Women on Boards.



### **Sarah Carlson (AHWR)**

Sarah has been the Executive Officer of Adelaide Hills Wine Region (AHWR) since January 2022. Sarah has studied and worked in the wine industry since 2005, primarily in the Adelaide Hills. Having grown up in the US and spent time working in publishing in the UK, Carlson moved to Australia in 2004 and dedicated her career to the wine industry. After beginning studies in viticulture, she obtained an MA in Wine Business at the University of Adelaide and worked with several wineries in the Adelaide Hills in marketing and communications. Passionate about sustainability, she consulted to AHWR for six years to support the roll-out of its Environmental Management Plan, before taking on a permanent role as Grower Engagement Officer in August 2019. As AHWR Executive Officer, Sarah's role encompasses grower engagement and sustainability while also having oversight over marketing, events, policy, advocacy and broader member engagement and services. Sarah has been an active resident of Ashton in the Adelaide Hills since 2007, raising two boys in this beautiful Hills community and supporting local recreation initiatives.



### **Meg Barker (DEW)**

Meg is a passionate advocate for connecting people with meaningful travel experiences with over 25 years' experience in the tourism and hospitality industry. In her current role, Meg drives the development and delivery of nature-based tourism in South Australia's network of national parks. Meg has a wealth of experience in regional tourism development across South Australia, having worked as a Regional Tourism Manager across several regions. Additionally, Meg has managed small hotels, operated her own consultancy business and has worked in marketing and public relations in various sectors. Meg is a member of the Governor's Leadership Foundation alumni (2020), and her tertiary qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts (Flinders University), Diploma of Hospitality Management (TAFE SA) and an Associate Diploma in Wine Marketing (University of Adelaide). Meg is also an active member of the Ngaut Ngaut Conservation Park Co-management Board and the Hills Montessori School Board. Meg lives in the Adelaide Hills and is an advocate for the region as a place to live, work and visit.



### **Sally Paech**

Sally is Marketing Director of her family-owned business, The Beerenberg Family Farm, a brand sold throughout Australia and in 23 countries across the world. After completing a Bachelor of Business (Marketing) and a later a Masters of Social Science, she worked in international development and community services management in Melbourne until 2008 when she returned to South Australia and joined the family business which she now runs with her two brothers, Anthony and Robert, and mother Carol. She was proud to accept the Telstra South Australian Business of the Year Award on behalf of the business in 2011. As Marketing Director and Board Member, Sally oversaw the dramatic and very successful rebranding of Beerenberg in 2013. She is also the Director the Beerenberg Foundation, supporting community organisations to conserve and celebrate Hahndorf's natural, built and cultural heritage. Most recently, she directed the transformation of Beerenberg's farm shop, incorporating a café, conference facilities and cooking school that welcomes over 250,000 visitors every year. She is also the Chair of Variety, the Children's Charity (SA), supporting kids and families who are facing many challenges through sickness, disadvantage or living with a disability.



### **Travis Kalleske**

Travis manages Templewood House and Templewood Horse Riding Centre in Inglewood, continuing a 50-year family legacy in the Adelaide Hills. Returning to Adelaide in 2019 after two decades across Australia and overseas, Travis brings extensive executive experience in marketing, communications, sales, and general management. With an MBA and Institute of Company Directors membership, he brings a wealth of experience in FMCG and financial sectors, working with multinational corporations, ASX Top 200 companies, and SMEs. Travis is passionate about strategic planning, P&L management, branding and marketing and is accustomed to managing high-profile client relationships. Before returning home, Travis was head of Acquisition Marketing at Flexi Group where he led national product rollouts and before this, launched the Ecostore brand in Australia. His early career started in the hospitality and wine sector working across Australia.



### **Michael Lamprell**

Michael is the visionary founder of CABN, South Australia's pioneering off-grid, sustainable tiny house accommodation. CABN, including its latest project at Hans Heysen - The Cedars, in the beautiful Adelaide Hills, is recognized as a leading innovator in the accommodation and tourism industry sector, offering guests unique experiences in architecturally designed, eco-friendly cabins. Before CABN, Michael successfully led his own sales & marketing company for nearly two decades, building expertise in strategic marketing and executive management within the fashion, lifestyle, and sports & leisure industries. Known for his exceptional leadership, communication, and relationship management skills, Michael possesses a keen ability to align strategic vision with effective sales and marketing strategies. He brings a unique and valuable perspective to the board, representing both the accommodation sector and the growing wellness, regenerative, and nature-based sector through CABN's impactful philosophy.