

NEWS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET

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L – R Annabelle Chaplain, John W.H. Denton AO and Edwina McCann

The Australian Ballet announces the appointment of three new Directors to its Board.

The Chair of The Australian Ballet's Board, Craig Dunn, today announced the appointment of Edwina McCann, Annabelle Chaplain and John W.H. Denton AO to the company's Board of Directors.

These appointments will fill vacancies created by the retirement of three long-serving Directors: Sarah Murdoch, who retired in 2016; and Siobhan McKenna and Craig Spencer, who retired in February 2017.

Announcing the appointment of the new Directors, the Chair of The Australian Ballet paid tribute to the three retired Directors.

"On behalf of my fellow Directors, I would like to thank Sarah Murdoch, Craig Spencer and Siobhan McKenna for their outstanding contributions to the ongoing success of The Australian Ballet," Mr Dunn said. In acknowledging the contributions of each, he continued:

"**Sarah Murdoch**, who joined the Board in 2006 and was the company's Deputy Chair, was also the Chair of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee and a member of The Australian Ballet's Foundation Board. As a former dancer, Sarah has taken a

particular interest in dancer wellbeing. She championed the development of the company's supportive maternity-leave policy enabling so many of our ballet mums to return to the stage. Sarah's long relationship with us continues: she is now The Australian Ballet's Global Ambassador and as such will play an important role in supporting the company's international activities.

During her time on the Board of The Australian Ballet, **Siobhan McKenna** contributed essential business and media expertise as well as leadership as Chair of the Board's Audit and Risk Committee and as a member of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee. The Australian Ballet highly valued Siobhan's deep understanding of the company, her passion for ballet and her outstanding advocacy for the art form and our dancers.

Craig Spencer played an important role in the development of The Australian Ballet's Production Centre in Altona, which opened in 2012. Craig also chaired the company's Foundation Board from 2013, overseeing the activities of this important program which has contributed significantly to The Australian Ballet's financial stability and its capacity to fund

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major projects such as new productions and infrastructure.”

Welcoming the three new Directors, Craig Dunn commented: “The Australian Ballet is delighted to welcome Edwina, Annabelle and John as Directors. The Board will undoubtedly benefit from the national and international experience and expertise of these three highly knowledgeable business leaders.”

Edwina McCann, editor-in-chief of *Vogue Australia*, has an impressive career in media which spans senior editorships with major publications such as *The Australian*, *Grazia* and *Harper's Bazaar Australia* where she was editor-in-chief. In 2015 she topped *B&T's* list of the “30 Most Powerful Women in Australian Media”. Under Ms McCann's leadership, *Vogue Australia* has expanded into a significant major brand across print, digital and social media platforms. Ms McCann has been a founding member and the Co-Chair of The Australian Ballet's highly successful Young Ambassadors program. In addition to joining the Board of The Australian Ballet on 7 April, Ms McCann will chair The Australian Ballet's Foundation Board.

Queensland-based **Annabelle Chaplain** is a former investment banker with experience in project and infrastructure finance and holds prominent directorships, including Downer-EDI, Seven Group Holdings Limited, Queensland Airports Ltd (Chair), Export Finance and Insurance Corporation and Canstar Pty Ltd, a ratings digital comparison company (Chair). Annabelle is deeply committed about the arts and previously served on the board of The Australian Youth Orchestra.

John W.H. Denton AO is Partner and CEO of Corrs Chambers Westgarth, Australia's leading independent law firm and the number one law firm in Asia Pacific, as named by the Legal 500 Client Intelligence Report. John is Chair of the Business Council of Australia's Global Engagement Task Force, Co-Chair of the Finance and Infrastructure task force of the German B20, Board Member of Asialink and a founding member of the Australia-China CEO Roundtable. A former diplomat, John has been Chairman of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Australia for more than a decade and is a member of the Chairmanship of the Paris based International Chamber of Commerce. With extensive experience and interest in the arts, John was Deputy Chair of the Australia Council for the Arts between 2009 and 2012, a member of the Victorian Government's Expert Reference Group for the Creative Industries Taskforce, past Deputy Chair of the Melbourne Festival and former Member of the Board of Governors of Arts Centre Melbourne.

On 7 April, Edwina McCann, Annabelle Chaplain and John W.H. Denton AO join current Directors of the Board of The Australian Ballet, which also includes Craig Dunn (Chair), Catherine Harris AO PSM, Jim Cousins AO, Tony Osmond, Bruce Parncutt AO, Penny Fowler, John Ellice-Flint and Olivia Bell.

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