

25 November 2021

## **NEW BOARD ANNOUNCED AT BUSINESS HUNTER AGM**

The region's peak voice for business, **Business Hunter**, announced their new Board and conferred their first female Life Member at their AGM, held today.

Drawn from a diverse range of businesses and industries across the region, the new Business Hunter Board includes four new members and six returning members, all contributing a wealth of insight and experience.

Former Business Hunter Senior Vice President, Lauren Eyles was appointed to the role of President, becoming the second female to hold the title in the organisation's 136 year history.

Ms Eyles said she hoped her new appointment would help more young women identify pathways to positions of leadership.

"It shows that everyone is welcome at Business Hunter – we are here for everyone in business, and I hope that more women will come to events and get involved with Business Hunter, as well as more younger professionals," said Ms Eyles.

"The Business Hunter Board has been a welcoming and inclusive environment and I've greatly appreciated the support of leaders like Geoff Crowe (my former CEO at the Port of Newcastle), Richard Anicich, Tony Rhodes and Hennie Du Plooy, who have supported my nomination to the Board and my progression towards this role."

Overview of leadership role changes:

- The role of President passed from Tony Rhodes to **Lauren Eyles**.
- The role of Senior Vice President passed from Lauren Eyles to **Glenn Thornton**.
- The role of Vice President passed from Peter Gesling to **Holly Martin**.

The new board, detailed below, will serve for a term of two years.

Name	Position	New or Returning
Lauren Eyles	President	Returning
Glenn Thornton	Senior Vice President	Returning
Holly Martin	Vice President	Returning
Tony Rhodes	Immediate Past President	Returning
Hennie du Plooy	Director	Returning
Natalie Mitchell	Director	Returning
Ashleigh John	Director	New
Seamus Burke	Director	New
Genelle Scotts	Director	New
Peter Lawrence	Director	New

Mr Rhodes thanked his fellow board members for their support over the last two years and acknowledged progress made toward improving collaboration and co-operation across all businesses throughout the region.

“In an increasingly connected and interactive world it is vital that regions like ours accept that competition is global, not local, and it is great to see our region working more collectively to improve communal outcomes. A rising tide obviously lifts all ships and therefore provides greater opportunity for everyone to decide where and how far they wish to sail,” said Mr Rhodes.

Ms Eyles said she was passionate about the growth and success of the Hunter and looked forward to pursuing the region’s interests in her new capacity.

“I’ve been fortunate to be able to grow my career here and hold senior leadership roles across Reflections Holiday Parks, the Port, Hunter Water and HMRI. By supporting businesses and growing our economy, we’ll create more of these opportunities for the next generation,” said Ms Eyles.

“I look forward to leading a talented Board and leveraging their knowledge and experience, supporting the Management Team and continuing to represent the interests of our members.”

Business Hunter also bestowed Life Membership on trailblazing business advocate Katie Brassil, the first female to receive the organisation’s highest honour. Read this announcement [here](#).

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