

SPCAC Board nominations statements 2025

The retiring Directors currently on the Board are Sean Lee, John O'Byrne and David Shaw. In addition, Sarah Elliot was nominated by the Board to replace Lyndon Burke as a casual vacancy and is also required by the Rules to retire. David Shaw is not re-nominating but the other 3 Directors are.

Three other Directors are continuing and not up for re-election this year. They are Milan Bachraty, Bruce Lawson and Gerard Hodgskin.

So there are 4 vacancies with the following 7 nominations:

- Sarah Elliot (current Director)
- Meredith Kirton
- Sean Lee (current Director)
- John O'Byrne (current Director)
- Paul Saad
- Jennifer Sheridan
- Alasdair Smith

Each nominee was asked to supply a brief biography and explanation of why they want to serve on the Board. Those statements are below.

Sarah Elliot (current Director)

Since my appointment to the board following last year's AGM, I have worked hard to implement the changes members voted for. I actively advocated to push through changes to the rules to allow for proxy and online voting at AGMs.

My daughter, a lawyer, suggested draft wording for the changes which were reviewed and accepted by the board and subsequently by the members.

With the chair, I have reviewed the Rules and made suggested changes to address anomalies and have been tasked to follow through with further updates in the coming year if re-elected.

I pushed for action to introduce the online booking system this year, drafted the booking rules, and actively worked with the on-line booking committee to review documents and resolve questions.

As part of my commitment to transparency, I strongly advocated that the rules, bi-laws, meeting minutes, and other relevant documents be made available to members and these are now available on the website.

As chair of the website committee, I designed a structure to provide more comprehensive and relevant information to members. With Meredith Curtin, who spent many hours doing the hard work of building and uploading the content, links, etc the website has been updated and will be continually reviewed into the future.

I have reviewed and updated the member application, share transfer and share purchase procedures and forms which are now available on the new SPAC website.

My role has also been as a voice for reason and fairness on the Board. I have endeavoured to support the chair and other board members in their work by providing sage counsel, reviewing and rewriting documents, coming up with solutions to problems and always being willing to put in the hard work.

We've achieved a lot this year and I'd like the opportunity to continue in the coming year.

Meredith Kirton

Many of you would have met me or my family over the years - my parents were founding members of South P and my father Cameron was a SPCAC Executive Board member for decades.

I helped update systems at the lodge, playing an integral part in the work of two sub committees actioning the online booking platform, and creating our new website. I also advocated for the online voting rights of members and have been active in improving the Board's Financial Reporting. But there is still plenty I want to see to help SPCAC stay on track for the future.

The Snowy Mountains is a special place, and I enjoy the region as a keen bush walker, horticulturist, and skier. My adult children regularly back-country ski, snowboard, rock climb, do ultra marathons and mountain bike ride. I can see how with small improvements the lodge can become a year-round place to stay, thus increasing lodge revenue.

I have volunteered at a number of sporting clubs, environmental organisations and school related groups, including as a Committee member of NSW Cross Country Ski Association and NSW Biathlon Association, and Snowsports Co-ordinator of MLC. I was honoured as a Life Member of Putney Primary School P&C.

I have been involved in MarComms for a number of organisations including the *Foundation and Friends of the Botanic Gardens* and *Landcare*. Currently I work at the *ABC* producing radio and presenting the local Saturday morning sport program.

Teamwork is important and I was involved with inter-schools skiing throughout my children's high school years, becoming friends with fellow members Deborah Stephens and Sarah Elliott. If elected I would like to develop reciprocal arrangements with other clubs and lodges across Australia and New Zealand.

Together we can see the lodge thrive for its next half century.

Sean Lee (current Director)

I am renominating for position as Director.

I became a member in 1996, director in 1998, Chairman from 2010 to 2023.

Goal

My goal is to maintain a family orientated lodge run by volunteers, keep costs, fees, subscriptions as low as possible for all members to enjoy their lodge.

Achievements Building

The first 12 years I served on the Maintenance Team. During that period, we replaced the balcony that had collapsed, installed a new kitchen and renovated the bathrooms. I have worked closely with contractors to maintain the functional operation of the lodge.

In 2005 I took on the role as Project Manager for the DA 2006 to reclad and upgrade the lodge. I was heavily involved with the Builder, NPWS, RFS and DIPE to complete Stage 1 upgrade. We were on track for Stage 2 when Covid hit and the lodge lost approximately \$80 K in bookings.

In 2009 I worked with our Heating and Plumber to design and purchase the new Hydronic Hot water Heating system. Lyndsay Adcock then installed the new system.

Achievements Financial

During my term as Chairman of the Board. The board upgraded the lodge, repaid a \$250,000 loan plus interest, carried out essential maintenance approximately (\$100,000) and attended 28 working bees with other members.

Achievements Recent

- Over the last 4 years I have been able to get approval for the (APZ) Area Protection Zone) required under our lease.
- Approval to replace the Rusticated Hardy Board (unsuitable) with Mono Steel Panels.

Next 2 Years

If re-elected, I will work with the maintenance team to plan Stage 2 and hand over the management of the DA 2006. I will then retire from the board

John O'Byrne (current Director)

My wife and I have been South Perisher members for almost 20 years but, apart from a few trips early on, we have been unusual members in using the Lodge exclusively in summer with our extended family.

When I was asked to join the Board in 2010 I took on the responsibility for environmental issues associated with the Lodge (more accurately my wife and I did!). Key parts of that have been monitoring Lodge energy usage and responsibility for the Lodge inventory. The latter involves stocking the Lodge annually with its supplies, choosing environmentally friendly products wherever possible. A highlight of each year is the 'toilet paper run' to re-stock the supplies!

I report these efforts annually in the PRREMS (Perisher Range Resort Environmental Management System) report.

For last few years we have had extensive consultation with NPWS on the Asset Protection Zone (APZ) – i.e. a fire fuel reduced area - around the Lodge. As a result we removed some vegetation (e.g. around the gas tank). My wife and I have then weeded the cleared areas, covered them in straw to suppress regrowth and planted native grasses and plants supplied by NPWS.

With issues on the Board over the last 18 months I have stepped up as Secretary. I bring to the role many years as joint Secretary of the organisation of professional astronomers in Australia. I have tried to bring a calm and common sense attitude to what we have attempted to do as a Board over the last year. I think we have achieved a lot – notably the new booking system and beginning to update the club Rules, but also less visible things such as improving procedures and documentation.

Various Board members and others deserve congratulations for what has been achieved in difficult times, but there is certainly more to do. I am happy to continue to play my part in making that happen.

Paul Saad

My name is Paul Saad, and as you may be aware I'm very keen to run as a board member for our committee that runs our fantastic lodge.

I am 46 years old and I am a turf farmer in the Hawkesbury region of NSW. I have been self-employed for 29 years and that has come with many ups and downs!!!

With my business I have been nominated onto several committees which include, Turf Australia, lower Hawkesbury and Nepean water user's association and I was president of Turf NSW for almost 10 years.

Being part of these organisations taught me that listening to others needs and opinions is critical if such an association is to run for which the purpose it was started for.

I have been a member of the SPAC for a few years, my wife and I absolutely love the lodge, which is the reason why I would like to be part of the board and help continue this club to be a stable and cost effective part of all members future.

We have a great lodge, the people I know through the lodge are good people and I hope to meet more of the members.

I think I can bring a lot to the board with my experience in committees and associations, also with my experience as being, what I call successful in what is a hard industry to earn a living from. Moving with the times is important and also knowing when change isn't always the right way to go.

It would be great to consider me as potential Director. If elected I promise to do the best I can and always be honest with my opinions.

Jennifer Sheridan

I have a strong connection to and passion for SPCAC. It was my mother's idea to build the lodge in the 1960's and with my father and their friends, they turned their dream into a reality.

I have been working hard with the SPCAC Board to facilitate positive change, to provide a more transparent and equitable booking system. I produced a detailed data analysis and report investigating lodge booking from 2016 to 2024 which outlined member booking behaviour and associated revenue generated over time.

I was instrumental in getting the Clubman Online Booking System operational and I suggested and developed the Priority Member Booking System, enabling a more equitable booking system for all.

I have also pushed for AGM proxy voting, member online access to club documentation including meeting minutes and the establishment of an opt-in member list to give members the opportunity to get to better know one another.

As a Board Director, I would facilitate;

- Prompt and transparent communication with members
- Modernising the Clubs Rules and By-laws
- Establishing and maintaining a sizeable sinking fund
- Completion of the current DA work
- Provide equal rights for all members to bring family and/or friends during the peak winter season
- Seeking feedback from members to increase extended member rates to $\frac{3}{4}$ guest rates to increase revenue and reduce annual subscriptions payments.
- Improve the Priority Booking System so it is based on number of nights per person per membership, during peak winter.

Now is the time for generational change and renewal, including more women to be given the opportunity to put their energy and passion into taking the governance of our club to the next level. I want to be part of an efficient and cohesive SPCAC Board that provides timely information and responds promptly to all member correspondence.

Alasdair Smith

I am married with 2 kids who are in their 20s. We have many happy memories of family holidays at South P as our kids grew up and the good friends we have made along the way.

I am now semi-retired. My professional career was in banking and financial services (mainly IT) managing large and diverse teams in multiple countries on the design and build of complex programs to support Australia's big 4 banks.

Over the last few months, I have helped the club to select, configure test and implement the new online booking system and then supported our members as it was rolled out.

Through this, I have been lucky to work with some great people within the club and to help our executives to finalise what rules we really wanted and to translate that into something that will work.

I have an eye for detail, take accountability for what I do and am happy to roll up my sleeves to get any job done. My communication style is transparent and direct. I have found that if we can agree exactly what problem we are trying to fix and the evidence for it, then we are halfway to the solution.

We have a great facility and an opportunity to leave the lodge in a better place each year. In the last 12 months we have made huge strides forwards and I'm keen to continue to be part of that journey.