

BOARD NOMINATION FORM 2021



Name: Kay Matthias_____

Member Club: Watervale Bowling Club

****Please be advised that the information provided will be distributed to the Membership***

Sports administration and playing background:

I have been involved in sport and its administration for many years. I have played tennis, netball, basketball, softball. I was the Secretary/Manager of the Mount Gambier Basketball Stadium and Association and have held administrative roles in most sporting bodies, including Secretary of the Kensington Gardens Tennis Club

Reasons for seeking Board nomination and interest in the role generally (no more than 200 words):

I am very experienced and well versed in the principles of governance standards and practices. I am also very experienced in the development of policies, strategic planning and in strategic and risk management. As a previous CEO I am also experienced in financial management. Along with my sports administration experience I trust I could add value to the board of Bowls SA.

I am currently a director of a number of boards and member of committees including the Energy and Water Ombudsman board, Chair of the SA Community Transport board, SA Council of the Aging Policy committee, ESCOSA Expert Consumer Panel, and the SA Water Customer Council .

Please insert your highest level of education and any other relevant qualifications:

Dip Comm Services (*Financial Counselling*)
Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors

RESUME – KAY MATTHIAS

NAME:

Kay Matthias

ADDRESS:

Box 41, Watervale, 5452
0427 430243

QUALIFICATIONS:

*Journalist,
Diploma of Community Services
Graduate Diploma of Australian Institute of Company Directors
(GAID)*

DIRECTORSHIPS

Current Boards and Committees

- Energy and Water Industry Ombudsman Board;
- SA Community Transport Board (Chair)
- South Australian Council of the Aging Policy Committee
- SA Water Customer Advisory Council
- Keolis/Downer Accessibility Group (SA Railway Network)
- Australian Community Transport Board

Previous Boards

- Premier's Council for Women; (term concluded December 2019)
- Rural Media SA (retired 2021)
- Dairysafe Retired 30/6/20)
- NRM Northern and Yorke; (term concluded February 2020 – Chair for 8 years)
- Health Advisory Council - Riverton and Balaklava; - (retired 2019)
- Northern and Yorke Regional Development Board – (term expired 2018) (Chair for 8 years)
- Chair Yorke Biomass Energy Board 2015-2017

PROFESSIONAL BODIES

- Agri-Business Australia.
- Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- Australian Farm Institute.
- Rural Media SA.

AWARDS

2014 Top 100 Women in Australian Agriculture.
2015 Nominated to South Australian Women's Honour Roll for services to regional South Australia.

2015 Rural Media SA President's Award for services to rural and regional SA.

CURRENT POSITION:

Managing Director, Matthias Management.

2021

SA Water - Provided a consulting service to SA Water to appoint a contractor to work across regional South Australia to assist consumers who are suffering a water outage.

2018 – 2020

Team Leader – Family and Support Mentors.

As part of the SA Government's drought support, FaB Mentors provide a "conduit" service to farmers suffering from financial hardship as a result of drought, flood, fires, and frost.

2006 – 2015

Chief Executive, Rural Business Support

Rural Business Support (RBS) is a not-for-profit organization that supports primary industry businesses. It provides strategic business management programs and services, including the rural financial counselling service in SA and the NT.

Based in Adelaide, I managed staff located in regional areas throughout South Australia and the Northern Territory. RBS works very closely with Government in the provision of its service. I provided strong and strategic leadership by maintaining a good working relationship with the board and staff. I also consulted widely with farmers and regional communities to better understand their issues. I worked closely with both State and Federal governments in the provision of the service, including acquittal of the annual funding.

A significant part of the role initially was to develop a culture that reflected our values of inclusiveness, trust, respectfulness, ethical and professional.

I was very visible in the media promoting the work of RBS and was often called upon to provide commentary on regional and rural issues.

Role included:

- Planning and directing the activities of the Service to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan.
- Develop the Business Plan.
- Develop and monitor annual budget.
- Update annual policies.
- Develop annual risk management plan.
- Develop an annual communication plan.
- Providing leadership to management and staff.
- Media Management.
- Maintaining close working relationships with stakeholders and partners.
- Management of RBS affairs in accordance with internal policies and external funding bodies.

- Develop an annual training schedule for staff.
- Developing long standing relationships with our key stakeholders.
- Attract and manage funding.
- Ensure that appropriate corporate governance was part of our corporate culture.
- Providing leadership to all staff.
- Community engagement with all regional and rural communities in SA and the NT.
- Representing the Service on high level taskforces nationally, and in South Australia.
- Liaising with stakeholders, government, and industry.
- Acting as a spokesperson for RBS to promote the role and function of the Service.
- Keeping abreast of current rural issues, the rural environment, and related economic issues.

Achievements in this position included:

- Provided leadership in change management in an amalgamation process.
- Developed a staffing structure that would support out charter of delivering a service to SA and the NT.
- Initial employment and training of staff.
- Developed an action plan to implement a marketing and communications strategy.
- Developed and implemented an action plan to better engage the rural financial counselling and health services.
- Following the formation of the single state Rural Financial Counselling Service I conducted an audit of regional service provision; as a result, I allocated a rural financial counsellor to service the pastoral areas of SA. (this was a first).
- Reviewed the skills set and structure of RBS to better align it to meet its objectives.
- Changed the rural financial counselling culture from a focus on long-term client reliance to empowering them to confidently adjust to change.
- Developed a “commercial arm” of the organization to become more financially self-reliant.
- Established a culture that strives for excellence, innovation and continuous improvement.
- Increased rigor in the preparation and monitoring of budgets.
- Introduced more robust management practices that focus on customer satisfaction.
- Improved morale by providing and demonstrating a strong vision for RBS.

In 2012 following the ban on the live cattle export trade to Indonesia, RBS was commissioned by the Australian Government to provide support to the Northern Territory cattlemen. This has led to a rural financial counselling role in the Northern Territory.

2004-2006 Rural Financial Counsellor/ Mid North

1997-2004 General Manager Communications and Marketing Primary Industries and Resources SA

I was specifically brought into PIRSA to manage the communications and development of a “new culture” of this newly created “super department”, which was an amalgam of very diverse industries including Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture, SARDI, and Mines and Energy. I managed up to 20 staff situated throughout metropolitan and regional South Australia. I also provided media advice to the CEO and Minister for Agriculture.

Also, in my role at PIRSA I worked very closely with industry, particularly in the development of marketing and crisis management strategies and with other stakeholders. I represented the agency on a number of committees locally and nationally. The Unit also provided a consultancy service in public relations and marketing to a number of industry groups. I was a member of PIRSA’s Executive Group.

OTHER

I have an excellent knowledge of corporate governance principles and am a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Likewise, I am very skilled in strategic planning and through my work with Regional Development Australia in supporting continued growth in regional industries.

In 1998 I was seconded from PIRSA for three months to undertake a review of the public affairs functions of the Department of Human Services.

In 2003 I managed the State Government Communications Campaign for the full retail contestability of electricity and gas in South Australia.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Prior to moving to Adelaide, I lived in Mount Gambier Where I worked as a journalist and columnist at The Border Watch, followed by Chief Clerk, to His Excellency the Governor of SA.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

I have always been very heavily involved in community activities, including:

Member of school Councils.

Secretary, Kensington Gardens Lawn Tennis Club.

Member of numerous sporting committees.

Netballer, pennant tennis player and basketballer

I am currently writing the rules of association and business plan for the newly built Vales Community Centre in Watervale.

GENERAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- I established a new state-wide rural financial counselling service which required significant expertise in change management, including the development of a new culture.
- I worked with a number of SME's in developing countries, assisting women to establish financial and management systems, in Ghana Africa.
- Managed an International conference for SMEs in Australia and the USA.
- I undertook a study tour of the UK to look at lessons to be learned from the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak. I have managed a number of state and national communications campaigns.
- I was on the management committee that established the South East Women's Emergency Shelter.
- I undertook a review of the SA Health Department's Media and Communications Unit.

ATTRIBUTES

- Leadership, change management, communications, financial skills, risk management.
- Building major networks with stakeholders within industry and government (at high levels).
- Excellent problem solver, good people management skills and commitment to rural communities.

Community Consultation

I am very experienced in community consultation and regularly consult with regional communities which was pivotal to successfully managing an organisation such as Rural Business Support, and to successfully represent constituents on boards.

In my role at RBS, I met regularly with regional communities., and also pivotal to my role on the Premier's Council for Women and COTA was that I kept abreast of all rural and regional issues affecting women. My large rural network has allowed me to continue to meet with regional communities, which has been helpful in keeping abreast of current issues.

REFEREES:

Peter Bicknell
Chair
Energy and Water Ombudsman Board
0409 648 424

Mr Paul Mulraney
Previous Director of Rural Business Support (contact provided on request)