



SOPHIA  
MUNDI

Steiner Education and IB World School

## Sophia Mundi Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is made up of a mixture of individuals who collectively bring the enthusiasm, expertise and experience that are needed to guide a small independent school such as ours. *(See images and bio's of our Board Members on the following page.)*

The Board needs to cover, between its members and external advisers, the right mix of skills and expertise, including educational, legal, financial, strategic, marketing, HR, and other skillsets. The current Directors are a mix of parents, past parents, Sophia Mundi alumni and educators. All Directors undertake formal Board induction, as well as ongoing education made available by Independent Schools Victoria (ISV).

The Board has a process for ensuring that its membership remains balanced, and that there is an orderly succession process, with new Directors recruited and inducted, as longer serving directors retire.

Sophia Mundi Limited is organised as a not-for-profit company. Its Board of Directors are responsible for governance of the School, and are answerable to the corporate regulators (predominately ASIC) and to the State and Federal educational departments (VRQA and Department of Education and Training) for the quality of the delivered education, and to account for the funding that we receive from both jurisdictions. The Board reports at least annually to the Members of Sophia Mundi Ltd, who are a group of long-standing members of our community to ensure the vision and constitution of Sophia Mundi is upheld. Current Members include present and founding parents, past and present staff, and past Directors.

In all Board matters the driving criterion is working for the best outcome for the school and its students, while upholding the schools' vision and meeting all external legal and regulatory requirements.

The key responsibilities of a Board of Directors include governance, strategy, provision of audited financial reports, ensuring our school registration conditions are met, and the appointment and support of the Principal. Directors may be allocated portfolio duties within Board committees as required. Board committees may also include community members wishing to serve the school through the contribution of specific skill sets.

To share information and inform decisions, the Board works closely with our Principal, Fiona Cock, Assistant Principal, Peter Henderson and Business Manager, John Bradshaw.

Our Principal, Assistant Principal and Business Manager attend most Board meetings.



### **Kerry Laughton (Chair)**

Kerry joined the Board in 2017 and has two children who attend Melbourne Rudolf Steiner School. Kerry works as a strategic advisor to the public sector, currently employed at Ambulance Victoria. She was formerly the Principal Integrity Advisor at the Department of Education and Training. Kerry has been an Inner Work Path student since 2014, and attended the Steiner Teacher Training at the Melbourne Rudolf Steiner Seminar in 2016.

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### **Annette Batchelor**

Annette joined the board in 2018. She has two children, one currently attending Central Coast Steiner School and another, a Little Yarra Steiner School graduate who is now at studying at Melbourne University. Annette has a background in IT as a Business Analyst and has experience in business and management support. She works out of the framework of Anthroposophy in her current work at Mercurius Australia and in private practice as a Naturopath and Child Development Consultant.



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### **Matthew Hardie**

Matthew joined the Board in 2019. Matthew attended a Steiner School that was built on his family's biodynamic dairy farm in the Goulburn Valley. His experience has nourished an ongoing passion and appreciation for Steiner education. Matthew has a background in International Business and worked as a risk consultant for Ernst & Young. He's currently the Founder and Director of Manuko, a company in Melbourne that designs, manufactures and distributes premium organic raw chocolate products across Australia.

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### **Serina Mukerjee**

Serina joined the board in 2019. She has two children currently attending Sophia Mundi Steiner School. Serina has a background in Accounting and Business Administration and has worked predominantly in the not-for-profit sector. She is currently working for a specialist family violence service and has a passion for financial education and wellbeing.



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### **Michael Arcella**

Michael joined the Board in 2020 and has a daughter attending Sophia Mundi. Michael provides HR consulting services within the Local Government and Not for Profit Sectors. Prior to working as a consultant, he worked in the banking industry and was a lecturer at La Trobe University where he obtained his PhD in Management.