

Leadership Baton Change at the Abbotsford Convent



The Abbotsford Convent Foundation has a new leader following the retirement of Hayden Raysmith AM. The new chair is Victoria Marles, a prominent lawyer and arts industry leader.

ACF co-deputy chairs Charlotte Allen and Michael Smith said Hayden Raysmith had been a spectacularly successful chair, leading a Board and management team that had achieved ahead of schedule the original vision for the Convent to be a self-sustaining arts, education and cultural destination for all Victorians.

"There were many doubters and cynics, but under Hayden's calm and focussed leadership, the Convent has become a new jewel in Melbourne's crown of community assets," they said.

Hayden has devoted many hundreds of hours to the Convent over nearly a decade and the 600,000 people who visit the Convent each year are the beneficiaries of his leadership of the many hundreds of staff, benefactors, tenants and volunteers who created the success of the Convent.

"He has decided that it is time for someone else to lead the Convent into the next stage of its development. We all wish him well."

Mr Raysmith said : *" My last duty as Chair is a very pleasing one, to welcome Victoria Marles, with her thorough understanding of and passion for the industry and the Abbotsford Convent in particular, as the new chair to guide the next chapter in one of Melbourne's great stories. Under Vic's leadership the Convent will continue to evolve in ways not yet imagined."*

Victoria Marles joined the ACF Board last year. She is currently the CEO of Trust for Nature, a position she has held since late 2009. Prior to that, she was Victoria's Legal Services Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Board. As a lawyer, Victoria specialised in media and communications law and policy and was the Deputy Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman. Victoria has a strong background in the arts, having graduated in drama from the Victorian College of the Arts. She has held various board positions including the Victorian Arts Centre, the Victorian Women's Trust and the Melbourne Writers Festival. Victoria was chair of the Circus Oz Board for 14 years.

Note to Editors: Victoria Marles and Hayden Raysmith are available for interviews.
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