

## Biographies of nominees for election to the UAC board of directors

The following people have offered themselves for election or re-election as UAC board members. Each has supplied a brief biography.

\* Denotes sitting board member seeking re-election  
Positions on the ballot paper were determined by an independent draw.

### Kurt Nilsen\*



Kurt Nilsen is Managing Director of Lion Underwriting, which he established in March 2015. Lion prides itself on providing service-driven insurance solutions, in particular harder-to-place sectors. As an independently owned and managed agency, brokers are assured there are no conflicts.

Kurt's insurance career began in South Africa in 1994, where he started work in the filing room for the insurer Mutual & Federal. He worked his way up the ladder, gaining valuable industry experience in riot insurance, domestic and then commercial. He was one of the company's youngest BDMs.

After moving to Australia in 2001, he established Australian Professional Underwriting Agencies and became a Lloyd's coverholder. Kurt was first elected to UAC's board at the December 2013 annual general meeting and currently holds the position of Deputy Chair.

Kurt holds a Diploma of Financial Services and is an ANZIIF Senior Associate.

### Eric Lowenstein\*



Eric Lowenstein is CEO of Tego, a specialist indemnity solutions underwriting agency for the healthcare and life sciences sectors.

Eric's qualifications include a bachelor's degree in business administration and law from Macquarie University; a master's degree from UNSW in law and management; and an MBA from AGSM.

Before founding Tego, Eric's career spanned insurance and legal services and he held positions at Aon, Mega Capital, Liberty International Underwriters, and Norton Rose Fulbright.

Eric is actively involved in several community organisations and a board member of the Wolper Hospital.

## Ross Webster



Ross Webster has just reached a major milestone, having completed 20 years' service in the assurance and insurance industry. He started his career in Edinburgh where he moved through the ranks to become a business analyst for the pensions (super) side of a life assurance business.

Ross saw the light and moved to Australia in 2005. Once he had fulfilled his dream of travelling around Australia, life in insurance resumed. Ross joined Mecon and has since made a career in the agency space. He initially joined Mecon as a temp, was soon taken on permanently, and has since progressed through various roles, including Business Development Manager, Underwriter, and NSW State Manager. Ross is now Mecon's General Manager and has more than 12 years' service with the company.

He has been a great advocate for Mecon throughout his tenure, forming an important part of a core management team that has helped develop and promote the company from a relatively small agency to become one of the leading markets for construction and mobile plant insurance in Australia.

Known for his commitment to infrastructure development and innovation, Ross has a hunger to help improve and progress the way insurance is conducted in the Australian market. He has a passion for agencies and believes agencies play an important role in client servicing and the future of insurance. Ross is extremely keen to join the UAC board and continue his agency focus at a different and broader level, believing his skills, experience and acumen will positively complement the UAC board.

## Jeanene Hill



Jeanene has more than 30 years' experience in the industry, having worked in a variety of positions in underwriting and broking. Her career has included roles with Willis, Munich Re, Berkley Re and recently Talbot.

Jeanene is Head of Coverholder and Delegated Authority, Asia Pacific, for Canopus Australia, where she has overall responsibility for underwriting and managing Australia-Pacific coverholders.

Jeanene's knowledge of the Australian market and relationships have qualified her as a market leader in the agency segment. Her role has been rewarding as she has grown with her clients to build sustainable portfolios in a challenging market. Her ability to connect coverholders to the Lloyd's environment will be an asset to the UAC board and members.

Jeanene is a trained mentor, a founding member of WiRe (Women in Reinsurance), a group established to inspire and support women in the reinsurance industry, and is an ANZIIF Fellow. She is passionate when it comes to the insurance industry and welcomes the opportunity to be part of the UAC board.

## Ben Johnston-Bradford



Ben is SUA's Corporate Underwriter, servicing a national role. Having notched up 14 years at SUA in 2019, Ben is a specialist in statutory liability insurance and takes pride in being a market leader in the space. He is passionate about industry education and provides regular training seminars for brokers to help them learn the ins and outs of statutory liability.

Believing in the unmatched service that underwriting agencies can provide to the market, Ben enjoys assisting brokers with complex risks and providing solutions that meet client needs.

Ben is a Certified Insurance Professional and an ANZIIF Fellow.

## Gabriele McDonald



With more than 35 years' experience in the insurance industry, Gabriele is a highly accomplished executive leader who holds expert knowledge in intermediary and underwriting agency business procedures and practices.

As a consultant to insurers, brokers and agencies, Gabriele provided a comprehensive understanding of the complete supplier and intermediary to customer value chain. Specialising in designing and delivering market-leading customer experiences, Gabriele's consulting work for large corporates led to executive distribution roles with Suncorp and Allianz.

After consulting to Protecsure in 2014, Gabriele became a director and equity partner in 2015 and succeeded the CEO and Managing Director in 2017. Protecsure distributes products across Australia and New Zealand, specialising in equipment insurance for mobile assets and small business liability.

Gabriele demonstrates her ongoing commitment to the industry by her continued involvement in mentoring programs and the ANZIIF awards judging panel. Gabriele is a Tier 1 Qualified Insurance Broker, a Certified Executive Coach and an Australian Institute of Company Directors member.

## Kevin Corkery



Kevin is a Director of Wellington Underwriting and has been in the insurance and reinsurance business for 34 years. He was a Director of UAC in 2008 so knows what the role requires. Kevin did not seek re-election due to the pressures of business at the time and, to ensure the correct attention was given to the role, he preferred to let someone else take his place.

He has worked in the underwriting agency space for 20 years and is recognised by his peers as being an accomplished underwriter and an astute businessman. He has written magazine articles based on his broad knowledge and has mentored and trained younger employees.

Kevin has previously worked as a Lloyd's broker and has a great understanding of how the market in London operates and what the expectations are of Australian coverholders. He has also worked closely with domestic insurers and Wellington Underwriting has binding authority facilities with both Lloyd's and domestic security.

He has worked in all facets of an underwriting agency, ranging from being a managing director to underwriting, claims handling, premium processing, accounts, credit control, debtor and creditor matters, and contract review, and would bring his knowledge and experience for the benefit of all UAC members.

Kevin is a recognised specialist in the labour hire and recruitment fields but generally has a great understanding of most areas of the market. However, if he does not specialise in something, he is not afraid to say so and work collegially to direct an inquiry to an agency that does have the expertise.

Kevin attends most UAC Underwriting Expos and previously, while a Director of UAC, was instrumental in organising the Expos in the early days of their existence which helped lead them to the success they are today.

## Brett Jackson



National Distribution Manager, Sura. I have been involved in the insurance industry for more than 30 years. My professional experience has included senior roles in the USA, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

I have held several positions in the underwriting and broking disciplines, including as a domestic underwriter for on and offshore energy, marine and livestock. I was also actively involved in the strategic planning and purchase of a reinsurance program.

I played a central role in establishing a wholesale broker and brought overseas insurers into the Australian market. I have also been a coverholder for Lloyd's in the domestic market.

My international experience includes working with a Lloyd's coverholder in Charlotte, North Carolina, and as an on-the-box underwriter for the offshore energy market in London.

In Asia, I created a marine and energy book as a start up to support the region and established a contingency book as a coverholder of Lloyd's.

One of my career highlights was taking control of the GWP\$300m Lumley delegated authority book. My role was to introduce a central area of control to the book with common agreements and introduce an annual audit program which is still in operation today at CGU.

I believe my extensive knowledge of underwriting, broking and reinsurance will enable me to contribute valuable expertise on a wide range of products in the general insurance market.

I've been a strong advocate for the achievements of UAC and, as a representative of one of the largest groups in its membership base, I believe I'm well positioned to make a positive contribution to its work.

## Chris Dardaneliotis



Chris is a Director of Sterling Insurance Pty Ltd. He started in insurance in 1992 and has spent that entire time as an underwriter – 23 in underwriting agencies (Sterling and JUA) and four in the company market.

In that time, Chris has seen the industry evolve from two relatively simple yet visionary and practical bits of legislation into a complete regulatory framework. UAC assisted its members with some great leadership – the late Roy Ellis, Paul Lynam, Bob Lee, Damian Coates and John Iles – and has been supported by great boards.

If elected as a Director, Chris aims to help build on UAC's legacy, bring a healthy dose of challenging the status quo, represent non-aligned UAC members, and work collaboratively with his fellow UAC board members and stakeholders.

## Anthony Porter



Anthony Porter is National Business Development Manager for AFA Insurance. During 27 years with AFA, he has had various roles from insurance clerk through to claims, underwriting and marketing.

Anthony went to school at Marist Brothers North Sydney. He holds a Diploma of Financial Services (Insurance Broking), has completed the updated General Insurance Code of Practice, is an ANZIIF Senior Associate, and has a Certificate in Medical Terminology from Royal Sydney Hospital.

Outside work, Anthony's passions are his family and friends, golf, wine appreciation, playing guitar and the mighty Manly Sea Eagles.