

## Melbourne Festival appoints Carat CEO Simon Ryan, NAB's Sally Bruce and leading Australian arts administrator and producer Rob Brookman to its board of directors

Melbourne Festival has appointed three new members to its board of directors, comprising esteemed names from a broad range of industries including finance, media and arts.

### The new board members are:

**Rob Brookman** is CEO/Producer State Theatre Company of South Australia. He is a leading Australian theatre producer, festival director, cultural programmer and arts administrator and has held leadership positions in a number of Australasia's foremost festivals and performing arts organisations including the role of Artistic Director at the Adelaide Festival, Adelaide Festival Centre, National Festival of Australian Theatre and New Zealand International Festival of Art. He was a founding Co-Director of Arts Projects Australia and held the position of General Manager for Sydney Theatre Company for a decade.

In 1992 he co-founded Australia's leading world music festival WOMADelaide and remained as Artistic Director and/or Artistic Advisor until 2007. He continues to serve on the WOMADelaide Foundation and brings an incredible wealth of arts knowledge and insight to the Festival board.

**Sally Bruce** is Chief Financial Officer of NAB's Business and Personal Banking businesses. Appointed to that role in 2013, Sally joined NAB in 2009 and has held roles as Acting Executive General Manager for Consumer Product Solutions, and General Manager, Mortgages.

Sally has more than 20 years' experience in financial services including an extensive senior level career with the Macquarie Group. She holds a Masters of Applied Finance and a Degree in Commerce. She is also a member of the Financial Sustainability Committee for the Walter & Eliza Hall

Institute for Medical Research, and in 2004, was awarded the AFR Boss Young Executive of the Year.

**Simon Ryan** is the CEO Carat Australia and New Zealand. His career spans over 18 years in media with past roles at Universal McCann, Zenith Media and Mediacom. After joining Carat's Melbourne business as Managing Director in October 2009, he was promoted to CEO of Carat Australia & New Zealand in 2013.

With Business Marketing & AFA qualifications in addition to a slew of industry awards in strategy and media, his passion and experience lies across media strategy, planning and buying extending across many categories.

**Melbourne Festival President, The Hon Linda Dessau (AM)** said *"I am delighted that Rob, Sally and Simon have agreed to join the Melbourne Festival board. Each of them brings specific skills and experience that will add richly to the diverse expertise of the existing directors."*

### Melbourne Festival's Board of Directors:

**President: The Hon Linda Dessau AM**

**Vice President: Philip Cornish**

**Treasurer: Paul Kirk**

**Secretary: Louise Adler AM**

**Directors: Ian McDougall, Wai Tang, Neil Waters, David Whittle, Rob Brookman, Sally Bruce and Simon Ryan**

### Notes to editors:

- Melbourne Festival is a responsibly managed not-for-profit entity governed by a board of 12 directors - 5 office bearers nominated by government and 7 nominated by the board.
- The Festival will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2015.
- The board will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> meeting this December.

**PRESS CONTACT:** **TATIA SLOLEY** P +61 3 9652 8641 M 0403 305 395 [tatia@tspublicity.com.au](mailto:tatia@tspublicity.com.au)  
**EMMA COSTELLO** P +61 3 9652 8638 M 0421 201 344 [emma@tspublicity.com.au](mailto:emma@tspublicity.com.au)