

1 June 2009

Two new Directors for The Australian Ballet

The Chairman of The Australian Ballet Board, Chris Knoblanche, today announced the appointments of **Mr Jim Cousins** (Melbourne) and **Mr Craig Spencer** (Brisbane) to the Board of Directors.

Officially joining the Board on 25 June 2009, Cousins and Spencer will replace Directors David Crawford, who retired from the position of Chairman in December 2008, and Sally Anne Atkinson who retired in February 2009.

Chris Knoblanche said Cousins and Spencer were widely respected by the arts and business communities.

"Jim and Craig bring a wealth of expertise and experience to The Australian Ballet's Board of Directors and I'm thrilled they agreed to join us," he said.

Jim Cousins has a long and distinguished history in public and private institutions across Australia.

His impressive business career included property development and importing. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2004 and was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Letters by Deakin University in 2004.

Cousins was Trustee/Deputy President of the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Chairman of The Public Galleries Association of Victoria, Chairman of the Geelong Performing Arts Centre and Chairman of the Geelong Art Gallery. He is currently Chairman of the Melbourne Recital Centre.

Cousins has played a pivotal role in a number of redevelopments of major Victorian arts centres including the NGV, the Geelong Performing Arts Centre, the Geelong Art Gallery and the construction of the Melbourne Recital Centre and Melbourne Theatre Company buildings.

In the area of philanthropy, Cousins has chaired and been President of the Geelong Art Gallery Foundation, the NGV Foundation and is presently establishing the Melbourne Recital Centre Foundation.

Craig Spencer is well known and respected in Queensland with a keen appreciation of the arts. A highly successful business operator, he is Managing Director and owner of Carter & Spencer Group. Based in Brisbane, Carter & Spencer provides world class fresh produce, logistics and marketing services to the global market.

Spencer joined the family business straight from school as the company commenced a challenging growth phase in its 73 year history. Today, Carter & Spencer Group is one of the largest fresh produce exporters, distributors, importers and citrus growers with operations throughout Australia, New Zealand, China and Thailand.

A keen ballet supporter, Spencer's two daughters have been dancing since the age of four, while his wife is President of the Ballet Theatre of Queensland, and the Brisbane Eisteddfod. The family became involved with The Australian Ballet when daughter Lily joined The Australian Ballet School Extension Program for four years. Lily also danced in Graeme Murphy's *Swan Lake* when it toured to Brisbane in 2005.

Spencer's company began its relationship with The Australian Ballet in 2008 when Carter & Spencer Group became Supporting Sponsors.

He has served on many industry Boards and is currently on the Produce Marketing Association Australia/New Zealand Council. He is also a Director of the City Of Brisbane Investment Corporation, a Director of the Churchie Foundation and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Cousins and Spencer join current Directors of The Australian Ballet: Robert Albert, Toni Cody, Julie da Costa, Li Cunxin, Felicity Gunner, Chris Knoblanche (Chair), Sarah Murdoch, Steven Skala and Peter Smedley.

Both will be formally elected at the 2010 Annual General Meeting.

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