



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**December 12, 2016**

## **David Johnson elected as new chair of Hastings Co-op Board**

Well-known local, David Johnson has been elected the new Chair of the Hastings Co-op Board, replacing long-standing leader Julie Muller, who is now the Deputy Chair.

Following Hastings Co-op's 100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting late last month it was decided Mr Johnson would steer the organisation into its next century.

Mr Johnson is a retired Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

He joined the Hastings Co-op Board in 2013 and brings more than 30 year experience in the banking finance industry as well as 12 years company secretary experience. He is also a director with Bundaleer Care Services and Holiday Coast Credit Union. Prior to returning to the Hastings Co-op Board in 2013, he was previously a Board member between October 2004 and July 2006.

Chief executive officer Allan Gordon said Mr Johnson offers a wealth of experience in business management and accounting as well as governance, policy development and risk management.

"David has made a great contribution over the past three years he has been on the Board, and as Chair will bring all of his experience to fore as we grow the Co-op in the coming years," Mr Gordon said.

"Hastings Co-op is looking forward to an exciting three-year term ahead and David's expertise will be a real asset."

Mr Johnson said his priorities included "delivering a solid performance in this, the Co-op's 101<sup>st</sup> year, building on the growth that has been achieved in recent years and continuing to provide quality products and services to the shareholders and communities we represent".

"Today, retailing is a challenging environment, and with the continued strong commitment from the Board, the management team and our loyal staff across all the business division, the Co-op can deliver a positive benefit for all," he said.

Mr Gordon thanked outgoing Chair Julie Muller for her trademark devotion to the Co-op over the past 23 years as a director, and in particular the past five years as Chair.

"Julie has been at the helm during an interesting period in Hastings Co-op's history, leading us back to the position of recording an after-tax profit of \$1.38 million at our AGM last month," he said.

At the conclusion of the 100<sup>th</sup> AGM last month, the Board also voted on the format of Board committees, which will include an Audit and Risk Committee, Governance Committee and Marketing and Communications Committee.

The current Hastings Co-op Board includes David Johnson, Julie Muller, Richard McGovern, Anthony Abi-Saab, Jane Dawson and Lisa Intemann.

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