

The Ophthalmic Research Institute of Australia



One of Dr Bill Glasson's steers

At the ORIA, we all have one thing in common: a passion for volunteering in the eye research sector! Our directors and staff are committed to supporting ophthalmic research and researchers. Our volunteer board of doctors, as well as fulfilling their duties as directors contribute in many ways, including promoting the ORIA and its work on social and online media. ORIA directors are an active and busy lot! From rural adventures to a variety of hobbies and sports, we all have great 'side gigs'.

A/Prof Chameen Samarawickrama enjoys burning off excess energy playing competition squash. He says that the game is a reset for him and refreshes him after a long day sitting in the clinic. Dr Richard Stawell enjoys travel and cycling. As extensive travel has been impossible, cycling has become even more important to him. He has recently completed a 100km charity ride and knows quite a few ophthalmologist cyclists who enjoy the sport.

A lover of the fresh air in New Zealand and outdoor activities, A/Prof Andrea Vincent enjoys walking, paddle boarding and skiing. She suggests breaking her bones occasionally is also her side hustle! Another director with a penchant for the outdoors is Dr George Kong, who enjoys bush walking and camping in the bushlands of Victoria with his wife and young kids in his pop-up camper trailer. George suggests he finds it particularly important in the era of overwhelming technological intrusion in everyday life to have greater appreciation for nature and the joy it brings.

Prof Stuart Graham enjoys wine tasting and can be found in the open water for up to 5kms down. He is also a keen skier, bush walker and bird photographer. Hon Secretary Prof Richard Mills is a fanatical golfer and loves surfing, card games (especially Bridge), reading good literature, iconic walking trails and native coastal vegetation conservation.

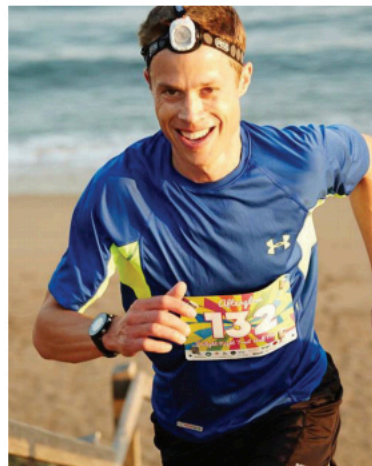
Dr Bill Glasson, originally a boy from the bush, has a serious interest in his rural property holding where he breeds a beautiful line of Santos Gertrudis and Droughtmaster calves. He says, "I was born in the bush, my heart is in the bush and my spirit will remain in the bush."

In her younger years, Dr Jennifer Fan Gaskin used to win trophies for singing and playing classical piano, but these days she is more often heard belting out her rendition of "Let it go" on the piano at home with her three preschool children.

Vice Chair of the ORIA, Prof Mark Gillies' 'side gigs' include entertaining guests with long lunches feasting on French provincial food and watching fringe films that nobody has ever heard of.

A/Prof Peter van Wijngaarden spends his free time preparing for and completing ultramarathons. He is also a tech company founder, and a devoted father and husband.

Our CEO, Diane Harapin grew up in a sporting family and has managed her dad Kenny Williams' publicity since she was a teen. As a former jockey and Sydney Swans 'team spirit leader', Kenny gets many PR and fan requests despite being in his 90's. She can also be found sitting on charitable



A/Prof Peter van Wijngaarden



ORIA Chair, Prof Stephanie Watson

boards, mentoring Indigenous boys at Scots College and women in the USYD executive mentoring program and the Future Women Program.

Not sure if our fearless leader, Chair of the ORIA, Prof Stephanie Watson has much time for other activities after her many hours of volunteer work at the ORIA, ensuring the organisation continues to go from strength to strength, but we hear she enjoys cycling, swimming and travel. In the past, she ran marathons but recently has found making cheese more relaxing!