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11 October 2024

**Re: Travellers Choice Limited 2024 Annual General Meeting**

An important item of business to be considered at the Annual General Meeting being held on Friday 01 November 2024 is the election of Directors.

Nominations for Member Director positions on the Board of Travellers Choice Limited have been sought from the membership, with three (3) nominations received for two (2) vacancies.

The three nominees, listed alphabetically by surname are:

Benjamin Apsey – Globetrotters Travel & Cruise, Toowoomba, QLD  
Naome Burdon – Argyle Travel & Cruise, Naracoorte, SA  
Trinity Hastwell – Hastwell Travel & Cruise, Frewville and McLaren Vale, SA

Each nominee has produced a Nominee Credential Statement to support their application which is provided below to assist your decision making. There will be no further information provided in relation to the candidates.

Members will be required to select their preferred two candidates from the three nominees. Voting will be conducted ahead of the Annual General Meeting via a dedicated third-party software platform operated by Vero Voting and information regarding the voting process will be sent separately in the coming days.

Yours sincerely

Christian Hunter  
Company Secretary

## Globetrotters Travel & Cruise

11 Oct 2024

172 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City QLD 4350

Phone: +61 7 4639 2255

Dear Travellers Choice Family,

[info@globetrotters.net.au](mailto:info@globetrotters.net.au) | [www.globetrotters.net.au](http://www.globetrotters.net.au)

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for a Member Director position with Travellers Choice. I am currently Managing Director of Globetrotters Travel & Cruise; a retail travel agency located in the thriving regional Queensland city of Toowoomba. The business has been a member of Travellers Choice for 17 years and is one of QLD's longest continuously operating travel agencies, having first opened at the current address in 1949. I have operated the agency with my father, Paul Apsey, since July 2020, having taken ownership from the previous owners, Clive and Anne Arnold. Immediately prior, I was working in motor vehicle sales and owned my own coffee shop – partly the reason we incorporated a coffee station into the refit of the office when we succeeded the Arnolds. Formally, I have an Associate Degree of Spatial Science majoring in Urban and Regional Planning, in which my study interest was strategic planning.

Professionally, I have a broad range of skills across hospitality, arts, travel, sales, and politics. I have always had a keen interest in business and politics, having run in Toowoomba's local government elections in both 2016 and 2020. I have also worked on several political campaigns, and during COVID, I was an Electorate Officer for the Federal Member for Groom, Garth Hamilton. In this position, I collected and analysed data from various sources across the electorate, and assisted with the development of policies in a strategic, long-term capacity. I have sat on the management committee of the Toowoomba Philharmonic Society, a local arts organisation, and was vice president for two years, before stepping down in 2021, to focus on rebuilding the agency. During my vice presidency, I produced the musical Grease, and last year returned to an assistant producer role on Les Misérables for the Toowoomba Choral Society. In both productions, I managed the budget, as well as marketing and contracting responsibilities.

Globetrotters is a member of Toowoomba's Chamber of Commerce, and as part of this I sit as a small business representative on the CBD Revitalisation Advisory Committee. I was asked to be part of this following the 2020 council elections, as the Chamber CEO believed I could bring fresh ideas to the table and contribute to future development of the Toowoomba CBD and business community.

Globetrotters was a finalist in Toowoomba's Business Excellence Awards in both 2023 and 2024; as well as a finalist in the 2023 ATIA NTIAs (Most Outstanding Leisure Travel Agency - Single Location). Our agency was nominated again in the 2024 ATIA NTIAs, while I was also nominated for Most Outstanding Travel Agency Manager. This demonstrates our dedication to the travel industry, our resilience, and our drive to push forward into a bright future. I believe all organisations have a responsibility to succession plan for their business, while keeping up to date with current trends and embracing new technologies or ideas. Travellers Choice should be focused on embracing emerging technologies and new ideas, along with membership growth and succession planning of not only its own corporate governance, but also on the aging membership.

I believe that I would be a valuable member of the board given my experience, youth and diversity of thought. I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to the future of Travellers Choice and would be honoured to serve the membership on the Board of Directors.

Kind Regards, Benjamin Apsey

# Globetrotters Travel & Cruise

172 Margaret Street, Toowoomba City QLD 4350





Naome Burdon  
Argyle Travel and  
Cruise

**Nominee Credential statement  
TRAVELLERS CHOICE BOARD**



**I would be honoured to serve on the Travellers Choice (TC) board and contribute to our community's growth.**

**Over the past decade, I have been deeply committed to both professional and personal development. With over 30 years of experience in the travel industry, I bring a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record of success.**

**Since founding my own business nearly 25 years ago, I have demonstrated the strategic thinking, commitment, and leadership qualities that are essential for a TC director. My educational background includes both public and private schooling, culminating in tertiary qualifications from AFTA Travel College.**

**I possess an innate curiosity and a growth mindset, continuously seeking opportunities for improvement (*kaizen*) in all aspects of my life. Entrepreneurship runs in my veins, as I grew up in my parents' self-made business, which nurtured my natural problem-solving abilities.**

**In 2020, I completed a Diploma of Leadership and Management – Conscious Leader with Cornerstone People Solutions. I also successfully participated in the 2021 Limestone Coast Leadership Program, designed to cultivate emerging leaders for roles in boards and councils, as well as project development and governance.**

**My business experiences, combined with my studies, have equipped me with a strong understanding of strategy, policy development, and risk management.**

**I have honed my skills as an effective listener, communicator, and collaborator through my involvement in various committees. These include the Millicent Business Community Association, Limestone Coast Rowing Club, Beachport Primary School Governing Committee and in 2022-23, Deputy Chair of the Naracoorte Business Association.**

**In the last decade, I have navigated financial challenges that have sharpened my ability to analyse financial statements and drive growth. My experience running my own business has deepened my understanding of financial management.**

**Collaboration is a key strength of mine, and I value the community aspect of TC membership. Since joining 10 years ago, I have been a dedicated advocate for our company. I am eager to develop any skills found lacking, approaching growth with enthusiasm and diligence.**

**The opportunity to be mentored by industry leaders like Christian, Trent and my peers, excites me, especially after being inspired by Trent's presentation, during the recent board succession webinar.**

**It would be a privilege to serve the TC community and contribute to our company's continued success.**

**Thank you for considering my application.**

# HASTWELL

## TRAVEL & CRUISE



**Trinity Hastwell**  
**Hastwell Travel & Cruise**  
**Board nomination for Travellers Choice**

I ask for your support and vote for my re-election to the Board, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving our membership with passion and dedication.

With over 19 years of retail travel industry experience, I have developed a deep understanding of the sector's dynamics and the unique challenges we collectively face. In the time that I've been privileged to serve on the Board, my commitment to Travellers Choice has been unwavering, and collectively, the Board supported the organisation to navigate the most challenging of times, emerging with a strength that has seen the organisation truly prosper. As difficult as those times were, it highlighted the importance of a diverse, passionate and committed Board and I am eager to continue working alongside my fellow Directors to enhance our offerings and expand our membership. I am dedicated to ensuring that Travellers Choice remains a leading force in the retail travel industry.

I have been Managing Director of Hastwell Travel & Cruise for the past 13 years, a Silver Choice Award agency and previous Brian Pateman Agency Award for Excellence recipient, and I believe the following credentials make me the best candidate for the Board position.

As a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD), I have completed Australia's leading Director education program, providing a robust understanding of governance, strategic planning, and risk management. I am passionate about promoting collaboration among our members, fostering a culture of innovation, and ensuring that Travellers Choice continues to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing industry.

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of South Australia, where I majored in Marketing with minors in Public Relations and Tourism & Hospitality, which has shaped my strategic approach to business and stakeholder engagement.

My business interests expand beyond the travel industry, providing valuable insights into the nuances and common challenges of different sectors. I have spent three decades working in the South Australian Wine Industry, currently as a Strategic Advisor, where I have further honed my skills in marketing and customer relations.

Prior to joining the Travellers Choice Board I served 5 years on the Executive Committee of the Skai International Adelaide chapter in roles ranging from Secretary, Treasurer and eventually Vice President. My time on the committee helped me build relationships within the travel industry and develop a diverse skill set.

Thank you for considering my re-election to the Travellers Choice Board. It would be an honour to continue to serve you.

### **FREWVILLE**

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