**SHARON WILLIAMS**

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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

I am committed to the success of privately owned New Zealand businesses through the utilisation of independent advice. For the past 5 years I was in a governance role with a Chartered Accounting Practice working alongside the General Manager to develop Strategic and Business Plans and supporting him with their implementation. I have a strong background in accounting and commerce and I can read and interpret the numbers, which in turn facilitates decision making and implementation of business transformation and growth.

I understand the challenges faced by businesses, having done it for myself, and this coupled with working alongside numerous client businesses over the years has given me the skills to add value at a board level.

**GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE**

**Director, Searell & Co Ltd – April 2003 to March 2016**

$1.6m turnover Chartered Accounting Practice employing 12 people in Christchurch. Working with SME’s offering business advisory and accounting services.

**Director - Hornby Syndicate Ltd – February 2002 to current**

Client investment company. Shares held in Hornby Mall as a syndicate.

**Director - Canterbury Property Investments Ltd – September 2013 to current**

Investment in Commercial Property. I am one of the shareholders.

**BOARD STRENGTHS**

**Industry/Sector Experience**

* Professional Services with a specific focus on accounting
* Commercial & Residential Property
* SME’s covering a wide variety of businesses

**Functional Skills**

* Leadership development in recruiting and developing talent within my business
* Assessment and implementation of growth through acquisition, merger and value-added services
* Moving away from the traditional model and being open to a better way

**Governance Capability**

* Participation in Strategic Planning sessions for long term growth and development
* Ability to read the financial statements, analyse them and make decisions for business transformation
* Ability to assess risks and be accountable through being a sole proprietor

**CAREER SUMMARY**

**Owner, Searell & Co Ltd – April 2003 to March 2016**

**Senior Accountant, Searell & Co Ltd – February 1997 to March 2003**

**Various roles – 1990 to 1997 – upon graduating from Massey University I worked in several Accounting positions in Palmerston North, Australia and Christchurch.**

While an accountant by qualification I was a business owner for the last 13 years, after initially working for the previous owner for 6 years, and recently I successfully sold my business.

In the early days, I was extremely busy as the Managing Director, looking after the day to day activities of the business and staff while also being in a Partner/Head Accountant role providing advisory services to clients. It was a busy time but I believe in always looking for opportunities so in 2005 I purchased another business and over time more than doubled the size of the business.

After the birth of my son in 2008, I decided to restructure things so in 2010 I appointed a General Manager and moved into a governance role with the business.

Over the years the firm changed a lot, my role moved to a strategic one and I was always looking for opportunities for change, improvement and growth.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

Bachelor of Business Studies, majoring in Accountancy at Massey University – Graduated 1990 in the top 5% and was awarded a Massey University Scholarship.