



biography

Gary Smith

Managing Director, Tourism Leisure Corporation

Gary Smith (*B.Comm, FCA, Fellow Australian Institute of Company Directors*) is Managing Director of Tourism Leisure Corporation.

Gary started his career with international accounting and consulting firm Arthur Andersen & Co in 1981, joining with a commerce degree from the University of Queensland, before leaving to go into the commercial world in 1986. He has actively been involved (at Director level) in the Kingfisher Bay Resort project since its inception in 1987 - through the full project development phase and opening in July of 1992 - and has guided the establishment of the resort as a leader in the field of ecotourism.

In 1996, Gary formed Tourism Leisure Corporation. The company operates several businesses within the tourism and leisure industries, including Kingfisher Bay Resort and Eurong Beach Resort on World Heritage-listed Fraser Island; Fraser Explorer Tours; Fraser Island Barges; and Twin Waters Golf Course on Queensland's Sunshine Coast.

From 2003 to 2007, Gary was an independent Director of the then publicly listed Tourism Company S8 Limited (S8), which over time grew to manage more than 20,000 holiday letting apartments in Queensland. S8 acquired a number of Australian and New Zealand icon travel agencies including Harvey World Travel, Travelscene American Express and Gullivers Travel (NZ) before being acquired by MFS Limited in January 2007.

In November 2007, Gary was appointed as a Non-Executive Director to the Board of Flight Centre Travel Group Limited (FCTG) - one of Australia's Top 100 public companies by market capitalisation on the Australian Stock Exchange. FCTG reported an EBITDA of \$378 million for the year ended 30 June 2014.

FCTG currently owns Australia's largest wholly owned retail travel agency network and operates in more than 10 countries - with a total annual transaction value of over \$16 billion; more than 18,000 staff; and many different brands encompassing Leisure (including Flight Centre, Escape Travel, Student Flights and Liberty Travel); Corporate (FCM Travel Solutions, Corporate Traveller and Ci Events); Online (flightcentrehotels.com and quickbeds.com) and Wholesale (Infinity Holidays and Travel Spirit Group).

Gary was appointed Chairman of Flight Centre Travel Group Limited in September 2014. During his time on the FCTG Board, he has been the Chair the Remuneration Committee and also sat on the Audit Committee.

In November 2012, Gary was appointed as a Non-Executive Director to the Board of Michael Hill International Limited (MHI). MHI owns the brands 'Michael Hill' and 'Emma & Roe' and operates a 300-strong retail jewellery store chain in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

MHI, which employs more than 2,500 staff, is publicly listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange and reported an EBITDA of AUD \$42 million for the year ended 30 June 2014. During his time on the MHI Board, Gary has been and remains Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and also sits on the Remuneration Committee.

Other Business Affiliations include:

- Queensland Tourism Industry Council (QTIC) Life Member. Gary was Chairman from 1996 to 2007 of this Queensland Tourism Industry representative body.
- Gary is a past Deputy Chair and Board Member of Ecotourism Australia – Australia's leading industry group representing the nature-based segment of the tourism industry.
- In August 2012, Gary was appointed to the board of Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ) by the Queensland Government. With an annual budget of approximately \$100 million, TEQ is responsible for marketing Queensland to domestic and international tourists as well as attracting and funding events across the state.