**Martin Hirons, Chairman**

Martin was introduced to Red Dust Role Models through his various basketball connections. The enthusiasm of John Van Groningen and the impact of the program on the children and communities in remote NT have had a dramatic effect on his outlook of life in Australia. Martin Hirons has spent his career in the sport business sector and brings a wealth of experience to the Red Dust leadership team he brings his core expertise based around business strategy and market research.

**Ray Minniecon, Director/Cultural Advisor**

Ray Minniecon is a descendant of the Kabi Kabi nation and the Gurang Gurang nation of South East Queensland, the South Sea Islander people, with connections to the people of Ambrym Island.

Ray earned a BA in Theology at Murdoch University, WA, and helped establish the Aboriginal Education Unit. He has also worked for World Vision Australia’s Indigenous programs for twelve years and was its National Director for six of those years.

Ray has spoken about indigenous issues at local, national and international forums, including an intervention at the UN in Geneva on behalf of Indigenous Peoples at the first hearing of the Draft Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 1995.

**Will Minson, Director**

A longtime Red Dust Role Model, Will was warmly welcomed to the board at the end of 2014. A former player in the Western Bulldogs, Will was selected 20th overall in the AFL Draft and began his professional career when he debuted in 2004. Most recently, Will completed his Sciences Degree from the University of Melbourne.

Through his deep connection to the remote communities we partner with and the knowledge garnered from being a small business owner, Will brings unique and invaluable insight to this role.

**Ben Lawrence, Director**

Ben is the Chief Human Resources Officer for Wesfarmers Limited.  Prior to joining Wesfarmers in 2008, Ben was the Chief Human Resources Officer for Foster’s Group Limited and has held a variety of senior roles here and in the United States. In addition to serving on the board of Red Dust, Ben is currently a non-executive director of the Wunan Foundation, which is focused on improving Aboriginal education, employment and accommodation in the East Kimberley region.

**Austin Van Groningen, Director**

The son of Red Dust founder John Van Groningen, Austin is proud to continue his late father’s legacy in working with the organisation.

Joining the board in 2013 at age 22, Austin provides Red Dust with fresh thinking, new possibilities and a healthy dose of John’s trademark energy.

Austin completed his Bachelor of Arts in 2013, majoring in politics. Previous experience spans a myriad of areas, including sports writing, radio production, agriculture and organisational management.

**Paul Guerra, Director**

Paul Guerra has enjoyed a 20-year career in the telecommunications sector working at senior levels for renowned companies Motorola and Vodafone.

Paul has a strong record in sales and marketing and has been instrumental in solidifying the presence of both organisations in Australia.

Paul also dedicates some of his time to serve as a Director on several charity-based organisations. His passion for Red Dust Role Models is driven by a desire to help all Indigenous Australians live a healthy and fulfilling life.

**John Van Groningen, Founder**

In 2006 John Van Groningen along with assistance from a range of friends and supporters, set up the framework to build our organisation Red Dust Role Models.

John lived in the remote Indigenous community of Lajamanu, and understood the challenges and hurdles faced by people living in these areas of Australia. He created a unique program that saw elite athletes visiting remote communities and conducting sport and healthy lifestyle programs, and by 2006 it had evolved to become the successful entity that is Red Dust Role Models.

Sadly, on December 23, 2012 John passed away due to complications with his battle with cancer. John’s passion for Red Dust’s work in remote Indigenous communities was unwavering and we will continue to work hard to improve the health and well being of youth in remote communities in John’s honour.