

## VILLAGE ROADSHOW LIMITED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GRAHAM BURKE AO TO RETIRE AT END OF 2019

**22 February 2019:** Village Roadshow Limited (ASX: VRL) today announces that Graham Burke AO has decided to retire as Chief Executive Officer at the end of calendar year 2019.

The Board has determined it is in the best interests of the Company that Mr Burke remains in his role until the end of 2019 to ensure a smooth succession. Upon the appointment of a new CEO, Mr Burke will remain on the VRL Board as a Non-Executive Director.

The Board intends to conduct a wide-ranging, global and domestic executive search, with an external search firm to support this process. Clark Kirby who is Chairman and CEO of VRL's largest division, Village Roadshow Theme Parks will be an internal candidate for the role.

Graham Burke started work for Roc Kirby, Village Roadshow's founder, at the age of 14 as a ticket collector and floor sweeper at Town Hall Pictures, Ararat in Victoria. At age 23, he became Managing Director of Village Drive-In Limited. In 1988, Village Roadshow listed on the ASX, and Graham was its inaugural CEO. He led the company into its highly successful theme parks investments, and was the driving force behind the establishment of Roadshow, which was key to the production of more Australian films than the rest of the industry combined. More recently, Graham has been at the forefront of the campaign to tackle content piracy both in Australia and globally.

Executive Chairman Robert Kirby said, "Graham is a giant of our industry and has been an integral part of Village Roadshow. Together we have seen the evolution of this company into the incredible entertainment business it is today, Graham having been a part of it for 63 years.

"We thank him for his enduring commitment and the leadership he has shown. Graham leaves an extraordinary legacy as CEO and we look forward to his continued involvement on the Board.

"Graham's agreement to remain on the Board ensures that his invaluable experience and knowledge will continue to benefit Village Roadshow, and allows him to provide advice and mentorship for the incoming CEO."

Graham Burke said, "It is an honour to lead Village Roadshow. I am exceptionally proud of everything that has been achieved. I am incredibly optimistic about the future of the company and look forward to serving on the Board in support of the new CEO. I want to thank the thousands of my colleagues who come to work each day with passion and dedication to creating great entertainment experiences for our customers.

"From humble beginnings as a small cinema circuit, we've contributed hundreds of millions of dollars into the local economy, provided employment and careers for thousands of Australians, become a mainstay in Australia's tourism industry and been involved in the production of some of the most iconic films of all time. Having said all of that, I firmly believe the best is yet to come."

## **GRAHAM BURKE AO**

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Graham Burke is Chief Executive Officer and an Executive Director of Village Roadshow Limited.

With a contribution to the Australian entertainment industry spanning more than half a century, Graham has had a profound impact on all aspects of film production, marketing, exhibition and distribution.

Graham has devoted his entire career to Village Roadshow Limited, having joined the company at the age of 14 as a ticket collector and floor sweeper at the Town Hall Pictures in Ararat, rural Victoria, owned by the late Roc Kirby. At age 23, Graham became the Managing Director of Village Drive-In Limited.

In 1968, Graham and the Kirby family founded Roadshow Film Distributors (Roadshow) which became the most successful film distribution company in Australia.

In 1988, Village Roadshow listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, with Graham the inaugural CEO.

Graham is considered one of the most strategic and creative forces behind Village Roadshow's development. He has been integral to the success and development of the Theme Parks business (Warner Bros. Movie World, Sea World, Wet'n'Wild) as well as an advocate for ongoing Australian and international film production. Through such initiatives, major international films such as *Happy Feet*, *Mad Max* and *The Great Gatsby* have been produced in Australia.

During his tenure as CEO, Graham was the Founding Commissioner of the Australian Film Commission; a Trustee of the Victorian Arts Centre Trust; and a Board Member of the International Cultural Corporation of Australia. Graham continues to Chair Creative Content Australia, a position he has held since 2016.

Graham was also key in revolutionising the FM radio industry and was a founder of the Sydney 2Day FM company, serving as Non-Executive Director between 2001-2011.

In 2018, Mr Burke was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia (AO) for services to film production, broadcast media and leisure industries, and to the community.