

# NEWS

27 August 2009

## BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Wesfarmers today announced the appointment of Ms Diane Smith-Gander as a new director and Mr Archie Norman as an advisor to the Board on retail issues.

Ms Smith-Gander, who is Perth-based, has had extensive experience in financial services as an executive with Westpac Banking Corporation and in management consultancy as a Partner at McKinsey & Company.

Wesfarmers Chairman Dr Bob Every said Ms Smith-Gander had a range of highly developed skills which would be of great value to the Board and the company.

“A diversified company like Wesfarmers will benefit greatly from Diane’s successful 25 year business career during which she has been involved at a senior level across a wide range of different business sectors,” he said.

“Her 11 years as a banking executive included responsibility for information technology services and for change management and at McKinsey for seven years she had exposure to a wide variety of businesses in areas such as financial services, pharmaceuticals and retail.

“On behalf of the Board and shareholders I welcome Diane to Wesfarmers and look forward to her making a substantial contribution in the years ahead.”

Dr Every said the appointment of Mr Norman would give the Board direct access to his extensive global retail expertise on a range of issues related to strategy development and the management of Wesfarmers’ extensive retail businesses.

“Archie has been working with Wesfarmers and Coles at the management level since October 2007 and has had a major role in helping guide the turnaround of the former Coles Group businesses,” he said.

“Following his transformation of the ailing Asda grocery chain business in the United Kingdom in the early 1990s, Archie has established an international reputation for his retail expertise and experience and he will provide invaluable advice to the Wesfarmers Board.”

Dr Every said Mr Norman’s existing management consultancy would continue. In his new advisory role he would attend Board meetings on a regular basis, as well as the Board’s annual retail planning conference, and advise the Chairman and the Board as required.

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## **Background information:**

### **Ms Diane Smith-Gander**

Ms Smith-Gander was an executive with Westpac Banking Corporation from 1990 to 2000 and from September 2007 to September 2008. Her responsibilities over those years included strategy development, change implementation - with particular focus on information technology development – and management of the mergers of the branch networks of the Bank of Melbourne and Challenge Bank with Westpac.

As a Senior Practice Expert and Partner with McKinsey between 2000 and 2007, she conducted consulting assignments for organisations undergoing major change, often due to merger or through an acquisition. Ms Smith-Gander also worked with PA Consulting Group in Sydney and Hong Kong from 1984 prior to joining Westpac.

She is a member of the Board of Basketball Australia and a former Chair of the Australian Sports Drug Agency. Earlier this month, Ms Smith-Gander was appointed to the Board of NBN Co Limited, the company established to deliver the National Broadband Network.

She has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Western Australia and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Sydney.

### **Mr Archie Norman**

Mr Norman's business career began with Citibank in the mid-1970s. He became the youngest partner of McKinsey & Company in 1982 and later Group Finance Director of Woolworths/Kingfisher. In 1991 Mr Norman was appointed Chief Executive of Asda, then Britain's fourth biggest but almost bankrupt supermarket chain.

He led the transformation of Asda that saw sales increase by more than a third, an almost 50 per cent increase in customer visits and its profitable sale to Walmart in 1999.

Mr Norman was a member of the British parliament between 1997 and 2005. Today he is Chairman of Aurigo Management, Chairman of HSS - the market-leading United Kingdom equipment hire business which Aurigo acquired in June - and is a senior adviser to Lazard.