



Australasian Road Rescue Organisation Inc.

ABN: 54155711735

Website: www.arro.org.au

PO Box 266, Sutherland, NSW, 1499, Australia

President: Jeremy Fewtrell AFSM

Contact: Kerrie Kent (Executive Officer) 0409 792 002

Email: kerriekent@outlook.com

Presidents Report 2022-2023

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 18 July 2023

It is with pleasure that I table my second report as President to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO) 2022-23. This year our AGM is being conducted online after a very busy and successful Challenge held in Adelaide. The extensive program in Adelaide made holding the AGM in person untenable, and I am pleased that we can come together online and offer a wider opportunity for more members to participate, both in the meeting and in the voting process. To ensure we satisfy our Rules of Association and Incorporation status with the Victorian Consumer Affairs this AGM is conducted within five months of the end of our financial year (with ARRO's financial year finishing on the last day of February each year) and the use of technology to hold the meeting and voting process is allowable and within the Rules.

COVID-19 has had significant impact on the world in recent years, and ARRO was heavily impacted financially by COVID-19. In July 2022, ARRO reset all membership and sponsorships and we were pleased to welcome back our gold sponsors FRSA and PT Rescue, financial sponsor WL Gore and equipment partners PacFire and Milwaukee Tools Australia, we thank you for your long-term support and continued partnership.

As a result of trialling a Business Development and Engagement role, we welcomed two new Gold Sponsors, McMahon Services, and Interfire Agencies (Weber). We also have some new equipment sponsors onboard for 2023-24 and look forward to working with them and building our sponsorship base. A big thank you to David Cockbain for his energy and passion and his outstanding contribution to ARRO this year.

The ARRO Executive thank all our sponsors for their support, your assistance is greatly appreciated and assists ARRO to maintain and enhance our member driven services. The discipline of road crash rescue/patient care is an ever increasing and complex field. Our aim is to function as the conduit between research and development, and on road practitioners through the education and sharing of information, best practise techniques and a networking forum to our members and the broader rescue community of practice.

With COVID-19 waning, a very successful Challenge was held in Tamworth NSW in July 2022 and our thanks go to Fire and Rescue NSW and NSW State Emergency Services for hosting an outstanding event. In August 2022, ARRO were again invited to participate in the AFAC22 Conference & Exhibition in Adelaide, we presented a booth in the Exhibition Hall and lunchtime extrication demonstrations. The booth was staffed by Tim and Justine Fox and Darryl and Sharon King, and we thank them for proudly displaying and promoting technical content and promoting our valued sponsors. The AFAC conference brought together a broad spectrum of emergency management practitioners to learn and



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share experiences, ARRO's involvement was extremely successful with hundreds of visits to our booth and Tim's extrication demonstration. We have again been invited back to AFAC23 in Brisbane, where Tim will hand over the mantle to James Boland, ARRO Research & Education Officer, to represent ARRO in the Exhibition Hall and provide demonstrations during the lunch breaks. Thanks to Tim Fox for his many years of dedication to ARRO as he retires, and to Kerrie Kent for working with AFAC to facilitate ARRO's involvement each year.

The World Rescue Challenge was held in Luxembourg in September 2022 and ARRO proudly supported two teams, NSW SES Hunter Valley Rescue and Tasmania Fire Service. Both teams competed in good spirits against teams from around the world, including Europe, Asia, America and beyond. They were extremely successful with both teams doing Australia and ARRO proud.

During this financial year a lot of foundation work was undertaken to increase the value ARRO offers to our membership. The Business Development and Stakeholder Engagement role was created to attract sponsorship and alleviate financial pressure. David Cockbain together with Executive Officer Kerrie Kent worked tirelessly throughout the year on setting up structures to ensure ARRO could increase its visibility, provide content and education to our membership, and provide support and value back to our sponsors. Going into 2023-24 they have continued to work extremely hard to ensure ARRO has the financial position and currency with members to remain the peak body in Australasia for the development and exchange of information, knowledge and skills in road and trauma rescue.

In May 2022 ARRO launched a fresh new website and during the year ramped up our marketing campaign through social media platforms with a hope to reinvigorate the ARRO membership. This strategy is proving to be very successful with the trend in membership rates once again climbing.

In 2023-24 the Executive and Technical Committees will renew the ARRO Strategic plan, Role descriptions, Policies and Challenge documents and these will be made available in the members' portal on our website. We have fresh and exciting content to post on our members portal in coming weeks, and a few very exciting training opportunities to offer member agencies during this coming financial year.

Finally, I would like to thank the Executive and Technical Committees for their support this year, and I thank all ARRO members and sponsors for your continued support of ARRO.

Jeremy Fewtrell AFSM

ARRO President