



Australasian Road Rescue Organisation Inc.

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President's Report

Annual General Meeting Saturday 22nd July 2017

It is with pleasure that I present and table my second Presidents report to the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO), 2017.

This report provides an outline across the activities that have occurred over the last twelve months and serves to provide some commentary in relation to future directions.

Revised Strategic Plan

In the 2016/17 financial year, the ARRO Executive reviewed the organisations strategic plan and its directions, acknowledging that we provide far more to the rescue industry and its suppliers over and above our annual challenge. The new directions illustrated within the plan promotes ARRO as being the Capability Hub for all things road crash rescue related and provides commentary around the expertise we bring to the realms of Research and Development, Knowledge, Skills, Equipment and of course Doctrine. This multi-faceted approach ensures that ARRO remains without question the 'peak body' in Australasia and cements our standing within the World Rescue Organisation. The ARRO membership was advised of these new directions and of the updated strategic plan via an e-news.

This report will reflect our progress in each of the five key result areas highlighted with the strategic plan and other matters of interest.

KRA.1. Contribute to community safety and the saving of life

ARRO is always willing to partner, promote or work with agencies and organisations in shared endeavours to save life and reduce trauma brought about by road crashes. The previous 12 months have seen us partner with the Victorian Road Trauma Support Services promoting their Shine a Light on Road Safety campaign, the Australian College of Road Safety, the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authority Council, individual fire & rescue and emergency service agencies and various other entities and individuals with the aim of promoting community safety and the saving of life. ARRO will continue to work with agencies in assisting them to expand their internal knowledge and capabilities of road crash rescue via the Australasian Rescue Challenge, informative and technical releases/circulars or the posting of information via our website.

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The support for ARRO and the Australasian Rescue Challenge from our Gold sponsors, Holmatro, Chubb, ResQtec, and our road safety partner, Holden has continued to ensure the quality of our challenge remains unrivalled throughout the world. Although Holden was unable to provide vehicles for ARC17, they remain a vital supporter of ARRO and have committed to future challenges.

I am also pleased to report that this Australasian Rescue Challenge remains strong with 20 teams representing 3 countries participating in this year's Challenge and I thank the United Fire Brigades Association for undertaking to host this very impressive challenge.

KRA.2. Gather and provide innovative ideas and technical information to the industry

ARRO has long promoted the fact that primarily we see our role as being the knowledge hub or the conduit of information sharing between rescuers, manufactures, lobby groups and our international colleagues with the aim to advance our discipline hence the new terminology captured with the 2017 – 2020 Strategic Plan as ARRO being the Capability Hub.

Our best source of sharing this information is via the annual symposium/workshop, the networking of our members and the release of our e-News emails. As part of this sharing of knowledge and experience amongst members we embarked on the updating of our scenario library and via an e-news to members sought case studies that could not only improve our challenge scenarios but also provide case studies for presentation to the members at future symposia and/or website promotion. I am pleased to say that several members have responded to this request where we will now consider several for presentation at next year's ARC. I encourage all members to share their experiences and their learnings with their ARRO colleagues via this approach. To recap, the Technical Committee via Tim Fox (Chair) is seeking member input by supplying photos and a short commentary of actual on-road RCR events that might be considered out of the ordinary and ones that tested the responding crews. Tim can be contacted at timothy.fox@arro.org.au

This year we have also embarked on creating a number of 'Toolbox Discussions' on specified aspects as provided by the Technical Committee. I am pleased to say that a few of our Assessors were filmed discussing topics aimed at not only generating awareness to the topic but to also have rescuers and medics adopt these techniques, practices, etc. These clips, filmed by our CMT member Dean Asher will be posted over the course of the coming months where it is hoped that a clip per month (or perhaps fortnight) can be posted on the members only section of the website for you to view. More information will be provided to members via an e-news once the details have been refined.

KRA.3. Facilitate Australasian Challenges, symposia and workshops

The overall rating for the 2016 Australasian Rescue Challenge hosted by ARRO was 4.9 out of 6 which was a reduction from 5.3 in 2015 when hosted by the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service and staged at Alice Springs. Several factors have been considered by both the Technical Committee and Executive Committee following this feedback hence at ARC17 there is a stronger presence around the learning environment with three (3) workshop pits now included in this year's program adding increased learning and skills based hands on value in support to the learning symposium.

Additionally, a pre-ARC survey of competing teams has endeavoured to place inexperienced teams in a workshop and to also observe other ARC experienced teams in action before competing in their first event. We hope that this initiative along with the three (3) pit concept will have the desired results and we will await the ARC17 results to see if they have hit the mark with attendees and if so the same concepts will be programmed into future ARC's. ARRO is very focussed about learning, hands on

practical opportunities and importantly sharing these new learnings and experiences within and across agencies post the ARC.

As with last year and the years before, the Trauma Challenge concept continues to gain momentum and is now a permanent fixture in the ARC's. The increased workload in coordinating the Trauma Challenge has required ARRO to put a special resolution to the membership at this AGM seeking endorsement to expand the Technical Committee by another member to specifically manage and coordinate this aspect.

KRA.4. Create networks with other relevant peak bodies nationally and internationally

Last year, the WRO hosted the World Rescue Challenge in Brazil and ARRO was represented by Wollongong, NSW. This year the WRC will be staged in Romania and will be attended by Geraldine (NZFS/UFBA) and Cairns (QFES) who were overall first and second year winners at ARC16. We wish both teams all the best in their endeavours.

ARRO also continues to be a member of many Australasian Peak Bodies, including the Australasian Council of Road Safety and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) where at last year's challenge we welcomed Deputy Chief Officer Gavin Freeman from the Tasmanian Fire Service and current Chair of the AFAC Urban Ops sub-group to the symposium. ARRO also hosted Mr Stuart Ellis, CEO AFAC which resulted in him writing an opinion piece which he circulated to AFAC's member base which I should say is several thousand. Mr Ellis was unable to attend this challenge, however, following discussions with him and Gavin Freeman we are hopeful that the AFAC Urban Operations groups will meet next year at ARC18 Lardner Park to conduct their programmed meeting but also view the challenge events and meet with rescuers.

KRA.5. Initiate opportunities to promote the ideals of ARRO

ARRO was fortunate to have been sponsored by AFAC to attend the AFAC16 conference in Brisbane at what is regarded as the premier event within the fire and rescue industry. ARRO's trade display booth attracted many visitors and our exposure was second to none. With the assistance of Qld Fire and Emergency Services, ARRO performed live demonstrations during the lunch periods of the two-day conference with this exposing many delegates to an actual RCR incident involving rescue. Tim Fox provided commentary to the attendees, walking through the techniques and tactics. Our presence was considered of great value and because of this, we have been once again invited to attend the AFAC17 conference in September in Sydney and again sponsored by AFAC.

Many would have seen the significant increase in the use of social media promoting not only the ARC but many other initiatives through Facebook. Thanks, must go to Dean Asher for taking the lead in this aspect where this year he will live stream the presentation night and hopefully next year we might be able to live stream the scenarios. This move into social media has seen ARRO's exposure reach out to rescuers across the World positioning us as a leader amongst the peak bodies of the World Rescue Organisation.

Although our individual membership remains constant, it is incumbent open all members to seek out new members to strengthen our numbers acknowledging that our individual membership is the platform on which we exist. New members create new opportunities, brings more depth of knowledge and experience, attracts and maintains sponsorship and addresses our agency member needs.

Sponsorship

In 2016/17, ARRO continued to enjoy financial and in-kind sponsorship arrangements with Chubb and Holmatro and this year (2017/18) they are joined by ResQtec as Gold Sponsors. We welcome ResQtec and thank Chubb and Holmatro for being partners of ARRO for many, many years and it certainly is appreciated.

The ARRO Executive continues to source potential sponsors and to increase and sustain the membership of ARRO. The Executive requests that any members direct any sponsorship opportunities through to our Executive Officer and of course seeks out potential individual members.

Closing Comments

I would like to thank all ARRO members for your continued support and interest in developing the art and science of road crash rescue and patient care in Australasia.

Mark Roche AFSM
President