



Australasian Road Rescue Organisation Inc.

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President's Report

Annual General Meeting

Monday 8th March 2021

It is with pleasure that I present and table my sixth Presidents report to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO), 2021.

Once again, our AGM is being conducted on-line. This is to ensure we satisfy our Rules of Association and Incorporation status with the Victorian Consumer Affairs and that is to conduct the AGM within five months of the end of our financial year (with ARRO's financial year finishing on the last day of February each year).

This is the second year in ARRO's 25 year history where we have cancelled our Rescue Challenge. The COVID pandemic has not been our friend, however, there are many families, friends, colleagues, sponsors and supporters who have been hurting through this period. Our thoughts go out to all of them.

It was a difficult but the correct decision by the Executive Committee to cancel ARC '21. We will have to live on the memories of our last ARC (Dubbo ARC'19) for a little longer, however, there is a heightened expectation that ARC 22 will be full steam ahead.

I can also report that QFES has advised that they have been financially impacted through this period and they will be unable to conduct the next challenge in Toowoomba as previously planned. The Executive Committee have been looking for alternative locations and we have a good level of confidence that an agency will nominate to conduct ARC'22. We hope to be in position to communicate updated information soon.

Similar to my comments last year, we hope that ARC22 will see a reinvigorated enthusiasm to what we believe is an essential event in the calendar of rescuers across Australasia. Delivering a high-quality symposium, workshops, extrication/trauma, CPR challenges and social networking opportunities.

This year is also a very significant period for ARRO with Executive Officer Steve Rothwell AFSM standing down from the XO position which he has held for the past 5 years. Steve has held numerous positions through the iterations of ARRO including membership coordinator, Treasurer and President. I would like to acknowledge Steve's commitment, dedication and professionalism over the past 20 years and thank him for being a significant figure in the success of ARRO.

With Steve's decision to hang up his XO boots, this is also a good opportunity to welcome our incoming Executive Officer, Ms Kerrie Kent. Kerrie is a Senior Project Officer for Fire and Rescue New South

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Wales and many of you will remember Kerrie as a member of the FRNSW team who brought us ARC'19 in Dubbo. Welcome Kerrie to the Executive Officer role in ARRO.

Thank you also to our Gold Sponsors, FRSA/Holmatro and PT Rescue/Lukas as well as our PPE Partners, Pacfire. We thank them for their continued support and ARRO will focus on building new partnerships during 2021 and beyond.

When cancelling ARC'21, we again considered the financial impact on our membership, our affiliates, our associates and our agency members and that of our Gold Sponsors and decided to continue with the freeze on all membership renewals and sponsorship fees to allow everyone to focus on the task they had in front of them.

During 2021 we celebrate our 25th year since ANRARA was formed in 1996 and transitioned to ARRO in 2003. Your new committee will ask you all to contribute to the 25th celebration of ARRO's history. Your stories, messages, photos, videos and anecdotes are needed to tell this story. Let's all get behind this opportunity and we will place some of these on our website. We will also encourage some of the 'old guard' to attend ARC '22 where we can celebrate our history in person.

As outlined last year, I think 2022 onwards provides ARRO with the opportunity to refresh, review our direction and focus on some of those key building blocks for the future. I am also encouraged by the renewed focus on the inclusion of Ambulance agencies as members and we only have a few more Ambulance agencies left to come on board.

On a personal note, I have decided not to submit a nomination this year for the vacant position of President. I believe after 6 years in the role it is important for me to pass the baton on to the next President to lead this great organisation into the future. During my time, I have stood by the need for good governance, for building partnerships and embedding relationships, recognising the expertise of our people and building the quality brand of ARRO. This could not be achieved alone, therefore, I would like to thank all of the ARRO membership, our committees, sponsors, affiliates, associates and supporters for working together during my part of this ARRO journey. The dedication and commitment you all play in building the ARRO experience is immeasurable. All the best for the future.

Closing Comments

I would like to thank all ARRO members and supporters especially during this pandemic period. Hopefully we will have greater confidence in our borders remaining open, in our travel between countries and states coming back to some level of normality and that we can get back on the tools at next years Australasian Rescue Challenge.

Best of luck to the new committees and I hope to see you all next year at ARC'22 in my role as an ARRO member and supporter

Regards

Mark Roche AFSM
President
Australasian Road Rescue Organisation