



Australasian Road Rescue Organisation Inc.
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Presidents Report 2021-22
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 24th July 2022

It is with pleasure that I table my first report as President to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO) 2022.

This year our AGM is being conducted in Tamworth NSW and I am pleased that we can come together for the AGM and once again align with the Annual Rescue Challenge which we have been unable to do given the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in recent years. 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).

COVID-19 has had significant impact on the world in recent years, and ARRO was also impacted heavily by COVID-19. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 and our inability to run the 2020 or 2021 Australasian Rescue Challenge we did not seek renewal of membership or sponsorships during 2020-21 and we did not seek renewal of sponsorships in 2021-22. In July 2022 ARRO reset all sponsorships and are pleased to welcome back our Gold sponsors FRSA and Equipment Partners Pac Fire. ARRO will renegotiate with Pt Lukas to renew their sponsorship at the conclusion of ARC22. ARRO welcomed new financial sponsors W.L.Gore. Gore have sponsored ARRO to the value of \$3,000 in 2022-23 and we hope to extend this partnership for many years to come. We are also pleased to announce a 5-year equipment partnership to the value of \$15,000 with Milwaukee Tools for the provision of small tools at all ARRO events.

The ARRO Executive thank all our sponsors for their support, it is greatly appreciated and assists ARRO maintain and enhance our member driven services. The discipline of road crash rescue/patient care is an ever increasing and complex field faced by our membership agencies and 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 fraternity.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19 on our ability to operate as normal, once ARRO adjusted to the pandemic environment, we embraced the challenges and innovative ways of coming together and were quite active during 2021. In August 2021, ARRO were invited to participate in the AFAC21 Virtual Conference & Exhibition and presented a virtual booth in the Exhibition Hall. The virtual booth contained technical content and celebrated the success of past challenges while proudly displaying and promoting our valued sponsors. The AFAC powered by INTERSCHUTZ conference brought together a broad spectrum of emergency management practitioners together to learn and share experiences in a new virtual format and it was extremely successful with hundreds of visits to our virtual booth. We have again been invited back to AFAC22 and will be represented in the Exhibition Hall and provide demonstrations during the lunch breaks, thanks to Tim Fox and Kerrie Kent for working with AFAC to facilitate ARRO's involvement.



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2021 World Rescue Challenge was also impacted by COVID-19 and looked a little different to others. Drones and virtual reality replaced face-to-face competition in the world-first virtual World Rescue Challenge, with members from NSW SES Port Stephens and NSW Ambulance joining forces to represent Australia in the event. Competing under the name Hunter Valley Rescue, the team six comprised of 4 NSW SES members and 2 NSW Ambulance members. The team competed in two separate challenges, against twenty other teams from around the world including from Europe, Asia, America and beyond. They were extremely successful and brought home gold and silver medals.

Our Challenge Management Team did not rest on their laurels during the pandemic, building on their reputation of well-regarded subject matter experts who continually update their credibility via on road experiences, networking, and studies. The CMT were active through 2021 undertaking assessing duties at locally based challenges in both NSW and New Zealand.

The Executive and Technical Committees have been hard at work in the background. Earlier this month ARRO launched a fresh new website, this is just one strategy ARRO hope will reinvigorate ARRO and the ARRO membership. Fresh content and training materials will be gathered over the coming months to provide year-round value to members. In 2022-23 the Executive will review the ARRO Strategic plan and associated policies and these will be made available all members on our website.

Finally, would like to thank the Executive and Technical Committees for their support in my first year as President and I thank all ARRO members for your continued support of ARRO. Best of luck to the new committee members and I hope to see you all next year at ARC23.

Regards

Jeremy Fewtrell AFSM
ARRO President
23 July 2022