



NEWSLETTER

ARRO
Newsletter

December 2008

Message from the President — Lee Johnson AFSM MIFireE

The festive season is just about upon us and many of our members will be looking forward to time with their family and friends as another year comes to an end. Of course some will be rostered on duty over the holiday season and others will be volunteering their time to be called out to road crashes just the same as the rest of the year. I trust that the incidence of attendance at rescues is minimal.

The Australasian Road Rescue Challenge for 2009 is being hosted by the NSW Fire Brigade and NSW SES and is to be held at the Australian Technology Park, Eversleigh in Sydney from 9-12 July. Full details will be available at the ARRO web site in the near future. I am sure that this will be another great challenge the planning is going well under the leadership of John Denny who is now a member of the ARRO committee as well. I am confident of the continued support from Holden in providing us with the vital access to contemporary vehicles. This sponsorship provides ARRO with the key ingredient to making our rescue challenge an event without equal anywhere in the world.

The ARRO committee has had a busy year with the production of many new policies covering a range of ARRO activities these policies will provide direction and certainty to members and will progressively be loaded on the member's area of the web site over the holiday break. As well the trial of our new expanded technical committee has also been fruitful with great input and energy from the team it is likely that the committee will be recommending a continuation and confirmation of this new approach. You can read more about some of the work they have been doing elsewhere in this newsletter. The committee is also very keen to hear from members who have a story to tell of attendance at difficult road crashes and how the rescue was performed, photographs and details of techniques used will be put up on our web site to inform members and give a wider group the opportunity to learn from another's experience, so don't be shy and send your material in.

The committee is also investigating the possibility of re-introducing a discussion forum to the web site. With the upgrade of the web site to the new format a couple of years ago the discussion forum was out of our reach financially at the time. We are now looking to see if we can afford it. If you think it would be worthwhile and get some use, please let us know. The committee needs to know how we can best help you, our members, so we need your input.

As you know, Chubb have been great supporters of ARRO and our principal sponsors for many years. I am pleased to report that this relationship is on going. However, from this year we will be adding a new badge to the ARRO overalls of our challenge management team to recognise that our financial support comes jointly from Chubb and Holmatro. The committee will be in touch with all assessors in the near future with a new patch and instructions on where it is to be sewn.



**Australasian Road Rescue Challenge for
2009**

**AT: The Australian Technology Park, Eversleigh
in Sydney**

July 9—12

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I am always keen to hear from members as to leads regarding companies or individuals who may be interested in sponsorship so send me an e-mail if you have any ideas.

Of course preparations are well underway for the 2009 ARC and I look forward to meeting you in Sydney, in July next year.

All the best for a safe and operationally quiet festive season.

Lee Johnson AFSM MIFireE
ARRO President



Vice President — Paul Jerome

World Rescue Wales 2008

World Rescue Wales (WRW) took place in Cardiff in the UK from 8 to 12 July 2008, hosted by the South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The challenge was the largest world challenge since these events have been conducted, with a total of 30 teams from 17 countries participating in the extrication challenge. This included first time participation from France, Hungary, Serbia and Ghana. There were also numerous support events such as a USAR challenge, fittest rescuer challenge, trauma challenge, a disaster management conference and a community safety expo conducted in conjunction with the challenge.

ARRO was well represented by the 2007 Australasian Champions – Curragh Mine Rescue Team, who finished 10th overall. In addition, Leo Cartwright and Daryl Rush were present as part of the assessor panel which included assessors from Canada, Spain, Scotland and England. Steve Rothwell and Paul Jerome also attended the WRO AGM and the challenge. With 30 teams being put through their paces in 3 classes over 3 days it was a very long day for the pit crews and specially the assessors.

Extrication Challenge

The challenge was conducted at an indoor venue with a similar set up to NZ in 2005. Teams were delivered to the pits in fire appliances (one per pit) and all equipment available to them was on that appliance. This was quite minimal by comparison with the ARRO equipment in the past. Teams were also only allowed to bring additional equipment to the pits that either fitted on a personal equipment belt or fitted into 2 duffle bags (when zipped up). The bags were approximately airline carry on size so this presented some real challenges for the teams.

Another innovation was time clocks counting down the time remaining in each pit were displayed above the pits on big screens. This provided considerable crowd interest and did not appear to adversely distract the teams or result in any undue coaching from the side lines. The host organisers, UKRO, took the videoing of teams one stage further with the addition of in-car video cameras, which were placed after scenario construction before commencement of the evolution by the team. Subject to not being covered by protective sheeting, it gave an interesting view of the medical treatment of the casualty, although comes at an additional cost to the organisers. Teams participated in 3 classes: rapid (similar to our immediate), Standard (similar to our Controlled) and Complex. The latter is a 30 min event with two live casualties, one of whom is time critical and the other who simulates entrapped injuries.

Trauma Challenge

This is a very interesting concept. The event is undertaken by a two person medical team over a 10 minute period, followed by a 2 minute handover to the medical assessor and a short debrief. The participating teams were held outside the area and entitled to bring only what medical equipment they could carry (e.g. medical kit, backboard and collar). A scenario was staged involving a single casualty with appropriate moulage on a small stage in front of a seated audience. The audience was played a short video to set the scene (the team did not see this). Two examples of the video were a camera fixed to a motor cycle travelling at high speed through winding curves or a country road and then coming to grief. The second was of a fighter aircraft doing aerobatics then having difficulty and the pilot ejecting. In both cases next to the projection screen the casualty was set up (either lying on the ground in bike leathers and helmet or full flying suit sitting in an ejection seat). Prior to entry, the team is provided with a written scenario card, much like a dispatcher's job card indicating you have been called as a first responder to..... On arrival they have to assess, triage and treat within the time frame. If they elect to move the casualty, they can have the assistance of bystanders, who are untrained but cooperative, for the purposes of the exercise. As the scenario unfolds, there is a substantial amount of dialog between the team and the medical assessor who provides feedback on the diagnosis being undertaken. Overall a very interesting and worthwhile activity that will help to improve standards of pre-hospital care, regardless of the level of training of the teams.

Other Challenge activities

In addition to the extrication and trauma challenges, the event also included a USAR challenge and a 'fittest rescuer' challenge, similar to the NZ combat challenge.



Vice President's Report continued...

The USAR challenge was interesting in that each team had exactly the same scenario and was able to observe its predecessors so the last team was clearly the most efficient at achieving the task which was building a racking shore, break through a concrete block, erect tunnel shoring, lifting a large object off a manikin, treat, package and remove the manikin back through the entry path created.

The fittest rescuer challenge was a great display of human endurance and effort by many. It was also very pleasing to see the supportive spirit between competitors who cheer and encourage each other on.



STOP PRESS – World Rescue Challenge 2009 and beyond

The WRO has been working hard to secure a host for WRC09. Originally the Cherry valley Fire Department in Rockford, Illinois in the US had offered to host the event. Subsequently they withdrew their nomination and the WRO committee has been exploring options including Spain, Hungary, UK and Ghana. None of these have been successful due to the late notice and current world economic conditions. However, at the time of writing this article there has been a late possibility emerge which the WRO is investigating. As soon as something is confirmed ARRO will advise everyone. We hope we are able to find a location to send our 2008 Australasian Champions, VICSES Bacchus Marsh, and the runners up, NZFS Morrinsville. If the WRO is unable to arrange an event we may see some international teams bidding for places in our Australasian challenge, which will be a great opportunity to share and learn with our friends and colleagues from around the world. Beyond 2009, WRO has bids to host 2010 from Germany and 2011 will be back in ARRO's patch somewhere. Keep an eye on the WRO web site (www.wrescue.org) for more information. ■

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Member Feedback



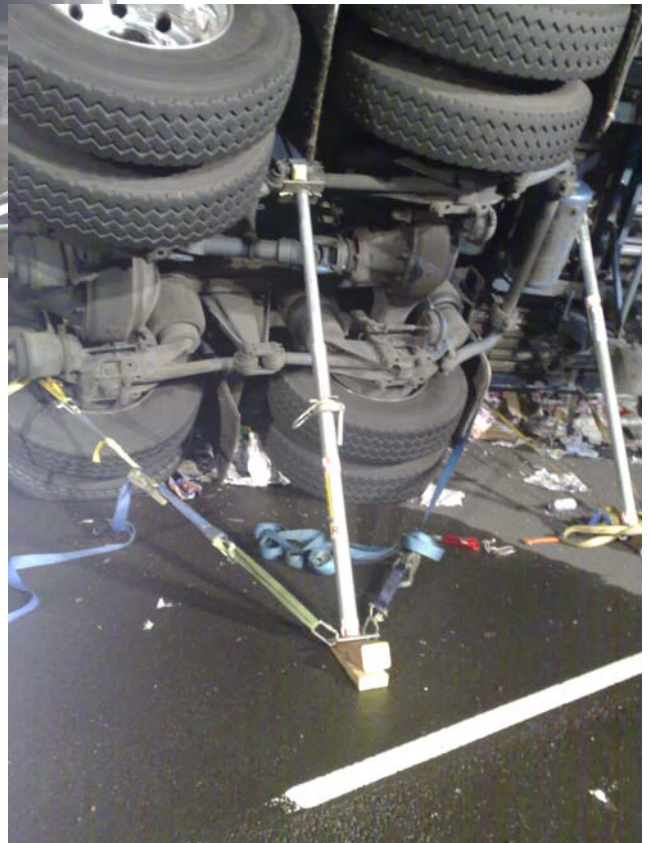
Daryl Rush passed on an e-mail from John Young who was one of the presenters with the farm machinery sessions at the 2008 ARC (see contents below).

This feedback is a great example of the benefits the Australasian Rescue Challenge conducted by ARRO and the hosting organisations do through practical application at the Workshops and Symposium. The dissemination of information and techniques through this forum ultimately translates to better prepared rescuers as well as better patient outcomes.

Congratulations to John and his SES crew and all those who took part in the 2008 ARC.■

Daryl, my local unit had this the other night, the driver was pinned by the legs and the upper body was hanging out the door, we used our stabilisation which is the basic accrow props. The senior members who attended the accident were at the ARRO Heavy Vehicle symposium and used the principals they learnt and put them into practice.

Could you please pass on my congratulations to your QFRS Trainers at the Heavy Vehicle symposium?



Remember

If you have a story (with or without pictures) we would love to hear from you so we can share your experience with all the ARRO members.

**Send e-mail to
garry.mikhail@paramedical.com.au**



Treasurer and Memberships Coordinator

Steve Rothwell

Proposed New Membership Classes

At the 2009 AGM, coinciding with ARC09 in NSW, I will be proposing that a change to the membership classes occur. Specifically, I will be seeking that the categories of National, Unit/Brigade and Company/Trader categories be removed and that Associate and Affiliate membership is endorsed to join the existing ones of Individual and Agency. The introduction of the two new classes will provide opportunities for organisations like Hong Kong Fire Service to join us and for EMA, who are strong supporters of ARRO to sit within a category than depicts their organisation.

The following definitions will provide you with an insight as to what is proposed.

Individual Member

Individuals focussed on enhancing their knowledge of the science of RCR and casualty management through practical application and information sharing.

Agency Member

Australasian agencies or organisations who have legislative responsibility or a vested interest in the provision of RCR capability and/or casualty management.

Associate Membership

Organisations that have a strong interest in Road Crash Rescue for the betterment of Australasian communities but are not directly involved in providing this service. For example, Emergency Management Australia, rescue tool manufacturers and/or suppliers).

Affiliated Membership

An organisation or organisations that are directly involved in providing Road Crash Rescue service delivery within their jurisdictional bounds and are committed to advancing the science and practical application of Road Crash Rescue for the benefit of their members and their communities. Affiliated members have their jurisdictional bounds outside of Australasia however adopt the ARRO philosophy and it's Statement of Purpose.

ARRO is proudly supported by:



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Emergency Management Australia





2008 Australasian Rescue Challenge Team Survey

If you would like to see the result of the 2008 Australasian Rescue Challenge Team Survey visit the ARRO website www.arro.org.au. The results can be downloaded via the Members Private Web page, Road Rescue Challenges. And while you're there why not check out the newly added "Challenge FAQs."

I would like to take this opportunity in wishing all of you and your families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a safe new year.■

