



# NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 2004**

**Editor: Peter Cocks      0417 398 232      peter.cocks@ses.vic.gov.au**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 2004 Annual General Meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May at the Old Melbourne Hotel. The AGM is usually run concurrently with the Australasian Challenge.

Thirty-eight people attended and, for the first time in ARRO or ANRARA history, an election was required to determine the members who would take up the general committee positions. There were three nominations for two positions. The nominees were Steve Rothwell, Glen Maule and Peter Guard, with Steve and Glen elected in a secret ballot. A full list of the ARRO Committee and their contact details is included at the end of this newsletter.

A copy of the minutes is included with this mail out to members.

## **AUSTRALASIAN RESCUE 2004**

AR04 was held in Melbourne from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> May, hosted by the Victoria State Emergency Service. The event was held at the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds along with an Emergency Service Trade Expo.

Twenty teams competed in the challenge after attending a full day workshop/symposium, which concentrated on rescue skills and techniques.



*All team members*

The final list of teams was:

VICSES Bacchus Marsh A	VICSES Bacchus Marsh B
VICSES Portland	VICSES Bendigo
CFA Werribee	NSWSES Kiama
NSWFB Burwood	QSES Mnt Garnet
Old Curragh Mines	QFRS Brisbane
QFRS Caloundra	WASES
WA FESA Perth	ACT Fire Brigade
SASES Laura	SA CFS Blackwood
TASSEs Huon Valley	NZFS Whitianga
NZFS Thames	South Wales FRS Bridgend UK

The South Wales team is the current world challenge winners and competed in Melbourne as a demonstration team only as they are not eligible to be Australasian Champions. The New Zealand teams were the first under the new Australasian structure since ANRARA expanded to include New Zealand members under the new World Rescue Organisation (WRO) structure.



*We are the champions*

The overall champions were New Zealand Fire Service Thames, a great result for the Kiwis as they now concentrate on hosting the 2005 Australasian and World Challenges.

A full list of results is included with this newsletter or is available from the ARRO web page at [www.arro.org.au](http://www.arro.org.au)

The ARRO committee would like to thank all of the volunteers who gave their time to assist in the conduct of AR04. Assessors, pit crew, first aid, moulage, car crushers, scenario creators, scorers and everyone else involved. Without your contribution the challenge could not happen.

Another area worthy of significant note was the support of sponsors, both at ARRO and VICSES level. The support of AR04 was extraordinary and we note here the sponsors who contributed to the success.



## WORLD CHALLENGES

The 2004 World Challenge is almost upon us. The event will be held in Plymouth, Devon, England from 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June. More details are available at [www.worldrescue.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.worldrescue.fsnet.co.uk) Two Australasian teams will compete in the world event. VICSES Bacchus Marsh and NZFS Thames are both travelling to Plymouth and we wish them well in their endeavours. Lets hope they can bring the world trophy back to Australasia.

The 2005 event is confirmed for Hamilton, New Zealand, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October and will include both the Australasian and the World Challenge. Details are available now at [www.ufba.org.nz](http://www.ufba.org.nz) The New Zealand delegation in Melbourne were very keen to encourage teams to take part in the challenge and already have an excellent brochure available. You can download that from the web site.

## AR04 – THE FEEDBACK

Twenty teams competed in the first Australasian Challenge and their feedback on the event is summarised here. Teams were asked to rate a number of aspects of the challenge and its organisation out of five.

The Rescue Seminar, conducted on the Thursday, scored an overall rating of 4.0, with all except one session rating well over 4 for relevance, although many teams thought the quality of some sessions could have been higher. There was also significant comment about the quality of the catering provided on the day. This is a key area for next year's organisers to consider.

There were many suggestions for topics for future seminars, but the strongest themes to come through were new car technology, new tools and extrication techniques and medical aspects of extrication.

All teams visited the trade display and gave it the 'thumbs up' with a score of 4.0 out 5. Some teams did express disappointment at the early departure of some of the exhibitors.

Despite there being no shortage of comments from teams around the tools provided in the pits, especially in relation to reciprocating saws, overall teams were satisfied with the quantity in each pit scoring 3.9. Similarly, in the main, the teams were happy with the assistance from the pit managers giving them an overall score of 4.2.

The workshop session was again very well received with an overall score of 4.4. There was also consistent comment about the need for the workshop to be conducted well away from the pits due to the noise factor. In relation to content for future workshop sessions, all teams were 100% unanimous in wanting this practical session to include a component about identifying new car technology in vehicles. The top five topics, as scored by the teams, were:

- Identifying new technology in vehicles 20 votes
- Space making techniques on modern vehicles 17 votes
- Coaching on techniques from ARRO 14 votes
- Casualty packaging and removal techniques 13 votes
- Tool demonstrations by companies 12 votes

The teams thought the quality of the challenge scenarios was high with an overall score of 4.5, although those in the limited pit scored slightly lower. The comments reflected that teams thought many of the scenarios were very challenging, but not really achievable in the time available.

There were many comments made about the consistency of the assessors and certainly plenty of issues for the technical committee to follow up on, however, despite this, the teams gave the assessors an overall rating of 4.3.

Teams reported that they were generally satisfied with the structure of the timetable (4.1), although again many felt they spent too long in isolation while scenarios were being constructed.

In relation to the length of the overall program, 4 days, a number of the volunteer based teams commented that making the seminar compulsory for all team members was an added pressure for them, however, despite this, 19 out the 20 teams felt the length of the program was 'just right'.

Only 2 teams expressed concern about the wording of the rules and in both cases this related to equipment allowed on the pits this year compared with previous years.

Teams were generally satisfied with the quality (3.9) and quantity (3.7) of the information they receive from ARRO, although there is room for improvement.

There was strong interest in event merchandise, with the most popular items being baseball caps and polo shirts that are event specific.

**Comparison of ratings:**

Note 2003 was scored out of 10 so for the purpose of the comparison, 2004 figures have been doubled.

	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
Rescue Seminar	8.0	7.4
Trade display	8.0	N/m
Pit equipment	7.8	N/m
Pit Managers	8.4	N/m
Practical workshop	8.8	N/m
Scenarios	9.0	7.8
Assessors	8.6	7.4
Timetable	8.1	N/m
Pre-event information	7.6	5.8
Web site information	7.2	N/m
Team briefing	7.6	6.9
<b>Overall challenge rating</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.0</b>

**WORLD RESCUE ORGANISATION**

By Rhys Maggs, ARRO President

Not a great deal is happening on the WRO front at the moment, with no meetings having been held since the last general committee meeting, which took place at the time of the World Extrication Challenge (WEC) held in Ottawa in October 2003.



Since then there has been one teleconference to consider some procedural matters. That produced news that the United Arab Emirates propose to have a team compete in this year's Challenge in Plymouth, Devon, UK.

At the time of writing I am about to depart for the WEC in Plymouth and I will be accompanied by Vice President, Lee Johnson. The other WRO delegate for the upcoming meeting will be Peter Guard from New Zealand.

I hope to have more to report following our return from the UK.

In the meantime, information on the WRO and the WEC Challenge are available on the website - <http://www.worldrescue.fsnet.co.uk>

## ARRO COMMITTEE 2004 - 2005

### President

Rhys Maggs  
Tel: 03 9684 6602  
Mob: 0418 317 393  
Email: [rhys.maggs@ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:rhys.maggs@ses.vic.gov.au)

### Vice President

Lee Johnson  
Tel: 07 3247 8072  
Mob: 0417 611 699  
Email:  
[ljohnson@emergency.qld.gov.au](mailto:ljohnson@emergency.qld.gov.au)

### Secretary

Paul Jerome  
Tel: 03 9684 6612  
Mob: 0419 398 407  
Email: [paul.jerome@ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul.jerome@ses.vic.gov.au)

### Treasurer

David Coldbeck  
PO Box 854 Hamilton VIC 3300  
Mob: 0438 723 556  
H: 03 5572 3555  
Email: [davidcold@anasonic.com.au](mailto:davidcold@anasonic.com.au)

### Challenges

Daryl Rush  
Mob: 0419 684 199  
Email: [rushd@cqnet.com.au](mailto:rushd@cqnet.com.au)

### Public Relations

Peter Cocks  
Tel: 03 9684 6626  
Mob: 0417 398 232  
Email: [peter.cocks@ses.vic.gov.au](mailto:peter.cocks@ses.vic.gov.au)

### Membership

Steve Rothwell  
Tel: 07 4639 9106  
Mob: 0407 629 205  
Email:  
[srothwel@emergency.qld.gov.au](mailto:srothwel@emergency.qld.gov.au)

### Merchandising

Glen Maule  
Tel: 07 4639 9162  
Mob: 0418 700 947  
Email:  
[gmaule@emergency.qld.gov.au](mailto:gmaule@emergency.qld.gov.au)

### ARRO

168 Sturt Street,  
Southbank Vic 3006  
Email: [arro@arro.org.au](mailto:arro@arro.org.au)  
Web: [www.arro.org.au](http://www.arro.org.au)

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