



**2017**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

# NO PLANE TAKES OFF NO SHIP SETS SAIL NO TRAIN LEAVES THE STATION

*Essential services can't operate  
Without a working radio.*

Two-way mobile radio is a unique, interconnected and irreplaceable part of the modern ICT world. It provides secure and reliable wireless communications networks for instant one-to-many voice and data calls over wide coverage areas.

While the radio communications industry itself isn't widely known to the public, every day, millions of Australians rely on the essential services that radio enables. What's more, this "invisible" industry contributes a whopping \$3 billion+ to the Australian economy every year!

**ARCIA is the voice of this \$3bn industry in Australia.**

Educational seminars, national networking events, position papers to government and industry, training, and career maps for industry talent are just some examples of what ARCIA provides to members.

 **Watch our video to learn more about ARCIA and radio communications:**  
[arcia.org.au/aboutLMR](http://arcia.org.au/aboutLMR)



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## 2017 PRESIDENT REPORT

The past 12 months has seemed particularly busy for the association with events, consultations and planning occurring throughout the year. The Australian Radio Communications Industry Association committee has taken on an extensive agenda to work with regulators and other industry bodies to promote the radio communications industry. ARCIA has also been promoting the needs of public safety users by working with key stakeholders to ensure users have a voice as technology changes occur. ARCIA has the view that both LMR and LTE technologies have an important place in the public safety market and that Australia needs to learn the lessons from overseas experiences.

The networking and annual gala dinner events around Australia are an opportunity for members, partners and guests to come together and celebrate what makes our industry special. Over the past 12 months they have been very well supported with great numbers attending. The Melbourne annual gala dinner was a fabulous event and has set a standard that will be difficult to replicate.

ARCIA was very fortunate to secure Mr TJ Kennedy, the President of FirstNet, for Sydney Comms Connect, and our networking dinner in June. As participants learnt more about the FirstNet partnership with AT&T and the potential implications for public safety users, it was evident this kind of collaboration is very important. It was good to see such a high-level of support from the public safety sector to learn from such a distinguished presenter.

ARCIA works closely with Westwick-Farrow Media and the Comms Connect team on the complementary events that help deliver value to members. ARCIA has been investing in the smaller states as we believe to truly represent a national body, we need to ensure as many members as possible have a local event. The committee is continuing to refine this model and to encourage local members to play a leading role in the development of the association in the smaller states.

Over the past 12 months ARCIA has been working with ACMA and the Department of Communications and the Arts in Canberra across a number of areas. Of particular interest is the changes to the Radiocommunications Act that will likely occur during this term of parliament. ARCIA's submissions have been well received and it is clear the experience of industry is important. This will become even more important during the transition to new legislation with more than 65,000 apparatus licences in Australia to be moved to a new legal instrument. ARCIA will be calling on key user groups within the industry when this happens so we are able to work with the authorities to maximise potential benefits.

Several other meetings have happened in the past 12 months including being asked to present industry views to the ACMA compliance team in context with the proposed new Radiocommunications Act. These meetings are excellent as we all share responsibility in some way of delivering outcomes and having the ability to discuss issues in an open forum is very worthwhile. We also believe that by being involved at this level we are opening the way for a higher degree of consultation in many areas. The industry is indebted to the people that give up their time for the greater good and I commend the work the committee have done this year. The committee has met



regularly with members from around Australia working on events, websites, industry guidelines, policy and many other subjects.

At the beginning of each calendar year ARCIA meets for a planning day and then dedicates a day for our corporate partners. These two days really get the year off to a good start. Committee members leave with a good sense of direction and the key points of work that need to be achieved. When we review each year it is pleasing to report that the bulk of the agenda we set ourselves has been met. The only clear item that is proving difficult to get moving is industry training, despite a huge amount of work put in by the committee.

ARCIA would like to thank all our corporate partners for their continued support of the Association and the events in each state. The Association simply could not function to such a degree without this support and we really appreciate it. There are also many member organisations that allow their employees to make time for the Association and this is also greatly appreciated.

Finally I would like to thank all members for this honourable position and the feedback I receive from many people as I move around Australia.

Hamish Duff

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Once again it is a pleasure to be able to report back on an eventful and successful year for the association. From our humble beginnings in 2007, our achievements over the 10 years are way above what we could have anticipated back then. Ten years ago, many in the industry and in the general public, felt that our industry was slowly withering and did not have a long-term future. Today we can look ahead to a vibrant and exciting future with the new 'wireless world' offering much to our members. If we embrace the new technologies and apply our existing skills we will all grow even stronger.

From our Mission statements shown further in this report, we have accepted the challenge of doing our best to ensure the protection of the spectrum, our life-blood. As part of this, the Association continues to engage with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) at several levels, as well as interfacing with the Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA).

The Association met with senior ACMA managers several times during the year and raised the concerns of our industry. On each occasion, we were accorded a high degree of respect from the ACMA. One of our areas of concern was the potential increase in licence fees through Opportunity Cost Pricing, some comments on that are raised in our Spectrum & Technical report later.

We have met with the ACMA Field Operations team on several occasions; twice as general discussions on compliance management and three times to present at ACMA meetings with other industry associations. It is through these joint presentations that we are cementing the close relationship with the ACMA and ARCIA. At present, the Government is reviewing the Radiocommunications Act and we have been active in discussions and workshops with the DoCA in presenting the views and needs of our industry.

Over the years we have developed a close working relationship with Westwick-Farrow Media around the Comms Connect conferences, both in the planning of conference content as well as support in the running the events. Out of the Melbourne conference in November, we established contact with Bill Schrier of the American first responders' network, FirstNet. From that contact and further discussions, I was privileged to be invited to attend the first International Forum held by FirstNet in Washington in March 2017 on behalf of ARCIA. With the support of our members and sponsors, we have taken up a highly visible role in raising the profile of the need for Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB) in Australia. The visit to Washington gave much impetus to the development of conversations in this regard and, our ability to have invitations extended to some of the government representatives, made it an excellent investment for the future of public safety communications.

As a direct result of the involvement of ARCIA in the Washington Forum, we were able to organise for the President of FirstNet, TJ Kennedy, to visit Australia for Comms Connect in Sydney. His involvement generated much interest and there was an increase in the number of conference delegates plus, as our guest speaker at the Sydney ARCIA dinner, our numbers were also higher there. It is through maximising opportunities like this that ARCIA can not only bring increased knowledge to our industry members,



but can also add value to the deliberations and development of future public safety communications options.

When we look at our industry events and the networking dinners in particular, they indicate the real strength within our industry. Yet again this year we have seen records set for attendance at our dinners and with well over 500 people at the Industry Gala Dinner in Melbourne, showing the level of support from industry. To offer networking opportunities for members to share information has been one of our main aims over the 10 years and our members have spoken with their support. Events in other cities also have strong attendance and, for people outside the industry and even outside Australia to attend and see the cohesion of our industry, is a great result. We must thank our partners and sponsors for the part they play in our continuing success in this area, it is the partnership funds that underwrite the expenses of our events, please remember to thank them for their support, and they are listed in the partners section later in this report.

There is no doubt that the success of ARCIA over the past 10 years has been due to the involvement of the industry, especially those who have volunteered to serve on our Executive team and as committee members. We have been very fortunate that we have had a team of very committed people who have represented you, our members, in the best possible way. As we look forward, we are of the strong belief our future is assured as long as we remain a viable organisation and embrace the changes in technology. Our people have excellent skills and knowledge built from many years of practical experience, and we only survive as an industry because our single purpose is to help industry to communicate.

You, our members, should all hold your heads high and be proud of who we are, as an Association and as an industry, we achieve greatness without fanfare and behind the scenes, our best results are generally transparent to the general public, yet we provide a necessary service—be proud of who you are!

Ian Miller

## MISSION

The Australian Radio Communication Industry Association (ARCIA) is an association representing individuals and professional organisations that provide and support two way radio communication and wireless based solutions, whose mission is to:

- Promote and foster future industry development and growth.
- Promote high ethical standards of business conduct within the industry.
- Create environments to promote the exchange of ideas among its membership, radio users, industry professionals and manufacturers.
- Provide educational and promotional opportunities to enable its membership to grow and advance professional standards.
- Represent and promote the interests of its membership to the radio user community, manufacturers, regulators, other associations and the media.
- Provide, from time to time, specialist services that the membership require to further develop the interests and benefit of the industry.

## AIM

ARCIA's key aim is to actively canvass support and involvement from all sections of the radio communications industry right around Australia in order to become an effective voice on behalf of the industry to the Australian government and regulators.

ARCIA also strives to implement diverse, industry-specific initiatives to raise the profile, importance and awareness of radio communications in Australia.

ARCIA aims to reach out to other similar industries and organisations to improve the ability for wireless communications to be recognised as an essential service. To also supports the Public Safety sector with advice and support in their needs to have communications facilities offering the best possible communications platforms.

## ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

ARCIA is made up of elected Committee and Ex-Officio members who are actively engaged in the Australian radio communications industry. They bring many years of knowledge and expertise to the Association without personal financial gain. ARCIA Committee and Ex-Officio members work on behalf of the Association's members on issues where they believe the industry should be protected or represented and are reelected based on their interest to best serve the industry as a whole. The Association welcomes regular comments and suggestions from its members to ensure the committee continues to fulfil its role. ARCIA Committee meets monthly to manage, coordinate and implement the Association's various activities, including Accreditation, Technical and Spectrum Issues, Training and Education, Membership and Events. Each member is involved in various sub-committees to ensure the Association's goals are achieved.

Nominations for Office Bearers are open four weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting in August each year. ARCIA is keen to represent all sectors of the Australian radio communications industry and encourages all to attend and nominate. ARCIA ensures it maintains its national representation by offering teleconference for those interstate or in rural areas who are unable to physically attend the Association's meetings, which are currently hosted in ARCIA's head office in Melbourne, Victoria.

## ARCIA COMMITTEE 2016-17

### Executive group

**PRESIDENT** – Hamish Duff – New South Wales  
**VICE-PRESIDENT** – Jim Simpson – Queensland  
**SECRETARY** – Anthony Blyth – Queensland  
**TREASURER** – Andrew Wyborn – Victoria  
**EXECUTIVE OFFICER** – Ian Miller – Victoria  
**PROJECTS OFFICER** – Geoff Spring – Victoria

### General committee

Chris Stapleton – Victoria  
Glenn Sneddon – Victoria  
Matt Pickering – South Australia  
Kathryn Askwith – Western Australia  
Andrew Findlay – New South Wales  
John La Cava – Queensland  
Gary Botley – Queensland  
Graham Rallings – Queensland  
Jimmy Whelan – Queensland  
Denis Colbourne – Queensland  
Michael Ryan – Queensland

### Ex-officio members

Noel Higgins – Victoria  
Jamie Baker – Victoria  
Kit Wignall – Victoria  
Rob Howes – Western Australia  
David Cox – Victoria

### Sub-committees

**SPECTRUM & TECHNICAL**  
– Convenor – Ian Miller  
**TRAINING & EDUCATION**  
– Convenor – John La Cava  
**MEMBERSHIP**  
– Convenor – Graham Rallings  
**WEBSITE**  
– Convenor – Kathryn Askwith  
**ACCREDITATION**  
– Convenor – Glenn Sneddon  
**EVENTS**  
– Convenor – Ian Miller



**STATE REPORTS**

## VICTORIA REPORT

I am pleased to present this report on the activities of the Victorian committee members for the past 12 months.

As with previous years, our Victorian committee members were active in the planning and implementation of the Comms Connect Conference and Industry Gala Dinner, held in November 2016. While these two events certainly attract the most attention, they are by no means the only areas we have been involved in.

Continuing on from last year's successful implementation of state-based award—the Victorian Industry Professional of the Year—the committee once again accepted nominations for 2016.

This award is in line with the other states, with the five state-based winners each being nominated for the Peter Wallace award at the Industry Gala Dinner.

The committee received nominations from people in our industry representing all aspects including sales, project management and engineering.

The winner of the 2016 Victorian Industry Professional of the Year was Tony Biddescombe from CommSite Integrated Communications. The committee acknowledged the success of Tony's business in a regional area over a short period of time. They admired the diversification of offerings at CommSite and were excited to see the company was investing back in our industry by employing apprentices.

The Victorian Industry Professional of the Year was presented at our Sundowner event held in October with members enjoying refreshments on a glorious Melbourne spring afternoon.

The concept of the Sundowners is to allow members and radio users to gather for a quiet drink at the end of the working day in a social environment to network and share information. There were about 30 people at our second annual event, cementing the idea for future years.

We are always keen to be involved in industry and community activities, so please contact a committee member or get in touch through our website if you've any suggestions to share.

Andrew Wyborn



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA REPORT

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the new South Australian Committee Member taking over from long-serving ARCIA Committee Member Jeff Perry. Jeff worked tirelessly over many years to position ARCIA as the forefront authority for the radio communications industry in South Australia and gave the industry a voice on a national level. We thank Jeff for all his hard work and wish him well in retirement.

In 2016, we once again held the Annual Industry Dinner and Comms Connect seminar day at the National Wine Centre. The guest speaker for the night was former Adelaide Crows star Rod Jameson, who provided an insightful view on his career in the AFL and spoke about his many years of involvement with the Childhood Cancer Association. As a thank you to Rod giving us his time, a fundraiser was held throughout the dinner and more than \$1100 was raised for the Childhood Cancer Association.

As part of the night we were also pleased to present the 2016 South Australian Industry Professional of the Year award to Mario D'Agostino of the South Australian Country Fire Service. Mario has made a significant contribution to the radio industry over a number of years and we congratulate him on winning this prestigious award. As the award winner Mario was also invited to Melbourne to attend ARCIA's Gala dinner as the South Australian finalist in the annual Peter Wallace Award.

There was some fantastic feedback from the Adelaide events and it was great to meet and talk with like-minded people and discuss some of the issues that are front of mind within our industry. I encourage everyone to keep an eye out and book early for the 2017 event as these nights provide great benefits to members in networking and sharing ideas with peers.

As a committee member, I am here to represent our members, so I urge any South Australian companies or individuals who are yet to join ARCIA to become a member. The more members we are representing provides more weight behind our arguments on behalf of the industry.

For further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Matt Pickering



## NEW SOUTH WALES REPORT

Over the past 12 months, New South Wales members participated in a session with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) on the proposed new Radiocommunications legislation. Industry experience is highly valued by the ACMA and will make an important contribution during transition. The annual ACMA RadComms conference was held in Darling Harbour and once again ARCIA was invited to present with many members also attending.

NSW now has 10 ARCIA industry-accredited members providing services to a range of industries and market categories. The NSW membership of ARCIA remains stable with a few new members joining during Sydney Comms Connect in June.

This past year, ARCIA has written to the NSW State Government regarding the fees charged for sites on crown land. In Queensland, Telstra took the state government to court and had a judgment ruled in their favour, highlighting the inequity of this "Telecommunications Tax". In NSW, ARCIA was simply referred back to the last inquiry from the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal. A recent member application has proven the current system is slow, unwieldy and simply unaffordable.

ARCIA manned stands to represent the industry at the BICSI conference as well as Comms Connect. Later in 2017, we will attend a TAFE student day in Western Sydney representing the industry to recent school leavers.

2016 New South Wales Industry Professional of the Year award, Mark Crosland, represented NSW at the annual gala dinner in Melbourne. We look forward to seeing the 2017 recipient, Neil Huntley, do the same later this year. Our Sydney dinner in June was a really good night and so satisfying to see members of our industry gathering together in a friendly environment. TJ Kennedy as the guest speaker gave an insightful view of the US-based FirstNet's plans which were appreciated by all attending.

Hamish Duff, Andrew Findlay and Roger Webber

## QUEENSLAND REPORT

The Queensland Annual ARCIA Gala dinner in July this year at the Rydges Hotel Southbank was a great success. The event enjoyed enthusiastic support from about 100 Queensland wireless industry professionals. John La Cava took the job of Master of Ceremonies in his stride and, along with a trivia quiz, was able to keep the event moving and challenge everyone's minds. The guest speaker was Jeff Miller, CEO of Civil Contractors Federation (WA). Jeff discussed a macro view of infrastructure investment in Australia with a particular focus on what the Queensland construction landscape is expected to look like in the years ahead, his presentation showing a positive future for the state.

At the dinner, we were pleased to present the 2016 Queensland Industry Professional of the Year award to Con Costi in recognition of his contribution to the wireless industry. Congratulations to Con and the reaction on the evening showed he was a popular choice. Con will now go on to be the Queensland nominee for the Peter Wallace Award in Melbourne later in the year.

The annual dinner and networking event was complemented by a Comms Connect one-day conference. The conference provided a high-quality learning agenda across many topics for those who are not able to travel to the larger conferences held in Melbourne and Sydney each year. Thanks go to the Westwick-Farrow Media team for your continued support of ARCIA and our members.

In March, ARCIA Queensland committee hosted a networking evening for members at the Rydges Hotel Southbank. Guest speakers for the evening were Lloyd Tailby and Stephen Harris from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). The pair presented an informative presentation on the widespread use of grey import and illegal radios across Australia and the ACMA's method of tracking and seizing these radios and RF devices. The ACMA also presented the figures surrounding the number of complaints and investigations carried out by ACMA's Technical Field Officers each year. Questions ranged from how to manage radio interference issues to concerns over the use of open channel CB radios.



It was great to see a number of Queensland radio users, particularly representatives from the PSBA attending Comms Connect in Sydney in early June. The keynote speaker at the event was TJ Kennedy, President of FirstNet USA. His presentations were of great interest to the QLD Public Safety Agencies and information was presented on the future of public safety communications from firsthand experience in the US.

The Queensland Government Wireless Network (GWN) has a coverage area of 30,000 km<sup>2</sup>, stretching from Tweed Heads in the south, west to Oakey and north to Gympie. Discussions are taking place to determine if the GWN should be extended to cover more of QLD outside the current South-East footprint. A decision is likely in the not-too-distant future and dependent on funding.

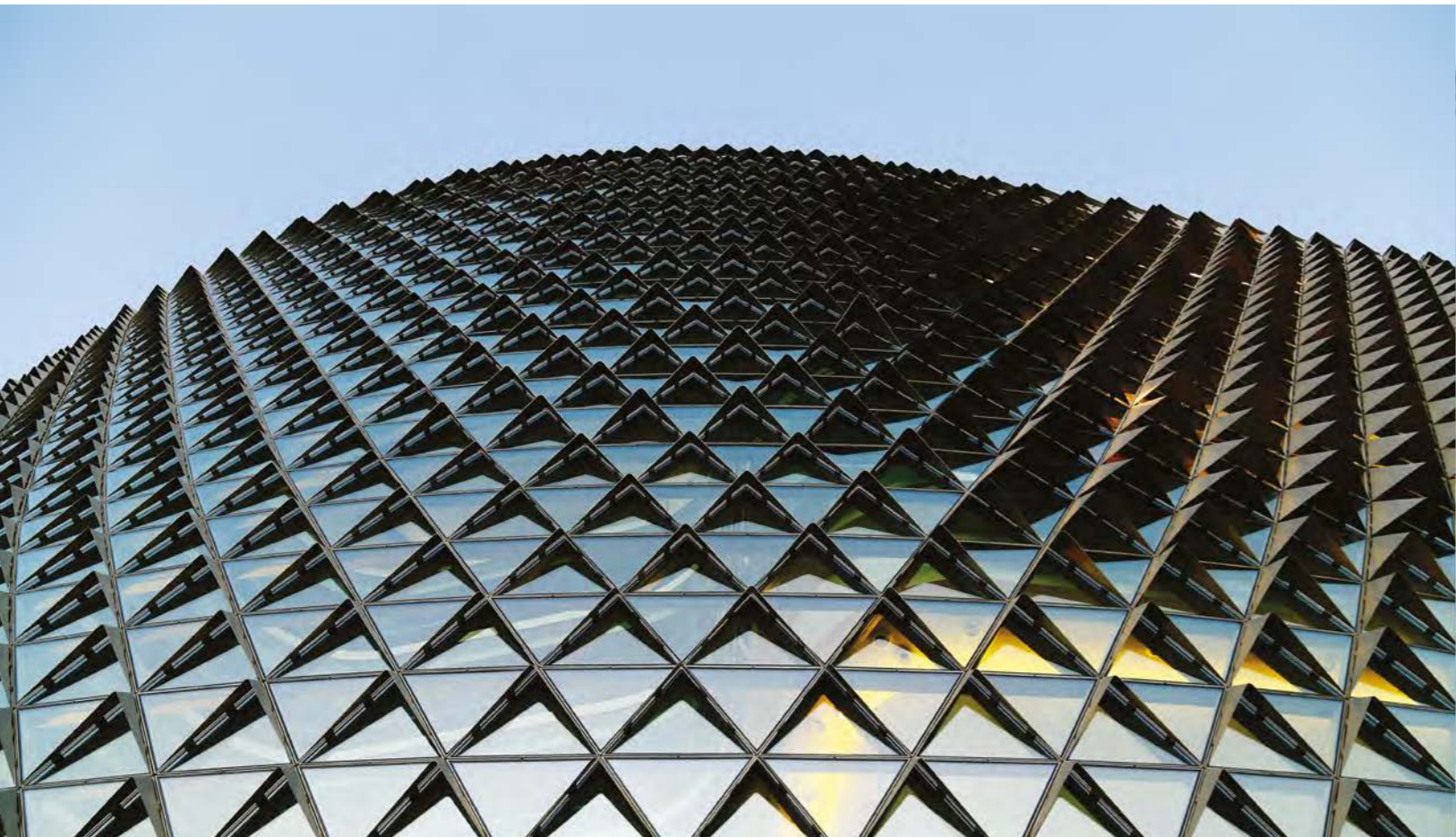
During the past 12 months, an additional nine members joined ARCIA from Queensland. We are very pleased to welcome to the Association ATG Communications Pty Ltd, Brad Welch, Brett John Rigby, Jim Simpson, Madison Technologies, Mobile Communications (QLD) Pty Ltd, Nexion Data Systems Pty Ltd, Shane Barnes and Wireless Innovation. Thank you to all of our continuing members for your support.

Gary Botley, Anthony Blyth, Jim Simpson, Jimmy Whelan, Denis Colbourne, and John La Cava

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORT

The past few years have been challenging across many industries in Western Australia, however, our state has returned to growth and the communications industry is beginning to flourish again with the adoption of new technologies and the evolution of emerging companies. Businesses have been reviewing their processes and communications requirements, leading to investments in wireless communication tools to create greater efficiency in their operations. With a change of government in April, our state has seen a sensible approach to planning and development, and watched the progression of government communication projects and plenty of encouraging signs for private entities.

ARCIA has focussed on educating our government and their working teams on wireless communication technologies, and networking these people with our industry sponsors and membership community. In March, ARCIA partnered with the Comms Connect team to deliver the Western Australia Industry Dinner and Networking function, at the Duxton Hotel. The evening followed an exceptionally successful Comms Connect program, focussed on the land mobile radio landscape, spectrum use and compliance, cyber warfare and terrorism, smart cities, critical communications, and LTE technology and networking.



ARCIA welcomed almost 90 people to the dinner from a wide range of wireless communications backgrounds and client organisations. We look forward to growing this event in the future and providing additional value to attendees through engagement with government and private entities, a broader range of industry suppliers, and aligned industry representatives. This year, we welcomed Jeff Miller, the CEO of the Civil Contractors Federation (WA) as our keynote speaker for a short presentation on the health of the construction sector. This presentation included data and forecasts supplied by BIS Oxford Economics, based on residential and non-residential building, civil construction, and mining and heavy industry construction.

ARCIA would again like to congratulate the winner of the Western Australian State Industry Professional of the Year Award, Bruce Quail. Bruce will join award recipients from other states as a nominee for the Peter Wallace Award, which will be announced at our 10 Year Celebration in Melbourne in November.

ARCIA has also been in discussion with education and training entities in Australia to promote careers in wireless communications and assist our members to access new technical resources. Edith Cowan University is interested in working with ARCIA to participate in new research projects, and bring employment opportunities directly to their students.

We thank members for their support over the past year and look forward to continued prosperity in the coming year.

Kathryn Askwith





## TRAINING AND EDUCATION REPORT

This year has presented us with many challenges and a set of unfortunate circumstances has seen a significant setback to our training aspirations. We have been working with Wagga Wagga's Riverina College of TAFE in technical training. A substantial change within the TAFE system in New South Wales, where various colleges would work together and not compete for work, looked to open up the way for one common training location. However, Air Services Australia announced early this year that they would be cutting back on staff and, accordingly, would not be enrolling new radio trainees at Riverina for 2017. They also announced that the current second-year group would likely be the final group of ASA trainees.

The result meant Riverina needed trainees urgently to ensure the relevant resources would be funded. We met with Riverina staff and put out a call for interested trainees to begin immediately, however, this was with limited success. Without significant trainee numbers, the Riverina training facilities are at risk of disappearing and unfortunately, without industry support, we aren't able to provide any significant support to the program.

In effect, this means future technical training for technicians will mean a standard electronics or electro-technology apprenticeship, followed by workplace training. This is far from ideal for an industry seeing much growth in wireless communications devices. There will be some private training organisations that can provide limited course options, plus the Amateur radio fraternity have multiple publications that will help, but there will no longer be a Radio Trades qualification. This is very disappointing as we have fought long and hard to maintain it. That our industry technical support comes from smaller businesses who aren't able to make the financial commitments towards maintaining training options, means we are losing the skills and course content for teaching.

On a brighter note, we have again attended school careers events and this is quite popular with the areas we have worked in. At these events we have a dual role, first is to interest students in a career in communications or electronics, even though we may not have a lot of training options and, the second and more successful aim, is to educate students that radio (or wireless) communications is an integral part of their daily life and means more than the mobile phone. When we talk about how communications is involved in daily life they are quite interested and we can only hope that as they move through life they will remember what we have outlined.

In closing this report we must make mention of the role of Jim Simpson as convenor of this committee for several years, for personal reasons Jim stepped back during this year and it has been his efforts over the past few years that has seen ARCIA exhaust all training options—thanks Jim.

Jim Simpson, John La Cava, Hamish Duff, Andrew Findlay & Rob Howes.

## SPECTRUM AND TECHNICAL REPORT

This year has again been very busy for the committee. We met with ACMA staff on multiple occasions—some at senior management level for policy discussions and, at other times, with operational level staff for industry consultation and support. These meetings are always welcomed and although we may occasionally have strong differences in opinion, the meetings are always cordial and end in mutually acceptable outcomes. This year we have also presented at ACMA functions to talk to other industry groups such as the Instrumentation Control segment and pointed out how working with the ACMA leads to better outcomes.

There were two main areas of concern to ARCIA this year, the review of the Radiocommunications Act (the Act) and Opportunity Cost Pricing (OCP). On the OCP, the ACMA outlined they would be increasing licence fees for LMR segments by 15 per cent of the proposed increases in April 2017, claiming there was still significant growth in licence numbers. We very strongly disputed these assertions about the growth in the industry and pointed out that a significant growth in sub-local licences does not relate to any form of spectrum scarcity. We had raised this aspect as the ACMA research quoted had no indications of looking at the growth in licence types, simply a broad calculation based on total licence numbers. As a result of our meetings, the proposed increase was deferred and subsequently there has been recognition our arguments are sound and that further review is necessary.

The review of the Act by the Department of Communications and the Arts (DoCA) has progressed during the year and we took part in several working groups to ensure that the needs of our industry were recognised and that any changes support our industry as well as simplify regulation. These occasions have shown that ARCIA is recognised as being a valued contributor to the discussions and that we are also cognisant of the needs of other spectrum segments as well. Out of the discussions we have opened communications channels with DoCA and meet to discuss other areas of concern as well. As a result of the direct input of ARCIA, we have been able to ensure that although the emphasis on equipment standards was being watered down by the ACMA over several years, there will be a requirement for “Equipment Rules” in the new Act which might help to manage some of the concerns regarding illegal imports or direct imports of sub-standard equipment.

On the equipment standards front, Standards Australia development committees RC006 and RC004 met during the year with Mark Carter (Simoco) ARCIA’s representative on both. The RC006 (Land mobile and General) committee was chaired by Noel Higgins (the WIA representative) and the following items were progressed:

1. Completed revision of standard AS/NZS 4268 titled “Radio Equipment and Systems—Short Range Devices—Limits and Methods of Measurement,” published on 22 February. The project, sponsored by ACMA, encompasses changes made to the Low Interference Potential Devices (LIPD) class licence and also moves the structure of the standard to one that will eventually update automatically by directly referencing requirements in a “re-vamped” LIPD class licence. The revision work turned out to be quite complicated because the standard references test methodology from both the

FCC and ETSI test environments as products in the scope of this standard can come from many sources. Work is progressing on the public comment draft.

2. The project to develop a part three of standard AS/NZS 4768 to cover modern digital radio equipment was put on hold last year at the request of ARCIA and has now been reactivated. A factor in that decision, revision of the Act has been delayed, but recently ETSI has completed a major revision of the main standard referenced for testing as part of the new ETSI directive in place there. The purpose of the standard is to extend the coverage of the AS/NZS parts 1 and 2 to cover the latest “mature” international standards to include non-continuous envelope emissions and narrower 6.25kHz channels to assess the “spectrum impact” of various land mobile technologies when used in our local environment.

The RC004 (Marine) standards committee, is now chaired by Glenn Dunstan as AMSA has stepped down from its traditional role of guiding this committee. The AS/NZS 4280.1 406MHz EPIRB and AS/NZS 4280.2 406MHz PLB standards were amended to update registration procedures. A project proposal has been developed to replace AS/NZS 4415.1 VHF IMM (DSC) standard with two direct adoption standards and this approach is supported by the ACMA and accepted by Standards Australia. Being a direct adoption, work has proceeded without the need for a face-to-face meeting of the committee in April along with RC006 as is normally done.

Ian Miller, Noel Higgins & Mark Carter



## ACCREDITATION REPORT

The Australian Radio Communications Industry Association's Accreditation program undertakes independent audits of member organisations and radio industry related businesses and verifies that the company meets certain trading and industry-specific criteria.

The criteria audited includes:

- Length of time the company has been in business;
- Health and safety processes;
- Training programs;
- Quality assurance process;
- Company structure and ownership;
- References from customers and suppliers; and
- Company process, training policy, ownership and insurances held.

ARCIA Accreditation adds value to the accredited company by providing a level of confidence to prospective customers, project work and tender evaluations. Independent evaluation also helps member organisations recognise how they are perceived in the marketplace and shows they have a long-term interest in the health of our industry. ARCIA's website publishes a list of accredited members, together with a brief summary of the company and its line of business.

As of July 2017, we have 25 ARCIA accredited member companies, the list can be found on the ARCIA website. Applications for accreditation can be lodged online.

Accreditation is reviewed every three years and an applicant must be a member of ARCIA to apply. Accreditation fees are invoiced annually with ARCIA membership renewals with the separate accreditation component clearly identified. Newly accredited members for 2017 include Wireless Data Systems (WDS) Pty Ltd (under new ownership) and Miles Electronics and Telechnics Pty Ltd. ARCIA welcomes these companies on board.

ARCIA encourages other companies seeking a level of valuable industry recognition to contact ARCIA and discuss the Accreditation Program.

Glenn Sneddon, Andrew Wyborn and Chris Stapleton

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

During the past year ARCIA membership has grown by 17%. A big thank you to members who renewed their membership; and a warm welcome to all new members. It is with your support that the services ARCIA provide can grow and better represent our industry in Australia.

As well as last year, ARCIA has enjoyed a steady increase in membership over the past few years. This growth demonstrates the long term future of our industry as we look forward to major technology changes in the coming years.

ARCIA is recognised internationally as the peak body representing the interests of the Wireless Communications industry in Australia. The association has the strength of membership and dedicated committee that enables the difficult issues facing the industry to be addressed.

We urge Australian companies or individuals who are yet to join ARCIA to become a member. The more members we are representing provides more weight to address issues on behalf of the industry

During the past year a new "Public Safety" membership category was introduced in time for this year's Comms Connect event in Sydney. The new category has seen a number of Public Safety Agencies and their employees join the association from across Australia. ARCIA members come from a large number of geographical areas, not just in Australia. We have members from New Zealand, the USA and South Korea. The highest proportion of our members are from New South Wales (30%), closely followed by Victoria (26%) and Queensland (24%).

The ARCIA Membership Committee contributes their time and effort to work on ways to look after ARCIA members to ensure they receive value from their membership of the association. The current committee is made up of representatives from across Australia; last year's committee was Kathryn Askwith, Jamie Baker, Gary Botley, Denis Colbourne, Graham Rallings and Jim Simpson.

Some of the topics the ARCIA membership committee discussed this financial year included; Member benefits, how to attract new members who may not have thought about joining, as they exist outside our mainstream industry and additional topics or training to introduce to Comms Connect events.

The membership committee are here to better service the needs of our members. If you have suggestions or feedback, please contact any of the committee or email us at [info@arcia.org.au](mailto:info@arcia.org.au).

## EVENTS REPORT

As outlined in our Mission statements, one of our key aims that we have held high during our 10-year operation, is to 'create environments to promote the exchange of ideas among its membership, radio users, industry professionals and manufacturers'. One of the primary methods of providing facilities to encourage this has been our networking dinners. These have grown from a single dinner each year in Melbourne with under 200 attendees, to the present stage with dinners in five locations and more than 1000 attendees in total.

The Industry Gala Dinner in Melbourne remains the flagship event and, in November 2016, the event hosted 540 attendees from a range of sectors within the industry, including international visitors. Brian Nankervis of SBS's Rockwiz, was the master of ceremonies and provided popular entertainment during the evening with much laughter and featuring ample time for networking. These dinners are always an opportunity for industry personnel to catch up and talk to friends and competitors alike.

The recognition provided to industry personnel by the annual awards is always welcome, this year's winners were:

- Professional Sales – Jane Perton (MCS Digital)
- Customer Service – Steve Hunt (RF Industries)
- Technical Excellence – Aldo Antolini (Motorola Solutions)

- Engineering Elegance – Scott Andrew (Simoco Australasia)
- Apprentice/Trainee – Harley Gibson (AA Radio Services)
- New Talent – Jason Shaw (Icom Australia)
- Community Service – Mark Carter (Simoco Australasia)
- Peter Wallace Industry Professional of the Year – Tony Biddiscombe
- Jonathon Livingstone Seagull – Martin McLeod

The winner of the Peter Wallace Industry Professional of the Year Award was selected from the winners of the individual state awards announced at the networking dinners in Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide. These were—Tony Biddiscombe (Vic/Tas), Mario D'Agostini (SA/NT), Paul Hopley (Qld), Barry Kitson (WA) and Mark Crosland (NSW/ACT)

Our Sydney networking dinner continues to grow and this year we were fortunate in having Mr TJ Kennedy, president of US-based FirstNet, as our guest speaker. He spoke about the new 'First Responder Mobile Broadband Program' and was well received by more than 230 dinner attendees. The Sydney dinner was again held at the Novotel Ballroom at Olympic Park. With such a prestigious event we had several individuals approach ARCIA committee members and compliment the association on presenting a professional image for the industry.

Similarly, our networking dinners in Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth were well attended and industry personnel enjoyed a night of friendly and enjoyable entertainment. The theme of our events seems to be, *'tonight we collaborate—tomorrow we compete'* and this is a good attitude for our industry for the long-term. Details on our events are always available on our website – [www.arcia.org.au](http://www.arcia.org.au).



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In line with our decision to investigate and support the push for Public Safety Mobile Broadband (PSMB), we have made several commitments to this cause. Canadian retired police inspector Lance Valcour has been a regular visitor to Comms Connect over recent years and is a proud supporter of ARCIA and our efforts. Earlier this year, Mr Valcour visited Australia and took part in meetings with Victorian Government representatives and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to discuss the aims and benefits of PSMB.

In November, Comms Connect in Melbourne were fortunate in having senior advisor Bill Schrier from the US-based First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) as a conference guest. ARCIA executive team members spoke with Mr Schrier about our local efforts in support of PSMB and, in March, ARCIA Executive Officer Ian Miller was invited to attend an international forum run by FirstNet in Washington.

Several other Australian industry experts were present at the conference, with the knowledge gained advancing PSMB discussions considerably. ARCIA will continue to show initiative in this area, as shown with the recent visit of the FirstNet President, Mr TJ Kennedy.

In addition to ARCIA's training initiatives for members, we continue to foster community involvement within schools and training institutions. For several years, we have been a sponsor of RMIT University School of Computer and Communications Engineering projects, the main event of which is EnGenius. The EnGenius program encourages students to undertake development projects within Information and Communications Technology (ICT). Their projects are then judged by industry experts, giving them encouragement to increase their involvement and career options within the ICT sector. We have been proud to be a sponsor of this program and there have been many unique outcomes from the students' projects.

For the past three years, we have been involved in careers events in two Victorian regions, Ballarat and Wimmera. There were more than 1000 students in attendance at these events and we found young people are interested in communications, especially when we take them beyond the ubiquitous mobile phone and highlight other communications areas. Our primary theme of transport communications (no plane takes off, no ship sets sail, no train leaves the station) was developed as a result of talking to young people and how the concept resonates with them.

We are finding students remember our logo and brand from previous years and there is a much higher recognition of communications. We see our role in these events as not only to encourage young people to join our industry, but to get them to understand that communications platforms—other than mobile phones—are essential in our daily lives.





## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Association has once again met all of its financial commitments for the 2016–17 financial year and, as at 30<sup>th</sup> June, we reported a financial year—end profit of just under \$10,000.

This result is down on our four-yearly average profit, however, it is a welcome increase to last year's result.

We have financially supported the Comms Connect Conferences in Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide to better serve our members in those areas.

The Association is in a sound financial position for next year with a balance of just under \$140,000.

Our major expenditure continues to be our national events such as the annual Industry Gala Dinner held in Melbourne and our state-based dinners. These represented 50 per cent of our costs with many events being subsidised by ARCIA to help our members network with other radio industry users.

The total expenses of the association this year was a modest increase of \$6000 on last year to just under \$375,000.

The Association's income was just under \$390,000 for the financial year 2016–17, an \$80,000 increase from the previous year, increasing our four-yearly average. The Association's income is predominantly made up from our partners (42 per cent), our members (23 per cent) and ticket sales to our events (32 per cent).

As the Association continues to grow and its services increase, we have also seen a modest increase in the costs of our part-time staff, including our executive officer, accounts payable and administration roles.

The Finance Committee continues to ensure all expenses are in the best interest of our members and our Association.

I would like to thank all of the financial supporters of the Association as without your generosity we would not be able to function on the scale at which we do.

Andrew Wyborn

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

ARCIA engages with its members and industry interest groups throughout the year using a variety of different channels. We use mediums that are relevant, appropriate and that best allow our stakeholders to engage with us.

### Our Website

The Association's website [www.arcia.org.au](http://www.arcia.org.au) is the main channel in which members and industry groups engage with us about our membership, accreditation program, events, news and other interest areas.

### LinkedIn

Another main avenue in which ARCIA seeks to engage with stakeholders is through the LinkedIn group called the Australian Radio Communications Industry Association. The group is growing daily and serves as a great medium for stakeholders to share information with each other as well as the Association. At the end of the 2015–2016 fiscal year, ARCIA had 1121 members in this group, a 9% increase from the last financial year.

Connect with ARCIA and others in the industry on LinkedIn. Just login and search for the Australian Radio Communications Industry Association (ARCIA) group.

### Twitter

ARCIA's Twitter account is used to further our engagement with stakeholders. All interested parties can follow ARCIA at [@ARCIAorg](https://twitter.com/ARCIAorg) and continue the conversation with us by including the hashtag [#radiocomms](https://twitter.com/radiocomms) in their tweets.

### Other mediums ARCIA uses to engage stakeholders:

- Association and Industry News
- Monthly eNewsletter
- Regular member announcements
- Email, phone, mail and Skype
- Face-to-face meetings and teleconferences
- Regional networking events
- Our Annual Report and surveys
- Digital media and print including industry magazines
- Industry events including Comms Connect and our national industry dinners and networking events.

### Contact us

General — [info@arcia.org.au](mailto:info@arcia.org.au)

Events — [events@arcia.org.au](mailto:events@arcia.org.au)

Spectrum and Technical — [technical@arcia.org.au](mailto:technical@arcia.org.au)

Accounts — [accounts@arcia.org.au](mailto:accounts@arcia.org.au)

### Head office

9/21 Huntingdale Road  
Burwood, Victoria, 3125  
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## GET INVOLVED

ARCIA is seeking interest from members of the Australian radio communications industry who would like to join ARCIA state representatives in NSW, QLD, SA, VIC and WA to form state working groups. ARCIA is also interested in hearing from those who would like to represent the radio communications industry in TAS and NT or those who would like to join one of the Association's sub-committees.

As you have read in this report, state representatives and sub-committees play a major role in managing, coordinating, implementing and promoting the Association's various activities and initiatives such as the Accreditation Program, Technical and Spectrum Issues, Training and Education, Membership, Events and other areas that best serve the industry as a whole.

By joining a state working group or sub-committee, you will contribute to having a beneficial effect on the industry at a local and national level. Your knowledge of and commitment to the Australian radio communications industry will be well regarded and any amount of time you can dedicate to your involvement with the Association will be recognised.

To get involved, contact a state representative directly or email us at [info@arcia.org.au](mailto:info@arcia.org.au).



Follow us on Twitter: @ARCIAorg

Join us on LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/groups/Australian-Radio-Communications-Industry-Association-1968171](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Australian-Radio-Communications-Industry-Association-1968171)

[www.arcia.org.au](http://www.arcia.org.au)