



## **President's Report | ARCIA Annual Report | September 2021**

The last 18 months have been very difficult for all Australians. COVID-19 continues to bring new challenges to the entire country, and we know the impact will be felt for a long time to come.

We can give thanks to all the essential workers working every day to keep us all safe. Probably as never before, have people realised the importance of every day Australians that keep the wheels turning.

While many ARCIA members are operational, the day-to-day challenges posed by the pandemic have been significant. While some members in the events industry have been severely impacted, others have been able to grow their business on the back of continued investment in the mining sector. This demonstrates the depth of our industry with a broad range of markets using LMR services.

For the last 12 months, all ARCIA events have been cancelled and the industry has not been able to meet and enjoy the usual networking opportunities. Throughout the year, ARCIA has been working with Westwick-Farrow on Comms Connect events—it was particularly difficult having to postpone events until 2022. Given that early 2022 will be the first time that ARCIA can have our annual event for two years, you can expect that this will be a big celebration. In addition, ARCIA has been consulting with the Uni of Melbourne, ACCF, and RFUANZ on many topics, responding to ACMA papers, and the bush fire royal commission. We have signed an MOU with RFUANZ to share activities with a focus on training content.

ARCIA is pushing ahead with a professional learning Management System, and we think this will add value to all our members. It is important we have a platform to share industry knowledge with both general knowledge and more detailed professional development topics. Members are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the training from suggesting content, using the system, or indeed helping to deliver content.

I am pleased to report that through this period, all Committee members have met regularly throughout the year. The first half of the year was all planned to open back up and get events moving again, however it became apparent in July that the Delta strain had ended those hopes. The committee is now moving services, training, and the annual event to online platforms to try and provide value back to the membership.

We all sincerely hope that by the end of 2021, the country can be back to some level of normality.

*Hamish Duff – September 2021*