



## **Executive Officer's Report | ARCIA Annual Report | September 2021**

This has been a most unusual year, certainly the most difficult for our Association. With no live events during the past twelve months, it has been difficult for us to maintain the networking for our members, which we believe is one of our critical functions. We do still try to maintain some degree of contact through our newsletters and social media outlets, however, nothing replaces the face-to-face interactions that we all desire. We can only hope that the year ahead will see us all coming out into the light again, and sharing the good times and the difficult times together.

Although we have not had the opportunity to meet and network, on behalf of the Association and our industry in general we have still been busy and doing our bit to keep the wheels turning. We have responded to multiple ACMA discussion papers during the year, and we will continue to represent the needs of our industry to ensure that we have access to spectrum for our growth. There have also been two tele-meetings with ACMA senior management, and multiple email discussions on areas of concern or common interest; we continue to work with the ACMA to ensure that our needs are recognised and addressed as much as possible.

In February, we again held our committee planning days. Unfortunately we were not able to meet in person, so we ran a series of half-day Zoom meetings to address the issues, and plan for the coming year. Each of these meetings were well attended and your committee members gave much time to work out how we can continue to offer improvements to our members, and the industry in general. Out of the planning sessions we ended up with around twenty action points and it is very satisfying to see that over the past six months, we have either completed all of the action points or made significant progress in achieving the required outcomes. This is no small feat when you consider that we are basically a volunteer organisation and our committee members all have 'day jobs'.

As a result of the planning and efforts of our committee, we are now embarking on some new ventures:

- A 'Lunchtime Learning' program, with sessions every second week on topics of general interest. These will be free to our members and will cover a wide range of topics, some technical and some of more general interest.
- We have committed to an E-Learning program where our Professional Development training sessions will be available online. Final details are now being worked through but the plan is that they will be available to our members before the end of this calendar year—a big challenge, and now about to come to fruition.

We offer our sincere thanks to all who served on our committee for being involved, and working for the good of our members and the industry—thanks to you all. We also thank our Partners who have again shown their support. The financial support our Partners have given is what enables us to continue to ensure that our industry grows, and that our industry personnel are able to continue to improve their skills. We do also very sincerely hope that we will be running live events before the end of the present partnership year.

On a personal level, it is time for me to begin the process of stepping back from this role, I won't be lost to the industry, but we really need to bring some new ideas into the Association and committee to ensure the continuing growth and vitality of the Association. It has been an enjoyable trip so far, time for someone else to take the reins, and lead us on to bigger and better things.

*Ian Miller – September 2021*