

NSW/ACT Division Committee

Chair's Report 2024

**CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
AUSTRALIAN RESTRUCTURING INSOLVENCY AND TURNAROUND ASSOCIATION
(NSW/ACT DIVISION)**

HELD ON: Tuesday, 26 March 2024 at 5pm via Zoom

It is a pleasure to submit my report to the AGM of the NSW/ACT Division Committee of ARITA in respect of the 2023-2024 term of the Committee.

1. Committee Membership and Roles

Listed below is the 2023-2024 Division Committee:

Member	Firm
Danielle Funston RITP, Chair (ARITA Vice President)	Maddocks
Kathy Sozou RITP, Deputy Chair	McGrathNicol
Hannah Griffiths RITP, Secretary	Pinsent Masons
Michael Brereton RITF (Immediate Past President)	William Buck
Liam Bailey RITP	O'Brien Palmer
Kate Conneely RITF	KordaMentha
Kirsten Farmer RITF	Mills Oakley
Bruce Gleeson RITF (National Board Director)	Jones Partners
Rajiv Goyal RITF	Aston Chace Group
Glenn Livingstone RITP	WLP Restructuring
John Melluish RITF	PCI Partners
Jason Porter RITF (NSW Board Representative)	SV Partners
Phil Quinlin RITF	KPMG
David Walter RITP	Allen & Overy

I would like to acknowledge and thank each of the other committee members for their contribution over the course of the past 12 months.

2. Events

State Conference

Focused on regional content and designed for senior practitioners, the 2023 NSW/ACT Division Conference was held on 16 May at the Sheraton Grand Sydney Hyde Park. 144 delegates attended the full-day conference, and over 260 guests joined the networking opportunities at the dinner.

The 2024 NSW/ACT Division Conference & Dinner will be held on Wednesday, 30 October at Doltone House Hyde Park.

Small Practice Conference

Held on 4-6 October in Queenstown, New Zealand. The two-day conference exclusive to ARITA Professional and Associate members is focussed on relevant, day-to-day issues for small practices. We had 82 delegates attend the conference and 100 guests attend the networking dinner.

In 2024 the Small Practice Conference will be held on 12-14 June on Hamilton Island, Queensland.

National Conference

Held on 31 July to 2 August on the Gold Coast, our National Conference sold out during the early bird period. The two-day conference attracted 251 delegates and featured well-respected experts and thought leaders giving presentations on a range of topical issues. It also included unique networking opportunities such as group activities (new in 2023), a Welcome Reception, and the Conference Dinner, with almost 250 guests in attendance.

In 2024, we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the National Conference with a new event format – over three days. The conference be held on the Gold Coast, Queensland, on 10-12 April.

Expert Series Seminars

Curated with the mid to senior practitioner in mind, the 2023 online Expert Series attracted close to 600 attendees nationally across four headline topics: Bankruptcy, Insolvency, Restructuring & Turnaround and Small Practice.

In 2024 ARITA will spread out the online Expert Series Seminars with two seminars in July-August and two in November.

Forums

Delivered by subject matter experts, the forums are highly regarded for the insight the presenters provide on important emerging issues and for the networking opportunities.

In 2023 the Division ran nine forums attracting over 320 attendees. A special thanks to:

- Allen & Overy & McGrathNicol for hosting our Sydney Forums.
- Sparke Helmore Lawyers for hosting our Newcastle Forums
- Maddocks for hosting our Canberra Forums.

The ARITA National office delivered six forums online and attracted 970 attendees nationally. These Forums were offered free of charge for ARITA Members.

Young Professionals (YP) Events

The Young Professionals Committee has a primary focus to support the development needs of new entrants to the profession and help younger members progress in their restructuring, insolvency and turnaround careers.

In 2023 the YP Committee organised one seminar and six networking events with over 540 attendees in total. A special thanks to Piper Alderman for hosting the May YP seminar.

We look forward to having more informative and memorable YP events in 2024.

3. Education

Education of members will always be one of the top priorities for ARITA and the NSW/ACT Division.

Introduction to Insolvency Program (IIP)

Developed and presented in a live interactive environment facilitated by trainers with extensive hands-on experience in insolvency, ARITA's Introduction to Insolvency Program has provided the most reliable and accurate education to new entrants in the profession since 2005.

In 2023, an IIP course was offered in-person or online at least every eight weeks, providing firms with timely training for their junior staff. The course attracted 88 attendees from the Division, spread across the five online and three face-to-face courses in Sydney.

On-demand courses

ARITA's on-demand training offers convenience, flexibility, and cost-effectiveness, making it a valuable option for individuals seeking to enhance their skills or expand their knowledge base.

- Professional Standards courses – Independence and Remuneration – are free of charge for ARITA Members.
- Essential Skills series: There are currently 23 courses available, with more released every month.

Advanced Certification

I would like to congratulate all students in the Division that graduated from the ARITA Advanced Certification in 2023.

I would also like to thank the following members who volunteered as workshop leaders for the ARITA Advanced Certification during 2023:

Member	Firm
Leigh Adams	Owen Hodge Lawyers
Farid Assaf SC RITP	Banco Chambers
Liam Bailey RITP	O'Brien Palmer
John Baird RITF	Windeyer Chambers
Emma Beechey RITP	New Chambers
Tim Castle SC RITP	Six St James Hall Chambers
Amanda Coneyworth RITP	KPMG
Kate Conneely RITF	Cor Cordis
Gayle Dickerson RITP	KPMG
Nicholas Edwards RITP	Hamilton Locke
Anthony Elkerton RITF	DW Advisory
Hannah Griffiths RITP	Pinsent Masons
Liam Healey RITP	Ankura
Ben Katekar SC RITP	New Chambers
Morgan Kelly RITF	Ernst & Young
Glenn Livingstone RITP	WLP Restructuring
Richard Lyne RITP	Polczynski Robinson
Noel McCoy RITF	Norton Rose Fulbright
Natasha McHattan RITF	NLM Legal
John Melluish RITF	PCI Partners
Jenny Nettleton RITP	KordaMentha
Scott Pascoe RITF	WLP Restructuring
Geoff Reidy RITF	Rodgers Reidy
Mark Robinson RITF	Fort Restructuring
Mark Roufeil RITF	PKF Australia
Thomas Russell RITF	Piper Alderman
Claudine Salameh, RITF	K&L Gates
Andrew Sallway RITF	BDO Australia
Peter Sheppard RITF	CasCap Advisory
Kathy Sozou RITF	McGrathNicol
Mark Streeter RITF	Streeterlaw
Jason Tracy RITP	Deloitte
Jonathon Turner RITP	Lander & Rogers
Stephen Vaughan RITF	KPMG
Stipe Vuleta RITP	Chamberlains

Anne Wardell RITM	UTS Faculty of Law
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4. National Board

NSW has continued to be strongly represented by our elected appointee Jason Porter and by Bruce Gleeson as a direct appointee of the Board. Kathy Sozou and I have also continued to serve as direct appointees to the Board over this period in Vice President and Deputy President roles respectively.

I would also like to acknowledge Kathy Sozou as Chair of the National Balance Taskforce with Liam Bailey as Deputy Chair. Chris Moses also contributes as a continuing member of the Taskforce.

Bruce Gleeson leads our important work on the Professional Conduct Committee as well as sitting on the SMP Committee. Michael Brereton sits on the Technical Working Group.

5. Membership

Set out below is a table of the current membership of the NSW/ACT Division:

Category	Number of Members (NSW/ACT) as at 05/03/2024	Number of Members (ALL) as at 05/03/2024*
Professional Members (inc Life)	451 (52 Fellows)	1,155 (151 Fellows)
Academic	3	10
Associate	17	28
Lender & Investor	4	14
Honorary Members	3	5
Graduates	180	401
Students	161	465
TOTAL	819	2,095

*list extracted **before** non-financial strike off (does not include current non-financial members for 2024)

Category	New members (NSW/ACT) 2023	New members (ALL) 2023
ARITA Academic	0	1
Associate	1	1
Professional Member	11	23
Lenders & Investors	0	0
TOTAL	12	25

6. Divisional Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the NSW/ACT Division of ARITA is to be held on 26 March 2024 at 5pm via Zoom. The CEO will announce the 2024-2025 Committee members at the AGM. The Committee resolved to have a maximum of 14 members for the upcoming year. The results of the election will be announced by the CEO at this meeting.

If you have any feedback, wish to discuss any issue, or feel you are able to make a contribution to the profession, please do not hesitate to email either myself, John Winter, one of my fellow Divisional Committee members or the ARITA National Office on 02 8004 4344.

Dated: 25 March 2024

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Danielle Funston

Chair

NSW/ACT Division

Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association