

Qld Division Committee Chair's Report 2024

CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE AUSTRALIAN RESTRUCTURING INSOLVENCY AND TURNAROUND ASSOCIATION (Qld DIVISION)

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

It is a pleasure to submit my report to the AGM of the Qld 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
Kelly Trenfield RITF, Chair (Qld Board representative)	FTI Consulting
Ian Dorey RITF, Deputy Chair	K&L Gates
Chris Cook RITF, Secretary	Worrells
Moira Carter RITF	BRI Ferrier Queensland North
Anthony Connelly RITF	McGrathNicol
Michael Fingland RITF	Vantage Performance
David Johnstone RITP	KordaMentha
Matthew Joiner RITF	Cor Cordis
Damien Lau RITP	Bentleys
Helen Newman RITF	BDO
Glen Oldham RITF	Oldhams Advisory
Ben Shaw RITF	Heritage And People's Choice
Michael Owen RITF	PwC
Peter Smith RITF	Johnson Winter & Slattery

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

I would also like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing members Michael Owen and Moira Carter for their contribution and service to the Committee.

2. Events

State Conference

Focused on regional content and designed for senior practitioners, the 2023 Qld Division Conference was held on 29 March at Sofitel Brisbane Central. 118 delegates attended the half-day conference, and 216 guests joined the networking opportunities at the dinner.

We are returning to the Sofitel, Brisbane for our 2024 Qld Division Conference & Dinner, which will be held on Tuesday, 22 October.

Thank-you to the organising committee consisting of Ian Dorey, Matthew Joiner, David Johnstone and Ben Shaw.

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 organized a total of 12 forums, held face-to-face in Brisbane and broadcasted to Cairns, Townsville, and Gold Coast. These events collectively attracted almost 300 attendees. A special thanks to:

- McCullough Robertson for hosting the Brisbane forums
- BDO and Grant Thornton for hosting the Cairns broadcasts
- KordaMentha, for hosting the Townsville broadcasts
- GT Advisory & Consulting and Bell Legal for hosting the Gold Coast broadcasts

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

Thank-you to Helen Newman for co-ordinating the Queensland forums during the past year.

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 two seminars and two networking events with 350 attendees in total. A special thanks to EY for hosting our YP Breakfast seminar in September.

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 Qld Division.

Introduction to Insolvency Program

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 a total of 39 attendees from the Division, spread across five online and two face-to-face courses in Brisbane.

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
Michael Brennan RITF	SV Partners
Moira Carter RITF	BRI Ferrier
Anthony Connelly RITF	McGrathNicol
Paul Evans RITF	Cornwalls
Scott Guthrie RITP	Thomson Geer Lawyers
David Johnstone RITP	KordaMentha
Matthew Joiner RITF	Cor Cordis
Damien Lau RITP	Bentleys
Ashley Leslie RITP	Vincent's
Paul Lutvey RITF	Mullins Lawyers
Mark Madsen RITF	Mullins Lawyers
Helen Newman RITF	BDO Australia
Glen Oldham RITF	Oldhams Advisory
John Park RITF	FTI Consulting
Bruce Pasetti RITF	Stratos Legal
Ben Shaw RITF	Heritage And People's Choice

4. National Board

I have continued to represent Qld on the National Board as the Qld representative throughout the year. I am also serving on the Membership and Professional Conduct Committees and Chair of the Finance Committee.

5. Membership

Set out below is a table of the current membership of the Qld Division:

Category	Number of Members (QLD) as at 05/03/2024	Number of Members (ALL) as at 05/03/2024*
Professional Members (inc Life)	215 (32 Fellows)	1,155 (151 Fellows)
Academic	6	10
Associate	2	28
Lender & Investor	4	14
Honorary Members	0	5
Graduates	61	401
Students	82	465
TOTAL	370	2,095

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

Category	New members (QLD) 2023	New members (ALL) 2023
ARITA Academic	0	1
Associate	0	1
Professional Member	4	23
Lenders & Investors	0	0
TOTAL	4	25

6. Divisional Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Qld 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.

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: 26 March 2024

Kelly Trenfield

Chair

Qld Division

Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association