



Vic/Tas Division Committee Chair's Report 2024

**CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
AUSTRALIAN RESTRUCTURING INSOLVENCY AND TURNAROUND ASSOCIATION
(Vic/Tas DIVISION)
HELD ON: Monday, 25 March 2024 at 5pm via Zoom**

It is a pleasure to submit my report to the AGM of the Vic/Tas 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
Melissa Jeremiah RITP, Chair	Maddocks
Adrian Hunter RITF, Deputy Chair	Brooke Bird
Tianne Nagy-Jones RITP, Secretary	Grant Thornton
Travis Anderson RITP	Deloitte
Rachel Burdett, (National Board President)	Cor Cordis
Amanda Carruthers RITF	Victorian Bar Inc.
Leanne Chesser RITP (Vic/Tas Board representative)	KordaMentha
Jim Downey RITF	J P Downey & Co
Allan Kawalsky RITF	TurksLegal
Paul Langdon RITP	Vince & Associates
Michael Lhuede RITF	Piper Alderman
Neil McLean RITP	Rodgers Reidy
Katherine Payne RITP	Hall&Wilcox
Robert Smith RITP	McGrathNicol

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 like to thank our outgoing committee members Michael Lhuede and Robert Smith for their valuable contribution to the committee and in particular Leanne Chesser who has chaired the Committee and sat on the National Board.

2. Events

State Conference

Focused on regional content and designed for senior practitioners, the 2023 Vic/Tas Division Conference was held on 9 May at Zinc in Melbourne. 121 delegates attended the full-day conference, and 244 guests joined the networking opportunities at the dinner.

We are returning to Zinc, Melbourne for our 2024 Vic/Tas Division Conference & Dinner, which will be held on Thursday, 10 October.

Small Practice Conference

Held on 4-6 October in Queenstown, New Zealand. The two-day conference exclusive to ARITA Professional and Associate members is focused 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 Queensland's Hamilton Island.

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 will 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 networking opportunities.

In 2023 the Division ran five forums attracting over 210 attendees. A special thanks to:

- Deloitte for hosting our Forum in Tasmania
- Cor Cordis, King & Wood Mallesons, Maddocks, and Piper Alderman for hosting our Melbourne 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 two seminars and three networking events with over 300 attendees in total. A special thanks to:

- Grant Thornton for hosting the April Seminar
- KordaMentha for hosting the September 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 Vic/Tas 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 a total of

64 attendees from the Division, spread across five online and three face-to-face courses in Melbourne.

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
Salvatore Algeri RITF	Deloitte
Shelley Brooks RITP	Rodgers Reidy
Christopher Brown SC RITP	Lonsdale Chambers
Amanda Carruthers RITF	Victorian Bar Inc.
Innis Cull RITP	Pitcher Partners
Mathew Gollant RITF	CJG Advisory
Geoff Green RITF	Harbourside Advisory
Michael Gronow KC RITP	Victorian Bar Inc.
Marelda Hibberd RITF	Maddocks
Robert Hinton RITF	Gadens Lawyers
Adrian Hunter RITF	Brooke Bird
Melissa Jeremiah RITP	Maddocks
Paul Langdon RITP	Vince & Associates
Michael Lhuede RITF	Piper Alderman
Stewart Maiden KC RITF	Victorian Bar Inc.
Stewart McCallum RITP	Ernst & Young
Neil McLean, RITP	Rodgers Reidy
Simon Nelson, RITP	BPS Reconstruction & Recovery
Steven Palmer, RITP	Norton Rose Fulbright
Katherine Payne, RITP	Hall & Wilcox Lawyers
Kylie Tate, RITP	Polczynski Robinson
Natasha Toholka, RITF	Norton Rose Fulbright
Nigel Watson, RITF	Colin Biggers & Paisley

4. National Board

Vic/Tas is strongly represented on the National Board with three of the ten positions held by Vic/Tas members.

ARITA's current President is Rachel Burdett (Cor Cordis), who is also a Vic/Tas member.

Additionally, thank you to our fellow Vic/Tas members who also sit on Board Committees; Rachel Burdett (Cor Cordis), Mathew Gollant (CJG Advisory), Robyn Erskine (Brooke Bird) and Tianne Nagy-Jones (Grant Thornton).

5. Membership

Set out below is a table of the current membership of the Vic/Tas Division:

Category	Number of Members (VIC/TAS) as at 05/03/2024	Number of Members (ALL) as at 05/03/2024*
Professional Members (inc Life)	278 (34 Fellows)	1,155 (151 Fellows)
Academic	1	10
Associate	7	28
Lender & Investor	4	14
Honorary Members	1	5
Graduates	84	401
Students	134	465
TOTAL	509	2,095

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

Category	New members (VIC/TAS) 2023	New members (ALL) 2023
ARITA Academic	1	1
Associate	0	1
Professional Member	5	23
Lenders & Investors	0	0
TOTAL	6	25

6. Divisional Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Vic/Tas Division of ARITA is to be held on 25 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

Melissa Jeremiah

Chair

Vic/Tas Division

Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association