



WA Division Committee

Chair's Report 2024

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

HELD ON: Monday, 25 March 2024 at 5pm via Zoom

It is a pleasure to submit my report to the AGM of the WA 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. I would like to acknowledge and thank each of the committee members for their contribution over the course of the past 12 months.

Member	Firm
Michelle Shackles RITP, Chair	BRI Ferrier
Jeffery Black RITP, Deputy Chair	Norton Rose Fulbright
Shelley Gepp RITP, Secretary	Lavan
David Blanchett RITP	Sheridans Chartered Accountants
David Bryant RITP	Ankura
Matthew Donnelly RITF (WA Board representative)	Deloitte
Malcolm Field RITP	SV Partners
James Hewer RITP	Clifford Chance
Nirupa Manoharan RITP	Mills Oakley
Linda Smith RITP	McGrathNicol

I would like to thank and acknowledge our outgoing committee members Nirupa Manoharan and David Blanchett. Thanks to Nirupa for her valuable contribution and serving as Deputy Chair and Chair for 3 of her 5 years on the WA committee. And thank you for David Blanchett service of 5 years on the Committee with 3 of those as the Division Secretary.

2. Events

Division Conference

Focused on regional content and designed for senior practitioners, the 2023 WA Division Conference was held on 2 March at The Westin in Perth. 80 delegates attended the half-day conference and 201 guests joined the networking opportunities at the dinner.

We are returning to the Westin, Perth for our 2024 WA Division Conference & Dinner, which will be held on Thursday, 22 August.

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 four forums attracting over 190 attendees.

A special thanks to our Forum hosts: Clifford Chance, Deloitte, Mills Oakley Lawyers and RSM.

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

3. Education

Education of members will always be one of the top priorities for ARITA and the WA 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 34 attendees from WA, spread across the five online and two face-to-face courses in Perth.

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:

4.

Member	Firm
Tom Darbyshire, RITP	McWilliams Davis Lawyers
Matthew Donnelly, RITF	Deloitte
Malcolm Field, RITF	SV Partners
Mark Gibson, RITF	Cor Cordis
James Healym, RITP	Francis Burt Chambers
Robert McKenzie, RITP	Blackwall Legal
Chris McLeod, RITF	Norton Rose Fulbright
Chris Pearce, RITP	Blackwall Legal
Tom Darbyshire, RITP	McWilliams Davis Lawyers

4. National Board

I would like to acknowledge Matthew Donnelly who was elected as the WA Committee Member on the National Board for the 2023-2024 term. Matthew sits on the Membership and Finance committees. We are grateful to Matthew for his ongoing reports at the Committee meetings on board matters and national matters affecting ARITA.

5. Membership

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

Category	Number of Members (WA) as at 05/03/2024	Number of Members (ALL) as at 05/03/2024*
Professional Members (inc Life)	103 (12 Fellows)	1,155 (151 Fellows)
Academic	0	10
Associate	1	28
Lender & Investor	1	14
Honorary Members	0	5
Graduates	44	401
Students	66	465
TOTAL	215	2,095

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

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

6. Divisional Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the WA Division of ARITA is to be held on 25 March 2024 at 5pm (local Perth time) 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: 25 March 2024

Michelle Shackles

Chair

WA Division

Australian Restructuring Insolvency & Turnaround Association