

Australasian College of Road Safety

President's Report 2008/2009

The College turned 21 this year, a significant milestone. The reduction in road crash trauma rate over that time has been dramatic and I suspect not predicted to be achieved by many. We all know we can do more and I think the achievements over the 21 years demonstrate how we can contribute to moving towards a zero vision for fatalities and also to drive down unnecessary injuries. Safer drivers in safer vehicles on safer roads will make a difference.

I have enjoyed the year as President of the College. With the help of the Executive Committee and our excellent staff, Linda, Jacki and Geoff we have worked to represent the members' interests in road safety. I thank them for their support.

With a new Federal Government we have made representations to the Minister to encourage the safe systems approach.

We were delighted that the Her Excellency Quentin Bryce the recently appointed Governor General agreed to be our Patron, following the strong support from her predecessor. We presented her with a statement of ambition for Australian road safety which we have published in the latest Journal.

The Queensland Chapter, the Queensland Travel Safe Committee with the help of the national office organised and ran a successful and record breaking national conference on High Risk Road Users in Brisbane in September 2008.

Professor Raphael Grzebieta was awarded the 2007 Fellowship and the 2008 Fellowship is to be awarded to Professor Mark Stevenson at a suitable occasion during 2009.

Four editions of our Journal were produced and a survey of members showed they were well regarded. We have moved to set a theme for each Journal and are currently reviewing the Journal, our data base and services generally to see how we can be more effective.

The College made a submission on school bus seat belts in response to National Transport Commission, to the Victorian Parliamentary Road Safety Inquiry into Australian Design Rules, to Infrastructure Australia to encourage them to include safety targets in new road programs, finalised its heavy vehicle speed policy, met with a visiting Chinese delegation investigating road safety and also met with a Tasmanian Parliament committee on road safety.

The College relies heavily on the work of volunteers at all levels, particularly in the Chapters and the support of a range of sponsors. That support is vital and very much appreciated.

More of course can and should be done.

We need more of those volunteers and sponsors and we need to expand our reach to ensure the best information is available to those who are working in a wide range of areas to reduce road trauma.

I am hopeful that the recent announcement by the Council of Australian Government to form a National Road Safety Council will lead to a higher order focus on many of the key tasks needed. The College has offered to assist.

This year will see a UN Sponsored Global Ministerial Meeting on Road Safety which will focus on the increasing trauma across the world from road crashes. Australia should have an opportunity to contribute and learn from this meeting, I have suggested to the Federal Government that a group of young Australian Road Safety Ambassadors to the meeting would be valuable.

The College's Conference this year is being organised in Perth by our WA Chapter, I would encourage those who can to present papers and also those who can to attend. The College conferences have a good mix of papers and presenters resulting in good discussions.

We mourned the loss of Peter Waugh, a former WA Chapter chair and President of the College who passed away during the year.

Lauchlan McIntosh AM FACRS

President

19th May 2009