

SUCCESSFUL 2008 CREATES PLATFORM FOR GREATER POLICY INFLUENCE

Roads Australia further cemented its claim to the mantle of peak body for road transport stakeholders in 2008, expanding its membership and more than doubling attendance at its events.

RA President, Ray Fisher, told attendees at the 2008 AGM, held in Sydney in December, that membership of Roads Australia had grown from 49 to 62 during the year.

These members represent the key public and private sector players in the Australian road industry.

Over the same period, attendance at RA Forum meetings, the annual Summit and industry events around Australia more than doubled to nearly 2,000.

Mr Fisher said the relaunch of the organisation in 2008 as Roads Australia was not simply a name change.

"It conveys a message about what we do and our national focus," he said.

"The name also makes it very clear that we are the national stakeholder body for our industry. When Minister Albanese launched Roads Australia in

August he acknowledged that it is to have a key voice for the road sector in Australia, and committed the Government to working with Roads Australia in the future."

Mr Fisher also reported on the successful launch of RA's major policy initiative, the formation of its policy chapters on congestion, sustainability and capacity.

"In forming the policy chapters we were not simply seeking to establish interest groups. Our vision is much more far reaching," he said.

"We are offering Government a partnership in policy development – the chance to draw on the industry's knowledge and experience in formulating policy. Roads Australia wants to be involved before policy is announced – to work inside the tent. This is a ground-breaking vision for our industry, but policy makers, industry members and our nation all have lots to gain from it.

"The response has been very encouraging. Within two months of launching the policy chapters, over ninety participants from government, industry and academia had joined – representing over seventy different organisations.

"Government has also been very positive. Our initiative coincided with a new spirit of openness to new ideas among our industry's policy makers across Australia – as typified by the creation of Infrastructure Australia and the new federal/state ministerial responsibilities within the ATC."

Mr Fisher added that he met personally through the year with government ministers critical to RA's areas of interest, and they had committed to working with the organisation in a new kind of policy relationship.

This had already translated into a successful program of workshops and practical policy exchanges, evidenced by the Victorian Government's invitation to RA to work as a Focus Group on the response to the Eddington report, and the Capacity Chapter meeting with senior NSW RTA management.

The Board of Roads Australia was meeting early in February 2009 to map out its goals and strategies for this year and beyond, building on this successful platform created in 2008.

CALL FOR JOHN SHAW MEDAL NOMINEES

Nominations are now open for the John Shaw Medal, the Australian road industry's most prestigious award for individual achievement.

The Medal will again be presented at a special Award Dinner in Sydney on July 28, held in conjunction with the two-day Roads Australia National Roads Summit.

Named in honour of former NSW Commissioner of Main Roads and Australian Road Federation president, John Shaw, the Medal has a long history and is seen as one of the most significant achievements in the Australian road transport sector.

Recipients are chosen from an esteemed panel of previous winners, and the medal is only awarded in years

where the panel believes a candidate of sufficient merit has been nominated.

In 2008, the Medal was awarded to RACV Managing Director and CEO, Colin Jordan, and in 2007 to His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia and a former Commissioner of Main Roads for WA.

A full list of past winners, together with information on criteria for the Award, can be viewed at the RA website, www.roads.org.au under the About Us tab.

Further information is also available from RA Chief Executive, Ian Webb, at ian@roads.org.au

Nominations for the 2009 Awards close on April 30.

Like to find out MORE about RA?

- Visit our website – www.roads.org.au or
- Call the Executive Director, Ian Webb, on (03) 9821 5255.

EVANS AN INSPIRED SPEAKER AT DECEMBER LUNCH



Alan Evans addresses the lunch.

Former NRMA President Alan Evans provided an illuminating perspective on his organisation's role in shaping NSW road policy at Roads Australia's Annual Christmas Lunch, held in Sydney in December.

Mr Evans, who has recently completed his tenure as NRMA President, spoke to a packed house of

almost 150 road industry leaders at the Royal Motor Yacht Club, the traditional venue for this most anticipated annual event.

For the first time in 2008, Roads Australia also hosted Christmas lunches for its members in Brisbane and Melbourne.

The Brisbane event attracted over 100 guests to hear Transport Minister, John Mickel, provide an overview of Queensland's transport challenges and plans, while the Melbourne event saw over 200 turn out to hear Roads and Ports Minister, Tim Pallas.



RA President Ray Fisher with Qld Transport Minister John Mickel at the Brisbane Christmas lunch.



Sydney Harbour provided a wonderful backdrop for guests at the RA Christmas lunch.

09 EVENTS PROGRAM SHAPING AS BIGGEST YET

Roads Australia is planning an unprecedented range of opportunities for interaction between industry leaders, including ministers and department heads, in 2009.

Already the year has kicked off with exclusive boardroom lunches and dinners in February with NSW Roads Minister, Michael Daley, and his Victorian counterpart, Tim Pallas, as well as outgoing NSW RTA Chief Executive, Les Wielinga.

Another boardroom lunch with Minister Daley is planned for June.

The first Forum meeting of the year – RA’s one-day ‘state of the nation’ meeting for industry leaders – will be held in Melbourne on March 24.

Minister Pallas is scheduled to deliver the keynote address over lunch.

Queensland Main Roads Minister, Warren Pitt, will be the guest speaker at an industry lunch in Brisbane on March 31, and VicRoads CEO, Gary Liddle, at a boardroom lunch in Melbourne on April 28.

The 2009 National Roads Summit, the pre-eminent gathering of road industry leaders, will be held in Sydney on July 28 and 29. In conjunction with this event, RA will again be hosting the John Shaw Award Dinner on the evening of July 28.

In addition to these events, Policy Chapter meetings are planned around the country throughout the year.

Other industry events and lunches are also on the drawing board for later in the year.

“RA events are unique networking opportunities in that they bring together the decision-makers in the roads industry,” says RA Chief Executive, Ian Webb.

To see what events are coming up on the RA calendar, and to book online, go to www.roads.org.au. If you would like to suggest a speaker or topic for a future event, or would like to sponsor an event, contact RA’s Events Director, Rachael Rooney, at rachael@roads.org.au



Participants at the December Capacity Chapter meeting in Sydney.