

Dear WRO Members,

RE: Invitation to attend the Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC) and Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC)

Please forward this email onto the person responsible for water rescue in your organisation.

On behalf of the Australasian Rescue Organisation (ARO), we would like to extend an invitation to World Rescue Organisation members (WRO) to join us for the Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC) and the inaugural Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC) from 12-14 March 2025 in Sydney, Australia.

ARO is the peak body in the Australasian region for the development and exchange of information, knowledge, and skills across all facets of rescue. Its members include emergency service agencies and organisations - and their members, as well as affiliates and stakeholders within the rescue industry.

As a founding member of the World Rescue Organisation (WRO), ARO provides independent collaborative opportunities for emergency services from across the region and the world including multi-agency training exercises and learning pathways to emergency and rescue organisations events worldwide.

Following a number of devastating floods across Australia and the region in recent years, ARO brought together the region's best water rescue trainers, assessors, challenge management team and participants across emergency service agencies and organisations from across the region for the annual Australasian Water Rescue Challenge (AWRC) last year.

This year, in a first for the region, ARO will also host the inaugural Australasian Rescue Boat Challenge (ARBC), providing an opportunity for On Water Operators, In Water Operators and Land Based Operators to come together in a swift water boat challenge in a level 3 swiftwater environment.

ARO rescue challenges are open to ARO member agencies and WRO partner agencies within emergency services. The aim of the challenges are to equip water rescue professionals, to share techniques across land based, on water, in water and over water rescue disciplines and provide a platform to allow for information exchange, peer learning and effective feedback.

Following the successful AWRC challenge last year, participating teams included NSW Police, NSW State Emergency Service, Fire and Rescue NSW, VRA Rescue NSW, NSW Ambulance, Surf Life Saving NSW and Marine Rescue NSW and Queensland Fire Department.

Please see below key event details:

- **Key Dates:**
 - **Wednesday 12 March 2025:** Briefings and Professional Development Day
 - **Thursday 13 March 2025:** AWRC and ARBC Challenge
 - **Friday 14 March 2025:** AWRC and ARBC Challenge
- **Venue:** Penrith Whitewater Stadium, McCarthys Lane, Cranebrook, NSW 2749 Australia
- **Team Configurations for Challenge Participants**
 - Multi agency teams are encouraged to participate and can be formed locally or with ARO assistance.
 - AWRC
 - 2 x Land Based Operator Roles: Must wear agency field uniform (wetsuit not permitted), PFD (minimum 2)

- 6 x In Water Operator Roles: Agency approved IWO wetsuit, PFD (maximum 6)
- 1 x Team Reserve: Uniform/PPE as per above role
- 1 x Team Manager (optional): Agency uniform (not permitted to enter scenario zone)
- ARBC
 - 3 x In Water Operator Roles: Agency approved IWO wetsuit, PFD
 - 1 x On Water Operator Roles: Agency approved OWO wetsuit, PFD
 - 2 x Land Based Operator Roles: Must wear agency field uniform (wetsuit not permitted), PFD (minimum 2)
 - 1 x Team Reserve: Uniform/PPE as per above role
 - 1 x Team Manager (optional): Agency uniform (not permitted to enter scenario zone)
- **Entry Requirements**
 - **For In Water rescuers:** PUASAR002 'Undertake swift-water and floodwater rescue and recovery' or equivalent qualification.
 - **For On Water rescuers:** PUASES009 'Undertake inland floodboat operations' or equivalent qualification.
 - **For Land Based rescuers:** PUASAR001 'Perform land based swift-water and floodwater rescue and recovery' or equivalent qualification.
 - Evidence of qualifications and a current Fit for Task evolution must be provided upon entry.
- **Entry Fee**
 - An all inclusive AUD \$5,500 per team per challenge includes professional development day, competition day, insurance, venue usage, participant ARO membership and consumables.
 - AWRC: This equates to AUD \$230 per person per day
 - ARBC: This equates to AUD \$305 per person per day

To assist you with planning for this challenge, including any other activities to add value to this opportunity, we would like to offer a briefing call with our technical and events team. Should you wish to take up this opportunity, please confirm your availability for this event at your earliest convenience by contacting Kathryn Crofts, AWRC and ARBC Event Lead via kathryn.crofts@AROrescue.org or call +61 (0) 437 108 844.

Should you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



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