

## **Australasian College of Road Safety – Victorian Chapter 2024 Summary Report**

### **Our Membership and Committee**

The ACRS Victorian Chapter comprises 227 members, supported by a 13-member committee representing a broad range of expertise across research, enforcement, government, community, and member organisations. The strength of the Chapter lies in this diversity and in the willingness of members to contribute their time, knowledge, and networks towards the shared goal of safer roads for all.

In 2024, we farewelled committee members Julie Downey, Ross Gregory, Craig Hoey, Bernadette Jorden, and Jeff Potter. We sincerely thank them for their commitment and contributions during their time with the Victorian Chapter.

At our 2024 AGM, we acknowledged the valued contributions of Tim Cummings and Shaun Lennard, who joined the committee in mid-2023. Over the past year, both have brought significant expertise and insight, and their contributions throughout 2024 have been greatly appreciated.

This year also marked a transition in the Secretary role. After many years of dedicated service, our long-time Secretary/Treasurer stepped down from the position but remains on the committee as a valued General Member. We were pleased to welcome Samantha Buckis into the Secretary role, and we thank her for stepping in to support the Chapter's work.

### **Planning and Priorities**

Our annual planning session in early 2024 was guided by feedback from 2023 event evaluations and our member survey. The session helped clarify the Chapter's focus and shape our calendar of events for the year. Key priorities included:

- Strengthening alignment with ACRS national initiatives
- Expanding our reach through a balanced calendar of online and in-person events
- Promoting a broader understanding of the Safe System approach
- Increasing regional engagement and recognising local safety issues
- Exploring how data, behaviour, and speed can be tackled in practical, locally relevant ways
- Ensuring regular engagement and value for members

### **Events and Activities in 2024**

The Chapter delivered a range of events throughout the year that were well attended and positively received. Feedback collected via post-event evaluations was instrumental in helping us understand what members found valuable and where we can improve future engagement.

#### **Speed Management Forum**

With 29 people attending in person and 42 online, this event explored challenges and opportunities in regional speed management.

#### **Speakers:**

- Kenn Beer, Safe System Solutions
- Ben Anderson, Department of Transport & Planning
- Matt McNamara, City of Ballarat

The forum was praised for its practical insights and strong relevance to attendees' work.

### **Lunch Box Chat: The Monetary Impacts of Speed**

Attracting 47 registrations, this session examined the complexities of quantifying the economic cost of speed-related crashes.

#### **Speakers:**

- Dr Brett Hughes, Independent Transport Researcher
- Emeritus Professor Max Cameron, Monash University Accident Research Centre

Attendees engaged with the topic and its relevance to advocacy and policy.

### **Road Safety Data Webinar**

With 57 people registered, this webinar unpacked the latest Victorian road crash data and its application in infrastructure planning, particularly within local government.

#### **Speakers:**

- Matt Allan, Road Safety Victoria
- A/Prof Ashim Debnath, Deakin University
- Henry Lim, Road Safety Victoria
- Dr Amir Sobhani, Safe Path Consulting

Participants appreciated the combination of technical insights, practical case studies, and forward-looking data strategies.

### **Lunch Box Chat: Are We Providing a Safe On-Road Workplace?**

As part of National Workplace Safety Month, this session drew 32 attendees and tackled driving as a workplace safety risk.

#### **Speakers:**

- Keith Govias, EML
- Jerome Carslake, NRSPP & MUARC
- Nicki Wragg, Swinburne University

The conversation explored how well-being, culture, and leadership influence road safety both on and off the clock.

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024**

Our AGM included a thought-provoking panel discussion on: *"How do we achieve a 50% reduction in deaths and a significant decrease in serious injuries by 2030?"*

#### **Speakers:**

- Antonietta Cavallo, Director, Road Safety Planning – TAC
- Assistant Commissioner Glenn Weir, Road Policing Command – Victoria Police

- Ingrid Johnston, CEO – ACRS

The session brought together key perspectives from enforcement, policy, and advocacy, sparking robust discussion and new ideas.

### **External Engagement and Representation**

Committee members represented the Victorian Chapter at several key sector events in 2024:

- RCCS Trauma Symposium
- APV 20th Anniversary Symposium
- Heavy Vehicle Safety Event – Nhill
- ABMARC Industry Open Day
- Parliamentary engagement with Minister Melissa Horne

These engagements supported stronger cross-sector connections and ensured the Chapter remains visible and relevant across government, research, and industry spaces.

### **Conclusion**

2024 has been a strong year for the Victorian Chapter, with consistently well-attended events, active committee engagement, and ongoing connection with the broader road safety community. Importantly, post-event evaluation feedback has helped us better understand the needs of our members and guided us in delivering more targeted, relevant, and inclusive content.

My sincere thanks go to the ACRS Head Office team, our dedicated committee members, and all those who have participated in our events this year. It remains a privilege to serve as Chair and to help shape the future of road safety in Victoria alongside such committed colleagues.

### **Chris Harrison**

Chair

ACRS Victorian Chapter