



# Annual Meeting 2015

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**12.30pm Friday 30th October 2015**

**Meeting Room 1, The Darlington Centre, 174 City Road,  
Darlington, NSW, Australia.**

## President's Report 2015

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### Events

In 2014 we held the annual SRA (ANZ) conference at Massey University, Palmerston North. The theme for the conference was “**Risk Beyond the Numbers**”. We had a terrific program and attracted new members. There were two keynote speakers, Peter Sandman and Jody Lanard and three plenary speakers, Tim Carpenter, Nigel French and Mark Burgman.

This year in place of the usual annual SRA (ANZ) conference in 2015 we held a symposium on Trans-Boundary risk at the World Risk Congress “**Risk Analysis for Sustainable Innovation**”, which took place at Singapore in July 2013.

The SRA-ANZ hosted **Professor Ortwin Renn**, former President of SRA to give **seminars, lectures and workshops** in Cairns (13th to 15th July), Melbourne (15th to 17th July), Canberra (17th July) and Sydney (18th July). The Canberra symposium on risk governance, was run in conjunction with Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), and had 120 attendees working in the field of risk assessment, risk management and risk communication. The symposium was opened by Professor Chris Baggoley, Chief Medical Officer of Australia. Professor Ortwin Renn, a founding member of the International Risk Governance Council (IRGC) and the immediate past president of SRA, introduced the risk governance framework developed by IRGC to the attendees. Risk analysis processes and frameworks employed by the government agencies for regulatory purposes were covered by a range of people including Chief Scientist of FSANZ, Chief Scientist of Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicine Authority, and Assistant Secretary of Animal Biosecurity, Department of Agriculture. Professor Mark Burgman, from the Centre for Excellence in Risk Analysis (CEBRA) at the University of Melbourne, presented his views on dealing with uncertainty and intelligence gathering in risk analysis.

### Website & Facebook page

Steve Corin has done a lot of work on the website moving the host from ACERA/CEBRA to weebly with a new domain name ([www.sraanz.org.nz](http://www.sraanz.org.nz)). Kirrilly Thompson has also started a Facebook page for the Society. All of this is a work in progress and we are looking for suggestions and inputs from members.



### **Newsletter**

This year the role of editor of the newsletter has transitioned from Louisa Flanders to Catherine Wong. Louisa served in this role for several years and the Society extends their thanks for her contribution.

### **Strategic planning meeting**

In addition to the AGM today the Executive for the Society is holding a strategic planning meeting. A key topic is growing and diversifying the membership base for the society.

### **Connections with other organizations**

We have been making connections with other organizations with overlapping interests, such as Risk Engineering Society and Australasian College of Toxicology and Risk Assessment. Should any Members have suggests for groups we should contact please contact myself or another member of the Executive.

### **Relationship with SRA International**

SRA International has made it clear that they wish to bring all regional organizations under the SRA International banner. A meeting in Singapore suggested that this would be a gradual process with consultation. However, in September they passed by-laws without any consultation that required all new regional members to join SRA International and the regional organization. This was a surprise and we have expressed our frustration and disappointment at the heavy handed approach especially with respect to collecting money on our behalf with no agreement in place. That said they do currently collect some of our fees and the new by laws will require anyone who enters an Australian or New Zealand postal address to also become a member of the SRA-ANZ.

### **Nomination to SRA Council**

This year the Executive nominated me for a councilor's seat on the SRA International. My name has been put forward and elections are underway. If elected to Council I would like to use my dual roles to strengthen the links between the parent body and the regional groups. It is my belief that while an overall framework is required there is a need for flexibility and creativity as the needs of each regional organization are different. Further, I would leverage my relationship with people and organizations in the Asia-Pacific region to increase the presence of the SRA in that part of the world. My relationships have evolved over time as a result of teaching students from the region and my role as a researcher in only Asia-Pacific World Animal Health Association (OIE) Collaborating Centre in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health.

### **SRA International Conferences**

SRA-ANZ sends the president to the SRA (International) meetings. Last year the President-Elect attended the meeting in Denver and made many useful contacts. A great deal was done to raise the profile of SRA (ANZ). Tom Beer and I also meet with the regionals committee in Singapore. Due to my personal commitment, Dr. Kirrilly Thompson (President-elect) will attend the SRA annual conference in Washington in December 2015 and to follow-up on the issues raised above.



### **Sponsors and supporters**

The Society is also grateful to CEBRA for their ongoing financial & administrative support. Finally, a note of thanks to all the current and past members of the executive committee and a special thanks to Erica Kecorius at CEBRA who have found time to organizing the various events and activities this year.