



2020 RAR ANNUAL REPORT

This is my first Annual Report as National President.

In the 2019 Annual Report, Marie Sellstrom's opening paragraph sums up well who we are:

Since 2001, RAR has developed into a network that is recognized and respected in rural communities for:

- Commitment to supporting people seeking our protection
- Determination in pursuing justice
- Advocacy for human rights.

1. The year that was

What an eventful year it has been! In Australia we have had a summer of unusually intense bushfires which ravaged many communities across the country. Then came the global COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a huge impact on everyone. It has been an extraordinary year and RAR groups have been outstanding in their ongoing support for refugees and people seeking asylum affected by these crises.

For those who sought protection in Australia, it continues to be a difficult time, with no easing of Government policies. In fact, we have seen men who came here for medical treatment kept in hotels (Alternative Places of Detention) for months without treatment. Locked in rooms 23 hours a day. People on Bridging Visas and Temporary Protection visas left without income under COVID.

But there is some good news too! Behrouz Boochani made it to New Zealand and has been accepted as a refugee there. Over 800 people have moved to the United States, from Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Over \$2 million has been donated for refugees in Nauru and PNG to apply for community sponsorship in Canada and now 65 applications are being processed. A mother and child were released from Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation in August unexpectedly. This child has spent her whole life – 28 months, in detention.

2. Membership

Our membership numbers are now over 80 groups, with some groups losing key members and fading and new groups joining - in Tasmania, the Launceston Refugee Support Group and in Victoria, RAR Alexandra. RAR groups have been impacted by COVID; face-to-face activities in many States are restricted and we have all become familiar with Zoom meetings. Fund-raising activities have changed, and groups have become creative in new approaches. Some examples:

- Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group held their first (successful) on-line auction
- Making face masks – Robyn Ellis from Alexandra RAR has made and sold masks with the profits going to RAR National. Mansfield RAR stepped up to add to this effort during the peak demand time.

- Armidale, Airey's Inlet and Castlemaine RAR ran specific campaigns to raise funds for refugees from Nauru and Papua New Guinea to go to Canada through their community sponsorship scheme.
- Hamilton RAR and Mansfield have been selling honey and flowers from roadside stalls to raise funds.

At a time when fund-raising has been curtailed, there has been a greater need than ever, as many people on Bridging Visas and Temporary Protection Visas have lost work and income through COVID. RAR led the '**Dig Deep During COVID**' campaign to encourage group members to contribute what money they could, for a six month period, to groups, services and organizations that were providing desperately needed services for these people who the Government refused to include in JobKeeper and JobSeeker programs.

The nine member groups in the **Indi electorate** keep in touch with a monthly teleconference to share what they are doing. This is a great example of how groups can coordinate their actions with lobbying and campaigning, and also find ways to support each other's activities.

3. Campaign action

The RAR Campaign Committee gives advice to the National Committee on campaign action. We draw on our engagement with sector meetings and other refugee advocacy groups to set our priorities. It is up to RAR groups to take these priorities and choose which ones work best for their local group.

Major campaigns this year:

- 1) **#ToNZ**. RAR worked with Cathy McGowan (former Independent Member for Indi) to launch and run this campaign from September – December. We held meetings in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Hobart, Adelaide and Benalla, where hundreds of people attended and were encouraged to write to and visit their local Members, Senators as well as the Prime Minister and Minister for Immigration, to urge the Government to accept the ongoing offer of the New Zealand Government to take 150 refugees from Nauru and Papua New Guinea. This offer has still not been accepted, but we will continue our efforts once COVID has passed.
- 2) the **repeal of the Medevac Bill**. RAR organized a rally and overnight vigil outside Parliament House in November. Over 100 people attended this in the evening or next morning, with around 30 sleeping overnight on the lawn. It was wonderful to see so many RAR groups represented there, but sadly our efforts did not stop the repeal of this Bill on 3 December.
- 3) Migration Amendment (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Centres) Bill 2020, known as the **Mobile Phones Bill**. We lodged a submission against this proposed amendment, as did a number of member groups. We actively lobbied local members, Senators and Ministers, with letter-writing and petitions. Restricting potential access to mobile phones for refugees in detention is yet another stroke of cruelty from this Government. *[At the time of our AGM, this Bill has passed the House of Representatives but has not yet been listed in the Senate.]*
- 4) **#7YearsTooLong** – 19 July is the date we draw attention to the ongoing detention of people who came to Australia by boat, legally seeking asylum and safety. Usually this is a time for

mass rallies and loud statements of outrage, but this year, under COVID, member groups had to find creative ways to highlight this date. Small vigils, on-line rallies, social media posts were commonly used. Mansfield, Alexandra, Euroa, Benalla, Wangaratta, Yackandandah, Beechworth and Albury/Wodonga organized for their local churches to ring bells at 12 noon seven times. Cairns for Refugees were able to hold an open-air rally.

Refugee Week was widely supported by member groups though activities were restricted by COVID. Many on-line actions were held, with webinars and forums. Some groups were able to have a public presence, with posters and displays that showed that ‘refugees are welcome here’.

Letter-writing is an important element of our campaign work. Airey’s Inlet continue to lead the **letter-writing** efforts, providing many RAR groups with well-researched material that groups can adapt to their own uses. [ARAN \(Australian Refugee Action Network\)](#) has set up a letter-writing group to further coordinate letter-writing, and several RAR groups take part in this. Bellingen and Nambucca Heads RAR continued with their ‘Open letter’ to the Prime Minister and other key leaders for the first half of the year, but this stopped when face-to-face activities were restricted.

We continue to support major campaigns running **across the sector**. These include [#GameOver](#), led by Amnesty International Australia and the [Refugee Council](#) ‘s #NoBodyLeftBehind and #NoChildLeftBehind campaigns. We continue to join with others to advocate for the Biloela Family detained for over 900 days, and the past year on Christmas Island #HomeToBilo. Resettlement to Canada has been supported by RAR group members as well as being a focus for some RAR groups. Once again the generosity of the Australian and Canadian people is leading the way to find a solution for some refugees!

Direct political contact has been restricted this year, but Marie Sellstrom and Louise Redmond met with politicians in Canberra in September – with Kristina Keneally, Nick McKim, Helen Haines, Susan Templeman and staff from offices of Stirling Griff and Andrew Wilkie. We aim to have more direct personal contact once COVID passes.

We are active members of **ARAN** and participate in campaigns such as *@HomeSafeWithUs* which calls on Government to release refugees from detention into the homes of their nearby families and supporters, during this COVID crisis. We continue to work closely with [Circle of Friends](#) in South Australia. They provide our insurance cover and Catherine Russell is part of the Detention Subcommittee. These kinds of linkages are important in the sector.

We joined the [Community Refugee Sponsorship Initiative \(CRSI\)](#), and form part of the Steering Committee along with Amnesty International Australia, Refugee Council, Save the Children and Welcoming Australia. Several RAR groups have applied to be part of the Local Group Mentoring Program being run by CRSI. The Government is conducting a review of the current Community Sponsorship Program and we have had input into that review.

Eden-Monaro by-election: this by-election was an opportunity to get member groups in this region together to work collectively to raise issues around refugees and people seeking asylum. We prepared three postcards which members used to send to the major parties. These have a rural scene and the words *“I support refugees and I vote”*. (thanks to Lualhati and Rey Hopkins, from Monaro Community Growth Group for their creative work here). We prepared questions for candidates and used the responses for press releases and letters to local papers. It was great to have five groups working together in this way. We have bulk copies of these postcards which groups can use for their market stalls (whenever these open again).

Submissions: RAR National prepared submissions to Senate Committees:

- Migration Amendment Bill (Repairing Medical Transfers) (Repeal of Medevac)
- Government Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Migration Amendment Bill (Prohibiting Items in Immigration Detention Centres) (Mobile Phones Bill).

Welcome Scroll: This is a joint initiative of RAR, Refugee Council of Australia and Refugee Welcome Zone Councils. Currently there are 161 Refugee Welcome Zone Councils across Australia. Jan Govett took the Scroll to Western Australia in November, visiting 8 RWZ Councils there. Plans for further tours had to be put aside this year.

4. Our organization

Sub-committees: Our member groups take part in a number of sub-committees where much of our work happens. These groups will give their own reports but I want to thank the members of these groups for their work. Convenors are:

Detention	- Marie Sellstrom
Campaign	- Kathie Herbert
Homestay	- Louise Redmond
Human Rights	- Marie Sellstrom
Communications	- Linda McNeill.

Constitution: At the last AGM, we resolved to refresh and update our Constitution. This has been achieved, at a Special General Meeting on July 11, 2020. Jonathan Strauss, RAR National Secretary, led the Working Group which consisted of Jonathan, Geoff Byrne (South Highlands RAR), Marie Sellstrom and Louise Redmond.

Changes were not major. These included:

- Clarify that RAR groups are the fundamental unit of RAR National, not individuals
- State that groups must be in a rural or regional location
- To be able to specify people (individuals) to undertake certain activities as part of RAR National, and have a process for that
- To clarify associate membership, and make this a formal category of membership
- Update technology (e.g. emails rather than faxes).

We kept the membership fee as a voluntary contribution.
The revised Constitution is available on our [website](#).

Policies: We adopted a **Risk Management Framework** for RAR National. This is a model that RAR member groups are welcome to use and adapt for their own purposes.

Privacy: we ask all member groups to complete a revised [Membership Form](#) which gives us details about 'permission to contact'. As well as enabling us to keep our records up to date, this will be the basis for a Privacy policy to be developed in 2021.

Training/ Skills Fund: The National Committee has agreed to move forward with this, in principle. Next steps are to form a sub-committee of RAR group and Associate members, and to register the Fund with the Australian Charities and Non-profit Commission (ACNC). We will then investigate the possibility of securing Deductible Gift Recipient status for the Fund. RAR National will contribute \$2,000 from the surplus for 2019-20, and \$6,000 donated by Robyn Ellis (and her helpers) from the sale of face masks will also go into this Fund. This is an exciting initiative that has been under discussion for some years so we are pleased to see it put into operation in 2021. We look forward to hearing from people keen to be involved in making this happen.

Communications: The **Updates** continue to be our primary way of communicating with our member groups and supporters. Thanks to Jonathan Strauss for preparing and circulating these Updates. We welcome your feedback on these. Some groups circulate them directly to their email lists; others select items from them to put in their own newsletters.

The **website** is increasingly important for keeping member groups, supporters and interested people up-to-date with our activities and to share information about what our groups are doing. We have added '[News from our groups](#)' this year and look forward to members sending us stories and photos that we can add to this page. Thanks to Linda McNeill and Peter Sobey for their work on this. Recently we have received pro-bono assistance from Cornerstone Digital to maintain the website. We continue to get free hosting from Green Graphics (Castlemaine, Vic) which we appreciate very much. We encourage our groups to send us material for the website and to use it.

Social media: We manage to keep an active presence on Facebook and Twitter. We have grown Facebook followers from 4,700 to 5,300 this year. Our posts reach an average of about 1,000 a day and interactions such as likes, comments and shares, averaging about 300 a day. Special thanks to Linda McNeill, Jan Govett, Pat Rayner, Marie Sellstrom and others for their active engagement in keeping these current. We are always keen to hear from RAR group members who can do regular postings as part of a team.

Unsung Hero Award: This year the National Committee decided that we need to celebrate some of the great work that happens in our sector. So we decided to run the [Unsung Hero Awards](#) for 2020. This is a way of paying tribute to a few people who represent many people. It's a way of drawing attention to the amazing work that thousands of people do, by highlighting just a few. Naturally, everyone says "oh no, not me!" But we persuade them that they represent many and then they agree to accept this award. So far we have profiled:

May: Angela Fredericks #HomeToBilo campaign (Qld)
June: Airey's Inlet RAR Letter-writing group (Vic)
July: Sr Brigid Arthur, Brigidine Asylum Seeker Project (Vic)
August: Noeline Nagle, Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group (NSW)
September: Catherine Russell, Circle of Friends (SA)

Finances: Phil and Chris Buttner have been Co-Treasurers these past three years and we are very grateful for their work. Their report is presented separately. We end the year with a surplus of \$2,741 which is positive. Due to the generous contributions of the 18 member groups who made this voluntary payment, we have taken a financial burden from Committee members for

administration. We have been able to pay for campaigning costs, and make donations to refugees in Papua New Guinea. I hope that next year more groups will contribute, to the level that they are able to. This means we can share campaign costs across groups, extend our reach, and add to the Training Fund.

5. National Conference 2020

The Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group were to host the RAR Conference in July this year but soon after the registrations went live on 1 March, the decision to postpone was made. The Planning Group, led by Kathie Herbert, had put together a varied program with excellent speakers and 18 breakout sessions over the two days. However, the new date has been set for 2021. We hope we will be able to go forward then.

New date: Friday 30 April – Sunday 2 May, 2021. Katoomba NSW

A school Video and Poster competition was run in advance of the Conference, as a part of the 'Youth' theme. The Competition working group, led by Joy Connor, prepared materials that schools could use, to build awareness and study of refugees. Of course COVID impacted this, with many schools doing on-line learning. However, we received 60 entries and winners will be announced in September. Watch the Updates and website for details. BMRSB may run this competition next year, as regular events are the most effective way to get it into the school routines.

RAR thanks the BMRSB Conference Planning Group for their work over the past 18 months.

6. Thank you to National Committee and sub-committees

Finally, I want to thank the members of the National Committee and sub-committees for their work. As a volunteer-run, grass roots network organization, it is amazing to look back over the year and see the work that has been done. It is only possible with the commitment and enthusiasm of individuals from our member groups.

I thank the outgoing Committee:

Jan Govett (Bendigo RAR), Gerry Gillespie (Queanbeyan RAR) and Dawn Davis (Strathbogie Ranges RAR) stepped down from the Committee during the year, due to health or personal reasons.

Phil and Chris Buttner (Albury-Wodonga RAR) have served three years as Co-Treasurer. We are very appreciative of their solid and careful work in keeping our financial records.

Kathie Herbert (BMRSB) has served for the past two years as Vice-President and is stepping down. Fortunately for us, Kathie will continue on the Campaign Committee.

Barbara Walton (Southern Highlands RAR) stepped up to fill a casual vacancy during the year and we appreciate this, as well as representing RAR on the Asylum Processing Network sector meetings.

Marie Sellstrom (Mansfield RAR), Jonathan Strauss (Cairns for Refugees), Linda McNeill (Castlemaine RAR) and myself (BMRSB) will continue to serve on the National Committee.

This group of people have been a pleasure to work with, reliable, consistent and ready to do what is needed, to the extent that we all can.

7. The year ahead.

We face the next year not sure what it will hold, in relation to the COVID pandemic. But we do know that we will need to work with the current Government for a while longer. We will continue to work with the refugee advocacy sector and the Australian community to find ways to seek justice and compassion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

RAR groups have shown their resilience, determination and strength to keep this work going and in doing so, we demonstrate the best of Australia and the values that we believe define who we are.

Louise Redmond
National President

Reports from Sub-committees:

RAR HUMAN RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE

Seventy years ago the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was declared and Australia was a signatory. Australia is also a signatory to the Universal Declaration to the Rights of the Child and the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Declaration of Human Rights states that all human beings are born free and equal and lists 30 articles which the government must respect because we are human. Australia is the only liberal democracy without a national Charter or Bill of Rights. It is long past time that we redressed this and modernized our system of government by introducing an Australia-wide human rights law. (Evatt Foundation.)

The ACT, Victoria and Queensland all have Human Rights Charters which cover their states but because the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not **Australian Law** the **Australian Government** is not bound by it.

In April 2018 at the RAR National Conference the following motion was unanimously supported during the Conference:

There is an urgent need for an Australian Charter of Human Rights which recognises that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

We call for the Parliament of Australia to meet, protect and uphold our legal and moral obligations under International Human Rights Conventions and law.

We commit to work together as one, until this is achieved.

Since that time RAR has met with politicians to advocate this position. We have joined with the Human Rights Law Centre to exchange information and campaign for a Charter of Rights, forums have been held in Wangaratta and Cleveland (near Brisbane), further forums are planned.

The re-election of the Federal Coalition Government in 2019 saw the campaign falter as this government does not support a Charter of Rights. The lack of momentum caused difficulties for the RAR Campaign however an RAR Human Rights sub-committee was established early in 2020 and the Human Rights Law Centre appointed a Campaign Manager and together we are moving forward.

The Human Rights Sub-Committee has RAR members from Whyalla in South Australia, Bendigo and Mansfield in Victoria and Yass and Pottsville in NSW. We have a vacancy for a Queensland member. The objectives of the sub-committee are to:

- Raise RAR member and public awareness about issues involving Human Rights.
- Provide material and information relating to Human Rights of refugees and people seeking asylum
- Advocate for a Charter of Human Rights.

The sub-committee will:

- report on the human rights status of people seeking refuge and asylum;
- provide information for circulation to the membership on Human Rights
- make recommendations for workshops, forums, guest speakers on Human Rights
- recommend action to RAR National Executive arising out of research of Human Rights subcommittee.

Selling the Human Rights Message

It was agreed that selling the Human Rights message to small groups via presentations on Skype or Zoom would be the most effective strategy at this stage. To keep it simple it was agreed that only two or three points should be emphasised such as

- freedom for refugees and Australians,
- equality for refugees and Australians
- citizenship rights for children born in Australia.

To build awareness the RAR membership was invited to post the following on their Facebook accounts:

Australia needs an Australian Charter of Rights to benefit the whole community, including people who have asked for our protection. An Australian Charter of Rights will help prevent human rights violations, provide a powerful tool to challenge injustice and foster understanding and respect for human rights. #AustralianCharterofRights.

Current action includes asking RAR Groups to convene workshops or discussion groups so they are more informed about human rights. Back ground papers have been developed by the subcommittee to assist this activity.

The most recent initiative currently being developed will be undertaken in partnership with the Romero Centre and will tell the stories of refugees and what human rights means to them. These stories will be short, focused and filmed by phones ready to post on Facebook.

These activities are aimed at developing our members' knowledge of the need for a Human Rights Charter so we can confidently spread the message. It is the people, the voters, who have to persuade the politicians.

Marie Sellstrom
Convenor

RAR ONSHORE DETENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

The Onshore Detention Subcommittee has RAR representatives from Queensland, NSW and Victoria with an RAR associate member from Circle of Friends in SA. Despite our best efforts to recruit a representative from WA we have been unsuccessful.

Prior to restrictions relating to Covid 19 these members regularly visited Brisbane Immigration Transit Accommodation, Kangaroo Point, Villawood Immigration Detention Centre in Sydney, Melbourne Immigration Transit Accommodation, Adelaide Immigration Transit Accommodation. Sadly we have no one visiting Yongah Hill in WA which has a poor reputation and at the moment is the last place detainees are being sent prior to Christmas Island.

The Subcommittee has monthly teleconferences to

- report on visits made to detainees in detention in Australia;
- make recommendations for improved access for both visitors and detainees;
- report on the human rights status of detainees;
- recommend action to RAR National Executive.

Members all report concerns about the mental and physical health of detainees a number who have been held indefinitely over 10 years11 birthdays and Christmases in detention. Many detainees have serious health issues which have been inadequately treated or not treated at all. A number of detainees in Brisbane and Melbourne have arrived in these detention centres via medivac and have also not received appropriate medical attention. These people are not criminals and in spite of this are handcuffed when they are taken to medical or psychiatric appointments.

Besides providing reports to the subcommittee our members support and represent detainees in court appearances and provide information for RAR submissions to Senate select committees. As many of the detainees from Manus and Nauru arrive in Brisbane first our Queensland representatives are able to provide accurate information about their movements to other centres which enables our member in other states to provide visits and support.

Following Covid 19 restrictions visits to the centres have ceased and the only contact we have with detainees in these centres is by mobile phone. Another reason why the possession of mobile phones is essential for the mental health and wellbeing of detainees.

Marie Sellstrom
Convenor

RAR CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

The challenges of 2019 and 2020

The political landscape has proved very difficult for refugee campaigners, particularly after the re-election of the Coalition in May 2019 with an increased majority and the added instability and conservatism of the Senate. The elation we felt after the passing of the Medevac legislation in February 2019 after a long and concerted sector-wide campaign was short lived when the bill was repealed 10 months later with the added horror of those Medevacked out still held in detention in APODs having not received the medical care they so desperately need.

2019 also witnessed the natural disasters of drought and bushfire affecting many of our RAR members and pushing many campaigns to the back of the news. 2020 of course has proved, in many

ways, even more difficult with the Covid-19 pandemic continuing to hamper our advocacy work and more importantly to see thousands of refugee families in dire straits, without work and support. Refugee NGO's and volunteer support groups have been struggling to keep up with the demand for urgent and critical need. Now we are officially in the worst recession since the 1930's and this can only mean continuing and increased hardship for the most vulnerable in our society, particularly with a neo-liberal, very conservative government in power.

Increasingly, though, the Refugee Support sector is working together delivering a united voice on targeted issues and are proving to be undaunted and empowered by the challenges ahead. The energy and creativity and passion and humanity demonstrated across the sector during these very difficult and challenging times has been nothing short of inspiring.

RAR Campaigns 2019-20

RAR Groups across the country have been committed to refugee advocacy and support in a myriad of ways, holding rallies, vigils, market stalls, food collection and distribution, fundraising and keeping up the pressure on their elected representatives, both locally and further afield. Their energy and commitment to the cause never waning. They are all heroes.

The RAR National Campaign Committee has had a presence at the ARAN, RCOA and ASRC meetings and this has given us an important voice sector-wide and immediate source of vital information.

Louise has covered in detail some of the campaigns we have been involved in in her Annual Report, so I will just list the many campaigns we have been involved in in 2019-20:

Kids off Nauru	Eden-Monaro by-election	Nobody Left Behind	
Close the camps	Bring Them Here	No Child Left Behind	
Home to Biloela	Save Medevac	Give Them a Future	
Refugee Week	Game Over	@homesafewithus	7 Years too long

We still have much work to do and challenges to meet and I look forward to working hard on those challenges with the new committee.

I would like to thank the wonderful, hard working and inspirational members of the RAR National and Campaign Committees for your friendship, support and overwhelming commitment to attempting and succeeding to making life better for those who come and attempt to come to this country seeking asylum and a new and better life....and for never giving up.

We shall overcome.

Kathie Herbert
Convenor.

HOMESTAY SUB-COMMITTEE

The members of this Sub-Committee are Ruth Fluhr (Euroa), Gunela Astbrink (Ballina), Alison McClure (Bendigo) and Sandra Hawker (Home Among the Gum Trees). The primary focus of the sub-committee's work this year has been developing the national register that was proposed at the 2019 AGM. Linda McNeill (Castlemaine) offered to develop a database for groups to use.

It soon became apparent that what groups need is a local database, as sharing information outside the local RAR group was not useful. The database is currently being trialled with the RAR groups on

the Sub-committee. Homestay activity has been almost non-existent this year, with the bushfires and then COVID-19. It is unclear when we can resume activity again.

Thank you to the members of this group and a special thanks to Linda for sharing her expertise.

Louise Redmond
Convenor

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Facebook, Twitter, Email, and the RAR National Website have been the main forms of digital communications. With COVID-19 over the past 6+ months, most activities have had to go online, which saw our usual promotion of real-life events, replaced with the promotion of online vigils and zooms. The news and media were saturated with COVID-19 reporting which has made it difficult to cut through with refugee issues.

Items that did have success during COVID have included:

- postcards and letter-writing campaigns
- support for those in need during COVID-19
- online petitions
- selling of masks with funds going to RAR groups
- online vigils and protests
- news of in-person protests.

Other communication activities and campaigns that we have completed this year included:

- RAR Unsung Hero of the month
- #SaveMedevac
- #11yearstoolong
- #blacklivesmatter
- #ToNZ
- Jesus was a refugee
- Student poster and video competition
- Refugee Week
- Eden Monaro by-election

and more.

The social media moderators of the different RAR related Facebook pages have been sharing posts, tips, and strategies in the closed group "RAR Social Media moderators" group with 44 people. More are always welcome!

Over the past year, the Facebook page has grown from 4,700 followers to 5,300. Post reach averaged about 1,000 a day and interactions such as likes, comments and shares, averaging about 300 a day.

Risk and Audit Sub-Committee

The members of this Sub-Committee are Linda McNeill, Phil Buttner and Chris Buttner.

Risk is 'the effect of uncertainty on objectives' – the likelihood and consequence of an event occurring that will impact on the work of an organization (or group).

Being aware of risks means that an organization can be prepared and ready to deal with events that may occur. This is called risk management. It is a key aspect of ensuring that an organization (or group) make decisions that will help them achieve their strategy and purposes.

During the year work was undertaken to develop a Risk Management Framework for RAR National.

It was identified that RAR National faces risks in three areas – financial, operational and reputational.

The Risk Management Framework was approved at the Committee Meeting held on 15 May 2020.

This Framework can also serve as a template for RAR Groups.

The RAR Treasurer is the convenor of the Risk and Audit Committee. This Committee will review the Risk Management Framework at least twice per year. This Committee will report to the National Committee each quarter, to get feedback from the Committee concerning any issues that may be relevant.

Phil and Chris Buttner
Convenors