

President's Report

Annual General Meeting 2020

It is my pleasure to present the 2020 Annual Report of the Industrial Relations Society of Tasmania. IRST relaunched last year and was initially busy ensuring compliance and governance issues were addressed as a matter of priority.

The IRST is now an Incorporated Association and many thanks to Jane Fitton for her assistance with this process.

The challenging process of sorting out the financial systems has been finalised with access to full electronic banking ensuring an easier process for all involved. Many thanks to Craig Green and David Dilger for their assistance with this process.

IRST has now affiliated with the Australian Labour and Employment Relations Association (ALERA) and this provides a national perspective and opportunities for members. Unfortunately the national ALERA conference scheduled for Melbourne in October this year has been postponed. I have been elected as a Vice President of ALERA.

IRST was successful in a grant application for a Zoom license and this has simplified meetings and enabled Zoom CPD. Thanks go to Natalie Marzella for success in the grant process and her ongoing assistance with the administration of IRST

The IRST website is being updated with a keen desire to work with other states to move to member login access.

The Committee has met regularly this year to oversee the functioning of the Society in meeting its objectives and facilitating continuing professional development events for members. I would like to thank all Committee members for their enthusiasm and commitment.

IRST Committee for the 2019/2020 Financial Year

PRESIDENT	Neroli Ellis
VICE-PRESIDENT	Craig Green
TREASURER	David Dilger
SECRETARY	Jane Fitton
MEMBER	Natalie Jones
MEMBER	Craig Green
MEMBER	James Eddington
MEMBER	Cristina Serra

Membership

As at 25 June 2020, IRST had 150 members, including 20 individual members and 130 corporate members.

As a result of COVID-19 pandemic, the IRST Committee has resolved to extend the IRST membership fees for 2020 until 2021 so members will not be required to pay membership fees in 2021.

Events Program

IRST held a successful full day conference in October 2019, IR the Bigger Picture. The conference was well attended and involved many interstate presenters.

A CPD subcommittee was formed to develop of program for the year following the conference and this included masterclasses on advocacy skills, an international speaker on the US workforce reform, an annual conference focusing on negotiation and enterprise bargaining and a series of topical breakfasts. Many thanks to Nat Jones and Cristina Serra for their valuable contributions to the sub-committee.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee resolved to hold professional development events on Zoom for the foreseeable future.

The Tasmanian Society successfully held two CPD events 2020 via Zoom.

- **The Trump Administration's Impact on Work and Employment Policy in the United States presented by Professor Paul Clarke via Webinar 1 April 2020**

Professor Paul Clarke discussed the significant changes that have been made by the Trump Administration using executive orders, regulatory powers and legislation in the area of work and employment policy. This included the weakening of workplace health and safety, discrimination, and fair pay protections, as well as further shifting the balance of power between unions and management away from employees and to employers.

- **Employment Law Webinar – The Whistleblower 4 June 2020**

IRST joined with the Law Society of Tasmania to provide members with a seminar presented from an employer and oversight body perspective. The seminar covered the employer's obligations and how complaints are dealt with under the *Corporations Act 2001* and an overview of the *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2002* which gives protections to people blowing the whistle about serious or significant improper conduct in the Tasmanian public sector.

IRST History video

IRST has received \$25000 funding from ALERA for a project to document the history of IR and IRST in Tasmania. Project scoping is being developed to tender the project



Neroli Ellis
President
Industrial Relations Society Tasmania
15 September 2020