

President ASRL 2015-17

I am again standing for the position of President, seeking your vote to allow me to represent you all to the best of my ability for the next term. I seek your continued support as we continue our program to build our sport on a firm footing for the future.

You have a very clear decision to make in this election based on my previous record and future direction as set out in this CV. I ask that your message at the ballot box be very clear and decisive. You either understand and like the direction and achievements my committee and I have undertaken, or you want a change in a different direction. If you see anything offered by the alternate candidate you want, then please vote that way. However if you want us to continue to push for changes and progress as listed below please take the time to vote for myself.

For those that may not know me, I have been honoured to serve as ASRL President since 2006. In that time we have achieved a great deal on behalf of the sport of surfboats and a listing of achievements has been attached for all members to read and decide just how active your recent committee has been. Of course we haven't always been correct or won the day on every debate, but we have always given of our best for our sport.

From a very small group we hear that the ASRL is just about me. I find that notion completely offensive to each and every member of the current and past committees that have served with me. Everything achieved has been a collective accomplishment on behalf of boat rowing. Every member on the committee has been included and provided input into what I consider to be great team efforts. I ask that you take the time to read the list of ASRL achievements before voting and then decide.

I have had a long career in a voluntary capacity working for organisations in the capacity of President and Event Organiser which has provided me with the knowledge and experience to again look to lead the ASRL. These include:

President Moruya Surf Club

President Moruya Basketball Association

President Canberra Vikings Rugby Union Club

President ACT Rugby Union (including setting up the Brumbies)

Board member of the Australian Rugby Union

Committee Chair Surfboats SLSA

Race Director George Bass Marathon

Event Director of major Rugby Union matches

The negotiating and people skills required to succeed and achieve in all these different fields are ones I bring to the role of ASRL President. We are a diverse body of members spanning all States and Territories with a very varied set of needs and requirements. The ASRL ability

to remain independent, while at the same time sit at the table with SLSA has proven to be a major bonus in our overall endeavour to better our sport.

My critics claim that I am too close to SLS. I would challenge any to go talk to those at SLS at every level to learn just how tough the ASRL, under my leadership, has been in many of our dealings. Being tough in today's climate doesn't necessarily require guns drawn at ten paces to be effective or to achieve results. More important in a sophisticated society it is the ability to win the day with facts and good debate that will see results. Achieving the recognised status within SLSA of having a specific advisory sub-committee (SBC) was a great milestone, regardless of who wants to suggest otherwise. You the rowers now have a voice and link almost directly to the SLSA Board Table. You can pick up the phone to the National CEO, senior SLSA staff and the National and State Presidents of SLS and be listened to, you can make suggestions that are at the least given an airing, and more times than not acted upon. In short the ASRL and its members have come of age; we are now accepted, respected and recognised as the responsible voice for rowers by SLS at State and National level, albeit always willing to put our point across.

List of ASRL achievements can be found [Here](#)

This list is not exhaustive but I'm sure by reading the attachment you will have an understanding that under my leadership your ASRL committee has been tireless in their endeavour to improve our sport on your behalf. This hasn't been a solo effort and I would like to commend the current committee members for their tireless work.

What the Future Will Look Like under my leadership:

In my next term, if elected, we will continue to focus on issues that are having an effect on our sport and these will include:

- Foremost and key will be a strong focus on playing a major role in the National Review of Sport. We will be relying to a great extent on what you tell us is good and what you believe needs change in fulfilling this role.
- To achieve this we have already set in motion a process where we will visit each State and some Regions hosting membership Forums where you will all be invited and encouraged to attend. At these forums we will ask you to address a set of issues across a wide range of topics, so we can understand what the key concerns and impediments to increasing the sports membership, participation and event satisfaction might be. This will include the sport generally, and in each State or Region any specific case issues
- Like everyone involved we don't have all the answers but are determined to understand as many of the issues as possible. As can happen in any debate the strongest voice will sometimes overshadow all the available information in the communication chain. This time by coming to you we hope to uncover as much

detail as possible and then use that to our benefit as we feed back into the big picture debate at the SLSA table.

- We will of course need to keep an eye on all the previously achieved issues listed separately so they remain on track.
- We are pushing for the introduction of an on-beach style Induction for Beach Officials at the start of carnivals. This induction would be very basic but would empower new people to step into a wide range of officiating roles, hopefully fast tracking the development of new beach officials into the sport.
- We will help roll out the newly developed Coaching/Sweep Assessment program around the country
- We still don't have everything as we want it at the ASRL Open so we will be concentrating a lot of effort into this area for February 2016
- We are well aware that our carnival system requires some adjustment. What we will be chasing from you at the various forums will be an understanding on what type of event you want to attend, how often you want to compete and how much travel you want to do in achieving the perfect program.
- Armed with this knowledge we will then look to work with the various event organisers, seeking any change to streamline existing events into a new model that suits the sport in 2016.
- Issues like coach and new sweep development will always be at the top of any list and will continue to command attention from the next committee.
- Gender equality is another issue that must be addressed in our racing divisions.

The challenges in front of this sport are not general issue specific. Rather they may vary from area to area and include type of event, duration, location, delivery or any other derivative. We are pretty sure that many of our recruitment issues centre on the many outdated Rules & Regulations as set down by SLS. At least by the SLSA Board now directing a complete review into Sport, they are showing that they are listening to what we have been saying for a few years and we are at the exciting start of major change.

It has been my honour to have the continuing support of a great majority of members over my time as President and I ask for your support this one more time as we strive to complete the big ticket item of the National **Review of Sport**. As you can see, rather than being tired in office, I have a strong future direction set down with very important measurable outcomes. In seeking your support I am happy to refer back to the list of achievements as attached as a clear indication of my ability to deliver by myself and my committee.

Thank you for voting

Bert Hunt