

RIGHT TO REPAIR CAMPAIGN GLOBAL MEETING

It is always a pleasure to attend the Global Right to Repair (R2R) Meeting held once every two years at Automechanika Frankfurt

This is a connected community of industry associations that are working toward fair and open competition in their markets. Focusing on consumer choice, each member is actively engaged in community and political campaigns to mandate the sharing of repair and service information and ensure access to parts and tools.

The R2R global community is often connecting up via teleconferencing and email – but the chance to meet up face to face and compare progress is invaluable and there are always surprise developments at the Global Meeting: new laws, mandatory codes and additional members coming into the network. This year was no different – and with 44 participants, it was our largest gathering so far.

For every nation in attendance, the R2R campaigns are local, taking account of local laws and conditions. But the challenges and arguments are often very similar throughout the world and the intent is to share our intelligence. The Global Meeting focuses on presentations and discussion around current and past activities, coalition partners and opponents and ‘lessons learned’ that are relevant across international borders.

In Australia we call our R2R campaign Choice of Repairer, and Lesley Yates presented our progress toward a Mandatory Code for Data Sharing in our industry. She also shared the other important gains that have flowed from the ACCC study including the new consumer and industry advisory material for choice in servicing of vehicles under warranty.

The USA report delivered by Autocare Association’s Aaron Lowe was an interesting update on the progress of their ‘Pass-Through’ laws. The Massachusetts Right to Repair Law required manufacturers to ensure that vehicles can be scanned using a generic tool and not an expensive proprietary tool. All manufacturers selling vehicles into the USA market were required to comply with this law by 1 January 2018.

The Autocare Association recently conducted some field trials to see if manufacturers were compliant with this law and it appears that most are meeting their obligations. It is interesting to see how quickly the American industry is able to comply with mandatory conditions such as data sharing and universal tools. Their industry continues to function well with consumer choice and fair competition and without the catastrophic consequences that are often predicted by the car industry in Australia. Data is shared, cars keep moving, security and safety are assured; all because competition is mandated.

We were surprised by the progress of the South African R2R campaign. Two years ago we could not have predicted how quickly they would progress. Before the end of this year, South Africa will sign off on an enforceable agreement for data sharing in the automotive industry.

Interestingly, their agreement will have a couple of envious additions to the standard clauses requiring access to information on fair and reasonable terms. The South African industry has managed to negotiate access to OEM training which is a great win for consumers and for the industry. Similarly, they have also managed to curtail the impact of extended warranties – these offerings will be limited and cannot be used to restrict a consumer’s choice of repairer. This is amazing progress over the past two years and our congratulations go out to our South African colleagues for their great work over a short period.

Another interesting development for 2018 was an increased presence from Asia and a first time appearance from China. We should not be surprised to hear that the issues of restricted access to data results in a reduction of competition and choice, but it is staggering to hear that in China this affects more than 400,000 independent workshops.

Importantly, the R2R Global Meeting is focusing more and more on telematics, particularly the diagnostic data that is collected from the vehicle and can be conveyed to the consumers’ repairer. The USA report focused on their progress on promoting a data sharing framework that will ensure that the consumer has the ability to choose who their data is shared with, ensuring that their nominated repairer is the recipient of fault code data.

Fortunately, we were also able to report some progress on this issue as a result of the forthcoming introduction of the Consumer Data Right CDR Law in Australia which will lay the foundation and the principles for consumers to be able to access their data for competition and choice.



GRAHAM SCUDAMORE-SMITH
Chairman



STUART CHARITY
Chief Executive Officer

AAAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCED

The AAAA Board of Directors for 2018/2019 was announced at AAAA’s 38th Annual General Meeting, held in Sydney on Monday the 15th of October

We would like to welcome back returning Board Members, Peter Rogers and Rob Cameron. We would also like to welcome three new Board Members: Nikki Gerling, Janelle Gonzalez and Wayne Bryant.

The full list of Board Members and positions is as below:

- **Graham Scudamore-Smith**, Fulcrum Suspensions – Chairman (QLD)
- **Mark Pedder**, Pedders Suspension – Deputy Chairman (VIC)
- **Guy Nicholls**, Ryco Group – Secretary (VIC)
- **Rob Cameron**, GPC Asia Pacific – Treasurer (VIC)
- **Peter Rogers**, Inspired Automotive Marketing – Director (SA)
- **Adam Pay**, Kmart Tyre and Auto Service - Director (NSW)
- **John Benson**, Davies Craig (VIC)
- **Wayne Bryant**, Repco Pty Ltd (VIC)
- **Nikki Gerling**, Robert Bosch (Australia) Pty Ltd (VIC)
- **Janelle Gonzalez**, Blue Toro Pty Ltd (NSW)
- **Craig Magill**, Burson Auto Parts (VIC)
- **Darren Robinson**, Hella Australia (VIC)

One of the signs of a healthy Association is competition for spots on its Board and this year we had 11 nominations for the five vacant positions from an outstanding field of candidates.

Unfortunately in any election some people miss out and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Craig Baills, Paul Carlsson, Heath Moore and Eden Shirley for their nominations.

This year’s election also signalled a ‘changing of the guard’ to an extent with the retirement of three long standing members of the AAAA Board in David Fraser, Bob Pattison and Paul Dumbrell, who had a combined service of 36 years.

Our Association, and the wider industry, has been fortunate to have benefited from their stewardship, wisdom and leadership and on behalf of the AAAA Board, staff and members we would like to express our gratitude for the contribution these three outstanding gentlemen have made during their time on the AAAA Board.

We’re sure you’ll join us in wishing the new Board well as they help set the future direction of the AAAA and ensure that we deliver new activities and services that are valued by you.