

**MINUTES OF THE 40TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE ARABIAN HORSE SOCIETY OF AUST LTD
HELD AT THE SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE
SAXONY RD, HORSLEY PARK NSW
ON
SUNDAY 3RD APRIL 2016**

PRESENT:-

R Collyer, R Scott, T Muller, J Dand, N Dand, G Liddle, J Newton, G Martini, N Kinnear, C Potts, J Wiseman, R Smith, J Potts, K McMahon, V Dodson, M Stuart-Smith, W Keller, M Hutchinson, D Harvey, V Males, R Males, M Triggs, J Triggs, M Duncan, S Jones, T Casey, A Vickery, M Bigg, A Bigg, Bro P McIntosh, R Rogers, W Toft, M Toft, R Downes, D Watson, G Lilley, D Burns, R Shipton, J Shannon, R Vuga, S Ahel, C Bilson, K Greene, M Greene, K Fletcher-Grieve, C Rutherford, D Rutherford, H Wilson, S McCurley, B O'Connor, P O'Connor, Y Downes, J-H Stewart Daniel, L Williamson, A Preston, C Huxtable, S Huxtable, N Cribb, C Bilson, S Benjamin, H Dohan, T Edwards

PROXIES:- As per list provided

At 5.40 pm the Chairman, A Preston, announced that a quorum had been reached and the meeting was now open. The Chairman then welcomed all members present and introduced the Directors.

The Chairman then called for apologies.

APOLOGIES:-

G Smith, K Bayliss, C Brown, T Males, A Dobson

Moved Mr J Newton, seconded Ms K Fletcher-Grieve "That the apologies as tendered be received and recorded." Carried

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were then tabled at the meeting. A Preston then asked if all present had read the minutes, as some required more time this was given.

Moved Ms V Dodson, seconded Mrs L Williamson "That the Minutes of the 2015 AGM be taken as read." Carried

As there were no corrections to the minutes it was then

Moved Mrs L Williamson, seconded Ms K Fletcher-Grieve "That the Minutes of the 2015 AGM be accepted as a true record." Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Chairman, Mr A Preston, then explained about Distinguished Service Awards and how they were allocated. Distinguished Service Awards were then presented to:

Kirsty Bayliss from WA. Ms K Fletcher-Grieve accepted the award on behalf of Kirsty.

Marian Duncan (NSW).

Kay Edward (Vic)

Christine Haigh (NSW)

Sheila Jones (Vic)

NSW Arabian Association. Mr G Liddle accepted the award.

The Chairman, Mr A Preston, noted the importance of Life Memberships and the criteria for awarding them. An Honorary Life membership was then awarded to Ms Katherine McMahon.

The WAHO Award for 2016 was then awarded to Desperado owned and bred by Mrs J Toft. The award was received by Warwick Toft.

From the day he was born, we knew that Desperado was special. So much so that he didn't need a prefix to identify him. He was simply, Desperado. Sired by WN Dasjmir (imp USA) out of one of Bremervale's special mares, Bremervale Aquarius.

It is unquestionable that Desperado has been one of the most influential Arabian Stallions in Australian Arabian Horse History. Not only has he himself been a Queensland State Champion, Australian National Champion 2&3 year old colt as well as Reserve Australian National Champion Stallion, his progeny have proven to be just as successful across a wide range of disciplines, including halter, performance and endurance.

To this date, Desperado has sired ten Australian National Champions, six Reserve National Champions and over twenty Australian National Champion Top Tens. As well as being the grandsire of numerous Australian National Champions in both halter and performance. Most notably his grand-get Bremervale Loreal has won over seven Australian National Championship titles for performance. However, although it is clear that he has had a profound impact on the Australian Arabian scene; his influence extends far beyond our borders. His son, Bremervale Andronicus +++++// (Desperado x Bremervale Rhapsody) who was Australian National Champion Colt, is one of the leading Arabian Breeding Stallions in the US with Al Marah Arabians.

Bremervale Andronicus has won two U.S. National Champion Sport Horse in Hand titles and US National Champion Top Ten Western Pleasure Horse. He is one of the only stallions to be awarded a Legion of Masters and a Legion of Excellence and is the only winner of Masters and Excellence to have sired multiple winners of these two awards. In 2012 Andronicus was ranked third in the USA on the top sires for regional purebred winners, only behind Marwan Al Shaqab and DA Valentino. His progeny have now won over 30 US National Championships and Scottsdale Championships.

Other notable stallions by Desperado include Bremervale Enforcer and Rahere. Both these two stallions have left a profound impact on the Arabian industry in America with progeny winning Scottsdale Signature Classes, Scottsdale Championships and US National Championships.

Desperado has also proved himself as a leading endurance sire with his progeny winning numerous FEI Championships around the world, including Asia, the Middle East and Australia. Bremervale Lucille (exp MY) won gold at the Sukma 80km FEI 1 star event. Further to this, Bremervale Arrogance (exp UAE) was a Bronze Medal winner as a part of the Australian Youth Endurance Team at the World Youth Endurance Championships, Abu Dhabi 2011. Bremervale Arrogance also won a team silver medal in the 2011 Trans-Tasman event held in South Australia, where he also won Best Conditioned and second place over the line. Bremervale Arrogance also held the Australian Record for the fastest qualifying ride for 120km FEI by an Australian Youth. Bremervale Savannah has now successfully made the transition from FEI 2 star endurance mare, to be an A-Class Champion under saddle. Her full brother Bremervale Rafael is also an A-Class Champion Stallion under saddle. Desperado also has three progeny who completed the Tom Quilty Gold Cup before being exported to the UAE.

Other Desperado progeny who have excelled include Bremervale Reflection (exp UAE) who won the Dubai International Arabian Horse Championship for Ridden Mares & Geldings and Bremervale Pocahontas who was New Zealand National Champion Stallion. To date, Desperado has progeny in over 20 countries worldwide, and is the sire of National Champions in 6 of these countries.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM 2016

The Arabian horse society of Australia has faced its fair share of challenges since its inception in 1957. In reality, the challenges were there well before this official beginning. Records document Arabian horses being shown in Australia at Sydney Royal as far back as 1871, however at that time there was no Arabian Horse society and no Australian Arabian Horse Studbook. From 1933 there were several failed attempts to found the AHSA. Although passionately driven these first endeavours struggled to attract enough members to sustain viability. The cogs of life – communication, industry, technology & agriculture - moved at a much slower pace back then. It was not until 1960 that we saw the first volume of the Australian Studbook published. In a time when horses were still helping to shape and tame the rural landscape of Australia and still listed as a primary industry, lifestyle was driven more by necessity than choice. Horses played a vital part in many Australians' livelihoods. Through the 80s & early 90s, the popularity and demand for Arabian horse blood was highly sought, especially for the development and improvement of the many newly evolving horse breeds such as stock horses, riding ponies, Australian ponies & warmbloods. Breeding, along with the sales of Arabian horses flourished, subsequently membership numbers were very high and the Society expanded and evolved with this vigorous flow of capital. From about 1997 and throughout the following decade, the downturn of hobby farms was staggering. Horse breeding in general suffered at the hands of this economic downturn. The loss of primary production tax benefits around this time was also a major contributing factor. The start of the new millennium brought with it a real struggle for our society - the rapidly

changing world reborn with a new era filled with the lightning-fast advancement in technology. These times have been incredibly challenging for our society.

The AHSA board has spent the last decade and a half evolving the business to meet the demands of the modern world that have come to define the marketplace and social interaction in the new millennium. Some of the new realities faced by businesses post Y2K are the demands for immediate gratification with unrealistic expectations, zealous opinion expressed without filter or substantial truth on social media, and more individual freedom to pursue a lifestyle of choice. The current business strategy of the Society is layered and systematic: "evolve, adapt & resolve" to position the business as best able to "communicate, educate, alleviate and populate".

Evolving in business and in life is crucial to success and survival, for change is as inevitable as it is constant. A commodity such as the Arabian horse, which has existed in its idyllic structural state with a functionally sound template of utility for over five millennia, has the potential to be easily overcome by the whims and fads of the modern marketplace and the focus on beauty above all else as well as the narrow minded devotion to a singular specialised discipline. The evolution of our society urges the need to derive new ways and means of enjoying and utilising horses in our everyday lives, for perpetuating growth across all sectors of human-horse interaction, and for assuring the Arabian breed not only survives, but thrives, as the ultimate versatile equine of supreme utility. Encouraging Arabian horse breeders to create the most ideal combination of both beauty and utility in their breeding programs in each and every generation is the singular most beneficial step forward in maintaining breed integrity while progressively advancing the breed to maintain relevancy in the modern world and within the international equine industry.

Adapting to the present needs and demands of the modern horse owner to encourage and expand involvement within our breeds and throughout all levels of the equine industry is at the top of the priority list for the AHSA. The adaptation of Arabian horse activities and achievement to create a sustainable place for our horses within the modern equestrian world needs careful planning and strategic guidance, as does the preservation of the breed foundation and identity as an all-round functional riding horse. This commitment to both growth and preservation is at the core of both the long-term & short-term strategic plans for the Society.

Resolving out-dated operational procedures and past profligate management practices has been a top priority of the Society over the course of much of the last decade. Balancing expenditure with correct income budgeting, staff restructuring and maximisation of asset inventory have put the Society in a fiscally responsible place of security and stability, while reassuringly positioning the AHSA to remain buoyant and comfortably solvent for the next few decades and beyond. Establishing a suitable growth index and additional income streams are currently being both actively investigated and prudently pursued to support a sound secure financial future.

Communication is an area in which the Board has worked hard to improve, with an ongoing commitment to develop further innovative improvements. The Society has a new far more user friendly website ready to launch in early 2016, which offers a much more interactive and intuitive experience for our members. There are great possibilities to expand the scope of the new website over time, tailoring it to meet the evolving needs of our membership, as well as the general enthusiast seeking information on the Arabian breed, the Arabian Horse Society, or horse involvement and ownership in general. The new website should prove to be an essential promotional tool and portal through which those interested in Arabian horse activity and ownership can become involved and inspired.

Further education of exactly what it means to be involved in the Arabian horse community and what it means to be a member of AHSA are also a top priority of the current Board. Advancing knowledge and education of the Arabian breeds, sharing the plethora of ways we can enjoy and utilise our horses, providing guidance to members on how to build and grow their businesses, sharing breeding principles and insights, improving and expanding our Judges training, encouraging and organising youth development and activity are just some of the ways the AHSA is endeavouring to educate and enrich Australians with the multitude of benefits of both the Society and the Arabian horse.

Alleviating any negative perception of the breed and the Society is under close scrutiny by the Board. Social media is teeming with a barrage of opinions that often have little to any basis on actual fact or often times any truth. These destructive rants do nothing more than bring the breed and the equine industry into disrepute, creating antagonism and division through a medium that has the potential for infinite positivity and proactivity. Social media is NOT the medium through which destructive behaviour should be let loose on the

world. Guiding people towards more effective outlets of communication through which concerns can be expressed and resolution effectively and beneficially reached is another important step towards a positive public image for our breed and our Society.

Populating and growing the membership base while encouraging Arabian horse activity at every level of the equine industry is the primary goal of the strategic plan. The greater our membership base, the more affordable membership can become and the more benefits that can be created and passed on to the members. Creating a welcoming, family-friendly, community-supportive and cohesively engaging Society is a paramount aim of the Managing Directors.

For the last 5 to 6 years, the Board has been strongly focused on stabilising the business financially, as well as maximising the Society's asset base. Six years ago the AHSA was in a precariously vulnerable position financially, having sustained several consecutive years of substantially negative deficits, a rapidly declining income, membership losses, cost-demanding asset maintenance, unchecked expenditure and profligate management practices. This was a unsustainable management approach for any business, the result of which brought this Society to the brink of collapse and bankruptcy. Since that time, the Board's consistent and diligent commitment towards stabilising company finances has paid off. With some very tight budgeting, restructuring and schematic planning the business moved into a financially equitable and sound position, with a healthy profit margin delivered in 2014 and again in 2015. This is a direct reflection of the Board's sound business plan, from a loss of \$ 90,835 in 2011 to a profit of \$118,812 in 2015. These financial turnaround, coupled with both asset stability and a much healthier asset portfolio, has placed the Society in an ideal position for growth and expansion. As a Not-for-Profit Organisation, it is always a delicate juggling act for the Board to deliver an annual base line profit and grow the asset portfolio, while still remaining within the Government's profit restrictions for a Not-for-Profit company. I am pleased to advise our members that the Society is perfectly on target for asset development and ideal profit margins.

With finances comfortably stabilised, the Society has now proceeded into the next phase of the strategic plan: rebranding the Society & developing a positive breed image in the equine market place. The Society launched its new modernized logo and colour scheme in 2015 with the Board also developing the ways & the means of establishing a new image for the Arabian breed. The new Performance Index Register is one such strategic objective for creating a greater awareness of the true nature and abilities of the Arabian horse. It is hoped that by introducing these lower percentage horses into our community, that their owners will go onto acquiring an Arabian Derivative or even a purebred horse after witnessing the best of breed competing at competition. Every person that is introduced to our breed and included within our Society helps in creating a positive growth index. A disciplinary committee, known as DC's, is also being developed. These DC's will attend all AA show as well as any show with a live stream. The DC's are there to make sure that the rules are followed, to curtail all forms of horse abuse and/or stress, as well as insure that Judges follow class procedures & remain objective in their adjudication process. We look forward to adding the professionalism of DC's to our Arabian affiliated events to provide maximum welfare for our horses and the most level and fair playing field for our competitors.

Each & every Society member is bound by the rules governing their membership. Comments being posted on social media, especially Facebook have been creating an exceedingly bad image of our Society, breed officials & members. People often express their "opinion" without verifying facts or truths. Interesting word "opinion" for it is bantered around as a given right for one to express their "opinion" recklessly with total disregard to the snowball effect of consequence. Interestingly, an opinion is defined as "a view or judgment formed about something; not necessarily based on fact or knowledge". A very famous writer, Bill Bullard, known for his great insight recently wrote about opinion. He writes; "opinion is really the lowest form of human knowledge, it requires NO accountability, NO understanding or NO factual evidence. The highest form of knowledge is Empathy, for it requires us to suspend our egos & live in another world. It requires profound purpose larger than the self kind of understanding". These opinions being expressed without verifying facts or truth create an immense amount of unrest, anxiety & disenchantment within our community & membership, often discrediting the breed, individual horses, the Society, society officials & other members. Almost all of the other breed societies have had to initiate social media policies & have already been suspending the memberships of offending members. The AHSA does have in the articles of association regulations that do cover such damaging behaviour by a member.

The Regulations in the Articles of Association clearly define a members obligation under their membership:
CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS*

- a) The Board may resolve that a member (whether ordinary member, life member, associate member or junior member) has ;
- i. refused or neglected to comply with any obligation under these Articles, the Regulations, the current Rule Book or Competition/Show Rules;
 - : ii. engaged in behaviour or conduct that is unsportsmanlike, dishonest, unbecoming of a member or contrary or prejudicial to the interests or furtherance of the Society or which may bring or tend to bring the Society into disrepute;

This Code of Conduct for members covers those members choosing to make unfounded & unsubstantiated comments & opinions on social media. The acceptable procedure for a member wishing to take action about a concern or hearsay is first to verify facts through the correct channels & express their concern with the respective parties. Social media grandstanding has progressed out of hand, and is doing irrefutable damage to the Society, the breed & Arabian horse industry. The AHSA Board will no longer tolerate such defamatory opinions being irresponsibly expressed by members. The Board will now be acting within its constitutional rights and professional obligations by enforcing the Code of Conduct rule for any such behaviour.

Arabian horse judges represent the Society as officials who have been endorsed by the Society. In signing a Judge's Contract with a clearly defined regulation regarding comments by judges on social media, a judges actions at all times must be above reproach. The Board has already had to reprimand judges for misrepresenting their endorsement & accreditation as an AHSA judge. Failure to comply with the judges contract or membership requirements will result in suspension or removal from the AHSA judges panel.

The Board has investigated ways of revaluing the Purebred Arabian within the equine market place. It is strongly understood that for the greater part, it is purebred Arabian breeding stock that financially sustains the core Business of our society, the registry & registry income. Notwithstanding the valuable contribution and the exceptional qualities of the Arabian Derivative, the purebred is the key to all registered horses with our Society. Every Arabian Derivative owes its acceptance into the AHSA registry to a purebred Arabian within its pedigree (hopefully not too far back...). With the successful evolution and progression of the various derivative breed registries over the last 20 years, the purebred has become more often than not superseded & unnecessary in many breeding programs. This devaluation of the purebred Arabian is a real concern for the future popularity and long term progression of the breed. The board is developing ways to increase recognition, acceptance and respect of the Arabian breed within the broader equine community, including the creation of the Half-Arabian registry. The long-term goal is to make the Arabian the breed of choice for new horse owners and to create more opportunity to expose our horses to the youth and non-professional market.

Moved Ms K Fletcher-Grieve, seconded Mrs L Williamson "That the Chairman's Report be accepted."
Carried

SECRETARY'S REPORT AGM 2016

The last 12 months have been busy for the office with the re-fitting of the new premises and trying to tidy up after the move while still keeping on top of day to day operations. The Board members and staff have worked really hard throughout the year and I wish to thank all of them for their support and assistance. With the increase in postage costs and the delay in postal delivery we would like to encourage people to utilise the website and print their own forms rather than asking for paperwork to be posted. Members are welcome to email paperwork to the Society for processing as long as the transactions do not require original documents like registration certificates for transfers and service certificates for registrations. The coming year will see the Society upgrade to a new registry and member database, our old system has served us well but is not able to allow the Society to progress to allow members to process more of their paperwork online. Please be patient with us while this is being developed and implemented as delays will occur. Coupled with this will be the ability to store more documents and emails online which eventually will assist in reduced times for retrieval of documents. The new Society website is almost ready to be launched, we just need to find the time to do a bit more with and it should be ready to go. The statistics for 2015 are attached for your information

Membership Data

As at 31/12/2015

Membership	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total	3713	3482	3383	3003 (3360)	3289	3417
Life				27	30	28
Full	3489	3266	3175	2806 (3155)	3071	3174
-Ordinary					2737	2484
- Company					26	27
-Overseas					24	17
-Associate					208	454
-Pension					76	192
Junior	224	216	208	170 (205)	175	192
Panel Judge					11	15
Friends Of					2	8

Registry Data

As at 31/12/2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	
	Completed				Total registrations	
Purebred						
Mares	440	369	397	374	362	32678
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	180	157	177	375	321	27523
Foal Record				158	164	8547
Partbred						
Mares	175	160	183	193	185	30141
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	94	112	99	166	145	25117
Foal Record				123	57	2136
Anglo						
Mares	45	60	58	49	48	4333
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	30	36	27	49	46	3785
Foal Record				12	16	943
Arabian Pony						
Mares	131	250	76	85	63	4198
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	62	101	25	82	50	3139
Foal Record				40	36	1180
Arabian Riding Pony						
Mares	143	228	70	82	78	2378
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	121	132	46	76	77	2089
Foal Record				34	33	854
Warmblood						
Mares	66	79	68	32	30	1056
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	43	44	34	45	27	864
Foal Record				14	8	405
Quarab						
Mares	12	6	7	12	12	190
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	4	9	1	12	4	119
Foal Record				5	6	73
Stockhorse						
Mares	10	14	7	12	14	249
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	7	9	7	9	11	172
Foal Record				11	3	80
Half Arabian						
Mares					3	3
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)					2	2
Foal Record					0	0
Performance Index (all sexes)					15	15
Total				2050	1816	

Horses DNA typed	1096	932	895	788	813	
Horses Buffy Coat Conversion	54	41	29	20	8	
Hair Storage	137	104	82	78	36	
Transfers	2142	2084	1934	2230	1990	
Leases				267	214	
Exports processed				67	54	
Imports processed				35	30	
Stud Prefixes				40	50	

Ms C Haigh asked if it would be possible to make the forms on the website more interactive.

Moved Mr C Bilson, seconded Ms K Fletcher-Grieve "That the Secretary's Report be accepted." Carried

TREASURERS REPORT AGM 2016

It is very pleasing to report another financially successful year. It has been another year of focused efforts in balancing society expenditure with and ever decreasing income. Through prudent management the society again was able to meet the overall budget for expenditure. Gratitude is extended to the Secretary, Helen, and staff for working proactively with the board in concerted efforts in identifying constructive ways to make significant savings. Even more pleasing than the targeted expenditure was that our income was able to exceed the reviewed budget amounts. The past four years has seen a turnaround from a \$90,835 deficit in 2012 to \$118,812 profit in 2015.

This has not been an easy task but a very necessary one to ensure the future of the society. Australia's forecasted economic climate is less than buoyant and the Board is ever mindful that reaching our targeted income is always an ongoing concern. This conscientious management will need to be ongoing with continual strategies introduced to continue to remain a viable business into the future.

Although we have grown our membership, we suffered a loss of membership income due to many members changing to a lower membership scale. The area of change was to Pensioner and Associate (Gelding) Memberships. The Associate membership was introduced to attempt to attract membership to owners of non-breeding animals. Although this has seen a rise in member number but a decrease in member income it is felt that it is a long term investment by encouraging new members that will hopefully transition to full membership in the future. Pensioner membership was investigated and analysed. This membership was introduced by the Board many years ago when the number of pensions available were limited. Today there are many and varied pension types. AHSA is the only equestrian societies that offers pensioner membership therefore after considerable consideration the board has limited this membership to Age and Disability Pension.

The member benefits scheme has been introduced for full members and has been taken up by many. This is a way that most people can save the cost of their membership through everyday shopping and for many significant savings can be made. The society must continue to promote this concept to the members.

The introduction of the Performance Horse Index register is proving to be a positive step for the Society. In a very short time we have more horses registered in this category than in other derivative registries. With the assistance of our members to include these members and make them feel welcome and part of the Arabian horse family many will in future years own higher percentage Arabians. This has meant a boost to both our membership income and our registration income. The inclusion of these horses is also proving a financial benefit to our affiliates with larger numbers in the open classes which will assist them in their long term presence.

The magazine 'The Versatile Arabian' (AHN) has been under review by the board for some time. As with all large expenses it is necessary to continually review the viability of the expense. Print media is going through its own transformation to meet the requirements of immediate information and results. Something achieved electronically through many mediums. We investigated many options including moving to an ebook however after a lot of consideration the board decided to move to the magazine to be produced three times a year and boost the Member Bulletin to be a more relevant, timely and informative electronic publication. This decision has meant that a significant increase in membership was not required. Helen is presently tendering to another Registry. It is hoped that we can obtain this contract and will be able to tender for others in the near future. Due to the delay of the role over into the new data base, due to some of our unique complexities we have not been able to actively look for similar work.

Further investigation into an investment property has been carried out and professional advice was to postpone until after February 2016 due to a predicted down turn in the property market. As reported previously the reserve funds for the investment have been set aside in a higher interest bearing account.

The board wishes to make the best possible decision in acquiring an investment property that will deliver the best possible long term yield for the Society.

As with all clubs or societies it is exceedingly important that members assist the Society and positively promote membership to new Arabian horse owners as well as Arabian horse enthusiasts.

Moved Mrs T Muller, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the Treasurer's Report be accepted." Carried

Br P McIntosh asked why an investment property had not yet been purchased. The Chairman, Mr A Preston, explained that advice had been received recommending that the Society wait until after February before considering any purchase as the market was inflated and would drop. The money has been invested and is secure.

The Annual Accounts were then presented. It was noted that the Society had made a substantial profit.

Moved Mrs Y Downes, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the annual accounts as presented be adopted." Carried

Moved Mrs Y Downes, seconded Mr C Bilson "To William Buck be appointed as auditors of the Society for 2016". Carried

RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT BOARD ELECTIONS 2016/2017

The Secretary, Miss H Dohan, then read the report of the Returning Officer

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THE ARABIAN HORSE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
BOARD ELECTIONS FOR 2016/2017

Arrangements were made for me to conduct the contested elections for Board Members from New South Wales (2) and South Australia (1). Voting papers were posted out to eligible members who were able to vote online or alternatively by post. The period for voting closed on 31 January by which time 129 members had submitted an online vote and a further 175 members had returned their papers through the post.

Voters' membership details were checked against the Society's membership database to ensure eligibility and also to identify multiple voters ... there were 2 incidences of multiple voting detected and the online votes for those 2 were not included in the count.

Ballot papers were removed from the envelopes and counted and then tallied with the online votes.

The result of the voting is shown below.

	Postal Votes	Online Votes	Total Votes	
New South Wales				
Virginia DODSON	73	53	126	
Glenys LILLEY	97	89	186	Elected
Marjory STUART-SMITH	90	47	137	Elected
Blank Votes	8	4	12	
South Australia				
John NEWTON	78	46	124	
Richard SHIPTON	68	68	136	Elected
Blank Votes	29	15	44	



Phil Lewis
Returning Officer
Elections Australia Pty Ltd
31 January 2016

Moved Mrs L Williamson, seconded Ms K Fletcher-Grieve "That the Returning Officers Report be accepted."
Carried

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Moved Mrs L Williamson, seconded Ms G Martini "That Clause 2 of the Company's Articles of Association be amended to include the words "and any other membership type as approved by the Board" at the end of the first sentence, so that it will read:

"2. The membership of the Society shall consist of Ordinary Members, Life Members, Judges Members, Associate Members, Friends of the AHSA Members and any other membership type as approved by the Board. An ordinary member shall be any Member who is not a Life Member, Judges Member, Associate Member or Friends of the AHSA Member. A Judges Member shall be a member who is a member of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd Judges Panel and who does not conduct any transactions other than membership with the Society. An Associate Member shall be a member who only has Gelding horses registered with the Society. Friends of the AHSA Member shall be a Member of the Society who does not have any transactions with the Society other than Membership and does not have voting rights." Carried (1 against)

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The Junior Development sub-committee consists of Tracey Keller, Allan Preston, Karen Fletcher-Grieve, Virginia Dodson and John Newton. The objectives of the junior development sub-committee are to promote Arabians as ideal youth horses and to support and encourage youth involvement with Arabian horses both competitively and recreationally. We continue to work closely with both the promotions sub-committee and the JEC to achieve these objectives.

Progress for 2015-2016 includes:

- First junior development grants awarded
- Formalised AHSA youth sub-committees
- Improved youth section on AHSA website (awaiting launch)
- Formal recording of AHSA youth initiatives & ideas

Ongoing for 2015 – 2016

- Support for EA Interschool competitions
- Youth classes at Australian Championships
- Expanded coverage in the Versatile Arabian Horse
- Junior development grants

Goals for 2016-2017

- Development of AHSA Ambassador Program
- Improve relationships with AERA and PCA
- Promote affiliate junior development grant applications

AHSA Ambassador Program

We are interested in establishing a youth ambassador program broadly based along similar lines to those of Rodeo Queens and Agricultural Show Girls; where young people compete for a title of AHSA ambassador and perform official and informal duties promoting the Arabian horse. The junior development sub-committee aims to further advance this concept into reality in the coming year.

Improve Relationships with AERA and PCA

We continue to seek ways in which to build a relationship with Pony Club Australia and to improve its relationship with the Australian Endurance Riders Association. There has been much discussion about the differences between these organisations and how we can best utilise our resources to support youth riders competing in these spheres with Arabian horses.

Promote Affiliate junior development grant applications

The AHSA Junior Development Grants have been awarded to individuals. No affiliate has applied. We would like to promote these grants to affiliates and youth sub-committees so that a wider target group can receive the benefits from funding.

Tracey Muller

Moved Mrs T Muller, seconded Mrs Y Downes "That the Junior Development Sub-Committee Report be accepted." Carried

JEC REPORT

This past twelve months has seen the Judges Executive Committee continue to develop a more refined Judge training and accreditation system, providing opportunity for our National Panel Judges to specialise, whilst encouraging and supporting Judge candidates at the admission level.

1. National Panel Specialists.

During the last year, all National Panel Judges were invited to select their judging areas of special interest and skill - Purebred Halter, Derivative Halter, Performance, any combination of these or all three. Likewise, Level Two Judges are now able to be accredited to National Panel in one, two or three of the specialist categories, taking into consideration credentials they may have with other judging groups. This initiative has helped to boost our ranks with skilled Judges acknowledged as such in each of the three judging categories.

1. International Panel.

The JEC is currently in the process of setting up a panel of internationally accredited Australian Judges who will be accepted by major judging groups around the world. Several of our National Panel Judges have already had appointments internationally and these people have been included on the new panel.

Invitations were sent to all other National Panel Judges to apply for the new panel. The process by which Judges are admitted to the International Panel ensures that they have a sound understanding of the numerical scoring system, knowledge of expectations and customs in different areas of the world, as well as expectations for representing the Australian Arabian Horse Society to other world regions.

The 2016 list will soon be available. We are looking to revise and add to the list annually, in conjunction with the Australian National Arabian Championships.

1. Level One Judges.

As part of our Revised Judge Training system, the last 12 months has seen almost twenty new Probationary Level One Judges admitted to the Panel. Assessments were held in most States throughout the year, with more planned for the coming year. These Judges are now able to judge B Class shows with the support and endorsement of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia.

In addition, we have made provision for Level One Judges to shadow judge at A Class shows with National Panel Judges. This will provide them the opportunity to gain experience at a wider variety of events.

Finally, 2016 will welcome two new Board members, Glenys Lilley and Deb Watson to the JEC. These ladies will join myself, Allan Preston, Leonie Williamson, Clint Bilson, Gudrun Martini, and Yvonne Downes as your Board representatives on the Judges Executive Committee. We thank all members for your support over the last twelve months and look forward to another year of positive growth.

Karen Fletcher-Grieve

Moved Ms K Fletcher-Grieve, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the JEC Sub-Committee Report be accepted." Carried

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP REPORT 2015

What an amazing Australian Arabian National championships;

This year's production team, had the depth knowledge & expertise of a truly professional and dedicated group of individuals.

Leonie Williamson QLD - Event Chairperson

Allan Preston NSW - AHSA Chairperson

Clint Bilson VIC - Immediate past event Chairperson

Taryl O'Shea USA - Event Co-Manager

Scott Benjamin CANADA - Event Co-Manager

Phyllis Lamalfa USA - Festival Manager
Karen Fletcher- Grieve WA - Youth Events Coordinator
Helen Dohan NSW - AHSA Liaison
Kellie Greene QLD - Advertising
Glenys Lilly NSW - Promotion & cataloguing assistant

The aim of the Championships committee was to provide a prestigious event that would promote the Arabian to the broader community providing a format that would see the National Championship Title as a revered award in Australia and overseas.

This year the Australian National Arabian Championships took on a whole new look that showcased the Arabian to a wider audience. Other events were incorporated within this year's event – "The Stars of the Southern Sky Equine Celebration & Lifestyle Festival". The festivals aim was to attract a greater public awareness of the Arabian horse bringing spectators into the stands.

There was particular emphasis on the Youth with the inclusion of Educational Barn Tours, an Art/Colouring competition, a Youth Activity marquee and the 'Own a Show Horse for a Day' competition. This was coordinated by Karen Fletcher-Grieve whose teaching background was most valuable. The event was promoted through the schools and we thank those members who assisted with this. We hope that this section will grow in future years.

Other activities such as the Equine Educational Village, the Petstock Canine Couture Parade, the Petstock Doggie Dash, the Southern Skys Flyball Exhibition, Dr Harry Cooper, Hot Rods & Horsepower Show, Dan Steers and Tom Burlinson all made for this to be a spectacular event.

The inclusion of the Stud Pony show and Coloured Breeds Festival was wonderful initiative to give our competitors the advantage of exhibiting in another event and also to introduce new people to our 'family'. It was a pleasure to welcome these exhibitors and make their experience a happy and memorable one.

The pinnacle of the whole event was of course the Australian National Arabian Championships and we had the pleasure of viewing many beautiful exhibits and fine examples of our registries throughout the show. The extended program, the largest ever offered at an Australian Championships was well supported, attracting many new exhibitors. Three international Judges and twelve Australian Judges adjudicated over 5 days of competition giving their time knowledge and expert appraisal to deliver great excitement and pride for many exhibitors and spectators. We congratulate everyone who was involved for being part of this auspicious event.

Our members asked for it and we aimed to provide it – Fun and socialising. The committee recognised the many comments about bringing the fun back to the shows so extra activities were initiated including the Progressive Barn Party and the Equilympics. We hope everyone had a fun time.

The huge amount of time and constant effort behind the scenes to coordinate an event of this proportion, has been incredible. It has been a great pleasure to work with Scott Benjamin and his team to bring it all together. Scott's dedication and commitment to the Arabian breed he loves so dearly is outstanding. Also I must thank Helen Dohan for her personal contribution to this event over and above her role with the Society as well as the staff of AHSA. To all the volunteers, a huge thank you. It is always said but undervalued – An event could not happen without the wonderful volunteers. It was such a personal pleasure to see some of our amazing horses, their proud owners, handlers and riders, meeting old friends and making new friends. It must be recognised that a show the magnitude of the Australian Arabian National Championships could not be produced without the very generous support from the many sponsors. Sponsorship funding enables such a large event to be produced at a very high standard, it subsidises each and every exhibitor competing for the prestige of a National title. The Championships committee, the AHSA board of Directors and members extend their immense gratitude to all the sponsors who helped to make this year's event a success. The various Go teams who help to unite their states and give financial support to the National championships deserve our thanks, it is very commendable that they are so proactive in helping to produce an event for all AHSA members to enjoy.

Leonie Williamson

*Moved Mr C Bilson, seconded Mrs T Muller "That the Championships Sub-Committee Report be accepted."
Carried*

MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS SUB COMMITTEE REPORT 2015

The Promotions Sub Committee (Marjory Stuart-Smith, Chair, John Newton, Virginia Dodson, Yvonne Downes, Clint Bilson and Alan Preston) have been concentrating on defining the branding of the Arabian Horse Society.

Our charter, as the Promotions Sub Committee is to promote the Arabian Horse. This is a huge task but not an insurmountable one. We are still limited by our usual constraints mainly been a total lack of budget and almost non-existent face to face committee time.

However we have undertaken to develop an activity that will appeal to the wider horse industry that will promote the Arabian horse, The AHSA and Arabian Breeders and if you want to do well you will need an Arabian. As people upgrade their horse an Arabian will be the automatic choice. This will mean

#Breeders will have a market for their horses

#Breeders will have a market for their stallions

#Trainers will have a market because competitors want horses ready to go

- The AHSA will gain registrations because every horse competing will have to be register in some form (even non Arabians will have to be competition registered)

- The AHSA will gain memberships because everyone competing will have to be a member

- The game will bring non Arabian people to our community

This idea is still very much in the development phase and we are hoping to have a few test days by the end of the year.

Marjory Stuart-Smith

Moved Ms M Stuart-Smith, seconded Mr J Newton "That the report of the Marketing and Promotions Sub-Committee be accepted." Carried

Mrs V Males queried the comment regarding lack of budget. The Chairman, Mr A Preson, explained that Promotions and Junior Development work closely together so often money is re-distributed from the Promotion account to the Junior Development account. In 2015 more money had actually been allocated to Promotions.

Ms G Lilley asked for an explanation of the activity mentioned in the report. Ms M Stuart –Smith explained that the concept was still being developed but that it was a multi-phase game.

MEMBERSHIP & GOVERNANCE REPORT

Well hi there, this year has been a very productive year and with the relocation to new offices that were opened this time last year, I think it's fair to say that we have settled in very well at our new home. While the year has seen us improving membership in terms of numbers, our income on membership is down. This reduction is mainly due to the discounted memberships that we have offered. Registrations have seen no real change a few up on one and a few down on another. It is hoped with the implementation of the new Arabian Performance Horse Index and the Half Arabian registry we will see a rise in more financial full members. To date about 50 Performance Horses have been registered which is fantastic considering how new this incentive is. Many of these are owned by new members so it is achieving its goal of introducing the Society to the "outside" world.

To date we have yet to find a suitable investment property, this task is a very daunting one as we need to consider all the members and ensure whatever decision we make will become a financial success for our members. At this stage we have a number of people constantly looking for the right investment for us. Moving forward as a society we need to be mindful of the situation that we are in, our job is to create a future for the society and leave a society in a forward position for future board members. On that note we a currently developing a few new incentives in an attempt to raise the breed profile and well as our income stream. In saying that we need to be sure that we do not extend our finances on a risk that these will increase income for us, hence the reason why these implementations take a fair lot of investigating to ensure we have them right.

A new initiative has been the introduction of a Member Loyalty program. This is available to all Full and Life members and savings will more than offset the cost of membership. It is hoped that this program will encourage others to upgrade their membership or retain membership when they no longer own Arabians. As some of you will be aware the office has had further cuts with another one of the girls opting for a 9 day fortnight, this basically leave us with a skeleton staffing situation and the need to always be aware of a smoothly run office.

We are currently developing a new system for the affiliates to ease the confusion and the need for so much paperwork. Welfare of horses is always a high priority and DC's (discipline committee) will receive training and their role will be to see that all are adhering to the AHSA rules.
I trust everyone has enjoyed the 2016 Australian Championships and it was a show that will be remembered for a very long time.
Clint Bilson

Moved Mrs Y Downes, seconded Mrs T Muller "That the report of the Membership and Governance Sub-Committee be accepted." Carried

ARCHIVES SUB COMMITTEE REPORT

MISSION STATEMENT

To collect and preserve an historic record of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia Limited, its major breeders and significant horses.

Author: J.B. Newton

Sub-Committee: Mr Allan Preston, Ms Marjory Stuart-Smith, Ms Gudrun Martini, Ms Virginia Dodson, Mrs Yvonne Downes and Mr John Newton (Chairman).

Objectives and Goals:

Quambi Book

The Board was pleased to release the book early in 2015 and the majority of the print has been sold and it is expected the remainder will be sold this year.

Audit of Archival Material

With the move to the new office it will be necessary to recommence the audit and place the entire archival material in the one room for ease of access. Once completed this will be a treasure trove for those members interested in the history of the Society and the breed in Australia.

Record of Notable Breeders

The taped information held by Virginia Blain is still to be placed on computer.

Production of Computer Presentation

Once the audit of material is completed research into the possibility of producing a computer presentation can occur. This will then be available for interested members.

Private Archival Material

Members are encouraged to contact the society if they have or are aware of other people who have archival material that would be of value to be included in the Society's Archives. It would be unfortunate if this type of historical information were to be lost.

Summary

The Board and Sub-committee were pleased to release the long awaited Quambi book in 2015. As there are limited copies remaining those interested in purchasing a copy would be prudent to do so in the near future.

Once the audit of material is completed attention can then be applied to other objectives and goals.

John Newton

Move Ms V Dodson, seconded Mr J Newton "That the report of the Archives Sub-Committee be accepted." Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr R Collyer introduced himself and his friend Rob and opened discussion regarding suggestions he had made to amend the Rule Book which had been distributed for the meeting to consider. He explained that the proposal which included items such as no whips, no shakers and no stirring was to improve the public image of the Arabian. He stated that the type of showing at the moment promotes the extreme rather than the balanced animal and felt that changes would be supported by the majority of members. Mr Collyer then quoted extracts from articles written by Bazy Tankersley, Cynthia Cuthbertson & Val Males. Mr C Bilson stated that the judges at the Championships had noted how impressed they were at how unstressed the horses were. Mr Collyer stated that the problem was not at shows like the Championships but at smaller shows. The Society has no control over Agricultural Shows. Ms D Harvey stated that if a judge did not stop unacceptable handling then the judge was condoning it. Many people felt that inappropriate handling was in the minority and mainly from amateurs who do not know better. Mr R Males stated that inappropriate training methods could be seen at shows at night. He felt that well trained horses should be able to be shown without a whip. Mr D Rutherford commented that as stallions were shown without bits this should be

considered a credit to trainers and whips could be considered an extension of arms. Ms G Lilley commented that the new Arabian Sporthorse classes catered for the method of showing proposed by Mr Collyer. Mrs B O'Connor stated that when judging she gave emphasis to the walk and not a standup. It was noted that at the Australian National Arabian Championships the Champion Yearling Filly, Junior Filly and Mare were shown with whiskers and no bridle path. Mr W Toft commented that people new to the industry have a perception that whips are necessary if the horse is dangerous, new people would like a safe horse and this perception is a problem. Mrs L Williamson noted that in dressage the whip is considered an aid and that disrespectful horses walking over handlers do more disservice to the industry. Ms G Martini stated that the German judge at the show had commented that she would have liked no whips to be used. Ms K Fletcher-Grieve noted that there was no rule to say that a whip was needed in the ring. Ms M Toft commented that there is a negative perception among the horse industry about the way Arabians are shown. Mr M Greene commented that many people use poly pipe as a training aid and that bit abuse could be considered more of a problem than whips. Mrs V Males stated that she felt that there was no need for severe training methods. Mr P O'Connor commented that they use a reward system when training and felt there was no need for violence. Mr A Preston mentioned that during the show there were only two cautions inside the ring and two outside. The problem is the misuse of the whip at home rather than at the show.

Mrs M Hutchison spoke about the proposal to remove the word National from the show known as National Capital Horse Show and replace it with Nations in order to obtain an AA grading. Mr A Preston stated that Mrs Hutchison had misquoted him on Facebook and that he had supported the show for years. The show does not fulfil the criteria for an AA show but the Board felt that it would be nice to have one in ACT. AA shows are now granted by the Board. Mr Preston had spoken at the NSW Association meeting about possibly amending the name of the show known as National Arabian Stud Show. The ACT show was not being forced to change name, if they chose not to then it will still be an A show. Mr R Smith noted that when the criteria for gradings were made the numbers at shows were bigger. Mrs V Males stated that she did not agree to the name change. Mr W Toft noted that most shows would be unable to comply with the requirements for an AA grading. Ms R Rogers then stated that this year was the best Arabian Championships ever held and that it was time people got out of the rut and moved forward. Mr G Liddle stated that any change of name to the National Arabian Stud Show would need to be determined at an AGM by all members, not by the committee. At the moment National Capital Show does not have the required 200 Arabians competing in order to comply with an AA grading so they may need to decide if the name or grading is the higher priority. Mrs L Williamson explained that the grading system had been reviewed and that AA gradings were now granted by the Board and not usually applied for. Mr A Preston explained that it was important that the Board looked after the industry as a whole, both in Australia and globally. People advertising that they had won a National Championship implied overseas that it was at the Australian Arabian National Championships. Ms C Haigh queried the name of the Australian Arabian National Championships when it was originally the Australian Arabian Championships. Mr A Preston explained that the name had changed in order to standardise the show with other National title shows in other countries.

Mr R Males congratulated the Board on the Championships and thanked the organising committee for the entertainment such as the Double Dans & Dr Harry, he stated that he thought it was fantastic. Mr A Preston explained that the change in format was an attempt to introduce more people to the industry. Mr R Shipton thanked Scott Benjamin for all his work.

Mr A Preston thanked John Newton, Virginia Dodson and Tracey Muller for all the work they had done while being on the Board. He noted that they had all contributed greatly, especially Virginia with her connections to racing and endurance and stated that he hoped that she would still be prepared to assist. John was invaluable with his affiliation advice and Tracey had developed the Youth Program. Ms V Dodson stated that it had been a privilege to be on the Board and that she would miss it. Mrs T Muller stated that she had enjoyed her time on the Board and urged members not to be afraid to participate. The old Board retired at this point and Mr A Preston invited Mrs D Watson, Mr R Shipton & Ms G Lilley to take their places at the table as new Board members.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.23 pm