

**MINUTES OF THE 41ST 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 19TH MARCH 2017**

PRESENT:-

R Smith, D Hatherall, A Temple, J Paroissien, K McMahon, K Frame, R Shipton, D Burns, C Bilson, L Williamson, D Bennett, C Fullerton, Y Downes, R Downes, A Preston, J Ogden, P Ogden, S Savage, A Mountney, D Watson, S Fallick, N Kinnear, V Males, R Males, G Liddle, M Lando, L Abbott, M Stuart-Smith, K Dertell, G Smith, C Rutherford, D Rutherford, K Chandler, J Bellchambers, E Carlile, S Jones, S Ahel, J Newton, Bro P McIntosh, J Preece, R Brown, M O'Dea, R Curtin, R Oberg, S Oberg, J Dand, N Dand, M Duncan, L Britten, S Benjamin, M Triggs, J Triggs, G Lilley, K Galea, J Walker (n/m), K Hogan (n/m), H Dohan, T Edwards, K Fletcher-Grieve (via Skype)

PROXIES:- As per list provided

At 10.05 am the Chairperson, Mrs L Williamson, declared the meeting open. The Chairman then welcomed all members present and introduced the Directors.

The Chairman then called for apologies.

APOLOGIES:-

Dianna McGirr, Gudrun Martini, Chris Ros, Virginia Dodson, Jackie Marsh, Melanie Welsh, Darren Welsh, Catherine Brown, Doyle Dertell, Michael Greene, Kelli Greene, Donna Greene, Dianne Greene, Helen Wilson, Margaret Parker, Graham Parker, Sharon Meyers, Trevor Bellchambers, Silvio Galea

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the apologies as tendered be received and recorded."
Carried

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting were then tabled at the meeting.

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the Minutes of the 2016 AGM be taken as read." *Carried*

Mrs L Williamson then asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes.
As there were no corrections to the minutes it was then.

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the Minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted as a true record." *Carried*

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

The Chairperson, Mrs L Williamson, then explained that there were some special awards that would be presented.

Distinguished Service Awards were then presented to:

- Sandra Hale (SA). Mr J Newton accepted the award on behalf of Mrs Hale.
*Sandra started her life with Arabian horses when she got her Part bred mare in 1953
Sputnic was used for everything, Pony club, Jumping and later breeding.
Sandra married Malcolm Hale in 1964 and is still married 53 years later.
Her first Part bred foal born in 1964 was by Risheem who was owned by her aunt Elva Tucker.*

After 5 years in USA working with horses and living in close proximity to Al Mara Arabian Stud they returned to Australia.

In 1971 Birubi Stud was started and over the years has bred approximately 130 Pure and Part Arabians. They showed extensively, including the first AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION STALION BIRUBI AURA.

At one point all the breeding stock had won championships in their respective classes

Sandra spent 17 years on the SA ARABS committee where she ran and assisted in seminars on Conformation, breeding, showing and judging also helping conduct Judging exams.

Currently on the Thoroughbred Breeders Committee she has completed a booklet on conformation for that industry and is still an active breeder of thoroughbreds

Sandra did her Arabian Judging Exam in 1972 advanced rapidly to Federal Judge Status and in the past 45 years has judged 3 to 4 shows a year for the Arabian Horse society and other breeds.

- Karen Fletcher-Grieve (WA)

Honorary Life memberships were awarded to:

- Ms Marian Duncan (NSW)
- Mr Allan Preston (NSW) who was nominated for the award by Mr Peter Hall

The WAHO Award for 2017 was then awarded to Crave FF owned and bred by Kate & Doyle Dertell. The award was received by Kate Dertell.

The Crave influence -within Australia and beyond

The story of Crave FF begins long before he was even born. In 2001 Kate and Doyle Dertell made the decision to begin breeding purebred arabian horses together. We knew we needed a superstar matriarch mare to start with and our search began. After several months of searching we found a stunning weanling filly that ticked all the boxes -that filly was Bremervale Charmed. We purchased Charmed that weekend and brought her home. Charmed was a super show horse in her time gaining multi Australian Championship titles, however her main duty for us was to prove herself as a brood mare. This she proved after being bred to Mash for her first foal being Crave FF.

Crave FF was an exquisite foal right from the start, always having something special about him which stayed with him as a future show horse. Crave won every major title in Australia on the east coast including state, QLD Challenge, Victorian Classic, National, East Coast, Australasian Breeders Cup and Australian Champion -some of these multiple times. Then proven as a wonderful show horse, the most important challenge was to see if he would meet our ideals as a breeding stallion. A handful of mares were selected to try with Crave in his 2yo year and since then the results have surpassed all of our expectations and speak for themselves. Crave now, still a young stallion himself at 11 years of age has produced progeny that are winning across the globe. He has progeny in Australia, USA, Canada, UAE, New Zealand, Europe and the UK.

Not only a purebred sire, Crave FF has passed all tests as a super derivative sire, having produced multi national champions across most registries – once again not only as arabian halter horses, but performance horses winning in open competition and dressage at the highest levels.

Show ring beauty is unquestionably important, however his offspring are now old enough to be proven performance horses which they are excelling at, in both the show ring as well as endurance with many offspring already been sold into international endurance stables. Crave has proved that both himself and his progeny are highly regarded due to their intelligence and are super trainable easy horses. Crave is a great horse to have around and is ridden by children.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO THE AGM 2017

As a long-standing member of our society, a Board member and more recently a Chairman I am extremely proud of the progress we have made as a group. In 2011 we experienced dire annual losses of up to \$90,835 at which time all members carried a liability. In absolute contrast our 2016 financials saw a profit of \$96,752, what a remarkable turnaround! In addition, since 2013 we have seen our Championships move from continual deficits to profits with the largest profit ever in 2016 paving the way for a self-sustainable event. Our data base is now strong, assuring security into the future assisting members and affiliates alike. As for the past twelve months, what a turbulent yet rewarding time this has been for your Society. At times the challenges were beyond belief and I wondered if we could ever create cohesion for the vast and diverse tug of the members one against another. On a more personal note, I can tell you it was an extraordinary

experience. Situations I expected an easy resolution to became mountains to climb, other challenges I suspected near impossible proved seamless and smooth in transition. I remain a firm believer that from adversity comes diversity and growth. In my report to you this year I will outline some key concerns, remind you of our core values and touch on suggested direction forward whilst paying my respects to our history and origin.

Our membership spans Australia shore to shore and through affiliation with the World Arabian Horse Organisation (WAHO) stretches to global arenas. The 2017 Board of Directors, likewise hails from locations state-wide, which allows catchment and representation for the members across our nation. Let's think back for a minute, to the origin of our society, and it really is just that, a society that belongs in equal part to each of us. In 1937 our Society was instigated by just 8 individuals with the same passion and drive many of our current 3,500 members hold. What a wonderful growth in membership that is! Yet with such an extensive number of members there is naturally differing of opinion, whether simple and strategic or litigious and laborious, more than ever there is division and disquiet amongst our members. Points of contention range from the age-old variance of endurance and show orientated enthusiasts through to complexities and discussions around the virtues of the 'Purebred Arabian' versus the 'Arabian Derivative'. Another modern and increasingly important issue is the appropriateness and use of our code of conduct which I will come back to shortly. No matter what the subject it must remain what it is; highly topical and engaging discussions that your Board must review, consider and evolve to match the ever-changing world that we live in. I am truly proud to have been the 'leading hand' of our Society this year, inspired thoroughly by the absolute dedication of your Board Members. I would encourage you as members to remember that is precisely what your Board and Chairman are; a proactive and devoted group of volunteers who are, like you, members of the society.

While I believe that our sense of direction and structure are stronger than ever, there have recently come forward several points of disquiet from both members and Board members. Some are logistical, others structural but perhaps the most substantial issues raised were in relation to legislative and social media complexities. This brings me to a more serious subject that I would be remiss to omit: "Conduct Unbecoming", two major concerns of the year past were based around this concept and in fact hefty investigations were undertaken to ensure that we as members of the society all had a good hard look at ourselves. One such incident involved legal and appropriate stance of a member and the other was directed around the etiquette in use of social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or other. Glancing back to the time of our 1937 inception WWII had thrown the world into chaos which of course forced great change and gave rise to the formalisation of many society structures. In this year 2017 we are thrown into a different type of turmoil, that of the World Wide Web. Internet speeds and demands (both upload and download) are faster and more infused through our society than ever before. While initiatives such as NBN have come with applause for some it is at great cost to others and the divide within our shores between Rural/Regional and Urban Australians is exponentially increasing. We face great challenges and have decisions to make regarding appropriateness versus convenience in online meetings and interpersonal group discussions. Looking forward I believe that the answer to all the issues we currently experience is a cohesive, professional and informed approach with the desire to find positive outcomes. We need transparency and open, emotively intelligent communication styles always. It is imperative that our members understand that the Board is not, and will never be a court of law. We are not in place to resolve legal issues, where and when these arise it is our Society solicitor that will deal with and determine resolution against such complaints. Neither is it the Board's job to deal with quibbles, complaints or personal matters on behalf of an individual or group of members. These complaints are all highly valuable and must be heard but need to be directed via the official process via our administration team and always in writing. There is a clear and well defined role for the Board with specific and easy to follow guidelines. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. The process, structure, ten-year business plan and myriad of other logistical and strategic points are already in place and work very well. The way forward is through an energetic and collaborative approach to the absolute passion, the one point we all have in common:

An absolute appreciation of the magnificent breed of horse 'Arabian'!

Leonie Williamson

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the Chairman's Report be accepted." Carried

SECRETARY'S REPORT AGM 2017

It has been a hectic twelve months in the office with the Society contracting to perform the Registry and Secretarial duties for the Riding Pony Stud Book Society. This has meant a massive increase in workload for the staff who are struggling to keep up with the work while new systems for processing are implemented. I would like to thank members for their patience and understanding, this move was necessary in order to increase the financial viability of the Society.

The move towards more electronic communication is reflected in the large saving in postage costs. Australia Post is proving more and more unreliable, as well as expensive, and the Society is implementing more methods in order to avoid using that system. Membership renewals were emailed to members and although there were a few teething problems, as expected with any new system, the process was successful. Membership cards are now also being emailed to members, this means they will receive them faster and be able to re-print them if they are destroyed or lost. People who do not have an email address recorded with the Society will continue to receive correspondence by post. Please ensure that you advise the Society if your email address changes.

Again I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their help and support during the past year. I have worked for many Boards over the past almost 30 years and have to say that this group of Directors would be the hardest workers as a whole devoting an amazing amount of personal time to the Society, above and beyond what is usually expected.

As for the office staff, a huge thank you for taking on the work of another Society. Every staff member has worked extra hours for no extra remuneration during the implementation period ensuring that the AHSA work does not get behind while trying to catch up on the RPSB backlog that was inherited.

The statistics for 2016 are attached for your information.

Helen Dohan

Membership Data

As at 31/12/2016

Membership	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total	3482	3383	3003 (3360)	3289	3417	3389
Life			27	30	28	28
Full	3266	3175	2806 (3155)	3071	3174	3142
-Ordinary				2737	2484	2425
- Company				26	27	24
-Overseas				24	17	15
-Associate				208	454	495
-Pension				76	192	183
Junior	216	208	170 (205)	175	192	201
Panel Judge				11	15	12
Friends Of				2	8	6

Registry Data

As at 31/12/2016

	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total registrations
Purebred					
Mares	397	374	362	309	32987
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	177	375	321	268	27791
Foal Record			164	115	8662
Partbred					
Mares	183	193	185	120	30261
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	99	166	145	136	25253
Foal Record		123	57	43	2179

Anglo					
Mares	58	49	48	51	4384
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	27	49	46	29	3814
Foal Record		12	16	20	963
Arabian Pony					
Mares	76	85	63	74	4272
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	25	82	50	49	3188
Foal Record		40	36	36	1216
Arabian Riding Pony					
Mares	70	82	78	88	2466
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	46	76	77	76	2165
Foal Record		34	33	35	889
Warmblood					
Mares	68	32	30	24	1080
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	34	45	27	24	888
Foal Record		14	8	17	422
Quarab					
Mares	7	12	12	13	203
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	1	12	4	11	130
Foal Record		5	6	4	77
Stockhorse					
Mares	7	12	14	13	262
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)	7	9	11	10	182
Foal Record		11	3	1	81
Half Arabian					
Mares			3	28	31
Stallions/Geldings (includes colt to adult)			2	16	18
Foal Record			0	9	9
Performance Index (all sexes)			15	74	89
Total		2050	1816	1693	
Horses DNA typed	895	788	813	651	
Horses Buffy Coat Conversion	29	20	8	8	
Hair Storage	82	78	36	n/a	
Transfers	1934	2230	1990	1655	
Leases		267	214	211	
Exports processed		67	54	67	
Imports processed		35	30	8	
Stud Prefixes		40	50	63	

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Ms G Lilley "That the Secretary's Report be accepted." Carried

Mrs L Williamson thanked all the staff of the Society for the extra work they had done during the RPSB handover. She noted the extra hours worked for no remuneration and expressed the Board's appreciation.

TREASURERS REPORT AGM 2017

Another year has come and gone with this being my first year as a Director and Treasurer. I applaud my fellow board members immediate past and present, who have taken a much less palatable path in preceding years and toiled tirelessly to ensure the society is on a steady and sustainable path for continued growth and fiscal stability.

I am very happy to report another year of profit though slightly less than last year at \$96,929 which is due in part to some significant capital expenditure for the office computers and server upgrade. The standalone

server had been failing for some time and rather than replace with another at considerable cost the board decided to go with in the cloud storage solutions. The board enlisted the services of Rel Patterson, from FPRP Pty Ltd to provide, develop and install our new software and hardware. This required the office computers to be upgraded to Windows 10, more online apps for the general and up to date Microsoft software and redesigning our database to ensure it is SQL compatible to allow our information to be stored in the cloud.

Rel has also been employed on other various projects, the online membership renewals together with emails, the upgrading of the current studbook database to enable better access to information which is still in the development stages and a show program which is in use for the current Australian Championships. It is further envisaged that he will develop more detail within this system to allow online entries and processing. This system is our intellectual property and we are hopeful of marketing this to other show societies and AHSA affiliates as an easier and better functioning system for shows in future than what is currently available.

The takeover of the processing and maintaining of the Riding Pony Stud book not only added to our bottom line but allowed the office to maintain the current staffing levels without compromising their efficiency and improving the service to the Riding Pony members and board. The Riding Pony society is completely situated at our office in Richmond, with our Secretary Helen Dohan taking on the main role of Secretary while the rest of the society office staff share the necessary administration work. Storage of their records are within our building while board meetings are conducted in the office board room. The office began this work in October 2016 with a contract for 2 years at which time it will be due for negotiation. The office staff are to be commended for hard their work within the Riding Pony administration as with most things it was not an easy hand over from the previous contractor.

The Riding Pony board attended their first board meeting at our office in January, 2017 and were extremely complimentary of the work achieved to date.

The other significant development during the year was the awarding of the 2019 WAHO conference to Australia. Due in no small part to the work done by Helen and Teresa in composing a proposal presented to the WAHO committee when the previous country was unable to fulfil their commitment. This project is only in its infancy however, keep early February, 2019 free as this will be an event not to be missed. The last 3-4 conferences have been held in the Middle East and this will be the first time in more than 15 years that it will be held in Australia. There will be an enormous amount of work required to secure sponsorship etc and the board look forward to having the support of all members and would be happy to entertain any suggestions from members regarding sponsorship opportunities and proposals. The budget for the conference will be financed from sponsorship, donations as well as the conference fees ensuring that this event will have no impact on the society's funds going forward.

The 2016 Australian Championships made a small but helpful profit of \$10,000 approximately and the North American Alliance certainly gave us a spectacular event. It was unfortunate that though they were awarded the tender to host the 2017 Championships, the group had to withdraw and the board has once again taken up the challenge to host this event. The Championships account now holds in excess of \$24,000 for future events and while this year has seen the program scaled back to a more manageable level given the time and staff constraints, it was necessary for this event to be financially viable and sustainable into the future. While memberships are steady overall, the income generated has dropped due to the change of membership streams. It is envisaged this will level out over time and the board is constantly reviewing the society's benefits. The board is currently conducting some marketing in the endurance field to encourage more of these horses to be registered, transferred when sold and memberships maintained. The members benefits scheme, whilst a great initiative, was generally not taken up by the majority of members so has been discontinued however we have been able to acquire Personal Accident insurance 24/7 for all society full members while maintaining the membership fees at the current levels. The board has also secured public liability insurance cover for all previous non-members who were required to complete numerous forms and pay \$10 to each affiliate each time they showed at an AHSA affiliate show. This is now "participant membership" at a cost of \$30 annually and payable to the AHSA office this will provide all non-members insurance coverage to show at all AHSA and AHSA affiliate shows for the current year.

Due to the ever increasing costs, the Versatile Arabian Horse Magazine has been reduced to 2 issues per year with the board taking up the challenge to produce the member's Bulletin more regularly and emailed directly to the members inbox. This is more cost effective and while the board realises there are members who are not "on line" they will still receive all their information by mail. Also in line with more demand for accurate and immediate information the board has a face book group for members only, managed by

selected board members. This page disseminates any urgent and immediate information along with keeping members up to date and informed on current situations within the industry.

There were a couple of investment property opportunities during the year, one of which was the purchase of another unit located in the same complex as the society's offices. The eventual sale of this unit at auction pointed out two things, that the board purchased the current office space at a great price and will need to be more aggressive in future in our attempt to secure the right asset. The board is in no rush to secure a property as the funds are invested, it is more about the best property for our needs and other than the one mentioned there have been few others which fit the bill.

In all, the society has enjoyed an extremely good year, with continued appreciation of its assets and the board look forward to continued growth in the coming year.

Debra Watson

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Mrs G Lilley "That the Treasurer's Report be accepted." Carried

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Annual Accounts were then presented. It was noted that the Society had made a substantial profit. The Treasurer explained the changes to the original Auditors Report that was circulated, changes required as here figured had been transposed incorrectly. The changes made no difference to the result, it was simply the method of recording.

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Ms G Lilley "That the Annual Accounts as presented be adopted." Carried

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS 2017

Moved Mrs Y Downes, seconded Mrs D Watson "That William Buck be appointed as auditors of the Society for 2017". Carried

Mrs L Williamson read out correspondence received for the Riding Pony Stud Book Society confirming how pleased they were with the change of secretarial & registry services to AHSA.

Report: 5 month Review of AHSA Registry and Secretariat Services

To: Board of Arabian Horse Society of Australia

Date: 22 March 2018

As Board Chair of RPSBS Ltd. It is my pleasure to provide the Board of the AHSA a report on the Registry and Secretariat services provided by you to RPSBS Ltd.

I must commence my report my saying that the RPSBS Board could not be happier with how the transition to the new office and the necessary restructuring has progressed. The professionalism of the office staff under Helen Dohan's amazing leadership has impressed us all greatly and the feedback from members interacting with the new office has been very positive.

There has been no concerns expressed to us that by having our services provided by AHSA that RPSBS has lost their own identity in any way.

As a new Board we were unaware of many of the problems that Helen and her staff have had to face on our behalf and we certainly have had to cope with a few surprises but the service and help provided by Helen and her staff has enabled us within these few short months to address most of the problems.

On our Treasurer, Christine Gibbons, behalf we want to make special reference to the tremendous assistance that your treasurer, Deb Watson has provided to Christine and to thank her so much for her interest and support.

We have been very conscious of the workload of Helen and her staff and we are ever mindful of that in our decision making. Reducing our Board meetings to 1 day mid week will give Helen those weekends back to herself.

From our viewpoint the arrangement is highly satisfactory and we hope that we can avail ourselves of your professional services for some time to come.

Mike Smith

Board Chair, RPSBS Ltd.

RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT BOARD ELECTIONS 2017/2018

Mrs L Williamson then read the report of the Returning Officer and welcomed Graham Smith & Kristin Galea to the Board. Mrs Williamson congratulated Mrs Y Downes on being re-elected and thanked Ms S Ahel for nominating.

Elections Australia Pty. Ltd. ABN 76 067 211 018

5 MERLIN STREET, ROSEVILLE NSW 2069
PHONE/FAX: (02) 9416 9627
MOBILE: 0408 067 211
E-MAIL: mail@myvote.com.au

**THE ARABIAN HORSE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED
BOARD ELECTIONS FOR 2017/2018**

Arrangements were made for me to conduct the contested election for one Board Member from Tasmania. 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 140 members had submitted an online vote and a further 38 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 was one incidence of multiple voting detected and that duplicate vote was 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	
Tasmania				
Selina AHHEL	15	71	86	
Yvonne DOWNES	22	69	91	Elected
Total Votes	37	140	177	



Phil Lewis Returning Officer
Elections Australia Pty Ltd 31
January 2017

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Ms G Lilley "That the Returning Officers Report be accepted." Carried

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

ARCHIVES REPORT

AIMS.

To preserve and protect the historical records of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia, major breeders and significant horses, by collating recording and maintaining existing material the AHSA has on hand, and accepting/acquiring records and information that are significant to the Arabian horse in Australia.

SHORT TERM GOAL.

To complete an audit of what material the AHSA currently has, and to store and file it in a practical and professional manner so that the information is easily accessible.

MID TERM GOAL.

To place items on a slideshow to be viewed on a reasonably large screen in the AHSA office, and which could be issued (or sold) to affiliates if desired.

LONG TERM GOAL.

To place special items on display in the AHSA office, on a rotational basis if necessary, in a safe environment for the enjoyment and interest of all Arabian horse lovers.

ACTION PLAN FOR 2017.

Complete the audit of items already in storage

Identify, collate and record material on hand

Safely store the material in a designated position

Nominate items to be put on the slideshow

Prepare and present items for the slideshow

Set up the slideshow in the AHSA office

Advise affiliates of the slideshow and how to acquire it

Not a lot has changed since my last report. The Archive sub-committee was virtually halved when Gudrun left the board. I am hoping that a couple more board members will now join me on the Archive committee. It is very difficult to find the time to search for, identify, collate and store archival items around board meetings, as we are always on such a tight time frame. I hope that we can make a bit more headway this year and get more items collated and stored. Some items, are currently being scanned and digitally stored. The Society has sold all of the copies of "The Quambi Stud". The last ones were snapped up at the Crabbet Convention in Victoria in October, and we could probably have sold about 40 more. It is a lovely little book and contains a wealth of historical photos and information. My congratulations to the determined few people who persevered and put it all together.

Yvonne Downes

Moved Mrs Y Downes, seconded Mrs D Watson "That the report of the Archives Sub-Committee be accepted." Carried

CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORTS

The Championships last year was a very successful event. It was run by North American Alliance. The event itself saw some changes to the judging system. The Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for the Purebred Halter classes and the 3 judge system for the open ridden. The inclusion of open hack classes, as well as the Stars of the Future Show held in conjunction with many other events ran over the period of the show. The aim was to create a lifestyle event in which could involve people from many walks of life to see and enjoy our beautiful horses on show. The objective being to grow the event.

Whilst the whole event was a resounding success, it also became clear that a show of this calibre was unable to be sustained by entry fees alone. A huge cost to the Society would have been eminent if we were not able to gather the financial backing needed to fund this event.

The format for the 2017 show was reviewed and downsized for this year, for two reasons, financial and to make the show more competitive. The Board realised it was not able to run the show itself, so a small team of people was appointed to organise the show with the Board overseeing all decisions.

The Championships aim is to show case our wonderful horses. An event of this type comes at a cost. Venue fees are increasing and associated costs are increasing all the time. Besides sponsorship and fund raising the event must pay for itself to sustain a future. Hence a small rise in entry fees. Sponsorship and fundraising ensure the provision of some of the finer touches that have become synonymous with the show. As you are aware sponsorship is becoming increasingly hard to secure as globally everyone are having their purse strings tightened.

For the individuals and businesses that have given ongoing support over the years the Board would like to THANKYOU. Without your generosity we may very well not have had a show to attend.

I trust that anyone who attended this years show has enjoyed themselves and caught up with friends old and new. Please remember there can only be one winner, let's make it the beautiful Arabian horse.

Clint Bilson

Championships Chairperson

The 2016 Australian National Championships was held from 30 March to 03 April at Sydney International Equestrian Centre in Horsley Park, NSW. More than 330 horses attended the five-day event, during which 166 National Championships were awarded.

The expanded programme included evening finals from Wednesday through Saturday, featuring marquee breeding & performance classes, as well as entertainment by Dan Steers of Double Dan Horsemanship, 'The Man from Snowy River' Tom Burlinson and television fan favourite Dr. Harry Cooper. Saturday & Sunday also featured an open stud book pony & coloured breeds show – Stars of the Southern Sky Equine Celebration, as well as a local artisan market, a classic car show and equine agility demonstrations. For the first time ever at an Australian National Championships, a panel of five judges – three international and two Australian – adjudicated ALL Arabian & Arabian Derivative breeding classes. Another first was the introduction of the ridden scorecard for all purebred ridden championships, adjudicated with the full performance panel of three judges. Several high profile international sponsors provided financial support for the show.

The 2016 AANC was a success on many levels and realized a small profit of just under \$20,000 AUD.

The 2017 AANC is well under way, scheduled for the more traditional time frame of 16-18 March again at Sydney International Equestrian Centre. The revised programme will offer 81 National Championships across 3 days of competition, adjudicated by a team of four halter judges – two international & two Australian, as well as a team of three performance judges. For the first time, ALL halter/breeding entries in every division – open, youth & non-pro - will be adjudicated using the Arabian or Arabian Derivative scorecard by the full panel of four judges, as will all ridden classes in each breed by adjudicated using the ridden scorecard assessed by the full panel of three judges. Evening finals will again be offered on Friday & Saturday evenings. Nearly 270 horses and 200 exhibitors/owners are entered for the 2017 event. Fundraising, especially in the online auction, has been successful once again.

Respectfully Submitted

Scott Benjamin

Event Coordinator 2016 & 2017 AANC

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mr R Shipton "That the Championships Sub-Committee Reports be accepted." Carried

JEC REPORT

Chairman of the JEC: Allan Preston

Members of the JEC: Leonie Williamson, Deb Watson, Karen Fletcher-Grieve, Clint Bilson, Yvonne Downs, Glenys Lilley,

Gudrun Martini - retired mid-term

Auxiliary Members of the JEC: Graham Smith – NSW, Selina Ahel – TAS, Kate Dertell – VIC, Jose Potts – SA, Deb Watson - QLD - until becoming a board member

The JEC is by far the most time demanding and complex sub-committee that the Society has. It has multi-layered functions that encompasses and supports all the key aspects of the Society. Over the years the JEC has had to evolve and keep abreast with the ever-changing and developing format of horse shows.

Over the last decade, the amount and the variation of classes included in show programmes have expanded exponentially. Along with this comes associated factors like advanced Judges training and necessary judge's re-accreditation, more considerations and changes in OH&S policies for shows. As well as greater demands from insurance companies expanding on their risk management needs and increasing their restrictions on insuring for what they consider high risk activities. These factors make for a rule book that is in constant review and amendment by the JEC. Another area that has posed substantial challenges and time demands for the JEC is social media - in an era where people's opinions, thoughts and views are openly and freely broadcast it poses a great risk to the integrity of Judges, shows, officials, the Breed and the Society with often incorrect or misleading information and self-benefiting opinions being needlessly broadcast to members and the greater public. It is extremely time consuming as well as becoming almost impossible to counteract the damage that this misinformation does and the dissolution that misleading views and opinions are causing.

The JEC regularly receives complaints from members about AHSA Judges, many of these complaints turn out to actually be civil matters, having nothing to do with any actions or indiscretions as an officiating Judge but more as their actions as a civilian. Alarmingly many of our members seem to have a misconception of just what actions the JEC is constitutionally and legally empowered to preside over and often become frustrated and angry with the Board when the JEC is unable to act on what the member feels should be the outcome of their complaint.

To better support and improve communication with AHSA judges, especially judges from regional areas around Australia, the JEC sub-committee was expanded to include some auxiliary committee members from geographical regions around the country. It was thought that these auxiliary JEC committee members could liaise with the JEC on any concerns observations or suggestions from the judges, shows or horse activities in their state or region. Unfortunately, the inclusion of an auxiliary committee proved ineffectual as little to no reports, concerns or suggestions were forthcoming directly to the JEC.

With the development of the new Society website a planned enhancement of the old Judges page to a Judges self-managed profile site for Judges is also in the development stages, unfortunately this has taken longer to develop than was initially hoped due to several factors including the reformatting of all Judges information with many judges having to be chased to supply their required information. Along with this, the necessary and more pressing upgrade of the Society's entire data base and with this the implementation and inclusion of the Riding Pony Stud Book to our system. I am sure that all our judges are most understanding that Society income related restructuring must take precedence. In the interim an up to date judges list has been maintained and made available to all show organisers on request.

A new look Badge has been developed for AHSA Judges inclusive of the new logo, another new addition is that all Judges on the AHSA International A and B list will have the honour of having an Australian flag included on their official AHSA judges badge.

Allan Preston

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the JEC Sub-Committee Report be accepted." Carried

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT, MEMBERSHIP & PROMOTIONS REPORT

The Promotions and Youth Development sub-committee consisted this year of Karen Fletcher-Grieve (Sub-committee Chair), Leonie Williamson, (AHSA Chair), Richard Shipton, Clint Bilson, Allan Preston, Deb Watson and Glenys Lilley. As always, the priority objectives of this sub-committee are to engage and support our younger members in whichever endeavours they choose to enjoy their Arabians, as well as to attract new members and promote the Arabian Horse to a wider audience. The mission statement is available on the website.

The Youth budget this year allowed us to provide Youth Development Grants for both Charlotte Phillips and Rebecca Radney to attend events to promote their Arabians in open company. Both girls very successful and flying the flag for the breed and the Society. In addition, we also gave the Qld Arabian Youth Group grant money towards their Double Dan training day. We have decided this year to extend the grant to Youth Groups, for the purpose of education as well as promotion.

Another new initiative has been the Youth Ambassadorship. Designed encourage leadership qualities as well as promotional opportunities in our young members and give them a more interactive involvement in the Society. Details are on the website.

You would by now be aware that Australia has been awarded the WAHO conference for 2019. Promotion of this event has already begun, with a short film being shown at this year's WAHO conference in Bahrain. The film was very well received, and we will be utilising various other forms of media promotion as well in the lead up to the big event.

Other activities this year have included the art competition and art photography competition, run in conjunction with this year's Aussies. We are hoping to expand these in future years.

Karen Fletcher-Grieve

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the Junior Development, Membership & Promotions Sub-Committee Report be accepted." Carried

REGISTRY REPORT

The Registry Sub-Committee for 2016-2017 consisted of myself, Allan Preston, Karen Fletcher-Grieve, Yvonne Downes and Leonie Williamson. These days very few items need to be referred to the Sub-Committee, members are obviously more organised and with the advent of parentage verification for all Purebreds these sort themselves out without Board intervention. Any item which is major or where the Sub-Committee do not unanimously agree is referred to the full Board for determination.

Phasing in of Genetic Testing for all Purebred Breeding stock born after 2000 is nearing completion, thank you to all members who have supported this initiative which was requested at a previous AGM. More and more members are requesting that the genetic test status be disclosed, whatever the result, which is a pleasing change of attitude.

As previously stated, the Society is moving more towards electronic communication and it is pleasing to see an increased number of members emailing their registration applications to the Society. To encourage this, it has recently been approved that emailed copies of service certificates will be accepted providing no details have been altered. The Society is also investigating a new tablet App which would enable breeders to complete their applications, including markings, and email them directly to the Society eliminating the need for tedious printing and scanning. Another new change to benefit members is the fact that registration certificates are no longer required when a lease is processed, the owner retains the original. A disturbing amount of certificates are going astray in the mail so it is felt that the less posting the better.

People seem to be able to find the documents and fees more easily on the new website, if you haven't had a look I would urge you too. There are only five working in the office and not all are full time so if you can source the information via the website rather than phoning on the already busy phones it would be appreciated.

During the past year, the DNA provider has unfortunately moved from the University of Queensland to Massey University in NZ. This move was out of our control, in fact we received notification at 5pm on a Friday night. We were promised a maximum ten-day turnaround, which was bad enough after the 2-3 days we were used to, but the reality is that the wait time is about 6 weeks. Additionally, we have so far not been able to get buffy coats processed with no explanation forthcoming. People with old Arabians are advised to ensure that they have hair stored at home as unfortunately we have lost confidence in the likelihood of buffy coats being activated or hair stored at the lab over the past years being processed. Please be patient as the delay is out of our control.

Helen Dohan

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Mrs Y Downes "That the report of the Registry Sub-Committee be accepted." Carried

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Jayne Bellchambers addressed the meeting as a RPSB member and expressed her appreciation for the improved processing of RPSB paperwork under the AHSA team.
- Kate Dertell spoke about the negativity on social media which she described as disgraceful. There is a need to be positive about the breed. She suggested that the Board consider having some video clips made in order to promote the industry and utilise social media to the Society's advantage. She then reiterated the need for positive feeds on social media rather than negative.

Jessie Preece suggested that the Board consider having a "horse of the week"

Richard Shipton explained about the AHSA Member Only page on Facebook, any member can post to this page once the post has been approved by a moderator. If the post is not positive, friendly or nice it will be deleted. The page should be a member page and not a Board page. Richard and Karen Fletcher-Grieve regularly monitor the page. The Society has no control over private pages.

Jessie Preece felt that the Member Only page was preaching to the converted. Richard pointed out that the Members page was for information pertaining to members and the Promotions page was a Public page.

Kate Dertell suggested that people should share videos, slide shows etc. Richard explained that this was the first year that the Board had utilised social media.

Leonie Williamson likened social media to a loaded gun, going from positive to deadly in an instant. Care must be taken not to promote particular people. It is very difficult to extract information from members, even when it is promised it often doesn't materialise. The Society cannot afford to employ a promotions manager and so needs help from members. Over the last year the Board has spent so much time putting out fires that they ran out of time for promotions. Leonie pointed out that \$100,000 worth of promotion could be undone with one bad post.

Cindy Fullerton mentioned that it was not only social media that was having a detrimental effect on the Society but also member behaviour.

Leonie Williamson stated that people were volunteers and were entitled to have personal lives. People can only push and bully others so far before there is retaliation. There seems to be a need to live on drama.

Deb Hatherall suggested that everyone should go home and think of one positive thing to put on the promotions page and share. She suggested that people should not comment on any negative comment.

Sue Oberg stated that she has been the victim of social media attacks. Leonie Williamson advised her to ignore and delete them.

Jessie Preece offered to help find PR information. Richard Shipton asked that any ideas be emailed.

Leonie Williamson asked if any ideas could be emailed to the office who will disseminate them. She also asked people not to ask questions on Facebook.

Debbie Bennett asked about discipline of a panel judge. Leonie Williamson replied that discipline of a judge would only be considered if something happened when the judge was judging Arabian classes at a show.

- Bro Peter McIntosh stated that he did not use Facebook and that he was finding it hard to find information on the website. He stated that he was unable to find information about the Championship.

Leonie Williamson explained that all new information could be found under the News tab.

Doug Rutherford felt that the News page needed to be updated.

Greg Little commented that when the entries closed for the Championships the information disappeared from the website. Leonie Williamson replied that the information should have remained but someone should have advised if there was a problem. Scott Benjamin stated that if there is a problem with any links the Society should be informed. There is a separate website for the Championships with the Society domain arabianchampionships.com.

Richard Shipton suggested that if a computer has not been refreshed then old information may present.

- Astra Temple asked how the Society was ensuring that AHSA work did not get behind due to the RPSB work. Leonie Williamson stated that the situation was being monitored and confirmed that the prime business of the Society is AHSA. There have been implementation problems due to the poor state the RPSB paperwork was in. She explained that the Board have taken on more tasks themselves.

Astra stated that she felt that the AHSA website should be completely updated before other Society work was done.

Deb Watson explained that there have been changes made to the office to make it more efficient. The Society was ½ staff member over and AHSA members were getting a very quick turnaround. Another income source was required, taking on the RPSB work safeguarded the ½ person job and added to staff experience and training in use of a different database and MYOB. Deb explained that the RPSB were previously being charged a fortune but when the handover occurred in October 2016 it was discovered that there was a huge backlog. She confirmed that AHSA paperwork would always come first.

Marjorie Stuart-Smith stated that at the judge meeting it had been mentioned that it was hoped that the judge section on the website would be completed within 4-6 weeks. Leonie Williamson explained that

the website needed to link to the database. She explained that AHSA was going to change to the SAMMS database but it was decided in 2016 that it would not have some of the functionality required. FPRP Pty Ltd was engaged to update the current database and migrate it to the cloud. The priority was ensuring that the Society core business programming was done before a judge page upgrade. Richard Shipton stated that apart from the Judge page the rest of the website was working. Leonie Williamson stated that the online studbook was a very old platform and needed to be re-written and upgraded. Kerry Frame asked if a sitemap could be provided for the website.

- Kate Dertell asked if it was planned to allow online entries. Leonie Williamson explained that the show system links to the database and it is hoped this will be available next year. It would have cost a lot of money to link to Nominat. Leonie reiterated that members will still be able to post in their forms.
- Val Males asked about the possibility of waiving the registration fees for the sires of two horses so they could be registered Purebred instead of Partbred with the sires not acknowledged. The Registrar, Helen Dohan, advised that this matter had previously been discussed at a Board meeting and was on the agenda for the one later that day. She advised that the office had put considerable time into sorting out the problems and that registrations could be processed for the minimum age registration fee but to process them for no fee would set a precedent for the future. Leonie Williamson noted that there are a lot of rescue horses and that people pay more for these rescuing them through the sales than they are prepared to pay from breeders who are struggling to sell horses when all paperwork is correct. Liz Carlile mentioned that this practice was very detrimental to the industry. Jayne Bellchambers stated that it would be unfair to members who pay their fees for these to be processed for no charge.
- Leonie Williamson reminded the meeting that the Society is a Company governed by a Board of Directors. The Board is elected to run the Company. There are often unpleasant tasks to deal with but the Directors are working for the business and not personal agendas. Most people come onto the Board with wonderful ideas and plans but then discover that some will not be viable.
- Bro Peter McIntosh stated that he thought the new format of the show was very good. He stated that he felt that the handlers, riders and judges were very well dressed but that the attire of the officials was not up to standard. He then likened the show officials to stewards at Sydney Royal who are always dressed up. Leonie Williamson explained that there was a uniform with colour coordinated shirts depending on the role of the official and black pants. Leonie stated that it was very hard to get people to commit to help. Leonie stated that she wished to thank Bryan Geoghegan for setting up the decorations in the indoor arena and for stewarding at the last minute when someone let the show down. Samantha Fallick stated that she thought the colour coordinated shirts were a great idea, it made it easy for exhibitors to know who the marshals and stewards were. Debbie Bennett stated that she thought the music was brilliant. Scott Benjamin stated he found Bro Peter McIntosh's comment insulting. He explained that the idea behind the shirts was to easily identify people and their role. He noted that Sydney Royal stewards were not up at 4am to make the show work. All the workers at the show are volunteers. Graham Smith stated that he felt that Bro Peter McIntosh did not mean to be insulting and felt that he was entitled to have his say.
- Helen Dohan advised the meeting that if it was not for Scott Benjamin there would not have been a show. Scott did most of the work leading up to the show including staying up all night in order to ensure that the catalogue was completed on time.
- Sue Oberg stated that the show was very easy to enter and thanked Scott for his efforts.
- Kate Dertell stated that she felt that the number of Youth classes should be increased. She thanked the organising committee for condensing the show into one ring. Leonie Williamson advised that the Society is looking to have a dedicated Youth National Show over a weekend with a variety of events and possibly training sessions.
- Kate Dertell stated that she felt that open hack judges should not be used to judge at the Championships. Leonie Williamson advised that the concept was to have an outside influence but within a three-judge system. She stated that the Board would consider this comment when discussing future shows.
- Samantha Fallick thanked the Board and Championships Committee for a great show.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 12.25 pm