

**MINUTES OF 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE ARABIAN HORSE SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA LTD
HELD ON SATURDAY 28th APRIL 2018
RYDGES SOUTH PARK ADELAIDE
1 SOUTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE SA 5000**

PRESENT:-

Leonie Williamson, Allan Preston, Scott Benjamin, Richard Shipton, Yvonne Downes, Karen Fletcher-Grieve, Clint Bilson, Kristen Galea, Glenys Lilley, Debra Watson, Greg Liddle, Heath Rowbottom, Helen Dohan, Ron Males, Val Males, Kerryn Aldridge, Peter Aldridge, Belinda O'Connor, Melissa Batchelor, Bec Hull, Rosie Hull, John Newton, Diana Newton, Lehan Britten, Jaz Wiseman, Kevin Howard, Carolyn Potts, Josie Potts, Aaron Schmidt, Tegan Harris, Frances Overheu, Debbie Grull, Miranda Beasley, Wayne Beasley, Peter McIntosh, Jessie Preece, John Preece

PROXIES:- As per list provided

At 2.15 pm the Chairperson, Mrs L Williamson, declared the meeting open. The Chairman then welcomed all members present and introduced the Directors & Secretary.

The Chairman then called for apologies.

APOLOGIES:-

Peter O'Connor, Katherine McMahon, Diana McGirr, Pamela Gleeson, Annette Vickery, Peter Pond, Keith Fenton, Karenne Fenton, Nadine Holland, Narekkle Kinnear, Tracee Males, Kate Dertell, Doyle Dertell, Alison Hudson, Catherine Brown, Deb Dickson, Vicki Stubbs, Elizabeth Christensen, Margaret Parker, Peter Hull, Graham Smith, Norm Wall, Nancy Wall, Kylie Wall, Laurie Nicolle, Lyn Nicolle

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. Mrs L Williamson asked if the members were happy to take the Minutes as read, Mr R Males & Bro P McIntosh requested that they be read out. Mrs L Williamson proceeded to read the Minutes.

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 Mrs K Galea "That the Minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted as a true record."
Carried

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Bro P McIntosh noted that social media was still a big problem and felt that the website and other avenues of communication should be used more. Mrs L Williamson explained that the Board were examining ways to curb it. She advised that all Facebook posts were now directing people back to the Society website. Mr K Howard noted that many people did not use Facebook. Bro P McIntosh made mention of the negative comments on the Facebook site previously known as 'Concerned members of the AHSA'. Mrs L Williamson explained that as a result of the Society trademarking the logo and AHSA, the name of the Facebook group had been changed. She encouraged people not to support negative pages.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

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

The WAHO Award for 2018 was awarded to Prince Charmingff and the award was presented to Kerryn Aldridge who received it on behalf of Kate & Doyle Dertell.

Prince Charmingff – the horse that can do it all!

Prince Charmingff is a 10 year old Purebred Arabian gelding sired by BruMarBas Future (Imp USA) and out of the beautiful Bremervale Charmed – making him a maternal brother to superstars Craveff and Sir Charmed FF. Bred and owned by Future Farms, Prince has taken on all before him in every discipline he has attempted.

Prince was sold into a partnership between Terri Love of Tamar Arabians and Future Farms as a weanling colt, and this partnership showed Prince initially in halter as a colt, then under saddle and halter as a stallion. During this time, Prince won championships at State, National, National Capital, East Coast and Australian National Championships in both led and ridden as an entire. His first filly was also shown not long before he was gelded, and was named Gold Champion at the Australasian Breeders Cup.

By the age of 6 Prince had won just about every championship as an entire shown horse on offer, and with our son Kody Dertell riding him at home since Prince was 4, it was decided that Prince would be gelded and come out and do it all again as a gelding. Not long after he was gelded, we sold Terri Loves half share in Prince Charming to Helen and Andy Hardwick of Al Sahrae arabians, and Prince not only came out as a show gelding, he also had a new purpose and that was to teach Brittney and Evan Hardwick to ride. Brittney also was showing Prince in hand at the shows alongside Kody – he was proving to be the best youth and amateur horse teaching them both the ropes!

In late 2016, Al Sahrae sold their half share to Future Farms and to this day the Dertell family still own Prince Charmingff outright. Since this time, Prince has successfully competed in flat racing (winning multiple starts), is an open book endurance horse, has won in halter, saddle, dressage, open Galloway hack classes, western, show hunter, Bridle path hack, working stock horse, freestyle, sporting, working hunters, leading rein and various fancy dress events. He also has carried the flag and done the official opening at multiple shows as well as at home at our open days and functions. Prince also has been the Arabian representative at multiple equitana festivals where he loves to be petted all day and eat ice creams with kids that come to visit!

To have a can do temperament and attitude to life is one thing, though to have incredible type and style as he does, Prince Charmingff really is the horse that can do it all! He is the true ambassador for Arabian Horses in Australia

Mrs L Williamson explained that the Board had created two new awards, an Arabian Racehorse of the Year and an AHSA Endurance Horse of the Year. Nominations were very strong and led to the creation of two further awards, Lifetime Achievement Awards for both Racing and Endurance.

Lifetime Achievement Award (Endurance) was awarded to Poseidon Moon, a Purebred gelding born in 2000, owned and bred by Geoff Overheu from WA and ridden by his wife Frances who received the award. Mrs Overheu noted that "Homer" was still going strong at age 17 with lots of stamina.

The AHSA Ltd Endurance Horse of the Year was awarded to Lauralyn Notorious, a Purebred gelding born 2003 bred by Lyn Nicolle and owned by Debbie Grull from Tasmania who received the award. Dr Grull tanked the Board for the award and mentioned that this gelding and her were a team and he was her best mate.

Lifetime Achievement Award (Racing) was awarded to Franshar Park K Shar, a Purebred gelding born in 1995 bred by Frank & Sharyn Farrugia and owned by Virginia Dodson from ACT. Mr J Newton received the award on behalf of Ms Dodson. Mrs Y Downes read a statement from Ms Dodson thanking the Board and detailing some of Shar's achievements.

Arabian Racehorse of the Year was awarded to Aloha Desert Jewel, a Purebred mare born 2006 bred by Mary Triggs and owned by Jill Colwell from Qld who received the award. Dr Colwell thanked the Board for introducing the Endurance and Racing initiatives. She noted that Jewel was a wonderful ambassador and thanked Mary Triggs for breeding her and Donna for her assistance.

Distinguished Service Awards were then presented to:

Mel Batchelor

Miranda Beasley

Lehan Britten
Nadine Holland
Glenys Lilley

Mr A Preston took the floor and surprised Mrs L Williamson by presenting her with an Honorary Life Membership.

Mr A Preston then noted that Miss H Dohan had worked for the Society for over 30 years and presented her with an Honorary Life Membership and present.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO THE AGM 2018

On behalf of the Board of Directors I extend a warm welcome to those members who have taken the opportunity to attend the AGM and visit South Australia. It is our pleasure to meet our SA members and we thank you for your hospitality.

It only seems like a few months ago that we were planning our year. I take this opportunity to thank the retiring Board members for their time and effort throughout the year. Being a Board member is a privilege however along with that privilege comes a lot of work and time. Many people do not realise the commitment required, often putting personal lives on hold. The Board of Directors is elected to manage the Company which can be very different to running a club. Many decisions are made, always with best intentions for the membership as a whole – some much more difficult than others. A famous quote that comes to mind as a Board member – “What is nice is not always popular and what is popular is not always right” Albert Einstein. I am very pleased to again report that the Society has returned a healthy profit. I must thank Deb Watson for her expertise assisting the staff with the financial systems and monitoring the finances and our investments. Our financial position has also been ratified in an email from the society’s Auditor. This email commended the Board “for the significant improvements, refocus and financial stability you have brought to the Society over the past 4 – 5 years”. This email can be found on the AHSA Website.

There have been many milestones reached throughout the year that correspond with the 5 year plan. These include:

- *Financial Stability*
- *Purpose built Database providing a user friendly and modern platform*
- *Rationalised operating budget*
- *New company branding and secured Trademark*
- *New Online Studbook*

What continues to elude us is substantially increasing our membership base and registrations. When we developed the 5 Year Plan, decreases in these areas were forecast and although we have managed to somewhat lessen the forecasted decline, we have not been able to meet our target to maintain. This is the biggest challenge to the new Board. What is encouraging is that now the big ticket items have been attended to and the Society is in a sound financial position, more emphasis can be give to Promotion and programs to attempt to reverse this situation. Promotion will only succeed if we are able to develop a team approach with the Board, Affiliates and members. The response to our request for slogan ideas was encouraging and exposed the passion of many of our members. There were so many great ideas that we will be utilising in different campaigns.

This year we introduced the AHSA Endurance Horse of the Year and the AHSA Racehorse of the Year. These awards attracted a sizable number of very strong submissions and we hope that this yearly award will see members competing in these disciplines feel more encompassed in the Society.

2017 was the inaugural year for the Youth National Championships. The success of the show was confirmed by the smiles, laughter and comradery of the competitors and their families. This show is just the first step in a greater engagement of youth. Those involved are enthusiastic and have a lot of great ideas going forward.

The Australian Arabian National Championships was again a successful show with some amazing horses and displays of horsemanship. The versatility of the breed truly shone this year. The show has become self – sustainable which was also an outcome of the 5 Year Plan. Many thanks to everyone involved in making it such a success. Also, a huge thank you to the Sponsors your support is greatly appreciated.

The Annual Judges, Members and Affiliate Congress had its inaugural year in 2017. It was an enormous success and thoroughly enjoyed by many. The 2018 Congress is shaping up to be an informative and

inclusive event. The date for the Congress has been set as the first weekend in July each year, allowing judges and members to plan ahead.

Two companies have been established with the approval of the full board – The Arabian Horse Judges & Official Guild Pty Ltd and the Arabian Horse Show & Events Commission of Australia Pty Ltd. The companies are both proprietary limited, wholly owned subsidiaries of which the AHSA is the sole shareholder. The Directors of these companies are appointed by the Board and can be removed by the Board. The Companies are required to provide a quarterly report to the Board outlining all business and matters so the Board is across every issue. There are three reasons for the formation of these Companies, summarised below;

- 1) Legal Protection- The Board was advised back in 2017 by an independent Chartered Accountant that formation of these companies would protect the core business of the Society and provide legal protection if the Society was ever sued for a matter pertaining to Judges or the Championships;
- 2) The Board currently spends exorbitant amounts of time at Board Meetings discussing Judge and Championship matters rather than attending to the core business of the Society, that is running the registry and promoting Arabian horses; and
- 3) Under the Memorandum of Understanding and Articles of Association of the Society, the Society does not have the authority to do anything other than 'appoint and maintain a list' of Judges. It is crucial that the Society has the authority to appoint, license, train, educate, discipline and monitor Judges.

These companies were established at very little cost to the Society and we believe it to be a very positive step forward in corporate governance. Essentially this move will greatly reduce any risk to the AHSA and its members.

I will now provide an extended explanation of the Judges Guild because I can appreciate that it is a significant change to the structure of the Society and has perhaps made some uneasy; the decision to form a Judges and Officials company was twofold.

Historically, several State Judging committees/ Divisions were formed as it was identified and acknowledged that there was a need to have people trained and assessed as judges. This system was in place for many years, until complaints from members were forthcoming with regard to the noticeable inconsistency in the training assessment and qualifying of judges. The JEC was formed to bring this under one umbrella and develop consistent training, assessing and reviewing of Judges.

Over the years the JEC was made up of primarily Board members who also happened to be National Panel Judges. Training, assessing and reviewing judges is not within the boundaries of the core business of the AHSA however it has become a major time-consuming and demanding part of board proceedings. Over the past few years the JEC has found it necessary to investigate allegations against Judges. This unfortunately meant that we also required legal advice, and in doing so, it was identified and established that the Society was operating a subcommittee, being the JEC, outside of the parameters of the Society's constitutional abilities. This major factor along with the increasing monopoly of Board time was the catalyst for the Board to look into alternative arrangements that would provide a list of judges to the Society, provide the framework and ability to train, assess and review judges and show officials. This will greatly reduce the time, days and cost associated with Board meetings. This is a positive move in having well trained and accredited judges that committees and shows around Australia and the world will recognise.

Plans are well underway for the WAHO conference in February 2019 and we are very excited to be hosting this event. The conference provides us with a platform to promote our horses and our country to the world. There will be many opportunities for members to be involved either with the conference itself or with the post conference tours. Members will be kept informed via the WAHO Australia website, Social Media and mailouts. Save the date as it will be a momentous event.

Leonie Williamson

Moved Mrs L Williamson, seconded Mr A Preston "That the Chairman's Report be accepted." Carried

SECRETARY/REGISTRAR'S REPORT AGM 2018

It has been another busy 12 months in the office with major computer enhancements resulting in all systems being moved to a Cloud base environment and the de-commissioning of the very old and unstable local server. Further enhancements will result in members being able to perform more tasks online and the ability to on sell the registry/membership database to likeminded Societies.

Most members appear to approve of the increase in electronic communication with an increasing amount of registration and membership applications being received via email. The only original paperwork now required to be posted to the Society are original registration certificates required to enable transfers to be processed. Registration Certificates are no longer required to process a lease and scanned service certificates are acceptable providing no details have been altered.

Again I would like to thank the Board of Directors for their help and support during the past year. A special mention to Scott Benjamin who, although not on the Board in 2017, has done an amazing amount of work behind the scenes.

As for the office staff, a huge thank you again for working so efficiently and with good humour. When I was first employed there were 10 full time staff, these days there are 2 full time and 3 part time and a quicker turnover of paperwork than 30 years ago.

The statistics for 2017 are attached for your information.

Membership Data

As at 31/12/2017

Membership	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total	3482	3383	3003 (3360)	3289	3417	3389	3075
Life			27	30	28	28	30
Full	3266	3175	2806 (3155)	3071	3174	3142	2788
-Ordinary				2737	2484	2425	2170
- Company				26	27	24	20
-Overseas				24	17	15	12
-Associate				208	454	495	420
-Pension				76	192	183	166
Junior	216	208	170 (205)	175	192	201	159
Panel Judge				11	15	12	8
Friends Of				2	8	6	5
Participant							85

Registry Data

As at 31/12/2017

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total registration
Purebred						
Mares	397	374	362	309	311	33298
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	177	375	321	268	246	28037
Foal Record			164	115	122	8784
Partbred						
Mares	183	193	185	120	120	30381
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	99	166	145	136	117	25370
Foal Record		123	57	43	51	2230
Anglo						
Mares	58	49	48	51	44	4428
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	27	49	46	29	27	3841

Foal Record		12	16	20	10	973
Arabian Pony						
Mares	76	85	63	74	54	4326
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	25	82	50	49	51	3239
Foal Record		40	36	36	28	1244
Arabian Riding Pony						
Mares	70	82	78	88	57	2523
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	46	76	77	76	72	2237
Foal Record		34	33	35	19	908
Warmblood						
Mares	68	32	30	24	22	1102
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	34	45	27	24	21	909
Foal Record		14	8	17	5	427
Quarab						
Mares	7	12	12	13	3	206
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	1	12	4	11	6	136
Foal Record		5	6	4	0	77
Stockhorse						
Mares	7	12	14	13	13	275
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)	7	9	11	10	7	189
Foal Record		11	3	1	3	84
Half Arabian						
Mares			3	28	20	51
Stallions/Geldings (incl colt to adult)			2	16	14	32
Foal Record			0	9	3	12
Performance Index			15	74	37	126
Total		2050	1816	1693	1483	
Horses DNA typed	895	788	813	651	613	
Horses Buffy Coat Conversion	29	20	8	8	2	
Hair Storage	82	78	36	n/a	n/a	
Transfers	1934	2230	1990	1655	1409	
Leases		267	214	211	194	
Exports processed		67	54	67	46	
Imports processed		35	30	8	7	
Stud Prefixes		40	50	63	50	
Stallion Nominations	1137	1144	1057	877	701	
Embryo Transfer Applications	38	14	11	17	7	

Helen Dohan

Moved Miss H Dohan, seconded Mrs D Watson "That the Secretary's Report be accepted." Carried

TREASURERS REPORT AGM 2018

The second and final report from me as a Director and Treasurer. The current board have 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, higher than last year at \$182,529. The Board has been very prudent with income generating projects this year with profits from the Australian Championships and a small profit from the Youth Championships. This Board is very conscious of gaining different income

streams and there are more projects on the “drawing board” to do just that. Combined with the tightening of budgets and expenditure from all regions, enables me to present a very solid and increasingly sustainable working model.

Rel, our computer software developer, from RPBC has also been employed on other various projects, the online membership renewals together with emails which this year worked well, the launching of the upgraded studbook database which is more reliable and enables better access to information and a show program that was used for the office work to create the Australian Championships entries this year and will be fully functional and available for online entries for 2019. 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 management of the Riding Pony Stud Book Board of Directors are very pleased with the service from our office and it's our hope and expectation that this will continue far into the future. This contract will need to be renegotiated later this year for the continuation of this service.

We have continued to work on the WAHO conference for 2019 with significant progress being made.

Deposits paid to the Crowne Plaza Terrigal, special guest speakers contacted and engaged and several various surprises in the pipeline. 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 2017 Australian Championships made a generous and helpful profit of \$39,815 and the working committee headed by Scott Benjamin together with the exceptional show secretarial skills of the office staff ensured that the entries and show was another success. The Championships account now holds an excellent balance for future events.

Of course, we must mention the special inaugural Youth Arabian National Championships held in late September 2017. An event of spectacular proportions, with great numbers in the classes and all who attended heralding it a wonderful experience, not to be missed. This show made a small profit of \$1,000.00 however the bottom line was not the main focus as the board endeavored to create an event for the youth to enjoy their horses, each other, the ideal of comradery and to enable them to feel special and encouraged to continue with Arabians in future years.

While memberships have largely increased which flowed through to all the income streams, this is most encouraging, and the Board are investigating more wide-reaching ways to promote the benefits of registration and membership of the Society. It is hoped that this will continue, and the board is constantly reviewing the Society's benefits and costs.

The Board has instigated a couple of new awards, the Arabian Endurance Horse of the Year and the Arabian Racehorse of the Year. As 2017 was the inaugural year for these awards and due to the fabulous nominees, the board has awarded both of the above as well as Lifetime Achievement awards in both sections for horses who have been an ambassador for a long time. These awards may have increased our memberships and registrations as any nominees had to be owned by current members and be registered with the Society. The worthy recipients will be announced in the latest Arabian Horse News and presented with their awards at the AGM in Adelaide. We look forward to having the same difficult decisions this year and encourage all to promote these awards to their friends in endurance and racing. The breeders of the winners are also recipients of awards, to further encourage breeding and registering Arabians with the Society.

The Board did investigate a couple of investment property opportunities during the year, one of which was the purchase of another double sized unit located opposite the society's office in the same complex. It was leased and had a lot of car spaces etc. The eventual sale was more than double the purchase price of the society offices (over \$1,000,000) again confirming the great work by the previous directors to procure the offices we have. Due to the daunting task of identifying these opportunities and the timeframes, the Board has instigated a policy of investing the cash on hand, both from the sale of the Windsor building and other cash reserves, in fixed term accounts at different maturing times. Ideally if an opportunity presents then these fixed terms can be broken to allow the Board to take advantage of that while ensuring a return on the funds in the meantime. These strategies have been reported consistently in the bulletin, emailed, and posted to members to ensure all members are aware of the financial stability of the society.

In all, the Society has enjoyed an extremely good year, with continued appreciation of its assets, the Board looks forward to continued growth in the coming year and I take pride in handing over the “reins” to the new Treasurer knowing the society is in a top financial position.

Debra Watson

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Mr A Preston "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.

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Mr A Preston "That the Annual Accounts as presented be adopted." Carried

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS 2018

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Mr A Preston "That William Buck (NSW) Pty Ltd be appointed as auditors of the Society for 2018". Carried

RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT BOARD ELECTIONS 2018/2019

Miss H Dohan explained the security measures that were in place for the elections. Only one person in the office has access to the voter id numbers should a member have lost theirs. Mrs K Aldridge asked if there were many instances of members losing their voter id. Miss H Dohan replied that it occurred when people threw out their membership renewal letter prior to voting, there are not a lot of instances of this occurring but a few.

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 2018/2019

Arrangements were made for me to conduct the election for Board Members from New South Wales (2), Queensland (1) and Victoria (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 384 members had submitted an online vote and a further 34 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 no incidence of multiple voting.

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 (2)				
Scott BENJAMIN	9	167	176	1 st Elected
Kerry FRAME	10	108	118	
Marie HUTCHISON	9	98	107	

Gregory LIDDLE	8	139	147	2 nd Elected
Jennifer OGDEN	7	88	95	
Total Votes	43	600	643	
Queensland (1)				
Kim COX	8	75	83	
Douglas KIRBY	3	38	41	
Heath ROWBOTTOM	6	134	140	Elected
Debra WATSON	11	118	129	
Total Votes	28	365	393	
Victoria (1)				
Kerryn ALDRIDGE	7	118	125	
Clint BILSON	8	129	137	Elected
Gudrun MARTINI	14	102	116	
Total Votes	29	349	378	



Phil Lewis Returning Officer
Elections Australia Pty Ltd
31 January 2018

Bro P McIntosh queried why two Board members were elected for NSW when there were three vacant positions. Mrs L Williamson explained that the resignation of Mr G Smith was not officially recorded until after the election. Under the Articles of Association, the incoming Board have the option to remain with nine Board members or fill the remaining position. Should the position be filled it would not need to be from candidates that sought election.

Moved Mrs D Watson, seconded Mr A Preston "That the Returning Officers Report be accepted." Carried

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS.

ARCHIVES REPORT

The Archives Sub Committee members (Graham Smith, Deb Watson, Leonie Williamson and I as Chair) set about during the course of the year to undertake a full audit and reconciliation of all archivable material held within the AHSA Office. As a result of our combined efforts we now have relocated all of this material into the upstairs central archives area and have allocated specific areas within the storeroom for this material. Also, as part of the above, we arranged to have an original Lady Wentworth pedigree, whose frame was badly damaged, professionally reframed; we re-homed the Lillane Gedye collection of photos; considered the rationalisation of the international stud book collections held in the office; and established a working relationship with Gatton College in Qld with regards to historical items in their collection.

During the course of the year we received lots of suggestions and ideas about archive material for the AHSA, and I want to specifically thank Carolyn Potts, as we now have DVD copies of the old film "The Proud Breed". It is an American production set in the late 60's/early 70's and features a very young Wayne Newton. It is a classic and it is interesting to see how the Arabian scene has changed since then. I would still like to get a copy of the Australian production "I Just Like to Ride Horses" which is set probably in the mid 70's and although not specifically about Arabians, they do feature, along with some of our most famous breeders/experts.

Also during the year we consulted with a number of sources and have managed to give away a lot of the superfluous books and old magazines we held, as well as merchandise which was out of date because the logo had been updated or because the contact details were not correct. There are still some excess books and old AHN magazines, but I'm sure we can give them to pony clubs and other interested horse clubs over time.

The archive display at the Australian Arabian National Championships this year featured our previous WAHO award winning horses. A very big thank you to all of the owners and people involved with these very special horses, for helping me put together a poster on each horse with detailed information about their breeding and performances. It was a wonderful tribute to these 11 versatile Arabian horses, who were all extremely high achievers.

It has been sad fact that over the past few years, some of the older, long standing studs have closed down. These studs and their owners have in many cases been the cornerstones of our breed and our society over a long period of time, and in many cases have been pioneers by taking their Arabians out in open company and holding their own against all comers. They have also been instrumental in bringing diverse bloodlines to our shores and helping to establish Australian Arabians in the world market.

Your archives committee hopes to record and honour these long term members. As such, we would appreciate any help members can give us in collating information/details on these members, their studs, the horses they bred over the years, and any special awards or achievements they amassed. Should any member have archivable material that they think should be retained by the AHSA for future generations please contact either myself or one of our Archive committee members in the first instance to discuss.

Finally, it was sad to lose Graham Smith from the Board, and more specifically from our archive committee, as his enthusiasm, and experience in this field were of great benefit to me and the AHSA.

Yvonne Downes

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

Bro P McIntosh asked if the Society still had the Peter Clarke collection including the saddle. The Secretary advised that the saddle had not been located but was still being looked for.

The Secretary noted that it was important to identify the difference between Archive material and people's personal old records. Bro P McIntosh suggested that the Society look at obtaining professional assistance.

CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORTS

The 2018 Australian Arabian National Championships was held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre in Horsley Park NSW on Thursday, Friday & Saturday – the 8th to 10th of March. The three-day event was conducted in one single venue, the main indoor arena, with halter & saddle classes interspersed within the programme, following the 2017 programme that evolved as a result of the record breaking rains the year previous. Tightly timetabled, this programme seems to offer the best solution for all exhibitors at the show, affording ample time for socialization and leisurely viewership of all breeds & disciplines.

Over 260 horses attended from all six Australian states, representing a broad cross section of all the breeds currently registered & recorded with the AHSA. Exhibit numbers were up in breeding classes across the board, with a significant increase in both the purebreds & Arabian Ponies, the result of which was expansion of awards in several divisions. Conversely, under saddle entries were slightly down, a development that merits serious attention as we move forward with future promotion of the Arabian & Arabian Derivative breeds. The added appeal of the Arabian & Arabian Derivative Ultra & Versatility Challenges raised the level of competition, while the jackpot classes, both the Lip Sync Liberty on Thursday night & the Musical Variety Ridden Freestyle on Saturday evening, provided great crowd participation & undeniable entertainment. Finals nights on both Friday & Saturday, which featured the purebreds both in hand and under saddle, were once again full of energy and excitement. We were proud to partner with the Miss Sydney Pageant on Saturday evening for a glamorous addition to an evening of beautiful females, both human & equine, with a chance to feature apparel courtesy of two of premier trade exhibitors.

Judges for the 2018 event included international guest judges Sylvie Eberhardt from Germany & Van Jacobsen from the United States, Belinda O'Connor from Victoria & Nancy Wall from Western Australia, the four of which comprised the halter panel, as well as Jacqui Langfield from New South Wales, Kathy Siggers from Queensland, and widely respected Hack & Western judge Lorelei Payne, also from Queensland, the three of which worked together to adjudicate all the under saddle classes. Nell Marshman, Libby Englert, Joanne Squires & Rita Gruening added their expertise to the event officiating Dressage. The quality of exhibits was high across all breeds, divisions & disciplines, with positive feedback received from all judges

on the conduct of exhibitors, turnout of the horses and the high standard of excellence exhibited by the majority of winners.

Thank you to all the breeders, owners, riders, handlers & exhibitors who once again supported the Australian National Championships. You are the reason this show continues to be a success year after year. Thank you to all our traders, and those who supported with donated items to the live & silent auction on Saturday, especially Marian Duncan, Anna Shaw, Glenn Jacobs, Dana Russo & Miranda Beasley. An enormous THANK YOU also to all our generous sponsors - those who supported the event with cash donations – especially Al Sahrae Arabians, Alexandrina Arabians, Istashra Arabians, Westacres Arabians, Khalid Arabians, Gow Gates, Mieke Bigg & Allanah Yu, & the Tasmanian Arabian Action Club - and those who donated and purchased items in the online fundraising auction. To our championship garland sponsors – Krishlah Arabians, PETstock, Caribu Horsewear, Trincada Arabians, Shiranna Arabians, Garland Grove Arabians, Essential Equine Nutrition, Nalla Stud, Mulawa Arabian Stud, Mulawa Performance & Sa'Vev Arabians – thank you for bringing more prestige, ambience & unforgettable moments to the winner's circle and for enriching the lives of the fortunate winners with beautiful keepsakes.

An overwhelming amount of gratitude is due the extraordinary group of volunteers who worked tirelessly, giving of their time, talents, energy & enthusiasm to make Aussies the premier event of the annual show season. Thank you to Katherine McMahon, who joined the team as official Entry Secretary this year, and who once again proved that there is nothing she cannot do, including outdoing herself as catering queen extraordinaire, Selina Ahel, our fearless Stable Monitor, Bob Krog, who joined us as Camping & Cabin Monitor, our exceptional Ring Stewards – Deb Hatherell, Bryan Geoghegan & Tessa Peacock, our superlatively organized paddock marshalls – Leonie Williamson & Megan Browning, the always engaging & helpful Show Office team of Teresa Edwards & Lindy Stewart, the dedicated scoring team of Richard Walsh, Viv Bugeja & Jenni Ogden, our announcing team of Richard Shipton & Chris Johnstone, Katherine's uber-industrious catering team of Sheila Jones & Barbara Gale, Jayne Bellchambers – who organised an epic Progressive Barn Party to kick things off as positively & proactively as possible on Thursday evening, the awards team of Kay Edward & Olivia Cleary, talented photographers Glenys Lilley & Samantha Taylor, the impressively organised Dressage Coordinator Cathy Padgen, the always reliable official measuring & Archives booth husband & wife team of Yvonne & Ray Downes, silent auction coordinators Karen Fletcher-Grieve & Miranda Beasley, video reporters Dee & Nicola Kelly, music coordinator Jodie van Bruegel, Ash Williamson for the evening entertainment, judges' host Ian Watson & mistress of all trades, no matter how menial the task, Deb Watson. A special thank you to the AHSA Office Staff – Helen Dohan, Teresa Edwards, Lindy Stewart, Juliet Burnett & Jenny Nixon – for their always invaluable assistance, as well as Rel Pattison for his on the spot development, expansion and fine-tuning of the show entry programme in the months prior to the event. As always, I owe an immense debt of gratitude to the Championships Committee – Clint Bilson, Leonie Williamson, Deb Watson, Glenys Lilley & Allan Preston – for your guidance & assistance, and for entrusting the event to our stewardship once again for 2018. To Katherine, Leonie & Deb – THANK YOU will never be enough.

I would also like to thank the hard working set-up team, comprised of most of volunteers aforementioned as well as Rachel Borysko & Charmaine Burrows, as well as the invaluable tear-down team, those who responded to the appeal for assistance when the final award was handed out on Saturday evening. Those who went above and beyond the call of duty, working well past midnight, include Bryan Geoghegan, Jessie & John Preece, Sally Gould-Hurst, Richard Shipton & Debra Burns, and most incredibly, Chris Johnstone & Jacqui Langfield, both of whom worked the show all week in an official capacity as announcer & judge, respectively. Each of you continue to inspire us all and make our Arabian community a better and more inclusive place.

We are proud to report that the 2018 Australian Arabian National Championships has made a profit once again for the seventh successive year. The final numbers will be available at the close of the financial year once the accounts have been reviewed & approved by the Auditors.

Dates & venue for the 2019 Australian Arabian National Championships should be confirmed before the end of May. It continues to be a privilege and an honour to serve the AHSA & the Arabian community in Australia as event coordinator of the Australian Arabian National Championships. I look forward to many more successful years ahead.

Scott Benjamin
2018 AANC Coordinator

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

JEC REPORT

Chairperson of the JEC: Allan Preston

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

Core Aims of the JEC

- To appoint judges and maintain a list of persons competent to act as judges of Arabian Horses at any Show whether promoted or sponsored by the Society or otherwise.
- To train and educate judges of all levels in the requirements necessary to best perform the task required of a judge so appointed to each particular level. In furtherance to this, to re-evaluate or reassess as necessary any and all judges to maintain and or expand on their qualifications.
- To develop strategies to ensure that the ethical principles of judging or being a judge are followed maintained and upheld. In furtherance to this, to develop, add, adjust, remove or enforce any rules guidelines protocols and systems that upholds a high level of sportsmanship and 'Fair Play' in competition.
- To develop and encourage systems of assessment that uphold the core aims and fundamental principles of the Standard of Excellence for the Purebred Arabian and the Arabian Derivative breeds.

Functions of the JEC Sub-Committee

The functions of the JEC encompass, but not limited to:

- To encourage the development of regional judges' groups.
- To organise or conduct workshops, seminars training days, examinations, assessments and meetings for judges and trainee Judges.
- To maintain the rulebook and to ensure that practices are in place to assure that these rules are upheld.
- To inform judges of rule changes, updates, seminars, training days, open Judges meetings or reaccreditation requirements.
- To maintain a list of Judges and develop progressive ways of maintain and distributing this list.
- To grade horse shows and develop guidelines for these gradings to ensure that an expected standard for shows is maintained.
- To deal with concerns or complaints from members or people in regard to shows, judges, officials and/or affiliate events.
- To maintain and keep on file things like, but not limited to: judges contracts, judges returns, reports, letters, examination, assessment results, show statistics, etc.
- To develop relationships with similar judging bodies, groups, organisation or clubs within Australasia as well as internationally.
- To develop and implement procedures and practices that protect the welfare of horses at shows.
- To develop and maintain a high standard for risk management at all Arabian affiliate events.
- To write various reports as needed.
- To submit reports, updates and suggestions to the Board for ratification.
- To develop and deliver budget strategies for the running and servicing of the JEC.
- To develop guidelines and procedures for the running and servicing of the aims of the JEC.

The JEC has had another busy year, having completed the arduous task of reviewing, updating and rewriting the AHSA competition rulebook. This task has required several months of meetings, research and reformatting to edit & complete the rulebook. The second large project was the necessary update and rewrite of the AHSA Judge's Contract. As time progresses, it brings with it many changes. Social media and mobile communication is now an integrated part of most people's daily lives, with the average adult spending around 2.51 hours a day on their mobile phones. That amounts to over 75 hours a month. Further to this, the average daily use of Facebook consumes one-sixteenth of a user's waking day on the site. This instant communication and public expression of opinions brings about a new set of considerations and concerns pertaining to what is acceptable behaviour in regards to social media communication for anyone who is officiating in sport, or for anyone who is in a position of responsibility and authority in representing a sporting body. The update of the AHSA Judge's Contract was undertaken to address these issues. The JEC remains ever mindful of its responsibility to ensure accountability for those officials who, as Judges, are representing the good will and reputation of the Society and its panel of accredited judging professionals.

The project currently underway in the huge task of rewriting the Derivative Standard of Excellence for each of the eight recognised registries.

Last July marked the development of the inaugural AHSA Judges & Affiliates Congress, hosted in Sydney's Darling Harbour. This annual event is structured to bring judges, officials and affiliate members together for an informative and social weekend, sharing their knowledge and experiences as well as getting to know each other in a relaxed, engaging and interactive environment.

The two-day Congress was a huge success with nearly 50 attendees enjoying informative lectures and a productive workshop. Social activities included an evening dinner harbour cruise (complete with fireworks courtesy of the City of Sydney), breakfast at Pancakes on the Rocks, and a Horse in Art excursion at the Art Gallery of NSW. The JEC received considerable positive feedback on this enlightening and enjoyable weekend by several attendees.

This feedback has inspired the JEC to expand the upcoming Congress to include the broadest range of the AHSA membership. Now entitled the '2018 Judges, Members & Enthusiasts Congress', this event is open to all interested members across Australasia, as well as general equine enthusiasts. This 2018 Congress is shaping up to be every bit as rewarding and enjoyable as its predecessor, scheduled for the weekend of the 7th & 8th of July at the Crowne Plaza in Melbourne's exciting South Wharf precinct. World-renowned international judge & equine expert Cindy Reich from the USA will no doubt enlighten participants with her vast knowledge of the Arabian breed and her engaging persona. Well-known & widely respected rider and personality Mark Kenzig from NSW will impart his extensive experience in the equestrian performance field. The social dinner event planned for 2018 is a unique dining experience aboard the Colonial Tramcar Restaurant as it tours the Melbourne CBD. Bookings for the Congress are filling fast. Information and booking forms are available on the AHSA website.

Over the last year the JEC has conducted several Judges exams and upgrades. These examinations have added five new Level 1 probationary judges into our ranks. Two judges have advanced to Level 2, and a further two were elevated to the National Panel List. The AHSA International Judges Panel also expanded, with three Judges earning accreditation on the International B List, and a further two Judges accredited to the International A List. The JEC is extremely grateful for the time and expertise provided by this year's international upgrade assessors: Ms. Sylvie Eberhardt (Germany), an ECAHO Judges Senior Instructor since 1997, as well as the official ECAHO Judges Coordinator for Instructors Groups regarding the adjudication of breeding & ridden classes; and Mr. Van Jacobsen (USA), a founding partner in the law firm of Bird, Jacobsen & Stevens (est. 1982), an AHA-accredited judge for over 35 years and the Chairperson of the AHSA Ethical Practices Review Board for the last 25 years.

Sylvie Eberhardt provided the following feedback: *"I feel that the Australian Arabian Judges Executive Committee has developed a very good system for the assessment of judges to represent Australia at international Arabian horse shows. This is most important and a very big responsibility. I personally conduct many such assessments across Europe and the Middle East and I am most impressed with the thorough and fair system that has been developed in Australia. I will most certainly be taking some of your ideas back to the ECAHO meeting."*

Van Jacobsen had this to share on his experience as an assessor: *"I did want to send you some follow up on the International upgrade A level testing program. I think that all judges have a responsibility to be impartial, honest, and, of course, knowledgeable when they accept any judging assignment, no matter how big or small. I think the International upgrade 'A' level testing program you have implemented in Australia recognizes the importance of judges having a good understanding on how the international scorecards work. While the scorecards may vary depending on where you are judging, a basic understanding and comfort level is a prerequisite for accepting international judging assignments. The scorecard seminar you offer to your judges sounds like it is the perfect seminar to provide a framework and a basis for understanding the score cards the judges will be using. It is important to reinforce the fact that most of the horses we judge are in fact above average, good and excellent. We also have the opportunity to judge the ideal qualities in our horses and should be prepared to award a corresponding score. I appreciated having the opportunity to participate in the interview process for judges wanting to obtain their international upgrade. The interview process really helps determine if an individual is ready to step up to the international judging level. The process is objective based on the testing process with a subjective element reflected in the interview. The interview panel has the opportunity to discuss the overall presentation of the applicants and offer their input. I found it very interesting that several applicants came to their own conclusion that they realized that they do need more experience before moving to an international A level."*

Moving forward, the AHSA will continue to ensure that all Australian Arabian horse Judges representing the Society and the Arabian breed are of the highest calibre. The Society will continue to require that judges are trained and assessed to a globally accepted standard, aiming to ensure that Australian Arabian Horse Judges are not only recognised as highly qualified and readily accepted in all WAHO member countries, but eagerly welcomed as skilled, experienced, ethical professionals properly prepared for the demands and responsibilities of the international show ring.

Allan Preston

Bro P McIntosh asked when Judge Assessments were being done. It was advised that the practical component was often done at shows, the theory examination could be taken at the Society Office, at the Judge Congress or at days organized by the state committees.

Moved Mr A Preston, seconded Mrs K Galea "That the JEC Sub-Committee Report be accepted." Carried

JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The 2017 Youth Development Sub-Committee of the Board consisted of myself (sub-Committee Chair), Leonie Williamson (AHSA Chairman), and Kristen Gallea, with the Youth Show Committee receiving extra support from members, Scott Benjamin, Miranda Beasley and Nadine Holland.

As always, the prime objectives of the Youth Sub-Committee are to support and promote our younger members in their endeavours with their Arabians, as well as to attract and maintain new members and their registered horses to engage them in activities that will ensure the longevity of the Society and the horses we represent.

A priority for this year was the establishment and running of the inaugural Youth Championships Show. This undertaking had begun several years ago, when it became evident that the Youth section of the Australian Arabian National Championships required more room to grow than the current format would allow. The sub-committee has been working on a program that would maintain the integrity of a top level Championship show, whilst giving the show its own identity, and providing opportunities for even our youngest members to compete and gain experience with their Arabians. The format was also designed to allow the event to expand in future years.

We were lucky enough to secure the perfectly suited venue at K Ranch, in Mount Hunter, NSW. The show was run over two days, with classes for halter, handlers, riders, saddle classes, as well as a Championship sporting program. With internationally acclaimed Judge, Allan Preston, presiding over the majority of the program, the show was held as a resounding success from all involved.

Preparations for this year's show are currently well underway, and we look forward to building on the foundations established in 2017. An added innovation for 2018 is the Youth Mentoring Program, where professionals are invited to assist youths in their training and preparation for the event. Although this program is still in its fledgling stages, we are keen for it to further develop to help prepare our future competitors.

Another ongoing task for the Youth Sub-Committee is to engage the many Pony Club, open competition, as well as unofficial level competitors who are out there on horses with Arabian blood. Rest assured that we are constantly looking at ways of recognising and welcoming these potential new members into our Arabian community.

Finally, I must thank all those who have contributed in the past year, to supporting our future breeders, Judges, and competitors. Here's looking forward to another successful year.

Karen Fletcher-Grieve

Moved Ms K Fletcher-Grieve, seconded Mr A Preston "That the Junior Development Sub-Committee Report be accepted." Carried

MEMBERSHIP & PROMOTIONS REPORT

The 2017 Promotion & Membership Sub-Committee of the Board consisted of myself (sub-Committee Chair), Leonie Williamson (AHSA Chairman), Glenys Lilley and Graham Smith, and receiving extra support from, Helen Dohan and Teresa Edwards the AHSA Secretary and Assistant Secretary respectively.

This year we set the prime objectives of the Promotions and Membership Sub-Committee to support and help promote the activities of the Australian Arabian Championships and the Youth Championships however the teams involved in those sub-committees did such a fantastic job we had very little to do in that respect. We have spent a majority of our time and efforts in those 'behind the scenes' activities such as working to establish our two Facebook sites, the Australian Arabian Horse Society Members only group and the Australian Arabian Horse Society Promotions page. To different sites with two separate (though similar) purposes, the Members group is intended to be a direct link to our membership base, though still a work in progress it is intended to provide a link between the Society and our members, any vital information posted on our website will also be posted there. Where as the Promotion page is primarily for all types of advertising and promotion of the Arabian Breed and is open to all to see and in some cases comment. We have advertised for expressions of interest to interested bodies for an overhauling or renovation of our current Arabian Horse News, our current provider 'VINK PUBLISHING'; have been doing a stellar job but like all business ventures it becomes necessary to review the process when contract renewals come around. If you are interest in this option, please contact me and I will be happy to provide further information We can't take all the credit, but the Promotions & Membership sub committee were strongly behind the recent addition of the two new awards for Arabian Race Horse and Arabian Endurance Horse, created in recognition of those that embark in those fields but have retained registration and membership to the AHSA. The Board universally recognises that the field and diversity of the Arabian Horse is becoming quite varied in Australia and we need to promote to all those areas our members take an interest in, a view that will no doubt continue into 2018.

This year, with the support of the board, the Promotions & Membership sub-committee have been looking into suppling various types of merchandising and different ways to supply them. Now the Society has a trademarked name and logo we are going to once again approach merchandising groups to see if any of them are interested in being 'licensed' to sell AHSA branded merchandise. We have recently arranged to produce new 'bumper stickers' with the landscape logo which we hope to circulate widely and keep your eyes open in the coming months as we hope to have wristbands ready to be circulated at the Youth Championships with some of the amazing slogans provide by members on our members page. From a membership perspective we have tried to clarify with the general community the necessity and benefit of accepting the Participation Membership and we hope to continue to provide the board with more ideas and options in relation to membership structures next year.

Finally, a big thank you to Jessie Ray Preece for her work in seeking 'stories' from the Arabian Community for publication on the promotions page, a great idea and one we hope to see take off again in the new term. Also, the Promotions and Membership sub-committee wish to thank Graham Smith and Glenys Lilley for all their assistance and support over the last 12 months and wish them well with their lives outside of the Board of Directors.

Richard Shipton

Moved Mr R Shipton, seconded Mr C Bilson "That the Membership & Promotions Sub-Committee Report be accepted." Carried

The Chairman, Mrs L Williamson, thanked the outgoing Board members, Allan Preston, Debra Watson and Glenys Lilley and welcomed Scott Benjamin, Greg Liddle and Heath Rowbottom to the Board.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Mrs L Williamson read the following statement:

The purpose of this Motion is ensuring those members who are running for or elected as Board members have a vested interest in AHSA, commitment to the breed and a long-term association with the Arabian industry. The Board understands the potential concern about discrediting breeders by enabling members who only own a gelding and not a breeding animal to be elected and this is something that will be considered in the coming months to further refine Article 28. The Board invites comments from members by writing to the Secretary. The absolute priority is to ensure the purpose of AHSA Ltd is reflected in all Articles and appointment of Directors. In any event, every Director on the Board to come into office after this AGM own a Purebred breeding animal and the Board feels that the motion is a positive step in the right direction.

Bro P McIntosh stated that it was important to maintain the studbook, he expressed concern that Board members could end up having insufficient knowledge.

Mrs L Williamson tabled the following Notice of Motion:

Article 28. Only a Member who is a current Ordinary Member (or the nominee of a Company Member) of the Society and who has been so for all of the five year period prior to a nomination being made and has at some point in that five year period recorded ownership of a Purebred Arabian is eligible for election to the Board.

Motion was carried: 95 for, 11 against, 14 abstention

Bro P McIntosh asked where the list of questions to candidates had come from. Mrs L Williamson advised that she had complied the questionnaire following requests from members. It was not compulsory. Bro P McIntosh felt that it disadvantaged some candidates. Mrs K Aldridge felt that it was needed but possibly was a bit too difficult for some. It was felt that there should be a template in order to advise members about candidates. Mrs D Watson noted that as AHN no longer coincides with the election there is not the same restriction on words and so more information can be disclosed. It was felt that it was good to have a mix of backgrounds, passions and expertise on the Board but was important to give members more information to vote with.

THE ORIGINAL RACEHORSE

Jill Colwell gave an interesting presentation about Arabian Racing highlighting some of the differences between Thoroughbred and Arabian events. Arabians must be at least 3 ½ years old in order to race and those over 12 must be vet checked. All must be barrier certified. Arabians are permitted to race barefoot and there is to be no whip use. There is no betting on Arabian Racing in Australia.

ENDURANCE

Debbie Grull gave an interesting presentation about Endurance and her methods of training and conditioning. She stressed the importance of taking the horse slowly and not aiming to win every ride. The method of selection of the Best Conditioned Award was explained to the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Bro P McIntosh advised the meeting of the death of Mr Keith Snell.
- Mr R Males mentioned that there were only 157 spectators at the AANC on Saturday night and wondered how this number could be increased. Mrs L Williamson advised that numbers on the Friday night had been large. Classes are now intermingled in an attempt to get people to stay and watch and socialise. This year there was signage placed on the road and this resulted in an increased number of spectators. The reason there is no live streaming is to try to get people to come rather than watching from home.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 5.35 pm

Chairman Report – AGM - 2018 AMENDED

On behalf of the Board of Directors I extend a warm welcome to those members who have taken the opportunity to attend the AGM and visit South Australia. It is our pleasure to meet our SA members and we thank you for your hospitality.

It only seems like a few months ago that we were planning our year. I take this opportunity to thank the retiring Board members for their time and effort throughout the year. Being a Board member is a privilege however along with that privilege comes a lot of work and time. Many people do not realise the commitment required, often putting personal lives on hold. The Board of Directors is elected to manage the Company which can be very different to running a club. Many decisions are made, always with best intentions for the membership as a whole – some much more difficult than others. A famous quote that comes to mind as a Board member – “What is nice is not always popular and what is popular is not always right” *Albert Einstein*.

I am very pleased to again report that the Society has returned a healthy profit. I must thank Deb Watson for her expertise assisting the staff with the financial systems and monitoring the finances and our investments. Our financial position has also been ratified in an email from the society’s Auditor. This email commended the Board “*for the significant improvements, refocus and financial stability you have brought to the Society over the past 4 – 5 years*”. This email can be found on the AHSA Website.

There have been many milestones reached throughout the year that correspond with the 5 year plan. These include:

- Financial Stability
- Purpose built Database providing a user friendly and modern platform
- Rationalised operating budget
- New company branding and secured Trademark
- New Online Studbook

What continues to elude us is substantially increasing our membership base and registrations. When we developed the 5 Year Plan, decreases in these areas were forecast and although we have managed to somewhat lessen the forecasted decline, we have not been able to meet our target to maintain. This is the biggest challenge to the new Board. What is encouraging is that now the big ticket items have been attended to and the Society is in a sound financial position, more emphasis can be give to Promotion and programs to attempt to reverse this situation. Promotion will only succeed if we are able to develop a team approach with the Board, Affiliates and members. The response to our request for slogan ideas was encouraging and exposed the passion of many of our members. There were so many great ideas that we will be utilising in different campaigns.

This year we introduced the AHSA Endurance Horse of the Year and the AHSA Racehorse of the Year. These awards attracted a sizable number of very strong submissions and we hope that this yearly award will see members competing in these disciplines feel more encompassed in the Society.

2017 was the inaugural year for the Youth National Championships. The success of the show was confirmed by the smiles, laughter and comradery of the competitors and their families. This show is just the first step in a greater engagement of youth. Those involved are enthusiastic and have a lot of great ideas going forward.

The Australian Arabian National Championships was again a successful show with some amazing horses and displays of horsemanship. The versatility of the breed truly shone this year. The show has become self – sustainable which was also an outcome of the 5 Year Plan. Many thanks to everyone involved in making it such a success. Also, a huge thank you to the Sponsors your support is greatly appreciated.

The Annual Judges, Members and Affiliate Congress had its inaugural year in 2017. It was an enormous success and thoroughly enjoyed by many. The 2018 Congress is shaping up to be an informative and inclusive event. The date for the Congress has been set as the first weekend in July each year, allowing judges and members to plan ahead.

Two companies have been established with the approval of the full board – The Arabian Horse Judges & Official Guild Pty Ltd and the Arabian Horse Show & Events Commission of Australia Pty Ltd. The companies are both proprietary limited, wholly owned subsidiaries of which the AHSA is the sole shareholder. The Directors of these companies are appointed by the Board and can be removed by the Board. The Companies are required to provide a quarterly report to the Board outlining all business and matters so the Board is across every issue. There are three reasons for the formation of these Companies, summarised below;

~~1) Legal Protection – The Board was advised back in 2017 by an independent Chartered Accountant that formation of these companies would protect the core business of the Society and provide legal protection if the Society was ever sued for a matter pertaining to Judges or the Championships; (amended 15 March 2019 to provide further clarification to the membership)~~

1) Legal Protection - The Board consulted with an independent Chartered Accountant and a Legal Advisor, and it was clear that the formation of these companies would protect the core business of the Society and provide legal protection if the Society was ever sued for a matter pertaining to Judges or the Championships; (amended 15 March 2019 to provide further clarification to the membership)

2) The Board currently spends exorbitant amounts of time at Board Meetings discussing Judge and Championship matters rather than attending to the core business of the Society, that is running the registry and promoting Arabian horses; and

3) Under the Memorandum of Understanding and Articles of Association of the Society, the Society does not have the authority to do anything other than ‘appoint and maintain a list’ of Judges. It is crucial that the Society has the authority to appoint, license, train, educate, discipline and monitor Judges.

These companies were established at very little cost to the Society and we believe it to be a very positive step forward in corporate governance. Essentially this move will greatly reduce any risk to the AHSA and its members.

I will now provide an extended explanation of the Judges Guild because I can appreciate that it is a significant change to the structure of the Society and has perhaps made some uneasy; the decision to form a Judges and Officials company was twofold.

Historically, several State Judging committees/ Divisions were formed as it was identified and acknowledged that there was a need to have people trained and assessed as judges. This system was in place for many years, until complaints from members were forthcoming with regard to the noticeable inconsistency in the training assessment and qualifying of judges. The JEC was formed to bring this under one umbrella and develop consistent training, assessing and reviewing of Judges.

Over the years the JEC was made up of primarily Board members who also happened to be National Panel Judges. Training, assessing and reviewing judges is not within the boundaries of the core business of the AHSA however it has become a major time-consuming and demanding part of board proceedings. Over the past few years the JEC has found it necessary

to investigate allegations against Judges. This unfortunately meant that we also required legal advice, and in doing so, it was identified and established that the Society was operating subcommittee, being the JEC, outside of the parameters of the Society's constitutional abilities. This major factor along with the increasing monopoly of Board time was the catalyst for the Board to look into alternative arrangements that would provide a list of judges to the Society, provide the framework and ability to train, assess and review judges and show officials. This will greatly reduce the time, days and cost associated with Board meetings. This is a positive move in having well trained and accredited judges that committees and shows around Australia and the world will recognise.

Plans are well underway for the WAHO conference in February 2019 and we are very excited to be hosting this event. The conference provides us with a platform to promote our horses and our country to the world. There will be many opportunities for members to be involved either with the conference itself or with the post conference tours. Members will be kept informed via the WAHO Australia website, Social Media and mailouts. Save the date as it will be a momentous event.

Leonie Williamson

Chairman