

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – AGM 2020**

On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome everyone to this Annual General Meeting which is being conducted using a Zoom webinar platform. The Board had hoped to hold a physical AGM but the deteriorating covid-19 situation in Victoria unfortunately put an end to such plans. In order to make this AGM work and allow members to participate and follow proceedings it is essential that anyone not speaking mutes their microphone. Please raise your hand using the icon that can be found on the 'participant' section on the bottom of your screen if you wish to speak and then mute yourself afterwards. Voting will be by a show of hands, please press the Yes or No icons in the same section. Those holding proxies which have not specified the preference of the member of a particular vote are asked to private chat Helen Dohan or text 0418484592 with your vote so that the additional proxies can be added to it. For the purposes of minute taking only this meeting will be recorded, if you do not agree to this please leave the meeting now. Would everyone please find the participation icons now and have a quick practice and those wishing to use chat do the same. The AGM notice requested that questions that members wanted raised be sent to the Secretary before 4pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, these will be addressed and answered as the meeting progresses.

Does anyone have any queries regarding the meeting procedure?

2019 as my first year as Chairman was an interesting learning curve. It saw the closure of the companies and a revamping of their roles which, I might add is ongoing. It also saw the constitution taken to the members, unsuccessfully, at a special general meeting. I thought things were beginning to settle and then Covid-19 appeared to turn the world upside down. We are yet to determine what the final effect this pandemic will have on the Society, certainly in the short term all organisations will be severely impacted. We can only hope that any downturn will be short lived but this is impossible to predict. All we can do in the meantime is to continue to try to promote the Society and the Arabian horse in Australia and attempt to encourage member and owner participation. The Board has introduced a number of amnesties and incentives in order to ensure that horses are correctly registered and transferred. It is hoped that these incentives will encourage members to remain connected with their society during these unprecedented times. The 2020 Board has distributed two Member Newsletters and these will be emailed to members on a regular basis. The Australian Arabian Horse News has a new editor in Kerri Hill and a new look. Members have been very supportive of Kerri and I would like to thank them for this. The 2020 Australian National Arabian Championships was again very successful under the watchful eye of the Championships committee led by the ever-efficient Katherine McMahon and plans are in place to hold the 2021 show at Boneo Park in Victoria subject to Covid restrictions being lifted. The 2019 Youth Championships again was very popular with one person even bringing a horse over from NZ in order to compete. The 2020 Youth Championships unfortunately is unable to proceed but a scaled down Youth program has been incorporated into the 2021 AANC schedule.

Like other like horse societies, the Board has recorded a loss of income for 2019. This was predicted as the 2018 financial figures showed an inflated income with some prepayments not accounted for correctly. It is important to review the 2018 and 2019 reports together rather than individually, the Treasurer will address this further. The Board is closely monitoring the financial situation but due to the current unprecedented world wide situation it is impossible to predict any trends in the immediate future. All we can do is attempt to further reduce expenditure and increase income.

I wish to thank both the 2019 and 2020 Board members for their contribution to the Society as well as the members of the Committees and Sub-Committees of the Board. I must also

convey my absolute gratitude to our office staff led of course by Helen, their efficiency and professionalism is a great asset to us all. The Board and Committee members devote a lot of voluntary time to the Society and with the discovery of Zoom this now involves an ever-increasing amount of night time meetings.

Later in this meeting, members will be given the opportunity to vote for a proposed new Constitution for the Society. The current Articles of Association are very out of date and refer to an Act that no longer even exists. This document has absorbed an amazing amount of time and human resources. I would like to thank Mark Skinner and Mark Sagers for spending hours on the Constitution Committee working on the document and Tegan Harris and Aaron Schmidt for the many hours they spent assisting with the drafting and putting up with the many changes suggested. The Board also enlisted the assistance of Vanessa Crosland, Helen Rutland, Marie Hutchison and Cheryl Clegg in reviewing the document, their contribution was invaluable and very much appreciated. I would like to recommend this document to the members as a positive move forward for all our future.

In closing I would like to encourage all members to remain positive in this difficult time. Although we can't meet personally we can all use the telephone or connect via social media. I do hope that this will all be behind us in the not to distant future and we can all be back socialising and enjoying our beautiful Arabian and Derivative horses and ponies.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Liddle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Liddle (Chairman)