

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AHSA LTD

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

On behalf of the Board, I would like to welcome everyone to this Annual General Meeting which is again being conducted using a Zoom webinar platform. With the easing of Covid restrictions the Board had hoped to hold a physical AGM but with the outbreaks still occurring at regular intervals it was decided that Zoom would again be the way to proceed this year. It is essential that all members can attend, and the threat of border closures makes that too uncertain. A hybrid AGM was considered but would be difficult to ensure that the members attending electronically had the same opportunity for participation as those physically present.

For those members participating via Zoom for the first time I will need to advise the protocols required to ensure that the meeting runs smoothly. To 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 7th April, these will be addressed and answered as the meeting progresses.

Like most Societies, AHSA needs to attempt to develop further income streams while continuing to reduce expenditure wherever possible. The Society has limited means to earn money and was fortunate to re-negotiate the Riding Pony Stud Book Society contract for another three years. Other income streams are registry and the Australian Arabian National Championships which unfortunately needs to rely on generous support from members in order to keep costs for exhibitors affordable as it cannot be allowed to run at a loss. The 2021 show was conducted at Boneo Park in Victoria and was a very successful event conducted under the direction of the Events Committee of the Board headed by Katherine McMahon. The 2022 show will be the 40th Anniversary of the event, it will be held in NSW. The Society was fortunate to receive Jobkeeper for part of 2020 but unfortunately was ineligible for the final quarter. Office tasks were reallocated and the commitment to the Riding Pony Society reduced and it became necessary to reduce one staff member. We sadly said goodbye to Jenny Nixon and I would like to sincerely thank the rest of the staff for cramming Jenny's work into their already full day, lots of chocolate stress food has been consumed during this process. I would like to thank the members who now email queries rather than phone the office, with reduced staffing levels it is very difficult to answer all calls and staff will phone back if an email is sent.

Since the last AGM the Board reluctantly accepted the resignations of Wayne Beasley, Kristin Galea and Glenys Lilley. It was decided that the incoming Queensland, Victorian and NSW Board Members for 2021 should be appointed to fill the vacancies and so the Board welcomed Sharyn Hungerford, Kerryn Aldridge and Tanya Hosking. As Karen Fletcher-Grieve advised that she would not be seeking re-election, the Board has also had the

pleasure of the incoming WA Board member, Jill Willoughby, attending meetings in an observer position. I would personally like to thank Karen for the enormous contribution she has made to the Board over the last ten years, her enthusiasm and commitment has been extremely valuable.

At the 2020 Annual General Meeting, members requested that the Board change the website to one hosted in Australia. I am pleased to confirm that there is now a new website designed by Show Pony Graphics and hosted in Australia for members to enjoy. Nominate was also a major discussion point at the last AGM, the company has been contacted and investigations are continuing.

Members have embraced the new look Australian Arabian Horse News under the care of Kerri Hill and I thank them for this. The magazine can only remain viable in a printed form if sufficient advertising is received and members have supported Kerri and the magazine in ensuring its success. The Member Newsletters are continuing to prove popular as are the new Judge ones initiated by the JOC under the care of Graham Smith.

I wish to thank both the 2020 and 2021 Board members for their contribution to the Society as well as the members of the Committees and Sub-Committees of the Board. I also wish to thank the office staff who have assisted above and beyond the call of duty under very trying and stressful times.

In closing I would like to encourage all members to remember to be kind to each other, their horses, all people connected in their lives, our Society and the equine industry in general. There is so much negativity in the world, if we can all try to remain positive it will assist all of you as well as the equine industry that you belong to.

Greg Liddle