

Chairman's Report 2023

Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd.

Dear Members,

As we close out the year 2023, I am pleased to present the annual Chairman's Report for the Arabian Horse Society of Australia. As I also served as the Company Secretary for a part of this period, this report shall encompass the Secretary report.

Overview

This year has been a remarkable one for our society. Despite the challenges we faced, our commitment to preserving and promoting the Arabian horse breed in Australia remained unwavering. We have seen significant growth in new membership, and our events have attracted a diverse audience, demonstrating the increasing popularity of Arabian horses in our country.

Financial Status

The Society remains in a strong financial position, thanks to the support of our members and sponsors. Our prudent financial management has ensured that we have the resources to continue our work and plan for future initiatives. We have once again reported a profit in 2023. Full financial information can be found on our website, along with the 2023 Auditors report.

Office & Staff

Our office staff underwent changes with Lindy Stewart rejoining us on a casual basis, while Kelly Anscombe resigned from her position. We also welcomed Deborah Hui, our newest team member. The Board decided to use the firm 'Employsure' to handle issues that are HR related or any employee issues which may arise. Additionally, Employsure was engaged to assist us in meeting our WH&S and Risk obligations.

Member Engagement

In 2023, we focused on enhancing member engagement. With the establishment of the private Facebook group for our members only, we reach over 1.2K members. This platform has been instrumental in disseminating information to our members and

addressing their queries. We also focused on youth and non-pro development, and the versatile Arabian horse. Going forward, a promotions and publicity calendar and action plan will be in place to maximize our potential in this area.

Awards and Recognitions

The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd. recognises service and achievement by awarding prestigious awards such as Honorary Life Membership, Distinguished Service Awards, WAHO Trophy, Arabian Ambassador Award, Arabian Derivative Ambassador Awards, Lifetime Achievement Award, Arabian Endurance Horse of the Year, Arabian Racehorse of the Year, and Pony Club Horse of the Year. In 2023, we had the privilege of acknowledging the valuable support and outstanding achievements of individuals that have demonstrated exceptional service to the Australian Arabian Horse community. We also celebrated the achievements of our Arabian horses through the Australian Arabian National Championships opening ceremony.

Legal and Disciplinary Actions

We have a robust legal and disciplinary framework in place to handle any issues that may arise. We are committed to maintaining a fair and just environment for all our members.

Judges Organising Committee (JOC)

The JOC underwent a significant overhaul, including a name change and the implementation of a revised rule book and Judges contracts. This was a massive undertaking spearheaded by our AHSA Chief Examiner, Narelle Kinnear, and the entire JOC.

Promotion and Arabian Horse Lifestyle Magazine

We continued to promote the Arabian horse breed through various channels, including the Arabian Horse Lifestyle magazine. This bi-annual publication is distributed to all eligible members of the AHSA and is also available at newsagents throughout Australia. Additionally, we ran a series of advertisements in Horse Deals magazine, promoting the versatility of the Arabian Horse and the Australian Arabian National Championships.

Affiliates of the AHSA

We are proud of our strong affiliate base throughout Australia. These Affiliate Clubs play an important role in the growth of membership and the grassroots showing of Arabian Horses. Further planning is underway to engage better with Affiliates and to demonstrate the positives of Affiliation.

Youth Program

We are committed to providing a full Youth program and continued development. The Youth Championships were held in conjunction with and features at the Australian Arabian National Championships once again this year. The Arabian Horse Lifestyle also has a strong focus on youth.

Working With Children Check (WWCC)

From 1st October 2023, the AHSA requires all Judges, Officials (volunteers), Professional Handlers, Professional Riders and Professional Trainers over the age of 18, competing at any AHSA event or an AHSA Affiliated event, to carry a current 'Working with Children' card.

In New South Wales, the Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a requirement for anyone in paid or volunteer child-related work. The WWCC involves a National Police Check (criminal history record check) and a review of reportable workplace misconduct.

The specific legislation governing the WWCC in NSW is the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012. This Act outlines the restrictions on child-related work, mandatory requirements for child-related work, and the process for obtaining clearances.

In New South Wales, non-compliance with the Working with Children Check (WWCC) can lead to serious penalties. If an individual is found to be conducting 'child-related work' without a valid WWCC clearance, they may face a criminal conviction, a fine of up to \$11,000, and/or 2 years imprisonment under section 8 of the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 NSW.

The Society has now appointed a Child Protection Officer.

Horse Welfare

The welfare of horses remains one of our main objectives. We maintain regular communication with animal welfare groups such as RSPCA and Horse Rescue. We also implemented the Tactile Hair Rule, which is aimed at protecting the welfare of the horses by prohibiting the removal of tactile hair. The Society has now appointed a Horse Welfare Officer.

2023 Australian Arabian National Championships.

Our society successfully organized the 2023 Australian Arabian National Championships, which saw record participation. The quality of the horses presented was exceptional, reflecting the dedication of our breeders to maintaining the purity and excellence of the breed.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship plays a crucial role in supporting our show and industry. In 2023, we were fortunate to have several generous sponsors who helped make our events and initiatives possible. The show represents an opportunity for business owners to gain face-to-face exposure within the Arabian and general horse industry. We look forward to continuing these partnerships and welcoming new sponsors in 2024.

International Collaborations

At the heart of our mission is a deep respect for the purity of Arabian Horses in Australia. We believe in the power of collaboration and actively seek to establish relationships with societies that share our objectives. Our strategic partnership with We Love Arabian Horses in addition to communication with other registries and peak international bodies remain an essential as the world becomes a smaller place.

Social Media Ramifications & Policy

In the age of digital communication, it's important to remember that our words and actions online have real-world consequences. We have a social media policy in place to ensure respectful and responsible online behavior. We encourage all members to adhere to this policy and to remember that our shared passion for Arabian horses unites us.

Respect for Volunteers

Our society thrives on the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. It's important to remember to treat these individuals with the respect and gratitude they deserve. Their selfless contributions enable us to continue promoting the Arabian horse breed in Australia.

Polite and Respectful Communication

We encourage all members to communicate in a polite and respectful manner. Whether it's in person, over the phone, or online, let's remember to treat each other with kindness and respect.

Looking Ahead

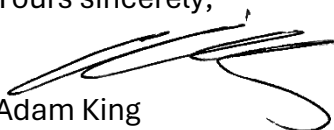
Looking forward to 2024, we aim to expand our reach and involve more horse enthusiasts in our activities. We will continue to advocate for the Arabian horse breed and provide our members with the support they need to succeed in their equestrian endeavors.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated committee members, volunteers, and staff for their hard work and commitment. I also want to thank our members for their continued support and enthusiasm for the Arabian horse breed.

In conclusion, while 2023 has been a challenging year, it has also been a year of growth and achievement for the Arabian Horse Society of Australia. I am confident that we will continue to build on our successes in the coming year. As I prepare to step down as Chairman, I am confident that the reins of the society are being handed over to capable hands. I look forward to seeing the continued growth and success of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia.

Yours sincerely,



Adam King

Chairman, Arabian Horse Society of Australia

For further information, please contact: chair@ahsa.asn.au