

## **Chair's Report for AGM.**

Writing a report like this is something that never in my wildest dreams would I ever have imagined. But, here we are.

I have only been in this position for a few months, and only because two very capable and suitable people both stepped down. (And, already, I might have some idea why !!!)

The AHSA Board has seen a few changes in recent months, with some directors coming and some going, all for various reasons, mostly personal/private. I am sure some members might have thought we were playing musical chairs at one stage !! Hopefully things will settle down now that we have had our elections and the new Board will take up the reins at the AGM.

In my brief time as Chair, the AHSA Board has weathered the stress and mild panic stations leading up to the Australian Arabian National Championships, the actual running of the AANC show, the after show work (all the stuff that nobody thinks about, but still has to be done), and started planning for our involvement with the 2026 Quilty, and making preliminary arrangements for the 2027 Aussies at Werribee. This is all on top of our "normal" day to day stuff.

We all need to take a moment to thank our wonderful staff at our office – Teresa, Juliet, Lindy and Adam. We are so blessed to have them. They all know their jobs inside out, and they know exactly what advice to give members on how to handle anything to do with registrations, transfers, breeding transactions, memberships, or anything else. So, when you are on the other end of the phone, or sending emails back and forth, please remember that they are human too, and a kind word never goes astray.

I am sure that the new board members will hit the ground running, and given a little bit of time to learn the ropes, will be very productive and will help all AHSA members in whatever way they can.

We also say farewell to a couple of board members, who have worked long and hard for the society, it's members, and their horses during their time as directors. I offer them my deepest thanks for their time, expertise, friendship and generosity.

It has been an honour to have been in this role, even if only for a short time, and I am extremely grateful for the trust and confidence that my fellow directors have given me.

**Yvonne Downes**

**May 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.**