



ACA Presidents Report

It seems very hard to describe the huge loss in the passing of Graeme Acton. An expected massive crowd gathered at Paradise Lagoons to farewell this great man. In true Acton family style the service was organised wonderfully with six grey horses walking freely in the camp and a line of top quality Santa Gertrudis cows and calves resting in the arena. Prime Minister Mr Tony Abbott along with the Queensland Premier Mr Campbell Newman were both in attendance and spoke fondly of their associations with Graeme. For these dignitaries along with many friends that had travelled enormous distances to be there was a true credit to the respect Graeme has achieved. Tom and Tori were both amazingly strong as they delivered the eulogy for their much loved dad. At the completion of the service a tribute fly over was conducted by the RACQ Capricorn Helicopter Rescue service. On behalf of the A.C.A. our thoughts are with Jennie and the Acton family at this very sad time.

The Nebo committee successfully hosted the A.C.A. National Finals in April. Congratulations must go to the committee on running a first class event also the terrific lines of cattle that were presented by Hughes Grazing and Wallace Cattle Company as well as the volunteers and neighbouring committees that did a fantastic job. Well done to all the horse and rider title winners who spend a great deal of time and money securing these valuable awards, a special mention to Pete Comiskey on winning the open rider for the 20th time. It was great to see our major sponsors attend this great event, we greatly appreciate their continued support. Unfortunately Anglestone Steel are unable to continue their sponsorship at this point in time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Russell Collins and Bill Reid for their support from Anglestone for a number of years and wish them well.

I would like to thank judges on their professionalism that I have witnessed recently, especially in relation to the blood rule. It has been clearly stated in the last two editions of the magazine how the NCCA rule reads and the judges are implementing this rule correctly. Whether we all agree on the current rule or not, judges are just following the rules like they have been asked to. I have had cattle donors thank the ACA for supporting the rule which can only be described as a positive move, with continuing pressure from outsiders on animal welfare issues I believe we need to be in front of the pack instead of tailing behind.

Thanks to all the members who have put their hand up to put something back into the sport and become a councillor on the Management Committee. We have an election in 2 zones and I encourage all members who receive a ballot form to take the time to fill these out so your zone will be well represented. The AGM date will be advised when it is confirmed.

Ian Atthow.
