



Dear Members,

It has been a very busy year once again in terms of both administering the sport as well as conducting the normal campdrafting activities that have to happen every year. We saw a delayed National Finals due to extreme wet weather at the start of the year which was then rescheduled to run just a few weeks ago at Kilkivan. I spoke at that time and commended the committee and I'll do so again now for both having the patience and perseverance to work towards the rescheduled event and to conduct one of the standard we saw. They had their hiccups in both rescheduling and in the running and I think the committee should be commended on behalf of the Management Committee and the members for managing to run a very successful finals given the challenges they faced.

We've managed to continue the strong relationship with our four Major Sponsors. Once again, to Ariat, Riverina, Top Country and Anglestone Steel I thank them, the company directors and owners, in some cases large corporate organisations in other cases small family owned businesses. I thank you as sponsors for your continued support financially and with product to ensure the professional administration of and the professional image that our organisation has fostered over the last forty years was continued over the previous twelve months.

At three successive Annual General Meetings I have raised that the Management Committee has been negotiating with the Queensland Government regarding the cost of ambulances. It is still a major work in progress, however we keep seeing goal posts shifted even under a new Government which promised so much. Up until recently we've been meeting with the previous Minister for the Ambulance, Jack Dempsey and head-way was being made on several fronts. However the Government has recently shifted the Ambulance portfolio to the Health Department, we now fall under a different minister and all that work must start again. I'm not a 100% confident that the outcome that a lot of us are looking for that is a complete reduction in the cost will be achieved. We will, I assume under the new executive and new leadership team, continue to ask for that, but I'm not convinced that it will be forthcoming. Some form of it may be but we will still be looking at a substantial cost in my opinion. Given the feedback that I and other Councillors have been receiving from members and committees in certain zones regarding (a) the desire to have ambulances and (b) the complaints regarding cost, I think the time has come for the Management Council to potentially consider some form of cost sharing arrangement from competitors and committees alike in ensuring that a substantial improvement in the First-Aid care is reached and maintained by committees in different areas. I realise that there's not a one size fits all policy for this, however in my opinion the time is now come for the Management Committee to consider other financial arrangements to what we currently have.

The other issue that has been raised at successive AGM and raised also in several conversations with members directly to me is the ability for our members to enter in and attend campdrafts on a regular basis. We see long waiting lists and drafts that are filled very quickly. Once again there is no silver bullet, the ACA has struggled manfully with this problem for twenty years. We've introduced a range of measures in our rule book, in our committee provisions to enable committees to restrict numbers of starts per horse, per rider, per venue and just about every other combination of the above. We still see in certain areas, and probably in most areas, drafts where members are unable to attend. It is something that the Management Committee is extremely conscious of and we would continue to welcome further input and constructive thought to attempt us to overcome this problem as we move forward. I caution that it won't happen this twelve months, it may not happen in the next two years but if we can arrive at a situation where more members can successfully compete at or enter at campdrafts we will have achieved something that we have been striving for, for quite some time.

Twelve months ago, the centre of our administration shifted to Roma. This process was handled in a reasonably expeditious manner and I commend both the previous staff and the current staff, although there was some crossover of staff members sorry, but I commend both staffs for the

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manner in which that was dealt with. The vast majority of the membership were unaware that the phone numbers had even changed, so I thank both staffs for the manner in which that was dealt. Due to the sale of our old office building, plans for the new office building needed to be resubmitted to the Maranoa Regional Council. This took an inordinate period of time and needed political intervention to ensure, finally we received. However after an extremely long-winded process, construction is under way and we expect to be fully moved in and established by Christmas.

The organisation's administration and management, I believe to be very strong. Indeed, as strong and as unified as I've seen it. It is important however, for members that are not on the MC to involve themselves in decisions that the Committee may be taking for the future. We do welcome positive, constructive criticism or comments that may in some way help improve our process rather than impede. It is imperative that the Management Committee receives support when difficult decisions are made or advice to the contrary.

Once again we've seen a transition of Presidents tonight without contest. I strongly endorse Ian, and my fellow Vice Presidents elect as a very, very positive team to take this organisation forward for the near future. Whilst the names on the paper may change and the photo in the front of the magazine may change, the ethos and management energy that we've seen, I feel can only improve. As this is my last report to the Management Committee I'd like to thank the members for the opportunity to serve as your President for four years. It has been an honour and a privilege. I see it more as a transition as a business now rather than a commitment and for that matter, I always indicated that four years would be the extent of my term and I hope that the members would respect that. I'd also like to very quickly thank the team at home that have made sure that four years has not sent us completely broke and that we have still got somewhere to live, so I thank them very much. I also neglected to mention one group that I thanked in detail yesterday and that's the Management Committee. We've had a very good, very positive long time on Council, there are a number of Chairmen of relevant sub committees who've done a lot to help and there's two very dedicated Secretaries that have served in the term that I've been there are President. So to Robyn Paine and Dianne Winters I thank you very much. To the people who've served as Vice Presidents, Stewart Wallace, Alan Heading, Nicholas Markwell, Ian Atthow and Michael Hayes, I thank you. And to the Chairmen of very important sub committees that I would not have been able to do the job without, Peter Petty, Rod Carpenter, Evan Acton, Trader Wilson, Paul McKey and Geoff McCartney, I thank those people very much because it is not one person. This has been a group effort and I think that the size and the scale of our organisation will necessitate a renewed group effort as we move forward.

Sean Dillon

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