



It is a great privilege for me to become the 8th President of the ACA. I understand the unique tradition of this Council, whereby no ballot has been required to elect the position of President. But then again, there is nothing like campdrafting anywhere in the world.

I would like to congratulate Ian Atthow on his dedicated efforts over the last 4 years. I would also like to mention his lovely wife, Donna, and sons Jack, Dan and Hugh for the sacrifices they have made during this period and wish you all the best for the future.

Last week when I headed out for Condamine, I decided to stay at Springsure for the night to spilt the trip up. The next morning, when I drove out through Woodbine Street, it reminded me of growing up, knowing that it was ACA headquarters under our longest serving Secretary, June Lingard. About five hours later, I am in the ACA office in Roma sitting in on a staff meeting, headed by our Operations Manager, Gabrielle Franklin. When I look around here and see the goosenecks, trailers, big trucks and quality horses, it makes you think how far campdrafting has advanced. I know the sacrifices so many people have made in this journey of ups and downs, but you can't deny that the ACA has moved with the times.

In 2014, a Strategic Review of the ACA was made. Although frustrating at times, we as a Council are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel, as we strive to have the new computer system called Campdraft One operating next year. A lot of the matters, like more information and recognition for Judges, dealing with waiting lists and giving more information for Committees will be available. I urge all Councilors to continue working with Committees on matters as they arise. The ladies in the ACA office are always ready to help as well. The greatest strength in anything is when we all pull together.

During my travels, I heard a song the other day that I feel is relevant here tonight called 'Why Me Lord'. There are two reasons why I stand here. One is the enjoyment and challenges that this sport has thrown at me, and the second reason is the people within the sport that have inspired me. At the Nebo Finals in 2014, Michael Hayes asked me if I would be Chairman of the Judges Sub Committee and I said, 'I'll give it a go'. Later that night at the Presentation Dinner, I found myself having a rum with the late Graham Action and his brother, Evan. I turned to Big G and asked 'What does it take to be a good leader?'. He replied after a little thought, 'you would go alright Hugh'; so I hope I do.

I would like to thank my wife Sherri for holding the fort at home as she understands more than anyone what this means to me. I look forward to working with Gab and the ladies in the office. Can I also thank Ian, Sean, Stephen, Greg and the Management Council for their support. It really is a team effort!

Hugh Philp
ACA President
