

President's Annual Report to NSW Branch

17th June 2017

Welcome Delegates and members to our 2017 AGM and June General State Branch Meeting, we have a lot to get through today so I shall try to keep my ramblings as short as possible. As a state we are still facing the perplexing issue of numbers at the many events, although this seems to be mainly at CDE'S and not at Pleasure and Endurance driving, the numbers at these events seem to be positive with maybe an increase in junior drivers. This of course is good news for carriage driving but the question that remains is, why are participation levels stagnant in the other disciplines? I believe this to be a complex question with no easy answers, although in my opinion there are ways of adjusting the imbalance. We must always keep in mind that we are a society of enthusiasts and members freely give up their valuable time so we can all enjoy our sport as shown here today with so many of you making the trip to Bathurst.

Many Clubs are staging imaginative events to attract new members, and these are producing positive results. I must say as President I have been heartened by clubs trying something new. Just recently The Southern Highlands Club staged a weekend introducing the new concept in N.S.W of an Indoor Event held outdoors using the rules introduced by the Victorian branch. An enormous amount of work and planning made this an outstanding two days of friendship and driving and a huge effort by our C.D.E convenor Tracy Ellis who arranged for Phillip Marshall to attend and oversee the weekend to start us off on the correct way to run the event in the future. I am sure there are a lot of potential members out there and events such as this which can be run in one day and leave drivers with ample time to get home will be the way forward.

In the meantime maintaining a high profile in our local communities also attracts spectators and the occasional new member. This was evident to me when I had the pleasure of attending the state Driven Dressage Championships at Manilla in north western N.S.W. A superbly run and organised event on a wonderful show ground supported by incredible publicity and the local state member of parliament who promised to support funding for much needed dressage letters, cones and numbers, support from the town was overwhelming and a large number of spectators were entertained watching the cones.

Congratulations to the Tamworth club for running a super weekend. I certainly enjoyed myself.

The willingness of Clubs to stage events leads to a fairly busy calendar. Our system for coordinating events seems to be working well, although some Clubs tend to do their own thing. Once again I would ask Clubs to maintain their liaison with the Calendar Coordinator, and avoid scheduling activities which clash with important events such as State and National Championships, State Branch meetings, and the annual Federal Conference and AGM and to leave at least one week clear between events especially in the southern half of the state. The calendar coordinator's job is not as easy as you may think and it is definitely not a police roll. With the proposal of running state coordinated indoor/outdoor events and maybe a state championship the calendar will become rather busy, to this end I am proposing a meeting of

Club Presidents, Discipline co-ordinators and the Calendar co-ordinator to a meeting to thrash out an orderly calendar working around certain fixed dates.

Without insurance protection the ACDS cannot function as a not for profit sporting organisation. Insurance cover remains a significant proportion of our annual membership cost and to prevent further increases in premiums it is our responsibility to minimise our risks. Apart from carrying out a risk assessment for all events, something all Clubs should do, reporting of incidents is a further demonstration that we are serious about safety. Incident reports to the Federal Secretary are sanitised, to remove the when, where and who, and provided to all members for their educational benefit. With knowledge of others incidents, we become aware of potential risks we might not have considered, and hence can take measures to reduce them in our driving activities. I have been advised that the A.C.D.S INSURANCE POLICY WILL BE INCREASED BY 10 percent this year and not the forecast 20 percent

Congratulations to those who will be formally recognised for their achievements in different driving disciplines, and to all the others who contribute so much to our sport. We could not survive without the help of grooms, officials, cooks and bottle washers etc.

In the immediate future the Federal Conference and AGM will be held at Sovereign Hill at Ballarat on 23rd to 25th June. Sovereign Hill was chosen as a venue to try for a different approach to what can be a long drawn out process hoping members would take the time with their partners to attend and enjoy a short break at an interesting spot whilst attending the A.GM

I hope to see many New South Wales faces there.

I cannot close without thanking the State Executive for the continuous support they have shown me in this my first year as President and our secretary Amanda who is driven insane by me on a regular basis. Also to you the members of New South Wales for your generosity and support in making our state the place for carriage driving in Australia.

Col Frost

June 2017