

ACA AGM Presidents Report

Members, it is with pleasure that I present to you my seventh AGM report in the ACA's 36th year. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to continue to lead this sporting association into a strong financial position with a vibrant, enthusiastic membership, large committee base along with an experienced and dedicated management team. I am proud to report that the association has had another positive year financially, this is explained fully in the auditor's report. The position the association enjoys today is a culmination of many years of formulating and maintaining simple fundamental principles which have kept the sport affordable from an administration perspective and we haven't inundated ourselves with rules and regulations. While ever these principles are aspired to by our management team then our association will remain strong and viable.

There are a number of people I need to formally acknowledge for their outstanding dedication and commitment throughout the year firstly to Robyn Paine our secretary – treasurer who has endured a tremendous workload with EI, preparation and travel for EI meetings, compiling submissions generally at the eleventh hour, the ACA Magazine, ACA meetings, liaising with our Major sponsors, preparing for the National Finals and Sponsors Dinner, administering over 260 committees and 8000 members, collating horse and rider points that have to be kept correct and up to date, plus the general day to day work at the office. The bible of the ACA, the magazine, is a credit to Robyn and Patrice Elliot, it keeps us informed and up to date with ACA campdrafts, happenings and advertising around Australia. I can only thank Robyn for her commitment and determination to have everything done to her high level of excellence. Thank you also to all the office staff who work with and support Robyn in the background.

I would like to commend members and committees for their patience and commitment to work through the EI crisis. The position the ACA took initially to cancel events in Qld and NSW proved beyond doubt the right course of action and ultimately the only sensible action which was implemented by the authorities to help combat and eradicate the disease. Despite EI and the ever increasing fuel prices most campdraft committees are enjoying record nominations, a trend not all equine organizations are enjoying.

The challenge EI presented to us was fairly daunting as the authorities were learning as they went however I would like to congratulate them on achieving what was thought to be impossible which was eradicating EI. Many meetings were attended in Brisbane by Robyn and myself during this time in an endeavour to ensure our committees and members received fair treatment. The challenge however is much greater Post EI with the threat of levies and horse identification being imposed upon horse owners. This little publicized issue is being deliberately conducted in an extremely undemocratic way by a handful of impractical people who at the moment control the horse industry in Australia. The ACA has exposed this situation for what it is to our members, horse owners in general and parliamentarians. We will continue to work to oppose potentially crippling levies and regulations upon not only

our members but all horse owners some who of which are not represented by any organization or association. Thank you to the large number of members who have openly shown support on this issue. Harvey Walters, Wayne Hingst, Sean Dillon, Max Batterham and myself have attended a number of meetings in Brisbane, Sydney, Canberra, Tamworth and Gatton in relation to post EI regulation, to Harvey, Wayne, Sean and Max thank you for your endurance and determination to stand up for what is right for the majority of horse owners. It has turned out to be a big undertaking however the campdrafting fraternity has gained respect and recognition from other equine peer groups on this issue and hopefully a practical and sensible outcome can be eventually achieved.

Thank you to our Major Sponsors who never lost faith during EI, even though they also felt the pain of EI. The major sponsor concept was born in 1999 at the Hughenden National Finals, little has changed since then with regards to their strong commitment, this is something we don't take for granted and is acknowledged every second year in the form of a sponsor's dinner in Brisbane where presentations of appreciation are made and commitments are rekindled by both parties.

Committees have also been under pressure with NLIS, the uncertainty of EI, fuel prices affecting not only potential competitor numbers but freight on cattle to and from campdrafts. I cannot praise committees enough for making the effort to run an event under these conditions because one of the rewards I see is the increasing number of young people who are enjoying the sport. It is vitally important for communities to have social events for the rural youth which have many and far reaching benefits.

The National Finals are a hectic time and require careful planning most of which is done by the host committee and Robyn, Capella was a credit to all involved and portrayed what a National Finals is about which is a competition for championships and titles to be decided by fierce competition plus a celebration of the year's campdrafting by competitors from near and far. Paradise Lagoons campdraft has been recently enjoyed by a record number of competitors from all around Australia. This campdraft is a credit not only to the Acton family but to all involved, it is truly a showcase for campdrafting.

To Evan Acton I offer my sincere thanks for his contribution to campdrafting and the ACA he has served for 12 years as a member of the management committee and executive, due to business commitments he has stood down as vice president however he will continue to represent the Northern Zone as a councillor. The ACA is fortunate to have a strong management team with a variety of business and corporate expertise and Evan has certainly offered at all times a balanced view with these qualities and experience. His dedication is exemplary as he has rarely missed a meeting and has longer distances than most to travel.

I hope all members continue to enjoy the sport unfortunately not everyone can win however participation can be reward in itself especially with family. I thank you for entrusting me with the job of leading the association which has been an honour for the last

seven years. Thank you to Robyn for your strong and unequivocal support and also to the vice-presidents who I rely on to share the workload at times plus all the councillors around Australia who volunteered to put some of their time and efforts back into the sport.

Safe Campdrafting.

Noel Chiconi

ACA President