

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At this time we see campdraft events take a break for the festive season though not for long. It has been gratifying to see campdrafting enjoy progressive growth for many years despite distractions like public liability insurance, compulsory membership, fuel prices, NLIS, EI, etc. It is especially pleasing to see so many young people enjoying the sport however the issue of how committees can fairly deal with the acceptance of large numbers of nominations prior to their event has been and still is a problem for committees and the ACA alike.

Some campdrafts are experiencing unacceptably large numbers of scratching's, competitors are reminded to be considerate and allow adequate notice if you intend to scratch. More on this issue elsewhere, see: Committees acceptance of Campdraft Nominations.

At the time of writing this report the Horse Disease Response Levy Bill is still being considered by the Senate Standing Committee. The ACA continue to work towards a fair outcome for our members on this issue. The National Campdraft Council of Australia did not meet at Warwick this year, it is envisaged that this meeting will be held in NSW at a time after the Standing Senate Committee makes an announcement regarding the Levy Bill.

This year the Triple Crown was given a serious shake by Ben Hall on Lex, winner of the Condamine Bell, Chinchilla Grandfather Clock and the combination reached the final of the Warwick Gold Cup, what a tremendous effort over three completely different drafts and a broad range of cattle.

The ACA have received a number of letters from committees regarding the attendance of ambulance's at their events. The cost associated with having an ambulance in attendance at an event is reaching a stage where it is becoming prohibitive. It is hard to understand why a community event that is run by volunteers is charged to have the ambulance on standby whereas the events such as Schoolies Week at the Gold Coast that has a track record of unprecedented crime and miss-conduct is given all the resources (police, ambulance, etc,) without question at no cost, there is a cost however to the broader community as resources are requisitioned from outlying areas at taxpayers' expense while leaving these outlying areas under resourced for an extended period. I have met and will meet again with the Department of Emergency Services to seek a reasonable and practical resolution to the situation effecting ACA committees.

Merry Christmas to all members.

Noel Chiconi

President.