

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello to all members, what a contrast there is to the seasons, north Queensland is experiencing one of its best ever with record rains and the south with one of the worst ever with some of the lowest records. Other states are experiencing similar situations, however in all areas committees are doing their best to hold their drafts with cattle that are available. With the need to restrict numbers at drafts for whatever reason some committees are having difficulty understanding the terms for restricting competitor numbers, outlined (more clearly than previously) in the magazine are the acceptable options to restrict numbers at campdrafts without jeopardising the affiliation of that draft. The cattle donors in all cases especially those in dry areas need to be commended for their generosity to satisfy our sporting pleasure.

The last couple of months have been very busy from an administration point of view. Robyn, myself and some other councillors have been to Brisbane to meet personally with various people and government bodies to discuss a range of topics,

1. A meeting was held with the QDPI to finalize the funding proposal for NLIS infrastructure and rebates for readers to scan cattle at campdrafts. By now all committees in Queensland would have received a letter from QDPI outlining the funding guidelines. We have worked closely with the QDPI in an effort to reach a reasonable outcome on this matter. There are strict timelines with regards to applications and closure to this project so I strongly urge any committee that has a requirement for NLIS infrastructure or scanning equipment funding to address it as soon as possible as there is a deadline in which to apply and then have the infrastructure in place.
2. A meeting was held with the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to resolve new constitutional requirements that have been legislated by government. These new requirements have held up the progress of the Junior Membership resolution that was passed at the Weengallon meeting. As it stands the OFT will address the Junior Membership resolution after we agree to implement mandatory legislated constitutional requirements, this is to be done at the next meeting at Springsure.
3. Investigate a computerized membership processing program that will best suit our association's needs for now and the future, we are still considering options.
4. A meeting was held with the Assistant Commissioner for Emergency Services to discuss ambulances at campdrafts. There is a separate report on this meeting further on in the magazine.
5. We met with available major sponsors (3 of 5) at an informal evening meal to catch up on the past 12 months and inform them of the next 12 months i.e. National Finals etc.

The trip to Brisbane proved to be a beneficial exercise through meeting with people face to face as outcomes were reached that would never have been achieved over the telephone.

At the Committee Forum at Inverell the NSW DPI gave an indication that funding would be available for race readers but that has now been withdrawn in lieu of the Pastoral Protection Boards making available readers to be used at campdrafts. This seems to be an unacceptable proposal so lobbying is in progress to reach a more acceptable solution.

The Annual General Meeting sees the Management Committee with five new faces Max Batterham, Geoff Beard, Blake Finlayson from New South Wales and Drew Stevenson from North Queensland. I personally welcome these people to the ACA council and I am sure they will have plenty to offer. I would also like to thank retiring councillors Dave Roberts and Peter Daly for their time on council. It is appropriate that I touch a little on councillors and the role they play within the association. A position on the management committee has required a certain level of commitment some choose to give a greater commitment than others; it is not unreasonable for members whom councillors are representing to expect that they are in fact being represented, also meaningful contribution must be forthcoming for productive and positive meetings to keep this association strong as we accommodate substantial growth.

I acknowledge and appreciate everyone who has had the intestinal fortitude to stand for council and be part of a team that is integral to the future of the sport, and at times having to make some hard and unpopular decisions. It is generally expected that councillors make an effort to attend meetings reasonably regularly, help committees when required, have a thorough understanding of ACA rules, alleviate any potential problems, support judges when required, help with members enquiries, be part of a progressive decision making team. Mature and balanced leadership with younger people becoming involved in astute and unselfish management is a goal that will ensure strength and longevity for the ACA.

'Keep it Practical'

Happy Campdrafting.

Noel Chiconi – ACA President.