

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the time of writing Northern Australia has received some of the best rain seen in years, while other areas are still waiting, certainly the land of extremes.

We look forward to the ACA National Finals being hosted by Dalby, as with each National Finals there is an enormous amount of planning and preparation. Quite a number of the titles are on a knife edge at the moment and again it appears a number of the titles will be decided at the National Finals. We look forward to a great few days of drafting that are looked upon by most people especially those who travel long distances as special cumulating with the Presentation Dinner to honor the Champions and placegetters of the highly sort after titles. Blackall has been given the honour to host the 2010 ACA National Finals, thank you to many committees who applied to host the National Finals, we only pick one however I would encourage these and other committees to reapply for future consideration.

Each magazine for the last twelve months has contained some editorial regarding EADRA, Levy Collection Bills and micro chipping of horses. The Levy Collection Bills have become before Parliament and were voted down in the Senate. This is a goal we have been working towards for twelve months, after a lot of hard work, numerous meetings and intense lobbying finally the outcome has been achieved that will not see the compulsory micro chipping of all horses in Australia and associated costs and levies that would go with it.

The AHIC (Australian Horse Industry Council) have portrayed this defeat of the Levy Collection Bills by the Senate as a disaster even though it has been pointed out that the EADRA (Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement) is totally unworkable and unjust in the extreme. I have explained previously that the ACA had resigned from the AHIC purely because by being a member we were in fact endorsing the dis-functional and undemocratic representation of horse owners in Australia however in the last few days the AHIC has undertaken to reactivate the Industry Advisory Committee and are at last receptive to ideas for a more democratic format.

Unfortunately a similar scenario has carried over to the Queensland Horse Council which we were not only a member of but had two representatives (Harvey Walters and Wayne Hingst) on the board. The QHC was recently reborn with a new constitution and board structure etc, with the primary goal of proper and effectual representation of horse owners in Qld to relevant authorities when and where necessary however this group became consumed by self interest and extreme pettiness and has become irrelevant as a respected and effective organization representative of Qld horse owners so as a result our two board members resigned. The ACA have on a number of occasions made direct representation to State and Federal authorities ensuring that the right message is being given on our members behalf, this has achieved desired success and more importantly credibility for regional horse owners.

I would like to thank the people who have responded to the 'Notice of Motion' regarding Mini Campdrafts; I hope that as many or more responded for our call to contact the AHIC and Parliamentarians opposing EADRA and the Levy Collection Bills. The Mini Drafts have been the subject of discussion for council over many years, there is nothing sudden or new about it except it has come to a head mainly because of constitutional requirements regards whether the ACA recognizes that age group and if so the application of compulsory competitor membership which is tied in with the Public Liability aspect. It has been brought to the attention of council over the years of over mounted children by irresponsible parents not only in Mini drafts but Junior and Juvenile drafts as well. Not all areas of Australia have mini drafts and the reasons are varied, those that do have expressed that they wish to keep them and council has voted accordingly.

That wish has now been recorded along with the due process involved so if in the future and 'god forbid' it ever happens that an incident, fatal or otherwise occurs then investigation will find the ACA have seriously and adequately addressed the situation. The ACA reluctantly entertain the idea of 'what if' situations however such young and innocent lives are all close to our hearts and preservation of those lives are at the forefront of our minds. The 'future' of campdrafting certainly doesn't hinge on Mini drafts as some larger areas of Australia simply don't have them and campdrafting is flourishing there just as well as anywhere else and will continue to do so.

The ACA together with the NCCA are the custodians of the sport of Campdrafting however the responsibility of the future continued recognition of Mini Campdrafts now clearly lays with committees and parents. The ACA as a governing body offers educational Starter Clinics for the purpose of enhancing safety, basic skills and gaining an understanding of competition rules. The council is mindful of the limited social activities children in regional Australia have exposure to however I would implore that those committees that wish to include Mini Campdrafts in the program do so with due care.

The ACA Constitution has been revised and updated recently and was adopted in principle by council and now it goes before a General Meeting of members on the 8th April to be officially adopted. The Constitution is available on the website for viewing, the fundamentals haven't changed.

The membership fees have been reconsidered and a modest increase of five dollars per full adult member was endorsed. This increase will apply throughout the membership structure by way of pro-rata ratio. This is set out further in the magazine. The council is mindful of keeping campdraft fees and membership fees to a minimum however with increased membership comes increased workload in the office therefore more staff etc. Even with member and committee information being posted in the magazine and website there is still a large demand of office time and resources to attend to these needs. Other influences such as the Levy Collection Bills that encompass EADRA and micro chipping of horses has been a tax on our resources and will possibly continue to be so, so relentless defensive action in

this area is constantly required. The cost of membership has not increased for two years and unless something unforeseen happens this increase will sustain financial requirements for the forthcoming couple of years.

Recently an ACA Management Committee was held in Roma with unprecedented attendance. Thank you to those people for their effort in attending this meeting, some were faced with the challenge of flood waters etc which didn't deter them.

Happy and Safe Campdrafting to all.

ACA President.

Noel Chiconi.