



The Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc.

ABN 28 794 114 302 – Incorp. No. AO1028

2020 FEDERAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Members

I am writing this report for the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc.

This year's Annual General Meeting is different as we have had to adapt to changes as a result of COVID-19 which still affects our lifestyle and in some States our ability to enjoy our sport.

Please read the covering letter that was mailed to you with the other documents for the Annual General Meeting. A copy is also on the website.

When I look back over the time since our last Annual General Meeting, it seems to have been dominated by COVID-19 considerations. Prior to the outbreak of the pandemic, members were out in force driving and many competitions around Australia.

Unfortunately earlier this year, with the onset of COVID-19, Federal Council had to make the difficult but necessary decision to stand down all driving activities around Australia. As I advised at the time, our decision was based on the advice and actions of Federal and State governments and Health advisors. As COVID-19 gradually came under control, we were able to ease restrictions and then finally hand back management of the driving activities in the coronavirus environment to the State Branches. Federal Council published guidelines for the return to driving and these are still in force. It appears that these will still be in force for some time so I urge members to make themselves familiar with those guidelines, if they have not already done so, to ensure we can still enjoy our sport.

The 2020 year will not see any National Championships – Federal Council in conjunction with the organising committee's had to cancel the championships due to COVID-19 as the restrictions imposed by governments meant the organising committee's could not properly plan in the times of uncertainty. For the same reasons, we have not had a Federal Conference this year. Finally, Federal Council also took the decision to postpone the 50th anniversary festival of driving at Longwood to Easter 2022.

Recently, the ACDS renewed its insurance. This was a long process this year as insurance companies were more focussed on risk as a result of COVID-19 and also the wording they required in the insurance contracts. The agreement of the wording took a long time to agree. There is an explanation of the insurance policies and some changes to the public liability 24/7 extension policy on the Federal website if you require further information on them. The ACDS did receive a one off reduction in the public liability policy as result of the non-driving period and there was only a minimal change in insurance premiums on the other policies. We expect that the premium on the public liability policy will revert to the cost pre-COVID-19 times however this will be determined when we know the full effects that coronavirus have played on driving during the 2020-2021 year. Our ability to renew insurance at affordable premiums is a product of our good risk management processes that have been introduced over many years. Whilst Federal Council is aware that organising committees and competitors are sometimes concerned with the number of rules they need to comply with, it is all for a good reason, to

ensure members and volunteers safety thus maintaining insurance premiums at affordable levels.

During the last 15 months, Federal Council has continued to work for the benefit of you, the members. We have had to change the way we meet as Council adapts to COVID-19 restrictions. We are now utilising Zoom for meetings and when the coronavirus pandemic commenced to have an effect on driving, Federal Council met fortnightly to firstly consider our response and then after that, to monitor the ongoing affects on driving. Federal Council are now meeting monthly, which has been productive as Council can deal with matters on a more timely basis. As we look at the costs of Federal Council meetings, we have decided to use technology to meet rather than meet in person. There will still be some face to face meetings when necessary.

Over the past 15 months, Federal Council has introduced a Concussion Policy in response to announcements from Sport Australia and other associated bodies. Whilst we have published the policy on our website, Facebook page and in the journal, we ask all members to ensure they are familiar with the policy and adhere to it.

Members may be aware that Federal Council had made application to Sports Australia for recognition as a National Sporting Organisation – unfortunately this was not successful. One of the reasons for the application is that recognition as a National Sporting Organisation would have meant that we had access to more government sports grants.

The ACDS organised driving clinics in several States with Mareike Harm, a German four-in-hand driver and coach. These clinics were well received and members were looking forward to further clinics with Mareike. Unfortunately coronavirus has resulted in a planned visit in 2021 being cancelled but once Australia opens its borders once again, we will invite Mareike back.

The training of our officials has continued and considerable time has been spent on planning the role out of training that can take place using technology. There are 4 CDE Officials clinics to be run in Western Australia using Zoom technology for the first time. A further clinic is also being planned for Queensland. This will allow us to consider whether this form of training will be suitable. There are obvious benefits to using the technology – training can occur on a more timely and regular basis and is cost efficient to the ACDS and therefore members when compared to the cost of sending presenters to each State.

I have mentioned previously that Australia brings challenges to members, not just in society but the effect it has on us as individuals and as drivers. This year we felt the effects of the savage bushfires over summer followed on by COVID-19, so it has been a trying time. We will all come out stronger at the other end so please do not forget your fellow members, friends and Australians as we all need support to move forward.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank a number of people who have worked tirelessly over the last 12 months. My fellow Executive and Council delegates, our discipline conveners and co-coordinators have worked for all members over the past twelve months and spent a considerable amount of time in their relative roles.



PETER LEE
Federal President