



# The Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc.

ABN 28 794 114 302 – Incorp. No. AO1028

## 2021 FEDERAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Members

I am writing this report for the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc.

This year's Annual General Meeting is once again different as we have moved to a technology-based meeting with the assistance of Vero Voting.

The meeting this year contains resolutions to amend the Rules for a number of important matters which include the ability to hold meetings electronically using technology. The law in the ACT under which we are holding this year's meeting expires in October 2021, so we need to insert the relevant clauses into our Rules.

Over the last twelve months, we have been able to engage members more than we have in the past through the use of technology and this is obviously a way of the future. At the time of writing, 93 members have indicated that they will be attending the virtual Annual General Meeting which is an approximate 80% increase in the number that have attended the in-person meeting over the past few years.

When I look back over the time since our last Annual General Meeting, once again the Society has been dominated by COVID-19 considerations and this has continued to influence the driving activities of members. The degree of the effect depends which State members reside in, but all States have been affected to some extent.

At the end of May 2021, the ACDS renewed its insurance. Premiums remained similar to the prior year. 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 have met on 18 occasions over the past year.

In late 2020, Federal Council commenced the review and update of our strategic plan for the next 5 years. Our Federal Vice President has taken the leadership on this task and has coordinated meetings with members around Australia, either herself or through committees in each State. A significant amount of feedback has been received and this will enable council to prepare the survey for all members to obtain final input into the strategic plan.

Obviously with the COVID pandemic, Federal Council was not able to organise an international instructor over the past 12 months. Hopefully once international borders open without the requirement to quarantine, Council will be able to attract coaches to Australia.

The training of our officials has continued and considerable time has been spent on planning the roll out of training that can take place using technology. There have been a number of CDE Officials clinics run using Zoom technology over the past 12 months and has seen members from almost every State attend. In addition, the President of the Ground Jury and Ground Jury Members training has moved to using Zoom technology and these clinics have been well received also. The presentation for reaccreditation of Dressage Judges training is being amended so that can move to on-line and is almost completed so will be able to be rolled out shortly. The next task for the Training and Schools Committee is the presentation for the Show Driving Judges Clinics which will be prepared in conjunction with the Federal Show Driving Convenor.

From a financial perspective, the ACDS has a strong financial position. Whilst we were not in a position last year to change our fee structure, we have used members money to invest back into junior development, training of officials and sent funds back to each State to use for the benefit of members. It was Councils' desire that the funds we did return to each state be used for coaching of members however we do recognise that not all members wish to have coaching, so we have left the use of those funds up to each State.

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.

I hand over the presidency tonight to Dot Willcoxson and wish her all the best in the role. Please support Dot in her role as President.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Lee', written in a cursive style.

PETER LEE  
Federal President