

**AUSTRALIAN CARRIAGE DRIVING SOCIETY INC.**

**2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

It is customary to express thanks at the end of annual reports however this year I'm doing the opposite. I have been very fortunate to have had a very supportive Federal Council and Executive and especially Tom Dowling as Federal Secretary. Tom has put so much time and effort into ensuring the ACDS governance is correct and without his support, my job as Federal President would have been so much more difficult.

Kate Wholagan, our outgoing Vice President, has been an outstanding member of the Federal Executive for the last five years. She has been the voice of reason on quite a few occasions and we will miss her contributions. Thank you very much Kate, you will be missed.

The ACDS has renewed our insurance policies for 2022-23 which cover four categories – public liability (24/7), personal accident, travel for members on official ACDS activities and association liability. Unfortunately, there has been an increase in the premium due to the heavy demand on the general insurance market and standard increases.

This past year has had a variety of driving activities – shows, enduros, combined driving, pleasure drives, dressage – and although a number have had to be cancelled or postponed due to the floods, members were treated to some well organised and enjoyable activities. A very big thank you to the clubs and members involved.

Fortunately, various State show driving, dressage and combined driving championships were able to be held and were spared the ravages of Covid, floods and soaked club grounds.

It's great to see that enduros, combined with pleasure drives, are now being held in many States. While they take quite an effort to organise, the attendance at these events is growing each year and I'm sure they will get better and better. I have yet to hear of any complaints!

Workshops for dressage judges and CDE officials are continuing via Zoom although some face-to-face workshops are starting to be held. Thank you to the members who facilitate these workshops.

While volunteers to assist with events and activities are sometimes hard to find, many clubs are building up a reliable base for their events. It will take time, but the effort is worth it. Some of our members also work on improving aspects of the ACDS and by getting together to discuss ideas and to follow through, our sport will continue in the growth mode.

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bridle rosettes were exceptionally well received, and I would like to thank Bernadette Lewis for the idea, Lyn Callaghan for the design and our dedicated volunteers who packaged them up beautifully for mailing under the watchful eye of Lyn. Thank you very much everyone.

Many thanks to the Federal Discipline Convenors who have done a great job this past year and by coordinating with their State Panels, progress has been made in each discipline. Our Training Committee is continuing to develop packages that enable members to participate in any of the workshops whether you are an official or not. Thank goodness for Zoom!

Thank you to all members for their support over the last year and I look forward to leading a better and brighter 2022-23.



Dot Willcoxson

President