

NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It has been interesting and very demanding year since I took over the Chairperson's role in September 2015 after the resignation of Chairperson Sally George. Treasurer Michelle Labahn and Director, Annie Coxon both from Victoria, also resigned at that time. Company Secretary, Margaret Fricker from South Australia, resigned in March 2016.

It took months of hard work by the office and remaining Directors just to address banking details.

Over the past nine months the office and the Board have worked on changes to office management, Board roles and streamlining of services in many areas. The office now has banking details for all states. ATO and BAS statements are managed by one accountant, Jean Jones, with help from the office. States will be required to notify the office of their financial accounts every three months, making the accounts and the overall audit a lot easier and cheaper to collate.

Christine Gibbons, an Accountant from South Australia, has been appointed Honorary Treasurer and Cathy Rae from Victoria accepted the Company Secretary's position.

Registrations are down and membership slightly down with Junior Membership very low. I see the need to look at this membership area. Many children are competing in Interschool, Pony Club, Dressage, Eventing and Show Jumping and are not members or their ponies are not registered. I really feel the top end of our showing is fully supported with sponsorship and we need to look at where we can gain members. The Board needs to look outside of the box if we hope to increase our membership.

Membership has been changed slightly for this coming year with only two participants able to be attached to a person's membership. Family membership will be catered for as normal. Some members are attaching professional riders and handlers to their membership and we are missing out in the membership area.

I also believe that we are a breed society and we need to provide some incentive for breeders.

Rebates were reduced to \$16.50 for the full year. States also received a payment from the Board to help with costs for their state shows.

Thanks to the office and all those Board members whom I have mentioned, those who are current and those who resigned in the year. Thanks for all of your efforts. Welcome to the new Board for 2016/2017.

This is my last report to the Society's members. I have had many happy moments, especially with the first trip to the UK with 14 riders competing in Dressage. A number of these riders have now returned to the UK to further their interests and I am still in touch with a number of them. I have made many lasting friends also. Members of the Society must remember that the Board members are volunteers and spend so much of their time on matters for the Society often with no thanks and at the end of the day get burnt out. It has been a very interesting experience. Many thanks.

Chairperson
Robyn Vale