



## RPSBS LTD. DIRECTOR REPORT TO SA STATE ANNUAL MEETING 2020

A special thank you from the RPSBS directors to the South Australian committee members for re-establishing the RPSBS Ltd. South Australian committee last September and your efforts on behalf of the members of our Society. State committees, through the events they organise, provide the reason for so many competitors retaining their RPSBS membership.

2020 is one of the most challenging years for Australians and for our Riding Pony members. The most severe drought, the most severe bush fires and now the most severe pandemic combine to pose enormous challenges for the Society and our members.

COVID-19 has instantly transformed our lives and we all have had to rapidly adjust to a new reality. Adaptation and innovation will be essential for our Society. The Board of Directors met on April 1 successfully using video conferencing for the first time. A RPSBS National Foal show and children's colouring competition are being held online and the 2020 Annual General Meeting will be conducted online.

Due to social distancing regulations, for 2020 all RPSBS Ltd. State Annual Meetings have been replaced with an online reporting system. Audited financials, Chair, Director and Treasurer reports and 2019 State Annual Meeting minutes are being posted on the states' web sites together with the names of newly elected committee members.

Changes in Board Directors during the 2019 – 2020 year were Kathryn Thomas replaced Eileen Morris as the Director elected by the WA Committee, Dr. Andrew Hunt replaced Alyson Emery as the Director elected by the SA Committee and Sandra James replaced Ashley Cooper NSW upon his resignation. Debra Watson, a past Arabian Horse Society Treasurer, has taken on the dual role as Company Secretary and Treasurer. Teresa Edwards has taken on the role of Board minute secretary replacing Helen Dohan who remains the Society's Registrar.

The Leader Board competition for 2019- 2020 concluded in April. The Board has funded the \$4,200 prize money associated with the competition and the trophies were funded by sponsorship of Barastoc Horsefeeds, Supreme Horseware, Duncan Equine Group and Hufgloken. The competition was expanded to 10 categories this year. Recognising that members of the smaller states have far fewer opportunities to gain Leader Board points, \$200 prize money has been awarded to the highest point scorer in each state.

It was hoped that the presentation of this state award would be made at the State Annual Meeting but the virus put paid to that plan. The start of the next competition has been delayed until competition recommences throughout Australia.



<b>RPSBS SA Leader Board Prize Winners 2019 -2020</b>			
SA High Point Winner	Andrew & Charlie Hunt	Earsley ParkBo Peep	
Ridden Show/Hunter Pony	Andrew & Charlie Hunt	Earsley ParkBo Peep	3rd
Ridden Overheight	Ashleigh Shearer	Dynasty Park Hot Chocolate	Top 5
Jnr Rider/Handler u 12	Leielia Page	Argyl Summer	Runner Up
Highpoint Jnr Owner/Rider	Leielia Page	Argyl Summer	Top 5
Junior Rider/Handler 12 - 18	Milicent Quigley-Smith		Top 5

Helen Dohan, Registrar, Teresa Edwards, RPSBS Board Secretary and staff from the Arabian Horse Society office have continued to provide services to our members whilst working from home albeit with reduced phone services. The RPSBS Board Chair and the Arabian Horse Society Board Chair have agreed to work co-operatively throughout this crisis and arrangements will be adapted as necessary.

During these extremely difficult times there will be many ponies changing owners. It is so important for the integrity of the Studbook that our Society does not lose track of these animals. Member are urged to submit transfer papers to the office immediately the animals change hands and to register their foals. Confidential arrangements for members experiencing financial hardship can be made with the office.

The Board is absolutely committed to supporting our state committees however the Society will have to examine the financial situation as the full impact of COVID-19 and the resulting economic downturn manifests itself. It is highly likely that such items as show subsidies will only be approved in situations in which states are suffering financial hardship.

On behalf of all RPSBS members, the Directors welcome the new state committee members and thank all past members for their efforts.

The Board wishes every member and their families the very best in this time of hardship and uncertainty and is confident that our beautiful ponies will help us weather this storm.

Andrew Hunt  
Director,  
RPSBS Ltd.