

Chairperson Report to NSW members 2024/25.

It gives me great pleasure to report to the Riding Pony Stud Book Society members in NSW on the activities of the NSW Committee in the Society's 50th Anniversary year.

Firstly, thank you my fellow committee members for supporting me and their fellow members.

Di Godfrey, Vice-Chair and Sponsorship Officer, has worked tirelessly to develop fantastic relationships with our wonderful State Show sponsors. Di was assisted by Committee member, Anthony Hurley, whose enthusiasm for sourcing and promoting sponsors is highly valued by all. The wonderful prizes, rugs and goodie bags won by members at the 2024 RPSBS NSW State Show were provided by our valued sponsors, thanks to Di and Anthony's efforts. If you would like to be part of our Sponsorship Team, please contact Di or Anthony (their details are on the RPSBS website) who will welcome you with open arms. Thank you both for a difficult and time-consuming job very well done!

Sandra James, our State Treasurer, manages our income and expenses with expertise. NSW always receives a positive report from the National Treasurer because Sandra's work is both correct and delivered on time. Sandra will present our Financial Report later. Thank you Sandra for another year of hard work.

Alison Doyle, our Committee Secretary, arranges Committee Meetings, takes Minutes and works with me to ensure all the necessary tasks are done. Alison liaises between our Committee and outside organisations e.g. Sydney Royal Show. Alison is also NSW's current Director to the RPSBS National Board. Many thanks Alison for all your hard work in both roles this year.

Eleanor Gerry, our Publicity Officer, updates our members on NSW activities via Facebook and the monthly RPSBS Bulletin and enjoys both writing and raising the profile of Riding Ponies in NSW. Eleanor is also a vital part of the RP Annual Editorial Team. Thank you for all your effort for the RPSBS.

Melanie Skinner, Anthony Hurley, Jennifer Rutledge and David Calbert round out the NSW committee. They work hard sourcing sponsorship,

stewarding at various shows, plus transporting people, sponsorship items and show equipment around as needed. All of them worked especially hard at 2024 State Riding Pony Show to ensure everything ran smoothly. Many thanks for your tireless work before, during and after the show. You are all integral elements of the NSW State RP Show.

The 2024 RPSBS NSW State Show was a great success recording the largest number of entrants of any State Show in Australia. When asked by other State Directors how we achieved such high entry numbers my response is that it is a result of the whole committee's working together for a common goal.

Thank you *Exclusively Equine* for your sponsorship. If you were successful at the show, your lovely prize came from Exclusively Equine. We will be continuing that relationship again at the 2025 RPSBS State Show. Many thanks to Quona Cooke for her support of Riding Ponies in NSW.

We had many, many other wonderful sponsors, both companies and individuals, e.g The Coonan Family sponsored the Children's section in our show program, enabling us to encourage and support our Child Riders who are so important for our future. To all of our sponsors – Thank You! Your continued support for our show and our beautiful ponies makes us all proud.

Apart from the NSW State Show, this year RPSBS NSW Committee followed the Board's lead, focussing sponsorship on shows at differing levels where Riding Ponies have specific breed classes. Our Committee was the major sponsor of Riding Pony breed classes at both Sydney Royal Easter Show and Canberra Royal. We donated trophy rugs for the major winners at 2025 Royal Bathurst Show and rugs and prizes to Hawkesbury Ag. Show where Riding Ponies were the Feature Breed. We have also sponsored RPSB breed classes at numerous agricultural shows. If your local show has Riding Pony classes, please request they contact us to discuss our sponsoring that ring.

The 2025 NSW State Riding Pony Show will be held at the Windsor Polo Club Grounds at North Richmond on Sunday 16th November. Camping and stabling is available at nearby Hawkesbury Showground at Clarendon. This is a special 50th Anniversary State Show so put aside the date now and start planning to attend. We will feature Youngstock & Senior Show,

Show Hunter & Overheight Led & Ridden Riding Pony classes, Child specific classes, NSW Bred classes and double and triple registered Riding Pony classes. It is a great day out at a top class venue!

Your NSW Riding Pony Committee is always interested in hearing your comments and suggestions. Please contact me via the website to discuss anything Riding Pony with the Committee and then come back to you. If you see any of the committee at a show, come up and talk to us. We are all eager to widen our circle of RP friends so don't be shy.

It has been my pleasure to be the NSW Chairperson, and I look forward to the Committee's continuing to work for Riding Pony members in our beautiful state. I wish you success in the upcoming breeding season if you are eagerly anticipating the arrival of a foal or two, and in the shows following the winter break.

John Paget.