



MEMBER'S UPDATE

12th June 2018

We write to inform you of the work that the current Committee have undertaken since their appointment at the Special General Meeting called on 16th December 2017 by the appointed Administrator, Matthew Kennon of Merit Partners.

The key priorities the current Committee have addressed include:

- **Compliance / Governance**

- Allegations in relation to ongoing concerns relating to the non-compliance, financial accountability and governance of the Association made in October 2017 by a few former Committee members to Licensing NT caused the Department to undertake an investigation under Section 93 of the NT Associations Act.
- Licensing NT appointed an Administrator – Matthew Kennon from Merit Partners who conducted a full review in accordance with instructions from Licensing NT and was satisfied that all allegations brought by the former Committee were unfounded.
- On 16th December 2017, the Administrator presided over a Special General Meeting called appropriate notice for the purpose of appointing a new Committee which was fulfilled.
- Immediately following the SGM, the newly elected Committee convened to discuss priorities and a plan forward.
- The highest priority of the new Committee was to meet its Statutory obligations, hence, the Accounts for year ended 31st Dec 2016 which were submitted to Licencing NT, were rejected and therefore had to be re-done. This has been achieved and these records will be presented at the upcoming AGM.
- Further, we sought and were granted an extension to hold the AGM to allow enough time to get the 2016 and 2017 Financial Statements prepared and audited. This too, will be achieved by 30th June.
- The Committee has taken on board, implemented and / or finalised all recommendations provided by the Administrator at time of hand-over to the new Committee.
- The new Committee continues to liaise with Licencing NT to ensure that we were doing everything possible to fulfil our statutory obligations.

- **Solvency**

- The Committee has been acutely aware of the delicate financial position of the organisation and at the very least have managed to contain costs and focus on running the revenue-generating events which keep us solvent.

- **Carrying-on of regular business**

- Since its appointment, your Committee has held at least 10 meetings (usually each week or fortnight) to understand the business of the ARSS Club, address priorities and plan for upcoming events.
- Anzac Day Breakfast (100 year celebration of Australia's involvement in WWI and held on a Wednesday) was held with solid attendee numbers in attendance.
- The Adelaide River Races event was held with the large number of cars in the carpark, camping/caravan and attendee numbers on par with previous years. Despite Thoroughbred Racing NT (TRNT) abandoning the race meeting after the 2nd horse race, whilst a few people left with their refund, paid patrons continued to arrive and join the crowd who were enjoying the entertainment. Despite the initial disappointment from all concerned, there are a number of key positives that the day yielded: 'Cash Dash for Dolly's Dream' raised over \$5,000; 'Give me 5 for Kids' raised over \$2,500; 'Fashion on the Field' proceeded and by all accounts, the feedback from Sponsor / Corporate Marquee attendees was overwhelmingly positive with people keen to support next year's event.
- We owe a huge debt of gratitude to a number of local organisations, life members and past committee members for their invaluable guidance and hands on assistance during this period.

While the small Committee has been engaged in keeping the organisation afloat, we may have not given our Members due attention – and for this we apologise and intend to rectify. From reading this update we hope you have some understanding of what we have been faced with and working on to date.

WHERE TO FROM HERE: As we go to AGM, we ask for your positive consideration to joining this small band of volunteers on the Committee as the current situation is not sustainable. In other words, we've kept this 'ship' afloat; we need more people to join the team of 'rowers'..... AND, you don't have to be on the Committee, but we do need your help and support in whatever manner you can make a contribution that we can (collectively), count on.

Further, a comprehensive, integrated, full strategic plan for the future is required to ensure the ongoing existence of the ARSS Club and its sustainable future with associated application for appropriate grants.