

NZWA Presidents Report – 2017 AGM

Jody Hartstone

When taking over the Presidency of the NZWA from Michelle Zielazo just on a year ago I was under no illusion that it would be an easy job. The vision that I have for the NZWA moving forward is a grand scheme and I am excited and very proud to tell our members just what we have managed to achieve in 365 short days.

The Association was in desperate need of an overhaul with outdated database and computer systems, a website that needed a spruce up and a dwindling bank accounts. I wish to thank most sincerely the work that Michelle and Kelly did in their respective roles keeping this ship afloat, but new blood was needed to take it to the next level and that's exactly what has happened.

Firstly, I believe we needed a new Registrar as it was plain to see (for me at least) that Kelly Mason had exhausted her time and resourcefulness in the enormous job that is the Registrar. I believe her remote location made it very difficult to get the right people on the job to help her out and redoing the database from Northland would prove impossible. Thankfully the computer savvy Christine Hartstone has stepped into the Registrar's role, even if it is for a temporary period. It has been an incredibly steep learning curve for Christine and I thank her for sticking with it and seeing it through this first, most difficult term. I now believe we have the systems in place that will allow for far fewer errors in the pedigree recording and Register entries of horses as now every horse has its papers double checked for accuracy before it is sent out.

Bronwyn van Roon has done a great job as the Treasurer this year with the biggest issues really being the changing of the signatures for ANZ Banking and the implementation of internet banking with the same bank. After many months and grey hairs I'm pleased to report we now can pay all our accounts on line and have very little use for a cheque book these days.

As you can see from our accounts we have picked up from the \$10,000 loss last year to make a \$30,000 gain this year. Not only have we managed to turn around the accounts we have also managed on top of this to purchase a new laptop and printer valued at over \$5,000. I wish to thank Bronwyn for her great abilities in the procuring of grants department. She really did make this a simple task for us.

Then I come to Jeanette Russell, who deserves a special mention and I really do take my hat off to her for her endless hours of dedication to the NZWA. If there was one person who has single-handedly changed the face of who the NZWA is, how it operates, and what it stands for it is Jeanette. Her official title of Webmaster does not cover the multitude of jobs she has done which have included but not been limited to creating a brand new database to store each and every registered horse's details in. The creation of an online studbook after many years of this being on our wishlist. The addition of stallion pages for each stallion

licenced with us. The creation of a wonderful website which has over 70 stallions. Jeanette has been available to me any time of the day and night and full of good ideas - we have worked many long and painful hours together to get where we are today and I am proud to call Jeanette not just a workmate, but a good friend.

The other committee member who deserves a special mention is Kieryn Walton. Although she was only on the committee for half of the year due to heavy work commitments – her input and inquiring mind have been absolutely invaluable. Kieryn also played a huge role in the classification tour which this year made a sizeable profit.

All other committee members – thank you for your input and meeting attendance.

Our achievements this year have included:

NZWA members database and Mailchimp email setup and time spent correcting out of date info. Ponies and horses are now clearly separated in the database. Pony Studbook ready to go online. We have created easy to follow and professional looking application forms for every given situation.

Our focus on social media has been that of educating breeders and the public as to the difference between a studbook and a register and the reasons why birth registration is so important.

We have purchased a Freeze Brand, Embossing Stamps for Merit an Excellence Awards for those horses awarded top marks in the classification tours, Stud Book horses are now on Pink Papers, New Laptop which is indestructible and able to take on Classification Tour, an industrial type Printer, Microchip Reader.

The way forward from here – our goals for the future:

Creation of an extensive Handbook of Policies and Procedures for Committee.

Keep lobbying the ESNZ to record breeding and breeders accurately – we are in contact with them at this point in time over this.

We need to work on getting stallion owners to do their stallion returns – they are at this point in time the missing link – which is more than disappointing as they are the ones making a direct profit each year from the breeding of horses.

I feel this past year the focus has been on getting the Assn back on its feet financially, providing education and information to members and the public and getting processes put in place to make us more professional. This next year can be spent on promoting our brand and our top performing horses and further education of our members.

The ultimate goal should always be that of ensuring 100% of foals born in New Zealand with warmblood parentage are given the papers and recognition they deserve.