



AUSTRALIAN CARRIAGE DRIVING SOCIETY INC.
ABN: 28 794 114 302 – Incorporation No: A01028

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In this my final report as Federal President, it is important that I thank all members and clubs for their contribution to the sport of carriage driving whether pleasure driving, show driving, combined driving, enduros and all variations of those disciplines. Some clubs were able to organise multiple events while others supported other clubs by participating. A very special thank you to everyone who volunteers at these events, your contribution is essential to the smooth running of events,

The large majority of members have been very supportive of the Federal Executive and Federal Council and its decisions; however we have encountered some opposition from the other members.

This last year started with the hope that the Strategic Plan for the ACDS would be completed however due to other issues, this has been put to one side. Hopefully the incoming Federal Council will complete this task.

Training of officials is continuing under the auspices of the Training & Schools Committee but unfortunately fewer members are coming forward to take part. The training packages are essential yet people are finding the process time-consuming.

The Federal discipline convenors continued to develop their programs however Federal Council regrettably accepted the resignation of the Federal Driven Dressage Convenor, Cheryl Dowling. Cheryl contributed enormously to the development of driven dressage within the ACDS and she has my sincere thanks.

Our wonderful Journal Editor, Jenny Conquest, kept us guessing what each issue was going to focus on – Standardbreds, donkeys, minis and each issue was entertaining with many photos for us to enjoy. Sadly Jenny has not re-nominated for the coming year so the search is on for her replacement.

I am most grateful to Peter Smith who took on the role of Vice President and who was a great support to Federal Council. He was given some difficult tasks which he undertook willingly. Peter's resignation was regrettably accepted by Federal Council.

The last twelve months have not been easy for the Federal Executive and Federal Council. I would like to thank our Treasurer, Christine Gibbons, for the excellent job she has done and will continue to do so. Greg McDonald accepted the nomination as Vice President following Peter Smith's resignation until the AGM this year.

Federal Councillors have fulfilled their roles with due diligence and their input has been essential to the management of the ACDS. Thank you.

I am deeply grateful to the Federal Secretary, Tom Dowling, for his support and dedication to his role. Tom and I have worked closely over the last three years and above all, I value his friendship.

On a personal level, I have enjoyed being part of many events across the country, always receiving a warm welcome whether as an official or as a spectator. Hopefully this will continue.

I sincerely hope that the ACDS continues to be the premier driving organisation in Australia.

Wishing the incoming Federal Executive and Federal Council all the best for the coming year.

Dot Willcoxson
Federal President