

ANNUAL REPORT
CPBSA Inc.
2001 – 2002

The year 2001 – 2002 has been one of progress and despair. Progress through the Committee working to ensure that Administration is streamlined, more accessible to the membership and more user friendly from the point of the Secretary.

Frustration and despair have been the outcome in the ongoing battle to gain an insurance policy that will allow the objectives and activities of the Society to continue and grow.

For a number of years the Society has been aware that Public Liability Insurance was an ever-increasing cost and would one day be impossible to obtain. This concern became a reality in April/May of this year with the Society being advised by the Provider that it was doubtful that Public Liability Insurance would be available at the end of the current policy.

Committee has worked hard to find a Policy Provider that would give this Insurance. Many groups throughout Australia were contacted, many lines were followed from advise from the EFA, Pony Club Association and other organizations who themselves were looking for cover. The short answer is that nothing could be obtained. The EFA provider spent considerable time with the CPBSA in explaining the pros and cons of the cover available and it appears the only policy available will cost in excess of \$2800, and increase of \$2000 from last year. To quote from the EFA letter concerning this cover "Public/Products liability and errors and Omissions Insurance has been arranged through an underwriting agency. Triton Underwriting Agency Pty Ltd. The Insurer is an unauthorized foreign insurer. Neither the EFA nor our brokers, Marsh Pty Ltd, guarantee the financial stability of the insurer".

Because of the increase fees, the probable effect on membership fees, and the concerns as to the stability of the Insurer, on the advise of Committeeman James Crowley QC, committee arranged a 30 day cover note to take the Society through to the AGM and have the membership give their ideas and thoughts as to what the Society should do for the coming season. It is hoped a satisfactory solution can be found. The options are – increase fees by up to \$15 - \$20 per member to cover the policy and loose membership because of an increase hike of approx\$35 over a two year period, or, close down all Society activities for 12 months, wait and see what Governments do on the issue and maintain only the Administration function to ensure that records, the Stud Book and other office functions continue.

Committee is still asking the members to carefully scan the StudBook for errors. Many Ponies are still recorded as living when through second hand information it seems that a number are deceased. Please help in this matter. I refer members to the new Regulation as printed in the December newsletter that deaths must be notified now within 30 days of the event.

Passports for each Pony will be a new innovation for the year 2003. The CPBSA Websites is now operating, as is the Barwon Action Group website. The Society is most grateful to the Students of the Adelaide University for their work in the preparation of the site.

The Society has been able to access DNA printing through Equine hair and the Secretary has the forms available for this procedure.

The Society has a pool of merchandise available, which is holding up finances that could be used in other areas. Members are asked to peruse the stock available from the newsletter and perhaps utilize the supply for Christmas presents.

The BEC pony is still a strongly debated item within the CPBS. It is hoped that this will be resolved shortly with common sense prevailing. After talking to the majority of the CPBS Council in August it is obvious that the stigma is strongly entrenched in the older membership and it will be hard to change some attitudes. Ignorance of genetics, poor recording of Foal colour and financial losses in the 40s and 50s are the main factors in this argument.

On the International scene, Australian ponies are still being exported. In the International arena the feelings, attitudes and ideas of the CPBSA are well sought after and listened to, with the overall standing of this Society remains high. This is evident in that Australia was again elected to the chair of the ICCPS for the second year running.

Committee will award Life membership certificates to two stalwarts of the Society, Past chairperson Sue McTaggart has been nominated and also Mrs Whittington from Tasmania. Both members have agreed to accept this honour.

Members should now avail themselves of the availability of State and Federal Representatives who are now bound by a Job description responsibility. The responsibilities of this action are printed in the Newsletter. Members should be aware that all of the forms required for administrative work are contained in the Information booklet, which they have and general queries should be directed to the State personnel in the first instance. By utilizing both avenues, our hard working secretary will be able to devote more time to the more pressing administrative activities to the betterment of the Society.

It would be remiss not to pass a very strong vote of thanks to both Vicki and Bob Plummer for their untiring efforts to insure that the administrative function of the group is maintained at a high level, the majority of which is in their own private time. Bob Plummer's behind the scenes work is virtually unknown to but a few. It is well appreciated and we thank him for his efforts.

John Tennant
Chair CPBSA