

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – AGM 19 September 2015.

The 2014/15 year was another active one for SAROA.

The Association promoted several events for its members and consistently promoted owners' interests to relevant industry bodies such as TRSA, the SAJC and the Country Clubs. I am pleased to report that our relationships with these bodies have improved and, increasingly, our voice is being heard. There is, however, much more to be done in this regard before we can say that there is proper recognition of the contribution made by owners throughout the industry.

As a means of keeping in touch with members and other industry supporters, SAROA has continued its participation in the dedicated racing programs presented by 5RPH and CoastFM. I know that both programs have regular followings although the audiences are not large.

Importantly, SAROA has contributed to the activities of both SARIG (the SA Racing Industry Group) and ATROC (Australian Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners' Council). SARIG has been instrumental in putting the views of the wider industry participants to TRSA and the SA Government seeking greater recognition of the racing industry's significant contribution to the South Australian economy. ATROC provides a national forum for the various State owners' bodies to discuss issues of common interest. SAROA has been represented at the two ATROC meetings held during the year and hosted the May 2015 meeting in Adelaide. Unfortunately, Racing Australia has unilaterally decided to withdraw its recognition of ATROC and has insisted that all State bodies put submissions to it through the State PRAs. The system does not work well and Racing Australia is notorious for its failure to consult appropriately with industry participants generally.

It is pleasing to report that SAROA has recorded another profitable year. Our Treasurer, Rob McBryde, will present his report shortly and I take this opportunity to thank him for his meticulous attention to our finances. The results of the past two years have put the Association in a much more comfortable financial position. Since year end we have also held a very successful Horses' Birthday Lunch thanks, in particular, to the support of the four Studs that provided stallion nominations for auction at the event. This event has great potential to ensure the ongoing financial viability of the Association. I should also record our thanks to the businesses that took up race-naming rights at our Morphettville race day. Without this support, SAROA would find it very difficult to fulfil its purpose.

A major concern for SAROA and all Owners' Associations is Racing Australia's proposal to introduce the "Security for Training Fees Model" on 01 December 2015. I am personally convinced that this proposal is seriously flawed. It is an inappropriate use of the Australian Rules of Racing and will simply not work. It is dangerous from a security and privacy point-of-view and will come at considerable cost to the industry and owners, in particular. If it

proceeds as planned, I am convinced that it will be a major disincentive for participation by existing owners and potential new owners. It is to be hoped that following feedback from recent meetings held around the country Racing Australia will re-consider the proposal.

After four years on the SAROA Committee and the last two as President, I have decided not to seek re-election. I take this opportunity to thank all the SAROA Office-bearers and Committee members for their efforts on behalf of the Association during the time that I have been involved and wish them and all SAROA members every success in the future.

Michael Trenerry
President, SAROA
19 September 2015