

## Message from the Vice-President

20 January 2012

The first ARABS Inc. meeting for 2012 was held on Friday evening 13 January at our usual venue, Eastlakes Club. As usual, prior to the meeting, we all met downstairs in the club dining area where we discussed what we did over the Christmas break whilst enjoying the delicious meals provided by the club. The Eastlakes dining room is renowned for its extensive menu, catering for all tastes, and the quality and size is a wonderful experience.

After dinner we ventured upstairs to the meeting room provided by the club - we are ever grateful to Eastlakes who have provided this functional and central meeting venue for a number of years on a gratis basis.

The agenda for the meeting was extensive as we had a number of items to discuss.

With the resignation of the club President, Ally Hudson, Judith Perkins, as one of the Vice-Presidents, chaired the meeting throughout the evening.

After attending to the attendances and apologies the minutes from the previous meeting held in November 2011 were read, and with no business arising from that meeting, were accepted.

Judith provided a brief overview on the past year and thanked all the committee, members, friends and sponsors for the effort and support that was put into the club events and activities and placing the club in the sound position that it is in. Judith also acknowledged the guidance provided by Ally as club President over the past two and half years to raise the club profile. Her efforts and time taken to make things happen have been really appreciated and we wish her well in the future. We hope that she may still provide her support when she has had a few months away from Club activities to really miss us and come back to the fold.

The filling of the Presidential role was discussed and, after deliberation, the committee and members decided to leave it to the two Vice-Presidents, Judith and Sandra Gebbie, until the AGM in July when a new committee will be voted in. This decision is in accordance with the Club Constitution.

Sandra and I will share the task of chairing the meetings until July so next time it is her turn!

Kem Hazelton, our wonderful Treasurer, provided a financial wash-up of the 2011 National Capital Horse Show where his figures showed we had made a profit - great work Kem for looking after the club books so well and providing a simple yet succinct written explanation of where we made money, where we can save money and where we can make improvements.

Kem also tabled the Treasurer's Report which indicated we had a healthy bank balance.

We discussed other matters such as whether we need to review and update our club constitution to reflect our aims and objective and bring it into line with the NSW Model Rules. A decision was made to seek legal advice on the proposed redraft and the outcome will be tabled at next month's meeting. Once we have that knowledge to hand we can notify members in accordance with the notification timing specified in the current constitution/rules that we propose to make changes and these will be addressed at a future general or special general meeting.

Discussions also took place about changing the club year to a calendar one (rather than its current financial year arrangement from July to June) - this change would align club business to the calendar year arrangements of the AHSA and other stakeholders we engage with throughout the year as part of club business, activities and events. This item requires further exploration as to the advantages and disadvantages and legal guidance will be sought and will be addressed at a future meeting.

The final agenda item was to discuss future club events and activities. Sandra had drafted up a program for the Autumn Affair and once we have found a venue then we will be posting details on the website for the show which will be run along similar lines to last year's show. So watch for further updates on this site.

Don't forget our next monthly meeting to be held at Eastlakes at 7:30 pm on Friday 3 February 2012 - we meet downstairs in the dining room prior to the meeting from around 6:30 pm if you wish to join us for an enjoyable and tasty meal!