AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL COMMITTEES AND MEMBERS

Dear Committees and Members

RE: CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP AND SOME COMMITTEE FEES – 2017/2018

During 2016 and into 2017 ABCRA has had an unexpectedly high number claims lodged against our Public Liability and Personal Accident policies.

Our insurers, while previously rewarding our past favourable claims history by holding premiums at a favourable level, have advised that as a direct result of the claims made, our Public Liability premiums alone will rise yet again this time by 15%.

We are yet to receive the final premium cost for our Personal Accident insurance but any increase for 2017-2018 will be absorbed by ABCRA.

In response to the increase in insurance premiums, the Board at its meeting of March 22nd 2017, after long deliberation, unanimously approved an increase in a number of fees effective from April 1st 2017.

The increases will apply from 1st April 2017 and also to any renewed Affiliations or Memberships for fixtures to be held in April 2017. Affiliations and memberships renewed from 1st April to 30th April 2017 will carry over until 30th April 2018.

Remember, it is a condition of entry at any event that the participant is a financial member and participating as an un-financial member will render any insurance cover for the participant void.

It should also be pointed out that in recent years we have seen a number of Campdraft and Rodeo fixtures either cancel or postpone due to lack of stock or weather extremes with 2016-2017 no exception seeing no less than 57 events cancelled or postponed. This has again highlighted the Association’s vulnerability to the noticeable negative effect of event cancellations on annual incomes even though our overheads remain relatively constant.

The Board’s decision to increase fees and charges was made only after careful further scrutiny of the Association’s costs of doing business in recent times including increases in insurance premiums and enhancements to the Association’s administration. Having said this, the Board continues to look at ways to increase the Association’s income from areas outside our traditional Campdraft and Rodeo events.

In general, membership fees have only increased by $10.00. The Basic Rate Affiliation Fee for Committees will remain at the current rate however there will be a slight increase in the day fees.

For Members, the fees for the 2018 membership year are as per the attached Membership Form and for Committees, the Day Fee increases are outlined in your Committee Affiliation package.

We urge you to return it with payment as soon a possible to ensure continuity of membership and personal accident insurance coverage. Committees will receive their Affiliation Pack over the next week.

It is important to note, that even with the increased fees, ABCRA is still either cheaper than or at the least competitive with other organisations.

ABCRA wishes all Committees and Members a very successful 2018.

Yours sincerely

Hunter Jones
Executive Officer