

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the very dedicated Barraba committee for laying out the welcome mat and hosting a successful ABCRA Championship Campdraft, over four days the first weekend of March. The months of planning and preparation was certainly appreciated by everyone who attended. The investment that was made in providing a new Campdraft surface is one that we will all enjoy for many years to come. It was also great to see a new permanent arena alongside the Campdraft arena that will be used for not only rodeos but other horse related events. Obviously another committee dedicated to giving back not only to the community, but also the competitors. Thank you to the ladies in the office who made everything tick just like clockwork! I had the opportunity to experience briefly first hand, just one of the glitches with the Campdraft software program! I look forward to receiving plenty of feedback from Campdraft secretaries in regard to what improvements are required.

Congratulations to all the ACC event winners – ABCRA Vice President Peter Kelly (Disappointed I missed seeing your victory lap Pete) Cal Gibson, Nigel Kable (Is there a major draft in this country that Nigel and Ivory have not won... yet?) Lara Garlick, former Saddle Bronc rider the popular Nathan Kruidenier, Ben Spencer and hard working committeeman Brent Clarke – Well Done!

The ACC also marked the beginning of a *new partnership for the ABCRA – Rick and Judy Tranter, Mavericks Western Wear* confirmed that **CINCH/Cruel Girl** have joined the fold! This partnership will be to the benefit of members not only at the ACC but also at the upcoming NCCA draft in September and the National Finals.

The ABCRA Board of Directors met on the 9th and 10th March and you will see that we have included Minute extracts in this issue. I would like to draw your attention to a number of points –

Campdraft Members Meetings are planned at the following campdrafts - 9/10/11 April - Ellerston, 23/24 April – Dungog, 14/15/16 May – Big River, 12/13/14 June – Coonamble. On the agenda for discussion is the proposal that Campdraft Finals contestants commence Finals on a clean slate and the proposed change to Open Horse points. It is important that members attend one of these meetings. This is your opportunity to discuss the options and come up with a proposal that is in the best interests of the majority of the membership.

The ABCRA Annual General Meeting will be held for the first time at West Leagues Club, Phillip St, Tamworth on Wednesday 23rd June 2010. Items for the Agenda must be received by *Friday 14th May 2010* and to assist with catering, we would really appreciate your RSVP's by 16th June.

Stock Contractor's Representative In amongst all the Finals action this year, a Stock Contractors meeting was conducted. This was a follow up from the successful Animal Welfare Forum held in Dubbo last November. The meeting was very well supported by contractors who discussed issues that

were important not only to them, but to the sport and it's future growth. It was ratified at the March Board meeting that a Stock Contractor Director be appointed, voted upon by the Stock Contractors at the Finals each year – a similar format to that of electing National Event Directors.

Another item of discussion was *Stock Contractor Accreditation*. Like any sport, rodeo must review and conduct audits to maintain and expand it's future. This is one area that it is imperative Rodeo Associations continue to work together and *is currently under review in the ABCRA*.

Mini Bareback Ride Rules have been implemented. I would like to advise that ONLY Approved Stock Contractors will be allowed to provide suitable stock and this event will be monitored. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Fine Books/Infringement Notices have been talked about for sometime and I am sure many thought that they perhaps would not eventuate. It is envisaged that as of 1 May that the Infringement Notice Books *will be* available and distributed to the appropriate persons. For the vast majority of members this is of little concern, as they are the ones that dress and behave appropriately and follow the rules that we all have to follow. For that very small minority that think they are above the rules... Take note.

The Membership Renewal Form is in this magazine -There will be no renewal mailouts, something that we have not done for the past couple of years. We ask you to either complete the form in this magazine, download the membership form on the website or we can fax one to you on request. Please note that one membership form for each person is required whether joining individually or on a combined membership, and that both pages are completed. Memberships cannot be processed until all required information has been provided. Membership renewals may be faxed or emailed to Head Office with the Credit Card details cleared included or mailed with an attached cheque or money order – Please do not post cash.

Memberships fall due as of the 1st of May

Zone Annual General Meetings are coming up and I hope to meet up with as many as of you as I can in the upcoming months. Please check the 'Important Dates' listing in this magazine or alternatively our website for further updates.

Attention Rodeo Competitors - Round Preferences

A reminder to competitors that round preferences are not guaranteed, but, Central Entry Staff do endeavour to set competitors in the rounds as requested. It is important for competitors to understand that with the current system we have, it does not identify the time and order that competitors enter with preferences. Sound a bit old and out of date – *exactly*. That is why the whole system is under review.

Keep in mind that on occasions, Central Entry staff may be taking entries for up to 5 or 6 rodeos. For Timed Event competitors, if you do not get drawn up when you want, it is *your* responsibility to trade out. Remember also, at the end of the day, the committee has the right to set preferences and run stock up the way they want to.

I think that about covers it for this month – So take care and safe travels

Dianne Hallam
Acting Executive Officer