

DARREN DE JONG

What kind of Director do the members need at this particular time? Our past Financial Report posted a loss of over \$140,000.00; another loss was posted in the previous year. I cannot bear to see this trend continue.

I have spent 35 years in management positions in both Australian and Multi-National Companies. Having held two Directorships in Medical Companies and with responsibility for multi-million dollar budgets and sales targets I believe I can offer the business acumen our Society desperately needs to assist in tackling this situation.

From the Stock Horse perspective my passion knows no bounds! I, along with wife Kathy and daughters Katie and Lara, continue to operate the family's "Ophir Stock Horse Stud" established in 1974 based on the bloodlines of "Scrumlo Victory- IS HSH" (Abbey/ Bobbie Bruce).

After a beginning in Dressage I purchased my first Australian Stock Horse at age 16 and never looked back. I have competed extensively in Campdrafting and every Stock Horse discipline ever since.

The ASH family has become a very important part of our lives. With our whole family competing and working together to pursue a dream we all hold; the horses bind us together. It is my wish to keep this family orientation at the heart of the ASHS, so that many families can enjoy the experiences that my children have had. We must ensure our Society remains in a strong financial position for this to be able to continue.

I am a Level 2 ASH Accredited Judge and have been lucky enough to have judged throughout Australia at Branch, State, Royal and National level for over 30 years. I have also been an Open Campdraft Judge with ABCRA since 1986.

I am very active in our Northern Branch ASHS and instruct at Youth Camps, Training days and Clinics on a regular basis. I have held Branch Executive roles and been a delegate to NSW State Management. The Society has such a strong youth contingent (as evidenced by the large numbers at the recent Sydney Royal and State and National Youth Shows) and I feel very strongly about ensuring that this is able to continue and grow.

In recent times many have found the proposed Stud Book changes, such as 'The White Paper' complicated and confusing; not to mention costly. I foresee a far simpler way forward which will solidify the Stud Book and ensure accessibility for all, as well as refining the way horses are categorised (ABP, UB, LH etc.), as these can be both confusing and alienating.

In summary I feel I have a great understanding of the Australian Stock Society from many different perspectives. With over 30 years as a competitor, breeder, volunteer and judge, and in addition to a lifetime's business experience, I believe I have a well-rounded approach to be able to openly, honestly and transparently contribute as a Director for NSW. I currently own my own business and am in a position where I can devote the time required to effectively fulfil this critical role. My mobile number is 0428 342 249 and I would embrace the opportunity to be contacted by the members to discuss both my and your views.

Yours sincerely

Darren de Jong (B.App.Sci)

