

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT PRESENTED AT 2023 AGM**

Welcome to all members and guests including representatives of NZTR and RIB that are attending and also a special mention to Victoria McArthur who is heading NZ Racing's new mental wellbeing programme.

Again I would like to thank my Vice Presidents - Moira Murdoch - North Island and Michael Pitman - South Island and all Branch Presidents for their contributions over the last year. Welcome to Kezia Murphy for her appointment as Canterbury Branch President. And also the voices of the many trainers whose passion to better the industry is unswerving and their input is invaluable helping move the industry forward to where it needs to be.

Lastly a big thank you to Wendy Cooper, whose dedication and commitment to running the NZTA makes it a strong voice in the industry for NZ trainers.

NZ trainers have had an outstanding last 12 months, especially on the highly competitive Australian stage, with the results coming from NZ trained horses being sensational.

Also the continued stream of Ex NZ trained horses that perform to the highest level in the Hong Kong and Australian jurisdictions, as well as over parts of the globe is again proving NZ trainers credentials.

The last 12 months has brought major changes in the way our industry operates and is funded in a positive way. The sale of the TAB in its former structure to ENTAIN has brought a massive opportunity for the industry to rejuvenate and move forward.

This deal has now given us a guaranteed funding model for the next 5 years at least and gives us the direction to grow our product in a consistent manner.

We as trainers have to grasp this opportunity with improved professionalism and make sure we work closely with all sectors of the industry to see this boost materialize into a long term gain for us.

With the structure in place where the RIB is now funded directly by ENTAIN, we need to work closely with them to make sure we can control the ever hovering welfare issues in a sensible and systematic approach.

As well, look closer at the welfare of ourselves and all the participants in our industry because this something I feel that hasn't been addressed enough in the past - hopefully Victoria can have some positive input in this area.

We also look to be working closer with the heart of the industry at NZTR.

The new licencing reviews being incorporated into our industry moving forward, such as CPD (Continuing Professional Development) are things we need to be positive about use as tools to improve our businesses.

We also look to NZTR to drive this opportunity given to us through the ENTAIN deal in a sensible and efficient manner.

With the current massive inflationary pressure on our economy we need to be acutely aware that we still need to be looking at raising the bottom level of our stakes.

We cannot afford to sit back and be complacent with this because even though we are guaranteed funding going forward, inflation soon eats into these new levels of stakes.

So we look to NZTR to guide this process and to make sure expenditure is accurate and thought out carefully because our members don't want to see wastage through misdirected infrastructure or systems.

Lastly I would like to thank everyone for their efforts over the last year and look forward to working closely with various groups throughout the next year to bring positive outcomes for our great industry.