Goondiwindi P & A Society Presidents Report 2022
Presented by Mr Graham Cook

I’d like to welcome you all here to our Annual General Meeting and to offer my condolences to Patron, Margot Armstrong for the loss of her husband, Mick.

As my first year as President, it has been a privilege to have been able to work with such a passionate and energetic team. We have still had our fair share of challenges; mainly through covid restrictions and floods but overall, it’s been a good year for the society.

This year’s show was still under a cloud up until the middle of April (April 14th) when restrictions were finally lifted. Regardless, of the restrictions the Show Society had made the decision we would be holding our annual show, with this in mind we set ourselves the task of securing grants to build infrastructure such as fencing to manage check in and parking. Through the assistance from Sorted Event Management, the new fence built by Farmer Fencing, a $60000.00 grant from FRRR Tackling Tough Times and dozens of volunteers from the Lions club we were able to collect accurate gate data for the first time. This year we welcomed 6666 ticketed patrons through the gate, this does not include all under school age children which were free of charge to enter.

The data which shows timing of arrivals will be a huge benefit in the planning of future shows. We will be able to use this data to better schedule entertainment, assist with staff rosters for gates, bars security and parking attendants, as well as our new bus schedule which was a success.

With Westpac cancelling their night safe service, and therefore no ability to bank cash throughout the show weekend, our cashless online ticketing system which was not appreciated by all is also a great improvement in helping manage an event of this size.

Our annual Aspects Art Show on the Thursday night was once again a great success. This is the opening event of our show, Nikki Hunt and her team do a wonderful job running what is gaining a reputation as one of Qld’s premium regional art exhibitions.

Our Campdraft is also an event that continues to be a major part of our show running for three days from Friday through to Sunday. So, while the rest of us are packing up Kelly Runzer and his team continue to compete.

To the Ladies Auxiliary, ably supported by Marianne and Michelle, thank you for your great work in the Molly, McColl and Flower Pavilions.

Our Bar/Entertainment committee continues to improve. The Wilga Bar precinct now incorporates live music and a food court. This coupled with hospitality packages to our site holders has been a success. We hope to see the hospitality packages and hospitality opportunities within the Wilga Bar Precinct grow as well as continue to offer a great spot for friends and families to sit and enjoy the equestrian events and live entertainment both Friday and Saturday lunchtime.

Thanks, must also go to our new trade stewards, Matilda Sly and Aimee Green. They did a wonderful job in challenging times and the reconfiguration of the layout for the machinery dealership.

Overall, just a big thankyou to all the stewards and volunteers for helping the show be a success. While on stewards if you do have special requests for expenditure, please put this in writing to Kerri before the end of October. This is an extension of a month, to what has previously been emailed to all stewards. As you will hear in our financial report, we are working to an annual budget, late requests of large sums do make it hard to achieve for all sections.

We look forward to the reintroduction of some sections in 2023 and we are committed to rebuilding the show to its former glory with livestock being in abundance at the show.

With the signing of all the user group Mou’s we seem to be getting back to normality. We have the Men’s Shed, Days for Girls, Rotary Gundies ladies group using grounds weekly. The Cutting club, Campdraft Club, Pony club, Polo X all back running events as well as the B&S and Off-Road rally. The contribution and commitment of these clubs working together can only enhance the future facilities of the grounds.

Speaking of the grounds there is still an ongoing push to actively search for grants and improvements that will benefit long term. The Last year we received a $50000 grant from RACQ which unfortunately was unable to be acquitted because of the wet weather and red tape. We now have a water licence for our dam which will prevent future hold ups with drainage applications. We have also made several purchases through the income from the activity of the caravan and camping area as well as the income and finances from the show. One being the installation of a pump on the dam letting us use dam water rather than potable water on the arena and camping area with just the push of a button. We also purchased a new mower and slasher for the grounds. Grants for 2021/22.

 FRRR TTT $55000 Storage Shed Purchased waiting construction

Acconia $8965 Upgrade 6 power boxes Completed

Nab $7600 Drainage & piping Completed

Community Gambling Benefit

Fund Super round $100000 Amenities Block – Quote Stage

No doubt we have all heard the rumours about Inland Rail potentially calling the showgrounds home. I can confirm we have had talks with them, but this will be a long process to work through before we have any confirmation of a commitment going forward. If you would like to discuss this, feel free to call myself or Kerri. We can reassure that there will be no interruption to any user group or to our show with the proposals that have been put forward so far.

Thank you must go to Trevor and Jasmine our caretakers for doing a great job with maintain the grounds and preparing for events. Once again with the wet there have been times with huge numbers or vans migrating in from the west and finding somewhere to accommodate them is not always easy.

To our staff Kerri our General Manager for most of the year and voluntary sectary at show time. You enthusiasm for all things shows is unequalled thankyou without you the Goondiwindi P & A society would not be what it is today. To Cath our valued Treasurer thanks for doing a thankless job not seen by the many. Handling all questions without fuss. Together what a team!

Finally, I’d like to thank the management committee; Quinno, Jody, Marianne, Cath, Kerri, Richard, Robert, Tony, Kelly and Triggsy for your ongoing commitment to running such a wonderful organisation like the P&A, not just for the period of the show but the entire year. I look forward to working with you in the future.

Thank you

Graham Cook

Goondiwindi P & A President