



MEDIA RELEASE

12th September 2006

AGRA ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE LAUNCESTON

AGRA's member clubs met in Launceston on Saturday September 2nd 2006 for their Annual Meeting and Conference. The Annual meeting followed the CEO's conference held on the previous Friday afternoon. A number of industry issues were discussed and matters related to on-going projects were finalized following the previous CEO's conferences in Sydney and Perth.

AGRA's outgoing President, Richard Zammit addressed the meeting summarizing the highlights of what has been a most productive and exciting 12 months for the Association. Mr Zammit praised the hard work and achievements reached by the CEO's and acknowledged their dedicated contribution to the organization. He commented that at no time in the Association's history did it seem on a better and more productive path with a most positive future.

Mr Zammit on behalf of AGRA also thanked all concerned with the organization of the National Championships in Launceston. The hospitality from both the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club and sponsor of the event the Launceston Country Club had already been first class with the best yet to come.

Group Race Coordinator Brenton Scott presented a detailed Group Race Report and he spoke to the document. He explained to the meeting the progress on a range of items including the Group Racing Calendar, Website Management and Development, Group Racing Objectives, Group Racing Levies, a budget for 2006/2007 and some detail on Group Racing criteria and prizemoney levels. At the conclusion of his report through the Chair the meeting acknowledged Brenton's continued diligence and dedication to the role.

AGRA Publicity Officer, Neil Brown gave a verbal report on his activities and achievements after his first year in the position. The meeting agreed a much greater focus and awareness of the AGRA brand had been achieved, while a number of new initiatives had also enhanced the Association standing in the industry Australia wide. Through the Chair the meeting acknowledged Mr Brown's work output and dedication to the role in its first year and looked forward to a further expansion in the future.

Mr Zammit asked AGRA Publicity Officer, Neil Brown to outline the attributes of Hall of Fame nominee Temlee, following a glowing tribute, Mr Zammit then called for a vote and the meeting endorsed the nomination unanimously. Temlee will be honoured with induction into the Hall of Fame at the Annual Awards night in March 2007.

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Awards Dinner / Conference, AGRA's National Championships, Specification of the Coordination of the roles of AGRA and the Preservation of Greyhound History. The meeting signed off on all the key functions presented in the paper with the National Greyhound Symposium, Bi – Annual meeting and Annual Awards Dinner set down to be hosted by the M.G.R.A at the Meadows in March 2007.

The Awards night would include the Australian Greyhound of the Year, the Hall Of Fame induction plus a number of new categories Best National Sire, Best National Dam and the Top Australian Trainer for the past year. The meeting also discussed and agreed to the expansion over the next 18 months of the Hall of Fame to include Sires, Dams, Administrators both paid and voluntary, plus a category known as Legends.

Sandown CEO Matt Corby as an extension to the Business paper spoke in regard to the Preservation of Greyhound History. He outlined a detailed work on the future collection and storage of memorabilia, with the possible state and site of a physical Hall Of Fame also considered. The meeting acknowledged the fine work of the sub-committee in the production of the Plan for the Future paper that was presented.

Sandown CEO Matt Corby circulated a paper detailing arrangements already in place for the 2007 National Championships hosted by the Sandown Club.

An application for Associate Membership received from Australian Federation of Greyhound Breeders, Owners & Trainers Association was put to the meeting with the application received an unanimous vote.

The meeting voted in favour of a written suggestion by the Launceston Club to change conditions in relation to the Nationals eligibility clause, that the eligibility date become the same as the date of the National Acceptances and not as it read before.

The meeting acknowledged the resignation of Greyhound Racing SA Chairman Bob Kennedy. Mr Zammit asked South Australian representatives present to thank Mr Kennedy for his contribution to AGRA and on behalf of AGRA, wish him well for his future.

AGRA CEO Donna Summers presented an audited Finance report which was endorsed by the meeting. The meeting was also informed that Mr Oliver Bott (Greyhound Racing SA) had been appointed the first AGRA Treasurer and would be conducting all financial matters for insuring year.

Mr Zammit expressed how much he had enjoyed his experience as President of AGRA in 2005/06 and had great pleasure in announcing Vice – President Mrs. Pam Cassidy (Launceston) as AGRA President for the forth coming term 2006/07 and Mr Geoff Dawson (Sandown) Vice - President.

Mrs. Cassidy graciously accepted the role and welcoming all in attendance to her home town of Launceston. Mrs. Cassidy together with her husband Doug have been loyal servants of the greyhound industry in Tasmania for nearly four decades. In that time they have both become Life Members of the Launceston Greyhound Club, Mrs. Cassidy is a past Secretary and Chairman of the LGOTBA and is currently in her second term as President of the Launceston Greyhound Racing Club. Together with their son John a former Tasmanian State Golf Champion the family have bred, raced and trained Greyhounds in all of that time involved and have been great ambassadors for the sport in Tasmania.

For more information please contact:

Neil Brown
AGRA Publicity Officer
Tel: 03 97691234
Mob: 0423 129 950

Donna Summers
AGRA Executive Officer
Tel: 02 96465711
Mob: 0414 524 907