

COUNCIL UPDATE 4 August 2017:

Hi everyone – Council has been working on setting up a number of Focus Groups, where a number of members will be invited to assist Council in identifying and implementing changes to help address some of the issues that the Society is facing. Amidst this we have been working to try to avoid the Special General Meeting (SGM) requested by 16 members at the Annual General Meeting in July. We thought it might be useful to give you a regular update on how things were going and hopefully get your minds working on what we might be able to do to improve things. Please let us know if this is useful for you.

Cancellation of the Special General Meeting:

Council is pleased to advise that 11 of the 16 members calling the SGM have contacted Council to confirm withdrawal of their request. As a result of this, Council has cancelled the meeting and continued to plan for 2017/18.

NZMHA Secretary is the Primary Correspondent for Society Matters:

We have been asked why Nicola Bancroft has been acting on behalf of Council throughout this matter. As the SGM was an official request made at the AGM, all communications were coordinated through the Secretary, in line with the NZMHA constitution. All communications were reviewed and sanctioned by Council prior to dispatch.

Response Times from Council:

There has been some veiled criticism of the delay in responding to posts or emails to Council. Can we take this opportunity to remind members that being on Council is a voluntary position, the activities of which are carried out during a volunteer's personal time. Whilst we make every endeavour to respond as soon as we can, it may take up to 72 hours to receive a response to your communication simply due to i) it not being seen, ii) an answer not being immediately available or iii) the matter requiring Council to convene in order to make a decision. Please understand, if this is the case, we are not ignoring you, simply trying to get you the correct information. You can raise ideas for discussion in the NZMHA Futures Discussion Group. It is important to note that Council will only comment on official NZMHA Discussion pages – an open public Facebook page is not the place to argue and bicker – especially if your intent is to save NZMHA.

Focus Groups:

Over the next few weeks you will start to see questionnaires or requests for Points of View coming from a number of Focus Groups that are being established. Members in these Focus Groups will be working with Council to help identify solutions to a number of issues facing NZMHA. A number have been identified – some by members who had heard the Focus Group concept mentioned. If you are interested in helping NZMHA move ahead in a constructive manner – please let me know which Focus Group you are interested in and we will try to get you engaged. We are trying to initially keep each Focus Group down to a maximum of 3 members so please be patient if your choice should not be readily available. Participants will be challenged to think outside the box and look at the bigger picture to identify a number of individual projects that can assist in improving NZMHA's long term future.

Focus Groups planned thus far are as follows:

- **NZMHA Constitution, Structures & Rules Focus Group** – will review the requests from the other Focus Groups around changes that might need to be made to the Constitution to address some of the proposed changes. Will also look at the Constitution and Rules and how these might be changed as well as how NZMHA is governed and how to improve the meeting cadence.
- **NZMHA Publications, Promotions & Fundraising Focus Group** – will look at the TinyTales publication – how it can be improved and made more cost-effective. Will also consider what other promotional activity might benefit NZMHA and how we may be able to engage in that as

well as consider how NZMHA might take advantage of greater visibility to increase fundraising and sponsorship opportunities.

- **NZMHA Shows & Show Rules Focus Group** – will look at Show Rules and showing schedule together with the perpetual calendar to see what we might do to increase numbers at shows and enhance interest and enjoyment at shows as well as increase external participation and work with other bodies to improve NZMHA's engagement and retain our place as the number 1 miniature horse body in NZ.
- **NZMHA Registry Focus Group** – will look at everything around the Registry to see what can be done to enhance our earning capacity from this as a core capability. This focus group will be limited to a very small number of participants due its strategic nature and the competition in the market at this time.
- **NZMHA Process & Systems Focus Group** – will look at all policy, process and procedures currently in existence – the systems that are used to support the Society, how we might improve these and how this might be able to be funded.

AGM 2017 Draft Minutes:

A motion was passed at the AGM that the draft minutes from this meeting be made available to members within 30 days. I am pleased to advise that due to the efforts of Kirstie McGrail, we have a draft of those minutes ready to post to the NZMHA website along with the reports submitted for the meeting. The event was recorded, although the quality of those recordings are not guaranteed as individuals were using their personal phones to do so. Council is working on setting up a number of teleconferences to allow members to listen to the proceedings should they wish to do so.

Nationals 2018 Accommodation:

Next year the Nationals are in Christchurch and we would like to see as many members support the show as possible. We have been looking at whether we can book accommodation for members in bulk and allow members time to pay off the accommodation to help with budgeting. If this is something that might be of interest to you, can you please PM or email Susan Dalzell at R4D@nzmha.co.nz to let her know the number of people you need to accommodate, whether you are willing to share with another member and your arrival and departure dates. We are also looking at travel options as well and will let you know about those later.

We are looking forward to a positive and successful 2017/18 season. We thank members for your continued support as we work through improving our financials.

NZMHA Council