



# ACHS COUNCIL NEWS

February 2020

Dear Members,

The Committee has had a busy time since last communicating with you in August 2019. It definitely has been a long time between drinks.....***So what has been happening?***

Drought and bushfires have devastated most of Australia and many of our highland members are directly affected either by the drought or fire. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the volunteer Rural Fire Fighters amongst our members who have been working tirelessly attending many of these fire events as well as managing their properties and holding down off-farm jobs.

These are tough times and supporting one another is part of the fellowship we appreciate in our Society.

## 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> January Strategy and Planning weekend.

The weekend was exhilarating and exhausting and a big thank you to AHCS member Sarah Millen for volunteering her time to impart her expertise in facilitating the workshop and to Express Glass, Councillor John Cummings work abode for lending the AHCS the boardroom and facilities. This allowed the workshop to progress effectively and smoothly. I would like to thank our Patron Susan Elder, for giving the process a sense of continuity and Erica Smith for representing Victoria at short notice and finally the Committee for turning up and being present and in the moment – much was achieved.



### Announcing the Mission Statement

**To preserve heritage, protect integrity and advance Highland Cattle in Australia through herd registration, education, promotion and fellowship.**

The **Mission Statement** for the AHCS was developed with thought and care and was adopted at the 28.01.2020 Committee meeting. This statement defines who the AHCS is as a Society by acknowledging the past and giving direction for the future. You will be seeing this statement on all promotional material.

The below document is a snapshot of the Strategy going forward

The [power point presentation](#) outlines the workshop and road maps the Committees discussions and decision-making process, feel free to view the slides.



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## Australian Highland Cattle Society Strategy on a page



One of the results to come out of the workshop was the need to develop an **Operational Plan**. This is currently being reviewed and will be ready for membership viewing shortly.

### Developing 2020 – 2025 Operation Plan

#### 1. AHCS

- Legal Obligations
- Governance
- Structure of the Society and the Committee
- Products and Services
- Insurances
- Risk Management



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## 2. Market Analysis and Marketing Strategy

- Brand style guide
- Youtube short story development
- Beef marketing
- Tourism

## 3. Strategy and Implementation

- Mission Statement
- [Short and Long-term Goals](#)
- Action Plan

## 4. Financial Plan

## 5. Events Calendar

If you have any skills or experiences and would like to be involved in developing the future of the highland breed please contact me or a Councillor.

## How have you been involved?

### The Highland Fling - March Advertising - Rates as follows:

- **PREMIUM** (back page, inside back/front cover): \$330 (\$264 for members)
- **Full page:** \$220 (\$176 for members)
- **Half page:** \$110 (\$88 for members)
- **Quarter page:** \$55 (\$44 for members)

**Ad Set up** \$50 (this is to have Michelle design the ad for the business / breeder)

[Members Survey Results](#) – see what you said

[Strategy and Planning Work Shop](#) – power point presentation

[AHCS Goals](#) – priority and short

**2020 Annual National Show**

**Next Committee Meeting-**  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

## Member Involvement

At the 2019 AGM you asked for *The Highland Fling* to be back in print and it will be heading your way in March

To achieve a **zero sum** cost to members and not dip into the AHCS bank account too much.... you are being asked to consider taking out some advertising in the **March edition** of the Highland Fling. Especially if you have straws to sell as this issue focuses on Artificial Insemination (AI) and this is your opportunity to advertise your breeding programme to other members.

Contact [publishing@australianhighlandcattle.org](mailto:publishing@australianhighlandcattle.org) to place your semen straw ads.

*The GoFundMe Drought Relief* campaign was to assist members who had been affected by the ongoing drought. You, the member and the general public were asked to assist in the feeding and watering of highland cattle, while it didn't raise the ambitious amount of \$30,000 it did raise \$6000 which is now being distributed to the members who registered for assistance. **To those who donated thank you, your generosity is greatly and gratefully appreciated.**

*The Members Survey* was the next project the Committee undertook to engage you the member, and it was pleasing to note there are 60 members from a membership base of 170 who deemed it worthwhile to have a say in the future of the AHCS, *thank you for your participation.*

This survey assisted in the underpinning of the current project the Committee is working on which is developing a 5-year Strategy.

[Member Survey results.](#)





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## Housekeeping matters

There is a niggly membership house-keeping matter that needs to be addressed.

**You** the member have an obligation to assist the AHCS Breed Registrar ABRI in keeping the herd book relevant and when you sell an animal there is a matter of filling in the paperwork to **transfer** and pay the administration fee for the transfer – no matter whether the new owner wants to have the animal registered or not.

Please ensure you follow this procedure your help maintains the financial stability of the Society. Transfer issues causes inaccuracies in the herd book. This in turn has caused many headaches not only for our Registrar at ABRI but also for the AHCS Committee and for the person who buys an animal that has not been transferred from the original owner. **So, in short, remember to transfer all animals that you sell.**

**Also deceased animals need to have paperwork completed as well – please check out the website**

<https://www.australianhighlandcattle.org/> for all your animal forms.

## Tattooing

A friendly reminder that all calves born after the 01.01.2020 that **you wish to register** will need to be tattooed.

Tattooing is done in the left year and the NLIS tag is placed in the right ear.

Tattoo letters and year	2020 = K	2021 = L	2022 = M	2023 = N	2024 = P
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NB. I and O are not used as it creates confusion.

If you don't know how to do this or have the equipment please contact your State Representative for advice.

## 2020 National Show and AGM

**Save the date 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June.**

The South Australian Regional Breeders Group have been busy organising an awesome event to showcase the Societies cattle.

Here is a sneak preview of one of the activities in store for us:

- By popular demand the fancy-dress class for any age highland and handler are back – so get your thinking caps on and think up a theme.

Friday night is a welcome dinner with guest speaker.

**The Annual General Meeting will be held Saturday afternoon –** more detail will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Saturday night will be a member's dinner after the AGM.

Sunday is Show Day with an international judge followed by dinner and the awards.

Watch this space or follow us on Facebook





# ACHS COUNCIL NEWS

## January 2020 Committee Updates

The Committee as part of its *Governance and Administrative review* looked at its current structure to ensure compliance with laws and legislations that govern a not-for-profit organisation. The review revealed the need to apply to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) to become a **Registered Australian Body**. On the 22.01.2020 the AHCS officially became a Registered Australian Body our **ABRN is 638 624 601**.

### Other Governance and Administrative matters for review:

- **The Constitution** – a draft Constitution will be sent to all AHCS members for review and comment in March in preparation for a vote by members and proxy at the 2020 AGM
- **The Herd book Rules and Regulations** – is being revised and a draft will be sent to members for review shortly
- **Policies and Procedures** – are being written and will be uploaded onto the webpage as soon as possible
- **Committee Roles and Responsibilities** – will be available to members who nominate for a Committee position.
- **Secretariat Agreement between AHCS and ABRI** – is being discussed and finalised at the next Committee meeting
- **Fact Sheets** – are in the process of being developed and will be up loaded to the webpage asap.

The Committee is committed to ensuring good corporate governance for the benefit of the members and the society, recognising it is essential to ensure matters do not remain in limbo but are recognised, debated and decisions made and implemented in a timely fashion.

One such matter is the **2016 Fully Imported Bloodlines Motion** which had been partially implemented, with a P(F) in the electronic database. The original intention was for an “F” prefix. The Committee sought legal opinion and this was tabled at the January 2020 Committee Meeting. The Committee had a robust discussion over 2 meetings before determining how to proceed. In February 2020 the Committee resolved by a majority vote to implement a separate prefix “F” denoting Fully Imported Bloodlines; in line with the 2016 motion.

ABRI will be informed and all Highland Cattle with the prefix P(F) will be changed to “F” and all newly registered Fully Imported Bloodline highland cattle will be denoted with the prefix “F”.

## November 2019 Committee meeting

Western Australia State Representative and AHCS Councillor Nathan Perry, brought to the attention of the Committee the WA Department of Agriculture’s legislation with regards to importing cattle from inter-state as one of the criteria is all cattle need to a J-Bas score 8. This means that the WA members are unable to purchase any Highland cattle from east coast breeders. *The question asked was how do WA members grow their folds?* The discussion involved looking at various methods but the most expedient was to re-introduce the ‘inspection of highland type’ female cattle. This then was expanded to allow all AHCS members to have this opportunity.

Therefore, as of the **1<sup>st</sup> January 2020** female cattle of ‘highland type’ with an assumed purebred breeding background will be eligible for inspection for possible registration into the Australian Highland Cattle Society Inc herd book as Grade C cattle.

Please contact your State Representative or Councillor for more detailed information on this matter.

Information for members and for the website, as well as the update to the Herd book Regulations is currently being prepared and will be available soon



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**The next Committee meeting is Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020** and if you have a matter you wish to raise and would like the Committee to debate please contact ABRI on [contact@australianhighlandcattle.org](mailto:contact@australianhighlandcattle.org) with your query to be put on the agenda.

Three agenda items are the 2020 AGM, the finalisation of the Draft Constitution for review before it goes to members for consultation and the Secretariat Agreement between AHCS and ABRI.

Finally, I would like to thank the AHCS volunteer Councillors. To be a Councillor takes time and commitment not only to the process of governance and administration but also to being available to attend shows, go to field days, contact members, develop and publish the Highland Fling, write newsletters, maintain the webpage and Facebook pages all while maintaining personal and family time and paid work.

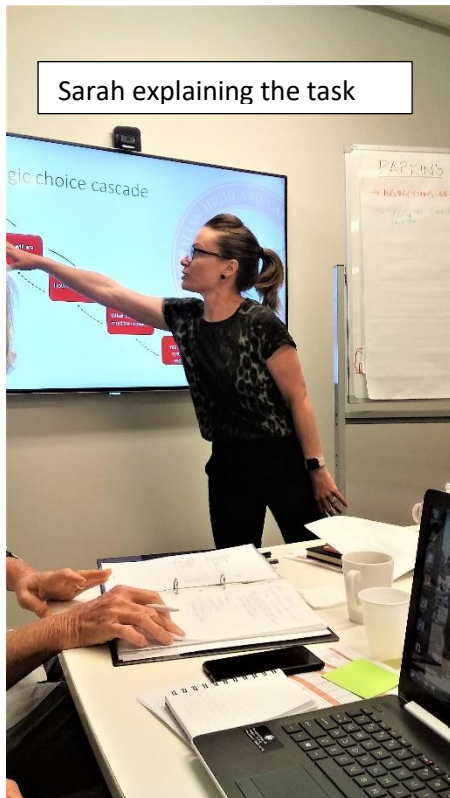
To be engaged and committed to this position shows dedication to the breed and a belief in the future development of the Society. If you know a Councillor, thank them, if you don't then get to know them, they work for the betterment of the breed and Society.

Cheers

*Carolyn Keans*

AHCS President

For and on behalf of the AHCS Committee



Back Row: Susan Brad, Nathan, John  
Front Row: Sarah, Jeanette, Trevor, Carolyn, Scott, Erica