

## NORTHERN SOUTHLAND TROTTING CLUB INC

### PRESIDENTS REPORT 2023

It is my pleasure to present my Presidents Report for 2023.

The operational balance for the 2022-2023 season returned a positive surplus of \$9,114 which is an encouraging result, helped by no small part by Dick Dillion and Robert Wilson's efforts with operating the farm. At times this can be very trying with this gnarly piece of land, suitable for a racetrack but not so suitable as a fertile piece of land for growing and producing crops, however they still get a positive result most years.

#### Feature Race Results for 2022-2023 season

Our five feature races for the season resulted in the Group 3 Macca Lodge Northern Southland Cup being won by 'Macandrew Aviator' trained by Kirsten Green and driven by Craig Ferguson, his large contingent of Southland owners were overjoyed with this result. It's a pleasure to see the Cup stake increasing from \$30k to \$40k this coming season.

The Haras des Trotteurs Southland Trotting Oaks was won by the Nathan Williamson trained and driven filly 'Hidden Talent' owned by the Griffins Syndicate. We look forward to watching her career progress.

The Group 3 Prydes Easifeed Southern Lights Handicap Trot was won by 'Love N The Port' trained by Phil Williamson and driven by Matthew Williamson.

The Tip Top Ice Cream/Night 'N Day Autumn Cup was taken out by 'Got You Covered' in the hands of driver Sam Ottley for Ashburton trainers Brent & Tim White.

And last but not least the Group 3 Caduceus Club of Southland/Alabar Fillies Classic was won by 'Flying Ellie' trained by Nathan Williamson and driven by Craig Ferguson.

With Entain on board it is pleasing to see we will be racing for better stake money this season and we hope that the number of horses starting will begin to increase.

#### Race Dates for the 2023/2024 season

- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 2pm start time
- Balfour Trials Day, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023 & 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024 (we are hoping to have two trial dates this season, currently subject to approval)
- NSTC Cup Day Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 4pm start time
- Last Meeting for the season Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Noon start time

It is encouraging to see a proposal for a new Harness Racing Governance Structure being circulated to clubs and kindred bodies, we look forward to learning more about this at Conference in October.

I would like to acknowledge the good work that Southern Harness does on our behalf, a big thank you to Julie, Jason and Nicole for their efforts and patience as we collectively work together to strengthen harness racing in the southern region.

Finally I'd like to extend a thank you to all our sponsors, committee members and helpers throughout the year. If you haven't had a chance to get to our appreciation shout that Noddy Orr organises called 'Oyster Nite', keep an eye out for your invitation next year.

**Greg Tither**  
**President**