



CEO REPORT

Mark Fraser

As the end of financial year draws close, it is always good to reflect on what has transpired over the previous 12 months. As a member focused Association, we are also a business that needs to maintain high business standards and remain compliant with relevant requirements. In that sense, we understand your business needs. Any PIAA members needing help or advice relating to their tax or legal or business concerns can contact our member hotlines. This is just one of the many benefits of being a PIAA member.

One of the other major benefits of membership is knowing that we are the voice of your industry and we are able to speak for you and keep you up to date on changes around the country.

PIAA currently sit on AWAC in NT, NSW and ACT. We have been asked to be Involved in future AWAC WA, and Dept. Agriculture Animal welfare review committee in WA.

We also have state representatives around the nation to ensure we are abreast of new legislative changes or proposals.

Over the past 12 months we have worked relentlessly to ensure that we have a say in any legislative issues that affect our members. PIAA fought the import ban on frozen fish food containing prawns and subsequently saw the ban overturned. This was a huge win for our aquatic sector.

We helped bring about a parliamentary enquiry in VIC to air the unintended consequences of the Minister for Agriculture's proposals. Proposals that would have had detrimental effects on all sectors of the pet industry. We gave evidence at the 2016 VIC parliamentary enquiry into puppy farms and had the proposal to limit breeding dog numbers and remove sale of puppies for pet stores quashed. This matter is still ongoing, as the Minister prepares to come back to the table with a revised version. To date, consultancy with the industry at large has been non-existent.

PIAA gave evidence and/or submissions at recent parliamentary enquires in SA & QLD. These were related to legislative changes affecting companion animals and the compulsory registration of dog breeders.

We have consulted with NSW OLG and SA Dog and Cat Management board as they develop online registration platforms for the sector.

We have entered a submission protesting the ban on pets in strata premises in QLD.

PIAA held a boarding sector forum late in 2016 to address the number of deaths in kennels over summer. It was found that the current codes for kennels is 21 years old and needs to be updated and distributed to councils for enforcement. PIAA is working with AWAC and RPOG NSW to ensure this happens in a timely manner.

We are currently working on new standards & guidelines for grooming, pet minding and dog walking. We recently completed standards and guidelines for the kennel, doggy day care, breeding and retail.

PIAA is presently finalising an accreditation scheme for retail members that will result in them being recognised as a PIAA Companion Animal Centre of excellence.

We also sit on a number of alliance groups with Mars, Royal Canin, PFIAA, RSPCA and AVA and will continue to act as the voice for the industry. A voice for YOUR industry. ■



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr Robert Jones

Having recently chaired another PIAA Board Meeting, this last week in Sydney, I am pleased to advise that our membership numbers are now steadily growing again. We do represent all sectors of the pet industry and are the only organization that does so. The team in the office led by our CEO, Mark Fraser, are working very hard to ensure the continued growth and sustainability of all sectors of the Australian pet industry.

Increasingly, the PIAA is seen as the organization to be contacted if there are any pet-related matters that Governments (Federal, State and Local) wish to discuss. PIAA is also working on becoming a source of continuing education for all sectors of the pet industry. At this year's AusPet 2017 (previously called the PetExpo), there is a greater emphasis on talks and presentations. This is so that attendees can leave with not only the opportunity to have seen new products and talk with suppliers, but also have gained new knowledge that they can return to their businesses with, to assist in the weeks ahead. Following on from last year's highly successful aquarium day, there will be two afternoon sessions of aquarium talks with an industry forum as well as AusPet. These are all good reasons to attend AusPet 2017 in Sydney in October.

In the aquatic sector, the PIAA Aquarium Working Group is developing a five year strategic plan with a brief to grow the aquarium industry within Australia. This will be revealed in the next month or so. The PIAA has also produced and released two aquatic Position Statements. The first is on the effects of Coral Bleaching and the coral collection industry. Part of it reads:

Licensed coral collectors and aquarium wholesalers and retailers must be mindful that only healthy corals should be collected and then sold into the marine aquarium hobby. Corals that are experiencing thermal stress should not be collected or sold in the supply chain.

PIAA urges member businesses from the marine aquarium industry to exercise caution and sound judgement in purchasing corals.

The second Position Statement is on the Australian Governments proposed release of Koi Herpes Virus to control Common Carp in waterways. PIAA has some serious concerns about this proposed release. Sadly, Australia has introduced many non-native species with disastrous consequences, think rabbits and cane toads (besides the carp). Part of the Position Statement reads:

The release of KHV will have a major impact on the ornamental Koi industry in New South Wales with the possibility of spreading into other jurisdictions. Koi, whilst they are the same species as common carp, have been bred for centuries, into various colourful strains and are kept by hobbyists and as pets and often command very high price tags.

The PIAA's other major concern is the impact on the river ecosystem that will occur due to an undetermined and significant volume of dead carp that will result when releasing this virus.

Both Position Statements are available on our website. If you are reading this and are not already a PIAA member, then I urge you to join. Go to our website (<https://piaa.net.au/>) and see all the many benefits of being a PIAA member. To existing members, I thank you for your ongoing support. ■