

The Christmas 2002 Wish List Revisited

Time flies even when you are not having fun, but if you set yourself goals, you often achieve them or at least make progress towards their completion.

In my e-mail newsletter of **December 2002**, I wrote the following (and have added in brackets in *italics* what I think has been happening in the last six years):

My Christmas Wish List for the EFA as "One" National Sporting Organisation (NSO)

With Christmas now only a few days away, it is a good opportunity to put together a wish list for the coming year (or should I say "years"), at the risk of being misinterpreted:

A vibrant and growing membership that aspires to and achieves success at their desired level, without serious accidents and other major mishaps. (*ongoing – working on it*)

Continued improvement in the organisation and presentation of equestrian events, making them more attractive to spectators, sponsors and the media. (*ongoing – some improvements and more to come*)

Effective and consistent communication with members. (*much improved*)

A corporate governance structure that is in line with today's governance thinking and meets Australian Sport Commission guidelines. In other words, a National Board that is probably around half the current size and that governs in the interest of all members. (*achieved but we still need a new constitution to be 'current'*)

A National Organisation that has the resources and competence to convert Board and National Committee vision and policies into programs that are implemented across the country. (*progressing*)

An integrated strategic plan for all parts of the organisation, including plans for all "sports" developed by National and Branch Discipline Committees. (*largely achieved but more progress is needed*)

A sport administration system across Australia that does not have costly duplication of effort, but has instead standardised and certain centralised common processes and Branches that deliver member services above an agreed common standard. (*Much improved but unfortunately there are occasional unilateral decisions by Branches that cause disruption*)

Insurance policies that are affordable and that allow the sport to operate under international rules and standards. (*largely achieved*)

Insurance charge rates to clubs and coaches that bear some relationship to the size of their endeavour. (*achieved*)

A "Code of Practice" and risk management systems at all levels of the sport that ensure appropriate legal protection. (*getting there*)

And many, many other things

Maybe I am dreaming, but if you haven't got a dream, what are you living for?

Well, looking at this list, I am pleased to say that many of the goals have been achieved or we have made good progress. National Forums have set new targets and priorities, and work is progressing to achieve them.

I hope you will be able and willing to assist.

Franz Venhaus 23 December 2008