



## GRA Chair

### Phil Bennett

**The** Board recently travelled to Townsville for the annual Northern Regional Conference.

I thank the representatives of the five clubs who gave up their time to attend the conference and for participating so productively.

Pat Purcell MP, the Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Minister for Racing, attended the conference and was impressed at the cohesion of the Queensland industry and the advancements that it is making.

The newest Board member David Stitt has been on the Board for 12 months. I must say what an asset he is to the Board.

To have a solicitor of his calibre and experience on the board is a godsend. The work he has done on the submissions to the Integrity Inquiry has been particularly invaluable.

**Happy** 50th birthday wishes go to David Brasch, the Editor of the Journal.

David has made and is continuing to make a great contribution to the Queensland greyhound racing industry.

The Authority is very happy with the standard the Journal is setting in providing news and coverage of events. The articles in the Journal and those he has been posting on the GRA Website are well written, positive and posted in a timely fashion. It is fantastic to be able to read upto- date stories from all around Queensland.

Thank you David.

**David**, and the whole greyhound racing industry, has lost a good friend following the passing of

Barry Pascoe, a truly talented photographer.

The Authority sends condolences to his family and friends and offers thanks to him for the photographic legacy of racing that he has left to us.

**The** coverage of greyhound racing in The Courier-Mail and Sunday Mail leaves a lot to be desired.

There is no coverage in the Sunday Mail and The Courier-Mail seems content to publish articles on third rate horses racing in second class races rather than cover top class greyhounds taking Australian racing by storm.

It is also keen to publish the negative aspects in all racing codes than cover good news stories that would encourage the public to take an interest in racing. I suppose it is easy to write these stories, as they require no research.

**The** same cannot be said for the coverage the industry receives on Sky and on Radio 4TAB. Paul Dolan, John Brasch and Steve Hawkins go out of their way to support and encourage the Queensland racing industry.

I thank them for the fantastic job they do.

We also receive good coverage in The Catching Pen program, which has improved immensely since Mark Duclos has taken the reins.

**On** closing, I must comment on the standard of the racing during the winter carnival. It is the best it has been in years.

Queensland can no longer be looked upon as a minor racing state.

**Bring on the Nationals!**