

Dear OPEA Executives and Ai-group staff. Welcome to our first Board meeting for 2022.

Whilst collecting my thoughts for this report, I was very much distracted and touched by the flood situation in South-eastern parts of Queensland and Northern NSW. Whilst sadly learning about many fatalities and the huge loss of property and livestock, I sincerely hope our members, customers, families, and friends living in those areas will be able to deal with the terrible aftermath caused by these severe calamities of climate and nature. My thoughts go out to all affected people who have suffered loss or are still battling their way through this difficult situation.

Since our last meeting in October and dependant on where you live, directions from your state polities regarding the Omicron virus strain, may have had you working from home again. Fortunately, increased national vaccination numbers have helped decrease infection and mortality rates, taking some pressure of our hospitals and weary medical staff. In addition, these falls have led to more easing of workplace restrictions enabling the return of many employees to their normal workplace environments.

This January we had Sarah Murphy join us as an Ai-group Administrator assisting Kym Oakley. Consequently, I would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Sarah and thank her for her current and ongoing contributions to our association and its members. On some unhappier news, during the lead-up to this meeting unfortunately, we received two executive resignations. The first was from our Vice President, Robbie Raymer and the second from our Dealer Representative, Paul Borg. Beginning with Robbie, he announced he was leaving his company Masport on March 3rd for a new role with SUMEC Hardware & Tools, which are not a member of our association. I would like to thank Robbie for his 3.5 years of service with the OPEA. I think we're all going to deeply miss Robbie's experience and solid contributions. In saying goodbye, I'd also like to wish Robbie well with his career move. Concerning Paul Borg. Unfortunately, his time with us was very short and cut even shorter due to personal reasons. Paul, whilst I never got the opportunity to meet you in person, I genuinely hope that things will improve for you soon. Therefore, I take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts within our industry and for supporting the OPEA.

In recent news, after some frantic last-minute work and discussions held with Powerstats NZ, our new statistics portal went live on December 6th, successfully reporting industry data for November 2021. The system continues to function and report monthly data accurately and reliably. The move to Powerstats has been a significant project and event for the OPEA and marks the beginning of a new business relationship with Powerstats and new era for us and our contributing members. Our members are now benefiting from less time-consuming data entry procedures and have become the recipients of improved data access, layout, and earlier delivery. Powerstats have already carried out two industry online training sessions and I believe user feedback has been very positive. As the Powerstats system is very different from our previous providers, there are still some areas that we'll need to address concerning historical data retention. Later in today's meeting Brian Goodridge will be providing a brief

overview of the work that is happening in this area and touch on some of the pending matters we'll need to address. I would also like to thank both Brian and Kym for their work and tireless efforts in making the transition to Powerstats a reality.

Power and DC equipment sales demand continues to be strong leading up to Autumn. However, global supply and logistics issues continue to burden our industry.

Standards Australia (SA) assessments continue in relation to the industry submission to replace aged Standard AS 2657:1985 with two new modified adaptations of ISO 5395:2013-parts 1 & 2. SA has since raised the question, why ISO 5395 -part 3 **Ride on mowers**, has not been considered or requested for adoption as well? This February, the OPEA wrote to targeted supplier members engaged in Ride-on business, for their views or concerns if any, regarding this question. Unfortunately, the response levels we received were quite low and all responses have now been passed to Carl Carboni regarding preparing a formal response to SA on this matter. Once the matter is resolved, there is a strong chance that SA may move to form a standards working/technical committee, comprised of supplier members involved in mower manufacturing/supply to the Australian market.

In closing, I think we've all been extremely saddened by the tragic events unfolding in Europe and the recent loss of two of our Australian Cricketing greats. Rod Marsh and Shane Warne. Shane, we know passed away at the relatively young age of 52. In trying to make sense of this, I felt that if anything else could be added to this great man's legacy, his passing could stand to remind us about our own frailties and mortality. With our ever-increasing busy lives, I think we should all try to ensure that we are taking some time-out for ourselves concerning our own personal health and ongoing physical and mental wellbeing.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2022.

Cheers