

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

To all the members of the JFA family,

The past year in Judo will be remembered for many reasons, including the appointment of the JFA's first female and non-judoka Chair and our first female full time Technical Director. This Chair role is such a privilege for me personally. I have enjoyed and appreciated the support, mentoring and advice of many in our Australian community as well as the international Judo community. The way in which the entire Judo community has welcomed me and challenged me in this position has highlighted positively how the Judo Moral Code is practiced in Australia. I have experienced the discipline and respectfulness which is embodied within our sport. Whether it is as an administrator, parent, player coach, or support person, honourable behaviour builds strong bonds inside and outside of the Dojo. On the mat and in meeting rooms I have seen modesty in victory, respectfulness in defeat, courage and self-control, close friendships, courtesy and significant honesty to encourage improvement or to acknowledge a job well done.

A significant achievement of the JFA in 2017 has been our continuing evolution to becoming a trusted, high performing, sustainable and strategically driven National Sporting Organisation. We have been finalising a major change agenda, focussed on recovering, stabilising and growing. This change agenda has included establishing and enhancing our:

- Corporate structure;
- Board composition, roles and powers;
- Board processes;
- Governance systems;
- Financial Performance and Reporting;
- Stakeholder relationships; and
- Ethical and transparent decision making.

I particularly want to highlight the significantly improved financial position the JFA is now in, while acknowledging we need to continue improving in this area. In 2014/15 the JFA recorded a deficit of around \$250,000, in 2015/16 this was reduced to a \$90,000 deficit, 2016/17 saw the deficit reduced further to \$65,000 and we have budgeted a deficit of approximately \$50,000 in 2017/18 – a position we hope we can neutralise in the 2018/19 year. Significant effort has been committed to establishing best practice financial management and improving our transparency, reporting accuracy and processes.

There are some really exciting initiatives and projects ahead for the JFA in 2018, including:

- Modernised new branding, including a revitalised national website and enhanced digital presence;
- Establishment of a new full time staff member dedicated to increasing participation in Judo and building the capacity and capability of our affiliated clubs;
- A female engagement Framework (including players, coaches, referees, administrators and volunteers); and
- A National Entry Level program, aiming to attract more school aged participants.

Optimism surrounds Judo in Australia right now, arising from our excellent foundations built over the past 2-3 years. We have every right to be confident that our sport will now build on these foundations in 2018 and beyond. The JFA Board's leadership is not about coming up with all the answers and then convincing our members to follow our vision. Rather, it's about having the humility to admit that we don't have all the answers and then generating an environment in which our members can meaningfully contribute to creating the answers. This will be even more so the case in 2018 as we work with our Member States to co-create the JFA 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. The Board has already developed a process for consultation and development of our next Strategic Plan and I will write to you again early in the new year to outline that process in more detail.

Thank you to my fellow Directors, our State Presidents and their Committees, to the Board and Operational Committee members and to each and every person who contributes to the growth and love for Judo in Australia. Special thanks also to Alex Vallentine, Maria Pekli and Cathy Potter who assiduously steward our sport on daily basis.

Please stay safe and enjoy some quality time with your loved ones over the coming weeks and I look forward to the ongoing growth and development of our great sport in 2018.

Yours in Judo

Kate

Kate Corkery
Chair
Judo Federation of Australia