

Appendix to the minutes of **Minutes of Extraordinary General held on 15 July, 2001 at the "Meeting Room" of The Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor Street, Chatswood NSW**

Closing Address by Mrs. Kerry Johnston, President RDA (NSW), read by Mrs. Kerry Johnston.

Before I close this meeting I wish to address you as President of this organisation. I acknowledge your right to ask questions and make comments – today I feel everyone has been given a fair hearing.

Pearl Batchelor has asked that you all know she is thinking about us and she sends her love to you all.

If I have failed the centres in some way then I am sorry but I firmly believe (as obviously many of you do from the comments today) that the real issue is the Tall Timbers issue.

Last November we had an EGM and the Centres voted against the proposed development of Tall Timbers at Box Hill being allowed to proceed forthwith financed by the proceeds of Kellyville.

The Board offered the Tall Timbers centre funds of \$1.3 million based on a Valuer's estimate. This would mean the surplus funds of \$1 million would stay with RDA(NSW) .

You may recall that the original motion of October 1998 noted surplus funds of \$1million going to RDA(NSW).

After some time this offer by the Board was rejected by Tall Timbers with a counter offer.

In the meantime the Bank refused to unfreeze the funds which the Board had organised to be frozen – to prevent further withdrawal of funds by Tall Timber’s signatories. Funds of over \$300,000 had already been withdrawn by these signatories.

I still am amazed at the audacity of this action. Doug Denby assures the Board that the funds are in RDA(NSW) 's name and then allows his wife, the secretary of the Centre and the administrator of the Centre to sign a cheque to remove an amount of over \$300,000 from the account held in RDA(NSW)'s name.

Now we have the National body accusing us of damaging RDA’s good name and alleging that sponsorship has been affected. What sponsorship RDAA has not seen fit to elaborate upon.

It is interesting that with the Board honouring the wishes of the Centres expressed at the EGM last November we are the ones being accused.

Rules and procedural matters between the board and centres have been set – in many cases were set by Doug Denby – in the Tall Timbers matter these rules/guidelines have never been complied with.

Centres are saying ..... "lets get on with it"  
Advisors are saying ..... "lets get on with it"  
Board members are saying ..... "lets get on with it"  
RDAA is saying ..... "lets get on with it"

How do we get on with it?

The management committee of Tall Timbers is obstructional – I cannot see this being resolved while the present committee are there.

I came into this position with enthusiasm, positive attitude and a willingness to accept the challenge. I have to tell you I no longer feel the same. However since the last EGM the trust, energy and working relationship of this Board has been mighty and an experience I will never forget.

To those who called this EGM and those who worked so hard to create confusion, concern and doubt amongst everyone I feel you need to consider very carefully if you are prepared to stay as part of this organisation.

If you are not then I suggest you organise your committee and centre and resign - keeping in mind that the assets of your Centre will remain with RDA(NSW).

If you wish to stay part of this organisation then I suggest you tune into some positive energy, stop your destructive criticism and power games, accept the decisions made by the Centres voting and get on with it.

If we could package all the time and energy that has gone into this today just imagine how we could have used that time for our riders, our centres and for RDA(NSW).

I am not prepared to go through the last few weeks again EVER – the effect on my health physically and mentally and on my family has been considerable. As much as I love RDA nothing is worth THAT.

That is my feeling about this issue.

You all have your own responses and reactions to this morning but I trust you all leave here feeling you have been true to yourself and to your centres.

Thank you for coming and I bid you safe traveling.

I now declare this meeting closed

***Kerry Johnston***