



Hi Members,

We are well into the peak of our show season, with the last few months seeing 3 successful State shows across the country, hosted by Affiliates VRHA, WARHA and SARHA. We also saw the running of the ARBC and the GVRHA Buckle Up & Slide, two of the major shows on the Australian Reining Calendar. There have also been numerous qualifiers, and clinics and the NRHA Judges seminar. And the Pacific Coast Reining Spectacular is just around the corner. Phew! The Board are hearing great things about all the shows, particularly about our incredible athlete horses, committed competitors and the hard-working committees and volunteers, so thank you all for making our shows such big parts of our lives and so much fun.

In this our 30<sup>th</sup> year of Reining in Australia the Board have been focussing on the future of the Sport of Reining and considering its long-term sustainability, and continuing on from the work put in by the previous board in setting up systems and processes that will serve future boards and our membership. The volunteer status of our governing body continues to challenge this sustainability. Therefore, a vision and steadfast commitment to key principles of sound governance and responsible financial management is essential for a viable future.

The Board have started towards these goals by determining the core shared values amongst our members and stakeholders. It is felt these align well with the identity of our Reining Community. The Values of Respect, Family and Sportsmanship make up our culture and set us apart from other disciplines. These principles are at the heart of our sport and community and set the tone of our relationship with each other, our horses and all stakeholders who are passionate about our sport. In line with the adoption of these values it is our 30<sup>th</sup> year and Reining Australia are excited to release some great new logos and a new merchandise range.



We have started work on our constitutional renewal goal to overhaul the existing constitution to ensure the sport has a robust governance structure that will solidify our future. The plan is to put this document out to the membership for feedback once it is in reasonable draft format. Key considerations for this constitution include, membership structure, affiliate representation at board level, succession planning, voting and AGM considerations, disciplinary processes and assessing the Objects of the association. Any and all feedback from the membership will assist in setting up our governance for many years to come. A federated model is being considered which differs from our current state-based structure. We invite all contributions to a new strategy for Reining Australia as that is also on our to do list.

We recently had a visit from NRHA representatives and senior office staff Samantha Oldfield and Kirsten Leisman who met with members of the RA board on the Gold Coast. Further a NRHA Judges seminar and Secretaries seminar was held. It was great to welcome Brett Walters NRHA Judge and Professional to share his vast experience with Australian NRHA Judges. A Secretaries seminar was taught by Samantha.

We discussed many programs and options for Reining Australia including, drug rules, para reining, international representative competition, trophies, Secretary training and NRHA rules.

NRHA have recently rolled out a new International Affiliate structure as follows:

*On April 30, 2019 the NRHA Board of Directors approved the restructure of the current IAP Program. This restructure will take place over a five-year period before it is fully in place, with the initial year (2020) being an informative year with no changes to the program. This will allow affiliates to review the impact and to plan accordingly for the future. Several changes will take place including:*

- *The name “International Affiliate Program” will cease to be used*
- *One of the major changes will be the removal of the “IAP Rebates” in terms of the membership rebates. However, the 2.5% show fees will still be given back. In addition, NRHA offers an affiliate incentive checklist where affiliates host certain events or activities and receive a monetary incentive for each event or activity held.*

Reining Australia will work with our Affiliate clubs to maximise the benefits of the changes to this program.

This weekend our Youth representative Mackinley Glover will compete for Australia at the Global Youth Reining Cup in Italy. It is heart-warming to see the level of support for Mackinley coming from all the membership on social media and it is so exciting to have such a great youth competitor representing Australia. It will be great to ensure Australia is represented in future at all international events.

The Gold Buckle Futurity and National Show along with the Continental Affiliate Championships to be held in Tamworth 7 -15 September is shaping up very nicely with the highest sponsorship commitment ever received in Australia. This has enabled increases in prizemoney for many events. Thank you so much to our sponsors for your sincere enthusiasm and support for this event. Our National Show committee is working very hard to make this an exciting show to celebrate 30 years of Reining Australia with a great program and the return of our Hall of Fame dinner to acknowledge our Reining greats in style. We are excited this year to introduce a Ranch Riding event with 3 class categories as well as a modified 2 handed Cowhorse event that will include a dry work pattern and Cowhorse arena work. The program for the show will be released soon so watch this space.

We are looking forward to catching up with members at the upcoming shows.

Happy Reining!

Susan Camfferman



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