

The

February 2017

SLIDER

Official publication
of Reining Australia

**2016 AGM and
High-Point Awards
Celebration**

**WEG 2018
Update**

**Youth Partnership
Program
Youth World Cup 2018**

**Compartmentalization:
Breaking Down the Run**

*Noel Watson and Colonel Einstein
2016 National High Point Award Novice Horse Open Level 1
Photo: Stephen Mowbray*

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REINING AUSTRALIA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Hi All

Welcome to your 2017 Annual General Meeting and also thank you for your continued support over the last 12 months. We have had some exhilarating times and also some character building times as well.

Our sponsor numbers have increased by roughly 20% but that does not necessarily equate to more money yet. However, if we continue to show strong support to our sponsors I'm sure we can attract more as time goes by. Our 2016 live feed web cast audience has risen from 10k to 12.5k individual IP hits; the number of countries is steady at 16, the same as 2015.

Our Facebook has risen about 30% from 4000 to 6000 and the Reining Australia web site has gone from 10,000 views in 2015 to 20,000 views in 2016. Membership numbers have increased to nearly 450. So it seems we have a nice steady growth rate for our sport at this present moment. If each family can bring one person into reining each year, it won't take long to have some incredible numbers.

EQUITANA this year has shown a deficit of \$500. This probably sounds bad but when you take into account that we showcased our sport to people from all over the country. People from as far as North Queensland, Western Australia, New Zealand and Tasmania showed their interest just stopping by our stand and asking some questions. So I think the \$500 is well spent. We couldn't cover that amount of country with advertising for that amount of money.

The 2016 National Show at Tamworth made a welcomed profit of approximately \$5000. It was pleasing to see our sponsors engaged in presenting their prizes and ribbons or trophies to the respective winners and place getters. Please don't forget to support and thank your sponsors.

2016 saw the RTA Incentive presented in the Gold Buckle Open Futurity class to the horse owners in their respective classes. The charity fund raiser class held for the Humpty Dumpty Foundation was a hit for competitors and fans alike.

A new class being introduced for 2017 is the two-handed Snaffle Bit Futurity. This will be something to look forward to.

The NRHA raffle was a hit last year. This initiative translated into larger prize money for all classes at the National show. As most of you would know, we are selling another raffle. The raffle prize is two tickets to the PBR Finals Rodeo held in Las Vegas 2017, including flights and accommodation, etc. So if every person sells one ticket in this raffle, it will give us another \$10,000 to put towards our National show. This allows everyone to benefit from a little bit of effort from everyone. There possibly will be another raffle for the NRHA trip for two etc., later on in the year. Great Value.

In 2016, we saw some huge steps forward with more of our professional trainers reaching full endorsement accreditation. Congratulations to those who have put in the efforts to achieve this.

After several issues were raised concerning horse welfare in 2016, this year will see the introduction of random drug testing at our shows throughout the year.

Once again thanks for your support throughout the past 12 months and I hope 2017 is a fun and enjoyable year for all.

On behalf of the RA Board Thanks

Regards Paul Sharp





*Mick Taylor and Lil Gold Digger
2016 Non Pro Futurity Open Division Champions
Photo: Stephen Mowbray*



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REINING AUSTRALIA 2016 AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT

Photos: Reining Australia

*Pam Spokes and Paul Sharp at the Awards Night.
2016 National High Point Award Prime Time Non Pro
2016 National High Point Award Novice Horse Non Pro Level 1
(Mustang Lil)*



The Best Western Airport Motel in Melbourne was the venue for a subdued Reining Australia Annual General Meeting to round off 2016.

Thank you to those members who attended or sent apologies and to those who voted online. On the one hand, the low level of interest was disappointing but on the other hand, it could be seen as a vote of confidence. The Board thinks we must be doing something right!

It was heartening to report a strong financial position with memberships and sponsorship increasing steadily, a big plus in these times of uncertainty. Our members rewarded the efforts of the Board with another surge in support for the Nationals.

Our aim remains always to respond to the needs and desires of our membership, both professional and non-professional, and to promote the sport of reining.

The mood was a lot livelier at the Awards Night Dinner in the motel restaurant. Most local winners were present to accept their awards and share the excitement with friends and family. Congratulations to everyone.

It was a great night. The food was delicious and the atmosphere was noisy and relaxed. The reining family is always generous towards its winners and we celebrated every triumph as if it was our own. Thank you to Lynda Gray and the motel staff for doing a great job to make it all happen.



Reining Australia Board and attending members at the AGM. Left to right: Peggy Salmon, Deb Versluis, Paul Barratt, Sonya and Mick Taylor, Lynda Gray, Paul Sharp, Kathleen Murphy, Ed Smith, Sara Agnew and Tracee Sharp.



*Above: Mick Taylor and Paul Sharp.
2016 National High Point Award Non Pro
2016 National High Point Award Open*



*Above: Paul Sharp and Kathleen Murphy.
2016 Reserve National High Point Award Open*

REINING AUSTRALIA 2016 AGM AND AWARDS NIGHT



*Above: Mel Sporry and Paul Sharp.
2016 National High Point Award Limited Non Pro
2016 Reserve National High Point Award Limited Open*

*Left: Paul Sharp with multi-award winner Hannah Lloyd.
2016 National High Point Award Intermediate Non Pro
2016 National High Point Award Youth 14-18 years
2106 National High Point Award Novice Horse Non Pro
Level 2 (Whizzel Me Lucky)*



Pam Spokes, Mick Taylor, Lynda Gray and Kathleen Murphy have finished their dinner and are enjoying the company and admiring the trophies.

REINING AUSTRALIA 2016 HIGH POINT AWARDS AT HOME



Above: Paul Sharp and Noel Watson.
2016 National High Point Award Novice Horse Open
Level 1 (Colonel Einstein)



Above: Paul Sharp and Brooke Sestero.
2016 National High Point Award Limited Open
2016 Reserve National High Point Award
Limited Non Pro

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DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOUR

Paul Sharp: RA President

I would like to address a little problem that seems to bob its head up from time to time, around our shows mostly, and that is disrespectful or unsportsmanlike behaviour shown towards our show officials and committee members.

I realise we are all volunteers and we say I'M A VOLUNTEER, YOU CANT SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY. This doesn't cut it for me anymore and I think disrespectful people need to be held accountable for their own actions.

Board and Affiliate committee members are not here to mistreat or abuse or be abused or mistreated by anyone.

RA will take on the responsibility of dealing with any issue that arises from this type of behaviour to alleviate pressure at Affiliate level. The committee person involved does not have to debate with one of their neighbours, or a colleague, or a trainer, etc.

If a show official or committee member does have an incident they find difficult to handle, they can jot down the facts and send them to me for perusal and confidential discussion.

It would be fair to say that the majority of our problems come from show nominations not being filled out correctly.

Our secretaries have to try to get everything in line prior to the show and people get heated most probably because they have left everything until the last minute. And of course there is the late entry cry as well, along with stabling and camping complications at some shows.

I believe we will set a much higher standard of acceptable behaviour if we are clear and concise in our explanations in our show conditions. We should follow the rulebook and have one rule for everyone, and ensure that everyone follows the rules.

No doubt most of you will have heard the term I DIDN'T KNOW THAT on many occasions. Well everyone has a rulebook to read and absorb and also a duty to educate themselves. And of course we have a duty to present the correct info for the members as well in a professional and courteous manner.

I don't mean to be a rulebook Nazi and I don't wish to make anyone else a rulebook Nazi but we have to have one rule for everyone with NO EXCEPTIONS. This may mean some short-term pain but if everyone sticks to the system it will certainly make all of our lives a lot easier and pleasant and a far more enjoyable season.

Feel free to give me a call to discuss this or any other issue you feel is relevant on 0427 554 544.



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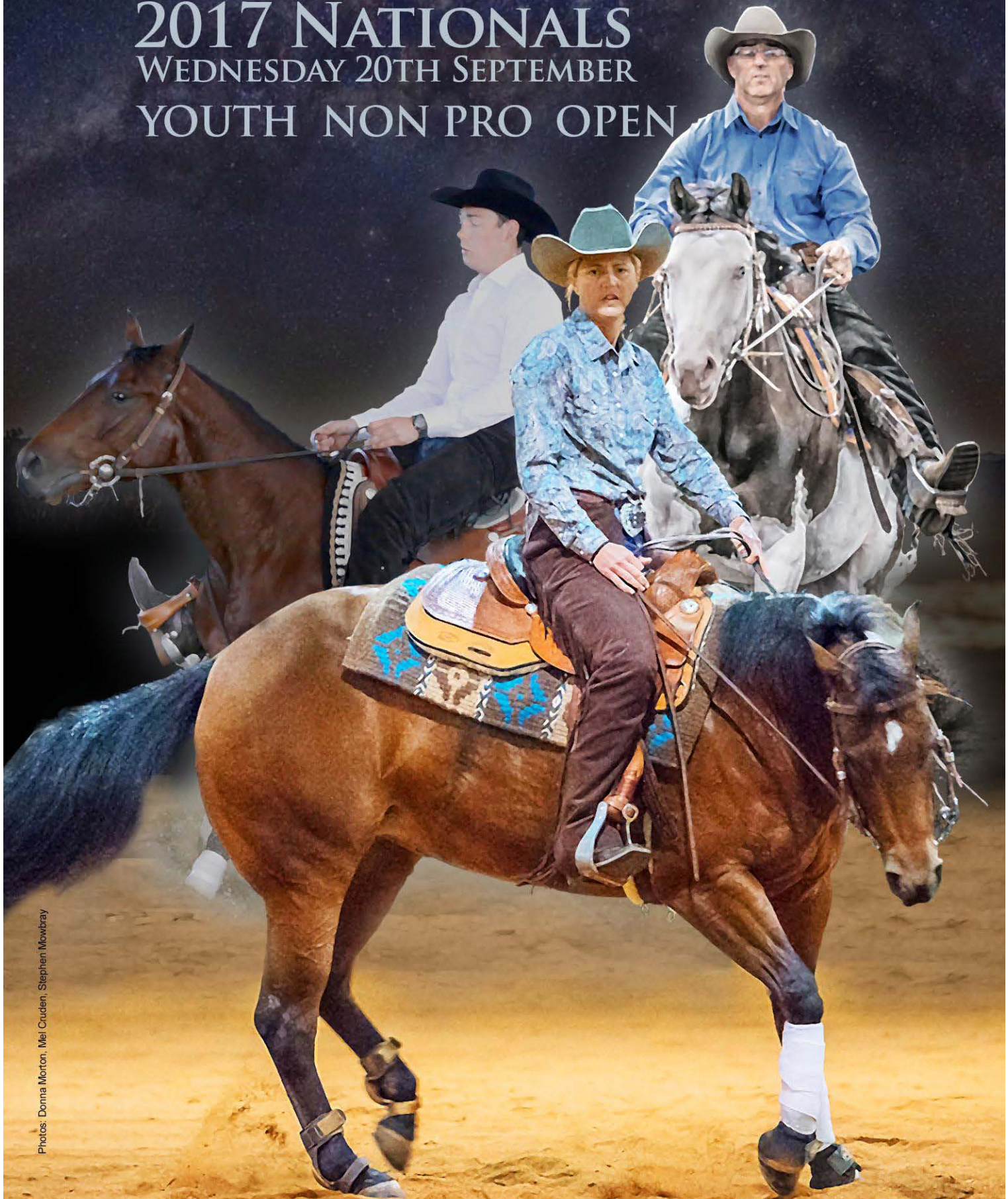
REINING AUSTRALIA

SNAFFLE BIT FUTURITY

2017 NATIONALS

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

YOUTH NON PRO OPEN



Photos: Donna Morton, Mel Cruden, Stephen Mowbray

SNAFFLE BIT FUTURITY

Reining Australia has introduced a Snaffle Bit Futurity to the Nationals program. The inaugural 2017 event will be the main feature on Wednesday afternoon, 20th September.

The Snaffle Bit Futurity is independent of the Gold Buckle program. Horses DO NOT have to be Gold Buckle nominated to enter.

Horses eligible for the Gold Buckle Open Futurity and Gold Buckle Non Pro Futurity may enter this event and then compete in the Gold Buckle classes later in the week.

The Snaffle Bit Futurity will be run under NRHA rules: Owners and riders must be current financial members of the National Reining Horse Association and Reining Australia. Horses must be licensed with the NRHA.

This Futurity is designated as a "Snaffle Bit Futurity" and all horses must be ridden two-handed in a snaffle bit. The class will be divided into three divisions in 2017: Open, Non Pro and Youth.

There is no change to the conditions for the Gold Buckle; all Gold Buckle Futurity classes at the Reining Australia Nationals must be ridden one-handed in a bridle.

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CLINIC DETAILS

Sydney Clinics

Greg Peters Facility

1. 9th & 10th Jan 2018

2. 11th & 12th Jan 2018

Melbourne Clinics

Venue TBA

1. 14th & 15th Jan 2018

2. 16th & 17th Jan 2018

Queensland Clinics

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1. 18th & 19th Jan 2018

2. 20th & 21st Jan 2018

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REINING AUSTRALIA THANKS OUR TRAINERS

Reining Australia would like to thank Mick Taylor (VIC) and Ed Smith (QLD) for their contributions to promoting reining to the grass roots in regional Australia.

Reining Australia would like to thank the trainers who donated their time and expertise to the Youth Camp held in the Gatton Indoor Equestrian Centre, Queensland, 7th and 8th January, 2017.



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Photo: Emma Taylor

Ed Smith



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CHALLENGED RIDERS IN STANDARD NRHA CLASSES

NRHA rules for judging allow the use of aids by challenged competitors in standard NRHA/Reining Australia classes.

The nature of a rider's "challenge" might be, for example, limb weakness or balance problems arising from illness or injury, visual impairment, or a mild cognitive or intellectual disability. There is no relaxation of scoring and the pattern must be ridden one-handed.

2017 NRHA Handbook, p. 85

B. SCORING

(22) The NRHA Judges Committee will evaluate individual requests from challenged riders regarding the use of aids when exhibiting. In the event an individual is granted special privileges, he or she will be presented said privileges in writing and must provide a copy to the show committee each time he or she exhibits. The Show Committee is required to present said privileges to the Judge(s) as well as the individual's draw number and exhibitor number prior to the class in which he or she will be competing.

Australian riders should direct their requests regarding the use of aids, in the first instance, to the Reining Australia Judges Sub-Committee through the Secretary of Reining Australia:

Email: secretary.reiningaustralia@bigpond.com

Allowed aids are listed below. Provisions outside of the list will be handled at the discretion of the Judges Sub-Committee.

- a. Specialty braces and/or belts
- b. Audio communication equipment
- c. Trainer/handler present in the arena
- d. Boot adaptations
- e. Rein handholds or a closed rein
- f. Rubber bands to hold feet in stirrups
- g. Saddle blocks
- h. Wedges and/or cushions
- i. Safety stirrups
- j. Seat savers
- k. Whip carried in the non-rein hand

Challenged riders with a disability that prevents their full participation in standard NRHA/RA classes are referred to the conditions that apply to Para-Reining classes.

The use of two hands and simple lead changes are allowed in Para-Reining classes.

Para-Reining classes may use NRHA Patterns 1–15 or other specially designed relaxed patterns. The relaxed pattern must include at least one (1) sliding stop, one (1) circle in each direction, a minimum of two (2) spins to the left and a minimum of two (2) spins to the right. Gaits may include a walk, trot and/or lope.

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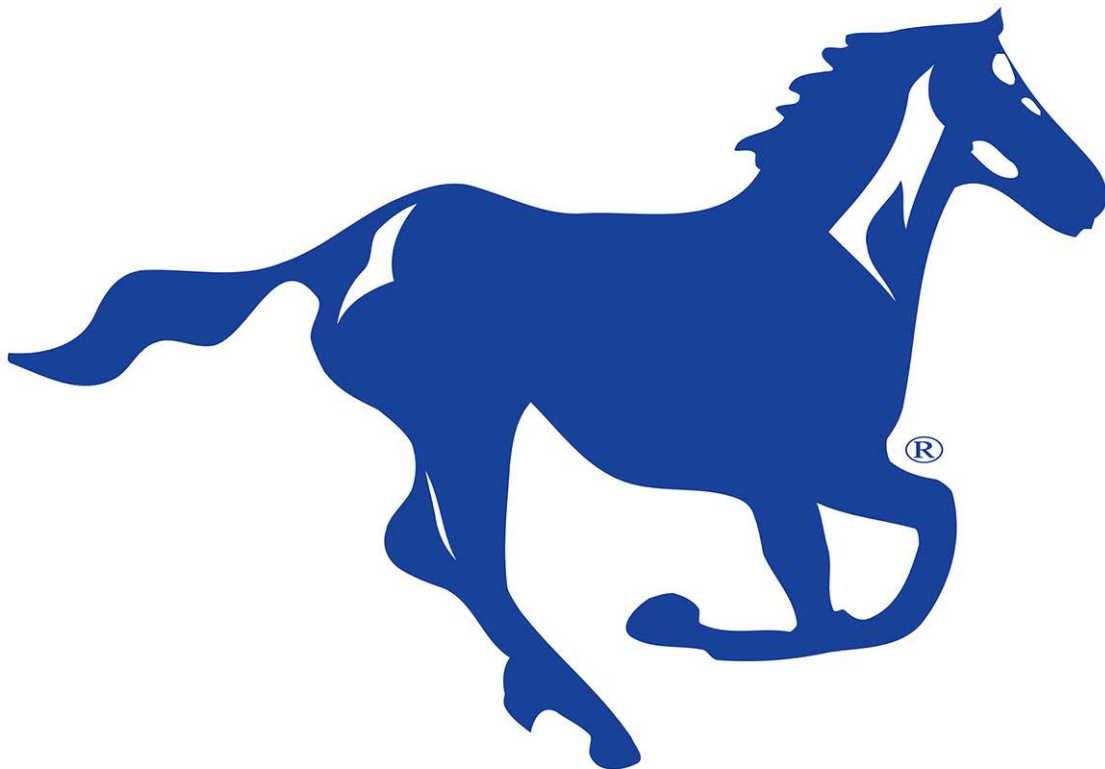
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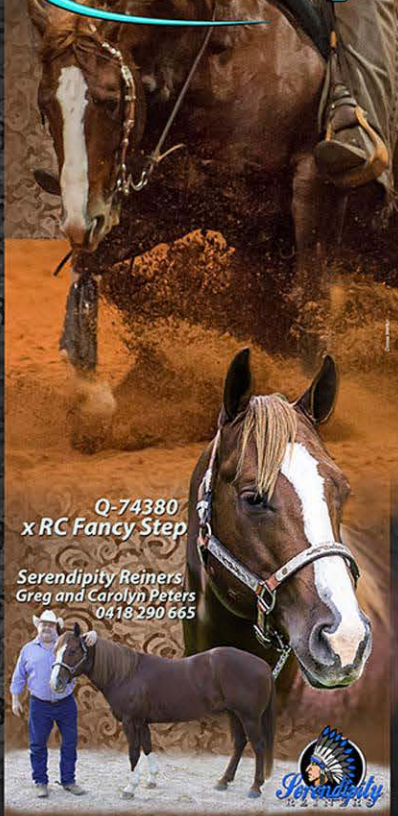
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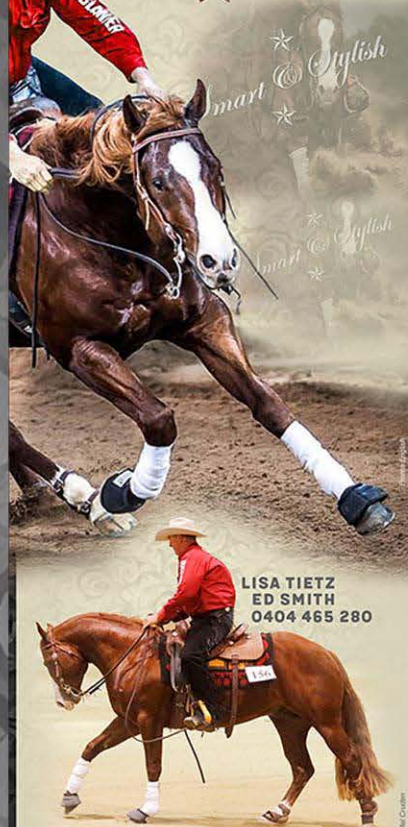


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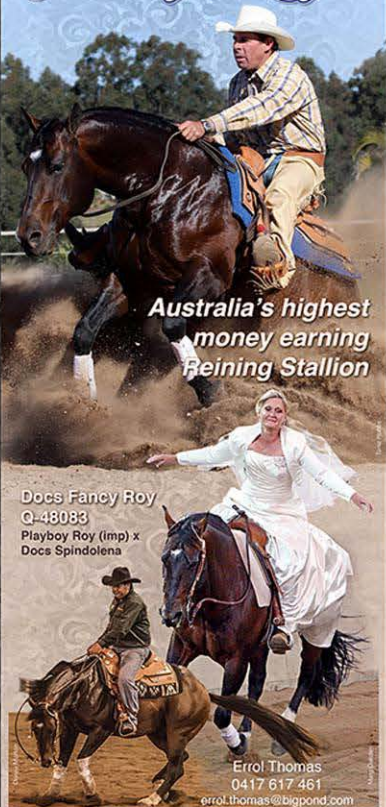
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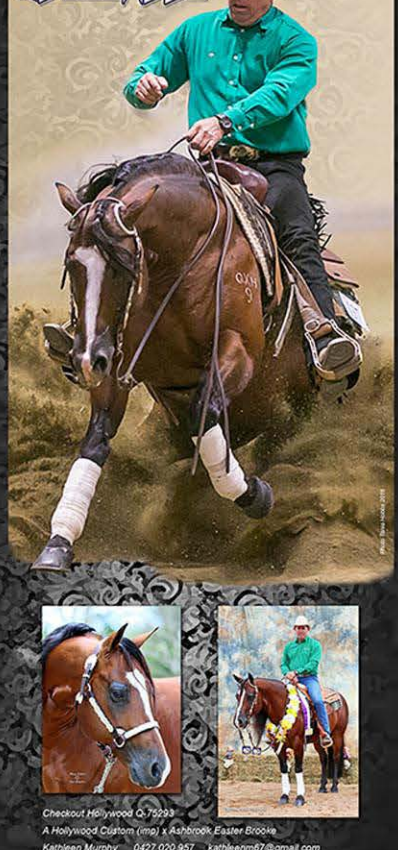


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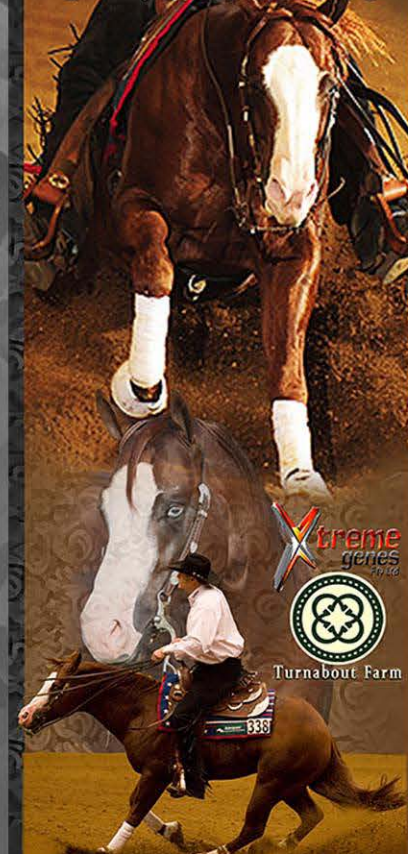
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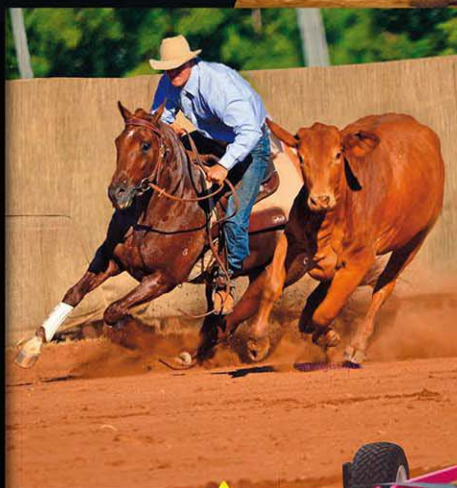
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NEWS FROM SOUTHERN NEW SOUTH WALES REINING HORSE ASSOCIATION

Tania Squire: SNSWRHA President

The Southern New South Wales Reining Horse Association has secured a wonderful new local venue, Walgrove Ranch in Yass.

SNSWRHA is a great club, with lots of friendly faces that love nothing more than riding reiners! We hold ribbon shows, clinics and fun days. A fun, friendly atmosphere is enjoyed outside the pen, while the serious business gets underway inside the pen.

Our members range from the total newbie to reining, right through to Open Non Pro and Open champions, all of whom are only too happy to offer a helping hand or friendly pointer if needed.

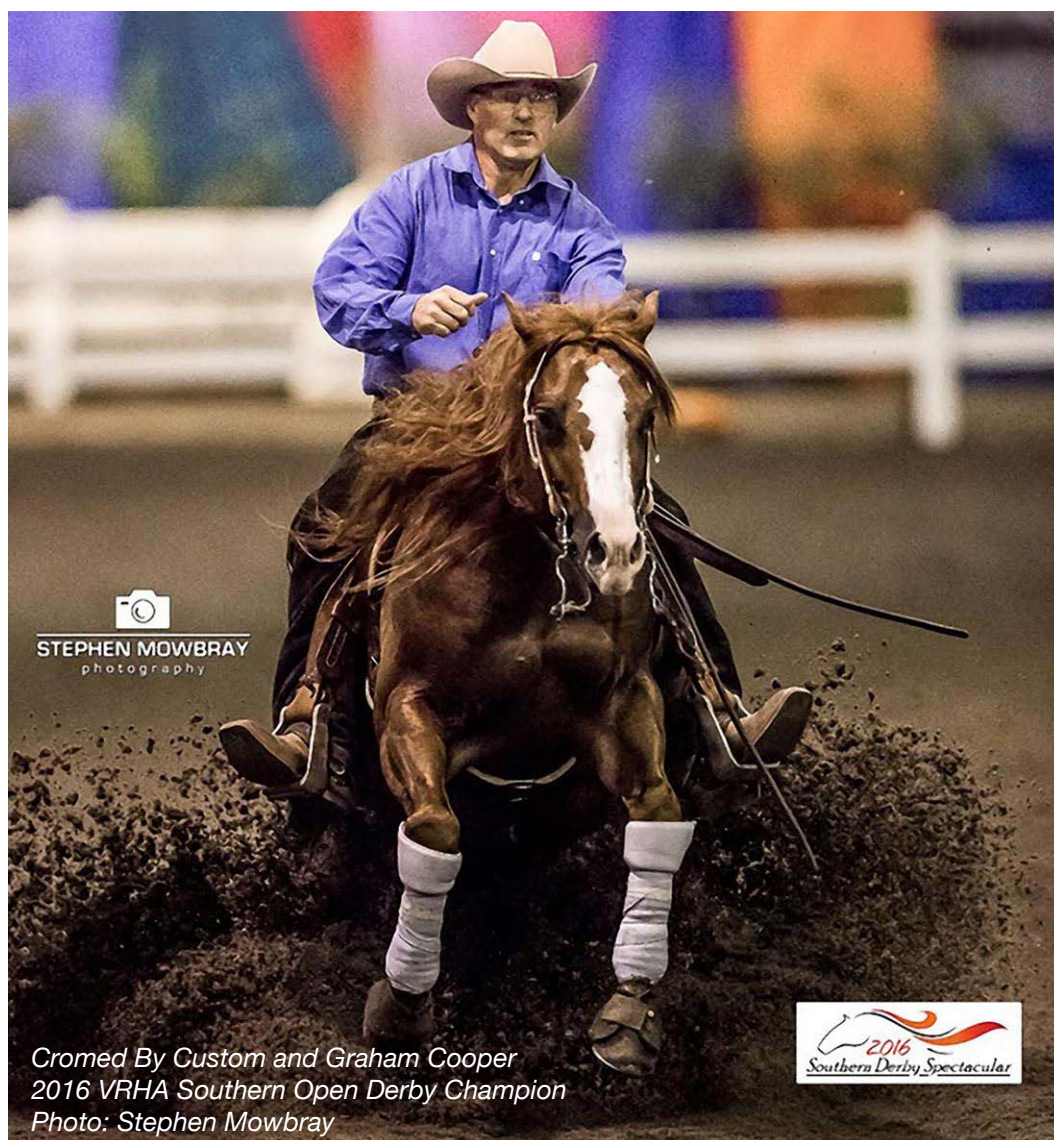
If you are just starting out, come along to one of our clinics. It's a great way to meet people and find out what its all about.

Or, get in touch with Graham Cooper, our resident trainer. Coops has many years of experience in both showing and training reiners, with many Open wins under his belt.

After a very long, hot summer, we have a busy season ahead.

All events will be held at our new venue, Walgrove Ranch, 9 Walgrove Road, Manton Park, Yass. The venue features a large covered arena and this means that our events can be scheduled without weather interruption. The venue also provides stabling, day yards and paddocks for users.

We are very excited about the new venue and the schedule of events that we have planned. Details can be found on our updated website at www.snswrha.com.au.



2017 12 - 15 April at Dalby Showgrounds Australian Reining Breeders Cup ARBC Stockmans Challenge



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Ruralweekly



Photo and design Tania Hobbs

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www.vrha.com.au



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REINING AUSTRALIA YOUTH

YOUTH PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The Reining Australia Youth Partnership Program is open to all Youth members. This includes non-riding and non-competing Youth who are encouraged to participate.

The Youth Partnership Program is a program developed to encourage Youth to become more involved with the running of shows. A Youth who volunteers to help at shows will earn points and credits towards annual prizes and awards. Prizes will include Reining Australia merchandise as well as benefits like help with the cost of stabling at the Nationals.

Reining Australia knows that some Youth attend more shows than others and that some Youth have better opportunities to help. The quality and not just the quantity of your help, and praise from the committee, are very important. Special awards and commendations will be made for any outstanding efforts.

Youth must use the Youth Partnership Program form. The form can be downloaded from the Reining Australia web site.

The form has spaces for your ID and the name and date of the show or event. The boxes represent the various jobs that a Youth member might help with at a show and include some suggestions for specific tasks.

Ask one of the organising committee to initial each of your tasks when the job is completed. Bonus points are awarded for showing good team participation, such as working well with other Youth as part of the program or working well with show management.

Bonus points are also awarded for good sportsmanship. This might be as simple as helping each other, showing good manners and respect throughout the show and being on time for classes and the line up.

There is a space for comments from the committee and a place for the Show Secretary, Show Manager or a committee member to sign off on your participation. After every show, send the signed form to the Secretary of Reining Australia. And enjoy being a special part of the reining family!



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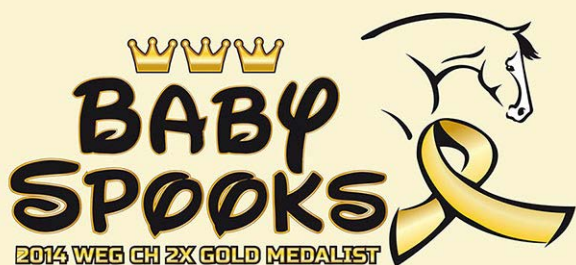
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YOUTH INCENTIVE AWARDS

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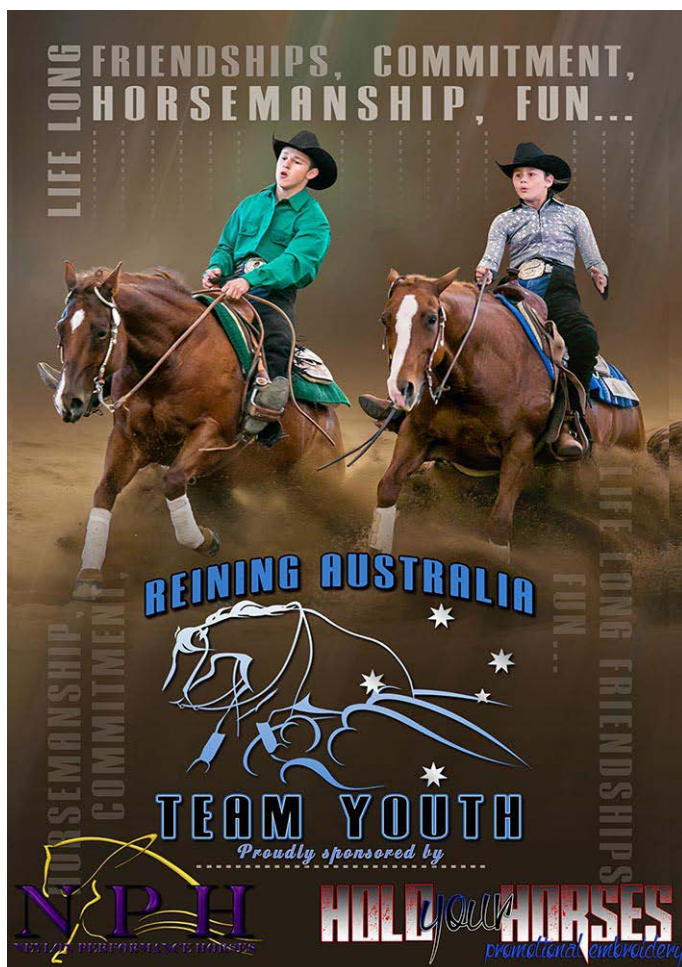
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YOUTH WORLD CUP 2018

College Station, Texas 28 June – 8 July 2018

The American Quarter Horse Youth World Cup is an international youth event held every two years. It is a showcase of superior horsemanship, leadership and camaraderie among equine enthusiasts from many nations.

The members chosen for Team Australia will represent Australia not only in horsemanship but also in international goodwill. The Youth World Cup (YWC) gives Australian youth a unique opportunity to learn in a “hands on” setting with other international young Quarter Horse enthusiasts.

All riding team members in the YWC will compete on horses donated in the host country; not all horses will be highly qualified or trained show horses.

Teams will draw for horses; every horse drawn by a team must be exhibited by a member of that team. No coach, trainer or adult will be allowed to ride the horses at any time during the event. All training and preparation of the horses will be done entirely by the youth team members.

Riding team members will participate in clinics conducted by professional clinicians and finish the YWC experience by competing in an international standard show. The coach will decide the events and horses appropriate for each riding team member. His/her decision will be final.

Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills, both with peers and adults, and be respectful and courteous at all times.

YOUTH WORLD CUP TEAM (RIDERS)

Five (5) Youth applicants will be selected as “Riding members” of Team Australia. One additional applicant will be selected as a reserve Riding member of the team; the reserve will be part of the Leadership team.

The reserve team member will accompany the Riding team members to YWC, and be expected to assist Team Australia in all areas of support in equine care (grooming, feeding, tacking horses, etc.).

YOUTH WORLD CUP TEAM (LEADERSHIP)

There is an option to include Leadership members in the team. Outgoing, courteous and friendly applicants for a Leadership position are an essential part of the Team. The YWC organises several activities through the week for the non-riders, and they are also invited to fence sit on the clinics that are a part of the YWC week.

There are opportunities for the Leadership team to spend quality time with all the international competitors. A Leadership position is an opportunity for Youth who aspire to ride in the next YWC team to learn from the experience.

A maximum of four (4) applicants will be selected for the Leadership Team. They will accompany the competing Team members to the YWC and will be expected to assist Team Australia in all areas of support in equine care.

At no time will Leadership Team members ride.

An application form is available from AQHA and must be completed in every detail. References must be attached. A photo in JPG format only must be sent to robyn@aqha.com.au in time to arrive with the application.

Forward the completed application along with the non-refundable \$50 application fee to: AQHA Youth World Cup Application, PO Box 979, Tamworth 2340 (postmarked no later than 28th APRIL 2017).

PLEASE NOTE: Applications received with a postmark after this date will not be considered.





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PARA REINING NEWS

WPR UPS THE ANTE WITH \$25,000 MONEY ADDED AT 2017 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN EUROPE!

Catherine Sherwood
World Para Reining

Following the overwhelming success of the 2016 World Para Reining International Championships at the AQHA World Show in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA, World Para Reining (WPR) is proud to announce that it will be taking the 2017 International Championships to Europe!

The 2017 Championships will be held July 4-9 at the Diamond League Western Show in the Dutch city of Ermelo, the base of the Dutch Equestrian Federation, and will include both Team and Individual competitions, including \$25,000 in added prize money!

The 2016 WPR International Championships crowned the United States WPR Masters team as the Gold medal champions, with the Canadian team bringing home Silver, and the Netherlands winning the Bronze. The 2017 Championships will be another World Equestrian Games style event, with International teams competing for team medals, and an individual event to be held on the second day of competition.

To be eligible to participate, riders must compete in 2 classes at WPR approved shows between the qualification period of November 1, 2016 to May 1, 2017 (*dates subject to change). Watch the WPR Calendar for upcoming qualifying events!

WPR is an organization dedicated to fostering competitive reining events for Para riders around the world. WPR is helping to bring the Para community into mainstream reining by coordinating with Worldwide Reining organizations to give Para riders many competitive opportunities.

Prior to 2016, FEI style international para equestrian competitions had been limited to those riders in Dressage and Driving disciplines, and we are proud to see Para Reining receive such enormous support and participation in 2017. World Para Reining is excited to see countries from around the world getting involved in education, training, and competition!

This is an exciting opportunity for Para-equestrian competitors - for more information, membership and qualification criteria please visit the World Para Reining website: www.worldparareining.org or email us at worldparareining@hotmail.com.

January 5, 2017

<http://www.worldparareining.org/news/2017/1/5/wpr-ups-the-ante-with-25000-money-added-at-2017-international-championships-in-europe>

The Reiner, January 2017

<http://digitaleditions.sheridan.com/publication/?i=373494&p=162>



2016 WORLD PARA REINING INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Medal presentation at the 2016 World Para Reining International Championships at the AQHA World Show in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, USA. The Gold medal winners were United States Masters, the Silver medal went to the Canadian team and The Netherlands team took home the Bronze.



Working to grow the Owners Futurity Incentive Fund

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WEG 2018 NEWS

Kathleen Murphy
RA Board WEG/FEI Portfolio

REVISED CRITERIA FOR WEG QUALIFICATION

QUALIFICATION PERIOD: 1 JANUARY 2017 TO ABOUT AUGUST 2018 (TBC)

MINIMUM QUALIFICATION CRITERIA (ART. 303 REINING RULES)

To be eligible to compete either as a member of a team or as an individual at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games, an Athlete must be qualified as FEI 3* Athlete (Art. 302.5.1) and achieve a minimum average score of 70 at two out of three different CRI3* (Championships excluded) during the qualification period.

One of the qualifying results as defined above must be achieved no earlier than on the 1st January 2018 and no later than the end date of the qualification period.

Nations who enter a Team must have organized a CRI of any level or a Reining Championship in their home country during the qualification period. It is not compulsory for the Team members to have participated in this CRI/CH.

Each NF may enter one team of four Athletes and Horses and one additional Individual Athlete and Horse.

An NF that is not able to send a team may send up to two individual Athletes and two Horses who have achieved the minimum qualification criteria as stated above.

Reining Australia will be running two independent CRI3* Reining events at QSEC on consecutive days in mid-April 2018. An athlete who scores a minimum average score of 70 at each of these events will fulfill the qualification criteria to compete either as a member of a team or as an individual at the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games.

So far, eight Australia-based riders have expressed interest in competing in the CRI3* events to qualify for selection for the WEG 2018 Australian Reining Team. Reining Australia will continue to liaise with Equestrian Australia on behalf of these athletes.

One New Zealand rider will also compete in the qualifiers with a view to competing for their country at WEG 2018 as an individual.

QUALIFYING FOR WEG IN AUSTRALIA: QSEC 14-15 APRIL 2018

Reining Australia is planning two independent CRI3* events in 2018. The events are likely to be run at QSEC Caboolture on consecutive days: 14th and 15th April.

QRHA is hosting the WEG qualifiers and Reining Australia will be working with the Affiliate to promote the show to RA members and the general equestrian public.





www.mr4x4.com.au

A logo for 'HORSEMAN'S TRADING POST' set against a background of vertical wooden planks. The word 'HORSEMAN'S' is arched over a stylized illustration of a horse's head in profile. Below the head, the words 'TRADING POST' are written in a straight line.

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A logo for 'HITCHLEY & HARROW'. The letters 'H&H' are large and ornate, with a decorative flourish above the ampersand. Below this, the text 'HITCHLEY & HARROW' is written in a smaller, serif font, followed by 'EST 1928 LONDON' in an even smaller font.

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NEWS FROM EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA

LAUNCH OF NEW PATHWAY FOR COACHES

Equestrian Australia (EA) has announced the development of a new coaching accreditation pathway.

Its development follows an NCAS review (completed in 2014) and, more recently, six months of consultation between EA and the broader Equestrian community including State CEOs, National Committee Chairs and State NCAS Committee Chairs, as well as coaches and coach educators.

A number of issues were identified in the current structure. The key problems were:

- Lack of transparency in the cost associated with coaching
- Lengthy and somewhat convoluted process to gain accreditation
- Lack of clarity on how to progress
- Structured, singular educational format that does not cater to differing learning styles
- Concern that unaccredited coaches could be delivering horse riding lessons

To eliminate these concerns and further enhance the coaching accreditation program, EA has worked collectively to create a simplified model with improved accessibility and value for money.

The new coaching program, which will be introduced in 2018, has four levels of accreditation delivered via an online platform, with discipline electives delivered face-to-face, and additional electives offered for further development of skills and knowledge.

The four levels are:

- **Recreational Coach:** targeted primarily to club level coaches and teachers who wish to deliver the basic skills of horse riding.
- **Competition Coach:** targeted to lower levels of competition and intermediate skills of horse riding.
- **Senior Competition Coach:** targeted to middle levels of competition and advanced skills of horse riding.
- **High Performance Coach:** targeted to international levels of competition and the high performance requirements for horse riding.

The revised process will present the pathway in a modular approach that is streamlined and consistent across all disciplines. The electives will focus on specific disciplines and general equestrian knowledge, and will include modules to further develop business and interpersonal coaching skills. EA aims to add new additional elective modules each year to address current industry requirements and allow for continuous professional development.

Contact Equestrian Australia for more information on their coaching pathways.

21 March 2017

<http://www.equestrian.org.au/news/launch-new-pathway-coaches>



EQUESTRIAN SPORT BRINGS MORE THAN \$1 BILLION TO THE ECONOMY

Adapted from Equestrian Australia

In October 2016, Equestrian Australia (EA) commissioned Sports Business Partners and Street Ryan to conduct a community impact study on Equestrian sport in Australia.

It's the first report of its kind ever commissioned by EA, in partnership with all state branches, and is a significant investment towards better understanding our sport, its stakeholders and the potential for future growth and development.

The main objective of this project was to determine the contribution of Equestrian to the broader community within Australia. The focus was to understand the community contribution generated across three key areas:

- **Economic**
- **Social**
- **Health**

The total economic contribution of Equestrian (excluding all codes of horse racing, polo/polocrosse, rodeo, western and tent pegging) is over \$1.143 billion. This is broken down as a \$1.135 billion economic contribution whilst the annual contribution to physical and mental health is an additional \$12.724 million.

Key findings were based on data from a wide range of sources to generate a holistic view of the contribution. These included the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Sports Commission and Australian Government Department of Health.

Additional, vital information was also collected from a broad cross-section of Equestrian stakeholders and participants including an online survey of more than 4,500 members from within the Australian Equestrian community. "These significant findings confirm Equestrian as one of Australian sport's top contributors to the national economy," said CEO, Paula Ward.

The study determined that Equestrian sport has a range of unique social strengths not offered by other sports including lifelong participation opportunities and a structured, disciplined and selfless mindset.

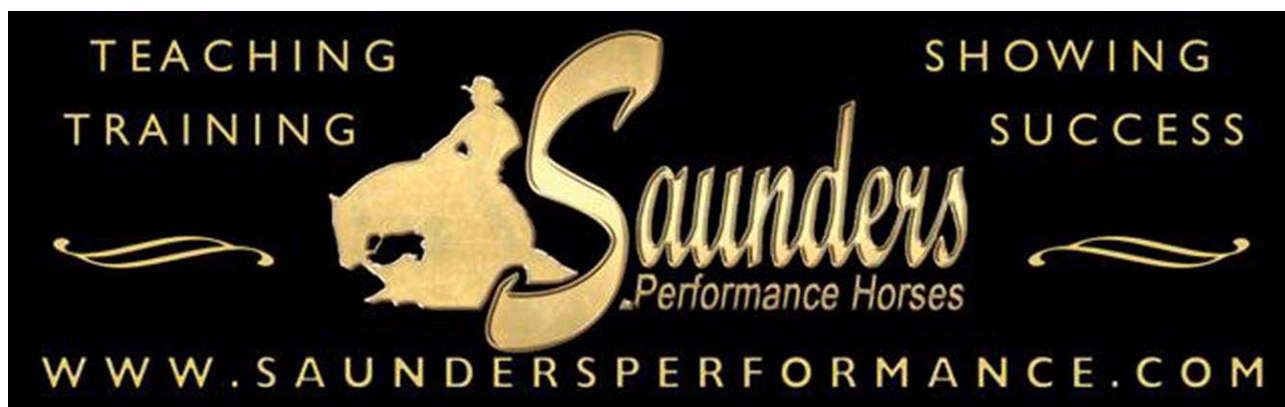
The major point of difference Equestrian has from other sports is the responsibility that goes with the management and care of the horse. This selfless duty requires commitment, discipline and purpose.

Equestrian also offers a healthy outdoor lifestyle and is, for many people, a recreational outlet that leads to personal purpose and fulfillment.

"Riding horses or even just being around these magnificent animals is a very fulfilling experience and men and women across all ages enjoy tremendous health benefits as a result," Ward said. "It is very heartening to see the hugely positive impact that participation in Equestrian has on the mental and physical health of Australians," Ward said.

Key finding from the reports did highlight a range of strategic challenges that need to be seriously considered to move forward. Despite the strength of the volunteer backbone of the sport over the past 50 years, there are some concerns about the next generation of officials, event organisers and future leaders of the sport - and where they are coming from.





There is a need to be able to seek and attract national commercial partners, establish clear national pathways to develop talented athletes, coaches and officials, communicate better with members and participants and promote the sport to the general public.

Equestrian is not unique in this area with other governing bodies of sports such as athletics, gymnastics, motor sport and winter sports facing similar challenges.

There is a distinct need to grow the sport and offer pathways for inclusion for new riders of any age and background. Highlighting the social, physical and mental benefits of the outdoor Equestrian industry as well as available high performance and recreational pathways will draw more participants.

The Australian sporting market is becoming increasingly competitive with every organisation looking for an edge to attract new participants, volunteers, commercial partnerships, government funding and talented athletes. In addition to these market pressures, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) has clearly stated its intention to improve the governance systems and operational efficiencies within the sector.

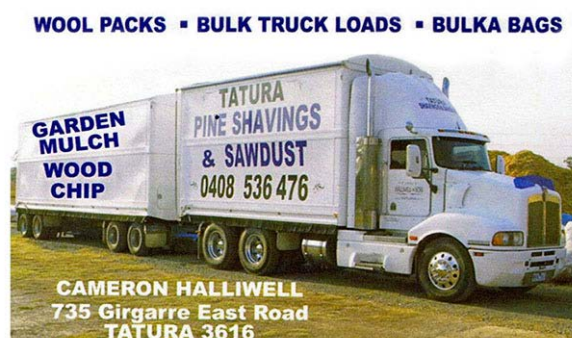
ASC funded sports will be required to meet elevating standards in these areas to remain eligible for funding. [Reining Australia does not attract ASC funding at present.]

The general sentiment is that despite the diversity of Equestrian disciplines and overall participation levels that peak and trough with economic cycles, the sport has been stagnant for some time.

For EA to elevate its position in the market, we must identify, plan and implement these areas of change. This will enable a national agenda for Equestrian in Australia, focussed on ensuring decision making is always aligned to long-term vision for the sport. Now is a critical time for change.

28 February 2017

<http://www.equestrian.org.au/news/equestrian-brings-more-1billion-economy>





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A. GENERAL

To rein a horse is not only to guide him, but also to control his every movement. The best reined horse should be willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely. Any movement on his own must be considered a lack of control. All deviations from the exact written pattern must be considered a lack of/or temporary loss of control and therefore a fault that must be marked down according to severity of deviation. After deducting all faults, set here within, against execution of the pattern and the horse's overall performance, credit should be given for smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of performing various maneuvers, while using controlled speed which raises the difficulty level and makes him more exciting and pleasing to watch to an audience.

COMPARTMENTALIZATION: BREAKING DOWN THE RUN

Wendy Lind (from The Reiner)

At the 2016 NRHA Adequan North American Affiliate Championships (NAAC), Ashley Weaver looked down the draw sheet to see when she and her mare, Starlight Per Se, would be entering the pen. Drawing up 92nd out of a very deep combined class of 116 non pros, she headed over to the Coliseum to watch the Futurity runs figuring it would be about 9 hours until she showed.

I try to be peaceful and positive about my goals

“I’ve learned to not focus on beating my competitors, but instead on improving on the last time I showed; such as getting a better turn to the right, or perhaps better rundowns to my stops,” she explained. “So I don’t study the draw sheet to see who is in my class, because it really doesn’t matter. I know I have a nice mare who is proud to get in there and show how talented she is. I think a lot of times we get in our own way by focusing on things out of our control.

So instead of worrying how good everyone else is, I try to be peaceful and positive about my goals, and focus on my game plan and showing my horse the best I can on that day.”

That mindset has been working, and by the time it was all said and done, Ashley and Starlight Per Se (Starlights Starbrite x Miss Perfect Peppy) marked a 218, tying for the Reserve championship in the NAAC Non Pro Championship class and third in the Non Pro ancillary class, both of which were stacked with the best non pros in the country.

Though it sounds simple, Ashley said showing maneuver by maneuver has taken a lot of pressure out of showing for her and has been instrumental in her increasing success. At the heart of that game plan is a studied approach to her showmanship skills as related to the NRHA judging system and the perspective from the judge’s chair.



Above: Non pro Ashley Weaver runs a circle on her mare Starlight Per Se.

COMPARTMENTALIZATION: BREAKING DOWN THE RUN

Her husband Mack Weaver and father in law Bub Poplin are both NRHA Professionals and NRHA judges. Their input and analysis has been instrumental in Ashley's ability to garner pluses in the show pen.

"It really helps to have someone show me what a 0 or +1/2 maneuver looks like, and I've learned from them that the judges don't care who you are or what you've done; they're just watching each maneuver strictly from a penalty and maneuver evaluation standpoint," Ashley said. "I've learned that it works best to focus on one maneuver at a time to avoid penalties and showing my horse the best I can in each maneuver."

I get better results by slowing things down

Prior to this more analytical and compartmentalized approach, Ashley often went into the show pen with a goal of going as fast and hard as she could. This over-generalized approach often resulted in a muddled run that was void of plus maneuvers and riddled with penalties.

"I've learned I get better results by slowing things down and understanding what I need to do as a competitor to show my horse in a way that will take advantage of the judging standards. I want to present each maneuver in a way that highlights my horse's ability while still being correct," she said.

In reality, judges don't score a run in an overall sense, but instead by NRHA's more precise, maneuver-by-maneuver, judging system. So it only makes sense that riders approach showing in the same manner.

In fact, showing with this perspective came into play for Ashley in that NAAC Non Pro class. Analyzing each maneuver after she finished it, she was able to put together a dynamic game plan. Figuring the first run in, stop and back maneuver was worth a +1/2, she then had an over turn one direction in her spins. Ashley knew she was going to have to make up for that penalty by riding aggressively in her circles, highlighting her mare's naturally low, ears forward, style via a draped rein.

"I just let go of that mistake I made, and since my mare's best maneuver is circling, I really ran them with a high degree of difficulty to show the judges that my mare is the ideal in terms of a reining horse being 'willingly guided' as it is explained in the NRHA Handbook," she said.

Mission accomplished: the judges responded by scoring the duo's circles with +1/2 and +1 maneuver evaluations. Their 218 score earned \$2,234 and a bevy of sponsor awards.



COMPARTMENTALIZATION: BREAKING DOWN THE RUN

Just showing fast doesn't do any good

"Thinking of showing a pattern in an overall sense is overwhelming. And just showing fast doesn't do any good if you have overspin penalties, or if you're circling out of control and out of lead," she said.

"Approaching each maneuver separately and understanding how the NRHA judging system works has made a big difference for me. I really recommend that non pros go to one of the NRHA Judging Seminars, and scribe at NRHA shows. Both of those really help in being able to show better."

Ashley Weaver

Showing in NRHA competition since 2004 with NRHA Lifetime Earnings of \$51,230, Ashley Weaver's interest in Reining sparked when she purchased a reining horse to use for rodeo queen competitions.

When it became apparent that the horse was in need of training, Ashley began taking lessons from her future husband, NRHA Professional Mack Weaver. The couple now lives in Morgan, Utah with their 10 year old son, Cole.

Ashley, who is the behind the scenes and business manager for Weaver Performance Horses, has numerous wins to her credit, including the 2015 Tamarack Derby L2 Non Pro division and Gold and Silver Medals in FEI competition.

"I fall in love with my horses so we're finding that it's better for me to show mares because if they do well we can keep them as broodmares," she laughed. "When we sold the last gelding that I showed (Wimpy Per Se, a half-brother to the mare she's currently showing), I cried for a week!"

The Reiner, March 2017

http://digitaleditions.sheridan.com/display_article.php?id=2736084&view=391724

REINING AUSTRALIA AFFILIATE ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER CLUBS





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