

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### **First Trotting Race: Parramatta (30/4/1810)**

"Horfe racing was the leading feature of the day; and this sport commenced with a race between celebrated horfe Parramatta and the well known bay horfe Belfast; which was won by the former. A trotting match succeeded; when the famous mare Miss Kitty was victorious, going over the ground in flye scarcely to be surpassed by some of the first trotters in England. On these matches bets to a considerable amount were depending."

### **First Trotting Meeting: Sydney (24/10/1885)**

"The inaugural meeting of the Sydney Driving Park Club was successfully carried out on the Agricultural Society's Show Grounds, Moore Park, last Saturday, in the presence of a large assemblage of visitors. So far the committee is to be congratulated on the success of its initial meeting, and the possibility of each following meeting displaying a better lot of "Trotters" will induce many of the public who have never before witnessed the "gaiters" move to put in an appearance. Fine weather and a good fast track contributed largely to the time made on the ground, and when thoroughly set it will be hard to find a better or more suitable track for fast speeding of horses. Notwithstanding the number of heats that were trotted the track displayed very little surface breaking - just sufficient to take any "jar" to the horses feet."

### **First Race Under Electric Light: Sydney (6/2/1890)**

"Judging by the large attendance at Lillie Bridge last evening and the interest taken in the programme, pony racing (and trotting) there by electric light seems assured of success."

## QUEENSLAND

### **First Trotting Race and Meeting: Brisbane (11/8/1888)**

"Fortunately the bad weather which had prevailed during the past week or so has cleared off in time to allow the Brisbane Driving Club's inaugural meeting being held at the Eagle Farm Racecourse yesterday under the most favourable circumstances, and the first public effort of this new and promising club was quite as successful as had been anticipated, taking all things into consideration. The attendance was large, between 3000 and 4000 persons being present during the afternoon; the track was in splendid order, although perhaps a little heavy after recent rains ... everything appeared to work harmoniously towards the attainment of that object which everyone interested in trotting desire to see - a successful introduction of this kind of sport in the colony with the ulterior view of a better view of a better class of animals being brought here than hitherto been able to boast of ... the trotting events were of course quite a novelty being the first display of the kind ever witnessed in Queensland; and as such, were to many both interesting and amusing."

### **First Trotting Race Under Electric Light: Brisbane (27/9/1902)**

"The Wolloongabba pony races were resumed on Saturday night under electric light and under new management. There was a very satisfactory attendance and in excluding young girls and boys the management acted wisely. The proceedings were decidedly interesting. Time Handicap Trot

of 10 sovereigns was won by A. Donald's bg3 Dewey from 14 seconds behind. The time was 5:58 for the distance approximately two miles."

## **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

### **First Trotting Performance: Adelaide (10/10/1847)**

"Tolmer's Norah easily accomplished the task set by her by trotting from Frome Road bridge to Port Adelaide, a distance measured by Government Surveyors to be eight miles less two chains, in 27 minutes and 12 seconds. Bets were laid on the basis that Norah could not trot seven miles in half an hour so the owner and backers of Norah collected."

### **First Trotting Meeting: Adelaide (18/9/1880)**

"The opening meeting of the Adelaide Trotting Club took place on the Old Course, East Park Lands, on Saturday, September 18. As the inaugural effort to promote a class of amusement that is very popular in the colonies, the meeting on Saturday must be regarded as a fairly successful one, though not altogether satisfactory from a sporting point of view ... From a thousand to fifteen hundred people witnessed the trotting on Saturday, although it looked but a small gathering for the old course. The weather was in every way favourable, the afternoon being pleasantly warm and fine. There was a fair sprinkling of the usual speculative fraternity who practice on the credulity of the unwary on the hill by selling them purses of pence for half crowns, and performing the bird trick at a very handsome profit. There were few of the leading sporting men present in the grand stand reserve probably on account of the hunt and luncheon at His Worship's - The Mayor's. It was a few minutes after two o'clock when the eight competitors in the Maiden took their place and Mr Harvey lowered the flag. Winners were C. Wood's Tommy Dodd, W. Dixon's Pepper and P. Giles' Dominick."

### **First Night Meeting: Jubilee Oval (6/1/1920)**

"Adelaide's initial experience of trotting by electric light exceeded all expectations, and every one of the thousands who attended were delighted with the proceedings ... The meeting was held on the Jubilee Oval and a special track was prepared. The lighting was excellent, and the running ground and the stands were brightly illuminated by huge arc lamps. Looking onto the ground from the steps from the top terrace leading from North Terrace, the scene was a most attractive one. The attendance was estimated at between 6,000 and 7,000. The sport itself was of a commendable nature, and frequently caused great excitement."

## **TASMANIA**

### **First Trotting Performance: Launceston (1/1/1844)**

"On New Year's Day, our race-course presented a scene of gaiety and bustle almost equal to the annual meeting ... The last, and perhaps most interesting match of the day, was one against time: Mr Dry had engaged to ride Mr Field's horse Doubtful nine miles, divided into equal portions of trotting, walking and galloping, within an hour. He commenced trotting, and performed the

distance in about 37 minutes, leaving about 11 1/2 minutes to gallop the remaining three miles which enabled Mr Dry to complete the task upwards of three minutes within the appointed time, amidst the loud plaudits of the assembled multitude."

#### **First Meeting of Trotting Races: Newtown (14/3/1884)**

"Several trotting matches took place at Newtown yesterday afternoon. The first was between Jeffrey and Porthouse, for 5 pounds aside, the course about a mile in length from Cooley's Hotel. Porthouse won by a length. The next was between Porthouse and C. Bateman which was won by Bateman in a walk. The first race was a handicap trotting match for which there were several competitors. It was won by W. Webster's Lubra by a neck."

#### **First Meeting Under Electric Light: Northall Park (24/3/1938)**

"The first night trotting meeting in Tasmania took place at Northall Park (Hobart) last Thursday. Despite threatening weather a good attendance resulted, and the Club will show a profit. Winners were Sula Pic (by Globe Derby), Van Derby (by Globe Derby), Dimple Derby (by Globe Derby), Our Globe (by Globe Derby), Prince Emilius (by Emilius) and Ribble's Daughter (by Ribble)."

### **VICTORIA**

#### **First Trotting Match: Melbourne (16/3/1841)**

"On Wednesday last, a match came off between two horses which was remarkable only from the fact of the streets forming a portion of the course. The race was, from the middle of Little Flinders Street to the flag-staff; and if these things are permitted, we see no objection to form the course for the April meeting from the Police office to Mr La Trobe's residence."

#### **First Trotting Meeting: Melbourne (21/1/1860)**

"Day after day, the American Trotting races were more and more talked of, and towards the close of last week there was nearly as much interest shown in the doings of Saturday, as in those of the last November meeting. Had not the terrible north wind intervened to spoil the sport there would have been, we venture to state, a larger attendance at this gathering, than on any occasion since the Champion Sweepstakes; as it was, those that did brave the pitiless blast deserved all the enjoyment they obtained ... the racing was conducted without any serious barneying and indeed everything passed off amicably."

#### **First Trotting Meeting Under Electric Light: Melbourne (15/11/1947)**

"Opening night was favoured with fine weather, and the crowds which began to arrive about 5 o'clock had filled the main stands by 6.30pm. An interesting feature was that the majority of patrons paid 7/- to enter the paddock reserve which was greatly congested all night ... the general opinion was that night trotting had "clicked". The crowd showed its enthusiasm at the close racing - in six of the seven races the result was in doubt until the last 100 yards."

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

### **First Trotting Match: Fremantle (20/3/1834)**

"On Thursday morning the 20th inst., a trotting match took place on the Fremantle Race Course, distance one mile, between Captain Erskine's Perouze and Mr Wm Samson's well known Roan Mare. The Roan Mare won easily, Perouze breaking. Several bets depending upon this match, it is fully expected another match will be made up. Lieut. Maclead and Mr A Trimmer were the umpires."

### **First Trotting Meeting: Claremont (24/12/1910)**

"At the Belmont Park Racecourse on Saturday afternoon the inaugural meeting of the W.A.T.A. was held. There was certainly a fair attendance, and those present appeared to enjoy the racing but the public has yet to be educated to take an interest in trotting, and although the initial meeting, from a financial point of view may not prove a success, the sport received a great advertisement and if handled as well as on Saturday should gain ground here."

### **First Races Under Electric Light: Perth (24/1/1914)**

"A notable success was achieved by the Western Australian Trotting Association on Saturday night, when the first electric light meeting was held at the Association Cricket Ground. At considerable expense a remarkably fine system of lighting the track has been installed and so bright was the illumination that no detail of the various races were missed by the large attendance of people which was officially estimated at 2,000.