

JOSEPH COULTER MEDIA AWARDS 2014-15

EXCELLENCE IN PROMOTION

Nominating entrant: DAVID ALDRED – RACING QUEENSLAND

- Harness Racing Operations team – Racing Queensland
- Club & Show officials and volunteers promoting show and grass track harness racing

Title: Harness Racing – Getting back to the Grass Roots



HARNESS RACING – GETTING BACK TO GRASS ROOTS

In 2014-15 under the guidance of Queensland's Racing Operations Manager David Aldred, Racing Queensland successfully reestablished harness racing in venues and regions where it has been missing for many years. After a hiatus of 13 years, harness racing returned to the Royal Queensland Show in 2014.

The success of the Trots at the Ekka quickly sparked a response from other regional Queensland Show Societies and David met with Queensland Shows CEO Mark Bryant to hatch a plan for the future. David was invited to address an audience of Show administrators at the 2014 Showman's Guild annual general meeting. After making a presentation, Secretaries were quick to book the trots and to pledge funds for prizemoney for harness racing to return to their annual Shows. The result was that in 2014-15 a total of 15 days of Show harness racing were conducted in southern Queensland.

In addition to the shows the Racing Operations team at Racing Queensland also established a grass track racing circuit with TAB and non-TAB harness race meetings successfully conducted at Brisbane and country Queensland thoroughbred racetracks during 2014-15.

The show and grass track racing series are the forerunner of many more successful events of this type to come.

Show Racing 2014 -15



Show harness racing before big crowds at the Brisbane Ekka

Big crowds, exciting racing and outstanding performances and good old fashion fun at the races, the 2014-15 Show Racing circuit had it all.

Racing Queensland, Redcliffe Harness Racing Club, Albion Park Harness Racing Club and local sponsors banded together to support 10 days of harness racing at the Show which climaxed with the Garrard's Big Dog \$10,000 Show Grand Final on the final day.

The Brisbane Ekka is an event which attracts over half a million (500,000) people and what a fantastic way to promote our product.

Top class broadcasting talent announced the races and talked up the harness racing at every opportunity and all races were televised on the big screen trackside so everyone knew that the harness

racing was going on. The calling team included David Fowler, Matt Hill, Damien Courtney, John Brasch and David Aldred.

On the feature Saturday night of racing (Day 9 of the Ekka), the standardbreds, both pacers and trotters, darted around the 400 metre track in the main arena before a packed house with an estimated 30,000 people watching.

Spectators crammed into vantage points in the John McDonald Stand, Ernest Baynes Stand, Members Stand, Council Reserve, Machinery Hill, Cattleman's Bar, Hill Suites, Gregory Terrace Reserve and anywhere else they could get a glimpse, just to watch the races.

When the horses were competing, the crowd, many watching harness racing for the first time, were all fans. Young and old picking their favourites and hollering the horses names. All races were displayed on the big screen making sure spectators didn't miss a second of the action.

The response from the industry and the audiences every day of the 2015 Ekka was fantastic. Royal Queensland Show ringmaster Ms. Jan McMillan said it was tremendous to have trotting back at the show and quickly booked the event again for 2015.

Show Racing 2014-15:

VENUE	DAYS	STATUS	DATE	PRIZEMONEY
TOOWOOMBA	2	Harness Racing Heats & Finals plus Mini Trotting	March 2015	\$11,500 including \$4,000 sponsorship
GYMPIE	1	Harness Racing Heats & Finals plus Mini Trotting	May 2015	Fully sponsored Heats & Finals
NANANGO	1	Harness Racing Heats & Finals plus Mini Trotting	June 2015	Fully sponsored Heats & Finals
CABOOLTURE	1	Harness Racing Heats & Finals plus Mini Trotting	June 2015	Fully sponsored Heats & Finals
SUNSHINE COAST	1	Harness Racing Heats & Finals plus Mini Trotting	June 2015	Fully Sponsored Heats & Final
DAYBORO	1	Mini Trotting	July 2015	Fully sponsored
SAMFORD	1	Mini Trotting	July 2015	Fully sponsored
RNA – QUEENSLAND SHOW BRISBANE	10	Harness racing Heats & Finals	August 2015	\$24,500 including \$10,000 sponsorship



Mini Trotting at the Show

Mini Trotting, promoting our juniors in the sport, was front and centre at all regional shows in addition to the standalone appearances at the Shows at Dayboro and Samford. Our juniors were great ambassadors for the sport interacting with the crowds and participating show activities and ring events

Grass Track Racing 2014 -15

From humble beginnings at the start of the season grass track harness racing in Queensland is now attracting full fields for both pacing and trotting races. Grass track racing has been conducted as standalone harness racing meetings at Deagon, and Warwick and at dual code race thoroughbred and harness race meetings at Kilcoy and Beaudesert. Big Crowds have attended the race days at all venues with carnival-like crowds getting to the Deagon harness race day sponsored by the Sandgate Chamber Of Commerce and supported by the Brisbane Race Club, Redcliffe Harness Racing Club and Racing Queensland. Entertainment and family activities made the day a big hit with the community and participants alike.

The Darling Downs Harness Racing Club, as well as hosting show racing at the Toowoomba Show hosted a fantastic Grass Track raceday at the thoroughbred's Allman Park racecourse on Father's Day. With Bookies and on course tote betting the day attracted great support from the local community with all races sponsored, fashions on the field, children's entertainment, mini trotting and on track competitions. \$5000 was raised on the day to support cancer charities. The inaugural 2014 day was so successful that the event was scheduled as a TAB/Sky race day in 2015.

The Kilcoy Race Club puts on the best country race days in south east Queensland with patrons lining up for the famous Kilcoy steak burgers. They also love harness racing at Kilcoy with club officials stating that there is more interest and wagering for the harness racing than the thoroughbred races at their dual code race meetings. Kilcoy now host three grass track dual code race meetings a year. In 2014 they attracted great support for the annual Vietnam Veterans race day at which there were three TAB harness races run in August. Supported by the Kilcoy RSL, the day attracted a big crowd including Vietnam veterans and returned serviceman from Afghanistan and Iraq. The harness races at Beaudesert were conducted at the Club's annual Hibernian Club charity race day in May and were showcased in front of a big crowd in attendance at the thoroughbred race track.



Harness racing on the grass track at Deagon Racecourse

The 2014-15 Grass Track Circuit:

VENUE	DATE	STATUS	PRIZEMONEY
DEAGON	August 2014	TAB	\$17,500
WARWICK	September 2014	Non TAB	\$16,000
KILCOY	October 2014	TAB Dual Code	\$6,000
KILCOY	December 2014	TAB Dual Code	\$7,500
BEAUDESERT	May 2015	TAB Dual Code	\$7,500
KILCOY	August 2015	TAB Dual Code	\$7,500

Advertising and Promoting Show and Grass Track Racing

The Show and Grass track racing was promoted on Radio; Newspaper and in Magazines and received radio and television coverage in metropolitan and regional areas of Queensland and national coverage on Radio TAB network and the Sky Racing network magazine shows and racing programs in addition to international coverage via harness racing website news, including HRA, Racing Queensland and Harnesslink. Racing Queensland also produced a grass track racing Brand.

Specific promotional campaigns were:

RADIO – NOVA 106.9FM and Radio TAB Brisbane

NEWSPAPER – Courier Mail and excellent coverage in Regional newspapers

MAGAZINES – Pace Magazine (Racing Queensland); Sandgate Community Magazine; Show programs and gazettes

TELEVISION – References on Brisbane and regional nightly news, Sky racing

WEBSITES - HRA; Racing Queensland, Brisbane Racing Club, Kilcoy Turf Club, Darling Downs Harness Racing Club, Gympie Turf Club, Harnesslink

SOCIAL MEDIA – Racing Queensland (Facebook & Twitter), Trot Brisbane (Facebook and Twitter), LinkedIn.

FACE TO FACE: Specific information stands at Shows including the Royal Queensland Show

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADVERTISING: Regular daily announcements including interviews broadcast daily in the main arena at the Royal Queensland Show. Major advertising on the big screen daily at the Royal Queensland Show.

POSTERS & BROCHURES: posters and brochures were printed and distributed for the Show and some Grass track racing events

Benefits of Show and Grass Track Racing

BENEFIT		OUTCOME
Promotes horse welfare by extending the racing career of the horses	✓	Show and Grass Track races have given many standardbreds and their connections a new lease on life with some horses considered past their prime or unsuited to races at the metropolitan tracks, adapting better to smaller tracks at the shows and /or the grass track racing. After several grass track meetings in 2014-15, punter are now able to identify grass track form horses
Introduces new and old fans to the grass roots of racing	✓	Assists to grow attendances at racetracks, promotes horse ownership and interest in our sport
Sends a positive message to new harness racing fans	✓	The excitement and social atmosphere at the shows and the events at grass track races provide an excellent opportunity for harness racing to attract new fans back to the track.
Promotes regional and country racing	✓	Takes our sport to people in areas that do not currently have an opportunity to watch live harness racing and this encourages their participation
Promotes concession and junior drivers	✓	Provides additional racing opportunities for concession and novice drivers in addition to additional opportunities for our juniors competing in the mini trotting races
Educates young and old fans	✓	Information and educational stands such as the stand that Racing Queensland operated at the Ekka in 2015 promoted our sport to thousands of people
Provides a career path for youth	✓	Young people interested in horses easily identify with the career path from mini trots to harness race driving and training and the social experience at the country and regional shows allows parents and children to interact with drivers and industry participants and officials.
Provides a unique opportunities for participants to race in front of large crowds, applauding their performances	✓	Encouragement for our participants. Crowds attend shows and grass track events in the thousands and respond to the racing with applause and appreciation which is not generally seen at the day to day TAB race meetings.



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- Nomination prepared by David Aldred (Racing Operations Manager) Racing Queensland
 - Photos by David Aldred & Cindy Hurley (Racing Queensland)
 - Attached: Posters and Published Print Material

David Aldred

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PACE

HARNESS RACING IN
QUEENSLAND

MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2015



THE DAWSONS:
FOR THE LOVE
OF RACING

QUEENSLAND
WINTER RACING
CARNIVAL WRAP UP

HARNESS
RETURNS TO
THE EKKA

THE EKKA TROTS HAD IT ALL BY DAVID ALDRED

Big crowds, exciting racing and outstanding performances, the 2015 Brisbane Ekka had it all.

Ten days of harness racing around a tight 400m track at an event that attracted more than half-a-million people – what a fantastic way to promote our product.

The standardbreds raced before a packed house on the final Saturday night, with an estimated 30,000 people cramming into vantage points to watch the races.

When the horses were competing, they were all fans, young and old picking their favourites and hollering the names. And it seemed the louder the crowd cheered, the faster the horses ran.

"Isn't this fantastic? The competitors, from the kids racing in the mini trotting to our veterans of racing competing for the prizemoney, have done us all proud and the people watching have loved every minute of it," Ekka sponsor Chris 'CJ' Garrard beamed.

Sisters Lola and Julie Weidemann and their niece Stacey dominated the race list and the results. Lola drove 12 race winners including the \$10,000 Grand Final winner, Julie drove six winners including victories in two consolation finals and Stacey drove

three winners. Julie completely owned the Trainer's title, winning 22 races.

The Garrard's Big Dog Grand Final on the last Sunday night of the show was everything it promised to be.

On paper it looked like the Weidemanns would go one, two in the grand final – and that's the way it turned out. But the race was far from black and white.

In an exciting mid-race move, Lola shifted her charge, Mister Elegant, into top gear and he steamed around the outside of the field to take control of the race from last year's grand final winner Lonesome Mach, driven by Julie. The tactic put Ricky Gordon driving Miss Catalina in a pocket and three lengths barely separated the five horses.

After completing four laps, Mister Elegant held a one-length margin on Lonesome Mach with Miss Catalina one-and-a-quarter lengths away in third. The other two finalists, Its You Not Me (Noel Parrish) and Dutch Cream (Steve Burke), were right on their hammer.

Mister Elegant was a star at the Show and his winning time for the Grand Final mile was 2:08:4, with each lap averaging 32.1 seconds. Mister Elegant, a five-year-old gelding by TylerB stallion Miles McCool, has won almost \$90,000 at registered race meetings. During the show he greeted the judge first four times.

The Weidemann's also harnessed up the Horse of The Show, Mister Armageddon. The six-year-old son of Trump Casino scored three wins, two seconds and a third from six starts at the Ekka.

The mini trotters from the Queensland Junior Harness Racing Association raced at the final three days of the show.

Royal Queensland Show ringmaster Jan McMillan said it was tremendous to have trotting back at the show.

"The response from industry and the audiences has been fantastic. We look forward to having the trots back next year," she said. ■



Steve Burke driving Dutch Cream at the Ekka

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SPECIAL AGENT CULLEN
Dam of Bettorthanspecial and Special Moment



ABBEY TIARA
\$303,987 prizemoney



AS PROMISED
Dam of Bettor Promise and All Promises



THE ARCHDUCHESS
\$281,319 prizemoney

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BETTORTHANSPECIAL won QBred Triad 2yoF G2 \$160,259 1:54.2

SPECIAL MOMENT won QBred Triad 2yoF G1(2015).

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GYMPIE BACKS HARNESS RACING

Gympie Turf Club is ready to back harness racing again after the trots proved to be a hit with fans at Saturday's Zinc 96 FM Family raceday at Southside in July.

For the first time in many years Gympie punters were treated to harness racing, with the club conducting three pacing races following the annual thoroughbred card. Club president Spencer Slatter said plans are already afoot for the club to receive sponsorship funds for a full harness race card at the club's Melbourne Cup Day meeting.

"Having the trots on our family raceday was definitely an added bonus and we are hoping to organise funding to have our first stand-alone harness race day at Gympie on Melbourne Cup day," Slatter said.

"Due to the huge volume of thoroughbred racing and the shortage of jockeys on Melbourne Cup day, in recent years we've resorted to a bit of a novelty with camel races. But harness racing is looking like a good alternative to that.

"The club will need to look at the benefits of assisting with the funding of the prizemoney and hopefully we will be in a position to make a decision shortly."

Slatter said there was a real party atmosphere at Southside and everyone enjoyed the addition of the trots.

"The drivers seemed to enjoy it too," Slatter said.

"We didn't have to do a lot to the sand after the gallops, it all worked out pretty well for everyone."

Art Major filly Somethings Sizzling broke her duck, closing the raceday with a 12m victory over race favourite Wheres Sarah Now.

Driven by trainer Mick Logan, Somethings Sizzling led from start to finish. The filly, raced by the Brisbane Pastoral Company, is a granddaughter of Pelagic Miss who produced Time Square, a 1:53:4 winner in North America and a prolific winner in Western Australia.

Eight-year-old Mach Three gelding Weasel scored its first win in 17 months, carving out the quickest time of the day on the Gympie sand. Weasel is approaching \$100,000 in lifetime stakes but these days his wins are few and far between.

Trained and driven by John Kerr, Weasel was the \$15 rank outsider in the six-horse field. However, Weasel seemed to relish the alternate surface and held a 4.3m winning break on Red Castle Warrior (Kevin Annetts) with a big space back to the rest of the field.

Hez To Blame, trained and driven by Noel Parrish also ended a losing streak with a 16m win over the race favourite, Cloncullen, (Jamie Donovan). Hez To Blame, a Western Edition gelding that had been winless from its previous 16 starts, scored in the slowest time of the three races run. ■

“**ART MAJOR FILLY SOMETHINGS SIZZLING BROKE HER DUCK, CLOSING THE RACE DAY WITH A 12M VICTORY OVER RACE FAVOURITE WHERE'S SARAH NOW.**”

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QUEENSLAND MINI TROTTING SPORTING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

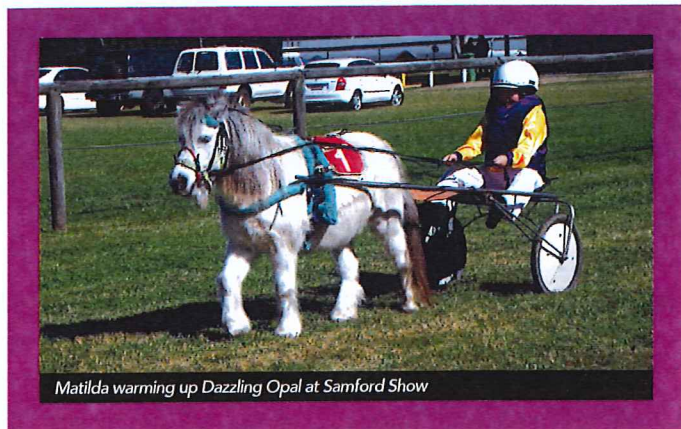
LISA MAHER

The QMTSAI recently attended Dayboro and Samford Shows.

Six races were run at Dayboro with Zac D and Awesome Wind taking out Champion Driver, and Amber on Toogoodforyou taking out reserve.

The temperature was low and the wind was high, but racing at the Samford Show still continued with five races.

Zac D and Awesome Wind took out Champion Driver once again while Zek and Miss Ellen took out reserve. ■



Matilda warming up Dazzling Opal at Samford Show



The QMTSAI attended the 2015 Farm Fantastic Expo at Caboolture Showgrounds on August 24, 25 and 26.

Club ponies Grease Lightnin' and Dazzling Opal took turns meeting the crowds. Pictures, brochures and a sulky set up with reins proved to be hit and we definitely saw some budding drivers in action. ■



Dazzling Opal with some of her new friends at Farm Fantastic

FUN FACT:

Horses have near 360-degree vision. They do have blind spots that are directly in front and behind them.

Knowing your pony cannot see you in the sulky means you need to communicate through your voice and reins more to help them out.

QUEENSLAND MINI TROTTING SPORTING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

LISA MAHER

The end of financial year signalled the end of our 2014/15 season, and what a season it was!

After more than 100 races, the club would like to thank everyone involved. We hope all members enjoyed themselves.

The club's oldest member, Amber, has reached the retirement age of 16 and, after the completion of our show season, will assist the club with non-driving activities.

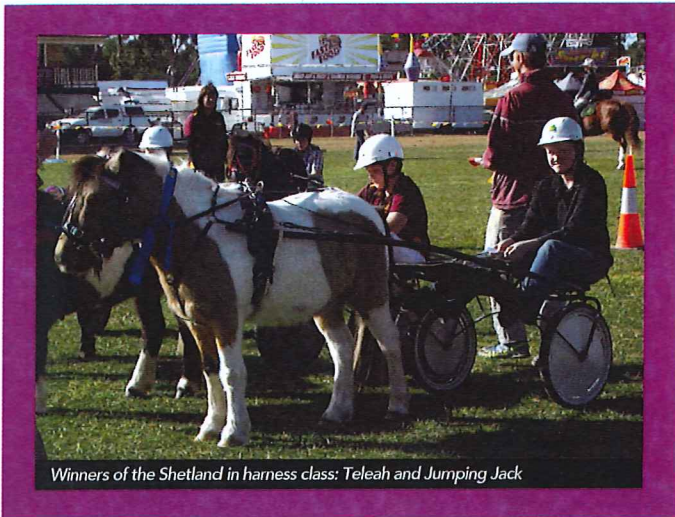
The QMTSAI has been enjoying a busy couple of months with show season in full swing.

Our most recent shows were Caboolture, Redcliffe and Dayboro. Not only were ponies and drivers successful on the track, but also in the show ring, acquiring multiple Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons.

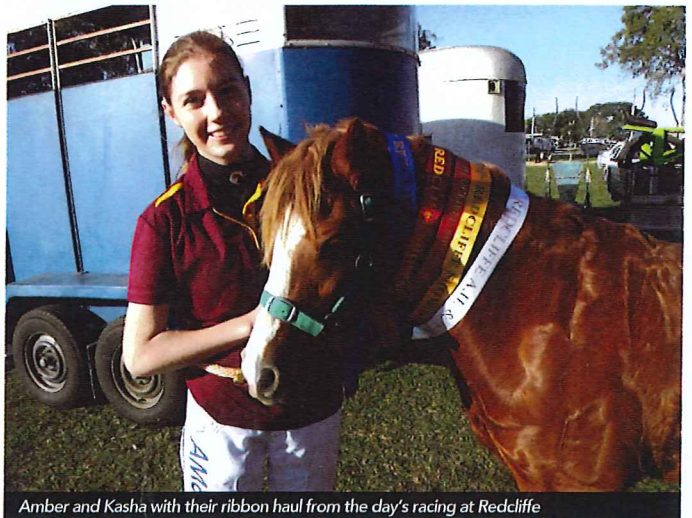
For more show photos and results, head over to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/qldminitrots. ■



Some of the racing action from Redcliffe Show PHOTO: GREG COOMB



Winners of the Shetland in harness class: Teleah and Jumping Jack



Amber and Kasha with their ribbon haul from the day's racing at Redcliffe



Redcliffe Show Halter Class

The aptly named Highview Sign's victory on the first day of the two-day Young Drivers Invitation Series at Marburg set Clifton driver Stacey Weidemann on her way to a heartfelt win in the Championship and it was likely that she had her biggest supporter smiling from above.

Claiming the Mitavite Marburg Ipswich West Championship title last month meant a lot to Stacey, so much so she paid a special tribute to her pop soon after the final race.

In March this year the Weidemann family lost harness racing stalwart, Ross Weidemann.

"My biggest supporter didn't get to witness me take the honours, but I sure hope he's got a smile on his dial up there," Stacey said.

"Poppy was my biggest fan. He always was behind me telling me to have a go. I do miss that."

Stacey (24) also congratulated the Marburg Pacing Association for the event and thanked the sponsors, Mitavite and the Ipswich City Council.

A niece of harness racing sisters Julie and Lola Weidemann, Stacey didn't get a winner at Marburg on the second day of competition but her drives were competitive enough for

the concession driver to take out the 2015 title.

"The horses I drove during the Championship raced well and I was appreciative the trainers were encouraging. They were really good with no pressure – that helps," Stacey said.

On day one, Stacey drove one winner, Highview Sign and a third-placed Fiscal Cliff and went into the final day of competition just ahead of Hayden Barnes, who also got a good start in the series with a winner Wecanonlyhope and a fourth placed Eternal Glory. Really, Stacey only needed to place better than Hayden in the two races to stay on top of the leaderboard. ■

Queensland young guns Brittany Graham and Trent Moffat jetted into New York in July and quickly settled in nicely to racing US style.

The two winners of the Centenary Classic Mercedes Benz (Toowong) Young Achievers Award at last year's RQ Industry Awards, commenced their one-month educational prize in July filling in the bulk of their days in North America at expat Aussie trainer Ross Croghan's Gateway Farms, New Jersey.

"What an amazing place," Graham said.

There are about 600 horses on the property, which is privately owned, and trainers rent barns.

Moffat made his North American driving debut on July 11, partnering Feels Like

Magic at Yonkers Raceway. Moffat raced against the top drivers in the US in the race. The very next day Graham drove in two official qualifiers at The Meadowlands.

"I just loved driving at the 'Big M'," Graham said.

Graham and Moffat also got the opportunity to drive the standardbred world's highest ever stakes winner, Foiled Again at Gateway Farms. In June, the 11-year-old Foiled Again took his lifetime earnings to in excess of \$7 million.

Graham was excited to drive Foiled Again but said he was one of the most lackadaisical horses on the training track that she has worked.

"He might be the fastest pacer I've ever driven, but he is also the slowest jogger

on the track," Graham said.

The educational prize of the trip to the US was the brainchild of Queensland's young guns 'supremo', Kevin Seymour. With the assistance of Albion Park Harness racing manager, Damian Raedler, Racing Queensland management and management at The Meadowlands, Seymour was able to initiate a harness racing educational trip of a life-time for the star young drivers.

The duo is being mentored by Croghan and the team at Gateway Farms in all facets of training and driving.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Seymour has already selected another two young Queensland drivers, Danielle McMullen and Nathan Barnes, to be educated in Canada next month. ■

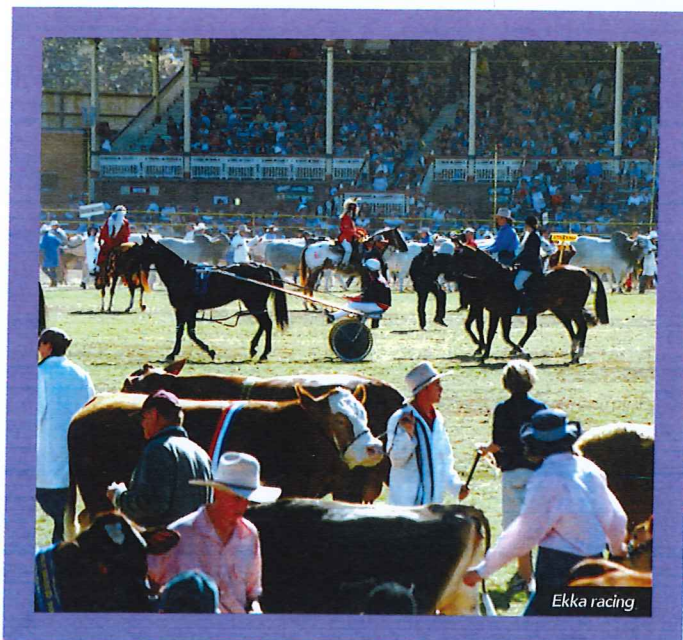
Harness Racing will be back at the Royal Queensland Show this month, with local pacers set to thrill new and old audiences alike when they scurry around the tight quarter-mile track in the main show arena.

This year, Racing Queensland, Redcliffe Harness Racing Club, Albion Park Harness Racing Club and local sponsors will support 10 days of harness racing at the show that will climax with the Garrards Big Dog \$10,000 Show Grand Final on August 16.

Show fanatics Lola and Julie Weidemann are guaranteed to be back with their team of pacers after winning the major prize last year with Lonesome Mach, a seven-year-old 164-start veteran that is also likely to be back in the show arena to defend his title.

Redcliffe Harness Racing Club president Kerry Ebert said the show was the birthplace of trotting in Queensland and the starting ground for horses to qualify for registered races. In Brisbane, two of our greatest ever pacers Lucky Creed and Stormy Water were both show champions.

Ebert had his first drive at Gympie Show more than 46 years ago and is part of Racing Queensland's show race planning committee. Ebert's son, Darren, is one of a number of local trainers planning to have a big team of horses again at this month's show. ■



QUEENSLAND JUNIOR HARNESS RACING ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

GAYLE GARRARD SECRETARY

August may have been a quiet month but September kicked off with a busy weekend for the Queensland Junior Harness Racing Association Incorporated.

The nine drivers and their 11 ponies were part of the night entertainment program at the Beaudesert Show on September 5.

In front of an appreciative, most enthusiastic crowd – as is always the way there – brothers Cody Peters-Cash and Layne Dwyer quinnelled three races, with Alyssa McDougall finishing third twice.

In finishing third in race three, Jordie Lee Young made it a family trifecta for the

cousins. She was also named Champion Local Girl Rider and winner of the Champion Local Pony Hack on the day.

Father's Day was more about the kids than the dads on the first Sunday in September, with a trip up and over Cunningham's Gap to the City of Warwick for the Grass Track Harness Race Meeting at Allman Park.

It was the first harness feature in 47 years there, with the track best known as the local thoroughbred circuit.

Members of the QJHRAI were delighted to be part of such an auspicious occasion,

and played their part with three races, which had the locals cheering.

Twebby Twotter took out the first for Angus Garrard, with Dann-Elle's Dash (Cody Peters-Cash) second, and third Layne Dwyer and Flash Thunderstorm.

Layne Dwyer steered Flash Thunderstorm home for a win in the second, with Agent T for Lachlan Williams second, and Dann-Elle's Dash (Cody Peters-Cash) third.

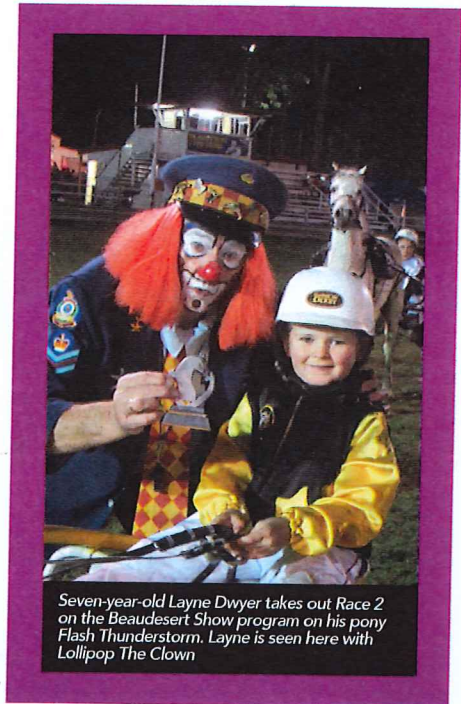
It was a case of history repeating with the third race quinnella the same in order as the second, with Chocolates third for a delighted Ethan Casey. ■



Angus Lane chats to Jordie Lee Young. It was a successful day for Jordie, who took out Champion Local Pony Hack, Champion Local Girl Rider and then placing on Sparkling Star in the mini trots during the evening



Layne Dwyer wins Race 3 on the day to bring up a double for he and Flash Thunderstorm. Lachlan Williams (Agent T) runs places second, and Ethan Casey (Chocolates) third



Seven-year-old Layne Dwyer takes out Race 2 on the Beaudesert Show program on his pony Flash Thunderstorm. Layne is seen here with Lollipop The Clown



QJHRAI members at the Harness Racing Returns To Warwick Grass Track Meeting. Back row (L to R) Cody Peters Cash, Lachlan Manzelmann, Ethan Casey, Toby Williams. Front row (L to R) Jessica Casey, Amy Williams, Layne Dwyer, Lachlan Williams, Angus Garrard



Mobile rolling on the grass track at Deagon – photo by Cindy Hurley



Deagon grass track racing excitement – Photo by Cindy Hurley



Deagon Harness Racing 2014 photo by
Cindy Hurley



The 2014 Ekka – Photo by David Aldred



Paddy Burke at Warwick Grass Track Races – Photo by David Aldred



Gympie Sand Track Trots July 2015



Warwick Fathers Day Trot promotion



Warwick Harness Racing – Photo by David Aldred



Close finish at Warwick on the grass track – photo by David Aldred



The mini trotters were a hit at the Grass track race days – Photo by David Aldred



Crowd pleasers – the mini trotters on the grass track – photo by David Aldred



Isobel Ross holds her granddad Don Ross' clerk of the course pony. Isobel drove a unique Warwick grass track double partnering the first race winner and a mini trot winner. Photo by David Aldred.



Harness driver Lola Weidemann at the Ekka – Photo by Wanda Duggan



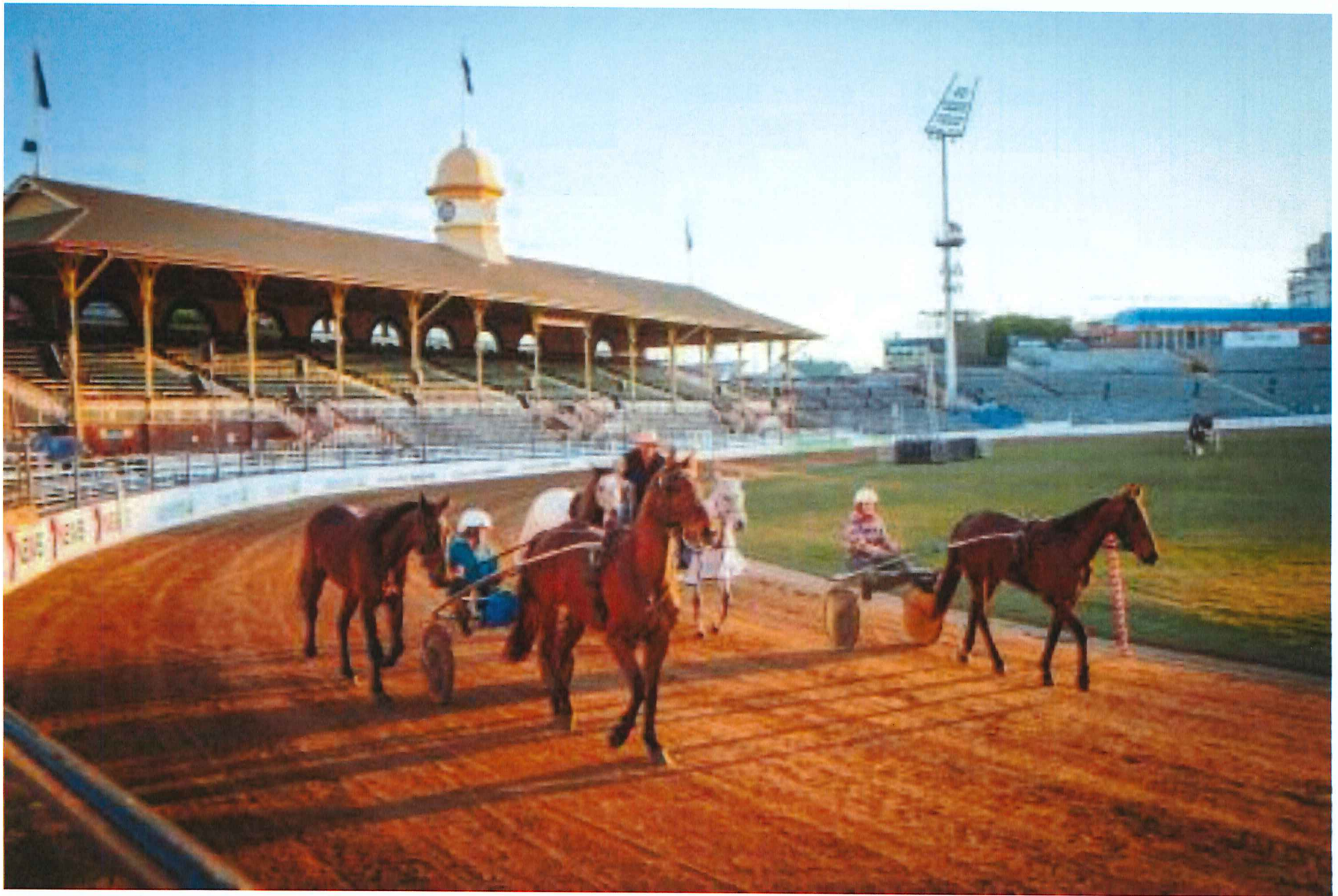
David Aldred back in the race callers box at the Ekka Trots



Competitive finish on the Grass Track at Kilcoy: Photo by David Aldred



O n the Grass at Kilcoy – photo by David Aldred



Morning trackwork at the Ekka – photo published in Queensland Country Life 3 Aug 2015
Story by Andrea Crothers – Town & Country editor



Almost race time at Kilcoy Trots – photo by David Aldred

Mini troppers ready to go at the 2015 Ekka – photo by David Aldred





Close finish to Ekka mini trot – photo by David Aldred

Father's Day Charity Race Meeting



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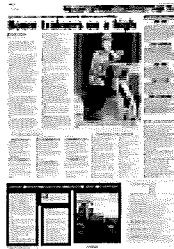


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The Jackie Bunch Memorial
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\$4

Sunday September 7th 2014



March lauds Warwick grass track meeting

HARNESS RACING

HARNESS racing runs in the blood for Dayl March who took to the track at Allman Park on Sunday for the first time.

Following in his father and grandfather's footsteps, March has travelled to Brisbane most weekends for the past 25 years to pursue his passion for harness racing.

March said it was a rare treat to compete on home ground at the weekend.

"It was a good feeling to be here and only have to travel 12 minutes to a meeting," he said. "The track felt great and I am pleased to have won race two with Magnussen."

March said the Darling Downs Harness Racing Club should be congratulated for bringing

“Dayl March: I am hoping that this will become at least an annual event.

harness racing back to Warwick after 47 years.

"I am hoping that this will become at least an annual event," he said.

"It was wonderful to see so many people here today and hopefully they enjoyed it as much as I did."

March enjoyed two winners at the meeting with In Default winning race five after Magnussen took out race two.

Darrel Graham had a great meeting winning three races, while Rob Gorman took out the other race.



FAST FINISH: Dayl March and Magnussen win race two yesterday.

PHOTO: DEANNA MILLARD



**AUSTRALIAN
HARNESS RACING**

10 days of harness racing at the Brisbane Ekka

21 July 2015
by David Aldred

Harness Racing will be back at the Royal Queensland Show next month with local pacers set to thrill new and old audiences when they scurry around the tight quarter mile track in the main show arena.

It was just last year that harness racing made a big comeback at the Brisbane Ekka after an absence of a dozen years. The Trots had been, up until 2002 a ring event draw card at the RNA Show with the promotion extending to just about every other regional show around the state.

This year, Racing Queensland, Redcliffe Harness Racing Club, Albion Park Harness Racing Club and local sponsors will support 10 days of harness racing at the Show which will climax with the Garrards Big Dog \$10,000 Show Grand Final on Sunday 16 August.

Show fanatics Lola and Julie Weidemann are guaranteed to be back with their team of pacers after winning the major prize last year with Lonesome Mach, a seven-year-old 164 start-veteran which is also likely to be back in the show arena to defend his title after returning to winning form at Tamworth this month. The Weidemann's have been big supporters of the resurgence of exhibition trotting in Queensland this year at the Toowoomba, Nambour, Gympie, Caboolture and Nanango Shows.

Redcliffe Harness Racing Club president Kerry Ebert said the show was the birthplace of trotting in Queensland, the starting ground for horses to qualify for registered races and in Brisbane two of our greatest ever pacers Lucky Creed and Stormy Water were both show champions..

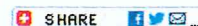
Ebert had his first drive at Gympie Show over 46 years ago and is part of Racing Queensland's show race planning committee. Ebert's son Darren is one of a number of other local trainers planning to have a big team of his horses again at next month's show.

"I'm really excited about the Show again," Ebert said. "It's been just great to see the trots back at the regional shows this year and there is nothing like racing at the Ekka "I experienced it as a driver and now my son is and I can tell you that you just cannot beat the excitement of being on the track in the Grand Final race when its raced as a curtain raiser to the fireworks, the atmosphere is fantastic, like nothing else. "There will be lots of kids getting to see our harness racing for the first time and they'll love it. "We all need to recognize how important it is to introduce trotting to a new generation of supporters and this is a perfect way to do it,"

See it for yourself between the 7th and 16th August at Brisbane's RNA Showgrounds.



Harness Racing at the Brisbane Ekka.



The Chronicle



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Grass-track harness racing heading to Warwick



Glen McCullough | 13th Aug 2014 2:15 PM



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Driver Dayl March gives BG Three a test run on Warwick's Allman Park race track. Michael Cormack

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Cars For Sale



HARNESS racing returns to Warwick for the first time in almost 50 years next month.

The Darling Downs Harness Racing Club will revive trot racing in the city on Sunday, September 7 with an inaugural grass-track meeting at Allman Park.

The five-race program has been organised with the approval of Racing Queensland and the host Warwick Turf Club.

Downs club president Anthony Collins said strong horse entry numbers are expected for the day.

The meeting is a continuation of the Grass Track Trotting series which has been raced successfully this year at Beaudesert, Kilcoy and Deagon.

"We had a grass-track meeting at Clifford Park late last year," Collins said.

"And when the opportunity arose to expand a bit more across the Downs we were keen to bring harness racing back to Warwick for the first time since 1967 when they raced at the showgrounds.

"With the co-operation of Warwick Turf Club and Racing Queensland we've been able to arrange this meeting at an ideal facility.

"The track is perfectly flat with big long straights and a symmetrical shape.

"It lends itself well to harness racing and with the horses passing the crowd twice in the home straight it will provide a good spectacle.

"We are also using the day as a fund-raiser for the Cancer Council and gate takings will be donated via the Relay For Life teams."

Collins said industry members are becoming more accepting of grass-track harness racing.

"People were a little hesitant at the beginning," Collins said.

"Grass-track racing works well in New Zealand and it's growing rapidly in Queensland now as well with people becoming more accustomed to it.

"Hopefully if this meeting is a success we can perhaps look at making it an annual event.

"That would be great."

HARNESS RACING MEETING

Grass-track racing

Allman Park, Warwick

Sunday, September 7



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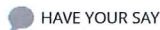
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**AUSTRALIAN
HARNESS RACING**

Trots set to be a big hit at Qld's Sunny Coast Show

10 June 2015
by David Aldred



Harness Racing returns to the Nambour Showgrounds this weekend with four standing start heats and a \$1000 final to be raced each day at the three day Sunshine Coast Agricultural Show on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Initially only two heats and a final were programmed for each day but due to the excellent response from participants, the Show Society has added two extra heats each day. The Nambour Show is 109 years young and going strong but harness racing has been missing from the ring events for about 15 years. With show racing reintroduced to the ring events successfully at the Brisbane Ekka last year, Racing Queensland working with the Show Societies has rebuilt a racing circuit at the Queensland regional shows.



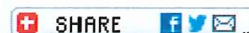
Julie Weidemann chats with Show Steward/Starter Bob Cressey. Photo by David Aldred.

In addition to the RNA Show (Ekka), Toowoomba, Gympie, Caboolture and Nanango have already raced successful shows this year and Laidley Show will celebrate their 125th anniversary in July with show racing as a ring feature.

"We have definitely had a great response with many of the horse trainers making a weekend of it, staying at the showgrounds and racing here for the three days," Sunshine Coast Show manager Lee Corbett said.

On day one, Friday 12 June, the heats will commence at 1.30pm with the Final raced under lights at 6.30pm.

Sunshine Coast Show: <http://www.sunshinecoastshow.asn.au/home.html>



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First Queensland Grass Track Trotting Series dominated by Weidemann

Saturday, November 23 saw the Darling Downs Harness Racing Club host a big meeting at the Toowoomba Turf Club (TTC) which was also the first of the Queensland Grass Track Trotting Series.

The two clubs worked successfully together to produce a memorable racing event for patrons of the TTC in the lead up to the return to racing on their course proper on New Year's Eve 2013/14.

Of the five races on offer, trainer-driver Julie Weidemann drove the winners of races three, four and five.

Mister Armageddon to victory in the Grass Track Trotting Series Pace (1800m), with Ginger Chick 1.8m back in second.

Next up in race four was Mister Elegant who won the Happy 18th Zac Rub Pace (1800m) just a head clear of I'm A Gangster.

The final victor of the day was Make Mine Red taking out the Russell Mineral Equipment Pace (1800m) ahead of Bundys Best and Colada Rainbow.

Trainer Robert Gorman was the other victor of the day winning the two opening races with Braeside Falcon (A. D. Gorman) and Commander In Chief, which was driven by Gorman.

It was fantastic to see the harness racing industry embrace the new concept of returning their sport to the country and widening the exposure to a different market.

Everyone from the two clubs is to be congratulated on an enjoyable day of racing.



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News

Harnessing in a chance of Ekka racing



Sherele Moody | 11th Aug 2015 5:00 AM



Clifton harness racer Stacey Weidemann and Granddad's Boy prepare for a heat in the \$10,000 Ekka cup. SHERELE MOODY

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Cars For Sale



SHE might have come a cropper during last year's Ekka, but Clifton harness racer Stacey Weidemann is shaking off the spot of bad luck to focus on winning the \$10,000 grand prize.

The 24-year-old and two other Weidemann stable drivers have 15 horses ready to run in the Royal Queensland Show's 10 days of harness racing.

Preparing sentimental outside hope Granddad's Boy for one of the quarter-mile track's first heats on Monday, Ms Weidemann isn't fazed by the accident that left her bruised and broken on the same track last year.

"It's good to be back," she says as she shows the deep scratches she earned after hitting the dirt during the 2014 series.

"We went pretty good last year.

"I got leading points driver of the show and our stable won the big race with another horse."

Traditionally a male-dominated sport, harness racing is fast becoming a female domain.

"I think people like the softer hands on their horse," Ms Weidemann says.

"Girls can sometimes get along better with the horses as well.

"I like being happy with the driving and being able to say you've given your horse every opportunity and see that horse go well for how you've driven it.

The Weidemanns' big hope, Lonesome Mac, will contest the \$10,000 cup on August 16.

Warwick's Allman Park Racecourse will host the Father's Day Charity Trots on Sunday, September 6.



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Sport

Trot racing back on track at Toowoomb



Glen McCullough | 18th Mar 2015 3:57 PM



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HAVE YOUR SAY



Trot racing will feature on each day of this year's Toowoomba Royal Show. David Nielsen

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Cars For Sale



JUNABEE reinsman Dayl March will turn back the clock tomorrow when he lines up in the return of trot racing to the Toowoomba Royal Show.

Harness racing will feature on the main arena during each day of the show.

Race heats will be run between 4.30 and 5pm with the \$1500 finals at 6.55.

The showgrounds harness racing track was opened in 2008 but it hosted only one meeting before trots disappeared from the Toowoomba show scene.

Darling Downs Harness Racing Club president Anthony Collins is hoping this year's return will open up the possibility of more non-TAB racing on the circuit.

March has In Default and BG Three racing and is looking forward to being part of the show trotting revival.

"The shows are where I started," March said.

"I did all the shows at Stanthorpe, Allora, Clifton, Warwick and Toowoomba a couple of times when I was just getting going.

"It's where a lot of people learn to drive and the shows are a good way to get a lot of horses started.

"They seem popular with show goers and you never know - that is where our next owner, trainer or driver might come from."

* TODAY'S final will be run in memory of former Downs harness racing stalwart Ross Weidemann who died last week.

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Sport

Trot racing returns for Toowoomba R



Glen McCullough | 4th Mar 2015 2:24 PM



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HAVE YOUR SAY



DDHRC president Anthony Collins inspecting the Toowoomba Showgrounds trotting track today. Nev Madsen

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Cars For Sale



A FORMER tradition will be revived in Toowoomba this month when trot racing returns to the Royal Show.

Trotting will end its lengthy absence from the Toowoomba Showgrounds with racing taking place on each day of the March 19-20-21 show.

Darling Downs Harness Racing Club president Anthony Collins said industry members have welcomed its show comeback and organisers are hoping it can help open the door for more regular meetings.

Harness racing was an institution at the former Toowoomba Showgrounds in Bridge St before TAB racing was introduced to Clifford Park Paceway until 2003.

A 600-metre trotting track opened at the showgrounds in 2008, but it hosted show trotting on once before being mothballed.

Collins said the track remains in good condition and can be quickly returned to racing standard.

"To have the show trots back is a real plus for the industry," Collins said.

"It creates a lot of interest and if this is successful we'll evaluate the possibility of running further meetings."

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Tara's Halls

If they have proven they have the heart to win on the track, they have the heart to win at anything!



AUGUST ISSUE | PAGE 78

Photo: Julie Wilson



Hot to trot at Ekka - 4th Aug 2015

Hot to trot at Ekka

If it were not for a case of a rogue horse and an unpaid debt, harness racing may have missed out on one of the sport's leading families.

Forty-five years ago, Ross Weidemann, from the Darling Downs, was attempting to recover some money he had loaned.

Unable to repay the debt, the man proposed something else to Ross instead.

"There's this horse here," he said. "Do you want a trotter?"

Though Ross had experience in hack horses, he had never tried his hand at harness racing.

"I'll give it a go," Ross replied, accepting the man's offer as payment. As it turned out, the horse Ross received, named Nicky Peter, was a bit of a rogue with a mind of its own.

None-the-less, Nicky Peter won a few races and Ross soon fell in love with the sport.

His passion was passed on to his wife Marion, daughters Julie and Lola, and granddaughter Stacy - three generations of Weidemann women who are proving they are hot to trot.

Of the women, Lola does the majority of the driving and has driven more than 2700 winners in her career.

Her older sister Julie has trained more than 2200 winners. Julie's skill saw her recognised with the Harness Racing Australia JD Watts Award for Australia's leading trainer in 1998. She was also named Queensland's leading trainer in 2004 and 2005.

At 23 years old, Stacey Weidemann is quickly making her mark on the industry, guided by her aunts.

Show trotting returned to the Ekka last year after a 13-year hiatus. This is where Stacey began her harness-racing career, driving her first unofficial winner in front of a cheering crowd.

Amid the screaming fans was her grandfather Ross, who sadly passed away in March this year.

The whole family was pleased to see racing return to the Ekka.

"We have been racing for as long as I can remember and coming to the Ekka since I was a little girl," Lola said.

The atmosphere in show arenas was something to be contended with, she said.

"At the Brisbane show, it definitely feels a little special. It is your royal country, your top-notch show - you get a buzz.

"It's a different feeling at shows to your normal races every week. You don't hear any excitement at regular tracks when you win, but in the grandstand at show, the crowd fully backs you."

Lola said the Ekka was a great introduction to competitive racing for Stacey.

"The Ekka is the perfect time as she not only learns about racing, but gets used to a busy show and how to cope with lots of people."

Harness racing's return to Ekka has seen a resurgence in the sport at agricultural shows across Queensland.

Brett Rail, Queensland Racing's chief handicapper for harness racing, said they were pleased to be in the "early stages of a show racing comeback".

Since Ekka 2014, the trots returned to Toowoomba Royal Show in March, Nanango in April and Gympie in May, with Caboolture and Nambour shows in June.

"I think the crowds who have been to some of these shows have been fantastic," Mr Rail said.

"The racing brings a lot of entertainment and excitement to the shows. There's been a lot of crowd involvement."

But despite the many awards, trophies and prizemoney they have won, trotting triumph is about much more to the Weidemann family than simply crossing the line first.

"Years ago, you could buy cheap horses, improve them and win money. You'd race them, turn them out," Lola said.

"It was a personal achievement to get something out of that horse that others couldn't."

The family will return to the show in 2015 and Ekka guests can watch on as the Weidemann women compete for \$10,000 in prizemoney.

The trots will be on daily in the Energex Community Arena from 12-12.45pm, with finals each night from 6.30pm as part of the spectacular EkkaNITES entertainment.

Article courtesy of Fairfax Digital and Queensland Country Life

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It's All Go For The Nanango Show!



Members of the Alpaca Collective showcase some of the "Farm To Fashion" clothing they'll be modelling in a Fashion Parade this Saturday at the annual Nanango Show (Photo: Julia Jeffery)

April 9, 2015

The Nanango Showground has been a hive of activity ahead of Saturday's show.

It's being prepared to receive thousands of visitors this Friday and Saturday for the 106th annual Nanango Show, and the Nanango Show Society are hoping for fine weather and bumper crowds.

This year's Show will feature several innovations – including the return of harness racing events (ie trotting) on Saturday after an absence of 14 years – but all the old favourites will be there as well.

On Friday, judges will be hard at work judging pavilion entries, cattle and dogs.

And in the evening, Young Judges and Young Handlers were put through their paces with dairy cattle and stud beef.

But the real action will occur on Saturday (April 11), the Show's main public day.

Apart from horse, poultry and dairy goat judging in the morning and pavilions full of entries to explore, there'll be a jam-packed free entertainment program running all day, with a special focus on keeping the youngsters amused.

This year the Show will be hosting Peppa and George Pig, the Farmer Rob Show, and Bubble Muffins Kids Cooking.

Adults will enjoy the South Burnett Sausage King Challenge (at 10:30am), the Alpaca Collective Fashion Parade (at 11:30am) or El Jay Freestyle Entertainment (performances at 11:30am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm and 7:30pm).

Traditional attractions like woodchopping, a ute muster, show jumping, sideshows, chainsawing and horse ring events should also be crowd-pleasers.

And expect big horticulture, farm and garden, cookery and school displays in the pavilions, along with the Young Chef Culinary Competition.

The Show's official opening will be performed by Tarong Power Stations Manager Dennis Franklin this year and will be followed by the Grand Parade at 2:00pm, and then the popular Rodeo at 3:00pm, which will include the Young Farmers' Challenge.

As usual, a licensed bar and barbecue will be operating all day, and there'll be plenty of other food stalls around the grounds as well.

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There'll also be a Vintage Car Rally at 5:00pm; a giant fireworks display sponsored by Heritage Nanango Community Bank at 8:00pm; and live entertainment from Don Costa from 8:30pm along with a Demolition Derby out in the main ring.

Admission to this year's Nanango Show is \$12 for adults and \$6 for pension card holders and children over 14. Children under 14 accompanied by a paying adult are admitted free, otherwise they'll pay \$6 too.

The full entertainment program for this year's Nanango Show appears below, and you can obtain a PDF version you can print off and take along with you to the Show [by clicking here](#).

* * *

2015 Nanango Show Entertainment Program

PROGRAM

Traditional Entertainment

7:00am Prime Cattle Judging

8:00am Stud Cattle & Horse Judging

9:30am Woodchop

10:00am Dairy Goats

10:30am Chainsaws

11:00am Cutting in Rodeo arena

Harness Racing

11:15am Harness Racing

11:30am Harness Racing

11:45am Harness Racing

2:00pm Official Opening & Grand Parade

2:30pm Final of Harness Racing

Lifestyle Stage

10:30am South Burnett Sausage King

11:30am Alpaca Collective Fashion Parade

12:30pm Prime Cattle Presentation

Entertainment Program

11:30am El Jay Freestyle Entertainment

1:00pm El Jay Freestyle Entertainment

2:00pm Live Music with Celtic Psychosis

3:00pm RSA Affiliated Rodeo

El Jay Freestyle Entertainment

5:00pm Vintage Car Rally

Kids Corner

10:00am Peppa & George Pig

10:30am The Farmer Rob Show

11:00am Bubble Muffins Kids Cooking

12 noon Bubble Muffins Kids Cooking

12:30pm The Farmer Rob Show

1:00pm Bubble Muffins Kids Cooking

2:00pm Peppa & George Pig in Grand Parade

2:00pm Bubble Muffins Kids Cooking

2:30pm Peppa & George Pig

3:00pm The Farmer Rob Show



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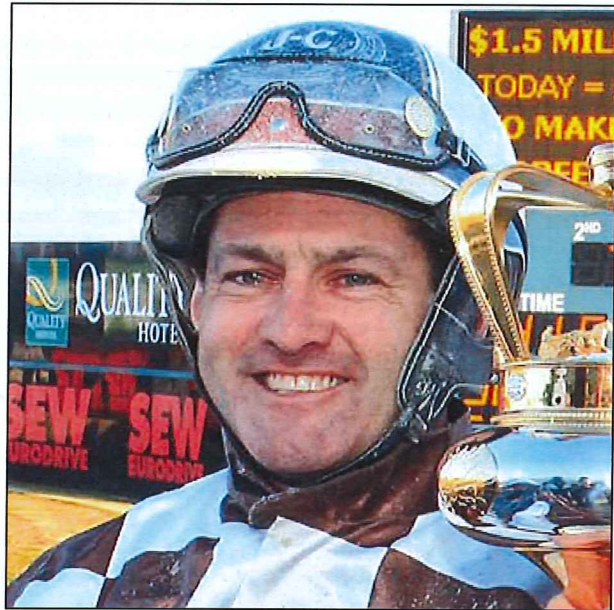
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export dollars at the same time. Give the trotters more opportunity and the extra prizemoney will soon be converted into more trotters for the racing pool. Soon the much talked about "Monte" would be a reality.



John Caldwell (pictured) steered Amarula to success at Bendigo.
(Photo Stuart McCormick)



The Justracing camera was on course to photograph trotting at the Brisbane Ekka in 2014 and as per this exclusive photo, sadly not many young people were interested in even watching the racing. Here the field flies past a big group of school children (in the background) but most didn't even bother turning around. Nevertheless getting it back to country shows is a good idea.

HARNESS RACING BACK AT SOME COUNTRY SHOWS

For those who enjoyed trotting at the country Shows each year and have spent the last 15 years in denial following its demise, they will be pleased with this news from Racing Queensland.

"Following the success of the Ekka Trots last year, there has been renewed interest in trotting returning to regional shows."

"RQ has approved three days of trotting at this year's (2015) Toowoomba Show 19 - 21 March. Racing Queensland has also received applications from Sunshine Coast, Redcliffe, Caboolture, Laidley and Nanango Shows."

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Nanango Hosts A Perfect Show



Corey Evans, from Kingaroy's Jen-Daview Limousin Stud, with "Jen-Daview Polled Jactor" which was named Supreme Champion of the Show

April 14, 2015

Nanango Show Society president Les Schloss couldn't be happier with this year's show ... the gate was well up, the weather was just brilliant, in fact "you just couldn't wish for a better day".

Les said entries in the Stud Beef competition were strong, and the Prime Beef competition – which hasn't been held for two years because of the weather conditions – was also well supported.

Numbers were also up in the Dairy Cattle, pavilion entries and the farm produce was "really good".

Les said a feature of this show was the trotting which returned to the showground ring after a break of 14 years.

"We held five trotting races," he said. "They were proper races, organised by Queensland Harness Racing, and the crowd loved it, especially the kids."

Les said the committee had aimed for a family-oriented Nanango Show and it had worked out really well.

Popular were the death-defying bike stunts by El Jay Freestyle Entertainment, and the rodeo drew good a crowd – and more entries than it has had for quite a while.

The Young Judges and Young Handlers competition was held on Friday night. An amazing 70 entrants were received ... all keen to improve their cattle knowledge.

Les said the South Burnett Sub-Chamber Finals will be now hosted at Nanango on July 11 in conjunction with the annual Lifestyle Show which will also feature the Dexter Annual Breed Show and a team penning competition.

Footnote: Winners of the Sausage King competition were Murgon's Top of the Town Meat Hall (pork), Nanango Butchery (beef) and Frohlie's Meats in Yarraman (gourmet).

• More Nanango Show photos at [Clive Lowe Photography](#)

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After an absence of 14 years, trotting made a welcome return to this year's show (Photo: Clive Lowe)



Peter Verbakel (SES) and Sgt Jason Newton with Philip and Maxine Nelson (Photo: Clive Lowe)



Sideshow rides are always a popular part of the show (Photo: Clive Lowe)



Wayne Carter bought his smooth-coated St Bernard "Brandy" from Ipswich to compete in the Championship Dog Show (Photo: Clive Lowe)



TIMES

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Trots are back in action at Nanango Si



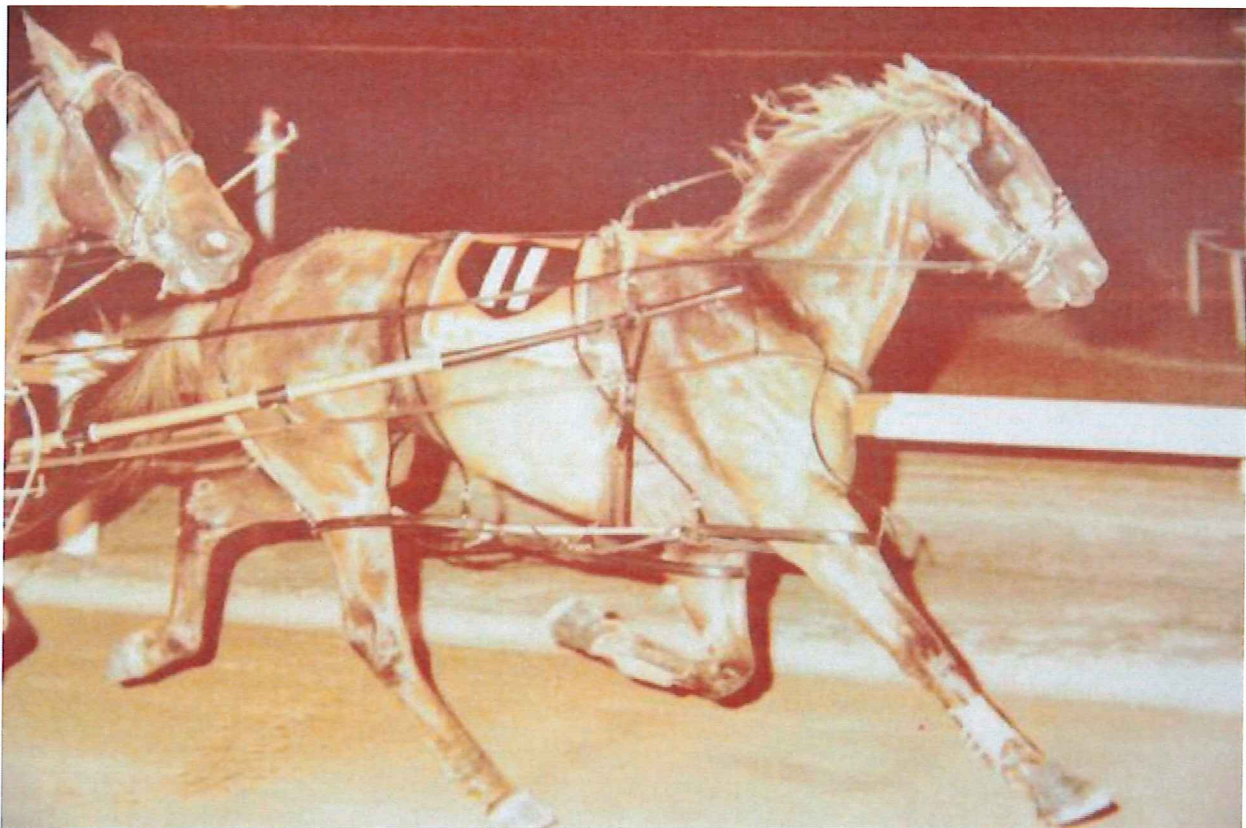
Rhiannon Tuffield | 10th Apr 2015 6:00 AM



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BACK: Harness racing is back in this year. Photo Contributed Contributed

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Cars For Sale



SHOW-GOERS are in for a treat this year with the return of harness racing to the huge schedule set for this Saturday.

Show trotting was once the biggest event to be held at the Nanango Show.

Nanango Show Society president Les Schloss fondly remembers the days when crowds would drop everything to make their way to the trots and get a front row seat.

"As soon as the trot was on, everyone would gather and it was such an exciting atmosphere - it was what made the show."

Nanango Show will become the first country show to host harness racing in a number of years after state-wide insurance issues brought the popular event to a halt 14 years ago.

Mr Schloss, who was a driver at the old Kingaroy, Nanango and Blackbutt shows, was looking forward to embracing the sport once again from the sidelines.

"We are going to bring back the atmosphere of the old races.

"The show will be like the old-time shows that people remember," he said.

News of the event has received positive feedback from the community, many expressing their excitement to Mr Schloss and his team.

Harness racing has become a world-wide favourite since its beginnings as a farmers' sport.

Drivers and horses will be travelling all the way from Brisbane and Toowoomba to take part in this year's exciting event.

The first four heats of the harness racing event will be held on Saturday at 11am-noon, and the two finals will be at 2.30pm.

To check out the full four page guide to this year's Nanango Show check out today's South Burnett Times.



AUSTRALIAN
HARNESS RACING

Harness racing in the spotlight at big Gympie thoroughbred race day

10 July 2015

by RQ and the Gympie Times

Gympie's next race meeting, the Zinc 96 Family Picnic Race Day on July 25, is shaping up as one of the most varied racing occasions ever on the Gympie racecourse.

The Gympie Club and Racing Queensland's harness racing operations have worked together to have three harness races run at the conclusion of the five thoroughbred contests with a variety of special attractions added to the usual popular events at Gympie's race meetings. Some characters from the Disney movie, Frozen, will be on hand to entertain the kids while a jumping castle and face-painting will provide further activities for the youngsters.


There will be free admission for those under 18. The three harness races will be run on the racing surface, starting in the straight behind the harness racing mobile starting gate. These events will carry prizemoney of \$1500.

Queensland's Racing Operations Manager, David Aldred said it's a first for harness racing at the sand thoroughbred track. "The race club is very keen to showcase harness racing and there is a huge day planned with lots of activities for everyone," Aldred said. "Events like this are working very well for harness racing here, the grass track circuit and the trotting show circuit are reintroducing harness racing to audiences in our regional areas and sparking plenty of interest." Just last weekend harness racing was featured on television on Channel 7's Great South East lifestyle program with the Weideman family promoting the Brisbane Ekka show harness racing and the segment ran for several minutes.

The dual code Gympie race meeting commences with thoroughbred racing up to 3pm when the sand track will be watered and rolled to prepare for the three harness races. which will get under way about 3.50pm. The upstairs area of the Bill Bishop building, above the betting ring, will be utilised as a corporate area. Meanwhile there will also be a number of market stalls set up on the day to further enhance the picnic theme of the race meeting.



Harness racing will be featured at Gympie thoroughbred race day.

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Cars For Sale



RACING: The Gympie Turf Club will be the place to be tomorrow when harness racing - in addition to the thoroughbreds - will make the Zinc 96 Family Picnic Race Day one to remember.

Gympie Turf Club president Spencer Slatter said five thoroughbred races will start the day at 12.15pm as the rivalry between trainers Barry Gill and Kerry Munce continues, along with Gladstone, Darling Downs and Rockhampton.

Slatter said all eyes will be on the main race of the day for the Zinc 96 Cup with Barry Gill's horse So Ridiculous and Bevan Johnson's Sialia Magic the ones to look out for.

Slatter said the Gympie sand track would be watered and rolled in preparation for the trots which are usually held on a granite track.

He said they were given the idea to hold the trots from nearby clubs like Kilcoy which runs harness races on a grass track.

"I have never heard of trots being run on sand before so Gympie will be a first," he said.

Slatter said harness racing had been held on a modified track for the Gympie Show in May this year.

"The show people found the trots exciting," he said.

Three harness races will be held from an hour after the thoroughbreds to allow time to prepare the track before riders from Brisbane and Rockhampton take to the course.

Slatter said well-known senior harness racing trainer Darryl Reinke and Jaime Donovan would be competing.

As it is a family orientated race day all patrons under 18 will get in free, however the entry for adults will be \$12 with \$2 going towards the Wish List foundation.

There will be face painting, balloon twisters, a jumping castle and an opportunity for kids to meet the Disney characters from the film Frozen.

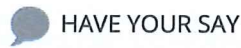


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Caboolture rider trotting her way to th

Jacinta Lal | 17th Feb 2015 3:17 PM



BIG MEET: Teleha Bell drives Awesome Wind in mini trotting. Vicki Wood

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Cars For Sale



THIS local rider is hot to trot. Fourteen-year-old Teleha Bell is enjoying success as a mini trotter. She may be mini, but the local little trotter is preparing to compete in the Mini Trot Inter Dominion at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday, March 1.

Teleha qualified for the international race after she came fourth in a trial race at Albany Racing Club.

She said she is excited yet nervous at the same time.

"A lot of people come to watch," she said.

The Tullawong State High School student started mini trotting in 2012, when she realised her passion for horses.

"I kind of fell in love with it.

"Then my coach Linda and friend Jamie started teaching me.

"I have been mini trotting for three years now."

Teleha's mum, Roslyn Bell, is extremely happy for her daughter.

"She's the only one going from Queensland," she said.

Teleha and her mum are working hard to raise money for the travel expenses to New South Wales before the race.

They are looking for sponsors and donations.

"At the moment we are trying to do raffles because she has to raise money to get to NSW.

"We also have to pay \$500 to get the horse down there.



...coach and owner of the pony, Terena, drives, Linda Regazzoli, has been coaching Terena for more than two years.

She said she is confident her pony will do well.

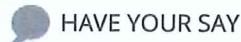
"Her name is is Awesome Wind and she is 16 years old.

"She has been running since she has been two years of age."

"This race is like the Melbourne Cup of harness races.

"It's quite a big thing."

Winners receive trophies supplied by the NSW division. To make a donation or sponsor Teleha contact Linda Regazzoli on 0439 974 305.



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Hot to trot

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“It is your royal country, your top-notch show – you get a buzz”

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IF it were not for a case of a rogue horse and an unpaid debt, harness racing may have missed out on one of the sport's leading families.

Forty-five years ago, Ross Weidemann, from the Darling Downs, was attempting to recover some money he had loaned.

Unable to repay the debt, the man proposed something else to Ross instead.

"There 's this horse here, " he said. "Do you want a trotter? "

Though Ross had experience in hack horses, he had never tried his hand at harness racing.

"I'll give it a go, " Ross replied, accepting the man 's offer as payment. As it turned out, the horse Ross received, named Nicky Peter, was a bit of a rogue with a mind of its own.

None-the-less, Nicky Peter won a few races and Ross soon fell in love with the sport.



His passion was passed on to his wife Marion, daughters Julie and Lola, and granddaughter Stacy - three generations of Weidemann women who are proving they are hot to trot.

Of the women, Lola does the majority of the driving and has driven more than 2700 winners in her career.

Her older sister Julie has trained more than 2200 winners. Julie 's skill saw her recognised with the Harness Racing Australia JD Watts Award for Australia 's leading trainer in 1998. She was also named Queensland 's leading trainer in 2004 and 2005.

At 23 years old, Stacey Weidemann is quickly making her mark on the industry, guided by her aunts.

Show trotting returned to the Ekka last year after a 13-year hiatus. This is where Stacey began her harness-racing career, driving her first unofficial winner in front of a cheering crowd.

Amid the screaming fans was her grandfather Ross, who sadly passed away in March this year.

The whole family was pleased to see racing return to the Ekka.

"We have been racing for as long as I can remember and coming to the Ekka since I was a little girl, " Lola said.

The atmosphere in show arenas was something to be contended with, she said.

"At the Brisbane show, it definitely feels a little special. It is your royal country, your top-notch show - you get a buzz.

"It 's a different feeling at shows to your normal races every week. You don 't hear any excitement at regular tracks when you win, but in the grandstand at show, the crowd fully backs you. "

Lola said the Ekka was a great introduction to competitive racing for Stacey.

"The Ekka is the perfect time as she not only learns about racing, but gets used to a busy show and how to cope with lots of people. "

Harness racing 's return to Ekka has seen a resurgence in the sport at agricultural shows across Queensland.

Brett Rail, Queensland Racing 's chief handicapper for harness racing, said they were pleased to be in the "early stages of a show racing comeback".

Since Ekka 2014, the trots returned to Toowoomba Royal Show in March, Nanango in April and Gympie in May, with Caboolture and Nambour shows in June.

"I think the crowds who have been to some of these shows have been fantastic," Mr Rail said.

"The racing brings a lot of entertainment and excitement to the shows. There 's been a lot of crowd involvement."

But despite the many awards, trophies and prizemoney they have won, trotting triumph is about much more to the Weidemann family than simply crossing the line first.

"Years ago, you could buy cheap horses, improve them and win money. You 'd race them, turn them out," Lola said.

"It was a personal achievement to get something out of that horse that others couldn 't."

The family will return to the show in 2015 and Ekka guests can watch on as the Weidemann women compete for \$10,000 in prizemoney.

- The trots will be on daily in the Energex Community Arena from 12-12.45pm, with finals each night from 6.30pm as part of the spectacular EkkaNITES entertainment.

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**QUEENSLAND
Country Life**



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