

## HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA INC

### Merit Awards

Harness Racing Australia operates a National Recognition Award Programme for our industry. Awards are declared twice yearly at Council's Meetings.

#### Guidelines

1. The HRA shall establish a Standing Committee called the "Honours Committee" to manage HRA initiated Australian Honours and HRA Awards of Merit.
2. The Honours Committee shall comprise of the Council Executive.
3. The Honours Committee may of itself initiate Awards of Merit or may receive nominations from any of its Members and such other organisations that the Committee may recognise and where such nominations are agreed to the Honours Committee shall make the awards on behalf of the HRA.
4. The Honours Committee may of itself initiate Australian Honours nominations concerning such industry leaders and participants as it thinks fit from time to time.
5. Where a Member of the HRA of itself initiates an Australian Honours proposal such Member should obtain a testimonial from the Chairman of the HRA to add to its nomination.
6. The HRA Awards of Merit shall comprise the J.P. Stratton Award, the Distinguished Service Award, the Meritorious Service Award and the Joseph Coulter Media Award and are defined in Clause 9.
7. The J.P. Stratton Award and Distinguished Service Award are not annual awards and shall only be awarded as circumstances are appropriate.
8. Nominations for HRA Awards of Merit shall be made on a pro-forma nomination form provided by the HRA and shall be endorsed by a Member of Council.
9. **J.P. Stratton Award**  
For: Significant Achievement;  
Leadership/Distinction/Eminence;  
Repute/Renown/Foresight;  
Initiative/Innovation/Creativity.  
Basis: International or National  
Time Frame: Significant Period of Time  
One or more elements of each line must be satisfied.

### **HRA Distinguished Service Award**

For: Important Achievement;  
Substantive Effort; Enterprise,  
Endeavour & Creativity;  
Professional Excellence  
Basis: National or State  
Time Frame: Long Period of Time  
One or more elements of each line must be satisfied.

### **HRA Meritorious Service Award**

For: Achievement; Commendable Effort/Diligence  
in Administration, in the Media, on the Race or Training Track,  
or as a Breeder, Owner, Studmaster.  
Basis: National or State  
Time Frame: Long Service

### **Joseph Coulter Media Award**

For: Meritorious Service  
Basis: National or State  
Time Frame: Long Period of Time.

## **Nominations and Award Presentations**

- **Nominations will only be accepted from Members.** Nomination Forms will be circulated to all Members both regularly and approximately 4 to 6 weeks prior to Annual General Meetings.
- The Chairman and Executive have the power to nominate a person(s) should the circumstances dictate.
- Nomination Form(s) need to be completed with appropriate details and names of referees with whom Council's office can discuss the nomination. Based on the nomination form and referee information, a recommendation by the Chief Executive is made to the Executive provided adequate time is available to make appropriate enquiries.
- Council's awards are for **national recognition** and it is appropriate that the individual(s) should also have been honoured at the State level by the State jurisdictions. The national award, in many cases, should be considered as "following on" rather than substituting/replacing a State award. However, it is recognised that some jurisdictions do not have a formal Award Recognition Program.
- Consideration is given by the HRA Executive prior to the Council Meetings as to the acceptance of the nomination and the determination of its grading against the

Awards criteria. It should be noted that **not** all nominations are granted national awards.

- Accepted nominations are presented at Council's Meetings for ratification and discussion by Member Accredited Representatives and the awards determined.
- These are **National Awards** and it has been Council's practice to initially advise award recipients by phone within forty eight (48) hours of Council's announcement. Such notification by phone will also include acknowledgement of the nominating Member. In addition, a letter of congratulations is also forwarded by Council advising the recipient(s) that a plaque(s) will be presented by Council's Member(s) from the nominating State at an appropriate future time and function.
- Council organises manufacture of the plaque(s) and these are then sent to the nominating Member to arrange presentation. Often, if an appropriate function is not available our Principal Club Members have assisted by arranging an opportunity for this presentation to be accomplished. It is expected that this occurs within a reasonable time.
- Where Council requests encouragement of a **particular group(s)** then Council covers the cost of the national recognition award(s). In addition, Council utilises this system for the presentation of its Horse Performance, Breeding and Joseph Coulter Media recognition awards during each Season.