



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

THE YEAR
THE WORLD
came to us





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2014/15 was also the year the world came to us. HRA hosted the World Trotting Conference (WTC) and World Driving Championships (WDC) in late February/early March, welcoming over 200 visiting administrators, drivers, media, family, friends and fans from 17 different countries.

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– HRA Chairman Geoff Want.

Chairman's MESSAGE





GEOFF WANT

The 2014 - 2015 season was a turbulent one in some respects, despite there being many positive signs for the future of the Australian harness racing industry.

Bushfires and violent storms caused havoc in several areas, there were some potentially damaging integrity issues and animal welfare concerns, triggered by some disgraceful behaviour in greyhound racing, cast a pall over the entire racing industry.

Nonetheless, there were many highlights during the year, including the hugely successful World Trotting Conference in Sydney and the World Driving Championship at various tracks in New South Wales. But the most enduring memory of the season will be the outstanding racing conducted at tracks throughout the nation, with wonderful standardbred horses prepared and driven by committed professionals.

Administrators have many competing priorities but our primary objective is to nurture and promote this great industry, despite the distractions, and I believe the clubs and controlling bodies which comprise the membership of Harness Racing Australia do this very well.

At the heart of everything we do, however, is what happens on the racetrack!

Racing Highlights - Horses

Great racing occurs when there are several outstanding horses competing for the spoils, especially in the big, high pressure events. And this was the result in most of our feature races during the season.

Brilliant pacer Beautide won consecutive Australian Harness Horse of the Year awards after amassing five wins and three placings from ten starts during the season, including a stunning victory in the TAB.com.au Inter Dominion Grand Final at Tabcorp Park Menangle. Trained and driven by James Rattray and owned

by the Rattray Family from Tasmania, Beautide took his lifetime earnings to more than \$2-million.

Only one vote behind Beautide in the poll for Australian Harness Horse of the Year was the star three year old Menin Gate, trained in Victoria by Larry Eastman and driven by Chris Alford. The exciting young gelding amassed almost half a million dollars in prizemoney during the season from 12 wins and 5 placings in 18 starts.

Indeed, the juvenile ranks were awash with talent with Our Waikiki Beach - unbeaten in ten Australian starts for earnings of \$468,000 - the two year old pacing colt or gelding of the year.

The eight race Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit series again produced exciting racing with the classy New Zealand pacer Christen Me winning for the second straight year. Christen Me, trained by Cran Dalgety and driven by Dexter Dunn, saluted in three of the races in the series - the SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile, the TAB Victoria Cup and the Auckland Cup.

Another New Zealander, Stent, took out the APG Trotting Master series after winning three of the five races, including the Seelite Windows and Doors Australian Trotting Grand Prix and the Pryde's Easifeed Great Southern Star, both at Tabcorp Park Melton.

Trained by Colin and Julie DeFilippi and driven by Colin, Stent won all five races he contested in Australia during the season and also was a deserved winner of the Australian Trotter of the Year award.

We are indebted to Australian Pacing Gold for continuing their sponsorship of the two elite pacing and trotting series

on the Australasian calendar and the connections of both Christen Me and Stent, for the second straight year, get a \$20,000 bonus to be spent at the APG sales.

Racing Highlights – Trainers/ Drivers

Queenslanders Shane Graham and Grant Dixon achieved career best results in taking out the national driving and training awards for the season.

Shane Graham gained his first J.D. Watts Award as Australia's leading driver with 259 wins for the season, five ahead of the runner-up, Greg Sugars, of Victoria.

Grant Dixon had another stellar season, finishing fifth in the drivers' championship with 215 winners and taking his fourth consecutive J.D. Watts Award as the nation's leading trainer. He prepared 282 winners for the season, 62 more than his nearest rival, the West Australian partnership of Greg and Skye Bond.

In a further example of the gender equality in harness racing, five of the top ten trainers and two of the top ten drivers, Lauren Panella and Amanda Turnbull, were female. Lauren was the leading driver in NSW with 167 winners, despite missing the last ten weeks of the season because of a wrist injury suffered in a race.

Queensland's Peter McMullen finished 8th in the national standings but had the distinction of winning the inaugural Australian Driving Championship conducted over six races at Globe Derby Park in Adelaide. The championship was an excellent promotion and is to be conducted annually, alternating between South Australia and Tasmania.



• The competing Driver's signing autographs.



“Ensuring a level playing field is essential for the well being of our participants and the image of our racing among both punters and the broader community.”

Racing Highlights - Breeding

The Globe Derby Awards for breeding excellence, sponsored by IRT, continue to be dominated by popular stallions Bettors Delight, Art Major and Sundon.

Bettors Delight was Leading Sire by Stakemoney for the 4th time, with his progeny winning 897 races and \$10,320,057.

Art Major was the Leading Sire of Winners for the 4th time, with 368 of his progeny winning 937 races.

Sundon was the Leading Sire of Trotters by Stakemoney for the 13th time, his progeny winning 109 races for \$878,349.

Integrity

Integrity is a costly and time consuming, but very necessary, task for HRA's Members. Ensuring a level playing field is essential for the well being of our participants and the image of our racing among both punters and the broader community.

Someone once remarked to me that there are people in the racing industry who believe “ethics is a county in England” and self interest is their only motivation. One definition of integrity is “adherence to moral and ethical principles” while

“honesty” is often mentioned, along with “doing the right thing”.

Regardless of one's view, our Members are heavily focused on integrity and are committed to identifying and penalising anyone breaching the Australian Rules of Harness Racing, to ensuring the safety of our participants and to managing a first class equine welfare program.

In the past year several states have considered changing the structure of the regulatory regime in racing, merging integrity departments from the three codes into a single unit. I am not a fan of this approach and believe it is a knee jerk political reaction to the exposure of horrific live baiting behaviour in the greyhound racing industry. Self regulation, properly managed by dedicated officers - as it is in harness racing - provides for far more effective control.

Some of the state governments would be providing a greater service to the integrity battle if they reviewed the legal processes in their jurisdictions which regularly allow cheats to successfully appeal convictions or to have penalties reduced, despite damning evidence.

The national rules of harness racing are consistently enforced across borders but appeal structures and processes of the

various states can be vastly different, which has resulted in a disparity in appeal costs, timing and penalties. HRA firmly believes that uniformity of appeals structures and processes across the nation will deliver significantly enhanced outcomes for industry participants, fans and the wagering public.

Harness racing integrity officers are constantly meeting the challenges presented by people prepared to engage in illegal activities and this was well illustrated by the fight against cobalt, which has attracted much comment in both mainstream and social media.

HRA Members were at the forefront of this battle, with the Chief Operations Officer for Harness Racing New South Wales, Reid Sanders, leading the charge. It is always difficult to single out people for mention when many have done a sterling job, but Reid is deserving of special praise for the determined way in which he pursued the cobalt issue.

More than a dozen participants have been charged with cobalt related offences in the past year and it never ceases to amaze that people are prepared to risk suspension or disqualification by challenging the regulatory regime.

In the last annual report I paid tribute to Victorian trainer and driver Shane Cramp for his feat in July 2014 of training all

Chairman's Message

eight winners on the program at Mildura, his home track. His world record setting achievement was even more remarkable as he drove three of the eight winners and trained a trifecta and three quinellas.

Fast forward a few months to early 2015 and 31 year old Shayne and his father, Greg Cramp, 58, were arrested and charged in relation to race fixing, after an operation involving HRV stewards and Victoria Police. In early September they pleaded guilty in court in Melbourne to one count of engaging in conduct that corrupts a betting outcome and were sentenced to community corrections orders.

Both were suspended by Harness Racing Victoria pending the court appearances and at the time of writing this report HRV was investigating what other action might be taken against them.

Apart from the sheer folly of their illegal activity, it is difficult to understand why two very competent participants - one of them a role model of his generation - would risk their careers and credibility. Indeed, it is extremely disappointing that such high profile figures would engage in such activity.

Information sharing among international racing jurisdictions has been vastly improved by the International Racing Information and Intelligence Service (IRIS), launched by HRA last year in partnership with Standardbred Canada.

The value of IRIIS has grown in the past year with more racing jurisdictions signing up. The IRIIS Members now include harness and thoroughbred bodies in Australia and Canada as well as New Zealand, the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, Europe and Scandinavia.

Industry Funding

Wagering turnover on Australian harness racing in the 2014-2015 financial year was up by 2% on the prior year, but the pressure continued to be applied to the industry's traditional funding source, TAB distributions.

Turnover from all licensed wagering operators was up by \$48-million to just over \$2.4-billion (\$2,404,442,318) which was reasonable given the uncertain economic climate. The increase all came however from fixed odds betting with the TABs and from corporate bookmakers.

Total TAB turnover at just over \$1.6-billion (\$1,618,000,662) was down by 4%, or \$74-million, on the previous year. The pari mutuel component was down by 14%, or \$180-million, at \$1.11-billion, whereas fixed odds betting with the TABs was \$508-million, up 26%.

The growth of turnover with corporate bookmakers continued with an increase of 23% on the prior year, or \$122-million, to just under \$650-million. The corporate bookmakers' share of total turnover was just over 27%.

The major betting exchange operator, Betfair, had net customer winnings - the criteria used to determine commission payments to the industry - of just under \$133-million, up 1% on the prior year.

There was a further significant fall in the wagering with on course bookmakers and totalisators of about 23%, to just under \$29-million.

Several Members have also received welcome returns from the export of their racing to international wagering markets by Sky Racing. Whilst New Zealand is the major offshore market there was significant growth in the past year through expanded coverage of trotting, much of it from Victoria, in France and Scandinavia.

Coverage of international product is strictly controlled in France but HRA and Sky were able to negotiate an increase in the quota with French authorities for the past year and will continue to seek expanded opportunities in this and other markets.

There was good news for the industry in NSW in June 2015 when the state government announced that it would reduce the tax on wagering to the same level as that imposed in Victoria. It was a significant victory by Harness Racing NSW and the other two codes, which had been lobbying the government for several years for tax parity. The reduction will be phased in over five years but it will eventually provide significant new funds for the industry.

The HRA Wagering Working Party, appointed to examine a range of wagering issues and to make recommendations as to how turnover could be boosted, with a resultant increase in industry funding, delivered its findings in early 2015.

It was a major undertaking. To assist in its deliberations the Working Party undertook an exhaustive survey which attracted 1,000 respondents, which helped in determining why and how people bet, and what factors influenced their wagering decisions.

There were 30 recommendations in the final report, supported by a further 25 sub-recommendations, falling within six general headings - Integrity, Drivers, Racing Presentation, Wagering Operators, Ownership Promotion and Access to Wagering Information.

Many of the recommendations have been implemented with others being worked through by Members.

Lobbying Campaign

HRA continued to lobby politicians on a range of matters during the year. As has been the case for the past few years, the key focus has been lobbying for the framing of national legislation to govern the funding of the racing industry, and for the Interactive Gambling Act (2001) to be strengthened to prevent exploitation by wagering operators who are not approved by Australian regulators.

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National legislation was recommended by the Productivity Commission Inquiry into Gambling in 2011 and has been endorsed by the past three Australasian Racing Ministers' conferences. Unfortunately a late change of plans by some ministers caused the 2015 conference scheduled for Brisbane in May to be called off, but HRA still presented a comprehensive report to ministerial and departmental officers who met without the ministers.

It was extremely pleasing when the federal government in early September 2015 issued terms of reference for a review into the Interactive Gambling Act, which will look at the regulation and taxation of illegal overseas betting operators as well as how to deal with emerging methods of live sports betting.

The Social Services Minister (now Treasurer) Scott Morrison said there was serious concern that in-play wagering could compromise the integrity of Australia's sports and racing industry and have consequences for problem gamblers.

Mr Morrison indicated overseas wagering generated \$1-billion in illegal revenue each year, but it is difficult to assess what proportion of this could be on harness racing.

The review will seek to estimate the size and economic impacts of illegal overseas wagering ... international regulatory regimes that could provide a template for Australia ... new technological and legislative options to mitigate the costs of illegal wagering ... and whether consumer protections could be strengthened.

HRA has addressed all these issues in previous submissions to federal bodies, including a review by the Department of Communications in 2012, but is heartened that this seems a far more serious attempt to address a problem that is impacting on the broader Australian sporting community. We will certainly be making a comprehensive submission to the review, which will be chaired by former NSW premier Barry O'Farrell and is due to be completed by December 18.

Broadcasting

In 2012 HRA was appointed by all Members, except those in Queensland, to negotiate with Sky Racing on their behalf on all broadcasting issues, the most significant of which were broadcast rights payments, race scheduling and digital (or new media) rights.

To facilitate this Members signed Deeds of Agency appointing HRA as their agent and an application was made to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to engage in collective bargaining. Sky/Tabcorp strenuously opposed this but it was eventually approved by the ACCC.

Despite the ACCC ruling, Sky/Tabcorp executives virtually ignored HRA's approaches for meetings. Only two were held in the three years despite our regular attempts by telephone, email and in person to make appointments.

It is only possible to have negotiations with another party if they are prepared to talk, and it was reluctantly decided in mid-2015 that Sky was treating HRA and the harness racing industry with contempt. Both Sky/

Tabcorp and the ACCC were advised that HRA was withdrawing from the collective bargaining arrangement and the reasons this action had been taken.

Sky was urged to enter into meaningful negotiations with our Members on any issues.

The ACCC subsequently requested further information from HRA on the decision to abandon the collective bargaining arrangement.

The sorry saga has done nothing to improve commercial relations between Sky and Members, which is extremely disappointing given the importance of the broadcaster to our industry's funding. There was further evidence of this during the year when Sky moved the Globe Derby meeting on Saturday night from the main channel to Sky2, which Harness Racing South Australia estimates caused a 40% drop in wagering turnover.

It is important our Members continue to explore ways to broaden exposure of the racing product beyond Sky, in an attempt to provide a better service to existing fans and to attract new ones. This can be done without harming Sky or their owners, Tabcorp.

The advances in technology in recent years provide marvellous scope for this and it is pleasing our Members, to varying degrees, are utilising social media and developing digital strategies. It is imperative however that we develop a national digital media strategy, which has been discussed for the past two years, to ensure our industry

is able to respond effectively to the opportunities provided by existing and emerging technology.

There is a good relationship with Sky on operational matters and they are deserving of praise for some of the coverage of major events in the past year.

Inter Dominion

This was particularly so with the Inter Dominion heats and grand final. The special coverage of the heats held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Perth and Christchurch gave excellent exposure to the racing.

Sky's coverage of a magnificent programme of Group One races on grand final day in March was comprehensive, while the industry received further great exposure with the broadcast on the Nine Network of Beautide's second Inter Dominion victory in as many years.

Congratulations to the New South Wales Harness Racing Club and Harness Racing NSW for the outstanding promotion of the Inter Dominion over the three years it was conducted at Tabcorp Park Menangle under the innovative format they devised. The format was not embraced by all but it was a genuine attempt to reinvigorate the ailing series and won widespread acceptance, despite the detractors.

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The rebuilding of the Inter Dominion brand continues for the next three years in Western Australia. Racing and Wagering Western Australia and the Gloucester Park Harness Racing have reverted to the traditional format of three heats and a final and are strongly promoting the series as harness racing's flagship event.

Record prizemoney and a Sunday afternoon final on national free to air television augers well for another good promotion.

World Trotting Conference

HRA was the host in February of the 24th World Trotting Conference, the 4th time it had been held in Australia. Delegates from most member countries of the International Trotting Association visited Sydney for the five day conference, which had an extensive agenda covering the major issues confronting our industry globally.

There were many fascinating presentations and robust debate in committee sessions on subjects such as integrity, marketing, wagering, animal welfare, breeding and ownership. Despite the obvious differences brought about by different cultures or the size of the industry in the various ITA jurisdictions, we all have similar problems.

One of the most absorbing presentations was given by a distinguished Australian who is well qualified to speak on integrity - John Fahey, the former president of the World Anti-Doping Agency.

There was a fascinating session on digital media with insightful presentations by American guru Rob Keys, who's company Converseon is working on projects with the USTA, and the Melbourne based head of Sportsgeek, Sean Callanan. A recurring theme was the need for an integrated social media strategy for the industry.

Of particular interest also was a presentation by ATG in Sweden, where there has been significant improvement in broadcast technology to enhance the presentation of the harness racing product, including positions in running software and considerable visual enhancements and statistical data.

Every presentation was informative and challenging and delegates agreed on a number of matters to progress as industry initiatives prior to the next world conference, to be held in Canada in 2017.

World Driving Championship

The World Driving Championship was held in conjunction with the conference, with ten of the world's best drivers competing in a 20-race series around NSW.

New Zealand ace Dexter Dunn dominated the series, amassing a record points score for the competition. Chris Alford was a worthy Australian representative and won much praise from his fellow drivers for the ambassadorial role he undertook, while Peter McMullen was appreciative of the opportunity his travelling reserve role

presented for him to mix with and learn from some of the world's best drivers.

There was a strong following for the championship and good crowds turned out to watch the races at Menangle, Newcastle, Wagga, Bathurst and Penrith. All the host clubs are to be commended for treating the drivers like royalty and for making the most of the promotional opportunities the series presented.

The final race was staged at Menangle on Inter Dominion grand final day and attended by world conference delegates. Both the delegates and the drivers were fullsome in their praise of the race meeting, the Menangle track and the organisation of both the conference and the driving championship.



“Chris Alford was a worthy Australian representative and won much praise from his fellow drivers for the ambassadorial role he undertook”



• Rules briefing of the WDC drivers.



“One of the most absorbing presentations was given by a distinguished Australian who is well qualified to speak on integrity - John Fahey, the former president of the World Anti-Doping Agency.”

Equine Welfare

The world conference followed only days after the ABC Four Corners expose on live baiting in the greyhound industry which sickened most viewers.

RSPCA chief executive Heather Neill, who has worked closely with HRA on our changes to whip rules and other animal welfare matters, gave a timely presentation reminding all delegates of their animal welfare responsibilities. She said we should all use a litmus test when considering the effectiveness of our animal welfare policies and procedures - is it ethically acceptable?

The horrific images on Four Corners caused widespread ramifications for the greyhound industry, but also were a stain on the reputation of all three codes of racing.

Whilst HRA Members were confident in the equine welfare guidelines and practices observed in our industry, the program was a stark reminder that we can never be complacent.

HRA Member chief executives immediately began a review of our industry's equine welfare culture and practices with the aim of providing a contemporary approach to understanding, communicating, regulating and monitoring the welfare of standardbreds throughout the industry.

There has been consultation with the RSPCA as part of this process and a group of acclaimed experts in the field of animal health and welfare has been assembled as the Standardbred Welfare Advisory Group to provide on-going advice for HRA Members on equine welfare and integrity matters.

There has been further development during the year of the Standardbreds Unharnessed program and related undertakings, and a number of media reports on the life after racing being enjoyed by many retired horses.

Breeding

The breeding industry remains a concern, although it is not all bleak news.

The 2014/15 stallion service number of 5918 was 103 down on the previous year. While a decline of any size is disappointing, this was an improvement on the trend and far better than industry forecasts. Strong yearling sales prices and clearance rates provided some good news for the breeding sector, which also received of a direct injection of \$630,000 from HRA for breeding subsidies spread across all States.

Foal numbers continue to be a concern despite record prizemoney and a plethora of racing opportunities, including race programs designed specifically for fillies and mares. This issue is not unique to Australia, but a problem that bothers administrators from around the world.

The major breeding jurisdictions are all experiencing significant foal crop declines, with the exception of France where the foal crop has been fairly static - at just over 11,000 - in recent years.

In Australia the foal crop was 4,116 - down about 1,200 in the past four years - with a drop of 400 in the same period in New Zealand to 2,051 last year.

There is no simple or single answer to this issue, but HRA's decision to partner in stallion fertility research with the University of Newcastle two years ago will soon provide assistance and productivity gains for breeders and studs in a number of ways. These include improvements in semen storage and early pregnancy detection for mares.

This research is in the final phase of fertility trials, after which commercialisation options will be considered with a number of parties who have already shown great interest

Chairman's Message

Tributes

As in any industry, each year there is sadness at the death of people who are much admired, have contributed in varying ways to the industry, or have passed well before their time. There have been a number in our business this year, all of whom are worthy of mention, but I propose to focus on just two in this report.

On September 15, 2014, at the Cranbourne Harness Racing Training Centre in Victoria, there was a stark reminder of the frailty of life and the danger that our participants face daily when a young woman was killed in a tragic accident. Danielle Lewis, a popular 28 year old trainer-driver loved horses and harness racing and was trying to establish herself in the business. The circumstances of her death are still being investigated by the coroner.

On August 26, 2015, many people in racing were shocked by the sudden death of respected administrator Brian Speers, chairman of Tasracing - and a member of the HRA Executive - for the past six years. Brian, who was 69, was involved in racing as a participant and administrator for more than 40 years and has been lauded as a strong, passionate and committed leader. He was also a highly accomplished businessman and well regarded in Tasmania for his community work.

Brian was a proud Tasmanian and always considered the best interests of his state,

but he made a valuable contribution to HRA during his time on the Executive.

On a less sombre note, it is also appropriate that I acknowledge the great contribution to racing in general, and harness racing in particular, of John Tapp.

After half a century in the media, Tappy decided to retire from Sky Racing in mid-2015, calling it a day on a career of high achievements as a race caller, interviewer, host and commentator.

John is a devotee of harness racing and, although his media career may be over, he will continue training standardbreds. We wish him well in his pursuit of more winners.

Acknowledgements

One of the strengths of HRA is the committee structure and special thanks to the many people who serve our industry on these committees and working parties.

I'd also like to record my gratitude to the Members of the HRA Executive Committee – deputy chairman Ken Latta, Treasurer Mark Carey, Rex Horne, Matthew Benson, Ian Hall and the late Brian Speers - for their support and valuable contribution.

We have an excellent, dedicated chief executive in Andrew Kelly, and his small team in the HRA Melbourne office do a fabulous job. This was a particularly difficult year with the added burden of the world

conference and the driving championship but they responded magnificently.

The outstanding success of the conference and the driving championship was due in no small part to the hard work of Andrew and his team - your efforts are much appreciated.

Before moving on from the world conference it is appropriate I record my appreciation of the support given by Harness Racing NSW and the NSW Harness Racing Club for their contributions to the success of the event and the driving championship, and to Harness Racing New Zealand for assisting with staff resources.

HRA works closely with HRNZ on many issues and our thanks go to chairman Gary Allen and chief executive Edward Rennell and their colleagues for maintaining such a positive relationship.

Many thanks also to HRA's legal counsel, Dean Cooper for his endeavours during the past year - we are fortunate to have him as part of the team.

Conclusion

In the wake of the world conference, a number of people felt it would have been beneficial for many local administrators to witness the presentations. The Executive has considered the merits of expanding the HRA annual conference to two days,

incorporating presentations on relevant industry topics and broadening attendance to the wider harness racing community.

In this way officials of clubs and kindred bodies could attend the conference and workshops, with eligible HRA delegates attending a trimmed down annual general meeting. A national awards function could be included as part of this event.

This would provide an ideal platform to educate, inform and discuss as well as communicate with like minded individuals. A proposal is being prepared for consideration by Members.

In closing, best wishes to RWWA and Gloucester Park for a hugely successful Inter Dominion championship.

Geoff Want
Chairman



CEO's REPORT



ANDREW KELLY

“Community expectations of animal welfare continues to evolve at a rapid rate.”

I've said previously that community expectations of animal welfare continues to evolve at a rapid rate - particularly with regards to racing animals - and our industry needs to continue to be aware of these expectations and be able to respond to these concerns and questions of ethical practices.

2014/15 highlighted this like no other, with high profile welfare and integrity scandals plaguing the racing industry as a whole and, quite rightly, placing the social licences to operate under the community spotlight.

The social licence for harness racing to operate is a privilege, not a right. This hard fought licence can never be taken for granted, requiring nurturing and protection to ensure continued enrichment of the lives of Standardbred horses as well as sustaining a 48,000 people strong industry.

Questions of ethics, integrity and transparency need honest and ongoing assessment, while the provision of information is critical to educate and provide confidence for all sectors of society.

Equine welfare has no finish line and Harness Racing Australia (HRA) is committed to the improvement of welfare outcomes and safety for harness racing horses and participants via continuous policy and rule review and benchmarking exercises.

One such emotive and highly visible issue relates to the use of the whip in racing pursuits.

While HRA strongly advocates for the retention of the whip in harness racing, there is a need to continually review the way a whip can be applied while urging a horse within the Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR), and to moderate where required to balance community and industry expectations.

HRA took steps to moderate the use of the whip during races in 2010 by implementing a rule which effectively reduced the driver whip action to a wrist and elbow flick. Other aspects to this moderation was that drivers must hold a rein in each hand at all times of the race, except for the last 200m of the race where they can cross the reins and apply the whip.

This new rule also attempted to define the term 'excessive whip use' in order to provide industry participants with some direction and examples/circumstances in which they would be deemed to be in breach of the rule (previously it was a generic open ended phrase).

While many drivers found the change initially difficult, over time the use of the whip has improved markedly and improved the product presentation without impacting on horse or driver performance - evidenced through video highlight reels of races.

However, as community expectations continue to change, HRA members have again reviewed a number of equine welfare regulatory controls and agreed the time has come to further moderate the whip rule - as a priority.

A proposed rule which requires drivers to hold a rein in each hand at all times when using the whip is currently being drafted for consideration, and while this is a finishing position, a robust consultation period is proposed.

Similarly, at present, the 'whole of life' statistics for Standardbreds is not as well understood as it could be, so de-registration regulations are being enacted. Supported by specific AHRR's, the connections of a horse will be required to advise industry control bodies what has happened to their horse once a decision is made not to race or continue to race.

While there are literally hundreds of examples, great anecdotes and wonderful mainstream media promotion of re-homed horses, it is important that the industry can statistically map and monitor when horses retire, enter the breeding ranks, undertake alternative equestrian pursuits, pass away or are sold.

Timeframes will be set and penalties will apply for rule breaches, but the importance of this full circle program are undeniable in providing information which can assist the formulation of policy to continually build on the enrichment of Standardbred lives beyond the racetrack.

HRA regularly consult with the RSPCA as part of our formal equine welfare review processes, but to complement this, a group of acclaimed experts in the field of animal health are being assembled as the Standardbred Welfare Advisory Group (SWAG) to provide on-going advice for HRA Members on equine welfare and related integrity matters. The SWAG terms of reference include:

CEO's Report

Standardbred Welfare Advisory Group (SWAG) is the principal consultative forum for Harness Racing Australia (HRA) to consider and provide expert advice on Standardbred health and welfare matters.

- a. Providing expert advice to Harness Racing Australia (HRA) on issues relating to:
 - i. Equine welfare
 - ii. Prohibited substances
 - iii. Equine husbandry and racing management practices
 - iv. Analytical issues
 - v. Integrity matters
 - vi. Health, infectious disease and quarantine issues
 - vii. Matters referred to the group by the HRA or any of its designate groups
- b. Draft or review relevant rules of racing and policies for HRA consideration
- c. Coordinate, or liaise with relevant parties, in the conduct of analytical administration trials or investigations relating to equipment, methodology or regulatory controls
- d. Review statistics and monitor trends from Australian states and international jurisdictions with a view to providing recommendations to HRA on rules, policies or practices
- e. Monitor national and international trends and developments in relation to analytical testing, integrity and welfare issues
- f. Assist HRA in promoting and promulgating a "best practice"

approach to equine welfare, integrity, health and welfare issues, thereby helping to promote the industry and Australia's reputation in relation to such matters

- g. Provide representation at appropriate national or international forums or meetings

While almost impossible to satisfy all within the community, these initiatives are building on the strides which have been made across the industry and over many years now. The leadership to focus, foster and reinforce improved equine welfare outcomes continues though and this is also seen with administrators and Stewards preparedness to work effectively alongside welfare organisations and law enforcement agencies to identify horses and owners where instances of mistreatment of a Standardbred are found.

Integrity Officers (Stewards) have wide ranging powers, supported by the Australian Harness Racing Rules, which include unannounced stable visits and inspections. Increased vigilance during such visits will include reporting on the horses inspected, as well as the property and its surrounds - which includes feed, fencing, stabling, bedding, access to water, shade, exercise, security and cleanliness. Any concerns or issues will be appropriately dealt with, including setting timelines to improve standards, more regular visits, imposing penalties or more immediate action such as removing the horses if circumstances dictate (including involving relevant welfare and law enforcement organisations).

The unanimous adoption of the industry's Horse Welfare Statement also illustrates commitment from all involved in the industry. This statement sets out in plain language that licensed persons have a responsibility to uphold the welfare of horses they own or use or have in their care, and to ensure they are not subjected to abuse, neglect or mistreatment. Further, the cruel, abusive or inhumane treatment of a horse by any owner, trainer, driver, stablehand or other person must not be tolerated anywhere, under any circumstances.

2014/15 was also the year the world came to us. HRA hosted the World Trotting Conference (WTC) and World Driving Championships (WDC) in late February/early March, welcoming over 200 visiting administrators, drivers, media, family, friends and fans from 17 different countries.

Both were extremely successful in their own right, lifting the Australian industry's status and reputation on the world stage. The collaboration, education and camaraderie which emanated from these events is hard to quantify in words, with many believing the 2015 WTC and WDC will be the benchmark by which all future international events of this magnitude are judged.

The small, but committed team at HRA did a great job in delivering these events, but we are also extremely grateful for the resources and assistance provided by Harness Racing New South Wales, the New South Wales Harness Racing Club and Harness Racing New Zealand.

What was also clear from the WTC is that Australia is legitimately a world leader. By almost every measurement Australia is ranked in the Top 3 countries worldwide:

- Total Stakes (3rd)
- Number of Races (3rd)
- Individual Horses to Race (3rd)
- Total Wagering (3rd)
- Average Turnover Per Race (3rd)
- Mares Served (3rd)
- Foals Registered (3rd)
- % of Registered Foals to Mares (2nd)
- Registered Stallions (3rd)
- Licensed Participants (3rd)

However, it is not just in statistical data that Australia plays a major role, it is also leading discussions to coordinate data sharing; establishing common breeding rules and agreements; sharing integrity related intelligence; product cross promotion; international broadcasts; common horse identification practices; and welfare benchmarks.

The world has never wanted (or needed) to cooperate more than it does now - and Australia is well placed through recent decisions and strong partnerships which provide both the experience and flexibility to deliver outcomes with multi country benefits.

CEO's Report

This is no more evident than with international wagering, where the total gross revenue generated by the export of Australian harness racing product grew 32% on the previous year to almost \$7m dollars. Similarly, the import of additional product from France, Sweden and North America is all adding value to the codes bottom line on a weekly basis.

This does not happen by accident, and there are many people to thank including Sky Racing and Sky Racing International who do a great job scheduling, sending, receiving and presenting the signals. Steady growth is expected to continue, with planning underway to export product to North America next year.

This exciting growth is also a catalyst for change. Race programming and timing has changed to provide international coverage at the most opportune times, formguides have enhanced presentation of information, tourism is increasing, drivers and trainers are taking working holidays in other countries, and even the breeding industry makes informed decisions based on what they see, not just what they read.

Looking ahead to next year, there are exciting developments internationally, but also plenty of important projects domestically. One of these is the introduction of microchipping. Alpha-angled freezebrands have served the industry well for many years, however, the industry benefits of linking microchip and

database platforms are too great to ignore any longer.

Microchipping is common place in most, if not all companion animals as well as the other two racing codes and most other equine pursuits. Simple and accurate identification is important from an integrity standpoint, while increasingly vaccines require microchip recording. Tri-code jurisdictions have also voiced concerned about variations in identification among their racing animals, while many government departments have expressed concerns (and surprise) about the current arrangements particularly in times of combating disease outbreaks or other emergency situations such as floods or fires.

It is well understood that the costs of this change may impact industry participants financially and accordingly HRA is looking at every option to minimise any monetary impost.

HRA is also hopeful of implementing a national Bet Monitoring initiative during the year, designed to monitor, spot and report suspect betting activity to Stewards in real time - for every race meeting in the country. The benefits for the industry and stewards are wide-ranging, including an ability to open an inquiry and secure information from connections with greater immediacy than may be the case currently.

Other activities will include developing ownership initiatives, legislated increases in syndication size, new rules to enhance

breeding opportunities, invitations for horses to compete in international events, HRA national reporting enhancements and greater commercialisation of national data and statistics.

In closing, it has again been an honour to serve the HRA Membership and wider industry on these and other important activities throughout the year.

I cannot finish my report however without paying tribute to the many people who work so hard to ensure that HRA continues to function in an effective manner.

Sponsorship wise I thank Peter Bourke and David Boydell from Australian Pacing Gold (APG) and Chris Burke from International Racehorse Transport (IRT) for their wonderful support of industry activities. The support of Jamie Taylor from Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT), our insurance brokers, and Tony Pointon from Pointon Partners for their legal services has also been outstanding.

HRA is fortunate to have such a strong committee structure, ably led by their respective Chairmen in Dean Cooper (Chairmen of Stewards & National Rules) and Peter Bourke (Equine Breeding, Animal Welfare & Registration), along with Dr Judith Medd (Regulatory Veterinarians) for their participation, significant contributions and patience.

The relationship with our Members is also vital, and I thank their Boards, Chief

Executives and senior management for their continued support, guidance and confidence given the day-to-day challenges of their own organisations.

The business of harness racing rarely stops, making the dedication and continued commitment of the HRA Executive even more remarkable. My thanks to you all, and in particular a heartfelt thanks to HRA Chairman, Geoff Want who is available day and night for discussion and wise counsel.

I also wish to acknowledge the passing of HRA Executive member and Tasracing Chairman, Mr Brian Speers. Brian made a valuable contribution to the sport of harness racing nationally, particularly with his work in the insurance area, and also proudly represented his State of Tasmania with great passion. He is sadly missed, but never far from our memories.

And finally, a massive thank you to Gary, Julie, Kathy, Laraine, Samantha, Maria, Natasha and Sylvia your enthusiasm and effort. So many roles within our organisation require commitment over and above what is possible to describe in a job description. Your dedication cannot be questioned and it is greatly appreciated.

Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive



WORLD DRIVING
CHAMPIONS 2015
WORLD DRIVING
Championships



DEXTER DUNN

Congratulations
2015 DRIVING WORLD CHAMPION

**TEN DRIVERS NINE NATIONS SIX VENUES ONE WINNER
 AND ONE BIG FESTIVAL**



FRANCE
 Pierre
 VERCRUYSE



NORWAY
 Vidar HOP



FINLAND
 Mika FORSS



DENMARK
 Knud
 MÖNSTER



SPAIN
 Guillermo
 ADROVER



FRANCE
 Tony
 Le Beller



NEW ZEALAND
 Dexter DUNN



USA
 Tim TETRICK



CANADA
 Jody
 JAMIESON



AUSTRALIA
 Chris ALFORD



AUSTRALIA
 Peter MCMULLEN



**WE WILL
 TROT
 YOU!**

HRA
 HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA



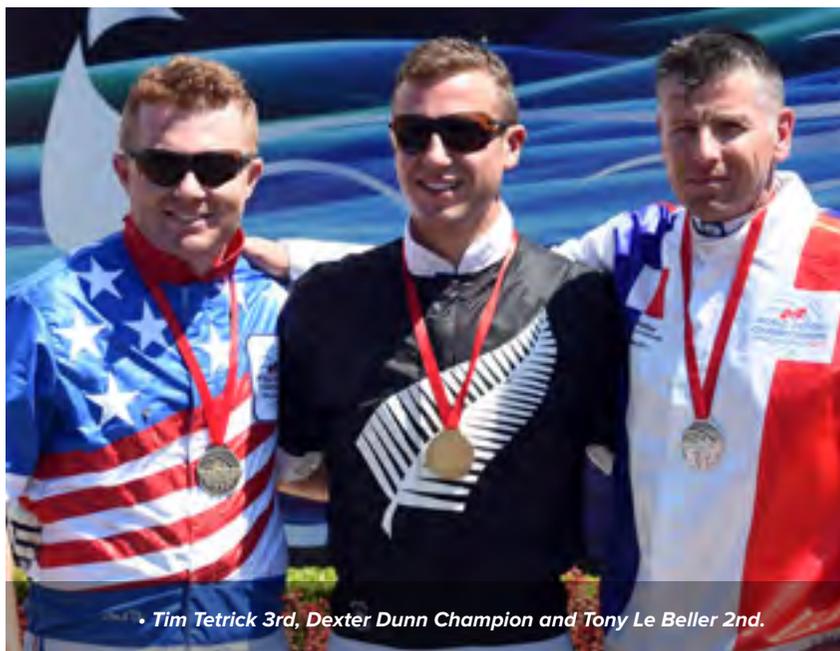
• The impressive silks worn by defending champ, Frenchman, Pierre Vercruysse.



• Welcome to country - Newcastle.



• Finnish reinsman Mika Forss heading to the line.



• Tim Tetrick 3rd, Dexter Dunn Champion and Tony Le Beller 2nd.



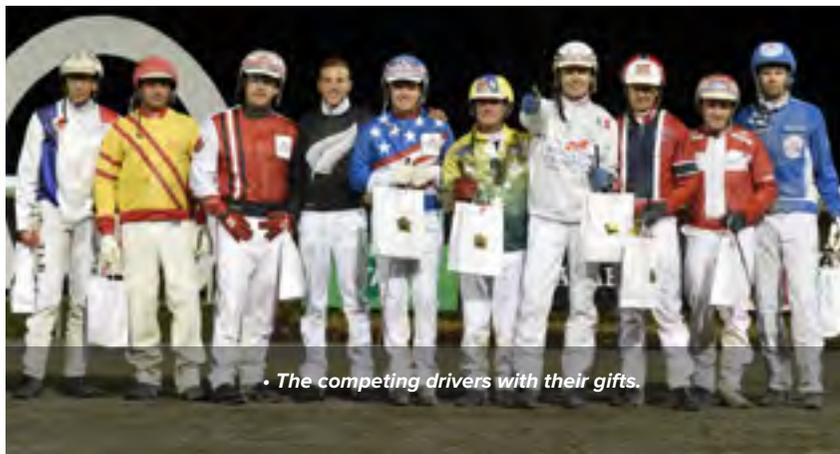
• Champion Dexter Dunn.



• Chris Alford with his game face on.



• Tony Le Beller from France salutes the photographers.



• The competing drivers with their gifts.



• Vidar Hop all smiles from the Norwegian.



• Chris Alford storms down the outside to win heat 3.

The world's best came to us in February when nine of harness racing's premier international reinsmen travelled downunder for the World Drivers' Championship

The elite line-up included defending Champion, Frenchman, Pierre Vercryse and his compatriot Tony LeBeller; two-time former winner, Canadian Jody Jamieson; American superstar Tim Tetrick; Norwegian Vidar Hop; popular Dane Knud Mönster; Guillermo Adrover representing Spain; Finn Mika Forss; and Kiwi Dexter Dunn.

Add to the mix a nine time winner of the JD Watts Award in Chris Alford and the reigning Australian Driving Champion Peter McMullen and it was truly a best of the best series.

Peter travelled with the group as the reserve, and given the achievements of the company he kept, enjoyed an outstanding learning opportunity.

The event was more than just racing with a number of social functions, civic receptions and charity events scheduled into the eight-day itinerary, in addition to the obligatory sight-seeing.

A visit to Rainbow Cottage, a respite home for children with severe disabilities, was a highlight, with drivers chatting with the

youngsters, parents and staff, signing posters and other items over the course of the morning.

To watch Jody, a genuine "Mr Nice Guy", reading storybooks with one of the children was a very poignant and moving moment.

At Wagga Wagga, it was a step back in time for Pierre who led an impromptu French class after noticing a familiar lesson during a tour of the school.

Following a quick introduction from the teacher, he posed a number of questions in his native tongue, an exciting and authentic experience for the class.

Preferring to showcase their sporting prowess, the remaining drivers tested their rugby skills on the oval, and exchanged stories with the Wagga Wagga mini-trot members.

On the racing front, the Championship comprised 20 heats across eight days and five venues, culminating at Tabcorp Park Menangle in conjunction with the 2015 Inter-Dominion.

Harness Racing New South Wales, together with the NSW, Newcastle, Wagga Wagga, Bathurst and Penrith Harness Racing Clubs, framed even heats which guaranteed close racing.

Meet and greet opportunities were well received by the public and a clever barrier draw innovation ensured that each driver came from each of the 10 barriers on two occasions.

America struck first blood at Menangle when Tim saluted in the opening heat – as the Star Spangled Banner rang out post-race it was clearly an emotional success.

Heat two went to Finland, and Mika hit the ground running, having only arrived in the country less than 24 hours prior.

He looked very comfortable handling trotter On Thunder Road for trainer Darren Hancock.

The drivers hit the highway en route to Newcastle for day two and after a visit to the beach and unscheduled swim by a few brave travelers, lunch at the Mereweather

Surf Club was followed by a trip to the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Centre.

The entourage undertook a tour of the venue and was given an overview of its operations; all were suitably impressed.

A "Welcome to Country" ceremony preceded the evening's racing which kicked off on a winning note for Australia; the national anthem and ensuing welcome afforded to Chris clearly outshone the previous day's US celebrations.

Tony won heat four for France before Mika struck back to reclaim the series lead in heat five.

After signing autographs and enjoying a meal of kangaroo and crocodile it was back on to the bus for the return trip to Sydney.

Day three was all about the highway and the inevitable "are we there yet?"

A road trip to Wagga Wagga included a lunch stop at Yass which allowed the passengers to take in the sights of the NSW Riverina District.

The picturesque provincial venue delivered a relaxed evening and magnificent light show courtesy of a freak summer thunder storm.

Day four took the tour to Yirribee Pacing Stud and an inspection of the yearlings that were being prepared for sale.

Rod Woodhouse, Roger Strong and team at Yirribee were warm and welcoming, delivering true Aussie hospitality.

Teacher Pierre was in his element during a visit to the Riverina Anglican College, which preceded a civic reception at the Wagga Wagga Art Gallery.

On track, it was Dexter who stole the show.

Disappointed with his earlier heat efforts, the Kiwi young gun delivered a driving clinic to his competitors - three wins and three seconds from his seven heat drives ensured a rapid advance up the leaderboard.

Tim chimed in with a double, Jody found the winner's circle and Tony notched his second success for the series.

The long haul to Bathurst for day five took the drivers to the Mount Panorama Motor Museum and a "slow lap" of the nation's most famous road racing circuit.

When the focus turned to horse power of the four-legged kind, honors were shared; Tony added a third win to his tally, Knud saluted for the first time and Pierre landed a long shot winner under vigorous driving.

Dexter maintained his series lead, however, with another win.

Day six took the team over the Blue Mountains from Bathurst and into the Western Sydney city of Penrith.

A session at the "I Fly" centre proved popular, with fabulous images of the suited drivers flying in an air tunnel distributed around the world by members of the travelling media throng.

Backed by a very vocal Canadian contingent, Jody made the Penrith circuit his own landing two winners; the third of the evening's heats went to Knud who brought up the second win of the series for Denmark.

It was great to see reserve driver Peter in the winner's circle in a support race on the night's program, which was followed by a two day driving hiatus.

After four days of bus travel, the drivers enjoyed some time out of the sulky and took in the sights of Sydney.

Friday evening saw the visiting throng and their support crew let their hair down at the Inter Dominion Ball, a black tie affair at the iconic Four Seasons Hotel which was enjoyed by many of the harness racing industry's biggest names along with attendees from the World Trotting Conference, also held in Sydney.

The following night, a number of drivers attended the annual Inter Dominion Calcutta, a fabulous fundraising event supported by popular travel agent Michael Gallenti and his tour group which had been following the Drivers' Championships.



• The boys get ready to fly,

The most spirited auction item was a signed boxing kangaroo t-shirt - after a three way bidding war between drivers Tim Tetrick and Jody Jamieson, and legendary Canadian horseman Carl Jamieson the t-shirt was eventually knocked down for \$2,000 to Tim Tetrick.

Who says these guys do not have a competitive streak! The evening raised \$5,000 for the Children's Tumor Foundation, an organisation very close to champion Victorian reinsman and Australian WDC representative Chris Alford's heart.

The final day of World Driving Championship competition coincided with the 2015 Sydney Inter Dominion.

The last heat was fittingly won by Kiwi Dexter who timed his finishing burst perfectly to overhaul Spaniard Guillermo with Norwegian Vidar filling the minor placing.

Harness Racing Australia Chairman Geoff Want conducted the medal ceremony with gold going to Dexter who was a runaway overall winner.

Silver was awarded to Frenchman Tony and bronze to American Tim, after a tight battle which was only determined on the final day.

At the presentation, the Chairman noted the spirit in which the championship was conducted and professionalism of the drivers; he extended a warm invitation for all to return to Australia in the future.

A truly memorable championship wrapped up with a final get together at the Four Seasons, where the triumphs of the previous 10 days were relived and participants were presented with a memento of their time in Australia.

Facts & Figures

- Of the 10 participating drivers, eight drove at least one winner during the carnival
- All drivers drove in each heat conducted
- Dexter Dunn became the sixth Kiwi to win the WDC and cemented New Zealand as the winning most country (Canada and Norway on four each are next)
- Canadian Jody Jamieson was at his fifth WDC - the most of any of the 2015 drivers
- Only two of the competing countries in the 2015 championship have not produced a World Driving Champion (Spain and Finland)

WDC Points Table

DRIVER	COUNTRY	POINTS
Dexter Dunn	New Zealand	200
Tony Le Beller	France	146
Tim Tetrick	USA	142
Mika Forss	Finland	139
Jody Jamieson	Canada	132
Knud Monster	Denmark	122
Chris Alford	Australia	119
Pierre Verduyze	Defending Champion - France	119
Guillermo Adrover	Spain	101
Vidar Hop	Norway	100



• The champ is all smiles - NZ's Dexter Dunn.



GRAND *Circuit* & TROTTLING *Masters*

Grand Circuit and Trotting Masters



The Kiwis have taken full ownership of the Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit. Both gaits too.

During the recently completed 2014/15 season, New Zealand stars dominated the feature race calendar spearheaded by the likes of the closely related Christen Me and Adore Me while the trotting classics went the way of Stent, Sheemon and Master Lavros.

In fact, Christen Me and Stent went back to back by securing the title of Grand Circuit and Trotting Masters champions respectively.

And as unbelievable as this may sound, they appear to be getting stronger and faster. Outrageous but true.

These two amazing Standardbreds are now firmly entrenched at the elite level and their respective efforts last season were truly magnificent, they both possess that rare mixture of brute strength and sublime speed.

Christen Me finished some 129 points clear of his nearest rival in Adore Me (201) while Stent completely blew away his rivals and finished some 197 points clear of Sheemon (168).

With back to back titles, both horses join elite company as multiple series champions.

Christen Me proved successful in the Miracle Mile, Victoria Cup and the Auckland Cup.

The Cran Dalgety trained pacer set a new race record (1:49.1) when winning the speed feature at TABCORP Park, Menangle last November.

Again, connections of the Christian Cullen – Splendid Dreams gelding bypassed the Inter Dominion series in Sydney preferring to pick and choose their targets with meticulous precision. And they were rewarded.

His season totaled 14 starts for nine victories and three minor placings while amassing more than \$1.2 million in stakes.

His two unplaced efforts came via the New Zealand Cup (5th to Adore Me) and the Hunter Cup (4th to Arden Rooney).

But the Inter Dominion is firmly part of their plans for the 2015/16 season, which will be staged in Perth.

Christen Me is back in full work as connections target the New Zealand Cup in November.

Beautide, a sparring partner of Christen Me in recent times also managed back to back victories during the season, and in the best possible manner.

The horse dubbed 'Tassie Terminator' claimed the Inter Dominion for the second straight season and his crushing performance at Menangle clearly underlined his enormous ability.

Beautide became the sixth pacer to register back to back victories in an Inter Dominion Grand Final following on from Hondo Grattan, Gammalite, Our Sir Vancelot, Blacks A Fake and Im Themightyquinn.

While the season didn't quite go to plan for Beautide and his connections owing to niggling issues along the way, he still proved his worth with his fighting second in the Miracle Mile against Christen Me followed by his stunning Inter Dominion triumph.

Other winners on the Grand Circuit last season included For A Reason in the Queensland Pacing Championship at Albion Park, Adore Me in the New Zealand Cup, My Hard Copy in the WA Pacing Cup and Arden Rooney in the Hunter Cup.

Christen Me finished the season with 330 points, 129 clear of nearest rival – Australasia's fastest pacer and recently retired mare Adore Me (1:47.7) while For A Reason filled a top three spot with 194 points.

As good as Christen Me was during the season, fellow Cantabrian Stent was even better.

His consistent and regular thrashings of his rivals throughout the season clearly propelled him to the title of Australian Pacing Gold Trotting Master for the second straight year.

His form on both sides of the ditch was equally impressive, claiming feature after feature.



• Christen Me winning SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile.

Prepared by husband and wife combination of Colin and Julie DeFilippi, Stent won 13 of his 19 starts while amassing more than \$600,000 in stakes.

During the year, Stent has won 7 Group 1 races including the Rowe Cup, New Zealand Trotting Championship, heat & final of the Great Southern Star, Australian Trotting Grand Prix, Knight Pistol and the New Zealand Trotting FFA.

He also claimed two Group 2 and three Group 3 features.

Stent also went unbeaten during his five start Australian campaign.

And his overall earnings have now surpassed \$1 million.

Stent now joins Sundons Gift, One Over Kenny and Take A Moment as dual Trotting Master champions.

Only the incomparable Lyell Creek has claimed three Trotting Master titles.

A 'bogey' event for Stent is the opening leg of the Trotting Masters season, the Dominion at Addington during Cup week in Christchurch, placed third in the 2013 version behind Master Lavros and Stig, Stent was sent out as favourite this year's feature but again came up short.

The feature went the way of the Amber Hoffman and Jonny Cox prepared Jaccka Justy.

The other Grand Circuit winner for the term was Sheemon who proved too classy defeating his rivals in the ANZAC Cup at Alexandra Park, Auckland.

But the dominance of Stent this season was extraordinary.

As a result, Stent was being considered as a potential entrant for the US\$1 million International Trot at Yonkers in New York on October 10.

The once great race is returning to the New York calendar and with US\$1 million stakes rare, it is likely to attract many of the world's best.

Stent's owner Trevor Casey has been in touch with Yonkers officials and the Canterbury trotter would have been welcomed into the race for his promotional value alone after dominating open-class trotting in Australasia last season.

While it's unlikely to happen this time around, connections remain hopeful they can head north next year with their champion trotter.



STANARDBRED'S AUSTRALIA

Unharnessed

Standardbred's Australia Unharnessed

Of the harness racing industry's many significant achievements over the past 12 months, perhaps the most exciting has been the progress of our animal welfare and "life after" initiatives.

Under the Standardbreds Australia Unharnessed banner, Harness Racing Australia has supported both the introduction of new and development of existing projects which provide an opportunity for retired pacers and trotters to enjoy a productive life beyond the racetrack.

On a hugely positive note, these projects have been largely driven by the relevant State Authorities who, in line with community expectations, have acknowledged and acted upon their horse management obligations.

Indeed, life after racing has never been more widely promoted or enjoyed a higher profile in industry circles with Australian breeders, owners, trainers, drivers and administrators united in their commitment.

Victoria led the way and set a benchmark with the development and implementation of Harness Education & Rehoming Opportunities.

Jointly funded by the State Government's Victorian Racing Industry Fund, HERO strives to develop positive pathways for Standardbreds exiting the competitive

environment; deliver tangible support for retrainers; and encourage industry participants to factor retirement into their day-to-day welfare programs.

In another enormous coup, the Victoria Police Mounted Division welcomed a third off the track Standardbred to its ranks, officially laying to rest any historical biases which may have lingered within the Branch.

The Mounted Division now warmly embraces potential Standardbred recruits, acknowledging the breed's trainability, intelligence, adaptability and level head as key Police horse attributes.

The New South Wales Police Mounted Division, which features one-time pacer Hotman Shadow among its ranks, is similarly receptive to assessing and trialling suitable Standardbred candidates.

Nation-wide, Riding for the Disabled continues to provide another rewarding outlet for harness racing retirees with Centres as remote as Alice Springs utilising Standardbreds in their enormously important and beneficial therapy programs.

SAU and RDA have an ongoing partnership which will ensure a growing number of retired harness horses transition into riding and driving roles, delivering money-cannot-buy experiences to physically and intellectually disabled participants of all ages and abilities.

Racing and Wagering Western Australia undertook a significant step, appointing a dedicated Off The Track Equine Welfare Officer who sits across both horse racing codes.

RWWA enjoys an excellent working relationship with the Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association of WA and the two groups recently joined forces to host Australia's first official OTT Standardbred Championship.

The announcement of an historic partnership with Chapel Lodge highlighted Harness Racing South Australia's ongoing commitment to animal welfare, and in particular its support of retired Standardbreds.

Chapel Lodge is a not for profit charity is based at Lewiston which works closely with the harness racing industry to re-home Standardbreds transitioning from racing to pleasure riding.

Some 80 retirees have passed through its books in the past four years and HRSA's support will enable the group to both consolidate and build on its vital work which also extends to horses requiring special care.

To further complement the State's expanding life after racing activities, an Animal Welfare Officer role was created and implemented under the auspices of the HRSA Integrity Department.

A similar position was developed at Racing Queensland to oversee the thoroughbred, harness and greyhound codes.

Standardbreds Australia Unharness was promoted widely over the course of the past year through two key channels – a Facebook page with in excess of 2,500 followers, and Horse Deals – Australia's number one equestrian magazine which boasts a monthly audience of 100,000 readers.

SAU has also provided extensive sponsorship support to groups and individuals committed to championing for the Standardbred as a pleasure horse and worked hard to deliver expanded opportunities for a breed which continues to grow significantly in popularity in the recreational equestrian field.



• Sarah Marshall enjoying some training.



STATE *Reports*

Victoria



Dr Ken Latta PSM
Chairman

The HRV Group recorded a consolidated profit for the year of \$4.054m which is a very satisfying performance after the original budget forecast a profit of \$1.086m.

Financials

The financial year 2014-15 has been a pleasing one for Harness Racing Victoria (HRV).

The HRV Group recorded a consolidated profit for the year of \$4.054m which is a very satisfying performance after the original budget forecast a profit of \$1.086m.

The principal reason for the positive result has been the better than expected growth in revenue. Revenue for the year grew by 6.6% from \$80.08m last year to \$84.97m. Wagering was the key driver of the revenue growth. Wagering revenue grew from \$57.9 to \$61.9m.

Most significant growth came from the export of Victorian product to international jurisdictions. Export of Victorian trotting to France is a new initiative and will continue to grow. \$1.16m (an increase of 22% on last year) in revenue was earned by HRV specifically from exported product.

Expenditure for the financial year increased from \$78.8m to \$80.9, by 3.3%.

The major factor in expenditure growth was increased stake money, which grew by \$2m from \$36.3m to \$38.3m or 5.5%.

One area of focus is the spending on drug analytical testing. For the 2014-15 year the HRV Integrity Department spent \$501,000 on swab samples alone, an increase of 16% on last year's figure of \$433,000.

The Board has budgeted for a further 7% increase in 2015-16 to \$535,000.

The Balance Sheet for HRV remains strong. As at 30 June 2015, HRV has a favourable Net Asset position of \$26.3m. HRV has a year end net debt of \$24.3m which is down from \$32m at the same time last year.

Major Awards

During the year, HRV recognised the achievements of many in the industry. Below are some of the major recipients:

- **Kerryn Manning**
Gordon Rothacker Medallist
- **Des Hughes**
Distinguished Service Medal
- **Lisa McIlvridd**
Pearl Kelly Award
- **Chris Alford**
Australian Representative at the World Drivers' Championship

At the Victorian Harness Racing Media Awards night, the following were inducted into the Hall of Fame:

- **Abrahams Family**
- **Chris Alford**
- **Maori Miss**
- **Max Agnew**
- **Pearl Kelly**
- **True Roman**

Legend status was bestowed on
George Gath.

Ministerial Reviews

In the course of the year the Board and management co-operated with the Ministerial audit, conducted by Mr Dale Monteith. HRV's response to the audit was forwarded to the Minister directly.

The recommendations emanating from the audit were embraced by the Board and where relevant have been incorporated into the draft Strategic Plan and form part of the industry consultation to take place leading up to the Plan's final release.

The HRV Board also looks forward to the Minister's Review into the racing industry integrity structure working in collaboration with Mr Paul Bittar.

The Board has drafted a Consultation Paper for a Strategic Plan which is designed to address several of the challenges facing the sport. HRV is about to enter a phase of consultation with a broad cross section of industry stakeholders. Following consultation with the industry the final 2020 Strategic Plan is due to be released in late 2015.

State Reports

New South Wales



Rex Horne
Chairman

Youth dominated our driving ranks with Lauren Panella, Robert Morris, Todd McCarthy, David Morris, Amanda Turnbull & Corey Bell all driving 100 winners across Australia during the season.

FY2015 was a year of change and infrastructure development for the industry in New South Wales. Significant changes that occurred during the year included a new CEO from 1 September 2014, a revitalised handicapping system and more recent announcements from the NSW State Government relating to Tax parity and changes to race fields fees.

The Board continued its efforts to increase payouts and returns to all industry participants. Total prizemoney paid in FY2015 amounted to \$32.2m and included a combined \$5.6m from Carnival of Cups funding, Breeders Challenge prizemoney funding, the Prizemoney Contingency Fund and Club contributions. This result was the highest ever achieved by harness racing in NSW and was an increase of \$0.860m on that paid during FY2014.

In addition to the above, the NSW Breeders Challenge continued to grow as a brand and its worth can be measured, in part, by the increased success of locally bred horses on the national stage.

The Breeders Challenge Owners Bonus scheme distributed a record \$1.3m in Certificates for use in offsetting the cost of breeding, purchasing yearlings at sales and 2YO's at the Trialling Sale.

The Breeders Challenge Nominators Bonus commenced in FY2014. With the extension of the scheme to 3YO's a further \$0.743m in cash bonuses were distributed to Foal Nominators in FY2015.

Therefore, in total, more than \$2.0m in bonuses were paid to participants.

The combined prizemoney and bonus certificates paid during FY2015 were a record for the industry.

Integrity continued to be at the forefront of deliberations within HRNSW. Management, backed by the Board, pursued a number of matters through the court system to ensure the integrity of the Act, the Rules of Racing and local Rules.

HRNSW finished the year with a published surplus of \$2.227m. The result was achieved following a substantial increase in TAB distributions, well above budget expectations. TAB receipts increased from \$33.458m in FY2014 to \$35.651m this year, an increase of \$2.193m. Income from the TAB reflected the shift from pari-mutual to fixed odds wagering, with the pari-mutual component decreasing by just over \$1.0m and the Wagering Incentive Fee (WIF) increasing from \$12.015m to \$15.266m. A substantial component of the WIF is fixed odds wagering. This part of the revenue stream is becoming more unpredictable as it is highly vulnerable to the yield achieved on fixed odds wagers.

The entire surplus has again been earmarked in the FY2016 budget for prizemoney, club funding and breeding.

Total Turnover during FY2015 totalled \$645m and average turnover per race increased by 3.3% from \$169,278 to \$174,875 per race.

NSW TAB turnover represented 25.9% of all turnover, Other Totes 39.5% and Corporate Bookmakers 34.7%.

Year on year NSW TAB turnover decreased by 10.1%, Other Tote turnover decreased by 6.2%, while Corporate Bookmaker turnover increased by 15.1%.

The 2015 Inter Dominion was another outstanding event with large crowds attending the final on Sunday 1st March. The revamped series was once again the result of a tripartite commercial accord between Destination NSW, the Principal Club (NSWHRC) and HRNSW. The carnival also coincided with the World Trotting Conference and Drivers Championships.

The win by Beautide, its second in two years was something very special. Congratulations again to trainer/driver James Rattary for his outstanding Inter Dominion win.

The Inter Dominion, carrying \$750,000 in prize money, was just one of seven Group 1 and three Group 2 events decided on the day delivering just under \$2m in prizemoney.

Youth dominated our driving ranks with Lauren Panella, Robert Morris, Todd McCarthy, David Morris, Amanda Turnbull & Corey Bell all driving 100 winners across Australia during the season.



• Racing at Narrabri NSW.

While Steve Turnbull eclipsed 200 winners for the second year in a row, Shane Tritton was able to achieve it for the first time in his career. KerryAnn Turner and Shaun Snudden also trained in excess of 100 winners. It was the second time for Turner and the inaugural occasion for Snudden.

There has been a significant amount of track and training centre development occurring throughout FY2015.

The new track at Bathurst was completed and officially opened on 19th October 2014 by The Hon Troy Grant, Deputy Premier and Minister for Racing and included an eleven race program that kept race goers thoroughly entertained throughout the day.

Other significant projects commenced throughout the year included the training centre at Menangle Park, new lighting

and stabling at Penrith and project work for the new development at Wagga. Each track, including training tracks, receives an annual allocation from the Racecourse Development Fund for track maintenance. In FY2015 a total of \$0.680m was allocated to clubs and training centres.

A new media centre, incorporating an upgraded web site, was launched in August 2014 and the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan was released in May this year after much consultation with participants and industry groups.

A Future Fund was established to manage the residual funds arising from race fields monies received during the period from September 2008 to March 2012. The funds have been invested for the benefit of the industry and some monies were used during FY2015.

Many in the industry were saddened to learn that a number of trainers were severely affected by the storms and floods that struck most of the eastern seaboard in April this year.

HRNSW provided much needed assistance to many trainers, especially those in the Hunter who bore the brunt of the storm and its effects.

In June 2015 the NSW Government announced that it would reduce the tax currently applied to wagering to bring it in line with that charged in Victoria.

However, the reduction will be phased in over a five year period. In late July a further announcement was made in respect of race fields fees which will enable HRNSW to charge higher fees for its product.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board Members, Mr Graham Kelly, Mr Alex Smith, Mr Rod Smith and of course, former Board Member, Mr Chris Edwards who retired at the completion of his term in February, for their significant contribution to the industry.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the Hon Troy Grant, the Minister for Racing, for his efforts and support of the harness racing industry. Thanks are also extended to the management team and staff at HRNSW under the leadership of John Dumesny for their significant contribution over the past twelve months.

Queensland



John Muir
Chairman

Two of the State's most promising young drivers, Brittany Graham and Trent Moffat, were rewarded for their 2014 performances when they won the Mercedes Benz Toowong Young Achievers Award.

It has been a big year for racing in Queensland with the revamped Winter Carnival calendar upgrading the Sunshine Sprint and QBred Triad finals to Group 1 status and introducing a new Group 1, the Nursery Flying Stakes to the schedule. A Metropolitan and Regional show racing circuit and grass racing circuit was also successfully introduced during the year.

The show circuit, which had been dormant for more than a dozen years, commenced in Brisbane at the 2014 RNA Show and continued around the region at Toowoomba, Nanango, Caboolture, Sunshine Coast and Gympie.

The show racing was well supported by participants and extremely well-received by the general public with large crowds getting to see harness racing action, some for the first time. Grass track racing at thoroughbred venues proved to be another popular promotion with TAB and non-TAB harness races conducted.

The standardbreds went on show for the first time at Deagon racecourse for a full TAB card on the turf broadcast on SKY2 in August. That race day was followed up with a full card of harness non-TAB harness racing at Warwick Turf Club with combined harness/thoroughbred race days successfully conducted at Kilcoy and Beaudesert.

There was also, for the first time, harness racing conducted on a sand thoroughbred track with a dual code thoroughbred/harness race meeting at Gympie.

During the year, Queensland's young drivers again cemented their place among the nation's best, going undefeated in Young Driver Competitions in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and New Zealand.

Two of the State's most promising young drivers, Brittany Graham and Trent Moffat, were rewarded for their 2014 performances when they won the Mercedes Benz Toowong Young Achievers Award. As the inaugural winners the duo were rewarded with an educational trip to North America, where they took drives at the famed Meadowlands and Yonkers tracks.

Another young Queensland talent, Pete McMullen, took on and defeated Australia's best drivers in the Harness Racing Australia National Driving Championships held in Adelaide in October 2014. McMullen was later selected by Harness Racing Australia to represent Australia along with Chris Alford in the 2015 World Driving Championships held in New South Wales.

And, what a fantastic finale to the racing season with the final night of the Winter Carnival sporting four Group 1 races and attracting a big crowd to witness the best Australia and New Zealand have to offer chasing black type spoils.

There is no doubt good horses and good drivers bring out the fans. The Victorians stole the limelight as Bendigo-based trainer Larry Eastman claimed the Group 1 \$150,000 Queensland Derby with his stable star Menin Gate, driven by Melbourne's

Chris Alford. It was the third Derby success for the Somebeachsomewhere 3yo, which also won our Gold Coast Derby at Albion Park and the Victoria Derby at Melton earlier in the season.

Victoria's top trainer/driver duo Emma Stewart and Gavin Lang made it a night to remember with Philadelphia Man, a six-year-old by Art Major, storming away to a brilliant victory in the Group 1 \$125,000 Blacks A Fake.

The prizemoney stayed local in the other QBred Group 1's with the Kevin & Kay Seymour owned and Grant Dixon trained and reined Leo's Best winning the \$100,000 QBred Triad Final for 2yo Colts & Geldings and Shannon Price and Brad Cowen winning the \$100,000 QBred Triad Final for 2yo Fillies with Special Moment.

The special moment sadly came just hours before the passing of the filly's managing owner Tony Price, a highly respected former committeeman of Albion Park and leading owner and breeder of standardbreds in Queensland. Tony, who had been ill for some time was farewelled with his funeral at Albion Park Paceway.

Other Winter Racing Carnival stars included former Queensland trainer/driver Natalie Rasmussen, now based in New Zealand, who won the Group 1 Queensland Oaks with Fight For Glory, while trainer Ian Gurney and driver Shane Graham flew the flag for the locals as the free-legged pacing rock star, Avonnova, won the Group 1 Sunshine Sprint.



• Dexter Dunn winning heat number 8 at Wagga.

Group 1 races and attracting a big crowd to witness the best Australia and New Zealand have to offer chasing black type spoils.

In June, following a recommendation of the McSparran Commission of Inquiry into the greyhound racing industry, the All Codes Board was set aside. Racing Minister Bill Byrne then appointed former Court of Appeal Judge John Muir as the sole member of the board. Mr Muir then appointed Mr Ian Hall from KPMG as Acting CEO to assist in restructuring Racing Queensland's Commercial and Integrity arms.

As part of this process, it was announced the Racing Queensland would be

undertaking an industry consultation process after projected increases in expenditure saw the body post a significant deficit for 2014-15. The consultation process is scheduled to begin in early August and will form the basis of a plan towards a sustainable future for the industry in Queensland.

The next six months are critical for the state's harness racing industry and the wider racing industry as Racing Queensland looks to map a sustainable future. We are certain that with the support of our industry

participants and the ongoing support of our partners Ubet and SKY Racing, we can develop the industry and ensure its future viability. Racing Queensland would also like to thank BOTRA, AFTER and SAQ for their hard work through the year and, of course, our participants for making harness racing the great sport that it is.

State Annual Reports

South Australia



Mark Carey
Chairman

The Board's major focus has been to increase wagering on our product and as a result we have introduced a range of marketing initiatives to increase wagering on SA Harness Racing.

The South Australian 2014/15 racing year has been an extremely challenging year for the Code with a number of positive initiatives that has improved harness racing's position in South Australia and an unforeseen issue that took away some of the positive growth in our industry .

The Industry cannot develop and grow without increased wagering on the SA harness racing product and to make it even more challenging the industry in SA has a floating market share arrangement with the other two racing codes, unlike other states that have a fixed market share arrangements of TAB distribution. As a result of this, each Code's market share at the end of each financial year determines the distribution of funding for the following year from the SATAB.

The Board's major focus has been to increase wagering on our product and as a result we have introduced a range of marketing initiatives to increase wagering on SA Harness Racing. These include:

- Fixed odds betting on all SA Harness Racing meetings.
- New wagering website (www.trotsguide.com.au) - this has also been extremely well received and includes speed maps, race fields, race trials, racing articles, and detailed form analysis for every horse in every harness race in SA. This

website is now regarded as one of the most informative wagering websites in Australia.

- Programming of races to maximise wagering opportunities.
- Expanded full page colour form guide for Monday afternoon race meetings in The Advertiser
- Added support from Tattsbet in increasing pari-mutuel jackpots each week on SA Harness racing.

As a result of the positive growth in wagering initiatives on SA Harness racing, the Board was for the first time in a number of years able to increase prizemoney to industry participants by \$300,000 per annum. In November, all penalty free races were lifted from \$1,500 to \$2,000 and from 1 February, 2015, country front stakes were raised from \$5,400 on Saturday night to \$7,000 and Friday night country front stakes were raised from \$3,500 to \$4,000. This increase was introduced to provide a much needed stimulus to participants with the intention to maintain and grow investments in harness racing.

Last year SA Harness Racing market share was 12.37%. At the end of December 2014 based on projected forecasts, we were heading for a 13.5% - 14% market share at the end of the 2014/15 financial year. However in late January we were

advised by TABCORP that our Saturday night meetings would be transferred from Sky 1 to Sky 2. The reasons for the switch included issues such as latency and field sizes as well as concerns regarding the level of product fees (BOC) paid by interstate corporate betting companies. As a result, the move of SA Harness to Sky 2 resulted in a significant decline in off course SA TAB turnover. In late February, to address this decline, HRSA shifted the main Saturday night meeting to Friday night on Sky 1 and placed the Fridays night's meetings (Port Pirie and Globe Derby Park) to Saturday on Sky 2. It was considered that this move would lessen the impact on off course wagering turnover. The change whilst somewhat successful from an off course point of view, but impacted on Club attendances and on course wagering.

Market share for the SA harness racing code at June 30 finished at 12.68%, slightly above that achieved from the previous year. It is estimated that the Sky Channel/ TABCORP decision affected HRSA's market share by up to 1% or in dollar terms a minimum of \$500,000 in future income to the Code.

HRSA's contract with Sky Channel concluded on 30 June 2015 and we have negotiated a new long term contract with specific KPI's to ensure our product remains on Sky 1.



• 2014/15 SA Horse of the Year - Come On Frank.

This year saw many highlights as HRSA continued to run in conjunction with the Member Clubs excellent events during the year.

- The SAHRC Summer Carnival was run at Globe Derby Park in January 2015. Unusual heavy rain in the preceding days leading up to the event and on the morning of the meeting had a significant impact on crowds. A host of prominent interstate trainers again attend the night and the Emma Stewart trained, Gavin Lang driven pacer Guaranteed was able to win the \$125,000 Tattsbet SA Cup in a race and track record mile rate of 1.54.4 – a truly outstanding feat given the weather and track conditions. The Andy Gath trained and Kate Gath driven 3YO pacer CC Chevron was successful in the Group 3 SA Pacers Derby whilst the Group 2 SA Trotter’s Cup went to the Ray Goble local trained trotter Rejuvenation.
- The Southern Cross series were run at Port Pirie in August 2015. This provided owners and breeders the opportunity to share in significant prize money for the two and three year olds that are eligible for the Series.

- The Country Cups throughout the year were well supported with Gawler, Port Pirie, Mt Gambier, Victor Harbor, Kapunda, Strathablyn Whyalla and Kadina all conducting feature Cup events which were well supported and keenly contested events.
- The BOTRA Golden Nursery night was brought forward to May this year and again proved to be an outstanding night for owners of juvenile horses and all credit to the BOTRA committee who raised in excess of \$50,000 in sponsorship to host the night and provide attractive and substantial prize money.
- The SA Square Trotters Carnival held in May/June provided an entertaining three day carnival series culminating with the SA Trotters Derby and the time honored Gramel series.

From HRSA’s administration point of view there were many positive achievements and outcomes during the year:

- Continued restructuring of SA harness racing dates and prize money.
- Implementation of the Integrity Report recommendations

- Increased sponsorship for the Harness Code
- Continued focus on wagering initiatives.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the sad passing of two South Australian racing identities in Jim Hurley and Tony Lawrence.

Jim Hurley or “Gentleman Jim” as he was affectionately known as in the industry was an accomplished trainer, driver and owner for more than 60 years. With over 1,000 winners, countless industry awards, the 1964 Inter Dominion winner Minuteman was his greatest highlight as an owner. At aged 90, Jim still held active trainers licence and had a runner in this year’s \$125,000 SA Cup field. He was a true legend of the harness racing sport.

Tony Lawrence or “Tee” as he was known by most people was a passionate harness racing supporter for many years, conducting a weekly Harness Racing Show on local radio station 5RPH as well as a

regular contributor to the weekly Harness Review program in Victoria on 979FM, where Tony provided a weekly report of news on South Australian harness racing. A keen punter and bookmaker over the years he also dabbled in horse ownership in what certainly was a lifetime love of the sport.

In the next 12 months we will see the SA Racing Industry finalise negotiations with Tattsbet and the State Government with respect to the exclusivity arrangements for TAB to operate in this State. This is a one off opportunity to increase financial support to the Racing Industry in this State. The “clawback” in which the industry received upfront funding following the sale of the TAB in 2000 with the amount to be repaid over the next 15 years, finally concludes at the end of the 2015/16 financial year. This will result in additional funding of around \$350,000 to be added to Harness Racing annual income.

The Code’s mission is to grow a strong and vibrant harness racing industry by developing a compelling racing product for our target markets, increasing participation, promoting racing excellence and integrity, generating revenue growth from wagering, and maximising returns to its stakeholders. The challenge continues.

State Annual Reports

Western Australia



Jeff Ovens
Chairman

Gary Hall Junior was the State's Leading Driver with 174 winners, \$2.180M in stake money. He finished well clear of Chris Lewis (141) and Chris Voak (139).

During the 2014/15 season Racing and Wagering Western Australia paid out more than \$23,471,383 in stakes and a further \$1,747,275 in Westbred Bonus payments.

These monies were paid out across 279 meetings and 2,352 races which provided 22,756 racing opportunities for 1,896 individual horses. This gives an average number of starts per starter of 12.

The 22,756 starters were trained by 425 individual trainers (465 in 2014) with 55 trainers (55) having 100 or more starters for the season and 19 (18) having 200 or more starters for the season.

At the other end of the scale 84 trainers (116) had less than 10 starters during the season.

During the year a total of 253 (236) WA trained mares earned at least one EPONA Bonus generating \$254,754 in credits. Five mares each earned the maximum credit amount of \$5,000 and a total of \$50,447 (\$13,971) was paid out in claims to the owners of twenty three mares. The payout figures increased in this season as more of the mares with credits are retired to stud.

Greg and Skye Bond trained 220 winners in the season. Their stable won stakes of \$2.057M in the season. Ahead of Gary Hall Senior who trained 214 winners for his stable with earnings of \$3.217M making his stable the highest earning in WA.

Ross Olivieri made it three trainers to pass \$1M in stake money, it was the same three

stables that were able to repeat this from the previous season.

Gary Hall Junior was the State's Leading Driver with 174 winners, \$2.180M in stake money. He finished well clear of Chris Lewis (141) and Chris Voak (139).

In addition to the state's top three drivers list above two more drivers drove more than 100 winners for the season, Ryan Warwick was first past the post 124 times and Colin Brown 116 times.

Seven drivers which included Gary Hall Junior, Chris Lewis, Chris Voak, Colin Brown, Morgan Woodley, Clinton Hall and Ryan Warwick all passed \$1M in stake money for horses driven throughout the season.

A total of 229 individual drivers drove in races during the season (252 in 2014) with 36 having 200 or more drives during the season (33), 51 having 100 or more drives during the season (51) and 59 having less than 10 drives each (81).

Throughout the season 40 individual concession drivers took part in races (33 in 2014), 10 of those had more than 200 drives for the season (7) and another 16 had 100 or more drives (12).

The David Thompson trained David Hercules was a deserving winner of the Group 1 Fremantle Cup. The horse raced 11 times in the season for 6 wins 2 places and \$377,755 in prize money. David Hercules was a gallant second to the Gary Hall

Senior trained My Hard Copy in the Group 1 WA Pacing Cup, where a week prior My Hard Copy took out the Fremantle Cup Consolation.

The State's premier race for mares, the Group One Mares Classic was taken out by the Gary Hall Senior trained Majorly Foxy Styx which beat Bellas Delight from Victoria and Bettor Dreams.

Two-year-old racing saw the Greg Bond bred and owned filly Dodolicious win the Group 1 Westbred final for 2YO Fillies and the Group 3 Gold Bracelet. This filly also ran 2nd to New Zealand bred colt Sprinter in the Group 1 Golden Slipper later in the season.

Bethany Aitch took out the Group 1 Diamond Classic for trainer-driver Nathan Turvey before sustaining an injury and being spelled for the rest of the season.



• Major Reality, G.Hall Jnr, gets up to win from Quite a Delight, J.Prentice, in the 2015 Gannon's WA Oaks.

“ *Young Justin Prentice from Boyanup had a year to remember training the quinella of the Group 1 WA Oaks where Major Reality won by half a head from Quite A Delight.* ”

2014/15 was a quality year for 2yo colts and geldings with Sprinter taking out the Golden Slipper and the Group 2 Champagne Classic, Rich Yankee winning the Group 1 Pearl Classic in a fashionable style for trainer Jesse Moore. Johnny Disco for trainer Ross Ashby recording a win in the Group 1 Westbred Classic for 2YO Colts and Geldings and Rocknroll Whitby winning the Group 1 Sales Classic for Colts and Geldings.

Rocknroll Whitby made it a night to remember for trainer – driver Callan Suvaljko who made it a feature race double with Bettor Bling winning the Group 1 WA Sales Classic for 2YO Fillies

Beaudiene Boaz continued his brilliant 2YO form coming back as a 3YO and taking out the Group 1 WA Derby, Group 2 Western Gateway and Group 3 Caduceus

Club Classic for trainer Gary Hall Snr and Driver Gary Hall Jnr.

Young Justin Prentice from Boyanup had a year to remember training the quinella of the Group 1 WA Oaks where Major Reality won by half a head from Quite A Delight. Justin has four horses that are nominees for three different categories at the Horse of the Year Awards to be held in October.

Up and coming star Waylade won the Group 1 McInerney Ford 4yo Classic and the Group 2 4YO Championship. The feature 4YO race for the season, the Group 1 Golden Nugget saw the mare, Libertybelle Midfrew victorious from Waylade and the Michael Brennan trained Billies A Star.

Tasmania



Dean Cooper
Acting Chairman

Over the past three years, there have been 29 individual Tasmanian winners of metropolitan class races, and many more have been placed, demonstrating the strength of Tasmanian harness racing.

On Wednesday 26 August 2015, Tasracing Chairman Brian Speers passed away unexpectedly.

Involved in the racing industry as an administrator and participant for more than 40-years, he was a founding member of the Tasracing Board. His contribution to Tasracing and the industry was obviously significant.

While he successfully raced thoroughbreds, he also raced many harness horses with leading trainer Barrie Rattray and breeder-veterinarian Art Meeker.

Brian's message for this Annual Report was one of his last formal pieces of communication as Tasracing Chairman.

Though the HRA Annual Report is published after his death, the Board and I felt it appropriate that his message be included under his signature as originally planned.

Acting Chairman Dean Cooper

Tasracing is responsible for the commercial performance of the Tasmanian racing industry. Increasing national turnover on Tasmanian racing product is therefore one of Tasracing's key responsibilities.

It is pleasing to therefore report that Australian punters continued to demonstrate support for Tasmanian harness racing, delivering a four per cent growth in wagering turnover in 2014/15 to \$81.8 million. It follows 10.4 per cent growth the previous financial year. In fact, wagering turnover on Tasmanian harness racing

has increased every year since 2008/09. Total wagering turnover in this period has increased by more than 50 per cent.

The publication of high-level form and analysis through the Tasracing and Harness Racing Australia web sites played a critical role in this growth. This enhanced form information, funded by Tasracing on all Tasmanian harness races broadcast on Sky, also helped increase website traffic. Tasracing social media channels were also utilised to increase form distribution. A 10-minute harness preview segment continued to be broadcast on RadioTAB on Sunday mornings from 7.50 am. A 20-minute harness segment was included in the weekly Tasracing Talk on RSN Carnival.

Tasmanian horses Beautide (Australian Horse Of The Year) and Barynya (Australian Three Year Old Filly Of The Year) dominated Australian pacing during 2013/14, and both again featured prominently in 2014/15. Beautide won his second Inter Dominion Final and was second in the Miracle Mile while Barynya smashed the track record winning the \$25,000 Charlton Cup.

Success by Tasmanian horses interstate was not limited to Beautide and Barynya. Ten Tasmanian horses won metropolitan class races – Bettor Draw, Blue Pointer, Devendra, El Jays Magic, Giuliani, Livin It Lovin It, Melolyn, Modern Ruler, Partyboy Glenwood and The Dip.

Modern Ruler won two free for all races at Menangle, Devendra won a \$50,000 race at the same venue and El Jays Magic won a \$20,000 mares free for all at Melton.

Over the past three years, there have been 29 individual Tasmanian winners of metropolitan class races, and many more have been placed, demonstrating the strength of Tasmanian harness racing.

An indication of the respect interstate racing journalists have for Tasmanian harness horses is best summed up by this comment printed in the Herald Sun on 10 July 2015:

“It's always a little hard to line-up Tasmanian form, but what we know by now is the southerners have picked off races at will in the last two years.”

This interstate success is also an indication of the strength of Tasmanian breeding.

Eighteen of the 29 winners are Tasbred and another, Barynya, was foaled in Tasmania.

During 2014/15, Tasracing paid out \$68,000 for its new breeding initiative – the Tasbred Owners Breeding Incentive (TOBI), an initiative welcomed by breeders.

State Reports

The TOBI provides \$1,000 to the owners of every Tasbred winner in Tasmania aged four-years-old or older. The \$1,000 can be used for breeding-related activities or to assist with the purchase of Tasmanian yearlings.

In addition, Tasracing continued to support harness breeders in 2014/15 with:

- A Tasbred Bonus distribution of \$240,000.
- \$300,000 stakes for Tasbred heats and finals.
- Tasbred Breeders Coupon payments of \$110,000.
- Payment of foal notification fees on behalf of breeders saving them more than \$26,000.
- Payment of \$16,000 for yearling sale first win bonuses.

There were 16 feature races in Tasmania with stake money of \$20,000 or more.

Star Chamber, trained and driven by Nathan Ford, dominated the open class feature races. The six-year-old gelding's wins included the Tasmania Cup, The Hobart Pacing Cup and the Devonport Cup.

Old Beach trainer Paul Hill won the major two-year-old races with stablemates Hillview Jake and Chica Bella.

Feature race results were:

Race	Winner	Trainer
\$40,000 Tasmania Cup - Open	Star Chamber	Nathan Ford
\$40,000 Easter Cup - Open	Rule Like A King	Rohan Hillier
\$30,000 Dandy Patch - 2YO C&G	Hillview Jake	Paul Hill
\$30,000 Evicus - 2YO Fillies	Chica Bella	Paul Hill
\$30,000 Globe Derby - 3YO C&G	Jerrys Jet	Rohan Hillier
\$30,000 Bandbox - 3YO Fillies	Barooga Minnie	Ian Abraham
\$30,000 Raider - 4YO E&G	Resurgent Spirit	Roger Whitmore
\$30,000 Granny Smith - 4YO Mares	Faithful Gabby	Melissa Maine
\$30,000 Tasmanian Derby - 3YO	Mister Lennox	Juanita McKenzie
\$30,000 Tasmanian Oaks - 3YO Fillies	Sudden Change	Dean Braun
\$25,000 Devonport Cup - Open	Star Chamber	Nathan Ford
\$20,000 Hobart Pacing Cup - Open	Star Chamber	Nathan Ford
\$20,000 George Johnson - Mares	Spitfire Rose	Rohan Hadley
\$20,000 City Of Launceston Cup - Open	Blue Pointer	Barrie Rattray
\$20,000 Sweepstakes - 2YO C&G	Hillview Jake	Paul Hill
\$20,000 Sweepstakes - 2YO Fillies	Chica Bella	Paul Hill

Reinsman Gareth Rattray won a 10th consecutive state driving premiership – two more than his father, Barrie, achieved between 1990 and 1997. Gareth is now only three wins behind legendary Tasmanian driver Jack Stamford in the contest for the most Tasmanian driving titles. Gareth also finished equal third in the inaugural Australian Drivers Championship in Adelaide in October 2014.

Rohan Hillier won his first trainer's premiership in 2014/15. The 42-year-old from Beauty Point in Tasmania's north first established himself in the top 10 list of Tasmanian trainers in 2010, building towards the win ever since. Rohan ended the season with the amazing strike rate of 2.3 winning 43 races with his 100 starters.

Nineteen-year-old Dylan Ford won his third Junior Driver award. Dylan also represented Tasmania in the 2015 Australasian Young Drivers Championship and finished fifth after a second placing in the same series the previous year.

After reviewing the 2014 Tasmanian Premier Harness Yearling Sale, the Harness Yearling Sale Working Group (HYSWG), which comprises members of the Tasmanian harness breeding industry and Tasracing,

determined that the Tasracing harness yearling sale would not be conducted in 2015. In its place, the HYSWG endorsed a website facility where breeders could advertise their horses for sale.

Twenty one yearlings were listed on the page with nine vendors represented. While a reserve price was not required until the last seven days, 20 horses were listed with a reserve price five weeks before the page was due to finish. Nine horses were sold. The website page sale concept will be refined and continue in 2016.

The Harness Industry Forum (HIF) continued to meet quarterly in 2014/15. Regular topics covered included sustainability, safety and welfare, programming, the harness budget, policies, marketing and breeding. Tasracing appreciates the time and effort that all HIF participants commit to this important forum that provides an opportunity for direct interaction and consultation between Tasracing and industry.

2014 / 2015 Award Winners

Leading Female Driver Award - Taylor Ford
Leading Female Trainer Award - Juanita McKenzie
Junior Driver Award - Dylan Ford
Leading Driver Award - Gareth Rattray
Leading Trainer Award - Rohan Hillier
2YO Filly Of The Year Award - Chica Bella
2YO Colt Or Gelding Of The Year - Hillview Jake
3YO Filly Of The Year Award - Barooga Minnie
3YO Colt Or Gelding Of The Year Award - Mister Lennox
Tasmanian Mare Of The Year Award - El Jays Magic
Tasmanian 4YO & Older Horse Or Gelding Of The Year Award - Beautide
Tasmanian Broodmare Of The Year Award - Gorse Bush
Tasmanian Horse Of The Year Award - Beautide
Halwes Medal (Sponsored By Botra Tasmania And Jamie Cockshutt) - Gareth Rattray
Young Achiever (Sponsored By Botra Tasmania) - Todd Rattray
Beautide Medal - Star Chamber
Botra Achiever - Sue Duggan
The Edgar Tatlow Medal - James (Art) Meeker

There were nine inductees into the Tasracing Harness Hall Of Fame – Retreat, Floodlight, Beautide, Jim Greig, Terry Knowles, Gareth Rattray, Dandy Patch, Chamfer and Leigh Plunkett.

Though the announcement was made outside the reporting period, it is important to note the decision to reset Tasmanian racing industry funding by \$3 million per annum from 1 October 2015. Harness stakes and prize money was reset to \$5.26 million.

The other key changes agreed to were:

- Maintain 96 per cent of racing volume (687 races).
- Maintain 2014/15 base stakes levels for Sky and non-Sky races.
- Maintain feature race levels.
- Significant support provided for breeders incentives (\$420,000).

Any reductions were planned to minimise impact on local participants and preserve race field fee income wherever possible. Base stakes will be preserved.

Importantly, Tasracing will endeavor to provide a CPI increase to prize money from 2016/17.

Tasracing has done much to address the funding gap issue, and has successfully delivered important cost savings and efficiencies. But the recurrent gap of \$3 million needed to be closed. The funding reset announced by the Minister for Racing, Jeremy Rockliff, will finally address this.



”

*Barry and James
Rattray show jubilation
after the 2015 Inter
Dominion win on
Beautide.*



2015 HARNESS RACING AUSTRALIA *awards*

Lawn Derby Awards - Pacers

Australian Harness Horse Of The Year

Australian Pacer Of The Year

Aged Pacing Horse / Gelding Of The Year

BEAUTIDE

(brg 2007 by Bettors Delight USA from Gorse Bush)

Performances:

10 Starts • 5 Wins • 3 Placing • \$681,375 • 1:50.4 MS

Owners:

Barrie Rattray, Mgr Rattray Family Trust

Breeder: Rattray Family Trust **Trainer:** James Rattray

Driver: James Rattray

Aged Pacing Mare Of The Year

ADORE ME NZ

(brm 2009 by Bettors Delight USA from Scuse Me (NZ))

Performances: (Australia)

4 Starts • 2 Wins • 1 Placing • \$190,263 • 1:47.7 MS

Owners:

Charles Roberts, Paul Kenny, Mary Kenny

Breeder: CJ (Charles) Roberts **Trainer:** Mark Purdon

Driver: Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen

3YO Pacing Colt/Gelding Of The Year

MENIN GATE

(bg 2011 by Somebeachsomewhere USA from Dreams Of Heaven)

Performances:

18 Starts • 12 Wins • 5 Placings • \$497,488 • 1:54.3 MS

Owners:

Paul Lowry, Daniel Lowry, Max Dillon, Gareth Webb, Tom Sheridan

Breeder: S J E Wegmann, D S Soccio **Trainer:** Larry Eastman

Driver: Chris Alford

3YO Pacing Filly Of The Year

FIGHT FOR GLORY NZ

(bf 2011 by Art Major USA from Breath Of Life (NZ))

Performances: (Australia)

6 Starts • 4 Wins • 2 Placings • \$227,320 • 1:54.2 MS

Owners:

Diane Cournane, Dean Illingworth, Ann Gibbs, L Tucker, John Tate

Breeder: Diane Cournane **Trainer:** Natalie Rasmussen

Driver: Natalie Rasmussen

2YO Pacing Colt/Gelding Of The Year

OUR WAIKIKI BEACH

(bg 2012 by Somebeachsomewhere USA from Cyclone Betty)

Performances: (Australia)

10 Starts • 10 Wins • 0 Placings • \$468,540 • 1:53.7 MS

Owners: Trevor Casey, Neil Pilcher & Cheryl Rasmussen,

Breeder: G P Fusinato, J A Fusinato, K M Fusinato

Trainer: Mark Purdon **Driver:** Mark Purdon, Natalie Rasmussen, Luke McCarthy

2YO Pacing Filly Of The Year

OUR DREAM ABOUT ME NZ

(bf 2012 by Bettors Delight USA from Splendid Dreams (NZ))

Performances: (Australia)

3 Starts • 3 Wins • 0 Placings • \$190,540 • 1:57.4 MS

Owners: Charles Roberts, Paul Kenny, Mary Kenny & June Roberts

Breeder: CJ (Charles) Roberts **Trainer:** Mark Purdon

Driver: Mark Purdon

Vancleve Awards - Trotters

Australian Trotter Of The Year

Aged Trotting Horse/ Gelding Of The Year

Aged Trotting Mare Of The Year

3YO Trotting Colt/ Gelding Of The Year

STENT NZ

(bg 2008 by Dream Vacation (US) from Belle Galleon (NZ))

Performances: (Australia)

5 Starts • 5 Wins • 0 Placings • \$328,370 • 1:57.1 MS

Owners: Trevor Casey

Breeder: T G Casey, MJ & JM Bowden

Trainer: Colin De Filippi **Driver:** Colin De Filippi

CLAUDYS PRINCESS

(bkm 2010 by Bacardi Lindy USA from All Finesse)

Performances:

12 Starts • 6 Wins • 6 Placings • \$111,535 • 1:58.7 MS

Owners: Stephen Harris Mgr, Catchya Racing Group

Breeder: GJ Underwood **Trainer:** Mick Blackmore

Driver: Gavin Lang

SPEEDING SPUR NZ

(bc 2011 by Pegasus Spur CA from Della's Speed (NZ))

Performances: (Australia)

3 Starts • 3 Wins • 0 Placings • \$94,900 • 2:00.7 MS

Owners: Woodlands Partnership Syn, Kieran Read, Andy Ellis, Richard Taylor, Dave Hewett

Breeder: Woodlands Stud Ltd **Trainer:** John Dickie

Driver: Josh Dickie, Kate Gath

3YO Trotting Filly Of The Year

2YO Trotting Colt/ Gelding Of The Year

2YO Trotting Filly Of The Year

MY ARYA NZ

(bf 2011 by Angus Hall (US) from Belle Galleon (NZ))

Performances: (Australia)

12 Starts • 9 Wins • 2 Placings • \$126,053 • 1:58.3 MS

Owners: Trevor Casey **Breeder:** T G Casey, MJ & JM Bowde

Trainer: Mark Purdon **Driver:** Mark Purdon

SUNDONS COURAGE

(bc 2012 by Sundon USA from Truscott Photo)

Performances:

11 Starts • 5 Wins • 3 Placings • \$65,998 • 2:01.5 MS

Owners: Brad Angove **Breeder:** Brad Angove

Trainer: Chris Angove **Driver:** Ashley Matthews, Hayden Gray, John Caldow, Chris Alford, Chris Angove

HIGH GAIT NZ

(bf 2012 by Muscles Yankee (US) from Regal Volo USA)

Performances: (Australia)

3 Starts • 3 Wins • 0 Placings • \$89,510 • 2:02.8 MS

Owners: Breckon Farms-Super Seven Syndicate

Breeder: Breckon Bloodstock Limited **Trainer:** Mark Purdon

Driver: Mark Purdon

Proudly sponsored by



BETTORS DELIGHT USA

Leading Sire By Stake money	4th time
Leading Juvenile Sire By Stake money (2&3YO's)	1st time
Leading Sire Of 2YO's By Stake money	2nd time
Leading Sire Of 3YO's By Stake money	2nd time
Leading Broodmare Sire Of 2YO's By Stake money	1st time
Leading Sire Of 3YO's By Winners	2nd time

HOLMES HANOVER USA

Leading Broodmare Sire By Stake money	7th time
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SAFELY KEPT USA

Leading Broodmare Sire Of 3Yo's By Stake money	2nd time
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SUNDON USA

Leading Sire Of Trotters By Stake money	13th time
Leading Broodmare Sire Of Trotters By Stakes	5th time

ART MAJOR USA

Leading Sire Of Winners	4th time
Leading Sire Of 2YO's By Winners	5th time

FAKE LEFT USA

Leading Broodmare Sire By Winners	1st time
Leading Broodmare Sire Of 2Yo's By Winners	6th time
Leading Broodmare Sire Of 3Yo's By Winners	4th time

Proudly sponsored by



GORSE BUSH

Gorse Bush, owned by the Rattray Family Trust was voted the 2015 Australian Broodmare of the Year. Overall she is the dam of nine foals of racing age - with nine winners. Two of Gorse Bush's progeny had 8 wins during the 2014/2015 season, as detailed below.

GORSE BUSH (F1996) by Ticket To Heaven USA from Barrington Lass by Holly Sand USA

2014/2015 Record: 2 winners 8 wins 6 placings \$701,692

BEAUTIDE (P.1:50.4MS) 5 wins 3 placings \$681,375

01/11/14	TAB NICK ROBIN FREE FOR ALL (GROUP 3)	G3	P	MENANGLE
15/11/14	COCA COLA AMATIL SPRINT (GROUP 1)	G1	P	MENANGLE
14/02/15	TAB.COM.AU INTER DOMINION HEAT 2 (GROUP 2)	G2	P	MENANGLE
01/03/15	TAB.COM.AU INTER DOMINION GRAND FINAL (GROUP 1 & GRAND CIRCUIT EVENT)	G1	P	MENANGLE
11/04/15	PAUL FITZPATRICK FREE FOR ALL (GROUP 3)	G3	P	MENANGLE

FUSCIENNE (P.2:02.1MS) 3 wins 3 placings \$20,317

The breeding record of **GORSE BUSH** includes:

GORSE BUSH (\$7960286) 3,2:05.0MS; 2:02.1MS brm 1996, by Ticket To Heaven USA 1:52.0MS from Barrington Lass 2:10.0 by Holly Sand USA 2:00.2MS from Ann Byrd by Express Byrd USA 2:00.2MS. Breeder: B.J. Rattray, Tas.

12.11.02 bf **DEATH AND TAXES** (\$7020140) 2,2:03.8MS; 3,2:03.4MS; 1:58.1MS \$125,300 by Live Or Die USA, Rattray Family Trust, Tas

28.10.03 brg ACUTABOVETHEREST (\$7030057) 3,2:00.6MS; 1:57.1MS \$82,291 by D M Dilinger CA

03.11.04 bkf ASHURA (\$7040016) 2,2:12.8; 3,2:02.9MS; 1:59.5MS \$45,475 by Village Jasper USA

26.09.05 brg I PITY THE FOOL (\$7050027) 2,2:00.1MS; 3,2:02.6MS \$66,411 by I Am A Fool USA

29.10.06 bf **ASHKALINI** (\$7060014) 2,2:00.5MS; 3,2:00.4MS; 2:00.2ms \$124,338 by Art Major USA

11.10.07 brg **BEAUTIDE** (\$7070007) 2,2:01.5MS; 3,1:59.5MS; 1:50.2MS \$2,020,212 by Bettors Delight USA

17.10.08 bbrf CHALONDRA (\$7080055) 3,2:03.7MS; 1:56.6MS \$23,193 by Art Major USA

12.12.09 brf DELMI (\$7090047) 3,2:04.4MS \$13,110 by Jeremes Jet USA

2010 (Slipped) by Bettors Delight USA

28.11.11 bkf FUSCIENNE (\$7120092X) 3,2:02.1MS \$20,317 by Major In Art USA

2012 (Foal Died) by Rocknroll Hanover USA

28.10.2013 brf (\$7130055) by Rocknroll Hanover USA

2014 (Missed) by Bettors Delight USA

TOP 10 STARTERS - BY PRIZEMONEY

Name	Age	Sex	Starts	Wins	Season Best Mile Rate	Aust Season Prizemoney	*Career Prizemoney
Christen Me NZ	6	Gelding	5	3	1:49.1 MS	\$770,370	\$2,136,077
Beautide	7	Gelding	10	5	1:50.4 MS	\$681,375	\$2,020,212
Menin Gate	3	Gelding	18	12	1:54.3 MS	\$497,488	\$501,335
Our Waikiki Beach	2	Gelding	10	10	1:53.7 MS	\$468,540	\$510,421
David Hercules	8	Gelding	11	6	1:53.7 MS	\$377,755	\$1,259,019
Arden Rooney NZ	5	Gelding	10	7	1:57.0 MS	\$356,156	\$597,078
Stent NZ	6	Gelding	5	5	1:57.1 MS	\$328,370	\$1,085,994
My Hard Copy NZ	5	Horse	13	6	1:54.1 MS	\$326,715	\$479,222
Avonnova	8	Gelding	15	9	1:51.3 MS	\$317,280	\$685,557
Guaranteed	5	Horse	8	4	1:54.4 MS	\$285,704	\$832,216

* Career Prizemoney as at 31 August 2015 - includes Aust and Overseas performances

TOP 10 SIRES - BY PRIZEMONEY

Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Aust Prizemoney	2YO Starters	2YO Winners	2YO Wins	2YO Prizemoney	3YO Starters	3YO Winners	3YO Wins	3YO Prizemoney
Bettors Delight USA	443	309	897	\$10,320,057	46	24	44	\$836,017	100	76	220	\$2,112,818
Art Major USA	518	368	937	\$8,591,474	72	36	62	\$644,841	104	64	161	\$1,645,976
Mach Three CA	282	213	590	\$4,679,109	26	14	33	\$501,147	32	26	68	\$487,514
Christian Cullen NZ	196	130	345	\$4,298,565	3	1	1	\$13,069	12	8	19	\$158,947
Courage Under Fire NZ	292	171	437	\$3,259,706	54	25	41	\$393,537	48	26	58	\$407,557
Grinfromeartoeat USA	356	208	480	\$3,085,534	30	8	8	\$92,525	94	52	115	\$663,514
Modern Art USA	264	149	378	\$2,499,175	14	4	10	\$88,049	54	28	58	\$363,335
American Ideal USA	129	80	238	\$2,449,581	17	6	14	\$138,413	38	22	61	\$702,955
Four Starzzz Shark CA	184	101	267	\$2,381,238	27	14	21	\$236,338	41	20	56	\$475,851
Live Or Die USA	236	133	306	\$2,272,935	15	4	6	\$44,688	40	20	45	\$248,968

TOP 10 BROODMARE SIRES - BY PRIZEMONEY

Sire	Starters	Winners	Wins	Aust Prizemoney	2YO Starters	2YO Winners	2YO Wins	2YO Prizemoney	3YO Starters	3YO Winners	3YO Wins	3YO Prizemoney
Holmes Hanover USA	399	239	656	\$4,929,766	17	5	7	\$103,438	62	34	94	\$715,454
Fake Left USA	382	242	592	\$4,649,288	51	21	34	\$268,108	73	42	106	\$807,905
In The Pocket USA	270	166	469	\$4,074,187	20	6	10	\$97,203	47	34	82	\$883,558
Safely Kept USA	380	189	431	\$3,815,051	45	10	13	\$170,679	75	39	96	\$1,189,677
Live Or Die USA	168	122	348	\$3,625,202	21	9	26	\$351,102	31	23	67	\$572,180
Armbro Operative USA	330	176	429	\$3,053,407	43	16	24	\$363,214	78	34	90	\$756,717
Falcon Seelster USA	206	128	358	\$2,964,818	19	7	9	\$174,904	37	26	86	\$568,812
Christian Cullen NZ	166	109	305	\$2,765,225	26	14	34	\$520,640	42	22	71	\$629,326
Sundon USA	142	86	249	\$2,580,547	14	4	5	\$56,720	27	10	37	\$432,279
Albert Albert USA	212	125	318	\$2,569,035	20	8	14	\$120,182	42	24	62	\$391,296

TOP 10 DRIVERS - BY WINS

Trainer	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Stakes	Metro Wins	Metro Stakes	Country Wins	Country Stakes	State
Shane Graham	1,270	259	193	164	127	\$2,018,366	7	\$349,294	252	\$1,669,072	QLD
Greg Sugars	1,544	254	208	185	182	\$2,220,423	36	\$1,026,425	218	\$1,193,998	SA
Gavin Lang	1,011	229	160	137	117	\$2,814,423	52	\$1,787,723	177	\$1,026,700	VIC
Chris Alford	1,404	222	213	158	148	\$2,757,562	41	\$1,556,362	181	\$1,201,200	VIC
Grant Dixon	1,117	215	179	172	110	\$1,777,369	7	\$232,290	208	\$1,545,079	QLD
Nathan Jack	1,032	211	154	130	105	\$1,722,332	26	\$745,414	185	\$976,918	VIC
Gary Hall Jnr	676	175	95	80	70	\$2,188,565	58	\$1,444,609	117	\$743,956	WA
Peter McMullen	1,152	174	156	131	114	\$1,062,571	1	\$33,298	173	\$1,029,273	QLD
Lauren Panella	485	169	48	54	40	\$1,297,254	25	\$637,801	144	\$659,454	NSW
Amanda Turnbull	619	169	99	86	62	\$1,320,962	28	\$487,242	141	\$833,720	NSW

TOP 10 TRAINERS - BY WINS

Trainer	Starts	Wins	Seconds	Thirds	Fourths	Stakes	Metro Wins	Metro Stakes	Country Wins	Country Stakes	State
Grant Dixon	1,766	282	235	238	207	\$2,372,933	12	\$389,059	270	\$1,983,874	QLD
Greg & Skye Bond	881	220	149	101	78	\$2,057,348	47	\$1,025,155	173	\$1,032,193	WA
Shane Tritton	1,037	220	133	96	102	\$1,799,876	25	\$789,461	195	\$1,010,415	NSW
Gary Hall Snr	895	214	120	99	83	\$3,217,344	95	\$2,440,570	119	\$776,774	WA
Steve Turnbull	1,215	213	159	152	144	\$1,537,766	23	\$414,155	190	\$1,123,611	NSW
Emma Stewart	551	196	75	67	36	\$2,541,549	69	\$1,903,157	127	\$638,393	VIC
Vicki Rasmussen	979	155	152	110	96	\$1,243,049	0	\$30,950	155	\$1,212,099	QLD
Kerryann Turner	790	150	105	99	60	\$1,315,301	28	\$653,673	122	\$661,628	NSW
Belinda Mccarthy	514	127	83	50	53	\$2,027,357	49	\$1,432,363	78	\$594,994	NSW
Chantal Turpin	706	125	81	71	77	\$731,514	0	\$3,105	125	\$728,409	QLD

Grant Dixon

THE STAR QUEENSLAND HARNESS RACING TRAINER CAPTURED THE JD WATTS TITLE FOR THE 4TH TIME.

OF NOTE, 5 OF THE TOP 10 NATIONAL TRAINERS WERE FEMALE.

LEADING STAKESWINNERS - BY AGE / SEX - TROTTERS

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
OVERALL					
Horse	Speeding Spur NZ	3	3	\$94,900	2:00.7 MS
Mare	My Arya NZ	12	9	\$126,053	1:58.3 MS
Gelding	Stent NZ	5	5	\$328,370	1:57.1 MS
4YO+					
Horse	Kvintet Avenger FIN	18	9	\$93,218	2:00.3 MS
Mare	Claudys Princess	12	6	\$111,535	1:58.7 MS
Gelding	Stent NZ	5	5	\$328,370	1:57.1 MS
3YO					
Colt	Speeding Spur NZ	3	3	\$94,900	2:00.7 MS
Filly	My Arya NZ	12	9	\$126,053	1:58.3 MS
Gelding	Fabrication	14	5	\$61,710	2:00.4 MS
2YO					
Colt	Sundons Courage	11	5	\$65,998	2:01.5 MS
Filly	High Gait NZ	3	3	\$89,510	2:02.8 MS
Gelding	Cruisin Around	9	3	\$41,172	2:02.1 MS

FASTEST PERFORMERS - BY AGE/SEX - TROTTERS

Sex	Horse	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
OVERALL							
Horse	Kyvalley Blur USA	1:56.0 MS	1720m	2/05/2015	A M Butt	B A Lilley	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
Mare	My Valerie NZ	1:54.8 MS	Mile	28/04/2015	B P Fitzpatrick	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Keystone Del NZ	1:54.5 MS	1720m	14/08/2015	C A Alford	N C Molander	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
4YO+							
Horse	Kyvalley Blur USA	1:56.0 MS	1720m	2/05/2015	A M Butt	B A Lilley	Tabcorp Pk Melton (VIC)
Mare	My Valerie NZ	1:54.8 MS	Mile	28/04/2015	B P Fitzpatrick	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp Pk Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Keystone Del NZ	1:54.5 MS	1720m	14/08/2015	C A Alford	N C Molander	Tabcorp Pk Melton (VIC)
3YO							
Colt	Twice As Much NZ	1:59.3 MS	Mile	19/02/2015	G Lang	D F Braun	Maryborough (VIC)
Filly	Iona Grinner	1:57.4 MS	Mile	25/08/2015	L A McCarthy	T D Williams	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Valley Ess Jay	1:57.7 MS	1650m	25/04/2015	C D Svanosio	G L McDermott	Bendigo (VIC)
2YO							
Colt	Sundons Courage	2:01.5 MS	2240m	3/07/2015	A J Matthews	C N Angove	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
Filly	Parisian Chic NZ	2:00.3 MS	Mile	28/06/2015	R P Morris	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Charlie Runkle	2:00.6 MS	1720m	23/05/2015	C A Alford	G J Quinlan	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)

2014/2015 TOP 20 FASTEST – TROTTERS

14 / 15
TOP
TROTTERS

Horse	Age	Sex*	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
Keystone Del NZ	7YO	Gelding	1:54.5 MS	1,720m	14/08/2015	C A Alford	N C Molander	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
My Valerie NZ	4YO	Mare	1:54.8 MS	Mile	28/04/2015	B P Fitzpatrick	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Supper Waltz Wilson NZ	10YO	Gelding	1:54.9 MS	Mile	4/10/2014	J J Alchin	J J Alchin	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Elegant Image	7YO	Gelding	1:55.2 MS	1,720m	19/09/2014	K M Gath	A P Gath	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
On Thunder Road NZ	5YO	Gelding	1:55.4 MS	Mile	20/03/2015	D R Hancock	D R Hancock	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Arboe NZ	4YO	Mare	1:55.5 MS	Mile	23/05/2015	T P McCarthy	A M Golino	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Maori Time	5YO	Mare	1:55.6 MS	1,650m	17/01/2015	C W Lang	C W Lang	Bendigo (VIC)
Kyvalley Blur USA	7YO	Horse	1:56.0 MS	1,720m	2/05/2015	A M Butt	B A Lilley	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
Bad Habbott NZ	4YO	Horse	1:56.4 MS	Mile	2/06/2015	R P Morris	K A Turner	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Edge Hill	4YO	Mare	1:56.5 MS	Mile	10/03/2015	B P Fitzpatrick	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
A Loan Again NZ	7YO	Gelding	1:57.0 MS	Mile	9/02/2015	D R Morris	D R Roberts	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Stent NZ	6YO	Gelding	1:57.1 MS	1,720m	7/03/2015	C J De Filippi	C J De Filippi	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
Duchess Ella	5YO	Mare	1:57.2 MS	Mile	16/01/2015	C Geary	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Sheemon NZ	5YO	Gelding	1:57.2 MS	1,720m	7/03/2015	D J Dunn	K D Townley	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)
Majestic Grace	4YO	Mare	1:57.3 MS	1,710m	13/12/2014	C A Alford	M F Blackmore	Ballarat (VIC)
Iona Grinner	3YO	Filly	1:57.4 MS	Mile	25/08/2015	L A McCarthy	T D Williams	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Vics Cheval	5YO	Mare	1:57.4 MS	1,650m	26/05/2015	K Frenning	D Aiken	Bendigo (VIC)
Vincennes	5YO	Gelding	1:57.5 MS	Mile	17/01/2015	G J Fitzpatrick	B P Fitzpatrick	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Earl Of Clevedon NZ	6YO	Gelding	1:57.5 MS	Mile	4/07/2015	D R Morris	R D Commens	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Illawong Helios	4YO	Mare	1:57.6 MS	1,720m	24/04/2015	G R Sugars	R R Sugars	Tabcorp PK Melton (VIC)

Keystone Del

KNOWS NOTHING ELSE BUT TAKING ON THE BEST.
10 OF HIS LATEST 13 RACE STARTS IN 2014/15 WERE
IN GROUP COMPANY.

LEADING STAKESWINNERS - BY AGE / SEX - PACERS

Sex	Horse	Starts	Wins	Stakemoney	Best Mile Rate
OVERALL					
Horse	My Hard Copy NZ	13	6	\$326,715	P1:54.1MS
Mare	Fight For Glory NZ	6	4	\$227,320	P1:54.2MS
Gelding	Christen Me NZ	5	3	\$770,370	P1:49.1MS
4YO+					
Horse	My Hard Copy NZ	13	6	\$326,715	P1:54.1MS
Mare	Libertybelle Midfrew NZ	16	7	\$218,945	P1:53.9MS
Gelding	Christen Me NZ	5	3	\$770,370	P1:49.1MS
3YO					
Colt	Beaudiene Boaz NZ	11	10	\$251,155	P1:54.2MS
Filly	Fight For Glory NZ	6	4	\$227,320	P1:54.2MS
Gelding	Menin Gate	18	12	\$497,488	P1:54.3MS
2YO					
Colt	Born To Rocknroll	16	7	\$174,409	P1:54.9MS
Filly	Our Dream About Me NZ	3	3	\$190,540	P1:57.4MS
Gelding	Our Waikiki Beach	10	10	\$468,540	P1:53.7MS

My Hard Copy

SHOWED HIS
POTENTIAL WITH
A SLASHING
WIN IN THE
TAB TOUCH WA
PACING CUP.

FASTEST PERFORMERS - BY AGE/SEX - PACERS

Sex	Horse	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
OVERALL							
Horse	Bling It On	1:51.0MS	Mile	14/02/15	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Mare	Adore Me NZ	1:47.7MS	Mile	1/03/15	N C Rassmussen	M Purdon	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Christen Me NZ	1:49.1MS	Mile	29/11/14	D J Dunn	C T Dalgety	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
4YO+							
Horse	Bling It On	1:51.0MS	Mile	14/02/15	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Mare	Adore Me NZ	1:47.7MS	Mile	1/03/15	N C Rassmussen	M Purdon	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Christen Me NZ	1:49.1MS	Mile	29/11/14	D J Dunn	C T Dalgety	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
3YO							
Colt	Show Me The Bling	1:53.1MS	1650m	25/04/2015	N R Jack	B J Mccarthy	Bendigo (VIC)
Filly	Scarlet Satene	1:52.8MS	Mile	10/03/2015	R J Alchin	H B Martin	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Cruz Bromac NZ	1:51.6MS	Mile	22/08/2015	L A Mccarthy	D F Braun	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
2YO							
Colt	Bettermatch	1:53.6MS	Mile	7/02/2015	S M Maguire	C R Thomas	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Filly	Heavens Trend	1:52.1MS	Mile	13/06/2015	G Lang	E J Stewart	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Gelding	Shadow Runner	1:53.6MS	Mile	13/06/2015	M A Formosa	S R Dimarco	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)

2014/2015 TOP 20 FASTEST – PACERS

14 / 15
TOP
PACERS

Horse	Age	Sex*	Rate	Distance	Date	Driver	Trainer	Track
Adore Me NZ	5YO	Mare	1:47.7 MS	Mile	1/03/2015	N C Rasmussen	M Purdon	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Christen Me NZ	6YO	Gelding	1:49.1 MS	Mile	29/11/2014	D J Dunn	C T Dalgety	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Suave Stuey Lombo	7YO	Gelding	1:50.1 MS	Mile	20/09/2014	L R Panella	S P Tritton	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Beautide	7YO	Gelding	1:50.4 MS	Mile	15/11/2014	J R Rattray	J R Rattray	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Smolda	6YO	Gelding	1:50.6 MS	Mile	26/04/2015	N C Rasmussen	M Purdon	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Ive Gottalife NZ	5YO	Gelding	1:50.7 MS	Mile	1/03/2015	N C Rasmussen	D R Hancock	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Bling It On	4YO	Horse	1:51.0 MS	Mile	14/02/2015	L A McCarthy	B J Mccarthy	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Ultimate Art	5YO	Horse	1:51.0 MS	Mile	4/07/2015	M A Formosa	M A Formosa	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Courage To Rule NZ	8YO	Gelding	1:51.1 MS	Mile	29/11/2014	L A McCarthy	B J McCarthy	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Iam Mr Brightside NZ	4YO	Horse	1:51.2 MS	Mile	10/01/2015	R P Morris	K A Turner	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Avonnova	8YO	Gelding	1:51.3 MS	1,660m	4/07/2015	S R Graham	I P Gurney	Albion Park (QLD)
Our Sky Major NZ	4YO	Horse	1:51.5 MS	Mile	1/03/2015	Z E Butcher	B Purdon	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Bettor Bet Black	7YO	Gelding	1:51.6 MS	Mile	15/08/2015	D J Mccall	D J Mccall	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Cruz Bromac NZ	3YO	Gelding	1:51.6 MS	Mile	22/08/2015	L A Mccarthy	D F Braun	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Saucy Legend NZ	10YO	Gelding	1:51.6 MS	Mile	27/09/2014	L R Panella	S P Tritton	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Shannonsablast	5YO	Gelding	1:51.6 MS	Mile	21/02/2015	T A Tetrick	D J Elder	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Forever Gold	7YO	Mare	1:51.7 MS	1,660m	8/11/2014	K M Rasmussen	D G Weeks	Albion Park (QLD)
Heza Thrill NZ	5YO	Gelding	1:51.7 MS	Mile	6/09/2014	A J Turnbull	A S Turnbull	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Monifieth NZ	6YO	Gelding	1:51.7 MS	Mile	6/06/2015	J P McCarthy	J P McCarthy	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)
Teo Enteo	6YO	Gelding	1:51.7 MS	Mile	6/09/2014	D R Hancock	D R Hancock	Tabcorp PK Menangle (NSW)

Adore Me

LESS THAN A WEEK AFTER SHE SET HARNESS RACING ALIGHT WITH A BLISTERING 1:47.7 MILE AT MENANGLE, THE RACING CAREER OF ONE OUR GREATEST PACERS, IF NOT OUR BEST EVER MARE, HAS COME TO AN END.



Acknowledgements

Harness Racing Australia were proud to host the 2015 World Trotting Conference and World Driving Championships. This could not have been done without the co-operation of Harness Racing New South Wales, the Host Clubs, and the Owners and Trainers who made the horses available to race.

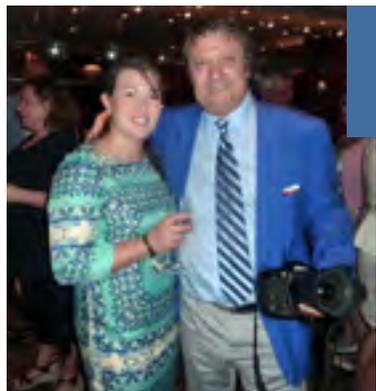
Special mention also goes to the local and international media who travelled with the drivers during the championships and who provided coverage back to their respective countries. Trots TV produced a daily highlights package which was well received both locally and internationally. This was sent not only to the competing WDC countries, but to all those where harness racing is a sport.

Equidia in France ran a daily TV program and many of the photos used in this report were made available by French photographer, Gerard Forni. Social media updates were constantly provided by the NSW, Norwegian, Spanish, Canadian, Finnish, French and US representatives travelling with the WDC. It truly did receive international coverage of the highest order.

Thank you all in the year that the world came to us.

HOSTING THE 2017 WORLD TROTTING CONFERENCE AND WORLD DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP WILL BE CANADA.

THE EVENT, WHICH IS HELD EVERY TWO YEARS, IT WILL ALSO MARK THE 25TH EDITION OF THE WORLD TROTTING CONFERENCE, AN EVENT THAT WAS INAUGURATED IN 1969 IN THE UNITED STATES.



Left:
"Gerard Forni and Ashley Tetric share a moment"



Right:
"HRA Chairman Geoff Want presenting French Journalist Celine Maussang with a memento of her stay in Australia."





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The collaboration, education and camaraderie which emanated from these events is hard to quantify in words, with many believing the 2015 WTC and WDC will be the benchmark by which all future international events of this magnitude are judged.

– HRA CEO Andrew Kelly.

“they came to us...”



2015



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