

**THERE IS NO  
FINISH LINE**



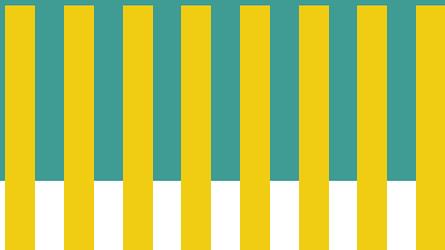
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Annual Report 2018



*“The 2017-18 harness racing season, was studded with highlights including some wonderful performances by our magnificent Standardbred horses, the outstandingly dedicated men and women among the training and driving ranks, and many positive developments off the racetrack.”*

*Mr Michael Taranto*  
HRA Chairman



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# Chairman's Message



Michael Taranto

This is my first Report since being appointed to the position of Harness Racing Australia (HRA) Chairman in December 2017. It was, and continues to be, both a humbling experience and steep learning curve to not only represent, but also assist in the coordination of successful outcomes for our great industry. Indeed, I have a new found appreciation as to the importance of independence in the Chairman's position as we continue to grapple with cyclical pressures between the States and find common ground on both national and, increasingly, international issues.

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*There are many events and issues to reflect upon when reviewing my short time in the Chair, but before I do, I must confess that I am continually amazed at the volume and diversity of work the small team at HRA are able to deal with in any given day, as well as the capability and collegiality of the HRA Executive who have been so generous with their support.*

# Chairman's Message

*Indeed the 2017-18 harness racing season, was studded with highlights including some wonderful performances by our magnificent Standardbred horses, the outstandingly dedicated men and women among the training and driving ranks, and many positive developments off the racetrack.*

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While the full list of National Award winners are listed elsewhere in this report, there are many who require special mention here. It was a stunning year for the New Zealand based Lazarus when racing in Australia, with the entire earning over a million dollars and winning the Inter Dominion and Hunter Cup double for trainer-driver Mark Purdon (and training partner, Natalie Rasmussen). In addition to the Harness Horse of the Year award, he also took out the Australian Pacer of the Year and Aged Pacing Horse or Gelding of the Year Awards.

In another stellar season for Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen, their star two year old pacing filly, Our Princess Tiffany, also won the Australian Two Year Old Pacing Filly trophy after her three-for-three season in Australia culminating in a terrific Breeders Crown win.

Premier Victorian trainer Emma Stewart dominated the juvenile pacing boys divisions, with colts Centenario and Poster Boy taking out the Two Year Old and Three Year Old Colts and Gelding Awards respectively.

Great Southern Star champ, Sparkling Success, was the big trotting winner for John and Mary Meade as he won 2018 Australian

Trotter of the Year and Aged Trotting Horse or Gelding of the Year, which was a thrill for the Meade's after the horse's untimely injury robbed him of a chance to race the world's best at Yonkers Raceway, New York, in the invitation only Yonkers International Trot.

Star Yabby Dam Farms trotter, Always Ready, was the most clear cut National Horse of the Year winner this year. In a season where he was not once out of the placings from eight starts for trainer Anton Golino, Always Ready was the overwhelming victor in the Two Year Old Trotting Colts and Geldings division.

Not to be outdone, the brilliant Alison Alford trained, Chris Alford driven filly, Sleepee was also never out of the placings, including 4 wins from her 5 starts, on the way to capturing the Two Year Old Trotting Fillies division.

Lazarus (Pacing) and Sparkling Success (Trotting) also accumulated top points to snare the respective titles of APG Grand Circuit Champion and APG Trotting Masters. I also extend thanks again to Australian Pacing Gold (APG) for continuing their sponsorship of the two elite Pacing and Trotting Series on the Australasian calendar - with the connections of the winners receiving a \$20,000 bonus to be spent at the APG sales.

While there was a great deal of excellent racing during the past season, the world stood and took notice of two particularly brilliant performances. Maori Time's scintillating 1:51.5 in the Trotters Mile at Tabcorp Park - Menangle, during one of the best nights of Group racing I've ever seen, stamped her invitation to the famed Elitloppet in Stockholm, Sweden, while an emphatic victory going 1:53.9 in the Aldebaran Park Maori Mile at Bendigo captured an elusive invite to the Yonkers International Trot for Sparkling Success from Tim Rooney Esq. and the team at Empire City Casino.

Unfortunately for the connections of both horses, their campaigns went amiss through a variety of unscripted circumstances. However, the connections endured their disappointment with such grace and dignity that they will be forever remembered by all those associated across both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, ensuring the paths they laid remain open for those following.

The J.D. Watts Award recognises the achievements of harness racing's leading trainer and driver on the national scene and it was record breaking performances in both fields to secure victory for Emma Stewart and Chris Alford respectively.

Emma secured her first ever National Title and set a new Australian record for training performance in the process with 309 victories for the season, while Chris Alford broke the glass ceiling of 400 winning drives in a season - smashing through for a mammoth 457 wins. This was Chris' 12th National Title and fourth in a row.

*Despite the outstanding racing performances, and wagering turnover hitting another record high watermark, pressure remains on industry revenue as administrators continue to grapple with the critical question of whether the racing product is meeting market needs and remaining attractive to punters – thus underpinning our industry funding and sustainability.*

# Chairman's Message

Many people believe the handicapping system is in need of an overhaul, while others feel the answer lies in improving programming - so with this in mind, and on behalf of our Members, HRA continued the work to explore and test various handicapping philosophies in a bid to find common ground on a system which included competitive racing, full and balanced fields, wider prizemoney distribution, wagering and provides (as much as can be possible) unlimited racing opportunities for horses of all ages, abilities and gaits.

While agreement was reached with the view that the current handicapping system was no longer relevant, the best way forward was not so clear. As such, during the year, Western Australia (WA) developed their own localised system based on Win Dollars, while HRA have developed a Ratings Based points system for the other five States. Given the geographic distance between WA and the other States, this has not been considered an issue as horses do not regularly move from east to west or vice versa, and the HaRVey system has been updated to easily convert a horse's classification according to the State in which it is entered to race.

Both systems look likely to be introduced in the 2018/19 season. While major change and transition such as this can often be difficult for the industry to accept, handicapping and programming are critical to industry sustainability. I therefore urge all sectors of the industry to look beyond their own stable, take the time to understand the new systems, participate in consultation wherever possible, appreciate that that there will inevitably be

some winners and losers during transition, rest assured that there will still be a winner of every race, and maybe most importantly, understand that the industry needs to embrace and adapt to new ways of doing things.

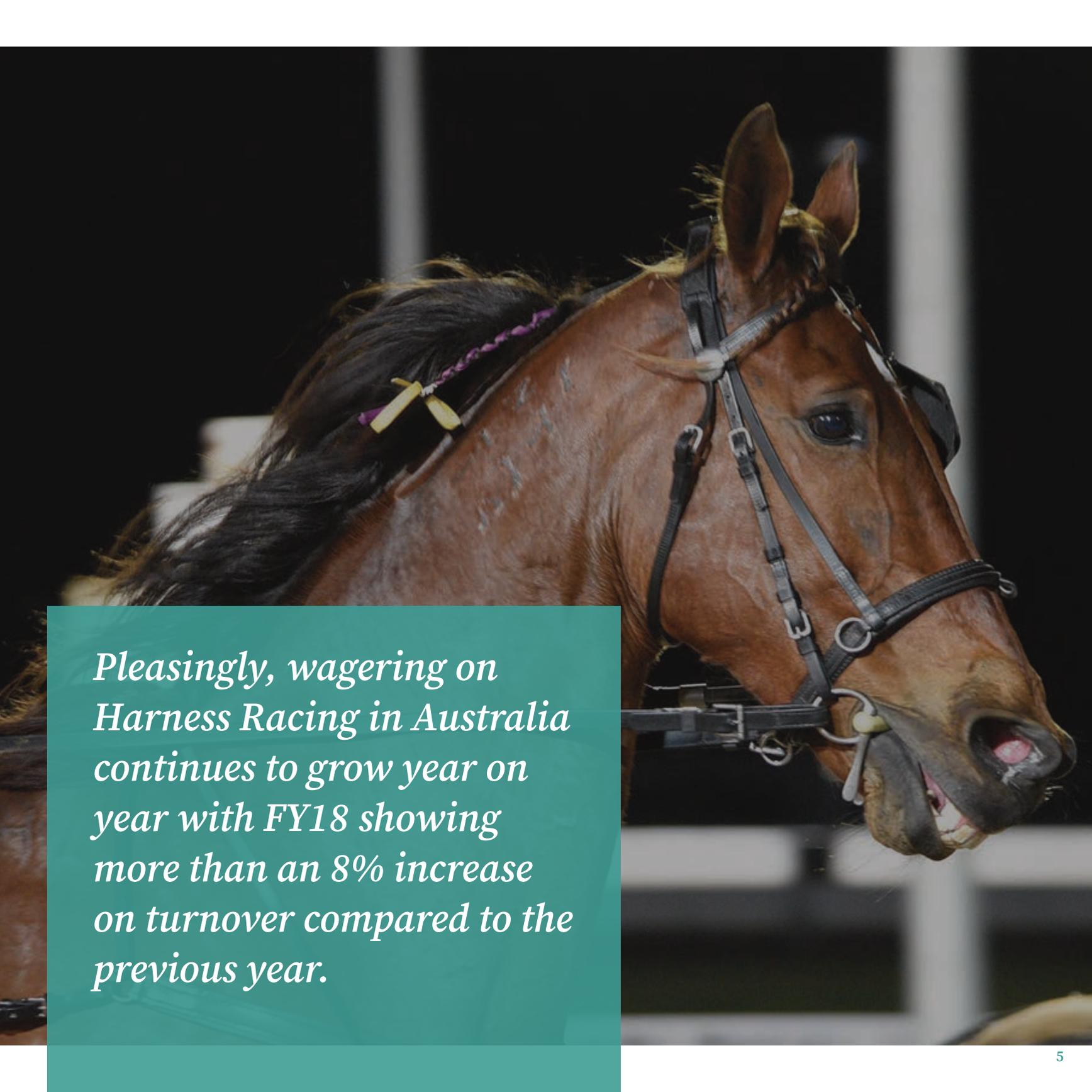
Pleasingly, wagering on Harness Racing in Australia continues to grow year on year with FY18 showing more than an 8% increase on turnover compared to the previous year.

The 8% increase brings annual turnover on Harness Racing in Australia to almost \$3-billion dollars. However remarkable that is, the transformational shift in wagering from the traditional state TAB's Pari-mutuel model to the Fixed Odds model of the Corporate Bookmakers is showing no signs of slowing down.

Whilst the five year total turnover analysis in the graph below illustrates strong growth of more than 23% in total wagering since FY14, it is the Corporates that are almost entirely responsible.

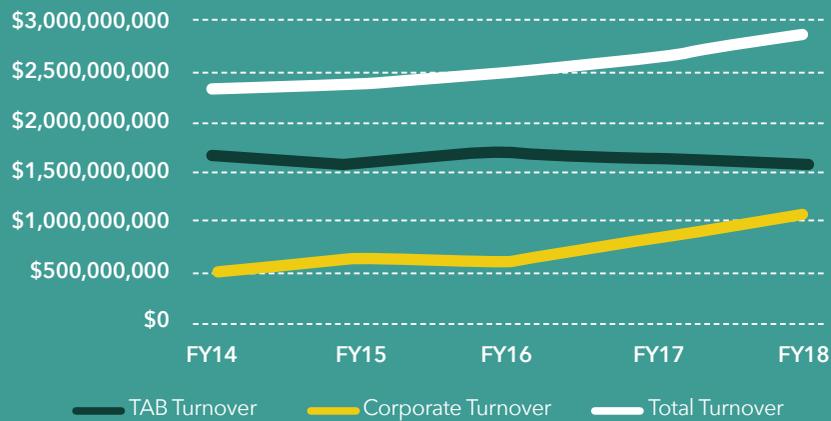
*Their growth over the same period is stunning – more than doubling their turnover (1.126B in FY18) and year on year growth at almost 30%.*



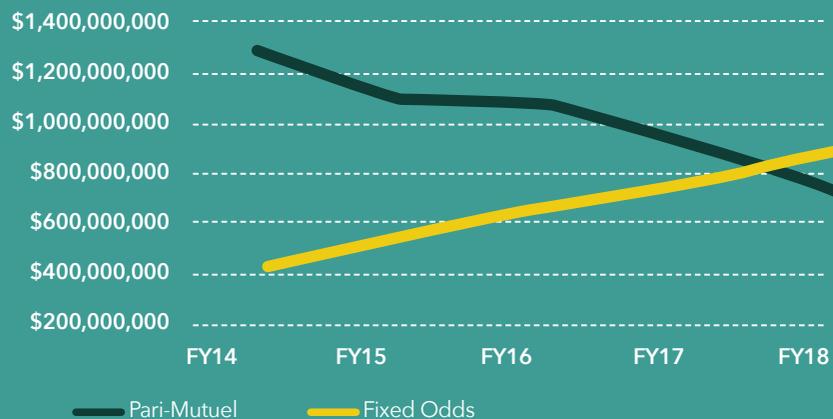


*Pleasingly, wagering on Harness Racing in Australia continues to grow year on year with FY18 showing more than an 8% increase on turnover compared to the previous year.*

## TAB v Corporates Turnover



## TAB Turnover - Pari-Mutuel v Fixed Odds



This year, for the first time, the TAB's fixed odds betting offering has eclipsed pari-mutuel betting. This is particularly significant as the TAB's fixed odds service accounted for only 12% of its turnover just six years ago and has since risen to almost 53% and turnover quadrupling in the same time.

However, as impressive and as transformational this change is, the graph below shows that growth has been solely at the expense of the once dominant pari-mutuel - with turnover halving in six years.

In what is a sobering statistic, total TAB Turnover has practically flat-lined for the previous five years and in fact dropped 3% in FY18.

Following an extremely successful partnership between Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWAA) and Gloucester Park Harness Racing (GPHR), the final of three back-to-back memorable Inter Dominions was held in Western Australia, with an unforgettable Championship victory to the superstar, Lazarus.

As the baton changed, the new rotation between co-hosts Harness Racing New South Wales (HRNSW), the New South Wales Harness Racing Club (NSWHRC), Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) and Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) continued to take shape during the year, with a key addition - the return of the of Inter Dominion Trotting Championship.

The way was paved for the Trotter's return following a formal request from the co-hosts which culminated in unanimous support from HRA Members at probably the fastest Special General Meeting that HRA has ever conducted! The inclusion was also ratified by the Inter Dominion Event Committee (IDEC), assuring the industry that both the Pacing and Trotting Inter Dominion Championships will be held concurrently for the foreseeable future.

*The Members of HRA have considerate and ethical equine welfare programs, with strong regulation and integrity functions to enforce rules and policies.*

This uniform approach, with a continuous improvement agenda, ensured another important and busy year for HRA on this front.

A review of the first season of microchip identification for foals was conducted and pleasingly found no issues with the processes or hardware involved. In fact, there was some

# Chairman's Message

discussion about dropping freezebranding early, but as there had been a commitment to review the 'dual identification' after three years, it was determined to at least complete a second year before making such a decision.

New 'Whip Rules', which had been extensively debated in a range of forums since 2017, were also unanimously approved during the year, continuing the moderation of whip use which began back in 2010. The rules, which require drivers to use a flicking, up and down motion which does not engage the shoulder, took effect on 1 September 2018 and, on the whole, drivers are to be congratulated for how well they have adapted. That is not to say things are perfect, there is still some work to be done to regulate the whip use of some drivers, but the overall presentation of the product to the wider community, as well as its attractiveness to overseas jurisdictions as a wagering product, is all benefitting from the amendments that have been made.

*The industry has also continued to embrace and improve the paperwork associated with retiring horses from racing. This is a critical element for the traceability of all registered Standardbreds, as well as responsibility for horses beyond the racetrack.*

To this end, the HRA catch phrase of, There Is No Finish Line, has begun to morph into a brand of its own. The dedicated welfare website [www.thereisnofinishline.com.au](http://www.thereisnofinishline.com.au) and associated social media platforms have continued to gain fans and interest. This interest reached almost fever pitch when HRA Health and Welfare Coordinator Kathleen Mullan's

plan to retrain a Standardbred, step by step in front of the public, was approved by the HRA Executive.

What was to follow has been amazing so far, as the retired Paul Rowse trained gelding, Savesomtimetodream, transforms from paddock to Equitana show ring in a project supported in paper and digital form by Horse Deals, as well as a number of other generous sponsors, including many new to the harness racing industry. While the horse's transformation is a credit to Kathleen's equine skills, the fan base and financial commitments that have been built around the project reflects how important and interesting this work is for the industry.

With regards to industry interest and improvement, the HRA Executive set an ambitious assignment with plans for an inaugural HRA National Conference to explore and workshop key industry topics of Business Development, Breeding, Industry Funding and a Youth Forum to give young participants a voice. In reality this is an industry conference - not specifically HRA's - and it is hoped that as it is timed to complement the Inter Dominion Championships, a good crowd will support what might become a regular bi-annual type event if successful.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge many people in what has been a year of considerable change on the HRA Executive Committee and steep learning curve for me personally.

Not only did Geoff Want retire as Chairman of HRA after more than 11-years in the role, paving the way for my nomination and election to the position of HRA Chair, but Chris Hartwig stepped down as Chairman of HRSA, succeeded by Gary Crocker who in turn joined the HRA Executive

Many thanks to Geoff and Chris for their hard work and dedication to the industry over many

years, as well as all who have served on the Executive during the year.

Thank you also to the numerous people who give up their time to sit on our committees and working parties.

HRA has continued the excellent relationship with HRNZ, where there has also been significant change in recent times, with Ken Spicer, ably assisted by Brian Wastney taking the reins. Thanks to both men, as well as HRNZ chief executive, Edward Rennell, for their continuing co-operation.

I also wish to thank and acknowledge my international colleagues within the International Trotting Association (ITA) for their support and candour. There are many challenges facing our industry globally. Many of them are the same as we experience domestically - and in the same vain, the answers lie in the ability to work collaboratively to tackle them head on to maintain the vibrancy around our great sport.

My final thanks goes out to all of the staff at HRA. I will not single any of them out as they are truly a team.

*As I said earlier in this report, this small, largely unsung, yet dedicated team care deeply about our sport and work tirelessly for Members and the wider industry. Thank you all!*

Next year shows no signs of slowing and I look forward to working with you all again for common goals.

**Michael Taranto**  
Chairman

# CEO's Message



Andrew Kelly

During the year I had the great honour of representing Australia at the various International Trotting Association (ITA) meetings in Stockholm, Sweden. The meeting was timed to follow the famed Sweden Cup and Elitloppet race meetings, where Maori Time competed in the now infamous first Heat with Bold Eagle. Across the weekend, there was also a Yearling Sale and numerous social events which literally brought the Trotting world together. Radio, television and social media were alight with stories and commentary. It was a festival.

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*I was struck by how many people from Downunder were attending and enjoying the various activities, keen to learn and sharing what they had seen. But I shouldn't have been surprised, because these are the ties that bind our industry, and trotting (or harness racing) can speak many languages.*

## CEO's Message

*I also started to notice how much 'the industry' (not just administrators) were aware about Australian racing, including tracks, trainers, drivers and races – particularly The Great Southern Star.*

The geographical location of Australia and tyranny of distance can sometime hide this from us – and us from them (the rest of the world) – but at the risk of sounding like a broken record, I firmly believe that the international stage will continue to play an increasingly important role in our industry's future, and these discussions were confirming that.

In preparation for these meetings, each country provides its figures on key metrics within their industry for the past twelve months. When collated, it was noticeable that Australia was prominent across all of them.

Below is an infograph HRA have developed to illustrate exactly how we compare with the other harness racing countries across the globe. This information is not only important for other countries to be aware of – but as an industry here in Australia we should be proud of our size and performance, which makes us a major global player. We need to continue to find ways to take advantage of that.

However, it is not just in statistical data that Australia plays a major role, we have become leaders in many other areas of administration, regulation and promotion including to

coordinate data sharing; establishing common breeding rules and agreements; sharing integrity related intelligence; product cross promotion; international broadcasts; racing invitations; common horse identification practices; and welfare benchmarks.

Timing is everything and the world of harness racing has never wanted (or needed) to cooperate more than it does now - and Australia is well placed to capitalise on this through the strong relationships and networks developed over many years.

*We are fortunate for recent decisions and these strong partnerships which provide both the experience and flexibility to deliver outcomes with multi country benefits.*

This is no more evident than with international wagering, where Export revenue (wagering on Australian harness racing broadcast overseas) has grown by 48% delivering \$16m revenue to the Australian harness racing industry in the last 5 years.

This year saw additions to the Australian harness racing export calendar with Australian product being beamed into Sweden (Australia has quickly grown to be second only to the local product for the most races broadcast via ATG) and a new agreement with Norway from 1 January 2019.



## NUMBER OF RACES



## CEO's Message

At the time of writing, this was set to increase further with a comingling deal with the Woodbine Entertainment Group (WEG) in Ontario close to completion, which will pave the way for the distribution of Australian harness racing into the United States and Canada for the first time from mid-November. Punters throughout the US and Canada will be able to watch Australian harness racing meets conducted on Mondays and Tuesdays and wager via more than 70 wagering service providers.

This particular breakthrough was more than 3-years in the making and does not happen by accident. There are many people to thank including Tabcorp, Sky Racing International and Sky's US subsidiary, Sky Racing World, who have all combined to do a great job scheduling, sending, receiving and presenting the signals.

It is also hoped that live streaming into key European markets will be possible in the first quarter of 2019.

*This exciting growth is also a catalyst for change.*

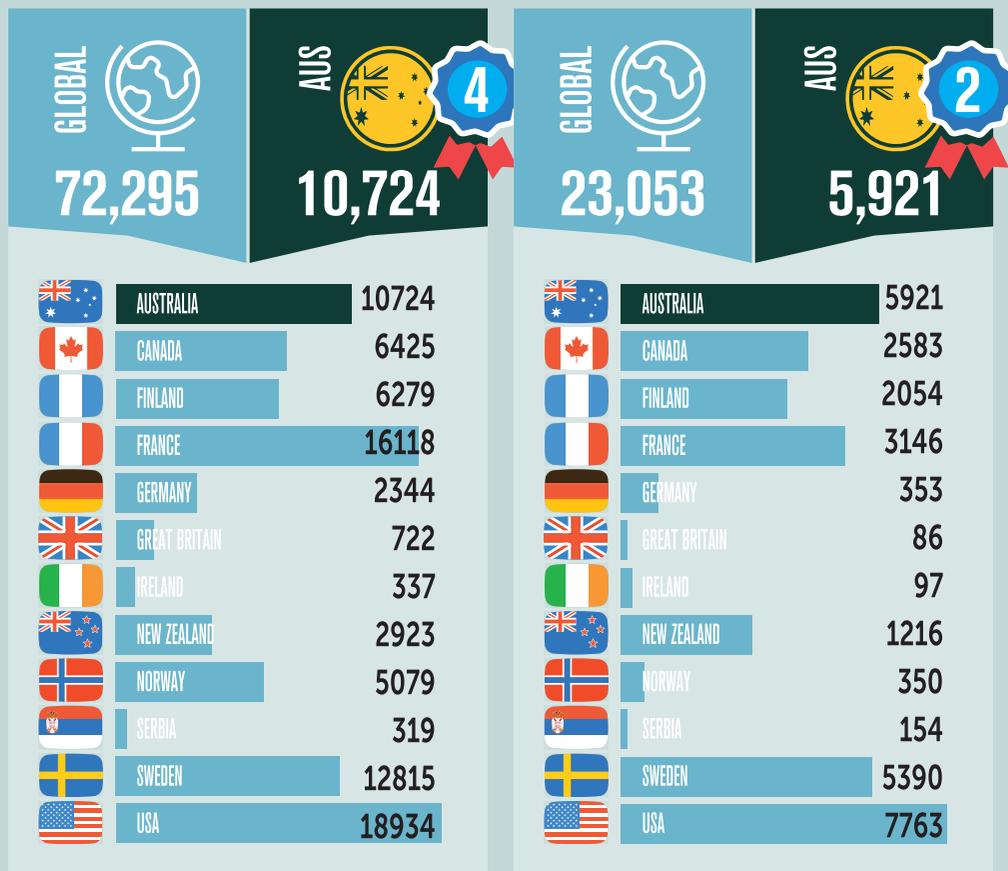
Race programming and timing has changed to provide international coverage at the most opportune times, formguides have enhanced presentation of information, tourism is increasing, drivers and trainers are taking working holidays in other countries, and even the breeding industry makes informed decisions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



### HORSES TO RACE



### DRIVERS & TRAINERS

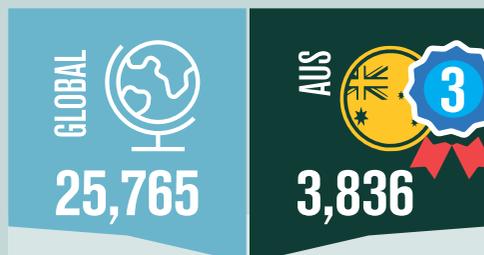


During the year HRA also started preliminary discussions with the Tokyo City Keiba (TCK) track, and their wagering partner, Rakuten, about establishing some exhibition harness racing in Japan to explore what might be possible over the longer term. Discussions have progressed to include facility visits and logistics planning, but I hasten to add this has to be viewed as a long term project, but with a lot of upside, particularly from the wagering standpoint.

Earlier in my report I mentioned the need for the greater sharing of data between international jurisdictions. One area that HRA has been trying to advance for some time now is the concept of a Global Studbook.



## FOALS



## WAGERING 2 3 AUD\$



*Appreciating that I have broken with tradition in reporting in this manner, I hope all who read the report have a greater understanding of the positioning of the Australian harness racing industry on the global scales and have a positive outlook on not only the role you have played to get us there, but the role and opportunities it brings to the future of our industry.*

But before I finish, I do need to acknowledge and thank all of the staff at HRA. Cameron, Kathleen, Julie, Kathy, Laraine and Kerry - your enthusiasm, commitment and effort know no bounds, ensuring HRA's 'go to' reputation for data accuracy remains above reproach. So many roles within our organisation require patience and dedication over and above what is possible to describe in a job description. Your devotion cannot be questioned and it is greatly appreciated.

**Andrew Kelly**  
Chief Executive

While the majority of ITA Member countries can see the benefits of a 'Global Book' and have expressed interest, making it happen has been a challenge. HRA have therefore teamed up with Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) to develop a consolidated Book between us which will provide breeders with a comprehensive and accurate picture for their breeding choices. I hope to be able to report on the successful launch of this in next years' report.

But one thing certain to be delivered before that is HRA's on-line version of the Australian Trotting Studbook - making such information truly paperless - which is anticipated before the end of 2018.

# APG Grand Circuit Review

By Chris Barsby



***The powerhouse Christchurch based training partnership of Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen managed to win four of the eight Grand Circuit events.***

Looking back on the 2017/18 Australian Pacing Gold Grand Circuit season, the title of champion was a perfect parting gift.

Champion New Zealand pacer Lazarus became the first horse since fellow countryman Christen Me (2014/15) to claim back to back APG Grand Circuit titles. And yet again, he did it with it complete ease and professionalism plus with a smile....or so it seemed.

***Lazarus amassed 304 points for the season.***

The eight leg series which commenced back in 1977 is now worth more than \$4.4 million and starts in October with the Victoria Cup followed by the New Zealand Cup, Inter Dominion, Auckland Cup, WA Pacing Cup, Hunter Cup and Miracle Mile before concluding with the Blacks A Fake Queensland Championship.

Prepared by the All Stars stable of Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen, Lazarus managed to step it up a gear following on from his breathtaking four-year-old term.

The Bettors Delight entire secured three features including his second New Zealand Cup, the Inter Dominion Grand Final in Perth plus the Hunter Cup in Melbourne.

The trio of feature race victories were all as staggering as one another and clearly put the exclamation point beside his name following his remarkable and stellar career.

His only unplaced effort for the season came at his final appearance when 7th behind My Field Marshal in the Miracle Mile in an Australasian record of 1:46.9. In fact, that was his only unplaced effort throughout his career while based in the southern hemisphere. Overall, he won 8 of his 13 starts while amassing more than \$1.6 million in prizemoney during the 2017/18 season.

In total, the powerhouse Christchurch based All Stars stable managed to win four of the eight Grand Circuit events available with Vincent taking the Auckland Cup.

It's the second straight APG Grand Circuit season where the All Stars have won half of the feature events.

Vincent dominated in the 3200m stand start feature easily accounting for his stablemates Titan Banner and Heaven Rocks in a time of 2:03.0. Sadly, that was his final racetrack start after succumbing to injury not long after.

Star pacer Lennytheshark got the ball rolling for the season with his stylish Victoria Cup victory at TABCORP Park, Melton for trainer David Aiken and driver Chris Alfrod.

The former Grand Circuit champion proved too classy for Ameretto and Tiger Tara in the 2240m mobile start feature while rating a slick time of 1:53.2.

Soho Tribeca scored a thoroughly deserving victory in the \$450,000 WA Pacing Cup at Gloucester Park defeating arch rival Chicago Bull and The Bucket List.

Prepared for the event by Bryan Cousins and handled by Kim Prentice, the American Ideal entire proved his class in a winning time of 1:56.9 for the 2936m mobile start event.

The final two legs of the Grand Circuit went to master trainer and now Sydney based Tim Butt with My Field Marshal taking the Miracle Mile at TABCORP Park, Menangle in record time of 1:46.9 while Let It Ride stamped himself as a star of the future with a runaway victory in the Blacks A Fake Queensland Championship at Albion Park. Both victories were sublime.

For Tim and Anthony Butt, it was their maiden Miracle Mile triumph after many previous attempts. In the end, Lazarus finished with 304 points, 99 clear of Soho Tribeca (205) while Tiger Tara (145) filled third.

It was rather fitting that Lazarus claimed back to back titles of APG Grand Circuit champion, a perfect title as he headed to North America to conquer the world.

# APG Trotting Masters Review

By Chris Barsby



***Sparkling Success was invited to contest the \$1 million International at Yonkers in New York but unfortunately, succumbed to injury before being scheduled to fly out.***

The term of 'little Aussie battler' has many permutations.

And it's one way to describe Sparkling Success, the 2017/18 Australian Pacing Gold Trotting Master.

Prepared off the beaten path down near Warrnambool by dairy farmer John Meade, the home bred trotter registered a rare victory for Australian trained trotters following of the domination of the Kiwi's for several years.

***Since the Trotting Masters commenced back in 2000, only three Australian trained trotters have proved successful.***

The first was La Coocaracha (2002) followed by A Touch Of Flair (2007 - joint winner) and then Sundons Gift went back to back in 2010-11.

Now, Sparkling Success joins that exclusive group.

The Great Success gelding captured the Gr.1 \$300,000 Prydes Easifeed Great Southern Star while also being the runner-up in the Gr.1 Seelite Windows & Doors Australian Grand Prix.

Both events were staged at TABCORP Park, Melton and driven throughout the season by young Chris Svanosio.

In his 11 starts throughout the season, Sparkling Success amassed more than \$258,000 while taking his overall earnings past \$385,000.

Sparkling Success was invited to contest the \$1 million International at Yonkers in New York but unfortunately, succumbed to injury before being scheduled to fly out.

The five leg APG Trotting Masters series starts in November at Christchurch with the Dominion (the richest trotting event staged in the southern hemisphere) before heading to Melbourne for the Great Southern Star and the Australian Trotting Grand Prix while the series concludes in Auckland with the ANZAC and Rowe Cups.

History was created with the victory of Amaretto Sun in the \$300,000 Haras des Trotteurs Dominion; young driver Sheree Tomlinson became the female to win the coveted event when partnering the talented gelding for her grand-father Ken Ford.

***Amaretto Sun paid almost \$100 for the win.***

Former Kiwi trotter Tornado Valley announced himself as a major player for the future with his gritty victory in the Grand Prix defeating Sparkling Success in a time of 1:57.2 for the 2240m mobile start feature.

Prepared by leading trainer Andy Gath, the Skyvalley gelding was driven by his wife Kate.

The spoils in the North Island features were split between Lemond who triumphed in the \$102,000 H R Fiske & Sons ANZAC Cup defeating Enghien and Harriet Of Mot in the 2200m mobile start feature and Speeding Spur who scored in the \$156,000 Reharvest Rowe Cup the following week.

Speeding Spur showed his class and great staying prowess when outlasting Monty Python and Temporale in the 3200m standing start feature.

In the end, Sparkling Success finished with 160 points, 40 clear of Lemond (120) while Monty Python (110) took third place.

Next season, the Inter Dominion Trotting Championship returns to the APG Trotting Masters calendar.

# Maori Time takes on the Elitloppet





*It may not have been the result Australia wanted it in the Elitloppet, but the spotlight Maori Time threw onto the Australian trotting scene showed the world the huge transformation and improvements the country has made in the past decade.*

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Following her Australasian record 1:51.5 mile winning the Group 1 Trotters' Mile at Menangle, owner-breeder Fred Crews accepted the invitation from the Swedish officials, making Maori Time the seventh Australian or New Zealand trotter to compete in the world famous Elitloppet.



# Maori Time

The Brent Lilley trained seven year old mare underwent an arduous travelling itinerary to arrive in Sweden to compete in the world's most prestigious trotting event but looked an absolute picture when she arrived at Solvalla to compete on raceday. With support from Duncan McPherson's Aldebaran Park making the trip for Maori Time possible, a large Australian support crew flew the Australian flag high throughout the week.

Maori Time competed in the first of the heats for New South Wales driver Todd McCarthy and it turned into somewhat of a sideshow after two false starts. As a result, the French trotting star Bold Eagle refused to score up and needed to be attended to by his groom on the track. After nearly twenty minutes, the horses scored up behind the mobile and unfortunately, Maori Time kicked the sulky and galloped, giving away any chance of qualifying for the final.

Solvalla Racing Manager Anders Malmrot confirmed Maori Time ran the fastest final 1400 metres in her elimination. The track has an advanced individual timing system in place and she was electronically timed to run the final 1400 metres in a kilometre rate of 1:08.9 or a mile rate of 1:50.8.

Interestingly, the Elitloppet final was won by Ringostarr Treb in equal race record time. The kilometre rate was 1:09.0.

*"It wasn't the result we wanted but it hasn't changed my thoughts about Sweden and the people, what a remarkable country and what lovely people, they just all make you feel so welcome and hopefully we can be back here again", said owner Fred Crews.*

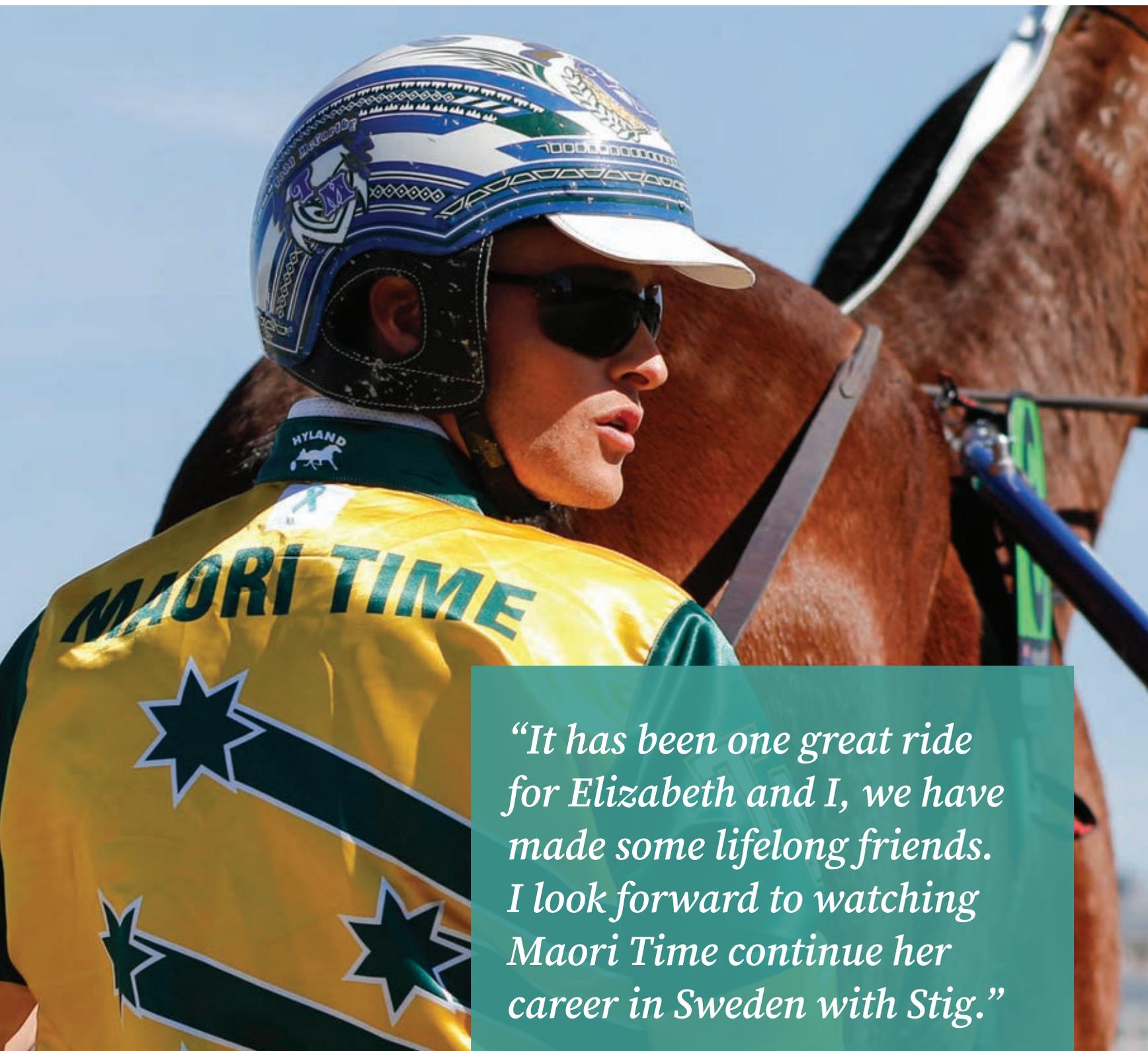
"To get to Sweden there was a lot of work going on behind the scenes and without the support from people like Duncan McPherson and his Aldebaran Park it wouldn't have been possible. Duncan introduced me to the right people, knew who was who and his love of trotting is so infectious.

"Andrew Kelly from Harness Racing Australia is another person who needs a special mention because he was looking after issues that I didn't even know were dramas. He put her name up in front of the team from Solvalla but then he was able to get her into Sweden when there was an issue with customs and taxes, he does a remarkable job."

*There has been no decision on when Maori Time will be retired to become a mum and she will continue to race while she holds her form and is injury free.*

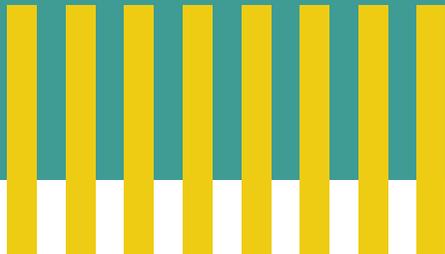
"I own horses to race and that's what she will do until she tells us she has had enough and then I will sit down and work out which stallion to send her to in Europe and whether to serve her to northern or southern hemisphere time.

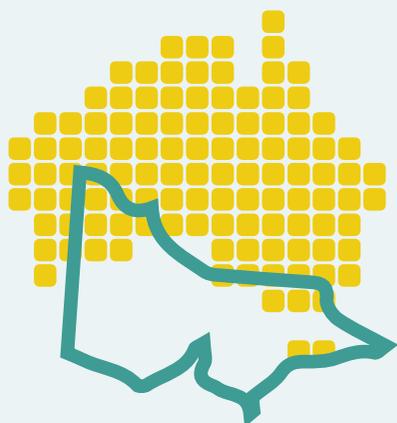
"If she is served to southern hemisphere time I look forward to seeing her return to Australia.



*“It has been one great ride for Elizabeth and I, we have made some lifelong friends. I look forward to watching Maori Time continue her career in Sweden with Stig.”*

# State Controlling Body Reports





# Victoria



*Dale G Monteith*

Chairman  
Harness Racing Victoria

*Harness Racing Victoria (HRV) made significant progress towards the implementation of the Board's strategies for the industry during the last 12 months.*

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A major goal has been achieved with HRV returning to profit after two years of losses. This combined with the implementation of strategic changes will enable HRV to focus in future on providing a sustainable and growing harness industry in Victoria.

### Integrity

Confidence with the integrity of sport is of the utmost importance and hence HRV has continued to invest in this vital area, with the doubling of post-race swabs, the taking of human samples, a 50% increase in out of competition testing and the recruitment of three (3) veterinarians has also enhanced HRV's focus on horse welfare.

HRV worked closely with the Sports Integrity Intelligence Unit (SIU) of the Victoria Police during 2017/18, to monitor and address potential threats to the integrity of the Industry. A number of investigations were undertaken which resulted in criminal convictions being recorded against industry participants.

The support of the State Government with additional funding for integrity in its 2018/19 budget was most welcome. This is on top of more than \$3m in funding for Integrity over the past two (2) years.

### Financial Performance

The achievement of a \$0.5m positive financial position in the year under review will put the Victorian industry on the right path for the future. This result was driven by an increase in wagering revenue, largely via race fields fees from interstate TAB's and Corporate bookmakers, notwithstanding a disappointing \$1.6m reduction in revenue from the TABCORP Joint Venture.

Pleasingly, HRV paid out a record of \$38.9m in prizemoney and bonuses for the year. This included the introduction of new winners bonuses, at targeted times of the year, to stimulate participation and an additional

140 races were programmed, a 4% increase, compared to the prior year.

### Racing

In 2017/18, HRV ran more races than in any of the previous 5 years by endeavouring to better program to the available horse population. This halted a concerning declining trend and importantly was accompanied by an increase in average wagering per race, which saw a record \$929m in wagering turnover for the year.

### Marketing and Promotions

HRV has focused upon strategic and tactical plans and measurable outcomes in the areas of Media and Communications, Community Participation, Ownership, Brand, wagering and Sponsorship.

The creation of TROTS VISION was a major initiative in 2017/18, with live streams of all HRV races including pre and post-race interviews. More than 3,000 people per week log onto to watch this vision to see more than just the race.

The Victorian industry website was re-launched in March 2018 with a new look name - the.trots.com.au. The new site allows better direct traffic from social media and to embed audio podcast and video content which allows the creation of a stronger data base to better understand and communicate with our customers.

In preparation for ID18 a new website - ID18.com.au was created as a one stop shop for all information relating to the ID.

Importantly during the year an extension to our long term sponsorship partnership with TABCORP was announced. This agreement provides for wagering exclusivity with TABCORP at all 28 Victorian Harness racing clubs conducting TAB meetings. Alabar Bloodstock came on board as HRV's official digital video partner supporting our new digital and social media strategies.

## Animal welfare

HRV appointed three (3) full-time veterinarians in 2017/18 to strengthen HRV's veterinarian presence at race meetings. These people were also heavily involved with the micro-chipping of all foals in Victoria, which was introduced during the year.

During the year endoscopic examinations were trialled post-race at Bendigo, and TABCORP Park with the view to implementing this initiative across the board. These examinations have positive impacts on both horse welfare and performance by providing additional information to participants with the earlier detection of potential horse welfare issues.

An animal welfare officer is now working with veterinarians to review policies and procedures for the promotion of health and welfare for standardbreds. This role will importantly collate and maintain data relating to horse welfare considerations which will enable HRV to prepare and deliver presentations to key stakeholders on animal welfare strategies.

## Community engagement and consultation

Harness racing in Victoria directly contributes \$380m pa in economic value and more than 5,000 jobs to Victoria. For many communities, harness racing provides an important point of social connection where hobbyists and professionals meet to compete in a sport they love.

Victoria's 48 Clubs importantly enable industry participants to engage in the industry within a variety of roles such as trainer, drivers, stablehands, veterinarians, track maintenance personnel, club officials, judges and many more roles.

In addition during the year public consultation sessions were held in Shepparton, Mildura, Hamilton, Melton, Cranbourne, Ararat and Bendigo involving hundreds of interested

people. These sessions assisted the HRV Board in preparing Strategic initiatives for the industry.

HRV's continued support of the Teal Pants campaign, enable more than \$30,000 to be donated to ovarian cancer research in Australia. HRV also made contributions to charities to fight MND, the Prostate Cancer Foundation, The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal and Make-a-Wish.

HRV's Melton facility partnered with the Melton City Council to make grants to community groups and education providers within the City.

## Future outlook

A key focus in Victoria and for that matter throughout Australia must be to maximise opportunities for the existing horse population. This must include the better programming of our races with a focus on ensuring even and competitive racing so as to maximise wagering outcomes.

In early 2019 the much anticipated and new national ratings based ratings system will be introduced to facilitate this strategic change in programming. HRV intends to fully utilise this system to drive financial performance and positive outcomes for participants and stakeholders.

The State Governments pre-election announcement of a \$3m per year (\$6M in total) for prizemoney increases 2019 and 2020 was most welcome. This will enable a 7.5% increase in prizemoney with a focus at the bottom end of the market to return as much to as many participants, as possible.

This commitment was made to ensure that Victorian harness racing remains nationally competitive and is as a direct result of the planned introduction of the Point of Consumption Tax (POCT) from January 2019. There will be a review of the impact of the POCT within 18 months which will also focus upon the impact of the new tax on existing revenues from

betting combined with the competitive position of the 3 Codes of racing in Victoria.

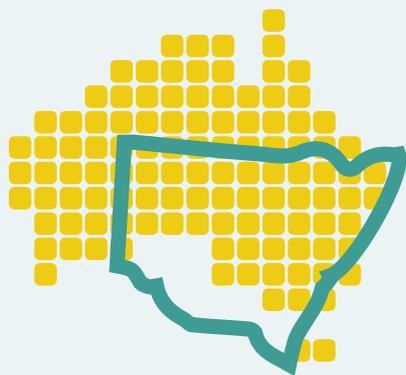
The return after 10 years of the Inter Dominion to Victoria (ID18) in December 2018 promises to be a milestone for the industry. HRV believes that ID18 will provide a unique opportunity to promote the sport to a wider community audience, to grow future participation.

Importantly, ID18 will feature both pacing and trotting and a larger number of people will be given the opportunity to see our champions with heats being run at Ballarat, Cranbourne and Melton.

*The changes made by HRV over the last two years have built a solid foundation for our future, notwithstanding declining revenue streams from the TABCORP Joint Venture.*

We are in a competitive market and it is vital that Australia wide that we continue to work together with an 'industry-first' mindset. A key initiative which will drive this mindset between the State based Statutory bodies, responsible for Harness racing, will be a change of ownership for RISE so that this important asset drives national strategic outcomes for harness racing.

I am confident that by continuing to work together we will make further advances in the year ahead.



# New South Wales



*Rod Smith*

Chairman  
Harness Racing NSW

The financial position of the Harness Racing Industry in New South Wales continues to be strong with both HRNSW and Club Menangle both holding healthy reserves.

This position will allow both identities to continue implementing their respective strategic plans into the future.

### *Highlights being –*

**Year End Profit** \$3.855 million

This will be used with increased prize money from 1st September

**Tax Parity** \$6.052 million

Third year of State Government reduced tax on TAB turnover

**Prize Money** \$33.203 million

Will increase during the 2018-2019 season and beyond

**Breeders Challenge Series** \$2.639 million

NSW Breeders Bonuses and Certificates paid

### **Operational**

- Wagga Paceway - Construction is well advanced on this new 1060 metre track, clubhouse with official opening to be March 2019.
- In future the facility will be known as Riverina Paceway and will provide a boost to the very important Riverina community.
- Tamworth Paceway - Construction of improvements will commence in November and already on-site horse population has increased from 13 to 52
- Gold Crown Paceway Bathurst - Development application has now been approved by Council. Tenders now being called to construct on site training facilities to support

young participants to enter our sport. Gold Crown Carnival in March has had prize increased and will feature 4 Group One races in late March 2019.

### **Marketing**

As a follow on from the research and recommendations from the engagement of Isobar Australia we have now employed a qualified Marketing Manager. The appointed Executive will implement the Isobar recommendations in conjunction with the Clubs and Associate Partners to present a coordinated approach.

This should ensure maximum value for our investment, create awareness and ultimately grow the business.

### **Youth development**

Youth Development Officer has been very successful in upgrading the Mini Trat processes and cooperation between Clubs and personnel.

Phase two of this area will be to provide career paths, professional development and coordinate activities for our increasing number of Junior participants.

### **Integrity**

Board and Management are committed to maintaining a very high standard of integrity within the Industry.

Chief Steward Grant Adams and Integrity Manager Michael Prentice have jointly presented a professional and structured approach to the implementation and upgrading of existing policies to provide a level playing field to participants.

With a strong view to protect the welfare of our participants and horses.

*With the ageing of some of our participants, and the increasing number of young people wanting to participate in our sport HRNSW has employed a Youth Development Officer.*

***This will ensure participants and volunteers in the Mini Trots sector are managed successfully to progress into the main game.***

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## Drought

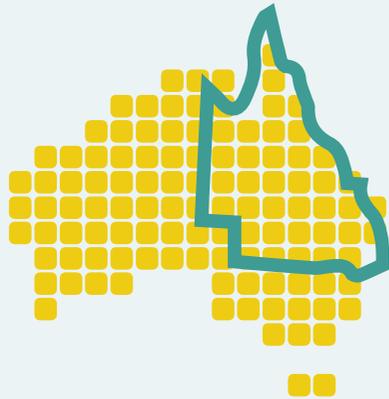
The current drought position is having a major impact on our participants with the cost of feed and the very high transport costs. HRNSW have allocated substantial funds to assist participants by-

- From 1st September reimbursing transport costs incurred in obtaining feed.
- Reimbursing transport costs for relocating Mares to respective studs to foal down and or have Mares served.
- Arrangements have been made with Alabar and Yirribee Studs to relocate Mares where participants do not have sufficient feed.

HRNSW reviews the drought position at each Board meeting and will continue to provide the appropriate assistance.

The impact of the drought will have lasting impact on breeding numbers, racing stock for some time into the future as there appears to be no end in sight for when this drought will break.

Despite the current climate we are confident in the viability of the Industry in this state as we establish Industry owned facilities so as to be in control of our future.



# Queensland



*Steve Wilson AM*

Chairman  
Racing Queensland

*Racing Queensland's 2017/18 Annual Report was tabled in Queensland Parliament on September 30 and details a financial road to recovery over the past three years.*

Among the key achievements outlined were securing the future of country thoroughbred racing and realising benefits of the Tatts-Tabcorp merger, both of which had positive impacts on the harness code.

I am pleased to report a turnaround of over \$40 million versus FY16, going from a parent company loss in FY16 of \$19.9 million to one of \$1.2 million in FY18. Meanwhile, we increased payments to participants by \$10.8 million in FY18, and committed to further increases exceeding \$10 million in FY19.

The foundations are now in place but we understand there is still plenty of work to do, particularly in comparison to the industries in NSW and Victoria that continue to announce ongoing prizemoney increases and improvements to critical infrastructure.

The harness code saw Queensland wagering turnover increase to \$0.5 billion. This represents an increase of 8.8% when compared to FY17, thanks to strong summer and winter carnival wagering numbers and enhancements to wagering data available to punters.

The Sunshine Sprint meeting attracted a Queensland harness record wagering result of \$3.9 million, which was bettered one week later on UBET Blacks A Fake night with total turnover exceeding \$4.3 million.

The revenue generated by Queensland harness races increased to \$10.2 million. This represents an increase of 2.9%.

### Strategic plan

Our FY18-FY21 Strategic Plan is a key element of our performance management framework. The published Strategic Plan identified a number of key performance indicators to enable us to track progress towards achieving our strategic objectives and ultimately, the delivery of our vision of connecting people through the thrill of racing.

The strategic plan's five key pillars are;

- Commercial - Manage and drive the commercial performance of the business of racing in Queensland.
- Industry Sustainability - Create a sustainable racing industry in Queensland
- Community - Racing to be recognised as a significant contributor to the Queensland economy
- Infrastructure - 20+ year plan to meet operational requirements, customer expectations and leverage industry assets
- Organisational - Develop organisational systems and capability to improve performance delivery and efficiencies
- Beyond FY18 our strategic objectives have been modified slightly and may continue to evolve as necessary in response to changes in our commercial and operating environments.

### Harness advisory panel

In September 2016 Racing Queensland announced the establishment of a new harness industry advisory panel.

Designed to play an important role in the future of the industry in Queensland, the panel meets 3 times each year to assist Racing Queensland in the process of formulating strategy and making decisions on important industry matters.

The panel's contribution in FY18 supported us to implement the following initiatives:

- QBRED Cash Scheme
- Introduction of a broodmares register
- Revised Winter Carnival Program
- Development of a trotters' growth strategy

Another focus of the panel was to consider and support the national revision to the whip rules, which came into force from September 2018.

## Industry sustainability

We announced over \$900,000 in annualised increases in FY18, with the full benefits to be realised during FY19. In addition to funding additional races to support a commercialisation strategy, the increased stakes will help fund enhancements to the Winter Carnival, monthly M0 (Metropolitan Class) races and new QBRED Feature races and bonuses.

The QBRED incentive scheme continued to make positive returns to the industry. We made a number of significant changes to this breeding incentive scheme. We re-introduced the 4YO first win bonus and introduced QBRED Cash. QBRED Cash has been well received and saw an additional 65 \$1,000 bonuses distributed to owners and breeders from February 2018 to the end of June 2018. We continued to offer over \$1.5 million in stakes and bonuses through the scheme.

In addition, we created the \$250,000 'All QBRED' race night at Albion Park Harness Racing Club. The meeting held in May 2018 saw the emergence of star 2YO Smart As Camm Be and Colt Thirty One continued his dominance at Albion Park. QBRED 2YO stars for the year included Regulus and Smart As Camm Be, both of whom look to have bright futures.

## Operational

Racing Queensland implemented a number of new initiatives to help meet its strategic targets in the harness code, including the;

- Conversion of Marburg non-Tab meetings to TAB status
- 'Breed A Trotter' promotion to grow the population of trotters and unlock further opportunities to export product internationally, particularly in Europe
- Re-introduction of monthly M0 (metropolitan) races
- Implementation of grass-roots strategy including the Marburg to Metro, Perseverance and Aspiration races

- Commitment to animal welfare through sponsorship of the Standardbred Assoc. of Queensland
- Introduction of a \$250,000 all QBRED race night
- Introduction of training units for new drivers to assist their transition into industry set to commence from Sept 2018

## Carnivals and achievements

The 2018 UBET Winter Harness Racing Carnival was again the highlight of the season with the UBET Blacks A Fake taken out by New Zealand pacer Let It Ride.

For the first time \$120,000 in UBET Harness Grand Slam bonuses were attached to the carnival to attract prolonged participation from interstate and international visitors.

Visitor growth of more than 100% was recorded, with Victorian Matthew Craven taking home a \$20,000 trainer's bonus after winning two legs of the Slam Series.

Enhanced promotion of the carnival through various media platforms including social, newspaper, SKY Racing and the Fox Sports 'The Back Page' program, as well as the influx of interstate and international visitors helped wagering grow by 20% compared to the same period in FY17.

Racing Queensland was proud to launch a new show called 'The Driver's Seat'

The Kylie Rasmussen-trained and driven Smart As Camm Be proved herself as Queensland's best two-year-old, when she won the QBRED 2YO Triad for fillies. Chris Barsby appropriately quipped 'rivals are gasping' when Muscle Factory proved an astonishingly dominant winner of the 2YO APG Albion Park Gold final in August.

## Participation

One of the highlights of the year interstate was the Grant Dixon-trained Colt Thirty One's barnstorming win in the Victoria Derby. Dixon

became the first Queenslander to score victory in the time-honoured event. Dixon also continued his dominance as Queensland's leading trainer with 286 winners state-wide.

Young gun Nathan Dawson drove more than 200 winners to secure his first state-wide premiership, while Pete McMullen won his first metropolitan drivers' premiership after years of coming within striking distance.

The entire Queensland industry was proud when Narissa McMullen clinched the 2017 Australasian Young Drivers Championship for Queensland on home turf at Albion Park. The series came down to the final race with McMullen edging Dylan Ferguson to win by 7 points.

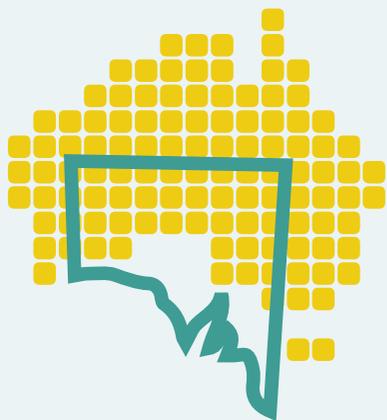
Pete McMullen won the 2018 Noel Smith Invitation Drivers Championship at Horsham, while sister Danni-elle McMullen completed a successful trifecta for the family, when she finished second for Queensland at the first Australian Female Drivers Championship in Tasmania.

Danni-elle would go on to win the 2018 Queensland BOTRA Young Drivers Championship in May ahead of Leonard Cain and Narissa McMullen.

John Cremin set a new benchmark for Australians competing at the World Amateur Drivers' Championship when he finished second.

Brittany Graham continued her rise through the ranks as both a participant and media performer. She won the first Lady Drivers' Invitational series at Albion Park, and helped promote the winter carnival through her role at Sky Racing.

Queensland's role in the nationwide Team Teal promotion throughout February and March was again a huge success, with Racing Queensland, UBET, Albion Park HRC and Redcliffe HRC each contributing to the cause. A total of \$10,200 was raised from winning female drives alone, with much more raised through donations and fundraising efforts by both clubs and participants.



# South Australia



*Gary Crocker*

Chairman  
Harness Racing South Australia

*I have pleasure in presenting my first report as Chairman of the Board for Harness Racing SA.*

Through my participation on the HRSA Board I have been impressed with both the passion and perseverance of those involved within the industry in this state and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time serving you firstly as a Board Member and of late as your Chairman.

Over recent times a significant amount of work has gone in to addressing the challenges the SA harness industry faces with the Board working proactively with all sections of the industry to ensure that harness racing in the state remains vibrant and profitable. Over recent years the industry has struggled financially but I am pleased to say that we are now trending upwards in both revenues and field sizes.

*In the ensuing year we will be working collectively to leverage off the positive outcomes already achieved and re-establish the industry as a significant player in the overall Australian harness racing demographic.*

My first year (part) as Chairman has been a rewarding experience for me thanks in large part to the hard work and support of the SA country clubs who elected me to the Board, my fellow Board Members and HRSA staff.

During the season we had a change of Board Chairman with Chris Hartwig relinquishing that position due to his employment but remaining on as a director. Chris' efforts as both the Chairman and as a director have been invaluable both to myself and to the industry as a whole.

Towards the end of the season the Board appointed Ross Neal to the position of CEO following the resignation of previous long serving CEO John Lewis.

Ross brings a diverse skill set to the role and the Board are looking forward to his contributions in the coming season.

Board members Luciana Larkin and Lauren Giorgio retired by rotation at the end of

September and I would like to thank them for their contributions during their time on the Board. Both Luciana and Lauren demonstrated a strong commitment to preserving harness racing in South Australia and the industry has benefited from what they brought to the table.

During the season HRSA were proud to assist our scholarship winners to further hone their skills with placement out of SA.

Brodie Webster flew to Europe both as a harness racing driver and also as a trainee veterinarian to expand his knowledge and he proved an excellent ambassador for SA harness racing. Brodie will be a speaker at the industry forum being conducted in Melbourne during the Inter Dominion in November/December of this year.

Jayden Brewin spent time in both Western Australia and Queensland where he gained valuable driving experience and was also a wonderful ambassador for both himself and his state. Jayden will be leaving in November to take up a position with former SA champion horseman Greg Sugars in Victoria.

HRSA also assisted Port Pirie's Kailey Piper with her development in the harness racing industry with a placement with the Manning family in Victoria.

HRSA will continue to support our young enthusiasts as they are the future of our wonderful industry.

Champion reinswoman Danielle Hill excelled once again in season 2017/18 finishing 3rd on the Australian Drivers premiership with 223 winners, 129 seconds and 118 thirds from only 810 drives.

Dani was dominant in the Australian Female Drivers Championship conducted in Launceston in March where she won 5 of the 9 races in the series to be crowned the champion.

March was a big month for Dani as she equalled the Australian driving record of 6 winners in 1 meeting when she achieved that feat at Port Pirie. Interestingly 2 other drivers on that elite list are her brother Wayne Hill and her partner David Harding.



## Racing

During the latter part of the season the Board made amendments to the racing calendar whereby the number of race meetings conducted each week were reduced in an attempt arrest a decline in wagering. For the months of August, September and October 2 meetings a week were scheduled with Saturday nights alternating between Globe Derby and Port Pirie. These changes, while not universally popular, have nevertheless produced very positive results.

It was also particularly pleasing that the Whyalla Harness Racing Club conducted a very successful meeting at their Anderson Raceway venue in April. It was the first time the club had raced at Whyalla in over five years and the support shown by owners and trainers alike is a positive indicator for meetings to continue at the venue.

It was very satisfying in March to see the Gawler Harness Racing Club conduct their first meeting at their new Gawler-Two Wells Road paceway. The day went off extremely well with a large crowd in attendance, including local MP Tony Piccolo. who had been instrumental in making the day happen. We wish the GHRC well with their continuing improvement of the facility and look forward to future meetings at the spacious circuit.

In all likelihood for the balance of the season the SA horse population can only sustain two race meetings per week, with three meetings weekly being the exception not the norm. The recent trial period of 2 meetings

a week which produced larger fields and subsequently better interest from punters and therefore better turnover highlighted the fact that punters will not bet on our product if we continue to serve up very short priced favourites and small 5 and 6 horse fields. Remember, our only form of income is from the gambling dollar!!!

As a consequence, a number of hard calls will need to be made with respect to the number of race meetings the state can support, but these decisions will nonetheless be required if the industry is to remain viable.

## Wayville

On the Friday 27th October 2017 harness racing returned to the Wayville Showgrounds for the first time in over forty-four years with the meeting being classified as nothing less than an outstanding success. A huge crowd turned up to the 'retro' night and they witnessed a night being that could be described as nothing less than sensational. My thanks goes to all those who generously gave of their time and energies in ensuring the night was the outstanding success that it was.

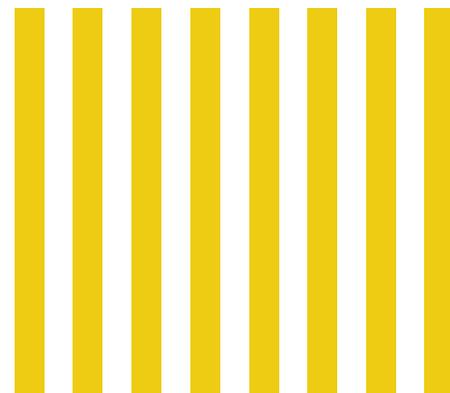
## Allwood Stud Yearling Sale

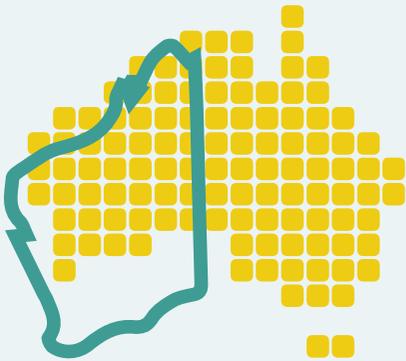
The Board conducted a highly successful yearling sale in February which resulted in an average price in excess of \$16,000. The Board are very thankful for the support of Mr Bob Fowler of Allwood Stud in making this sale

possible and also Dean Baring who gave a significant amount of his own time in making the venture the success that it was.

The 2019 Allwood Stud Farm SA Yearling Sale will be conducted on Sunday 10th February and we are again looking forward to it being just as successful as that of this year.

Well known media personality Gareth Hall has accepted the role as Ambassador for both the sale and the 2019 UBET SA Cup which will be conducted on the night before the sale (9th Feb). This will make this weekend a great attraction to those interested and involved in harness racing both from within and outside the state.





# Western Australia



*Jeff Owens*

Chairman  
Racing and Wagering Western Australia

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It is again my pleasure to present the State Annual report for Harness Racing in Western Australia.

During 2017/18 season, Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWVA) provided harness race clubs with base and feature stakes funding of \$35.7m and a further \$1.4m in Westbred bonuses.

Stakes funding was paid out across 263 race meetings, which encompassed 2,219 individual races. This provided 21,815 racing opportunities for 1691 individual horses.

Starters were trained by 382 individual trainers with 59 of these trainers having 100 or more starters for the year, and 20 having 200 or more starters.

During the season a total of 221 mares that raced in Western Australia received an EPONA bonus, generating \$231k in credits with 6 mares each earning the maximum credit amount of \$5k.

Throughout the season \$115k was paid out in claims to the owners of 54 mares.

*The Australian Pacing Gold Yearling sales recorded a sale of \$1.31M and an average sale price for fillies of \$15k and \$16k for colts. The clearance rate was 80.4%.*

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Gary Hall Senior was named the leading State Trainer for the 2017/18 season amassing 153 wins and \$2.7 m in stakes.

Shannon Suvaljko was the States Leading driver with 179 winners and \$1.8m in stakes ahead of Gary Hall Jnr with 173 winners.

1 driver passed the \$2m in stakes and 4 drivers passed the \$1m in stakes earnings throughout the season.

Throughout the season 27 individual concession drivers took part in races 7 of those had more than 200 drives for the season and 5 had more than 100.

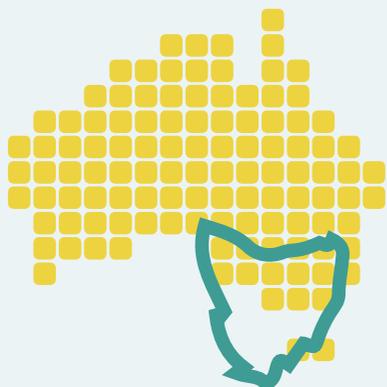
Lazarus trained by Mark Purdon from New Zealand was the deserving winner of the 2017 Inter Dominion Final. The Inter Dominion final was worth \$1.1m making it the richest pacing race in Australasia with the overall series worth \$1.8m in prize money for each of the three years.

Other key highlights for the year include the following Western Australian feature harness racing achievements:

- Group 1 WA Pacing Cup won by Soho Tribeca trained by Bryan Cousins and driven by Kim Prentice.
- Group 1 Fremantle Pacing Cup won by My Hard Copy NZ trained by Gary Hall Snr and driven by Clinton Hall
- Group 1 Golden Nugget won by Ultimate Machete NZ trained and driven by Mark Purdon
- Group 1 WA Derby won by King of Swing NZ trained by Gary Hall Snr and driven by Gary Hall Jnr
- Group 1 WA Oaks won by Our Major Mama NZ trained and driven by Justin Prentice
- Group 1 Westral Mares Classic won by Ideal Alice NZ trained by Gary Hall Snr and driven by Gary Hall Jnr
- Group 1 Golden Slipper won by Franco Edward NZ trained and driven by Kyle Harper



*Group One WA Pacing  
Cup won by Soho  
Tribeca*



# Tasmania



*Dean Cooper*

Chairman  
Tasracing

The 2017/18 financial year was a positive one for the Tasmanian harness code - there were solid racing performances in Tasmania and interstate, wagering turnover increased and Ben Yole trained a record 124 winners in a season.

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

The reporting period also saw a major increase to Easter Cup stakes (\$50,000 to \$75,000) which will be replicated for the Tasmania Cup in Hobart in March 2019.

Tasracing continued to support harness breeders in 2017/18 with:

- The introduction of a \$1000 additional support payment to rebate service fees for eligible breeders who have no other breeding incentive available.
- Code allocation increases from 1 January that provided the ability to increase base stakes.
- A Tasbred bonus distribution of \$170,000.
- Tasbred Breeders Coupon and Tasbred Owners Breeding Incentive payments of \$143,500 (including \$13,000 for the additional support incentive).
- Payment of foal notification fees on behalf of breeders, saving them more than \$17,000.
- Payment of \$2,000 for yearling sale first win bonus.
- Wagering turnover on Tasmanian harness racing increased by 16.4 per cent to \$96 million.

Total prize money for the harness code in Tasmania increased in 2017/18 following two funding increases during the reporting period as a result of a strong commercial performance (\$6.13 million, an increase of \$660,337).

Trotting returned to Tasmania in July 2018 after a break of 90 years. As readers of this report would appreciate, trotting is the most popular gait internationally, especially throughout France and in Scandinavian countries where trotters are raced exclusively. Though early days, it was an important step for the industry that will potentially expose Tasmanian trotting to a new audience, including the French who are able to wager on the events.

High-profile pacer Ignatius once again enjoyed a stellar season. Bred by the Rattray Family Trust, the horse is owned by Lyrae Graham and was trained by both Todd and James Rattray. With season results of 13 starts, 11 wins and one placing, the highlight performance was the win in the \$150,000 NSW Breeders Challenge Final for 3YO Colts and Geldings.

Todd Rattray also trained Harjeet, winner of the \$75,000 Easter Cup in Launceston. It was the horse's major win during an outstanding season of eight wins and two placings from 11 starts.

As referenced in the opening paragraph, trainer Ben Yole trained 124 winners in 2017/18 to beat his own joint record of 118 winners set in 2016/17 and Neville Webberley's record set in the 1990/91 season.

Juanita McKenzie took the honours for Leading Female Trainer with 33 wins.

*Driver Ricky Duggan passed Barrie Rattray's career wins total of 1592 during the reporting period.*

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Twenty-two-year-old Conor Crook won his first Leading Junior Driving title after relocating to Tasmania from New South Wales at the start of the season. Hannah Van Dongen won her first Leading Female Driver with 10 wins.

Twelve of Australia's best harness drivers competed in Hobart in October 2017 for the prestigious Yabby Dam Racing Australian Drivers' Championship. The event featured the best two drivers from each state.

Todd and Gareth Rattray were the local representatives. Chris Alford from Victoria was the overall winner.

A Saturday night time slot for the race meeting on Sky 1 was an obvious benefit of hosting the championship, delivering Tasmanian harness racing to a national prime

time audience. Tasracing has a close working relationship with Tabcorp / Sky Channel, and worked with both parties to secure the scheduling.

Tasmania also hosted the Australian Female Drivers' Championship that featured 12 drivers from around Australia (two from each state) wearing teal pants on the final night of Team Teal 2018 that raises funds for ovarian cancer research and awareness.

*The drivers the event attracted were world-class and provided a real demonstration of the influence of women in the harness code.*

---

Kristy Grant and Natalee Emery were the local representatives. Dani Hill (South Australia) was the overall winner.

Victorian trainer Emma Stewart won four of the State's Feature races with Major Secret winning both the Launceston Cup and Tasmania Cup, Maraetai winning the Tasmanian Derby and Tasbred Nostra Beach winning the Bandbox Final.

Two-year-old Resurgent Storm, bred, owned and trained by Roger Whitmore, had an outstanding season with four wins and two placings from six starts, winning both the \$20,000 2YO C&G Sweepstakes Final and the \$40,000 Dandy Patch Final.

*Driver Ricky Duggan passed Barrie Rattray's career wins total of 1592.*





*Miss Brazilian  
and her Art Major  
colt at Benstud.*

# Australian Drivers Championship

Written by Peter Staples

*There were multiple positive outcomes from the 2017 Yabby Dam Racing Australian Drivers Championship that attracted a big crowd to Luxbet Park Hobart on 27 October 2017.*

The ADC series consist of two drivers from each of the six states, this year it comprised a brilliant blend of youth and experience with the oldest West Australian Chris Lewis aged 62 and the youngest 18-year-old Ellen Rixon from NSW with her teammate Chris Geary only a year older.

The quality of drivers in each of the races that formed the eight heats of the championship series encouraged great turnover on all wagering outlets around the nation.

The Tasmanian Pacing Club and Tasracing worked closely to ensure the event was run without a hitch which was another significant positive sign that clubs and the controlling body can work as one in the best interest of the industry.

Having such talented drivers engaged aboard local stock also exposed the equine talent that exists in Tasmania's standardbred ranks.

The performance of Jaks Teller to win a C2-C3 event with Queenslander Mathew Neilson in the sulky was exceptional.

The Juanita McKenzie-trained four-year-old gave his rivals a pacing lesson as he stormed to the front with over a lap to go and when Neilson released the reins turning for home the gelded son of Washington VC sped clear and went on to score by 23 metres from handy mare Courageous Katee.

Jaks Teller covered the 2090 metres in 2m.34.31s for a mile rate of 1.58.82 and he ran his last 800 metres in 56.45 which is an amazing time for a restricted class horse.

The gelding was having only his seventh start so to be running those times as such an inexperience pacer suggests his prominent owners Barry Cooper and Jamie Cockshutt have another potential star on their hands.

It took Neilson's expertise to expose that and that's in no way casting aspersions on the horse's regular driver.

Jaks Teller was asked to deliver by Neilson in a way he has never been asked before so now the owners are aware of the gelding's capabilities before throwing him in at the deep end.

Victorian Chris Alford emerged the winner of the championship and by a clear margin in the end and it was his handling of the Craig Hayes-trained Semowillrev in the last heat that clinched the series.

Semowillrev was resuming from a spell and was aiming to keep his unbeaten record in tact at only his third start.

The Sportswriter three-year-old drew the inside of the second line that is usually considered a very awkward draw for a free-running horses like Semowillrev.

But after travelling 500 metres Alford had the \$1.30 favourite off the rails and in search of the lead and once in front 1200 metres from home the end result was never in doubt.

Semowillrev powered home to score comfortably in what ended up being nothing more than a training workout.

**2017 Yabby Dam  
Racing Australian  
Driving Championship  
final points tally.**

86 - Chris Alford (Vic).

72 - Chris Lewis (WA).

67 - Chris Geary (NSW).

62 - Greg Sugars (Vic).  
58 - Mat Neilson (Qld).  
53 - Ellen Rixon (NSW),  
53 - Danielle Hill (SA).  
51 - Wayne Hill (SA).  
48 - Ryan Warwick (WA),  
48 - Gareth Rattray (Tas).  
47 - Todd Rattray (Tas).  
46 - Shane Graham (Qld)



*While Alford won the series it was clear that teenager Geary is clearly one of the nation's shining lights in harness racing.*

While he was plying his trade on the track on Saturday night he was announced as NSW leading junior driver for last season at that state's annual awards night in Sydney but given his talent it won't be long before he is taking out the overall title.



**J.D Watts  
Awards**

**2017/2018 Leading Trainer  
of the Year**

**EMMA STEWART**

Emma Stewart of Victoria was Australia's leading trainer with 309 wins Australia wide during the season. This is Emma's first National Title and in the process, set a new Australian record of training wins in a season.

**2017/2018 Leading Driver  
of the Year**

**CHRIS ALFORD**

Chris Alford of Victoria was again Australia's leading driver with 457 wins Australia wide for the 2017/2018 season. This was the first time a driver has driven more than 400 winners in a season and is Chris's 12th National Title.

# 2018 Australian Harness Racing Awards



## LAWN DERBY AWARDS - PACERS

Australian Harness Horse Of  
The Year

*Lazarus NZ*

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Aust Performances:

9 starts 4 wins 4 placings \$1,036,299  
1:54.1MS



# Awards

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## AUSTRALIAN HARNESS HORSE OF THE YEAR AUSTRALIAN PACER OF THE YEAR AGED HORSE/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR

(bh 2012 by Bettors Delight USA from Bethany NZ)

**Aust Performances:** 9 starts 4 wins 4 placings \$1,036,299 1:54.1MS

**Breeder:** G Chin, Studholme Bloodstock Ltd NZ **Owner:** Taylor Made Stallions Inc

**Driver:** Mark Purdon/Natalie Rasmussen **Trainer:** Mark Purdon

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## LAZARUS NZ

## AGED MARE PACER OF THE YEAR

(bf 2013 by Courage Under Fire NZ from Pixel Perfect)

**Performances:** 25 starts 10 wins 10 placings \$294,858 1:49.5MS

**Breeder:** Robert Watson **Owner:** Shannon Nixon, Mark Denyer

**Driver:** Gavin Lang/Mark Pitt/Luke McCarthy/Chris Alford/Zac Phillips **Trainer:** Dean Braun/Emma Stewart

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## CARLAS PIXEL

## 3YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR

(brf 2014 by Rock N Roll Heaven USA from Just Irish Loch NZ)

**Aust Performances:** 8 starts 7 wins 1 placings \$268,350 1:53.7MS

**Breeder:** George Tennent

**Owner:** Chris Ryder **Driver:** Mark Pitt **Trainer:** Mark Pitt/Emma Stewart

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## SHEZ ALL ROCK

## 3YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR

(bc 2014 by Somebeachsomewhere USA from Aston Villa USA)

**Performances:** 12 starts 8 wins 4 placings \$301,990 1:54.2MS

**Breeder:** Lauriston Bloodstock Pty Ltd

**Owner:** Lauriston Bloodstock Pty Ltd **Driver:** Chris Alford **Trainer:** Emma Stewart

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## POSTER BOY

## 2YO FILLY PACER OF THE YEAR

(bf 2015 by Art Major USA from Dancing Diamonds NZ)

**Performances:** 3 starts 3 wins \$160,400 1:55.3MS

**Breeder:** B J Whitelock, C J Whitelock

**Lessee(s):** B J Whitelock, C J Whitelock, P J Creighton, M C Creighton

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

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## OUR PRINCESS TIFFANY NZ

## 2YO COLT/GELDING PACER OF THE YEAR

(bc 2015 by American Ideal USA from Beninjurd)

**Performances:** 11 starts 8 wins 3 placings \$303,500 1:54.7MS

**Breeder:** Benstud Standardbreds

**Owner:** Tim Bunning Racing Group No. 2, W A Pridmore, S J Murray, W L Harrison, R E Harrison, J G Anderson, T Corbett, D Goldberg

**Driver:** Chris Alford **Trainer:** Emma Stewart

---

## CENTENARIO

*Mark Purdon salutes as  
Lazarus crosses the line as  
the 2017 Inter Dominion  
Champion*



# VANCLEVE AWARDS - TROTTERS

Australian Trotter of the Year

## *Sparkling Success*

Performances:

14 starts 5 wins 7 placings \$282,050 TR1:53.9MS



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## AUSTRALIAN TROTTER OF THE YEAR

### AGED TROTTING HORSE/GELDING OF THE YEAR

(bg 2011 by Great Success USA from Diamond Insitu)

Performances: 14 starts 5 wins 7 placings \$282,050 TR1:53.9MS

**Breeder:** John & Mary Meade **Owner:** John & Mary Meade **Driver:** Chris Svanosio **Trainer:** John Meade

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## SPARKLING SUCCESS

## AGED MARE TROTTER OF THE YEAR

(chf 2012 by Yankee Paco USA from Karaka Tooth)

Performances: 13 starts 5 wins 4 placings \$109,860 TR1:55.2MS

**Breeder:** Graham Bullock **Owner:** Graham Bullock **Driver:** Zac Phillips **Trainer:** Kari Males

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## RED HOT TOOTH

## 3YO FILLY TROTTER OF THE YEAR

(bf 2014 by Majestic Son CA from Maori Sunshine)

**Performances:** 12 starts 7 wins 3 placings \$105,450 TR1:59.1MS

**Breeder:** M Pangrazio, N J Pangrazio

**Owner:** M Pangrazio, N J Pangrazio **Driver:** Gavin Lang/Luke McCarthy/Kate Gath **Trainer:** Neville Pangrazio/Gavin Lang

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## MOONSHINE LINDA

## 3YO COLT/GELDING TROTTER OF THE YEAR

(bg 2014 by Majestic Son CA from Fear Factor NZ)

**Performances:** 3 starts 3 wins \$83,450 TR1:59.4MS

**Breeder:** Breckon Farms Ltd **Owner:** J T Wilkinson, F Crews, B W Morrison, G R Dowling, R J Owen, D Morrison

**Driver:** Chris Alford **Trainer:** Brent Lilley

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## STRESS FACTOR NZ

## 2YO FILLY TROTTER OF THE YEAR

(b/brf 2015 by Dejambro USA from Safely Sally)

**Performances:** 5 starts 4 wins 1 placing \$79,880 TR 2:01.6MS

**Breeder:** Colin Murphy Lessee(s): V A Woodhouse, A M Alford **Driver:** Chris Alford **Trainer:** Alison Alford

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## SLEEPEE

## 2YO COLT/GELDING TROTTER OF THE YEAR

(bc 2015 by Ready Cash FRA from Class Of Her Own)

**Performances:** 8 starts 4 wins 4 placings \$99,900 TR2:00.8MS

**Breeder:** Yabby Dam Farms Pty Ltd **Owner:** Yabby Dam Farms Pty Ltd, G Keys, P M Plumb, T M Plumb, S W Laidlaw, T L Gregory, G M Berry, Kaczynski Group, L Martin, 5 Sisters Group **Driver:** Nathan Jack **Trainer:** Anton Golino

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## ALWAYS READY

# Awards

## 2018 AUSTRALIAN HARNES RACING AWARDS 2017/2018 GLOBE DERBY AWARDS



### LEADING SIRE BY STAKEMONEY

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA** (for the 7th time)

### LEADING JUVENILE SIRE BY STAKEMONEY

**ART MAJOR USA** (for the 7th time)

### LEADING SIRE OF TROTTERS BY STAKEMONEY

**MAJESTIC SON CA** (for the 3rd time)

## 2017/2018 Statistics

### LEADING SIRE BY STAKEMONEY

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA**

(for the 7th time) 582 starters 400 winners 1064 wins \$11,980,180

### LEADING SIRE OF 2YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

**ART MAJOR USA**

(for the 7th Time) 107 starters 50 winners 86 wins \$1,403,066

### LEADING SIRE OF 3YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

**ART MAJOR USA**

(for the 5th time) 120 starters 81 winners 206 wins \$1,853,355

### LEADING JUVENILE SIRE BY STAKEMONEY (2&3YO'S)

**ART MAJOR USA**

(for the 7th time) 227 starters 131 winners 292 wins \$3,256,421

### LEADING SIRE OF TROTTERS BY STAKEMONEY

**MAJESTIC SON CA**

(for the 3rd time) 107 starters 56 winners 152 wins \$1,578,458

### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF TROTTERS BY STAKEMONEY

**SUNDON USA**

(for the 8th time) 175 starters 104 winners 268 wins \$2,656,205

### LEADING SIRE BY WINNERS

**BETTORS DELIGHT USA**

(for the 3rd time) - 400

### LEADING SIRE OF 2YO'S BY WINNERS

**ART MAJOR USA**

(for the 8th time) - 50

### LEADING SIRE OF 3YO'S BY WINNERS

**ART MAJOR USA**

(for the 4th time) - 81

### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE BY STAKEMONEY

**CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ**

(for the 2nd time) 351 starters 245 winners 698 wins \$7,831,061

### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 2YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

**ART MAJOR USA**

(for the 2nd time) 41 starters 20 winners 54 wins \$900,340

### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 3YO'S BY STAKEMONEY

**CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ**

(for the 3rd time) 71 starters 44 winners 116 wins \$886,420

### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE BY WINNERS

**CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ**

(for the 1st time) - 245

### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 2YO'S BY WINNERS

**CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ**

(for the 1st time) - 23

### LEADING BROODMARE SIRE OF 3YO'S BY WINNERS

**CHRISTIAN CULLEN NZ**

(for the 3rd time) - 44



*Winona Award*  
*2018 Australian Broodmare of the Year*



# Pixel Perfect

Pixel Perfect - (Art Major USA - Amarillen) has been voted the 2018 Australian Broodmare of the Year.

Owned by Robert Watson, Pixel Perfect's 2018 Broodmare of the Year title follows her mother Amarillen's win in 2017. The family, originating in Tasmania, also includes Group One winners such as Miss Graceland, Nostra Beach and Villagem, being one of the most prolific pacing families in the Australian Trotting Studbook.

It was a remarkable year for Pixel Perfect, leaving three individual Group One winners in Soho Tribeca (WA Pacing Cup), Carlas Pixel (Ladyship Mile) and Soho Nolita (Australian Pacing Gold).

**Her five winners for the 2017/18 season won a total of 26 races and \$1,203,339 in prizemoney.**

The unraced Pixel Perfect has had five foals of racing age for five winners for total career earnings of over 2 million dollars - an amazing achievement.

**2017/2018 Record: 5 winners 26 wins 27 placings \$1,203,339**

**SOHO TRIBECA** 19 starts 6 wins 8 placings \$670,544

TABTOUCH WA PACING CUP (G1)

TABTOUCH INTER DOMINION QUALIFYING HEAT 1 (G2)

RETRAVISION INTER DOMINION QUALIFYING HEAT 5 (G2)

JET ROOFING KILMORE PACING CUP (G2)

**CARLAS PIXEL** 25 starts 10 wins 10 placings \$294,858

MACARTHUR SQUARE LADYSHIP MILE (G1)

NEVELE R STUD BREEDERS CROWN CHAMPIONSHIP (G2)

CANADIAN CLUB ROBIN DUNDEE STAKES (G3)

EGMONT PARK STUD 2018 FLEUR DE LIL LADYSHIP STAKES (LISTED)

**SOHO NOLITA** 7 starts 3 wins 2 placings \$169,000

AUSTRALIAN PACING GOLD (2YO FILLIES) FINAL (G1)

**BIRDY MACH** 18 starts 5 wins 2 placings \$41,570

**PERFECT MACH** 16 starts 2 wins 5 placings \$27,367

## Stud Book Record

**PIXEL PERFECT** (S7060007) bm 14.10.06, by Art Major USA 1:48.8MS from Amarillen by Fake Left USA 1:51.4MS from Nellirama by Panorama USA 1:53.4MS. **Breeder:** P F Barker, C G Robins, B M Robins, Tas

25.09.10 bg **PERFECT MACH** (S3100942) 2, 2:01.7MS; 3, 2:00.1MS; 1:58.5 \$131,430 by Mach Three CA, R J Watson, WA

19.10.11 bg **BIRDY MACH** (S3110182) 2, 1:53.8MS; 3, 1:56.9MS; 1:51.4MS \$222,041 by Mach Three CA

01.11.12 bc **SOHO TRIBECA** (S3120224) 2, 2:00.9MS; 3, 1:53.8MS \$1,103,374 by American Ideal USA

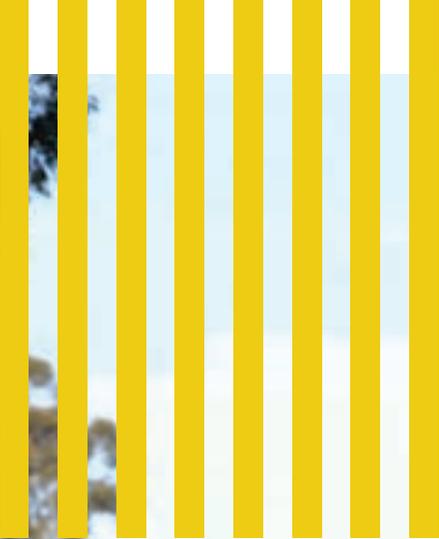
15.11.13 bf **CARLAS PIXEL** (S3130448) 2, 1:55.8MS; 3, 1:55.4MS; 1:49.5MS \$412,828 by Courage Under Fire NZ

2014 (Missed) by Somebeachsomewhere USA

04.11.15 bf **SOHO NOLITA** (S3150757) 2, 1:53.0MS \$169,000 by Mach Three CA

23.11.16 bc **SOHO HAMILTON** (S3160458) by American Ideal USA

15.11.17 bf (S3170517X) by Bettors Delight USA



*Champion Sire -  
Art Major USA*

## Top 20 Starters – by Prizemoney

Name	Age	Sex	Sire	Dam	Starts	Wins	2nds	3rds	Aus Prize \$	Mile Rate
LAZARUS NZ	5YO	Colt	Bettors Delight USA	Bethany (NZ)	9	4	3	1	\$1,036,299	1:54.1MS
SOHO TRIBECA	5YO	Colt	American Ideal USA	Pixel Perfect	19	6	7	1	\$670,544	1:54.2MS
CHICAGO BULL NZ	5YO	Gelding	Bettors Delight USA	Chicago Blues (NZ)	23	15	3	4	\$662,150	1:51.6MS
MY FIELD MARSHAL NZ	6YO	Colt	Art Major USA	Foreal NZ	19	5	9	1	\$584,990	1:46.9MS
TIGER TARA NZ	7YO	Colt	Bettors Delight USA	Tara Gold (NZ)	15	6	3	2	\$362,080	1:50.2MS
LENNYTHESHARK	8YO	Colt	Four Starzz Shark CA	Botswana	15	5	3	3	\$349,100	1:51.9MS
JILLIBY KUNG FU	4YO	Colt	Four Starzz Shark CA	Slip Slop Slap	8	5	2	0	\$332,790	1:48.8MS
CENTENARIO	2YO	Colt	American Ideal USA	Beninjurd	11	8	3	0	\$303,500	1:54.7MS
POSTER BOY	3YO	Colt	Somebeachsomewhere USA	Aston Villa USA	12	8	3	1	\$301,990	1:54.2MS
CARLAS PIXEL	4YO	Filly	Courage Under Fire NZ	Pixel Perfect	25	10	4	6	\$294,858	1:49.5MS
LET IT RIDE NZ	4YO	Gelding	Rock N Roll Heaven USA	Love A Gamble (NZ)	18	11	2	3	\$293,565	1:49.4MS
SPARKLING SUCCESS	6YO	Gelding	Great Success USA	Diamond Insitu	14	5	4	3	\$282,050	TR1:53.9MS
SHADOW SAX	5YO	Gelding	Shadow Play USA	Miss Saxony	14	11	1	1	\$281,482	1:53.1MS
MY HARD COPY NZ	8YO	Colt	American Ideal USA	Readallaboutit (NZ)	13	5	0	1	\$280,058	1:54.0MS
COLT THIRTY ONE	3YO	Colt	Mach Three CA	Charm Personified	18	12	4	0	\$272,905	1:53.2MS
SHEZ ALL ROCK	3YO	Filly	Rock N Roll Heaven USA	Just Irish Loch NZ	8	7	1	0	\$268,350	1:53.7MS
HURRICANE HARLEY	2YO	Colt	Bettors Delight USA	Sugarland	9	7	1	0	\$246,490	1:55.8MS
SPEAK NO EVIL	3YO	Filly	Well Said USA	Top Tempo NZ	15	12	1	0	\$244,810	1:52.4MS
ULTIMATE MACHETE NZ	4YO	Colt	Bettors Delight USA	Reality Check (NZ)	4	3	0	0	\$233,299	1:53.8MS
AMERETTO	6YO	Filly	Million Dollar Cam USA	Eyes Of Courage	14	5	3	1	\$213,436	1:51.5MS

# 2018 Joseph Coulter Media Awards

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## **Television / Video / Film**

TC and Emilia - Harness Racing Victoria

## **Radio**

Reinsman Chris Alford and Gavin Lang - RSN927 & Harness Racing Victoria

## **Literary - Best News Story**

Elitloppet 2018 - Luke Humphreys

## **Literary - Best Feature**

This was one Miracle Mile Brian Hancock did have a hand in - Michael Court

## **Literary - Best Historical**

Norm Craven - Alan Parker

## **Literary - Best Regional**

From Royal Ascot to Gold Crown - John Coffey

## **Best Photograph**

How much it means - Stuart McCormick

## **Award of Merit - Promotion**

The return to Wayville - Harness Racing South Australia

## **Award of Merit - Social Media**

Ashlea Brennan





## **BEST PHOTOGRAPH**

*Winner*

"How much it means" - Stuart McCormick  
Kima Frenning embraces trainer David Aiken after  
Wrappers Delight's Group One win.



*“...HRA’s response has  
been to continue to  
improve equine health  
and welfare outcomes...”*

*Andrew Kelly*  
CEO Harness Racing Australia

## Acknowledgements

Harness Racing Australia wishes to thank and acknowledge those who contributed written articles to this publication - Peter Staples, Chris Barsby and Greg Hayes.

Special thanks must go to Ashlea Brennan for providing photography for the publication.

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